

Most East Cape farms set to recover

Evening Post 5/1/82

3 general

Post Reporter

SEVERE droughts followed by serious floods in the Eastern Cape caused considerable losses to farmers last year, according to an annual report issued by the Department of Agricultural Technical Services.

The report said that last year's two severe floods caused farmers in the Gamtoos and Elands River valleys to lose crops and improvements valued at about R4,5 million.

But the prospects for 1982 seemed "promising" and, generally, farmers could approach the future with confidence.

The floods would have had disastrous results had farmers not received aid from the Disaster Fund and from the State, the report says.

"Some of the farmers in the Gamtoos and Elands River Valleys will have to work hard for many years to make good the damage. Fortunately they are still on their farms and are producing," the report states.

Good rains in February and March over most of the eastern portion of the coastal

area and the interior broke the drought of 1980 and most areas on the emergency grazing list were removed from the list at the beginning of the year. The exceptions were the Tarkastad and Queenstown districts which were only removed last November.

Because of the good rains, there was a great improvement in the condition of stock which had suffered badly during the drought.

"Good rains were experienced during the winter and fodder supplies were adequate. Some farmers even had a record fodder-producing year," the report said.

Summer crop yields in the Eastern highland areas of Elliot and Maclear were lower than previous years due to a drop in the amount of rainfall usually experienced there.

Meanwhile too much August rain, especially in the sourveld region of the east coast area, caused a smaller wheat crop yield than was expected.

Because of this year's late summer rains and low temperatures, farmers were forced to delay mealie planting. This will result in a reduced crop.

Farmers to discuss payments

Political Reporter

FARMERS who accepted Government stock in part payment for farms consolidated into Transkei could lose up to 30 percent of the value of the stock through inflation, Mr Peter Miller, MPC for South Coast, warned yesterday.

Mr Miller, who is the New Republic Party Whip in the Natal Provincial Council, said the eroded value of Government stock and the compensation paid to farmers would be among the subjects discussed at a public meeting in Matatiele next week on Thursday.

Mr Ralph Hardingham, MP for Moot River and the NRP spokesman on agriculture, and Mr Dering Stainbank, MEC, would attend the meeting. All landowners involved in the consolidation of the Ongeluknek area were invited to attend the meeting, to be held at 2 pm in the town hall supper room.

Mr Hardingham is likely to raise in Parliament the dissatisfaction expressed at the meeting over the methods and payment arising from consolidation of the area.

FM 8/1/82
KWAZULU DEVELOPMENT

Rural realities

The Anglo American-sponsored rural development plan for KwaZulu is beginning to bear fruit. The first phase was begun by the Institute of Natural Resources (INR) 18 months ago. A preliminary survey of resources was conducted in a 700 000 ha area representing 21% of KwaZulu.

Having completed the groundwork, the INR is now ready to move on to phase two, which will include further research in a more confined area and the implementation of some of its recommendations.

The area selected for the experimental project is the Entembeni/Biyela district south-east of Melmoth. It is a poverty-stricken region, with vastly differing topography, populated by roughly 25 000 people.

According to Dr John Erskine, INR's coordinator for rural development, the institute's development plans for the region have been fully endorsed by the KwaZulu Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the people who will be affected by the moves.

The project envisages the establishment of dairy farms on the less steep crests, as well as firewood and commercial plantations.

In addition, there are plans for the improvement of infrastructure, development of water supplies, the establishment of vegetable gardens and possibly small-scale poultry, egg and lamb production. Similar proposals are envisaged for the lowlands, with the inclusion of an irrigation scheme to help produce food and cash crops such as lucerne, which would find a ready market in the organised dairy industry of the uplands.

Erskine says one of the most significant

results of the development programme could be that it becomes the forerunner of a change in KwaZulu's traditional land tenure system. Communal grazing would be eliminated as all pastures would be individually owned and enclosed. "These changes would constitute a fundamental and vital breakthrough for land use in KwaZulu," he says.

The INR scheme has parallels with successful poultry production and smallholder dairy schemes in Lesotho and Kenya, but has been tailored to meet KwaZulu's requirements. If the project is successful, Erskine says there is no reason why it could not be adapted and applied to other regions of KwaZulu.

which has been caught three times with dagga consignments.

Farmers worried over cut in profits

General
Mercury 8/11/82

Agricultural Correspondent

FARMERS would see their profit margins cut even further this year as a result of the combined effect of fertiliser and tyre price increases, according to the director of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Piet Swart.

Referring to the latest average increase of 10 percent on fertiliser, Mr Swart said it would have a negative effect on the farming industry. He said the increased price of fertiliser would cost farmers about R50 million and the increased price of tyres about R200 million.

These factors would have to be considered seriously when fixing producer prices for some fixed-price products this year, he said.

Mr Swart warned that some farmers, particularly those whose products were determined by supply and demand, would suffer more than others.

'We are getting to the stage where increased production costs cannot be accommodated by higher food prices,' he added.

According to Mr Swart, the SAAU would soon be appointing a committee to investigate the ever-increasing production input costs.

He said the SAAU had recently learned that the commission of inquiry into the fertiliser industry had completed its report and the union would be studying this.

Mr Swart said fertiliser constituted about 50 percent of production costs in agronomics and horticulture.

A spokesman for the Natal Agricultural Union said the farmers viewed the latest increases in fertiliser prices with dismay and would press for a special congress to discuss the ramifications of the fertiliser industry and its effect on the agricultural sector.

Moan over committees

By Vera Bajakova

CATTLE farmers are beeing at the Government again.

"Not another committee, please" implore South Africa's ranchers. But their pleas are falling on deaf ears. Independent farmers have accused the Government of trying to do some thing like curing chicken pox by medicating one small blister at a time.

The rumpus is over the decision by the Minister of Agriculture, Piet du Plessis, to appoint yet another committee - this time to establish how the different agricultural technical services can achieve better co-ordination.

"Does he sincerely believe that the appointment of a committee is the answer?" asks Vleis/Meat magazine editor Dannie Scholtz.

"Should not Mr Du Plessis look at the whole broad spectrum of the agricultural sector rather than at one small segment at a time.

"Is he trying to cure chicken pox by treating a pimple at a time?"

There are now 32 committees and commissions investigating matters relating to agriculture and ancillary fields.

"Must agriculture be the one sector which is constantly ruled by commissions?"

"We know what happened when a committee tried to design a horse.

"And now, after myriads of years under the yoke of commissions and committees fashioning the agricultural horse, it is small wonder that the poor animal has emerged with stripes, spots, dots and horns, not to speak of useless wings."

Harsh words indeed.

Union Total on food Survey 1982 price rise

By GERALD KELLY

THE South African Agricultural Union will make every effort to get farmers' produce prices raised to a "more acceptable" level this year, according to a statement issued in Pretoria yesterday.

This heralds big demands for adjustments in Government-administered food prices when the SAAU's commodity committees meet next month.

Yesterday's statement says farmers' costs had already started to rise — "and no-one needs to be a prophet to foresee that maize and milk prices will be the focus of attention".

Farmers were obviously dissatisfied with last year's price adjustments.

Other agricultural authorities said yesterday that the SAAU statement confirms the view in official circles that the National Maize Producers' Organisation (NMP) will clash with the Government on the issue of this year's price rises.

Last year the price of maize was raised, but a big levy was imposed on the producer price to meet the heavy losses expected on the 7-million-ton surplus produced in the 1981-82 season.

The levy neutralised the increase.

Milk

Milk farmers, too, are still dissatisfied with their profit margins, in spite of two increases last year.

According to the SAAU, dairy farmers are more concerned about uneconomic prices than with climatic factors. Indications were that farmers were still leaving the industry.

In yesterday's statement the SAAU said a countrywide survey had shown that summer grain crops and meat production would fail to reach the same high level as last year.

PRETORIA — The depopulation of the platteland was the result not of poverty but the accumulation of too much wealth by a few landowners, the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr D W Immelman, said here yesterday.

Dr Immelman read a paper on agricultural policy at the Agrocon '82 conference.

He said the sixties in South Africa were characterised by a process of sub-division and speculation in agricultural land "like no other part of the world has ever experienced". However, the Sub-division of Agricultural

Wealthy land owners are 'buying up the platteland'

3 General E. Post 14/1/82

Land Act of 1970 had "happily ended this".

Dr Immelman said the dangers of the trend towards excessive land ownership in the white South African agricultural sector and the rejection (afstoot) of farming were, however, not fully appreciated.

"The process that is going on means a small group of farmers is becoming

richer, and a relatively much bigger group is becoming poorer," he said.

This created a smaller, richer group coming from a very landed background who, increasingly, were becoming the owners of the entire platteland.

"The depopulation of the platteland is therefore not, as in the past, taking place as a result of poverty, but mainly as the result of too

much riches," he said.

Dr Immelman said the establishment of an agricultural trade union, either within or outside industrial labour legislation, was "a distinct possibility".

"This possibility, as well as minimum wages for farm workers, harbours serious problems and dangers, and although agricultural policy must fit in with the country's policy, the dif-

ferences peculiar to the agricultural sector should be borne in mind."

He added that implements bought for cash were fully deductible from income tax. This tended to encourage mechanisation, which led to unemployment among unskilled workers.

"These realities should be borne in mind if maximum job employment is considered a high priority."

Govt to repopulate Tvl bush

Farming Correspondent
Hannes Ferguson
New measures to repopulate the Transvaal bushveld would shortly be announced, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr Sarel Haywood, said in Pretoria yesterday.

In his closing speech at the 1982 Agricultural Outlook conference he said the situation in the north-western Transvaal was deteriorating. People were leaving and the productivity of cattle herds had declined because

so many stock owners lived in the cities. Meat production had to be kept up, Mr Haywood said. Ideologies would soon cease to dominate the African scene. Food would be all-important and South Africa had to develop

its agricultural resources. Mr Flip du Toit, chairman of the Marica District Agricultural Union and also chairman of the Meat Board, said bushveld farmers had been asked by the authorities to fence their farm-

yards for security reasons. Security was the job of the State, however, Mr du Toit said. The border fence should be improved and regularly patrolled. New roads should be built and existing roads tarred.

Above all, Eskom should immediately build lines to supply electricity to every farm. At present high-voltage lines ran through border farms to Botswana but the farms could get no power.

Mr du Toit said that the Transvaal Agricultural Union had organised a fact-finding mission to the Transvaal bushveld during November.

Nothing had happened since then and he hoped the Deputy Minister's announcement would soon lead to tangible improvement.

(3) General 10/1
Interest rates 4/10
on Land Bank
loans go up

FROM today farmers will have to pay three and four percent more interest respectively on existing and new long-term loans from the Land Bank.

The Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, said in Pretoria on Wednesday night the rate of interest on existing and new short and intermediate term loans granted in terms of Section 34 of the Land Bank Act would also go up by four percent.

Mr Horwood's statement said the more favourable economic conditions over the past few years had meant the Land Bank had been able to obtain its required loan funds on the money market at reasonable interest rates.

The bank had been able to continue financing the agricultural sector without adjusting its long-term interest rates — which had risen only once in the past 25 years — by one percent a year in 1975.

But the general increase in

interest rates during 1981 had meant an "extremely sharp" increase in demand for the bank's relatively cheap financing — especially over the past six months.

The bank's board had decided, in consultation with the Treasury, the Reserve Bank and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, to increase the interest rate on existing and new long-term loans to farmers by three percent to 10 percent and four percent to 11 percent a year respectively.

Pressure

This would reduce pressure on the bank's available loan funds, and allow the bank to get additional funds at competitive rates to finance farmers.

The rate of interest on existing and new short and intermediate term loans had now been increased by four percent to 12 percent a year effective today, the statement said. — Sapa.

Farm union to help Lesotho ^{(3) General}

BLOEMFONTEIN — The Department of Foreign Affairs and the South African Agricultural Union are negotiating with the Lesotho government.

The agricultural union's senior deputy director for co-operatives and information, Mr Inus van Rooyen, said the Lesotho Government approached the union with a view to extending a project started by farmers in the

Free State and Lesotho early last year.

He said it had been decided to give more agricultural assistance to Lesotho so that its farmers could become more efficient producers.

The original object of the project to help Lesotho farmers was to improve relations along the border between the two countries.

— SAPA.

11A **Rally for ex-Robben Island prisoners**

Weekend Post Reporter

E. Post 23/1/82

THE Congress of South African Students (Cosas) will hold a rally tomorrow at the Sisonke Community Centre in Zwide for the 31 ex-Robben Island prisoners who returned home on Wednesday.

The 31 students were arrested by the Security Police in 1976 during the countrywide school boycotts.

It was alleged they were going to organise a march into town after they were

found in possession of placards and petrol bombs.

They were found guilty and sentenced to five years imprisonment.

There will be representatives speaking from the South African Council of Churches, the Motor Assemblers and Components Workers Union of South Africa (Macwusa), the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (Pebco), the General Workers Union, the United Woman's Organisation (UWO) and pupils' leaders.

Drought threat for farmers

3 General
E. Post
23/1/82

By WAYNE ASHER

DROUGHT is threatening farmers in the Eastern Cape as water in stock dams reaches dangerously low levels.

Mr Pierre Le Roux, deputy chairman of the Fort Beaufort Farmer's Association, said this week that good rains have not fallen since September last year.

"If we do not get rain soon, we will have to declare the area a drought area, which means depending on the Department of Agriculture for fodder among other things," he said.

"We are coping on windmill water at the moment, but still depend on the stock dams, some of which are already dry, for most of our water."

"I hope the situation does not become as bad as the 1980 drought. The Fort Beaufort farming district was declared a drought area and eventually a disaster area."

"We had steady spring rains in September which replenished our dams, but there was not enough to create water flow."

Mr Jannie Malan, a Fort Beaufort farmer who is adviser to the Minister of Agriculture in the Ciskei, said his farm, Rietfontein, still had water although it was

"running low".

"The main problem is that we cannot build up grazing reserves for winter. Grazing camps which have been left alone to grow have just not responded. One of the main reasons for this is the high night temperatures and the resulting lack of moisture," Mr Malan said.

"Even lucerne is not growing well. We may get two centimetres of precipitation, but the windy, hot days dry it off — it is not lasting rain. We normally always get March rain so if we hold on until then we'll pull through."

"However, we must be grateful we are not in the predicament of areas to the north-west of us. Places such as Calvinia and Carnarvon have not had rain for the last five or six years."

Mr John Harebottle, of the farm, Stanley Grange, in the Adelaide district, said grazing "was looking very dry and burnt".

"Although grazing is getting short, no stock has died yet," he said.

"We are still getting some water from mountain springs and there are a few pools left in a tributary of the Koonap River, which runs through the area."

"We need rain soon, though."

Training ⁽³⁾
scheme for
farm labour

2009 Mail Reporter 19/1/84

THE South African Agricultural Union has instituted a scheme to co-ordinate the in-service training of farm labourers.

The aim of the Agricultural Manpower Development Services is to promote manpower training in all branches of agriculture.

To be known by its Afrikaans acronym, Lamod, the scheme will introduce training facilities throughout the country.

Thinning the farming cushion

Demographic consequences of the most dire and portentous kind could spring from the increase in Land Bank lending loans, if farming representatives are to be believed. From the viewpoint of equity and rational economics, however, they are a partial eradication of 70 years of excessive agricultural subsidy.

The rate increases, announced early this week, are effective from January 15. Existing long-term loans, from five to 25 years and used mainly for funding land purchases on mortgage bond, have risen to 10% from 7%. New long-term loans, however, will cost 11%.

Medium-term loans, from one to six years and used mainly for purchasing stock and implements on promissory note, have risen to 12% from 8%.

Short-term loans, up to 18 months, are for funding crop plantings and harvestings. Most of these are extended to farmers by the co-operatives, which, in turn, raise Land Bank finance at, as a matter of law, Bank rate. They are now paying 13.5%, on which a small mark-up is made when the cash is passed on to farmers.

In cases where certain categories of farmers do not have access to co-operatives (sugar, wattle and citrus growers being examples), direct short-term loans are granted by the Land Bank for seasonal requirements, usually on security of crop cession. These will now cost 12% instead of 8%. In the recognised drought-relief area of Natal, the original subsidy will still apply, making the effective cost of short-term finance an unchanged 8%.

Although the cost of farming finance is in most cases still below that paid by the housing and industrial sectors, the proportional size of the one-off increases is large by any standards. The Land Bank has raised its direct rates to farmers only once in the last 19 years — by 1% in 1975. Ac-



According to its MD and chairman, Theunis Pienaar, the bank's internal profit-and-loss account did not dictate further rises in the seven years that have elapsed since then. About 80% of its lending business is short-term, the returns on which kept pace with costs by mirroring movements in Bank rate. Shortfalls on long-term business are subsidised by the bank's reserve fund. This received, for example, a R16m profit ploughback in 1980.

Whatever the merits of this argument, the rate increases represent another step along the slow road to more market-related agricultural financing, official pressure for which has mounted for some time. Early last year, Reserve Bank spokesman Dr Braam van Staden publicly declared that seasonal Land Bank financing through bills discounted at the Reserve Bank at 0.5% above Bank rate was "highly inflationary." This was despite the fact that the amount involved in this method of fund-raising (said by the Land Bank to be a back-up facility when crop financing estimates prove too low) dropped to R50m in 1980, compared to R285m the previous year.

Commenting on the recent rate increases, Van Staden confirms the monetary policy objectives inherent in them, adding that low Land Bank rates had always hampered policy execution and were, moreover, "not equitable." The Land Bank itself justifies the

farming bill this year. "Furthermore, it will be difficult in the current climate to pass on prices to the consumer," he says.

Of the three main fixed-price schemes, the dairy producers have had a rise and are unlikely to get the further increase for which they are pressing. Wheat will have to be imported this year at a higher cost. And maize, its surpluses exported at a loss, is unlikely to get direct relief from a government which cannot afford to offer it.

"In addition," adds Willemsse, "farmers are heavily committed, having gone on a capital spending spree last year after what was, effectively, a five-year moratorium. This was partly to divert taxes and partly to stock up on tractors before the higher-priced Atlantic diesel engines came onto the market."

Willemsse says that he has already encountered one instance of a farmer deciding to sell up and believes that it will not be an isolated case. And although Land Bank rates may fluctuate advantageously in the future, they are unlikely to decline before the end of the year.

An even gloomier outlook comes from Nampo spokesman Dr Kit Le Clus who views the increases as clear evidence of the misguided obsession of monetary policy-makers with interest rates. This obsession, he claims, is not only inflationary in itself, but hits production as much as it smothers

however philanthropic its constitutional principles, can operate for long on the wrong side of its balance sheet. Nor can any economy carry indefinitely the degree of sectoral subsidy enjoyed by agriculture in this country. It must also be remembered that the rate increases do not represent the complete withdrawal of the farmers' financial cushion, merely the removal of some of its stuffing. The liquid asset status of Land Bank fund-raising instruments continues to symbolise economic protectionism and inflationary potential.

What price controls?

The Cabinet's decision to allow only a 10% rise in the fertiliser price is a most bizarre exercise in economic logic. It is one that will ultimately have far-reaching consequences not only for the farmer, but for the country as a whole.

The inescapable consequence is going to be sharp increases in the cost of fertiliser in the years ahead. And as fertilisers are a major cost factor in agricultural production, this will reverberate either into food shortages or higher food prices.

This sort of arbitrary decision is precisely what was at the root of the catastrophe in Poland, which Lord Carrington describes as "a colossal man-made disaster." It happened in ancient Rome and in medieval France. The consequences were always the same.

Indeed, it almost goes without saying that if producers are denied enough return on their investments in one market, they will seek adequate return in another. The commodity which they would have produced (in this case fertiliser) will then soon be in short supply.

When that happens, demand invariably exceeds supply, creating an inflationary groundswell. This can be broken only after a substantial price increase to encourage production once more.

In an industry such as fertilisers, there will be a considerable time lag before production increases, even after the price is allowed to rise sufficiently. This is because additional fertiliser production capacity is expensive and requires a relatively high degree of technology.

It is one of those industries in which the relationship of price to output is very important if shortages, or sharp price adjustments, are to be avoided. The greatest equilibrium between output and demand is reached when price is determined by a free market.

In SA this is, of course, not the case. The next best thing, however, is for the price to be determined on the basis of demonstrated production costs. That is how the fertiliser price is usually set here.

Normally, the Price Controller in the Department of Industry examines the potential output of the fertiliser industry towards the end of each year. After a thorough analysis, he allows producers a 15% return on depreciated assets, plus a modest allowance for plant replacement costs, and thus determines what the fertiliser price for the year ahead will be.

The Price Controller, Dougie de Beer, is a thorough man of considerable experience in this difficult field. Experi-

ence must have taught him that a price which is too high creates a surplus, which is often embarrassing if it has to be exported at a loss. Conversely, one that is too low discourages production, requiring a price hike in the following year. That certainly will not endear him to the farming lobby, which is influential.

This year he recommended a 15% price increase after the fertiliser producers had asked for 18%. His detailed report goes to a Cabinet sub-committee, which nevertheless persuaded the Cabinet to lob 5% off, allowing only a 10% rise, which in real terms means the price will fall.

It did this with full knowledge of the costs producers face and the fact that the fertiliser industry is operating at full capacity. To continue to do so, fertiliser manufacturers will have to import 100 000 t of ammonia — 17% of local production — this year.

The inescapable conclusion is that the Cabinet is misguidedly trying to protect the farmers. It is aware of the serious longer-term consequences for others, especially the consumer, but eventually hardly less so for the farmer. The reason, therefore, must be purely for immediate political gain.

Retribution was swift. Sentrachem scrapped a R630m ammonia plant because a 10% fertiliser price rise will not give an adequate return on its investment. With that, 300 additional jobs went down the drain.

AECI and Sasol, the other large suppliers to the fertiliser market, are hardly likely to step in to fill the breach after a price increase that size. Indeed, Sasol is partly dependent on revenue from this by-product source.

But the distortion does not end there. Fertiliser producers enjoy a 15% protective duty on imports. So the taxpayer has to chip in to keep going a fertiliser industry from which the Cabinet is withholding an economic return, let alone encouragement to seek self-sufficiency.

What is strange, too, is that the policy of the Department of Finance in recent years has been to release assets to the private sector. The ultimate aim, of course, is to improve the efficiency of domestic markets.

Even the Price Controller himself has instigated a great deal of price de-regulation and attempted to improve the mechanism by which, in administering prices, he tries to simulate markets.

Of course, we do not know what the Minister concerned, Dawie de Villiers, said to the Cabinet on the fertiliser price. If he did not roundly condemn this exercise in Jaruzelski economics, we need a new Minister.



Protect this northern outpost

It's a long, long way to Messina. But however remote, it deserves to be developed and protected.

Messina is the northernmost of the six bushveld districts in which the exposed border area of north western Transvaal is situated.

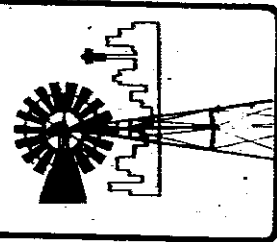
Together with Soutpansberg it is actually a bit less depopulated than the rest. It is too far from Pretoria and the Reef to be really attractive to the doctor, the professor or managing director whose land-buying spree is driving the farmer from the bushveld.

So the market value of land is somewhat nearer to the production value level than elsewhere. Most of the newcomers who settle in the region choose Soutpansberg or Messina.

School statistics are a sure sign of population trends. While schools further south are standing almost empty, the primary school at Aildays has managed a very slight increase in the number of pupils.

Along the Limpopo bank especially some modest development work is going on.

Hannes Ferguson Farming



water pipe line from Ponsdrif with a pumping installation have been built.

Obviously De Beers stress that the whole operation is still in a very early stage. Limited activity is going on at Venetia, leading to evaluating the possibilities of mining at some future stage.

Isacor is much interested in coke quality coal deposits in the east and south of the district. But they also are cautious and careful to the extreme — they have to be.

Mining could spark off a good deal of other activities. A coal mine could even lead to a steel plant — if this and that and still something else should happen, of course.

Neither is a diamond and mine a backyard operation. A mine like Orapa or Chwatseng in Botswana means some R200 million of investment, providing work for, say, 2,000 people. But will Venetia even develop so big?

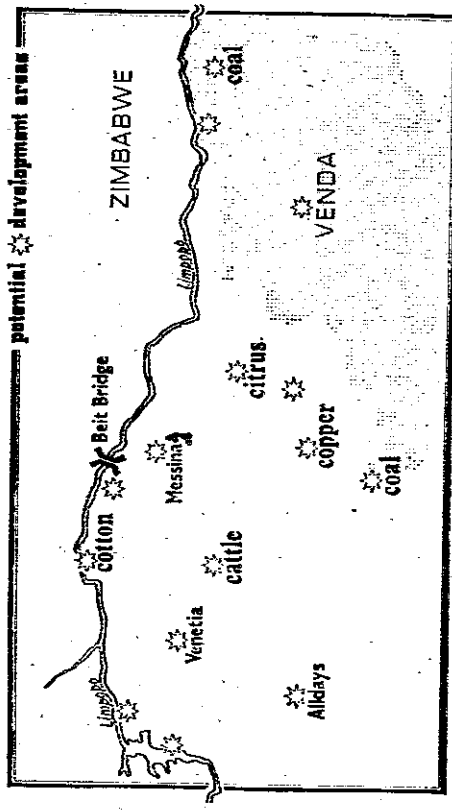
Agricultural de-

velopment possibilities are wide and varied. Cattle farming has stagnated in the years of bad stock prices. Herds have been depleted and now have to be rebuilt. The baobab-studded veld is sweet but sparse. Another minus factor is the ever-present threat of drought.

REALISTIC

City slickers have bought into ranching, but not as extensively as further south. State loans at realistic rates of interests — and in ranching even five percent — may not be realistic — could repopulate the many unoccupied stock farms.

Stretching the irrigation possibilities



to the limit would seem to be the best bet to get substantial numbers of new farmers into Messina. The Limpopo has water galore, even alluvial soils near the river

abundantly from boreholes. The development association has worked out an impressive scheme based on a large projected dam at Ponsdrif.

What to grow is another matter in

be carefully worked out. This subtropical district is ideal for citrus, Citrus diseases prevalent elsewhere are absent in Messina. But the potential is mainly Valencia orange growing.

Messina, where the local development association had carefully mapped out development potential, has been ignored in the much watered-down decentralisation effort. Planning office sources are careful to emphasise that the projected "growth points" relate exclusively to industrial development — not to mining and agricultural development.

Industrial development in Messina is strategically important. But in the whole of North-West Transvaal only Pienarsburg, Tzaneen, Potgietersrus and Louis Trichardt have been designated "growth points" where the State is to subsidise the establishment of industries. Here Messina, where the local development association had carefully mapped out development potential, has been ignored in the much watered-down decentralisation effort.

EMERGENCY

So many more farms have to be occupied that Messina will have to share fully in emergency measures the State is contemplating for the whole area. Even with all the fenced-off farms along the road from Beers to be rushed copper. Nor will De Beers be rushing along the road from sampling diamond containing earth at Venetia to arranging for infrastructure and the actual building of a mine.

State action would however be successful, if taken, in getting somebody to process copper ingots from the Messina mine into copper wire and cables — or build a foundry to make all types of brassware and brass machine parts. On the doorstep of Zimbabwe there could be an export market for a Messina-based copper processing industry.

Mining holds bright prospects for future development in Messina district. For Venetia's diamond sampling plant digging in the ground for further inspection.

COPPER

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✓
AGRICULTURE (3) general
Co-op tripping
FM 29/1/82

The sensitive Land Bank overdraft with the big five commercial banks has developed a sting in its tail. Some of the co-ops, direct recipients of the overdraft funds, have recently been caught "taking a turn" or "round tripping" at the commercial banks' expense.

They borrow from the Land Bank at 13,5% or 14,5% and then channel these funds into call deposits with at least one major commercial bank at 15,5% thus taking a handsome 1% or 2% "turn".

By doing this the co-ops are adding insult to injury because the banks resent the fact that they were pressurised into extending the Land Bank's funding facility to an estimated R2,5 billion at 13%. They point out that were these funds not committed to the Land Bank they could be earning far more in Treasury Bills (TBs) which also have liquid asset status.

Late last year, Pretoria requested the five big commercial banks to help the Land Bank by extending their joint facility. At the time the rate was 11% but was moved to 13% — still way below the prime overdraft rate of 17%.

Henri de Villiers, MD of Standard Bank Group's quantifies the commercial banks' subsidy to the agricultural sector. He says: "If the commercial banks' joint commitment to the Land Bank is about R2,5 billion at 13% then at last week's TB rate of 14% we were subsidising the agricultural sector by R25m. Of course as the TB rate goes up so the subsidy increases."

One disillusioned banker told the *FM*: "If you make a bad business decision it's unpleasant but you live with it. But the co-ops "round tripping" makes us particularly bitter because we had little choice about the rate on our extended overdraft facility to the Land Bank."

Phillip Venter, senior GM of Volkskas, says that his bank is not aware of the practice but that if it were it would not take too kindly to it.

This is only part of the whole "cheap cash for farmers" debate (see *FM* January 22) but it serves to aggravate bankers. Such are the rumblings amongst commercial banks about the 13% overdraft, let

alone the "round tripping", that Pretoria can expect some flak when the extended facility expires in March.

However, after the recent hike in Land Bank rates demand for Land Bank finance may ease, which will in turn take the heat off the commercial banks. The rate on short- and medium-term loans has gone up by 4% to 12%, with existing long-term loans moving from 7% to 10% and new long-term loans increasing to 11%.

Tractors going at wild prices

By Elizabeth Rouse

THE tractor market is at sixes and sevens — prices are all over the place since the introduction of the Atlantis diesel engine from October last year.

Dealers say that manufacturers with large stocks are selling their tractors at pre-ADE prices, while others who have not yet converted to locally made engines have increased prices substantially.

Business Times could not substantiate a "substantial" price hike in the competitive tractor market. However, one maker is still selling at old prices.

The ADE programme is not solely to blame for higher tractor prices.

The weak rand has meant a significant rise in import costs of engines. In addition,

there are import duties of 40% on ADE-type engines and 20% on engine types which are not yet made locally.

Things have gone easiest with Massey-Ferguson, whose tractors have been powered by Perkins engines for many years.

There were no problems in installing the locally made engines at Fedmech's new R4-million assembly plant at Vereeniging.

Fedmech maintains that its MF tractor price increases are between 20% and 29%, allowing for the extra cost of locally made engines and normal production cost inflation.

Ford's tractor sales manager, Aubrey Gouws, says Ford's new pricing (introduced in November) has taken the ADE programme into account but does not include

recovery on 1982 economics.

Ford still continues to import certain tractor models' engines. Altitude-compensated engines are currently not available from ADE.

In certain cases, as with Ford's big-power TW 20 and TW30 tractors, the ADE engines are not able to meet power requirements.

Malcomess, which markets the Landini tractor, is still selling at pre-ADE prices because of large stocks.

Malcomess managing director Robin Manning says that 500 Landinis are still on the floor and, as tractors are price-controlled, these are being sold at old prices.

He reckons that stocks will last until March. After that Landini tractors will cost between 17,7% and 25,4% more, depending on the model.

(3) General S. Times

3/1/82

③ General S. Times 31/1/82

Good crops led to farm splash

FARMERS went on a buying spree last year, replacing worn-out farming equipment after five lean years.

Up till the end of the third quarter of 1981 they had spent R739,5-million on farming machinery, up 88% on R393,5-million in the same period last year.

Spending for the full year will run to well over R1 000-million, judging by the quarter-by-quarter progression in capital expenditure of machinery — R155,1-million in the first quarter, R206,7-million in the second and R377,7-million in the third.

The main reasons for the farmers' prosperity has been a record wheat crop of 2,021-million tons (1,470-million in 1980) and a peak maize crop of 14,198-million tons (10,726-million).

The tractor market has boomed, and total sales for 1981 have been estimated at 24 000 units. The market stood on a year-to-November basis at 23 084 units, which is a whopping 40% up on the

By Elizabeth Rouse

same period last year.

The figures for the third quarter of 1981 indicate strong buying ahead of expected price increases in tractors as a result of the installation of Atlantis diesel engines.

But John Turpin, general manager of Fedmech's distributing company, maintains that acceptance of

ADE-equipped tractors has been "most gratifying" and that sales were still going strong in December before the holiday.

Johan Willermse, SA Agricultural Union economist, attributes farmers' record spending to the good season of 1980 and the necessity of having to replace farming equipment after five years of

sitting tight because of empty money coffers.

Undoubtedly farmers bought tractors ahead of an expected 20% to 29% rise in tractor prices as a result of the installation of the Atlantis diesel engine and normal inflation.

He cites the case of a farmer who replaced his entire fleet of 20 tractors (average price about R20 000) last year.

Some big farms in the northern Free State and Transvaal have fleets of up to 50 tractors.

Stock theft increasing in Border

General 2/2/82
E Post
By KEITH ROSS

EAST LONDON — Stock theft in the Border areas is on the increase, despite police claims to the contrary, according to the Secretary of the East Cape Agricultural Union, Mr K. P. Odendaal.

In an interview, Mr Odendaal said police statistics often failed to reflect the true situation as many farmers did not report stock theft.

"Farmers are forever being asked by my office to report thefts but they still fail to do so.

"Stock theft is an ever-present problem throughout the Border."

Mr Odendaal said stock theft was at its worst in the farming areas near heavily populated areas.

"Large townships have been built near the borders of the black states so their residents will be close to work," he said.

"These are some of the problem areas. The people

of these townships have no agricultural background and no sympathy for the farmer.

"I would like to see agricultural land established in these areas so that one lot of farmers faces another across the border."

The Police Press Liaison Officer for Border, Major W. W. Brown, said stock theft units had been established at Barkly East, Stutterheim and Komga.

In Barkly East and Stutterheim, stock theft had diminished in the past six months. In Komga it had remained constant.

Major Brown said collie dogs were being trained to work with the stock theft units.

He said there were several factors influencing the incidence of stock theft. These included:

- The high meat price.
- Unoccupied farms.
- Boundary fences in a bad state of repair.
- Unemployment in the farming areas.

The report of a break-through in the processing of sunflower oil to make diesel fuel continues up via- sions of South African farmers growing sunflowers and building do-it-yourself diesel plants in their fields.

But the hard-nosed people concerned with diesel and petrol fuels have heard these claims with scepticism, mainly because they consider the fuel would be too expensive. They say, too, the government would not be prepared to lose the many millions of rands it now collects in customs and excise duties and levies on petrol and diesel produced from crude oil.

The technology for sunflower diesel production has been developed by Mr. J. J. Bruwer, director of the engineering division of the Department of Agriculture, and his staff, over the past three years. Mr. Bruwer is not the least worried by the comments of the petrol men.

"We are working on sunflower diesel oil as an insurance against an emergency," he says. "If an emergency develops we would like to be ready to produce diesel oil on the farmers' fields, so that their machines can keep running, providing the food we need."

Addressing an energy conference last week, Mr. Bruwer said the sunflower oil fuel could be produced at a cost of about 44c a litre and that this would be better than the price paid by farmers for diesel of 44.9c a litre.

Sunoil for tractors on the farm still a long way off

In the case of petrol, after production costs of about 30c a litre, additions made are: 10.34c for customs and excise duties, National Road Fund contributions, strategic stockpiling costs, Sasol funding and contributions for combating oil pollution.

On top of that, a further 10.5c a litre is added for the equalisation fund, which is used to keep the retail price stable when crude oil prices jump.

Still more charges that bring petrol costs to the motorist to 61.1c a litre include GST and a markup for the retail seller. Somewhere in that cost is 4.2c a litre charged by the railways for pumping petrol or crude from the coast, on which the Railway administration makes a handsome profit. Dr. Louber would not enjoy a cut in that income if do-it-yourself diesel-making is universally started on farms.

Petrol and diesel from crude oil or from Sasol's coal are more cheaply produced than sunflower oil on the farm, but the great disadvantage is that both sources fail to provide sufficient diesel fuel in relation to petrol production.



Will sunflowers on the farm one day challenge petroleum and coal as a source of "diesel" for tractors and trucks?

There has been much talk of General Mining-Union Corporation entering the field of oil-from-coal by direct liquefaction, which would produce a greater proportion of much-needed diesel fuel than is now produced by Sasol's gasification process or by the oil refiners' production methods.

As the demand for diesel is growing and threatens to outstrip supply, the government was much interested in Gemmin's project. But Gemmin's move towards liquefaction is in low gear since the con-

farm still a long way off

production of methanol from coal. These proposals have been submitted and are now being considered.

Overall, with the easing in the oil supply, and the virtual reduction in real terms in crude oil prices, the incentive to consider further fuel production in South Africa from vegetable matter or coal has dwindled.

Richard Walker reports from New York: The name is exuberant — Flowerpower Inc. but the American effort to squeeze a superfuel out of the sunflower is in low gear and no quick take-off is expected.

ADAM PAYNE reports from Johannesburg and RICHARD WALKER from New York.

and two engines under test near Chicago are the most visible evidence of Flowerpower, an enterprise based on North Dakota State University in Fargo, on the Minnesota border, and the recipient of a \$200 000 Federal grant. That grant is almost certain to be discontinued, said a US Energy Department official in Washington. "We've got no money," he explained.

North Dakota is snow-bound under the Arctic jetstream right now, and the experimental tractors that ran on sunoil through last season have been stripped down and stored. "Eleven were still running and one plugged up," said Mr. Vern Hoffmann, one of the university team, who cautioned that carbon buildup was found in all the engines.

As their next step will try other engine types, they seem in no great haste. The economists in the US are not those of South Africa and the price of sunflower oil (sunoil) at R2 a gallon (just over 50 cents a litre) is twice the cost of diesel fuel. They talk of gradually improving sunoil's efficiency

harsh prairie winter. One rural electric supplier found it could reduce its fuel costs by blending sunoil with the diesel fuel in its heavy trucks and another is producing energy from the seed husks, which have a high heat-producing level along with a low pollution content. The husks are mixed with pulverised lignite to fire the power station boilers.

Most important of all may be the development of a low-cost on-farm oil extractor — and this has interested several groups.

Basing his calculations on an acre of sunflower producing 65 gallons of oil and 300 kilos of meal, ecologist Stanley Angrist last year argued the true cost to a farmer making his own sunoil could be about 85 cents a gallon — about 22 cents a litre, or half Dr. Bruwer's projection for South Africa.

The sunflower is native to America, but its rise from weed to wondercrop was a recent phenomenon, spurred initially by the health food craze for low cholesterol cooking oils. Seed imported from Russia in the 1960's led to the creation of a new hybrid in 1974 that increased yield so much farmers suddenly found sunflower 25 per cent more profitable than wheat. In ten years there was a 37-fold increase in the crop and from almost nothing, the US was accounting for more than 80 per cent of world exports.

General
50 cents per gallon

Star 4/12/62
A 'total' ~~235~~
strategy to
3) General
repopulate
borders ~~244~~

By Hannes Ferguson
Farming Correspondent
The drift from South
Africa's strategically vi-
tal border areas was
reaching disaster pro-
portions and called for
"a total strategy," ex-
perts said in Pretoria
today.

At a symposium held
by the Human Sciences
Research Council it was
emphasised that depopulation had many
causes.

A re-population policy
could be effective only
if it covered both eco-
nomic and social fac-
tors.

It should aim at im-
proving the quality of
life for the farming
population in outlying
areas.

Dr W. I. de Kock said
that between 1970 and
1980 the rural white
population of the Pot-
gietersrus district had
declined by 22 percent,
that of the Soutspanberg
by 21 percent and that
of Waterberg by 17 per-
cent.

EMERGENCY

In Free State border
area figures were even
worse. Fouriesburg had
lost 47 percent of its
farmers, Wepener 44
percent and Ficksburg
33 percent.

Depopulation was
reaching an emergency
stage along strategic
borders, Dr de Kock
said.

It was a natural that
farming areas should
lag behind urban cen-
tres in their growth.
Businesses in small
towns could not com-
pete with larger shops
in the cities. But this
tendency had got out
of hand with even
public services tending
to be curtailed,
creating depressed
areas.

Corrective action by
the community itself
suitably reinforced by
the State, was the only
way out.

The farmers' view

3

General

FM 5/2/82

Sir — I, a farmer, have been a subscriber to your magazine for some time now and am most disturbed by your reporting on agriculture. Our industry has many troubles, like any other, and we receive no understanding mainly because the man-in-the-street is ignorant of our troubles. The way your articles are presented only aggravates the situation.

As an example, I wish to draw your attention to "Maize — government's folly" (FM January 15). While you attack the government policy on maize, you erroneously describe the bread subsidy as a wheat subsidy. You revel in the statement that wheat is produced cheaper overseas than locally. At the same time, you conveniently ignore the fact that the majority of wheat in SA is produced on ground with the lowest potential yields in the world in a climate which is subject to the most erratic rainfall.

We farmers are quite happy with the free enterprise system — on condition our production requirements are subject to that same system. Necessities such as fertiliser, fungicides, insecticides, PVC and polyethelene products, tyres, cardboard

cartons and fuel are all either subject to tariff protection or are produced more cheaply overseas.

Why must the farmer pay for a strategic industry like Atlantis Diesel Engines? Do you know that certain tractors have increased in price by 50% during the past 12 months? In the past season, carton manufacturers and the freight carriers received more than the farmer for his export fruit. The fruit farmer alone bears the cost of a 24% surcharge on fruit exported. Is it not ridiculous that the tin in which canned fruit is packed is more expensive than the fruit inside it? Have you compared the producer price of fresh produce to the cost of that same produce in retail outlets? After all, fruit and vegetables are totally controlled by supply and demand and the farmer has the risks.

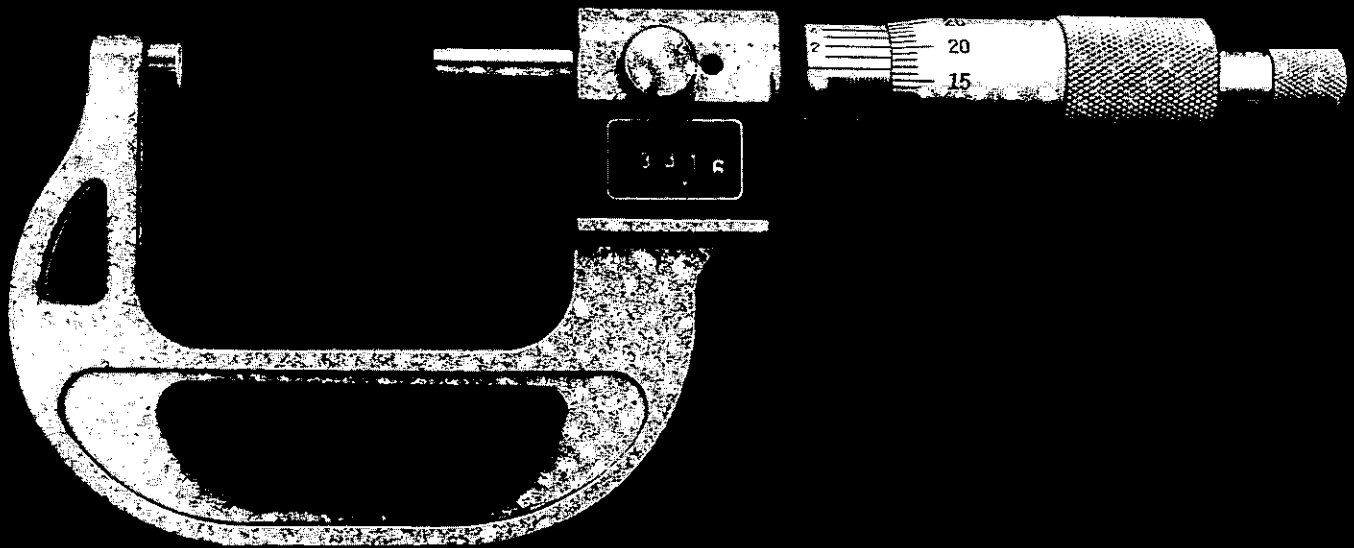
In a previous article on the maize surplus you asked the question: "Why should the maize farmer be the only beneficiary of the clement weather?" I ask who is going to suffer with the maize farmer during the next drought? Any farmer needs those good years without being made the scapegoat for inflation; there are always fences to repair,

stones to clear, stock watering schemes to be tackled, irrigation pipes to be laid, flood damage to be repaired and so on.

While so much is made of the fact that the private sector must help with the housing of its employees, you do not mention the fact that the agricultural sector has been housing its employees all along. Show me another sector where the effects of estate duty are felt more than in the agricultural sector. I know, because I experienced it when my father died. As a result, I think it is essential that life-insurance companies be forced to invest a certain percentage in government stocks. After all, if there was not estate duty, I would not need half the life insurance I have.

Your recommendation of removing the maize and bread subsidy, coupled with reducing the farmer's margins to ease the burden on the taxpayer, would certainly be an interesting experiment. I hope we are around to debate the "political dynamite" after the event.

Have you compared food subsidies in SA to those in the EEC countries? Do people honestly think there are still that many inefficient farmers who have managed to



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stay in business? Finally, are the other sectors so efficient? If they are, why are they always screaming for import tariff protection?

W R Groenewald, Langkloof.

Not connected

Sir — I refer to an article about the liquidation of Group Editors in Johannesburg (*FM* January 22). You said that they had been in trouble for some time and that it was difficult to establish what was left of the GE group.

May I point out that my company, Group Editors Natal (Pty) is not connected in any way whatsoever with Group Editors in Johannesburg. We are alive and well and thriving in Durban. GE Natal, which also owns a printing works, was established by me 17 years ago and I am the sole owner of the business.

Peter Wrinch-Schulz, managing director, Group Editors Natal (Pty).

Trade potential

Sir — I refer to your article headlined "Kosher connection" (*FM* December 11) quoting me as having said that there is "no need to initiate further export drives." This is, of course, incorrect.

I am of the opinion that there is great

potential for the increase of trade between SA and Israel, and there is certainly a need for a concentrated and continuing effort to initiate further export drives.

I am sure that the mistake was a clerical one and would appreciate your correction of this important statement.

B Lanir, counsellor for Economic & Commercial Affairs, State of Israel Trade & Tourism Centre.

□ Our apologies for the crossed lines. — Editor.

Wishful thinking?

Sir — Following the letter "Landlords versus retailers" (*FM* January 22) and the theme of the ending boom, wouldn't it be nice if:

□ The hypermarkets and supermarkets set aside some of their many tills for the old-fashioned, cash paying customer who would receive old-fashioned discount. Judging by the number of credit cards used, I am sure that these shops do not carry the bank credit card charges.

□ The building societies conducted their business in a better fashion by giving 30 days grace on the payment of the houseowner's insurance premium. Their present arrangement is to debit the premium and the interest on the outstanding premium on the same day. It would also be

The *FM* reserves the right to edit letters

nice if we could arrange our own insurance cover and not just the difference in policy conditions.

□ The rates bill on property paid by so few for the benefit of so many were more equitably distributed.

□ The R5 bonus bond holders occasionally won a big prize.

□ Gst on all foodstuffs was reduced and increased in other areas where it could possibly be better accepted.

□ Salaries/wages kept reasonable pace with inflation.

L K Fenton, Orchards, Johannesburg.

Foreshore parking

Sir — "Did you hear's" hearing is not so good!

Concerning an item in your January 1 column, no one has ever yet billed the parking garage under the foreshore freeway as a "moneyspinner."

Advantage was taken in 1976 in constructing the parking garage at a third of the then cost per bay of a conventional garage.

Looking to the future development of the foreshore, the garage is convenient for egress off freeway. Return was not R120 but R720.

A R Coppin, Town Clerk's Department, Cape Town.

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Border farms ⁽³⁾ General D. Dingbach being plundered says Rogers

5/2/82

From **BARRY STREEK**
CAPE TOWN — Crops, livestock and possessions of people living in areas scheduled for consolidation were being plundered, the New Republic Party MP for King William's Town, Mr Pat Rogers, said yesterday.

"The value of their properties and life's work is depreciating before their eyes," he said in the no-confidence debate.

This was taking place in spite of an assurance by the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, that he appreciated the position of these people.

"The Prime Minister's word have been used to clam and reassure where all else failed and situations of desperation were reached," Mr Rogers said.

The Prime Minister had, in effect, given an undertaking that no one would suffer as a result of consolidation of the homelands.

"The affected citizens of this country accepted that undertaking in good faith and were encouraged after some years of painfully

slow progress, insecurity and high-handed maladministration of consolidation that their Prime Minister himself saw fit to appreciate their position.

"But the truth of the matter is that people are suffering and have been suffering for a long time.

"Their crops and livestock, their possessions and their peace of mind and being plundered," Mr Rogers said.

"Will the Prime Minister live up to his undertaking?"

"It is vital that he does. Frightened, insecure people do not make for good neighbourliness or positive contribution to human relations.

"I call upon the Prime Minister to honour his undertaking and rekindle trust and confidence in these people's hearts by the immediate acceptance of the agricultural union's proposals for concessions to border farmers together with enactment of legislation empowering the relevant authorities to proceed with these matters," Mr Rogers said.

"We may differ, we will

differ in our opinions, but let us kill this lack of trust that lurks in our society," he said.

The New Republic Party was the only party, apart from the Herstigte Nasionale Party, to have a crystal clear vision for the future, but the HNP believed that baasskap should be maintained.

Mr Rogers said local option was one of the most suited tools for bringing about reconciliation and should be put into operation immediately.

The government should state unequivocally whether it accepted a form of power-sharing or not.

"No political party which either refuses to share political power or one which accepts majority rule, can claim to be moderate.

"Ideologies to the extreme left or right can solve nothing for South Africa.

"The moderate centre is where the real practical solution lies and this party lays total claim to that approach," Mr Rogers said.

Handwritten notes:
 1. No fine differentiation.
 2. Large no. buyers & sellers - one take away upstate.
 3. Perfect information.
 4. Not object why - face downwardly horizontal.
 5. D curve

Handwritten marks:
 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41) (42) (43) (44) (45) (46) (47) (48) (49) (50) (51) (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70) (71) (72) (73) (74) (75) (76) (77) (78) (79) (80) (81) (82) (83) (84) (85) (86) (87) (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) (94) (95) (96) (97) (98) (99) (100)

3 General 9/2/82 Star

Tractor sales hit record but outlook is bleak

By Patrick McLoughlin
The tractor industry had a record year in 1981 with sales up 38 percent but observers say the outlook for the current year is bleak.

Tractor retail sales achieved a high of 24 862 units, a 38 percent increase on the 17 995 units sold in the previous year.

STILL NO 1

Last year's total bettered the previous record of 19 166 units established in 1975.

Ford Tractors maintained No 1 position in the market for the fifth consecutive year with record sales of 6 112 tractors.

This represents a market share of 24.6 percent and was one percent more than the 1980 total.

Massey Ferguson took second position with sales of 6 087 units for a market share of 24.5 percent and in third and fourth places were Fiat and John Deere with sales of 4 666 and 3 566 units respectively.

UPSWING

Commenting on Ford's success, Mr Wally Rautenbach, director of tractor operations, said: "A favourable increase in the maize price in 1980, coupled with a near-record maize crop, played a major role in the

growth of the tractor industry."

He said net farm income increased substantially and farmers, sensing the end of the recessionary period, began replacing tractor fleets.

Mr Rautenbach said that following a low of 10 506 units in 1979, the 1980 market had climbed to 18 000 units, a 71 percent increase.

This strong upswing in the market had continued last year with industry sales for the first quarter totalling a record 5 870 units — 85 percent higher than the 1980 first-quarter figure of 3 168 units.

ANTICIPATION

The general manager of Fedmach Farm and Construction Machinery, Mr J R Turpin, agreed with Mr Rautenbach's reasons for the record tractor year but added that another factor was advanced buying in the market in anticipation of the cost increases that would result from the Atlantis Diesel Engines (ADE) programme.

Despite the euphoria among manufacturers over 1981, the current year may not present anywhere near as rosy a picture.

The chairman of the Tractor Manufacturers' Association, Mr Bill Pascoe, said that farmers did much advance buying during 1981 knowing that in 1982 prices would go up by about 20 percent.

He said tractor manufacturers faced a bleak year with sales slashed to about half of last year's total.

The "normal" tractor market was about

16 000 units annually. In 1981 total sales shot to 25 000 but the estimate for the current year was down to 13 000.

Of these, almost half would be 1981 models imported by the manufacturers themselves.

ADE locally-built diesel engines were slowly being introduced into the market and most local tractor assembly facilities would also come on stream in the next few years.

MUCH SLOWER

Mr Rautenbach said that in the long term, tractors would remain a growth market but the increase would be much slower.

The exceptionally low sales forecast for 1982 would not cause higher prices because these were based on long-term cost standards.

After 1982, things would be back to normal with locally assembled tractors fitting ADE diesel engines and selling at the sales level of about 16 000 annually, Mr Rautenbach said.

Another boom year for farmers

SOUTH Africa's farmers enjoyed another bumper year and raked in a record gross income of R6 856-million, up 21% on 1980's R5 677-million.

Their net income increased by 25% to R3 150-million from R2 473-million. This rise does not look impressive seen against the previous year's 50% increase in net income.

However, it should be remembered that the farming industry recovered in 1980 from a disastrous 1979, when bad weather hit crops. Also, it prospered along with other industries in the 1980 economic boom.

Increased agricultural output plus higher costs of farming requisites led inevitably to bigger debts.

Unfortunately, figures for 1981 are not available, but a 19.3% rise in farmers' debts to R3 839-million in 1980 from R3 219-million in 1979 shows how the debt burden becomes heavier year by year.

This year the increase in

By Elizabeth Rouse

Land Bank long-term interest by 3% to 10% on existing loans and by 4% to 11% on new loans will add to farmers' worries.

A good maize harvest raised gross income from field crops by 25% to R3 077-million from 1980's R2 460-million.

Horticulture brought in 13.7% more at R1 087-million against the previous year's R956-million while income from livestock rose by 19% to R2 694-million from R2 262-million.

High meat prices resulted in a decrease in the slaughter of cattle, and the cattle herd in white areas was about static at 8.6-million while the sheep flock numbers remained at 31.3-million.

Farmers' expenses on intermediate goods increased by 17.2% to R2 557-million from R2 181-million.

They spent almost 43% more on machinery and implements than in 1980 — R791-million compared with R554-million.

Farm-feed expenses increased by 26.6% to R638-million from R504-million, 10.2% more was spent on fertilisers at R531-million (R482-million) and fuel expenses rose by 16.7% to R433-million (R371-million).

Farm producer prices advanced by 13.2% while consumer's prices increased by 15.2% in 1981.

Farmers had to contend with a 15% increase in prices of farming requisites. Farm-feed prices were up more than 14%, packing material prices by 16.3% and tractor prices rose by 13.2%.

D. Dispatch (3) *General 17/2/82*
Koornhof — farmers to discuss boundaries

EAST LONDON — The East Cape Agricultural Union (ECAU) will meet the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, on Friday to discuss a patrolled boundary between the Border area and Transkei and Ciskei.

The president of the ECAU, Mr Fred Pettit, confirmed yesterday that the union would follow up its proposals that

border fences be built and patrolled regularly.

Last year the government informed the union that it had accepted, in principle, the proposal that "the erection and maintenance of security fences on international borders are necessary and are the responsibility of the state."

The ECAU also wanted to establish an

armed border patrol under the direct control of farmers and, if necessary, the law amended to allow the patrols.

Mr Pettit said farmers on the borders were faced by the problems of stock theft and disease.

The ECAU delegation to Dr Koornhof will be led by the chairman of the union's consolidation committee, Mr Gus Peinke of Alice. — DDR

UJGT

98 94 92 90 88 86 84 82 80 78 76 74 72 70 68 66 64 62 60 58 56 54 52 50 48 46 44 42 40 38 36 34 32 30 28 26 24 22 20 18 16 14 12 10 8 6 4 2

Farmers face massive heat wave losses

③ General
20/2/52

Own Correspondent

South Africa faces crop losses costing millions of rands as heatwaves and drought scar farm lands.

Damage in the Transvaal alone could run into millions, says the secretary of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr. Flip du Toit, in Pretoria.

Other parts of the country are being hit even harder than the Transvaal. The north-western Cape is the worst — some parts have not had rain for five years.

Mr. du Toit said: "It is difficult to say how bad the situation is at this stage, but damage runs into millions of rands."

Summer grain crops have had setbacks because of drought and intense heat.

Mr. J. F. van der Merwe, deputy director of the South African Agricultural Union, says there has already been a lot of damage to these crops this year.

TOO LATE

Grain farmers in the eastern, western and central Transvaal, and the northern Free State have been affected.

"This is of great concern to us because the grain industry is one of the most capital-intensive industries in South Africa," says Mr. van der Merwe.

Natal farmers are also having hard times because of the weather.

Rain which fell in the province this week was too light and too late to prevent huge crop losses.

The Star's correspondent in Maritzburg reports that the maize crop in the Utrecht area is 80 to 100 percent below expectations. At Dundee the loss is between 70 and 80 percent, and at Vryheid, 60 to 80 percent.

Till now, the only region where State aid to farmers has been necessary is the north-western Cape, where the drought is particularly bad.

FOODSTUFFS

Farmers in the area have received drought aid, including rebates on the transporting of foodstuffs.

A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries says wheat and maize crops have fallen this year.

It is necessary to find ways to help farmers from the State.

The only region which has reached a crisis situation is the north-western Cape, he says.

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To: A Student
Subject: Tables

ELECTRO-ENGINEER

③ General Hammond Q. Col.
Loans to farmers by Land and Agricultural
Bank 172
22/2/82

176. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the
Minister of Finance:

- (a) What was the total amount of loans to farmers by the Land and Agricultural Bank as at 31 December 1981 and (b) to how many farmers have these loans been granted?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) R850 053 177.

(b) 22 931.

Agricultural Credit Act

173. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) How many applications for loans in terms of section 10 of the Agricultural Credit Act were received in 1981;
- (2) (a) how many of the applications were (i) granted and (ii) refused and (b) what was the total amount involved?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) 3 682.
- (2) (a) (i) 2 533.
(ii) 1 149.
(b) R92 174 658.

Pollution of the sea by oil

183. Mr. R. A. F. SWART asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) How many cases of pollution of the sea by oil occurred in 1980 and 1981, respectively;
- (2) (a) what was the cost of combating such pollution in each such year and (b) what amount was recovered from the owners of the vessels concerned?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) 1980 50.
1981 42.
- (2) (a) 1980 R59 634,38.
1981 R58 605,51.
(b) 1980 R31 439,46.
1981 R39 457,03.

Exports of deciduous fruit

196. Mr. T. ARONSON asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

③ *General Hansard Q. Col. 181-2*
 172. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:
23/3/82

- (1) (a) How many loans were granted under the Agricultural Credit Act in the 1980-'81 financial year and (b) what was the amount of the assistance for that year;
- (2) what was the (a) outstanding capital, (b) capital in arrear and (c) interest in arrear at the end of that financial year?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (1) (a) 2 675.
(b) R93 594 735.
- (2) (a) R191 956 438.
(b) R 41 401 595.
(c) R 7 411 225.

③ General Hausand
Agricultural products: subsidy
Q. Col. 183 27/2/82
197. Mr. T. ARONSON asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (a) What agricultural products which are sold to the consumer were subsidized in 1981 and (b) what was the amount of the subsidy?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (a) Butter.
Bread.
Maize.

- (b) Butter R 3 741 000*.
Bread R162 106 000*.
Maize R 59 445 000*.

*Figure in respect of the 1980-'81 financial year.

WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 1982

†Indicates translated version.

Erosion menace in Natal

General

Monday 24/2/82

Agricultural Correspondent

FARMERS, black and white, still had a long way to go before the damaging effects of soil erosion were checked, according to Dr D M Scotney, Assistant Director field services, Cedara.

Dr Scotney was speaking after an eight-hour helicopter reconnaissance flight over Natal.

The 1 000 km flight was arranged by Cedara in an effort to make the Press aware of soil erosion damage in the province, and to see how the Department of Agriculture and some farmers had tried to combat soil loss on their farms.

Dr Scotney, said the coastal area from Durban to Stanger had shown considerable improvement after the recent rains. However, the effect of the drought could still be seen in the Greytown-Dundee-Winterton triangle.

Asked to comment on the vast amount of soil erosion in KwaZulu areas Dr Scotney said: 'I think it is very difficult to point fingers anywhere. There is serious soil erosion on either side of the camp.'

He said there was tremendous pressure on natural grazing in KwaZulu and this had obviously taken its toll on the soil.

He said white farmers had begun to adjust their stock rates to what the veld could carry, but in KwaZulu it was the culture of the people to keep cattle and the quality of the herd was not so important.

Mismanagement

According to the Department of Agriculture, although soil erosion was a natural phenomenon in Africa, mismanagement was accelerating the rate of soil loss. In Natal and the adjacent areas of KwaZulu, soil loss was estimated at 100 000 tons a year which was equivalent to about 40 farms of 450 ha each. This was valued at about R10 m a year.

Mr Bill Russell, of the Soil Conservation Division, said there was still too much ignorance about soil loss.

Farmers have many means at their disposal to combat or stabilise soil loss, but often the amount of work they do is totally depressing.

Mr Russell, who has headed the 'adopt a donga programme', said farming was becoming more and more involved. There was a lack of labour and money and people were not aware of the vital necessity to conserve what they've got, he said.

removed cancelled mortgage bonds from the volumes for the period 1939 to 1968. This step was necessary to create storage space in the vaults. The cancelled mortgage bonds which have been removed from the volumes have not yet been destroyed.

The Registrar of Deeds will shortly be issuing a circular in this connection to conveyancers.

③ General Farmers 17/3/82
Hansard Q. Col. 409

*19. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

Whether his Department has recently received any proposals in regard to the settling of young farmers on agricultural land; if so, (a) from what bodies or persons and (b) what was the nature of such proposals?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

No. No proposals have been received. The Department, however, has a specific policy with regard to the settling of young farmers. I would appreciate it if the hon. member could raise the matter during the debate on the Department's Vote.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

No.

(3) General Farmers 17/3/82
Hemond Q. Col. 405

*13. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether his Department has made a projection of the minimum number of farmers required in the agricultural industry to meet the future needs of the Republic; if so, what factors have been taken into account;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES:

(1) No.

(2) No.

13 evicted families are dumped

By Ryland Fisher

are dumped

3/24
C. Howard

13/3/82

THE 13 Paarl families evicted when their farm homes were demolished about three weeks ago, have now been moved off the farm site. Their furniture is now spread along the roadside in the Paarl industrial area.



● A BULLDOZER completes its task of demolishing everything on the farm where 13 evicted families used to live.

The families, about 60 people including many small children, were moved from Weltevrede farm on Tuesday morning by the new owners, Westelike Granboere Co-operative.

● Mrs Elizabeth Samuels, 55, a mother of six with one grandchild said she was told at about 8.30 am on Tuesday that they would have to move.

Court order

When we refused, the police were called and our furniture was taken away on trucks. They just dumped our furniture on the pavement, she said. Mr Samuels said a Mr Domingue told them he had a court order to evict them from the land.

Her daughter, also named Elizabeth, expressed concern about the health of her baby.

How can they expect us to live in the open like this? she asked.

● Mr Willem Trias, 27, came home from work early on Tuesday afternoon to find his furniture on the pavement of Bosch Street.

His wife, Spastie, had been to hospital with one of their four children.

Many items which were bought recently and are still being paid off were damaged when they were dumped here, said Mr Trias.

We told them we would claim and they just ignored us.

● Mrs Kathy Fortuin said: Where do they expect us to go now? There is no water here, nothing. Do they expect us to sleep in the open?

Bulldozed

When Cape Herald visited the families on Tuesday, the site on which they had lived was being bulldozed.

Several people stopped along the road to ask the families about their plight. Onlookers, including many pupils, felt their plight was a disgrace to Paarl.

● A Management Committee member, Mr Trias, came under heavy attack when he offered to get homes for two of the affected families.



● MRS Kathy Fortuin and her son Bernard, three, with some of their damaged furniture. Mrs Fortuin says the furniture was damaged when moved from the farm where they stayed.

Everyone

If they want to give us homes, they must house everyone, not one or two, some of the people said.

They asked why the Management Committee had not come to assist them earlier when they had appealed for help.

Emergency 'summit' focuses on drought

③ General Harney

11/3/82

Parliamentary Correspondent

CAPE TOWN—An emergency 'summit' meeting between the Government and the South African Agricultural Union decided here yesterday that an urgent investigation should be made into the drought-hit farming industry.

Present at yesterday's meeting were the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, several other Cabinet ministers and senior civil servants, and a top delegation from the SAAU led by its president, Mr Jan Wilkens.

Mr Botha has promised the farmers as much aid as possible within the limitations of the slowing down economy and Mr P T du Plessis, Minister of Agriculture, said that the Government had listened to the union's representations 'most sympathetically'.

'We have referred the whole matter to the Jacobs committee and asked for recommendations on how the current problems should be tackled,' he said.

Harvest

Mr Wilkens said in a statement that it was unfortunate that the poor agricultural conditions — widespread drought and rapidly deteriorating grazing — coincided with a slowdown in the general economy.

As an indication of the seriousness of the situation, he said that the harvest in the summer grain area was expected to be only half of last year's yield.

This could mean a reduction of R900 million in

the income of the farmers involved.

The union asked for several measures to aid farmers through the bad time.

Among these were that overdrafts be paid back over a longer period at special rates of interest; that provision should be made for financing the next season's production and harvesting at more reasonable rates which the farming industry found difficult to absorb; that consideration should be given to a 'deferred tax reserve fund' to put farmers in a better position to provide for lean years; and that the long term drought plan drawn up between the union and the Department of Agriculture be put into action as soon as possible.

The delegation also pointed out the detrimental effect the withdrawal of special export rail tariffs would have on the citrus and soft fruit industry.

Mr Wilkens pointed out that the withdrawal would add 50 c a carton to the price of the fruit.

'The Prime Minister had great understanding for the farmers' problems,' said Mr Wilkens.

'He indicated that the Government would give all the aid it could within the limitations of the difficult economic situation.'

Warning on soil losses

(3) General
D. Diphitch
5/3/82

A new warning on soil erosion in the pineapple-producing areas of the Eastern Cape is made by Professor Earle H. Graven, of King William's Town, a former president of the South African Crop Production Society. His letter, written in a personal capacity on this matter of importance, is given in full.

For too long I have remained silent and now feel compelled to express the alarm which I experience each time I have occasion to witness the astronomical degree of soil erosion taking place in certain sections of the Eastern Cape pineapple-producing areas.

It is my considered opinion that no crop can justify planting and cultural practices being applied up and down slopes on erodible soils despite the temporary economic advantages that can be achieved.

This is indeed a case of farmers trading the

birthright of this nation for temporary economic gain. Such farmers are flaunting the basic principles in regard to soil conservation and consistent agricultural production.

Such practices are simply not tolerated in the major cropping areas of South Africa and should not be tolerated in the Eastern Cape.

According to the Daily Dispatch of February 12 the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has measured soil losses of up to 53 tons a hectare in an experiment sited on an erodible pineapple soil.

The experiment was conducted over a nine-month period when only one-third of the usual rainfall was experienced. It is mind-boggling to consider the amount of soil that must have been lost during the floods of a few years back!

A cursory examination of the fields which can be viewed along the Mount Coke-Kidd's Beach road points to an enormous amount of soil that is currently being lost with each rain. Adjacent to the Kidd's Beach turnoff the ravages of soil erosion which resulted in the silting up of a substantially sized farm dam practically in a single downpour, is there to be witnessed.

This field indeed, was the subject of an indignant and spontaneous outcry by the local popu-

lace a few years ago, after which token contours were placed in the field, but the insidious malpractice of planting up and down the slopes has been permitted to continue to the detriment of the ecology of the area.

Indeed, I believe the situation has deteriorated over the past few years. I believe that this field has now been withdrawn from pineapple production. In my opinion it is still far from being stabilised.

It is little wonder that the Kidd's Beach lagoon has been transformed from a moderately deep lagoon where fair-sized fish could be caught and where even water-skiing was possible in the early and mid-70s, to the shallow mud pool that it is today.

A considerable amount of publicity has been given to the de-

nudation of our beachfronts of shellfish and seaweed — both of which are bio-renewable with resting. There is no way that the silt from pineapple fields can be returned from the sea to its source.

I should not be surprised to find that the dirty colour of the sea each time the east wind blows, is somehow linked to the deposit of silt from eroded lands.

One wonders whether the terms of the Soil Conservation Act of which South African agriculturists can be justifiably proud, are being effectively applied in this area.

In my opinion, transgressions of the Soil Conservation Act such as overgrazing and burning of the veld at the wrong time of the year — offences for which far-

mers in other districts are cautioned and even threatened with litigation, are comparatively innocuous when compared with the rapid and permanent damage that is being inflicted so effectively on the farming resources of this area — damage which cannot be rectified by ley cropping and beef farming as implied by some farmers.

Lest you consider that I am being completely negative towards pineapple production, I hasten to assure you that I consider that the pineapple has an important role to play in the economy of this area. I believe that it can be produced with minimal soil losses provided attention is paid to the fundamentals of soil erosion control and this does not include planting up and down steep slopes!

ACCOUNTING A

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300	300	24 000	300	24 000	24 000	300	300	300

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (1) R17,6 million.
- (2) R30,2 million.

③ General Production loans
Howard A. Col. 280 5/3/82 V
 *31. Dr. W. D. KOTZÉ asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:†

What amount in production loans was granted to farmers in the area of operation of the Noord-Westelike Koöperatiewe Landboumaatskappy, Beperk, Suid-Westelike Transvaalse Landboukoöperasie Beperk, Sentraal Westelike Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk and Kroonstad Wes Koöperasie Beperk during the (a) 1979-'80 and (b) 1980-'81 season?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (a) R210,7 million.
- (b) R265,4 million.

③ General Production loans
Howard A. Col. 280-281 5/3/82
 *32. Dr. W. D. KOTZÉ asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:†

- (1) What amount in respect of production loans in the area of operation of the Noord-Westelike Koöperatiewe Landboumaatskappy Beperk, Suid-Westelike Transvaalse Landboukoöperasie Beperk, Sentraal Westelike Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk and Kroonstad Wes Koöperasie Beperk was not repaid from the crop yield of the 1980-'81 season to the co-operatives mentioned;
- (2) what was the total amount of production loans outstanding at the co-operatives mentioned before new loans for the 1981-'82 season were brought into account?

Fingo land being offered for sale as cheap farms

E. Post 6/3/82

General



By SHELAGH BLACKMAN

LAND in the Humansdorp district, which was granted to the Fingo tribe in perpetuity in 1834 and which is still scheduled as black land under the 1913 Black Land Act, is being offered for sale to white farmers at "give away" prices.

A Government notice, describing the land as State land, has been published saying that applications are invited for the purchase of farms in terms of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1966.

The area involved includes Fingo reserve 653, The Gap 655, Snykip 653, Witte Kleybosch 674 and Witte Els Bosch 673.

The Fingoes were forced to move from this area in 1977/78 and were resettled at Elukhanyweni near Keiskammahook in Ciskei.

Crops were left to perish in the fields and stock disposed of at low prices.

The Black Sash yesterday called on the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Pietie du Plessis, to halt the sale to white farmers of lands that had not been removed from the schedule of the Black Land Act of 1913.

The lands, Black Sash stressed, were still contained in the current schedule of the Act.

For scheduled land to be deproclaimed, an Act has to be passed by both Houses of Parliament and signed by the State President.

All Weekend Post efforts to find out from the Departments of Co-operation and Development and Agriculture and Fisheries whether the land had actually been deproclaimed proved fruitless.

A spokesman from the Department of Co-operation in Cape Town said that he had a telex saying the land had been deproclaimed, but said the matter had to be confirmed by the department in Pretoria.

From then on, Weekend Post was referred from one person to another and nobody was able to give a firm statement on whether the land had been deproclaimed.

In an interview today, the PFP MP for Walmer, Mr Andrew Savage, said the Government appeared to have acted very quietly on the issue because it was the first he had heard of the land being offered for sale.

He described the offering of the land to white farmers as a "gross repudiation of a moral obligation to the Fingo people who have lived there for generations".

He said he intended raising the matter in Parliament.

According to the Government notice, the land has been divided into 23 portions, the smallest farm is 106 hectares and is priced at R69 073 while the largest is 651 hectares at R90 695.

Mr Savage said he had sold a farm in the district recently and it appeared to him the land was being sold at prices "very substantially below market price".

The Black Sash pointed out that the Fingoes were removed from the land in question in 1977 and 1978, many forcibly after they had refused to leave.

"The land was given to their ancestors by Sir George Grey and held in trust," the statement said.

The Black Sash has requested Dr Koornhof to look to the interests of Fingo people removed by his department from trust land to which they hoped to return.

It called for the direct intervention by his department in the sale of land until the "human issue" had been solved.

The chairman of the Eastern Cape Region of the Black Sash, Mrs Bobby Melinsky, said: "Although prices are said to be low because of free clearance, whole farms are being sold for the price of town houses.

"They were trust lands supposed to have been held in perpetuity for the Fingo people.

"The Government took the land in December, 1977, and shortchanged the Fingoes, who got nothing except summary compensation for their houses and what many consider to have been a raw deal in compensatory settlement.

"Now they are selling black land at give-away prices. It is a situation where 'farms for friends' could well be a factor.

"Even if the selling is done on an impartial basis, it is still immoral. The sale should be cancelled immediately."

Attention was focused on the plight of the Fingo people at their resettlement camp at Elukhanyweni when a meeting on relocation was held in Port Elizabeth recently.

A spokesman for the Fingoes, Mr Isaac Tembani, told the gathering that people were suffering there and that the Fingoes wanted to go back to their land near Humansdorp.

In 1979, a letter was written on behalf of the Fingoes, asking Dr Koornhof to allow them to go "back to their native land where the bones of their forefathers are".

The answer the Fingoes received was that the removal of "residents of black spots was Government policy" and was carried out to "give effect to the consolidation of the black states".

The Fingoes have recently expressed the wish to be able to put their case to Dr Koornhof again.

Natal farmers ³ get new crop ^{General Star}

Farming Correspondent

Cassava root may soon rival sugar cane as Northern Natal's staple crop.

Next week, the Anglo-American group will unveil one of the world's largest cassava projects in Zululand. The crop will be used to produce non-fattening sweeteners.

After extensive research by its cassava unit at Mtunzini, African Products Ltd — a company from the Anglo stable — is already contracting with Zululand farmers to put 10 000 ha under cassava.

Cassava is a starch-yielding root plant for which large tracts of Northern Natal are eminently suitable.

A spokesman for Anglo American said that

it would not replace sugar cane or pineapple fields but would be established on cattle ranches or lands at present under low-yield cash crops.

Many Zululand cotton farmers were expected to switch to cassava, he added.

The spokesman said that Anglo-American would process the cassava at factories in Hluhluwe and Mtubatuba.

The cassava planted would be of a new bitter-sweet hybrid variety yielding about 25 tons to the hectare annually. The two factories were expected to receive about 950 tons of cassava root a day in 1985 and, from this, more than 700 tons of starch could be extracted.

A Cassava Growers Co-operative was being established to represent Cassava farmers, the spokesman said.

As a separate project, Cassava was to be the main crop of the Mpukonyoni Rural Development Scheme in kwaZulu which was financed through the Anglo American and De Beer's Chairman's Fund.

Farmers were confident that, once Cassava starch production had developed sufficiently, ethanol fuel production from starch would become a reality, the spokesman said.

Anglo American declined to disclose the total investment involved but it is understood that this might exceed R125 million.

Chief: Crisis culture

rates on The far-reach effects of this situ on the consumer ar calculable at this s

The executive con tee and co-opera council of the union cided that urgent will be held with organisations conce to overcome the p lems in the short longer term.

Mr Wilkens appe to farmers not to p: "The union will dc erything within its er to save the fari from financial ruin. Farmers would kept informed of progress. — DDC.

Identified

after negotiating a s' bend.

Two of the men ir cab of the truck esce without injury whi third man broke his.

Mr Manosi a travelling on the bac the truck with th other men.

Another man tra ing with him died stantly while the others were uninju — DDR

EL S

In one of the bigg single sales in So African motor indu: history, Liberty Car P has bought R1 mill worth of motor vehic from Datsun.

This comes only 1 months after the cc pany's R1 million pur ase of Peugeots from 5 ma. "These cars are m reliable and we beli they bridge the gap tween small cars and pensive luxury mode says Yvonne Mitch Liberty's local m ageress.

Together with their cent local purchase

Hike seen as death blow to agriculture

PRETORIA — The "shock" increases in rail tariffs could cause the agricultural industry "to bleed to death", the secretary of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Flip du Plooy, said yesterday.

He was commenting on the tariff hikes announced by the Minister of Transport, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, in Parliament yesterday as part of the railway budget.

Livestock tariffs are to rise by 15 per cent, mealie export tariffs also by 15 per cent, and domestic maize railage by 2c a ton per km.

The higher diesel and petrol prices would also have a dramatic increase in farmers' costs, Mr Du Plooy said.

Particularly affected would be the province's fresh produce larder in the Lowveld. These farmers were far from markets and transport was a major cost.

Meat producers in the bushveld area were in the same boat, Mr Du Plooy said.

He warned, too, that if the financial position of border farmers deteriorated further — and they

would now — the attempt to establish farmers in the area would miscarry.

The president of the South Africa Agricultural Union, Mr Japp Wilkens, also expressed shock at the steep tariff increases and warned of their inflationary impact on food prices and all agricultural products.

With the downswing in the economy, he said, the agricultural sector would have difficulty in recovering costs in the short term.

Where product prices were not controlled by the government, the individual producer would have to absorb the greater portion of the increased tariffs, Mr Wilkens said.

He stressed that agricultural conditions were "fairly critical."

Crops would be much smaller than normal because of the drought and farmers' incomes would in any case be much lower "and their costs will now be considerably higher".

"The latest increases follow a series of other recent price shocks — including fertilisers and the doubling of interest

rates during the past year," he said.

Organised commerce and industry warned that inflation would be an unavoidable consequence of the higher railway tariffs.

Spokesmen warned too, of South Africa's competitiveness on world markets being undermined by an inflation rate much higher than that of the country's major trading partners.

The chief executive of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, Mr Raymond Parsons, said the increases would be inflationary and have a ripple effect on the economy.

Mr Jan Cronje, director of the Consumer Council, said the tariff hikes were a double blow to the consumer, who would not only have to fork out more for passenger services, but also pay more for food and other goods as a result.

And Mr Rex Glanville, managing director of Checkers, said any move that increased the basic price of food at present showed "blatant disregard for the situation of the lower and fixed income consumer". — DDC.

Loubser to quit next year

CAPE TOWN — Dr Kobus Loubser, general manager of the country's Transport Services and one of the most respected officials in the civil service, is to retire after a career spanning 40 years.

Announcing this at the close of the railways budget yesterday, the Minister of Transport Affairs, Mr Hendrik

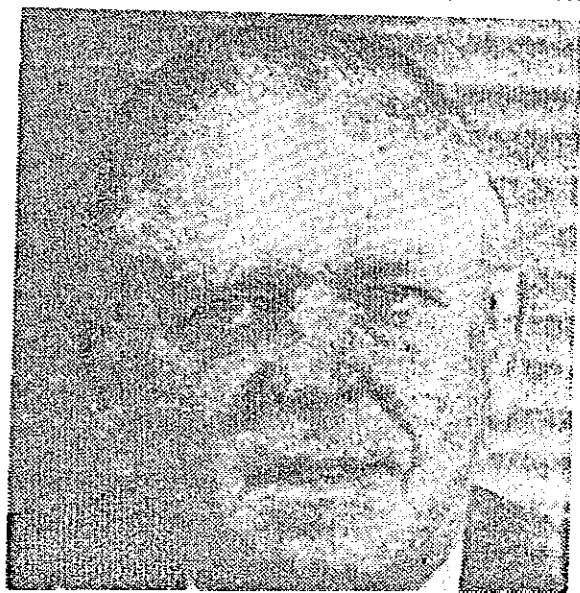
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Union chief: ⁽³⁾ grave crisis in agriculture *General*

PRETORIA — Agriculture in South Africa is facing one of its most serious survival crises in many years and the SA Agricultural Union has made urgent representations to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to take drastic steps to save a large sector of the industry.

The president of the union, Mr Jaap Wilkens, says this situation has been caused by the unfortunate combination of severe droughts and an expected drop in farming income on the one hand and the large carry-over debts and

high interest rates on the other.

General rains have not yet occurred during this production season and at this stage even a general rain would be too late to save the crops on the lands and provide sufficient grazing for winter. Several areas last received rain five years ago.

The general crop estimate is fifty per cent and less in the summer grain production areas compared to last year. This concerns all summer grain crops. In financial terms this means a loss of R1 500 million in income.

The far-reaching effects of this situation on the consumer are incalculable at this stage.

The executive committee and co-operative council of the union decided that urgent talks will be held with all organisations concerned to overcome the problems in the short and longer term.

Mr Wilkens appealed to farmers not to panic. "The union will do everything within its power to save the farmers from financial ruin."

Farmers would be kept informed of any progress. — DDC.

UJCT

Drought may cost farmers R1 000m

(3)

COH 25/2/82

By GERALD REILLY

DROUGHT may cost the country's 33 000 maize farmers R1 000-million this year, according to agricultural experts in Pretoria.

The chairman of the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo), Mr Fanie Ferreira, estimates drought has caused an overall 40% crop destruction.

In some parts destruction was total. In some parts, too, farmers had abandoned their crops. The withered stocks had been cut down and milled into cattle fodder.

Nampo's chief economist, Dr Kit le Clus, said "at this stage" about 6 000 000 tons had been lost and the eventual crop was unlikely to exceed 8 000 000 tons.

He estimated current losses at R730-million "but if the drought persists the figure could be much higher."

"Even if we have good rains from now until the end of the season, this will only stop further losses. Little can be done at this late stage to increase yields."

Big losses had occurred throughout the maize triangle, including the Western and Eastern Transvaal, Dr Le Clus said.

He said Nampo's claims for higher producer prices this year would be greatly strengthened by the smaller crop.

He pointed out that farmers had had no compensation for higher costs for two years. Even equating farmers' costs with the official inflation rate — and they were actually higher — a price rise of more than 20% could be justified.

However, Dr Le Clus said he would not speculate on the demands to be made by Nampo: "These will be determined at our congress in Klerksdorp on March 18."

Other authorities pointed out that an 8 000 000 ton crop would leave a surplus of only 1 500 000 tons.

This would ease the surplus storage problem, which would have had to be faced had this season's crop matched the 14-million tons grown last season.

However the Maize Board expected to carry over a surplus of about 4 500 000 tons to the new season at the end of May.

This, with the 1 500 000 tons, is enough to ensure the board can fulfil contractual obligations to overseas buyers for the 1982-83 season, it was stated.

(1) Premiums Treated as Business Expense

01, Jan 1: Insurance Expense 300
 Bank being payment of premium 300

Dec 31: Income Statement 300
 Insurance Expense being closing entry 300

Years 02 and 03 - same as 01

04, Jan 1: Insurance Expense 300
 Bank 300

Jan 2: Debtor (Insurance Company) 24 000
 Income from Life Policy being accrual of proceeds receivable 24 000

Jan 2: Income from Life Policy 24 000
 Income Statement being closing entry 24 000

Jan 2: Income Statement 300
 Insurance being closing entry 300

Jan 31: Bank 24 000
 Debtor being reduced 24 000

(2) Premiums Treated as 01, Jan 1: Life Policy 300
 Bank 300

Dec 31: Income Statement 300
 Life Policy (Surrendered) therefore 300

Big loss forecast

Mill Reporter
 THE South African Agricultural Union has appealed to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to take drastic steps to save a large sector of the farming industry, according to a statement by Mr Jaap Wilkens, president of the union.
 The summer grain production areas are expected to yield 30% less than last year - a loss of R1 500-million. This could have far-reaching effects for the consumer, warns Mr Wilkens.
 An unfortunate combination of severe droughts, an expected drop in farming income, large debts and high interest rates have led to this situation, said the statement. Rain at this stage would be too late to save crops.

Continued/.....

AGRICULTURE

Will South Africa lose the eastern Free State by default?

Throughout 160 years of periodic border disputes between South Africa and Lesotho, effective farm occupation has always been the key factor.

Now a situation is developing where the rural depopulation in the so-called "Conquered Territory" is prejudicing South Africa's rights to the region.

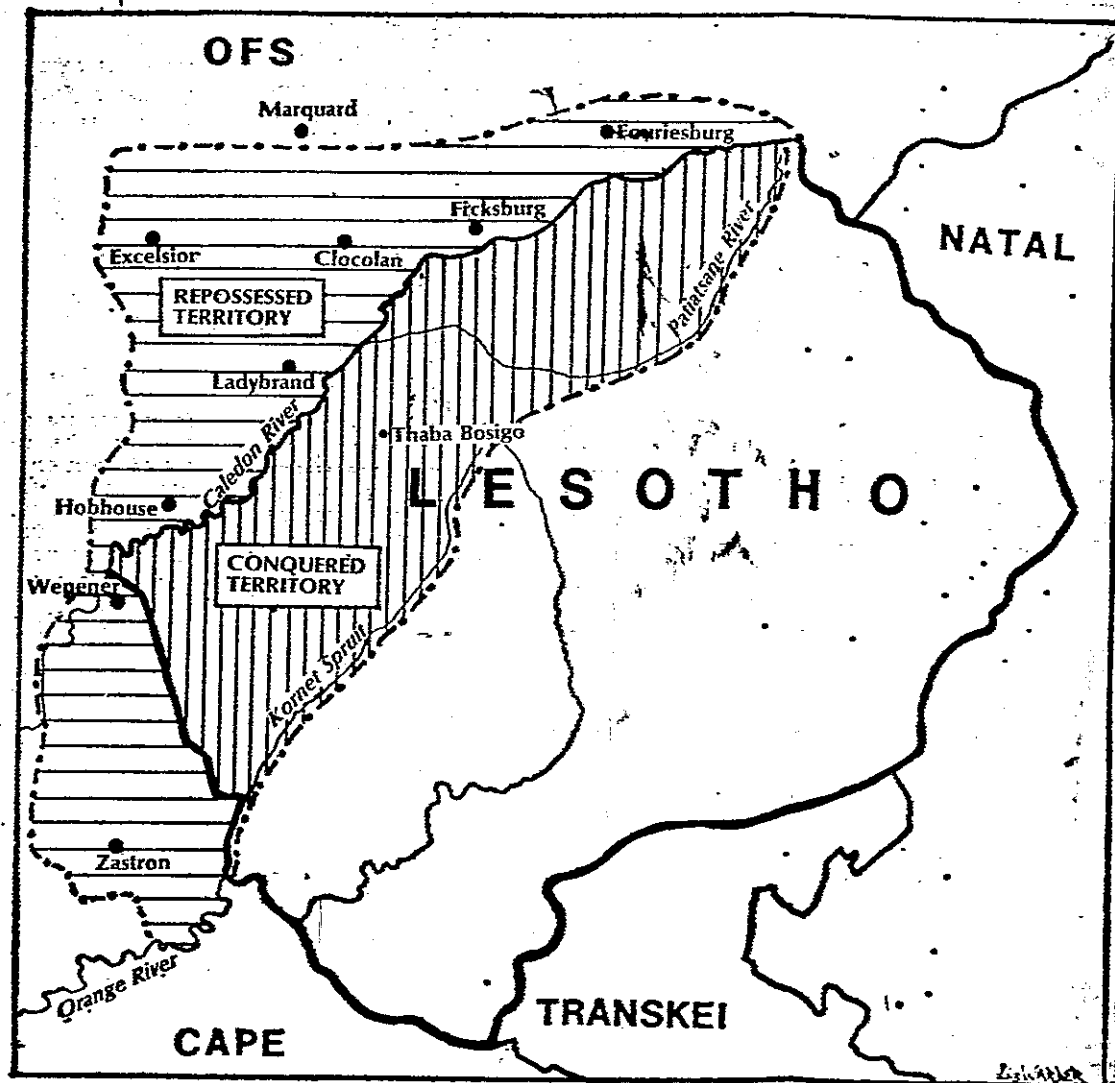
The same factors that operated elsewhere to drive farmers to the cities, operated here as well, only more acutely so. The era of cheap food policy coincided with repeated droughts and administrative neglect. Stock thefts are an added curse — despite the efforts of the combined stock theft unit of the South African and Lesotho police forces.

The upshot has been an alarming decrease in the number of white farmers.

Between 1970 and 1980, the Ficksburg area lost 33 percent of its farmers; Clocolan, 25 percent; Fouriesburg, 47 percent; Hobhouse, as much as 61 percent; Ladybrand, 27 percent; Wepener, 44 percent, and Zastron, 38 percent.

In 1970 their numbers had already declined from what they were in the 50s.

This steady erosion has not left the towns unaffected. Ficksburg was the only town in the region to gain in white population — as much as 22 percent. All the



others lost: Fouriesburg, 28 percent; Ladybrand, 14 percent; Wepener, 23 percent; Zastron, 15 percent; Hobhouse, 34 percent.

As the farming population shrunk shops and garages had to close down, doctors and nurses migrated elsewhere, courts and police stations reduced staff, railway stations and schools were downgraded, municipal staff became redundant.

Hobhouse, which

used to have a proud junior high school with almost 300 pupils and sporting the historic Gorraskop as its emblem, saw its school reduced to a small primary one with 31 pupils. Newly built hostels were closed in 1974. Some optimist stuck a note to the girls' hostel door reading: "Closed until better days arrive again."

The ratio of whites to blacks dropped sharply. In 1951 whites made

up 40 percent of the population in the towns and 19 percent on the farms. In 1970 the percentages had dropped to 23 and only 11. The rot has since increased.

From the dawn of modern history — which in these parts began around 1800 — farm occupation has been the crucial factor in determining the ownership of the region.

The term "Conquered Territory" is actually a misno-

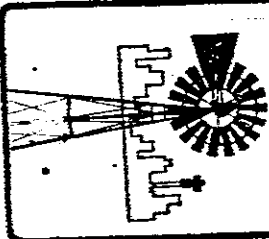
mer. The districts of Fouriesburg, Ficksburg, Clocolan, Ladybrand, Hobhouse, Wepener and Zastron should rather be called the "repossessed territory."

From before 1800 up to the days of the Voortrekkers, wars of annihilation — the difaqane — swept through the entire region.

Bushmen were relentlessly hunted down and murdered by the Koranna, a Hottentot tribe. The

Rural depopulation threatens

of a rural depopulation which has been almost des- troyed by the Zulus and their later Mat- shosha, the offshoot of a Bakwena group known as the Bamoketeli, moved to the impregnable mountain strong- hold of Thaba Bosho, safe from the pursuing hordes of Shaka and Mzilikazi. There he started his father round him the remnants of the dispersed tribes, try- ing to weld a Sotho nation out of them.



Hannes Ferguson Farming

Cape Governor, Sir George Napier, ordered them out of the region in

1843, purporting to act on behalf of the white population, he ceded the area to Moshweshwe, who promptly occupied it with kraals and cattle. The so-called Warden line of 1849 substantially fol- lowed the Napier de- marcation of 1843. The line ran roughly from Golden Gate to Clarsons, Fouries- burg, Marquard, Ex- elsius, Hobhouse and then along the lower Caledon River.

After British mili- tary action against Moshweshwe in which British troops were twice defeated by the Basotho, the British Government withdrew from the whole of the present Free State, which was made an independent re- public by the Bloemfontein Con- vention of 1854.

The republic in- herited the Warden line indicating the boundary of Mosh- weshwe's territory.

Then, encouraged by his success against the British, Moshweshwe turned against the Free State. Provoking a war by systematic stock thefts across the border line and sending growing bands of squatters to occupy lands far inside the Free State border, he was successful again. Hundreds of farm- houses were des- troyed and thou- sands of cattle stolen from farms

deep inside the Free State borders but war led only to a stalemate and a peace treaty con- firming the Warden line in 1858.

But thefts and in- cursions continued. President Brand had to resume mili- tary operations in 1865. By now the Free State was bel- ter organized and the Basotho were driven back to the Caledon River.

The territory the whites had occupied before 1842 was now

SA's rights in eastern Free State

ded 142 farms with a total area of 153 000 ha. They had been incompletely settled, however. If they had been fully occu- pied, the Free State would have been able to press its claims to the con- quered territory.

In the subsequent agreement of Alwal North (1869) the Free State was allowed only to keep the territory west of the Cale- don River-Riverzigt line) which in- cluded the districts of Wepener and

Zustrom.

The new border, which practically was the old border before 1842, became the internationally recognised bound- ary between Free State and Bas- utoland/Lesotho.

After indepen- dence in 1966, Leso- tho resurrected its claims on the repos- sessed territory. Wrongly calling the area a "conquered territory" the Leso- tho prime minister, Chief Jonathan, even approached the United Nations. Prime Minister Dr

possessed. This as the area be- tween the Warden line and the Cale- don River, Riverzigt ne, later wrongly termed the Con- quered Territory.

Advancing beyond the Caledon River the commands more ten occupied more territory—as far south and the Orange river in this north. This was the conquered ter- ritory, which was subsequently formal- ly ceded by Mosh- weshwe in the

prevent Basotho in- cursions by stock- thieves and squat- ters.

The land commis- sions were faced with large numbers of Basotho who made effective sur- vey of farms almost impossible. The Bas- otho took advantage of the inertia of the Bloemfontein gov- ernment by mo- ving into their old kraals and gathering crops and generally turning the occupa- tion scheme into a farce. The peace treaty of Thaba Bos-

signo was reduced to a scrap of paper.

Sixty years later, Karl Haushofer was to teach that in geo- politics, rural occu- pation was 10 points of the law. This ex- plicitly summed up the Free State ex- perience in 1866 and 1867.

Eventually, Pre- sident Brand de- cided to march again. New military tactics were em- ployed by the boer commanders and all important fortified positions, even deep

had not even been discussed. Recently there has been some discussion but the whole idea was dis- carded when the Government rejec- ted the Steyn Com- mission report.

That is why farmers accuse the State of defaulting on its border obliga- tions.

The Free State Agricultural Union fears that the reac- tion of the repos- sessed territory will continue, lending credence and justi- fication to further Lesotho claims.

Chief Jonathan does not need Hau- shofer to tell him that rural occupa- tion is 10 points of

At that stage the white farmers in the region along the Caledon River and down to the Orange river were caught in the political conflict between the Voo- trekkers and the British Government. In 1842, the Voortrek- kers were still the high subjects.

Meanwhile white farmers had trekked in from the south, settling in vast emp- ty spaces. Some of them bartered cattle for land from groups of Bushmen. When the Voo- trekkers swelled the ranks of white farmers, the Baso- thos were still con- fined to the moun- tains round Thaba Bosho.

The great Trek had brought order and safety, however. Now Moshweshwe could venture out of his fortress.

There the matter rested. It could be there because effec- tive white occupa- tion of the repos- sessed territory was supposed to be beyond any dispute.

Yet, as Dr Verwoerd spoke, the basis of the white occupation of the repos- sessed territory was already being eroded.

Dirk Tru's cheap food policy had strangled the desirability of the profitability of

Verwoerd replied that his government had not the slight- est intention of conducting any ne- gotiations in connec- tion with the so- called "conquered territory" of the Free State.

There the matter rested. It could be there because effec- tive white occupa- tion of the repos- sessed territory was supposed to be beyond any dispute.

Yet, as Dr Verwoerd spoke, the basis of the white occupation of the repos- sessed territory was already being eroded.

Dirk Tru's cheap food policy had strangled the desirability of the profitability of

General 19/3/82

Venda in

Search of gold at end of the jojoba beams stalk

By Bob Davis

The largest jojoba plantation in the world is to be established in Venda and, in a separate venture, a Mexican rancher plans to enter the local market for the product.

The 60 000 ha plantation will be financed by an American consortium in partnership with the Venda Government. Planting will take 30 years.

The oil from a single hectare of jojoba (pronounced hohoba) bears is equivalent to that pressed from 60 sperm whales.

At present prices it will cost R9 million to plant 2 000 ha a year. But a spokesman for the consortium said international sales of the product would be possible from the fifth year, generating

A Johannesburg company is now selling small portions of its jojoba farm in the Eastern Cape to the public as an investment.

Each lot contains 47 oil-producing jojoba bushes planted in the past two years.

The farm is managed for Dunneveld jojoba

by Mr Eddie Bervis, a former Rhodesian tobacco farmer.

Company director Mr Malcolm Anderson said investment in jojoba should not be seen as a

"Get-rich-quick scheme." He said it would take five years before the first limited crops were harvested and five years after that for full

production to start. The company would continue to plant seed at the rate of 200 ha a year in order to ensure ever-increasing crops.

Mr Anderson quoted Dr Philip Landis of Mobil, USA, as having said: "Where can we get 10 million kg of jojoba oil? Mobil would find a place for jojoba if supplies increase."

He said the minimum investment involved R180 deposit and R30 a month.

capital for the later stages of the project. In the Cape farm prices doubled in less than a year of an announcement that jojoba was to be grown in the vicinity of Riversdal and Mossel Bay.

The Mexican rancher investigating the market for jojoba products and processing equipment is Mrs Maria Carpenter, who is in South Africa with her American husband, Don, an oil company engineer.

Mrs Carpenter said jojoba beans had been growing wild on the family ranch for hundreds of years.

"The ranch is situated on the Gulf of California and climatic conditions are similar to the Cape coast where South African jojoba plantings have taken place," she said.

Her husband commented there was

unnecessary secrecy about jojoba oil on the world market.

"It is simply a natural substitute for whale oil and anyone wanting to know how big the market for jojoba is should simply ask how big the market for whale oil is."

"People have tried to keep jojoba production under wraps and to make fortunes out of it. But there is nothing mysterious about it — American Indians have been using it for centuries."

Mr Carpenter said there was a demand for jojoba oil because of the worldwide anti-whaling sentiment. This had resulted in a shortage which would only be solved by commercial plantations.

He said the Mexican Government was reluctant to issue export permits for

jojoba because of the healthy internal market for the product.

Large plantations were being established in Arizona and California.

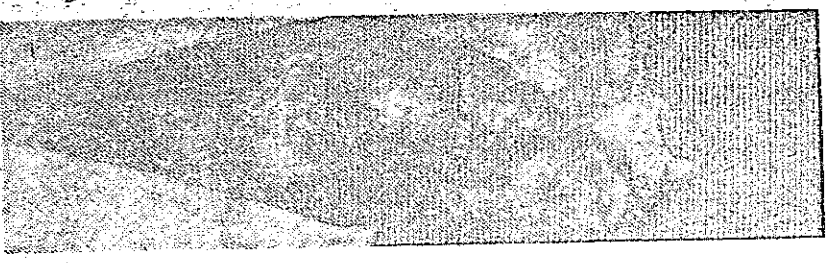
Mr Carpenter said a problem encountered by commercial growers was that investors were reluctant to wait for returns.

"It takes five years before you can harvest the first crop and another five years until full production is reached."

Mr Carpenter said 55 percent of the weight of the jojoba bean was oil. The residue could be mixed with lucerne as cattle feed.

"Among major buyers of the oil are cosmetics manufacturers who spend millions of dollars each year on whale oil."

Oil company engineer M



Mexican rancher Mrs Maria Carpenter.

Vein cuts killed his 'patient'

Own Correspondent

KIMBERLEY — A man who claimed to be a doctor and cut a varicose vein of a woman who bled to death was found guilty in the Kimberley Regional Court of culpable homicide this week. He is to be detained

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Govt aid pledge in crop failure Drought hits OFS farmers

General *19/3/12*

CAPE TOWN. — A massive maize crop failure is threatening to ruin many farmers and the Government has undertaken to "do everything within financial limitations" to assist them.

This was revealed in a joint statement issued in Cape Town this week by the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, and the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Pietie du Plessis.

Mr Du Plessis said in an interview afterwards that many farmers would not be in a position to meet their obligations to their co-operatives and that the co-operatives, who were financed by the Land Bank, would in turn fail to meet their commitments to the bank.

A further setback faces the farmers next year when they will have no production cred-

it for the next crop as a result of their failure this year.

The next crop was therefore also threatened.

The maize crop was expected to be less than the 8 600 000 tons, estimated according to conditions at the end of February and 40 to 50% smaller than last year's bumper 14 600 000 tons.

Conditions had deteriorated in the production areas since the February estimate, the statement said.

"It is expected that the oil seeds and grain sorghum crops will also be approximately 40 to 50% smaller than last year," the Ministers said.

They confirmed that discussions had been held between the South African Agricultural Union, the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, and members of the Cabinet on March 10. — Sapa

VREDEFORT. — Continuing drought is forcing Free State stock farmers to cut back on their herds and prices are dropping at auctions.

The deteriorating condition of the drought-ravaged cattle, coupled with lower prices currently being fetched at abattoirs, resulted in a fall of up to R100 a head in prices paid at this week's Vleissentraal auction at Vredefort compared with two months ago.

Highest prices fetched were: R600 for bulls, R500 for slaughter cows, R450 for slaughter oxen and R325 for heifers.

About 400 head of cattle were offered and all were sold.

Friesland cows at Ermelo were sold for up to R1475 and heifers for R770 at sales in the district this week. — Sapa.

30 3 General 19/3/82

Tractor sales tumble

By PAT SIDLEY

TRACTOR sales fell 44% in the first two months of this year compared with January and February 1981.

The drop is, however, largely in line with the industry's expectations.

The number of agricultural tractors sold in January and February this year was 2 199 compared with 3 929 in the same time last year.

Total tractor sales last year were worth R500-million to R600-million.

February sales this year dropped by 5.5% on January's — a trend which can be expected to continue in the drought conditions — from 1 131 to 1 068.

In spite of having to revise predictions for the year's sales down from 14 000 to 12 000, Ford (which sold 175 units last month) still sees some reasons for optimism.

Fedmech (Massey-Ferguson) sold 232 units last month. It says the market held up well in the drought conditions, especially in the maize areas.

February is an important month for tractor manufacturers to gauge the year's business. About 40% of tractors are sold to maize farmers (11% to wheat and 12% to sugar farmers).

The maize crop size is particularly determined by rainfall in February, and occasionally as late as March during dry times.

Farmers and tractor manufacturers are asking for a hefty increase in the produc-

er price of maize.

An announcement of an increase in the maize price is expected soon.

Producers were not awarded any increase last year.

They now face severe drops in income with smaller crops this year and rising interest rates.

"Existing tax concessions may not be enough to offset these factors," says the acting head of Ford's tractor division, Mr Keith Bering.

③ General Hansard Q Col. 451
Area lost for agricultural purposes as a result
of urban development 17/3/82

*9. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked
the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

What is the estimated area that was lost
for agricultural purposes as a result of ur-
ban development over the latest specified
period of five years for which figures are
available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES:

133 563 ha (1976-'77 to 1980-'81)

A way to earn R30 — after 10 years

3) General
2/3/82
S. Express

MACADAMIA NUTS DIDN'T LIVE UP TO THE PROMISES

A CO-OPERATIVE farming project dubbed South Africa's "most exciting growth investment" has so far yielded returns of just over R30 to one of its investors — after 10 years.

The investor, Mr Victor Collis of East London, has spent more than R1 650 — not including maintenance costs of more than R100 a year at present — investing in a macadamia nut farm called Lang Piet in the Barberton district.

"I saw an advert in 1972 for the investment and since it claimed high returns, I thought it would give me something for my retirement — especially since I was told I'd get returns after six years," Mr Collis said.

In 10 years of investment, he has received two cheques — one for R8.65 in 1980 and the other for R23.08 last year.

The farm Lang Piet is run by Macadamia Finance which also owns an adjacent farm called Biltong. Together, the farms make up about 2 200ha.

A quote from one of the company's newsletters reads:

Your (the investor's) farms will inevitably assume world leadership in macadamia nut production and as continuous improvement is vital to successful farming we have planted and approach-grafted many varieties of macadamia trees with Hawaiian, Australian and Californian varieties predominating.

Improved quality and greater production go hand-in-hand with higher profit margins and we shall relentlessly pursue our search for optimum viability.

The managing director of Macadamia Finance, Mr Charles Barrett said: "The project is taking longer than we initially expected."

But about Mr Collis's two cheques for R8.65 and R23.08

By DEBRA
CLEVELAND

could expect those returns, Mr Barrett said this week.

"We only had American guidelines on those figures. They haven't worked out to be the same in South Africa since they seem to take about two years longer.

"So there's no guarantee there will be those kind of returns."

Mr Collis says he was not told either that the South African plants would take two years longer to develop or that there was no guarantee on his investment.

There is also some dispute as to when Mr Collis' trees were planted.

Mr Barrett claims they were only planted in 1976 and Mr Collis is adamant the planting date was 1974.

Even so, if the seedlings were planted in 1976 — four years after the initial investment — Mr Collis should have received at least R96 and should be receiving R299 this year.

"And whenever I ask them why my returns are so small," Mr Collis said, "they always give me smooth answers."

"Another thing is that they always seem to have different managers — they must change them like I change my shirts."

doubled his income in two years, which proves we do have results.

Mr Collis's initial outlay was a R150 deposit for one plot comprising 66 trees.

He then paid monthly installments of R25 for five years, finishing his payments in 1977.

Extra annual costs were R25 for maintenance, increased to R87 in 1980 and then to R109.25 last year.

A 1977 Macadamia Finance newsletter published a table giving estimates on investor's returns, produced by a Dr J. B. Smith who is, according to the newsletter, "our American consultant".

According to the table, Mr Collis should have received R92 after the sixth year following planting, R299 after the seventh, R608 after the eighth, and R751 after the ninth - a far cry from his R31.73 total.

Even though both investors and prospective clients saw these figures and were obviously led to believe they

Macadamia Finance to sell his investment over a year ago.

The selling price was to be R2 300, with the company taking 10% of the amount "for their efforts".

He has, however, heard nothing about the sale.

Mr Barrett said in his experience of South African farming of the nuts, there would only be a profitable payback after 12 years of planting.

"Last year we had 32 tons of nuts in their shells as compared with only nine tons the previous year.

"And this year we expect to have about 100 tons."

According to Mr Barrett: "The plants can grow anywhere, as long as it's not too damp.

"They settle down after a couple of years but at first things get quite tricky.

"An example is that a plant might just turn brown and die with no possible explanation."

No depression in manioc market

By Lynn Carlisle

AN ANGLO American company, African Products, is planning a starch extraction mill at Mtubatuba and possibly also at Hluhluwe, Zululand. Black and White farmers take advantage of growing the South American drought tolerant perennial crop called cassava or manioc.

Three years ago Anglo American established its Cassava Research Centre at Mtunzini, under Dr "TB" Vorster, where a major plant breeding

programme of hybridisation, with special emphasis on selection and repositioning the genes with high yield and disease resistance characteristics, has been successfully carried out.

African Products agronomist Norman Graham stresses the aim is not to compete with sugar, and sugar farmers would also benefit by growing cassava on land not suited to sugar growing.

"The absolute advantages of cassava are that it has survived the worst the

elements could inflict on it and can grow in conditions of sandy and relatively infertile soils," says Graham.

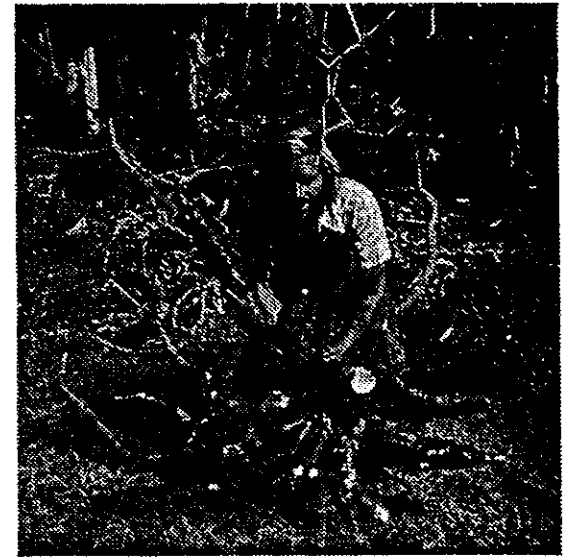
Cassava has become a main foodstuff for about 300-million Asians.

South Americans and Africans. It is not season bound and can be left in the ground almost indefinitely before harvesting.

Jeff Alabaster, MD of African Products, says his company is

looking for a supply of 950t of the starch-producing roots a day, on a year round basis, from January 1985, to make the mills a viable proposition.

"But from the time the roots are lifted you



Individual cassava plants can produce massive roots: this 17-month-old plant's root yield was 30 kg.

have only 24 hours before the starch content starts dropping, so they must be processed in time," says Alabaster.

More than 400 farmers have been invited to a major cassava field day at Mtubatuba on March 23.

R15 m cassava mill to be built on Zululand site

General Mercury
24/3/82

Mercury Reporter

A R15 million mill is to be built at Mtubatuba, in Zululand, to extract starch from the roots of cassava — the shrubby perennial plant which was introduced to the area in 1974.

At a Cassava Day at Mtubatuba, organised by African Products, an Anglo-American Industrial Corporation company, more than 250 local farmers were told that the company was looking for a supply of 950 tons of the roots a day on a year-round basis as from January 1985.

This supply would be provided by local members of the Umfolozi Cassava Producer's Co-op which was specially formed for this purpose in 1980.

Mr Norman Graham, African Products' senior agronomist, told the meeting: 'From the cassava at present in the ground it is hoped to plant a total of 1 050 ha in 1982/83 and 6 178 ha in 1983/4.

The first plantings for delivery to the new mill will be in November 1983 and from the 1984/85 season a total of 8 064 ha will be planted to supply the

mill and a second mill at Hluhluwe.

There are at present 27 growers of cassava and it is thought that a total of between 100 and 150 growers will be required to produce the total crop of 290 000 tons of roots a year.

The chairman of African Products, Mr Willem Hefer, emphasised that the company was not aiming to compete with sugar and that sugar farmers would also benefit by growing cassava on land not suited to sugar growing.

He said that the reasons for concentrating the initial growing of the plant in the area between Empangeni and Mkuze were climatic and logistical.

'From the time the roots are lifted you only have 24 hours before the starch content starts dropping, so it is essential to get them processed in this time,' he said.

The guest speaker and an international cassava expert, Dr Barry Nestell, said that conditions for cassava growing in Zululand were as favourable as he had encountered anywhere in the world.

requested, (b) were the reasons given for the application and (c) was the response of his Department;

- (3) whether any increases have been or are to be granted; if so, what is the increase in each case;
- (4) whether any representations were made against such price increase; if so, (a) by which organizations and (b) what in each case (i) were the reasons for the representations and (ii) was the response of his Department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (1) Yes. Dairy Control Board.
- (2) and (3) Application at present under consideration.
- (4) No.

Jointed cactus

409. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) What amount was spent on herbicide for the control of jointed cactus in the Republic in the latest specified year for which figures are available;
- (2) what area of land was infested by this weed as at (a) the latest date for which figures are available and (b) a date five years previously?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (1) R1 660 000 (1980-'81)
- (2) (a) 831 053 ha (1980-'81)
(b) 828 595 ha

24/3/82
③ General ③ ~~General~~
Price increases of agricultural products
Hansard Q. Col. 480-481
406. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether any applications for price increases of any agricultural product in 1982 have been received by his Department; if so, from what organizations;
- (2) what in each case (a) was the increase

③ General Farmers 24/3/82
Housand Q. Col. 480

382. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) What was the estimated number of
(a) full-time and (b) part-time farmers
in the Republic as at the end of each
year from 1975 to 1981;
- (2) whether the policy of consolidation of
the homelands had any effect on the
number of farmers in the agricultural
industry during this period; if so,
what effect?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES:

- (1) (a) and (b) Particulars not readily
available.

Nafcoc to focus on black land tenure system

By JOHN MOJAPELO

LAND tenure comes under the spotlight at a one-day seminar organised by the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) at the Southern Sun Airport Hotel on April 7.

Economists and lawyers will help try and devise a land tenure system formula to be presented to the Government.

Two heads of university departments of developmental administration — Professor Julius Jeppe (Stellenbosch) and Prof D J Kotze (Unisa) — will join Mr F Coetzee, director of social economics in the Department of Agriculture, and two lawyers, Mr F E M Tshabalala, an advocate with the Nafcoc council, and Johannesburg attorney Mr R Tucker, in the discussions.

Nafcoc's public relations manager, Mr Gabriel Mokoko, said Nafcoc had focussed for several years on

promoting agricultural development in black areas.

He said one of the key problems hampering black farmers in black homelands was the existing system of communal or tribal ownership of land — hindering the accumulation of development capital and causing large-scale insecurity.

Land tenure was a sensitive issue, he said. On several occasions Nafcoc had raised this matter for discussion with the relevant departments of the Government — but they had been told blacks should take the initiative and improve the land tenure system on their own.

Although the seminar would not provide all the answers, it should provide pointers, and possibly lead to proposals to aid black economic development.

The seminar will look at the evolution of land tenure systems in other African countries, and the part chiefs, government and tribal authorities can play in improving the system.

Grape harvest better than '81

PAARL — With the end of the 1982 vintage in sight, it seemed that in total the crop should be about 7% higher than last year, said Dr J A van Zyl, assistant general manager of KWV.

"In the coastal region it could be 10% to 15% higher than the previous season and the steen grape yield especially is high."

Dr Van Zyl said in Paarl yesterday that the crop in the Breede River Valley would be similar to last year's, with the exception of the Robertson district where a fair increase on last year's crop was expected. Similarly no marked difference in crop size was expected in the Little Karoo region.

In the Orange River district it was mainly Sultana grapes that were showing an increased crop, while larger crops of Hanepoot grapes were harvested along the Olifants River.

"The juice quality of white and red grapes is very good in spite of a few cultivars such as steen, which appeared withered after the recent heat spells. Fortunately most of these were already harvested," Dr Van Zyl said.

Across the wine area virtually no diseases were experienced and the sugars were also considerably higher than last year with relatively higher acidity. — Sapa.

'White Lady' swoop in UK

LONDON. — Undercover narcotics and customs agents swooped across Britain yesterday to smash a "major crime syndicate".

The syndicate is believed to have been responsible for bringing cocaine — "The White Lady" — and other

drugs worth R37 400 000 into the UK in the last two years.

"It's unrealistic to expect to catch more than a small percentage of cocaine carriers," said a British customs investigator. "The smugglers always have the advantage." — Sapa-AP

SAB sue firm for R450 000

DURBAN. — A R450 000 claim by South African Breweries against the contractors who built its brewery at Prospecton came before the Durban Supreme Court yesterday.

The claim against Grinaker Construction (Natal) Pty, of New Germany, arises from an allegation that the roofing material used was not of good quality or suitable, and that the work done was not carried out in a proper manner.

Two other companies, Knights Engineering 1979 and Andcor (Natal) Pty, are included in the action as parties.

In papers before court it is alleged that the roof sheeting used was defective and that there was an absence or insufficient epoxy primer and an inadequate final coat of paint.

R7 500 gem fine

BLOEMFONTEIN. — A 45-year-old Wepener garage owner, who paid R3 000 for seven rough uncut diamonds in a police trap, was fined R7 500 (or 12 months) in a Bloemfontein Regional Court yesterday.

Abraham Stephanus Erasmus, who pleaded guilty, was also sentenced to 12 months' jail, conditionally suspended for five years. He had no previous convictions.

The seven diamonds, weighing 27,52 ct and valued at R17 895, were bought by Erasmus in Bloemfontein on February 26, after he was approached by a police informer and a warrant officer of the gold and diamond branch of the SA Police.

The court took into consideration that Erasmus had shown signs of remorse. — Sapa.

EMIGRATING?



R50 ENGLAND 1ST CLASS

*As part of full household from local residence in...

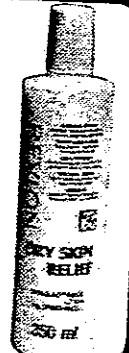
...mth and Newcastle
It will turn off at Elk laagte, to reach Newc via Glencoe and Dannha along the older road w follows the railway line
The first bike to start be the oldest in the ever 1910 Bradbury — the tr which won the first D-J in 1913 — owned and ric by Stuart Halsall of Sand It is without clutch gears. He will leave the pavilion site in Durban at corner of the Marine Par and Old Fort Road, at 6ar
He will be followed Frank Riley of Durban; 1912 Royal Enfield; Ha; Shuttler of Johannesburg with his wife as passenger; their 1912 Williamson side outfi; and Max Hertz of Johannesburg on a 1913 Rud Multi
The youngest rider, Der MacDougall, 18, will be on 43 and in uniform as national serviceman
He has been given a speci dispensation to compete t the SA Corps of Signals at th Army Gymnasium becaus of the traditional role of mtorcycle dispatch riders i the Signal Corps.
Veterans of some of th original D-J races will be N: 18, Hugh Fergusson from Benoni; No 32, "Oom Pa" Vard Merwe from Hartbeespoort; No 59, Viv Lyons of Johannesburg; No 77, Harold Hall of Durban, and No 81, Johnnie Galway from Germiston.
The route today will leave the modern motorway at Hillcrest and follow the old roads through Drummond, Polly Shorts Hill, Maritzburg, Balgowan, Mooi River, Estcourt, Ladysmith and Glencoe to Newcastle.
Stops today, with the approximate times when the first bike is due, will be: Maritzburg, refuel at Azalea Motors, Victoria Road, from 8.15am; Mooi River, refuel at Mobil garage from 9.50am; Estcourt, lunch at Estcourt Hotel from 11.30am; Ladysmith, refuel at Super Service Station from 12.50pm; Glencoe, pass through about 2.30pm; Newcastle, where bikes will be garaged overnight at B J Ford Motors, from 4.20pm.
Tomorrow's route will be up Laing's Nek to Volksrust and on through Standerton, Greylingstad and Heidelberg to join the motorway near Alberton. It will take the R77 in Alberton to join the Rand Airport Road and follow Heidelberg Road to the finish.
The first bike will start from Newcastle at 7am tomorrow. The timetable for the rest of the run is: Volksrust, refuel at Smith's Motors from 8.10am; Standerton, lunch at Round Table clubhouse and refuel at Trek Inn from 10.20am; Greylingstad, refuel at De Wet's Motors from 12.30pm; Johannesburg market, finish from 2.30pm.

W!

23c

55c

48c



39

R5,60

29c

R1,19

R1,14

Indian farmer may be forced out

3 General Mercury 26/3/84

Mercury Reporter
AN INDIAN farmer may be forced to relinquish his property in the Port Shepstone area because of pressure from the Paddock and Plains Farmers' Association.

The pressure arose this week at a meeting of the association where more than 50 of the 60-member farmers voted against acceptance of the Indian farmer into the Paddock area.

According to Mr Ronnie Howe, the estate agent who sold the farm, it was bought from a deceased estate by Mr S P Pillay, a Port Shepstone businessman.

When Mr Pillay bought the farm, it was 'more a gentleman's estate than a viable income-producing farm', according to Mr Howe. As a result, the farm was in a bad way.

No one else was interested in buying the farm at the time, in spite of it being offered to neighbouring farmers and widely advertised, Mr Howe said.

However, because the Group Areas Act does not allow Indians to own property in the area, the farm was bought by a company called F W B Farms with

Mr Howe holding 51 percent of the company's shares and Mr Pillay 49 percent.

And now that Mr Pillay has made the farm a viable operation, he wants to transfer it into his name.

But before putting his case to the Department of Community Development, Mr Pillay needs the support of the Paddock and Plains Farmers Association.

Transaction

The majority of farmers have voted against him this week and according to a spokesman for the Natal Agricultural Union, this could cause the Department of Community Development to turn down his application.

Mr Pillay said yesterday that he knew nothing of the opposition to his ownership of the farm and was not even aware that the association had met to discuss the transaction this week.

Mr Howe said there had been one Indian farm in the middle of the Paddock farming community for more than 60 years and no one had objected to it, adding that most of the businesses in the Paddock main street were owned by Indians as well.

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CASSAVA FM 26/3/82

A growing cash crop

Anglo American's ^{(3) other general} food and agricultural division is making a determined effort to establish cassava as a major new cash crop in Northern Zululand (*Business* October 2).

This week 250 farmers attended a "cassava day" at the Umfolozi Country Club where the advantages of growing cassava in the dry, sandy Zululand soils were outlined by a senior management team from African Products (AP).

In 1979 Anglo established a cassava research centre at Mtunzini and two years later the Umfolozi Cassava Growers' Co-op Ltd was formed. Of the 47 members of the co-op, 27 are already growing cassava with 270 ha under cultivation. But far more growers are needed if AP is to achieve its goal of building two cassava processing mills, one at Umfolozi and the other at Hluhluwe. To ensure the project's viability, AP would need a supply of 950 t of starch-producing cassava roots per day from January 1985.

Says AP MD Jeff Alabaster: "It's a chicken and egg situation. We can't put up the mill until we can get the cassava and we can't get the cassava until we can convince farmers that it is a profitable crop to grow." The *FM* understands that AP is talking of a price to the farmer of R24-R30/t for raw cassava root. Given the problems of growing an untried crop, these levels are unlikely to excite farmers.

With an average yield of 25 t/ha and costs in the region of R610/ha, farmers' profits are likely to be marginal — even at R30/t.

According to Bill Ratcliffe, liaison officer for the co-op, some farmers have been recording harvests of up to 60 t/ha on their experimental cassava stands. Yields in excess of the average 25 t/ha will obviously improve profitability. Ratcliffe says he is impressed with the standard of farming in the cassava-growing district and he is convinced that farmers could produce a good crop if they put their minds to it.

The big advantage of cassava is that it is a complementary crop to sugarcane. Theoretically it is possible for farmers to grow both sugarcane and cassava on their farms — cassava in the dry, sandy river valleys and sugarcane in the heavier soils which occur on the slopes. It is a hardy, drought-resistant crop which can do well in areas of low rainfall. Unlike sugar, it requires no irrigation.

If anything, Ratcliffe says, farmers will view cassava as a viable alternative to crops like pineapples, sisal and cotton which are losing favour with the farmers of

any other you like - I don't
mind where you put it

by (391)

(at far lower prices than their own production costs) they sell at the same prices as the local product. They retain the additional "profit" from these sales to set off against the steadily increasing prices of locally made plastics. With no restrictions on who imports, this arrangement would be almost impossible to administer.

There have long been squabbles on price between the plastics converters, who make goods from plastics materials, the plastics producers (AECI, Sentrachem and Coalplex) and Sasol, which supplies some of the feedstocks.

For the time being, they have sunk their differences and are drafting a plan to protect the entire industry. The plan will be submitted for government approval.

Meanwhile, government will have to continue resisting pressures from Gatt to abolish import control.

FARMING CREDIT

New order ³ general
FM 26/3/82

The new flexibility in interest rates is permeating to obscure corners of the economy. A recent amendment to the Agricultural Credit Act of 1966 makes provision for the authorities to adjust the subsidised rate charged to "poor farmers."

This Act makes provision for sub-economic farmers to obtain soft loans from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is in no way related to the Land Bank, which by comparison is the open market. The Agricultural Credit Act offers finance up to 100% for any purpose connected with farming, including water works, farm labour, produce handling loans, the purchase of implements and so forth. A fixed rate of 5% was written into the Act prior to the amendment. This will remain for loans outstanding at the time of the amendment.

In conjunction with the Minister of Finance, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has made the act more flexible in view of rising interest rates and budgeting pressures. New applicants will continue to pay 5% until the rate is altered by proclamation in the Government Gazette. But they will not be able to borrow for land purchase — the department's land credit allocation was exhausted by last August.

Loans suspended

Land purchase loans have, in fact, been "temporarily" suspended for the whole of the new financial year to March 30 1983. This is a significant shift in departmental terms, since they accounted for a large slice of its budget. The new policy reflects the authority's wish to concentrate on supporting existing turnover by giving priority to crop production, soil conservation, farm labourers' housing, and financial assistance to the drought-stricken areas.

An increase in the rate is expected to be gazetted before long. But as these are "extra soft" loans, they will always be below Land Bank levels. These were raised earlier this year to a maximum of 12% for medium-term loans.

E. Post

3 General 27/3/82

Farm schools: casual neglect, dilapidation

By CLIFF FOSTER

WHEN a boomslang slid out of its nest in the classroom wall such was the pandemonium among the 61 pupils that it is surprising that the fabric of the room itself was not torn apart.

The same explosive reaction greeted the appearance of a cobra from the book cupboard a few weeks later.

The room itself is of mud and pole construction, with gaping cracks in the walls — in one of which the boomslang had made its nest — and when 61 children surged for the door and windows, this room was placed in imminent danger of collapse.

Had this happened, the situation at the Griffnock School in Sunland would have moved swiftly from bad to worse.

But the room survives to this day, a crumbling edifice to the Government's casual regard for thousands of black children acquiring elementary education in South Africa's dilapidated farm schools.

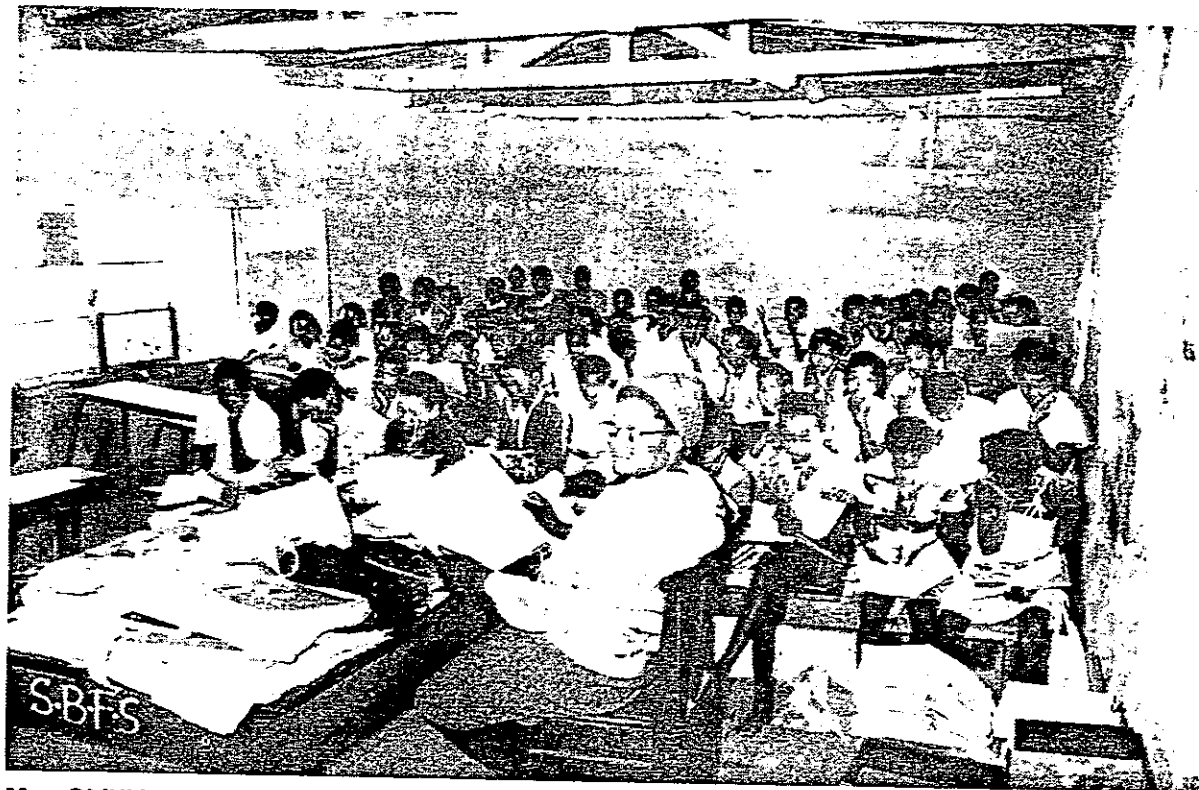
At Griffnock, more than 400 youngsters are being tutored in conditions the school manager, Mr Heinz Wedemann, admits are "fearful". And more than a 100 others are knocking at the door but being "chased away".

Griffnock serves as a terrible insight into the decayed system of farm schools which struggle to maintain themselves on their own resources (apart from salaries) and on which whole communities depend for any kind of education at all.

It has no toilets (the children are sent out into the bush), no water (buckets are drawn from a canal up the dirt road) and only two classrooms (both mud) of its own. Other classes are held in a row of four African churches or in the open air under the trees.

Because the Department of Education and Training at some stage soon intends to build a new African school at Addo, there is no chance of the State providing a proper school for the Griffnock children. But the Addo school will be 10 kilometres away, so Griffnock will persevere.

It will get only limited assistance from the Department, however. The Department does not endow farm schools because bitter experience has taught it that such schools, built at Government expense, can abruptly be annexed by the farmer.



Mrs OLIVIA MNYAKAMA takes Standard 2 in the newest classroom at Griffnock School, Sunland. At the far end of the room, is a gaping crack in the wall in which a boomslang nested.

All that Griffnock can do now is appeal to parents, farmers and charities to help build a new school on land already donated by Mrs A M L Walton.

A target of R28 000 has to be reached, towards which the Department will contribute R2 000 per classroom — R8 000 in all. The total sum cannot be lower because, if the R8 000 is to be secured, the building must conform to certain standards.

So far, an appeal to parents and farmers has brought in just over R800.

To stand beside Mrs Olivia Mnyakama before her class of 61 Standard 2 pupils is to see at a glance what schooldays in the farm schools can be like.

Mrs Mnyakama's desk is piled high with books.

Near the cupboard stands the plastic bucket containing what is left of the drinking water supply. The floor is compacted mud apart from a section below Mrs Mnyakama's desk which is boarded.

The roof is rusting, second-hand sheets of corrugated iron, supported by second-hand timbers on the mud walls. There is no ceiling. A crack several centimetres wide, from which the boomslang emerged, extends over the whole of one gable wall and there are gaping cracks in other walls.

Windows are missing or broken. There is no heating and, in winter, the wind whistles through windows

and under the eaves so that the children are given "warming up" exercises in the yard. In summer they roast beneath the corrugated iron sheets.

There are only eight desks to go round between the 61, so most learn to write, and, in fact, go through school, with their exercise books on their knees.

There are no toilets at all (except for staff who can share with one of the church missions) so the children are sent out into the neighbouring bush — boys in one direction, girls in another.

Surprisingly, the children remain healthy and absenteeism through sickness is low, though this week the principal, Mr Jeffrey Tom, was told the health inspector was coming to look at the school — perhaps in view of the plague outbreak at Coega, some suspected.

In case you are tempted to think Mrs Mnyakama's classroom is a particularly bad example, it is actually the newest of all the school buildings — put up by parents in 1975 — and the only purpose-built classroom in the place. The churches alongside revert to places of worship on Sundays.

There is no playing field outside the windows. The familiar rugby posts are one kilometre away on a community recreation ground and this is where the children go to play their games.

It is almost unbearably

hot in the classroom and the caked mud walls convert the air into the atmosphere of a kiln. There are no backs to the benches on which the children sit, elbow to elbow, and perspiration breaks out on contact.

But should you regard this room as crowded, take a look two doors away at the situation in the Anglican Church. Here 88 Sub-A children squat in a room five metres by five-and-a-half metres, where the air simmers with heat.

Everything is smaller here — the teacher's desk (there are no children's desks), the room, even the children. The goods and chattels of the church itself have had to be hoisted up onto a platform in the rafters to clear space.

The floor of this room is boarded, but the planks have given way in places, a minefield for the unwary.

During the daylight hours, the room is hardly ever empty. The Sub-Bs surrender the room at noon to the Sub-As who occupy it until 4pm.

Mrs Zelpha Hloyi strives with great good humour to hold her class's attention in this hothouse.

To give a more accurate picture of Griffnock, one could chronicle the things it

hasn't got, that are such accepted features of ordinary schools — like a library, electricity or even a playground.

This is how things have been for many years and how it must continue unless the energy of Mr Wedemann, and the appeal for funds from any quarter, can lift the lowly school out of the dust. The net must be cast wide if there is to be any hope.

"The farms here are small and the farmers can't provide the money on their own," Mr Wedemann points out.

"The Community of the Resurrection of Our Lord in Grahamstown has undertaken to contribute rand for rand on anything that is raised up to R5 000.

"The African artist, Gotswana, has donated three pictures which will be put up for sale. One is a large oil and there is a pencil work and a crayon drawing. They are presently on view in the office of the secretary of the Society of Fine Arts at the King George VI Art Gallery in Port Elizabeth."

These are offers from widely different quarters. Between lies a broad section of the community which Mr Wedemann hopes will offer some help.

the farming industry on a full or part-time basis; if so, what is the estimated (i) number of persons in each category who are so assisted annually and (ii) amount spent annually on assistance of this nature;

(2) whether his Department has an annual target in relation to the (a) number of farmers to be so assisted and (b) amount of assistance to be so granted?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

(1) (a) Yes, but only to enter the farming industry eventually on a full-time basis.

(b) Yes, but only to remain in the farming industry on a full-time basis.

(i) 2 527 loans* (1981)

(ii) R57 000 000 (1981)

(2) (a) No.

(b) Yes.

*No statistics available with regard to the number of persons. Number of loans, however, correlates well with the number of persons.

Government to establish a new medical school for Blacks in the Durban area; if so, (a) when and (b) where;

(2) whether such medical school will be served by a teaching hospital; if so,

(3) whether any provision has been made for such teaching hospital; if so, what provision?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

(1) No, not at this stage.

(2) and (3) fall away.

3 General Farming industry Hansard
0.61-496-497 29/3/82
366. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

(1) Whether his Department assists persons (a) to enter and (b) remain in

③ General Farmers 29/3/82
Husband Q. Col. 500
397. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

Whether schemes for assisting young farmers to commence (a) full-time and (b) part-time farming operations have been or are being considered by his Department; if so, how many young farmers in each category were settled on agricultural land in each province as a result of Government schemes during the period 1975 to 1981?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

No. No special schemes exist, but sympathetic consideration is given to applications by full-time and prospective young farmers for assistance under the Agriculture Credit Act.

Farmers now face loss of R1 800-m

(3) General

Own Correspondent

South African farmers have lost R1 800 million because of adverse weather and economic conditions this year.

Mr Johan Willemse, chief economist of the South African Agricultural Union, said in Pretoria, that R1 000 million had been lost because of the drought. The economic situation led to losses of a further R800 million.

He pointed to phenomenally high interest rates of between 18 and 19 percent as one of the main reasons for farmers' headaches.

"Farmers are badly in debt because of this and they will not be able to pay back loans from the Land Bank for some time," he said.

He said farmers would have to make provisions for next sea-

son's harvest and borrow more money.

He said farmers could only expect a return of between 6 and 10 percent on invested capital and because of the 18 percent interest rates on borrowed money they would therefore be running at a loss.

Mr Willemse said besides this, farmers were continually being hit by rises in production

costs.

Price rises would do nothing to relieve the situation and could be detrimental to the agricultural industry, he said.

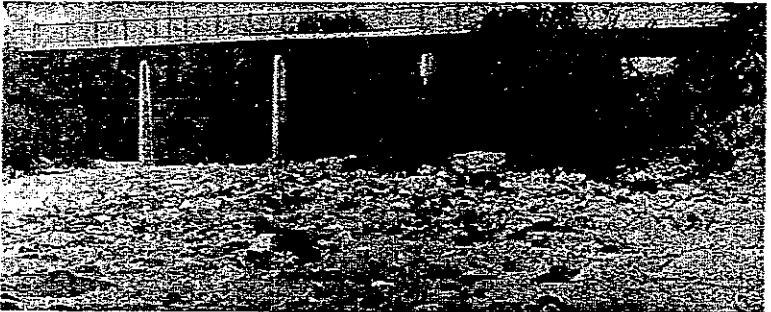
The only solution would be for the Government to step in and ensure lower interest rates so that farmers could borrow money without having to pay it back at a steadily increasing rate.

These are the thirstlands



Many rivers in northern Natal and kwaZulu have been reduced to little more than a trickle. This one in Hlazaazi is also infested with cholera. Four people in the area died at the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital.

After the bed of one of the rivers drought-hit South Africa. In many parts of the country the underground water level has been severely reduced, so that boreholes have run dry.



One of the biggest maize farmers in northern Natal, Mr Naas Pretorius, stands in one of his fields surrounded by parched, sun-baked mealie plants. He expects to recover only 20 percent of his crop. "You can never recover from a disaster like this," he said.

Some farmers have lost everything

Leading Natal maize farmer Mr Naas Pretorius stood in the hot sun watching his half-a-million-rand crop wither, and said: "You can never really recover from this."

He believes he will be able to harvest only 20 percent of his crop this year, reports The Star's Durban correspondent.

Mr Pretorius has farmed 1100 ha north of Dundee for 12 years, and can think of no comparable disaster. He believes many farmers will be forced off their land by spiralling debts and interest

rates. Another victim of the worst drought to hit northern Natal since 1933 is Mr Cleopas Mariboko, who has lost his entire crop, leaving him wondering how he is going to feed his six children.

A dry fountain outside the Dundee municipal building is the first indication a visitor gets of the drought which has made it necessary to introduce emergency water restrictions.

Residents of the town have resorted to traveling to distant farm boreholes to collect water for their potplants. In an effort to

break the drought, members of the Dundee Muslim religious community are to hold a three-day ceremony next to a water reservoir.

Most of the maize fields in the area have been burnt brown. The cobs are either small and undeveloped or non-existent.

Another farmer, Mr Martiens Christie, said he would recover only half of his R80 000 production costs this year.

"If we have another year like this, I will really be in trouble. But some of the local farmers have already had it," he said.

SA's neighbours hard hit too

South Africa's neighbours in the sub-continent have also been badly affected by the drought. Namibia's karakul industry is in tatters, and in Zimbabwe many cattle may have to be slaughtered.

Drought in Zimbabwe — described as the worst in 30 years — has halted last year's record 2 million ton maize crop but there should be enough for internal consumption, reports The Star's Africa News Service.

Zimbabwe could also export some maize, particularly to Botswana or Zambia, where the crops have failed, so these countries do not have to buy from South Africa.

In Namibia the chairman of the Karakul Producers' Association, Mr Johnnie Kirsten, predicted that the 3.4 million-strong karakul flocks would be reduced by half before the end of the year.

Many farmers have left their land to find jobs in the towns, but Mr Hansie van der Walt, president of the S.W.A. Agricultural Union, believes the towns are dependent on the farming community.

"And if that dies, so will the towns," he said. In Windhoek only 30 percent of the average rainfall for January and February was recorded. The drought forced the central government to spend R60 million on drought relief in the second half of last year — money which was sorely needed for infrastructure development.

The drought has hammered the western half of Zimbabwe, in Matabeland and Victoria provinces.

This is a tremendous setback for the cattle industry, which is only now beginning to recover from the effects of a prolonged guerrilla war.

Enormous destocking operations are planned, which could mean the slaughter of 200 000 head of cattle.

A further 200 000 may have to be moved to better grazing in Mashonaland which has not been badly affected.

The Tuli River, normally flooded at this time of year, is dry. An emergency borehole — drilling programme is in progress.

Even if it rains now in Botswana, it is too late to save the crops. The cattle are losing condi-

tion and many were to be slaughtered in the next six months.

Botswana's president, Quett Maseru, is expected to declare drought officially soon, alert the international aid organisations.

The late arrival of the season's rain has dashed Zambia's hopes of becoming completely self-sufficient in maize production this year.

It appears Zambia will have to import supplies from Zimbabwe — if the country produces exportable surplus — or from South Africa as it has done in the past.

The situation in Swaziland is "bad and getting nastier," said one agricultural source.

The main crops have been hit a cotton, sugar and maize. The cotton crop is expected to drop to 15 500 tons from almost 25 000 tons last year.

In contrast to other countries the sub-continent parts of Mozambique have suffered flooding while other areas have experienced drought along with that country's neighbours.

The harvest is expected to show extremes.

The children are dying



rocks litter the bed of one of the rivers is drought-hit South Africa. In many parts of the country the underground water level has been severely reduced, so that boreholes have run dry.



The children are dying



Mr Chelmsford Nunzi: on the slopes of Isandlwana another battle is taking place after a total crop failure. He said many people were leaving for the Witwatersrand to seek work.



Dr Allison Woodward holds three-month-old Velemuseni Khoza, who was admitted to the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital in kwaZulu suffering from marasmus and starvation due to the drought. Many of the babies admitted do not survive and those that do, have to spend a year in hospital recovering.

Children and babies are dying of starvation and related diseases in South Africa's drought-blasted rural areas — and the number is expected to rise sharply in coming months. Three-month-old Velemuseni Khoza is an unknown victim. Brought to the Charles

Johnson Memorial Hospital in kwaZulu suffering from starvation, he has since been battling for his life. He weighs the same as a new-born baby. He looks like a wizened old man. When he is not in a fitful sleep, he cries. If he lives he will have to spend a year in

the hospital recovering. More than 10 babies are brought to this hospital alone, every week, suffering from kwashiorkor and marasmus, the diseases associated with malnutrition. Doctors have pointed out that this was supposed to be the rainy season, and said things would get a lot worse

in the coming dry winter season. Many patients are brought in too late, and the doctors try in vain to save the children's lives. Velemuseni was lucky. His mother brought him to the hospital in time to give the doctors a chance of saving him.

"The mothers know what is happening but they are powerless to prevent it," said Dr Allison Woodward, one of several overseas doctors working at the hospital. "They arrive in tears because they do not have enough food or money to feed their children."

Some farmers have lost everything

Leading Natal maize farmer Mr Naas Pretorius stood in the hot sun watching his half-a-million-rand crop wither, and said: "You can never really recover from this." He believes he will be able to harvest only 20 percent of his crop this year, reports The Star's Durban correspondent. Mr Pretorius has farmed 1100 ha north of Dundee for 12 years, and can think of no comparable disaster. He believes many farmers will be forced off their land by spiralling debts and interest

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3 General

Killer drought grips SA

The vicious drought gripping South Africa will cost the country more than R1 800 million in crop and stock losses. And it is getting worse.

The cost in human terms is incalculable, with an expected rise in deaths from malnutrition and large-scale migrations to the cities of starving rural people whose crops have failed.

Farmers are being forced off the land as debts for seed and fertiliser mount, and interest rates rise to crippling levels.

Recent rainfall throughout South Africa has eased the situation slightly for some crops, but without further rain, this will do little more than delay the inevitable.

For some crops it is already too late. Already 19 regions had been proclaimed disaster areas due to the drought — described as the worst since 1938 — and more were expected to follow, said a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture.

Throughout South and southern Africa the situation is the same. A heart-breaking panorama of stunted, scorched crops, dried-out riverbeds and boreholes, and emaciated cattle.

Maize has been one of the worst-hit crops, but the drought has struck right across the agricultural spectrum from sugar-cane and cotton to cattle and sheep.

The maize crop has been reduced to less than half last year's record harvest, and stock losses are mounting steadily.

Southern Africa is experiencing a vicious, unrelenting drought — one of the worst experienced this century. It has killed children, broken up families, bankrupted farmers, destroyed crops and wiped out cattle herds. The eventual cost will be huge with significant political, economic and sociological implications. Staff reporter Rob Souler, Star Bureaus throughout South Africa and The Star's Africa News Service count the cost.

Water supplies in Transkei are drying up, cattle are in poor condition and farmers have been advised to sell their animals before they die.

However, the south-west Cape which has a Mediterranean climate has not experienced the unusually dry summer of the rest of South Africa. Its agricultural sector is booming.

The Cape wine crop is reportedly heading for a double record — the biggest volume of wine produced, and the highest quality in living memory.

The Department of Agriculture's first estimate of the summer crops shows maize is down by more than 6 million tons to just more than 5-million tons.

Other crops have been similarly affected including: sorghum down by 221 000 tons to 331 000 tons; groundnuts decreased by 100 000 tons to 115 000 tons; sunflowers seeds reduced by 228 000 tons to 900 000 tons.

and the dried bean harvest has been reduced to 55 000 tons from last year's total of 76 300 tons.

But these estimates could be over-optimistic according to Mr John Williams, the South African Agricultural Union's economist.

He said the estimates were made at the beginning of February and the drought damage has intensified since then.

The situation has been described by a Transvaal Agricultural Union spokesman as "quite critical".

Particularly badly hit are the areas around the Soutpansberg and Hoedspruit in the northern Transvaal, Lichtenburg in the western Transvaal and near Nelspruit in the east.

The spokesman said February was Transvaal's wettest month, but some areas, such as Delmas, received almost no rain at all last month.

The rain which fell in the past fortnight was light and, although welcome, did not help fill dams, which were half-empty.

He said this drought was Transvaal's worst since the 1960s, when many farmers were forced off the land.

In some areas the situation is so bad that even if the present rains continue, both the veld and the farmers would take 10 years to recover.

In the Cape there are 18 disaster areas, including Gordonia, Kuruman and Namaqualand. Mount Curry in Natal is also able to claim disaster relief funds.

The Department of Agriculture is expecting regions in the Free State and Transvaal to begin requesting disaster aid soon.

In brief: Transvaal farmers are in serious trouble. Severe weather made February the worst month for farmers in 20 years.

The situation in the eastern Transvaal is "critical" and thousands of hectares of crops have been ruined.

Farmers in northern Natal have lost an estimated R70-million in the worst drought since 1938.

Drought has completely destroyed the maize harvest in the Vryberg / Matieleng area.

Farmers' debts in Bushman and Namaqualand have risen to astronomical figures, and

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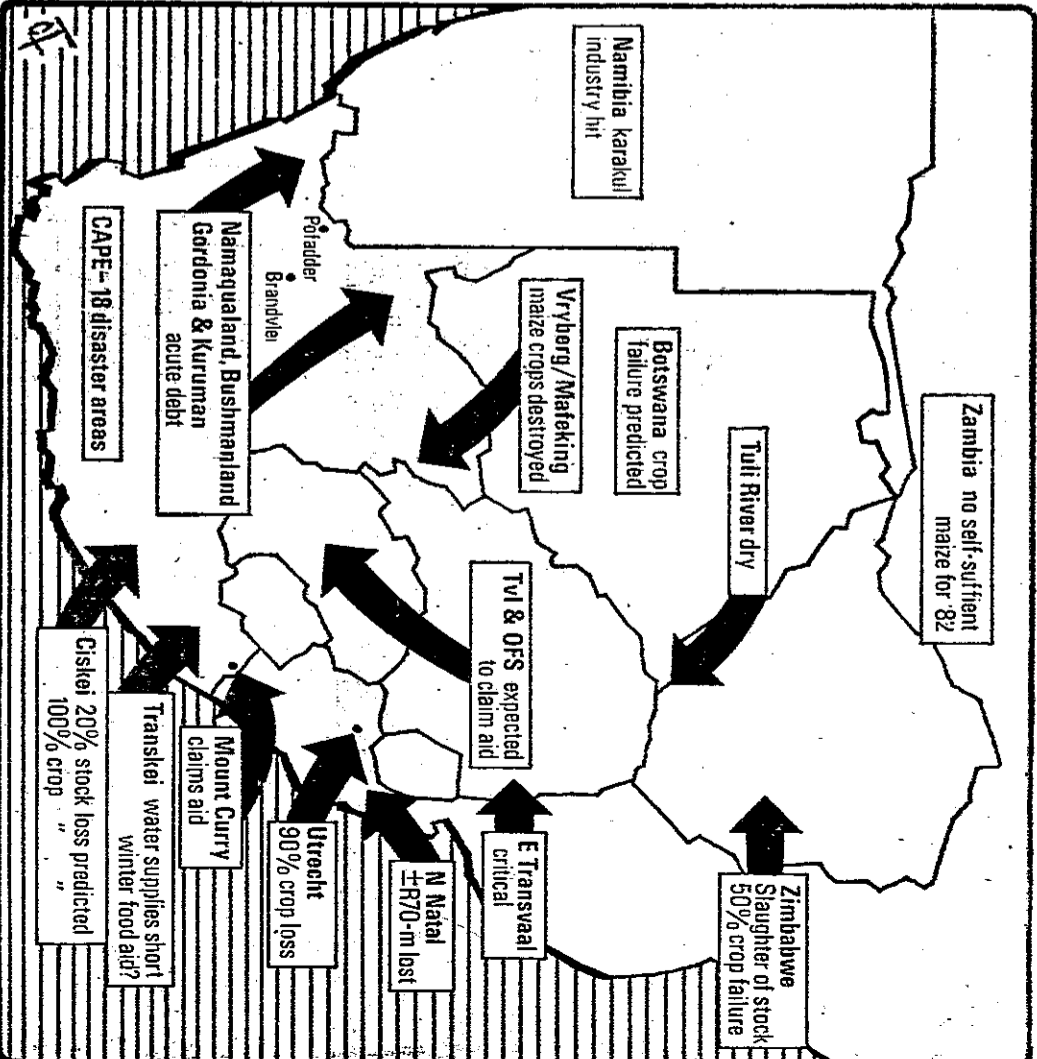
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A map of southern Africa shows that almost no rain has escaped the ravages of the current drought which has destroyed the summer crops. The situation is expected to get far worse if no rain falls to save the winter crops.

Transvaal's worst drought since the 1960s

Drought is seriously affecting large parts of the Transvaal, halving the maize harvest, forcing cattle farmers to buy fodder and threatening the winter wheat crop.

The situation has been described by a Transvaal Agricultural Union spokesman as "quite critical".

Particularly badly hit are the areas around the Soutpansberg and Hoedspruit in the northern Transvaal, Lichtenburg in the western Transvaal and near Nelspruit in the east.

The spokesman said February was Transvaal's wettest month, but some areas, such as Delmas, received almost no rain at all last month.

The rain which fell in the past fortnight was light and, although welcome, did not help fill dams, which were half-empty.

He said this drought was Transvaal's worst since the 1960s, when many farmers were forced off the land.



Cattle shelter from the blazing sun in a field which was once filled with melons. Grazing has been reduced to almost nothing.



Donkeys trudge over parched ground in search of pasture in a Katalar-like scene in the usually lush Northern Transvaal.

Farmers' appeal for aid rejected

The Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, turned down farmers' appeals for immediate aid in his Budget speech last week and said this would be granted only after the drought had been investigated.

A committee of investigation into the drought was set up recently under the chairmanship of Dr A S Jacobs, vice-president of the SA Reserve Bank. This will report back only after the maize harvest.

Farmers have claimed their financial position has been severely worsened by the drought.

Production costs have increased in the current season — particularly fertiliser, labour and transport — and Landbank loan rates have almost doubled in the past year.

But economists pointed out that a big increase in the maize price would boost inflation, especially in the lower-income groups where maize was a staple food.

Maize is also a vital ingredient in animal feedstuffs in the poultry, cattle and pig industry, so a maize price increase could affect the prices of eggs, meat and dairy products.

Political scientist Professor Willem Kleynhans of Unisa said a maize price increase could be political, because many maize farmers lived in areas which could swing behind Dr Treurnicht's new Conservative Party, away from the Government.

"The price might be increased to gain the support of these farmers," he said.



Cattle wade only knee-deep in the normally strongly-flowing Oifants River in the Northern Transvaal. Drought has reduced it to a meandering stream.

Education is vital

South African cities may soon be flooded with refugees from drought - devastated farming areas in search of jobs to buy food for their starving families.

To avoid this happening the only answer was to implement a good land-use strategy and develop the infrastructure so that a dry spell did not mean disaster, said Professor John Hanks, director of the Institute for Natural Resources of Natal university.

"We have to accept that South Africa is a dry country, dry periods are going to occur, but with proper action the damage can be minimised."

The problem is that many of the suggested solutions are hurried responses to disaster — superficial, misguided or useful only in the short term.

kwaZulu was now entering its third year of drought, and migration to the cities was increasing, said Professor Hanks.

This could create new problems, with squatting and unskilled workers looking for jobs where there was already chronic unemployment. Influx control was no answer.

An extensive education programme was needed, as well as huge infrastruc-

ture development with surface water, irrigation and storage.

The population had to be taught how to farm allowing for fluctuating climatic conditions, with reduced stock and mixed farming, and this would stabilise the people because they would have something to gain by staying.

Raising the price of maize might help a few farmers for a while, said Professor Hanks, but it did not help South Africa. Maize was a staple food and increasing the price would boost inflation and worsen a bad situation.

These farmers should rather be taught — and made — to farm responsibly on dry soils, preventing soil erosion and ensuring a steady flow from their fields.

These solutions were long-term, but it was preventive medicine — treating the cause of the problem, not the symptoms.

Without such action, South Africa would be faced with "disaster drought" again and again as the basic problems recurred at great expense.

The drought was disastrous only because people were not trained how to adapt to it.

Professor Hanks described some of the problems:

- Lack of running or sanitised water makes people dependent on stagnant water with the attendant risk of infection from water-borne diseases such as cholera, typhus, typhoid and enteritis.

- Poor farming methods make soil very vulnerable to erosion when there are heavy rains.

- There is a great need for storage dams to provide water for irrigation and consumption.

- Crop failures lead to malnutrition and associated diseases such as kwashiorkor and marasmus, which can kill.

Mr Mark Gander, who works with Professor Hanks at the Institute for Natural Resources, said in kwaZulu he had seen villagers totally dependent on dirty pools of stagnant water in which the cattle drank and paddled and children swam.

"But there is perhaps something worse than this," he said.

"Many people in kwaZulu are not planting new crops. They are fatalistic, believing the drought is here to stay.

"They feel the seed is better off in their stomachs than in the dry soil where it will inevitably die."



24/82
 (3) General
**White farmers
 move to stop
 Indian transfer**

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Mercury Reporter
 THERE was no telling what would happen in the future if the Paddock and Plains farmers allowed Indians to buy farms in the Port Shepstone area using white fronts.

This was the reason given by Mr Conrad Buhr, chairman of the Paddock and Plains Farmers' Association, for the white farmers' rejecting Mr S P Pillay's move to take transfer of a farm in the area.

Mr Buhr said yesterday that the deal had been conducted through Port Shepstone estate agent Mr Ronnie Howe, without consulting the association. The farm had been bought from the deceased estate of Dr Ken Dixon.

Last week Mr Howe admitted that he acted as a white 'front' for Mr Pillay for the purchase of the farm two years ago.

Viable

As the farm had now been made viable, Mr Pillay wanted to take transfer of it into his name.

Now they've come to us

asking for approval of the transfer of the farm into Mr Pillay's name when we knew nothing about the purchase in the beginning," Mr Buhr said.

At the meeting of the association on March 25 the majority of farmers had voted against acceptance of transferring the farm into Mr Pillay's name.

According to a spokesman for the Natal Agricultural Union, this vote by the association against acceptance of Mr Pillay could force the Department of Community Development to uphold the farmers' wishes.

Mr Charles Perole, regional director of the Department of Community Development in Durban, said he was unaware of any transactions. He said such matters were at the discretion of the minister.

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NOOK

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

	Internal	External
(1)	(2)	(3)
2	63	
4	65	
Examiners' Initials		

NOTE CAREFULLY

1. The answers only on the right hand pages will be marked. The left hand pages may be used for rough work, but no credit will be given for such work.
2. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
3. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
4. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.

WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

3 General
Hansard Q. 61. 551
Soil conservation works
2/4/82

*13. Dr. W. D. KOTZÉ asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:†

- (a) What amount was paid out in subsidies in respect of soil conservation works in the 1981-'82 financial year and (b) what amount was budgeted for this purpose in respect of the financial year concerned?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (a) R4 016 000
- (b) R3 350 000. The balance was financed from savings on other items.

Rape cases: legal procedures

*14. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether he is giving consideration to introducing amending legislation in respect of the legal procedures involved in rape cases; if so, what amendments are being considered?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

Representations for the amendment of section 154(2)(b) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, regarding the publication of certain information in cases of this nature are being considered and will, as in the case of the question of appropriate punishment, be referred to the Permanent Penal Reform Committee. If the outcome of such deliberations points towards the need for legal procedures to be amended, the necessary steps will be taken.

Lucerne ⁽³⁾

producer

price up

General
E. Post
8/4/82

CAPE TOWN — The Lucerne Board has increased its price to producers by 15%, reports the SABC.

There was a 20% increase at the beginning of the year.

Advance payments by the Lucerne Board will not be increased as its agents have already laid out considerable amounts to producers. The present increase will be paid to producers later together with the usual final payment.

This is reported to be the first time that prices have risen 35% in a single year.

— Sapa

Rain cheers farmers in Cape drought areas

ARCUS
8/4/87
3 General

LIGHT rain has fallen over widespread areas of the Northern and Western Cape — the first in five years in some districts where farmers have been in the stranglehold of one of the worst droughts in memory.

Agricultural authorities say the drought has already cost farmers in the parched Northern Cape several million rands in stock losses . . . but the light rains over the past two days may be an indication that the natural disaster has been broken, they said.

WINTER CROPS

Up to 100 mm of rain has been recorded in some districts and farmers in the Swartland — 'breadbasket' of the Western Cape — say it has come at the right

time as they are starting to plant oats and other winter crops.

Table grape growers in the Hex River Valley, however, have been caught at the wrong time and the Deciduous Fruit Board has temporarily stopped the picking of export grapes.

The DFB is expected to decide early next week whether or not farmers can resume picking.

SPRINGBOK

Officials of the wine industry say that fortunately most wine farmers have finished picking this season's yield.

Farmers in the Springbok district had their first rain in five years and although only 15 mm was registered in some areas it has at least broken the stranglehold which has gripped them.

Agricultural officials in Namaqualand say that more rain will have to fall before it will be of any real benefit to farmers and revive the arid grazing lands.

'The soil has been parched for so long that it is covered with a hard crust and will need quite a bit more rain before it will be able to absorb the water again,' said a regional representative of the Department of Agriculture.

● Overcast conditions and the possibility of light rain will persist until tomorrow, a spokesman for the D F Malan weather office said today.

There should be a gradual improvement from lunchtime tomorrow. By Sunday the cloudy conditions should have cleared up.

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THE FARMERS

Drowned in credit

③ general FM 9/4/82

Few city dwellers can really conceive what a drought means to a man whose whole livelihood and fortune is dependent on the elements. A typical Free State or Transvaal farmer with, say, 800 ha of arable land, annually exposes between a quarter and a third of R1m in his summer crops. That excludes his investment in land and fixed equipment.

Although he began deploying the money for this year's crop in June last year, he will not yet have banked a single cent in return. The income doesn't begin to flow until harvest starts in late April, May or June. It is a lot of money for a family business to risk at one go. The eight weeks between the middle of January and mid-March are critical. Until then, the farmer can do plenty to influence the growth and quality of his crops. Through careful timing and the judicious use of inputs, he can set the stage for a good or bad crop and determine its potential yield. Beyond that, he can only wait and pray and lobby.

If his farm is blessed with regular showers but no gales, and sunshine but no hail, the scientific farmer may anticipate a yield of 4 t or 5 t of maize/ha. Last year, some of the lucky ones even reaped six. But in years like this, when the rain doesn't come, yields plummet. Each day the clouds hold off during February and March, another R5 000-R10 000 is pruned from the anticipated income of our typical 800 ha farmer.

Hundreds of entrepreneurs, who were looking forward to six-figure working profits in January, are now faced with six-figure losses. Some will have nothing to reap at all. The few withered plants they have left will all be needed to keep their hungry cattle from death's door. The first official estimates of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries put the national maize crop 6 Mt below last year's record. That represents a drop of 41% at the sales end. There is no corresponding saving of costs; in fact, it has cost the farmers 15% more to grow

this year's disaster than it did last year's bounty.

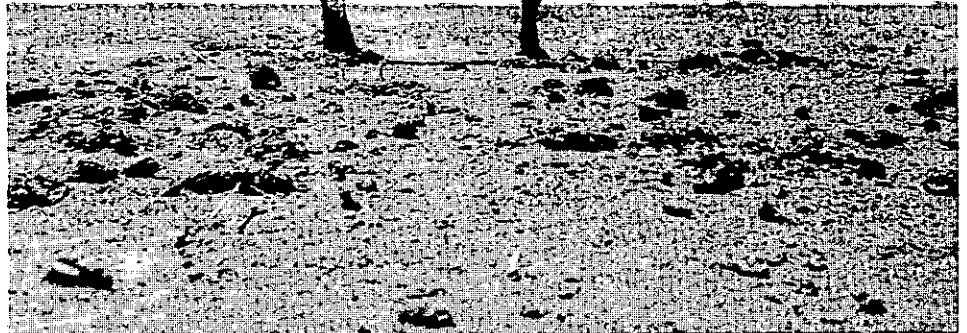
The groundnut crop will be 45% below normal and the dry-bean crop is down by 28%, despite a 6% expansion in the area planted. The sorghum crop will be 40,5% lower and the sunflower crop will also be reduced. In all, something like R800m of income has already been wiped off the expected cash flow of the summer grain area.

The problem has been compounded by the bankers. It has been estimated that the servicing of debts will cost farmers between R300m and R500m more this year than in 1981. The coincidence of last summer's big crop with a high inflation rate and a flood of cheap money sent farmers on an unprecedented spending spree. Thousands incurred heavy new commitments to buy more land which they purchased at record prices just before interest rates

started to rise. Others joined the stampede to install new irrigation pumps and re-equip before the Atlantis diesel engine plant came on stream.

In their determination to beat the anticipated price hike, farmers bought 17 995 new tractors in 1980 and 24 862 in 1981. The normal offtake is only 14 000 a year. Many of those tractors have still to be paid for. Farmers went into the drought with record borrowings of R4,5 billion. Finding themselves strapped for both cash and fodder, those who had no rain have now begun offloading livestock. Many animals, which would otherwise have been kept through winter and sold fat, are now being presented at the abattoirs prematurely.

Since the Meat Board's new grading scheme makes it unattractive for feedlot owners to fatten older cattle, the farmers who are being forced to de-stock are



Withered plants, hungry cattle ... the bitter taste of drought

- (3) what steps have been taken or are contemplated in each case to (a) counter the effect of and (b) avoid such shortages in future?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

- (1) Yes - dry beans, cotton, lucerne seed, dairy products, wheat and oil seeds

(2) (a) *Dry beans*

Drought conditions

Cotton

Reduced cultivation and unfavourable climatic conditions

Lucerne seed

An aphid plague which destroyed 80 per cent of the seed crop

Dairy products

Drought conditions

Wheat

Exceptionally poor 1980/81 wheat crop

Oil seeds

Drought conditions

(2) (b) *Dry beans*

Price rises can be expected

Cotton

The South African price for cotton is linked directly to the world price and due to the recession in the Western Countries, this price is relatively low.

Lucerne seed

The selling price of locally produced seed was increased by approximately 22 per cent as from 19 March 1982

Dairy products

Price adjustments in respect of dairy products are considered an

3 General Hansard Q. Col. 609 -
Agricultural products: shortages 604
15/4/82
407. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether any shortages of agricultural products exist or are expected in 1982; if so, of which products:
- (2) what in each case are the (a) reasons for such shortages and (b) price implications:

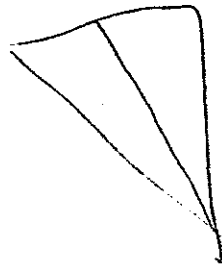
③ General Food export contracts 15/4/82
Hansard Q. Col. 611
514. Dr. M. S. BARNARD asked the
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether any South African food export contracts have been cancelled recently; if so, (a) by which countries, (b) for what reasons and (c) which (i) contracts and (ii) products are involved;
- (2) what is the estimated annual loss of revenue caused by the cancellation of these contracts?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES:

- (1) Neither I nor my Department has knowledge of the recent cancellation of such contracts.

(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c)(i), (1)(c)(ii) en (2)
fall away.



③ General Stock theft Hansard
Q. 61. 599-602
489. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the
Minister of Justice:†

How many persons were convicted of
theft of (a) small stock and (b) large stock
in the magisterial district of (i) East Lon-
don, (ii) King William's Town, (iii) Stut-

terheim, (iv) Cathcart and (v) Queens-
town during the latest specified period of
six months for which figures are available?

The MINISTER VAN JUSTICE:

Figures for the period 1 September 1981
to 28 February 1982 are as follows:

	(a) <i>Small stock</i>	(b) <i>Large stock</i>
(i) East London	45*	20*
(ii) King William's Town	12	5

*These are approximate figures. To ob-
tain the exact figures the Magistrate, East
London, will have to work through

numerous case records, which will be a
time-consuming task. →

601

THURSDAY, 15 APRIL 1982

602

	(a) <i>Small stock</i>	(b) <i>Large stock</i>
(iii) Stutterheim	32	2
(iv) Cathcart	29	3
(v) Queenstown	21	3



Atlantis-engined tractors and combine harvesters lined up at the Malcomess assembly plant at Wilsonia.

Prices of balers and combines come down

General *D. Dispatch 16/4/82*

By TOM LOUW
Business Editor

EAST LONDON — Malcomess Limited has announced an average cut in the prices of combine harvesters and balers ranging from 1,6 per cent to 5,7 per cent.

A statement issued in East London by the managing director, Mr Robin Manning, describes this as a practical contribution to reducing the input costs of farmers.

On one combine model the price remains unchanged despite the new 10 per cent customs duty

imposed in the Budget. Mr Manning said Malcomess has decided to absorb the added import duty itself, as a contribution to keeping farming costs down.

At the Malcomess tractor assembly plant in East London, Mr Hans van Vlaardingen, the factory manager, said that the conversion to the Atlantis diesel engine has not caused technical problems, because the tractors marketed by Malcomess from East London have used the Perkins engine for the past 22 years — and the

Perkins engine is identical with Atlantis in all important respects.

The conversion to Atlantis will result in a price increase of 10,3 per cent. Mr Manning's statement notes that most other tractor manufacturers are talking of an increase of 25 to 30 per cent. Malcomess-assembled tractors will use the various Atlantis engines in the full range of 12 models.

The assembly factory in East London, being in the Border area, gains considerable economic benefits for both the

company and the farmer.

Both Mr Van Vlaardingen and the technical director of Malcomess Limited, Mr James McDougall, spoke highly of the quality of the Atlantis engine which they described as being a premium production.

Dr Jim Rankin, marketing manager of Malcomess, added: "We are totally behind the Atlantis project."

South African content of the tractors assembled here is now 43 per cent by value.

NATAL DROUGHT FM 16. 1. 82 Bitter harvest

3 general

A sizzling summer with very little rain has ruined prospects for Natal's summer crops. Maize has been the worst affected with some farmers recording a 100% crop failure.

Dryland cotton farmers of the drought-stricken regions of northern Zululand are in a similar predicament. Many do not expect to harvest more than 30% of their crop because of the abnormally low rainfall over the growing period. At the beginning of the season, farmers in the maize-growing districts of northern Natal optimistically planted in the hope of a favourable crop. But the early rains vital to growth never came.

In the Ixopo and Underberg areas, hailstorms late in the season devastated what was left of the crop. Some farmers were forced to ensile the remnants. Early estimates by the Natalse Landbou Ko-op (NLK) put the size of Natal's maize crop at 500 000t. But the NLK's revised estimates now forecast a crop of about 100 000t.

Says NLK manager Pieter van Rooyen: "It must be the worst crop in history. We are talking about R50m-R60m which the farmers were due to collect and which has just disappeared into thin air."

The financial implications for farmers, says Van Rooyen, are disturbing. The NLK, which partly helped to finance the maize crop, will carry over R30m in farmers' debt into next year. He does not expect widespread insolvencies to follow as risks are spread by mixed farming in Natal. However, he does know of at least one farmer, financed privately, who has been "sold out."

Van Rooyen says the question of relief for Natal's maize farmers has been referred to the Jacobs Committee investigat-



Natal water . . . not that reliable

ing summer crop failures. He's expecting government to announce some form of interest-rate subsidy or a three to four-year extension of the farmers' loan repayment period. Personally, Van Rooyen feels that a four-year loan extension is not good enough. He says a farmer hit by a severe drought normally needs about 10 years to recover. A loan extension of around seven years would be more appropriate, he feels.

According to Van Rooyen, yields on other dryland crops such as groundnuts, sorghum and sunflowers, are also disappointing. Crop losses of around 80% have been common because of the drought.

Alwyn Bisschoff, secretary of the Natal Agricultural Union, says good rains earlier this month have removed the spectre of the drought continuing into the winter months but they have come too late to save the summer cash crops. However, the water table has risen, dams are full and streams are running, so prospects for stockwatering and crop irrigation have improved.

Bisschoff says Natal's three-year drought has left fodder stocks precariously low. Although there has been a "remarkable recovery" in winter grazing due to the late rains, the feed situation remains a problem. He says he is doubtful whether farmers in the rest of the country will be able to continue their customary practice of drawing winter feed supplies from the province. Natal farmers will need all the fodder they have to see their own livestock through the winter.

Rainfall in Natal is normally higher, more reliable and better spread than most parts of the country. As a result, Bisschoff contends that most farmers were taken by surprise by the prolonged drought. "They've learnt a sharp lesson," he says. "They must take cognisance of drought and plan for more self-sufficiency."

FARMING FINANCE

Fun with funds

③ Annual FM 16/4/82
Government has successfully resisted pressure from farmers to set up an income reserve fund on the lines tentatively suggested by the Jacobs Committee.

In the course of the Budget debate, heavy-weight National Party farmers' MPs Pietman Hugo (Ceres) and converted prodigal Ben Wilkens (Ventersdorp) pressed Finance Minister Owen Horwood to accept the principle of an agricultural reserve fund.

Into this fund would be paid, in fat years, interest-bearing tax-free deposits by farmers to provide for lean years, presumably such a time as they are now entering. The deposits would lose their tax-free status upon withdrawal.

Replying to the second reading debate on the Appropriation Bill this week, Horwood said he had referred the proposition to the Standing Taxation Commission — and the research department of the Commissioner for Inland Revenue — who had come up with "serious moral objections" to the

farmers' proposal.

First, it amounted to a negation of the "healthy" fiscal principle that income should be taxed in the year of its accrual. Second, there are many other sectors of the economy which suffer the vagaries of fluctuating markets, sales and income. To make an exception for farming would be morally indefensible if others were refused.

There were also difficulties in administering the suggested scheme, especially upon the death of a depositor. It would mean that a deceased farmer would be taxed on the full sum on deposit and not merely amounts withdrawn before his death. In some cases this would inflict a punitive tax burden on the estate.

Squatters: board's offer to farmers 17/4/82

EAST LONDON — The East Cape Administration Board has offered to help farmers in the Border experiencing problems with squatters.

At the inaugural meeting of the East London District Farmers' Union here yesterday, a representative from the administration board, Mr A. Bennett, said the board would try to establish

which farms fell under Ciskei jurisdiction and which farms under South Africa as there was confusion at the moment.

He said they would investigate which farmers in the district were encouraging squatting and charging squatters for land. They would also try to establish where the squatters were from

and how many there were.

The 13 farmers at the meeting said they did not allow squatters on their farms, but knew of other farmers who did — and it was these farmers who caused the problems. They said they were forced to draw labour from other areas away from their farms as most of the squatters did

not work. Farmers also called on the administration board to try to find out the origins of the squatters.

The local commissioner of the Department of Co-operation and Development, Mr H. Hannan, said squatting was often forced on people and in some cases relocating would mean the

people would have to commute from places such as Mdantsane to Cintsas.

Mr Hannan said the government had to find place for the squatters and farmers would have to give up more ground for the resettlement of squatters. But the farmers said the land was needed to make food for the people. — DDR

Fresh bush food for Soweto?

(3) General Sowetan 20/4/82

MARKET research is presently being undertaken in Soweto to introduce various kinds of traditional foods which may be found in the rural bushes in Botswana.

According to Mr Frank Taylor, a consultant for Botswana Veld Products Research, a similar research is being conducted in the rural areas of Botswana.

"The objective of the research is to find ways of helping rural people to earn a cash income by harvesting wild plant products such as foods, medicines, etc," said Mr Taylor.

Stationed at the entrance of the Blackchain Supermarket in Diepkloof, at the weekend, the marketers of the bush products included paraplegics from the Self-Help Association for Paraplegics in Soweto.

The chairman of the Association, Mr Mandla Mavuso, told The SO-

WETAN that the consultants have offered job opportunities for paraplegics. If the demand is positive, there will be three paraplegics selling the products in Tshuwelo and Meadowlands where the foods will hopefully be easy to market.

The foods on display included a number of bush teas with unique flavours and aromas, wild mint and resurrection teas, pasteurised marula juice and lengangale or dried slices of pumpkin-melon.

A considerable amount of interest was shown by many people in Soweto during the taste testing. And the organisers have indicated that traditional wild foods may soon become a regular feature in the shops in Soweto.

3-General
~~STUTTERHEIM~~

Plan to flood farm land for dam draws fire

STUTTERHEIM — A farmer's meeting is being organised here in protest against the flooding of agricultural land by the proposed Wriggleswade Dam on the Kubusie River.

Farmers intend sending a telegram to the Prime Minister to express their anger at the siting of the R71 million dam east of here, according to one farmer, Mr E. B. MacLachlan, snr.

"As far as we're concerned they have chosen

the wrong site for the dam," he said yesterday.

He was referring to a decision announced last week to develop the Kabuste dam site instead of the Amatola and St Jon's sites, also near Stutterheim, as apt of the Amatola water scheme.

"We've been trying to avoid this sort of situation for a long time, but now we have to do something," Mr MacLachlan said yesterday.

"The area they're going to flood is the most productive farming ground in the Eastern Cape."

Mr MacLachlan — one of more than 15 farmers said to be affected by the siting of the Wriggleswade Dam — said landowners were "very angry" at the decision.

"They say they will pay us compensation for the land that is flooded, but what good is that? Some farmers will have their farms cut in half by the water, and have to get around by helicopter or something"

The secretary of the local irrigation board, Mrs S. J. Marais, confirmed that several farmers in the area were against the siting of Wriggleswade Dam — named after the farm owned by relatives of the late MP Mr Jan Jordaan, which will be swamped by the dam.

She stressed, however, that other farmers were "definitely in favour of the dam".

Mrs Marais was reacting to earlier disappointment at the delay in choosing the dam site which resulted in the scrapping of plans to develop irrigation weirs off the Kubusie.

The Kubusie site is one of three considered by the Department of Environmental Affairs in the past, two of which — Kubusie and St John's — would swamp irrigation land on the late Mr Jordaan's farm.

After hearing the government decision to develop Kubusie, Mr Jordaan's widow, Mrs Sophie Jordaan, said she

was "relieved" that a decision had been reached.

"We have had this sword hanging over us for so long...it is a relief to hear a decision has been made," she said yesterday.

She was unsure what her future plans would be, however, as no mention had been made of a date for construction to be started on the dam.

Details of Wriggleswade — which will cost R225,5 million when all its stages are completed — were released in a government white paper last week.

In terms of the plan, a weir will be built on the Toise River north-east of here to divert water through a tunnel to Wriggleswade.

Water will be diverted from there to the Yellowwoods River weir near Bisho where pipelines and a pump station will divert it to consumers in East London, Mdantsane, Zwelitsha, Berlin, Potsdam and King William's Town.

The new dam will only be built "when further reservoirs are required" and will hold almost as much water as all the other Border dams combined.

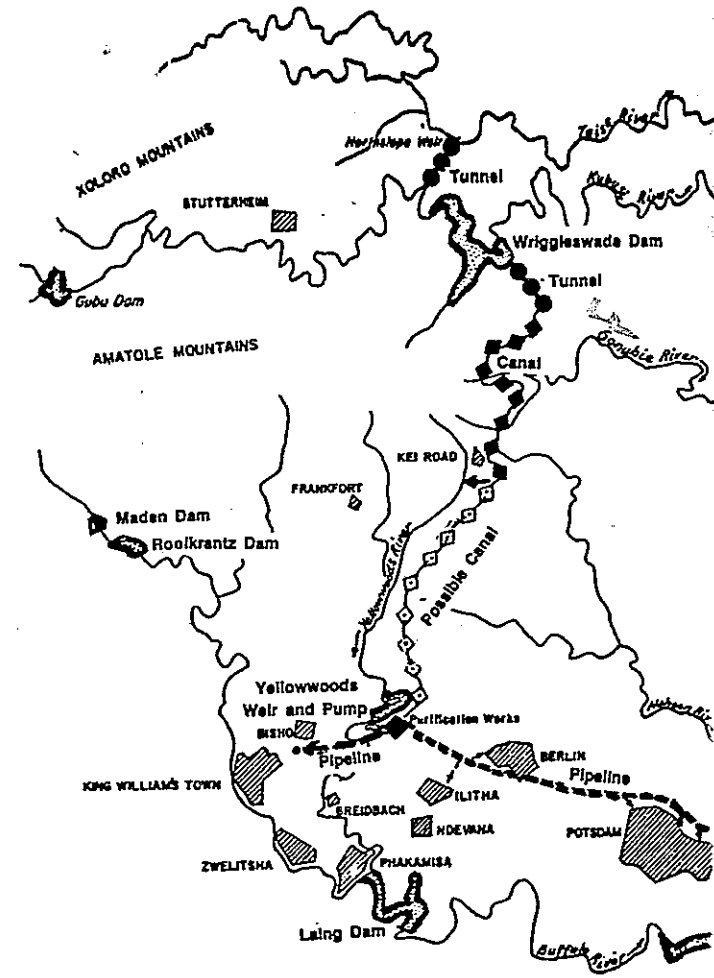
Officials at municipal offices in both East London and King William's Town said yesterday it was "unlikely" that the centres would draw directly from Wriggleswade Dam at first.

"This will really be a back-up supply for East London," said Mr F. Martin of the city engineer's office in the city.

"It won't be used as a primary source at first, merely a reserve."

King William's Town's town clerk, Mr H. Hutten, said Wriggleswade would be "a good back-up" if there was further industrial development in the Border-Ciskei region.

"It all depends on growth in the area," he said. "But we definitely need additional reserves of water for future development." — DDR



An earl play in region. not the

3 General Hansard Q.61.
Co-operative company in liquidation
780-777 7/5/82

*3. Maj. R. SIVE asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) (a) What is the name of the co-operative company which was placed in liquidation by the Land and Agricultural Bank in 1979, as referred to on page 325 of Part III of the Report of the Auditor-General for the Financial Year 1980-'81, and (b) what portion of the loan granted to this company by the said Bank had been recovered by 31 March 1982;
- (2) whether any other co-operative companies have been placed in liquidation since 1979; if so, what companies?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER
(for the Minister of Finance):

- (1) (a) Sentramark (Koöperatief) Bepark.
The co-operative company was not placed in liquidation by the Land Bank, but by the Supreme Court on application by one of its member co-operatives.

777

FRIDAY

- (b) On 31 March 1982 an amount of R8 296 968,50 was already deposited with the Land Bank in reduction of the Land Bank debt of R9 216 760,89 outstanding on 31 March 1982.
- (2) No other co-operative companies indebted to the Land Bank have been placed under liquidation since 1979.

3 General
Fingo Reserve/The Haasand
Gap/Snykclip/Wittekleibosch/Witte-Elshosch
Q Col. 790 - 791 10/5/82
607. Mr. A. SAVAGE asked the Minister
of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether his Department has received any offers of purchase in respect of the areas known as (a)(i) Fingo Reserve 653, (ii) The Gap 655 and (iii) Snykclip 653 in Zone B and (b)(i) Wittekleibosch 674 and (ii) Witte-Elshosch 673 in Zone C; if so, (aa) how many such offers have been received, (bb) in respect of which areas and (cc) from whom in each case;
- (2) whether any such offers have been accepted; if so, (a) how many, (b) in respect of which areas, (c) at what price in each case and (d) by whom was each such offer made;
- (3) whether any agreements have been entered into in respect of these areas; if so, (a) in respect of which areas and (b) what is the date of each such agreement?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES:

- (1) No After the relevant properties had been handed over to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 3 April 1982 for permanent allocation to farmers or prospective farmers, the properties were evaluated by the Department's Directorate of Agricultural and Marine Development and the size of an economic farm unit de-

791

TUESDAY,

terminated for the area. The properties were thereafter divided into 19 economic farm units and formally advertised for sale in terms of section 10(1)(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act, 1966 (Act No. 28 of 1966).

- (2) and (3) Fall away.

Dalton telephone exchange

612. Mr. P. C. CRONJÉ asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

- (1) Whether an automatic telephone exchange is being planned for the Dalton area; if so, when is it expected to be completed;
- (2) (a) how many posts for switchboard operators are there in the Dalton telephone exchange and (b) how many such posts are filled at present;
- (3) (a) how many telephone subscribers are served by this telephone exchange at present and (b) how many applicants are awaiting service?

The MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

- (1) Yes; the equipment is tentatively scheduled for delivery in 1991-'92;
- (2) (a) 12; and
(b) 8 by permanent incumbents. The vacant posts are manned by relieving officers and part-time operators;
- (3) (a) 271; and
(b) 151, of whom two will be provided with service shortly and the rest towards the end of June 1982.

and Fisheries. The increase follows a recent amendment to the 1966 Agricultural Credit Act (FM March 26 1982), enabling the rate to be changed at ministerial discretion.

Loans granted prior to the effective date of April 23 1982 will continue to be charged at the old rate of 5%/year. The new rate is, of course, well below current market rates and 3% below the lowest land Bank rate. Although the scope of borrowing has been limited by the exclusion of loans for land purchase for the 1982-83 fiscal year, farmers will continue to receive assistance where approved for the growing of crops and ancillary services vital to maintaining existing farming production.

The lending restrictions follow the discussions over the Department's budget vote in which, out of a total of R399m for this fiscal year, the financing branch receives R34m. This is over 55% below last year's original budget of R50,3m which included R13m for the fodder scheme, not yet provided for this year.

However, the financing branch failed to maintain its 1981/82 budget of R50,3m. Successive reviews took it first to R76m, and then to R83,3m (an estimate of the year-end figure). This means that the financing division spent 65% more than its original estimate for last year. There seems little hope for it to remain within the much tighter spending curbs imposed on it

FM 14/1/82
FARMING CREDIT *3 general*
Soft loans harden

The rate charged on soft loans to farmers at the lower end of the spectrum has been raised to 8%/year. These loans, available on the basis of a means test, are administered by the Department of Agriculture

for this year. Around R70m was spent last year in the form of loans and subsidies in respect of "distress." This was mainly for assistance to farmers in areas stricken by flood or drought.

The current drought situation will probably both demand more subsidisation and reduce farmers' ability to repay capital and interest. About R40m is due for repayment this fiscal year, but a shortfall of R5m is quite likely as a result of farming losses, according to department sources.

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

③ General Haunsard
Agricultural high schools 12/5/82
Q Col. 794

*1 Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the
Minister of Education and Training:

Whether his Department is considering
the introduction of agricultural high
schools in the Republic; if so, (a) where
will such schools be situated and (b) how
many pupils will they be able to accommo-
date?

†The MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES,
COMMERCE AND TOURISM (for the
Minister of Education and Training):

No. Ample facilities already exist for
agricultural training within the national
states

INCREASES of up to 20 percent in the prices of certain animal feeds, which will come into effect soon, have been criticised by the Natal Agricultural Union, whose president, Mr D C Sinclair, said farmers were being driven off the land.

Mr Gerhard Scholtemeijer, chairman of the Association of Balanced Feed Manufacturers, announced the increase when he presented the association's annual report to members in Cape Town yesterday.

The increase is expected to trigger a chain reaction resulting in further increases in the price of meat, eggs, milk, cheese and other consumer products.

Mr Sinclair said yesterday that feed was one of the most important constituents of farming and that the increase would be a blow.

'Farmer's input prices will be rising faster than producer prices, presenting a bleak outlook. These increases are driving farmers off the land,' he said.

Mr Scholtemeijer said the expected increase was due mainly to an escalation in the cost of importing proteins and a shortfall in local agricultural produce such as sunflower, peanuts, soya beans and cotton oil-cake caused by current agricultural conditions.

The premium payable over and above the local price, on these imports, which will be recovered directly from the consumer, amounts to R17 million.

Reason

'This premium, tied to the recent increase of 15 percent in the price of maize, the increase of between 17,3 percent on cotton oil and 22,3 percent on soya beans as well as increases in terms of labour, railage costs and many others will result in a 20 percent increase in the cost of certain animal feeds,' he said.

Mr J D Thomson, the Natal Agricultural Union's spokesman on milk, said the hike would affect production costs and this was one reason for asking the Government for an increase in the price of milk.

'We are sorry to do this to consumers, but we must increase the price. We have approached the Minister of Agriculture and are waiting for his reply.'

Mr Noel Leitch, chairman of the Natal Commercial Poultry Producers' Association, said the increase had been expected.

On the 9 percent rise in the price of eggs announced last week, Mr Leitch said this would come into effect at most stores only on Mon-

Driven off the land'

Union criticises
20 pc hike in some
animal feed prices
Mercury 14/5/72

13/5/82

Limpopo lights up to lure farmers

General

By Jaap Boekkooi

The Government is erecting an "arc of light" along the Limpopo River, at a cost of millions, to reverse the depopulation trend in Transvaal border areas.

The first part of the scheme, which will light up the banks of the Limpopo along a stretch 80 km west of Messina, was symbolically switched on by the Minister of Manpower and MP for Soutpansberg, Mr Fanie Botha, this week.

The power, installed by Escom with a high-priority, 150 km line being completed in the record time of nine months, enables new farmers to clear the thickets along the southern bank and run irrigation farms at a cost up to 65 percent lower than that of using diesel power.

Thick bush is being

Star

cleared behind the military security fence and patrol road along the river, apparently to establish a barrier against possible future guerilla incursions.

Next on the list are new power reticulation and farm settlement schemes further west and south along the river, notably around Alldays and Ellisras, which will eventually light up the entire northern border including the Limpopo banks east of Messina.

The Department of Agricultural Credit is helping to finance farmers, such as former Zimbabweans, who have become penniless to the area to pioneer irrigation projects.

Mr Botha said the scheme had been established for economic, strategic reasons and was the forerunner of the entire development of Transvaal border areas.

tigate the whole matter relating to the education of gifted pupils, including the training of teachers, in its entirety with a view to formulating a comprehensive policy in this regard.

③ General Q. 61. 869
Agricultural Credit Board
19/5/82

656. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

What amount was allocated by the Agricultural Credit Board over the latest specified period of two years for which figures are available, in respect of (a) housing for, (b) the electrification of houses for, and (c) the provision of water for domestic consumption by farm employees?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (a) R9 818 776 (1980-'81 and 1981-'82)
- (b) R 263 425 (1980-'81 and 1981-'82)
- (c) R 560 745 (1980-'81 and 1981-'82)



Minister of Manpower, Mr. Fanie Botha, and friends standing on a Limpopo farm with a giant weapon-of-peace in the background, the 17000 mobile irrigator that makes life in the human buffer zone

The farmers who are SA's last frontier

General
Clem 24/5/82



TOP: An almost unnoticeable landfall from the Limpopo banks takes the water gush from the electric pump 3 km inland.
LEFT: Farmer Johan de Villiers of Welpe at the new electric switchboard that starts a chain sending his cobs of sweet-corn as far away as Cape Town.
RIGHT: Ex-Zimbabwe farmer George Hodgson surveys his future, 1 800 ha of open space and all that water.



By Jaap Boekkoel
... And quiet flows the Limpopo, unseen and underground at this time of year. Over short stretches it hides water reserves twice those of Hartbeespoort Dam, which is why this river is South Africa's powerful last frontier.

Just off the southern banks of this dry-bed river the bulldozers roar during the day, the lights sweeping the forest at night where elephants splash their droppings on the military patrol path, impalas jump at the slightest sound and hippos grunt their way to the few surviving waterholes.

What is happening along the southern Limpopo right now is 1820 all over again. A human defence line is being formed, and to the

was to the Cape colonial administration when the British Settlers arrived, this bulwark is priority number one. New farmers arrive and the bush is cleared at a thousand rands or so a hectare. Where the big wild figs, the vaalblaar, the marula and the fever trees stood, there are now irrigation furrows, and grant irrigators, re-embanking bombers on an American air base at dusk, amid the cotton and coffee fields. The men who settle here are no

bumbling Jeremiah Goldswains of "A Settler's Tale". They are farmers who have considered the risks of being first in a potential firing line. (There is an ANC camp 17 km north), balanced by the secure life of irrigation farmers and a flourish of encouragement from Pretoria.

In clearing the bush here they are not much different from South Africa's first white settlers, the free burghers who cleared the Cape's Lesbeek River of its thickets of this area.

To clear the 1 800 ha forest bank on the Limpopo, get the electric pumps to suck the life-giving water 20 m deep out of the dry river bed and lead it across his cotton and winter mealie lands, George must have incurred debts of at least R300 000, which even in those days of big-farming debts, feels some-
The frontiersmen

what like sitting on a gungling volcano. Men volunteering to man the country's human barrier to the north may become the cannon-fodder of the future (as the settlers became Hintsa's assagai fodder) but they have had many hints that they are Pretoria's favorites.

One whispered word from the corridors of power, and Escom rushed in to build a power line 150 km long along the river west of Messina towards Allard's area.

They were there in their hundreds, celebrating the lighting-up of the river banks gorging themselves on such rarities as impala boerewors, blue wildebees steaks and warthog polony with marula jelly. This was after listening to the local dominoes' scripture reading and promises from Mr Fanie Botha, Minister of Manpower and their local MP, that the Government was ready to give them more pats on the back in the form of automatic telephone exchanges by 1984.

Some will regret the destruction of the Limpopo wilderness for the purpose of taming the last frontier. And whether the Limpopo Line, now feverishly in the building, like France's Maginot line, is a line of hope — or desperation — lies in the still-flowing waters of the river that runs so deep.

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Made in South Africa

A TOTAL of 90-million litres of "Agent Orange" — a potent herbicide used in the Vietnam war and now the subject of several United States lawsuits — were sprayed in the Eastern Cape and Karoo between 1957 and 1972.

The use of the notorious chemical, known scientifically as 2,4,5-T, to control the spread of jointed cactus has been revealed by researchers at the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE).

There is evidence that 2,4,5-T — and particularly a by-product of its use, Dioxan — could be dangerous to humans and animals, but agriculture officials have denied that it poses any threat.

According to a UPE botanist, Mr Brian Whiting, "Agent Orange" was sprayed onto individual cactus plants at the rate of 150 000 litres a week.

Ironically, its use over 15 years failed to kill the plants as it did not penetrate their underground tubers, and from 1964 to 1973 the area of infestation increased from 643 700ha to 813 400ha.

Mr Whiting said yesterday that Dioxan was produced in the manufacture of 2,4,5-T and one of the most dangerous chemicals known to man.

It exists in "Agent Orange" in varying quantities, ranging from high concentrations, as in Vietnam, to a few parts per million.

20M (26) (3) General
26/5/82

From those wonderful people who brought you Vietnam, 2,4,5-T comes to South Africa

MARTIN FEINSTEIN reports on the large-scale use of "Agent Orange" — a potent herbicide used in the Vietnam war — to control jointed cactus in South Africa.

But whereas 2,4,5-T is biologically degradable, Dioxan is an extremely hardy substance that could accumulate, for example, in underground water systems.

Mr Whiting said the task of trying to establish a safe level of the chemical was "highly controversial".

There was evidence from doctors who had collected data from patients in areas abroad where 2,4,5-T was used that the rate of abnormal births was above average.

And, according to a professor of pharmacology at the University of the Witwatersrand, there is also overseas evidence of animal deformities

caused by 2,4,5-T.

Mr Whiting said at the time of its large-scale use in the Eastern Cape and Karoo, no apparatus was available to determine small quantities of Dioxan.

He agreed it was possible that accumulated quantities of the chemical could pose a danger to life — but no studies had been done in South Africa to assess this danger.

A homestead in a jointed cactus area using borehole water, for example, might be endangered.

The Mail, however, could not establish where the chemical had been

used — or whether it had been used in or near populated areas.

Mr Whiting said at one stage the Department of Agriculture was worried that the brand of 2,4,5-T being used in South Africa was inferior in that it contained too much Dioxan.

But special samples sent overseas for testing were shown to have "normal" Dioxan content.

He said it was not uncommon for developed countries to palm off inferior chemicals to underdeveloped nations.

Dr J B Vermeulen, of the technical advice (herbicides) division of the Department of Agriculture, said the 2,4,5-T used in Vietnam was "heavily contaminated" with Dioxan.

The type now used locally, he said, contained as little as one part Dioxan per trillion parts 2,4,5-T.

"But we are keeping a close watch on the use of this chemical," he said.

He said no local studies had been conducted into its safety or otherwise, and could not specify which areas had been sprayed.

"But I don't think there is any problem," he said.

United States forces in Vietnam banned the use of 2,4,5-T after reports that it and Dioxan were dangerous.

But several veterans are now suing the US Army for illnesses apparently sustained from the chemical.

Large cash retailing organisations (such as supermarket and bottle store chains) have not only mastered many of the internal control problems surrounding cash sales but through sophisticated cash registers many useful accounting and control features are possible. Your task is to survey the current scene and report on the accounting and control features available to large cash retailers through the latest and up-to-date cash register systems.

State plans new deal for farm schools

3 General
Star
26/5/82

OWN BOOK

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

By Sheryl Raine, Pretoria Bureau

The Department of Education and Training has announced an increase in subsidies of up to 50 percent to build farm schools and has taken tentative steps toward guaranteeing education for farm school pupils.

The department is setting out to rectify poor farm school facilities but with every care not to anger white farmers who have played a major role in the education of these children.

There are currently 459 201 black primary school children enrolled at farm schools.

In new moves to improve the pitiful educational prospects of about 30 percent of South Africa's black school pupils, the DET has announced the following:

- School buildings erected after April 1, 1982 can be subsidised to 50 percent of the construction costs. The average costs of a classroom is R10 000.

- More than R1 million had been set aside this year for construction at farm schools.

- Certain service and facilities such as toilets, drinking water and, in some cases, storerooms must be provided before full subsidies will be paid.

Existing schools where no storerooms, offices or toilets exist can apply for subsidies of 50 percent to upgrade facilities.

Despite these encour-

aging announcements, many educationists feel the reforms have been a long time coming and fall far short of placing farm schools within the State's responsibility — where it is believed they belong.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the announcement is a move to bind the owner of a farm school to an agreement with DET in connection with duration and usage.

"Any step that leads to more permanence of education for children on farms must be welcomed," said Dr Franz Auerbach, a leading educationist and president of the Institute of Race Relations. "But I look forward to the day when the State accepts that the education of all children is its responsibility."

However, there are no safeguards to ensure that the new owner of the farm will continue to allow the education of black children on his property.

Another bone of contention is the appalling lack of secondary schools for farm pupils, who usually drop out after completing primary school because there is nowhere for them to go.

So far the DET has been unwilling to ensure the education of black farm school pupils at the risk of offending white farmers.

The department still does not have the authority to keep departmentally-run schools going, according to DET public relations officer, Mr G Engelbrecht.

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WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

Farm ^{ARGUS} school ^{27/5/82} subsidy ³ increased

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Subsidies for farm school buildings have been substantially increased.

The Minister of Education and Training, Dr D J de Villiers, has announced that buildings built after April 1 could be subsidised to half the construction cost.

There was a maximum limit of R5 000 a classroom, he said. The previous limit was R2 000 a classroom.

To provide for escalating costs, however, the unit construction cost of a classroom would be revised annually.

One of the conditions of the subsidy is that the school owner must build additional services and facilities as stipulated by the department.

Where three classrooms are built, a storeroom must be added, and with four or more a storeroom and office must be built.

TOILETS

"Under normal circumstances the buildings must be completed before the subsidy can be paid to the farmer," said Dr de Villiers.

"However, should the farmer be unable to finance them up to completion, special arrangements can be made for the subsidy to be paid as the work progresses."

For each classroom two toilets and drinking water must be provided. At existing schools where no toilets, storerooms or offices have been built, the owners will be subsidised.

Up to half the construction cost for each toilet will be paid, with a maximum amount of R100.

The same will apply to storerooms and offices, except for the maximum level, which rises to R500.

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The empty border

SOUTH Africa's isolated border areas — particularly farms in the Northern and Eastern Transvaal and Northern Natal — could become important guerrilla targets in the future, a Pretoria strategist has warned.

Professor Michael Hough, director of the University of Pretoria's Institute for Strategic Studies, told the Sunday Express that it was classic revolutionary strategy for insurgents to have a rural stronghold.

"The rural areas therefore play an important role and the current African National Congress's urban terror campaign is only to gain publicity and divert security

By ARLENE GETZ

forces to the city.

"The ANC is active in terms of political subversion and the largely apolitical rural population could be a fertile breeding ground for revolution."

The depopulated bushveld areas were a security risk, Prof Hough said. The exodus of farmers from land on the Transvaal's vulnerable northern borders would continue until the Government gave them additional economic help.

Although the Agricultural Credit Board granted R35,7-million to repopulate designated border areas, about

400 of the 650 farms in the Ellisras district remain empty.

Prof Hough said farmers left the bushveld because they could not make ends meet and not because they feared attacks by insurgents.

His conclusions were confirmed by a recent report by the Human Sciences Research Council which found farmers considered expensive operating costs, land and water shortages, labour problems and a weak infrastructure more important than fear of guerrilla incursions.

"The farmers would like to see a bigger electricity grid, better roads, and cheaper railage to accelerate the transport of cattle to the towns."

The other major problem in the depopulated area was the weekend farmer who visited his estate only once every few weeks, he said.

These farms created ideal conditions for insurgents to hide arms caches or to intimidate the local labour force, he said.

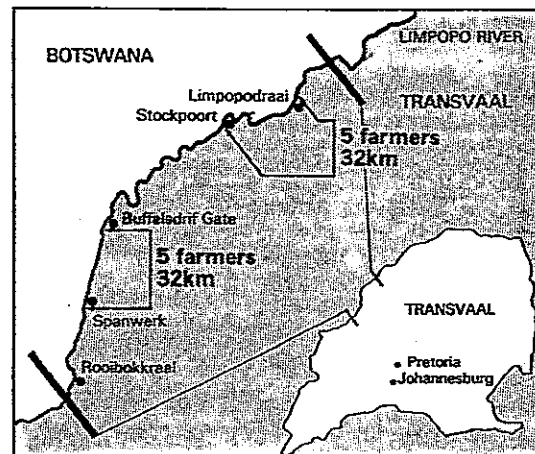
"It's very difficult to decide what to do about weekend farmers.

"Some people have suggested that national servicemen be stationed on these farms; others believe absentee farmers should be compelled to hire a manager, and some feel that they should be penalised by the removal of certain tax concessions.

"But each of these suggestions has certain shortcomings and I honestly don't know what the answer is."

Prof Hough suggested a combination of direct aid and indirect incentives for farmers who remained in the areas.

Prof Hough also warned that repopulation was not necessarily going to deter insurgency — it would only make it more difficult.



● In the 32km area from Spanwerk to Buffelsdrif Gate there are only five farmers and from Stockpoort to Limpopodraai another five.

The grass is greener in the city — or over the border — claim besieged northern Trekker farmers

WILD game on the game ranches which wind lazily along the Limpopo, almost stand alone in guarding the Waterberg frontier of the Northern Transvaal.

These exclusive get-aways fill huge tracts of land between inhabited farms on South Africa's exposed Botswana border.

This is the territory of the Lion of the North, Dr Andries Treurnicht.

The tight financial situation has dried up a Government-backed plan to repopulate the area by financing young farmers who are now heading for the cities and towns.

And there is no shortage of buyers, professional people wanting a slice of Africa for hunting and relaxation.

The plan was to establish a white buffer between Botswana and the towns and provide an early warning of guerrilla movements in the area.

But a survey of two areas stretching across 64km of the border found only 11 farmers on the land — the rest of the area was also heavily depopulated.

The farmers are leaving the border area, not out of fear of terrorism but for lack

of capital for development.

One farmer vacated a farm on which he owed R200 000; another was packing up and heading for the city, repeating the pattern of urbanisation during the 1930's depression. He wanted to leave before he lost all his money.

Mr Paul Kruger, a local farmer, said farmers stayed on their farms in Rhodesia despite landmines and attacks on their homes because they were paid well for their produce.

Not in the Witwatersberg.

People would just pack up and leave because they could not make a living.

Mr Kruger, a Nationalist, said: "It is not the Government's fault that I bought land here when the money situation was getting tight."

He intended buying another farm elsewhere, meaning one less border farm without permanent white tenancy.

Ironically, these people look to Botswana as an example. There farmers were leased land and could use their capital for



● Mr Jim Rabatsi. He helps look after a game reserve owned by Mr Hans Badenhorst.



● Mr Pieter Erasmus — determined to succeed.

Report by GORDON EDDEY and DOUG LEE. Pictures by DOUG LEE

start a business and make money — then maybe one day he would also be able to own a farm as an absentee landlord, he said.

From the store to the Cumberland police station the Sunday Express found only five border farmers in a 32km stretch and in the other direction from the store only three farmers are spread over 24km.

Mr Pieter Erasmus moved into the area about a year ago — buying his uncle's farm — with help from Landbou Krediet.

He paid a reasonable price and had a head's start because a crop had been planted before he took over.

His brother Mike moved

onto the neighbouring farm about six months previously but was in town and could not be interviewed.

He is on the farm his father once owned and on which the two brother's grew up.

Both brothers were fairly confident of succeeding, said Mr Erasmus.

His only complaint was the kudus which foraged through his ground nut crop which were drying in heaps above the ground after harvest.

He was the only person who was not derisive about impending insurgency.

"Ja, I suppose we must prepare ourselves for the problems that will come," he said simply, in an area where security fencing is not seen around farm houses.

All the farmers have heard of farm houses with security fencing around them but they are always in a different area.

People in the area said a new trend would be for farmers to live in towns in the area and visit their farms a couple of times a week, in the same way they now went to town for supplies.

This would further depopulate the land and would result in decreased productivity because of a lack of permanent supervision.

In the Limpopodraai trading store a few farmers gathered and laughed when the Sunday Express asked how many young farmers had been attracted to the area by the Government repopulation plan.

The laughter was sad. One shook his head. "It was just a duststorm," he said.

Those who came had left, some making a profit on the sale of their land, others just throwing in the towel and walking away from their farms and loans.

It is a sad tale from an area which has epitomised white South African rule — the sprawling arid home and rock-steady support-base for Dr Andries Treurnicht

Grass greener in the city — farmers

(3) General E. Post 2/6/80
WILD animals on the game ranches along the Limpopo stand almost alone in guarding the Waterberg frontier of the Northern Transvaal.

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ing a slice of Africa for hunting and relaxation.

The plan was to establish a white buffer between Botswana and the towns, and provide an early warning of guerilla movements in the area. But a survey of two areas stretching across 64 kilometres of the border found only 11 farmers on the land. The rest of the area was also badly depopulated.

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Mr Kruger, a Nationalist, added: "It is not the Government's fault that I bought land here when the money situation was getting tight."

He intended buying another farm elsewhere. His departure will mean one more border farm without permanent white tenancy.

Ironically, these people look to Botswana as an example. There, farmers leased land and could use their capital for development.

"If I took out Botswana citizenship," said one, "I would be better off. Much better off."

Inevitably, the local cash store is the gathering point for farmers in a pub-dry area.

At Rooibokkraal trading store, Mr Kallie Pelser told how he planned to move to Johannesburg. But his eyes told a story of anger and humiliation.

He was going to the city to "start a business and make money". Then maybe one day he would also be

able to own a farm as an absentee landlord, he said.

From the store to the Cumberland police station we found only five border farmers in a 32km stretch, and in the other direction from the store, only three farmers over 24km.

Mr Pieter Erasmus moved into the area about a year ago — buying his uncle's farm with help from Landboukrediet (the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure).

He paid a reasonable price and had a head start because a crop had been planted before he took over.

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In the Limpopodraai trading store, a few farmers gathered and laughed when we asked how many young farmers had been attracted to the area by the Government's repopulation plan.

The laughter was bitter. One man shook his head. "It was just a duststorm," he said.

Those who came had left, some making a profit on the sale of their land, others just throwing in the towel and walking away from their farms and loans.

It is a disturbing tale from a sprawling, arid area where the Government's arch-opponent on the Right, Dr Andries Treurnicht, has a rock-steady support base.

③ General Subsidies for fencing
4/6/82 Hansard Q. 61. 781-2

704. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

What was the total amount paid out in subsidies for fencing in each province of the Republic in terms of the Soil Conservation Act in respect of each of the latest

specified two years for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

Statistics regarding subsidies on fences is only kept according to the Department's ecological region zoning.

	1980-'81		1981-'82	
	Inner camp fences R	Erosion fences R	Inner camp fences R	Erosion fences R
Highveld Region	11 318	—	13 985	5 826
Karoo Region	103 435	11 234	61 329	8 329
Natal Region	17 294	2 975	7 819	3 048
Eastern Cape Region	28 646	5 509	19 775	3 042
Free State Region	113 096	5 265	45 991	8 852
Transvaal Region	25 950	4 444	19 489	2 745
Winter Rainfall Region	29 934	5 139	13 808	4 693

No subsidy is payable on outer fences.

Soil Conservation Act

705. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

What is the estimated number of farms in each province of the Republic that remain to be planned in terms of the Soil Conservation Act?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

Particulars are only available according to the Department's ecological region zoning.

Highveld Region	8 600 farms
Karoo Region	1 190 ..
Natal Region	2 158 ..
Eastern Cape Region	1 209 ..

Free State Region	5 905 ..
Transvaal Region	10 000 ..
Winter Rainfall Region	5 750 ..

3 General Hansard Q. 61. x
Surplus agricultural foodstuffs

4/6/82 988-

730. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked
the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

Whether any surplus agricultural foodstuffs grown or produced in the Republic and marketed through control boards were destroyed during the latest specified year for which figures are available; if so, (a) what foodstuffs, (b) what quantity of each foodstuff, (c) what was the estimated total value and (d) for what reasons?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES:

No.

(a), (b), (c) and (d) fall away.

Surplus agricultural foodstuffs

732. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked
the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

Whether any surplus agricultural foodstuffs grown or produced in the Republic and marketed through control boards were distributed to (a) the underprivileged and (b) welfare organizations during the latest specified year for which figures are available; if so, (i) what foodstuffs, (ii) what quantity of each foodstuff and (iii) what was the estimated total value?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES:

(a) No.

(b) No.

(i), (ii) and (iii) fall away.

They call themselves strangers in their own land.

Politically in Ciskei, South Africa, more than 100 coloured farmers in the Stockenstrroom district face an uncertain future as the newly-independent state of Ciskei finalises its boundaries.

The Stockenstrroom district became part of Ciskei on December 4 last year. It will officially be transferred to the state on January 1 next year, along with several other areas earmarked for Ciskei in the 1975 agreement.

But for the farmers in the district, it is hard to see beyond tomorrow.

Despite their pending change of fortune they say they have received no official notification of what their status will be after their farms are incorporated.

An informal committee has been elected in the hamlet of Hertzog to represent those affected, and has already submitted a seven-page memorandum to the South African Department of Internal Affairs outlining their feelings.

"But all the government has done is promise they won't force a decision on us," said a member of the committee, Mr Charles Groepe. "Nobody will tell us what is happening...are they going to buy us out, or what?"

Mr Groepe is typical of the small group of stock farmers facing expropriation of their property in terms of the 1975 agreement. A direct descendant of Commandant Christiaan Groepe, Charles works the land presented to the commander for his loyal services to the "Imperial Government" during last century's Frontier Wars.

This land — donated partly as reward for services rendered, but also to create a "buffer zone" between whites and blacks — was given to the coloured people in terms of Ordinance 50 of 1982.

Boerwell
4/6/82

After 150 years...

These farmers fear their community will die



Farmers from the Hertzog district gathered outside the hamlet's Dutch Reformed Church, which has been declared a national monument. From left to right are Charles Hill, Charles Groepe, Koos Bantam, Petrus Groepe, Peter C. B. Groepe and Martin Williamson.

"The land our forefathers paid for with their blood is to be taken away from us," said 70-year-old Mr Martin Williamson, a farmer in the district. "We defended South Africa, and this is the thanks we get."

"They've turned their backs on us, left us with nothing. They're treating us like strangers in our own country."

"Om Wyk" Lootz, another member of the farmers' committee, said: "They gave us this 'medal' and now they want to take it back. How can they treat us this way?"

Many hours have been spent puzzling over their fate, and the general feeling is that there are three options facing the South African Government, none of which is particularly appealing.

First choice — the one they would accept — would be for the area to be excised from Ciskei and remain under South African jurisdiction. In effect, this would mean the creation of a small "coloured homeland" on the Ciskei's north-western boundary.

"If there was a choice the people would like life to carry on just as it has for the past 150 years," explained Dominee Murphy Maart, head of the historic Dutch Reformed Church in Hertzog. "But we know it would be almost impossible to carry on as in those days."

"The only other thing they could do is kick us out and give us money," said Mrs Lily Thomas. "In other words, the death of Hertzog."

"As a border area we would possibly experience problems with stock theft, especially if the Sebe government moves people to our area."

According to Ds Maart the Stockenstrroom farmers have experienced "problems" with stock theft and squatters since Ciskei's independence last year.

The second option is a straight sword — "take our land but give us land elsewhere", as one woman put it. This would result in the relocation of all the farmers and their animals, at state expense — something the farmers describe as "unrealistic", but far preferable to the third option.

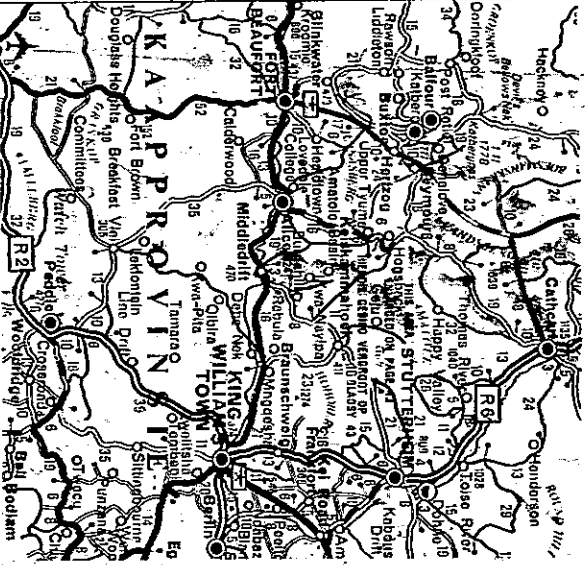
Daily Dispatch reporter CHRIS VICK and photographer EMILY MANDELSTAM travelled to the hamlet of Hertzog to talk to the coloured farmers of the Stockenstrroom district which is to become a part of the Ciskei on January 1.

"They would put people in the cities and just wait for them to die," said Mrs M. Jewell, who said her husband had become "ill with strain" over the relocation issue. "We don't know the city life."

But the ultimate fear these farmers have is incorporation into Ciskei without any compensation, without the option of moving to other parts of South Africa and without any of the limited rights they enjoy under the South African Government.

"It is a proposition too scary to contemplate," said Ds Maart. "They don't know how they will be treated, what rights they will have in Ciskei, or even whether they will be allowed to own the land they live on."

Farmers admitted they were wary of living under a government they knew nothing about. "We may have very few rights under the Boer, but at least we know where we stand," said Mrs Johanna du Preez. "We don't know what the Sebes might do to us."



Whatever happens to Hertzog's people, the future of the settlement is hazy. Despite a primary school with 140 pupils, there are few young people under the Boer, but at least we know where we stand," said Mrs Johanna du Preez. "We don't know what the Sebes might do to us."

D. Dink
3
4/6/82

else...they're not keen on coming back." There has already been a traumatic exodus of established farmers reluctant to stay under such uncertain circumstances.

According to Mr Groepe, several established families upped and left in 1975 when it was first announced that Stockenstrroom was to be incorporated into Ciskei.

Now, he said, they faced an even greater exodus. People were concerned at the delay in negotiations over the territory and were trying to sell their farms for what they could get — heading for the "bright lights" in places like East London and Fort Beaufort.

This is probably the worst part of the whole thing," Ds Maart said. "People fear a mass resettlement programme but they also fear staying here. Whatever happens will have a bad effect on Hertzog."

It could, said Ds Maart, mean the end of a community which has battled through thick and thin for 150 years.

"These are simple folk, they know only one thing — they want to keep this land," he said. "It was earned by their forefathers and they want to keep it for their children."

Hertzog, centre of the coloured farming community referred to in this report, is on the road from Fort Beaufort to Seymour — near

the young ones have gone to the cities," said Mr Williamson. "As soon as they finish primary school they have to go to school somewhere

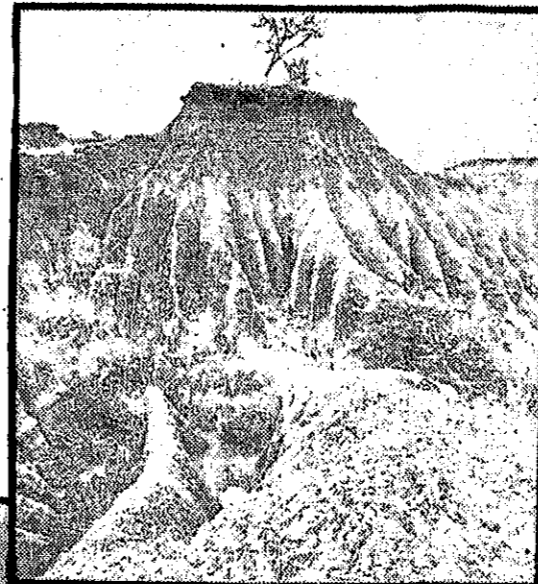
near Seymour.

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Today is World Environment Day — a time when everybody concerned for the quality of life should look carefully at his surroundings and consider their future. Today The Star looks at one of the most critical environmental problems facing

both South Africa and the Third World. This country is facing a ticking time bomb in the depressed homelands as overcrowding, malnutrition, overgrazing and soil erosion threaten to devastate rural areas, and overwhelm the cities with starving refugees. These pictures show how fertile

agricultural land is being destroyed as the problems are ignored. The land will be sorely missed in 20 years as farmers struggle to feed a more than doubled population. An expert on the rural crisis, Professor John Hanks, talks to CARE reporter Rob Soutter.



Bid to save rural areas from collapse

The wastelands

General Star 5/6/82

South Africa cannot afford to ignore the worsening crisis in its rural areas, because the consequences are spreading to the cities with increasing crime, vagrancy and social tension.

waves of discontented migrants to the cities.

"South Africa is facing disastrous consequences in both the rural and urban areas from steadily mounting unemployment, poverty and malnutrition in the homelands," said Professor Hanks.

"Combined with overcrowding and soil erosion, these factors are creating a potentially explosive situation. It is the greatest single threat to South Africa's long-term stability."

The rural crisis could not be ignored, he said. Poverty was forcing huge migrations of unskilled workers to the cities in search of jobs to buy food for their starving families in the homelands.

"This will further aggravate the country's urban problems. Unemployment, housing and crime in the cities were chronic problems. Squatting would increase, and the lack of employment for

these unskilled rural migrants would inevitably lead to more crime and social tension, said Professor Hanks.

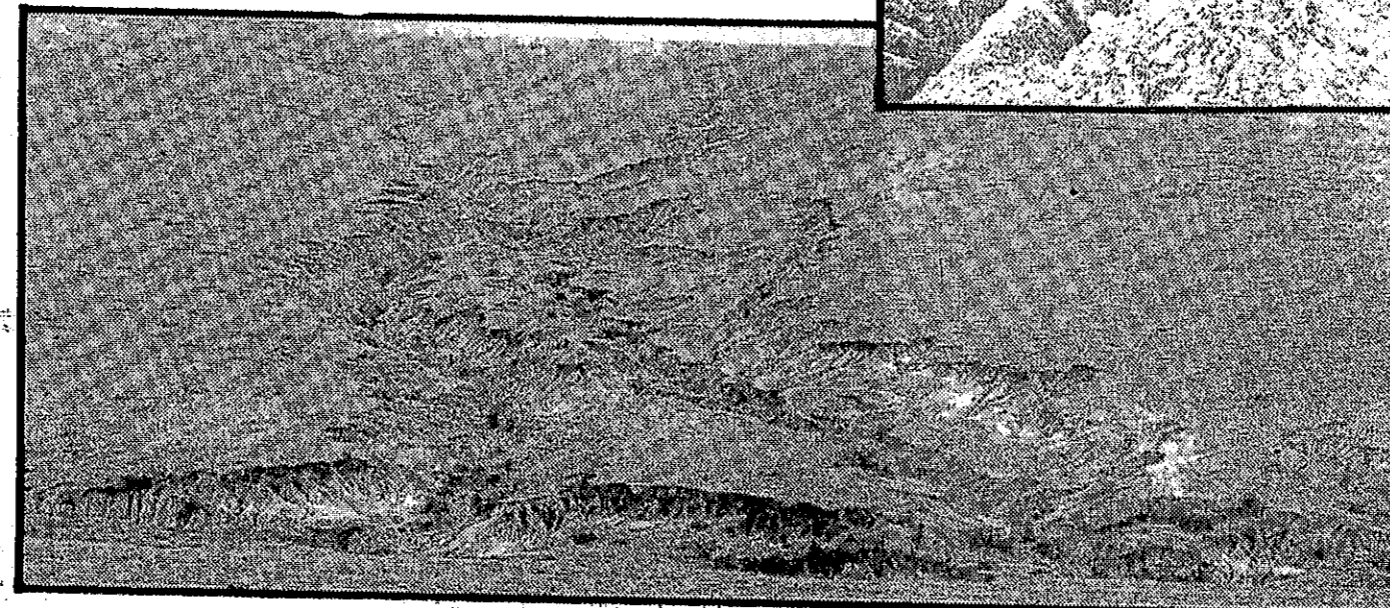
"And without help, the crisis in the rural areas will fester and fuel further migrations of ever more desperate people. "Parts of South Africa are already mirroring some of the more desperate Third World situations."

The institute is concentrating its efforts in kwaZulu, one of South Africa's most degraded rural areas, and it is hoped the solutions can be applied in other underdeveloped regions of southern Africa.

"This could have tremendous social economic and environmental benefits for the sub-continent," said Professor Hanks.

Problems in kwaZulu include:

- Overcrowding of people and domestic stock in limited land areas which are continually fragmented;



Consequent overgrazing leads to soil erosion and the loss of millions of tons of irreplaceable fertile soil washed into the sea.

- Energy demands of the steadily increasing human population are outstripping

the growth of new trees, leaving huge areas barren.

- Animal dung is being used as fuel, due to the shortage of wood, further impoverishing the soil and causing erosion.

only part of the answer to unemployment in these areas," said Professor Hanks. "More than 1500 jobs would need to be created every working day — an impossible task for any government."

Industrialisation is In kwaZulu, 30 industrial undertakings created employment for 2500 people at a cost of R68-million — more than R25 000 a job.

ture, the rural areas will not disappear," he said.

"The answer lies in the upliftment of the rural areas, with expanded job opportunities, better living conditions and something to believe in, and work for."

An intensive rural upliftment programme — the first of its kind in South Africa — has been launched in kwaZulu to help solve the deteriorating situation there.

The scheme undertaken by the University of Natal's Institute of Natural Resources will study and initiate alternative land utilisation methods to improve the quality of rural

life. It is the second phase of a five-part programme, and will focus research on an area of kwaZulu which is representative of the whole region.

However, the institute needs more money to initiate more projects in kwaZulu. The aim is to choose the best land use for each area and soil type to boost food produc-

tion and create more jobs.

A vital consideration is that the land use must be sustainable in the long-term. Areas in danger of ecological collapse will be reclaimed.

"Subsistence farming practised in the homelands and surrounding states cannot be sustained in the face of ever-increasing overcrowding, overgrazing and soil erosion," said Professor John Hanks, the institute's director.

Agricultural potential of the land would be drastically diminished without swift action, at a time when more and more food had to be produced to feed a rapidly increasing population, he said.

"The Government has stated that the institute's activities are of national interest," he said. "Positive results could have tremendous benefits for other underdeveloped areas of the sub-continent."

Experimental projects are being launched to improve water supplies and introduce intensive small-scale irrigation farming which will be tested for viability and acceptance by the local population.

The key to the programme, said Professor Hanks, is that it has the support of the kwaZulu authorities and the co-operation of the local inhabitants.

All funding comes from the private sector, including R320 000 for the entire upliftment programme from the Anglo American and De Beers Chairmen's Fund.

"The urgency of our work is dictated by the rapidly deteriorating rural situation," said Professor Hanks stressing the need for more funds.

More information about the institute's work can be obtained by telephoning Mary Rose at Johannesburg 36-2811 or the institute at Maritzburg 0331 63320 extension 445.

③ General Land Bank loans
Haverland Q. Col. - 1006-8/6/82
729. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked
the Minister of Finance:

How many loans were granted by the Land Bank to (a) Coloured and (b) Indian farmers in each of the latest specified two years for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) 1980—7	(b) 1980—157
1981—17	1981—34

The difference between the amount which was granted as loans to Indian farmers during 1980 and that which was granted during 1981, is ascribable to the drought relief scheme for Indian sugar farmers which applied in the first-mentioned year only.

FARMING 3 General Greener pastures

FM 18/6/82
First to kick around the concept of a free market in the agricultural community were maize farmers (*Business* June 11). Now a new pressure group — Farmers for Free Enterprise (FFE) — has been formed to take the concept further.

The 70-strong organisation has opted to go on its own. And it is hoping to convince others to do likewise.

Breaking with the traditional view that government control in agriculture is in the farmer's interests, the association will canvass support for free market principles throughout the SA farming community.

While the FFE proposals follow closely on proposals by Nampo to liberalise the maize market, they are arrived at entirely independently.

Chairman of the fledgling organisation, Roy van der Westhuizen, explains the motivations behind the move: "We have realised that one gets nothing for nothing. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

"Farmers are becoming increasingly disillusioned with the socialised system of agriculture in this country. The fact that it was supposedly set up and geared to our advantage is not important. It does not work — either to the advantage of the farmer or the SA economy."

Van der Westhuizen claims that farmers are faced with spiralling costs which are rising faster than the administered prices they have to accept. Further, they are forced to buy protected local materials and equipment at bumped-up prices which pushes up their debt. To top it all, distribution channels are pre-determined.

"We reject being hamstrung and now wish to handle our own affairs, producing what we like in the most efficient way." He believes that productivity will be raised substantially and that land will be put to optimum use.

Van der Westhuizen realises that, while farmers don't want to be their own worst enemy, it will be no easy task to convince vested interests. "We will have to get through to the set minds that exist in certain quarters," he says. "However, farmers are having to face up to the economic realities of the present situation. The government does not have the money to keep bolstering the agricultural sector. Conse-



quently, intervention has become more of a hindrance than a help.

He points out that de-regulation of the farming industry would also have to mean de-control of other industries. "We can only do battle in the market place if we are freed from the restrictions of buying Atlantis Diesel Tractors and specific fertilisers."

Van der Westhuizen argues that the recent maize swap indicates that it can be done. "If we can swap maize for nitrogen for our own advantage, then we can sell maize and buy nitrogen to our own advantage."

The FFE also hopes to set up a futures market in agricultural commodities which will be financed by the private sector.

"There is a definite feeling among the agricultural community that while Big Daddy offers protection, he also makes you a slave," Van der Westhuizen concludes.

The flood of farm bills

Pretoria's new deal for Land Bank financing does not hide the fact that it represents a staggering burden of debt on the country's clearing banks — and a potential boost for money supply.

By this time next year, the banks could be collective creditors to the Land Bank to the tune of R3,13 billion. On current statistics, this represents about 28% of the total advances of the commercial banks.

And by this time next year, the liquid asset base of the banking system will be R1 billion larger, purely accounting for the contribution of Land Bank debt. It will mean that in two years, the Land Bank will have swollen the banks' liquidity base by over R3 billion. In fact at last count, its share in the total liquid assets held by all the banks was an enormous 40%.

The Land Bank had a total overdraft facility of R2,34 billion with the commercial banks during the period ending June 30 this year. Of that, R2 billion has been utilised for on-lending to the agricultural co-operatives. This was to fund the crops that were harvested in the first half of the year, and to finance new plantings.

The record size of this loan is a reflection of the record size of this year's harvest. Most of it was maize. SA's unwieldy agricultural marketing system, coupled with depressed international prices, made it difficult to clear stocks. Consequently the return flow of cash, which should make this kind of loan self-liquidating, did not materialise. In short, the Land Bank, which by the end of this month should have paid back the current year's borrowings in preparation for the new season, is still R2 billion in debt to the banks.

This R2 billion is in the form of "one massive frozen overdraft," according to a senior banker. It is defined, ironically, as a liquid asset, which means it can form part of the reserve base of the commercial banks. The rate paid by the Land Bank, which has trailed other short-term rates upwards, is now 14%.

When the Reserve Bank called in commercial bankers two weeks ago, it had a problem of persuasion on its hands. It had to convince the banks to rollover the Land Bank's debt, and agree to a fresh tranche of lendings for the next twelve months. A scheme was eventually devised by Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock, and put before the banks. This is how it works:

□ From July 1, R1 billion of the existing overdraft will be converted into Land Bank debentures. Four portions of R250m each will correspond to four maturity terms of 12, 24, 36, and 60 months respectively. The 60-month debentures are not liquid assets, but qualify as prescribed investment. The rates on each term will be respectively 15,75%; 15,5%; 15,25%; and 15,5%.

□ Also from July 1, the other R1 billion of the existing overdraft will be converted into bills of one, two and three month maturities, in three portions of R300m, R350m and R350m respectively. The rate on all of these will be 16,2%, and as the shortest maturity they will all be replaced by three-month bills.

An additional R700m will be raised in three-month bills in 1982/83, at the same rate of 16,2%. The Land Bank will also take up the remaining portion of its existing overdraft facility — R335m — and add to that a further portion of overdraft borrow-

ing to a total of about R500m. The rate on this will be 80% of the lowest prime overdraft rate of any clearing bank. Right now, with prime at 20%, this yields a rate of 16%. This OD tranche will be progressively converted into bills for each bank in proportion to its share in the total debt.

The Land Bank's total additional requirement for 1982/83 will be R800m. This means that by the end of June, 1983, it will owe the clearing banks almost R3 134 billion. As one bank executive sees it, this is a huge and worrying exposure to a single sector, which removes from the banks a large element of choice as to how they distribute their assets.

The ideal

According to senior bankers, the purpose of replacing one huge overdraft with varieties of paper is to give the banks more market flexibility in managing this huge bundle of liquid assets. As De Kock states in his letter, the ideal would be to market Land Bank paper without obligation to any particular bank. But, he adds, this must wait until there is a wider market in Land Bank paper.

Funding the Land Bank represents, in general, the banks' own contribution to economic subsidy. Obligations are required from them simply because there is a limited market in Land Bank paper. The size of the debt suggests, too, that the denominations of individual bills will be large, another factor restricting their potential markets.

The movement of short-term interest rates in the next months will decide whether the rates to be offered are competitive. At the moment, they are roughly in line (and therefore directly in competition) with rates on Treasury bills and short-dated government stock.

However the rates paid by the Land Bank will be higher than ever before — a new wind of reality blowing through the protected agricultural sector. As De Kock concludes, the new deal does not represent a solution to the the monetary consequences of captive lending on such a large scale — 4,4% of gross domestic product, to be exact. But, in his view, it is a step in the right direction.

Bankers add that Pretoria may be trying to offset the monetary injection represented by Land Bank debt by their persistent marketing of tap Treasury bills and the R400m government stock tender next month. The ideal would be for the large investing institutions to eventually take up most of the Land Bank paper. That would neutralise the monetary threat. But it could



also bid up the cost of government borrowings — further consequences of the many hidden ramifications of disguised subsidies.

Farming blamed for high inflation

By GERALD REILLY
Pretoria Bureau

THE prices of agricultural products played a major role in the country's high inflation rate, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr D W Steyn, said in Pretoria yesterday.

Addressing a Transvaal Agricultural Union conference on wheat, Mr Steyn said inflation was one of the country's greatest economic problems.

When the price of agricultural products rose, he said, a price shock was felt throughout the economy. It hit again the following year when new demands were made for further price rises.

The Minister said in spite of a production increase last year to 2 100 000 tons, the Wheat Board had to import 106 000 tons.

In addition to South Africa's high demand for wheat there were problems such as varying climatic conditions, with periodic droughts, which affected all farmers.

He said South Africa had been forced to import wheat — at cheaper prices than it could be produced in this country — to meet

the big local demand.

The Minister asked to what extent the level of the country's fixed grain prices, including wheat, contributed to the increased prices of agricultural land during the past few years getting out of line with the prices of other land.

Mr Steyn said according to the principle of relative cost differences South Africa ought to export those products which could be produced cheaply, and import those which were costly to produce.

Mr Steyn asked whether the country could not produce enough wheat for its needs if the mealie price was lower.

In recent years there had been a big increase in the amount of land used for grain production.

"Is this not one of the reasons for the swift rise in the price of meat? Have we not perhaps used land more suited for meat production to extend our crop production?"

He asked, too, what role the level of grain prices played in this respect. On many farms there were areas not suited for grain production, he added.

Indian farmers protest about market move

Mercury 25/6/82
General Mercury Reporter

A DEPUTATION of Indian farmers yesterday expressed strong opposition to the Clairwood Market being moved to Chatsworth.

Mr Sewsunker Ramphal, president of the Natal Indian Agricultural Union, told the Mercury after a meeting with Durban's Management Committee that the livelihood of many Indian farmers would be seriously affected if the market were moved.

'We have established businesses in Clairwood after being uprooted from the market in Warwick Avenue. It's unfair that the council want us to move again, but this time to Chatsworth,' he said.

The deputation, which included the union's secretary, Mr Robin Mohan, and executive member Mr M G Nayager, also urged the council to give serious consideration to providing additional stalls at the Clairwood Market for the sale of fish, mutton and spices to attract greater public support.

'We were told that the market was running at a loss. Perhaps this could be the most effective way of helping recoup part of the loss,' he said.

Mr Ramphal said he was pleased that the council had no immediate plans to displace some of the stalls to make way for the extension of the cold storage complex at the National Fresh Produce Market in Clairwood.

General (circled) 27

Copters take the monotony out of spraying endless hectares

IT used to take days, even weeks, of monotonous toil, sluggish machinery and premature grey hairs to get the bugs and weeds before they got the crops.

Today, with the help of modern machinery and crack teamwork, crop spraying has become a painless — although slightly more expensive — method of ensuring that little bit extra quality and quantity at the market place each year.

Mr Tienie Louw of Diemersdal Farm in the Durbanville area has been using aerial crop spraying methods for several years

now and says he has never looked back.

"It used to take me between 10 and 12 hours by tractor," he said, "but today my entire wheatland of 140 ha takes only two hours using helicopters."

Helicopter spraying is a new concept in South Africa although fixed-wing aircraft have been in use for many years.

Mr Louw said he preferred helicopters to aircraft because he had more direct control over the spraying operation.

"I can tell the pilot exactly when and where I want the spray," he said. "It allows me to control the whole process from

the ground or by radio."

According to Captain Jeremy Labuschagne, operations manager of Court Helicopters, the wasp-like Bell 47 craft allows far greater manoeuvrability and cuts down spraying time considerably.

The R80 000 helicopters are fitted with two bulbous tanks capable of carrying more than 300 litres of insecticide and can deposit their load at a rate of 30 litres a hectare.

For the occasional motorist who stops to watch the helicopter's intricate aerial stunts, the process might seem a simple affair. But it involves considerable skill

and nerve — Captain Stan Botha has, for instance, 22 years' flying experience and more than 9 000 hours.

Captain Botha, one of the three helicopter spraying pilots in South Africa, begins his day at 6.30 am with a thorough check of his helicopter.

Long days

If he is lucky he may get home by 9 pm after spraying the crops of two or three farms.

He spends more than seven hours a day in the air, six days a week. "My wife wants nothing to do with helicopters," he said,

"but I enjoy my work."

His ground crew consists of flight engineer Gustav Bohlmann and assistant Dieter Behm, who are kept busy mixing insecticide in a mobile 1 000-litre tank. They have to be ready to refill the helicopter every three minutes; a task they can complete in under two minutes.

Although the helicopters have to fly at speeds of 90 km/h just three metres above the ground all the pilots are proud of their accident-free records.

Captain Botha demonstrated one of the few emergency measures available to pilots should they encounter mechanical difficulties while in the air.

The procedure is known as "dumping" and involves opening a hatch at the bottom of the tanks to allow the insecticide to drain out.

Weight cut

This reduces the weight and allows the craft to climb higher if necessary.

Helicopter crop spraying came to South Africa only two years ago, although helicopters have been used extensively in agricultural production for many years in countries such as the United States.

Captain Labuschagne said that if demand increased in this country, more helicopters would be brought into service.

Report: ALAN WILLIAMS
Pictures: DOUG PITHEY



PLOTTING out the area for the next "drop" is Captain Stan Botha, operations manager, Captain Jeremy Labuschagne and Durbanville farmer, Mr Tienie Louw.



Handwritten notes in the bottom right corner, including "NOT A 11 /", "add new", "1000L", "1000L", and "1000L". Below this, there is a larger block of handwritten text that is partially obscured and difficult to read, but seems to contain technical or operational details.

E. Post 1/7/82 (3) General

Land Bank rate 'will ruin some farmers'

By GRANT AUBIN

THE 2,25% rise in the Land Bank's interest rate announced last night "is going to ruin some farmers", according to the managing director of the Albert Co-operative, Mr E.L. Kruger.

From today farmers will have to pay 19,75% interest on short-term loans.

Farmers had been warned of the rise but were expecting "a maximum of 1%", said Mr Kruger.

"It's very, very detrimental to farmers all over the country. The co-ops will have to put up their interest rates. I can tell you, farmers will be very dissatisfied."

In a statement in Pretoria the South African Agricultural Union's president, Mr Jaap Wilkens, described the latest increase as "unbearable for farmers".

Interest rates were now 5,75% up on the rates of a year ago and had practically doubled in two years.

"The farmer is in the dilemma where he cannot cut down on the use of credit without affecting his production," he said.

Mr Wilkens said the profitability of agriculture had reached a level where most farmers were not in a position to pay an interest rate of 20% and still keep the...

Mr Errol Moorcroft, MP for Albany and a PFP spokesman on agriculture, said the increase was a "great shock".

"It will undoubtedly aggravate the already perilous financial situation of many farmers who have been hard hit by increased production costs, diminished returns and adverse conditions," he said.

Mr C. Botha, general manager of the East Cape Agricultural Co-operative, said he echoed the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, when he said it was time people realised every man in this country was in for hard times.

"Men will have to fight hard. Our efficiency will have to improve — and by that I don't mean we are not efficient at the moment. It will just have to improve even more," said Mr Botha.

General 1914 1/7/32

Loan plan aid for farmers

THE Government is to introduce an assistance programme for grain farmers in the northern summer rainfall area because of severe drought.

In a statement yesterday, the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr P. T. C. du Plessis, said the Government had decided to consolidate existing aid programmes.

The programme means that all debts with the Land Bank will be extended for up to four years. — Sapa.

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JENNY HAYTREAD and her daughter, BELINDA, 9, of Cape Town, who are taking part in the BMW and Picardi Silver Jubilee Show at the Port Elizabeth Riding Club. Both have suffered injury but have returned to the saddle as soon as possible.

uary this year she won two of the four events she took part in at an international show in Cape Town.

At present she is in Port Elizabeth taking part in the BMW and Picardi Silver Jubilee Winter Festival, with her horse Transcape's Steel Monitor.

She is accompanied by her nine-year-old daughter, Belinda, who, like her mother, is an accomplished rider — and almost as accident prone.

Last year Belinda fell off her pony, breaking her nose. And only three weeks ago she fell again. When she tried to get up the pony trampled her face, crushing her cheek bones.

Although she has a long red weal on her face where stitches were removed from the wound, Belinda says she could never stop riding and she is not scared of falling again.

Her mother is though. "I'm still scared of falling, but not only off horses. I am very careful even when I walk down stairs," said Mrs Haytread.

"But I have ridden competitively for the past 26 years and realised that I had just had a freak accident which would most likely never happen again.

"Had I had that accident when I just started out, I would probably never have ridden again. But I had experience to give me the confidence to get back into the saddle," she said.

expected
WIND: Fresh to strong south-westerly to southerly moderating overnight.
EXPECTED TEMPERATURES
 Maximum 15C
 Minimum 8C
TODAY'S CONDITIONS (1pm)
 Sea Temperature 16C
 Temperature 14.3C
 Pressure 1 013.7mbar
 Humidity 89%
 Wind 36 km/h SW

THE MOON
 Full Moon July 6
 Last Quarter July 14
 New Moon July 20
 First Quarter July 27

THE SUN
 Sets today 5.18pm
 Rises tomorrow 7.23am
 Daylight yesterday 9h 55min

THE TIDES
High Water
 Today 12.09am 12.52pm
 Tomorrow 1.02am 1.43pm
Low Water
 Today 6.53am 6.49pm
 Tomorrow 7.39am 7.36pm

THE WORLD

	Min	Max	Weather
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Amsterdam	14	19	cloudy
Athens	22	32	clear
Berlin	14	18	cloudy
Brussels	11	18	clear
Buenos Aires	0	10	clear
Chicago	15	21	clear
Copenhagen	13	16	rain
Dublin	10	18	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	21	clear
Geneva	14	23	clear
Helsinki	8	17	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	27	rain
Jerusalem	18	32	clear
Lisbon	17	31	clear
London	12	22	clear
Los Angeles	17	21	cloudy
Madrid	16	34	clear
Miami	27	31	clear
Montreal	17	23	cloudy
Moscow	10	17	cloudy
New Delhi	29	37	clear
New York	22	25	cloudy
Paris	11	20	clear
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148 seek slice of excised Fingo lands

By **SHELAGH BLACKMAN**

A TOTAL of 148 applications have been received by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries from whites wanting to buy farms in the former Fingo reserves in the Humansdorp district.

This was disclosed by the department's director of financial assistance, Mr P N Badenhorst, in an interview.

The land was advertised for sale in February but, as the Black Sash pointed out at the time, the area had yet been deproclaimed for black occupation.

Last month Parliament gave approval for the excision of the Fingo lands from the schedule of Black Trust Land.

In the late 1970s the Fingos were removed from the farms they had occupied from 1835 and were

relocated at Elukhanyweni in Ciskei.

Their former reserves of The Gap, Snykklip, Witte Kleybosch and Witte Els Bosch have been carved into 23 portions by the department.

When the advertisements appeared earlier this year the Black Sash said the land was being sold at "give-away" prices and the PFP MP for Walmer, Mr Andrew Savage, said the prices appeared very low.

The biggest portion, 651 ha, is offered for R90 695. The cheapest unit is going for R57 105 and is 227 ha.

Mr Badenhorst said there was "a lot of interest" in the land. The Agricultural Credit Board was processing the applications at the moment. They would interview certain prospective buyers and the sales should be complete "within the next month or two", he said.

*17/82
 2/8/82
 3/8/82
 E. Post*

F SALVAGE SALE

, FIRE, WATER, SOILED, ETC. GOODS MUST BE SOLD TO MAKE WAY FOR OUR CHRISTMAS

BOEKAMP HEATERS

As seen on TV **R 67⁹⁹**

LADIES CHECK WINTER SKIRTS **R 2⁹⁹**

LA DENIM RICH **1⁰⁰**

Evening Post Checkers Evening Post Checkers Evening Post Checkers Evening Post Checkers Evening Post Checkers

'Unbearable situation for farmers'

3rd Edition
2/7/82

By GORDON KLING

THE latest increase in Land Bank interest rates effectively removes one of the most costly subsidies in the South African economy, but the inflationary implications could be significant.

Effective immediately, the 2,25 percent rise has almost doubled the interest farmers will have to pay on loans against their production in the past two years, but the 19,75 percent rate is now only a quarter percent below the prime rate charged on overdrafts by the major banks.

This will, of course, have a major affect on production costs, one that will create an "unbearable situation" for farmers, according to the President of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Jaap Wilkens.

On the other hand, continuation of the old rates would have meant an effective subsidy of about R70-million to farmers on the R3 135-million they owe the bank collectively this year.

Overdrafts

A great deal of the subsidy is provided by commercial banks, which have had to provide funds in the form of overdrafts to the Land Bank at uneconomic rates.

The commercial banks have long resented the burden of having to subsidize farmers who have shown a ravenous appetite for credit in the past few years.

Nedbank and Volkskas, for example, lent almost a quarter of their total advances to the Land Bank last year, while about a fifth of the lending by Barclays and Standard

went the same way.

Figures recently released by the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, show that the Land Bank's overdrafts with the commercial banks have increased from R500-million in 1979/80 to R1 150-million in 1980/81, R2 335-million in 1981/82 and an estimated R3 135-million in 1982/83.

Concern

The minister has voiced concern over stress and strain caused in the financial markets by this huge rise in debt, which essentially comes down to a considerable expansion of the amount of money in circulation, since the loans are quickly injected back into the economy in the form of spending by the farmers. This factor has been cited as one of the chief causes of the unexpected but seriously inflationary expansion of the money supply last year.

Elimination of the vastly-preferential interest rates charged by the Land Bank can be expected to have a damper affect on the demand for loans, and it is also causing concern among farmers about the whole function of the Land Bank, which has been in business since 1912.

According to its charter, it is intended to make advances to individual, full-time farmers in the form of mortgage loans against farmland; charge loans for items such as dip tanks, silos, fencing and a supply of water and electricity; pledge loans for livestock and implements and cash credit advances to defray costs incidental to production.

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Farmers' debts may push up food prices

3 General (2/11) E. Post 3/7/82

By CHARLENE BELTRAMO

FARMERS' debts have increased three-fold in as many years and their worsening debts are likely to cause even worse food inflation to consumers.

An agricultural economist warned this week that farmers will ask for a price increase of at least 35% in the wheat price at the end of September. This, coupled with a slashed Government subsidy on bread, could push the bread price to at least 70c a loaf.

Following on three milk price increases in the past year, pushing milk to 56c a litre, a general sales tax increase to 5%, several egg price increases, a maize increase of 15.9%, this week's meat floor price of 10% for top grades — an increase which will be as much as 15% by the time it reaches consumers — and other food price increases, consumers will have no option

but to tighten their belts. Eating will become a luxury.

Farmers' production credit this year, loaned from the Land Bank, is up to R3 135 million. In 1980, it was R1 200 million and the following year R2 300 million.

Mr Johan Willemse, agricultural economist with the South African Agricultural Union, said the average farmer had borrowed production credit from the Land Bank of R100 000 for this season.

Land Bank interest rates rose to 17.75% at the beginning of this month, which will push the average farmers' interest repayment burden to nearly R18 000 on top of the R100 000.

Mr Willemse said that in one farming area, more than 20% of the farmer members of a co-operative — which organises Land Bank loans — were unable to pay their debts this year.

The bad debt situation of farmers had been worsened by poor crops, which were on average half the size of those last year and in some areas only 30% of their normal size. Mr Willemse said farmers needed crop yields to be 80% before they could repay their input costs.

"Most farmers are sitting with two years of poor harvests and have average debts of around R240 000. They will need massive crops to be able to meet their debts."

Mr Willemse said farmers were battling with high input costs and many complained that high import costs for vital input items like tractors, fertilisers, trucks and pesticides, were further eroding their financial position.

The Department of Commerce and Industry is currently investigating tariff protection and its effect on farmers' input costs.

Mr Willemse pointed out that, during recent bumper farm years, many farmers had bought a lot of machinery for which they could deduct 130% from their tax liabilities.

It has now left many farmers with high fixed expenditure items. Mr Willemse criticised the fact that, in South Africa's Third World situation, capital intensive production and not labour intensive methods were favoured by the tax man.

'Let market forces rule farm prices'

Farming Correspondent

In a revolutionary move, farmers now want "market related" costs and prices to rule the farming sector.

This could force the Government to completely rethink its agricultural policy.

Following Government insistence that farmers should pay "market related" interest rates, the SA Agriculture Union is now demanding that other farm costs as well as the prices of farm products should also be "market-related."

Mr. Johan Willemse, chief economist of the SAAU, said in Pretoria yesterday that prices of farm requisites were way above what they would be if there were a free market for them. This caused high consumer prices for food and low farmer income. The concept of

"market-related" prices should also apply to controlled farm products, Mr. Willemse said. The continuing decline in the value of the rand would make imported farm requisites even more expensive.

Controlled prices for wheat, maize and dairy products should be related to the unsubsidised level of world prices for these commodities, calculated as landed prices at Durban.

The rand had lost five US cents in its foreign value in a month. If this continued, world prices should work to the farmers' advantage in terms of rand.

If prices in the agriculture sector were not related to world market forces, the economy would become increasingly distorted.

3 General
Star 3/7/82

State steps in to calm irate farmers

By IVOR WILKINS

THE Government is trying to placate disgruntled farmers after the recent announcement of a rise in Land Bank interest rates.

A Press conference was called yesterday where a delegation of senior Government representatives under the Minister of Agriculture, Mr P. T. du Plessis, explained the increase and outlined a new R16-million subsidy to farmers for outstanding production debts.

Mr du Plessis said the Press conference had been called because there was "a lot of confusion" among farmers over the issue.

The Government has been facing a rising tide of discontent from the farming community over matters like homeland consolidation and recently, the decision to hand over parts of South African territory to Swaziland.

With the round of party congresses about to begin and with the Conservative Party waging a strenuous recruitment drive, particularly in the rural areas, the Government is clearly concerned to soothe the farmers — traditionally one of the National Party's largest support groups.

Rocketed

At the Press conference, Mr du Plessis was backed by senior representatives of the Reserve Bank and of the Land Bank.

Dr Japie Jacobs of the Reserve Bank explained that the amounts required for the funding of the Land Bank had rocketed from R500-million three years ago to R3 135-million this year.

Previously, the system of funding the Land Bank had amounted to a "subsidy" by merchant banks that had cost them about R50-million.

This system had been changed, and in future Land Bank lending rates would be related to current open-market rates.

Nevertheless, the Government had managed to secure the required R3 135-million at terms which would enable farmers to obtain credit at an interest rate of 18,75 percent.

This compared favourably with the commercial prime lending rate of 20 percent.

The Governor of the Reserve Bank, Dr Gerhard de Kock, said the only alternative to increasing the interest rates would have been to make agricultural credit available through the Reserve Bank at low interest rates.

Inflation

"That might have made us popular in the short term, but would have been highly irresponsible," he said.

"It would have sent inflation soaring and would have created a balance-of-payments crisis."

Mr du Plessis emphasised that, to help grain farmers in the northern summer rainfall area, the Government had launched a R16-million scheme to subsidise their repayments of existing production debts.

This followed serious crop failures in the region this year.

Asked if the new interest rate increase would have an adverse political effect on the Government, Mr du Plessis said it was impossible to say until the Conservative Party had revealed its own policies in this regard.

The roots of price rises



A former MD of Barclays used to say that if you wanted to be sure of a bank loan in this country, you'd best come along to ask wearing a smock with a pitchfork over your shoulder.

As a British banker he had a somewhat fanciful idea of the traditional garb of the mealie farmer. But the gist of his quip is no less true now than it was six or more years ago.

What is different, however, is that today the farmer is having to pay very close to a market-related interest rate for his loans. And as interest rates have risen substantially over the past 18 months, it amounts to much more than he has ever paid in living memory.

Understandably, therefore, the latest 2½ point increase in this cost — the ninth increase in 18 months — has prompted a sharp reaction from agricultural circles. For farm cash flows are now under severe pressure.

The extent to which the cost of farm finance has risen would have a major impact on any business, let alone one that has traditionally been shielded by the authorities from the harsh competition of money and capital markets.

As SA Agricultural Union president Jaap Wilkens puts it, the 19,75% that farmers have now to pay for production credit is 5,75 percentage points more than the 14% of a year ago and practically double the 10% of two years ago.

The reason is not some perverse preju-

dice the monetary authorities have suddenly developed against the farmers. It is, in fact, a major policy change aimed at financing agriculture in future in a way that does not make control of the money supply, or total bank credit, at times virtually impossible. When this happens general demand is stimulated and prices tend to rise.

There is no doubt that past methods of cheapening crop or production finance for farmers have distorted the functioning of a competitive financial system. It meant that when tighter monetary policies were applied in the past, agriculture was always excluded, despite the far-reaching consequences that agricultural prices inevitably have on the rand in the consumers' pockets.

In more recent years the amounts of credit needed for agricultural crop finance have increased enormously: from R500m in 1979-80 to R3 100m in 1982-83. Close to a quarter of total commercial bank loans are now in farming loans. Yet agriculture contributes only between 7% and 8% to total output as measured by the gross domestic product.

In plain words, agriculture has become too large a sector to be excluded from prevailing monetary policy. One of the reasons for this is that in attempting to administer both the prices of agricultural supplies, such as fertiliser, and food prices, government has actually encouraged over-production. Last year's large maize crop, for instance, has not yet been sold, despite a general food shortage in the world.

In the past, annual crop finance was created directly for the Land Bank by the Reserve Bank. This had a direct and immediate impact on the amount of money

in circulation. Land Bank bills ranked as liquid assets and to the extent that they were bought by the commercial banks, the ability of these banks to gear up their lending was increased.

If the authorities during the Sixties and Seventies wanted in consequence to control total lending (or the money supply), they imposed quantitative lending ceilings on the banks. In other words, the banks were simply told they could not increase their lending beyond certain limits. Usually, interest rates were controlled by regulation at the same time.

This led to a flourishing grey market. For lenders and borrowers simply bypassed the banking system. A result of this was that a large part of total lending was undetected and unregulated. High levels of inflation in the late Seventies, despite a decline in the official money supply measure, were clear testimony to that.

One of the first endeavours of the present Governor of the Reserve Bank, Dr Gerhard de Kock, was to bring grey market lending back on to the balance sheets of the banks, where it could be identified and controlled.

Just prior to his appointment, about two years ago, bank lending ceilings were abolished and most interest rates were by that time free to find market related levels. Since then he has tried to control total lending through open market operations — selling long-term official securities.

He has been only partly successful. When he was, his success was rather short-lived. There were a number of reasons for this, but an important one was the annual creation of crop finance. Accordingly, last year he changed the system by persuading the commercial banks to extend overdrafts to the Land Bank at roughly 2% below prime rate. These overdrafts were then ranked as liquid assets and the banks could use them as a base to gear up total loans. However, the extent to which they could do so was restrained by the Reserve Bank's open market operations.

The Land Bank lent these overdrafts on to the farming co-operatives at a margin and the co-ops in turn lent to the farmers at a further small margin. The system was not perfect, but it meant that the central bank was not simply pumping new rands into the banking system and the cost of agricultural finance was more market related.

A major setback, however, was the co-op's failure to sell last year's maize crop. It meant that this year a further R700m credit had to be created on top of the R2 300m created for last year's crop.

In addition, the Treasury's pre-budget raid on the Stabilisation Account, which the Reserve Bank had to refinance by printing money, and foreign borrowing to finance



Farmers and mealies ... at the root of the cash crunch

SA silent on food exports to black states

3 General

July 1982

Argus Bureau

NEW YORK — South Africa's food exports to black Africa have joined energy and defence among areas the South African Government is disclosing less and less information about in public the Christian Science Monitor reports.

The newspaper quotes South African diplomatic sources as saying the reluctance to spell out where maize and other exports are destined is linked to Pretoria's growing awareness of diplomatic leverage food gives the Republic over black African states on the receiving end.

"The gains South Africa makes by refusing to disclose this information is unclear, but the Government evidently believes that secrecy is worth the price," says the Monitor in an article by its South Africa correspondent, Paul van Slambrouck.

Most of South Africa's maize export, which came to near five million metric tons in the 1981-82 year, goes to Japan. But the second place belongs to a "destinations unknown" category, and it is 30 percent of South Africa's maize exports.

"Sales to African states are lumped under that heading to avoid disclosing the names of the importers."

The newspaper quotes an expert on South Africa's farming industry as saying that there is more movement of food to black Africa than is generally suspected.

NEEDS

Making deductions from known needs of African states and available supply from other exporters, Professor Jan Groenewald of the University of Pretoria reckons Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia, Zaire, Mozambique and Kenya have bought South African maize in recent years.

He suspects Tanzania, Ivory Coast, and Senegal have imported from South Africa as well.

The newspaper says a maize industry official concedes: "We sell maize to people who have taken a political posture against us. If we publicly say who we are selling to, it puts them in a rather embarrassing position while we're keeping their populations alive."

However, says the Monitor, South Africa's motive is not principally humanitarian.

STRATEGIC

A high Government source says the strategic value of food is increasingly recognised in Pretoria. The prevailing view, says the source, is not to use food "aggressively as a weapon" to extract short-term political concessions from black African states.

"The real potential is long-term. If you have an on-going programme like this, it tends to undermine efforts to fragment the sub-continent," the source says referring to the efforts of Southern African states to reduce their dependence on South Africa.



Orange water for the Fish

Water from the Orange River has freed Karoo river dams from the threat of a drought such as the one which baked the floor of this artificial lake (left). Farmers now expect a good flow of irrigation water from full or near-full dams (right) — and veld which has always just been veld now consists of thousands of hectares of lucerne, wheat, oats or mealies.



Irrigation water brings to the Midlands

By Eleanore Kelley-Patterson

WHILE visiting the Cape Midlands recently I was astounded to see the revolution which is now taking place in some parts of the Cradock and Middelburg districts — now that they have at last their long-awaited furrows of liquid gold . . .

What a dramatic change has taken place on those farms which come under the Orange-Fish irrigation scheme!

Veld which I have known since earliest childhood as just veld now consists of thousands of hectares of lucerne, wheat, oats, mealies — quite unbelievable.

The present selling price of good farm land is R150 a hectare — but if it is under the irrigation scheme, about R3 500/ha.

During the 1930s depression most of us would gladly have accepted 16 shillings an acre (about R4/ha)!

In the Midlands generally it is estimated that you run one sheep to 2ha, but under cultivation you can run 30 to 40 sheep, and a ewe brings in R35 to R40 a year.

One farmer put it this way: "It is the most marvellous feeling to think that for all time we need never worry again about droughts, and watching our animals starving, and the vultures gathering, and always looking at the damn sky for rain clouds."

"There will always be fodder now and this beautiful water — unless of course the terrorists blow up the tunnels or something like that!"

Hydro-electric plants will soon be put up, so the farmers

will have cheap lighting and power.

Cradock has formed a canoeing club, and sailing and wind surfing are also planned.

However it is certainly not going to be all milk and honey for these farmers under the irrigation scheme.

Tractors and other equipment are outrageously expensive — as is fuel.

And what about labour, I asked?

"Well, of course we realise we will require really good labour and plenty of it for this sort of agriculture, and to manage the machinery.

"We will have to see they have really good housing, and nearby schooling for their children.

"They do have good medical attention with the mobile clinics, but they want entertainment — television. They adore the boxing and wild west yarns.

"There are so many unemployed round Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown and we are hoping to attract them.

"We, for our part, must be young. This is no longer an old man's game!"

Cradock appears to be a booming small town now, as it has water in abundance.

The new parts of the town are planted everywhere with beautiful trees, and lush gardens.

Graaff-Reinet, unfortunately, is very short of water, but it will always hold its own with its fascinating history and historical buildings.

Middelburg flourishes, mainly

due to its agricultural college on the farm Grootfontein.

So not one of these three little towns is dying — as are unfortunately quite a number of surrounding ones.

The trees in the Midlands this year were incredibly beautiful.

People who had seen the fall (autumn) in America said the Karoo trees were just as beautiful.

The male ash trees were pure gold, as were also the pomegranate hedges.

Almost as brilliant were the willows and poplars. The plane trees were nut brown, and the pear trees red.

How sophisticated even the platteland is becoming.

I was told that during the Christmas season five ama-kweta (boys preparing for their initiation rites) took up their abode near the trunk road, showing themselves at all times, and were much photographed, and tipped by passing tourists.

In the past they always had to have a secret abode hidden in the bush somewhere, their food left outside, and were not to be seen by anyone, according to custom.

While up-country I was privileged to be able to read a diary written in the last century by Arthur Rubidge Morkel — father of the famous rugby Springboks P G ("Phil") and Jack Morkel.

As a very young man he learnt farming with my grandfather, Senator Charles Southey, of

Culmstock, in the Middelburg district.

His family was desperately poor. His mother collected dried ants' eggs in the veld and made them into necklaces for sale.

When only eight years old, living in the Albany district, this poor little boy was sent on foot, in charge of 20 ostrich chicks, to a farm 14km away.

It was bitterly cold weather and he had no shoes.

He devised a plan to keep the chicks together — he would make a low growling noise, and throw his felt hat into the air.

The chicks would then come running to him for protection, possibly thinking it was a hawk.

The theory at that time was apparently that these valuable birds would get ill and die if they saw wheels turning, so they could not travel by cart.

I had heard this theory about pigs, but never before about ostriches.

He wrote about an extremely lazy uncle of his who, when the hot-water tank of the incubator went wrong, just opted for a big double bed, arranged all the ostrich eggs around him, covered everything over with thick blankets — and lay there for a week!

Every single egg hatched out.

When with my grandfather as a very young man, Morkel said he was deeply envious of my father, who was then a small boy at St Andrew's College, Grahamstown.

He himself had had practically no education, but he must have done pretty well eventually from gold mining in Rhodesia, as he was able to send all his five sons to St Andrew's.

He was evidently a young man

Middelburger



Author OLIVE SCHREINER was married there.



Playwright FUGARD spent his early years there.

of strong and resourceful character.

He writes of how, when 18 years old, he joined the Pioneer Column on its way to Rhodesia.

He had a light horse-wagon, and a string of donkeys.

When they came to a swollen river he decided to camp on the banks as he thought it too dangerous to attempt a crossing.

Soon afterwards 10 wagons drawn by oxen arrived.

Later he woke up hearing screams and curses.

He hurried down to the river, a bright starlit night, and saw masses of oxen struggling in the

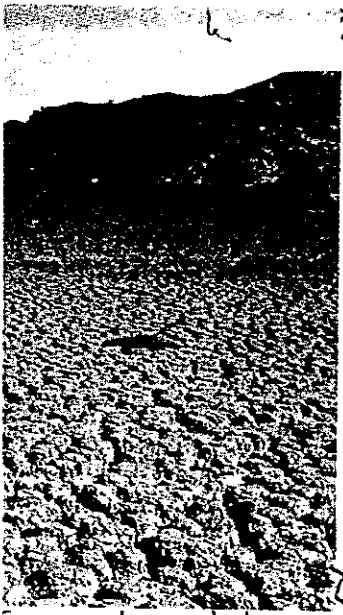
water, which had risen ably.

He ran back for help plunged into the icy water, trying to get the straps and ropes over the oxen.

He could only see the oxen in the stream they were all now washed downstream.

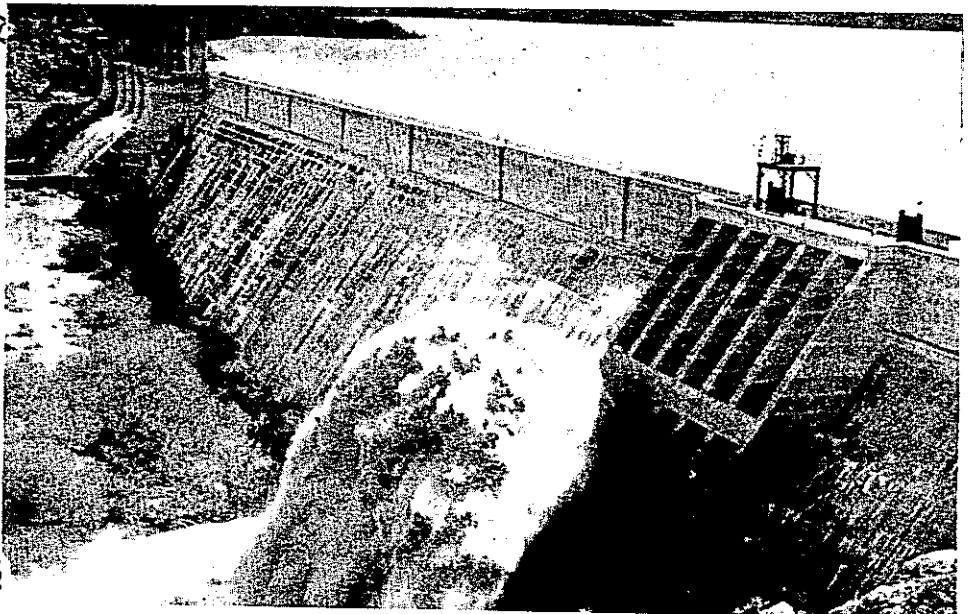
The chains and yokes absolute drag on the animals, but he managed all except seven, more than an hour's work.

I was most interested that suddenly Mid



Orange water for the Fish

Water from the Orange River has freed Karoo river dams from the threat of a drought such as the one which baked the floor of this artificial lake (left). Farmers now expect a good flow of irrigation water from full or near-full dams (right) — and veld which has always just been veld now consists of thousands of hectares of lucerne, wheat, oats or mealies.



2. Post 17/7/82

Water brings new life to Midlands

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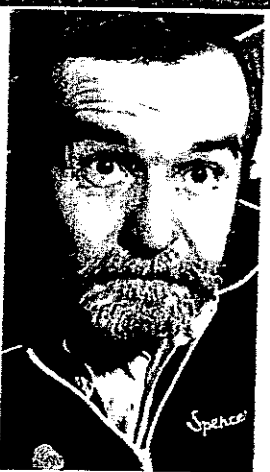
He himself had had practically no education, but he must have done pretty well eventually from gold mining in Rhodesia, as he was able to send all his five sons to St Andrew's.

He was evidently a young man

Middelburgers who achieved fame



Author OLIVE SCHREINER was married there.



Playwright ATHOL FUGARD was born and spent his early childhood there.



Author and encyclopaedist ERIC ROSENTHAL went to school there.



Mrs BETSIE VERWOERD was 'n nooi Schoombee from the farm Schoombeesklip.

of strong and resourceful character.
 He writes of how, when 18 years old, he joined the Pioneer Column on its way to Rhodesia.
 He had a light horse-wagon, and a string of donkeys.
 When they came to a swollen river he decided to camp on the banks as he thought it too dangerous to attempt a crossing.
 Soon afterwards 10 wagons drawn by oxen arrived.
 Later he woke up hearing screams and curses.
 He hurried down to the river, a bright starlit night, and saw masses of oxen struggling in the

water, which had risen considerably.
 He ran back for his knife, then plunged into the icy water, cutting the straps and reins wherever he could.
 He could only see the horns of the oxen in the starlight, and they were all now rapidly being washed downstream.
 The chains and yokes were an absolute drag on the struggling animals, but he managed to save all except seven, having spent more than an hour in the freezing water.
 I was most interested to find that suddenly Middelburg has

become heritage-conscious, and is restoring some of its charming little houses.
 For nearly three-quarters of a century I have walked past them, and never paused a moment to look at their delightful facades, so disguised by hideous added-on verandas, painted brilliant green or turquoise.
 Most of them are of the Cape Malay style, and there are two little stone cottages, as well as many beautiful stone walls.
 Middelburg was founded in 1853, but there were farmers making their way up there as early as 1700.

One farm, Schoombeesklip, has a stone recording that the owner, Andries Godliep Schoombee, started there in 1780.
 Mrs Betsie Verwoerd is a Schoombee from Schoombeesklip.
 Athol Fugard was born in Middelburg, and spent his early childhood there.
 Eric Rosenthal attended school there for a period, and there Olive Schreiner was married.
 Really quite a noteworthy little town.

Pretoria Bureau

THE Government has angered farmers by suspending vital financial aid in key areas of the industry.

The South African Agricultural Union is seeking an interview with the new Minister of Agriculture to protest against the Government's action and to underline the importance of a continuation of

3/General *WOM* *21/7/82*
Govt action angers farmers

aid in the affected areas.

According to a spokesman of the SAAU, the suspension was a drastic measure which could not be justified, even taking into account the state of the economy.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr Sarel Haywood,

announced earlier this week that the country's financial problems and those of the agricultural credit board had compelled the Government to suspend assistance schemes.

The schemes include soil conservation, water supplies

and housing for black workers.

The SAAU spokesman said it was basic to the future of agriculture that the campaign against soil erosion be continued unabated.

The withdrawal of aid for housing on farms could also

have serious consequences for the industry. In fact the SAAU had called for increased aid for farm housing.

The spokesman said the agricultural sector employed more black workers than any other sector.

If housing funds were to be restricted this would handicap agriculture in finding the necessary labour, he said.

③ general
FARM CO-OPERATIVES 1

Diversify or die

FM 23/7/82

SA's farming co-operatives will have to increase their share of the consumer rand if individual farmers are going to survive constantly rising costs.

That's the message that Inus van Rooyen of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) will be spreading when he undertakes his annual tour of the country's co-ops in August.

Van Rooyen, SAAU deputy director of co-operatives and information, firmly believes that something must be done. The alternative is further attrition of the farming community, which has fallen from 93 000 in 1970 to about 70 000 today. And if the trend continues, it will drop another 20 000 by the end of the decade with what some see as severe social and economic consequences for SA.

At the moment, says Van Rooyen, SA's farmers can barely keep their heads above water. Input costs are rising at an alarming rate, but farmers understand that these cannot all be recouped by raising the price of their produce. The solution, he says, could be for farmers to increase their share of the consumer rand by getting more involved in the manufacture and marketing of their produce through their co-operatives.

"Our share of the consumer rand for all

our products now stands at 52c," he says. But the overall share does not give a true picture. Farmers get a share ranging from a high of 66c for dairy products and eggs to a low of 31c for vegetables. The items that give the farmer the greatest return are processed and marketed by co-ops.

Van Rooyen has no illusions about the difficulties involved. Many food processing companies have completely integrated operations, including everything from farms to distribution outlets. Competition is stiff and one way of ensuring that farmers get a real share of the market would be for related co-operatives to merge to avoid duplication. Also, they could link up with food processors.

"The co-operatives are said to control over 90% of the agricultural produce in SA," says Van Rooyen. "If I was an industrialist, I might start flirting with these people."

That hasn't happened, he adds, because co-operatives have a bad name in the business community. They are considered socialistic and anti-free enterprise.

Van Rooyen admits that some farmers are uneconomical, but the problem goes further.

"We employ 1,2m labourers and about 450 000 labourers are indirectly employed by the industry," says Van Rooyen. "We estimate that about 6m people are dependent on the agricultural sector."

The problem is more acute in the border areas where national security is a factor. Rationalisation is no answer. "Ten farmers on the border are worth an army," says Van Rooyen. "One farmer who farms 10 farms is worth nothing."

The irony, he adds, is that government is currently spending millions on housing and other facilities in the urban areas and on an expensive labour-intensive decentralisation

programme. But agriculture, which is both naturally decentralised and labour intensive, charges Van Rooyen, is being ignored

Angry farmers twice force Government to back down

3

General
E. Post

24/7/82

By BRIAN POTTINGER
Political Correspondent

THE Government backed down twice this week in the face of intense pressure from organised agriculture, which is reasserting itself as a powerful political lobby following the split in the National Party.

This week the Government abruptly shelved plans to cut certain financial aid schemes for farmers following an angry response from the South African Agricultural Union.

And yesterday the Government did an about-face on a scheme to repatriate nearly all Mozambique workers in the Eastern Transvaal after stiff reaction from farming associations.

The two incidents highlight the Government's concern at the inroads the newly-created Conservative Party is making in the platteland and re-establishes the waning clout of the farmer's lobby in South African politics.

On Monday this week Mr Sarel Hayward, Deputy

Minister of Agriculture, announced the suspension of certain assistance schemes by the Agricultural Credit Board because of financial problems.

The schemes affected were soil conservation works, water supplies, eradication of invader bush and housing for farm labour.

Mr Hayward described the move as temporary and said he was sure the farming community would appreciate its necessity.

On Wednesday the South African Agricultural Union fired off an angry telex to the Government describing the steps as "senseless" and likely to cripple a number of farmers.

The next day Mr Hayward announced that after discussions with Mr Owen Horwood, Minister of Finance, it had been decided to reinstate the assistance for soil conservation and housing.

Yesterday, the Government did an abrupt about-face on schemes to repatriate nearly all Mozambique

● To Page 3

3 General 2014 24/2/14

Govt backs down on farm aid

Pretoria Bureau

THE Government has rescinded its recent decision to cut off financial assistance to farmers for certain specified schemes.

A statement issued by the Minister of Agriculture in Pretoria yesterday said that after in-depth discussions with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance "ways and means" were found for the continuation of the financing of the schemes.

Political observers said in Pretoria yesterday the government obviously took fright at the angry reaction of farmers at the arbitrary

decision to cut off essential financial aid.

It was significant that the issue was taken as far as the Prime Minister, who is known to be concerned about the brittle loyalties of Nationalists in the Transvaal platteland, the sources said.

The suspension of the aid, it was stated, could have strengthened the bid of Dr Andries Treurnicht's Conservative Party for support from lattelands Nationalists.

The director of the SA Agricultural Union, Mr Piet Swart, said he welcomed the Government's decision.

Interest rates ^{AGU} could ³⁶⁰⁰⁰ force out farmers'

THE increase in interest rates hit farmers worse than the rinderpest and could force many of them out of business, the president of the Western Cape Agricultural Union, Mr. E. P. Robertson, warned today.

Addressing the union's annual congress, which started in the city today, Mr. Robertson said although the overall impression of the Western Cape agricultural industry looked rosy as far as production and prices were concerned, it unfortunately was an illusion.

"Of all the sectors in the country, agriculture has been hit hardest by the series of interest rate increases that have hit us worse than the rinderpest."

CHEAPER MONEY

With the rinderpest thousands of animals could be shot to stop the disease but with the high interest rates only cheaper money through the Land Bank could help," he said.

Mr. Robertson said he knew of farmers who had farmed for 35 years without any debt but during the past three years they were forced to make use of production credit.

"For these farmers the current high interest rates posed a very big problem," he said.

He said interest rates would remain high and as a result of high taxes and less money in circulation, expenditure on food would not rise proportionately.

"Worst of all for the farmer is the fact that the inflation rate is going to stay high and may even get worse before it gets better," he said.

BURDEN

The extra burden on the R3 000-million owed to the Land Bank is going to press agriculture to such an extent that we have the alternative of getting higher prices, going out of production, which I am afraid could happen to many farmers, or changing our whole Land Bank financing system."

However, higher food prices would be so much more volatile fuel on inflationary fires and would hit the lower income group so hard that it would be just as damaging for the country's economy as going out of production would be," he said.

APPEAL

Mr. Robertson made an appeal that money, if it could be found for important projects, should be used in the agricultural sector so that co-operatives could be placed in the position to finance members to a greater extent and the Land Bank could provide funds at a reasonable interest rate.

He also appealed for farmers to be allowed to build a tax free reserve fund after a good year as recommended by the Jacobs Committee.

Farming loans up 'to heal economy'

AK645
28/7/82
36001

THE Land Bank's recent increase in interest charged on short-term loans was the price that had to be paid to heal the economy, the vice-president of the Reserve Bank, Dr. A. S. Jacobs, told farmers today.

Opening the annual congress of the Western Cane Agricultural Union in Cape Town, Dr. Jacobs said the increases were inevitable, but interest rates would decrease in time as the economy 'cooled down'.

Last month the rate on funds for crop financing rose from 15 to 17.5 percent and the rate on cash credit loans from 15.5 to 17.75 percent.

CAUSES

Dr. Jacobs attributed the increase to "developments in financial markets, the big deficit on the current account of the balance of payments, the high inflation rate and the big demand for credit."

He said: "South Africa cannot continue to borrow from other countries to finance the deficit in the current account. Likewise, it is of cardinal importance for long-term economic growth that the high rate of inflation be brought down."

"In the circumstances we had no choice but to allow the interest rate to rise — a measure to stop the excessive demand for cash credit."

The deciduous fruit industry was going through a process of change because of problems in the canning industry.

He said the agricultural work committee had

heard evidence on the canning, dried fruit, wine and deciduous fruit industries to see what could be done to overcome the problem.

An analysis showed that the problems were structural in nature and this meant that the deciduous fruit and canning industry had to be curtailed.

Farmers 'paying dearly' for high rates

Staff Reporter

FARMERS were paying dearly for the high interest rates which were at present plaguing the South African economy, the president of the Western Cape Agricultural Union, Mr E P Roberts, told farmers at its annual congress in Sea Point yesterday.

They were suffering even though they were not responsible for the economic situation that led to the high rates, he said.

He said that for two years South Africans had ridden the crest of a boom in the economy which ultimately resulted in high rates.

"But the bubble has burst.

'Abnormal growth'

"During the boom, government and private spending showed an equal abnormal growth," Mr Roberts said. Farming production costs had risen accordingly, while the increases in producer prices for every year were lower.

He said the accompanying high value of the rand made exports too expensive.

"The government's policy to protect local machine, fertilizer and chemical industries is farsighted and logical, but it is at the expense of the farmer.

"As a result of higher taxes and less money in circulation, spending on food will not rise proportionately and the inflation rate is going to stay high.

"The farming industry is consequently confronted by the alternatives of getting higher prices, going out of production or changing the system that finances farmers," Mr Roberts said.

Investment

He suggested that farmers must be allowed to invest their income tax free and only be taxed once they withdrew money.

● Mr P J Joubert, a Wellington farmer and delegate of the Berg River Farmers Union, suggested that farmers who sell their farms, which had been bought with the aid of the Land Bank, be forced to invest their profits with that bank.

This would supply the Land Bank with money to lend to young farmers who must buy the expensive farms. The Land Bank investment rates must be brought into line with building societies and commercial banks, he added.

Warning on state subsidies

Staff Reporter

FARMERS could not expect State subsidies in order to maintain their income levels, Mr A S Jacobs, vice-president of the South African Reserve Bank, told more than 300 farmers at the annual congress of the Western Cape Agricultural Union at a Sea Point Hotel yesterday.

"The state cannot be expected to subsidize production outlays of certain farming industries. If the state helps one industry to become more profitable, all other industries will be entitled to subsidies.

"State subsidies can only be justified to the extent that they enable the farmer to adapt to chang-

ing conditions.

"But the farmer must not make optimistic future projections and expect the state to come to his aid when they do not materialize. Ultimately the farmer must make his own decisions and suffer the consequences himself."

Mr Jacobs outlined grim prospects awaiting farmers. He said the South African economy was experiencing an inevitable downward trend.

This would result in a decline of the standard of living after two good years. The demand for agricultural products would decline at the same time and it would become more difficult to pass on increases in production costs to the consumer.

But from an exchange rate point of view, Mr Jacobs said, the export market could not have hoped for better. The depreciation of the Rand against the American dollar by 34,9 percent and the Australian dollar by 24,3 percent since 1980 gave South African exporters an important advantage above American and Australian exporters on the European market.

Local exporters would also benefit from the economic revival expected in EEC countries next year.

"It was not only agriculture that was hard hit by the rise in interest rates. Agriculture is part of an involved economic setup and cannot be protected from economic influences."

Minister defends protection of industry

ARBUS 29/7/82

36 General

THE Minister of Commerce and Industry, Dr Dawie de Villiers, told farmers today that the Government would continue with its policy of protecting local industry because it was "in the interests of the country".

Replying to a motion adopted by the Western

Province Farmers Union which criticised the policy, Dr de Villiers said it was misleading to say certain products could be imported at lower prices, because these were "dumping prices".

He said textiles, shoes, television sets, motor cars, tea, and cotton and

tobacco "to mention but a few" could be imported at lower prices but this was not the answer to the problem.

South Africa had become an "industrial giant" in Southern Africa because of the Government's protection policy over the years.

Without this policy South Africa would still only be a mining and agricultural country.

He added that the Government was selective and moderate in its application of the policy and urged that farmers view the matter in its correct perspective.

Meeting

on ³ General

market

Mercury
move

3/7/82

Mercury Reporter

THE Natal Indian Agricultural Union is convening a meeting of Indian farmers today to discuss the fate of the Clairwood Market stallholders.

Mr Sewsunker Ramphal, the association's president, told the Mercury yesterday that the Director of Markets recently informed his association of plans to move the stallholders' section of the market to Chatsworth.

A deputation from my association subsequently met Durban's Management Committee and the Director of Markets and we were given an assurance that the market would not be moved for at least another two years.

Although this assurance came as a big relief many farmers are still not happy. They are still being haunted by the fear of eviction.

At today's meeting in the Kaje Memorial Hall, Leopold Street, starting at 2 p.m. we will give a report back of the meeting with Manco in the hope of dispelling the fears of the stallholders and farmers.

It was originally intended to move the stallholders' section of the Market to Chatsworth to make way for extension of the cold storage division at the National Fresh Produce Market in Clairwood, but as plans for the extension have not yet materialised there is no urgency to move, he added.

Fingo land for white farmers

Cape Times 13/8/82 3 Genet

Staff Reporter

PRIME agricultural land expropriated from the Fingo tribe has been offered to white farmers with 100 percent state loans at eight percent interest.

Since 1977, about 4 000 Fingo people have been moved from their home in the Tsitsikama area, west of Humansdorp, to the Ciskei village of Elukhanyweni.

The land was granted to the Fingo tribe by the British colonial government last century.

'Illegal'

Yesterday, Mr Hubert Niehaus, director of the Eastern Cape Region of the Department of Agriculture said the area of 7 500ha would be divided into 24 farms of an average size of 370ha and would cost between R80 000 and R90 000 each. It had the potential to be one of the most productive areas in the country, he said.

Mr Andrew Savage, the PFP MP for Walmer, said the excision of the land had been completely illegal in terms of the Excision Act of 1936. In terms of the act the government had to provide compensatory land of equivalent pastoral or agricultural value in the same province for the sole use of the people.



Mr Andrew Savage

"But the land that was given to them in the Ciskei was already overpopulated and overgrazed," Mr Savage said.

Negotiations

Mr Phillip Myburgh, the Opposition spokesman for agriculture, said he objected to the alienation of land for ideological reasons.

"The government must now realize that they cannot continue to push people around simply because they cannot defend themselves. These people must be protected from exploitation.

"Negotiations with the Fingo people must start

from scratch. This is be the only just and moral action that the government can take.

"The matter has reached a point of such ill-feeling between the government and the Fingo people, that an independent arbitrator should be brought in as chairman for negotiating proceedings.

The Agricultural Credit Board is selecting the 24 farmers from the 143 applicants, according to the director of financial aid of the Department of Agriculture in Pretoria, Mr Paul Badenhorst. Applications were restricted to white farmers.

State loans

The qualifying farmers would be notified by the end of the month.

The expropriated area is now state land, and all the farmers will therefore qualify for 100 percent state loans.

The chief agricultural extension officer for the region, Mr Hennie Lourens, said recently that the area could be turned into South Africa's own New Zealand. It had a high rainfall and was well suited to high intensity farming, similar to that of New Zealand.

He said the area had the potential to create an affluent farming community.

O. Dishonour (3) General Assessment
State loans at 8 pc offered with Fingo land
 13/8/82

PORT ELIZABETH — Prime agricultural land expropriated from the Fingo tribe is being offered to white farmers with 100 per cent state loans at eight per cent interest.

7 500 ha divided into 24 farms that will cost between R80 000 and R90 000 each, has the potential to be one of the most productive in the country.

About 4 000 Fingos have been moved from the Tsitsikama area, west of Humansdorp, since 1977 to the Ciskei village of Elukhanyweni. The land was granted to the Fingo tribe by the British colonial government in the last century.

Mr Andrew Savage, MP for Walmer, said yesterday that the excision of land had been completely illegal in terms of the Excision Act of 1936. In terms of the act the government must provide compensatory land of equivalent pastoral or agricultural value in the same province for the sole use of its people.

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was already overpopulated and overgrazed”

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“The government must now realise that they cannot continue to push people around simply because they cannot defend themselves. These people must be protected from exploitation.

“Negotiations with the Fingo people must start from scratch. This is the only just and moral action that the government can take” — DDC.

CANDIDATE MUST enter in (1) the number of each question asked (in the order in which it has answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

	Internal	External
	(2)	(3)
	58	
	57	
Examiners' Initials		

Degree/Diploma/Certificate for which you are registered (e.g. B.A., B.Sc.)

Subject.....
 (to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

Paper No.....
 (to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

NOTE CAREFULLY

1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.
4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

CANDIDATE MUST enter in (1) the number of each question (in the order in which it has been numbered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

Border farmers see Botha

~~3~~ (3) General

PRETORIA — A wide range of grievances from farmers in areas bordering the black national states have been presented to the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha.

A delegation of the South African Agricultural Union, brought the complaints to Mr Botha at a meeting here this week which took place against a background of increasing tension between farmers and the government.

The meeting was attended by seven cabinet ministers and three deputy ministers.

A SAAU statement released yesterday said that the president of the union, Mr Jaap Wilkens, who led the farmers' delegation, made "strong representations" to the government calling for action to eliminate the uncertainty of border farmers.

The union said the government should determine a fixed time schedule for consolidation and set budgets which reflected its intentions to implement the policy.

The SAAU said it had received an assurance from the government that it intended to implement its policy of consolidation "as soon as possible taking into consideration the financial abilities of the state".

The cabinet would make an announcement in this respect before the end of the year, the statement said.

The meeting would be followed by further meetings with the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, and the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof.

Mr Wilkens said the SAAU welcomed an admission by the government that the time lapse between farm valuation and purchase offers made to farmers was too long.

According to the statement, Mr Botha also gave the SAAU an assurance that it was still the government's policy to remove "black spots" remaining in white areas. Further talks would be held with Dr Koornhof in this regard.

Mr Wilkens said that while the government agreed that landowners who were compensated for land should not suffer financial loss, no satisfactory decision could be reached on methods to achieve this ideal. Further talks would be held with Mr Horwood in this regard.

Mr Wilkens told the Prime Minister there was not sufficient incentive for agriculture to develop dynamically in border areas and proposals in this regard would be submitted soon.

This week's meeting follows a series of events which have led to a deterioration in relations between farmers and the government. — DDC.

Internal	External
(2)	(3)
58	
63	

NOTE CAREFULLY

1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.
4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

Farmers tell PM of their grievances

CAIC Trunks
17/8/82
3 general

Political Staff

A DELEGATION of the SA Agricultural Union recently confronted the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, with a wide range of grievances from farmers in areas bordering the black national states.

According to a statement released by the SAAU president, Mr Jaap Wilkens, who led the delegation, the government was asked to eliminate the uncertainty of border farmers.

The union said that the government should determine a fixed time schedule for consolidation and set budgets which reflected its intentions to implement the policy.

The government assured the delegation that it intended carrying out

consolidation "as soon as possible taking into consideration the financial abilities of the state" and that an announcement would be made before the end of the year, according to the statement.

This week's meeting would be followed by further meetings with the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, and the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof.

According to the statement Mr Botha also assured the SAAU that it was still the government's policy to remove "black spots" in white areas.

Mr Wilkens told the Prime Minister there was not enough incentive for agriculture to develop dynamically in border areas.

Farm production loans subsidised

2018/187
General
ROOM

Pretoria Bureau

THE Government is to subsidise farmers' production loans by 3% the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood announced in Pretoria yesterday.

The decision follows urgent representation to the Government by the S A Agricultural Union for relief for farmers caught up in a financial crisis because of last season's drought and rocketing interest rates. Mr Horwood said the scheme was aimed at relieving farmers cash flow position. It would last for twelve months, from September 3, and the subsidy would be for production credit provided by co-operatives

from Landbank funds.

The total extent of the subsidy was R26-million, which in conjunction with the Landbank would be spread over two financial years. To keep the interest burden as low as possible, agricultural co-operatives have been asked to limit their margins which they added to Landbank lending rates for administering the loan scheme, to 1%.

Farmers who, because of inadequate security, could not be assisted under this programme could apply for production loans to the Department of Agriculture.

The President of the SAAU, Mr Jaap Wilkens, welcomed the action.

General

27/8/82 (3) *Amvcc* 10073

Transport costs send food prices soaring

TRANSPORT costs in the South African food industry probably account for as much as 50% of the final product cost, claims an editorial in the latest issue of "Food Industries of South Africa".

It says the figure is more than double that of other consumer product industries.

The editorial asks whether the food industry can afford to consider transport a necessary evil.

It says that as every link in the food transport chain adds to the end product cost, a more efficient approach could result in a saving of up to 20%.

The editorial says present short-comings include:

- Packaging material is too elaborate and adds weight;
 - Non-standard cartons and pallets prevent full vehicle use;
 - Over-emphasis on truck purchase price against under-estimation of the effect of subsequent operating costs such as fuel consumption, reliability and residual trade-in value.
 - Neglect of proper driver training.
- The editorial says the difference in trade-in value could be as little as 10% or as much as 50% of purchase price.

depending on the type and condition of the truck. Purchasing decisions are made with a short-term view without considering hidden costs.

Transport specialists have estimated the hidden or subsequent costs in food distribution to be as high as 75% of total transportation costs.

The magazine says proper pre-planning and pre-packaging, combined with pre-ordering and correct route planning of deliveries, not only reduce travelling time, distance, refrigeration and handling but they also increase a truck's lifespan and improve product quality.

was 25% of the annual wage, i.e. R1 469, or in total ± R11 720 suffered from alcoholism. The cost of each employee

Of these six, the largest single area of economic cost is undoubtedly the lost production of goods and services which the reduced productivity of alcohol-

11 and DiAlonzo, 1973, p. 121), have source of lost productivity among al-

... and un-anticipated excessive drinking up of several components, including absenteeism, lost time on the job, ... of alcoholism, impaired morale of co-workers, lost time on the job, ... of rehabilitation programmes. A significant economic impact of alcoholism also ... in their prime who have skills that

Alcoholism, New York, U.S.A., has used on extensive research, to determine drinkers create for their employ- ... 25% of the average annual wage or for every alcoholic that the firm em- ... led to the Greater Cape Town area ... 71 white economically active males, ... cost estimate can be calculated.

million rand. If the cost of excessive drinking (not alcoholism) is added, which is roughly estimated as one third of the latter amount, or 3.6 million rand, the total estimated cost to employers of problem drinkers for this sector adds up to between 14 and 15 million rand during 1977.

Turning to the "Coloured" population, it is calculated that there were 177 338 male economically active of which 10 000 (6%) were alcoholics. 25% of an average annual income of R1 890 multiplied by the total number of alcoholics, adds up to a total annual loss of ± 5.2 million rand to entrepreneurs.

If the number of Coloureds in the so-called pre-addicted phase of alcoholism is included in this calculation (± 228) a grand total of 18,4 million rand is reached.

Thus, economic entrepreneurs in Greater Cape Town have lost during 1977 an estimated total of 33 million rand due to problem drinking among their employees.

Another economic cost of alcoholism, involves the medical treatment of the disease. This includes costs for hospital care, physicians services, drugs, construction of rehabilitation and administration. Unfortunately no reliable data on the actual expenditure by medical and health institutions on alcoholism is available for South Africa. In America it accounts for ± 13% of the total health bill for adults in 1971 (Cooper et. al., 1973, p. 40).

The significant role that alcohol plays in the creation of

~~105~~ (3) General

Thousands attend launch of rural growth scheme

BISHO — Thousands of Ciskeians attended the official launching of the rural development scheme at the Independence Stadium here at the weekend.

So far R227 429 has been donated to the programme.

Launching the scheme, Ciskei's President Lennox Sebe said that although the country had achieved independence, this did not necessarily mean that the quality of peoples' daily lives had changed.

"The ideal of a meal a day for everyone remained unrealised, he stressed. To achieve this goal, rural development had to be undertaken.

President Sebe said because more than 75 per cent of the people in

developing countries derived their livelihood from various forms of agriculture, rural development was important.

"Many of these people are deprived of even the most basic services and merely subsist at a level which would be intolerable in more affluent societies," he said.

"Man can leave his footprints on the moon at vast cost and yet millions of men, women and children do not have access to the basic necessities of life.

"Children either die for want of at least a meal a day or they are so undernourished that they are physically unable to take advantage of the meagre educational facilities that may be available to them.

"Without proper education and health care, they become adults with low levels of productivity and with little prospect of improving these levels".

President Sebe said human, institutional and agricultural development all had to be included in rural growth.

Dealing with human development, he said if Ciskei was to succeed in its rural plan, its countrymen had to recognise from the outset that all development must be people-orientated.

It would therefore be necessary to enhance the educational and health services available to the people and ensure improved levels of nutrition for present and future generations.

Institutional development was the government itself, he said.

Government departments which were so weak that they could not

perform their functions adequately would certainly destroy the development process.

The cabinet had appointed consultants to examine and report on all aspects relating to improving the efficiency of the present structure.

Farmers needed a specialised marketing system capable of distributing seed and fertiliser and also collecting products, he said.

Marketing depots must be sited as close as economically possible to main production areas.

President Sebe said it would be a mistake to think of rural development in terms of agriculture only.

Villages and small towns were also part of the rural scene as were small businessmen and industrialists.

The latter would assume increasing importance as the development campaign gained momentum as farmers

would demand a wider range of services.

Provision for the training and financing of these members of rural communities would be necessary.

Small cottage industries should also be encouraged, particularly as there was a growing demand for either traditional crafts or for more modern but handmade items.

President Sebe said the logic of the situation demanded that agricultural development be given the highest priority.

The Department of Agriculture would, therefore, be the key to a successful development programme.

Research, particularly in appropriate farming systems for dryland farmers, was urgently needed.

A well-trained and dedicated extension service would also be vital, President Sebe said. — DDR.



President Lennox Sebe addresses the crowd at the launch of Ciskei's rural development programme at the Independence Stadium and the Commander General of State Security.

Big explosives haul in Ireland

BELFAST — Police stopped a truck in County Down, Northern Ireland, at the weekend and said they found more than 1 000 kg of explosives aboard, packed into plastic bags and hidden under bales of straw.

Several families in the area had to leave their homes while a British army bomb disposal squad examined the haul. The explosives are believed to be one of the biggest finds ever made in the province — SAPA-AP.

'Prime land' taken from farmers by mining

③ General Star 1/9/82

By Hannes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

The spread of open cast mining was a cause for concern, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said in Silverton today.

Opening the 85th annual Congress of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr du Plessis told farmers that 1 700 ha of prime agricultural land had to be abandoned every year to mining.

South African coal mines had to export 40 million tons of coal and had to satisfy the

local market — which grew by 10 percent a year.

Mining interests and his department were, however, aware of the conflict that could arise if the exploitation of mineral riches beneath agricultural soil was not strictly controlled.

The Minister of Agriculture had powers to regulate in case of any misuse of the soil.

There was also an advisory committee to the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs which supervised the rehabilitation of topsoil

and tried to maintain perspective and impartiality.

The committee consisted of representatives of the SA Agricultural Union, mining interests, the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture and the Environment.

It was everybody's duty to guard our soil, Mr du Plessis said.

"The damage to soil and vegetation done in the past — and still occurring every day — is something South Africa cannot afford," he said.

Mr Nico Kotze, president of the TAU, said interest charges were killing agriculture.

Farmers had been unable to recoup exorbitant interest costs as other sectors did. On top of this had come the disaster of a very poor harvest.

Production credit extended by co-ops alone that had not been covered by the crop totalled R51 million. On this unpaid debt farmers would have to pay interest of R91 million.

For the new season, co-ops had lent another R920 million. The interest on this would amount to R174 million.

On the old debt the Government had granted a subsidy of R44 million, but outstanding debt was agriculture's biggest, single problem, and ways had to be found to secure the farmer's survival.

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3 General COM 1912

Farmers face a cash crisis

By GERALD REILLY
Pretoria Bureau

THE agricultural industry faced a crisis which some authorities thought compared with that of the great depression of 50 years ago, said the president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU), Mr Nico Kotze, in Pretoria last night.

Addressing the annual conference of the Union, Mr Kotze said that in addition to recent unfavourable farming conditions farmers laboured under exceptionally high interest rates and ever increasing input costs.

Production credit provided

by co-operatives, which could not be redeemed from this year's crop, was expected to amount to R514-million.

Interest on this alone would amount to R91-million.

Production credit from co-ops for the new season was estimated to be R920-million, on which interest of R174-million would have to be paid.

Mr Kotze said credit and debts at commercial banks and other financial institutions had also to be taken into account.

The Government had provided about R26-million to

subsidise interest rates but this still left interest of R221-million owing to co-operatives.

This placed a tremendous burden on the financial means of farmers.

Mr Kotze said enormous demands would be made on farmers but he had faith in their ability to survive.

Stressing the importance of agriculture he said the rural areas and most of the smaller towns were largely or completely dependent on the agricultural industry.

Speaking about the proposed constitutional changes Mr Kotze said these would

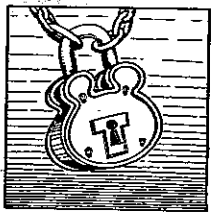
inevitably affect agriculture. The TAU reserved the right to take a stand on the issues involved.

He also stressed the urgent need for the settlement of people in the border areas from a defence point of view.

The border of the north-western Transvaal was a viable agricultural area with good irrigation potential. The land was good and there was sufficient sunshine and water.

Mr Kotze said it was not the task of the TAU to take the initiative in coordinating action. It was the duty of the State.

Time to count hidden costs



"World trade based on the operations of free markets and on the personal enterprise of free men fosters the cause of international understanding, while trade, straitjacketed

by government controls and subject to authoritarian dictation from the top becomes a servant of nationalism and an abundant source of ill will, friction, and conflict." — Michael Heilperin, *The Trade of Nations*.

If consumers should ever doubt the high price they pay to protect some industries, let them arrive at Jan Smuts customs hall with a R172 miniature television set. Under present rulings it will attract an additional R537 in import duty and gst.

Of course, protectionism comes not only in the form of such direct taxation. It appears in a variety of guises, from subsidies to anti-dumping pleas, from government procurements to local content programmes. But such measures are no less of a straitjacket to the economy. The point is that they all carry a cost.

In the past six years the Board of Trade and Industries (BTI) has received 866 applications for protection alone. They seek justification mainly by claiming the importance of self-sufficiency in a "strategic" industry. A close second is the claim that more jobs can quickly be created.

In the long run, however, fewer jobs see the light of day, as labour and capital resources are misallocated and under-utilised as a result of protection.

More complex is the question of strategic requirements. In some cases protection may be difficult to avoid, but always at a high economic cost.

Two recent investigations into the maize industry — by the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) and SA Farm Consultants on behalf of Assocom — suggest that the time has come to weigh up seriously the cost of protectionism.

Nampo Development Foundation head Kit le Clus says protectionism adds about 10% to the total cost of production of maize. At a rough guess he puts the cost of protectionism to the economy as a whole at a conservative R1 billion at 1981 prices.

More than 60% of the costs of producing maize are accounted for by commodities wholly or partly subject to price control. Yet maize is by no means the only industry permeated by protection in this way. And for sure, it is difficult to see the reasons for protecting cricket ball cores, bicycle chains, knitted socks and "small articles for inclusion in Christmas stockings and

Christmas crackers." Yet protection for all these items was requested from the board last year.

BTI director Gerrit Breyl comments: "The board does get applications without merit, and summarily rejects some cases. But we believe anyone has the right to apply. On average the board rejects 41% of applications for tariff protection."

Le Clus is researching the cost of protection to local maize farmers. He says they could have saved R121,9m on their R414m fertiliser bill last year by using imported fertilisers.

His comparison of local fertiliser prices with landed ex harbour world prices (wp) is: ammonium sulphate, R161/t (wp R117/t), urea R342/t (wp R197/t) and diammonium phosphate R330/t (wp R238/t).

Jute bags are another item used extensively by maize farmers. They are manufactured in the Transkei from jute imported from Bangladesh. They sell at 74c/bag but could be imported ready-made from Bangladesh at 51c/bag.

Farmers spend R63m a year on weedicides, says le Clus. Technical atrazine, manufactured by Sentrachem, costs R4,72/kg. It is freely available on the world market for R3,50/kg.

Farmers spent R450m on tractors last year. The Atlantis Diesel Engine (ADE) project, which will make SA self-sufficient in diesel engines, increased costs in the



Farmers' input ... prices pushed up by protection

popular 52 kW-60 kW range by 23% to 40% from August 1981 to May 1982.

Le Clus says maize farmers spent some R162m on tractors last year and R320m on farm machinery. While not all were affected by the ADE project, it added R14,2m on to the cost of the 1981-1982 maize crop.

The National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA (Naamsa) is currently researching the cost of local content to SA manufacturers. This ensures that 66% of total mass is supplied from local sources and has forced over 20 manufacturers to invest millions in capital equipment to meet this demand.

In the plastics industry the AEI price for good quality low density polythene is about R1 550 (wp R1 000/t). PVC costs R1 600, (wp R700/t). It is true that some protected industries can get PVC for as little as R700/t, but these are exceptional cases.

AEI Plastics manager Michael Sander says plastics world prices are abnormally low at present. This is due to the worldwide recession. Capacity installed is more than double the demand and ethylene is available free to other countries. Saudi Arabia burns off its ethylene as waste because it does not yet have facilities for converting it.

Xactics chairman Hymie Meyerson says SA uses about 10 500 t of PVC annually to manufacture plastic bottles. This costs R14m and could be slashed by 35% if imported materials were used. The 12c selling price of a 750 ml bottle could be cut to 9½c.

Free Market Foundation director Leon Louw says: "The BTI never asks for estimates of the economic impacts of its tariffs. That should disturb anyone." The BTI's guide to the protection policy states that it is policy to examine "the effect of the duty on users of the product and on the end consumer." Candidates for protection must have "a potential for or record of viability and growth." The industry requesting protection must be able to supply the bulk — about 60% — of SA's demand for the goods in question.

All applications are thoroughly screened. Details are normally published in the *Government Gazette*. Anyone interested is free to comment on them. Organised commerce and industry, such as the Federated Chamber of Industries, Assocom and Seifsa, frequently make recommendations and these comments are referred back to the applicant.

If the board decides to support the recommendation, the Minister of Finance is asked to change the Excise Act accordingly.

Protectionism has become so entrenched in SA that the structure could be difficult to modify, let alone dismantle. It is hard!

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

Costly cushion

FM 10/9/82

The Land Bank, with some irony, is providing a 3% a year production credit subsidy to farmers to offset the effects of recent increases in its lending rates. It means that rates paid by farmers for production loans will fall at the top of the scale from about 21% to about 18%.

This follows representations to the government by the South African Agricultural Union (SAUU) on behalf of farmers faced simultaneously with the drought and high interest rates. The subsidy, effective from the beginning of this month, amounts to almost R26m. It means that the Land Bank will initially bear the brunt of on-lending at sub-economic rates funds borrowed from the commercial banks. It will be reimbursed, but through what channels is still to be discussed.

The cost of these commercial bank funds rose to 16% in July on the basis of a formula setting them at 80% of the current overdraft rate. The Land Bank raised the price of on-lending them as production credits to co-operatives to 17,75% from 15%. The subsidy means that this price now drops to 14,75%.

However, the farmers themselves will not get this rate. The co-operatives, acting as intermediaries for the Land Bank, add on a margin which usually ranges from one to three percentage points. However some farmers are known to have paid over five percentage points above the Land Bank rate to the co-operatives. The additional charge covers the co-operatives' adminis-

trative costs and recognises the credit risks attached to on-lending Land Bank money.

Production credit will now cost the farmer in the region of 16% to 18%, after co-operative mark-ups on the subsidised Land Bank rate. These loans, totalling R700m in the 1982/83 season, are used for the purchase of fertiliser, insecticide, seeds, fuel, repairs and insurance.

At December 31 last year, farmers' total short-term borrowings amounted to over R2.2 billion. Of this, R430m is funded by the co-operatives out of their own cash reserves, R1.1 billion by the commercial banks, and the rest by the Land Bank itself. The total interest payable on the R2.2 billion is estimated at R429m a year. The subsidy, calculated on the basis of the Land Bank's advances of R700m, means a reduction of some R26m from this interest burden.

The rest of the debt, funded by the co-operatives and the commercial banks will continue to carry market-related rates without subsidy.

The Land Bank increased rates on three of its five classes of lendings in July. Production credits to co-operatives rose to 17,75% from 15%, loans granted by co-operatives to members rose to 17,75% from 15,5%; and loans to finance ancillary activities such as fodder production and milling went up to 19,25% from 16%.

The other two rates remained un-

changed. Short-term and medium-term loans direct to individual farmers are at 12%. Long-term loans (five to 30 years) also direct to individual farmers, are still 11% (although a 10% rate remains in the case of loans arranged prior to December 31 1981).

Bid to allow Indian farmer in white area

Mercury Reporter

EXECUTIVE members of the South African Indian Council are to hold talks soon with white farmers in Paddock, near Port Shepstone, in a bid to persuade them to drop their objection against an Indian farmer owning land in a white area.

Exco chairman Amichand Rajbansi said yesterday that he had discussed the plight of a sugar farmer, Mr S P Pillay, with the Minister of Community Development, Mr Pen Kotze, and a further meeting was being planned.

The SAIC intervention comes in the wake of a Government ultimatum to Mr Pillay that he dispose of his shares in a company owning the farm in a whites-only area or it will be forcibly sold.

Ultimatum

Mr Pillay was given six months in which to dispose of his shares or action would be taken against him in terms of Section 41 of the Group Areas Act, which gives the minister the right to sell the shares.

The ultimatum follows pressure from the Paddock and Plains Farmers' Association, some of whose members were opposed to his acceptance into the Paddock area.

Mr Pillay bought the farm from a deceased estate, and according to Mr Sewsunker Ramphal, the SAIC member for the South Coast, the farm was more a gentleman's estate than a viable, income-producing farm. It was in a bad way when Mr Pillay took it over.

He said nobody was interested in buying the farm in spite of it being offered to neighbouring farmers and being advertised.

Because the farm was now viable, Mr Pillay wanted to take transfer of it in his name, but had been precluded from doing so because of the objection.

Mr Rajbansi said the lack of agricultural land for Indians was being forcefully taken up with the Government.

Crucial

The Prime Minister is on record as having said that the two non-negotiable issues were mixing of races in residential areas and in schools.

It has been made quite clear that the Government will not budge on these two crucial issues.

But, as far as we are concerned, all the other issues are negotiable.

A Paddock and Plains Farmers' Association spokesman said many farmers were still strongly against creating a precedent by allowing Indian encroachment into white farmlands.

3) General
DDT

sneaked into S A say officials

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

HEALTH officials have discovered foodstuffs containing traces of the banned pesticide DDT which they believe is being smuggled into South Africa and sold on the black market.

The pesticide, which causes liver and kidney damage to humans, was banned here five years ago.

A report from the Department of Health and Welfare in Pretoria warned that agricultural products containing DDT and Dieldrin, five times more toxic than DDT, could by law be destroyed.

'Unfortunately there are people who still obtain and use these substances illegally. This is happening although alternative and effective substances are available,' the report said.

Prohibited

The department had recently discovered prohibited pesticides were being smuggled across the borders and were still available on the black market.

Dr J Bot, technical adviser in the Department of Health in Pretoria, told the Mercury his department did not know who the offenders were, but said residues of DDT had been found in foodstuffs which shows that some people are using it.

'But we are finding less and less of it since it was banned five years ago.'

He said DDT was banned in all developed countries but was still being used in Third World countries because it was cheap and very effective.

DDT was originally thought to be harmless to man because it is not absorbed through the skin very easily. However it is fat-soluble and it was soon discovered that once the poison entered the body it accumulated in the body fat and the liver.

The department's report stated one of DDT's most alarming characteristics was its inability to break down completely. The process was so slow that significant residues accumulate and were transferred within the food chain.

Hazard

However, Mr Alwyn Bischoff, secretary of the Natal Agricultural Union, said the NAU had no evidence that DDT was still being used in Natal, but said it was possible that old stocks were still 'floating around'.

'I would be surprised and concerned if it were still being used in view of the potential hazard, but farmers are not irresponsible people. They are conscious of the hazards involved.'

One person had been prosecuted this year for use of the banned pesticide, according to the Department of Health.



FUTURE

S. Gould

Department of ... 17 1982

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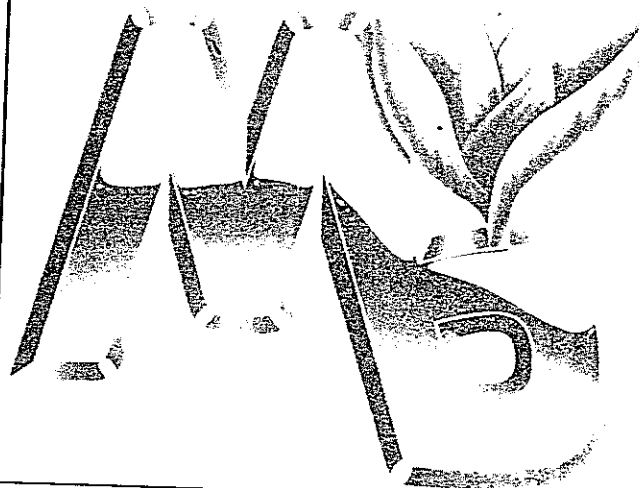
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For full details of the contents of this Survey, please refer to the back cover of the September 1982 issue of the Financial Mail.

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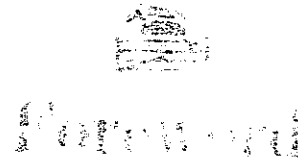
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How do you measure the size of an industry? How do you gauge its importance?

In terms of its 7% direct contribution to our gross domestic product, agriculture might seem small. But processed and unprocessed farm produce accounts for roughly one third of all our export revenue. Approximately 20% of our manufacturing activity is dependent upon agriculture for raw materials, for customers or gas in the case of the R600m stock feed industry for both. Credit extended to farmers accounts for one quarter of the total exposure of our commercial banks.

At the last count 20% of the economically active population of all races in the country was employed directly in agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing. If the upstream and downstream agricultural service industries had been included, the figure would almost certainly have exceeded 25%. On a regional basis, farm employment is even more important. Without agriculture most of our rural towns and villages would die. And some of our ports would easily go with them. Huge tracts of countryside would become depopulated and the whole face of SA would change.

Even today no less than 86% of the surface area of SA is given over to agriculture and forestry. And agriculture is by far the most important economic activity in the majority of the emergent and newly independent black states which surround and pierce the Republic.

It's a growing industry, too. Despite the celebrated phenomenon of urban drift and rural depopulation, the volume of agricultural production in SA has doubled since 1960. In many farm terms, it's still in its growth phase (1964).

This progress reflects the adoption of new technology at a pace that belies the traditional image of a sleepy, conservative and backward rural community. Today's farmer is just as much a technocrat as anyone in the city. As an entrepreneur he takes risks that would scare the pin-stripes off most accountants. As a manager he controls a large labour force and a lot of money spread over a wide area. As a technologist he keeps abreast of the increasingly wide array of scientific developments in soil chemistry, genetics, nutrition, plant pathology, botany, medicine and entomology.

But the change hasn't come easily. Despite its achievements, or perhaps because of them, SA agriculture is sicker today than it has been at any time since World War 2.

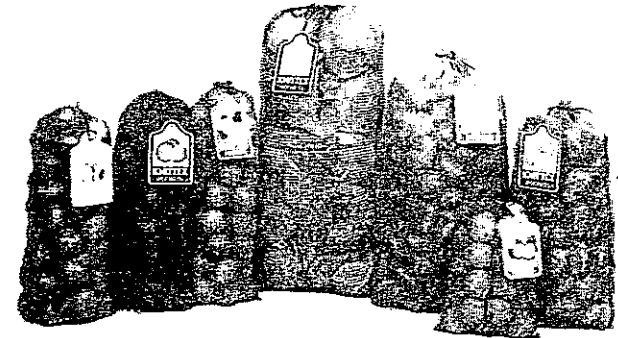
From the corn fields of Natal through the citrus orchards of the Transvaal and the rubber lands of the Free State to the vineyards of the Cape, farmers have suddenly woken up to the fact that they are carrying too much debt. Worse still, they now know that government isn't going to bail them out.

Structurally and politically, the sector is in equally serious trouble. This survey examines the state of SA agriculture, and makes some prognostications.

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A delicate balance

Small-scale farming's balance sheet is healthy. Its P & L is so and its cash flow looking peaky

60 000 white farmers currently owe banks and other creditors somewhere in the vicinity of R5 billion. Viewed against land and capital assets valued by the Division of Agricultural Marketing Research at only R30 billion, the 1:6 gearing ratio seems safe. But farming is a high risk business, typified by a slow turnover of assets and low returns on capital. This is why the industry's debt servicing capacity is not nearly as high as the asset value would suggest. The balance sheet looks healthy. But the P & L and cash account is less so and the cash flow for the next two to three years is distinctly worrying. The gross value of agricultural production in 1980-81 was R6 632m. Field crops

(R3 160m), livestock (R2 464m) and horticulture (R1 018m) make up the total in a ratio of 3:2:1. In recent years the cash cropping element has been expanding faster than the stock farming one. And most of the growth that has taken place in the livestock sector has occurred in a handful of "factory farms" which fatten cattle in feedlot kraals and broiler chickens under asbestos roofs. This is the first and primary cause of the cash flow problem. While grazing animals require few purchased inputs, cash cropping demands a regular flow of heavy expenditure on machinery, fuel, fertiliser, spray chemicals, transport and packing materials. Since the prices of all these items have been elevated artificially by protectionism, excise duties or import replacement pro-

grammes, the family farmers who have swapped to cash cropping have found themselves on a treadmill of rising prices.

Inflation has been hitting them hard. But for 20 years they have been cushioned from its effects by the Land Bank, which has been providing them with cheap credit, and by the government, which has used the control boards to purchase at high prices most of the surpluses which the farmers have generated. Just as the bills for intervention in the agricultural supply industry have been foisted on to the farmers, the cost of intervention in farming itself has been transferred down the line by meddlesome politicians to the long-suffering consumer and the longer-suffering taxpayer.

Meanwhile, inflation itself has concealed an awful lot of mismanagement at farm level. Cattle and fixed property have been good hedges against a depreciating currency. Their rising monetary values have bolstered balance sheets enormously. Farm-land prices doubled during the first seven years of the Seventies and they have probably doubled again since then. As a result of the same phenomenon, established farmers — especially the larger ones — have not been short of collateral against which to borrow for further acquisitions of land. The number of farm units in the white areas of SA has fallen by over 40% during the last three decades, mainly because big farmers have been busy buying out their smaller neighbours. Few of the farms purchased in the process have been paid for in cash. Not all are run profitably enough to pay today's interest rates on the debt that was incurred to buy them.

Fifty years of continuous inflation and 40% of steadily rising land values have served to convince many farmers that it is smarter to own land than work it. And so it was while the Land Bank was foolish enough to lend them money at negative real rates of interest. Now the ball is in the other court.

Last year, the government finally made up its mind that the fight against inflation should receive top priority. It has begun its fight at the vote-catching consumer level by granting farmers smaller administered price hikes than they thought they deserved for maize, for sugar, for dairy products and for cotton. At the same time, gluts on the local and depressed overseas markets have undermined the prices of tobacco, wine, canned fruits, karakul pelts, grapefruit, deciduous fruit and groundnuts.

Since the recessions in Europe and North America were there for all to see, the farmers should have anticipated trouble long before it struck. As long ago as January 30 1980, the *FM* (in an article entitled "Mis-

Last year our farmers received R6 779m for the produce they sold. Approximately a quarter of that came from foreigners, who paid us R900m for unprocessed agricultural products (like maize and raw wool) exported in 1980 and a further R800m for processed products (like canned fruit, sugar and wine). The remaining three quarters came from local sales.

Out of the R6 779m the farmers spent R2 557m on intermediate goods and services and a further R790m on wages, salaries and rents. Then they ploughed back R1.1 billion in capital expenditure to make fixed improvements and buy new machinery. With interest payments of R255m included, their total operational expenses came to R4 731m. That should have left them with R2 048m to live on, pay taxes and reduce debts.

placed optimism") was counselling its farm readers not to be led astray by the euphoria which was being exuded at that time by the massed crystal gazers employed by their control boards.

But no one listened. So the farmers have run into the current recession singularly unprepared for what is

Following precedent, however, they didn't repay their debts at all. Some couldn't. Some didn't want to. Some felt they had done well enough to go on a spending spree and purchase more land. In consequence those who remained on the land at the end of the year owed their creditors R1 044m more than the somewhat greater number who were there at the beginning.

Adding that R1 044m to the R2 048 surplus over direct expenditure suggests that the farming community must have spent on expansion (or taken out of agriculture) some R3 092m during 1981.

This year they will spend an additional 15% on most short-term requisites and roughly twice as much as last year on interest. But they are buying fewer tractors because they stocked up ahead of ADE and higher prices. So their final

going to happen. Worse still, they and their unions failed to anticipate the government's current dilemma.

They have realised too late that the old game is up. For over a decade "voices in the wilderness" (including those of the writers of this survey) have been warning family farmers that they should quit asking for

tally of direct expenses will probably be between 11% and 12% higher than last year.

By contrast their revenue will scarcely rise at all. A sharp decline in the volume of cash crops as a legacy of drought will barely be compensated for by small increases in the value of horticultural and livestock products.

As a result, some R500m will have vanished from their farm cash flows.

Meanwhile, their banks and other creditors are in no mood to add anything like as much as last year's R1 044m to the slate. They will be lucky to get half that.

Summing up, it seems likely that the farmers will be frittering R1 billion less on themselves and the purchase of additional land this year. That's why farm property prices have suddenly stalled and begun to fall.

higher prices, cheaper credit and local manufactured requisites because the other things that can save them in the long run are stable currencies, competitively priced inputs and freer markets so that they can satisfy the appetites and fancies of untapped local and overseas markets.

Recently, at a special congress in Johannesburg, the maize farmers finally came to the same conclusion. But it's wasted years have cost them dearly. And, at the pace things move in Cape Town and Pretoria, could take years more before our farms can have a fair crack of the whip.

For the first two to three of those years and perhaps for longer, it now looks though farm expenses will rise at a considerably faster pace than farm receipts. As a result, net farm incomes are unlikely to repeat last year's record of R3 150m (even in monetary terms) for some time. Meanwhile, the doubling of the cost of borrowed money is likely to have added somewhere in the region of R300m-R500m to the far interest bill.

Since we are now in the stocking up phase of the livestock cycle and the Meat Board rationing access to the abattoirs, it will not be easy for farmers to liquidate stock repay loans. High interest rates have already cracked the farm property market. It is no good looking to rising land prices for a short-term solution. Any moment now there could be a spate of forced sales.

The Land Bank has agreed to roll over uncleared balances from last year's credit finance and provide the cash credit advances to ensure that this year's maize gets planted. But that isn't going to make the commercial banks and private bondholders any happier about their own direct expos-

EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION OVER THE PAST DECADE

	2 yr average 1969 - 1971	2 yr average 1979 - 1981	Percentage growth
Field Crops	R628m	R2 964m	+371%
Horticulture	R241m	R 959m	+298%
Livestock	R553m	R2 224m	+302%
Agriculture	R1 422m	R6 147m	+332%

GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION 1980/81

	Rm	%
Field Crops	1 664	25
Maize	315	19
Wheat	312	19
Sugar cane	288	17
Hay	109	7
Groundnuts	105	6
Sunflower seed	93	6
Tobacco	80	5
Cotton	174	10
All other field crops	189	11
Horticulture	1 018	15
Vegetables & potatoes	359	22
Deciduous fruit	236	14
Citrus & Subtropical fruit	180	11
Viticulture	131	8
All other horticulture	112	7
Livestock	2 464	37
Cattle slaughtered	809	33
Fowls slaughtered	467	19
Milk & dairy products	407	17
Sheep & goats slaughtered	300	12
Wool	172	7
Pigs slaughtered	112	5
Eggs	99	4
All other livestock	98	4
Total	6 642	100



Repaying loans ... not easy to liquidate stock

Out of the maize?



Maize farmers are starting to demand reduced government interference in their business. But it won't solve their problems overnight

Maize is by far the most important product of South African agriculture. By value, field crops account for roughly half the total output. Maize sales, in a typical year (of which there aren't many), can usually be expected to be about half the value of field crops.

Beyond that, maize is the most expensive input for the livestock industry. By value, grain forms 80% of the diet of pigs and poultry and 30% of the diet of dairy cows. Maize stalks (left in the land after harvesting) are crucial to the economic survival of perhaps a quarter of our breeding herds of cattle and one tenth of our national sheep flocks. Animals graze over and pick up grains during the most critical months of winter. Maize silage is equally important as a high energy bulk feed for dairy cows in winter and for feedlot steers. Silage maize meal is the staple diet of about three quarters of the farm labour force. Most white farmers in the eastern part of the country (where most of the farmers live) purchase a bag of maize meal each of their labourers once a month.

On very rough terms we need 3m t of maize a year to satisfy domestic human consumption and another 3m t for animal feeding. The humans prefer white maize, because it tastes nicer. The animals are fed

yellow, because it makes them fatter. Since hardly anyone outside Africa eats maize meal as part of his regular diet, the export market for white maize is narrow and highly erratic. It can be rewarding, both financially and politically, if we have modest surpluses in the right years. Beyond that, overproduction of whites is an embarrassment.

By contrast the world market for yellow maize is enormous. The main buyers are the Soviet Union, Europe, the Far East and the Middle East, all of which now have protected intensive livestock industries dependent on imported feedstuffs.

The US is the major supplier. By rights we should be able to compete because our ice-free ports are more accessible to the main markets and our harvest conveniently comes three months earlier than that of North America. We also have an edge on quality, largely because we always harvest in dry weather.

These advantages are reflected in a R10/t to R15/t premium on world markets for SA maize in East London over lowland maize in Chicago. It's some compensation, but not enough to counterbalance the disadvantages we suffer from lower yields and higher costs of production.

Our yields/hectare have doubled during the last 20 years as husbandry has improved and new hybrids and selective weedkillers have come onto the market. These have made heavier fertilisation economic while paving the way for better utilisation of the available moisture. The same technology has helped shift the centre of gravity of the old maize triangle towards the east as new lands have been opened up in the eastern Transvaal highveld and northern Natal — areas that were previously considered too wet, too sour, too cold and too weedy.

While these areas and some of the better parts of the north western Free State and western Transvaal are able to sustain yields of twice the current national average of 2,25 t/ha, our yields will never match those of the American mid-West. Neither our climate nor our soils are good enough.

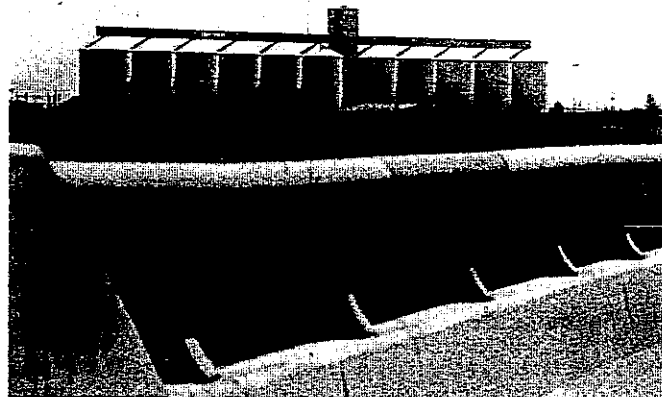
But that's not the only reason, nor even the main reason, for our high costs. For those we must blame first the government's import replacement policy, second the government's punitive taxes on fuel, third the diseconomies of scale on our large over-capitalised farms and fourth, a plethora of logistical distortions and inefficiencies in the handling, storage and distribution of the crop which are a legacy of half a century of single channel marketing, fixed prices, subsidies, cross-subsidies and petty restrictions.

The able and active men at the helm of the National Maize Producers' Organisation (NAMPO) and their nominees who now have a majority on the Maize Board are unlikely to do anything about the third of these problems since they are mostly large and over-capitalised farmers themselves. But they are aware of the other three and already have a green light from their fellow growers to hammer the government for a more open and equitable market. By bartering surplus maize for cheap foreign fertilizers they have already achieved a major political coup. At one stroke they embarrassed the heavily protected local manufacturers of nitrogenous fertilizers and showed the farmers how badly they have been treated in the past.

But the profits earned on a single barter deal will not solve the industry's problems overnight. And the government is still a long way from granting the maize growers the freedoms they now say they want.

In the meantime the Maize Board is the best part of R100m in debt and still losing money on the export market. With a FAE price of R140/t at East London and a transport and handling cost of R25/t to R35/t, it loses R25 on each ton it sells overseas.

The falling exchange value of the rand has helped the board enormously. But it is still difficult to justify the local selling price of R155/t, while the world market is so weak and the fight against inflation so critical. A



High costs ... inefficiencies in storage and handling

Wheat or what?

Perhaps it's time maize farmers diversified — but how?

While waiting for government to do something about their input prices, it would help everyone concerned if more maize growers would diversify into other crops. But that is easier said than done.

The area planted to maize (4,7m ha last year) is more than two and a half times as great as that planted to wheat (1,8m ha), which is the next most extensively grown cash crop. Beyond that we grow a host of other small grains, pulses, oilseeds and fodder crops for which the domestic market is easily glutted. With a few of them (groundnuts, for instance) we are still able to compete on world markets. But our prospects for the rest are bedevilled by the same set of

problems and market distortions from which our maize growers are trying to escape. And more. Our maize industry is big enough to justify a large domestic R & D budget, and sufficiently conspicuous to demand, and get, political favours. But our soya-bean, lucerne, barley, rye and groundnut growers have to battle along with archaic varieties and no subsidies. Against unfettered Americans and Australians they don't stand a chance.

Following the lure of high fixed prices our wheat industry expanded dramatically during the 1960s. In the process the Orange Free State took over from the western Cape as the major supplier. Later the Transvaal

high maize price filters through to the cost of milk, eggs and meat as well as poultry.

The producer price of maize is fixed for a year ahead each April as soon as the current forecast is known. With a record 14,2t crop in the offing, the producers got an increase in the net price in 1981. This year they were given a rise of only 16%, despite two years' rising costs and the fact that a 18,3m t crop is well below the long term trend.

The partisan NAMPO claims that maize farmers will have lost R600m on the present crop.

Yet it is difficult to see how the Cabinet could have been expected to pay them a higher price.

Unless the world market suddenly bounces off the bottom during the next few months, the maize farmers must expect a third disappointing year. At present no one wants to buy the big crop which they need in order to clear their own backlog debts.

They desperately need, and deserve, access to cheaper inputs.

joined the fray as farmers on the Springbok Flats learned how to use their black top soils by planting in autumn instead of spring.

As urban blacks switch from eating pu which has to be cooked at home, to heavily subsidised brown bread, which doesn't, the domestic demand for wheat continues to expand. But we have been more or less self-sufficient for the last decade, and it is cheaper to cover the occasional shortfall with imports than it is to dispose of surpluses. Foreign wheat, which is generally a better quality than ours, can usually be landed below or close to the domestic producer price. Since transport, storage and shipping are costly, our sporadic export nearly always goes at a loss.

Under the circumstances it doesn't pay to expand the wheat industry any faster than the rate of growth of domestic sale. Since new cultivars and better growing techniques are likely to result in a steady enhancement of yields it is unlikely that the total area required for wheat will show much growth. Indeed the overall area could even decline as production shifts from poor soils to better and growers in the most marginal areas of both the western Cape and the Free State learn that it pays them to put more emphasis on rotational bread crops and pastures. There is also an ever-present threat that government will stop pouring money into the bottomless pit of food subsidies. The bread subsidy, which

AREAS PLANTED TO VARIOUS FIELD CROPS ('000 hectares)

Crop	Area Planted in recent years		10 Years previous	Change
	Year	('000 hectares)		
Maize	1980/81	4 716	4 402	+7%
Wheat	1981	1 787	2 011	-11%
Oats	1981	389	378	+3%
Sugar Cane	1979/80	371	330	+12%
Sunflowers	1980/81	320	185	+73%
Groundnuts	1980/81	243	373	-35%
Sorghum	1980/81	193	380	-49%

Even a minor swing out of maize would flood the market for something else.



R162m last year, is currently worth 13c per bushel. Designed to camouflage inflation, it actually aggravates the problem by increasing state expenditure and distorting regional patterns of consumption. If the subsidies were to be stopped there would be less incentive for consumers to switch from potatoes.

barley and sorghum. On the other hand, it is likely to encourage blacks swapping from sorghum to the more refined barley based product. Whatever its other merits, "kaffir beer" has been identified with the "kaffir image." The effect of stagnant demand for sorghum, which is per hectare have been increasing. In consequence the area planted to the crop is little more than half that which was planted to it in the 1960s. Barley has been the gainer. But the area planted is still minuscule in comparison to that required for maize and wheat. Additionally a crop of the Ruens area in the Western Cape, barley is likely to spread into other areas as more farmers discover how it is grown.



Wheat ... local sufficiency and export losses

Groundnuts is one of the few field crops which we are still genuinely competitive on world markets, despite over-priced prices. Yet, surprisingly the area planted has been declining during the 1970s. While the profitability of competing crops like maize, cotton and tobacco was high, farmers were frightened off by the twin prospects of erratic yields and hard work. During the heady days of the past decade the struggle has been a major casualty of farm consolidation. Having bought out his neighbor, the land baron wants a simple farm system which is easy to mechanise and easy to manage. So out go the labour intensive groundnuts, and in come the big tractors. Our sunflowers are less competitive on world markets. But since the introduction of margarine they have been highly competitive on the local one. As a result, demand quadrupled between 1970 and 1975 and the area planted to the crop more than doubled over the same years. But the maize is now over. The sudden surge in instability made farmers and researchers look at the crop seriously for the first time. In 1970 the majority of growers looked at the sunflower as an "insurance crop" which could be planted in an emergency if spring rains came too late to plant maize. Now it's a speciality crop grown with hybrid seeds and planted at the right time with a full dose of fertilizer. Yields per hectare have risen accordingly. Meanwhile a surge in margarine consumption has led now that the bulk of the butter market has been stolen. So there is no need for land to be put down to sunflowers.

The dark horse in the oilseeds stable is the soya-bean. With a lower oil content than sunflowers or groundnuts, the soya is grown mainly for its value as a source of protein in livestock rations. With the worldwide boom in demand for broiler chickens, eggs and pig-meat, soyas suddenly emerged during the Sixties as an important world crop and America's number one foreign exchange earner. Many observers argued then (and still argue) that we could have ridden the same bandwagon had we only had our wits about us.

Twenty years too late high yielding imported varieties are now appearing on the local scene. If they catch on, there could be a dramatic expansion in plantings over the next two or three decades. Such an event would confer a triple benefit on South African agriculture. Apart from providing a profitable alternative to maize and wheat, it would give farmers a cheap substitute for fish meal in their animal rations and a much needed leguminous break crop. With a short season legume in their rotations many crop farmers would be able to lower their whole cost structure by using less nitrogen and fewer chemical herbicides. Since the seasonal work load would also be spread they should be able to economise on tractor power too.

Cotton, Tobacco and Dry Beans

Although neither cotton nor tobacco is grown extensively enough to make more than a dent in the amount of land available for other crops, each of them is highly im-

portant in its own home territory as a provider of jobs and cash. Tobacco sales grossed R93m last year and cotton a further R84m. Thousands of small irrigation farmers and tens of thousands of black wage earners in some of the poorest areas of the country depend on the two crops. Currently we are oversupplied with tobacco. The excess stocks the Tobacco Board is sitting on were purchased at a price well above the world level and most of them are of a quality and flavour that the rest of the world doesn't care for. Meanwhile the anti-smoking campaign is gaining momentum. So there is not much scope for improvement there.

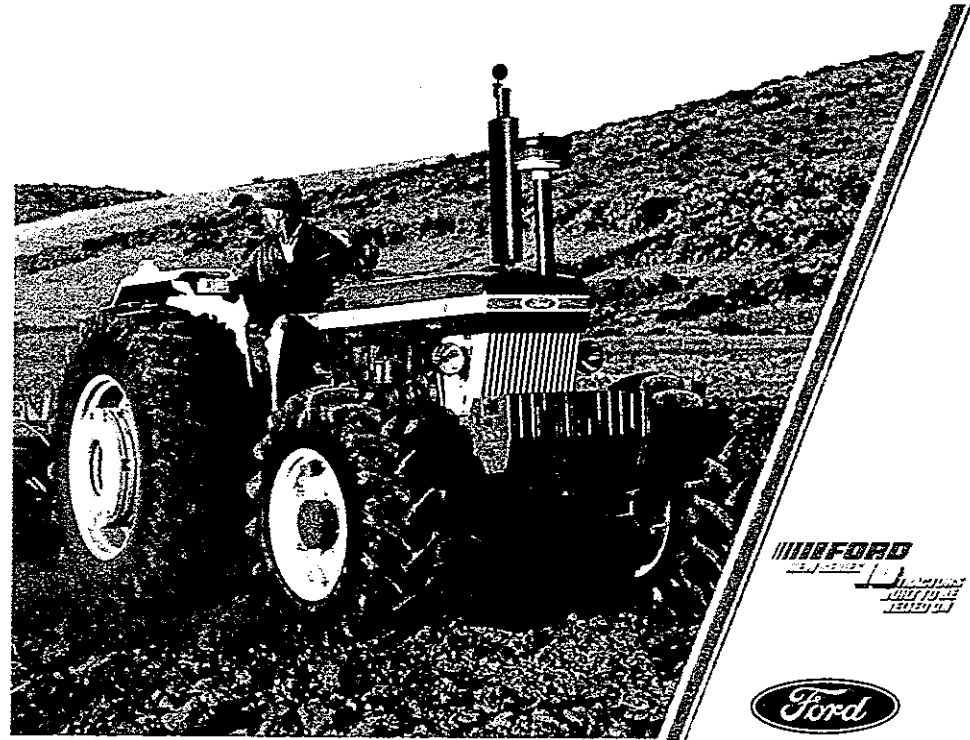
The world cotton price is also depressed. Since we still import some fibre, the growers think they have a good case for protection. But the processing industry (which is in itself protected) has secured a long-term agreement with the Cotton Board which effectively keys the local producer price to a percentage of the cost of imports. So, until the next commodity boom, there is not much scope there either.

Dry beans have fared better. Last year's crop, at R46m, fetched five times as much as the crop grown on the same acreage 10 years ago. Yields and growing techniques have improved enormously. It has been a lucrative market for a few and a good sideline for many during most of the past decade. But erratic prices in a thin market can tumble as fast as they can rise. There is a danger that too many disillusioned maize growers will decide to back this horse.

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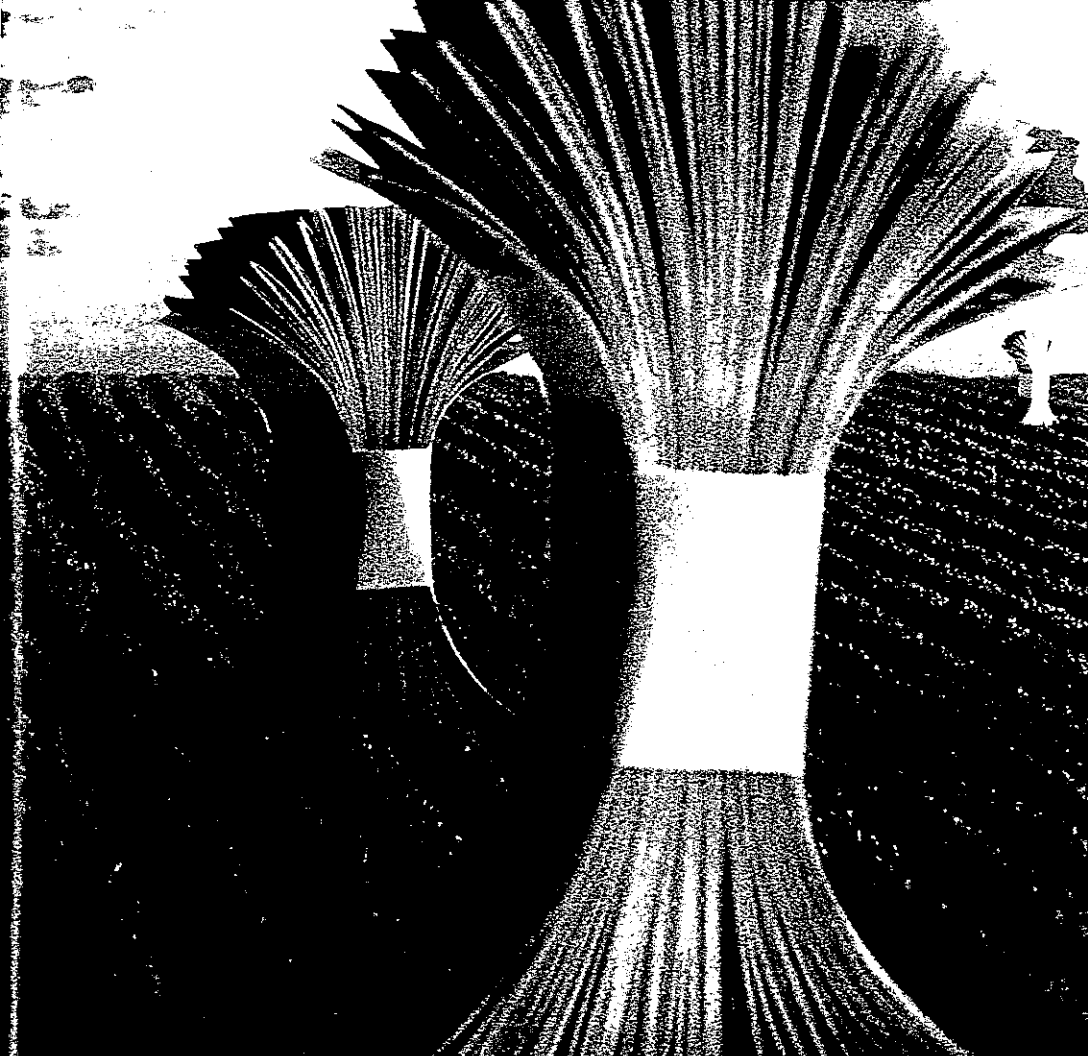




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Big chicken

As livestock farming grows more intensive, it becomes increasingly the preserve of giant mega-breeders

Having surveyed the dismal prospects for traditional field crops for direct human consumption, most arable farmers have come to realise that their future is linked to the demand for livestock products and for meat in particular.

The big question is whether to get back into stock themselves or whether to grow animal feeds for other farmers. We have already mentioned that a third of our maize crop is used for animal feeds and added to the burgeoning market for protein-rich soya. In passing we should also note that the bran and pollard from our wheat and maize mills is fed to animals. So, too, are the sunflower cake left behind after the oil has been expressed, the cotton seed removed at ginning and the brewers' grains which are left over after making lager from barley and beer from sorghum. Most of the molasses from the sugar refineries goes the same way. Sweepings from biscuit factories, bread returned to bakeries unsold, swill from hotels and hostels, meat and bone meal from abattoirs are also recycled to the livestock sector.

Indeed, the whole of the livestock industry has traditionally been looked upon as an upgrader of surplus carbohydrates and low-grade proteins which are not, in themselves, needed for direct human consumption. Even veld grazing and lucerne can be seen in the same light. They are usually found growing on poor or out-of-the-way land for which man has no other need.

That picture is fast changing. An increasingly affluent and populous world now demands more meat, eggs and dairy products than the wastelands and residues can supply. In consequence, large chunks of the livestock industry have been intensified and some of them have been transformed into sophisticated factory undertakings.

The broiler industry is an extreme. The average South African eats seven times as much chicken as his father did at the same age. Total SA production has increased tenfold in 24 years in terms of volume and in 10 years in terms of value. But it has become a highly specialised and sophisticated industry at the same time. Today's biggest producer churns out more chicken than the

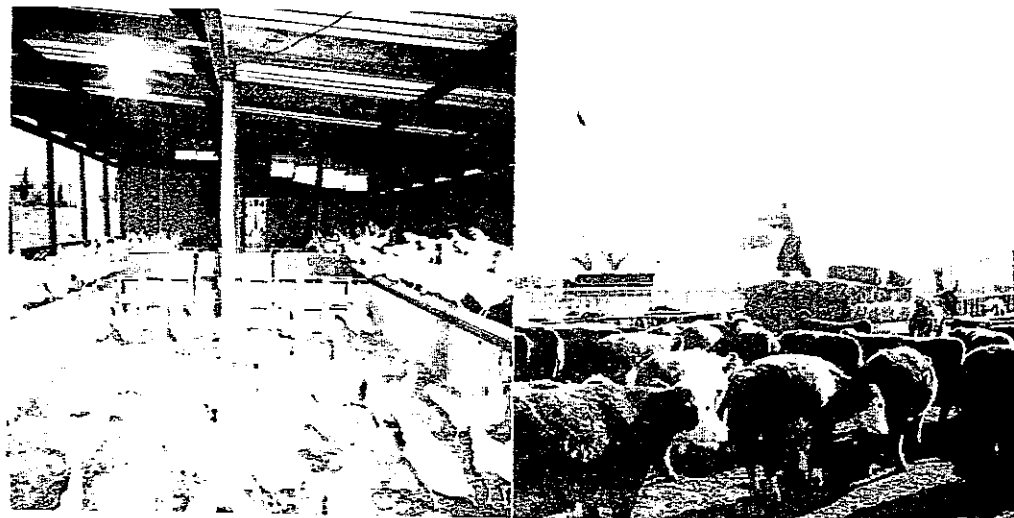
whole industry did only a decade ago.

A handful of alert small farmers have carved out a corner of the industry at the same time. But their hard-won independence is precarious. Most of them depend upon one of the giants for day-old-chick. And they have to compete with their own feeds suppliers, who have moved downstream into the same industry.

Like their fellow "independent" egg producers they live in constant fear of price wars with the integrated subsidiaries of the big feed companies. Yet they are seemingly powerless to do anything about the privileges which have been conferred upon those giants by successive ministers of agriculture at the behest of myopic wheat, maize, oilseeds and cotton farmers who were, until quite recently, interested only in the curtailment of competition among their own processors.

Many farmers fear that the pig industry is about to go the same way as chickens. Traditionally a popular enterprise among small farmers living close to the main urban centres, pig keeping has for some time been moving into larger units. It is still largely specialist family business but it may not be for much longer.

During the last five years large concern have begun moving in with a vengeance. One reason has been the Maize Board's pricing policy. Since the board has been deduct



Animal feeds ... a third of the maize crop

Affluent world wants more meat

Agriculture Survey, Supplement to Financial Mail September 17 1982



large stabilisation levies from the price of maize to subsidise export as it has effectively created a two-tier price for local stock farmers. The smaller and others who have to buy their maize from the board now pay a substantial premium over the price at which the grower sell. After railage and handling costs have been added in, this premium can amount to as much as 15%-20% of the original price.

Maize accounts for three quarters of the cost of fattening a pig, it is hardly surprising that mealie farmers have found it easier to compete with their erstwhile partners. Tax incentives have worked in their favour, too. Several of the large maize

producers who had extraordinary profits to hide last year found it expedient to put them into stock and buildings. Roughly 90% of the value of the stock and 100% of the cost of the buildings can be written off against tax in the year of investment.

The results of this spending spree are now evident in overproduction and depressed prices. We have entered the trough of the four-year pig-cycle, with more problems than usual. The Meat Board has taken the unusual step of introducing a permit system in an attempt to ration slaughtering. Since there is nothing you can do to stop a pig eating and growing once it has been born, it is hard to see how the permit scheme will help any producer or consumer. In common

with everything else the Meat Board has done, this new move promises to help the big middleman and meat wholesalers instead.

Just as the Egg Board's permit scheme led to a concentration of egg production in the hands of the giants during the Seventies, the Meat Board's permit scheme will doubtless lead to a concentration of pig production in the hands of giants during the Eighties. Both schemes were introduced on the pretext of protecting small producers by boards dominated by large ones and middlemen. In both cases the little chaps objected. In both they were presented with a *fait accompli* and ticked off by their competitors and their co-operatives for not knowing what was good for them.

Looking at livestock

The immediate fortunes of extensive livestock farmers will vary from region to region

If it looks as if the pig and poultry producers each have two tough years ahead of them. The beef and mutton suppliers probably have four.

After a phenomenal rise in the price of red meat during the second half of 1980, cattle farmers began holding heifers back from the abattoirs to expand their breeding herds last year. In approximately two years' time their offspring will begin filtering onto a market depressed by the recession we are now embarking upon.

By that time there could be as many as 1m additional females in the national breeding herd. Some farmers will thereupon decide to begin de-stocking again. With luck a buoyant world market (which could have rebounded by then) will come to their rescue. If it doesn't, the beef farmers could easily find themselves in worsening straits all the way through to 1986.

A third of all beef animals are now fattened intensively in farmyards or commercial feedlots for between three and six months prior to slaughtering. The most popular diets are based on maize or maize silage supplemented with chicken-litter, a cheap by-product of the intensive poultry industry, which is rich in protein. That being the case, the profitability of feeding is highly dependent on the ratio of the price of beef to that of maize.

When that ratio is high (as it has been for the last two years) more cattle are yard-fattened and the fatteners tend to buy them younger because they can justify longer periods on feed. This speeds up the cash flow to the extensive grazing regions and mixed farming areas where the breeding herds are run. And, since the fatteners can forecast their feeding costs with a fair degree of accuracy, their competition soon sees to it that a high price for beef is reflected in the price for weaners.

On the weaner crop of 1980 the fatteners made a fortune. For that of 1981 they paid a fortune, with the result that the breeders did well but many of the feedlots themselves have struggled to break even.

Since the big feedlots are either owned by or well connected with the three big concerns that influence policy through the Meat Board, they have little to fear. As in the past, the board is obligingly adjusting the controlled market to suit them and their owners. The controversial permit and support price schemes were tailored to the needs of middlemen and designed to stop the lesser fry from disrupting what the big regular suppliers now regard as their market. Recent floor price adjustments suggest that the board intends repeating its mistakes of 1976 to 1979, when it squeezed money (in the form of compulsory levies) from the graziers in order to underpin the profitability of the feedlots.

In short, the prospects for beef graziers are grim. They have been earmarked by their board to receive all the knocks in a tightening market. The "rationalisers" in Pretoria have no contingency plans for the cattle man with a cash flow problem. Without access to the main markets he will be forced to sell at a discount to someone with a permit.

Since beef, chicken and pork are all seen as substitutes for mutton and lamb, the producers of sheep and goat meat are likely to suffer with the rest. In their case, however, they have a second string to fall back upon. The prices of wool, mohair and karakul pelts are determined overseas and they are all reckoned in foreign currencies. They therefore stand to benefit from the expected economic revival in the northern hemisphere and are already benefiting from the recent fall in the exchange value of the rand.

As and when interest rates subside, the textile industry will need to replenish depleted stocks quickly to avoid missing the next boom in retail spending. It can take anything from a year to 18 months for wool to travel "from sheep's back to man's back" through all the intermediate processes.

In anticipation, wool prices have already jumped by more than a quarter during the past year. Mohair (which is popular as a blending material to give artificial fibres a "natural" look) is still selling well after six years of buoyant prices. Industry leaders are budgeting on sales of R60m this year. That will be the equivalent of roughly a quarter of the wool cheque. Ten years ago our mohair industry was barely one twentieth the size of wool.

Karakul pelts, after two years in the doldrums, can scarcely get any cheaper and there is even talk of a revival in demand for ostrich feathers.

One way or another then, it looks as though the extensive livestock industry of



Prospects for beef farmers ... grim

the Cape will ride through the tough times ahead more comfortably than the rest of agriculture and certainly more smoothly than that of the Northern Transvaal. What's more, the cautious farmers of the Karoo are probably the best prepared for trouble. Having lived through countless droughts and

depressions before, they have learned better than most to avoid debt and steer clear of intensification.

Spending next to nothing on fuel, fertilisers, machinery or labour, they aren't affected by the cost-price squeeze as badly as other farmers.

Dairy downs and ups

For many farmers, dairying is a sideline to be abandoned when other crops boom

At least half of our farmers have a dairy cow or two, if only to keep the farmhouse and labour lines supplied. Over 20 000 of them sell milk or cream. Of these there are probably no more than 3 000-4 000 who look upon dairying as their main source of income. They form the backbone of the industry and account for most of the high quality fresh milk which lands on your doorstep each morning, plus a great deal of the condensed milk and some of the cheese.

The others treat dairying as a sideline. They sell cream when they have some to spare or they deposit a couple of churns of milk at the end of the drive each morning. The quantity of milk they sell is seasonal and erratic, and the quality sometimes dubious. But the few hundred rands that it brings in are often critical to the strained cash flow. On thousands of family farms the milk cheque pays the wages.

Years of agricultural prosperity, like the three we have just experienced, are usually typified by a depletion of the numbers of

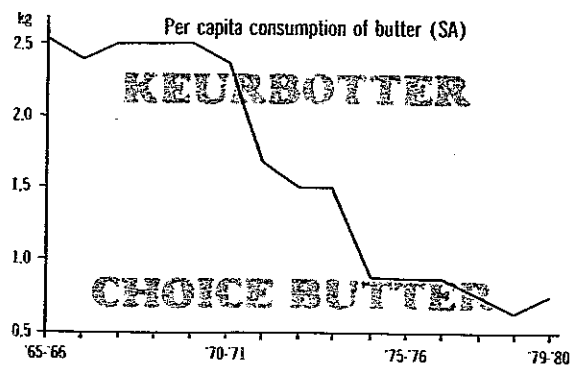
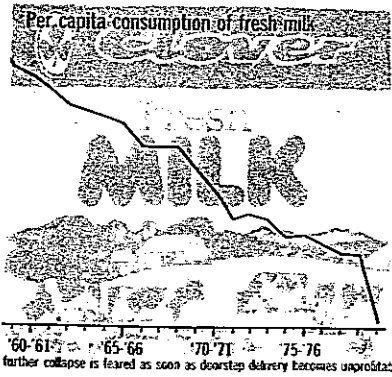
dairy farmers and a dwindling of supplies. Five o'clock milking 365 days a year seems pointless while you can make a bomb out of cash crops and beef cattle.

When times get tough, the whole tide swings into reverse. Beef cows are brought down from the hills and milked once, or even twice, a day to augment the cash flow and people who previously kept 10 cows to pay the labour, suddenly find that they need 15.

We are now in the most profitable phase (for dairy farmers) of the dairy cycle. Thousands of their fellows have forsaken the industry during the last four seasons. As a result, the Dairy Board has been importing butter and dried milk powder while turning a traditional blind eye to the bottlers who are having to add industrial milk to fresh in order to maintain deliveries. The producer prices of both fresh and industrial milk have been cranked up (too late as usual) to levels that will guarantee a further decline in per capita retail consumption and massive



Sheep producers ... a second string



Production in three years' time. The dairy industry is notorious for exhibiting what the economists call a "backward ping supply curve." In layman's language, that means that they react to smaller profit margins in the short term by expanding production instead of contracting it. They have to. Since the bulk of a dairy farmer's costs are fixed, he cannot counteract increasing costs by selling cows. Instead he attempts to spread them by buying more,

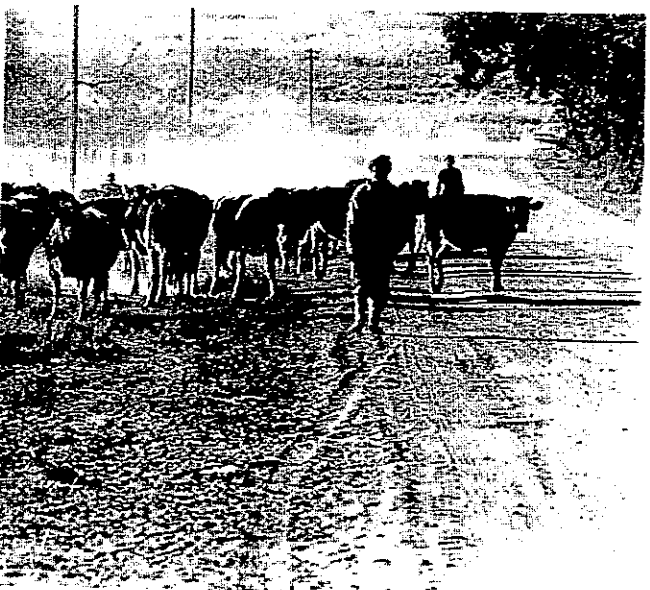
feeding more and milking three times a day instead of two. This phenomenon invariably prolongs the unprofitable phase of the cycle once it sets in. The Dairy Board's attempts to stabilise the industry by means of quotas, grading systems, fixed prices, limited mark-ups and zoned marketing areas have done nothing to alleviate the problem. Their main effect has been to neutralise the marketing effort of private sector distributors and processors

so that tired and unimaginative co-operative dairies have been able to survive in their stead. The result has been disastrous. Per capita consumption of butter, which should have been growing, has plummeted by three quarters in 15 years. Fresh milk consumption is down by 40% since the late Fifties and cheese consumption, abysmally low by world standards, has increased by only about 200 g/head a year during the last 10 years. In the rest of the world, cheese producers have been able to exploit the dietary gap created by rising meat and fish prices. It is significant that all the marketing successes of the dairy industry are with products which escape control board interference.

Sales of yoghurt, exotic cheeses, ice cream and custard products have all expanded by leaps and bounds. The main threat to the dairy industry now is that some interfering body will decide to control that lot as well. It is quite possible that they will. Last year the Dairy Board extended its control to Natal (where farmers are now regretting an ill-considered move).

This year the health authorities have quoted the cholera scare as a reason for closing down a series of small private bottling plants and producer distributors. As a result, a few score more babies may suffer starvation or malnutrition. This is an industry with enormous scope for expansion. But it won't get it without good marketing. And it won't get that until control is scrapped. By defending controls, the co-ops are doing their members a great disservice and spoiling their own market. If they had the courage to compete openly, they might initially suffer a loss in market share.

In the long run, however, they would be able to enjoy a more honest slice of a larger cake.



Dairy farming ... backward sloping curve

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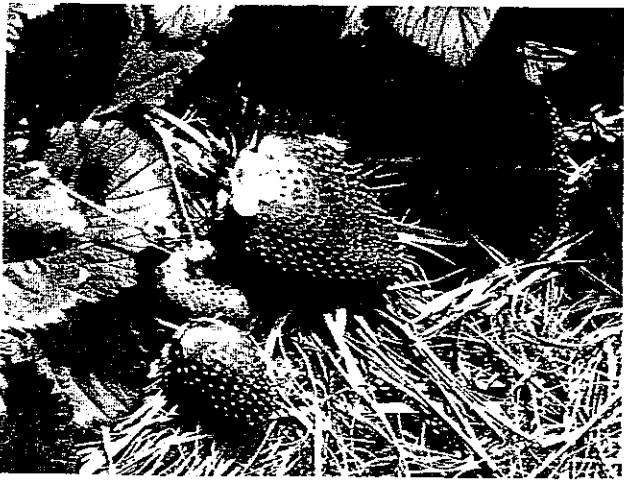
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High hopes for horticulture



With their scope for innovation in production, fruit and veg remain one of agriculture's growth areas

the 16m ha of arable land in white farming areas in SA, less than 5% is planted to fruit and vegetable crops. Production is dependent and self-governing states is negligible. Horticulture is highly intensive, however. So it accounts for a quarter of the gross value of all crops produced and 15% of the gross value of agricultural production.

The deciduous fruit industry, centered in the western Province, and those of citrus and sub-tropical fruits, grown mainly in the veld, are geared to the export market. They have suffered setbacks during the last 10 years as a result of over-expansion and a northern hemisphere recession. Most of our vegetables are sold locally and have additionally been grown on small farms close to the main urban centres where they are marketed.

The development of modern transport systems has led to a polarisation of production as larger farms in areas which enjoy a comparative advantage have begun specialising in the production of different crops. For example, the north-eastern Transvaal now produces the bulk of our tomato crop and the far northern Transvaal has become an important onion producing area.

Fruit and vegetable crops are highly perishable and production, which is seasonal, varies considerably from year to year, with the weather. This severely limits the scope of boards to fix or control prices. When fresh produce comes onto the market it must be sold, so supply and demand are left to determine the price.

The Citrus and Banana Boards regulate the flow of the products they control onto the local market and the Potato Board steps in during times of surplus to purchase unwanted potatoes on the main municipal markets to prop up the price. The surpluses are then dumped in homelands (to the annoyance and inconvenience of the poor farmers who normally cater for those markets).

The Citrus Board, Deciduous Fruit Board, Dried Fruit Board and Canning Fruit Board are all able to play a more active and constructive role with exports, however. With the clear objective of boosting sales and producer prices for SA producers, they are able to concentrate on marketing (as opposed to control) and forget about politics.

The markets for all forms of fruit, vegeta-

bles, nuts and flowers are expanding rapidly. But they are also becoming more sophisticated and discriminating.

The days of eating fruit and vegetables in season only are fast disappearing. Processed products are easier to handle and easier to store. Over 90% of the pea crop, for example, is now frozen and stored for consumption throughout the year. This trend is being followed by many other crops like green beans, broccoli and cauliflower.

Over a third of our tomato production is processed into tomato sauce, soups and purées. This enables some producers to get rid of second grade produce which is increasingly difficult to sell. Juicing factories take sub-standard apples, pears and citrus fruit which would otherwise have gone to waste. But, as processing itself comes of age, it tends to hive off as a separate industry of its own, demanding different raw materials. Special cultivars of potatoes, for example, are now grown on contract for the crisp and snack industry.

The processing industry has shifted many of the housewife's chores from the kitchen to the factory. Witness, for example, instant mashed potatoes and frozen chips. Most potatoes bought in the US are now sold in processed form and we are doubtless destined to follow the same trend. The change comes at a cost. But affluent families with working wives are prepared to pay the premium.

The increasing importance of processing is also changing marketing methods. Farmers find themselves contracting directly with processors. Processors themselves are becoming involved in production to ensure suitable supplies. This means that a lot of produce is now by-passing the 14 main urban fresh produce markets. The advent of supermarkets with their high volume turnover has also led to market by-passing. This holds advantages for the producer who is able to contract in advance for his product.

Although municipal markets are still growing in size, their relative importance is declining and many pundits have already forecast their eventual demise.

With the help of cold storage, "fresh" apples are now available all year round and the wholesalers can easily gear themselves up to make regular deliveries on a contractual basis to retail outlets. As more products go the same way, "by-passing" is bound to increase.

Juice and pulp

A lot of processing involves the removal of moisture because juice and dehydrated products are often easier to store and mar-

ket than whole fruit. For example, 30% of our apple crop, nearly 70% of our apricots and half of the pear crop are now marketed as juice. Juicing is equally important in the citrus industry, where a quarter of the 525 000 t crop is squeezed. Prices paid for processing are lower than those for fresh fruit, but there are compensatory savings on packaging, storage and transport. And the juice factories help the farmers by taking surpluses off the more lucrative fresh produce market.

Processor prices for apples were only R44 t in the 1978-80 season, but without the aid of juice factories, fresh fruit prices on the local and export market could never have been sustained at R261 t and R375 t respectively in the same season.

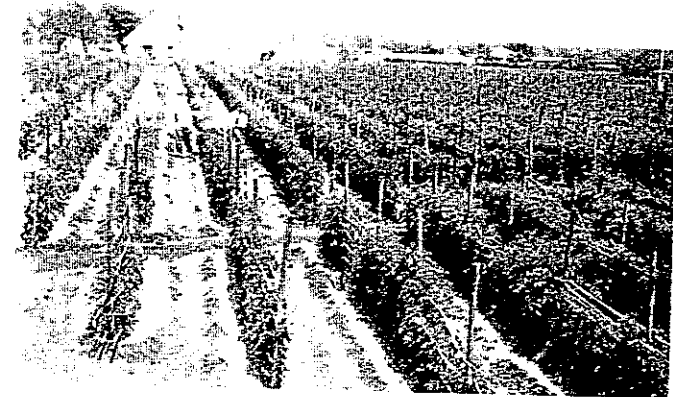
Out of 1.3 Mt of grapes, 1.1 Mt are eventually sold in bottles. But that's nothing new. The wine industry has always been important.

In recent years, a more spectacular performer has been the dried fruit industry, which has experienced a dramatic improvement in demand for raisins and sultanas. Surprising volumes of other fruits are dried as well. One-fifth of our apricots, 7% of our peach crop, about 5% of the pear crop and most of our prunes are sold in dried form. And the dehydration of vegetables (mainly for soups, soldiers and campers at present) is seen as a major growth industry with enormous scope for expansion now that the technology for getting water out while locking flavour in has been perfected.

Fruit canning, on the other hand, is a declining industry with seemingly insurmountable problems. Once an important export earner, canning has become the victim of rising costs. The cans now cost more than the fruit inside and transport more than either. The bulk of our production goes to the UK and EEC countries, where there has been a marked decline in sales precipitated recently by changes in consumer tastes. Sweet sticky syrups are no longer popular. Per capita consumption in the UK has declined by 37% in the last seven years. Subsidisation of the canning industry in EEC countries has given European canners a competitive advantage, while an import tariff, to keep us out, has also added to our problems.

In contrast to the decline in the foreign market from 8.8m cartons to 6.3m cartons between 1980 and 1981, the local market grew to 1m. But that is little consolation. If prosperity is going to be maintained in the fruit industry, new ways of wooing foreign buyers must be found. They are the ones with the cash. SA housewives should bear this in mind when they complain about the quality of locally marketed fruit. The foreign market comes first.

Despite temporary setbacks associated with the recession overseas and high inter-



Tomatoes ... concentrated in north-east Transvaal



Potatoes ... surpluses dumped in homelands

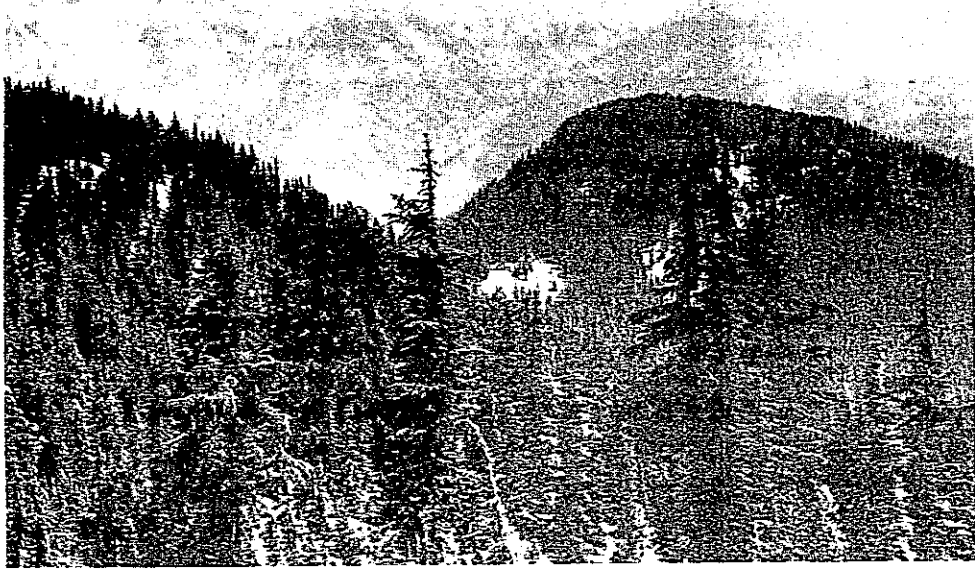
est rates at home, the long-term future for horticulture as a whole remains promising. Consumers in most developed countries are showing a trend away from bulky, starchy foods to more vegetables and fruit in their diets. South Africans are following suit. As black consumers become more affluent, this growth will be reinforced.

SA products have a good name on overseas markets. The Cape label for deciduous fruit and the Outspan brand for oranges are highly regarded and successful, despite attempted boycotts. We enjoy the Southern Hemisphere advantage of selling during the off season of our Northern Hemisphere

competitors. Imaginative and aggressive marketing should enable us to maintain our existing market shares and open new markets elsewhere. Locally the trend is towards more integrated, highly specialised production units. This will lead to improved quality.

It will always be a risky business. But for the young man entering agriculture and the small man struggling to stay in, horticulture is one of the best growth areas. There is still plenty of scope for innovation in production. And the control boards concerned leave more scope than most for innovative marketing.

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lantation crops, while not booming, are once gain being planted by smaller growers

nber, sugar, tea and sisal are sufficiently ferent from other field and horticultural ps to form a category of their own. Their tinguishing characteristic is that they e to be developed on a fairly large scale andem with sophisticated processing faties. A tea plantation is no use without a . factory, nor a cane farm without a sugar ll.
 Historically this led to the assumption it these enterprises were totally unsuit- le for small growers. More recently, how- ar, it has been realised that the very small ver can play a rôle if the managers of : processing unit are skillful in farming : the unsophisticated donkey work. For s reason, the sisal and phormium tenax ustries have already migrated to the or- r homelands and independent states. Tea oing likewise.
 Sugar cane is now successfully being own in KwaZulu by small black growers

with financial and technical assistance from the SA Cane Growers' Association, which has established a special fund for the purpose. Timber is an important industry in Transkei, Venda and Swaziland.
 The developing states favour these crops, which have brought them some notable successes. Controlling the only outlet for the crop, the processor can double up as a financier of independent growers knowing he will get his money back. Secondly, the field operations are labour intensive but otherwise easily managed. Thirdly, they are all perennial crops. This means that the risk of soil erosion is minimised. And in the case of sisal, the crop is unpalatable to livestock. This means that fencing is unnecessary and there are fewer disputes over the ownership of communal land.

Sugar cane
 The area planted to sugar has steadily

increased from 250 000 ha in 1970 to 371 000 ha in 1980. Production, which is still mainly in white hands, is confined to the Natal coastal area, the frost-free parts of the Natal Midlands and the Transvaal Lowveld around Malelane. Annual production is just over 2 Mt of sugar, of which almost half is exported. Our industry is efficient by world standards and we could undoubtedly export more if the world market wasn't distorted by protectionism and international agreements.

As it is, we have recently been forced to accept a 15% cut in our export quota and the sugar industry is facing severe problems. Due to over-production and dumping, the London price has fallen to £120 t, so sugar could theoretically be landed in Durban at half the current local price of R379 t.

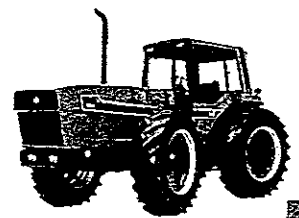
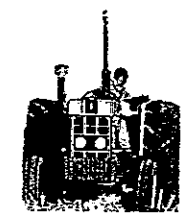
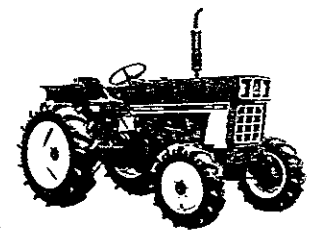
Local consumers are therefore subsidising the export loss at present and government is unwilling to sanction the higher prices which the industry needs to prevent it sinking into debt. Producers have already had to accept a drop in price from R22 t to R18 t of cane and there could be worse news to come.

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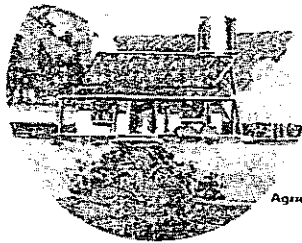
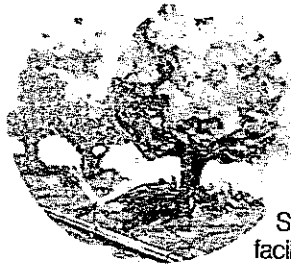
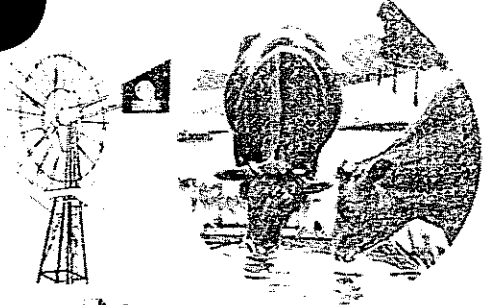
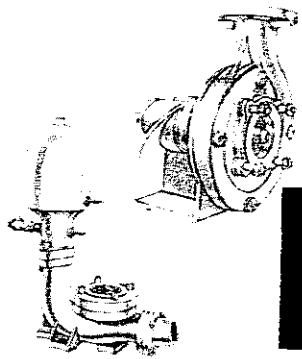
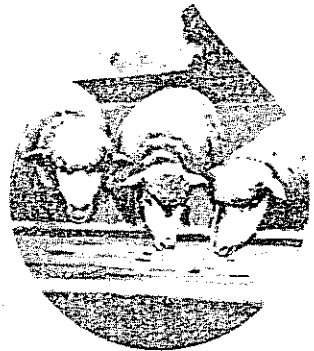
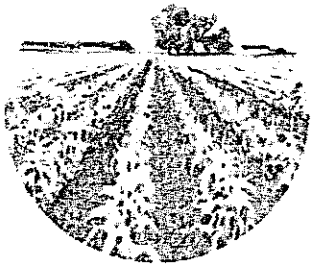
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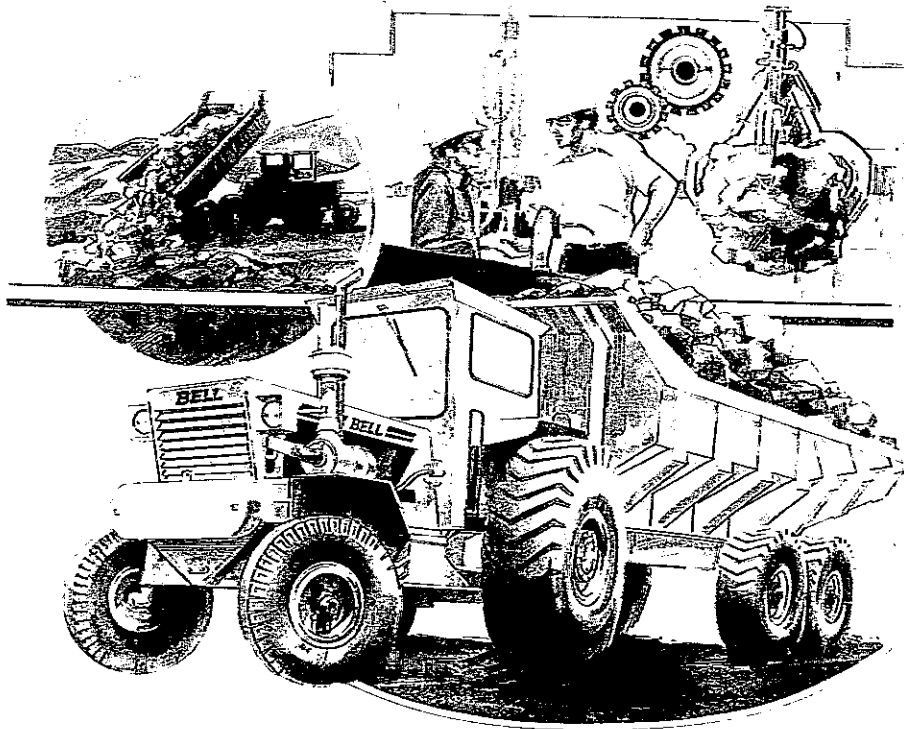
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The Creation of a Legend

Bell organisation is a rapidly expanding local manufacturer of trials Handling and Haulage equipment. We have a deep-rooted commitment producing equipment designed to South African conditions.

Bell product range has undergone a rapidly paced expansion programme from the initial line of heavy, highly manoeuvrable hauling machines used extensively in Sugar, Timber and Materials Handling Industries. The momentous success of this range resulted in the establishment of manufacturing

plants abroad, including one in the U.S.A. where machines are produced for the American Logging Industry. To date, sales of Bell Equipment have been concluded in some 21 countries around the globe.

In 1976, Bell expanded into the haulage market and developed a range of transport equipment for Sugar and Timber Haulage, in addition to a range of Dumpers for the Mining and Construction Industry. Recently, Bell reinforced the selection of construction equipment with an added range of 4-wheel-drive articulated Tow Haulers used

extensively for road building and site preparation in South Africa.

Local manufacture, combined with a direct marketing programme through Bell sales and service support centres established nationally, enable us to offer equipment and comprehensive support to the end-user at a competitive price which is not burdened with importer, distributor and dealer profits.

With the establishment of a modern 10 million rand manufacturing plant to be operational in late 1983, it is reasonable to assume that the Bell legend is just beginning.



BELL EQUIPMENT-BUILT TO PERFORM

Ask The People Who Use It!

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Oh, the sweet taste of success.



After days, perhaps weeks of fruitless searching there's nothing quite like the excitement of striking



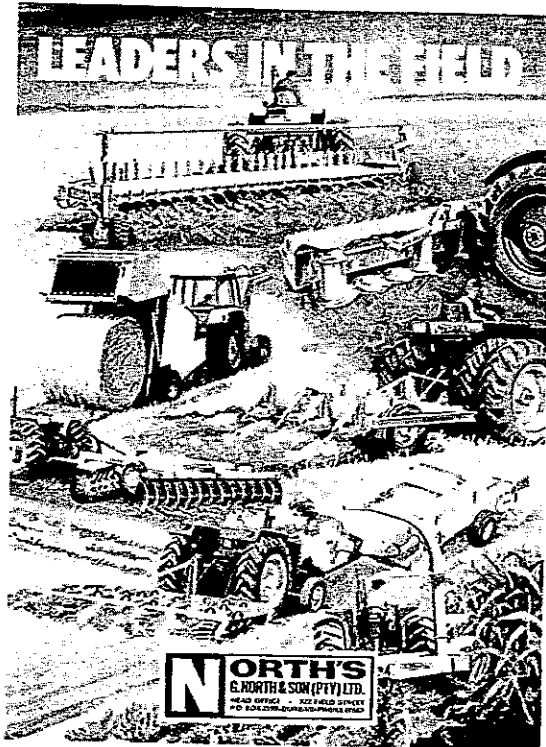
pure, sweet water. Today, water borne disease added to drought makes pure, clean water the most valuable commodity in Kwazulu.

That's why the S.A. Sugar Association in co-operation with the Kwazulu government inaugurated and administers a Fur to provide the people of Kwazulu with the water they so desperately need for their development.

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Agriculture Survey, Supplement to Financial Mail September 17 1982



The only thing we have to change is our logo

Our first corporate advertisement said it all. North's are recognised as the leaders in the field, supplying the South African farmer with a comprehensive range of agricultural and irrigation equipment

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Agriculture Survey, Supplement to Financial Mail September 17 1982



Softwoods ... now in surplus



Sugar ... world over-production and quotas

The commission of inquiry into the sugar industry has recommended that the transport subsidy on cane be scrapped and farmers compensated with a price increase of R3/t. Previously growers farming some distance away from a sugar mill had their transport costs subsidised by growers living closer in. This had a number of adverse side effects. Land use patterns were disrupted, land prices distorted and the comparative advantage enjoyed by certain areas lost.

If the recommendation is accepted, farmers who suffer a loss should be compensated by a capital payment, but in the long run land use patterns will change and many farmers in outlying areas may stop producing cane altogether. Sugar farms in marginal areas will decline in value. An economic price for farms at present is reckoned to be R55/t of expected annual production, but buyers have been paying R70/t and more.

The sugar industry itself last year borrowed R130m on the overseas market to finance the local crop. Repayment was to have commenced this year, with R40m carried forward in the stabilisation fund. Present adverse conditions have necessitated that capital repayments be delayed this year and only interest paid.

Timber and wattle

Timber is important in the wetter eastern and southern parts of the country. Wattle has shown a steady decline in production

from a peak of 225 000 t of bark in 1960 to 114 000 t in 1981. Prices paid to farmers have been constant over the last four years at about R100/t. A shift from leather to synthetics and the introduction of new tanning processes are to blame. These trends are likely to continue, but real leather will always keep a section of the luxury market to itself and wattle extracts are finding new uses — as adhesives, for instance. So the picture isn't entirely gloomy.

Meanwhile, the decline in the bark industry has been offset by the export of wood chips to the East. This has given many wattle farms a second lease of life. Even so, the relative importance of wattle vis à vis pines and gums has fallen.

The total area under timber in SA in 1980-1981 was 1.2m ha, of which soft woods (mainly pines) made up 610 000 ha and hardwoods 561 000 ha. It has been estimated that to keep pace with SA's demand, an additional 27 000 ha of softwoods and 12 000 ha of hardwoods will have to be planted annually over the next five years. There is currently a surplus of softwood, sawn timber and veneer. But shortages will become apparent after the year 2000 if we don't plant now.

Despite all this scope for expansion, prospects over the next 10 years are not good. So growers may not be able to find the cash they need. Timber has always been dominated by large groups and is the only agricultural activity in which the State has a

substantial share. This is understandable because of the different planning horizons of individual versus large companies. The irregular cash flow patterns are more easily catered for by a large company or the State.

Meanwhile, independent growers fear the power of the processors. Many potential producers shy away from the prospect of tying up land and capital for decades on the vague promise of a future market. If the industry's projections are wrong, they say, the big companies are likely to exploit their own forests first, leaving the small grower with no market at all.

Tea

Since tea (R25m) and coffee (R35m) are two of our biggest grocery imports, the government has been anxious to promote local production. A small band of private enthusiasts is making slow but healthy progress with coffee. Tea is moving faster.

Having identified tea as an ideal labour-intensive development crop for remote areas of emergent states, Pretoria has been only too happy to force the pace by lending money and offering tariff protection.

Local growers are now being paid roughly twice the world price. As a result, the value of local production has shot up from R0.3m in 1970 to R22m last year. And there is plenty more in the pipeline as several young estates have still not reached maximum production.

Agriculture Survey, Supplement to Financial Mail September 17 1982

What goes in ...



... cost of agricultural inputs, in many cases, has been artificially inflated

ing realised that the potential for higher prices is slim, it is only natural that farmers should turn their attention to input instead.

Each year they will be spending the best of R3 billion on intermediate goods and services. Some of that expenditure they can use to alleviate. But many of the more important items on their shopping lists have been inflated artificially by government intervention.

Artificially inflated prices for inorganic fertilisers, for instance, are a burden to SA farmers at prices which are far above those at which they could be imported. Local manufacturers claim that they need heavy protection because they have to use coal as feedstock instead of the cheap

natural gas which is available to their foreign competitors.

That's true. But it still begs the question why we need to manufacture here at all. If we can't compete with the world market, why should we inflict the cost of an inefficient industry upon ourselves? The stock answer is that we need to be self-sufficient for "strategic reasons." That is baloney. The world is glutted with nitrogen and it is likely to remain so because fertiliser manufacturers the world round have sold the same old story to dozens of other gullible governments.

Anyway, in the unlikely event of a trade boycott on SA, we would have much more difficulty in exporting 4 Mt of maize, 1.5 Mt

of fruit and 1 Mt of sugar than we would of importing 0.5 Mt of urea and ammonia. And if we couldn't export those products, we wouldn't need the nitrogen anyway. In that event, our local nitrogen factories would become white elephants rather than strategic assets.

In demanding free imports, the farmers have a cast iron case. And if the government refuses that demand (which it shouldn't), farmers will be fully justified in asking the State to relieve them of the added costs.

If fertiliser costs could be reduced, the effect would trickle through the whole of agriculture. Fertilisers are now the biggest single input item for crop farmers. And, indirectly, they boost the cost of grass and concentrate feeds which are the two biggest cost items for stock farmers.

The livestock industry now spends R600m on purchased stock and poultry feed. That sum could be reduced if cheaper fertilisers, fuel and spray chemicals could be used to grow the raw materials. Alternatively, a greater volume of feeds would be processed into livestock products to give us a better and cheaper national diet. Exports of animal products would expand, too.

There are other things that could be done to reduce the cost of animal feedstuffs. The most important of these is to open the milling industry to genuine competition. At the moment, a plethora of licensing restrictions, quota schemes and consumer subsidies plays straight into the hands of a handful of grain handling and food processing

giants. As a result, margins rise in the animal feeds industry and competition (despite protestations to the contrary from the companies, co-ops and control boards concerned) is weak or non-existent.

Competition is more lively among the suppliers of agricultural chemicals. But it is not exactly healthy. The expansion of the market for dips and sprays has been dramatic. During the last three decades the value of the business transacted has multiplied 50 times to an estimated R130m this year. But patent-holders, manufacturers and distributors have turned public hysteria to their advantage.

Most farm chemicals can be manufactured at a fraction of the price for which they are sold. But they are worth several times the retail prices to the pest-beleaguered farmers who have to buy them. The name of the game, therefore, is to keep competitors at bay by selling patented products while keeping as many others as possible off the market. Restrictive registration renders it costly the world over for anyone to put a new product on the market.

Meanwhile, exaggerated horror stories about DDT, for instance, ensure that a lot of older "off-patent" products are withdrawn from circulation. It is a system that works

well for the multinational chemical companies, which can afford to spend upwards of \$10m guiding each new product through the chewing gum. But it's not so good for farmers or anyone else.

In SA we have compounded the problem by giving added protection to local manufacturers. This is preposterous. Chemical factories use a lot of skilled manpower and capital (which we can't afford) and very little land or unskilled labour (which are our two abundant resources). There are no strategic advantages either. The final products are easy to smuggle. And in some cases the intermediate products which our factories will use are more difficult to purchase on world markets than the end products.

Israel and several of the Iron Curtain countries are happy to ignore other countries' patent laws and trade freely with pirate chemicals. As a net importer of technology, we could profitably do the same.

Many farmers believe that we should open up the gates to cheap fuel as well. They get their diesel a few cents a litre more cheaply than we buy our petrol, but they still pay twice as much as their competitors in the US. Too much for their liking is being creamed off by government, by Sasol and by the international oil companies from whom

they are forced to buy. Everyone knows there is an oil glut at the moment. Why can't SA take advantage of it?

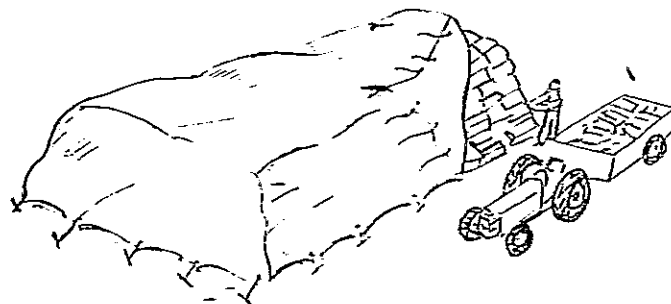
Since Opec and the governments of the Western world conspired to increase the price of fuel during the Seventies, the cost of transport has hit farmers badly. One result has been a marked acceleration in the swing towards bulk handling. A lot of farm products which were previously carried around in bags, bottles, pockets or churns are nowadays stored and carted in bulk. The packaging business is still growing. And it's growing fast. But there is a tendency for the wrappers and labels to be added further down the pipeline.

Ten years ago the farmer used to put his vegetables into the cumbersome containers which appeared in the greengrocer's shop. Now he is more likely to sell to a freezing company or pre-packer who accepts them from the farm in bulk.

This is one of the reasons why direct farm expenditure on packing materials has declined in real terms in each of the last 10 years. But the trade is still worth R90m year and it could easily start growing again if the control boards would clear the way for more farmers to involve themselves in direct marketing.

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WHAT THE FARMERS BUY (Annual expenditure on various purchased requisites in recent years)

	Year	Purchases
Tractors, machinery and implements	1981	R791m
Stock and poultry feed	1980/81	R550m
Fertilisers	1980/81	R514m
Fuels	1980/81	R376m
Fixed improvements	1981	R338m
Dip and spraying materials	1980/81	R110m
Packing materials	1980/81	R 89m

Agricultural hardware



Depreciating assets that account for a great part of capital investment

In 1980, total capital assets in agriculture amounted to R27 billion. Machinery, implements and tractors accounted for R2.3 billion, land and fixed improvements R20.6 billion and livestock R4.1 billion. The land and stock components keep appreciating. But machinery rusts and implements become obsolete. The rancher in the western parts of the country with little or no arable land is therefore less vulnerable to rising costs than his arable cousin in the east.

Gross capital formation in agriculture has almost doubled over the five-year peri-

od 1975-1980 from R560m to R967m. Tractors, machinery and implements account for over 70% of the total. Between 1979 and 1980 the increase was particularly marked, partly as a result of good crops and easy money, but also because of changes in tax allowances which allowed farmers to offset the full price of new machinery against taxable income in the year of purchase.

Tractors

Over half of agriculture's debts are short- to medium-term. High interest rates are

causing highly geared farmers severe problems. In the wake of these problems and a poor maize harvest, tractor sales have plummeted in 1982. They will probably remain sluggish well into the new year and maybe for another year after that.

As individual farmers find that they can no longer afford under-utilised equipment, they are going to turn increasingly to the use of contractors. This trend is already apparent overseas — particularly in the case of sophisticated harvesting and heavy tillage equipment.

As machines get bigger, they are expected to last longer. So more attention is being focused on operator training and service. The surge in support for short instruction courses is an indication of what is happening. The agricultural unions are exerting strong pressure for the establishment of new and better training centres.

It seems likely that competition among dealers will become more innovative as each attempts to keep his market share. This is the one bit of good news for farmers. Over the next two years the man with cash will be able to demand good discounts and dealers have already stepped up the emphasis on after-sales service to retain existing business.

Atlantis Diesel Engines (ADE)

The advent of ADE has caused palpitations throughout the industry — particularly among the assemblers and distributors who are not used to working with Perkins and Daimler Benz engines. Much controversy has centred round the likely impact of self-sufficiency on prices. A 30% duty on tractors and a 40% duty on trucks has been imposed on all imports already fitted with engines, so local manufacturers and assemblers have had little option but to convert to ADE power units.

It now seems that local manufacturers exaggerated the cost of conversion during the run up phase, when prospective price hikes of 20% and more were freely being bandied about. But there are still some heartaches.

Firstly, overseas manufacturers have not allowed a high enough deletion allowance. This means that the local assembler/manufacturer has not received the full benefit of importing a machine without its engine. Secondly, some manufacturers have had to re-jig their assembly plants to accommodate ADE engines. They are attempting to recover these costs immediately instead of writing them off over a number of years like any other capital expenditure.

But it is no use crying over spilt milk. ADE is now a fact of life. Thankfully the



Man-made rain ... getting more costly

quality of its engines is excellent. Considerable rationalisation has taken place. Instead of 200 different imported engines we will now use 12 basic models. Dealers will have to carry fewer spares and their availability should be better. Training of mechanics and service personnel will be simpler. This should be a boon to long-suffering farmers.

Prices up

All equipment prices have more than doubled since 1975. From January 1978 to January 1980 irrigation equipment led the field, followed by trucks, tractors and then implements. Price increases for trucks and tractors in March this year brought them back to the number one spot in the escalation stakes. The average tractor in the 52 kW-60 kW range increased from R16 000 in August 1981 to R20 000 in February 1982 — a 25% increase in six months. Part was normal price escalation, part imported and part ADE. But direct price comparisons are always confused by the advent of new technology and new designs.

Irrigation equipment is becoming more automated and sophisticated, too. The area under irrigation is expanding rapidly and older "flood" methods are being replaced by more efficient overhead, drip and microjet

systems. This is the growth area for agricultural machinery. More and more farmers are turning to irrigation to boost yields and overcome the uncertainty of our climate. But each new hectare under irrigation adds to the competition of those already irrigated.

Tractors are increasing in size and there is a steady trend away from two-wheel towards four-wheel drive units which now account for almost a quarter of the market.

NUMBER OF FARM TRACTORS IMPORTED

Year	Small	Large	Total
	to 63 kW	64 kW	
1973	10 159	1 058	11 217
1974	15 182	1 705	16 887
1975	22 948	4 948	27 896
1976	19 892	4 052	23 944
1977	9 852	2 150	11 992
1978	10 567	2 102	12 669
1979	4 937	1 353	6 290
1980	16 417	4 463	20 880
1981	18 300	5 606	23 906

Errata: with total numbers of new tractors tending to fall as farmers trade up to bigger multiples which they keep longer.

The trend received a boost from the fuel crisis since manufacturers claim up to 40% fuel saving due to less wheel slip and more efficient utilisation of power.

Department of Agricultural Engineering tests suggest that these claims are exaggerated and that a farmer who sets his equipment and drives his two-wheel tractor properly need only use 10% more. So the saving with a four-wheel drive tractor is unlikely to justify an extra 25% on the price tag.

Economists, meanwhile, are concerned by the trend towards bigger machines. Cost advantages are not proven and larger machinery makes for less flexible systems. So farmers are more vulnerable in troubled times. Bigger machines also mean less employment. Life may be made easier for the farmer with labour problems, but it is questionable whether it is to the long-term benefit of the country.

Fuel costs have increased by 350% since 1975. They now make up half the total cost of operating a tractor. At first the oil crisis focused attention on the red herring of "biomass fuels," but the researchers eventually got their priorities straight and homed in on inefficient cultivation practices instead.

Minimum tillage methods with increased use of herbicides are becoming more wide-



ad. Less use is being made of mould-
d ploughs today and there is a shift
towards chisel ploughs and other tined
implements.
Manufacturers still need to design imple-
ments more suited to tough African condi-

tions and African operators. Too many ex-
isting designs are borrowed from the
Northern Hemisphere. Wider and larger im-
plements are also needed for use at higher
speeds.
There is a growing sense of awareness of

the importance of good timing. Farmers
who were happy to extend their planting
seasons over 10 weeks in the Sixties now
aim to get the whole job done in three. And
for that, the right machinery — at the right
price — is essential.

Farming folk

*The days of the stupid son in the family staying
home to farm are over. And, while black
farmers' numbers dwindle, their expectations
are*

ough farm numbers have declined from
nearly 116 000 in 1950 to around 60 000
today, the total area devoted to agriculture
remained relatively constant. All that
happened is that farm sizes have in-
creased as the remaining farmers have
gotten out their neighbours.

A study released by the Human Sciences
Research Council this year shows signifi-
cant shifts have taken place in population
trends between 1970 and 1980. There is a
general trend to move from rural to urban
areas and people have moved from the
rural parts of the country to the north
north east.

The populations of Natal and the Trans-
vaal have thus grown faster than the
national average, while the Cape and Free

State have lagged. White population actual-
ly fell in 196 magisterial districts, of which
89 were in the Cape and 38 in the Free State.

But, even if the pace has changed, this is
not a new phenomenon. The number of
whites in rural areas has been falling since
the Thirties. Today there are fewer than
500 000 left. Meanwhile, the black rural
population has increased by 2m over the same
period. As a result, population ratios have
altered. The farmers are worried. So is the
government. Many village communities in
the southern Free State and Cape Karoo
regions are in danger of complete collapse.
Schools are only half full and many services
once taken for granted no longer have the
population to support them.

This problem has been aggravated by the

subsidisation of railage on unprocessed
farm produce (which has encouraged
processors to move nearer their customers)
and the tarring of rural roads (making it
easier for the few remaining farmers to
shop farther afield).

As the villages have withered, the aver-
age age of their inhabitants has risen. It is
generally the younger and most dynamic
people who move out. Government spokes-
men often talk of the need to retain young
men on the farms but what is happening
here is a worldwide phenomenon. Incentives
to purchase farms are not likely to help
much. The value of cheap Land Bank loans
has long ago been capitalised into the price
of land. So they make it more difficult than
ever for young outsiders to buy their way in.
Inheritance is fast becoming the only avenue
of entrance to private farm ownership.

On the other hand, there is still scope for
paid employment. Indeed, prospects are ac-
tually improving.

As more and more farms have outgrown
the traditional family unit, the number of
paid white farm workers has doubled from
8 100 in 1955 to an estimated 16 000 today.
The type of job offered has improved be-
yond recognition. So, too, has the calibre of
man coming in.

With increasing numbers of absentee
owners and a great deal more science in-
volved, there is more scope than ever before
for the young man who wants to become a
manager as opposed to a foreman. The days
of the stupid son in the family staying home
to farm are over. Farming as a business is
making the same, if not more, demands on
management than any other industry.

Coloureds and Asians employed have
likewise increased from 133 000 in 1960 to
over 200 000 today. Many of them are in
supervisory, management or skilled techni-
cal positions. But even this is not the whole
story.

Advances in science and communication
have taken many farm tasks out of the
farmer's own hands. As a result, a whole
host of new jobs has been opened up on the
peripheries of agriculture. Almost as fast as
agriculture has been shedding farmers, the
control boards, the co-ops and private sec-
tor service and processing industries have
taken on new men.

Statistics on black farm employment are



Women ... a growing labour role



notoriously sketchy and unreliable, but it
seems that, after a long period of numerical
stability, the black labour force has sudden-
ly plummeted from about 1.4m in 1971 to
perhaps 1m now.

This is largely attributable to mechanisa-
tion. But the accelerated pace of mechanisa-
tion must itself be seen as a result of
urban drift. Since recruitment from Malawi
and Mozambique has become more difficult,
the mines have taken a lot of locals who
would otherwise have gone into farming.

Since the productivity of labour is still
low in agriculture (20% of the population
produce only 7% of gnp), there is little doubt
that farming will continue to lose staff as
and when new jobs are created in the rest of
the economy. Farm employers are well
aware of this trend.

Further mechanisation is likely to be one
response. But chemicals (weedkillers, for
instance) can also be used as labour substi-
tutes and it seems probable that more jobs
which have traditionally been handled by
men will go to females who are prepared to
work for lower wages. This tendency has
been evident for some time in the sugar,
timber and horticultural industries. More
recently, the women have found their way
into milking parlours and even onto tractor

seats.

Enterprise specialisation is often precipi-
tated by rising labour costs. Faced with a
choice of spending money on an array of
under-utilised machinery or concentrating
on one line of production, farmers tend to
curtail labour intensive sidelines like dairy-
ing and small scale vegetable production.

All these changes are forcing farmers to
revise their attitudes and rethink their em-
ployment policies. This is a healthy develop-
ment, but it is proving costly in the short
term.

Specialisation and mechanisation de-
mand trained labourers. Trained labourers
expect better houses. Children who grow up
in better houses want to spend more years
at school. Educated workers demand paid
holidays, shorter working hours and, dare
we say it, more respect.

Given enough time and sufficient oppor-
tunity they will no doubt show, one day, that
they are worth it. But the raw material with
which the majority of farmers must begin is
scarcely designed to inspire confidence.

The main problem is that agriculture has
traditionally been a residual employer of
labour. Since career opportunities have not
been as attractive as elsewhere, city em-
ployers have stolen the cream of the black

labour force. As far as farming is con-
cerned, the ones with get-up-and-go have
mostly got-up-and-gone.

This is not a problem unique to SA. But it
has been aggravated here by unique politi-
cal factors. Efflux control (which is what
the farmers asked for) has had the effect of
widening the gap between farm and city
wages. Consequently, the farm labour force
has been socially retarded, a disproportionate
number of poor quality labourers have
been trapped into rural employment and
blacks have learned to look down on farm
work.

The black farm labourer finds he cannot
move to a better paid city job and take his
family with him. The farmer is naturally
reluctant to house a black family for a
former employee who has left for town. So,
in order to get a town job, the man must first
move to a homeland and then work as a
contract labourer. It's a step which many
will not take because living conditions in the
overcrowded homelands are worse than
they are on farms. The black farm worker
then finds himself in an invidious position.
Usually he can only move from one farm to
work on another. Until recently he has had
little prospect of improving his job or status
in life. His house is tied to his job and vice

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- Dam holds enough water for substantial irrigation scheme.
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- Four boreholes with three windmills and one submersible electric pump.
- Enough lands with good soil, 20 ha to be planted under mealies in September.
- Open veld with some bush - Blesbuck, Duiker and Bushbuck.
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- Every square inch of this farm consists of soft ploughable soil.
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- Buy the whole unit and develop the smaller units to make a fortune.
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Pay is generally poor and, lacking support, he is almost entirely dependent on the farm and one farmer outside working as well as in.

It is not to say that farmers are bad employers.

Many, perhaps the majority, feel a genuine sense of paternal responsibility for the workers who "depend" upon them. But the younger ones now realise that habits of paternalism and dependency are incompatible with the long run, with initiative and productivity. The man who drives your R150 000 tractor over the horizon must be able to act independently.

As expectations rise farmers are also beginning to wonder where their social responsibilities begin and end. It is estimated that there are some 4m blacks living on farms. That works out at more than 1m.

Black farm workers have traditionally built their own houses. But farmers are now providing facilities so that their better-off workers can enjoy the same home comforts as blacks who are housed, not at the expense of their employers, but by government.

Many farmers now provide schools, technical facilities and transport services as well. And the farmer's wife assumes the role of an unpaid district nurse.

Farmers thus cater directly for the welfare and infrastructural needs of a large percentage of our population. Limited State services are made available to help farm-provide some of those services. But the government pays far more attention to the needs of the urban black community than to the rural counterpart.

Wages are generally low, with perhaps the black farm labour force receiving less than R50/month in hard cash. But payments in kind, in terms of rations, grazing and housing are often good. Most of the workers lack skills and formal education beyond about Standard Three. So farmers are often right when they say they cannot afford to pay more. Critics should remember, too, that the profitability of much of the labour intensive farm enterprises practised in the lowest paid areas (maize, tobacco) is slim. Higher wages in these areas are just not on. The only choice between low wages and unemployment.

To the extent, however, that farmers have adopted policies which have hindered progress and mobility in the past, they take the blame for the burgeoning population of backward souls on their doorsteps. For the same reason the rural black blame the farmer for many of his woes.

It remains to be seen whether the commissioning into the working conditions of farm labourers and domestic servants will redress the imbalance by pushing for the relaxation of regulations affecting labour mobility. The black worker should be able to

act independently.



Farm labour ... expectations rising

leave the farm and live with his family wherever he works.

The government and organised agriculture should also look closely at the host of restrictive laws and licensing regulations which hinder the development of the informal business sector.

The agricultural control boards are responsible for far too many of these. It is the informal sector which has the ability to create employment. It holds the most promise for reducing the price gap between farm and consumer. And by opening up new marketing channels it could boost food consumption to the benefit of farmers and workers alike.

There is a risk that interfering outsiders will recommend minimum wages or stipulate minimum working conditions. This will only worsen unemployment. The provision of more training facilities should be encouraged instead. Poor pay for white farm employees reflects the popularity of agriculture as a career as much as the farmers' parsimony. Of more concern to the well-trained white entrant to the industry are the reluctance and inability of farmers to delegate properly and the absence of any definite ladder for promotion. Most farms are single proprietorships, career prospects are limited and since nepotism is rife there is virtually no job security for the manager who isn't a member of the family.

But conditions are changing. Modern agriculture demands an exceptionally high level of management. A mistake made at planting is a mistake for a whole year, maybe longer. More farms are now company-owned and some of these offer attractive and challenging careers both in staff and line management.

The learning curve

Too much schooling was once considered a handicap

Farmers have traditionally been less educated than their city cousins. In 1970 over a third of them had still got no further than Standard 6. To some extent this was a hang-over from the days when formal schooling was considered unnecessary for a farmer, but the big reason was lack of opportunity.

Facilities were often poor in rural areas or not available and with classical curricula too much schooling was often considered a handicap. Since farming has become more scientific and cash orientated, however, matters have changed considerably. As their fathers move out of farming, the young men taking their places are as well educated as anybody. They are also keen to add to their schooling as they go along. This is one of the reasons why white agriculture is so well served with educational, extension and research institutions.

Four of our white universities (Pretoria, Stellenbosch, Natal and the Orange Free

State) offer degree courses in agriculture. Only one graduate in five ends up as a farmer. The rest are absorbed into research institutions, agri-business concerns and extension services or recycled back into further education. In June 1980 there were 2 517 white men and 321 white women registered for agriculture degrees.

Agricultural courses are also offered at the black universities of the North, Fort Hare and Zululand. With their developing agricultural sectors, the black states could absorb far more black graduates than they currently get. At this stage the gap is being filled by whites, and so it will be for many years to come. There is little doubt that our universities and graduates have made a massive contribution to the advancement of agriculture in SA and Zimbabwe. There would be scope for them to do the same for the rest of Africa south of the Sahara if they had the opportunities.



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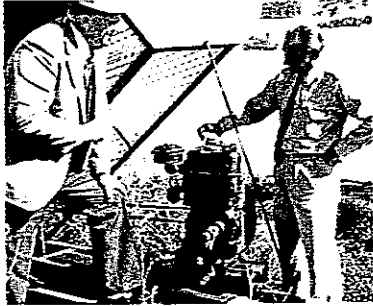
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Agriculture Survey, Supplement to Financial Mail September 17 1982



basma 1982

"For water and electricity, the Natal Parks Board relies on Lister Diesels."



Steve Visagie — Natal Parks Board

With the enormous responsibility of supplying the Parks throughout Natal with water and power, the Natal Parks Board rely on Lister engines.

Supplying power and water to the Natal Parks can sometimes cause problems. We have 53 parks, ranging from Port Edward in the South to Tsimu in Northern Zululand and the Mankenberg in the west. The Parks Board must provide public facilities which always have to be in excellent condition. That's why I am pleased we use Lister engines to drive our pumps and generators. I can depend on them.

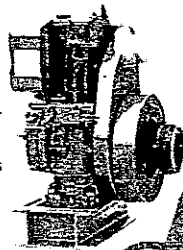
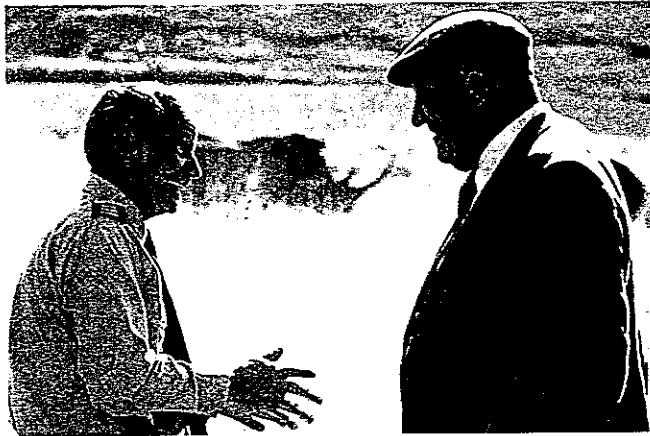
We have 156 Listers running in the different parks and I find them reliable under any circumstances. It is so important that Lister engines are manufactured in South Africa. It assures us that spares will always be available. Good service is very essential to us as well.

I won't buy anything which is not backed up by service. That's another reason why we keep using Lister. Their service is at class and their distributors are always prepared to help us

when necessary. Yes, I am very happy with our Lister engines. One that comes to mind has been working for seven years without my having to do any repairs. The oil was drained and filters changed as required, but nothing else. Not even the injector needed cleaning. I normally expect Lister

engines to work at least three to four years before anything has to be done to them beyond routine service. Listers are extremely reliable — they keep on working."

The above is a summary of a conversation Dana Niehaus had with Steve Visagie of the Natal Parks Board.



Lister

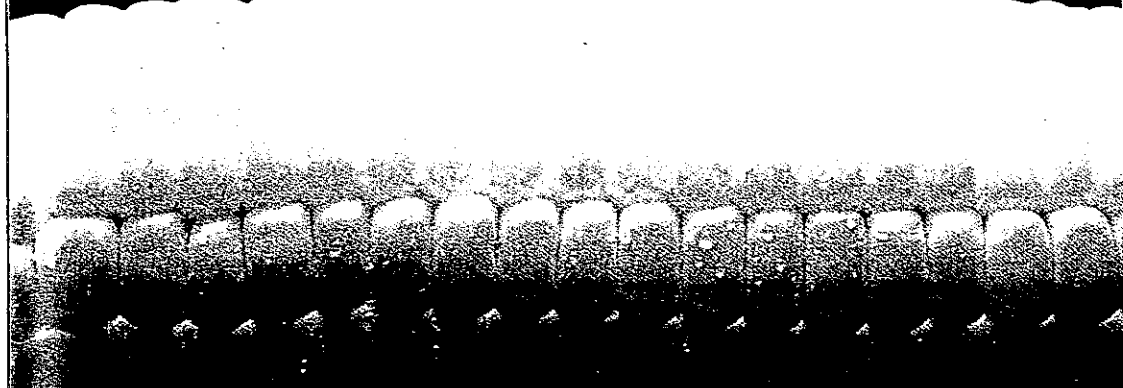
Salister Diesels

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Maize insurance with muscle.



Maize farmers! The government contributes considerably to your comprehensive maize insurance premium.

HAIL COVER NOW FULLY INCLUDED

Now's the time to insure your maize comprehensively with the Sentraoes '13 RISKS PLUS' policy. Comprehensive crop insurance guarantees you return of the capital invested in your crop. Hail cover is now fully included on the potential allotment.

CONSIDERABLE STATE CONTRIBUTION TO PREMIUMS

The state now contributes considerably to your premium for Sentraoes comprehensive maize insurance. Your premium is automatically reduced by the state subsidy, so that you only pay the balance of the premium. The premium is further decreased by any premium discount to which you are entitled.

'13 RISKS PLUS' COVER ON CREDIT

You can have your Sentraoes premium debited to your co-op account. This means that your crop pays for its own cover against many risks. 13 of which are listed below: Drought, Heat waves, Hail, Wind, Cold, Frost, Wild animals, Uncontrollable Insects and Plant diseases, Excessive rain, Fire (through lightning), Floods, Hurricanes. Other unfavourable weather conditions.

FILL IN A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION

Fill in a provisional application for comprehensive maize insurance at your co-op. It is in no way binding, but ensures that your name appears high on our list of applications to be processed. An estimate of your crop potential will be made on appointment by a Sentraoes inspector and an assessor. Your yield guarantee will be determined by them and then it's entirely up to you to decide whether you want to insure.

NO CEILING ON YOUR COVER

The limitation of maximum potential yields, as granted in the past, has been abolished so that your guarantee is now in all cases calculated on the full potential granted. The maximum potential yield, on which the Government contribution was granted in the past, has also been done away with.



SENTRAOES

(Kooperaatief) Beperk

WORLD LEADERS IN CROP INSURANCE

Maize crops are insurable from emergence. Ask your co-operative for full details.

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When crops
& stock are
thirsty, it's no
time for a
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is why farmers are turning to the Silverflo uPVC agricultural pres-piping, with the integral joint, solution to pipeline leakage.

ilverflo is a comprehensive piping system, for use in agricultural applications. It has been specifically developed to meet demanding South African farming conditions. The piping is light, easily assembled and laid, extremely robust. The system now incorporates the all new Silverflo integral joint system which, even in the most difficult field conditions allows installation and offers exceptional strength. This corrosion resistant smooth bore pipe resists build-up due to scale deposit with no bore reduction.

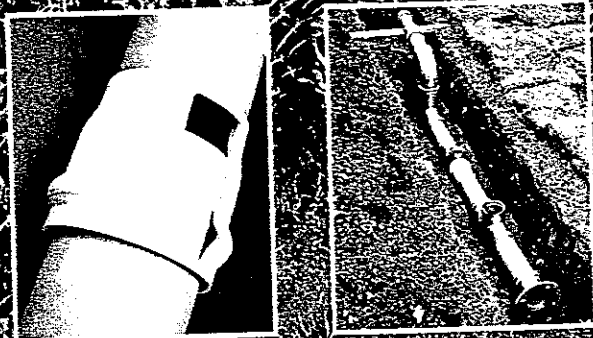
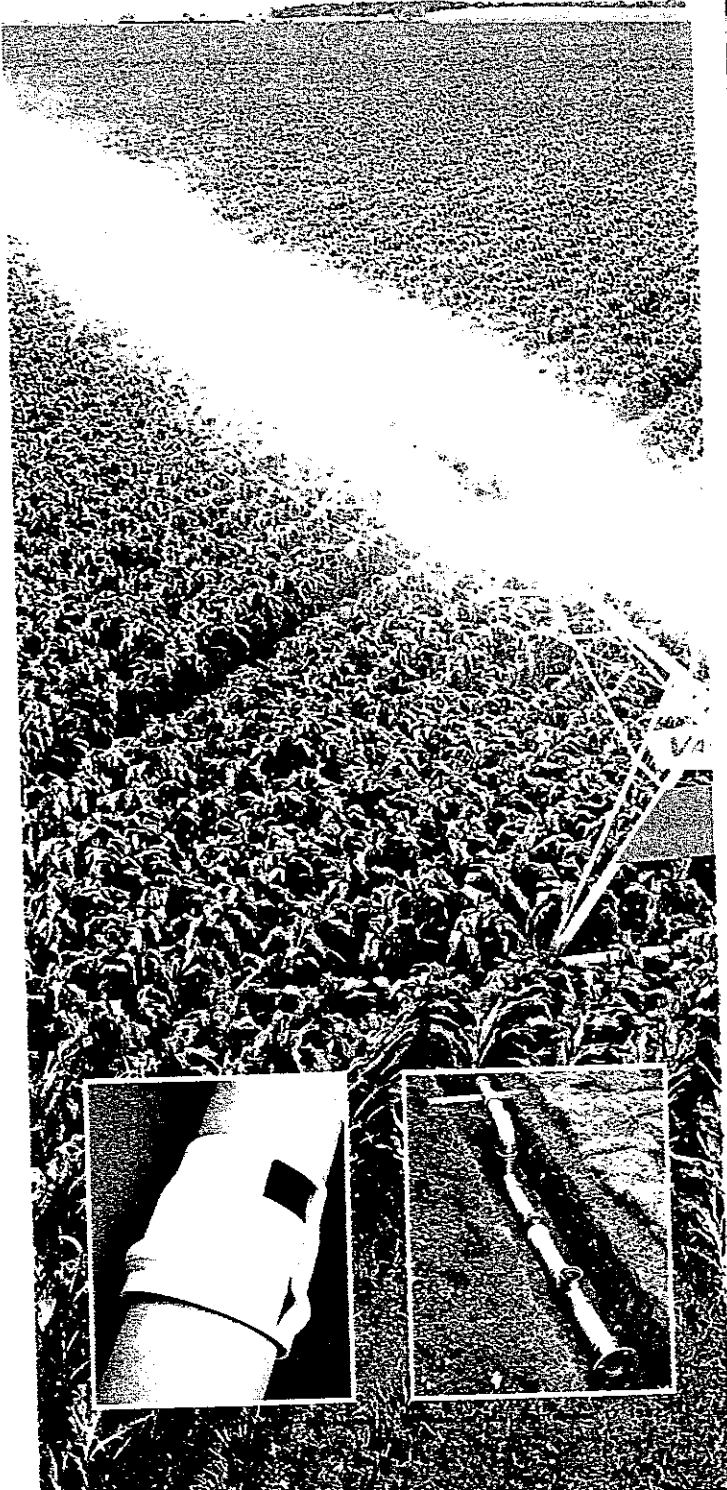
A wide range of fittings is available in iron, L M G Aluminium or uPVC.

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Unfortunately, politicians (black as well as white) have hindered the free flow of people and ideas that would promote this. We are all the losers. Belatedly our diplomatic service is wakening to the possibilities that exist for fostering goodwill in neighbouring states by providing them with advice, vaccines, seeds and other raw materials.

But we are in danger now of repeating the mistakes made by Northern Hemisphere dogooders in the Sixties and Seventies. Too much of our agricultural education and research has been aimed exclusively at large-scale white agriculture. A great deal of harm can be done if inappropriate technology is thrust upon people who are not ready for it and countries which lack the infrastructure to support it. There is a desperate need to identify and solve the problems of small scale farmers and subsistence peasant agriculture to make them more productive and conservation conscious.

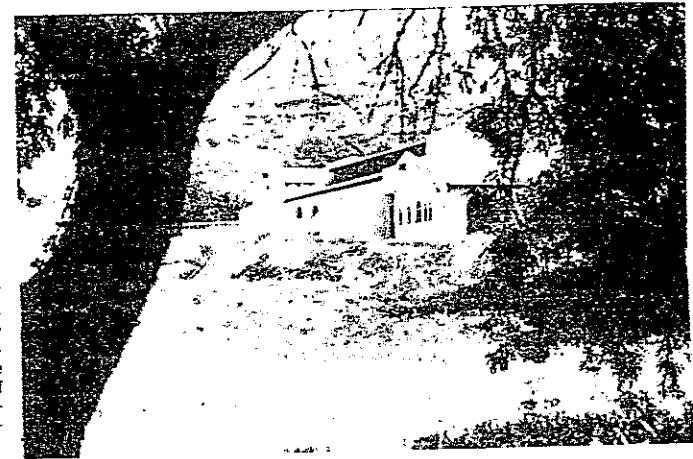
Several private organisations are operating on a contract basis in our black states, using their knowledge and expertise to initiate agricultural development projects. Regrettably these projects are not always of the right sort. Being ignorant of the real needs of developing countries, SA graduates are much too inclined to recommend sophisticated schemes which absorb capital and management (which their clients lack), instead of labour and land (which they have in abundance).

The few Rolls-Royce projects one sees in a sea of poverty and environmental degradation may impress the ignorant day visitor, but they do little to advance agriculture.

Colleges

Diploma courses for whites are offered at a number of agricultural colleges such as Cedara, Glen, Grootfontein, Elsenberg and Potchefstroom. Their diplomates usually end up farming and come mostly from farm backgrounds. Total enrolment was 664 in 1980-81. These institutions, which all fall under the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, also offer short courses in a wide range of subjects from welding, wool classing and artificial insemination to farm management and computerised fodder flow planning. Last year alone 2 300 farmers took advantage of the 80 courses on offer, and departmental extension staff arranged over 2 500 farmers' days, demonstrations, study group meetings and similar educational functions.

The department, which claims to be the largest single research organisation in Africa, also has a plethora of research programmes in all aspects of agriculture. Assistance is rendered to farmers on an individual basis, free of charge and on almost any farm problem. White farmers have been well served with regard to their educa-



Agriculture ... well served with research institutions

tional and advisory requirements and should have little cause for complaint. But the department itself is finding it more difficult to keep up with the demands of an increasingly technological farm community.

Fortunately, the private sector is ready and willing to step into the breach. Banks, co-operatives and consultancy firms now have a big stake in both agricultural exten-

sion and education. Most banks, for example, now sport a specialist agricultural division offering a mixture of farm business, advice and education.

Schooling

Schooling facilities for whites, coloureds and Indians in rural areas are generally adequate nowadays, but the same cannot be said for blacks. A total of almost 5 000 State-



... but too much aimed at large-scale farming



ed schools on white farms currently ca-
: for half a million black pupils. Only
0 of those are in secondary education
over 70% will drop out before reaching
ndard 3. This, according to the De Lange
ort, is not enough schooling to provide
ic literacy.

Facilities for secondary education are
-existent and boarding facilities else-
ere are both limited and beyond the
ans of the vast majority of parents. Few
hese rural black children have any pros-
t of advancing educationally. Without
ctric light, without newspapers and too
note from town to buy books, the Stan-
d 3 alumni of farm schools are ill-pre-
ed for the 21st century and not exactly
ll kitted out to compete in the 20th. These
problems to which the commission look-
into labour conditions on white farms
uld address itself.

Unfortunately, farm employers are already
ginning to tackle the problem themselves.
e increasing sophistication of farming de-
nds more skilled operators. Farmers
ise that it does not pay to entrust expen-
e machinery to unskilled workers. They
: also finding that they must delegate
lled jobs and authority to black workers.

As a result, training centres and operator
courses have suddenly become the rage.
Most popular are tractor driver and mainte-
nance courses. When one considers that a
small tractor costs twice as much here as it
does in America, yet our tractors reach the
scrap heap after only half as many hours,
the need for better drivers and maintenance
men is apparent. Courses are now available
at Boskop, near Potchefstroom, and Krom-
merie in the western Province. Baynes-
field, near Maritzburg, is constructing the
necessary facilities.

The same centres also offer tuition in
milking machine operation, welding, build-
ing, plumbing and various aspects of or-
chard management. Implement firms and
farmers' co-ops are providing courses with
the aid of mobile training units. The Sugar
Association has established a training cen-
tre for small cane farmers and operates a
number of mobile training units.

Timber Industry Manpower Services has
established a training centre for forestry
workers. Yet there is still a shortage of good
training facilities, especially for stockmen
and black supervisory staff. This is reflect-
ed time and again at farmers' days and
meetings where the problem is aired.

Shepherds and milkers are often required
to work unsupervised for long periods. They
need to be able to recognise sick animals,
diagnose illnesses and perform routine
tasks such as inoculation, castration, dip-
ping, heat detection and artificial insemina-
tion (AI). Milk recording, the rationing of
feeds and mineral supplements are routine
tasks that could and should be delegated.

Farmers have clearly recognised the
need for training and there is no doubt that
better trained workers will, in time, make
for more efficiency, higher pay and in-
creased job satisfaction. In the short term,
however, both employers and employees
are finding it difficult to adjust to the new
behaviour patterns they will henceforth
have to expect from each other. Having
been told for 300 years that he was useless,
the black man lacks the confidence to make
suggestions or act on his own initiative. And
his white employer cannot always distin-
guish between initiative and cockiness.

In the early stages of delegation, a lot of
dangerous and expensive mistakes are
bound to be made. Most farmers and work-
ers are still too frightened of those mistakes.
As a result, even the trained labourer is
seldom able to reach his full potential.

THE FARMERS' BURDEN OF DEBT

As at year end	Land and Agricultural Bank	Commercial banks	Agricultural co-ops	Agricultural credit and land tenure	Private persons	Other financial institutions	Other debt	Total
1970	278 0	281 8	173 4	126 2	242 9	286 9	45 0	1 384 2
1971	350 2	272 4	172 9	154 1	231 7	279 2	49 8	1 465 1
1972	364 9	275 2	145 8	159 5	234 5	291 0	50 2	1 521 1
1973	374 7	373 4	158 8	158 6	290 0	317 5	62 1	1 731 1
1974	394 7	384 6	197 8	148 6	292 6	310 8	62 5	2 003 6
1975	429 1	454 5	247 4	151 2	327 3	324 1	70 0	2 297 6
1976	478 8	486 4	344 2	139 5	369 4	382 2	77 0	2 607 0
1977	507 8	560 2	462 2	150 1	414 7	426 2	85 7	2 976 0
1978	537 1	610 2	586 3	156 0	452 2	453 4	95 0	3 219 3
1979	593 4	560 9	654 3	164 3	495 6	532 2	107 6	3 838 5
1980	675 5	601 5	866 9	180 0	579 9	612 3	122 4	4 883 3
1981	855 9	1 097 1	1 129 7	201 8	601 3	835 3	162 2	4 883 3

The deepening burden of debt with the co-ops shows it growing fastest

crop than it did the last. So the family crop
farmer (in particular) is rarely able to si-
phon off any money to repay old debts.

The Receiver of Revenue is reckoned to
be helpful to farmers. Even so, the number
declaring a profit of more than R18 000 has
grown from less than 2% a decade ago to
roughly 9% in the mid-Seventies and per-
haps 15% today. Taxes are beginning to
assume greater importance in the determi-
nation of farm cash flows.

It is worth noting, too, that farmers can
only escape paying taxes if they keep ex-
panding to conceal profits. The moment
they attempt to consolidate, as they will be
forced to do during the next two or three
years, their profit and loss accounts sudden-
ly improve. The tax man pounces. Too late
they discover that they have substituted one
cash flow problem for another.

Estate duties, in theory, are paid only
once a generation as property is transferred
from father to son. In practice, it doesn't
work that way because nearly all farmers
who are prone to them anticipate the cost.
Through a variety of weird and wonderful
trusts, family companies, tenancy agree-
ments and insurance policies, the majority
of large landowners have, often stupidly,
committed themselves to shell out good
money today so that their lucky heirs won't
have to pay out bad money tomorrow.

These wheezes seem clever enough in
good years when they are embarked upon.
But fixed commitments to life assurance
companies can prove embarrassing when
profits are harder to come by.

Most commercial banks and co-opera-
tives now make use of in-house or consul-
tant agricultural economists to guide them
in their deployment of credit. The effect has
been to curb some of the worst abuses of
borrowed money and reduce the risk of bad
debts. To comply with their requirements,
farmers have also had to brush up their own
bookkeeping and budgeting efforts. So much
for the good news. The bad news is that the

same staff have often been used by their
employers to sell the debt concept to a lot of
farm customers who were previously wary
of borrowing.

Creditors have been lulled into confidence
by the excellent track record of farmers as
credit risks. During the last 10 years insolv-
encies among farmers have averaged only
30 a year. In a population which averaged
over 70 000 in the same period that repre-
sents a minuscule fall-out rate of little more
than one in 1 000 year.

With such a record the commercial banks
might have been tempted to lend even
more to farmers had it not been for the
difficulty of arranging safe collateral. Un-
der existing legislation the co-ops have a
lien on the crops of the members to whom
they make seasonal advances and the Land
Bank always insists on a first mortgage for
its bonds. In consequence, the organisations
which handle subsidised credit rarely have
to contend with any bad debts.

All the real risks of lending to farmers are
therefore shouldered by private sector fi-
nanciers and intermediaries.

Structural problems

Some farmers are worse off than others. The gov-
ernment knows it — but not what to do about it

We have already noted that neither the R30
billion of farm assets nor the R5 billion of
farm debts is evenly distributed.

This means that certain groups of farm-
ers are in much worse straits than others.
The government knows this well, but it
doesn't know what to do about it. To date
nearly all the policies it has adopted have
assisted "the others" more than the impecu-
nious bunch at which they were ostensibly

The private sector has responded to this
challenge by specialising to a greater de-
gree in medium-term finance for specific
purposes. Hire purchase and leasing agree-
ments have mushroomed as the banks have
shied away from traditional overdrafts.

Meanwhile the co-ops, with almost unlim-
ited access to Land Bank money, have be-
come by far the most important suppliers of
short-term credit. The leverage this has given
them has enabled them to become domi-
nant in the supply of many material requi-
sites as well.

Coincidentally, it has put an enormous
amount of power into the hands of the gen-
eral managers of the co-ops. Few farmers
can afford to argue with the men who not
only buy their produce and monopolise their
supplies of raw materials, but who also
decide how much cheap credit they should
qualify for.

With the latest round of interest rate
hikes, the gap between Land Bank and com-
mercial credit has narrowed. In the long run
it might be better if it were to disappear
entirely.

Elevated and fixed product prices, for
instance, bestow great benefits on the big
producers who have most to sell. They hard-
ly help the smallholder who would, in any
case, prefer to market through one of the
"unofficial channels" which the control
boards have closed down.

Cheap Land Bank bonds were supposed to
reduce the dependence of farmers on com-

Caught up in credit

Easy credit for farmers is not what it used to be
- and not what it seems to be



Stock farmers ... less debts

The magnitude of agriculture's R5 billion
debt is not nearly as worrying as its nature.

The liability is spread unevenly among
farmers. Crop farmers owe proportionately
more than stockmen. New farmers more
than old. And some geographical regions,
like the Transvaal lowveld and the western
Free State, more than others, like the Karoo
and the Cape peninsula. Although we have
no figures to prove it, we also suspect that
small- to medium-sized intensive family
farmers owe proportionately more than ei-
ther the smallholders and part-timers
(whose assets have been rising in value,
faster than they can borrow).

The present and forthcoming crunches,
therefore, are hitting our best and most
useful farmers hardest.

More worrying still is the liquidity of
those farmers. Throughout the Seventies ag-
riculture was increasing its short-term in-
debtedness faster than its long-term. Ten
years ago less than a quarter of farm debts
were short-term. Now more than a third of
them are.

Inflation and taxation are directly and
estate duties are indirectly compounding
the problem.

Although the crop farmer generally
makes a profit over and above his last
year's expenses, he now finds that it costs
him 15%-20% more to plant his next year's

dial banks and help young farmers get ed. Their main effects have been to the price of land, drag farmers into and perpetuate the tenure of inefficient s. otas and permits were introduced on rroneous pretext that they would pro-family farms from the predations of big ness. Invariably they have gravitated the hands of the moneyed few who have

been encouraged to expand, often at a loss, confident in the knowledge that a share of the market once gained will be theirs for ever. The three biggest egg producers in the country are arguably among the least efficient suppliers of the market. They spent millions jockeying for position and now, it is said, rely heavily on the Egg Board to make sure that they don't lose it. Tax breaks for capital investment in

farm buildings and machinery have been virtually worthless to the little farmers who struggle to make a profit. But they are a boon to the big people intent on expansion. So, too, is the provision which allows interest as a deductible expense.

It is measures like these which have permitted and encouraged the absorption of 50 000 holdings into the hands of a few thousand larger farmers and a few dozen quoted

companies during the past 30 years.

Well publicised statistics lament a decline in the number of farms from 117 000 in 1950 to few more than 60 000 today. But less attention is paid to the even more lamentable fact that it is the most efficient sized units in the best farming districts that have been disappearing fastest.

The number of farms smaller than 100 ha and those larger than 2 000 ha have both

held fairly constant over time. It is the middle group that has gone. Two thirds of them have either sold out to larger neighbours or split up their properties during the last 30 years.

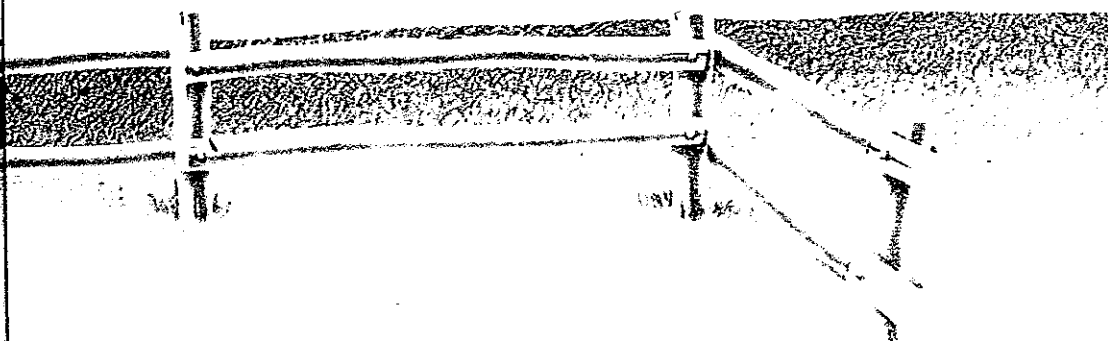
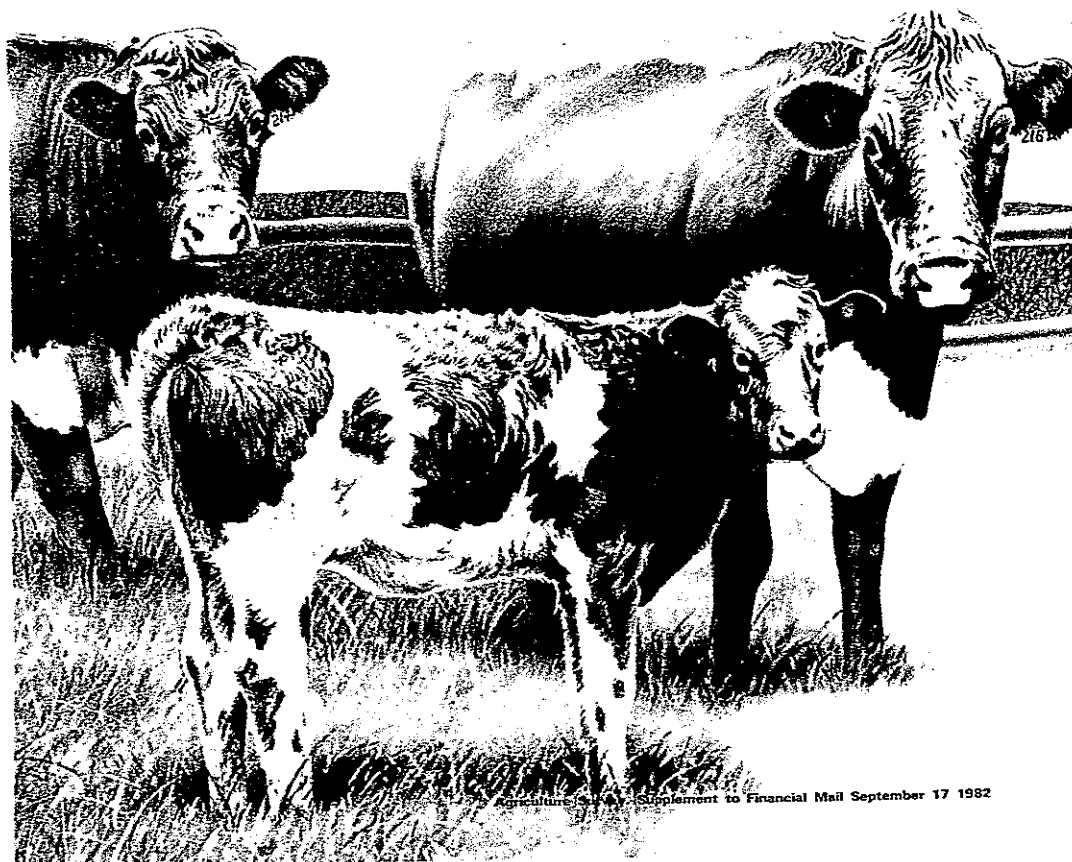
Economists are agreed, however, that the middle group is generally most efficient. Smallholders lack the economies of scale to match them on costs. Land barons can't supply the same attention to detail. Numer-

ous cost studies have shown that big farmers use too much capital to produce mediocre yields. Significantly they also create too few jobs and thereby aggravate the problem of rural depopulation.

A typical Free State family farm used to produce groundnuts, pumpkin and milk as well as maize and beef before it was merged into a larger unit. Then it supported at least one enormous imported tractor, two black

FINANCIAL

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Ask any successful cattle farmer and he'll agree that profitable cattle breeding depends on the right sort of stock. In the same way as success in money matters depends on a very special kind of bank.

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Our professional advisers in the agricultural division can advise you on all financial aspects of farming. This service is offered completely free of charge and without any obligation whatsoever on your part. And if you want to improve or expand your herd (or need any other assets, such as irrigation equipment, farming

implements or vehicles) The Trust Bank will assist you with a financial scheme, tailor-made to your requirements. Or if you want to invest money, we'll come up with a plan to help you save on tax. Simply contact your nearest Trust Bank office and arrange for one of our advisers to visit you on your farm where we'll discuss your financial needs with you. You'll be letting The Trust Bank help you breed more profits.



There's a new world waiting at The Trust Bank.

and R500 000 worth of credit. Its owner has justified his purchase on the basis of capital appreciation. Policy makers have seen the problem about "the small farm problem" has a way to concern about "denuding of the land". But it won't be easy to bring us back. With land prices as high as are today it takes a new farmer between R150 000 and R500 000 to set himself up in business as a viable owner-occupier. More tenancies were available, those who might be halved. This has prompted observers to suggest that land taxes (in addition to urban property rates) should be levied on farm land. If they were high enough they would undoubtedly do the trick to boost agricultural efficiency. But they also lower some product prices by encouraging more production.

The capital value of farm land could be knocked from two sides, it is hardly surprising that land-hoarders are cool on this. But smaller, younger and more numerous farmers could be gainers if income and import duties were to be phased as the proposed land taxes were introduced.

It could also help if the government and agricultural unions were more sympathetic to part-time farmers. These people are generally looked upon as pariahs who get the side down by putting one foot in rural farming.

Full time bona fide farmers qualify for Land Bank loans and similar forms of assistance. This is tough on the large number of enthusiasts who are trying to get their foot on the imaginative small farmer who wants to better himself and the SA by diversifying into some other part of rural industry.

The need for people of that sort is most acute in the so-called "depressed rural areas" where the farms are too small or too eroded to support the existing population. Large tracts of the little Karoo, for example, the south-western Free State and western Cape fall into this category. Land for arable cropping, too far from rivers for irrigated vegetables and too eroded to carry more stock, these areas need to be consolidated into larger economic units. But extensions of cheap credit for farming in these areas has only aggravated the problems. Farmers who have left the land long ago have been lured to linger, and the longer they stay, the more extractively they have to be made to meet.

Now we have a new set of problem farms. Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Transkei, Ciskei and Bophuthatswana have gained independence, hundreds of properties along the borders have fallen into partial or total



Middle group ... sucking at the hind teat



Big farms ... big tractors, big debts, little employment

disuse. Some "border areas" are worse than others. But complaints of uncontrolled stock-theft and fears of terrorism abound.

Where those fears exist, property prices have softened and the banks are understandably reluctant to extend fresh credit.

The leaky umbrella

As the farm vote dwindles in importance, government sympathies shift to other industries

Most of today's problems in agriculture stem from the fact that the farmers lost faith in themselves during the Great Depression of the Thirties. Prior to that, the majority were fiercely independent and far too dignified to pawn their existence to anyone else — least of all to politicians.

This was particularly true of the upright boere whose ancestors shook off the shackles of government to become free burghers, and who later trekked from political oppression to set up a string of free republics north of the Orange River. The grandfathers of our current crop of farmers fought for freedom in the Anglo-Boer War because they thought that a tax of sixpence in the pound was an intolerable government burden.

It was the English-speaking farmers who first espoused socialism and collectivism. They were the first to start farmers' associations and agricultural co-operatives. And it was a bunch of leftward leaning, English-speaking farm politicians who hatched up the idea of a Land Bank for the Transvaal and another for the Orange River Colony to "repatriate" land after the end of hostilities at the turn of the century.

The rot spread from there. By the late Twenties farm leaders (still mainly English-speaking) had got into the habit of negotiating with government and condoning privilege. But, since the privileges conferred even in those days often worked to the benefit of co-operative or private sector "middlemen," the majority of farmers continued to distrust both the government and the motives of the socialising busy-bodies who were forever exhorting them to get "organised."

It was the depression that swung the vote. Distressed farmers who had been lured into debt by cheap loans gathered to demand a moratorium on interest payments. The co-ops (which faced ruin) pushed hard for compulsory co-op membership and a whole host of ingenious schemes were put forward to bolster prices.

Eventually the government (which then, as now, was far more interested in looking after marginal mines and heavy industry) was persuaded to step in with a series of quota schemes designed to share out the local market and remove all surpluses by dumping them overseas. This suited the farmers (who got better prices), the banks (who got their interest) and the co-ops and licensed middlemen (who got the business).

In 1937 the various control and quota schemes were all brought under the single legislative umbrella of the Agricultural Marketing Act.

When Hitler's war broke out two years later, commodity prices rose on the open market. For most of the following eight years the control boards were turned against the farmers and used to suppress prices rather than raise them. But they were never turned against the co-ops, whose directors were, by then, prominent in agricultural politics. As a result, the farm unions insisted that the control boards should stay while the rank and file decided that the Smuts government should go.

For 25 years after 1948 we had a pro-farmer socialist government. The farmers were well looked after. And the co-ops were (in more senses than one) spoiled rotten.

Since then the farm vote has dwindled in importance and the government has shifted its sympathies. Industry and import replacement now receive far more support and encouragement than agriculture and exports.

After a decade, perhaps a third of the farming community has grasped this truth. These are the ones who can now be seen lobbying for freer markets and more room to manoeuvre. But sadly they are still in a minority and head office of the powerful SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) is still firmly in the hands of old school interventionists.

Perhaps the greatest stumbling block today is the inverted power structure of organised agriculture.

The SAAU was built from grass roots upwards. The district farmers' associations came first. Through affiliation they formed provincial unions. And the provincial bodies joined hands to form SAAU. Until the Fifties nearly all farmers understood that the individual was more important than the organisation. The local association worked for the farmer. And SAAU took its orders from the provincial unions. Some farmers still see it that way. But the leadership of SAAU, over the years, has managed to turn the whole structure upside down. The provincial unions have been reduced to branches of an organisation guided from the centre. All farmers are forced to contribute, whether they like it or not, through a system of compulsory levies deducted from the proceeds of their sales by the control boards and municipal markets.

These levies are paid to SAAU before

being distributed to the provincial unions. So Pretoria holds the purse-strings.

The lion's share of the money is spent at head office where all the major decisions are taken through a plethora of specialist committees.

In theory, power is still vested in the individual farmer's hands since the motions passed by these committees should all emanate from, or be ratified by, the provincial unions. In practice, however, that system is slow and cumbersome. So head office makes most of the running.

Head office also has the staff and propaganda machinery to forge opinion. In traditional trades-union style, farmers who fail to toe the party line are apt to find themselves being called "voices in the wilderness" (if they are diplomatic) or "dissident" (if they aren't).

Some of the committees work well — particularly those that deal with things like transport, electricity, taxation and water on which the majority of farmers see eye to eye. But the commodity committees are more contentious and frequently at loggerheads with each other.

Maize farmers always think the price of mealies should go up. Livestock farmers, for whom it is a raw material, think it should come down.

The woolgrowers (mainly from the Cape) and the meat lobby (with a Transvaal bias) distrust each other. The big wool co-op (BKB) and the mammoth Meat Central (Vleissentraal) have been at loggerheads for years. Significantly, the president of SAAU has told their leaders to settle their differences behind closed doors. So much for democracy.

This brings us to the most contentious issue of all. The power and control of the big co-ops.

Constitutionally, SAAU has a "two-legged" structure. The provincial unions and farmers' associations form the first leg and the co-operative movement the second. The farmers at the bottom are regularly told that they are lucky to have such a fine organisation since it allows each of them two voices.

In practice, the co-operative council at the top of the second leg shouts so loudly that the ordinary farmers' two whispers are seldom heard.

The SAAU line is usually the line of the big "central" co-ops. The union nominates the farmer members who have a guaranteed majority on each of the control boards. The big co-ops depend heavily on the boards which appoint them as agents and determine their margins. SAAU allows no criticism of the control boards which feed its



s. And according to the party line, the cannot harm the farmer because "the is the farmer." George Orwell couldn't done better. But the line is wearing

thin. However much the farmers like their co-ops (and the majority do), they resent being bullied by them. Last year the maize farmers put their feet down and sensibly

decreed that their leaders should henceforth only wear one hat at a time. That was the first move on the way to a thorough spring-cleaning at the Maize Board.

o now?

r agricultural history may be cause for self-gratulation. But it is the future which concerns us now

comes from fewer than 10 000 wide-awake farmers — most of them have already adopted the easy technology.

Structurally, agriculture is in a far worse state than it was in 1960. Most of our farms are now either too small to justify the attention of good quality management or too big to be managed efficiently.

Politically, the industry has lost its clout because the farm vote no longer has its former significance. And a great deal of the clout it still has is being wasted on side issues like the defence of moribund control boards and the engorgement of obese co-ops.

Financially, the farmers are in worse trouble than they have been at any time since the Forties. After 33 good years, from 1948 to 1981, they shouldn't be. But, along with inflation, those good years have insulated a lot of laggards from harsh reality and their brighter brethren have injudiciously expanded too fast.

In fact, it would be hard to find any other export industry in any other Western country which is so badly hamstrung.

Yet there is still cause for optimism in the long term. If the coming recession is long enough and deep enough it will purge the industry of many ills. A few farmers will fall by the wayside, perhaps. But their places will quickly be taken by some of the many frustrated and better qualified eagere-beavers waiting for a chance to get it.

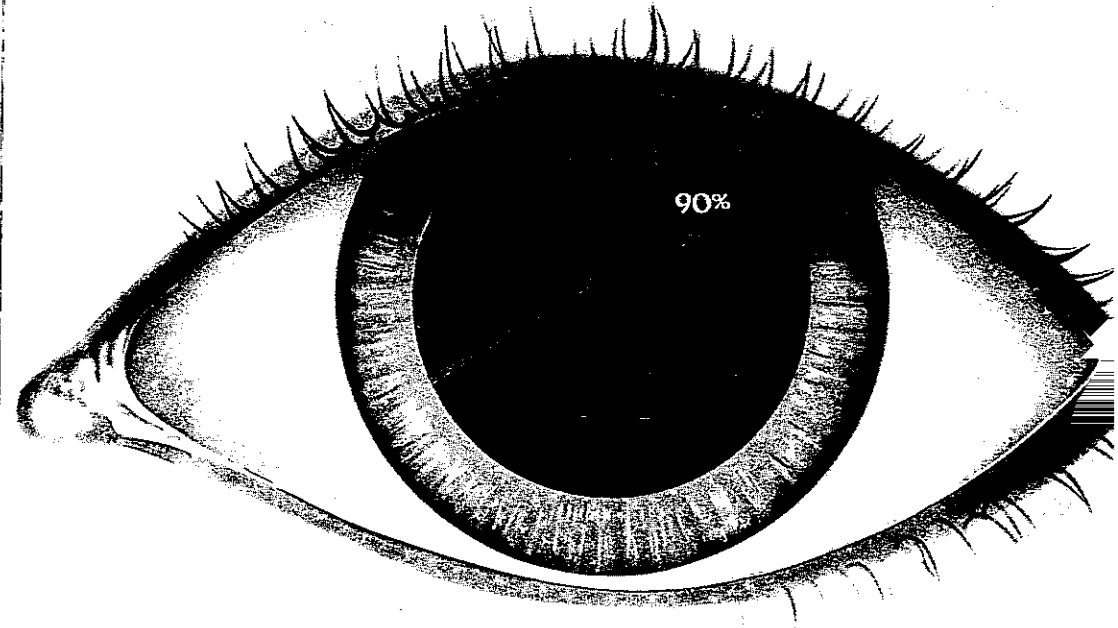
The young farmer today is streets ahead of his father at the same age. It is no longer the dull son who gets left behind while the others go to town. Today's young farmer is a go-getter.

What's more he is champing at the bit to have a go at his own marketing and to lay his hands on the same cheap raw materials and services that his American and Australian competitors take for granted.

He knows what to do about it, too. Sooner or later he and his fellows are going to knock holes in the local content programme to avail themselves of sensibly priced fertilisers. They will break the grip of the big chemical companies, the big milling companies and big co-ops by purging the control boards.

They may even succeed in exposing Escom, the Railways and the fuel companies to some healthy competition at the same time.

The big question is: "When?"



Interest rates reach 90%!

90% of Afrikaans farmers read Landbouweekblad: a fact you can bank on.

No other magazine has been so successful in gaining the interest of its specific market. No other market holds the same potential. Landbouweekblad reaches farmers with enormous spending-powers focused on items ranging from lamp wicks to luxury cars.

Think about it.

9 out of 10 Afrikaans farmers read Landbouweekblad. They could also read about you.



no accident that the greater part of this they has been either pessimistic or ical.

A agriculture has spent too long patting ff on the back. Ours is one of only seven tries in the world which is a net export-f food. That is an achievement. Indeed, it great achievement. So is the doubling of n production in 20 years. We could have It on that for pages.

ut we are concerned with the future, not past. To maintain the rate of improv-it in living standards which our growing

population now expects, our farmers must not only repeat the performance of the last 20 years, they must improve upon it.

Twenty years ago we had 2m ha of new lands to open up, we had barely begun to use fertilisers, spray chemicals, hybrid seeds, artificial pastures, artificial insemination or combine harvesters. Broiler chickens and frozen broccoli were virtually unknown.

We are starting now from a much higher base. Although it is true that a lot of our farmers still have a long way to go to catch up with the leaders, 90% of our production

Pride comes to Haarlem

By Robin Parker.

HOUSEWIVES scooping muddy water from a channel in front of their crumbling homes were a common sight in the early morning in Haarlem, in the Langkloof.

They had done it for more than a century since a German religious order, the Berlin Lutherans, established a mission station in this remote area of the Karoo.

The people of Haarlem — now numbering about 2 000 — lived in crude clay-brick and mud homes, eking out a living from small plots by hawking fruit in the surrounding towns.

WATER

There was no direct drinking-water supply, no sewerage system and limited employment opportunities.

Then, in 1979 the Department of Coloured Affairs stepped in with a project unique in South Africa which has seen the community make giant strides towards 20th-century living in only 36 months.

The project centres on an Israeli Moshav farming concept.

PROFIT

A farm, Anhalt, was bought for R216 000. Its value is now R750 000.

The department handed the farm over to the town's management board, though a departmental representative oversees the operation.

In its first year, the farm augmented the town's income by R7 500. After last season a tractor was bought for R14 000 from profits.

Besides seeing to its own needs the farm supplies services to small farmers — ploughing, spraying, packing and



The old ...

ARCUS 17/9/82 36 canal 811257



...and the new.

marketing crops for a set fee.

The system has given new pride to the town. Residents may draw on a fund to improve their homes, and thousands are being spent on improving roadways. Water has

been piped to each house, and among the board's projects are a tarred access road, electricity from Escom and water-borne sewerage.

New houses have sprung up. The board of management is housed in

a new, imposing office block...and there's a smile on most faces.

The Anhalt project was a pilot scheme. Similar projects have got underway, but most are still in the fledgling stage.

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① General
D. Proffers

Official to inspect Ciskei border areas

18/9/82

EAST LONDON — The Deputy Director of Lands in the Department of Co-operation and Development, Mr H. S. Pienaar, will do an in-loco inspection of Ciskei border farming areas next week.

Mr Pat Rogers, MP for King William's Town, who will accompany Mr Pienaar on the tour, said yesterday he hoped the visit would accelerate the finalisation of the Ciskei boundaries and pending land sales.

"Various problems result from the border proposals now before the Cabinet, and we would like the director to acquaint himself with

the circumstances," he added.

The tour, on Monday and Tuesday, will cover, among other areas, Arnoldton, Berlin, Fort Jackson, Peeltin, the Isidenga Forest, Braunschweig and the Upper Kabusie River area.

"The area we will look at covers a great distance, but in terms of acreage it does not involve many farms or people," said Mr Rogers.

Mr Pienaar will also have talks with representatives of the East Cape Administration Board, the Kaffraria Divisional Council, and the Hogsback and Kaysers Beach areas. — DDR

③ General ~~Dispatch~~ D. Dispatch
SAAU to hold talks
with Ciskei, Transkei
23/9/82

PRETORIA — The South African Agricultural Union is to hold talks with the governments of Transkei, Ciskei, Venda and Bophuthatswana next month with the object of improving agricultural organisation in the four states, the President of the Union, Mr Jaap Wilkens, said here.

He said that "South Africa, as an agricultural export country, possessed considerable expertise to help other countries.

Among the topics to be discussed will be the establishment of co-operatives for the marketing of produce.

Mr Wilkens said that, through co-operation, production could be better co-ordinated to the benefit of the whole of South Africa.

This accorded with the policy of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers to assist developing countries, he added. — SAPA.

'WE SHOULD BE INCREASING WORK OPPORTUNITIES,' SAYS ECONOMIST...

Farmers fear labour snags in new se

General
S. Willemse
26/9/82

Tea and



Canteen ladies get a taste of the class

FARMERS, the country's most powerful voting bloc are strongly opposed to certain sections of the proposed Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Per-Bill.

Not only will farmers have to endure pass raids if the bill becomes law — a feature of urban life the rural areas have been spared up to now — but the bill will also allow for the curtailment of the number of workers a farmer may have, through the operation of farm tenement boards.

The controversial bill has become the subject of a commission of inquiry, chaired by the

Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Chris Heunis, which sat for the first time this week. Mr Heunis said the committee looking into the bill was only "technically" a commission. He said that it had received hundreds of submissions about the bill from organisations and individuals.

Johan Willemse, chief economist of the South African Agricultural Union, criticised the section of the bill pertaining to farm labour.

"We already have problems recruiting labour in some areas — nothing to do with wages.

The Government will create an impossible situation if

movement is further restricted — sheep shearers move over a wide area, so do season workers.

"We should be increasing work opportunities, not curtailing them. If this happens farmers will be forced to mechanise, which will push up food costs and create more unemployment."

Problems

However, a leading Komatipoort farmer, Jan Lourens, said much of the bill had "been in force" for the past three years. Mr Lourens, chairman of the Lebombo Farmers' Association and vice-chairman of the Onderberg Agricultural Union, said problems with obtaining local

By Charlene Beltramo

farmworkers meant that many came from Mozambique.

"Our recruiting permit stipulates how many we can employ. But we are not really restricted. I would like to see how the Government determines the number of workers we may employ — it differs from farm to farm."

The new bill also has a provision compelling farmers to remove any "surplus" black population living on their land. Failure to do so will make a farmer liable to a fine of R500 or six months imprisonment.

Criticism of the bill

has been wide and far-ranging. Most trade unions and organisations such as the Black Sash, the University of the Witwatersrand Centre for Applied Legal Studies, the Black Lawyers Association, the Federation of Cape Civic Association and the Institute of Race Relations have condemned the bill and called for it to be scrapped.

They warned the bill would introduce the most rigid influx control yet.

Mrs Sheena Duncan, president of the Black Sash, said the proposed legislation was "so

and symphony...



LONDON: THE STRAINS of Johann Strauss's Blue Danube waltz wafted over the dinner plates.

Later came a Strauss march rechristened for the occasion: "A Symphony for the Afternoon Shift."

There were a few cacophonous chinks of cutlery on china but the audience, Ford car workers, did not seem to mind.

They were delighted that culture — in the shape of the London Philharmonic Orchestra — had come to deepest Dagenham in Essex.

At the end of the lunchtime concert, they were yelling for more.

Supervisor Mary Wheatley, 53, said: "I just wish we could have something like this every day."

The orchestra, under conductor Harry Rabinowitz, was paid R7 500 for its first concert in a canteen.

It has already been booked to go back.

The orchestra was paid by the Greater London Council as an experiment to try to widen the audience for classical music.

a taste of the classics . . . from the London Philharmonic Orchestra

settlement bill

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Mrs Sheena Duncan,
resident of the Black
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appalling, it must
either have been
planned by bureaucrats
who do not understand
what they are doing, or
by bureaucrats who
understand very well
what they are doing,
but are prepared to
sacrifice the principles
of Christian justice the
Government claims to
base its policies on.

Pressures

"It is difficult to
imagine that such
discriminatory,
outrageous, and
unworkable legislation
has been presented to
parliament with the
serious intention of
making it law."

She sketched some of
the pressures forcing
rural blacks to migrate

to cities — a world-
wide phenomenon as
rural poor move to
squats in the generous
lap of urban areas:

"In KwaZulu, 830 000
of the people must be
shed to urban areas if
the agricultural land is
to be used productively.

"The picture is as
bleak in Venda where
the optimum number of
families who can live
off the land is 14 000.
In 1980, 24 739 families
were eking out a living
on the land.

"Absolute poverty
forces people to leave
the homelands and
come to town. The
Cape Peninsula, as an
example, has, according
to official figures, 42
percent of its black
population illegally
squattling there."

Mrs Duncan said
resettlement, which
would dramatically in-
crease if the OMSBP
Bill became law, had
meant an increase in
homeland populations
of 66 percent since
1970.

Increased

"In that decade the
populations of
KaNgwane, Qwa Qwa
and KwaNdebele
increased between 200
percent and 500
percent"

Henry Kanemeyer,
secretary of the Fed-
eration of Cape Civic
Associations, which
represents more than
40 organisations and
thousands of mainly
coloured people, said
"there is no point to

the President's Council
reforms or the new
labour dispensation
when the rights of the
masses are ignored."

"It makes the Prime
Minister's reforms look
like an attempt to bury
off certain sectors of
the black population."

Ramuramo Monamo
of the Centre for
Applied Legal Studies
at the University of the
Witwatersrand, said jail
populations — already
the highest in the world
— would increase.

The Institute of Race
Relations warned the
new bill would worsen
unemployment. A
spokesman said that
already only one in six
workers could find
employment in the
homelands.

Food subsidies: poor gain least

By Colleen Ryan and
Hannes Ferguson

South Africa's poor are not getting the full benefit of government subsidies because distribution of funds shows imbalance, says the chief economist of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr. Johan Willemse.

He said people in poverty-stricken rural areas survived mostly on maize meal, yet the maize subsidy was only R85 million a year — 5.7 percent of maize meal sales.

In contrast, the bread subsidy was R191 million — 27 percent of bread sales.

"If the aim of subsidies is to protect the poor against cost increases, the maize subsidy should be bigger," said Mr. Willemse.

The imbalance caused a shift in demand as more people began to eat bread.

Consumers should rather be encouraged to buy more maize because of the huge maize surplus each year.

Food subsidies now total R279 million out of a total annual food

bill of R13 000 million. The R191 million for bread is the biggest single subsidy.

The maize subsidy — recently increased from R75 million to R85 million — is the second largest.

The Government also contributes R2 million a year for a brown wheat flour subsidy. The consumer price of butter is subsidised by R1 million a year.

Farmers' interest rates are subsidised by an annual R26 million — only one-tenth of the amount paid on consumer subsidies.

Mr. Willemse warned that while food subsidies increased rapidly, less money was being made available for agricultural research.

It was essential that more money be spent on agricultural research to increase efficiency and improve crops.

"Agriculture does not have the necessary research to see it through the next 10 years.

"We are not advocating a reduction in vital food subsidies, but it is essential attention be given to research."

Drought sears Southern Africa

DISASTER LOOMS IN SUB-CONTINENT

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The drought searing large areas of Southern Africa is creating a potential disaster for the sub-continent.

In South Africa, the worst-hit areas are the Eastern and Northern Transvaal as well as Zululand.

Transvaal farmers face a crisis if rains do not fall in the next few weeks, according to officials of the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Kruger National Park animals are being threatened. The Sabie River has dried up and water is being pumped into the reserve from the Fanie Botha Dam on the Letaba River.

Citrus trees might soon shed their blossoms early, destroying any chance of a crop, said the chief extension officer of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services in the Eastern Transvaal, Mr Piet du Toit.

Mr G L Claassen, managing engineer of the Direc-

torate of Water Affairs of the Department of Environmental Affairs, said that if it did not rain soon, the department would have to impose water restrictions.

In the Waterberg region west of Nykstrom, many farmers have been forced to reduce their cattle herds. More dead kudu and impala are being found on game farms in the north-western bushveld.

Many boreholes in Lebowa are drying up and Louis Trichardt has an emergency standby supply from six special boreholes for essential services.

Dams throughout the lowveld are dangerously low and rivers are down to a trickle.

Dams in the White River area contain less than 14 percent of their capacity. Prayer meetings for rain have been held in churches throughout the lowveld.

In Zululand, rivers have run dry or are only a trickle. Deep channels have been excavated into dry river beds to find water, but even these have begun

running dry and more boreholes will have to be sunk.

The town of Nongoma in Kwazulu had only a three-week supply of water left, including water in boreholes in the surrounding area, said the senior superintendent of Kwazulu water affairs, Mr Hans Botha.

"The Musi River in Umongo has run dry and the Pongola River, which feeds the Gossing Dam, is now only a trickle. I cannot tell you how critical the situation is — I just don't know where to get further water save by carting it from the Black Umfolozi some 15 km away," he said.

Emergency aid

Sugar milling in Natal may have to be curtailed and Eastern Transvaal sugar production will start slowing down unless rain falls within a few days.

In Zimbabwe cattle have been dropping dead in the worst-hit provinces of Midlands, Victoria and Matabeleland. Emergency food aid is being sent to the local people.

Parts of SWA/Namibia have not had rain for five years and authorities believe the ecology will take 10 years to recover.

The drought threatens to kill the karrakul industry while many farmers have already been forced to abandon their farms.

"Many will starve"

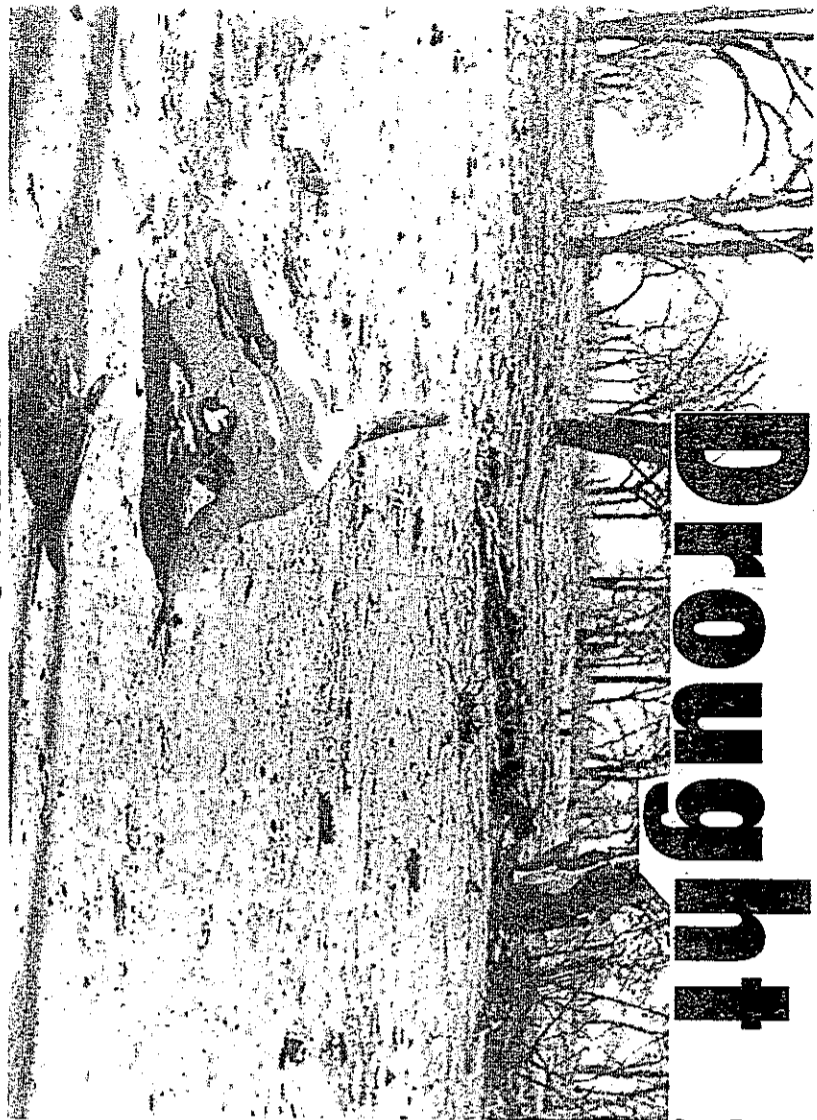
The drought has cost Zambia about half its maize crop. Local leaders in the southern province have warned that many people will starve if food is not rushed in.

In Botswana a Water Affairs Ministry official described the drought as "a potential national disaster".

Virtually the entire country has been affected and the Government has allocated about R20-m to fight the effects of the drought.

Tankers are keeping villages supplied with water while boreholes are drilled in a continuing search for new supplies.

DEVASTATION in Botswana.



RELIEF from a dripping tap.

D. Parpach
R500 000 ~~45~~
7/10/87 *(3) bleed*
**for border
farm fences**

EAST LONDON—A call to the government to assist border farmers in erecting "human proof" fences around their farms was made at the Cape congress of the National Party here yesterday. Replying to the appeal, made by the Queenstown district council of the NP, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pik Botha, announced that the government would provide

R500 000 to border farmers for erecting border barriers during the current financial year.

Mr Botha said the government was sorely aware of the problems of border farmers, but added that the money made available would be spent on fencing off certain priority areas.

The South African Agricultural Union had assisted the government in identifying some 300 kilometres of border area which urgently needed fencing off.

In areas where the consolidation of national states had been completed barbed wire fences would be erected, while stock resistant fencing would be used in regions where the final borders were still to be drawn.

Farmers qualifying for the aid would be responsible for erecting fences, and they would then be remunerated by the government, said Mr Botha.

Introducing a draft resolution on the issue, Mr Nico Corbett, of Queenstown, said ongoing friction was caused in border farming areas by stock theft, indiscretionary grazing methods of black state farmers and the violation of borders.

"The border farmers would like to have good relations with their neighbours, but we feel that practical measures to curb this problem are as indispensable as good neighbourliness," said Mr Corbett.

He called on the government to give effect to the fencing off of black states speedily, and added that the fencing should, preferably, be "human proof" — DDR

More congress reports, Page 7

72
Some guesswork in interpretation here & answers.

Develop farming and create jobs — Heunis

ARGUES 8/10/82 3 Grand

Staff Reporter

GREATER attention would have to be paid to agricultural development in the Western Cape so that it could make a larger contribution to the creation of job opportunities, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said last night.

Addressing the Boland regional committee of the Afrikaanse Handelssinstituit, Mr Heunis said he foresaw the agricultural sector playing an even more important role in the economy of the Western Cape.

He said agriculture was responsible for 11 percent of the gross domestic product in this region while it was only responsible for 8 percent in the rest of the country.

"In the West Cape region agriculture plays an even larger role in areas like Caledon, where it forms 50 percent of the GDP."

"The question is can agriculture play a bigger role in the future growth of the region and in the creation of job opportunities?" Mr Heunis said.

This would have to be investigated in all its aspects, including the role that the State should play in this development.

The Western Cape was also fortunate in having the natural wealth of the sea to make an even larger contribution to the country's food production.

Although the fishing industry was fully exploited as far as pelagic shellfish and crayfish were concerned, the extension of South Africa's fishing waters from 12 to 200 miles meant the exploitation of the fish shoals could be extended.

A MAIZE CROP LOSS OF AT LEAST 20%
 STOCK OWNERS ARE GIVEN STATE AID
 HARD HIT OF F.S. WORSENING DAILY
 DRASTIC RATIONING IN NATAL TOWNS

THE current drought has caused damage estimated at R80-million to the nation's wheat crop — and losses are mounting by the day.

With little immediate hope of rain the country-wide drought which has forced stud farmers to sell off prized stock as meat animals and reduced growers to watching their crops wither away has created this stark reality

- At least 20% of the maize crop has been affected by the drought
- Stock farmers have had to go to the State for emergency grazing assistance — with 17 districts being added to the Government list this year and more on the waiting list.

This brings to 35 the total number of districts in which stock farmers have been given emergency drought relief. More districts have applied to be listed, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The areas listed this year include one in the Eastern Cape, three in the Free State and five in the Transvaal.

The 18 other districts — all in the North Western Cape areas of Upington and Goidonia — have been on the emergency list since 1978.

Utrecht has become the first Natal town to apply to be declared an emergency grazing area because fodder supplies have been used up.

Natal is in the grip of possibly its worst dry spell this century. Many towns have almost run dry.

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Mtubatuba has introduced drastic measures — restrict

SA's killer drought is costing farmers millions

3 General

By GORDON EDDEY and DARYL BALFOUR

go to the wall this year as the drought aggravates the problems of rising costs and diminishing profits.

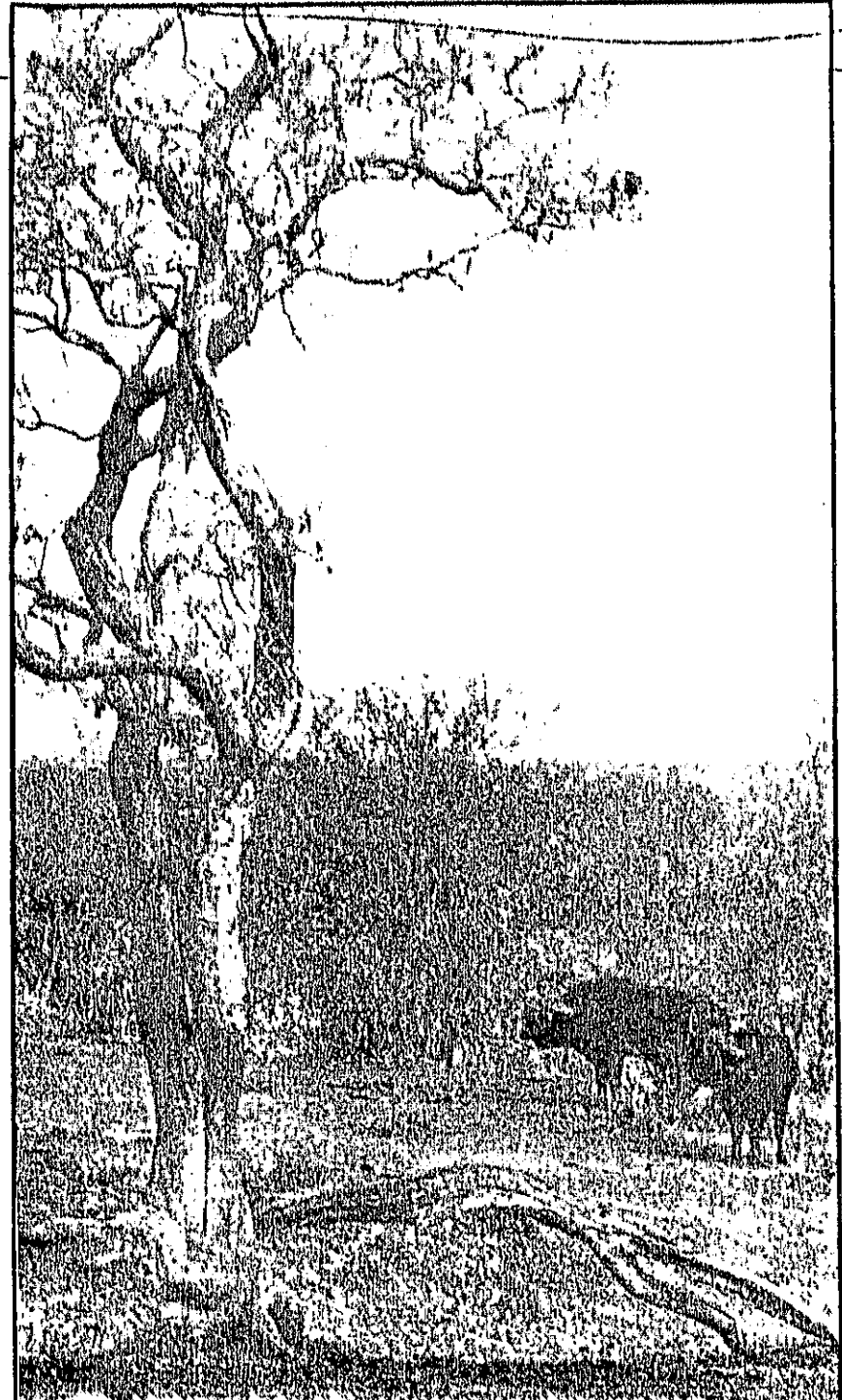
Mr Dennis van Aarde, general manager of the Wheat

Free State could be classified as a drought stricken area unless rains arrived soon, he added.

Memel, Harrismuth and Vrede are among the worst

also face the prospect of ruin. The Sabie River has dried up; Northern Transvaal farmers are selling their stud stock and game is dying in the Ellisras area.

Only the Kruger National Park appears to be relatively untouched by the drought. Dr Uys Pienaar, the park warden, said this was be-



year and more on the waiting list. This brings to 35 the total number of districts in which stock farmers have been given emergency drought relief. More districts have applied to be listed, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The areas listed this year include nine in the Eastern Cape, three in the Free State and five in the Transvaal.

The 18 other districts — all in the North Western Cape areas of Uplington and Gordonia — have been on the emergency list since 1978.

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Natal is in the grip of possibly its worst dry spell this century. Many towns have almost run dry.

Zululand, normally one of the wettest areas of the province, is one of the worst hit regions, and towns like St Lucia and Mtubatuba are at crisis point.

Mtubatuba has introduced drastic measures — restricting residents to two hours of water supplies a day. Outside these 'wet periods' taps in the town are dry.

In an extraordinary effort to keep the town alive, the North East Zululand Water Services Corporation has resorted to excavating the dried-up river bed of the Umfolozi River to find water.

Water is being pumped from more than 12m below the dry surface and mechanical shovels are being used in an effort to find more.

A spokesman for the Water Services Corporation said the situation could deteriorate further unless rains fell soon.

Mtubatuba town manager Mr J Arthur said: "Soon we'll be down to salt water in the river bed. Mtubatuba is only 60m above sea level."

Farming sources say at least 300mm of rain will have to fall within the next week if Northern Natal maize crops are to be saved.

Nation-wide, agricultural analysts predict that more hard-pressed farmers will

farmers millions

By GORDON EDDY
and DARYL BALFOUR

go to the wall this year as the drought aggravates the problems of rising costs and diminishing profits.

Mr Dennis van Aarde, general manager of the Wheat Board, said this week that each day without rain increased losses.

Farmers were caught between the present tight economic squeeze and the lack of rain. This meant crop failure, stock losses and possible ruin, analysts said.

For maize farmers in the Eastern Free State and Eastern Highveld the lack of rain has meant that they have already missed their optimum planting date.

These areas usually produce about 20% of the total maize crop. And the later the crop is planted the lower the yield, said Dr Willem Grobelaar, director of the Grain Crop Research Institute of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr Piet van Rooy, secretary of the Free State Agricultural Union, said conditions in the province "were worsening daily".

Boreholes and natural water supplies had dried up.

In the Eastern Free State, the worst hit area, farmers are having to transport water to their stock.

Virtually the whole of the

Free State could be classified as a drought stricken area unless rains arrived soon, he added.

Memel, Harrismith and Vrede are among the worst hit areas and have received only 15% of their usual rainfall.

In Namaqualand the land is sparse and dry and farmers are transporting feed to their stock.

Mr W J du Toit, secretary of the Namaqualand Agricultural Co-operative, described the situation in the area as "very bad, with no good rains since 1978".

Mr Fred Pettit, an Eastern Cape farmer, said parts of the Eastern Cape were in a critical state.

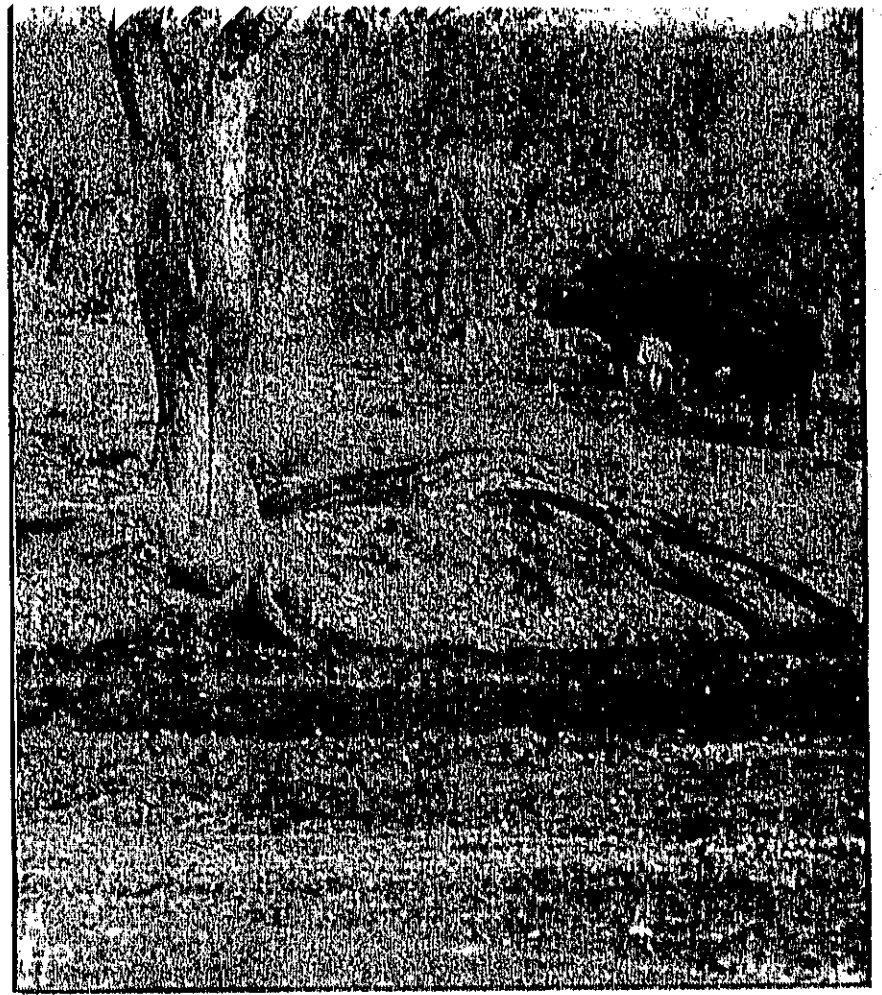
In the Transvaal farmers

also face the prospect of ruin. The Sabie River has dried up; Northern Transvaal farmers are selling their stud stock and game is dying in the Ellisras area.

Only the Kruger National Park appears to be relatively untouched by the drought. Dr Uys Pienaar, the park warden, said this was because of the culling policy and excellent water supply in the game reserve.

At St Lucia in Natal, water has also had to be rationed sparingly and holidaymakers at the Natal Parks Board camping resort there are restricted to drawing limited amounts.

In many outlying areas of Northern Natal and Kwa-Zulu, livestock are the worst hit and cattle are reported to be dying through lack of water and suitable grazing.



● Where has all the water gone — baffled buffalo in the Kruger National Park. The park is suffering from the drought, but not as badly as other areas
Picture by PIERRE HOSHIJYSEN

Few water curbs as dams get low

WATER restrictions are not yet widespread on the Reef or in Natal.

Only two towns in the PWV area — Edenvale and Verwoerdburg — have introduced restrictions but Pretoria residents have been asked to abide by unofficial restrictions.

Town clerks said the Rand Water Board usually requested water restrictions.

Mr Les James, chief engineer for the Rand Water Board, said there

had been a high demand for water in the last five weeks but restrictions were unlikely to be made soon.

The water position was good but if it did not rain within the next four weeks there might be a problem, he said.

With dams throughout Natal at their lowest level in years, Natal's senior Government official in charge of water, Mr F J Munro,

warned that unless consumers disciplined themselves immediately water rationing in Durban and Maritzburg would be introduced.

A spokesman for Umzinto on the Natal South Coast said the use of hosepipes and sprinklers had been banned as the river the town drew water from had dried up.

Meanwhile, cynics in Durban have pointed to the gentle, soaking

drizzle that fell all day on Friday. They observed that the quickest way to break a drought was to organise a cricket tournament

Cricket fans were frustrated by the rains which curtailed much of the first day of the annual Computer Sciences Triangular on Friday — the first major tournament of the season and the first really rainy day of the summer

DROUGHT RELIEF

Who really needs it?

③ general *M/McDobson*

③ FM 15/10/82

Famine and floods are familiar hazards to any farmer or agricultural country. They are unpredictable and can be severe. One of the reasons for Europe's prosperity is that, unlike Asia, it learned early in recorded history how to protect itself against misfortunes such as these.

In SA, a country where water is a relatively scarce natural resource, drought can lead to extreme hardship and deprivation. It is certainly not a matter to be treated lightly. On the other hand, what needs to be done, if it is to be effective, must be seen in proper perspective.

Different farmers are affected in different ways. The recent rains suggest that the winter planting areas (mainly wheat) may be receiving a last-minute respite from the threat of drought, rather than an actual one. The lack of rain has so far shaved about 300 000 t off the wheat crop estimates, not a massive slice of the very respectable 2,7 Mt originally expected.

Several months of relative drought have already taken their toll of the summer planting areas, reducing the 1981-82 maize harvest to about 8,3 Mt from the record crop of 14,6 Mt in 1980-81. The first 1982-83 estimates will not be made until early next

year. At the moment, dry conditions are still posing only a threat to summer plantings.

Livestock breeders feed their animals during winter. The prospect of having to do so also during summer has tended to make early slaughtering more attractive. Once again, the threat is more evident than the actuality.

Nor should it be forgotten that some agricultural areas in the country were placed on official drought relief seven years ago and are still classified as such. Drought is nothing new to them — it is, in fact, debatable whether they may be the frontline of more fundamental geographic transformations. Nonetheless, they are being given the benefit of the doubt by a selectively beneficent government.

In this country, a system of co-operative marketing grew up originally to cushion the country from the consequences on production of unpredictable conditions, among which drought is prominent. The trouble is that they have turned out to be bureaucracies dominated by farmers and aimed at preventing farming incomes from falling in almost any circumstances.

This has placed the interests of farmers

and those of consumers more often than not in direct conflict. The consumer finds himself having to cushion farmers from deliberate overproduction as much as from production losses resulting from acts of God.

What it all means is that the national cost of drought — potential or realised — is not simply a matter of loss of income to farmers. Sometimes, a lower aggregate income to farmers can also reduce subsidisation of administered prices by consumers.

Maize is the classic example. Prices paid to local producers are fixed each year. They have sometimes been higher than prices on the international market. In 1981, about 5 Mt of the record crop was exported at a total loss of almost R270m. Arguably, some of the cost pressure that resulted in a 16% increase in the consumer price of maize this year was due to the export shortfall.

The harvesting of the crop was financed by short-term loans to farmers made by the Land Bank. It, in turn, borrowed the cash from the commercial banks at rates which were initially well below market rates and later still below, but less so. Some bankers

Stinging blow to honey industry

By PAUL GUERNSEY in Venezuela

"KILLER bees" have made life a little less sweet in this South American honey-producing country.

Before the irritable insects swarmed north from Brazil in 1976, honey was one of the few export items Venezuela could boast besides oil.

But when the aggressive Africanised bees began spreading their genes through the formerly gentle honeybee population here, beekeepers all over the country started looking for less exciting ways to make a living.

Honey production fell from 580 000kg a year in 1975 to 88 000kg in 1981, according to government statistics.

"As a consequence of this we have gone from exporting honey to importing honey to satisfy our domestic demand," said Ricardo Gomez, who as director of the Venezuelan Ministry of Agriculture's agriculture programme is the nation's head beekeeper.

The Africanised bee, so named because it descends from a variety imported from Africa, has kept its aggressive character since it arrived here, Gomez said.

"The beekeepers do not know how to handle them properly, and they are very afraid of them. Many people are looking for a less risky livelihood."

Gomez admitted the beekeepers have some basis for their fears.

"There have been accidents, a few fatal accidents," he said.

In one of the most extensive studies of the Africanised bee, US Agriculture Department scientists found the insects were more prone to attack than normal bees, do so in greater numbers and inflict more stings.

Gomez declined to say how many people have died from bee attacks.

Statistics from the Venezuelan Ministry of Health show that there were 131 bee stings that required hospitalisation in 1981 in this country of 14

million and 158 serious bee stings so far this year.

Although the Health Ministry does not keep statistics on bee sting fatalities, a Ministry spokesman said there had been few if any deaths from bee attacks during the last two years.

The American study found the stinging rate of bees in Venezuela was about three times that of bees tested earlier in Brazil. The rate is important because while some people die each year from allergic reactions to bee stings, deaths attributed to attacks by Africanised bees often are the result of the combined toxin of hundreds of stings, one of the researchers said.

Africanised bees were imported to this hemisphere in 1956 by scientists at an experimental breeding station in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in an attempt to boost honey production.

The following year 26 queens escaped and began mating with local bees, passing on their aggressive behaviour.

In Africa, the insects were used to stronger natural predators than local bees, which were descended from European stock. A loud noise or a quick movement near the hive would cause the bees to attack.

Over the next two decades, the Africanised bees were blamed for the deaths of 150 people and countless animals.

According to Gomez, the bees have reached the border between Colombia and Panama and will arrive in the southern United States by 1989.

Gomez said the Venezuelan government, with the help of some American scientists, has had some success in breeding the aggressive qualities out of the Africanised bees and recently imported 5 000 queens from the United States to improve local stock.

Honey production rose slightly this year, he said. — Sapa-AP

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R.D.M. 21/10/82

Farmers facts on (3) general prices

Pretoria Bureau

FARMERS alone cannot be blamed for high food prices and critics should get their facts straight, according to the 1982 annual report of the SA Agricultural Union

The report, released yesterday, states that farmers were particularly blamed last year for high food prices.

However the fact that the product prices of farmers increased by only 11,3% against production cost rises of 13,9% was ignored.

The report points out that producer prices of meat increased by 15,5% on average and the consumer price by 14,9%. However, producer prices of grains increased by an average of only 8,8% while consumer prices rose on average by 23,7%.

Farmers

ARGUS 2/10/92

'unfairly

3 General 288
blamed

on price'

THE farmer's product price increased by 11.3 percent last year, but consumer food prices increased on average by 14.6 percent, the South African Agricultural Union says in its annual report.

The report, to be tabled at the union's congress next week, says critics of food prices always blame the farmer and never take the trouble to investigate. Farmers were particularly blamed last year for high food prices, but no attention was paid to the fact that although the product price increased by 11.3 percent, farm production costs increased by 13.9 percent.

The farmer's share in the consumer price of food was only 47 percent. Food prices also increased much more — on average, 14.6 percent — than the product price.

SILENCE

The report asks: "Why does everyone remain silent on this state of affairs?"

Producer prices of grain products increased on average by 8.8 percent, while consumer prices increased an average 23.7 percent. The report says this indicates that the price increase was not caused by the producer.

Similarly, producer prices of fruit and vegetables increased by 1.8 percent and 5.6 percent respectively, while consumer prices increased by 12.4 percent and 9.9 percent.

However, the producer prices of meat increased an average 15.5 percent and the consumer price increased by 14.9 percent.

K. Post 22/10/82
Land use
survey
begins in
E Cape

Post Correspondent

PRETORIA — The Department of Agriculture has decided to complete a national land use inventory which will be initiated in the Eastern Cape on November 8, according to the director of the Eastern Cape region, Mr H Niehaus.

A departmental statement said that in the past planners dealing with land use and production had been hampered by lack of information.

The prime aim of the Department of Agriculture was to ensure the use and development of agricultural resources and the promotion of the agricultural industry to greatest advantage, the statement said.

Because its field staff had an agricultural background and knew the area well, it was obvious that the department was the body most suited for taking the inventory by personal interview, on a farm-to-farm basis.

The project promised to be one of the most cost-effective yet undertaken by the department, as a test carried out in six agricultural regions had showed that each interview lasted an average of only two hours.

The statement said the information gathered would be put to many uses, including agricultural research and extension.

The department has asked all farmers in the region to study the questionnaires which they will receive through the post, and complete them before the research officer calls personally to complete the inventory schedule.

By having a farm plan, maps and farm records at hand during the interview, farmers would ensure the cost-effectiveness of the project, the statement said.

'No Minister, we bureaucrats know best!'

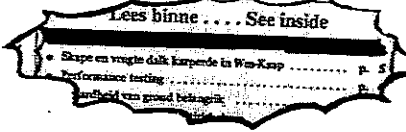
By MAURITZ MOOLMAN

THE Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, has been muzzled by his own Department because bureaucrats believed he was damaging South African food exports.

The officials ripped out a page from a departmental information sheet — Agricultural News — which reported the new Minister on the subject of pesticides.

Mr Wentzel had said in Hellbron in the Free State last week that South Africa was one of the few countries in the world where the incidence of pesticide residues in food was a serious problem.

Although the speech was widely reported in the Rand



Agricultural News, the departmental publication from which the Minister of Agriculture's statement was cut, and the index showing the deletion.

Daily Mail and other major newspapers, officials, it seems, took fright — the Minister had made "too strong a statement" on the issue because he had misinterpreted the information.

So a page three report in the latest edition of Agricul-

tural News was ripped out of every copy, and an introductory sentence on page one referring to the censored report was deleted with felt-tipped pens by civil servants.

A senior Agriculture official said yesterday. "I want to be honest with the Press." The official, who asked not

to be named, said information officers tore out the page on orders "from up top" because senior civil servants believed that Minister Wentzel's statement was "a little too strong" and could be damaging to South Africa's food exports.

He said the Minister's

speech was intended to warn farmers to use insecticides with more care, but senior officials felt the Minister misinterpreted the situation and made "too strong a statement" on the issue.

Dr Dolf van Niekerk, Director of Agricultural Information, denied the information presented to him by the Mail. He said the page had been removed because a mistake appeared on it, and officials were not prepared to hold back the publication.

The fact that Mr Wentzel's speech appeared on the same page was purely coincidental. "There is nothing sinister about the whole thing," Dr Van Niekerk said.

(3) General

Rom 26/10/62

'Open farm land to all' SAIC appeals

Mercury Reporter

THE South African Indian Council meeting in Durban yesterday called for the removal of Group Area restrictions on agricultural land.

The council wants all agricultural, as well as commercial and industrial land to be freed from any restrictions in respect of ownership, occupation and development.

Mr Sewsunker Ramphal, a member for the South Coast, said that the Indian community had lost thousands of hectares of prime agricultural land because of the Group Areas Act.

In spite of numerous representations to the Government the farming community has not been adequately compensated for the land they lost to make way for residential expansion and development of roads.

Mr Madanlall Mohanlall said the Government had allocated millions of hectares of agricultural land to the coloured community while Indians who were essentially a farming community had been deprived of farmland.

The council's executive committee, in a memorandum to the technical committee investigating the Act, called for the opening of agricultural land to all race groups.

It has become clear to the SAIC that the authorities have failed in their efforts to find more agricultural land for Indians.

The only acceptable and just solution to the problem is a system of negotiation between a "willing buyer" and a "willing seller", the committee said in the memorandum tabled at yesterday's meeting.

B-General

COMMENT and opinion

The Star Miserliness that could rebound

STATISTICS on homelands growth made depressing reading yesterday. Figures released by the Bureau for Economic Research (Benso) showed that homelands development this side of the Limpopo River is virtually at a standstill. In some areas the per capita gross domestic product improved, in real terms, by only R2 in the five years between 1975 and 1980.

More than half the 3.3 million people in the self-governing states lack education. Matric pass rates have fallen off badly, particularly in the Ciskei where it dropped from 86 percent to 26. In the absence of an analysis we can only speculate that an environment of grinding poverty is not conducive to study.

worse off. It is an irrelevant observation. By comparison South Africa is a progressive industrial nation. It has the national infrastructure and capital resources to ensure a better standard of living for its peasants. South Africa also has more incentive to uplift its people. Humanitarian reasons should count most in a nation that strives to maintain Western standards, but there are potent political reasons as well. For too many decades successive governments — whoever has been in power — have been niggardly. Their miserliness has been the more pronounced because of the generous spending on splendid highways running through nowhere and magnificent hospitals in white areas. Much more of South

The star



A fact to which attention is sometimes not

The Standard, London.

Any land added to black national states by South Africa in future must be given on condition the land is sold to black inhabitants of the homeland, Dr Rupert said.

"The proceeds of that can then be used to develop the states further," he said.

This emphasis on private ownership and partnership is typical of the solutions Dr Rupert has long advocated and which have been proved successful in other schemes he has inspired, including the Lesotho economic success story.

When Dr Rupert was approached to become honorary industrial advisor to Lesotho in 1966, the kingdom was regarded as the second poorest nation in the world, with a per capita income of R33. Today the income is R420, he said.

"In Southern Africa, we have made the mistake of not following the European example of agricultural development.

"In Europe, dwelling units are grouped, with the arable ground around them. In the black states, dwelling units stand apart, with arable ground in between. This system makes difficult the creation of economic farming units in the same way as our 'plots'."

Agricultural success in Southern Africa had been accompanied by security of long-term leasing contracts and the bringing in of capital and skills from outside, Dr Rupert said.

This pattern had been repeated in Swaziland, Malawi, Botswana and Bophuthatswana.

"Unless land ownership and leasehold is considerably extended, the black states will not obtain the capital and skills which are necessary to produce

Land ownership gives incentive

enw 17/11/82

In a lecture delivered at the Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit in Johannesburg recently, Dr Anton Rupert, chairman of the Rembrandt group and of the Small Business Development Corporation, examined the economic realities of Africa in general and Southern Africa in particular. He offered some interesting solutions, writes Chief Reporter David Breier.

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"Property right is security. Without it credit is difficult to obtain and there is no incentive to be more productive."

Dr Rupert's view is based on the belief that, if everything belongs to everybody, then nothing belongs to anybody.

"Can it be expected of a farmer to bore his own borehole and to make it available for the use of others? Or why should he fix a water pump which will be used by another as if it is his own?" he asked.

If black farmers were allowed to own and work their own land, they would be in a position to feed themselves.

"The farmer must at least have the feeling that the ground he works and the fruit of his labours are his own for a generation."

Meaningful development assumed that, if South Africa gave land to black states, it would also have to give knowhow, or else "we will eventually find ourselves in the position in which we must give the land as well as the food."

The challenge that



Rupert . . . "Follow Europe's example."

Dr Rupert said, "Transkel, which has been independent since 1976, property rights are not yet granted investors."

One of the results of this is that the local development corporations with an investment of more than R22 million in housing money which could otherwise have been used for industrial development.

Breakthroughs had already been made, for example in Bophuthatswana where the Israeli-based Moshav system was working.

Here black farmers occupied units of between 10 and 20 ha, with farming removed from tribal authority and placed in the hands of productive farming units, under the eye of the agricul-

tural development corporation.

Also in the field of industrial development the question of land rights were vital, and without permanent occupation, investors were frightened off.

"As long as industrialists cannot enjoy the security of at least a 99-year leasehold, industrial development will remain sluggish," Dr Rupert said. "Transkel, which has been independent since 1976, property rights are not yet granted investors."

One of the results of this is that the local development corporations with an investment of more than R22 million in housing money which could otherwise have been used for industrial development.

In the period 1976 to 1979 the South African authorities spending on township development and housing the black states also amounted to more than R435 million."

But in Bophuthatswana, by contrast, the security of ground ownership and long-term leasehold created great stimulus for development.

Lingering bad odour

SAW 17/12/82

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2
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Rupert . . . "Follow Europe's example."

South Africa was to find a formula that could amend the tribal system to make provision for private land ownership, possibly through long-term leasehold, without disrupting the entire traditional social structure of the black man.

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D. O. Dispatch 19/11/82 (3) General

Feedback for better land use

The Department of Agriculture has decided to complete a national land use inventory, which was initiated in the Eastern Cape earlier this month.

The director of the Eastern Cape region, Mr H. Niehaus, said planners dealing with land use and production (whether on commodity, enterprise, regional or national level) had been hampered by lack of information. Tighter

budgets and manpower shortages increased the need for more careful planning which — to be effective — demanded adequate and accurate data.

The prime aim of the department was to ensure the use and development of agricultural resources and the promotion of the industry to the greatest advantage for everyone.

The department was

the organisation most suited for taking the inventory by personal interview, on a farm-to-farm basis.

The inventory schedule had been drawn up by experienced scientists so that the information obtained after completion would be valid and comprehensive. The project promised to be one of the most cost-effective undertaken by the department, as the inter-

view to complete the schedule lasted an average of only two hours.

In the light of workability, efficiency, manpower, data processing and other cost inputs, the method would be the most effective and economic manner of obtaining a comprehensive, long-lived, and reliable source of information regarding land use, farming enterprises and farm data.

Veterinary services to return to PE

Post Reporter

AFTER nearly 100 years, the Division of Veterinary Services of the Department of Agriculture is to move its regional office from East London to Port Elizabeth.

The regional director of Veterinary Services for the Eastern Cape and Karoo, Dr C Jonker, said the regional office moved to East London from Port Elizabeth in 1890 when the Cape government of the day decided to extend veterinary services to the Transkei.

But with independence being granted to Transkei and Ciskei, these areas had fallen away and the office now acted only in an advisory capacity when asked by these governments to assist.

Dr Jonker said the regional office would occupy offices in the Golden Mile

Centre in North End, Port Elizabeth, from November 1. The telephone number would be 547337.

There were 16 veterinary surgeons in the region with a regional laboratory at Middelburg and fully operational diagnostic laboratories at Queenstown and Grahamstown. A third diagnostic laboratory at Beaufort West was partly operational.

Dr Jonker said veterinary services covered disease control, health schemes and any advice which could be given to farmers on a herd basis. The department stepped in when an outbreak threatened a farmer's livelihood.

The area covered stretches as far inland as Prieska and Victoria West. The regional office's new address will be Private Bag X3927, North End.

Transvaal crisis as drought grips land

ARGUS 8/12/82

3 General

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ernal

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — In the whole of the eastern half of the Transvaal drought is rearing its ugly head again.

Both Highveld and Lowveld farmers face a crisis.

On the escarpment pine and gum tree plantations are dying and will have to be replanted.

In some Highveld districts maize farmers have not yet planted and others have had to replant or are watching their crops wilt and die.

Most of the Wilgerivier Valley has lost its maize and will have to rely on sunflower to produce a crop.

TRICKLE

Sugar farmers in the Onderberg have lost a third of their crop because the Highveld-fed Crocodile River has dried to a trickle.

The TSB sugar factory at Malelane is working at only a third of its capacity.

Cattle and game farmers in the whole of the Lowveld have had to send most of their breeding stock to the abattoir.

North of Sabie-Sand game farmers are losing up to 50 rooibok a day.

Vegetable farmers are withdrawing large fields from production because boreholes and rivers are failing.

FRUIT FARMERS

Only fruit farmers who irrigate by micro-jet systems are still holding out.

However, in parts of the Highveld where localised showers have fallen, prospects are excellent.

Western Transvaal crop and cattle farmers, usually drought-stricken, are also doing well after good rains.

● From Kimberley it is reported that farmers in the drought-stricken Riet River irrigation scheme are extremely pleased that they are to receive Government subsidies,

according to Mr J W Kobus Nel, chairman of the Riet River Farmers Association.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr G J Kotze, recently announced the Government would subsidise farmers in the area at a rate of up to R400 a hectare of irrigation land for a maximum of 50 ha.

"We are pleased to see that the State has acknowledged its responsibility," Mr Nel said.

"The subsidy will help keep farmers on the land," he said.

"A farmer requires a great deal of capital, and when this is depleted, it is difficult for him to farm effectively.

"The subsidy scheme will enable us to be in a position to go ahead when water again becomes available."

5 PERCENT FULL

Mr Nel said the Kalkfontein Dam, from which the scheme obtains its water, was now only five percent full and that no water had been available for about a year.

The scheme was to have been connected with the P K le Roux Dam as part of the fourth phase of the huge Orange River development scheme.

However the fourth phase of the scheme has been delayed.

Mr Sarel Hayward, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Fisheries, recently announced that a comprehensive investigative study of the Riet River and other irrigation schemes would be undertaken by the University of the Orange Free State.

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Drought 'critical' in Northern Transvaal

ARGUS 14/12/82 (36and)

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Three more magisterial districts have been declared grazing distress areas. Listed districts or parts of districts in the country now climb to 39.

A spokesman for the financial assistance division of the Department of Agriculture said the districts were Barberton in the Eastern Transvaal, Hoopstad in the Free State and Utrecht in Natal.

And two more Eastern Transvaal Lowveld areas had applied to be listed as grazing distress areas, he said.

These were the Letaba magisterial district and part of the Pilgrim's Rest district, comprising the area around Hoedspruit.

Of the districts listed, 19 were in the North-Western Cape, eight in the Eastern Cape, six in the Transvaal, five in the Free State and one in Natal.

Although rain fell in parts of the country, such as the North-Western Cape, the Free State and parts of Transvaal, the veld took at least two months to restore after a drought and farmers still needed aid.

Desperately dry

Mr Piet du Toit, chief agricultural extension officer at Nelspruit, said the Eastern Transvaal Lowveld was still desperately dry.

Malelane had had only 22 mm of rain since last March, the Hoedspruit area, 28 mm and Komati-poort, 24 mm.

Fruit farmers who irrigated were holding out and although there was still drinking water for stock, cattle farmers had to feed their animals, Mr du Toit said. Some farmers had also started feeding game on their farms.

Mr S J Gericke, deputy director of agricultural extension services for the Transvaal, said the Messina and Louis Trichardt districts were also still in the grip of a severe drought.

"Large parts of the Messina district have absolutely no grass left and conditions in parts of the Louis Trichardt district are just as critical."

Alleged stock thief fatally wounded on Grahamstown farm

③ General
E. Post 17/12/82

Crime Reporter

AN alleged stock thief was killed last night when a farmer in the Grahams-town district went to investigate a report by a labourer that a man was slaughtering a sheep in one of his sheep camps.

Mr Wilhelmus Fourie, of the farm, Glencraig, grabbed his 12-bore

shotgun and went to investigate. He saw a man slaughtering one of his sheep.

The man fled when Mr Fourie called out to him and ignored his commands to stop. A shot was fired. The man, who has not been identified, was fatally wounded in the back.

Police found a slaughtered sheep in the camp.

FARMING

Farmers on Limpopo ^{General} determined to stay put ^{21/12/82}

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

Life on the South Africa-Zimbabwe border is a mixture of adventure, reward and disappointment, with the close-knit farming communities taking joys and sorrows in their stride.

Biltong and fruit punch are their specialities and I soon discovered during my 100-km trek along the Limpopo that I would not need "padkos" while among these friendly people.

"It's a disgrace you haven't visited us before . . . stay overnight . . . bring your family along next time . . . take some dried fruit for the road . . ."

I complained about the heat but was reminded that the region has "the best winter climate in South Africa."

Behind this friendly optimism is a grim determination to make a go of it in this remote bushveld area against heavy odds such as prolonged droughts, unsettling border incidents and unsatisfactory communications and infrastructure.

"I don't want to live anywhere else," says hardworking Mr Willie Esterhuyse, who has turned his farm into a mini-paradise in two years since the advent of Eskom electricity.

He had to flatten 120 ha of bushveld to create his cotton fields and has spent more than R100 000 on irrigation.

"That's a lot of



Bertus Dillman, an ex-Zimbabwean, relaxes in the shade at his new home, formerly a hunting lodge, on the South African side of the Limpopo.

The studies show that Lucy lived at the same time as the South African ancestors found in Australia called *Australopithecus africanus*. The fossils found in Tanzania may be a different species, but he says that will not be known for certain until more fossils are found. The new date for Lucy was established by Mr Boaz on the basis of an analysis of animal fossils in the area. — AP

Price of fertiliser to go up

3rd Annual
RDW 31/12/82

By JOUBERT MALHERBE
Pretoria Bureau

THE price of fertiliser will rise by an average of 13,3% from tomorrow, the Minister of Industries, Commerce and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

And although this is less than the average price increase of 20% originally calculated it is expected the price rise will have a spiral effect on the price of agricultural products.

The increase would have an adverse effect on the agricultural industry, spokesmen for organised agriculture said yesterday.

Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the Housewives League, last night described the increase as a bitter blow, saying it would inevitably affect the price of consumer goods.

The Minister's statement said the price increase made provision only for unavoidable cost increases beyond the control of the fertiliser industry.

"Should downward price adjustments of refinery gas and naphtha not occur, some of the gas-based ammonia plants might have to close down," the Minister said.

De Villiers said.

Staw 31/12/87
Fertiliser

increase

a blow

General

By Hannes Ferguson
Farming Correspondent
Farmers, losing R30 million a day during the present drought, will be hard pressed to meet the 13.3 percent fertiliser price rise which becomes effective tomorrow.

On the other hand consumers will also have to foot the bill by paying higher food prices during the trough of the present depression.

In announcing the new fertiliser price, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Dr Dawid de Villiers, said the Government had kept the increase within limits by taking the price of imported ammonia as the norm. Ammonia, an important ingredient of fertiliser, is made locally at prices usually considerably higher than its world market price.

The Government would not accept this any longer.

According to Dr de Villiers this action had to be seen as a first step to rationalise the fertiliser industry.

Dr Piet Gouws, general manager of the National Maize Producers Organisation, said even the reduced price increase of 13.3 percent was totally unacceptable. It amounted to a subsidy for the fertiliser manufacturer to be paid by the farmer who, in this year of failed crops, would have to borrow extra money to keep the fertiliser industry out of debt.

'I bought the best, I lost the

JILL JOUBERT

reports from Port Elizabeth

MOST men would have retired, 10, 15 even 20 years ago but not Sam Knott.

At 74, his aquiline features, slightly tanned from three-quarters of a century of outdoor life, has cheeks a healthy pink.

His brilliant blue eyes regard you kindly, if astutely. Sam is reticent about telling you how he has lost an empire to another man's dream.

For Sam does not know anyone else who has owned as much land in South Africa. It was a Verwoerdian dream which caused Sam to have to barter 12 farms in Ciskei to the South African Government.

To date, he has been compensated for about 58% of "the best farms I have ever owned". With the acquisition of Botha's Post on the Kat River, he now owns 15 farms in South Africa.

There is an apocryphal tale about Sam and Ciskei's President Lennox Sebe. Hearsay has it that when negotiations came to the crunch, the two sat round a table and debated the future of Sam's Ciskei farms.

Never let it be said that either man haggled. Finally Sam said to the President: "What about taking over my portion?"

This is an anecdote enjoyed throughout the Eastern Cape, but Sam has never met President Sebe.

He has, however, met Lieut-Gen Charles Sebe. "We got on all right," he says laconically.

Sam is a descendant of one of the hardy Settler families which tamed the Eastern Cape. There were two branches which arrived in 1820. Sam's forbears became owners of Botha's Post in 1840.

It is with some sentiment that he talks of taking over the homestead in October next year. The original house still stands. Built principally of stone, it has been enlarged and modernised.

Sam, born on Llangollen near Alice, once tipped as capital of Ciskei, was one of four boys and a girl.

He was schooled on the farm until he went to Dale College, King William's Town for two years. Dale, which in its heyday had more than 800 pupils, was then the biggest boarding school in the Southern Hemisphere.

At school, Sam made his mark as a rugby and tennis player, but there was little time after he left Dale for anything except social tennis.



Sam Knott ... now owns 15 farms.

An empire for a dream

In a way, he has lived under false colours. Sam's name is Maurice Timm Knott — Timm from the Settler family from which his mother, Mary Wakeford, stemmed. So that Settler stock comes from both sides.

Sam — he smiles beguilingly as he tells of brother Llewellyn Joseph, nicknamed "Bull" — tells how he and "Bull" returned to Llangollen and farmed with their father, Joseph.

Mainly they ran cattle, though there were a few sheep and goats. "Bull" married and went his own way.

But by this time Joseph, more than two decades older than his wife, had started buying up farms.

About 1922 the Knotts were buying in Fort Beaufort, Albany and Peddie. Joseph died in 1935. Sam maintained the home property with his mother for another 31 years.

He talks of his mother with nostal-

gia. Born and brought up in Bathurst, she became a governess. It was on Botha's Post that she and Joseph courted.

Now comes the cherry. When Joseph and Mary finally decided to marry, she returned to Bathurst to prepare for the event. The date was set and Joseph was commissioned to arrive at a certain time.

He set off for Bathurst, a distance incalculable by today's maps. It had to be made by horse and cart, but the horses turned stubborn. Joseph arrived seven days late.

There were no hard feelings. Sam told me delightedly: "We went to the magistrate and tied the knot." It was as though nothing marred the relationship.

Mary moved to Llangollen and settled to the life of a farmers' wife as if she had been born to it.

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A scramble to reach abattoirs

CAPE TIMES 8/1/83

36/2/83

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Cattle farmers countrywide are scrambling to get their livestock to the abattoirs before they die in severe drought conditions.

But the Meat Board has warned that it could in no circumstances allow individual farmers to market cattle in excess of the numbers permitted by the quota system.

And a South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) spokesman said yesterday that red meat prices had dropped sharply because of the current over-supply caused by the drought.

Another spokesman was unable to confirm reports that up to 100 000 cattle had died since the onset of the drought. The conditions were "at least" as bad as in the early sixties when thousands of cattle had died, he said.

A Transvaal Agricultural Union spokesman said yesterday that the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, had accepted an invitation by the TAU to visit drought-stricken areas in the northern and western Transvaal during the next fortnight.

No announcement concerning emergency aid to Transvaal famers had yet been made, a SAAU spokesman said.

A Meat Board spokesman said authorities were slaughtering animals "at full capacity" to help ease abattoir congestion.

The Meat Board had to apply the quota system stringently because there would be "chaos" at abattoirs if farmers were permitted to send cattle for slaughter at random.

A SAAU spokesman said that while super grade red meat was selling at 250c a kilogram

over Christmas, it had dropped to the floor price of 228c a kilogram earlier this week.

Meanwhile, consumers have reacted to the announcement yesterday that the price of dairy products might drop because of the milk, butter and cheese glut — also caused by the drought.

The president of the Housewives' League, Mrs Joy Hurwitz, said the only way to deal with a glut was to sell to the consumers at a reduced price.

The huge increase in the price of dairy products in the past had led to a drastic cutback in the consumption of these products, even though they were basic foodstuffs, Mrs Hurwitz said.

Weathermen in Pretoria said yesterday that prospects for rain in the drought-stricken areas of the country were not good.

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Subject ECONOMICS II
(to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

Paper No 1
(to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

Examiners' Initials

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Drought threatens future of Border meat production

By AL SMIT

EAST LONDON — The Border region's breeding herd and future production of meat could be jeopardised unless significant rains fall soon.

The liaison officer of the East Cape Agricultural Union, Mr Lourens Schoeman, said although farmers were trying to sell their marketable stock, it had not yet been necessary for any farmers "to cut into their breeding herds".

"This situation may drastically change if it does not rain before the end of February," he said.

"If they have to sell the breeding stocks, there could be a shortage of meat in the long term because the farmers would then have to build up their breeding herd again."

However, Mr Schoeman said the coming two months were the Border's main rainfall months, and successful rains could avert the need to sell breeding stock.

"At present, the situation is in the balance, and it completely depends on the weather."

Although agricultural officials for the Border area have had no reports of stock losses, summer crops are being threatened by the dry conditions.

Mr Schoeman said good rains were needed for successful harvests of summer crops.

"A lot less summer crops such as maize and vegetables were planted this year compared to 1980-81, and reasonable harvests can only be expected if good rains fall soon.

"The drought conditions are becoming more and more severe every day," Mr Schoeman said.

He said veld grazing lands were dry and short in almost the entire Border area, and that cultivated pastures were deteriorating due to the heat.

"The dairy farmers rely on cultivated pastures to a great extent, and so they are the ones facing the most problems in that respect."

Pineapple farm crops had also "suffered quite a lot of sunburn," but exact losses were not known.

Stock losses had been kept down due to good management of veld and water reserves by farmers, and in most parts of the Border, herds were still in a fair condition, Mr Schoeman said.

One of the main problems, however, was stock water shortages in areas where farm dams were empty and boreholes drying up.

"As the boreholes dry up, farmers have to resort to carting water."

A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture at Dohne said some farmers in the Komga, East London, King William's Town and Stutterheim districts were carting water.

"Some boreholes have weakened, and others have dried up in certain areas of the Border."

Dry land lucerne crops in areas such as Aliwal North and Jamestown were also showing signs of stress.

"The condition of stock, particularly small stock, is fair to reasonably good. In some areas the condition of large

stock is not quite so good but nowhere have we had any reports of stock losses in the Border as a result of lack of grazing."

The spokesman said Albany and Bathurst districts had applied for emergency grazing status to qualify for railage rebates on feed transportation.

However, although conditions were dry, the Border was approaching its normal rainfall period, as statistics showed that the peak rainfall in the summer rainfall area was between January and March, he said.

Rain could also be experienced in certain districts throughout the year due to coastal influences, but the main rains fell in the first three months of the year, he said.

Dry land crops such as maize and potatoes in the Elliot, Ugie, Stutterheim and Maclear areas had been adversely affected, and where there were shortages of irrigation water, cultivated pastures used by dairy farmers had also been affected.

"The farming community are not despondent, but are viewing the position with concern, and are looking for effective rains which would allow a run-off to replenish the dwindling water supplies and allow veld recovery."

A spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs here said Border dams continued to show a drop in levels.

Percentage levels measured on Monday were: Bridle Drift Dam 45,92; Laing Dam 97,8; Nahoon Dam 34,75 and Rooikrantz Dam 17,49 per cent.

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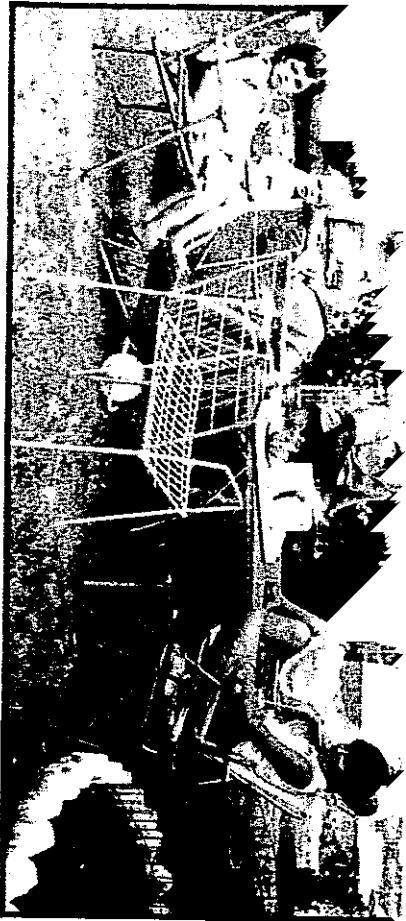
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□ RIGHT: Sandy Simpson talking on the radio that connects him with four other farms. LEFT: Family and children gather from neighbouring farms for tea and meals.



By William Saunderson-Meyer

THE white exodus from the dry-lands of the Northern Transvaal could be ended with Israeli-style kibbutzim, border farmers believe.

In spite of generous Government loans to frontier farmers, the Limpopo River Valley has become increasingly depopulated with almost half of the farms on the border with Zimbabwe unoccupied by whites.

Over the past two years the Government has spent more than R5 million to try and stop the flow and to encourage young farmers to settle in the area.

Farmers can get loans at nominal interest rates, with repayments on the never-never basis. A hundred and eighty kilometre powerline was set up in record time to provide 29 of the farmers with power to draw water from the Limpopo for irrigation.

Untouched lands

Yet many of the few existing farms are still being abandoned and the vast virgin lands on the banks of the Limpopo remain untouched.

Because of the security implications, steps to enforce occupation of border farms are contained in legislation, not yet promulgated, which will force at least one person to live on every border farm.

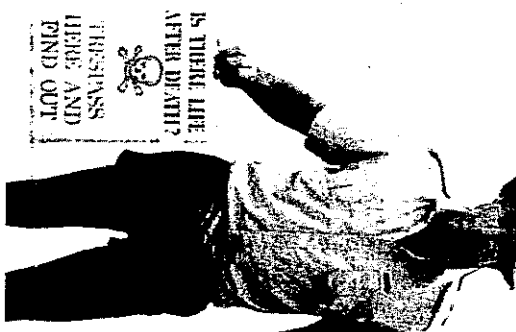
Sandy Simpson, the farmer behind the kibbutzim plan for the Northern Transvaal, told the Sunday Tribune the problems facing new farmers were enormous and he was sceptical that the problem could be legislated.

"This is a hard and lonely land. It rains only about 200 mm a year — sometimes a tenth of that — and the summer temperature is in the mid-40s.

"Women can't seem to live with the heat and isolation. They face the loneliness of not seeing another woman for weeks, the nearest neighbour is sometimes hours away by car on rough roads.

Also, the capital demands are immense. Just the most basic set of implements will cost a youngster who wants to farm about R25 000. Labour is scarce and to clear the land before one can even start farming, one needs a bulldozer.

The Kibboutzniks of the Transvaal



IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH? FRESHNESS LIES AND FIND OUT

! DANGER LANDMINES! SERVICEMEN WILL BE SHOT!



At those twice-monthly meetings the work for the various farms discussed and each farmer says what help he needs from the other cost of machinery, was all originally by Simpson, is cash for on a rough-and-scale which tries to depreciation and re costs.

"What we are here has been success and has been to the fit of everyone involved. When I said up my struction company come farming. I nothing. None of us that much. But we have diverse grounds and a wide of skills. We have learned from other," said Simpson. He said he knew number of young who wanted to move border areas and farming, but lacked know-how and capital.

"The Government could somehow scheme which Simpson is implementing is not exactly the same as a kibbutz, where members contribute labour. In return for food, housing and other necessities provided from group farms. It is closer to the "Moshav", collectives in Israel, where farms are independently owned but where farmers co-operate in the use of machinery.

"Youngsters who interested in farming want to find out what

The HSIC report found security fears were not the main reason for the exodus, but high operating costs, too little land, inefficient labour and inadequate infrastructure.

Simpson believes a kibbutz-style plan, where equip-

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The farmers in the middle of a bloody dissident conflict

By Brendan Seery
 Tribune Africa News Service

MANY of them heard the drama as it unfolded over the radio link: The young farmer's wife frantically calling from her isolated homestead saying there had been firing nearby.

Then, the seemingly endless silence before the emotion-choked voice of the white farmer, first at the scene of the bullet-riddled Land Rover, cracked over the sets.

Children, mothers and other farmers listened in shocked disbelief as the reply came: "Negatively, he's dead... Negatively, he's dead too..."

The final toll six slain: Farm manager David Walters, 38; his two sons, Sean, 22 months and Michael, four years; Mr Walters' brother-in-law, John Heurne, 18; Phillippe Borron, 42; and Themba Ndolobe were all dead.

Caught up in a conflict they have nothing to do with, the farmers of Nyamathlovu and the whole of the troubled Matieland province have suffered.

In Nyamathlovu alone, since violence flared up in March last year, at least six white farmers have been killed or wounded in brutal attacks. At least twice as many blacks have been victims.

The farmhalls desire for revenge has been tempered by the realisation that the few are ever caught or killed — and the feeling that the vengeance will not sub-

teaching the basics of agriculture to new settlers, is the answer. He and his partner, an ex-Rhodian technician and Bruce Paul.

Steve Cronje, have already made a start with two neighbouring farmers, Derrick Gradidge and Bruce Paul.

side until Mr Mugabe's government talks to the rebels and reaches a political compromise.

Much of the killing is being attributed to former members of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zipra guerrilla forces, who are angered at the seizure by the government last year of property bought collectively with thousands of their Zipra colleagues.

Many observers also see a political motive to the violence — to restore to Mr Nkomo's party the power it enjoyed in its heyday.

Theories, however, are cold comfort to the farmers who are in the front line. They are a prime target for the terror tactics of the dissidents.

Unsure of the ability of the security forces to react to "incidents", the men of the land are trying to organise themselves. Many nuclei in the Nyamathlovu farming district now carry guns.

In discussions the farmers propose forming reaction "squares", armed and trained in first aid to help those attacked. They are, however, realists, not gun-glo fighters.

"We realise that if we go after somebody who is hurt, and we don't know what we're doing, we'll get hurt as well," commented a young farm manager.

It is the children they also worry about, who, it appears, are living close to violent death.

A five-year-old girl called out to her family's cook as he made his way home before dusk: "Don't get killed on the way home."

A bright eight-year-old, used to seeing his mother and father wearing automatic pistols strapped to their waists, saddened the grown-ups when he commented, after the killing of Sean and Michael Walters: "Daddy, if I had been me, I wouldn't have had a very long life, would I?"

"These are the things you must think about," said a young farm manager.

He said one of the most immediate benefits had been a spirit of co-operation and the easing of the feelings of isolation and exposure that border farmers face.

The farmers share machinery, expertise and often labour. "When one of us has idle workers, we load them up on the truck and take them next door to where there is work."

placed to exploit the market for out-of-season crops. But first it has to do most of this. The cost of food is split among the farmers.

placed to exploit the market for out-of-season crops. But first it has to do most of this. The cost of food is split among the farmers.



Guns-toting farmer's wife Sue Gibbs takes time off to play with her children

NATAL HEARING AIDS

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S. Tribune
9/1/83
Border farmers may be forced to stay

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1980

By Kevin Davie

THE Government is set to move on controversial legislation which will force people to live on farms in depopulated border areas.

Border depopulation has become so acute in some areas, such as parts of the north-western Transvaal where two-thirds of the farms are unoccupied, that a special Cabinet committee probed the matter and considered using the law to repopulate them.

The legislation, which empowers the Government to force people to remain on border farms, was passed by Parliament three years ago with very little press or public attention.

The Cabinet committee has now made its report, and, according to a senior spokesman for the Department of Agriculture, a major announcement by the ministers of agriculture and defence on a new package to combat the movement of farmers away from the border areas will be made "in a month or so".

"It is not envisaged using legislation at the moment," said the spokesman, "but it may become necessary to force people to live there."

"We believe we can win the battle to stop people moving away from these areas, but we will have to sacrifice quite a lot, even freedom of movement," said the spokesman, who asked not to be named because the issue was "very sensitive" and "very confidential".

Legislation to enable the Government to force people to live in the border areas was passed in 1979. The Promotion of the Density of the Population in Designated Areas Act No 87 of 1979, empowers the Minister of Agriculture to prescribe that farming units be occupied.

He can also specify the categories of persons who will have to occupy the land, the way in which they occupy it, and the period of occupation each year.

All that is required is that he publish a notice in the Government Gazette to this effect.

In September last year the Director-General of Agriculture, Dr Dirk Immelman, announced that a special Cabinet committee was considering whether this legislation, which would compel at least one white person to live on each farm, should be applied.

He said the committee would report to the Cabinet by the end of 1982.

Opposition spokesman on agriculture, Errol Moorcroft, says while he supports the concept of repopulation, this "cannot be done by legislation".

"Economic factors brought about depopulation in the first place and economic factors will determine whether people will be able to live on such farms in the future.

"To presume that people can be forced to populate an area by law not only flies in the face of reality, it is just plain crazy," said Mr Moorcroft.

Dr Immelman was not available for comment on the Government's plans for repopulation, but a senior official confirmed the Government was "very worried, both from an economic and political standpoint".

He said he believed the Government could achieve something, but "everybody would have to do their share". This included Escom, the Post Office, education, and roads, so that a total infrastructure could be provided in these areas.

The spokesman said the Department of Agriculture was looking into the whole package, to see what it could accommodate within its budget and available manpower.

Mr Moorcroft stressed that farmers moving away from the border areas did not move because of security considerations, but because farming in these areas was no longer economically viable.

See page 19

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1974/75 Affil

drought

Political Staff

FARMERS' debts have risen to more than R5 000-million and are still rising, partly because of the crippling drought over large areas

This was confirmed today by a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture, who said short-term agricultural debts could rise to "astronomical heights" if the drought continued.

There was a danger that some farmers would be driven out of business.

HELP PLANNED

The spokesman said the Government was concerned about the situation, and was seeking ways of bringing about an improvement.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr J J G Wentzel, and other Cabinet Ministers had made on-the-spot investigations of drought conditions.

Mr Wentzel had been among several Ministers who visited the Eastern Transvaal on December 31, and he was scheduled to go to the Northern Transvaal tomorrow and to the Western Transvaal next week.

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The Government is considering a draft Bill which, should it become law could compel people to live on farms in depopulated areas.

The Director-General of Agriculture, Dr Dirk Immelman, said that a special Cabinet committee was considering the draft Bill.

He said no legislation to this effect had been passed yet.

"The matter could reach finally during the next session of Parliament," Dr Immelman said.

"I can't say the stipulation to force people to live on border farms will eventually be embodied in legislation, as Parliament still have to approve it.

Up to Minister

"And even if Parliament approves the stipulation, it will be up to the Minister whether or not to use such powers."

The draft Bill has been prepared as border depopulation has become acute in some areas, such as the north-western Transvaal where two-thirds of the farms are unoccupied

REAL PROBLEM

A Progressive Federal Party spokesman on agriculture, Mr Philip Myburgh, MP for Wynberg, said today that short-term assistance offered to farmers by the Government was welcome, but was not the solution to the real problem.

Over the years the Government had given such short-term assistance, but year after year farmers' debts had increased.

The real problem appeared to be in the Government's marketing policy and its control-board system.

WIDENING

The gap between prices received by farmers and those paid by consumers had widened from year to year.

"A whole range of middlemen in the agricultural sector appears to gobble up a bigger and bigger share of the cake. This is the real problem behind many of the farmers' difficulties."

Another problem was that administered prices for electricity, fertilisers, fuel, spare parts and other agricultural requirements were increasing faster than producer prices.

Mr Myburgh said short-term relief for farmers was needed to ensure that consumers had food, but the Government should also look at its entire policy in regard to agriculture.

Later stage

A senior spokesman for the Department of Agriculture, who asked not to be named, said it was not envisaged to use legislation at the moment.

"But at a later stage it may become necessary to force people to live on border farms.

"We believe we can win the battle to stop people moving away from these areas, but we will have to sacrifice quite a lot, even freedom of movement."

The Opposition spokesman on agriculture, Mr Errol Moorcroft, said while he supported the concept of repopulation, this could not be done by legislation.

Economics

"Economic factors brought about depopulation in the first place and economic factors will determine whether people will be able to live on such farms in the future," he said.

"To presume that people can be forced to populate an area by law not only flies in the face of reality, it is just plain crazy."

Mr Moorcroft emphasised that farmers moving away from the border areas did not move because of security considerations, but because farming was no longer economically viable.

White-owned farms 'the best defence'

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

THE best defence against border incursions by terrorists was a belt of white-occupied farms — but the wrong way to achieve this was to force farmers to live in these areas.

This was the view of the president of the Natal Agricultural Union, Mr Donald Sinclair, when he was asked to comment on weekend reports that the Government might impose legislation to compel farmers to remain on border lands.

According to one report, border depopulation had advanced to the stage where, in the north-western Transvaal in particular, two thirds of the farms were unoccupied.

Mr Sinclair said there were some cases in Natal of farms standing empty — notably in the Louwsburg area — and the need for measures to attract farmers back to them had already been brought to the Government's attention by the NAU.

But as far as legislation was concerned, he said, 'I would imagine that is the last thing that should happen — you can't or at least shouldn't force peo-

ple to live in an area.'

Movement of whites out of border areas stemmed from a lack of infrastructure and unfavourable farming conditions, as well as a fall-off in the 'pioneer spirit'.

The way to induce them to return was through tax

incentives, subsidised loans and better facilities such as electricity, roads and public amenities.

'Funnily enough, border incursions never have been a problem with farmers — it would be wrong to say people have left out of fear.'

big question. We simply don't know.

"We have theories but that's about all. It could be related to pressure distribution," said a scientist at the University of the Witwatersrand's department of geography and environmental studies.

"What is puzzling us is why we should still be under the influence of winter conditions such as cold fronts at this time of the year."

Asked about the novel theory that a large mass of warm water in the Pacific Ocean could be directly responsible for the present heatwave, the scientist, with true detachment, replied: "It's possible."

"Then, again, there were people who said that the volcanic ash from Mount St Helens had an effect on weather patterns. This is possibly true but we have no means of verifying it. Nor are we in a position to say that atomic bomb tests could have an effect on the climate."

"Our only laboratory is the atmosphere."
The scientist almost accompanied his comments with a sigh of despair that even today's science was unable to predict rainfall and drought accurately.

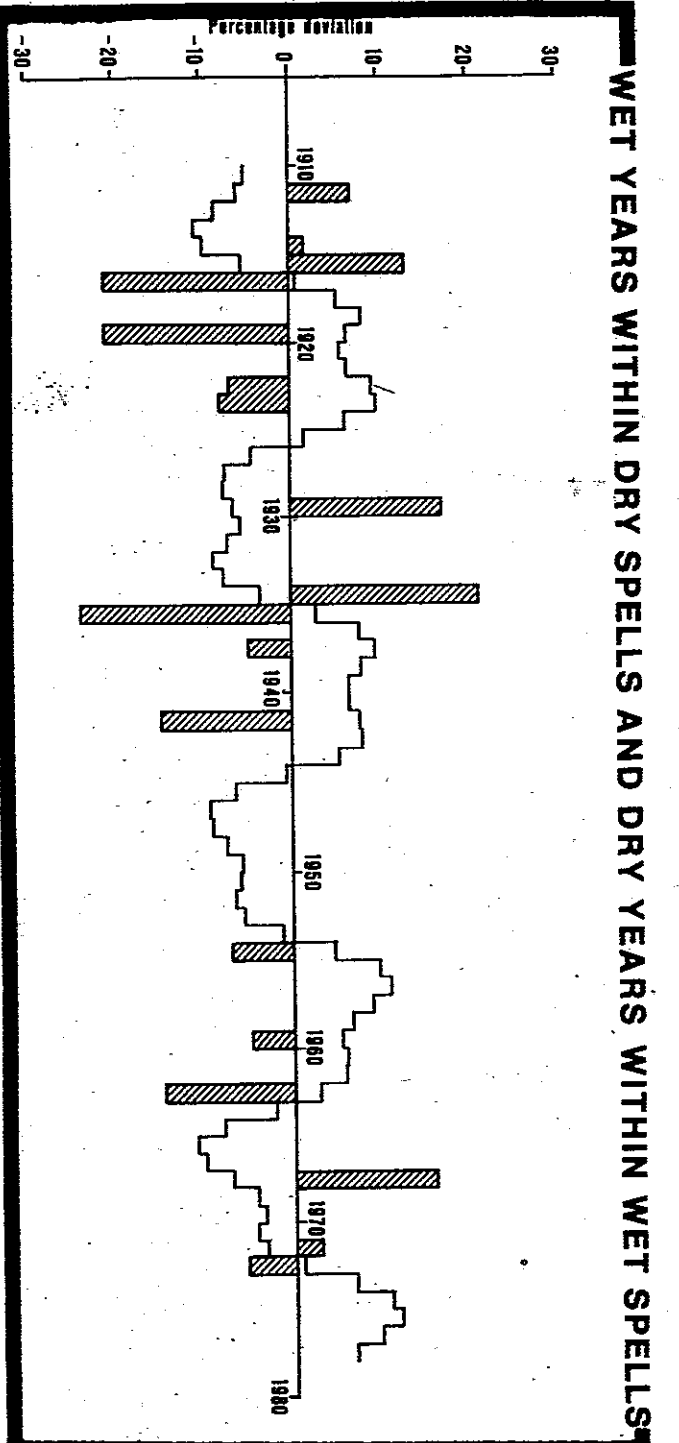
Not that climatologists have been standing still. In 1978, Professor T D Tyson and Professor T G J Dyer of the university's climatology research group published a paper entitled: "The Predicted Above-normal Rainfall of the 70s and the Likelihood of Droughts in the 80s in South Africa."

The paper created something of a stir, which upset both scientists — Professor Dyer has since sought to settle in England — because they believed their finding had been either misinterpreted or over-interpreted.

Their paper said that an analysis of mean regional rainfall for northern and eastern South Africa, based on data for 1910 to 1967, suggested that, during the 70s, the region as a whole would experience an extended wet spell.

"This assertion has been tested using 1968 to 1977 data. Whereas it has not been possible to pre-

WET YEARS WITHIN DRY SPELLS AND DRY YEARS WITHIN WET SPELLS



The occurrence of wet years within dry spells and dry years within wet spells respectively (upper) and extra dry and extra wet years within dry and wet spells respectively (lower).

Graphic courtesy of Climatology Research Group, University of the Witwatersrand.

Report by J Manuel Correia

dict actual year-to-year rainfall for particular places or for the region as a whole, the prediction of an extended spell of above-normal rainfall has been upheld," the authors said.

They also emphasised that accurate predictions of future and long-term changes in climate must await the development of effective physically-based models. This development was still some time off.

"From 1910 to the present time three completed wet spells and three dry spells have occurred, a total of 34 years of wet spells and 34 years of dry spells," the authors stated.

But the authors emphasised that it was not possible to predict annual rainfall a year in advance.

Another set of interesting facts to emerge from the paper showed that, over the region as a whole, the most consistently dry spell was that of 1944 to 1953, when there was below-normal rainfall every year.

The driest spell on average was that of 1963 to 1972. The wettest year on record was 1943 and 1945 the driest.

The authors emphasised that, if the stability of the oscillation could be predicted, rainfall could be predicted. As this is not possible, it follows that generalised rainfall cannot be predicted in

the usually accepted scientific sense of the word. "Whether below-normal rainfalls are likely to be a feature of the 80s will depend entirely on the continuation of the trend of the recent past.

"If the fluctuations of the past repeat themselves in essentially unaltered form then many parts of South Africa may experience droughts

of varying intensity from the early 80s onwards and possibly for a year or two in the 90s." But the two scientists end on a note of sober scientific caution:

"Whether the 80s will be somewhat drier than average or not, only time will tell."

Not much comfort, perhaps, for Oom Faan in the Eastern Transvaal.

R2 500-m to fight the drought

ARGUS
13/1/83
3 general

By **BILL GODDARD**
Staff Reporter

SOUTH AFRICAN farmers borrowed more than R2 500-million during the past 12 months to keep going against the drought.

The drought, which has a stranglehold over nearly two-thirds of the country, is regarded by organised agriculture as the worst in history.

It has been so bad in some arid parts of the country that there will be children starting school this year who have never seen rain.

Staggering

The staggering farming debt was disclosed today by the secretary of the Northern Cape Agricultural Union, Mr Henry Smith, who said that latest surveys showed that farmers debts have risen to just on R5 000-million — an increase of more than 125 percent over the total at the beginning of 1982.

In a telephone interview from Kimberley, Mr Smith said that the most recent figures available showed that farmers debts to various government departments, commercial banks and agricultural co-ops totalled R4 883-million.

Worst hit

"This is an increase of 127 percent in a year", he said.

The worst hit areas are in the Cape Province where 26 magisterial districts have already been declared drought-stricken and another three are waiting to be added to the list — Grahamstown, Bathurst and Beaufort West.

Government records show that there are another 13 drought-stricken regions in the other three provinces.

Mr Smith said: "The situation in three-quarters of the Northern Cape, which is the main mutton and karakul producing region of the country, can be described as critical."

This normally arid region of the country is the home of about 10-million slaughter sheep and a fair percentage of the cattle supplied to the country's meat market.

Many of the farming districts of the Cape — including Carnarvon, Fraserburg, Prieska, Keimoes, Upington and Vryburg — have been on the official "drought stricken" list for the past five years.

"Farm dams in many areas have been dry for years, while boreholes are drying up for the first time since being sunk last century and dusty river beds cut across the barren landscape like ugly scars.

Interest-free

Farmers in drought stricken areas are entitled to interest-free loans to buy fodder for their stock and cover the costs of carting water to their farms.

They also receive special rebates on the rail-age costs of getting lucerne and other feed to their stock.

Mr Smith said that many farmers have already been forced to leave their farms and to look for jobs in nearby towns.

"There are many more who have indicated to us that if they do not have rain by the end of March they too will have to leave the land and look for jobs to keep their families alive."

"The only chaps who seem to be doing OK are the riparian farmers along the banks of the Orange River. They are expecting fairly good lu-

cerne and cotton crops this season", he added.

The director of the Wool Production Promotion division of the SA Wool Board, Mr Dawie Visser, said the drought in the Eastern Cape was starting to have an affect on the quality of wool.

"Wool on sheep in the Cathcart-Queenstown-Tarkastad region is definitely of poorer quality and has all the signs of having been affected by the drought", he said.

This region produces about five percent of South Africa's annual R275-million wool clip.

Pineapple farmers in the East London-Port Alfred coastal belt — main producers of this type of fruit — say that the drought has not had an adverse affect on their fruit, but there are signs that a fairly large percentage of the present crop may be slightly sunburnt.

The secretary of the Pineapple Growers Association, Mr Allen Pike, said that too much sun lowered the sugar-content of the fruit, "but part of each pine can still be used in the canning industry".

Rooibos

The drought has also hit South Africa's rooibos tea farmers in the Clanwilliam-Citrusdal area and this year's harvest is expected to be 20 percent down on original estimates.

Secretary of the Rooibos Tea Control Board, Mr James van Putten, said: "The farmers expected to harvest about five million kilograms this season, but the drought has hit the crop and they'll only get about 80 percent of this."

Mr van Putten said the loss will cost the growers at least R1 million.

\$	54
\$	54
\$	57
£	55
£	57
£	53
∅	59
+	56
∅	63
∅	65
∅	65
Total	

Mail Correspondent
CAPE TOWN. Ten percent less food is available for South Africa now than a decade ago, despite a doubling of grain imports to 11 million tons a year, according to an editorial in the Food Industries Yearbook.

The article stated that about 20 million people in 17 African countries were undernourished. At the same time only 33% of food aid reached the starving, while the rest was squandered.

The reasons for this were largely political, but against this background the population was also increasing faster in Africa than elsewhere.

To keep disaster at bay, agricultural production in

13 1.82 (13) R.M.
Imports double yet
SA has less food
3 General

Africa must double by the turn of the century — a requirement that leaves even UN officials sceptical," says the editorial.

Indications were that undernourishment would increase unless the discrepancy between agricultural and food production on one side and the population increase on the other, were checked, the article stated.

South Africa, which occupied 4% of Africa and had 6% of its people, produced 36% of its mealies, 18% of its

wheat and 19% of its meat. Because of its position, climate, natural resources and infrastructure, South Africa could deal with the crises which seemed insurmountable elsewhere, but education towards agricultural efficiency remained a priority in neighbouring states.

The establishment of food processing factories, particularly in the independent states, should accelerate to enable SA to cope with its own growing needs and those of its neighbours.

Ark victim

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or refuses to camp, jailed

A Durban ous objector a four-month sentence and ously dis- to the army for a 30-day bid.

Own Correspondent
PRETORIA. — Farmers were fighting a losing battle against drought and mounting debt, the S.A. Agricultural Union's chief economist, Mr Johan Willemse, said yesterday.

The situation had not been so grim since the devastating droughts of the 30s, when many were forced off the land.

If the disastrous losses of crops and animals continued, the drought could become a national emergency requiring drastic relief measures.

Farmers' accumulated debts had soared to nearly R5 000 million and many would be unable to repay them, he said.

He estimated that 40 percent of summer grain crops had already been

lost and there would be more losses if no good general rains fell before the end of the month.

"Agriculture is in crisis, and only substantial support from the government can avert disaster, which would have serious consequences for the national economy," he said.

Mr Hersch appealed to the man to see a doctor and contact Mr Hersch as well.

Mr Hersch can be contacted at work at ☎ 21-7910, at home at ☎ 44-7910, or through his paging number ☎ 45-8511, code 1409.

fell, the general manager of the National Maize Producers' Organization, Dr Piet Gans, said yesterday.

This year's crop would fall far short of the national need of seven million tons and maize would have to be imported for the first time in decades.

A Maize Board spokesman in Pretoria said the hard was watching the drought's destruction anx-

iously and would stop maize exports if it worsened.

● In Johannesburg, the chairman of the Wheat Board, Mr Sarel Cilliers, said the expected crop was about 2.4 million tons — 150 000 tons less than the original estimate.

Only about 250 000 tons could now be exported to African states instead of the planned 400 000 tons.

the general manager of the National Maize Producers' Organization, Dr Piet Gans, said yesterday.

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Part of the group of about 40 Crossroads families who were left homeless yesterday when they were forced to vacate the Nxolo School and a creche at the start of the new school term. In the foreground, Mrs Esme Mhlawuli, sheltering under a blanket, prepares to feed three-month-old Mongameli while his brother, Kwandiwe, 3, dozes.

Azapo warns of boycotts

Staff Reporter

ANGRY black leaders yesterday described the West Indies cricket tour of South Africa as a "prostitution" and a "shameful, deceitful and supreme affront to the interests of South Africa."

The Avonian Peoples' Organization (Azapo), said "The rebel tour is a supreme affront to the overwhelming majority of blacks in this country who are subjected to the worst system of exploitation and oppression."

The crop in parts of the northern and western Free State would be 50 percent smaller but there had been a record crop of exceptionally high quality in the Western Cape, he said.

● The Weather Bureau in Pretoria said there was no sign of relief for farmers. The charts showed no indication of good general rains anywhere in the Transval or Free State.

Mr Hassan Hamba manager, Albert Pong, and six other players to the Barabara Cricket Association.



Picture: Ivar Markman

White farmer stops flow of water

ANGER is simmering in Driefontein, Eastern Transvaal, where a white farmer has built a wall around a spring, preventing half the area's population from getting water.

Local villagers are up in arms over the farmer's refusal to let them get water from the spring. They cannot get water from the nearby river — Umyane — because the wall built around the spring has stopped water from streaming into the river. The area has a population of about 5 000.

As a result, the river has dried up and villagers fear that their cattle may die.

PEOPLE INJURED

Last week trouble flared up when the farmer's labourers, acting on his instructions, turned away the men and women, who had come to fetch water, away from the spring. Several people were injured after the villagers, angered by the incident, allegedly attacked the farmer's labourers.

Eastern Transvaal police are reported to be investigating the matter.

Meanwhile the farmer, a Mr Pauls, has diverted water from the springs to a dam he has built on his farm.

Chairman of a local residents' committee, Mr Mkhize, said yesterday: "It is saddening that the farmer has chosen to use the same water for irrigation purposes rather than allowing the local villagers to use the supply."

Man finds law cuts both ways

A MOHLAKENG man who earlier laid a charge of assault against a local councillor was in turn charged under the Intimidation Act at the Randfontein Magistrate's Courts yesterday.

Mr James Gabaotswe's appearance follows his arrest outside the Randfontein Court buildings on January 4, soon after the case in which he had laid a charge of assault against Mr Solomon Matsitse, the vice-chairman of the Mohlakeng Community Council was postponed.

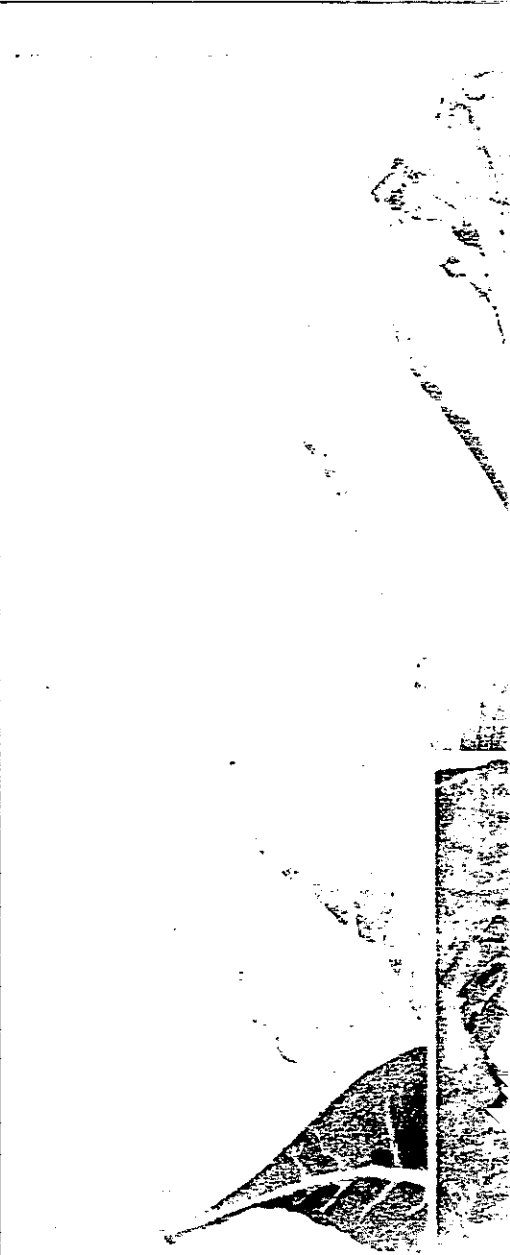
Mr Gabaotswe was taken away by detectives and kept in custody in the Krugersdorp prison until yesterday while it was under the

Alleged rapist gunned down by police

A 30-YEAR-OLD alleged rapist, who was also wanted in connection with a series of crimes including murder, was gunned down by police near Oberholzer in the Western Transvaal this week, Major Victor Haynes of the Police Directorate said yesterday.

Mr Kleinboy Zodwane, of no fixed address, was finally wounded when he tried to resist arrest on Tuesday morning.

Maj Haynes said Mr Zodwane was shot in the chest when he tried to attack a detective-constable from Westonaria with a piece of steel pipe



State funds not enough

21/1/83

General

D. Dipa

PRETORIA — The government is starving the Department of Agriculture of essential funds, it was claimed at the Agricultural Outlook conference here.

The Director-General of Agriculture, Mr Dirk Immelman, claimed the funds allocated to the department by the Minister of Finance, Mr

Owen Horwood, were insufficient to support the department's full responsibilities.

The shortage of staff was critical, he said. Research, extension and administrative services which underlaid the administration of agricultural legislation could not be carried out.

Dr Immelman said his statement might be rejected by the government, but he would not stand accused before South Africa's farmers by remaining silent when he might "save the situation by being frank."

Dr Immelman said consensus should be the

aim. Departments involved should be pushing their own particular viewpoints.

Agricultural authorities claimed that Dr Immelman said he needed saying for a time".

His standpoint would have the fullest support from organised agriculture, they said. —

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WHERE DROUGHT HURTS

Most of inland SA has had less rain than usual this year, but the drought is affecting large areas differently.

The northern Cape, where some seven-year-olds are still waiting to see rain for the first time in their lives, is exceptional. After that, the worst affected appears to be a huge inverted crescent of land — stretching from East Griqualand, Lesotho and the eastern Cape up through the southern and western Free State to the northern Transvaal bushveld and then down again through the lowveld to northern Natal and Zululand. Throughout that crescent, crops are shrivelled, grazing is short and dams and rivers are either dry or running low.

The area in between, encompassing the Transvaal highveld, the eastern Free State and the rest of Natal, looks a little greener on the surface. But even there underground and sub-soil water reserves are abnormally deficient. As a result, the few summer showers have been absorbed by the parched earth as fast as they have fallen.

"It's like spitting on a hot-plate," sneered one disgruntled farmer. Even in traditionally high rainfall districts there has been very little "run-off" since last summer's rains came to an early end. In consequence, some of the most worried farmers are those down-stream of the driest districts whose irrigation supplies are already being cut off — one, two, three or even four days a week — while the scorching sun still blazes down on their fruit trees, vegetables, lucerne, cotton, tobacco and sugar cane.

Unless rivers and dams are replenished by unusually heavy autumn rains, some irrigation farmers could be in dire straits long before the end of the coming winter. In the short term, those with vegetables and baled lucerne to sell are raking in the shekels because so many dry-land crops have failed. Potato prices have doubled in the last six weeks. They normally fall in January and February. But the money they are earning now by selling into a depleted market will not last long.

Despite disappointing summer crops

last year, the Transvaal Staters still have a lot to do after two abnormal years. However, to plant and to preserve the land and to reduce the number of cattle on their holdings, stricken cattle farmers are queuing for Meat Board destocking promises in the bushveld.

It is now too late for this year's summer crops. In districts it is also too late for grazing before winter.



It is tough beans that our farmers should have to suffer a scorching drought just as the financial taps are being screwed down. Inevitably, there will be calls for renewed financial assistance. Just as inevitably the government will give way to them whenever the cost (in votes) of not doing so is deemed to exceed the cost (in taxes and inflation) of stepping in. But a general rise in farm prices sufficient to bail out the entire farming community is just not on.

For two or three years now, administered fixed and floor prices for agricultural commodities have been allowed to lag behind cost increases. Local farm feather-bedding came to an abrupt end when the strongly partisan Hendrik Schoeman was shunted uphill from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Transport. In a few corners the mattresses are still comfortably stuffed. But the feathers are slowly being removed, nonetheless. Land Bank credit is not as cheap as it used to be.

Drought relief in the form of subsidised railage for bought-in fodder is still being granted. But the rules are tighter than they used to be. Farmers are now expected to plan for, and sort themselves out during, short- and medium-term droughts. Assistance is given only when the economic collapse of a whole community is threatened. Some, even among the farmers themselves, would still argue that government aid is overdone or unnecessary. Why should the State tax good farmers (who make money during droughts by preparing for them) in order to subsidise bad ones (who land themselves in trouble and spoil the veld by overstocking)?

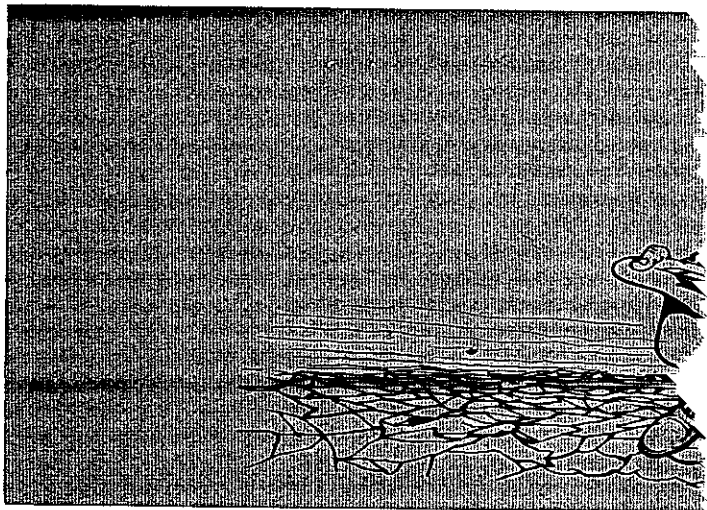
There is a new spirit of rugged indepen-

dence on the platteland. Recognising that the days of mollycoddling are over, agriculture is more prepared than ever to stand on its own two feet. But it expects industry to do the same. The farmers can live with droughts. That's part of farming. They can live with credit squeezes. That's part of business. But they can't live with exorbitant fuel, tractor, fertiliser, chemical, bag and packing material prices. And they are sick to the teeth of being tied to protected and inefficient middlemen.

Our farmers are beginning to see that their true allies and best trading partners are the efficient and low-cost northern hemisphere manufacturers of industrial goods whose competitive products are excluded from our markets just as our cheap food is denied theirs. The Maize Board's urea barter deal brought the message home

dramatically. It is not everyone (except agriculturalists) that the feather-bedding world are the northern and the southern hemisphere.

Our farmers will face a drought. But, if the feather-bedding Triomf, Sentrachem face unpleasant reality, efficiency on their local manufacturers most entirely on the amounts to permanent relief.





Representatives of South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique met in Pretoria yesterday to sign an agreement on water resources in an equitable manner. The signatories were, from left, the National Director of Water Affairs, J Lopes Pereira; Mr T P C van Robbroek, an engineer in the South African Department of Environmental Affairs; and the Principal Secretary of Ministry Works, Power and Communications, Mr G M Mabila.

Pretoria signs water diplomacy

By DON MARSHALL
Pretoria Bureau Chief

SOUTH Africa yesterday signed an agreement with her neighbours — one of them Marxist — to share their common water resources in an equitable manner.

The agreement is said to be a sequel to the talks at Komatipoort earlier this year between South African and Mozambican officials.

The talks, which were initiated by Mozambique, centred on South African demands that Mozambique stop

harbouring African National Congress terrorists and Maputo's requests for closer economic ties with Pretoria.

South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland have agreed to establish what Pretoria officials refer to as "a tripartite permanent technical committee" which will co-operate in matters affecting the best joint utilisation of the waters from their common rivers.

It has, therefore, far-reaching implications for future co-operation be-

tween the three countries and is part of Pretoria's wish to promote water diplomacy in the region.

Mozambique, in particular, has become concerned at the large amounts of water drawn from rivers rising in South Africa and flowing to the sea through Mozambique.

Maputo has complained that there is little left for Mozambican agriculture by the time that the water flows out of South African territory.

Dr Peter Vale, director of research at the South African Institute

of International Relations, said last night the agreement would be a "dedication" to "strengthening" relations with her neighbours.

"This is a very important position, much to be desired, especially for the region," Dr Vale said.

It was a "massive role of Africa in the region," he said.

COM 18/2/83 3 covered

Coloured farmers welcome LP action

D. Dispatch 17/12/82

~~1982~~

3 Gener

CAPE TOWN — Coloured farmers in the Stockenstrom district, whose land is scheduled for incorporation into Ciskei, have welcomed the Labour Party's undertaking to take up their case with the Government

makes provision for incorporating the coloured people's land into Ciskei.

Observers believe that it would be difficult for the coloured farmers to acquire farm land elsewhere in the country without special provisions by the government

strom. farmers had rejected a "suggestion" that land in the King William's Town municipal area be made available for sale to coloured landowners

The land, in the Yel lowwoods area, adjoins the Breidbach coloured township and borders on Ciskei. It is currently occupied by white farmers who are understood to be disgruntled about the incidence of stock theft in the area.

From RONEL SCHEFFER

Mr Dan Bailey, spokesman for the 4 000-strong community which stands to lose land which has been in coloured possession since 1829, said yesterday: "We are grateful to anybody who is prepared to take up the matter on our behalf"

Mr Bailey stressed that the community was still strongly opposed to its land being incorporated into Ciskei, and intended approaching the Ciskei Government in an attempt to halt the proposed incorporation.

The Deputy Minister of Development and Land Affairs, Mr Hennie van der Walt, indicated in Parliament last week that the coloured farmers would be allowed to buy land elsewhere in the country.

Mr Van der Walt said he would spell out the options open to the Stockenstrom community in his reply to the second reading debate on the Borders of Particular States Extension Amendment Bill, which

The leader of the Labour Party, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, has said that the government would have to re-examine the fate of the Stockenstrom farmers in view of the "new atmosphere" it was trying to create.

Mr Hendrickse said he was already negotiating a similar case with the government and would be taking up the case of the Stockenstrom farmers as well.

Meanwhile, Mr Bailey said yesterday Stocken-

"This simply means we will once again be a buffer between whites and Xhosa people. We've had enough of being a buffer state," said Mr Bailey, adding that the coloured farmers, if forced to move, would rather "move west."

Government spokesmen declined to comment yesterday on whether the possibility of making land in the King William's Town district available to coloured farmers was being investigated.

~~118~~ Fingo Reserve/The (3) *Vaner*
Gap/Snykclip/Wittekleibosch Fingo
Reserve/Witte-Elsbosch
Hansard Q. Col. 118 15/2/83
103. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the
Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) What were the respective ages of successful applicants for State-owned land available in the Republic known as (a) Zone B: Fingo Reserve 653, The Gap 655 and Snykclip 653, portions 1 to 17, and (b) Zone C: Wittekleibosch Fingo Reserve 674 and Witte-Elsbosch 673, portions 1 to 6;
- (2) whether applications were received from persons whose land had been bought out by the State for consolidation purposes; if so,
- (3) whether any applications received from such persons were successful; if so, how many?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) (a) and (b)
 - F. O. W. Anderson 28 years
 - G. de Klerk 28 years
 - D. J. T. Fourie 41 years
 - G. V. Z. Joubert 33 years
 - P. J. Korkie 33 years
 - D. E. Landman 24 years
 - G. C. Landman 28 years
 - A. J. Le Roux 34 years
 - J. D. Meiring 53 years
 - M. J. Meyer 22 years
 - I. P. Odendal 24 years
 - L. L. van Niekerk 26 years
 - A. M. van Schoor 38 years
 - A. P. van Wyk 33 years
 - I. C. Vermaak 27 years
- (2) Yes (5).
- (3) No.

Mafani: more Ciskeians in senior positions

D. Dispatch
15/2/83
3 A
Gent

ZWELITSHA — The Department of Agriculture has promoted more graduates to posts previously held by white experts, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr V. H. Mafani, said yesterday.

During the phase of self-government the department had a number of professional posts but these were held only by white experts throughout the department.

Mr Mafani said that since the first constitutional change the Ciskei Government had lamented the shortage of Ciskeian graduates to join the Government.

The Department of Agriculture had appointed nine graduates since independence.

Mr Mafani appealed to principals of high schools to help in future

to identify science students. There was "need for agricultural engineers, people to pursue studies in forestry at degree level, agricultural economists and soil scientists."

"This is a challenge to young graduates to come forward. Unlike in the past where there were no posts, we have posts. We want people to be paced in key positions," he said. — DDR.

drilled near Mooyplaas, a drilling company official said yesterday.

"It is the greatest flow ever tapped in the East London area. A strike of this size is very nearly impossible," said Mr. J. A. Burger, whose firm dug the hole.

Relief to Border farmers

He said that no pump could handle the 100,000 litre flow, and that currently about 50,000 litres an hour were being drawn.

Boreholes in this area normally yielded 1,200 to 1,500 litres an hour.

A plume of water 50 m high shot into the air when the hole was drilled on Saturday. "It was fantastic," said Mr. Burger.

The water would supply a cabbage and livestock farm at Bluewater, owned by Mr. Ivan Kleck and his son Robin.

"It's beautiful. It's heaven," said Mr. Ivan Kleck's wife, Merle.

"It means we can fill our empty dams, go on growing cabbages, and grow fodder to keep our cattle alive. We had other boreholes, but we were beginning to get concerned about water.

"We might be able to share some of the water with neighbours — if someone's drinking, an hour were being ample."

Mr. Burger said it was almost certain that flow from the borehole would be drilled at the site to fully exploit the source. — D.D.R.

DD 12/2/83
**Drought
crisis ③
General
areas
listed**

EAST LONDON — Drought conditions in the Eastern Cape had not improved as the isolated rain was not effective, a spokesman at the Dohne Research Station said yesterday.

In the following areas according to a report from Dohne, water supplies were poor to critical and fountains, boreholes and dams were drying up:

Aliwal North, Jamestown, Lady Grey, Barkly East, Elliot, Ugie, Maclear, Dordrecht, Indwe, Moltano, Queenstown, Tarkastad, Stutterheim, East London, Komga, King William's Town, Bathurst, Adelaide, Bedford and Fort Beaufort.

The report stated grazing conditions and fodder were generally poor. Conditions were critical in Komga, the East London area east of the Buffalo River, King William's Town, Adelaide, Bedford, Fort Beaufort, Cathcart, Stutterheim and Maclear.

The drought and high evaporation rate in Dordrecht, Indwe, Moltano, Stutterheim, Cathcart, Adelaide, Bedford and Fort Beaufort had burnt crops and in other areas crops were described as being poor.

Many of these areas were on the emergency grazing list, and in some places the implementation of phase one — where farmers receive a 75 per cent rebate on the transport cost of fodder — and phase two — where farmers receive a loan from the government to buy fodder — of the drought relief plan had been recommended. — DDR.

Search is

LONDON — A 37-year-old government employee was charged last night with the murder of a youth as police searched a London house for the dismembered corpses of 16 young drifters.

Scotland Yard headquarters said Mr Dennis Andrew Nilsen would appear before London magistrates today.

Press reports said Mr Nilsen was a £7 000 a year official at a government "job centre," used by the unemployed to find work. He is the son of a Norwegian father and Scottish mother. Ten years ago he spent a year in the London police force.

Mr Nilsen was charged with murdering Mr Stephen Sinclair, a homeless 20-year-old, around February 1 this year.

The grisly hunt began when a plumber found the remains of three rotting corpses blocking a sewer, and police discovered two decomposing heads wrapped in plastic bags in a nearby flat.

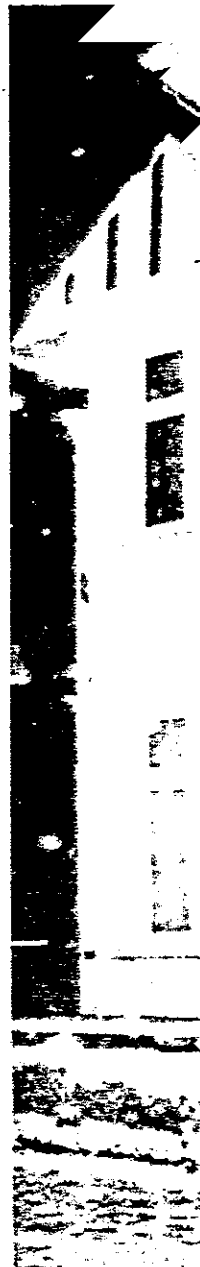
After police questioned Mr Nilsen they started to search another house 5 km away, ripping up floorboards and digging up the garden.

"We believe we are looking for either 13 or 14 more bodies in this house," a police spokesman said.

Worried parents of missing young men swamped police with calls yesterday.

Mr Mark Tekinalp, a builder who has been helping renovate the empty house, said: "When we arrived at the house it was like a bomb site.

"There were empty



The house in N

wine bottles, be and a mattress front garden and front and winos (had been living

Strict laws d to ensure a fair the accused me ish news media unable to li charge again Nilsen, who po is unmarried, v search for bod

For Britons t was the most since the Yo Ripper murder women betwee and 1980 by tru er Peter Sutcli. serving a life s in prison.

Detectives to. in plastic bags heads and a found at the f Muswell Hill.

**SATURDAY
SPECIALS
FOR
MEN**

2 DIECE CIITS

DD 12/2/85

3 General

Farmers angry at health tariff hike

EAST LONDON — Stiff protests, against the Divisional Council's 68 per cent increase in its rural health rate will be made by farmers soon, the council was warned yesterday.

The councillor for Komga, Mr Dudley Lloyd, said he had attended a Komga Farmers' Association meeting yesterday morning — "and they are very unhappy."

He said the council could expect a flood of protests from other associations against the increased health rate and asked the council to approach the relevant Minister urgently.

The health rate in the rural area was increased by the council from 0,069c in the rand to 0,125c in the rand to increase the health budget from R63 000 to R106 000.

Mr Lloyd said an immediate approach to the government should be made to subsidise the rate further. The account is already subsidised by seven-eighths by State Health.

"The ratio of blacks to whites in this region is totally disproportionate.

In this division we have the least number of whites to the most number of blacks," he said.

"If the government wants us to continue administering health in this manner, they should bear the responsibility.

"You can't levy increases like this on ratepayers who are going through a severe drought and economic climate."

The council's senior public health nurse, Sister Korsch, said that the divisional council's health service was for the farm labourers and families.

"We do not provide health services in black states."

The acting secretary, Mr B. Q. Andrews, warned the council that it could "bump its head" if it approached the government for help in lowering the health rate.

"Last year when the estimates were being considered, we all sat around this table, trimming the budget and deciding on the rates.

"The council decided on the rate, so it can't go running to higher au-

thorities now, crying that the rate is too high."

Mr Lloyd acknowledged that the council had "slipped up", and challenged any of the councillors to say that they knew the health rate was being increased by 68 per cent when the estimates were being considered.

He said the health rate was levied only on rural ratepayers and that those living in urban areas did not have to pay the rate.

"Is this fair?" he asked.

The council's senior administrative officer, Mr Naude, said municipalities had their own health services to which people living in municipalities paid their own rates.

"Is it fair to expect someone living in a town to pay for their health service and to pay for rural health services as well?"

"It was a stupid question, Mr Chairman, and I knew the answer," Mr Lloyd replied with a smile.

"I was just testing our officials." — DDR

Border rustlers are making monkeys out of SA farmers

3
General
S. E. ...
13/2/83



● Game farmer Willem Pretorius points out a security fence hole — it's a "gate" to the Zimbabwe rustlers. Picture: DOUG LEE

NIGHTLY raids by Border bandits are helping to bankrupt South African farmers who live along the Limpopo River.

Hundreds of cattle have been stolen by cattle rustlers who make use of the dry Limpopo river bed to cross from Zimbabwe, cut the border fences and drive entire herds back across the river.

"I would rather cope with the bush war all over again than this type of cattle rustling," one farmer said. "The situation is hopeless. There is no way to patrol the border constantly during peacetime."

In some cases the cattle wander back across the river into South Africa but, as the border fence also serves as a 'red line' (a foot and mouth disease line) the animals may not be driven back through the fence without spending a month in quarantine.

Initially stolen animals which wandered back to the South African side of the river were shot, but the numbers have risen so dramatically over recent weeks that farmers have been forced to build quarantine pens.

The farmers complain that the double border fence — with barbed-wire coils on top, a single electric-line and sisal in between — is not sufficient to keep out visitors from across the river.

- 1979 — One case of stock theft, Two cattle stolen.
- 1980 — Two cases of stock theft, 71 cattle stolen.
- 1981 — Ten cases of stock theft, 146 cattle stolen.
- 1982 — 19 cases of stock theft, 246 cattle stolen.

For information along the border...

monstrated how to crawl through a stormwater drain which empties into the Limpopo from a road some distance on the other side of the border fences.

A well-worn path leads away from the drains on the South African side of the fence. One night I sat down next to the drains waiting to see who would come out.

"Forty people came through the drain that night. I marched them all up to the

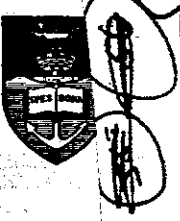
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Namaqualand nuclear-waste dumping ground

All answers
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FARMS OF FEAR

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(B.A., B.Sc.)

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OPPOSITION is growing in Namaqualand to the Government's shock decision to bury Koeberg's nuclear waste in the region. At least one local authority in the area has asked the State to locate its nuclear dump elsewhere.

By DIRK VAN DER MERWE
Weekend Argus

Some town representatives and many individuals in the sparsely-populated stockfarming region are bitter that neither the Government nor its nuclear management corporation kept them fully informed before the decision was broadcast nationally nine days ago.

Most people affected are still in the dark about the implications of nuclear waste in their vicinity. And in spite of soothing official statements about the safety of sealed and buried nuclear waste, many seem to fear the prospect.

They are asking: What will the "radiation" do to underground water supplies and to their ecology in general?

Three farms

The head of the Atomic Energy Corporation and Government officials say that those who want information will get it. The MP for Namaqualand, Mr Eli Louw, said he planned to look into the growing controversy in his constituency this weekend.

The area earmarked for South Africa's first nuclear waste dumping ground covers three farms between the hamlets of Gamoeep and Platbakkies. The nearest towns are Garies and Kamieskroon, 500 km from Cape Town.

Kamieskroon's Town Clerk, Mr Joachim Engelbrecht, said: "Our council was not acknowledged in any way and the people in the area are very bitter. The first we heard about the decision was in the newspapers and on the radio."

Dissatisfied

The council will discuss the matter at a meeting next week and "I am sure we will make representations to the Government to move the site".

Mrs Sophie Nieuwoudt, Town Clerk of Garies, is equally dissatisfied: "No one has spoken to us officially and I think that our MP, Mr Louw, should at least have been here."

Mrs Nieuwoudt said the residents of Garies were not afraid that their underground water would be contaminated,

because they were on the opposite side of the Kamiesberge to the nuclear waste site.

The Namaqualand Divisional Council, within whose area the three farms fall, was also not consulted, says its chairman, Mr Jannie van der Westhuizen.

Feel bitter

Some Namaqualanders feel bitter that their land is to be used for storing waste matter transported 500 km "when for the past decade we have begged for household water to be laid on from the Orange River, 130 km away," said one.

Mrs Gerda Visser of Garing Farm, which has

Examiners' Initials	

Books, notes, pieces of paper brought into the examination are so instructed.

Examiners are not to communicate or with any person except the invigilator. The only exception of an answer book is to be handed over to an invigilator before the examination.

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4 000 jobs of ~~the~~ ³ General ~~of~~ ³ ~~the~~ river plan

PRIORITY attention should be given to boosting the amount of irrigable land in the Sundays River Valley — thereby creating an additional 4 000 jobs and substantially increasing the region's income from the agricultural sector.

This is the opinion of Gabdec (Greater Algoa Bay Development Committee) members Mr Rocky Ridgway and Mr Tony Gilson.

Reacting to last week's BUSINESS POST report on the dwindling share commanded by "Region D" in the country's economic growth, the Gabdec men said emphasis should be placed on those growth areas which would show the quickest returns from relatively small investments.

Expansions to the irrigation system supplying the citrus farmers of the Sundays River valley with water fell into just such a



By Louis Beckerling
Business Editor

category, argued the Gabdec men.

A Pretoria consultant commissioned by Gabdec to identify investment targets had produced an interim report on the Sundays River area which

largely coincided with the views held by farmers and agricultural experts.

"By raising the level of the Wellington Grove weir on the Schoenmakers River (which feeds into the Sundays River) some 20 metres, it will apparently be possible to increase the existing 9 000 hectares under irrigation by 3 000ha to 4 000ha," explained Mr Ridgway.

"This would provide in the region of a further 4 000 jobs."

At a cost of about R12 million (spread over three years), that proposal works out costing about R3 000 per job, in line with the experience of the Corporation for Economic Development's (CED's) 10-year record of producing jobs in the agricultural sector at some R2 700 each.

It is also way below the cost of producing jobs in the

industrial sector. In its latest annual report (for the period to March 1982), the CED indicated that accumulated investments in industrial development in the various homelands amounted to R304 million.

To this figure should be added some R180 million finance provided by the private sector — the joint investment of R484m creating 39 000 jobs, or about R12 400 per job.

The second growth area which should be developed, said Mr Ridgway and Mr Gilson, was tourism.

"Mr Heyl has calculated that our current share of the tourism market is 5% and at this rate it would be worth some R125 million per annum by the year 2 000. But properly promoted this could be boosted to R200 million," said Mr Ridgway.

Obstacles to be over-

Paper No. FINAL EXAM.
(to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

Initials

NOTE CAREFULLY

1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.

WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except an invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the invigilator or to an invigilator before the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

31. Mr. T. LANGLEY asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information:†

- (1) Whether any cases of border violation occurred in the vicinity of Messina in the past six months; if so, (a) how many and (b) which countries were involved in these border violations;
- (2) whether there was any question of stock theft in these border violations; if so, how many head of stock were involved;
- (3) whether the stock were returned to their owners; if not, what damage was suffered by the owners of the stock;
- (4) whether the Republic has taken any steps in regard to the matter; if so what steps;
- (5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION:

(a) According to available information approximately 265. It is not possible to furnish a more accurate figure as the figure includes, *inter alia*, also cases where border trespassers cross to and fro over the border on the pretext of visiting families on either side of the border often without proper travel documents.

(4) Yes, the matter has been taken up with the authorities of Zimbabwe and the special cattle stock theft unit of the South African Police gives the highest priority to this matter. It should also be pointed out that Zimbabwe has made allegations that livestock on the Zimbabwean side are stolen by South Africans. These allegations can however not be followed up without supporting evidence. It is most certainly a serious problem which enjoys constant attention.

(5) No.

~~265 Head of Cattle 93-94
1/2/82
Printing/distribution of speeches~~
*32. Mr. T. LANGLEY asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information:†

(1) Whether his Department reprinted and distributed any speeches made by the Prime Minister in 1982; if so, (a) what was the nature of such speeches, (b) on what occasions were they made, (c) in which way were they distributed and (d) what was the total cost of the printing and distribution thereof.

(2) whether these speeches were sent to specific categories of persons; if so, what categories of persons?
†THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION:

(1) Yes.

(a) It dealt mainly with how South Africa meets the external threat.

subsequently extra copies were distributed.

(d) R15 579/85: Regarding the re-printing and distribution of important speeches and announcements by the government and specifically by the Prime Minister of the country, it should be stressed that far less is spent in South Africa per capita or proportionally than in the industrialized nations of the world. The Department should be doing far more in this regard but must operate within the approved budget. If we get more money, we will do much more.

(2) Yes, initially it was sent to all subscribers of the "SA Digest" and the "SA Corsig". Run-offs were distributed separately to attorneys, advocates, managers of co-operatives, minister of religion, members of commerce, mayors, school principals, Rotarians, Lions, heads of departments at Universities, delegates to the Good Hope conference in Cape Town, trade union leaders and members of the Suid-Afrikaanse Handels-instituut. We should very much like to distribute it to more people if the necessary funds are available.

†Mr. F. J. LE ROUX: Mr. Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon. the Minister, will he consider changing the name of the *S. A. Digest* to *The Citizen*?

†Mr. P. C. CRONJÉ: Mr. Speaker, further arising out of the reply of the hon. the Minister, I just want to tell him that, as he is

*33. Mr. S. S. VAN DEN BERG asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:†

- (1) Whether his Department requires independent confirmation of the declaration by a prospective immigrant that he has no previous convictions; if so,
- (2) whether such confirmation is required in all cases; if not, (a) why not and (b) in which cases are exceptions made?

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

(1) and (2) This is not an imperative requirement as independent confirmation is not always obtainable.

Assistance to visiting group of artists

*34. Mr. M. A. TARR asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information:

- (1) Whether representations have been made to him or his Department for (a) financial and (b) other assistance with regard to a visit by a group of artists the name of which has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (i) by whom were the representations made and (ii) what was (aa) the nature of and (bb) his response to the representations;
- (2) whether he will furnish the name of the group;
- (3) whether any assistance was given by

long-term drought relief plan.

Farming districts affected include Utrecht, in northern Natal, East Griqualand and Lower Mkuze. The Magudu area of north-western Zululand could be next.

The Natal Agricultural Co-operative has estimated that the maize crop in the summer grain growing areas of northern Natal could be as low as 20% of normal levels this year. The cotton crop has failed completely and the beef farmers of northern Zululand are desperately looking for grazing. Dairy farmers, who have been keeping pastures alive through irrigation, fear that there will be a massive reduction in milk production unless good rains fall soon.

According to Peter Hillyard, Director of Agriculture in Natal, the drought is the culmination of four years of below-average rainfall. He says farmers have applied for drought listing as "a last resort because the stigma attached to classification could affect their credit rating and the value of their farms."

Government's long-term drought relief scheme is specifically designed to assist livestock farmers. Therefore, it is not regarded as entirely appropriate for Natal's mixed farming regions. But those farmers who do stand to benefit from the 75% rebate in the transport of animal feeds and additional production loans will certainly make use of it.

Meanwhile, the Natal Agricultural Union (NAU) is drawing up special assistance proposals to be submitted to the Minister. One

AGRICULTURE ^{3 general} Natal seeks aid

FM 11/2/83

For the first time in 14 years, Natal farmers are seeking classification as drought-stricken, to benefit from government's

from the NAU's co-operative association, is that farmers' carry-over debts and production loans should be consolidated into a single amount repayable over 10 years, with further interest rate subsidies.

Says Peter van Rooyen, director of the Natal Agricultural Co-op: "The four-year repayment period under the present subsidy scheme is not good enough. At least over a 10-year period there is a 99% chance of having a good crop."

Hans van der Merwe, deputy director general of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), agrees. He says, "Farmers' debts are already spread over four years, but they seem to have a bigger burden to carry each successive season."

Van der Merwe says last season's carry-over debts for the co-operatives in the country's summer grain areas was R370m. This year the figure is expected to increase by 89% as a result of higher input costs and interest bills and declining production. "This rising debt is a millstone around the farmers' necks. I don't know how they are going to meet their obligations."

The SAAU is meeting next week to plan a co-ordinated strategy for drought relief. An announcement of further relief measures is expected from the Minister shortly.

~~Meat Board~~ *Meat Board* *Meat Board*
Meat Board: salaries/allowances
Howard Q. Col. 36-57 8/2/83
51. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the
Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) What were the (a) salaries and (b) allowances paid to the (i) chairman and (ii) members of the Meat Board in the 1981-'82 financial year;
 - (2) what was the total amount paid by the Meat Board in respect of (a) salaries and (b) allowances in the said financial year?
-

37

WEDNESDAY

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) (a) (i) No salary: R7 500—Honorarium per annum.
(ii) No salaries: R36 435—Total of all honorariums to members.
- (b) (i) R18 161—Entertainment, travel and subsistence allowance.
(ii) R37 106—Travel and subsistence allowance.
- (2) (a) Total amount of salaries 1981/82: R4 940 443.
(b) Total amount of allowances 1981/82: R2 124 580.

Trustees in a pickle over failed project

5. Tribune
3
General
~~---~~

6/2/83

By TONY SPENCER-SMITH

A NON-PROFIT educational project aimed at rural black children, which was run by a number of top business and professional men, has turned into a financial debacle.

The Southern African Rural Trust was set up in late 1980 to promote the well-being of people living in rural areas.

In 1981 the trust instigated a project involving the supply of special educational toy kits to rural black children to help them cope with the complex technological demands of modern society.

The scheme received a fanfare of publicity in the Press, on radio and on TV.

The kits were to be sold on a non-profit basis, but something went wrong and the board of trustees is stuck with 70 000 apparently unsaleable kits in a Johannesburg warehouse and debts in excess of R100 000, in spite of a R40 000 donation from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund.

One of the trustees, Tim Potter, a partner in one of the country's top auditing firms and a former president of the Transvaal Society of Chartered Accountants, admitted in an interview this week that the massive debts incurred by the trust were a great embarrassment to the trustees.

"The project was a good idea but we are in a pickle, no doubt of that.

"And our creditors are in a very unfortunate position. If we can't sell the kits we can't pay them, and I must admit we're just about running out of ideas of how to do that."

He said it was hoped to have a meeting of the board of trustees this week to try to sort out the matter.

Mr Potter conceded that:
• The accounts of the trust had never been audited because there had been no funds to pay for auditors.

• A major problem in marketing the kits was that they were "perhaps not as sturdy as they should be, and in the hands of unsupervised children they wouldn't last very long".

Mr Potter said one of the trustees had been Dr Douglas Roberts, former chairman of construction giant Murray and Roberts, who died last year.

The trustees now were Dr Shlomo Peer, the deputy chairman of Anglo American Life Insurance Company, businessman Vic Allen and his wife, Dr Andre Spier, a futurist who headed a think-tank called Syncom, and Michael Steytler, a professional agriculturist.

Mr Potter and Dr Peer emphasised in interviews that they had become trustees in their private capacities and not on behalf of their firms.

The project was the brainchild of Mr Allen and for a long period he served full-time as the trust's executive director, running the trust's affairs and, for a time, drawing a salary.

Mr Allen said this week the trustees had not authorised him to incur debts, but he had been forced to do so because sponsors had not paid as promised.

"It was a nightmare. In the end I suffered a personal loss of R40 000 or more, a serious financial embarrassment from which I'm still recovering.

when the idea was launched everyone thought it a very good one. I was a hero and then suddenly when it went sour I became the monster.

"I was left holding the baby and I moved heaven and earth to sell the kits, with a large measure of help from the Urban Foundation, but without success."

He said he had given up an income of R50 000 a year as a business executive to devote two years to the trust, only to see the project end in disaster.

One of the trust's principal creditors, a Cape Town marketing firm called Kaleidoscope, is claiming more than R25 000 for work done for the trust.

The sole owner and MD of the firm, Colleen Backstrom, said Mr Allen had hired her firm to produce components for and pack 20 000 toy nursing kits and 20 000 "little trader" kits.

The trust's failure to pay had been a serious financial blow to her personally and to her firm.

"Mr Allen told me the trust was being sponsored by Anglo American, Murray and Roberts, Shell and so on, so I really thought this was a case where one did not have to worry about credit-worthiness and ask for cash up front."

Mr Potter said the company storing the kits was likely to destroy them if not paid soon.



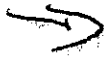
Vic Allen: his idea



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~~Oil Seeds Control Board~~ 3 Control
Oil Seeds Control Board: sale of property
Household Q. Lot. 25 - 26 4/2/83
10. Dr. F. A. H. VAN STADEN asked
the Minister of Agriculture:†

- (1) Whether a property of the Oil Seed Control Board was recently sold in Pretoria; if so, (a) to what body or person and (b) what was the purchase price;



BURUARY 1983

26

- (2) whether any tenders for this property were called for; if not, why not; if so, (a) what body or person submitted the highest tender and (b) what was the amount of this tender?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes.
(a) Sentrale Lewendehawe Be-
stuurskoöperasie Bpk.
(b) R1,5 million.
- (2) No. It is not normal procedure to sell property per tender. The property concerned was offered in the open market through estate agents.

35-39
40-44
45-49
50-54
55-59
60-64
65-69
70-74
75-79
80-84
85+

and below the local price levels.

Potatoes: Market prices are at present higher than last year but may level off later in the year as a result of an improvement in the climatic conditions.

(2) (b) (i) (bb)

0-4
5-9
10-14
15-19
20-24
25-29
30-34
35-39
40-44
45-49
50-54
55-59
60-64
65-69
70-74
75-79
80-84
85+

(2) (a) and (b) Cotton: Large quantities of cotton fibre must necessarily be imported to meet the spinner's requirements. The price of cotton will be subsidized to an amount of R5.5 million during 1983/84 to encourage production. Prices are also supported by the Board's special levy fund.

Tobacco: The importation of certain types of tobacco which are needed for blending purposes, will probably have to be increased. Tobacco production is largely dependent on weather conditions and tobacco co-operatives endeavour to meet the local requirements for tobacco by means of efficient production planning.

(2) (b) (ii) (aa)

0-4
5-9
10-14
15-19
20-24
25-29
30-34
35-39
40-44
45-49
50-54
55-59
60-64
65-69
70-74
75-79
80-84
85+

Olseeds: Production is to a large extent determined by climatic conditions and it is not the Control Board's policy to influence producers regarding their choice of production and what quantities they should produce.

Potatoes: Potato producers are kept informed of the current and expected crop- and marketing situation which enables them to plan marketing to best advantage and also to decide on new plantings for marketing later in the year.

U.U 0.0
U.V 0.0
U.W 0.0
U.X 0.1

15-19	0.8	0.6	0.2	3.5
20-24	0.8	0.5	0.2	3.3
25-29	0.7	0.4	0.1	2.5
30-34	0.7	0.4	0.1	2.0
35-39	0.6	0.3	0.1	1.7
40-44	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.4
45-49	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.2
50-54	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.0
55-59	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.8
60-64	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.7
65-69	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.4
70-74	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3
75-79	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
80-84	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
85+	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1

Percentages were rounded off independently of one another. Their sum may, therefore, not necessarily add to 100 per cent.

Data relate to the Population Census of 6 May 1980.

Grahamstown: population figure

60. Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(a) What is the latest figure for the (i) male and (ii) female Black population of Grahamstown and (b) in respect of what year are the figures given?

THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (a) (i) 18 351.
- (ii) 22 486.

(b) 1982.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes, Cotton, tobacco, olseeds and potatoes.

(2) (a) Reduced production as a result of drought conditions.

(b) Cotton: No price implications. Spinners are bound to a price formula contained in the marketing agreement.

Tobacco: Producer prices will not be notably affected as they are mainly regulated by means of the stabilization fund.

Olseeds: Olseeds are marketed.

3 General Howard
Agricultural products: shortages
64, Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

18/2/83

(3) General 18/2/83 Hayward
Agricultural products price increases
Q. Co 1. 219-220
119. Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the
Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether any applications for price increases of any agricultural products in 1983 have been received by his Department; if so, from what organizations;
- (2) what in each case (a) was the increase requested, (b) were the reasons given for the application and (c) was the response of his Department;
- (3) whether any increases have been or are to be granted; if so, what is the increase in each case;
- (4) whether any representations have been made against such price increases; if so, (a) by which organizations and (b) what in each case (i) were the reasons for the representa-



tions and (ii) was the response of his Department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) No.
- (2), (3) and (4) Fall away.

D. Dimpale 10/21/83

Market trade hit by drought conditions

General

EAST LONDON — Drought has severely affected the city's historic German market.

Many farmers who normally supplied the market with vegetables no longer have produce to bring in, because of poor or failed crops.

Over the last five months, approximately 60 per cent of the farmers who had stalls at the market had pulled out, said the city's market manager, Mr Frank du Toit.

Of the remaining 40 per cent, many were coming to market on only one of the two days that it was open for business every week.

Mrs M. G. Staffen, who farms in the KwaZulu area, said most

of the farmers who remained at the market were reducing the amount of space they rented.

She planned to cut back from two stalls to one next month.

"There is so little at the market now that it's generally sold out by 7 or 8 in the morning," she said.

A farmer who pulled out of the German market at the beginning of January, Mrs A. M. Miles of Kidd's Beach, said there was "very little" at the market.

She left the market because of poor growing conditions.

"There won't be anything left at the German market if the drought carries on," she said.

DDR

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including a circled signature and the number "2-1".

5
1 unit
General
178

Giant Fedmech has laid off hundreds

By Elizabeth Rouse 20/2/83 sector 333

SOUTH Africa's largest manufacturer of farm machinery, Fedmech, retrenched hundreds of employees this month, and factory operations have been scaled down substantially.

Group managing director Dr Leon Knoll told Business Times "We have done our best through early retirement and generous separation pay policies, to soften the blow for these employees."

This is the latest step taken by Fedmech, whose Massey-Ferguson tractors were market leaders last year, to ride out the severest-ever decline in farm machinery sales.

Dr Knoll says: "As is by now well known, the recent rapid economic downturn has impacted particularly seriously on the agricultural

"This has been compounded by the fact that summer crops have now been ravaged by drought for two consecutive years."

Massey sales dropped from 6 087 units in 1981 to 2 310 units in 1982.

The tractor achieved a 22.6% share of 1982's total market of 10 822 units, which showed a massive 59% decline on 1981's record sales of 28 862 tractors.

Prospects are dismal. "Our organisation is now structured to match the low level of market demand we foresee continuing well into 1984," says Dr Knoll.

He was prescient about the sad state of the tractor market, warning in March last year that sales would be down by 50%.

Tractor ^{4 for} challenge ^{21/2/83} by maize ^{3 found} farmers

Financial Correspondent

PRETORIA — Maize farmers have issued a multimillion rand challenge to the government's policy of protecting the tractor industry.

At a conference in Bothaville on Friday, the chairman of the Maize Board, Mr Crawford von Abo, showed three Fiat model tractors imported with private funds from Rumania and manufactured at the State-owned Brasov Tractor Factory.

Mr von Abo said nobody cared who bought South Africa's wool or export maize. Some of South Africa's best maize customers also had agricultural implements to sell, making it possible to get an excellent price for maize by organising a barter deal.

"Why should we care where the implements come from? The maize farmer is in a desperate position and must claw, at every opportunity to remain solvent," he said.

Landed costs before import duty for a model 640 45-kW two-wheeled tractor was R6 220. With R2 488 duty it landed for R8 708.

The equivalent South African model 640 carried a cost of R18 300, Mr von Abo said. The world-market related tractor represented a saving of nearly R10 000. Similar savings were possible in the case of the two other tractors shown.

Mr von Abo said that the three tractors had not been bartered but did show what could be done. The Maize Board's selling policy, including the barter deals, clearly had merit.

Agricultural economists said that with an annual market of about 10 000 tractors the Government's protection policy had now been shown to add a total of R100 million to the annual cost of maize and other farm products — a bill ultimately paid by the consumer.

After the Bothaville demonstration, they said, it would be more difficult for the Minister of Industries, Commerce and Tourism, Dr David de Villiers, to carry on with his high-cost policy.

Kwandebele extension could 'save' farmers

Mail Reporters

WHITE farmers whose land could border on or be incorporated into Kwandebele are "angry but resigned" — the move may save many from impending financial ruin caused by the drought.

They were reacting to proposals disclosed by the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, which would cede white farming land to Kwandebele.

In a snap survey of farmers in the Bronkhorstspuit and Verena areas yesterday, the Mail found that most farmers had expected similar moves to claim their farms three years ago.

Farmers said they had taken the matter up with the Government through the agricultural unions three years ago and were told the plans were not definite.

Now they planned to make representations to the consolidation committee when it meets in Bronkhorstspuit on February 28 and March 1.

Mr B van den Bergh, a cattle and maize farmer in Verena, said yesterday

he understood the necessity for the extension and was resigned to selling up and buying a new farm elsewhere.

"Many of us have been hard hit by the drought. This could well be an easy way out of financial problems for some of my neighbours."

However many of his neighbours had owned their farms for several generations.

"It is these farmers, and those who will border on Kwandebele, who are most upset by the move.

"This has been hanging over our heads for time now," he said.

Mr J Swart, a maize farmer in the Bronkhorstspuit area, is one farmer whose land would border Kwandebele.

Describing himself as "very angry", he threatened to "use my gun" if the move disrupted his farming.

"My father was born on this farm and so was I. My family has built it up from nothing and now its value will go down to nothing," he said.

A Verena cafe owner, Mr Johannes Oosterhuizen, said yesterday he was "very peeved".

"I think they have on us. I just don't know what is going to do."

He said as far as he was not going to be his homeland. He believed he would fall on the border.

"What if they come? A lot of shops just as well close," Oosterhuizen said.

A farmer's wife in the Bronkhorstspuit area, Mrs M. said yesterday that before Dr Koornhof made public, she was "sick with worry".

"After we were told the Government's plan, God. Had we been told we would know what we were doing."

"We don't have any blacks on my farm. I am definitely going to have blacks on my farm. I still have my farm."

"My heart real people who have to be fair the way they themselves up an

(3)

General ~~Household~~
Agricultural Credit Board

Q. 61. 235 22/2/83

137. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What amount was allocated by the Agricultural Credit Board in the latest specified year for which figures are available, in respect of (a) housing for, (b) the electrification of houses for, and (c) the provision of water for domestic consumption by, farm employees?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

1 January–31 December 1982.

- (a) R7 367 000.
- (b) R234 500.
- (c) R473 500.

Bonus bonds

230. Mr. H. H. SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Finance:

- (a) What was the total value of bonus bonds (i) bought and (ii) redeemed up to

Catastrophe as livestock 'die in their hundreds'

Horror drought hits Ciskei

Mercury
23/2/83
3 General



WAITING TO DIE ... a herdboy stands beside an emaciated cow

PORT ELIZABETH—The drought in the Ciskei has reached catastrophic proportions and is the worst in living memory, according to Mr Gary Godden, director of planning in the Ciskeian President's Office.

Maize and other crops are a total failure and cattle and other livestock are dying 'in their hundreds every day'.

Mr Godden said: 'Even if it rains now, the ailing livestock and crops cannot be saved. The Ciskei Livestock Board cannot buy up the cattle because it has no grazing to fatten the cattle — which are skin-and-bones.'

'Even if the cattle pull through now, many will not be strong enough to survive the coming winter,' he said.

The area from King William's Town to Keiskamma Hoek, Middelrift, Alice, Fort Beaufort, Peddie, Zwelitsha, Mdantsane and down to the mouth of the Great Fish River has not had rain since October last year.

This area down to the coast has become a desert wasteland, Mr Godden said.

Only the highlands around Stutterheim had light rain during January — but not enough to make the grass grow again, and the scorching sun beat down mercilessly again in the next few days.

Mr Godden said the South African Government had given Ciskei a grant-in-aid of R6 000 000 towards the Ciskei Drought Relief Fund for the period of June to December last year.

No jobs

Those millions, like our water and crops, have all dried up and the Ciskei Government must now provide relief from its own funds. However, we cannot reach all the people in the outlying areas with our limited funds.

There are not enough jobs for everybody and the drought relief programme whereby farmers are paid R2 a day for work such as repairing roads and dams, desilting dams, fighting soil erosion and repairing fences must now be financed by us.

To ensure as many farmers earn money, tribal authorities now split that R2 a day between two farmers.

The death of cattle and sheep has reached critical proportions and the special fodder scheme for the breeding animals has been suspended.

Mercury Correspondent

The Ciskei Department of Health also has its hands full fighting malnutrition, he said.

We are trying to build up fodder banks, but the drought conditions hit us every time and destroy all those plans.

Mr Godden said the Middelrift area was the worst hit because it had no water of its own, any more. The area was rapidly turning into a dustbowl.

Dusty

At Middelrift, Mr Leon Ngoma, principal agricultural officer, said the R2-a-day programme had been extended to women who worked repairing dams, while the men were sent out to fill up dongas.

In the Mfikile and Tyutuyza locations further north towards the Hogsback mountain range the road is dry and dusty.

Herds of cattle are held together only by skin and bones. Horses and mules walk at a laboured gait, with bare ribs and hips looking hideous in the blazing sun. Sheep and goats nibble at brown carpets of nothing.

Failure

It is a startling and dismaying sight. Between Mfikile and Tyutuyza, cattle, goats and horses stand knee-deep in mud, sipping the silty water at the last dam with water in the area. The animals cannot drink much because their systems have gone with out for far too long.

Our mealie crop is a total failure. There is no grazing left. From now on we can expect cattle to die at the rate of at least a hundred a month, he said.

Mr B B Matinyana, principal of the Tyutuyza Secondary School, said the present drought was worse than the one which devastated the area in 1949.

Normally, the stretches of dry red dustlands around the school would be green patches of mealies and other crops. Now there is nothing.

Last night Mr Godden said the South African Government was giving serious consideration to the emergency appeals by the Ciskei Government for a further grant.

Drought pushes agriculture to brink of disaster

Mercury Correspondent

PRETORIA—Two years of drought had pushed South Africa's agricultural industry to the brink of disaster, the general manager of the National Maize Producers' Organisation, Dr Piet Gous, said yesterday.

For the mealie farmer he added, it was already an unprecedented disaster.

The scale of damage caused by months of below-average rainfall was alarming.

He estimated the 1982-83 maize crop at just more than 7 000 000 tons — just enough to meet local demand — and it could be less.

As long as the rains hold off we will continue to lose 50 000 tons of maize a day, which represents a loss of income to farmers of R10 million a day.

Good rains now would not increase crop prospects, but would stabilise the situation and prevent further disastrous losses.

Dr Gous said drought had stripped vast areas of the country's ranching areas of grazing, and cat-

tle losses could be calamitous during winter and spring, unless widespread soaking rains fell within the next week or two.

In the homelands, he said, cattle were dying in their hundreds, and the winter — only a few months away — was a fearful prospect.

Dr Gous said Nampo would meet the Maize Board next month to discuss prices for the drought-ravaged crop.

Kill demand

Higher prices would be demanded, but just how much higher had not been decided yet.

'We could justify a price of R380 a ton, but obviously that kind of price would kill demand.'

The current price is R155 a ton, and the producer's net return R134 a ton, when the big levy to compensate for export losses is taken into account.

Dr Gous said farmers already burdened by crippling debts would have to be given substantial assistance if they were to be in a position to plant the 1983-84 summer crops.

(3) General Hansard
Land and Agricultural Bank: loans
Q. Col. 245 23/2/83
206. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked
the Minister of Finance:

How many loans were granted by the Land and Agricultural Bank to (a) Coloured and (b) Indian farmers in the latest specified year for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (a) 1982—7 (out of 7 applications received).
- (b) 1982—8 (out of 11 applications received).

losses. In Ciskei, the drought has been described as the worst in living memory and the situation is deteriorating daily, according to the Director for Planning, Mr Gary Godden.

About 7,250 of the 10,704 stock losses in January have been directly attributed to the drought in Transkei and an irrigation scheme at Sterkspruit has had to be abandoned because of lack of water from the Tele and Orange rivers.

The director of veterinary services in Transkei, Dr C Santos, said yesterday that if the situation persisted, severe stock losses could be expected.

In 1981, 10,553 stock losses were recorded for January through old age, plant poisoning and other diseases.

vegetation," Dr Santos said.

There has, however, been no indication of a cut in Transkei maize quota from South Africa.

Last week South African maize producers said there would be a cutback on maize exports because of failed crops.

The managing director of one of the biggest maize importers, Mr A. Cunningham, yesterday said the cutback seemed unlikely to affect Transkei's quota.

The Ciskei Government is continuing with drought relief work but a grant-in-aid of R6 million for drought relief from South Africa has been exhausted.

The government has applied for more funds and is waiting for a reply, according to Mr Godden.

can Defence Force is helping to cart water to areas which have no water whatsoever.

Irrigation schemes have not dried up, according to Mr Godden.

They are still holding their own as far as water from dams is concerned, but resources are dwindling daily.

Mr Godden said farmers were suffering heavy livestock losses. Cattle and sheep were dying in great numbers daily and even if the cattle pulled through now many would not be strong enough to survive the coming winter.

Mr Godden said the Ciskei Livestock Board was helping farmers by buying their stock, but they could not get decent prices for lean stock.

The Department of Health is also monitoring the situation to pre-

weather conditions remain relatively stable.

Dam levels at Port Alfred remained low because the catchment areas in Grahamstown yesterday at 25 C supplied its dams.

Petrol in Knock

CAPE TOWN—The 1,6 cents a litre fuel price cut announced yesterday is expected to make a significant impact on the current 14,4 per cent inflation rate.

The price cuts announced by the Minister of Energy Affairs, Mr Pielle du Plessis, affect diesel and other prices at

Gold pri

NEW YORK—The price of gold fell nearly \$20 an ounce yesterday in the belief that lower oil prices would reduce inflation, dealers said.

Prices fell to around \$486 an ounce here compared with \$506 in New York.



Pravain which exposed big business companies as cashing in on Africa's agricultural misfortunes with a callous eye on their profits.

It points to the past and present policies of foreign companies in the diversion of much of Africa's food potential to the crop demands of Europe, and of shaping countries' agricultural produce to suit their own needs.

The book, titled 'Agriculture in Africa', was researched by two authors under the auspices of the London-based Earth Resources Research Organisation.

But the criticism is not aimed at big business alone.

The book questions the approach of African governments who have been willing to use the advice and technology offered by the companies, knowing that their demands would be at the expense of their own people.

The companies involved are international household names, including Unilever, Tate and Lyle, Brooke Bond, Nestle, ICI, Shell, BP and Hoechst.

Their interests span the whole spectrum of agricultural business as



for much of its food shortages.

3 General ~~2222~~

Big business takes away Africa's food

Stew

24/2/83

they own plantations, processing plants, shipping companies, agricultural suppliers, management companies, distribution combines, warehouses and retail outlets.

The book shows the enormous potential power the companies have over food production, and their ability to step in at any stage of the product chain.

It analyses the agricultural business of many of Africa's more prosperous countries — excluding South Africa, which it admits is in a league of its own — and gives reasons why Africa is the number one hunger continent.

The authors, Barbara Dinham and Colin Hines,

examine the companies which already dominate trade in Africa's traditional crops of coffee, tea, cocoa, palm oil and rubber.

But they point that the companies are now opening new markets and growing fruit, vegetables, flowers and even "fluffy green foliage for bouquets" to fly to the cash-ready European markets.

It is argued that, in the past, food production has not been profitable enough for big-time agricultural business, but the potential has been seen, and they are now moving into staple food crops like maize and rice.

This has been made possible by low interest loans to African govern-

ments, usually in the form of aid.

The book claims that companies sell themselves on the basis of increasing Africa's profits from agriculture and meeting food shortages.

But, in reality, the large-scale, technologically expensive schemes which they promote bypass peasant farmers who make up the mass of Africa's population.

It is argued that large schemes inevitably affect the control of the land, and eight out of 10 of the continent's rural labour force is already thought to be landless.

It is pointed out that sugar schemes are spreading across Africa despite enormous over-production and low prices. But companies see the potential for producing fuel from sugar in order to replace costly oil exports.

These schemes have been shown to be a costly luxury in hunger-stricken countries. One in Kenya had to be abandoned because the fuel to run the plant would cost more than the fuel produced.

The conclusion drawn by the authors is that the interests of 'agribusiness' cannot coincide with those of most of the African population.

African governments, it is argued, must build up their own expertise and capacity to assess agricultural developments. Evidence suggests that reliance on agribusiness to 'generate capital for development has increased dependence on industrialised countries.

African governments will have to realise that it is they who will have to feed Africa in the end, not big business.

3 General
105

Farmers angry at proposed move to King

KING WILLIAMS TOWN

— Coloured farmers in the Stockenström district, whose land is scheduled to be incorporated into Ciskei, are strongly opposed to being moved to Yellowwoods near Breidbach.

Mr Dan Bailey, a spokesman for the Stockenström community said the community intended approaching the Ciskei Government in a bid to halt the proposed incorporation of their land.

He said the farmers had rejected a suggestion that land here be made available for sale to coloured land-owners.

"This simply means we will again be a buffer between whites and Xhosa people. We have had enough of being a buffer state," Mr Bailey said.

Meanwhile, white farmers also are up in arms over the location of their

properties.

A spokesman for the white land-owners (there are about a dozen in the area), Mr V. Nicholson, said most farmers wanted to move because of trespassing problems.

"What are we supposed to be on this narrow strip?" he asked. "A buffer between the black state and the coloured township?"

"The whole area — or at least 99 per cent — would like to get out because we have problems with township residents making pathways through our properties."

"The municipality should either buy us out or stop this practice of residents crossing over our properties."

Mr Pat Rogers, MP for King William's Town, commenting on the suggestion that farmers from the 4 000-strong

community at Stockenström be allowed to establish themselves in Yellowwoods near Breidbach, said that, in his opinion, the suggestion, if adopted, would solve the problems of white farmers in the area, as well as increase the potential of the Breidbach community.

"They must have a choice and not be transferred. They must be treated fairly. It is an effort to assist in that direction," he said.

Mr Henry Hutt, Town Clerk, said that a special municipal investigation had been instituted to evaluate the proposed move.

"Not even the rung of the ladder has been climbed so far. Feasibility studies and other investigations are still concerned. It's a long process and that is all it is," he said. —DDR

Drought could cost SA R800m

3 Grand

C. Timb
25/2/83

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The drought will cost South Africa an R800-million foreign exchange loss during the 1983-84 export season, agricultural authorities here estimate.

This will offset much of the gain from the higher gold price of the past few months, and have a serious adverse effect on the balance of payments.

The Director-General of Finance, Dr Joep de Loor, has sounded a similar warning.

The SA Agricultural Union economist, Mr Johan Willemse, said yesterday that in 1982 agricultural exports were valued at R2 100 million.

The year before, the amount was R2 045 million, including R588 million for maize, R268 million for sugar and R245 million for wool.

Agricultural exports in a normal year constituted about 20 percent of all exports, excluding gold.

Domestic need

Mr Willemse said that this year because of the drought the country would have to import soya beans, ground nuts and sunflower products, and possibly even maize for the first time in many years.

The National Maize Producers Organization (Nampo) estimates a crop of about seven million tons, barely enough to meet the domestic need.

The board suspended its export programme several months ago, and hopes to have a carry-over of about a million tons at the start of the new season in May.



Mr Errol Moorcroft

Mr Willemse said that because of the steep fall-off in exports the earnings of the railways and harbours would be adversely affected — to the extent of millions of rands — compounding the financial difficulties of the SA Transport Services.

Farmers' plight

Another serious aspect of this summer's disastrous drought, according to Pretoria sources, was that South Africa would be unable to respond fully, if at all, to appeals from other Southern African countries for maize exports.

Drought, it was stated, has hit the whole of Southern Africa, and in some states the threat of famine is real.

Meanwhile the plight of many farmers — their



Dr Joep de Loor

credit-worthiness exhausted by two years of severe drought — is worrying the government.

The cabinet has instructed the standing commission on agriculture to make recommendations before the end of next month on aid needed for farmers in the drought-ravaged areas.

The instruction follows recent visits by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, to drought areas.

The chairman of the commission, Dr A S Jacobs, a deputy governor of the SA Reserve Bank, said yesterday it was not only crop farmers who were suffering — cattle and sheep farmers were also in urgent need of aid.

Many farmers, he said,

CAPE-TIMES
25/2/83
A From page 1
MP for Albany, warned
yesterday
Mr Moorcroft, speaking
at an Institute of Race Re-
lations meeting in Cape
Town, said the South Afri-
cans were not hard on the
debts from 1980/81.



Farm crisis in Border deepens

EAST LONDON — The catastrophic drought in the Border — the worst in living memory — has plunged all sectors of local agriculture into a deepening crisis.

If it does not rain substantially within the next three to four weeks, farmers will face what is probably the toughest year of their lives.

Investigations yesterday revealed that:

- The maize crop in Komga, the region's major maize producing area, is already a write-off;
- Dairy producers have little time left before they will have to start thinking of quitting;
- Drinking water is being ferried to drought-devastated farmsteads around the clock by Kaffraria Divisional Council tankers;
- Border's pineapple pride is failing, and
- Wild game, normally exceptionally drought resilient, is suffering.

Paradoxically, it was also learnt that prices for farms and smallholdings are not only holding steady in the face of the drought, but swooping hands at premium prices.

There will be no maize crop at all from the Komga region this year.

The President of the Komga Agricultural Society and a prominent farmer in the area for 50 years, Mr Dudley Lloyd, described the drought as "extremely critical".

"I can't tell you that we will have 15 per cent or five per cent of our maize crop this year. I can say that we will have no maize crop at all. The farmers are really battling."

He said dams and boreholes were drying up fast and apart from maize being a complete write-off, livestock was also suffering very badly.

"This drought has been coming on over the past three to four years with diminishing rainfall, so the underground water supply has diminished."

Mr Lloyd, who is chairman of three vermin-hunt clubs, said the drought was also causing an increase in the vermin menace.

Because of the lack of pasture, it has become impossible for our track down vermin there is no

also suffering "extensively" from the dry, dying bush.

"Kids born to wild game are dying and those that don't die are so weak that they become easy prey."

He said it was pointless applying for the third and final stage of drought relief because it entailed reduction.

"You get further aid on condition you substantially reduce stock, but how can we when the meat markets are overloaded and prices are very low?"

Already 12 areas in the Eastern Cape have been put on emergency grazing lists — stage two of the relief programme.

These are East London (east of the Buffalo River), King William's Town, Komga, Fort Beaufort, Cathcart, Adelaide, Tilden (near Queenstown), Indwe, Bathurst, Albany, Alexandria and Addo.

"Grazing is diminishing," Mr Lourens Schoeman, public relations officer for the East Cape Agricultural Union, said.

"Reserves are going down and water supplies for stock, and in some cases domestic used are diminishing rapidly."

"Several farm dams have been empty for a year now, and boreholes are beginning to dry up."

Many farmers, he said, would have to depend on government drought relief aid to survive.

However, dairy farmers get no government aid at all, and if it does not rain soon, the dairy industry will be plunged into a desperate crisis with many farmers having to give up production.

The chief executive of Model Dairy here, Mr Mervyn Gatcke, said the industry now depended on how long milk producers could hold out, absorbing massive costs, against the drought. "If it doesn't break

soon, large numbers of dairy farmers are going to start falling out," he said.

Urgent representations were being made to the government to extend drought aid to dairy producers. At present,

By MIKE CHANDLER

Mr Gatecke said, they did not fall within any relief programme.

"When you consider that it takes between 40 and 50 litres of water every day to keep one dairy cow, and water has to be carted in, you realise what sort of problem is facing milk producers."

"Add to that the cost of feed which has to be railed in, and the situation becomes very difficult."

Kaffraria Divisional Council tankers are now working day and night ferrying emergency drinking water supplies to farmers.

"We are having to work around the clock," the acting secretary, Mr B. Q. Andrews, said. "Otherwise we just can't cope."

An official said there were now over 100 farmers paying for drinking water to be trucked to them.

"We are delivering all over... Kidd's Beach, Kaysers Beach, Thornville, Meises Halt, Macleantown, Fort Jackson."

He said each tanker carried over 5 000 litres of water, at a cost of R168 a tanker load plus 58c a kilometre for a return journey.

"It has become a full-time job providing water," he said.

The pineapple farmers also were being affected seriously by the drought, and pines planted last year were failing, pineapple producer Mr Corder Tilney said.

Older pines, he said, were still producing

good quality fruit, but lacked weight.

"We need warm, wet weather. If it starts to rain when it gets cooler towards winter, it will have an adverse effect."

"We will then start to get root rot and fungus infections and all sorts of problems."

Mr Tilney said that during the past eight months, he had recorded 135mm of rain.

The average, over all the years he has been recording the rainfall for the comparative months, was over 100 mm.

"I assure you I measure every drop of rain faithfully, and I think that shows just how little rain we have had," he said.

Yet, despite the drought, farmers are not just holding onto their farms or smallholdings, but prices are at a premium.

The chairman of the Border branch of the Institute of Estate Agents, Mr John Batting, said the demand for farms was still high and farmers

kan full income. If unemployed is due between supply employment.

Inflation: 'Mollycoddling' farmers in firing line

UNNECESSARILY HIGH FOOD PRICES TAKE MAIN BLAME FOR UPTURN

By John Spira

INFLATION, which accelerated to 14.4% for the 12 months to the end of January, could be significantly reduced if the South African policy of mollycoddling the inefficient farmer were abolished.

This is an amalgam of the views of several produce traders canvassed by Business Times this week, following the release of the latest consumer price index (CPI) figures, which showed that a whopping 1.9% rise in food prices in January was primarily responsible for the overall upturn in the CPI.

One of the traders interviewed pointed out that the artificially high

prices of farm land in South Africa is a telling symptom of food prices, which are considerably higher than they need be.

He says that under normal climatic conditions a good maize yield in this country is five tons a hectare. Such land has a value of around R1 000 a hectare.

In Argentina and Australia, by contrast, a similar piece of land with a similar yield has a value of R500 a hectare.

The wide divergence in values is all the more remarkable when it is appreciated that much of the farming land in Argentina produces high yields without the need to add fertilizer to the soil.

Another trader whose views were sought drew attention to the impact

of the interest factor on land, which is twice as expensive as it should be.

If one applies an interest rate of 15% to the difference in the cost of farming land as between South Africa and Argentina, then local farming land costs an extra R75 a hectare a year.

This is equivalent to a R15 difference in the cost per ton of the land's produce — an important factor in light of the fact that the local cost of maize production of around R300 a hectare is already high by world standards.

Moreover, the farmers of few countries elsewhere enjoy the same tax privileges as they do in South Africa.

In spite of these privileges, food production costs here are a good deal

R11 000 SPENT ON TWO PARTIES AS FARMERS FACE WORST CASH CRISIS IN HISTORY

BY SENATOR ARLEY

A MAJOR row threatens to develop over disclosures in Parliament of the Land Bank's expenditure of more than R500 000 on two luxury apartments.

Land Bank officials will shortly be asked to answer for the expenditure — and also to explain how R11 400 came to be spent on two farewell parties for the bank's former managing director.

The Opposition has stated the expenditure — disclosed in the Auditor-General's recent report — and will closely examine evidence submitted to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Public Accounts next month.

A "generous housing scheme for bank staff, which granted loans in 1981 totalling R6.5-million, repayable over 40 years at an annual interest rate of 3%, will also be queried.

The PFP spokesman for Agriculture, Mr Errol Moorcroft, said this week: "How will farmers who have had Land Bank loans refused for lack of capital, feel about this?"

He said many farmers were facing the worst financial situation since the Depression "and then one hears about how those people assisting them are spending Land Bank money".

The apartments were

bought for R511 801 in 1981 to provide accommodation for bank staff attending the parliamentary session.

They are situated on the ritzy Sea Point beachfront, in one of the area's most exclusive blocks, and command a view of the Atlantic Ocean.

One flat has two bedrooms and the other has three. Both have balconies and are carpeted throughout. Furnishing costs amounted to R38 686 and monthly rates on the properties are about R500.

They are occupied by the managing director and members of his staff during Parliamentary sessions, which last for up to five months.

They are vacant for the rest of the year, apart from short, intermittent spells when bank personnel are sent to Cape Town for inspections.

But managing director Mr Theuns Pretorius has dismissed the view that such

expenditure on accommodation is excessive in view of the current economic climate.

"I don't consider these 'luxury' flats as there is nothing particularly special about them. We made a thorough investigation and found them to be the best because of their good security.

"As the flats are vacant for much of the year, this was an important consideration. And from the point of view of an investment, they're also a good buy because the bank would get its money back tomorrow if it sold them. We're virtually staying here for nothing."

But Mr Moorcroft has lashed out at the purchase of property in such a sought-after area.

"Why does the Land Bank have to go to the most expensive part of town and buy flats at such an exorbitant figure? Perfectly suitable accommodation could have been found at half that price."

In 1981, two farewell functions were held for the retiring managing director, Mr J M C Smit, at a cost of R11 400.

One function was held on Land Bank premises in Pretoria for the staff of 350 and their partners. The second was held at Palms Hotel in Silverton, near Pretoria, for Mr Smit's friends and colleagues.

The second function was attended by about 400 people and included a number of Cabinet Ministers.

According to a bank official, the fare served at the dinner was quite "ordinary" and there was nothing lavish about the occasion.

"No caviar or exotic things from France were on the menu — just a plain four-course meal, costing about R10 a head," he said.

This week, Minister of Finance Mr Owen Horwood spoke of the desperate plight of farmers caught in the double grip of a crippling drought and economic recession.

The Land Bank, funded by the Government, made loans to farmers in 1982 totalling R6 681-million, repayable over 25 years at an interest rate of 11%.

About one-third of applications for loans were turned down by the bank for lack of capital.

3 General Howard
Coloured owners of farms/small holdings

Q. Col. 378 28/2/83

351. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the Minister of Community Development:

- (1) Whether there are any Coloured owners of (a) farms and (b) small holdings in the Republic outside (i) the national states and (ii) areas scheduled for reversion to White ownership; if so,
- (2) (a) how many such owners are there in each category and (b) (i) what is the area of land involved and (ii) where is such land situated in each case?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) and (2) The information is unfortunately not available.

Drought area declared

*0. 2. 13
11/3/33
3. 2. 13*

QUEENSTOWN — Queenstown has been declared a drought stricken area as from today, qualifying for phase one of the emergency grazing plan, which allows for a rebate on railage charges for fodder, said Mr A. C. van Heerden, Chief Magistrate for Queenstown.

Districts already on the emergency grazing list are Adelaide, Komga, Indwe, Fort Beaufort, King William's Town, East London (east of the Buffalo River), Cathcart, Albany and Bathurst. Queenstown is the latest district to be incorporated into this scheme.

"If things get worse the local farmers will have to apply for inclusion in phase two, which entails loans being given to the farmers, so that they can survive," said Mr Van Heerden.

Rain which fell in parts of the Border over the past few days was not enough to break the drought and there is little hope of further rain today.

East London had 10.4 mm during the 24 hour period which ended at 4 pm yesterday. Tyefu in Ciskei had 1 mm, and Port Alfred 5 mm. —
DDR

Apocalypse on the Platteland

Either we're praying for rain or we're praying for the rain to stop. That's how South climate comes across to a good many city slickers, anyhow, who are often a touch by all the fuss and whose personal interest in the weather is confined to the quest whether to put on swimming costumes or galoshes. RIAAN DE VILLIERS started into the state of the agricultural world and discovered that not only are the effects of drought themselves deadly serious, literally, but that for other reasons too a farmer has become a dangerous roulette wheel from which there is no escape.

IT's been a tough summer for suburbanites what with the water in the pool evaporating so quickly, and the gardener being unable to use the microsprays.

Scanty press coverage by urban-centred newspapers hasn't helped them realise that things have been very much tougher outside the city walls.

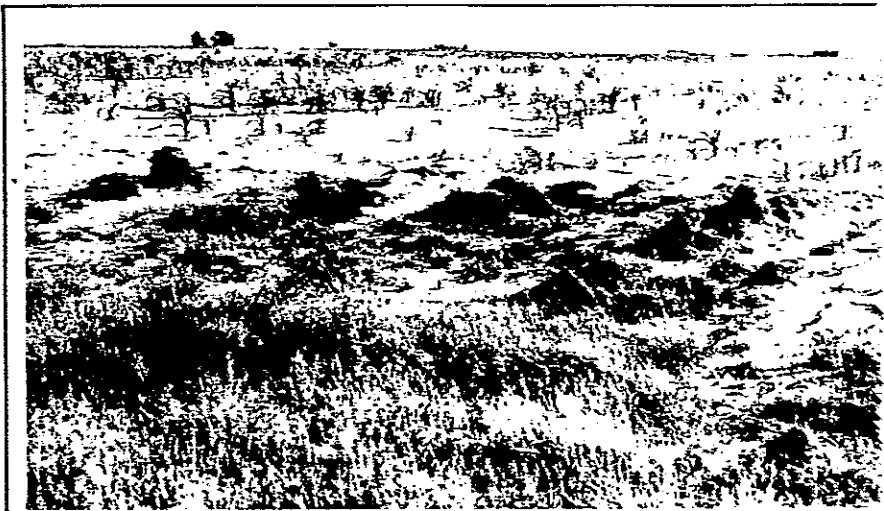
Well, so what. Farmers are always complaining. When they have a problem they just go to the Government for a handout, and still drive a new Merc every year.

This time, it's different.

The drought itself has been bad enough; in some places the most severe in living memory. It has inflicted immense damage on crops, orchards and livestock herds, which will in some cases take years to repair no matter how much it rains now.

Some idea of the extent of the damage can be gained from memorandums handed to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, during his recent whistle-stop tour through stricken areas. They paint a picture of ravaged crops and grazing and critically low water supplies.

If there is little awareness about the damage done to white agri-business, even less is known about the effects of the



A STRICKEN mealie field — standard sight on the platteland.

drought in black rural areas. One report mentions, almost casually, that some 70 000 cattle had died in Gazankulu, Venda and Lebowa by the end of November last year. By now, it must be many thousands more.

However bad the damage may be, the point is the drought is not just a temporary setback to be followed by a return to normal.

Due to long-term structural problems, agricultural economists say the financial position of farmers has been deteriorating steadily for a number of years and the losses incurred in this year's drought — for the second year running — have plunged the whole agricultural set-up into one of its most serious financial crises ever.

Since 1974, they say, the costs of farming have risen much more than

from the farm money from

If the crop repay them forward to the to a similar r

On top of borrow money increasingly b sources such :

The implic farmers have them over in crop failures accumulated capital sums ments skyrock

Mr Johan V the SA Agric

CONTINUED

ior credit of grain farmers has increased from R569-million in March 1981 to an estimated R1,156-million in March this year.

Debts carried forward were R106-million in August 1981. It jumped up to R369-million after last year's crop failure. By August this year, it is expected to reach R699-million.

Interest payments increased to R903-million last year - an increase of 344 per cent since 1979.

Where does this leave the individual farmer? Well, take a look at this:

After last year's crop failure, a detailed survey was undertaken to establish the financial position of a group of above average maize farmers.

Average assets were found to be R700 000, with ground valued at R500 000 and loose assets at R200 000.

Average liabilities were R340 000, composed of long-term debts such as bonds; medium-term debts such as hire-purchase of tractors and other equipment; and short-term debts, or production credit, to the tune of R120 000 to R150 000 per year.

Even at that stage, therefore, the ratio between debts and loose assets was less than 1:1, at which stage they should actually have been out of business already.

After last year's crop failure, the only way in which they were able to continue was to borrow another R120 000 - and pray for rain.

With the renewed crop failure, they are obviously, as one agricultural economist puts it: "kniediep".

Last year's drought relief scheme extended production credit over four years, at reduced interest rates.

However, a projection of these farmers' financial position over the next four years found that they would incur a loss of R36 500 this year, R71 500 next year, R119 000 in 1985 and R168 000 in 1986.

With another crop failure this year these figures will now be radically higher.

What this implies is quite simply that most maize farmers in the country are going bankrupt.

Economists emphasise that the cash crisis is completely beyond the control of farmers no matter how good they are.

At least, one may say, the farmers still have their land as security. But this is the joker in the pack. Just how much is land worth, if nobody can buy it? Apparently, creditors have in some cases foreclosed on farmers and sold them out. "But then they don't get any bid for the farm at all and suddenly the farmer's main asset of R500 000 is worth nothing," one economist says.

All this seems frightening to the layman. More important, the situation is frightening agricultural economists too.



A CALF is driven to scavenge for unlikely sustenance

It conjures up a spectre of a catastrophic collapse of white agri-business - an apocalypse on the platteland.

Far-fetched? Maybe. But this scenario is lurking uneasily at the back of the mind of agricultural experts.

Hesitantly, one expresses fears that the whole fragile financial cardhouse may come tumbling down if creditors start calling up loans.

"Let's say one creditor gets cold feet and starts calling up. If this is done with a few farmers, people may panic and start selling out on a massive scale. Suddenly, everything is going to be on the market and no-one is going to buy.

"I don't want to cry wolf but it is a possibility."

Dr Piet Gouws, manager of the giant maize marketing organisation NAMPO, says flatly: "A lot of maize producers are going to go bankrupt this year, and co-ops are also in trouble. Basically, we have a disaster situation."

A large-scale financial collapse will have immense consequences, he says. "Banks and co-ops will sit with farms which they will not be able to sell. Farmers will have to find work elsewhere - or fall back on the State. Whole communities could collapse."

"And there are 1,4-million blacks in the Free State - more than in Soweto."

He adds that any large-scale collapse will seriously affect service industries and reverberate through the entire economy in many ways.

Flip du Plooy, secretary of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, is also worried about the possible effects on black employment.

"There is much talk about creating job opportunities for blacks. If 2 000 farmers go under, at least 50 000 workers will be destitute.

The memorandums from co-ops and farmers' associations handed to the Minister during his tour make explosive

reading.

One co-op debts have in 1976/77 to last year. An income from million.

The report "that the seq farmers can't farm values seriously three who are still :

One comp co-op notes a from R8-mil last year - a

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Virtually ers will have keep them g that farmers' ed and n schemes wor

But this not the di attention to problems is v

Opinions of the cost-p high costs m. industries su the Railways ly insignifica the main bug

Be that :



HUNGRY sheep wander through dust, stones and dead scrub.

points to a massive failure in planning, somewhere along the line.

This is confirmed by one expert who says simply that there has been no proper long-term agricultural policy.

"Do we want a surplus of maize or don't we? If so, who is going to pay for it? Do we want 10 000 commercial farmers on the land, instead of the current 70 000? And are we going to keep the small farmer on the land or not — and if so, how? These are among the questions that need to be answered."

Apparently a few economists have been sounding warnings over the past two or three years — but these went unheeded.

Now alarm bells have gone off with a vengeance, and Pretoria is full of thick-set men in suits, closeted in meetings all day and drafting memorandums for submission to the Cabinet.

Like Brer Rabbit of old, the Minister has been lyin' low and sayin' nuthin' — at least for the time being. A major response from the Government is expected.

"One thing is certain," an economist says. "Many people will have to burn their candles until late at night to find a solution."

Meanwhile, back in the Ciskei

Meanwhile, as Free State farmers calculate how much their John Deere fleets are worth, the drought has caused problems of a different kind a few hundred kilometres to the southeast.

Three years of drought has all but destroyed subsistence agriculture in the independent state of the Ciskei and authorities are battling to keep thousands of people alive on a straight cash handout by the South African Government — which they are uncertain will be renewed.

The picture there looks like this:

There are some 30 000 subsistence farmers in the Ciskei, almost entirely dependent on little pieces of land to feed themselves and their families. Migrant labour makes little contribution to this as only about one in ten breadwinners in the rural areas work elsewhere.

The vast majority of families are therefore dependent on subsistence production, growing four to five bags of mealies and some vegetables during a normal season. But the drought has destroyed their crops for three years running.

Just like dry-land money for Farmers accumulating when and off.

The on through are fortunate irrigation schemes are getting on these schemes as little as.

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For the government from the State its disposal. been spent scheme.

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The authorities the grant to eradicate we to now, above employed, need. These not permanent straight to the

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Many rural on boreholes. and the authorities with requests run day and night a thousand gallons to 150 km from water lasts about

In case there may seem mentioned the Bill Godden,

"The situation he says — wo year when the government for

"While that he a survive the opportunity ies.

"But I am

CONTINUED

The drought is worse than ever, the money is drying up.

"We are desperately hoping that the SA government will come to our assistance. Otherwise I don't know what we are going to do."

Negotiations are under way which Mr Godden says, with some delicacy, he does not wish to pre-empt. With equal delicacy he adds: "There is as yet no indication that the grant will be renewed."

Like many others, Mr Godden has become a weather-watcher. "I can't understand just what the hell is going on with the weather.

"I often describe our situation as a war between the cold frontal system of the Western Cape and the anti-cyclonic air mass from the north. If the mass from the north covers us, we get rain. But when we're in the Cape cold front system, we don't.

"We're in a no-man's land."

This seems to be true of more than the weather.

With brutal clarity, the drought has once again exposed the myth that the Ciskei provides a subsistence base for its inhabitants, let alone its migrant workers - and exposed once again the pressing need for a fundamental rethink about land use throughout the country.

But the chances that even the current crisis will bring this about seem as remote as ever.

High stakes in farming

It's an old cliché to say farming is a gamble. In terms of farmers' current financial structure, this seems to be even closer to the truth than is generally realised.

Farmers probably no longer stand at their farm gates, gazing up at the sky with their hats in their hands. They look at the weather charts on TV.

But they are as dependent on rain as ever - and the weather is as unpredictable too.

Some attention has recently been drawn to studies which profess to find a predictable cycle in the weather. However, this is dismissed by other experts.

As one puts it: "Every professor has his own cycle. It's easy to be wise after the event, but they are completely unpredictable. Moreover, a good rainfall year is as likely in the middle of a so-called dry cycle as at any other time."

What this boils down to is that farmers stake huge sums on the outcome of a random event completely beyond their control - and in the marginal rainfall areas at least, at probably less than even chances.

Production costs being what they

are, some of to plant smaller one

"Others have no pr your debts."

This res the infant system, wh every loss.

promise of but the dar astronomical geometrical the way.

Gambler anticipate can't. "Yo even when a bad one."

"It's like b can't get of

All this better off r than the lat

And th stakes of s R150,000.

in the Sky has to offe kindergartc

The Magistrate's Tale

"I cannot find . . . that any unlawful or negligent acts (by police officers) caused Dr Aggett to take his life . . . Moral responsibility could possibly be laid on . . . fellow detainee, Mr Auret van Heerden, . . ." the Magistrate said.

SAPA

"Forgive me if I feel the rap
"Has not gone where it ought,"

I said to this compliant chap
Presiding in the court.

"How does Your Honour come to see,
"When weighing up the facts,
"Which man's the soul of probity,
"And which must get the axe?"

He said: "I hunt for evidence
"In policemen's pocket-books,
"Then improvise a rough defence
"To see how sound it looks.
"But this is not to make my name,
"Nor pockets full of lob.
"It's just the nature of the game
"By which I keep my job."

But I was thinking of a way
To join the ANC,
And celebrate the 1st of May,
Albeit privately.

I said: "Your Honour, tell me more
"Of what one has to do
"To exercise the rule of law,

"That justice may ensue."

He said: "We win our prisoners' trust
"By plying them with scotch;
"And then we get someone robust
"To kick them in the crotch.
"And this, of course, confuses them,
"And may sound rather mean;
"But there's no better stratagem
"To make a man come clean."

If ever it should be my fate
To wind up in the nick
For crimes no one can criminate,
(A far too common trick);
Or if I ever were traduced
For cherishing the view
That right-wing states should be induced
To have a left-wing coup,

I'd weep, for I'd anticipate
That, in effect, a duplicate
Of that compliant Magistrate
Be drafted to adjudicate.
Some temporizing candidate,
Whose mind one strives to penetrate,
Whose verdicts bring about a spate
Of shocked, disconsolate debate,
Who makes the law subordinate
To the requirements of the State -
Presiding in the court

Norman H.C. Smith

Farmers put four points on land

11/3/83

3 Lenard

427

Farming Correspondent

Hundreds of angry farmers yesterday converged on the Bronkhorstspuit town offices to put their case to the kwaNdebele Consolidation Commission.

The commission, a sub-committee of the Commission for Co-operation and Development, consists of five National Party MPs under the chairmanship of Mr Rex le Roux.

The Government's intention to increase the kwaNdebele homeland sevenfold was announced by the Minister of Co-operation and development, Dr Koornhof, last Saturday.

The clash between Dr Koornhof and the farming community has since crystallised into four separate issues:

- The creation of a kwaNdebele bridgehead over the Elands River would enable Dr Koornhof or the homeland to use the river as a cheap source of water, ruining the Rust de Winter dam irrigation settlement where farmers depended on the Elands water for their livelihood. Farmers said Dr Koornhof should develop kwaNdebele's own water resources instead with Government funds.

- The Government's offer of R220 a hectare for grazing, R600 for croplands and R1 600 for irrigated fields was only a third of the market value. This was not compensation, farmers protested — it was confiscation.

- Government ministers' credibility had sunk to zero. In 1982, it was said, a publication printing an exact map of the proposed consolidation was banned on the grounds that it was spreading false information against public interest. Ministers Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Dr Piet Koornhof and Mr Punt Janson had then declared to farmers that there would be no such consolidation.

- Mr M C J du Plessis, secretary of the Seringveld Farmers' Association, said that the commission members were politicians. There was no member with qualifications in geopolitics, a recognised branch of geography dealing with the nature of boundary lines and their consequences.

The commission's sittings continue today.

Empty border areas could become a guerilla target

~~9/11~~ (3) General E. Post 2/6/82

SOUTH AFRICA'S isolated border areas — particularly farms in the Northern and Eastern Transvaal and Northern Natal — could become important guerilla targets in the future, a Pretoria strategist has warned.

Professor Michael Hough, director of the University of Pretoria's Institute for Strategic Studies, says it is classic revolutionary strategy for insurgents to have a rural stronghold.

"The rural areas therefore play an important role, and the current African National Congress urban terror campaign is only to gain publicity and divert security forces to the city.

"The ANC is active in terms of political subversion and the largely apolitical rural population could be a fertile breeding ground for revolution," he told me.

The depopulated bushveld areas were a security risk, Prof Hough said. Theodus of farmers from

Special report by Arlene Getz

land on the Transvaal's vulnerable northern borders would continue until the Government gave them additional economic help.

Although the Agricultural Credit Board had granted R35,7 million to repopulate designated border areas, about 400 of the 650 farms in the Ellisras district remained empty.

Prof Hough said farmers left the bushveld because they could not make ends meet, and not because they feared attacks by insurgents.

His conclusions were confirmed by a recent report by the Human Sciences Research Council, which found that farmers were more concerned about expensive operating costs, land and water shortages, labour problems and a weak infrastructure than a fear of guerilla incursions.

"The farmers would like to see a bigger electricity grid better roads, and cheaper railage to accelerate the transport of cattle to the towns," said Prof Hough.

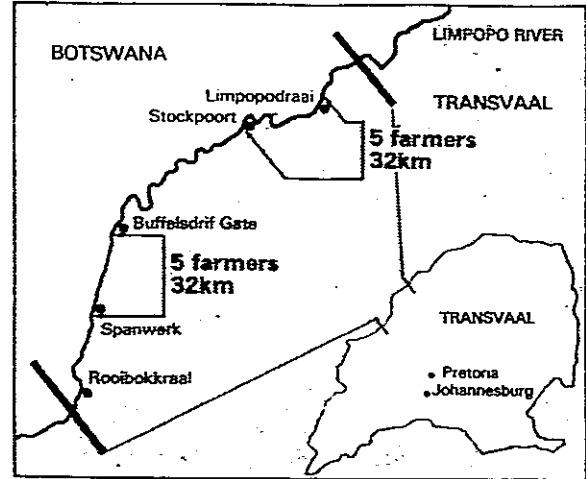
The other major problem in the depopulated area was the weekend farmer who visited his estate only once every few weeks, he said.

These farms created ideal conditions for insurgents to hide arms caches or to intimidate the local labour force.

"It's very difficult to decide what to do about weekend farmers.

"Some people have suggested that national servicemen be stationed on these farms. Others believe absentee farmers should be compelled to hire a manager, and some feel they should be penalised by the removal of certain tax concessions.

"But each of these suggestions has certain short-



In the 32km from Spanwerk to Buffelsdrif Gate in the north-western Transvaal there are only five farmers, and from Stockpoort to Limpopodraai another five.

comings and I honestly don't know what the answer is."

Prof Hough suggested a combination of direct aid and indirect incentives for farmers who remained in

the areas.

Prof Hough also warned that repopulation was not necessarily going to deter insurgents — it would only make things more difficult for them.

Year	Membership		
	African	Asian and Coloured	White
1975	26	305	331
1974	28	294	322
1973	98	320	418
1972			
1971			
1970			
Total			

12 districts on drought relief

③ General D. Dispatch
2/3/83

EAST LONDON — Twelve districts in the Eastern Cape are now getting drought relief aid from the government and a further seven may be getting aid soon.

This was confirmed yesterday by a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at Dohne, Mr Bill Smart.

Adelaide is now on phase three of the five-phase drought relief programme and the department has recommended that Fort Beaufort be put onto phase three.

East London and Cathcart are on phase two and the department has supported applications from King William's Town, Komga, Bathurst and Albany to be put onto phase two.

Districts on phase one of the scheme are: Indwe, Queenstown, Stutterheim and Alexandria.

Mr Smart said the department has also supported applications for phase one relief from Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage, Humansdorp, Hankey, Bedford, Stockenstrom and Sterkstroom.

Explaining the system, Mr Smart said that farmers could apply for drought relief aid by petition through their farmers' association to their local magistrate.

The magistrate then prepared a report on his assessment of the situation and made a recom-

mendation to the department's head office in Pretoria.

Simultaneously, the department's field officer for the district made a parallel report and recommendation through the regional office of the department which was also sent to Pretoria.

"When Pretoria has these two factual reports, they consult with the Minister who can proclaim a district an emergency grazing area," Mr Smart said.

"Immediately that is done, the district goes automatically onto phase one of the aid programme."

This comprised a 75 per cent rebate on the transport costs of all approved stock feeds and fodder by South African Transport Services (SATS).

"If things get progressively worse and farmers find themselves getting into a tight financial position, they can apply for phase two."

This phase was a stock feed loan scheme in respect of the same approved feeds as in phase one.

At present, this loan was R2 a month for each head of breeding small stock (female sheep or goats) to a maximum of 1 200 head per farmer (R2 400) or R12 a month for each head of breeding large stock (cows) to a maximum of 200 head (also R2 400).

Where a farmer had

both small and large stock, the overall maximum remained R2 400 a month.

Mr Smart said that as the situation became progressively worse, farmers could apply for the third phase which was a stock feed subsidy scheme.

In this phase, the loans made under phase two are subsidised by 50 per cent — making it, in effect, a R1 200 monthly loan and a R1 200 grant.

The fourth phase increased the loan to farmers to R3 a month per head of small breeding stock and R18 a month per head of large breeding stock and increased the subsidy to 60 per cent. The rebate was also extended to cover the transport of approved feed by approved cartage contractors.

The fifth phase increased the loans to R4 for small breeding stock and R24 for large breeding stock and increased the subsidy to 70 per cent.

Mr Smart said there was also a subsidy on the transport of water of 50 per cent and a water loan of R2 a month per head of small breeding stock and R12 a month per large breeding stock to a maximum of R6 000 a month.

At present, he said, this applied only to Gordonias where there was no water at all and water had to be transported in.

— DDR

ARKS 2/3/83 3644

Govt tackles drought

A SCIENTIFIC drought index for seeking ways to cope with the worsening situation in agriculture has been developed by the Department of Agriculture.

The Minister, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said during the debate on the Additional Appropriation Bill that all indications were that the drought conditions at present were abnormal.

"Natural resources are becoming involved and certain special steps and measures must be taken," he said.

"The drought has also caused severe economic disruption for farmers and co-operatives, which in turn has led to a shortage in production.

"This could lead to a situation in which agriculture this year will produce less than the country's requirements.

"Fortunately, we have made provision in the past to cope with the situation."

Mr Wentzel said that apart from all the other setbacks caused by the drought, it was also leading to a depopulation of the rural areas.

"The Government views the drought in a very serious light indeed and special aid projects have been developed for specific cases."

He emphasised that present aid measures were not sufficient and that the Government had referred the matter to a special committee, which would report before the end of the month.

Apart from the short-term solutions that had to be sought, the Government would also have to look at agriculture's long-term situation.

One particular aspect that would have to be looked at again was nature conservation — the Government would have to re-evaluate the entire agricultural industry.

Mr Wentzel made special mention of the positive attitude of farmers generally during "these trying times".

Mr E K Moorcroft (PFP Albany) described the present drought conditions as the worst experienced this century while Mr R W Hardingham (NRP Mooi River) expressed his party's appreciation of the Government's efforts to alleviate the situation.

"But we need better long-term planning in agriculture," he said.

The Bill was read a second time. — Sapa.

East Cape farmers face crisis

By CARLO MERCORIO

E. Post 2/3/83

③ General

FARMERS in the Eastern Cape are in for a hard winter if the critical drought is not broken soon, according to Mr Lourens Schoeman, the public relations officer for the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union.

Speaking from the union's headquarters in Queenstown, which yesterday became the 17th area in the Eastern Cape to be declared in need of help from the ravages of one of the worst droughts in living memory, he said farmers had been very hard hit throughout most of the Eastern Cape.

Boreholes had dried up and in some areas summer crops had failed completely, while in others potential harvests were down by as much as 50%.

The veld was also very dry and grazing for stock was scarce, forcing many farmers to feed their animals, which was proving very expensive. In addition farmers were unable to plant winter feed.

Mr Schoeman said the irrigation farmers in the Fish River Valley near Cradock were in the fortunate position of receiving water from the Orange River scheme via the Grassridge Dam, but the area was an exception to the general conditions prevailing in the Eastern Cape.

Mr Johan Van Zyl, the manager of the East Cape Agricultural Co-Operative in Bedford, said while there had not been any stock losses in the area to date, this could happen soon.

"I have never seen Bedford so dry," he said. "Normally it is always green no matter how dry the rest of

the Eastern Cape is, but today it is a different story."

The Town Clerk of Fort Beaufort, Mr Daan van Eck, said strict water restrictions were in force in the town. The situation was critical because the Kat River Dam was only 8,3% full.

Some of the water from the dam was still being used for irrigation, but the water would have to be reserved for the town if the dam dropped to the 5% mark.

Luckily the reserve supply from the Buris Dam could last the town for four to five months if the Kat River Dam dried up completely.

The Assistant Town Clerk of Port Alfred, Mr Angus Schlemmer, said although water restrictions had been in effect from March last year the Mansfield Dam was only 10% full.

He hoped the situation in the town would be relieved by the pumping of underground water from the dunes on the East Beach, due to begin on March 15.

The Town Clerk of Alexandria, Mr Henry Hunter, said although the district had been declared in need of assistance and the hinterland was very dry, there was no water supply problem in the town.

...er leaving
...ed trying to save a holidaymaker
...anuary. Constable John Bent (31) had gone to
...en he saw the fully-clothed 17-year-old up to her
...r yesterday. She slipped further in as he ap-
...policeman dived in and brought her to the shore.
...u.

es 885 years in jail

ain's state prosecutor has asked for 885 years in
er of ETA, the Basque separatist terrorist organ-
l with others of blowing up a civil guard bus in
ears ago. One man was killed and 34 wounded in
pain's strife-torn northwest region. — Own Corre-

's plan for aliens

Sweden is to introduce a "Group Areas Act" of
pe with the flood of immigrants from Iran, Syria and
ia. But Immigration Minister Anita Gradin, still stag-
the furore after she made the announcement of new
control where immigrants may settle, says its only
Swedish social and welfare state's ambition to be "of
new aliens. — Own Correspondent.

PEOPLE

ow personalities snub eral for playwright

ORK — Many close friends of playwright Tennessee Wil-
but none of the major actors and actresses who starred in
ys, attended his funeral here yesterday.
able among the absent personalities were Marlon Brando,
eth Taylor, Paul Newman and Jessica Tandy.
about 300 people braved a rainy and windy night to crowd
he funeral home for the service conducted by Williams's
and close friend, Episcopal Minister Sidney Lanier.
ated in the front row was the playwright's estranged broth-
akin, whom Williams never forgave for committing him to a
cal hospital in 1969.
illiams (71) was found dead in his Manhattan hotel room last
ay. An autopsy showed that he had choked on the cap from a
licine container. — Reuter.

ilm star Raquel (42) uffers a miscarriage

Welch (right) has



Southern Africa is bringing risks for thousands of
Sisters Siyabonga and Jabu of a village in kwaZulu
water from this unprotected spring. The muddy water is
ly source for drinking, cooking and washing.

get ^{8/1} ^{2/3/83} ²⁶⁹ ^Q Austral
intas support
close tie
with SA
it is forced to reduce its
and a general sales agent
withdraw from aircraft
and catering

Mr Bennie Coetzee of the farm Rietfontein said he had asked the committee to pay him out for his land as soon as was possible as he wished to buy another farm.
He was told he had to wait until June this year when the proposals would finally be accepted or rejected by Parli-ment, he said.
One angry farmer — an elderly woman — was heard to shout in desperation: "I do not care how sympathetic the committee is, but why don't they take our names now and not prolong the process and kill us all a little each day."

ry farmers don't get heard
be of little use once it became a border farm next to an independent kwaNdebele.
Another farmer, Mr Jan Malan, said he would fight to keep his ground and that he was sure that 99 percent of the other farmers would do the same.
A number of those with big farms were very bitter, saying the past three years of drought had got them deeply into debt and that when they were bought out they would technically no longer be farmers and would thus have to pay their overdrafts back immedi-ately.
Some of the farmers are considering court action.
er his land for sale as it would not be of much use to him. He said he had no other option but to sell his land to the committee.
van Rooyen, one of the many farmers at the hearing, said he had no other option but to sell his land to the committee.
he heard. The rest were told to wait until the next hearing, only 13 farmers given specific proposals.
id comments about the kwan-...
ablished to hear farmers' ob-...
tain a hearing with the com-...
re yesterday after having...
d away from the municipal...
URSTSFRUIT — Angry farm-...
Own Correspondent

(3) General Q. 61. 415

Kimberley: Coloured farmers

Hansard

2/3/83

*Mr. J. H. HOON asked the Minister of Community Development:†

- (1) Whether his Department has investigated the purchase of properties for the settlement of Coloured farmers in the vicinity of Kimberley; if so, (a) where are the properties situated and (b) who are the owners thereof,
- (2) whether his Department has decided on the purchase of such properties; if so,
- (3) whether his Department has voted money for the purchase of the properties; if so,
- (4) whether the properties have been purchased; if so,
- (5) whether his Department has, since the properties were purchased, decided to use the land for another purpose; if so, for what other purpose?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

(2) to (5) Fall away.

OPINION AND OF LAND AFFAIRS.

Yes.

- (a) No.
- (b) On a period as agreed upon with the owners, usually three months after payment was made. Some of the owners, however, leased the land for a further period.

3/10/1982
Kimberley: Coloured farmers,
2/3/82
 *18 Mr. J. H. HOON asked the Minister of Community Development:

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- (4) whether the properties have been purchased; if so,
- (5) whether his Department has, since the properties were purchased, decided to use the land for another purpose; if so, for what other purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF LAND AFFAIRS.

- (1) No.
- (2) to (5) Fall away.

... Of an request regarding agreement with the Pietersburg District Agricultural Union on the letting of State-owned land in the possession of the South African Development Trust in the Pietersburg district during 1982; if so, what were the terms of this agreement;

- (2) whether land has been allocated for letting to farmers in terms of the said agreement; if so, to whom;
- (3) whether any of the allocations for letting have since been withdrawn; if so, (a) on whose recommendation and (b) why have such allocations been withdrawn;
- (4) whether any new allocations have been made; if so, to whom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF LAND AFFAIRS (Reply made upon the Table with leave of House):

- (1) An understanding on the principles on which land can be leased was reached with the District Agricultural Unions of Pietersburg and Soutpansberg by the Department of Co-operation and Development. The said Agricultural Unions were requested to submit recommendations in connection with the lease of farms in the Dendron/Vivo area for an interim period until such time the farms concerned could be excised and transferred to the Department of Community Development.

- (2) The properties concerned were not allocated by the Agricultural Unions. They submitted recommendations in respect of the leasing of the following farms.

(19)(b)	Blinkwater 100 LS (Portion 8)	D. A. Henrico
(20)(b)	Blinkwater 100 LS (Portion 9)	D. A. Henrico
(21)(a)	Blinkwater 100 LS (Remainder of Portion 1)	A. Jongbloed
(22)(a)	Fraaigezicht 98 LS (Portion 1)	A. B. R. Janson
(23)(a)	Blinkwater 100 LS (Remainder)	A. B. R. Janson
(24)(a)	Fraaigezicht 98 LS (Remainder)	H. C. Holtzhausen (Jnr.)
(25)(a)	Uitzoek 92 LS (Portion 1)	H. C. Holtzhausen
(26)(a)	Uitzoek 92 LS (Remainder)	H. P. Erasmus
(27)(a)	Clendon 90 LS (Portion 1)	H. P. Erasmus
(28)(a)	Clendon 90 LS (Remainder)	C. A. Biotfeld
(29)(a)	Weistand 101 LS	T. F. Roos
(10)	Lomond 99 LS	F. J. van der Merwe
(11)(a)	Horst 89 LS (Remainder)	F. J. van der Merwe
(12)	Horst 89 LS (Portions 1 and 2)	J. C. Holtzhausen
(13)(a)	Lustgarden 97 LS (Portion 1 and Remainder)	A. Biotfeld
(14)(a)	Dalmey 96 LS (Remainder)	A. Biotfeld
(15)	Dalmey 96 LS (Portion 1)	P. J. Joubert
(16)(a)	Engelberg 95 LS (Remainder)	P. J. Joubert
(17)(a)	Engelberg 95 LS (Portion 1)	R. C. Holtzhausen
(18)	Leuchars 94 LS	C. S. Snyman
(19)	Ringfontein 71 LS (Remainder)	C. S. Snyman
(20)	Ringfontein 71 LS (Portion 2)	T. J. Betfel
(21)	Ringfontein 71 LS (Portion 3)	C. H. de Bruin
(22)	Ringfontein 71 LS (Portions 4 and 5)	J. W. Warren
(23)	Ringfontein 71 LS (Remainder of portion 1)	J. J. J. Pretorius
(24)	Alfred 383 MS (Portion 1)	J. J. J. Pretorius
(25)	Eyann 436 MS (Portion 3)	J. J. J. Pretorius
(26)	Eyann 436 MS (Remainder)	J. J. J. Pretorius
(27)	Fritchey 444 MS	D. P. J. Steyn
(28)	Ganspan 829 MS	F. W. C. Botha
(29)	Auf der Haard 445 MS (Portion 1)	F. W. C. Botha
(30)	Auf der Haard 445 MS (Remainder of Portion 3)	H. G. Holtzhausen
(31)	Auf der Haard 445 MS (Portion 7)	H. G. Holtzhausen
(32)	Auf der Haard 445 MS (Portion 9)	H. G. Holtzhausen
(33)	Auf der Haard 445 MS (Remainder of Portion 2 and Portion 8)	H. G. Holtzhausen
(34)	Auf der Haard 445 MS (Portion 10)	D. S. Lombard
(35)	Auf der Haard 445 MS (Portion 6)	D. P. J. Steyn
(36)	Auf der Haard 445 MS (Remainder)	D. P. J. Steyn
(37)	Fraaifontein 447 MS (Portion 3)	D. P. J. Steyn
(38)	Fraaifontein 447 MS (Portion 4)	H. G. Holtzhausen
(39)	Terveen 381 MS	D. S. Lombard
(40)	Grieff 380 MS (Portion 1)	A. P. J. van der Walt
(41)	Grieff 380 MS (Remainder)	A. P. J. van der Walt
(42)	Louisiana 379 MS (Portion 1)	A. P. J. van der Walt
(43)	Louisiana 379 MS (Remainder)	A. P. J. van der Merwe
(44)	Rosyth 378 MS (Portion 1)	V. Minnie
(45)	Rosyth 378 MS (Portion 2)	F. W. C. Botha
(46)		F. W. C. Botha

	Property	Recommendations of Committee
(30)	Rosyth 378 MS (Remainder)	J. W. C. Lotz
(31)	Wentworth 377 MS	D. P. J. Steyn
(32)	Urk 10 LS	S. Tager
(33)	Ameland 11 LS (Portion 2)	J. van der Goo
(34)	Vlieland 12 LS (Portions 2, 3, Remainder of Portion 1 and the Remaining Extent)	J. Hoogenboe
(35)(a)	Buiksloot 72 LS (Remainder)	M. J. Venter
(b)	Buiksloot 72 LS (Portion 5)	M. J. Venter
(c)	Buiksloot 72 LS (Portions 1, 4 and 6)	M. J. Venter
(36)	Buiksloot 72 LS (Portion 2)	J. Hoogenboe
(37)	Buiksloot 72 LS (Portion 3)	A. P. Hoogen
(38)	Luton 87 LS (Portion 1 and Remainder)	D. S. van der

(3)(a) and (b) No. The allocations have not been withdrawn although some of the recommendations of the Agricultural Unions could, for various reasons, not be adhered to. In some cases the Agricultural Unions recommended that the farms concerned be leased to farmers other than those who were leasing the farms at that time. In other cases the farmers had crops on the properties together with improvements erected by them and in which cases it was decided that the

farms concerned be leased to previous tenants. In certain cases it was necessary to limit larger allocations submitted by the Agricultural Unions in order to accommodate existing farmers as possible.

(4) Yes. New allocations are being made by the Department of Conservation and Development from time to time. The following new allocations have been made in the Dendron

Auf der Haard 445 MS (Portions 6, 10 and Remainder)	F. van der Merwe
Fritchly 444 MS	J. P. Botha
Blinkwater 100 LS (Portions 3, 4, 5 and 6)	P. J. Joubert
Lomond 99 LS	H. J. van der Merwe
Engelberg 95 LS (Remainder and Portion 1)	J. H. Bekker
Ringfontein 71 LS (Remainder and Portion 2)	D. S. van der Merwe
Ringfontein 71 LS (Portions 4 and 5)	H. L. Venter
Buiksloot 72 LS (Portion 3)	A. Bothma



View of devastation... Lake Marais, near Worcester in the Cape, which is already two-thirds empty.



Dying a slow death... a young cow, reduced to skin and bones, ends its life in the Northern Transvaal.



Peering into the weatherman's 'crystal ball'... this scullie photo, received at 2 pm yesterday, shows little prospect of rain.



Faded maize... a highveld farmer surveys the devastated maize crop on his farm near Edenville.



Vain search for water... emaciated cattle peck dry river bed in Manganji, KwaZulu.

Drought brings almost unbelievable misery

By Hannes Ferguson
Farming Correspondent

The survival of the whole South African farming community is now at stake as the drought in all provinces intensifies by the day.

The Department of Agriculture's situation map for February shows half of the Transvaal is now considered a "disaster" area. In another quarter of the province the drought has assumed "emergency" levels.

So far, 15 magisterial districts in the Transvaal have been declared drought-stricken. Another 12 may follow.

In these districts farmers are entitled to a rillage rebate on fodder or to fodder loans with or without fodder subsidy.

In Louis Trichardt and Messina where fodder trees have not sprouted this year, even the game is dying. Farmers are told to reduce their stock numbers permanently.

They are now being financed by the State to fatten and sell from one-third to half of their cattle so as to prevent over-stocking of the veld. In the past few years, said that the last good year had been 1960.

Star 2/3/83
S. C. van der Merwe

The drought has reached "disaster" proportions in parts of the country, and "emergency" levels in others. Certain areas are actually being reclaimed by the desert. In the homelands, the position is little short of horrific. And still the sun beats down...

and groundnuts by 85 percent. This year there would be no maize for export, according to Maize Board sources.

Throughout the Lowveld, dams and rivers are drying up. Vegetable production will be severely curtailed during the winter and prices will be forced up, aggravating already high inflation.

On fruit farms the picking season is in full swing but the quality of the fruit is so bad some orchards are being left unplucked. Banana trees have fallen to prevent over-stocking of the veld. In the past few years, said that the last good year had been 1960.

for the homeland governments to provide sufficient fodder. It is estimated 800 000 head of cattle have already died. Wells are drying up as fast as new boreholes are drilled and grain will have to be imported to the homelands from South Africa.

The sugar industry is suffering a second disasterous drought season in four years.

The Zululand and Northern Natal cane growers expect a cane crop of only 70 to 80 percent, which at present depressed sugar prices will mean severe financial loss for most planters.

Northern Natal is as drought-stricken as the Eastern Transvaal. The Utrecht district has been worst hit, but even in the Midlands maize crops have failed and rivers and wells dried up.

In the Free-State only half the maize crop is expected. In the sheep farming grassland areas farmers have had no rain for the planting of any fodder crops. Lucerne, ted and hay are fetching unheard-of prices.

The whole of the Northern Cape is a disaster area.

The grain and fruit farmers of the Western Cape have been fortunate in experiencing a normal season. Wheat crops in the Swartland and Ruens areas have been good.

To the north, however, beyond Venterdorp, the Western Karoo is experiencing its severest year of devastating drought. The drought is expected to continue for several months.

Govt gets part of the blame

By Hannes Ferguson
Farming Correspondent

In the crop farming areas, established State policy has contributed to the near-collapse of agriculture, farmers claim.

The effect of the drought has been compounded by the continuous protection of fertiliser and tractor manufacturers at the farmer's expense.

The prices of farm produce had increased by 59 percent in 1973, but the prices of farm requisites had risen by as much as 110 percent, according to the SA Agricultural Union. As a result, total farming income after interest charges, had declined from R21 million in 1961 and R1 065 million in 1982 to an estimated R4 million in 1983.

The normal maize crop is 12 million tons. Maize farmers must produce 80 percent of this to break even, and low export prices are a millstone around the farmer's neck.

The Nampo executive had asked the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Greyling Wentzel, to decide whether he wished the maize industry to produce only for the home market. The Minister replied that maize farmers should continue to expand as an export industry.

Nampo said this was impossible, however, as long as the prices of fertiliser, tractors and other protected inputs were pushed down. Costs of storage of export maize as well as tariffs to the harbours had also become prohibitive.

According to the SAU, farmers had been obliged to take a R157 million production credit from their co-ops for the current crop. Of this about R700 million could not be paid back because of the drought. From the previous year, there had already been a backlog of R360 million. Before the financing of the crop could be considered, farmers already owed their co-ops a most R1 900 million. This was already pulling the co-ops themselves under considerable financial strain.

... the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Greyling Wentzel, to decide whether he wished the maize industry to produce only for the home market. The Minister replied that maize farmers should continue to expand as an export industry.

High demand for an evaporating resource... Northern Natal farm workers and peasants wait to draw water from dangerously depleted reserves.

Trek to the towns begins

Oven Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The drought plaguing the Eastern Cape and the Border is the worst to hit these areas for more than 20 years.

Farmers there have been hit so hard that they are coming to the towns and cities to get feed for sheep and cattle.

Their stock is in very poor condition because grazing has almost dried up.

Large stock losses are feared this winter, and many farmers are threatened with bankruptcy.

At the end of January, 29 magisterial districts in the Cape had been declared drought-stricken, as have 13

Many Eastern Cape farmers will face bankruptcy if rain does not fall soon. The drought is already taking its toll of the quality of wool.

districts in the other provinces.

Many Cape farming districts such as Carnarvon, Frasersburg, Prieska, Kalmoes, Uburgton and Vryburg have been on the official drought list for five years.

Some children in these areas who are starting school this year have never seen rain. Many farmers have been

forced to leave their land and look for work in nearby towns. Others say they will have to do the same if rain does not come by the end of this month.

Agricultural union officials say the drought in the Eastern Cape appears to be having an effect on the quality of wool.

The area produces about 5 percent of South Africa's annual R275 million wool clip.

Pneumonia farmers in the East London-Port Alfred coastal belt, who produce most of the country's pineapples, say the drought has caused a fairly large percentage of the fruit to be sunburnt, and too much sun has also lowered the sugar con-

The Star's Africa News Service

GABERONE — Bushmen in Botswana's central Kalahari desert have been living off wild fruit for two months because drought-relief officials have no transport to distribute maize-meal rations.

And at a drought-stricken settlement at Xode in the Kalahari 450 people are begging government workers for food, according to the local drought-relief co-ordinator, Mr. K. Sekisang.

As the summer rainfall season nears its end, similar scenes are common around much of Southern Africa where countries face disastrous crop losses.

In Mozambique, where farmers in the south of the country are losing at least 50 cattle every day, the Government has appealed for international help to feed four million people facing starvation.

Lesotho is experiencing its worst drought in 10 years, and there are fears that crop failures this year will be worse than the 60 percent failure last year.

In Swaziland sugar production is down five percent on the previous season.

Zimbabwe, too, faces disastrous crop and stock losses. The chairman of the Zimbabwe National Farmers' Union, Mr. Gary Magadzire, said: "There has been a total write-off of crops across the country."

In Namibia there have been good rainfalls in the northern and central districts. In the south, however, the drought threatens to kill the Karakul industry.

After scant rainfall across the subcontinent towards the end of last year, it was believed the drought had been broken. Now, however, it appears to be worse than ever before. It comes at a particularly bad time for Southern African states whose economies are already struggling under the effects of the recession.

Natal faces killer winter

Oven Correspondent

MARITZBURG — Natal is in for a killer winter, farmers in the drought-hit north said today.

A drought-stricken Utrecht farmer and executive member of the local farmer's association, Mr. David Wright said: "My feed and water are running out."

I was looking to the Buffalo River for stock water. In case we have no rain but the river has also stopped flowing.

"We have so little seed that we have to get rid of cattle and even so we are being asked every day to help farmers from other districts."

He said his water supply was now a quarter of what it was at the same time last year and that had barely been enough.

Natal farmers face a torrid, drought-stricken time this year. No rain and the drying up of boreholes means the once lush province is turning into a desert.

Most of the district was in the same position.

Utrecht butcher and farmer Mr. David Kemp said he had spent R14 000 on boreholes for water recently. The successful boreholes were not on the parts of his farm where they were most needed.

Many farmers had drilled without luck and had large tracks of the land which they could not use. He said the district was the

worst it had been in two generations.

"With seed and water giving out, farmers must sell but the market is overloaded because of the drought," Mr. Kemp said.

Mr. Wright said about 90 per cent of the Utrecht maize crop had failed. He would prepare his wintered plants this week for a fraction of normal.

He said he would be partly compensated by crop insurers but many of his fellow farmers had not been able to get crop insurance.

Mr. Kemp said he did not know how some farmers would be able to repay the money they had borrowed to plant the previous crop and would not be able to repay the loan to finance the present crop.

Water crisis in Ciskei

(Handwritten initials)
D. Prof
2/3/8
(Handwritten circled number 3)

ZWELITSHA — Tighter water restrictions may be introduced in Ciskei, where the water situation has reached critical proportions.

The Minister of Public Works, Chief D. M. Jongilanga, said yesterday the available water in dams was decreasing rapidly.

Chief Jongilanga said at present restrictions were imposed in all towns dependent on water from the main dams. The use of hosepipes for domestic purposes was prohibited and irrigation on the Upper Buffalo catchment area as well as from Mnyameni dam had been stopped.

Heavy restrictions had also been imposed on irrigation in the Tyumie River basin.

"Despite the present restrictions no noticeable reduction in the consumption of water is evident," he said.

"The situation has now been reached where unless the full co-operation of the public is achieved, more stringent restrictions will have to be considered to avoid the disaster which is already being experienced in rural areas. Dams are drying up and borehole yields decreasing."

Chief Jongilanga said rural water supplies were being augmented by the cartage of water in tankers, both depart-

mentally and by the South African Defence Force, who had made available seven water tankers for this purpose.

The situation with dams serving Ciskei is as follows: Rooikranz dam 13 per cent full, Bridledrift 41 per cent, Laing 95, Nahoon 27, Maden 5, Waterdown 41, Kat River 11, Mnyameni 20, Cata 40 and Pleasant View 20 per cent.

Port Alfred is also faced with a "big problem" if its R150 000 scheme to get sweet water from sand dunes is not completed in three weeks, and no rain falls.

The town treasurer, Mr Doug Phillips, said Mansfield dam was now no more than a "large pond" with about three weeks water supply.

Municipal officials are working around the clock to get the water from-dune scheme finished by March 10, but Mr Phillips said he thought it may take a little longer.

Already the town is on stringent water restrictions. Water is allowed for domestic use only and a high water tariff has been imposed.

Water in the town now

costs R10 for the first five kilolitres, and thereafter R1 a kilolitre. It used to be 40c a kilolitre.

Our Cape Town correspondent reports that the chairman of the Farm Workers' Union, Mr Solly Essop, said yesterday farm workers, many with their families and belongings beside them on donkey carts, have been fleeing the drought-ravaged Karoo and Northern Cape.

Mr Essop said farmers hit by the drought, the worst in 50 years, could no longer afford to pay their workers' wages. As a result there was a new "Great Trek" to Cape Town.

He called on the government to subsidise farm workers so that farmers could keep them employed.

"There is a catastrophic depopulation of the rural areas under way. This must be stopped because many of these people will never return."

● In Parliament the official opposition has called for a special snap debate on the drought which, it believes, is creating panic in the farming community

The call was yesterday by P. Moorcroft, chief town spokesman and culture reports editor Scheffer.

Mr Moorcroft said the drought had a such critical proportions that the survival of South Africa's agricultural industry was at stake.

Mr Moorcroft hoped the drought would be discussed full at a later stage that the government would provide figures. He could then give a comprehensive detail of the extent of the drought relief programme.

Earlier in the week the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling, said his department was working on a "drought gauge" which would enable it to gauge the extent of the drought.

Basic agricultural policy would have been investigated, Mr Greyling said, and long-term measures would have been devised for increasing production capacity. — DDR.

See also P9

Dams crisis costing SA millions of rands

By GERALD REILLY
Pretoria Bureau

4/3/83

FALLING water levels nationwide will cost South Africa millions of rands in lost production, agricultural authorities warned yesterday.

And, if there are no late summer rains, the lack of water in many platteland farming areas will become critical during winter.

Already northern Natal farmers stand to lose more than R80-million this year because the crippling drought has reduced crop yields to a minimum — 500 000 tons less maize than anticipated will be harvested, according to the general manager of the Natalse Landboukoöperasie in Dundee, Mr Pieter van Rooyen.

Latest figures, supplied by the Department of Environmental Affairs, show the average level of dams has fallen by 12% in the past 12 months. And, agricultural authorities point out, it should be remembered that last year was also a drought year of below average rainfall in many parts of the country.

According to the latest statistics, the level of the Vaal Dam, water source for the whole of the vast industrialised PWV complex, has fallen below 38% of capacity from 77% at the same time last year — the lowest level since 1966. The strategically-important Bloemhof

Dam is down to 16%, Hartebeetspoort down to 42% (92% at the same time last year), and Loskop is only 25% full.

In one of the worst drought-devastated areas — the Western Transvaal — dam levels have plunged. The Buffelspoort dam has fallen to 15% (35%), Koster 14% (63%), and Lindleyspoort 8% (59%). Marico Bosveld 69% (99%). In the Eastern Transvaal, the Albisini Dam is down to 34% (94%) Ebenezer: 87% (100%), and Rus De Winter 14% (58%).

In the Eastern Cape, where the drought has been severe, Beervlei is down to 12% (62%), Kommandodrift 12% (60%), Lake Mentz 23% (54%), and Van Rynevelds Dam at Graaff Reinet is empty.

But some relief is in sight — scattered thundershowers are expected over virtually the whole Transvaal, a Pretoria weather bureau spokesman said yesterday.

In Natal, the drought is expected to land farmers with debts to the Land Bank that could total more than R60-million.

● Pretoria traffic inspectors have either warned or prosecuted about 60 residents over the past three weeks for contravening speed restrictions.

● The dam crisis
Graphic — Page 2

^{Can Time} Huge ^{43/3} cost of dams drying

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA — Diminishing supplies in most of the country's dams will cost millions of rands in lost production, agricultural authorities warn.

And if there are no late summer rains the lack of water in many platteland farming areas will become critical during the winter months.

Latest figures, supplied by the Department of Environmental Affairs, show that the average level of dams has fallen by 12 percent in the past 12 months.

Last year was also a drought year of below average rainfall.

Vaal Dam

According to the latest statistics the Vaal Dam — the source of water for the whole of the vast industrialized PWV complex — has fallen below 38 percent of capacity from 77 percent at the same time last year, the lowest level since 1966.

The strategically important Bloemhof Dam is down to 16 percent; Hartbeestpoort is down to 42 percent (92 percent the same time last year and the lowest since the new crest gates were fitted in 1970); and Loskop Dam has only 25 percent of its capacity.

In one of the worst drought areas — the Western Transvaal — dam levels have plunged. The Buffelspoort Dam has fallen to 15 percent of capacity compared with 35 percent last year; Koster 14 percent (63 percent last year); Lindleyspoort eight percent (59 percent); Marico Bosveld 69 percent (99 percent).

In the Eastern Transvaal the Albisini Dam is down to 34 percent (94 percent); Ebenezer 87 percent (100 percent); and Rus de Winter 14 percent (58 percent).

In the Vaal River area Allemanskraal is down to 21 percent (50 percent); Sterkfontein, however, is up to 68 percent from 53 percent at the same time last year.

Eastern Cape

In the Eastern Cape, where the drought has been severe, Beerylei is down to 12 percent (62 percent); Kommandodrift 12 percent (60 percent); Lake Mentz 23 percent (54 percent); and the Van Rynvelds Dam at Graaff Reinet is empty.

● Southern Africa will be "critically" short of food for the next two years, according to a warning from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome yesterday. According to a correspondent, a monthly FAO report Food Outlook says that in "low-income food deficit" countries in Africa, the food supply situation "remains extremely serious".

There has been a six percent decline in their aggregate cereal production. Because of the drought, a second successive year of poor crops is expected in many Southern African countries.

Massive crop failures hit Natal

Mercury Reporters

FARMERS in several regions of Natal are fighting for survival against massive crop failures through the drought, and many have written off completely the chance of harvests this season.

A Paulpietersburg maize grower, Mr J Solms, said yesterday he expected to lose R600 000 this year, while an estimated R80 million loss was collectively predicted for other maize producers in the area.

Mr Solms, who had expected to reap about 8 000 tons, now expects only 1 200.

Farmers in the district had told him they had never experienced such a dry period — not even during the notorious drought of 1933.

“The fight for survival is on,” Mr Solms said.

But farmers are not alone in their plight — even hotel guests have been affected.

Driest February

PIETERMARITZBURG experienced its driest February since 1903, the Darvil weather station reported yesterday.

Newcastle innkeeper Barry Noble has asked guests to bear the desperate situation in mind when they bath and shower.

The Newcastle High School headmaster, Mr J H Beukes, said gardens in the town looked worse than they did during

Fight for survival

winter.

“Although people are using bath water to flush their toilets, we do seem better off than some.

“A Dundee visitor here yesterday asked for drinking water to take home with him.”

Dundee’s Deputy Town Clerk, Mr L E Pienaar,

said households were now restricted to two kilolitres a week and that water supplies to homes would be cut off if this limit were exceeded.

“There’s only enough water in local dams to last two weeks. If we don’t get rain we’ll have to set up tanks at various points for

Imports may be needed to bolster local maize crop

Mercury Correspondent

PRETORIA—The Maize Board may be compelled to import maize this year to supplement the local drought-ravaged crop.

There is an ‘outside’ possibility too that wheat may also have to be shipped into South Africa.

So not only will South

Africa lose millions of rands in foreign exchange because there are no export surpluses, but the loss will be increased if the country has to import maize and wheat.

The chairman of the Maize Board, Mr Crawford von Abo, claims the drought will rob South Africa of R600 million in foreign exchange earnings from maize exports during the 1983/84 season.

This was the extent of export earnings during the current season.

The board, he said yesterday, had stopped exporting maize several months ago when it became clear this season’s crop would be far below average.

The South African Transport Services would also lose out. Revenue from moving maize to the coast for export in a normal year totals about R123 million.

Pretoria sources said yesterday the Maize Board had a carry-over of about 1 000 000 tons into the new season which starts in May

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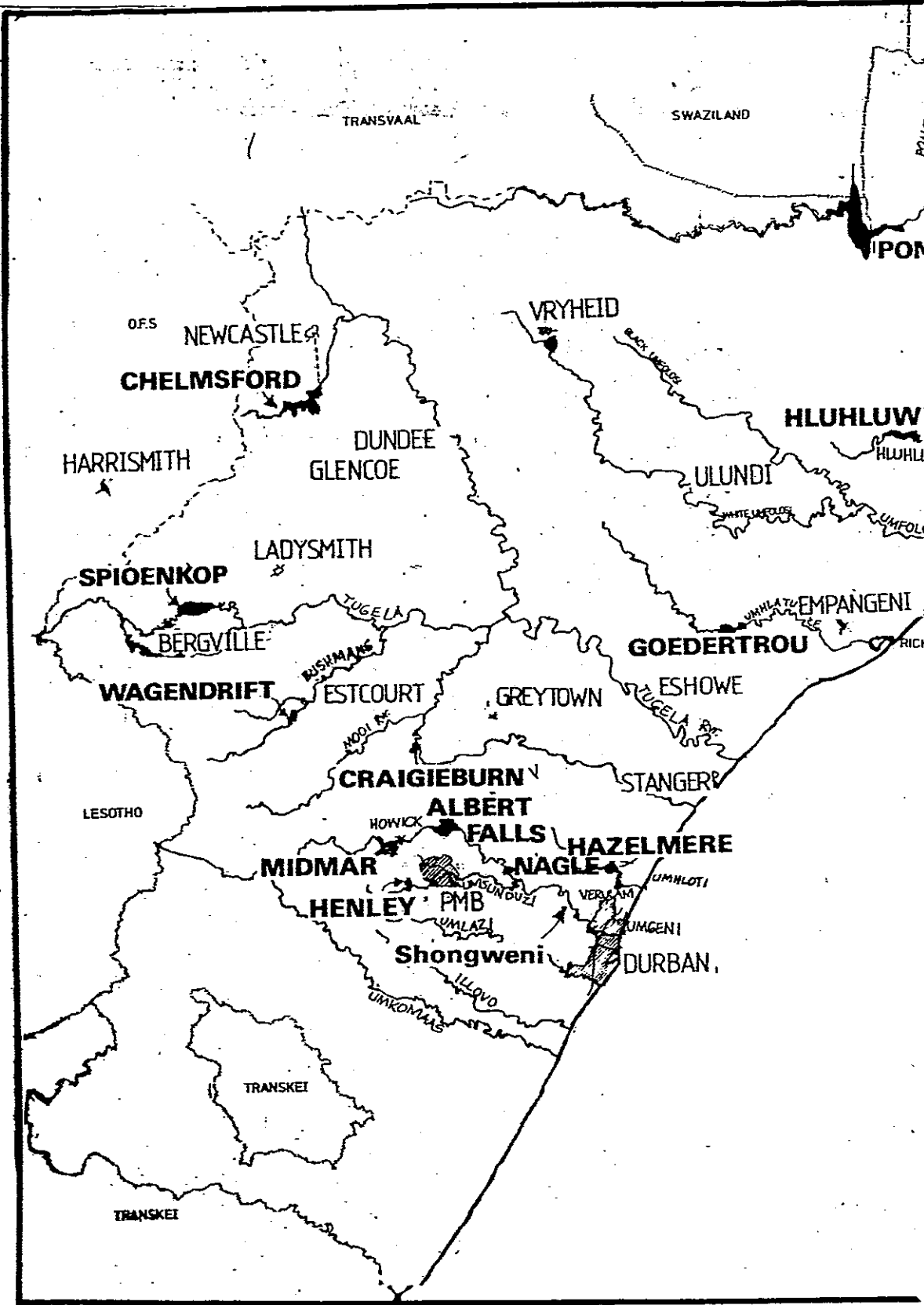
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NATAL'S major dams . . . and how much water there is in them.

DAM	RIVER	CAPACITY m ³ X 10	% 1982	% 1983	PURPOSE
SPIOENKOP	Tugela	282	100	78,67	Ladysmith water supply
CHELMSFORD	Ngqane	198	23	15,0	Newcastle and industrial water supply
WAGENDRIFT	Bushmans	60	97	96,4	Irrigation and Estcourt
CRAIGIEBURN	Mnyamvulu	25	97	80,0	Irrigation of Muden area
MIDMAR	Umgeni	178	85	37,5	Water supply to Howick, Pietermaritzburg, Camperdown, Hammarsburg and irrigators
ALBERT FALLS	Umgeni	287	14	9,18	Balancing reservoir for Durban

Although the first official estimate of the crop is announced only later this month, it is considered unlikely that the crop will reach 7 000 000 tons, the extent of domestic demand.

But the secretary of the Ixopo Health Committee, Mrs F H Turner, said if no rains fell this month restrictions would have to be considered.

The Raelton Dam, from which the village usually drew water supplies, was only 38 percent full.

Flowing

Mr Paddy Bam, chairman of the Ixopo Water Catchment Association, described the position of farmers in the area as serious.

The Ixopo River was flowing reasonably at its source, but was 'barely flowing' where it met the Umkomas River.

There was a particularly dry area around Richmond.

Some farmers there had had to dig pools in the riverbed to find water, which then had to be boiled for household use.

Farmers at Estcourt and Mool River are also in difficulty.

Mr K Adams, who farms maize in the Ntabamhlope area, near Estcourt, said his entire crop had been written off.

All he could do was cut it for silage.

The livestock situation was not so bad because water could still be pumped from the Wagendrin Dam.

HLUHLUWE
PONGOLAPOORT
HENLEY

Hluhluwe
Pongola
Umsunduzi

29
2501
5,8

87
—
64

22,9
1,89
64

NAGLE: Not a storage dam but is used for abstracting water from Umgeni River and grading water supply to Durban.

... ..
IZIMORS

Drought will hit SA crops hard, says US

8/16/83
5/2/83
MGM

Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — The United States Department of Agriculture, which monitors worldwide weather conditions, painted a bleak picture this week of drought conditions in South Africa.

The department's weekly bulletin said that even if late season rain fell now it would be too little and too late to help this year's corn (maize) crop.

In contrast to South Africa and Australia, which is also suffering under a severe and widespread drought, other parts of the southern hemisphere have had good rains — in some cases, far too much.

The weekly international weather and crop bulletin is published by the US Department of

Agriculture and Commerce, assisted by a number of agencies.

It is sent to subscribers, many of them large-scale producers who use the information in production planning for world markets.

The information comes from regional weather authorities — and from America's own satellite pictures radioed to earth. The data from all over the world is assessed in Washington by experts.

This week, the experts were gloomy about conditions in South Africa's Maize Triangle — even more gloomy than they had been in the previous week when they said the unfavourable weather had not only made the maize grow too fast but had also stunted crop development, significantly reducing the crop yield

potential.

There was little chance of recovery, they predicted.

The report on South Africa says:

"The combined effect of persistently high temperatures and low rainfall has rapidly affected the corn crop throughout much of the Maize Triangle.

"Well above average temperatures further exhausted the already limited soil moisture reserves.

"The extremely unfavourable growing conditions have severely stressed the corn as it advances through the grain-filling period. The areas most affected are southern and western portions of the Maize Triangle, but the entire crop is suffering."

3 General

MONITOR THE RISKS

Will it or won't it? Only March rains can prevent an exodus from the land as drought plays war of nerves with thousands of farmers

THE widespread rains over the past few days have done little more than settle the dust and the country is still in the grip of a devastating drought being likened by experts to the great drought of 1933.

The grim picture is the same across most of the nation — parched veld, devastated crops, dried-out wells and boreholes, rotting animal carcasses and dams sinking lower and lower. The drought has now reached such proportions that it is playing a war of nerves with farmers.

Hundreds, and possibly thousands of them, black and white, are praying for what amounts to make-or-break rain this month. In past years good March rains have often averted a crisis on the land.

For many farmers, the critical stage has already been reached as they survey their withered summer maize crops. A crisis for them is only around the corner if the rains fail for the rest of the month.

BYRON GOLDEN

The exodus from the land could begin in June or July when farmers, already labouring under huge drought-connected debts, must either decide to battle on and plan for the next season — or pack their bags and move into town.

In Natal alone, the failure of the summer maize crop has cost farmers R80-million. Last year, when the drought consolidated its grip, farmers in northern Natal lost at least R40-million on their crops, which fell 75 per cent below expectations.

Petrus van Rooyen, general manager of the Natalase Landboukooopasie (NLK) in Dundee, estimated during an interview August that it would take farmers 12 years to get back on their feet. But that was before the summer rains

failed.

He also predicted chaos. And his prediction seems set to come true.

Dr Peter Hildyard, director of the Natal region in the Department of Agriculture, said the rainfalls of the past few days had merely "settled the dust" and had certainly not, at this stage, broken the drought.

The drought is being likened in agricultural circles to the great drought of 50 years ago.

It was so serious and widespread that the agricultural structure of certain regions was permanently changed.

According to the Standard Encyclopaedia of Southern Africa, large sections of the Transvaal and Free State which had until then been wool-producers began to concentrate more on agriculture with the result that the country has less livestock now than in 1930.

Mr van Rooyen said the NLK had suggested to the Department of Agriculture that all farmers' debts should be consolidated for 10

years and farmers given this time to pay them.

The Government is expected to announce drought-relief plans before the end of the month.

But even as these plans are being formulated, more and more water restrictions are being placed on towns and cities across the land.

Environmental Affairs Minister Sarel Hayward has already ordered an immediate 30 per cent cutback in Natal's water consumption, both in industry and the home.

The Durban municipality has announced a total ban on the use of hoses/pipes from Wednesday.

It will even be an offence to leave a hose-pipe connected to a tap.

In KwaZulu there is an acute shortage of drinking water which threatens both health and food production.

It is only the western Cape that appears to have escaped from the full onslaught of the drought which, far from being confined to South Africa, is playing havoc with her neighbours to the north and west.

Good rains fell over most parts of eastern Transvaal on Thursday but, as in Natal, they are probably too late to save the summer crops.

Dams and rivers in the region are dangerously low and game parks, and nature reserves throughout the area report the worst conditions in more than a decade.

The Kruger National Park had its worst fish disaster recently when hundreds of thousands were killed in the Oliphants River near Phalaborwa.

Tons of dry sand was washed into the river when sluice gates were opened at Phalaborwa, killing the fish.

Farmers sell in battle for survival

BY DOMINIQUE
GILBERT

LOUIS van Vuuren was once the proud owner of a huge cattle herd.

Some died, many had to be sold.

In desperation he will try to sell the rest this week.

The 1390-hectare farm he owns near Magudu in Northern Natal can supply neither water nor grazing any longer. He faces the destruction of 30 years' work as a cattle breeder and game farmer as he battles to survive the drought.

He said: "In all the 30 years I've farmed here I've never known a drought like this. The situation is critical and if it doesn't rain soon it will be disastrous.

"Ten of my dams — some held water for 29 years — have dried up and all except one borehole is dry.

"I'm in a cleft stick. As a last resort I've had to sell some of the finest breeding stock with eight-month-old calves for R580. If someone will take the burden from my hands, I will sell them all except for a few of the bulls."

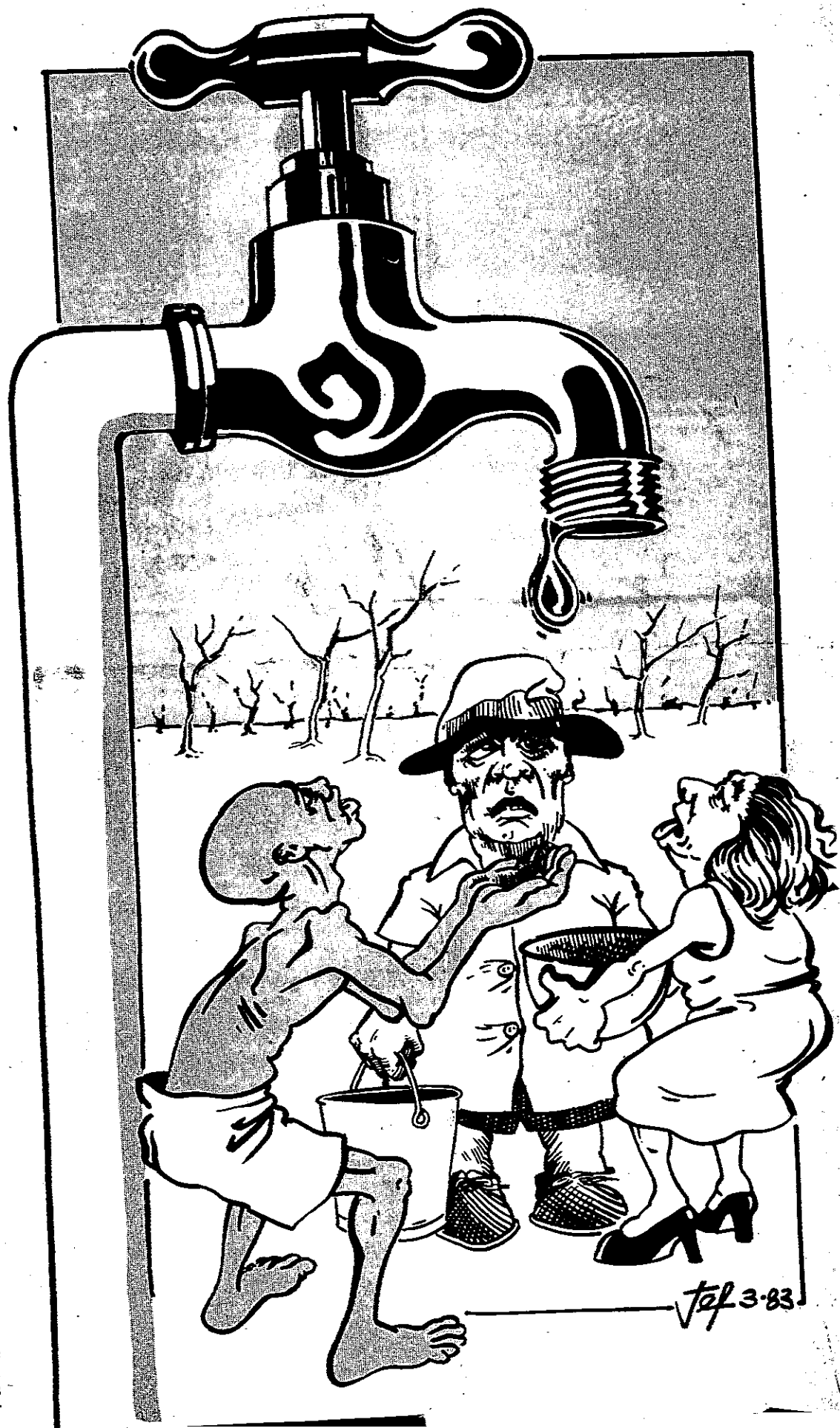
But, as say all farmers spoken to this week, he says he will not leave the area and believes rain has to come sometime.

"We all live in hope and just have to have faith. I can't accept it won't rain."

But cattle prices have dropped and he says he is forced to sell in a losing market. It is six months too late for reasonable prices.



□ Dry for the first time in 29 years. Louis van Vuuren's dam was always filled to the top of the embankment behind him



area are selling as many of their cattle as they can for whatever they can get.

"The grass has been chewed right down to ground level and even if it does rain soon winter's coming and the veld will never recover sufficiently by then," said Mr van Vuuren.

His farm has had only 220 mm of rain since July.

The **SUNDAY TRIBUNE** was told by several farmers that thirsty cattle, in a desperate search for water, became stuck in mud as the dams dried up.

However, game in the area was still in reasonable condition and could hold out a little longer.

Five years ago, when rain was plentiful and mealies grew well, Mr van Vuuren built a silo on his farm. It was filled only three times.

"Today the silo and the feeding pens next to it stand like white elephants," he said. "I'll never plant any crop

'Most days I sit indoors working out my budget because there is nothing going on now'

here again.

"Between the harvest ants, bush encroachment and drought we have an unbeatable combination for disaster.

"If things ever come right and I start buying again, I'll have to pay through my neck to get back what I had bred on this farm.

"Virtually all my life I've worked for myself. But when this is over, I can't see myself going flat out ever again. I'm not a young man anymore so I'll probably land up with about 100 good breeding cows, just to keep me occupied and keep the kettle boiling.

"Which ever way it

goes, a man in my position cannot win."

Many cattle farmers have been buying feed and another cattle and game farmer, Kemp Landman, whose farm is near Pongola, says this can cost between R1 and R1,70 a day and about R180 for six months per head of cattle.

At a farmers' association meeting recently, it was decided to ask for the area to be declared drought stricken.

A Pongola sugar cane farmer, who has asked not to be named, said the farmers would face great financial losses next year.

He said: "We have lost

50 percent of our sugar cane crop alone. That amounts to about R10 million and it will take more than two years to reinstate the normal crop production.

"That will mean between two and three years with no income for most farmers. It's now a question of survival."

Some farmers had given up trying to save their crops and were just watching as hundreds of acres died before their eyes.

"Some farmers are cutting their entire crops to feed cattle. One is even cutting from the side of his road because there is no fodder in the

veld."

In the Pongola area farms produce mainly sugar cane, cotton, vegetables and cattle.

On 65 hectares of cotton, one farmer is reaping only five bails where normally he would get more than 325.

If it does not rain, irrigation farmers say it is only a matter of weeks before most of the major rivers dry up.

The Pongola River is yielding about 90 percent less water than required.

Japie Botha, a farmer and shop owner who lives between Mugudu and Nongoma, said some farmers who had no boreholes and relied on

water from the Mkuze River were scratching in the sandy river bed and collecting the water seepage in buckets.

"Most days I sit indoors working out my budget or doing accounts because there's nothing going on," said one farmer.

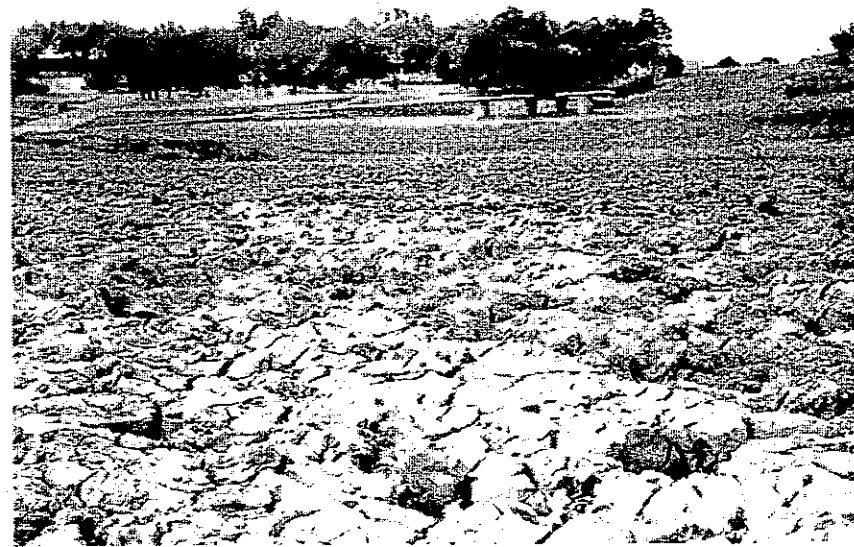
"Farming is no longer a family affair and a way of life. It is purely a business. The farmer has got to be financier, forecaster, psychologist, vet, mechanic and gambler.

"You dream it, sleep it, and you're with it. I don't think the city-dweller understands this of farmers."

EXPRESSSCOPE WATCHES THE WELLS GO DRY

A three-month countdown to disaster in Natal

By DARYL BALFOUR and LINZI HOWARD



● Another dried up Natal dam. Dundee, in Northern Natal, has only 4,35% of its water supply left and water is now being pumped from disused mineshafts.

NATAL'S cities are running out of water — and taps in Durban and Maritzburg could be dry in three months unless the drought breaks soon.

That is the warning from experts on the Garden Province's water crisis.

The warning came barely hours before drastic water restrictions were imposed in Natal and the Eastern Transvaal by Mr Sarel Hayward, the Minister of

Environmental Affairs and Fisheries.

In making the announcement, Mr Hayward said that South Africa was possibly facing its "worst drought this century."

Hugely increased fines for water wastage come into effect in Maritzburg this weekend, with the penalty for first offenders being increased tenfold from R50 to R500. Second offenders can expect a fine of R1 000, the city's legal department has

announced.

Another development is that offenders will not have the option of paying a spot fine but will have to appear in court.

The MEC for town and regional planning in Natal, Mr Ray Haslam, said this week the existing water restrictions were not having the desired effect. "Rationing may be inevitable," he said.

Durban's city engineer, Mr Don McLeod, has warned that with 60% of the city's

water supply being used by industry less essential supplies may have to be cut off.

Despite strictly enforced water restrictions in the two cities, consumption has actually risen in recent weeks.

"Some people have even been getting up to water their gardens at midnight in the hope that nobody will see them," said Mr Graham Atkinson, Maritzburg's city engineer.

The use of garden hoses has been banned outside two

two-hour periods a week in Durban and Maritzburg. Pinteown has imposed a total ban.

While the need to cut water consumption is urgent, Durban's city treasurer, Mr Ossie Gorven, has warned that tariffs may have to be increased if consumption drops.

It is estimated a 20% reduction in monthly consumption would mean a R500 000 a month loss for the city.

Meanwhile, as scattered but light rains fell over parts of Natal this week, chances of the drought breaking looked bleak.

Rainfall figures throughout the province are well down on average, with Durban's figures for last month being only 26mm compared with an average of 121mm.

With the lack of good rains reaching dangerously low levels.

Midmar Dam near Maritzburg, which supplies the bulk of water for Durban and Maritzburg, has less

than 100 days supply left and Henley Dam, another major supplier to Maritzburg, could be empty by the first week of August.

The combined content of Midmar and the new Albert Falls dams is only 20%.

Dundee, in Northern Natal, is probably one of the worst hit of all Natal hit towns with only 4,35% of its water supply left. Desperate authorities there have been forced to pump water from disused mineshafts.

Now the town board is considering transporting water from nearby Lady-smith by train to help keep the town's taps running.

Professor Roland Schulze, of the University of Natal's department of agricultural engineering, described the drought in Natal as the worst ever recorded. He is head of the Hydrological Re-

search Unit funded by the Water Research Commission, which is now making an intensive study of rainfall patterns in the province.

Northern Natal farmers stand to lose more than R80-

million this year because of reduced crops.

According to figures released by the Natalse Landbouko-operasie in Dundee the maize harvest will be down by about 500 000 tons.

Co-op general manager Pieter van Rooyen said: "At the start of the season we anticipated about 600 000 tons. Now we'll be lucky to get 100 000."

"This means local farmers will be indebted to the tune of about R60-million.

"July and August will be the critical period, and we'll know then if farmers will be forced off the land," Mr van Rooyen said.

Many livestock owners in the area extending from the Drakensberg to the Transvaal border had only enough water for the next month or two, he said.

One side effect of the drought has been that all Durban's flower displays and containerised plants — which normally grace the city's sidewalks and parks — have been removed because of the low water supplies.

Late rains may save the Transvaal

By DEBRA CLEVELAND

THE Transvaal could be saved by rain — but the chances are slim.

A spokesman for the Weather Bureau in Pretoria said that although rainfall country-wide was well below projected figures this year, there was some chance of rain falling until early April.

This offers small hope to agriculturalists, who are predicting ruin for many

farmers in the province. Their plight is underlined by skeletal carcasses of livestock on the scorched remains of their cultivated land.

The drought is being described as the worst since the great drought of 1933.

The survival of many farming communities is at stake: If there are no later summer rains, the lack of water in platteland areas will become critical during

winter.

Already the level of the Vaal Dam, in which supply area nearly half the population of South Africa lives, is down to 38%, and falling levels in reservoirs nationwide will cost South Africa millions of rands in lost production.

At a time when most South Africans are still battling the effects of the recession, the Department of Agriculture has declared half the Transvaal a disaster area.

Since July last year rain well below the expected level.

The area from east of Messina to the border and south to the Kruger Park had less than 20% of expect-

ed rainfall and the Highveld and a broad band in the north-western Transvaal had 60%.

The Pretoria and Johannesburg areas fared better with 78% of expected rainfall and the Western Transvaal had just over 80%.

But rainfall figures for Pretoria and Johannesburg last month are shocking: Pretoria received no rain for the last two weeks of February and Johannesburg only 24mm of the expected 129mm for the month.

With the lack of good rains reaching dangerously low levels.

Midmar Dam near Maritzburg, which supplies the bulk of water for Durban and Maritzburg, has less

Emergency restrictions as Govt steps in

MINISTER of Environmental Affairs Sarel Hayward has announced water restrictions of up to 50% for irrigation from five rivers in Natal and the Eastern Transvaal.

"If drastic water restrictions are not imposed certain dams supplying water to strategic industries and towns may experience severe water supply problems by August," he said.

His department had based its water resources analyses on a

drought which would probably occur every 50 years.

"All indications are that the current drought has a greater frequency than one in 50 years and unless good inflows occur in the remaining summer months, it could possibly be the most severe drought this century."

The lowest inflow at the Vaal Dam since 1924 was about 440-million m³ per hydrological year. Last

year the inflow had been 375-million m³, and this year only 175-million m³ had been measured so far.

He said he had no choice but to impose water restrictions now: high inflows could not be guaranteed for the remaining summer months.

The first restriction was one of 30% of the corresponding consumption last year from five Government water schemes: the Ngagane River (Chelmsford dam), Umgeni

River (Albert Falls and Midmar dams), Komati River (Nooitgedacht and Vyeboom Dam), Usutu River (Jericho, Westoe and Morgenstond dams), and the Vaal River (Grootdraai dam).

Mr Hayward said industrial and domestic consumers of water from the Sterkfontein, Vaal and the Bloembhof dams would have water restrictions of 20% of the corresponding consumption last year. — Sapa.

...coloured rural areas for coloured farmers, he said. But, as the Theron Commission pointed out in 1976, the coloured rural areas are already heavily populated — and it is virtually impossible to obtain permits in "white" areas.

Mr Moorcroft said this week: "The Government appears to be ducking its responsibilities.

"It seems incapable of meeting the requirements of the situation.

"These are to give coloured people access to agricultural land on the basis of non-discrimination.

"It confirms our contention that the new dispensation is geared to keeping coloured people in a second-class situation.

"This was the time, if ever there was one, for the Government to say this is the dawn of a new era and be magnanimous."

JOHANNESBURG and the Reef have been thrown into confusion by the Government's decision to impose tighter water restrictions amid one of the country's most crippling droughts.

In Cape Town, homeowners within a stone's throw of the Indian Ocean are using bath water to save their gardens, while new water curbs in Durban will place a total ban on the use of hosepipes from Wednesday.

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The Johannesburg and

Sunday Times Reporters

Pretoria municipalities are awaiting further details from the Government.

Both have been implementing basic Rand Water Board conservation measures for some time.

Whatever new steps are taken will not come into force until later this week.

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No official details had been received about the areas which would be affected by the proposed 20 percent water restriction.

Mr John Bates, of the Jo-

hannesburg City Engineer's Department said there would be no immediate change in the basic municipal water restrictions

Engineer, Mr Don McLeod. Hoses will be banned for everything except fire-fighting.

Automatic or mechanical car-washing machines are banned unless they recycle more than 70 percent of the water used.

Except for special reasons relating to health, offenders against the new regulations will have to pay a fine and their water supply will be cut off until they pay a R30 re-connection fee.

The residents of most Eastern Cape towns have been asked to curb water usage.

With dams near empty, the Port Alfred Town Council is investigating a plan to draw water from the town's sand dunes.

In the Eastern Transvaal, recent rains in the Lowveld had alleviated the dire water situation, according to the Town Engineer of Nelspruit, Mr P C Geyer.

But residents in Nelspruit would be allowed to water their gardens only for a 12-hour period each week, he said.



TERRY A.S. BUBBS

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S. Times 6/3/83 (3) Liberal

Confusion over water curbs

Forbidden

In Simonstown — one of the unlikeliest areas to be stricken by the countrywide drought — watering of gardens with bath water was a common sight this week.

Residents are forbidden to wash cars and the stringent restrictions are likely to remain in force until winter rains fill up the mountainside supply dams, says the community's town clerk, Mr Charles Chevalier.

Workers are racing against time to complete an emergency pipeline to link Simonstown with the water supply from Cape Town to prevent the maritime base from "going dry".

In Durban, it will be an offence from Wednesday even to leave a hosepipe connected to a tap.

Anyone wanting exemption from the new ruling will have to apply to the City

Test-tube trials

From Page 1

"But I have no doubt that during 1983, between ourselves, Pretoria and Tygerberg Hospital, there will be pregnancies in this country."

The technique — pioneered overseas with the birth of the first test tube baby four years ago — is now being perfected in South Africa.

It involves the uniting of the female ovum and the male sperm in a laboratory.

The resulting embryo is then implanted in the womb of the mother and the pregnancy is completed normally.

A team of over 12 people, including doctors, a psychiatrist, technicians and nurses, co-operated in the Groote Schuur attempt to help the woman conceive — which came after 18 months preliminary work by the team.

Although the British introduced the test-tube baby technique, Dr Alperstein regards the Australians as leaders in the field.

"In Melbourne, they have a very successful programme under Professor Carl Wood.

"When I attended a workshop there last year, they had already delivered 54 babies after using this method.

"Throughout the world over 200 test tube babies have been born."

The first South African baby born was Dominique Darvas, whose mother, Mrs Magdaleen Darvas of Tzaneen, went to England to undergo the operation.

Dominique was the 16th test tube baby in the world when she was born at Pretoria on January 26, last year.

To have the operation in a South African provincial hospital costs R150 — the Darvases paid R10 000 to have Dominique.

Professor Jan van der Merwe, head of the gynaecology and obstetrics department of Pretoria's H F Verwoerd Hospital, which is attached to the University of Pretoria medical faculty, said yesterday:

"We have been undertaking research work on the test-tube baby technique for the past year.

"A large number of women, and their husbands, have been involved in tests done under laboratory conditions. There have, to date, been no pregnancies as a result of the tests."

He said two to three are done each week. A number were also done last year.

Speaking just after performing his latest operation yesterday, Professor van der Merwe, said:

"There is today a waiting list of 80 women who want babies. They come from all over South Africa."

Since the Groote Schuur and Tygerberg hospitals in the Western Cape are involved in similar research, he suggested a pooling of resources in two or three centres.

"There is not that tremendous demand considering other South African requirements," he commented.

Professor van der Merwe said that as far as the latest operations were concerned "we have to wait for about 14 days or even longer before we know for sure whether the implantation has been



State-aid pledge to ousted farmers

By IVOR WILKINS
Political Correspondent

THE Government has promised to compensate coloured farmers in Stockenström on the same basis as whites.

It has also pledged help to the farmers, whose land is due to be incorporated into Ciskei.

The plight of the farmers, reported by the Sunday Times three weeks ago, was first revealed by the Progressive Federal Party MP for Albany, Mr Errol Moorcroft.

Mr Moorcroft said the Government's handling of the issue would be a test of faith in the light of the new constitutional plans.

He feared that the farmers might be compensated on a different basis to whites and would be unable to buy other farms in "white" South Africa.

Replying in Parliament this week, the Deputy Minister of Land Affairs, Mr Henrie van der Walt, said:

"We will not simply hand over the land to Ciskei and leave these people to their fate."

"We will help them."

Permits

Mr van der Walt said any coloured person could buy land anywhere in South Africa if he got a permit from the Department of Community Development.

There were also designated coloured rural areas for coloured farmers, he said.

But, as the Theron Commission pointed out in 1976, the coloured rural areas are already heavily populated — and it is virtually impossible to obtain permits in "white" areas.

Mr Moorcroft said this week: "The Government appears to be ducking its responsibilities."

"It seems incapable of meeting the requirements of the situation."

"These are to give coloured people access to agricultural land on the basis of non-discrimination."

"It confirms our contention that the new dispensation is geared to, keeping coloured people in a second-class situation."

"This was the time, if ever there was one, for the Government to say this is the dawn of a new era and be magnanimous."

THE number of fleeing Zimbabweans entering Botswana's controversial Dukwe refugee camp has swelled in the past month from an erratic trickle to a steady stream of between 30 to 50 a day, the camp commander, Mr Ellison Madibela, said this week.

Mr Madibela said refugees of all ages from the strife-torn northern curfew areas of Matabeleland claimed they were fleeing from soldiers who were killing Ndebele people indiscriminately.

But he said he had seen nothing to support claims in the Zimbabwean Press that Botswana was becoming a training ground for anti-Zimbabwean Government dissidents.

He also denied a Zimbabwean Press claim that Mr John Sibanda, who was sought in connection with an abortive attack on the residence of the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, in June last year, was at Dukwe.

Refugee

By ANDRE VILJOEN
Harare

In an interview in the vast camp in eastern Botswana, about 150km northwest of Francistown and about 100km from the Zimbabwean border, Mr Madibela said there was now an estimated total of 1 200 people in the camp.

About 756 were Zimbabweans, about 100 were South Africans and the rest were from Angola and Namibia.

He said an unknown number of Zimbabwean and other refugees had left the camp recently, but he did not know whether they had gone to South Africa — as is rumoured.

There are a white-washed training units in the funded by the High Commission and the World F

The camp is the Botswana overflow of refu

Mr Madibela went through screening procedure through police at Dukwe through himself

If any of the weapons — as Government had must be hidden

Although there able number of women and child whose pitiful tally seem auth

Mayor to see



MRS SYBIL HOLTZ
Taking legal advice

DURBAN'S mayor, Mrs Sybil Holtz, is taking legal advice after the arch-conservative Civic Action League (CAL) issued 30 000 copies of a publication aimed at "breaking the PFP stranglehold on our civic government".

She said matters between the city council and the CAL had reached a stage where it was necessary to seek legal opinion.

Mrs Holtz, who is singled out for attack in the publication, said she would rather not comment in detail until

By EVELYN
HOLTZHAUSEN

she had taken legal advice.

The publication, edited by CAL chairman Mr Brend Willmer and funded by members, is the strongest attack so far on the council's attempts to integrate some of Durban's beach facilities.

The publication warms Durban ratepayers of the "jackboot" politics and calls on them to do constant battle with those betrayers of white society until City Hall is rid of this cancerous menace.

Confusion over water

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Workers are facing

Labourers in tragic trek from thirstlands

3 General
S. Tribune
6/3/83

THE DROUGHT has left thousands of farm labourers battling for survival and without work. In some areas they now live a nomadic life and move from place to place in search of grazing and water for their dying cattle.

Two women the **SUNDAY TRIBUNE** spoke to this week, through an interpreter, said they had walked their cattle hundreds of kilometres from their village near Mahlangasi to Jozini, and some north to an area south of Piet Retief in search of grazing and water.

There is no work for them on the farms and they have no means of making money. But some are staying on farmer's land where they are still given rations of maize meal.

Farmers spoken to expressed their concern over the situation.

"It is with great reluctance we are forced to lay people off. We have tried to keep them as long as was humanly possible but crops have died and there is nothing for them to harvest, and many farmers cannot afford to pay them," said a farmer in the Pongola area.

Many are still being given rations of maize meal only from farmers, and water, if they can get it.

It is understood that in certain areas many of their own cattle have died or had to be killed for food, and in the Pongola and Magudu areas

By DOMINIQUE
GILBERT

evidence that all their own maize and vegetable crops had completely died.

"If it wasn't for the water and the food we get from the farmers here, we would all surely die, what else would we be able to do," said Mfihah Dlamini, a mother who lives in the village near Mahlangasi.

"The people are worried. We don't know how we're going to feed our children and animals."

She, like many others, walks several miles a day carrying the drum loads of water she fetches from a nearby farmer, to her village.

Most of the people in her position were dependent on work they were given working cotton and vegetable lands.

But now no vegetables or cotton is being planted anywhere, and standing crops will not be harvested because they are dead.

Even their own maize and vegetable crops died and dried out before they

could yield anything. A farmers' cooperative society spokesman in Pongola said maize meal sales had increased by 37 percent this year.


According to the superintendent at a mission hospital near Ubombó, some of the rural blacks had been forced to kill their cattle.

"This is not entirely a bad thing. But on the whole in this area the cattle are still in a reasonable condition," he said.

"People are moving their cattle from place to place looking for water because some areas have had better rains than others."

He said he had noticed an increase in malnutrition and kwashiorkor among people who had been affected by the drought.

Most areas visited by the **SUNDAY TRIBUNE** this week had been hard hit by the drought, but in some, like Nongoma, cattle were still in a reasonable condition where a little grazing was still evident.

S.E. Open 6/3/83 (3) General 

White farmers demand more money for move

By CHRISTINA PRETORIUS

WILLIE Bronkhorst and his family are living on borrowed time.

They own their 41ha land, but it has been expropriated for the soon-to-be-independent homeland, kwaNdebele.

Mr Bronkhorst claimed this week he first heard of the expropriation on December 28 last year in a letter from the Department of Community Development.

The department offered him R44 000 for his farm — and told him to be off the land by February 28 this year.

But he is refusing to move until he is allowed to bargain with the Government for the price and given more than

two months' notice.

"The Government seems to feel that R44 000 is a fair price for my property but it is worth a great deal more on the open market. And to me it is virtually priceless," he said.

He shares the farm with his wife, two children and elderly mother.

"The threat of having to move is having a bad effect on my mother. I need to be given time to find somewhere new to live."

The Bronkhorst farm, Tweefontein, includes irrigation fields, grazing and 30ha of high-potential sandy loam.

"It would be impossible for me to buy a similar farm the same distance from Pretoria for R44 000," said Mr Bronkhorst.

Mr Bronkhorst and many farmers in the district claimed the kwaNdebele homeland had depressed the property market in the area artificially.

On February 19 the Government announced it would increase kwaNdebele to almost seven times its size — from 51 000ha to 341 000ha — at a cost of R150-million.

All the land — 70 000ha — held by farmers of the Sybrandskraal Agricultural Union was included in the Government's latest consolidation proposals for kwaNdebele.

The union chairman, Mr Alf Becker, said: "The expropriation of land at a low price is exactly what the farmers in my union are afraid of."

A spokesman for the Department of Co-operation and Development said there were "at least 37" farmers on Tweefontein, which had been sub-divided.

"Each was made an offer — but not all have reacted," he said.

"It might be that Mr Bronkhorst did not react, in which case the department will have taken it for granted he was satisfied with the offer made to him."

He confirmed the farmers were given two months to vacate their homes.

The spokesman said an additional sum equal to "about 10%" of the value of the land was included in each offer.

Earlier this week hundreds of farmers gathered in Bronkhorstspuit to meet the kwaNdebele Consolidation Committee.

The Sybrandskraal union raised the following points:

- Consolidation must be final — no more land must be granted to kwaNdebele.
- Agreement must be reached with Government evaluators on the cost of land before evaluation begins.
- A representative of the farmers must sit on the evaluation committee.
- The time from valuation to actual payment must be no more than three months.
- Extra compensation of 10% of the value of the farm must be paid to the farmer to make up for the inconvenience of having to sell.

Author Durrell films SA wildlife

NATURALIST and best-selling author Gerald Durrell is in the Umfolozi Game Reserve filming one of 13 parts for an international TV series on wildlife.

He and his wife Lee, pictured at right, arrived in South Africa this week to film the ecology of grasslands.

The couple will star in the series, which is a co-production involving Prime Media in Canada, Channel Four in Britain and SABC-TV and is being filmed by a free-lance team.

Entitled 'Amateur Naturalist' it is based on Durrell's book 'The Complete Amateur Naturalist'. He wrote the script and Lee was responsible for research.

SABC public relations officer Mr Eric van der Merwe said the series would probably be screened in South Africa early next year.

Report and picture by DEENA SHAPIRO



Devastating drought is tightening grip on SA

ARGUS 7/3/83 3 General

Survival of country's farming community is now at stake

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. —

The survival of the South African farming community is at stake as the drought in all provinces intensifies by the day.

The Department of Agriculture's situation map for February shows that half the Transvaal is now considered a disaster area.

In another quarter of the province the drought has assumed emergency proportions.

Fifteen magisterial districts of the Transvaal have been declared drought-stricken. Twelve others may soon be added to them.

Rail rebate

In these districts farmers are entitled to a rail rebate on fodder or to loans for fodder.

In the Louis Trichardt and Messina areas even the game is dying and farmers have been told to reduce their stock numbers permanently.

They are now being financed by the State to fatten and sell from one third to a half of their cattle to prevent overgrazing when it rains again — which is not expected before December.

The Potgietersrus, Rustenburg and Thabazimbi districts are due to receive this assistance before May.

No exports

Grain co-operatives said the last good year had been 1980-81.

Since then the maize crop had dropped by 51 percent, the grain sorghum crop by 37 percent, sunflowers by 40 percent and groundnuts by 53 percent.

This year there will be no maize for export, according to Maize Board sources.

There is a carry-over of about 1-million tons and with the expected 7-million tons of this year's



crop, there will be sufficient for the home market and a carry-over to 1984.

No imports will be necessary and stocks of white maize should be sufficient.

Throughout the Lowveld dams and rivers are drying up.

Vegetable production will be severely curtailed during the winter and prices will be forced up, aggravating inflation.

On fruit farms the picking season is in full swing but the quality of the fruit is so poor that some orchards are being left unpicked.

In Lebowa, Gazankulu, Venda and Kwazulu the drought has brought misery.

Black farmers are reluctant to part with their cattle, traditionally regarded as currency, and this makes it more difficult for the homeland governments to provide sufficient fodder.

It is estimated that 800 000 head of cattle have died. Wells are drying up as fast as new boreholes are drilled and grain will have to be sent to the homelands from South Africa.

The sugar industry is experiencing its second disastrous drought in four years. On some sugar plantations, which rely on irrigation, half the crop has been lost.

The whole of the Crocodile-Komati-Lomati river system has dried up.

Cane cutting, which is due to start this month, may be postponed to avoid the high cost of allowing the mill at Malelane to run at half its normal capacity.

At Pongola, the situation is much the same and the Zululand and northern Natal cane growers expect a cane crop of only 70 to 80 percent, which at the current depressed prices will mean severe financial loss for planters.

Only the southern Natal cane fields are expected to yield anything like a normal crop.

Northern Natal is as drought-stricken as the Eastern Transvaal. The Utrecht district has been worst hit but even in the

Midlands maize crops have failed and rivers and wells have dried up.

In the Free State, only half the maize crop is expected.

In the sheep farming grassland areas, farmers have had no rain for fodder crops. Lucerne and hay are fetching unheard-of prices.

The whole of the Northern Cape is a disaster area with Kenhardt, Gordononia and Kuruman badly hit.

The grain and fruit farmers of the Western Cape have been fortunate in experiencing a normal season. Wheat crops in the Swartland have been good.

In the winter rainfall area, the farmers' main

worry is the low prices offered for export fruit.

To the north, however, beyond Vanrhynsdorp, the western karoo is experiencing its seventh year of devastating drought.

The Namib desert is encroaching on farmland and has already reached the Calvinia district.

A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture at Elsenburg said a major effort on a national scale would be needed to reclaim areas for human habitation.

● The South African Agricultural Union's executive committee, co-operative council and general council will meet in Pretoria next week to complete proposals to put before the Government for drought relief.

PWV drought situation is now critical

The Rand Water Board has called an emergency meeting for Wednesday of representatives of all the cities and towns in the PWV area to discuss the critical drought situation.

Either the chairman of the board, Mr L.D. Hobbs, or the chief water engineer, Mr Leslie James, will chair the meeting.

Apart from municipal representatives, spokesmen from commerce and industry will attend, as experts seek ways of maintaining the present 20 percent of water through existing restrictions.

And a projection by the Department of Environment Affairs indicates that commerce, industry and agriculture could be dealt a crippling blow unless the drought eases.

The Vaal Dam — vital source of domestic, industrial and agricultural water to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging complex — may be left only 25 percent full by June and drop still further to 16 percent by October if no substantial rain falls.

And in the other two major dams in the Vaal system the situation is just as critical.

The department predicts that these low levels could be reached in spite of the tough new water curbs announced by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Sarel Hayward, on Friday.

If the drought continues after August, levels in some of the dams supplying water to major industrial concerns — including Escom and Sasol — could also become critically low.

Already the Grootdraai Dam, which supplies water to a number of Escom power stations, including Kriel, Sasol 2 and Sasol 3, is down to 38 percent, a spokesman for the department said.

And for farmers throughout the country, the winter ahead may be one with no irrigation water available at all.

Among the dams used to supply irrigation water but now nearly empty are the Kalkfontein Dam on the Upper Orange River system (a source of supply to 6 700 ha of farmland) which is three percent full and the Krigersdrift Dam near Bloemfontein (6 600 ha) which is 13 percent full.

Border farm scheme saved by belated legislation

③ General
7/3/83

By Hannes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

The Government has now proclaimed 1979 legislation designed to ensure the settlement of border farms.

As passed four years ago, the Act offered financial benefits to farmers who would buy a farm in a "designated" area along the Limpopo and other borders. Subsequently an area about 50 km wide was designated.

The Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, was then said to have had second thoughts, and the Minister of Agriculture, then Mr Hendrik Schoeman, complied. He declared that the Government would not proclaim the new Act.

Instead, an administrative scheme under existing agricultural credit regulations was introduced. This proved to be a failure.

To save the back-to-the-border campaign, the original Promotion of the Density of Population in Designated Areas Act (No 87 of 1979) has been belatedly proclaimed and will now be applied.

NARROW STRIP

But the designated area has been shrunk to a narrow strip of farms along the Limpopo River in Northern and north-western Transvaal.

Some of the aid provided is:

- Where the State grants new loans, for the first two years no interest will be charged. Then for three years the farmer will pay only two percent interest. Thereafter for three years an interest rate of four percent will be charged, without capital redemption.
- Capital repayments will be spread over 25 years as from the ninth year of occupation.
- Similar concessions will be made to farmers who took up loans under the interim high-interest administrative scheme.

The president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Nico Kotze, welcomed the new policy and said it would work well, provided the Minister exercised strict control over the effective white occupation of the farms.

Another point about which Mr Kotze felt strongly was that land speculation with State funds should be ruled out. Those buying farms under the settlement Act should not be entitled to re-sell within a specified period without special permission from the Minister.

No drought relief despite storm havoc

Star 8/3/83 (3) General.

Drought-hit areas of the Transvaal got little relief today from thundershowers which swept the Witwatersrand.

The Weather Bureau forecast almost no rain for the dry Eastern and Northern Transvaal, although Johannesburg and the rest of the Witwatersrand had more rain.

Yesterday heavy storms battered the Reef, leaving one man dead and another seriously injured.

Mr Simon Sibiyi, a labourer, was killed by lightning while sitting under trees at New Mai Mai Bazaar in Berea Street, Johannesburg.

In the city's Northcliff area a father of five from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, was almost crushed to death by a huge tree uprooted by the storm.

FAMILIES LEFT HOMELESS

More than a dozen Bloemfontein families were left homeless after last night's storm — described as one of the worst in the Free State's history. The roof and ceiling of a flat in one suburb was ripped off and furniture, glass, plaster and corrugated iron sheets were strewn over the neighbourhood by the force of the 112 km/h wind.

Some corrugated iron sheets and planks ripped through a window of another block of flats nearby — narrowly missing a family watching television.

The roofs of two houses in Hospital Park were also ripped off at the height of the storm. Nobody was seriously injured.

FLIGHT DELAYED

The arrival in Bloemfontein of Flight SAA 332 from Cape Town and Kimberley was delayed by almost 1½ hours as the landing at J B M Hertzog was aborted at the last minute — and passengers had to return to Kimberley.

Passengers due in Bloemfontein at 7.10 pm reached their destination about 8.30 pm.

Rainfall figures supplied by the Weather Bureau recorded 15 mm of rain in Joubert Park, 5.9 mm in Pretoria, 8.8 mm in Warmbaths, 6 mm in Piet Retief and only 4.7 mm in Rustenberg. No rain fell in Nelspruit or Pietersburg.

In the Free State Bloemfontein had 12.5 mm, Kroonstad 19 mm and Bethlehem 11 mm.

Cape Town was one of the wettest parts of the country with 28 mm, but the Cape interior was not so fortunate, with only 8 mm falling in Aliwal North, 0.5 mm in East London, 0.1 mm in Beaufort West and 8.3 mm in Sutherland.

Government accused of bad planning

Water cuts may force imports of maize, vegetables

By Hannes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

The 50 percent cut in irrigation water to farmers could mean a disruption of food production and make the country reliant on imported canned and dehydrated vegetables later this year.

Agricultural experts said while the country waits for rain, irrigation farmers would have only 50 percent of their requirements. This means they will be able to save their orchards without having any water to spare for producing vegetables.

The drought could also mean fodder supplies will soon be exhausted and without lucerne and irrigated pastures cows would have to be slaughtered, endangering both meat and milk supplies.

Increasing doubts about the maize crop made irrigation farming more important than ever, said agriculturalists.

If the current maize crop was less than about 7 million tons, South Africa might have to import maize for animal feed.

Farmers, economists and civil engineers are accusing the Government of bungling the life-and-death issue of national water supplies.

At the newly introduced rate of water curbs and without significant rain, Sterkfontein Dam in the Drakensberg, from where water is pumped to the Vaaldam, will be tapped from June, and in October Sterkfontein, Vaaldam and Bloemhof Dam together will be only 22 percent full, storing 1 028 million cubic metres.

If no heavy rains fall next season, the supply position on April 1 1984 would be 757 mcm or 17 percent. The chance of receiving no worthwhile rains next season is rated by the Department of the Environment as one in 200.

Mr W J Louw, the Weather Bureau's climatologist, is not so sure.

"The trend surely runs in cycles, and if the dry phase is over nine years and if we have now lived through six of them, the going may get tougher every year.

Progressive drying-up works cumulatively and it will take a season of heavy rainfall to make up for the water lost in the last six years.

Civil engineers said that a 20 percent curb would hardly make a dent in present wastage of urban water. Rationing or voluntary restraints would not help even at the present curb.

Economists felt that the equation of demand and supply could be balanced only by the price factor. The price of urban water, now about 30c a cubic metre, would have at least to be quadrupled to make an overall cut of even 20 percent effective.

The funds from the increased water price should be used to finance proper direct recycling of urban sewerage water, costing an additional 30c a cubic metre. They should also be used to ensure vegetable supplies by financing farmers to install drip irrigation at about R5 000 a hectare. This would set water supplies free for food production.

Only then would the curbs now being introduced make any sense, engineers agreed.

The situation also applied to Durban, Pinetown and Maritzburg. With the water cuts now being introduced by the Government, water supplies of this metropole would be stretched into August.

The Durban Corporation was thinking of a massive publicity campaign, but engineers maintained that this would be ineffective and that only a crash recycling project could stave off disaster.

Farmers braced for tough winter

③ General
15/3/83
D. Dipatch

EAST LONDON — Border farmers are bracing themselves for one of their toughest winters ever amid predictions that extensive stock losses can be expected regardless of whether it rains or not.

The drought has seriously affected the growth of grazing veld and little or no growth occurred during the growing season, the East Cape Agricultural Union's public relations officer, Mr Lourens Schoeman, said yesterday.

"Even if good rains fall before the end of the growing season in April they will be too late to save the situation," he added.

A report issued by the Department of Agriculture in Dohne states that grazing on Border farms is "critical, and in some areas, non-existent". The report went on to predict "extensive stock losses".

Farmers, however, would not agree entirely with the department's prediction, Mr Schoeman said. "Farmers are determined to stay on the lands and keep their cattle alive through the winter. They know it's going to be hard and tough and costly, but Border farmers are tough too ... and optimistic," Mr Schoeman said.

A massive stock-feed rescue operation was already underway and lucerne was being railed

into the area from South West Africa and wheat from the Western Cape.

The Meat Board was also considering ways to assist farmers, Mr Schoeman said.

Many farmers were selling off much of their stock and keeping only valued stud animals, but those who tried to sell stock were faced with the additional expense of trying to fatten them up to get a reasonable price for them. The market was also saturated and every day spent waiting to sell stock meant a lower profit for the farmer.

"We have heard, however, that the Meat Board is considering a plan to buy the lower grade unfattened stock,

slaughter them and can the meat," Mr Schoeman. "No definite plan is known at this stage," he added.

Meat Board officials could not be contacted for comment last night.

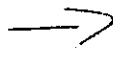
The prospect of rain was still worrying farmers "tremendously".

"We have reconciled ourselves to a tough winter in 1983, regardless of whether it rains or not, but we need rains desperately to replenish water supplies as well," Mr Schoeman said.

● The East Cape Agricultural Union based in Queenstown serves 7 000 farmers in 24 divisions over the major part of the Eastern Cape and Border. — DDR

General 14/3/83
P. W. Botha Army Combat School
Hansard Q. 61. 646-648
406 Mr. J. H. HOON asked the Minister
of Defence:†

(1) Whether there are any Coloureds living on the site of the P. W. Botha



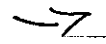
Army Combat School near Lohatlha; if so, (a) how many and (b) since when;
(2) whether any of these Coloureds are farming on this site; if so, (a) how many and (b) since when?

(a) Four *bona fide* farmers. There are also other stockowners but they are not classified as *bona fide* farmers.
(b) The reply to question (1)(b) is also applicable in this case.

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes. I would like to point out to the hon. member that the correct name is the P. W. Botha Training Area of the Army Battle School.
(a) 618.
(b) As far as the S.A. Defence Force is concerned since 1978 when the area was taken over. According to local lore the area has been inhabited by Coloureds for many years.

(2) Yes.





From left to right: One of fifteen malnourished children at a local hospital. Cattle are dying and few will survive the winter. Wilson Mbatha...everyone is hungry here. Lydia Damana, her son Phillingwezi and sister Noma...one bag of mealies to see the winter out. Chief Mbatha...we are waiting for the Government to do something

Warning from the South African Agricultural Union . . . Soon there will be no fruit or vegetables

By Charlene Beltramo

THE drought has become so severe that the army is transporting up to 180 000 litres of water a day to farmers in the Kalahari and the South African Agricultural Union has warned that within three months there could be no fruit or vegetables on Grocott's shelves.

SAAU said there would probably still be minimal supplies of vegetables but at exorbitant prices. Already potatoes are selling for about R12 a pocket in the Transvaal. Mr Jaap Wilkens, president of the SAAU, which represents most of SA's 70 000 farmers, said if the Government did not give immediate financial assistance to farmers, thousands, not hundreds, would go bankrupt.

The carry-over debt for farmers for previous years was R87-million. Loan debts for this year are expected to

total between R100 and R1 000-million. Mr Wilkens said the drought was proving catastrophic for farmers' crops and agriculture was in "crisis". He said that most livestock animals were still in good condition but unless good rains fell before winter, the animals would be in "crisis". In the Hwange National Park in the north west there was enough grazing, officials said, but water was short.

Two thousand elephant and 250 hippo may have to be killed in the south eastern Zimbabwe unless rain in the next few weeks relieves the devastating effects of the drought. The chairman of the Parks and Wildlife board, Dr Colin Saunders, said the havoc caused by the

drought had aggravated the elephant and hippo overpopulation problem. The animals were facing starvation, he said. In the Hwange National Park in the north west there was enough grazing, officials said, but water was short.

farmers would be in a critical condition regarding stocks of fodder for their animals. Already, because summer grain crops have been devastated, maize was being replaced as fodder by rye and oats. Maize prices are expected to rocket when prices are fixed in May, if the Government comes to the assistance of farmers. Maize, which is already fetching R165 a ton to producers on the local market, will zoom to around R240 a ton.

Part of the reason is that imports seem almost inevitable. The ar-

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REPENT FOR RAIN, SAYS EVANGELIST

By Leon Bekker

THE present crippling drought could well be the result of the moral waywardness and spiritual rebellion of South Africans, according to Christian evangelist Michael Cassidy, who is the head of the "Good News for Durban" mission which has been drawing crowds to the City Hill this week.

Mr Cassidy told the **SUNDAY TRIBUNE** God could, and did, withhold rain as a judgment upon his people. "It is not on just to ask God for rain, as though He is some great big kindly man with a magic wand," he said.

Mr Cassidy said the drought was a punishment for the moral and spiritual rebellion of South Africans. He said that most livestock animals were still in good condition but unless good rains fell before winter, the animals would be in "crisis".

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Without help from government, winter will bring death

By ANTHONY SWIFT

FOR most of the people of Qwasha and nearby Mthlathane the only harvest this year is hunger — a hunger that will grow at them increasingly through the dry cold months ahead.

At the end of summer the moatles, which should be green and heavy with cots, look like stunted imitations of sun-beaked winter stalks. The cattle, which should be in their summer prime are going into the lean dry months with ribs cages already fully exposed. They move disproportionately over the barren winter-like void and many have died. But unless they drop before you, you will find no corpses for they vanish instantly into the stomachs of the people.



Summer in Qwasha — a woman carries water over the ruined void

The people of these areas — a few kilometres from Ulundi — and no doubt in many other parts of the country, fear the winter.

Chief Khunzane Mbatha told me: "It is very bad. We have no water and no food — everything is finished. We have had no proper rain since 1981."

"Nearly everyone relies on work outside the area but it is becoming more difficult to get. Many of the boreholes are not working. On Wednesday's everyone goes up to the hills to pray."

"Basically we are waiting for the Government to come to do something."

One of his in-laws, Joseph Mshahane, has given up going to the hills. "It does no good," he said. "Last year I have seen it. It could turn out as bad as 1931 when all

This week the sun was hidden behind a derisive layer of thick cloud, reaching from horizon to horizon. It carried its rain to choice parts, ignoring the poor, soggy vegetable plots laid bare to it by the people of Qwasha.

In a village by a dried out river bed, two widowed sisters face the winter with no more than a bag of mealies and the

In a village by a dried out river bed, two widowed sisters face the winter with no more than a bag of mealies and the

...ading US newspapers have...
 ...ce to the Nkomo story.

50 guerillas 40 killed

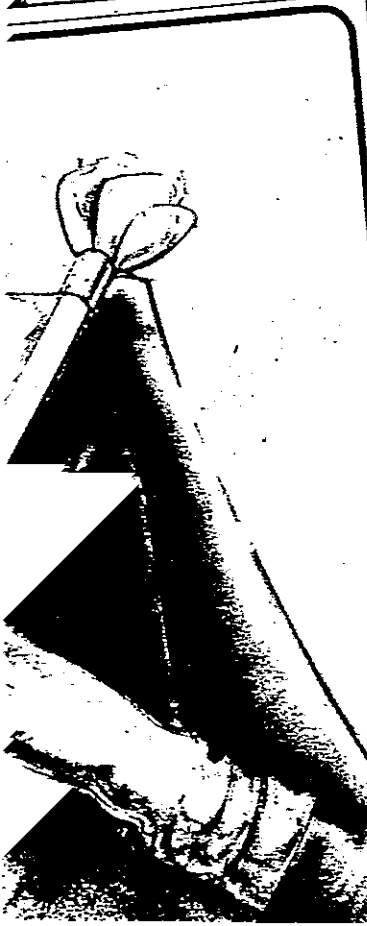
The MNR also blew up a pump at Mafambiffe, 60 km from Beira, cutting water supplies to the city.

On March 5 the rebels ambushed two military supply trucks at Matamule, killing seven Mozambican soldiers, he said. Two days later they disrupted the rail link between Matalane and Canicado by burning a train.

The guerillas ambushed another train going to Zimbabwe 80 km north of Maputo, killing four Mozambican soldiers.

This week 17 Zimbabwean soldiers had deserted, he added. Sapa-Reuter.

By Dik Browne



The Cryans have not yet made a decision about the work.

Maize crop drops to less than half of normal

By Hannes Ferguson
 Farming Correspondent

The president of the SA Agricultural Union, Mr Jaap Wilkens, said yesterday that the grain co-ops now estimated that this season's maize crop would be only 4.85 million tons — as opposed to a normal harvest of about 12 million tons.

This was because the expected late rains had not materialised and it was now too late for even good rains to make any difference.

He said the Maize Board would announce its own official estimate at a later stage and then decide how much maize would have to be imported. At present imported maize would cost R240 a ton in Johannesburg, as opposed to a local price of R154 a ton of which the farmer received only R113.

The SAAU estimated that the sunflower crop would be only 240 000 tons, as opposed to a previous estimate of 300 000 tons, while the grain sorghum crop estimate was now 169 000 tons, down from 350 000 tons.

Consequently the estimate of unpaid farmers' debts to co-ops had to be reviewed upwards from R699 million to R873 million.

After Government price rulings, the stabilisation fund of the Maize Board was now R209 million in the red.

Total farm indebtedness was

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Reds expel diplomat

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union has expelled an American diplomat on charges of spying after saying it had caught him red-handed with secret communications equipment.

An announcement from the KGB security police said Mr Richard Osborne, a first secretary in the US Embassy's economic section, had been declared persona non grata for “actions incompatible with diplomatic status”.

An embassy spokesman confirmed the expulsion. — Reuter.

Duncan: weaving web to co

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Government's total strategical militarisation and Security president said in Cape Town last

Black Sash called on to reject Govt proposals

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Black Sash has been encouraged to “constructively reject” the Government's constitutional proposals.

“I believe we should reject the proposals in principle,” Joyce Harris, a vice-president of the organisation, said in Cape Town today.

“However, having done so,

Congratulations

SOUTH AFRICA

on the release of the new

IBM PERSONAL COMPUTER

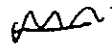
Howard Q. Col. 639-
Importation of dairy/meat/wheat products

508. Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked
the Minister of Agriculture:

What was the value of the (a) dairy, (b) meat and (c) wheat products imported by the Republic during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (a) R7 412 896 (1 March 1982 to 28 February 1983).
- (b) No permits were issued during the period 1 March 1982 to 28 February 1983.
- (c) R24 569 699 (1 October 1981 to 30 September 1982).



(2)(a) and (b) Yes.

(i) Loans for—

- (a) the payment of farming debts, including mortgage debts;
- (b) the purchase of private farm land (when funds are available);
- (c) the purchase of livestock;
- (d) the purchase of tractors, implements and farming equipment;
- (e) the purchase of farming requisites, including fodder and means of crop production such as seed, fertiliser, fuel, insecticides and spare parts for tractors and implements;
- (f) the construction or reparation of improvements on land belonging to the applicant;
- (g) housing for non-White farm labourers. Interest on these loans is partially subsidized;
- (h) soil conservation works including the eradication of encroaching bush. These loans are partially subsidized;
- (i) the supply of water;
- (j) the erection of a power line and an electricity distribution network; and
- (k) the establishment and/or management of a private

forest, or for the refinancing of debts incurred for this purpose.

(ii) A settlement reached through the Agricultural Credit Board with the applicant's creditors in terms of which—

- (a) he is temporarily exempted from his commitments against partial payment of his debt;
- (b) he is granted an extension for a specified period to enable him to meet his commitments;
- (c) he is allowed to deal with his assets in a specified manner.

(iii) Subsidies in respect of:

- (a) Lime materials used.
- (b) Crop insurance (Maize and Wheat).
- (c) Interest on farm mortgage (scheme suspended as from 1979/80 and to be phased out over a period of 5 years).

Hopes for March rains as drought grip tight

ARW 8/3/83 36and

From BARBARA HART
Argus Bureau

EAST LONDON. — Border and Ciskei farmers are pinning their hopes on the March rains, traditionally the heaviest of the year, as the most devastating drought in living memory turns rolling green hills to parched, squeezed the last semblance of life out of withered crops and dries up once-plentiful water supplies.

Rainfall figures for January and February this year are more than 50 percent lower than for the corresponding periods five and ten years ago. Many dams, springs and boreholes that have survived previous droughts are now bone dry and in some areas the only vegetation left on the bare veld is the dying scrub bush.

Failure

More than 17 towns in the Eastern Cape have enforced tough water restrictions and 12 districts have been placed on the emergency grazing list. A further seven districts may soon get aid.

The maize crop in Komgha, the region's major production area, is a total failure. In Ciskei,

it is non-existent. The Border pineapple crop is failing and many dairy farmers, who do not qualify for drought relief may soon have to quit.

The cash that farmers are spending each month to keep their animals alive and their farms functioning — without anything coming in — would make the salaried man's mind boggle.

Farmers in the Komgha district are paying out about R3 000 a month for supplementary feeding, staff rations and running costs, over and above the financial losses sustained as a result of a total maize crop failure.

Run dry

Because there is no grazing, many are forced to sell animals on markets which have been over-supplied for months.

Droughts have hit the Ciskei-Border area off and on for decades but never in living memory has the water situation been as critical.

Springs, boreholes and rivers, which have always flowed, have now run dry. In both Ciskei and the Border water tankers run day and night for domestic and stock use.

In Ciskei, two mobile water purification plants have been bought — one for Chalumna to supply

the coastal belt and the other for Keiskammahoek to feed the interior. Tankers are also running from the Catu dam near Queenstown to supply the northern parts.

"We are using the tankers just for domestic use," says Mr Gary Godden, Ciskei's director of planning. "And even that is a tall order. In some cases stock have to walk kilometres for water."

The Kaffraria Divisional Council tankers are running 24 hours a day to supply surrounding farms while some farmers are carting water 20 km daily to cater for their domestic and stock needs.

Also for the first time in living memory stock is being fed two months before the winter. A 72-year-old farmer says: "It is the first time I've ever had to feed before the winter."

Farmers are pinning their hopes on 100 to 150 mm of rain in March to aid them through the winter.

All agree that even with this amount the veld will not recover sufficiently to carry them through. They intend gambling with the elements and planting, in some cases, as much as four times the amount of winter feeding they did last year.



A wildebeest, in a desperate attempt to grazing over the fence, caught itself in th

Some farmers have already reduced stock substantially and are prepared to sell a third of their sheep and cattle herds when the winter comes. Only breeding stock will be retained.

Prices are low on the over-stocked markets. "We're not buying stock,

we're stealing it," an auctioneer said.

In Ciskei, 16 000 animals have already died, and says Mr Godden, many more will die during the winter.

"They're just bags of bones. We'll never sustain the whole national herd through the winter."

In June last year,

Tim's 24 guinea pigs came trotting home ...



LIANA de Villiers (left), of Jan van Riebeeck High School, and



Pretoria for a briefing session before leaving. They will spend

Science Reporter

IN SPITE of muscle pains, aching feet and, for some, a feeling that it would never end, all 24 of Dr Tim Noakes's human guinea pigs who entered the 42,2 km Peninsula Marathon completed the course.

Dr Noakes said they all performed well — and some a lot better than expected — in the race at the weekend.

The first of the guinea pigs — generally unfit people who volunteered

"It takes a great deal of courage to finish in five or six hours when you are going very slowly, and Simon's Town never seems to get any closer. Some had never run anything like that distance before," added Dr Noakes.

None of the guinea pigs was injured, though there were the "normal aches and pains you would expect after running a distance like that".

STIFFNESS

Just sit back and save with The

IT'S NOT OFTEN you can sit back, put your feet up — and save money at the same time. But The Argus special subscription plan enables you to do just that.

Although the cover price of The Argus has had to be increased to 25c (24c plus 1c GST), as has the price of most South African daily newspapers, subscribers can still have The Argus delivered to their homes at a special, low

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ARGUS 8/3/83 362nd

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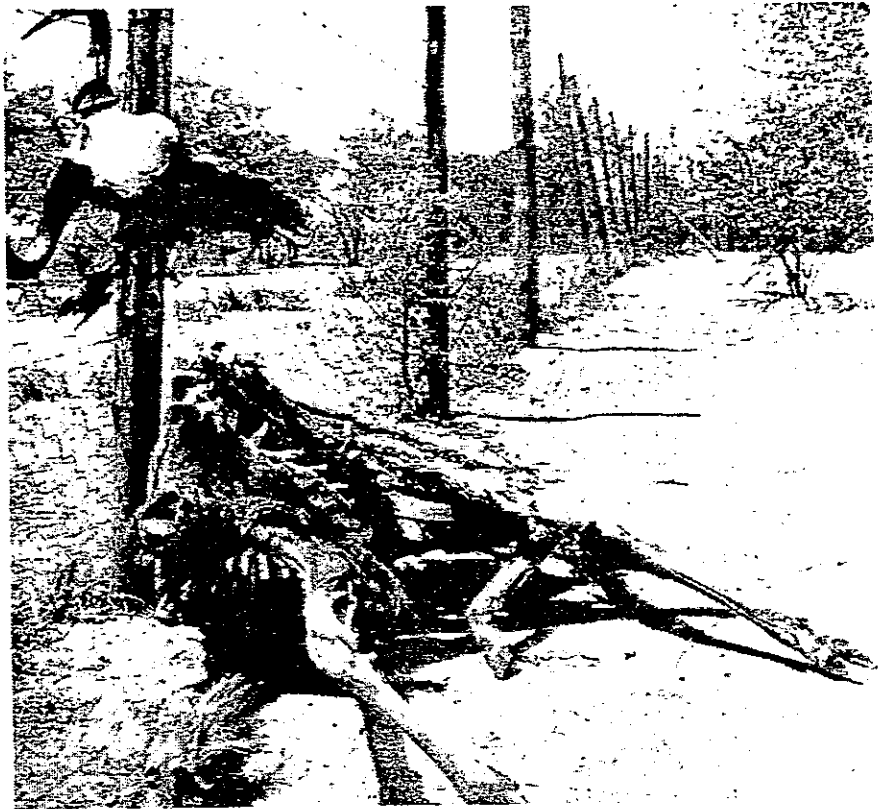
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we're stealing it," an auctioneer said. In Ciskei, 16 000 animals have already died, and says Mr Godden, many more will die during the winter. "They're just bags of bones. We'll never sustain the whole national herd through the winter." In June last year, South Africa granted Ciskei R6 million in drought relief. These funds, which have now been exhausted, were used to feed some 3 000 destitute families, to create employment opportunities for farmers who could not subsist, and to maintain the nucleus of the breeding stock herd.

24 guinea pigs trotting home ...



Pretoria for a briefing session before leaving.

Science Reporter
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May 1 will be R6,45. But a one-month subscription taken out until April 30 will cost R5,25 — a saving of R1,20.

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HOW TO DO IT

Simply telephone 47 1350 or 51 7105 between 8.30 am and

8/3/83

~~277~~ (3) General ~~88~~

Black owners of farms/small holdings
Hansard Q. Col. 555
353. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the
Minister of Co-operation and Development:

- (1) Whether there are any Black owners of (a) farms and (b) small holdings in the Republic outside (i) the national states and (ii) areas scheduled for reversion to White ownership; if so,
- (2) (a) how many such owners are there in each category and (b) (i) what is the area of land involved and (ii) where is such land situated in each case?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) (a) (i) and (ii) Yes.
(b) (i) and (ii) Yes.
- (2) (a) (i) and (ii) The required particulars are not readily available.
(b) (i) and (ii) and it is not being kept in the form of a special register. A considerable volume of work will have to be undertaken to ascertain the particulars in the various Deeds Offices.

Drought threatens SA with power blackouts

Argus 16/3/83 3 General

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa will be hit by blackouts in spring if power stations — already threatened by low water levels — are crippled by the severe and widespread drought.

That is the warning from one of the country's leading water supply experts who says there will be cuts in power supply by October if the drought is not broken.

He slammed the Government for not making a deal on water supply "years ago" with neighbouring countries.

Professor Desmond Midgley, former professor of hydraulic engineering and director of hydrological research at the University of the Witwatersrand, said power station water supply was reaching crisis levels.

Mr Midgley, now a consulting engineer, said water authorities may have to consider building an emergency pipeline to keep the water supply running to the country's major power station

complex in the Eastern Transvaal

"Supply to power stations is suffering more than domestic supply," said Mr Midgley, "but the system could be replenished from outside."

He said it was feasible to direct water to the power stations, but it would be expensive. "Anything is possible in times of national emergency," he said.

"It's the power stations we should be worried about now. If we lose power, our other problems will appear to be insignificant. We have to be thinking about what we can do to make sure we have continued power."

Far worse

"Water shortages for the power stations are far worse than the shortages we have on the Reef. I would think by October — after dams have got lower and lower — we will be in serious trouble."

Of the six major dams supplying power stations in the Eastern Transvaal, all were seriously low or empty.

The country was lucky that, because of recession, demand on power supply had fallen. That had bought more time for the country.

The power station complex uses about 1 000-million litres of water a day and most of it is evaporated in cooling towers. The total national water consumption for power stations is about 1,7 percent of the total national supply.

Worst conditions

Mr Midgley said the water crisis could not have been averted or foreseen.

Dams supplying the Reef were designed to meet expected demand up to 1992 — almost double the present demand.

But the water supply system's capability was based on the worst conditions previously experienced. That did not take into account the present drought which, some say, is the worst for two centuries.

1983 and a further reduction arising from the recent drop of 2% in the prime rate of the commercial banks is presently under consideration.

- (2) Such a condition is imposed only in respect of members' debts to the co-operative and, moreover, only in the case of relief schemes which involve the payment of government subsidies. Otherwise the Land Bank can merely appeal to the co-operatives to pass on the advantage of the reduced rates to their members, if at all possible. Such appeals have repeatedly been made.
- (3) This condition, where applicable, is being complied with. As far as the Bank can ascertain from inspection visits to co-operatives, they are also heeding the appeal made to them by the Bank.

③ General Household Land Bank loans 16/3/83
 Q. Col. 683 - 684
 *3. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether the interest rate charged by the Land Bank on loans to co-operative societies has been reduced recently; if so, what was the extent of the reduction;
- (2) whether it was a condition that such reduction be passed on by co-operative societies to their members; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether effect is being given to such condition?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) No—there are no co-operative societies indebted to the Land Bank.
- (2) and (3) fall away.
 If, however, the question refers to co-operative companies, then
- (1) Yes—the Land Bank's rates of interest on short term seasonal loans to co-operatives have already been reduced on four occasions since November 1982 with as much as 0.5% to 3% per occasion. The most recent reduction of 1% throughout came into operation on 1st March



Economist: towns may suffer after drought

EAST LONDON — Small Border towns which were dependent on the farming community for their economic survival and which were already showing signs of financial stress would feel the crunch if the critical drought situation facing farmers deteriorated.

A survey by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) had shown that 80 per cent of retail sales in small towns could be attributed to farmers, the SAAU's chief economist, Mr Johan Willemse, said yesterday.

The economies of small towns were still relatively buoyant, Mr Willemse said, but added that this was because farmers, battling to feed their cattle, were selling them and therefore had "ready cash".

Next year, however, when farmers had no income as a result of their herds being severely depleted, small-town economies would feel the crunch, Mr Willemse said.

"Farmers are going to have to spend any cash

they have on rebuilding their herds and money is going to be extremely tight.

"Rebuilding herds is only part of the problem because if no rain falls and dams and water supplies are not replenished sufficiently to cope with the herds, farmers will have to wait longer before they get themselves back on their feet and the small towns could be very hard hit," he added.

It was difficult to say with "a degree of certainty" how badly small towns would suffer.

"There are various factors which will have to be considered: rain, firstly, government aid and then the resilience of the farming community," he said.

"One thing is certain. It's going to take two or three, perhaps even four, good years for the platteland economies to recover."

Mr Willemse said much of the estimated R900 million borrowed by farmers from the Land Bank in 1982-83 had been lost.

Even if general rains fell before the end of the month it would be too late to save any significant part of this investment, he added.

Farmers' short term debts had mounted to more than R2 000 million because of two years of drought and their total debt exceeded R5 000 million. Crop, dairy and stock farmers would need about R2 200 million credit from the Land Bank and commercial banks to get back on their feet, Mr Willemse said.

Traders in small towns in the Border yesterday said although they were feeling the pinch, trading "seemed to be normal".

A King William's Town businessman, Mr Michael Weir, said that although trading had not dropped substantially in small towns he had visited, the situation facing farmers was a "grim" one.

Although the situation in Ciskei was critical as a result of the drought, subsistence farmers there were having their incomes supplemented

by relatives working on the mines and were able to buy food and other essential items, he added. "The situation is still, however, very grim."

The drought has further tightened its grip on Transkei with less hope for the maize crop yields as winter approaches.

A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry said yesterday that most districts will have a complete failure in maize yields due to the prolonged drought which was the worst in living memory.

He said the drought had lasted for about four months in succession but added that the coastal areas received fair rain and crop production, especially maize, would be about six to eight bags a hectare.

The coastal areas included Centani District, Willowvale, Elliotdale, Lusikisiki, Bizana, Flagstaff and Umzimkulu.

The most devastated areas were the inland districts where maize and grain sorghum production was expected to be much heavier than in previous years.

Grain sorghum at Tso-mo, Qamata and Idutywa was expected to be about one bag a hectare.

The director of veterinary services, Dr C. Santos said livestock deaths attributed to the drought for the month of February were lower than those of January this year.

He attributed this to the scattered rains which fell in some areas of Transkei. The rains had temporarily eased the drought situation. — DDR.

Drought hits Tracor plans

UMTATA — Many agricultural schemes carried out by the Transkei Agricultural Corporation (Tracor) had been hampered by drought, the managing director, Mr Ken Humphrey, said here yesterday.

When Tracor was put together in April 1981 it started helping local farmers on a small scale.

Mr Humphrey said the corporation started with 200 hectares for the harvest season of 1981/2 growing to 6 000 ha in 1982/3. It was expected the scheme will increase to 11 000 ha for the 1983/4 harvest season.

Mr Humphrey explained that the corporation did not own the land. It was owned by local people.

At harvest time, Tracor retains a portion of the maize to cover their input costs while the rest is left to the farmer to see what best to do with his crop, Mr Humphrey said.

Maize remains the mainstay of Transkei's agricultural effort but as ill luck would have it, the hampered schemes during the drought were the maize projects. — DDR.

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17/3/83

General Dispatch

(105) (7) General

Familiarity breeds contempt

When all the accounting is done, the consequences of the drought are going to look calamitous. It's true that South Africans are not strangers to drought. But what's particularly distressing about this one is that its harm could have been mitigated had the authorities exercised better management of water resources in the past.

Few will avoid the ravages of the drought. Many are feeling the heat now. The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) estimates that accumulated debt owed by co-operatives for the year to September this year will be R872m. The figure was R106,3m in 1981. The maize crop is expected to total only 4,9 Mt after a five-year annual average of 10,3 Mt.

Cash-strapped farmers have reduced collectively their purchases of fertiliser by about 13% and of tractors by more than 50%. The Rand Water Board's latest restrictions require the R100m nursery industry to cut water consumption by 20%.

Wide economic and social effects will be apparent later. Agricultural exports earnings are expected to slide by some R900m, negating foreign exchange benefits earned by the higher gold price. Southern Africa is threatened with shortages of food. Soon, shortages will be brandished, correctly, as arguments for sweeping price increases.

The result: more inflation and social hardship.

There is little doubt that all this is going to cut deeper than necessary. All appreciate that rains are natural phenomena. Ironically, familiarity has bred dangerous contempt on the part of both government and consumers.

There have been technical blunders in the past. Dams built in the erosion-prone north west Cape during the Thirties silted up because they were too small. Problems of that sort were largely countered when the present crop of engineers took over at the Department of Water Affairs in the late Sixties. But remnants of past incompetence remain.

But, however much technical planning may have improved, the Department has been unable to carry out its intentions fully. The Department's expenditure averaged R100m to R120m in the past decade but in real terms

spending fell over the period (FM January 28). To meet expected demand the Department must double real annual spending in the decade ahead. Clearly, it's imperative that the money is made available.

The R1 500m Lesotho Highlands scheme, a grandiose idea to harness water resources with Lesotho, ultimately diverting it to the Vaal catchment area, has been discussed in one form or another for well over 15 years. Present plans are to start work by 1985 with water delivery by 1992.

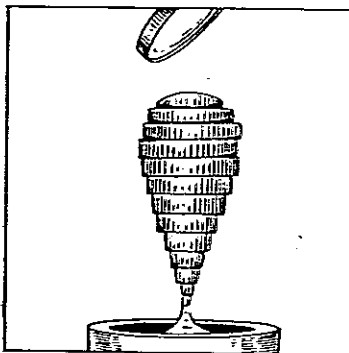
As Desmond Midgely, former director of the Hydrological Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand, notes, work could have started years earlier on this scheme. Indeed, Midgely stressed the need in his inaugural address in 1959. Earlier completion of such a project may well have eased the plight of farmers in the maize triangle.

Consumers are culpable, too. But much of the blame for this lies with a misguided pricing policy, which has failed to make users conscious that water is scarce.

In the five years to 1982, the Rand Water Board lifted its price by 46% from 8,83c/kl to 12,93c, well below the 198% rise in the cost of living. The price is among the cheapest in the world, yet per capita consumption in the Board's area is high.

Overseas experience shows that water restrictions don't work (see *Letters*). A price based on scarcity would reduce wastage by domestic consumers, whose demand rises by as much as 30% in hot weather. And it would encourage efficient use by industry. SA's gold mines have set a world lead by recycling about 90% of their water. Other industrial sectors could achieve huge savings if they were nudged in that direction.

Clearly the whole situation calls for more urgent handling than government action so far suggests. The first step required is quick action to salvage the present situation as far as possible. Drought-stricken farmers should be helped with a one-off subsidy voted after a debate in Parliament. Just as important is a thorough review of the nation's water resources and their effective husbandry.



Drought toll R2bn in farm debts

③ General
R20M
1983

By HAROLD FRIDJHON
FINANCING the problems caused by the drought would require an irreversible injection of R2 000-million into the monetary system, Mr Bill Yeowart, deputy president of Asosocom, told the Springs Chamber of Commerce and Industries yesterday.

Not since 1933 had South Africa experienced simultaneously both a drought and an economic downturn. The position was serious and the dimensions of the problem were beginning to emerge only now.

After two favourable crop years, agricultural conditions deteriorated sharply in 1982 when net farming income declined by about 94% from that of 1981. This net income at about the same as in 1979.

Factors which contributed to the decline were the rise of 53% in interest payments, a jump of nearly 25% in intermediate costs, and a drop in the production of the major crops.

The combined tonnage of maize, grain sorghum, sunflower seed, groundnuts and soya beans fell by 7-million tons — about 57% — to a little more than 9-million tons in 1982. As a result carryover debts of farmers with the co-operatives rose from R106-million in 1981 to R370-million in 1982 and production credit increased from R570-million in 1981 to R910-million last year.

Carryover debt is that part of farmers production credits with co-operatives still outstanding after crops have been delivered at the end of August. It is usually relatively small and is repaid over

periods of not much more than a year.

Mr Yeowart said that because of these conditions the carryover debt had gone up to the extent that it could not be repaid in a year and had to be spread over four years.

Estimates of carryover debts for 1983 had increased dramatically. At the end of January it was estimated that this category of debt would be R700-million at the end of next August.

At the end of February this estimate was revised upwards to R872-million.

This figure did not include new production credit requirements, which were estimated to rise to R1 200-million this month compared with R911-million last year.

The carryover debt as well as the production credit had in the past been advanced to farmers by the co-operatives acting on behalf of the Land Bank. But the numbers were becoming so large that the co-operatives and the Land Bank could not continue to apply the credit-rating criteria used in the past.

These figures did not include other debt which farmers had with the Land Bank and with private-sector bankers. As far as commercial and general bank credit was concerned, about R500-million of the 1982 production credit would not be repaid.

"In all, the money supply will expand by around R1 900-million owing to the financing of the 1982-83 crop and the provision of credit for the 1983-84 season. This credit is likely to be taken up from now until 1984."

In addition to direct financing of the drought, about R220-million might have to be spent on importing maize.

The drought would have an adverse impact on the cost of living and on attempts to reduce inflation.

Handwritten scribble

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7

Handwritten squiggle

Irreversible injection of R2 000m Assocom on cost of the great drought

By HAROLD FRIDJHON
JOHANNESBURG. — Financing the problems created by the drought would require an irreversible injection of R2 000m into the monetary system, Mr Bill Yeowart, deputy president of Assocom, told the Springs Chamber of Commerce and Industries yesterday.

Not since 1933 had South Africa experienced simultaneously both a drought and an economic downturn. The position was serious and the dimensions of the problem were really beginning to emerge only now.

After two favourable crop years, agricultural conditions deteriorated sharply in 1982 when net farming income declined by about 34 percent from the level of the previous year. This put net income at about the same level as in 1979.

Interest payments

Factors which contributed to the decline were the sharp rise of 53 percent in interest payments, a jump of nearly 25 percent in the intermediate costs, and a drop in the production of the major crops.

The combined tonnage of

maize, grain sorghum, sunflower seed, ground nuts and soya beans fell by seven million tons — about 57 percent — to just over nine million tons.

As a result the carry-over debts of farmers with the co-operatives rose from R106m in 1981 to R370m in 1982 and production credit increased from R570m in 1981 to R910m last year.

Carry-over debt is that portion of farmers' production credits with co-operatives which is still outstanding after crops have been delivered to co-operatives normally at the end of August. It is usually relatively small and is repaid over periods of not much more than a year.

Carry-over debts

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advanced to farmers by the co-operatives acting on behalf of the Land Bank but the numbers were becoming so large that the co-operatives and the Land Bank could not continue to apply the credit rating criteria used in the past.

Production credit

In addition, these figures did not include other debt which farmers had with the Land Bank and with private sector bankers. As far as commercial and general bank credit was concerned, about R500m of the 1982 production credit would not be repaid.

"In all, the money supply will expand by around R1 800m owing to the financing of the 1982/83 crop and the provision of credit for the 1983/84 season. This credit is likely to be taken up from now until 1984."

In addition to the direct financing of the drought, about R220m might have to be spent on importing maize.

The drought was bound to have an adverse impact on the cost of living and a negative effect on attempts to reduce inflation.

a. r. Parker 18/9/83

Drought aid ^③General probe launched

QUEENSTOWN — A breakdown of what farmers need to make it through the drought is to be compiled by the East Cape Agricultural Union (ECAU).

South African Transport Services and the departments of Water Affairs and Agriculture have pledged their support for the investigation, according to ECAU's public relations officer, Mr Lourens Schoeman.

Talks were held between the four bodies here yesterday.

ECAU president Mr Fred Pettit said the talks had been held to establish a strategy for faster action, especially with water cartage for domestic and agricultural use.

An urgent appeal would be made to all ECAU affiliates to provide it with information on water needs, he said. Information on the type of transport, the availability of private water and an estimate of what was needed was also necessary for the investigation.

The meeting was told that several districts were in a critical situation and needed water urgently. Water condi-

tions in Adelaide and Fort Beaufort were described as "exceptionally critical".

In Albany and Bathurst water conditions were getting worse. In other districts, such as Aliwal North, Maclear, Barkly East, East London, Komga and Kei Road, water had to be carted to give cattle and sheep drinking water.

Mr Schoeman said the government representatives who attended the meeting had expressed sympathy and said they would help where possible.

The circle engineer for water affairs in the Eastern Cape, Mr Henry Horn, said requests for the use of state water resources in areas where there was a water crisis would receive immediate attention.

Water would not, however, be made available for irrigation.

In Grahamstown, he said, water could be taken from the Orange River project and fed into the Fish River to provide drinking water for livestock. Under normal circumstances the department does not supply Grahamstown.

The systems manager for Sats in the Eastern Cape, Mr A. J. Jonker, said the service would help farmers "as far as possible".

He said it was important, however, that water needs be determined first so that planning could take place.

Water could be railed to drought-stricken areas, he said, but there was a shortage of water wagons.

The South African Defence Force has also offered aid, according to Mr Schoeman. Full water requirements would have to be specified before a decision could be reached on whether to cart water. Mr Pettit said the drought was fast developing into a crisis. He said it was of great importance that all that was necessary should be done before this happened.

He said farmers, apart from being saddled with water shortages and grazing problems, also had to face the problem of a diminishing demand for cattle.

Although farmers did all in their power to market excess cattle, demand was weak because of the drought. — DDR.

COFFEE (3) *General*

Unlucky beans

FM 19/3/83

High costs and cheaper imports have forced a drastic rethink for the infant coffee growing industry. After a meeting between producers and packers last month, some private farmers decided to stop production, and the Corporation for Economic Development (CED) has for the moment shelved its coffee expansion plans.

Many coffee trees have yet to bear. But indications are that yields will be disappointingly low, at below 2 t/ha instead of 4 t/ha — which is the norm in coffee-exporting countries.

And packers can import for around R1 500/t, whereas local production costs can be as high as R2 500/t. At present there are no tariff and permit restrictions on imports and any attempts to impose them are likely to be vigorously opposed by the powerful packing lobby.

Another damper on growth prospects is that demand for Arabica beans, which fare better than others in SA soil, accounts for only 2 000 t out of total coffee sales of 18 000t/year.

A number of organisations, such as the CED, the Industrial Development Corporation's (IDC) Sapekoe subsidiary, and the Coffee Corporation (Cofcor) have invested in big plantations.

Part of the motivation was to supply jobs — coffee plantations are highly labour-intensive. The CED, therefore, established farms in Lebowa, Gazankulu and KaNgwane and the IDC started one farm in Venda and another near its border.

Output on the CED's 500 ha plantation reached 150 t for 1982. Although a very low yield, the trees are still young and the CED says the land could bear a maximum of 1 000 t, or 2 t/ha.

At present, SA farms 700 t/year of Arabica and estimates are that crops will yield 1 000 t in 1983. Because of climatic conditions, the more popular Robusta beans, used in instant coffee, are not farmed locally.

One company, however, is less sceptical about the future of local production. Cofcor has about 450 ha under development and is planning further expansion next year.

But MD Elias Olivier does concede that this "depends a lot on negotiations with the packers."

Black farmers can beef

3 Bernal City Press 29/9/83

VENDA - The first national conference for black commercial farmers will be held here from April 6 to 7 at the Thohoyandou Hotel.

Problems experienced by black farmers due to the system of land tenure and the acquisition of capital are some of the main reasons behind the need to hold the conference.

The conference has been organised by the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (NAFCOC).

Speakers have been selected from a variety of agricultural fields, dairy production, co-operative societies, animal pest experts, agricultural training and land matters.

KATLEHONG - Leading taxi-operator, Mr Abram Rabanga has been granted rights to operate a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet on stand 264 in Makola Section.

The well-placed site attracted numerous applications from local residents including well-known lawyer Mr Don Thinane and Mr Matthews Lahlongwane, owner of the Thokozani Cinema.

SOWETO - The Soweto Council has turned down an application by Mr R D Mthimkulu's Soweto Dairies (Pty) Ltd. for sole rights to distribute milk in the area.

The refusal, example of some of the heavy odds facing small businessmen in black areas, has come as a heavy blow to the company.

document

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In these stages there is no expenditure for any other parts because if physical exceed withdrawal will give a contribution expansion

*AS = Consumption + Investment + Government Expenditure. AS = C+I+G.
or else withdrawal = injections $I = W+T$ or $S = I$.*

Equilibrium in the Keynesian model is given when two conditions prevail, either

SA's farmers are at the top of the cash heap — worldwide

③ General S. Express 20/3/83

ALMOST half of South Africa's wealthiest people are farmers, followed by company directors.

This is the finding of Michael McGrath, of the University of Natal's Economic Research Unit. He has warned that South Africa's system of taxation needs to be restructured if the future security of the white population and the survival of capitalism is to be ensured.

In his study — 'The Distribution of Personal Wealth in South Africa' — Mr McGrath found white farmers had the highest average income of all occupations and that farmers were the most wealthy of all occupational groups.

He found that white farmers made up 47.7% of the top 5% of wealth owners in South Africa, followed by the director/manager group,

By DARYL BALFOUR

which made up only 21.5% of the top five Professional/technical people made up 21.3% of the top 5% of the rich.

He said farmers in other countries had much lower relative levels of wealth than in South Africa.

Whites owned 98% of all farms, 93% of fixed property, 99.7% of quoted shares and 95.7% of unquoted shares. The top 10% of wealthy South Africans owned 95% of farms, 84% of quoted shares and 92% of unquoted shares.

But he also found the large inequalities which existed between whites, coloureds and Asians in the same occupational groups showed the effects of wage discrimination, the "inevitably lowered

savings from lower incomes, and lower rates of return on small wealth holdings".

The report stated: "Accumulation by past generations of coloureds and Asians is also prevented by discriminatory practices in the labour market and in their deprived access to education and training, depressing the levels of inheritances received by the present generation and causing some of the current disparities in the racial ownership of wealth."

Mr McGrath found the racial distribution of wealth was more unequal than that of incomes, and that this inequality worked against any equalising forces which operated in the labour market.

"A crude estimate of the

distribution of income from wealth, based on household expenditure surveys in 1975, showed that the white share was at least 94% of the total wealth, whereas the white share of personal income in 1975 has been estimated at 68%.

"An estimate showed the top 10% of the South African population received at least 75% of the income from wealth, even though this estimate was based on very conservative assumptions," Mr McGrath said.

The study revealed the ownership of wealth in South Africa was more concentrated than in any other Western nation.

Only 5% of South Africa's population owns 88% of personally owned wealth, whereas in the United Kingdom 5% owns 54% of the wealth, 34% in West Germany, 44% in the United States and 57% in Australia.

Mr McGrath says racial inequalities in the ownership of wealth are much greater than in the distribution of income.

"The source of these disparities are to be found in inequalities of income and saving in past years."

Mr McGrath also said that while there had been no study of marriage customs in South Africa, it seemed likely marriages would tend to take place within socio-economic classes. This would operate to reinforce the concentration of wealth.

Figures contained in the study show that in 1975 income from wealth accounted for 20% of white income.

Mr McGrath said a strong case could be made for the redistribution of wealth through taxation, and for using the proceeds of the taxes in ways which would ensure the growth of black incomes.

"In South Africa however, wealth taxation is an established practice. The issue therefore is not whether wealth taxation should be introduced, but rather whether the rates are appropriate and whether the form of tax can achieve its goals," he says.

"If racial income inequalities are to be narrowed a range of policies will have to be implemented in education, health, housing and rural development.

"The time may have come for a complete reappraisal of South Africa's system of personal wealth taxation since there is a pressing need for additional finance to be channelled to the development of the black community," he said.

Farmers get more cash for drought aid

THE Government is to introduce new measures to give farmers financial assistance to help them over the current drought crisis which is crippling agriculture.

The Prime Minister, Mr. P. W. Botha, yesterday announced that legislation would be introduced this session of Parliament to introduce the financial aid plan.

Opening the Central Agricultural Show in Bloemfontein, Mr. Botha said the Land Bank Act would be amended to relax the relationship between the size of loans farmers can raise and the security they have to put up.

The Act stipulates that the Land Bank can provide loans of only up to four-fifths of the agricultural value of a farmer's land.

The Act will be amended to enable farmers to raise loans equivalent to the full agricultural value of their land.

Mr. Botha said the Government had agreed in principle to provide the Land Bank with guarantees to cover the additional loans.

This relief measure comes on top of other assistance to farmers, whose main features include:

- A scheme in co-operation with the Land Bank or the Agricultural Credit Board

By IVOR WILKINS
Political Correspondent

whereby farmers can consolidate the debts with co-operatives and other financial institutions and repay them over 22 years.

Interest for the first two years would be capitalised and those farmers financed by the Agricultural Credit Board would be relieved of their interest obligations for the first two years.

Interest

- Debts to co-operatives that have had to stand over since 1979 would be consolidated and farmers allowed to repay them over six years.

The Government would subsidise the Land Bank interest rate to the tune of 30 percent in the first year.

- The Land Bank's interest rate on overdrafts for outstanding production loans and new production credit would, in all likelihood, be reduced to within the inflation rate.

If circumstances allowed, a further reduction in interest rate later this year was possible.

Further announcements would be made soon by the Ministers of Finance and Agriculture.

Mr. Botha said the amendments ought to facilitate the consolidation of agricultural credit and the rehabilitation of farmers.

It should also benefit the agricultural co-operatives whose own funds were tied up in the financing of farmers' outstanding debts.

Vital

Mr. Botha said the current drought conditions were a nationwide phenomenon and the Government was giving attention to the granting of certain drought-relief plans to self-governing national states.

Announcements would be made by the relevant Minister.

Agriculture would play a vital role in the Government's economic regionalisation plan and the time was right for the introduction of a co-ordinated and comprehensive agricultural strategy as part of the overall economic strategy of South Africa.

SCOTCHED!

By RON GOLDEN

THE brassy drinkers of Glencoe are in revolt. They hate turned with disgust to beer because what water there is available is so bad it is not worth mixing with their favourite liquid.

Aid in the form of this dusty little northern Natal town is the Glencoe Kid who gets into the bath first. In nearby Dundee, the only water splashed freely around is at the baptismal font.

Glencoe and Dundee are probably the worst-hit drought centres in Natal — maybe in the country. You even see gully when you brush your teeth.

There's a Dundee in Scotland, after which Natal's Dundee is named, where the grass is said to be 40 shades of green.

But the staminate exerts in name only because the little grass Dundee has left is more like 40 shades of parched and withered brown.

In Glencoe, beer is at a premium in the bar at the President Hotel, a relic of another era when wooden floors, high ceilings and red polished steeple were the fashion.

Railwayman Willie van der Westhuizen, one of the regulars, bemoaned the effects of the drought. "We can't drink water with our brandy so we drink beer instead."

A kilometre down the road, another railway man, Danie Fieker, and his nine-year-old daughter, Annan da washed their bottles with water from a bucket at a tiny dam.

Car washing in Glencoe has become a social feature, especially on Sundays when whole families gather to clean their machines at the dam.

As in many other centres in Natal now, the use of a hosepipe is illegal.

The drought is being labelled as the worst of the century — and possibly even the worst for the past 200 years.

Mrs Johanna Houseman, who has lived in the Glencoe area for most of her 78 years, said it was far worse than the great drought of 1933.

"I was at Johannesburg at the time. I already had two children, there was a lot of cattle coming from the Free State at the time because the feed was better there."

"Now, we get a bucket to the bath if we are lucky and the children threaten to cut you off if you exceed your water restrictions."

In 1933, workers living in the years of the Depression, people walked down the street every day looking for work and food. You got malnourished men doing that."

"It seems I thought it might come to the same again."

Mrs Houseman went on: "When I got married way, way back, all the railway houses had water tanks. It looks as though we are going back to that now."

"But if you can't have rain, what use are the water tanks."

Households in Glencoe and Dundee have been rationed to 200 litres of water a week — for all purposes.

Formulas unaltered more according to their basic needs.

Chicken fender Nic Smil gets only 20,000 litres a month compared with his previous requirement of 47 000 monthly.

"We go without a bath now, so that we can feed the chickens," he said.

"And whenever have baths my wife and I share. Then we use bath water to clean the dishes and flush the toilet cisterns."

The regular at the President's pub, including Nic Smil, were in the form when the **SUNWAY TRUNK** visited them last week.

Hotel manager Greg Latz said: "Even the few fish that are left in our dams are hitch-hiking to Dundee."

And railway driver Bobby Whelan joked: "In the morning we take a few planes when we wake up — we

What water that is available in Glencoe is so bad that the town's brandy drinkers are refusing to mix it with their beer.

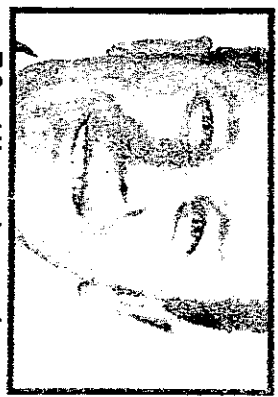


Chicken farmer Nic Smil in the "pub with no water"



Johanna Houseman: "Things are drier than I have known in my 78 years in this part of Natal"

This dry



Sarel Hayward — warning

Quote

Unless good rains fall in the summer rainfall region in the remaining summer months, the current drought could well be the most severe of this century, in fact a drought with a recurrence frequency of one in 200 years could become a possibility.

SAREL HAYWARD

Rationing imminent for Natal industry...

By Ron Golden

AN emergency advisory from of Natal's industries and water needs is being hurried through as water rationing for industry is imminent.

The survey is being carried out by the Natal Chamber of Industries, which has sent questionnaires to the major industrial concerns in the areas of the province worst hit by the drought.

The chamber's general director, Richard Pretorius, told the **SUNWAY TRUNK** he expects to add up to 250 replies by early this week, when he would allow him to evaluate the needs of the main industries in Natal and how cut-backs could be best affected.

"Rationing of water supplies is imminent and the chamber will be issuing a system by the end of next week," he said.

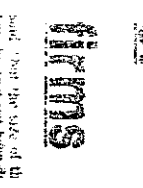
Industry uses about 80 percent of the province's water, the balance going to agriculture. The government has already

By PETER MANN

UNLESS there were good rains in the remaining summer months the current drought could become the worst in 200 years.

This warning came from the Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries, Sarel Hayward, who told Parliament this week that unless good rains fell in the remaining summer months the drought would not only be the se-

Push on to check water needs of firms



Today: The drought crisis and the sacrifices

EVERY crisis demands sacrifices and the present drought, the worst in 200 years, is no exception.

It has left Natal cauterised and though occasional coastal showers might lull us into believing it's not as serious as authority warns, the fact is inland catchment areas are still groping dry-throatedly and dams depleting steadily.

Mining and industry account for 60 percent of water used but that leaves a hefty 40 percent which householders consume so the current restrictions, the severest in Natal's history, are certainly affecting us.

The success of restrictions depends upon our appreciation of the crisis and our willingness to co-operate. One thing we cannot buy is rain; one thing we dare not waste is water.

There are practical ways to save water and Mr E V Norman, deputy City Engineer, went through some relevant ones.

The use of sprinklers and hosepipes is banned and these must be detached from taps.

Check for leaks by switching off all water points and reading the meter. Fifteen minutes later read the meter again. If the reading has altered then there is a leak somewhere — tap or cistern probably. Have it fixed because it has been calculated that a slowly dripping tap loses about seven litres a day; a fast-dripping tap 120 litres; and a "full bore" leak 3 000 litres.

Such waste is almost criminal in times of crisis.

Double-check that your hoses have been disconnected — these are stealthy thieves because the nozzle may be hidden from view and the leak goes unnoticed.

Notify the authorities of leaking mains in the street there is a 24-hour seven day-a-week emergency number: 319558.

Don't do without water to the detriment of health, but economise.

Note the following figures: A flushed toilet uses 11 litres; a shower 15 to 20 litres; a bath 40 to 50 litres. A brick in the toilet does save about 3 litres a flushing but the brick can disintegrate so seal it in plastic or use a similar sized non-corrosive object.

An automatic washing machine uses 130 litres a load; a twin-tub 35 to 40 litres (but you can sometimes use the same water again); a dishwasher 20 to 30 litres. So wash only full loads.

Don't use running water when a filled basin/container would use less. Throw rinsing water on the garden. It helps if you put a basin in the sink for smaller, comparatively clean rinses, and then it is easy to empty this into the garden. Even empty water used for cooking into a watering can and use when cold in the garden.

Try to feed downpipe water on to lawns. Wash your car when it rains, using just the rainwater.

The cost of water in Durban is 28 cents a kilolitre. It is more expensive outside the metropolitan area, rising to 39 cents in Pinetown. Mention has been

How YOU can save water

newcomer is Haggie Rand Ltd who are marketing a strong but light material which does not fade or get brittle. Price is about R3 a square metre and free sand tubes are available.

Backwashing uses roughly 400 litres a time causing about 10 mm drop in water level. This is usually done once a week but Swimline maintains no harm is done if, under crisis conditions, this is done once a month or only in extreme need.

On this same point, Swimming Pool Services of Durban North is busy rigging up a filter which would let the backwashed water return to the pool.

Also on the brighter side Swimline is offering free 10 metre lengths of polythene film tubing which can be fastened to drain pipes to lead rainwater straight into the pool.

It is said that a swimming pool could afford a household six months supply of water. There are about 20 000 pools in the Greater Durban area which means a reassuring reservoir of 1 300 million litres of water.

For this reason it is imperative that swimming pool water be kept in first class condition and not be allowed to drop too low and turn green - and useless.

Swimming Pool Services has designed a simple adaptor which allows filtering to be done at any level, using no extra water. It is a pipe and weight which fits into the weir, drawing water from the pool and not from the skimmer. But the seal, where it plugs into the skimmer, would need to be watertight.

These cost about R10 but if installed by the seller would be about R25.

Otherwise the message is to keep the filter in trim with proper, possibly increased, chlorination. If you hit problems ask your pool builder's advice, or that of the National Swimming Pool Institute — Durban 372190.

Neglect of basic care can result in ugly 'tide' marks from dropped levels and if this develops on the marbelite, the grim line can be difficult to remove and disappointing to live with.

But drought is a crisis, and very difficult to live with.

Talking Shop



WITH COLLEEN SHEARER

Dr Colin Mackenzie, Durban's Medical Officer of Health, is opposed to surface tanks because of their potential as a breeding ground for mosquitoes



made of allowing the installation of domestic water tanks but although it is killing to hear rain water gurgling down the drain, it would not help much unless they were large, underground tanks. It is not against the bylaws to have these but they would be subject to approval by three committees — structural, elevation and health.

I asked Dr Colin Mackenzie, Durban's Medical Officer of Health for his views on surface tanks.

Dr Mackenzie is basically opposed to them, being alarmed at the prospect of mosquitoes and the malaria potential. But if the drought reached drastic proportions the risk would have to be weighed up.

Durban has a history of malaria scares and mos-

quito-spotting is a priority with City Health. However if domestic tanks were allowed there would not be enough inspectors to control them. Mosquitoes thrive in sunny, open tanks and a paraffin layer on top is not an effective enough deterrent. A properly sealed and gauzed tank would be acceptable but experience has taught authority that the public is often irresponsible and will try to get away with less than is required.

Dr Mackenzie's fears are based on experience. In the early 1930s the factories in Durban and environs were closed down because of malaria and sporadic outbreaks have occurred since.

So Dr Mackenzie does not consider the risks justified and he appeals to

the public instead to practise strict anti-waste measures now as Durban only rarely experiences water restrictions.

Another area of concern is swimming pools but perhaps people are worrying unduly, particularly about evaporation. It appears loss through evaporation accounts for about 10 millimetres a month whereas far more water is lost through people jumping into pools, especially "bomb-diving", and splashing out volumes.

With lots of movement evaporation is accelerated and here it could help if timing mechanisms were changed to operate at night.

Pool covers reduce evaporation to a degree and are available from about R60. An interesting

Farmers get two years ^{(3) General} free of interest

Tribune Reporter

DROUGHT—HIT farmers were given a two-year interest-free holiday by Prime Minister Botha at the central centenary show in Bloemfontein yesterday.

Mr Botha said farmers that qualified would be able to consolidate their debts in co-operation with the Land Bank and Agriculture Credit Board.

These debts would be payable over 22 years, the first two interest free.

Interest for the first two years would be added to the debt but the farmer would have 20 years to repay.

Farmers' debts to co-operatives outstanding since 1979 would also be consolidated and payable over six years. The Government would subsidise Land Bank interest rates by 30 percent for the first year.

The Land Bank inter-

est rate on carried-over debts, old production loans and production credit could be reduced to below the inflation rate soon.

"Should circumstances allow, a further reduction in the interest rate is possible," Mr Botha said.

Measures to help the sugar and meat industries would be announced soon.

When the Land Bank Act had been amended, farmers would be able to borrow on the full agricultural value of their land instead of only up to 20 percent.

"The Government has decided in principle to give the Land Bank a guarantee on that part of the loan that exceeds four fifths of the agricultural value of land," Mr Botha said.

Drought-aid schemes to self-governing national states were in the pipeline.

Survey says white farmers are the richest

Tribune Reporter

White farmers have the greatest average wealth of any occupational group in the country, according to a survey of the personal distribution of wealth.

Mike McGrath of the Department of Economics at the University of Natal (Durban), who conducted the survey, found white farmers make up 47 percent of the top five percent of wealth owners in the country. They rank above managers and directors, who come next with 21,5 percent in the top-five-percent bracket.

Whites as a group own 98 percent of privately owned farms and 93 percent of privately owned fixed property.

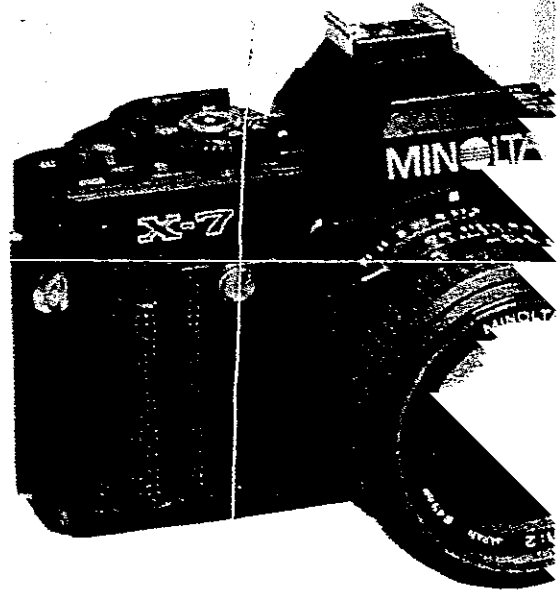
The top 10 percent of wealthy South Africans own 95 percent of farms and 85 percent of quoted shares and 92 percent of unquoted shares, says the survey.

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suit

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WEST STREET, DURBAN
ORDNANCE ROAD, DURBAN
BLUE HEIGHTS CENTRE
WESTVILLE



MINOLTA X-7 35

A top quality compact SLR camera with automatic shutter exposure. Automatic shutter visible in the view finder. Spectacular touch-switch metering. Electronic flash.

R 260

kaNgwane braces for a hungry winter

By Clyde Johnson,
Lowveld Bureau

Tough and weatherbeaten kaNgwane farmer Mr Phillip Sibambo looked to the cloudless sky as he gently cupped a flower on a cotton plant.

"If rain does not come soon, these flowers will die and I will lose more than half my cotton crop," he said.

Mr Sibambo (55), is one of 33 farmers at kaNgwane's Fig Tree Irrigation Scheme in the Nkomasi region.

All have a similar problem. They are allowed to pump water from the Komati River only once a week, and they look on helplessly as

the blistering Lowveld sun withers their crops.

Worse still, there is no hope for a winter bean crop.

Already affected by the economic recession, the people of kaNgwane are bracing themselves for a long, dry winter — one of the worst in several decades.

Among the hardest hit are the national state's 11 000 peasant farmers who live on one and two-hectare ploughing units.

Entirely dependent on rain, each grows maize and groundnuts and herds four to five cattle.

Some areas had rain towards the end of last year, but soaring temperatures in January and

February plunged kaNgwane into one of the worst droughts in 50 years.

More than eight percent of the homeland's livestock has died, and there are fears of more losses as winter approaches.

Advice to cut their losses by selling before the cattle die has been turned down by the farmers, who fear not being able to afford to start a new herd.

Chief N E Ngomane, kaNgwane's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, said a hard bleak winter lay ahead. "Apart from the Eerstehoek area, where a bumper maize crop is expected, no

ploughing has been done in the dryland area."

This means storekeepers have had to carry over large stocks of ploughs, implements and spares — plunging many into debt.

At Dun Donald, in the Eerstehoek area, dryland farmers were anticipating one of the best harvests in years because of good rains at the start of the season.

"But the rain stopped and farmers can consider themselves fortunate if they reap any maize at all," said Mr Ngomane, a farmer himself.

Cotton farmers in the 700 hectare Fig Tree area were looking forward to a bumper crop.

Mr Sibambo, who has two wives and 20 children, is one of 33 farmers who own and run 20-hectare irrigated units in one of the region's most fertile areas.

While the Komati River ran strongly, farmers worked hard as they looked forward to a good harvest.

"But we are limited to irrigating once a week, and I will be fortunate if I get a 50 percent harvest," said Mr Sibambo.

If all farmers like Mr Sibambo manage to save half their crops, it will represent a R500 000 loss for kaNgwane.

Fortunately, the drought so far has not proved a health hazard.

Hospitals in the homeland report no abnormal increase in diseases, malnutrition or infant deaths.

What is causing grave concern is the general shortage of water. The main towns — kaNyamazane, kaBokweni and Matsulu — have storage facilities and reticulation systems. But the rest of kaNgwane's inhabitants living in dozens of villages scattered over the homeland are dependent on springs and boreholes for water.

With fountain and borehole levels dropping, unemployment rising, and the economic recession biting deeper, the kaNgwane Government faces its toughest ever winter.

"To survive people

must have drinking water, and if help is forthcoming from the South African Government, priority number one will be getting water to as many people as possible," said the Minister of Community Affairs, Mr P I Misilela.

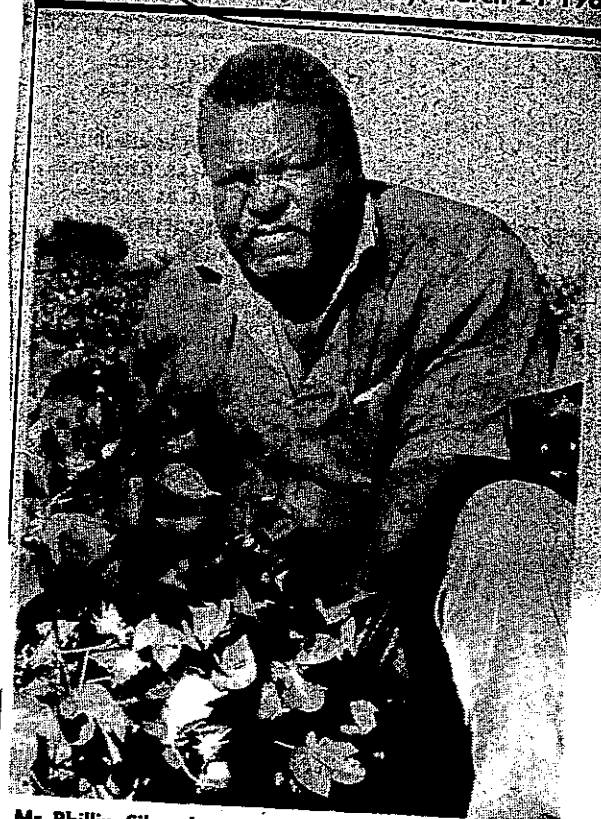
The Chief Executive Councillor, Mr Enos Mabuza, said it was a matter of survival for the next five months.

Though not as severe as the Highveld, kaNgwane's Lowveld winter are still cold, and food and water shortages are not going to make matters easier.

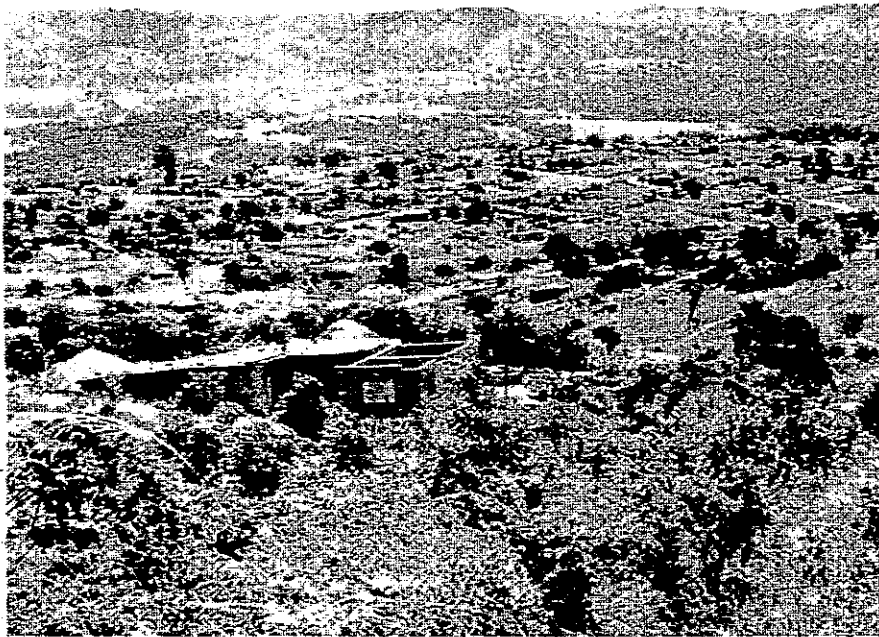
So, with less money in their pockets and a feeling of despondency, the kaNgwane people are bracing themselves.

6M

The Star Monday, March 21 1988



Mr Phillip Sibambo, one of kaNgwane's 33 cotton farmers who face ruin unless the rains come soon.



One of the many squatter areas in kaNgwane. The inhabitants have no water or sewerage facilities.



A group of women scoop their daily supply of water from the Esiqojeni fountain — now reduced to a trickle.

General O'Riordan 21/3/83

Heunis: agriculture is development kingpin

KOMGA — The Government had realised that the existing drought aid measures were not enough to help farmers, Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development, said here at the weekend.

Mr Heunis was speaking at the official opening of the Komga agricultural show.

He said agriculture was still the "kingpin" of economic development, and that future economic development would rely to a large extent on the different regions in South Africa.

"In the final analysis, every South African is dependent on the South-

African farmer for his daily existence."

He said the drought problem was seen as important, and the Jacobs committee was instructed to make an in-depth study of the short- and long-term problems facing farming communities.

The committee would formulate a basic agricultural development policy, which would be aimed at making agriculture more viable in its own right, he said.

The committee would also investigate the financial problems of farmers, the increasing costs of inputs and the

productiveness of the land.

He stressed the importance of regional development, and said 7,9 per cent of the gross beef production in the country, 12 per cent of milk and cream production, 19,9 per cent of wool production, 12,5 per cent of sheep and goat slaughtering and 30,5 per cent of mohair production were produced in the Komga region.

Mr Heunis stressed the importance of co-operation across national borders to benefit the region as a whole.

"The emphasis is on the identification of development potential on a

regional and local level and on the endeavour of people like you to exploit these opportunities."

Mr Heunis said the present exporting of surplus food production to neighbouring states was important to establish an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual respect.

● Although there were not many entries in the sheep, goat and cattle sections, the stock on display at the show was in prime condition.

One bull really caught the eye — a Santa Gertruda weighing 1 100 kg and owned by Mr N. H. James of Cathcart. — DDH.



Mr N. James of Cathcart with his grand champion beef animal, a Santa Gertruda bull weighing 1 100kg.

Major Govt measure to aid drought areas

ARGUS 21/3/83 36000

THE Government has announced major measures to bring relief to the drought-stricken areas of South Africa and the national states.

Outback lad stumps Charles

ALICE SPRINGS. — Prince Charles had to admit ruefully to young listeners who quizzed him on an Australian outback radio programme that he didn't know how many rooms there were in Buckingham Palace.

"That's a terrible question, Andrew, because I haven't actually counted them," he told six-year-old Andrew Clark, who had asked him by radio from his cattle ranch home 640 km south of Alice Springs whether he knew how many rooms it had.

RADIO NETWORK

Prince Charles and Princess Diana made a guest appearance on the Alice Springs School of the Air, an educational network for children living on remote cattle properties and settlements throughout the arid outback of Central Australia.

Many are hundreds of kilometres from the nearest school.

Most wanted to know about Prince William

BIT SMALL YET

One questioner wanted to know if Prince William (nine months) had a bicycle and Princess Diana said: "He is a little bit small yet but when he's about your age we might get him one."

Earlier, Prince Charles and Princess Diana started the first day of their official visit opening an ambulance station and later they were to fly to Ayer's Rock, a major tourist attraction in the centre of the Simpson Desert. — Sapa-AP

On Saturday, the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, announced a two-year interest-free holiday for drought-beleaguered farmers. And yesterday, the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, announced drought relief of R20-million for the six national states.

Mr Botha, opening the Centenary Show in Bloemfontein, said farmers who qualified for relief would be able to consolidate their debts in co-operation with the Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board. These debts would be repayable over 22 years with the first two interest free.

Interest for the first two years would be capitalised — added to the total sum owing — but the farmers would then have 20 years in which to repay their debts.

Subsidise

Farmers debts to co-operatives outstanding since 1979 would also be consolidated and would be payable over six years. The Government would subsidise Land Bank interest rates by 30 percent for the first year.

Speaking in Cape Town, Dr Koornhof said Lebowa, Gazankulu, Kwazulu, Qwa Qwa, Kwandebele and KwaZulu would control spending of the drought-relief money through committees in each state. The Department of Co-operation and Development would be represented.

The national states had undertaken to do all they could to reclaim grazing and to protect such areas for the benefit of their people. They had also agreed to try to soften the effects of drought, which occurred periodically, Dr Koornhof said. — Argus Correspondent Sapa.



RON GOEDEKE, 23-year-old third year University of Cape Town medical student, covers the last few metres of the gruelling first Peninsula Triathlon held on Saturday.

Flanking him are two members of his support team, Mary Maclaughlan (left) and Dawn Burkimsher.

Goedeke's time for the event, incorporating a

3 km surf swim, a 160 km cycle ride and a standard 42,2 km marathon, was 9 hr 53 min 49 sec. Stellenbosch medical student Paddy Murphy was second in 10 hr 39 min 13 sec

and R 10 hr. The trant, finish. 14.

Coup attempt confuses Swazis

Argus Africa News Service

MBABANE — Confusion reigned in Swaziland today after an attempt by conservative senior ministers to oust the Prime Minister, Prince Mabandla.

Yesterday morning, an extraordinary Government Gazette announced his dismissal by the Queen Regent, who has headed the kingdom's ruling Likoqo council since the death of King Sobhuza. Then the announcement was repeated at a Press conference at the Lobamba royal kraal.

The conference was attended by the second-

ranking Likoqo member, Prince Sozisa, and four senior Cabinet Ministers, but the Queen Regent was not present.

It appeared likely today that she knew nothing about the "dismissal" of her Prime Minister, a protege of the late king, who was chosen to head the Cabinet over the heads of more conservative politicians.

The conservative and strongly pro-monarchist "rebel" group appears to be headed by Foreign Minister Mr Richard Dlamini.

The "rebel" group is believed to favour strongly the South African and deal proposals.

City lions are cared for' or

Staff Reporter

ALL is well with the Groote Schuur Zoo lions who were moved from Cape Town to Mr Jan Oelofse's Okonyiti game farm about 180 km from Windhoek.

Two SPCA officials from Windhoek were flown to Mr Oelofse's farm at the cost of the Cape Town branch of SPCA to inspect the animals and their new home, following reports that their fate was uncertain.

According to Mr Keith Goudie, secretary of the SPCA in Cape Town, the officials found the lions living in "completely satisfactory conditions."

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MONDAY, 21 MARCH 1983

the service dispensation of, among others, extension officers from which and improvement in the service conditions may flow

21/3/83
 †Indicates translated version.

For written reply: (3) General

Agricultural extension officers

Hansard Q. 60, 741-742
 474. Mr. J. H. VISAGIE asked the Minister of Agriculture:†

- (1) (a) How many posts for agricultural extension officers are there in the Republic, (b) how many vacancies are there at present and (c) what is the ratio between such extension officers and farmers in the Republic;
- (2) what are the salary scales of extension officers;
- (3) whether qualifications in agriculture are taken into account in determining the notch of the scale on which appointments are made; if so, what are the minimum qualifications for appointment as an extension officer;
- (4) whether any additional benefits are offered in order to make such posts more attractive; if so, what additional benefits?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) (a) 207.
 (b) 44.
 (c) Approximately 1 : 429.
- (2) R8 406 × 414 - 10 890 × 570 -
 14 310/14 880 × 570 - 16 590 × 849
 - 18 288/18 288 × 849 - 22 533.
- (3) Yes. The applicable four year degree in agriculture.
- (4) Yes, additional benefits forming part of the normal conditions of employment in the Public Service. The Commission for Administration is at present conducting an investigation into

→

Idea proposal to save Southern Africa from the creeping Kalahari Desert

Diverting rivers could avert drought — farmer

ARGUS 24/3/83 3 Genral

Staff Reporter BARA HART
SOUTHERN AFRICA may be facing one of the worst droughts in living memory, but fear of devastation if the Kalahari continues unchecked, leading to many deaths.

North the water spread over the Ovamboland swamps which were much larger than the pan.

Today the Cunene makes a right-angled turn on Namibia's northern border and discharges all its water through barren country to the Atlantic Ocean.

Erosion

The change of course was the result of head stream erosion of a fast-flowing coastal river which ate through the high escarpment parallel to the coast until it joined the Cunene and began tapping the water. The entire river was diverted and the swamps and pan began drying up.

Schwarz claimed that if a weir were erected at Erickson's Drift on the Cunene the water would reflood into the Etosha Pan and Ovamboland swamps.

He believed the Victoria Falls were breached by the Zambezi relatively recently — about 560 years ago. Before this the Zambezi had its source below the Falls and the water now flowing over this tourist attraction used to flow in to the Makarikari depression forming an inland lake of some 24 000 sq km.

In turn, the Chobe River and its tributary, the Kwando, which flows into the Zambezi above the

Falls, used to flow into Lake Ngami and the Mababe depression and then down to the Makarikari Lake along the Botletle River.

Dam proposed

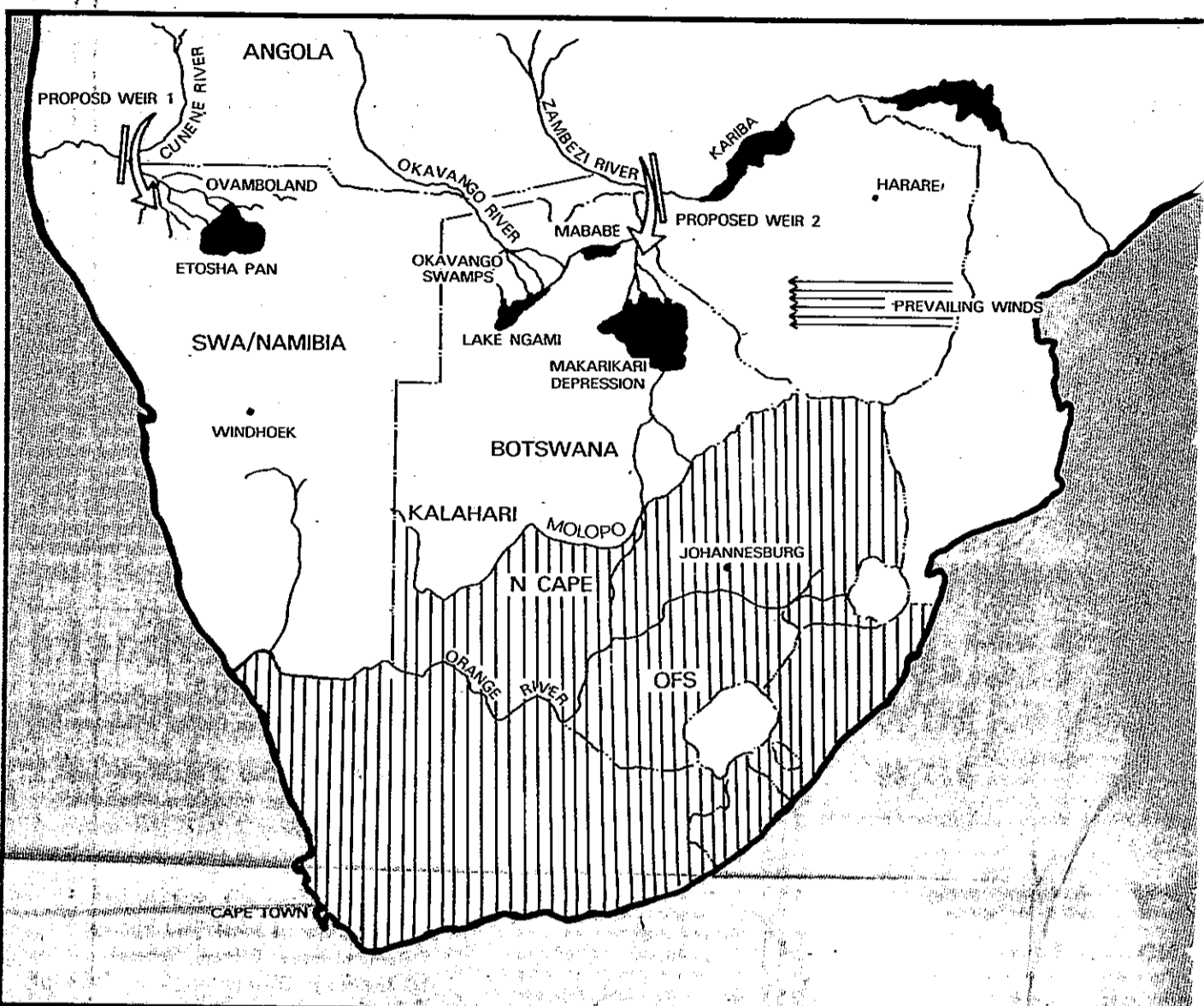
It was proposed that a dam be built at Katambora on the Zambezi. The 22-metre high weir with sluice gates would enable the normal water flow feeding the Cabora Basa and Kariba to continue.

It would also dam up millions of hectare centimetres of water, allowing water to flow south again down the Suvuti Channel to Mababe, Ngami, Botletle, Makarikari, Molopo and the Orange River to the Atlantic.

In total some 80 000 sq km — the size of the Free State — would be submerged.

Mr Ranger believes that if the Etosha, Ngami, Mababe and Makarikari lakes were restored, the moisture from them, together with the moist winds coming off the Indian Ocean, would form clouds and bring rain to the Kalahari, Botswana, Namibia, the Northern Cape, the North-Western Transvaal and other areas that are now perpetually drought stricken.

The lakes would reduce the amount of evaporation, which is killing plant life, and increase the atmosphere's humidity. This is what is needed, says Mr Ranger, to cause rain.



THE map shows the main features of Mr Gray Ranger's plan, with the rough position of proposed weirs on the Cunene and Zambezi rivers to divert water into the Etosha Pan and the Makarikari depression.

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of "sprung" water into the oceans instead of feeding the inland lakes in days of old.

"People travel thousands of miles to see the plunging mass of water and listen to the roar of the mighty Victoria Falls. What they see is nothing more nor less than a continent bleeding to death... the sterilisation of a huge portion of Southern Africa," he says.

Drawing on the research and documentation of the Kalahari water systems done by Professor Schwarz when he occupied the chair of geology at Rhodes University during the 1920s, Gray Ranger believes that the interior of Southern Africa can be saved if the water presently occurring into the sea through the Zambezi and Cunene Rivers is redirected along the now dry tributaries of these rivers to the original inland lakes.

Drainage

In his Kalahari scheme, Professor Schwarz traced the entire water system of Africa. He found that in each system the original drainage that supplied the interior of the continent was being destroyed, or had already been destroyed, by the more vigorous streams on the coast.

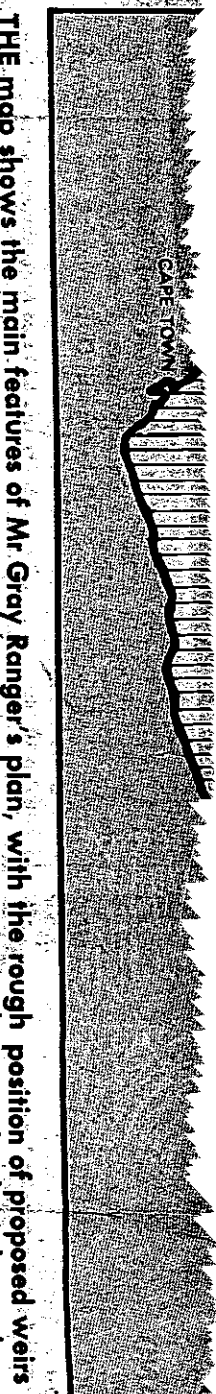
The Cunene and Zambezi were carrying to the sea water that at one time had flowed into the Kalahari and made the centre of South Africa fertile.

The Cunene River used to flow south into the Etosha Pan creating an 8 000 sq km lake. To the

water now flowing over this tourist attraction used to flow into the Makarikari depression forming an inland lake of some 24 000 sq km.

In turn, the Chobe River and its tributary, the Kwando, which flows into the Zambezi above the

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THE map shows the main features of Mr Gray Ranger's plan, with the rough position of proposed weirs on the Cunene and Zambezi rivers to divert water into the Etosha Pan and the Makarikari depression.

(b)

Industry	Number of contracts registered	Whites	Coloureds	Asians
Aerospace	118	—	—	—
Automobile	71	48	—	5
Building	366	593	—	137
Cumulative	80	1	—	15
Diamond cutting	3	—	—	—
Electricity supply	192	3	—	11
Explosives and allied industries	83	4	—	1
Furniture	20	75	—	17
Government undertakings	292	72	—	2
Hairdressing	301	25	—	—
Jewellers and goldsmiths	12	14	—	1
Local Authority undertaking (Northern-Transvaal)	64	—	—	—
Metal	3 894	807	—	426
Mining	1 577	22	—	2
Motor	1 567	386	—	178
Printing	332	147	—	42
S.A. Transport Services	1 640	—	—	4
Sugar manufacturing and refining	28	13	—	32
Tyre and rubber	19	9	—	2

Hansard Q.61.787-24/3/83
Internal Security Act 788

552. Mrs. H. SUZMAN asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether any notices in terms of (a) section 5(1)(e) and (b) section 9(1) of the Internal Security Act, No. 44 of 1950, (i) were issued, (ii) were withdrawn and (iii) expired in 1982; if so, how many in each case;
- (2) whether any notices which expired were renewed; if so, how many;
- (3) how many notices in terms of each of these sections were of effect as at 31 December 1982?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

The information furnished in (1) and (2) below is in respect of the period 1 January 1982 to 1 July 1982.

- (1) (a) (i) No.
- (ii) No.
- (iii) No.

Hansard Q.61.789-24/3/83
Discharge of industrial effluent

569 Mr. B. W. B. PAGE asked the Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries:

- (1) How many permits for the discharge by factories of industrial effluent into rivers or the sea were issued by his Department during the latest specified period of 10 years for which figures are available;
- (2) (a) how many complaints in respect of such discharge were received by his Department from (i) the public and (ii) interested parties during such period; (b) how many such complaints were investigated by his Department and (c) in respect of how many investigations was the complaint found to be justified;
- (3) (a) in respect of how many such complaints were (i) charges laid and (ii) prosecutions brought during the above-mentioned period and (b) how many such prosecutions were successful?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES:

- (1) 295 Permits were issued in terms of section 21(5) of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956), for the ten year period ending 31 March 1982.
- (2) (a)(i) and (ii) and (b) In total 60 complaints had been received, all of which were investigated; (c) 27.
- (3) (a) (i) and (ii) 27.
- (b) 9.

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES:

- (1) Whether any new teacher training institutions for (a) Coloureds and (b) Indians were established by his Department in 1982; if so, (i) where and

General

(1) how many students were enrolled in such institution;

- (2) what was the total number of students enrolled in teacher training institutions for (a) Coloureds and (b) Indians in the Republic as at 1 March 1982?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) and (b) No. (i) and (ii) Fall away
- (2) (a) 4 061.
- (b) 2 523

Hansard Q.61.790-24/3/83
Deciduous Fruit

609 Mr. ARONSON asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What were the gross proceeds from South African exports of deciduous fruit in respect of the latest specified year for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

1982: R2 366,0 million.

Hansard Q.61.790-24/3/83
Agricultural products: subsidies

610 Mr. ARONSON asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) What agricultural products which were sold to the consumer were subsidized in the 1981-82 financial year and (b) what was the amount of the subsidy?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

	1981-82
Mauze	R82 950 000
Butter	R3 210 000
Bread and meal in small packets	R181 960 000



THE arrow in front of the fishermen's village in Arniston shows Langklipkrans, the start of Armscor's proposed firing area on the southern Cape coast.

Armscor range could harm fisherfolk's living

ARGUS 25/3/83
392

Environment Reporter
THE livelihood of about 500 people living in Arniston's historic fishing village, and of the fishing families at nearby Skipskop, may be threatened by Armscor's plan to establish a weapon test firing range on the Southern Cape coast.

The Arniston fishing village is only a few metres away from Langklipkrans, which is the start of the proposed firing zone.

Mr John Murtz, chairman of the Fishermen's Union in Arniston, said if the sea area around Langklipkrans was affected the people would lose their traditional and most productive fishing ground.

While fishermen did fish to the south-west of Arniston, in an area not included in the firing zone, most of their fishing was done to the

north-east, in the Skipskop area.

Mr Murtz, who built eight of the ten boats used at Arniston, said: "We make our living from the sea and fishing. If that area of sea is closed to us, God must look after us, as we're going to suffer badly."

He said he did not believe the older fisherman at Arniston would be able to adapt and take on other jobs, although some of the younger ones might be able to.

Asked whether the village would be able to take in the fisherfolk from Skipskop if they were moved, he said the Arniston village had always been "fairly exclusive", including only relatives of "born and bred Waenhuiskrans people", but if need be a plan would have to be made.

There are also fears that if the coloured fish-



MR JOHN MURTZ

ermen are forced by economic reasons to move away from the area their historic houses will become white holiday homes.

Mr Henry Villet, who is an architect and town planner on the Preserve Arniston Committee, said the committee had been battling to prevent this for some time and had received assurances from Government officials that this would not happen.

He saw no reason why the village, which had

been provisionally declared a national monument, should not become one.

If the fishermen were affected by an Armscor closure of their fishing grounds, it would negate efforts made by the committee to preserve the area and help the fishermen.

PUBLIC FUNDS

"Since 1975 we have been involved with the buildings and in assisting the fishing community at Arniston. We have already collected public funds to help the fishermen and are busy negotiating with them. What will we do with the money if we can't use it there?"

Skipskop, according to Mr Fred Bell, the executive general manager of Armscor, will be considered "a high activity area".

~~Control Boards~~ (3) General
Agricultural production: boards
Hansard Q. Col. 791 25/3/83
616. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the
Minister of Agriculture:

What percentage of South Africa's total agricultural production in the (a) 1981 and (b) 1982 calendar year was not under the control of any board established under the Marketing Act?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (a) 24.37%.
- (b) 28.68%.

③ General Hansard
Land and Agricultural Bank loans
Q. Col. 791 25/3/83
614. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the
Minister of Finance:

(a) What was the total amount of loans to farmers by the Land and Agricultural Bank as at 31 December 1982 and (b) to how many farmers had these loans been granted?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) R976 401 854.00.

(b) 22 660.

Cleaning up farm finance

Pretoria's latest crutch for the agricultural sector looks extremely cost effective — on at least two counts. However the key to the overall success of the scheme is the way in which it will ultimately be financed.

The arrangement is structured in such a way that it could save the solvency of a substantial slice of the farming community at minimal cost to the taxpayer. And, in a move that holds important demographic implications, it appears to be aimed mainly at efficient farmers.

The scheme is the first of its kind to be used in SA's long history of State assistance, covert or open, to agriculture. The final details have not yet been released. But estimates are that the immediate net cost to the fiscus of the new "consolidation package" could be about R45m.

This amount covers one of the two major legs of the programme, whereby farmers' production debts to co-operatives will be consolidated and extended into a six-year repayment period.

The R45m is the estimated cost of Pretoria's promised 30% subsidy on the first year's interest payments on the consolidated debt. However, this figure assumes that the entire debt, which is expected to reach R900m by the end of the year, is consolidated. As this is unlikely, the Treasury could get away with much less this year.

The other major leg involves direct Land Bank debt. Says Johan Willemsse, SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) economist: "I understand that what will happen is that farmers will approach the Land Bank to consolidate their short- and medium-term debts. Under the new scheme, the Land Bank will then value their farming land, usually at about 50% of its market value. If feasible in terms of its valuation, it will then issue a

mortgage bond, repayable over 22 years." He adds that although the Land Bank usually issues only first mortgages, SAAU suggested to the authorities that they allow at least second mortgages.

Depending on the Land Bank's funding position, it will then pay the co-operatives and the commercial banks for the portion of their loans that have been consolidated. The same will apply for carried-over production debts with the co-ops, except that the interest rate (currently around 17,25%) will be subsidised to the tune of 30%.

Crucial factor

Economists say the crucial factor in the scheme is the Land Bank's valuation of farms. The weight of meaning here falls on the term "reasonable value." This has not been spelt out and, in fact, its flexibility may be deliberate. Economists believe Pretoria will use the valuation process to protect the Land Bank from taking undue risks, like over-writing the security value of assets.

Though the fiscus may get off lightly, agricultural economists believe the socio-political price of consolidation could be high — in certain terms. They congratulate Pretoria on ignoring the call by the National Association of Maize Producers (Nampo) earlier this month for a *carte blanche* debt write-offs. But they say a significant number of farmers could be forced into insolvency. One co-operative in a drought stricken area, for instance, believes the casualty rate among its members could be as high as 17%.

Only time will tell whether or not the scheme, in association with severe drought, will result in a weeding out process that ultimately strengthens the country's agricultural economy. But the fact that Pretoria

opted for a consolidation programme rather than write-offs or a direct subsidy clearly indicates its intention to assist only efficient farmers. A spokesman from the Reserve Bank told the *FM* the scheme is aimed at those farmers who still have strong income potential, but whose cash flows have been disrupted by current conditions. It is most certainly not designed, he adds, to make the Land Bank take undue risks with loans to uncreditworthy farmers.

Pretoria has not yet spelt out the guidelines that will determine which farmers qualify and which do not. But the scheme has the potential to inject a more rational bias into agricultural finance in general. According to Frans Venter, of Barclays' agricultural division, it will bring farmers' debts more into line with assets, at least as far as time is concerned. It will mean that they finance long-term liabilities with long-term loans.

The final proviso, of course, is the ultimate funding of the scheme. If Pretoria manages to drag the real cost of subsidisation into the open, and pay for it from its coffers in a non-inflationary way, it will be a real feather in its cap. It could, on the other hand, resort to a bankrolling operation by the Reserve Bank, or even disguised subsidies through depressing rates on commercial bank loans to the Land Bank. If that happens, it will lose a valuable opportunity.

Malan meets farmers

Political Correspondent

A DELEGATION of Southern Cape farmers and Bredasdorp community representatives met the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, today to discuss the Armscor plan to have a testing range in the area.

The delegation, which was led by Mr A. Geldenhuys, the MP for Bredasdorp, also met the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Fisheries, Mr Sarel Hayward, whose department is to carry out an impact study in the area.

Farmers and property owners are up in arms because of the uncertainty which has been created by the way Armscor has handled the matter.

LEAKED

The whole scheme was secretly planned without the locals being informed or consulted, and details were made known only when news about the plan leaked out in newspapers.

Two areas have been earmarked, one at Waenhuiskrans and another at Cape Infanta, with a 60 km stretch of beach in between closed to the public. Part of the De Hoop nature reserve will also be closed to the public when tests take place.

Villages along the beach such as Skipskop will be taken over by the military.

Ecologists and nature conservationists have expressed serious misgivings about the damage such a scheme could cause to the animal life and the rare ecology of the area.

NEW RESERVE

Further division has now been caused by the Bredasdorp Town Council's decision to support the scheme as it could benefit the town economically.

Plans are said to be afoot to declare a new nature reserve area west of Waenhuiskrans, between Struis Bay and Pearly Beach at Agulhas, as compensation for the Armscor scheme.

The Minister is said to have given today's delegation the assurance that the plan is not final and that such a decision will only be taken once the Department of Environmental Affairs has undertaken an impact study.

He said the Defence Force had a good record of nature conservation in other areas such as St Lucia in Natal, where it has undertaken projects.

10 000 sign test-range protests

ARGUS
28/3/83
39

Staff Reporter

OUTRAGE against Armscor's proposal to site a testing range on the Southern Cape coast gained momentum at the weekend when more than 3 000 people added their names to petitions to stop the plan.

Almost 10 000 people have signed petitions in the Cape.

With some constituencies still outstanding today, the Progressive Federal Party had counted about 3 000 signatures on its petition calling on the Government to relocate the testing site "in a less sensitive position".

The PFP petition was launched throughout the Peninsula on Saturday and most of the signatures were collected within two hours, said Mr Jan van Gend, MPC for Constantia and Provincial Council spokesman on nature conservation.

Impact study

Mr van Gend said that while he welcomed the announcement last week that an environmental impact study would be undertaken before implementation of the scheme to expropriate 40 000 ha of land surrounding the De Hoop nature reserve, he was concerned that the provincial Department of Nature Conservation had not been publicly included in the study.

"There has been no public statement to my knowledge that the provincial nature conservation body is being involved in this impact study. I would assume it will be, since this is the body which has been intimately involved in De Hoop since it was declared a nature reserve — in fact it has run and researched the reserve for 27 years.

"It would be madness if this body was not involved in the impact study," he said.

Landowners

Meanwhile, 3 000 landowners and people who will be affected by the scheme have signed the petition in the Skipskop-Bredasdorp area.

A petition drawn up by property owners in the Arniston, Skipskop and Potberg areas, bearing more than 1 800 signatures, was sent to the Progressive Federal Party last week.

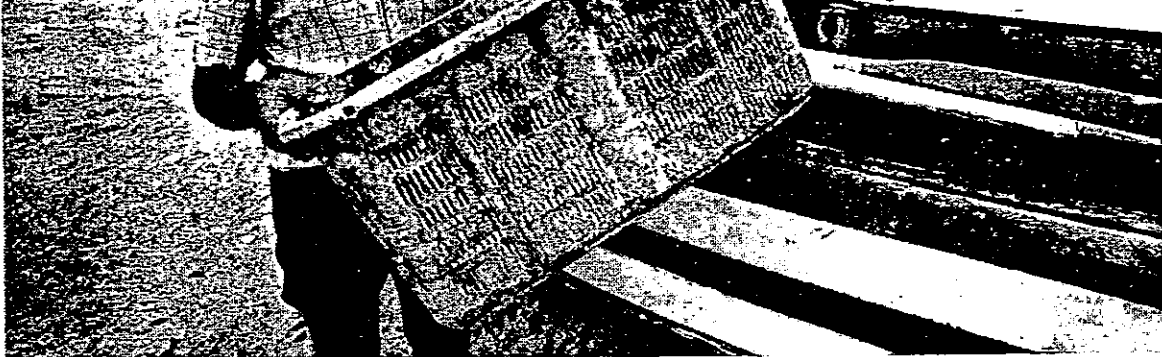
Entitled Save Our Cape South Coast, the petition calls on the Minister of Defence to keep Armscor out of the area.

Meeting

Two separate petitions circulating at the University of Cape Town last week collected another 1 900 signatures.

In the Boland and the Overberg, farmers and syndicates who have shares in farmland in the affected area met at the weekend to discuss details of Armscor's plans.

Farmers are concerned that they were not approached by the Government on the matter and that there was no negotiation.



Mr Hennie Groenewald whose fishing business in the settlement of Skipskop is in the balance following Armscor's announcement to take over the area between Arniston and Cape Infanta as a missile-testing range.

Picture by

JOHN VAN DER LINDEN

Fishermen of Skipskop don't think of missiles

CAPE TIMES 29/3/83 *3 Grand*

Staff Reporter

PEOPLE in the doomed fishing settlement of Skipskop are so shattered by Armscor's intentions to take away their homes as part of the Cape south coast missile-testing range they are trying not to think about it.

"We want to know from the government exactly what is going on and then we will decide how to fight this thing," said Mr Hennie Groenewald, the only businessman in the community.

"Until then we don't want to think about it because, I mean, I don't know where else we can go and what else we can do. We will stay even if we have to fight to stay here," he said.

Together with the recreational spots Ryspunt, Emerson Point, Hope Point and a 60 km stretch of beachline, Skipskop will be closed permanently to the public if plans to establish the testing range between Arniston and Cape Infanta go ahead.

Skipskop was accidentally founded in 1856 by

John Wilson, a Scottish stow-away on the Queen of the Thames which was wrecked off the coast in 1856. He raised 18 children and many of the people still living in Skipskop are direct descendants.

Boasting a shop and one petrol pump, the settlement consists of a cluster of white-washed cottages which are home for 17 families. Numbers swell during holidays.

There is no running water or electricity and the people don't want it because it will ruin the unspoilt, natural character of the place.

One fisherman said: "Why do they want to come here. Why don't they go somewhere else. This is our home, we want to stay here."

Equally perplexed is Mrs Dolly Vermeulen who is well into her 60s. "I have lived here all my life. I even went to school here. I can't understand it. I don't know what I'll do," she said.

Mr Groenewald who runs the shop, petrol pump and a few holiday cottages employs eight

fishermen and runs two fishing boats off the coast. "I asked the fishermen what they will do and they said they had no alternative but to stay and fish," he said.

One of the fisherman, Mr Michael Mathys, said he felt the government had driven the community "into a corner".

"Surely we people who earn our livelihood from fishing should be heard in this matter. We are a fisher folk, it's all we know, it's our home," he said.

'Can't eat fynbos'

Mr Groenewald said that the attitude of the mayor of Bredasdorp, Mr Louis le Riche, had infuriated him. The Bredasdorp municipality last week voted in favour of the project which they regarded as a financial boost for the area.

"The Bredasdorp municipality is selling us out for money they are not ever sure of getting. And when I tried to point out that conservation of the area was more important than money, the mayor Mr Louis le Riche told me, 'You can't eat fynbos'.

"It's bad when you live somewhere, have a home, a business and someone phones you out of the blue and tells you its not your's anymore," said Mr Groenewald.

Mr Groenewald said he wondered if Mr Le Riche had ever thought of the economic advantages of supporting moves to develop the coastline's tourist potential.

"That would be infinitely preferable to supporting moves to establish a missile testing range here," he said.

WINTER OF '83

Drought: now the fight for survival

Star 29/3/83

(3) General

South Africa is facing the Winter of '83. It could be the worst in the nation's history. Even heavy rains in coming weeks will not entirely alleviate the suffering that is expected.

The R100 000 000 or so provided by the State to compensate for some of the destruction of the Summer '83 drought will hardly be noticed in the face of the disaster.

Water restrictions, which have been introduced across most of the country, may have to be tightened drastically in coming months. Rationing of water, even by the bathful, may have to be imposed. Rationing is already taking place in some small towns with inadequate water supplies.

But, while householders watch their gardens die and some farmers fear that their enterprises could be wiped out, the worst crisis of all is in the over-crowded black rural areas.

Thousands of families face a bitter struggle for survival in the coming winter.

In the cities shortages of fresh food, sharply rising prices and the possibility of tougher water controls will bring home the extent of the drought. But in rural areas where hundreds of thousands have been unable to grow their usual subsistence crops for up to two years this winter could become a matter of life or death.

● The Chief Minister of Gazankulu, Professor Hudson Ntswini, estimates that more than half the 500 000 people in the homeland will need a huge food aid programme to survive the winter.

● Dr Machupe Mphahlele, chairman of Lebowa's Emergency Drought Relief Committee, says the homeland faces a threefold increase in diseases of poverty and malnutrition. Typhoid, measles, dysentery and gastro-enteritis. A sharp increase in deaths of infants and young children will be the inevitable result, he believes.

● Eleven thousand peasant farmers in the small kaNgwane homeland bordering Swaziland face the coming months without any crops from their one to two hectare plots which are entirely dependent on the rains that did not come.

The next few months will be a matter of sheer survival for most people in kaNgwane, the homeland's Chief Executive Councillor, Mr Enos Mabuza, said.

The chairman of the Rand Water Board, Mr Dale Hobbs, has warned of tougher water restrictions for the many towns and cities the board supplies unless consumption is reduced by 20 percent. At present consumption has only dropped six percent.

Farmers in Vaalharts, South Africa's breadbasket and prime irrigation farming area, face a 50 percent cut in their water allocation and are now forced to turn away from crops requiring a lot of water if they are to survive.

In Gazankulu where thousands of families rely solely on the trading of cattle to survive well over ten percent of the 400 000 in the homeland have already died and thousands more are expected to succumb in the coming months.

In Venda, where cattle also play a large role in subsistence farming, starving animals are being sold for as little as R5.

Operation Hunger, a drive co-ordinated by the SA Institute of Race Relations to get food into needy areas, is stepping up its programme throughout the country.

During these crucial weeks and months ahead The Star will be giving day-to-day reports on the drought situation and efforts to alleviate the suffering that is already underway.

13 General

WINTER OF '83

By Anthony Duigan

Hundreds of square kilometres of the north-eastern Transvaal bear testimony to a drought without end — ground naked of grass, emaciated cattle too weak to pull a plough, mealie stalks burnt by sun without rain.

Into this blighted land winter will come with a vengeance, particularly cruel to the aged and children who people these plains and valleys in such large numbers, homeland leaders believe.

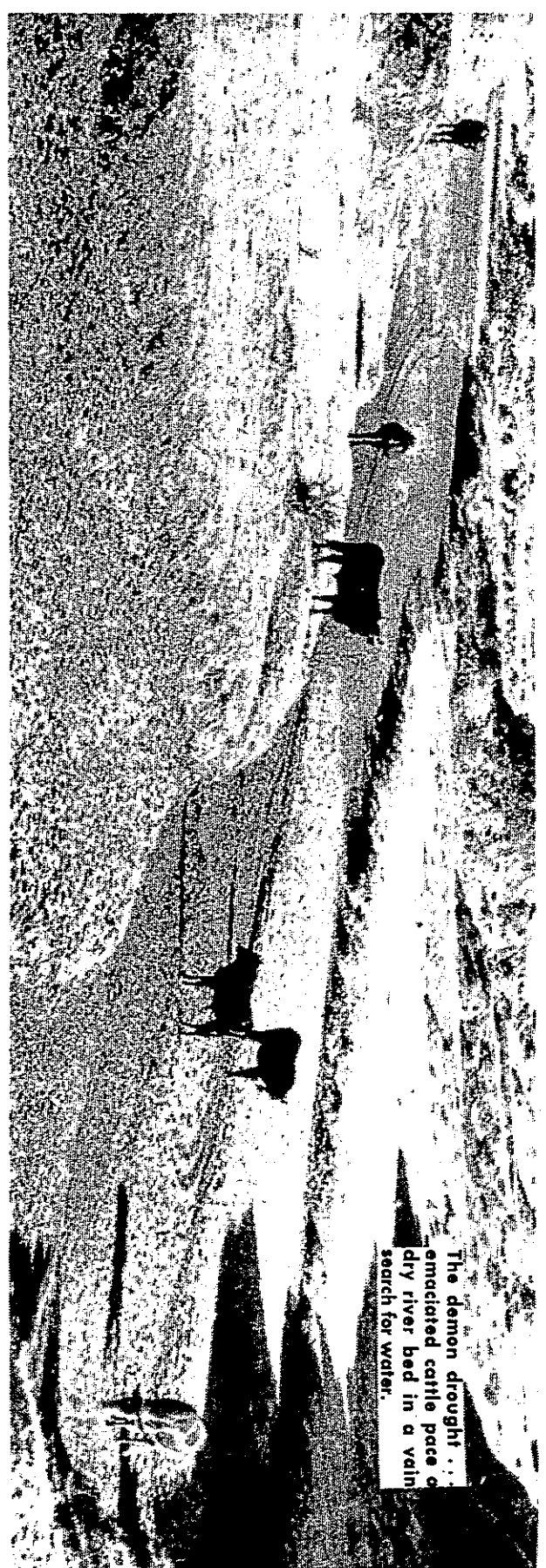
The pattern of the winter of 83 was set many weeks ago when the scorching, rainless days of midsummer mocked the efforts of thousands of subsistence farmers to get their usual crops of mealies and other basic foodstuffs going.

Recent good rains in parts of the Northern Transvaal homeland of Lebowa are too late to salvage anything of the summer crop. But they have helped in one important respect: they have slightly raised the critically low levels in some storage dams, perhaps raised the water table in some village boreholes which are the only lifeline for many thousands of rural families.

Dr Machupe Mphahlele, Secretary of Health for Lebowa, is waiting for the avalanche of problems he believes winter will bring. "The lack of rain, of water, will mean that we cannot control the outbreak of disease. Disease will control us," he said in an interview in Lebowa-gomo, the homeland's capital.

Health, particularly in rural areas, depends on good hygiene and without clean water supplies hygiene goes by the board.

"Epidemics cannot be prevented in the Northern Trans-



The demon drought . . . emaciated cattle pace a dry river bed in a vain search for water.

Hunger waiting in ambush

veal today. Typhoid will soon be rife. We're just waiting for it to spread. Let's face it, gastric-intestinal diseases, a particular threat to black children in rural areas, are largely preventable if we have enough clean water for hygiene. Some clinics in Lebowa cannot even function because they have no water."

Blacks in the homelands are scattered, rural people living off small plots but nothing has ever been done to train these people in how to make their little pieces of land productive or to ensure a proper water supply for them, he added.

"Many years ago these small plots could produce something worthwhile. But because of mass resettlement from the cities, the land has become too small to carry the population. I estimate that the population in these rural areas has

grown at least sixfold since I was a kid — but there has been no real growth in production from these plots."

Conservatively speaking, said Dr Mphahlele, he expected a threefold increase in the number of admissions of children to hospitals and clinics this winter — and well over half the deaths in Lebowa during the coming months will be children. "What pains me most is that

the assistance we get goes only to alleviate the symptoms of all this and they just recur and multiply. We have not started in any significant manner to tackle the root causes."

Professor Hudson Ntsanwisi, Chief Minister of Gazankulu, does not paint a brighter picture of his homeland, home to more than 500 000 people.

"Large areas of our land are desolate and cannot support cattle, which are the livelihood of the people," he said.

"The situation around Giyani (capital of Gazankulu) and in the Malamulele district (a large slab of the homeland) is horrifying. There is no grazing to sustain cattle at all."

"For two years there has been no ploughing because there has been no rain. A food bank is needed to keep as many as 300 000 people going," he added.

Operation Hunger, a drive to feed as many people as possible in these drought areas, is coordinated by the Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg and will be appealing for a massive surge of generosity from South Africans to get food to stricken areas.

In the coming weeks The Star will be keeping readers posted daily about the people who face the winter of 83 with dread.

'WE ARE DOOMED TO BECOME A

FARMERS throughout the country, some in their third year of the killer drought, now face the oncoming winter with fear as they struggle to stay on their land.

And many who believe they are doomed to become a community of poor whites express feelings of despair.

In the north-eastern Free State, one of the areas worst hit by the drought according to the South African Agricultural Union in Pretoria, farmers this week told the *Sunday Tribune* about their dwindling morale.

Some said they did not think they could hold out any longer.

Helplessly they've watched once fertile farmlands turn to dust-bowls, cattle grow thinner and crops die under the scorching heat.

"As a result of this situation, there are clear indications of despondency and despair among the farmers. This factor alone is cause for worry, and many farmers will be forced to sell their animals and farms," said Filippus Jacobus Lourens, chairman of the Villiers-Frankfort Agricultural Union.

"But the big question is what will become of the farmer?"

He said many farmers lacked training to be anything else but farmers, and should they have to leave their farms they would have to take jobs like nightwatchmen or security officers at factories.

"In good faith and in hope, farmers did their bit to produce again this year," he said.

"Despite previous falling crops they have done their best to get out of their financial problems, but it obviously was not deemed they should reach their goals. Nearly everyone is experiencing a cash flow problem, and many face total bankruptcy."

"This country cannot afford to lose more farmers — the result will be disastrous."

Already seven young farmers have left the Villiers area and, according to Mr Lourens, the drought has caused an exodus from the farms which he estimates at between 5 and 10 percent.

Others estimate that figure is higher. But predictions are that the majority will be forced to leave.

"Where farmers once harvested thousands of bags from good soil, if they get half a bag from one hectare now they're lucky," said Oom Flippie Cronje, a retired agricultural land assessor.

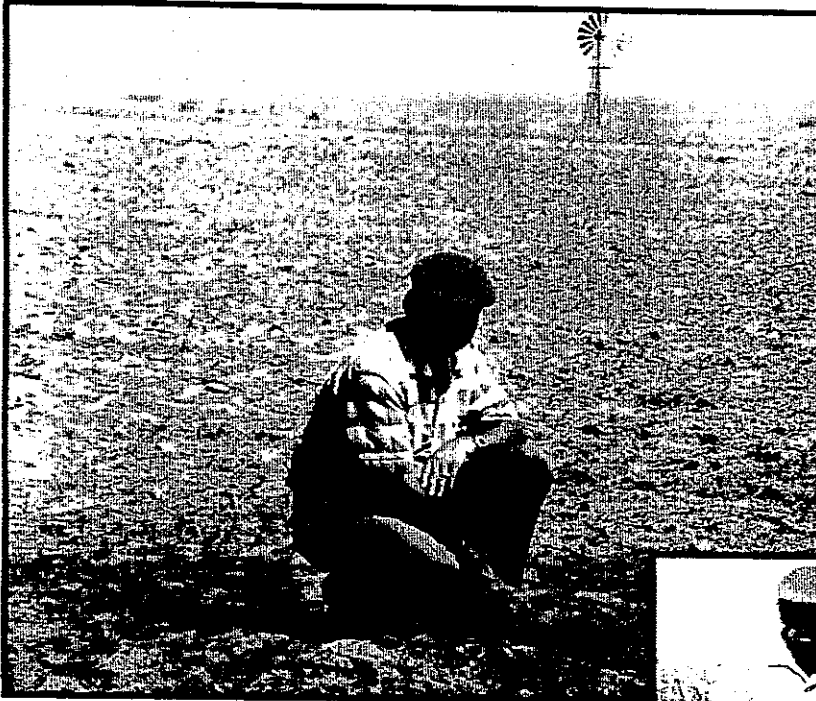
"More than half the farms in certain areas are empty."

Speaking about a yearly farmer's show, usually an all-day affair, Mr Lourens said:

"There was no gaiety, laughter or elaborate decorations, as we normally have. As I told my wife, it looked as though everyone had come to a funeral."

An overall financial

The fear the farm



□ Farmer Filippus Lourens' wasteland where it is too dry to plant another crop. Even the windmills are still

THE FARMS TURN INTO DUSTBOWLS AS KILLER DROUGHT BITES DEEPER

By DOMINIQUE GILBERT

loss on all crops amounted to about R34 million for the Villiers-Frankfort and surrounding area, he said.

Crop damage in the Frankfort area in February was estimated to be between 75 to 90 percent. In Villiers about 95 percent of the crops will yield nothing.

"It is a small farmer who has R100 000 debt this year, and after three years of drought and accumulative debt, we don't know if farmers are going to make it," said Mr Lourens.

"Anyone signing themselves to more debt now, may be signing his own death warrant. How can we tell what the next rainy season is going to be like."

On his farms alone, Mr Lourens has lost R880 000 this year from wheat, maize and grain sorghum crops. And that, he says, is a conservative estimation.

"Overdrafts at the Villiers-Frankfort Co-operative have increased considerably since 1980 as a result of the drought. But increasing outlay costs and higher interest rates have also added to this," said Mr Lourens.

In 1980, overdrafts at the co-operative amounted to R1,2 million, he said, and despite record harvests throughout the country in 1981 overdrafts at the Villiers-Frankfort Co-operative amounted to R1,6 million. In 1982 it rose to R7,8 million, and the ex-

pected overdraft for this year is R18 million.

Many are uncertain whether they can afford to plough more money into the ground and take on another year's debt. Others have lost credit rating altogether.

While the *Sunday Tribune* was in the area, hundreds of cattle and sheep were being sold at an auction.

According to farmers, many have had to sell most of their stock at low prices because they have no grazing and cannot afford to keep their animals alive.

Remaining cattle stocks are being chased onto failed mealie lands to eke out whatever grazing farmers can provide.

"Some farmers are trying to hold out to see if they can get better prices once all other



farmers have sold everything," said Mr Lourens.

He said many newborn lambs had died under these conditions, and unless it rained, calves born in spring had little chance of survival.

Letters to the Agricultural Union from the farmers' associations in the Frankfort District explain their plight and without exception plead for assistance from the Government.

(3) General

ED TO BECOME A COMMUNITY OF POOR WHITES'

The fear in the farmyard



...nd where it is too dry to plant windmills are still

TURN INTO AS KILLER 'ES DEEPER

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sheep and cattle is weak. Natural grazing has been eaten to the ground," writes the chairman, Mr Hattingh.

"We foresee that many farmers will be lost in the squeeze for money if we don't get positive help. At all costs, this should not be allowed to happen because our community's farming was always healthy and we've always been good tax payers," he continues.

What grazing was left, wrote the chairman of the Riversdal farmers association, has been taken over by termites.

"Farmers here are on fields of despondency, and the morale is very low. No one can see light for the future.

"Where we possibly could have got something for our thin cattle, the prices are unrealistically low.

"Where the money is going to come from to begin another season, is a large headache for everyone.

"Everyone has obligations which will be impossible to meet without a good harvest, and they're having sleepless nights over the high interest rates at co-operatives, commercial banks, the Land Bank and for hire purchase loans.

"According to the farmers' finances, it is an impossible situation for some, especially the younger farmers, and we urgently want to ask the Government to help us keep our land so we can continue to live on the farms.

"If we aren't drastically helped, I foresee an almost complete depopulation of the farms.

"And to where? Where is there work for everyone?"

"I predict poverty, a drastic drop in living standards and the formation of a poor white community.

"Help us please, we can't go on!"

The Van Reenenskop Farmers' Association quoted the following harvesting figures for the area's seasonal cash-crops:

- 1981 wheat harvest — 50 to 55 percent.
- 1982 mealie harvest — 25 to 30 percent.
- 1982 wheat harvest — 25 to 30 percent.
- 1983 mealie harvest — 0 to 10 percent.

"As you can understand, the situation with



Edwin Leibnitz with the horns of a buffalo killed by the drought

EDWIN LEIBNITZ, warden of the Klaserie Game Reserve, a huge privately-owned game reserve adjoining the Kruger National Park, has seen the killer drought reduce the reserve's 35 000 animals to just 7 000.

Only 10 cm of rain fell during the past six months. The animals denuded the land, and then in their thousands began to die of starvation.

Even the most hardy of animals, the warthog, has not been able to find food, and has added to the skeleton-filled landscape. Last September there were 7 000 warthog on the reserve, now there are only 260.

Worst hit were the impala. In September there were 20 000, now there are only 6 500. Seven thousand wildebeest are down to 450, and 950 buffalo are now 62.

"It is so bad that I have even found hippos searching for food 7kms away from water," says Mr Leibnitz.

He says eight hippos have died, and he expects to lose another soon.

Mr Leibnitz says the past months have been depressing.

"It was absolutely terrible. Temperatures of 43 Celsius day after day, week after week, and without any rain.

"Sometimes there would be a buildup of clouds, but seldom would it rain."

He says that some animals have probably migrated from the reserve and may move back, but with the winter coming he expects to lose another 30 or 40 percent.

He says it would have been prohibitive economic-

Famine wipes out game

By KEVIN DAVIE

ally to bring in feed for the animals, but that luciferene was brought in for the 12 rhinos.

"We paid a lot of money for the rhinos, and have to keep a breeding nucleus."

Nonetheless, two of the 12 have died.

Mr Leibnitz is pessimistic about the future, saying the rainfall operates in 11-year cycles and "we're only in the second year of the cycle. There are still nine dry years to go."

At least six years of good rain are needed to restore the habitat to its original condition.

There has been some rain in recent weeks, which, because of the lack of ground cover is creating a big soil erosion problem. His plan is to get in nature conservation researchers to do a complete ecological study of the 62 000 hectare reserve to accurately determine carrying capacities.

"Then we must keep population numbers within these capacities to give the surviving animals a fighting chance."

Dr Uys Pienaar, the chief warden of the Kruger National Park, says the effect of the drought has been localised, and besides

Klaserie and Timbavati the other reserves are faring relatively well.

He says besides the northernmost part, which was quite dry, the Kruger National Park had had good rain, dams were full, and the veld was "lovely, green and lush".

He says the Klaserie and Timbavati reserves had been very badly hit because the area had a very poor type of soil. There was not much topsoil, and the grasses were of poor quality.

"If the rains fail, and it is not the best rainfall area, then you have a big problem."

Dr Pienaar said the huge game losses in the area were to some extent a "man-made problem" in that the owners of the reserves in attempting to have as many animals to show visitors as possible, allowed the reserves to get overstocked.

"They can't decide on limits. The areas can't support those numbers, yet they don't learn their lesson."

Dr Pienaar says there are now signs though, that these reserves may be learning the lesson of bitter experience, and want to institute controlled reduction of game such as that used in the Kruger National Park.

"We've proved this. Our policy of controlled reduction pays off handsomely."

Drop by drop power plan

● Shifting generation

"By shifting generation to areas with more water and using the older coastal stations Escom will be able to extend water supplies by 35 days," said Du Plessis.

Ingagane near Newcastle will be the first to shut down. This will be temporary, possibly from May, because the nearby Chelmsford Dam supplying the station has only 6 per cent water left.

ESCOM's plans to stretch water supplies to keep power stations going will cost R2 million a day in extra fuel alone unless the drought breaks.

This was confirmed last night by their chief press spokesman, Mr Etienne Du Plessis.

- Escom's plans include:
- Closing older stations
 - Rationing electricity and water

Atlantis Diesel Engines face R50-million parts surplus

ARK 7/4/83 3644

Staff Reporter

THERE is a R50-million "mountain" of surplus diesel engine components in storage in Atlantis where the demand anticipated by Atlantis Diesel Engines has not materialised.

The surplus is of such size and nature that it has been necessary for ADE to acquire additional premises for storage, and a portion of the surplus has been stored in containers on factory premises.

The managing director of ADE, Mr Helmut Bechurts, and the financial director, Mr Otto von G Scholtz, attributed the position at ADE to the the downswing in the economy and the importation of engines prior to the "protection date".

This was the date stipulated by the Government

after which it became virtually impossible for companies to import engines and after which ADE would have no competitors.

Mr Bechurts said the drought meant farmers had no money to buy tractors or vehicles and was additional factor which created the surplus. The combined effect had resulted in a production cut-back of about 25 percent of ADE's capacity.

250 WORKERS RETRENCHED

In December last year ADE told employees that production was expected to be considerably lower than planned for a lengthy period. About 250 workers were retrenched in a move which the company described as "very unfortunate".

Since being approved by the Cabinet in November 1978, ADE has been steeped in controversy. Buyer resistance has been marked by claims that prices are too high and a scepticism about the quality compared to imported engines — claims which ADE has repeatedly and strongly denied.

But in answer to queries about buyer resistance and unhappiness about prices, Mr Bechurts said ADE was not experiencing any problems regarding sales and the engines were generally well accepted.

He said it was interesting that the purchase price of vehicles or tractors was no longer the first consideration, but had moved to third place behind operation costs and quality of production.

ADE employs about 2 000 people.

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Recession hits farm exports

Financial Reporter

SOUTH African agricultural exporters are facing increasing problems in trying to compete overseas, according to the 1982 report of the Land Bank.

It says that South African agricultural exports were R2 045-million in 1981 against R1 237-million in 1976 and R431-million in 1970.

The report says: "Although certain branches of the agricultural industry produce mainly for the export market production in general has increased to such an extent that South Africa is on an increasing-scale looking to markets abroad for the sale of surplus production.

"The stage has indeed been reached where the prosperity of the South African agriculturist is closely related to the success that can be achieved through competitive exports of his products.

"Today South Africa is one of the small group of food exporters in the world.

"Agricultural exports are, however, subjected to economic conditions prevailing in the importing countries.

"The serious recessionary conditions being experienced by South Africa's trading partners tend to have a depressive influence on exports and impede marketing abroad.

"In addition, South Africa

must compete abroad against uneconomic price levels due to her own high production costs.

"Consequently those agricultural industries which are export-oriented have over the past few years been experiencing ever increasing problems in striving to export economically.

"The agricultural sector's importance in the South African domestic economy is not only related to export earnings.

"Agriculture has basically a threefold function — the production of food for the population, the provision of a means of livelihood for the rural population and the utilisation of natural resources.

"The worldwide demand for food is increasing with the growth in the world population and as far as South Africa is concerned this process is coupled with the continued improvement in the standards of living of the various population groups."

Farmers owed the Land Bank R838-million in long-term loans at the end of 1982, compared with R484-million at the end of 1978.

These amounts were secured by mortgage bonds and charges against fixed property.

On December 31, 1982, farmers had arrears with the bank totalling more than R18-million in unpaid interest and capital instalments.

JAPIE JACOBS

Switching farm debt

FM 8/4/83

3



Japie Jacobs, Reserve Bank deputy governor and chairman of the agricultural working committee spoke to the *FM* this week about aspects of agricultural finances including the new consolidation plan.

Does the new consolidation scheme for agricultural debt mean the Land Bank will take over part of a farmer's debts with the commercial banks?

Yes. In view of the seriousness of the situation the Land Bank will probably be prepared to consolidate more than the usual 33,3% of a farmer's outstanding bank loan. But only certain loans will qualify. For instance, a loan used to acquire another farm will not qualify for consolidation while a debt with, say, a garage for servicing tractors will.

The upshot of the consolidation scheme will be to reduce the banking system's exposure to the agricultural sector's current difficulties. But we hope that in view of the decline in prime lending the banks will see their way clear to further assist farmers by reducing the interest rate on their overdrafts.

How will the Land Bank fund repayments of the debts it consolidates?

In the normal way. But one thing to keep in mind is that repayment from the Land Bank to the co-ops as well as the commercial banks is a kind of switching operation. In the first place the co-ops

borrow the money they lend to the farmer from the Land Bank. So by consolidating those loans the Land Bank is simply switching debtors from the co-op to the farmer, albeit on different terms.

With the commercial banks, the Land Bank will borrow from the banks themselves, in the form of an overdraft or by issuing Land Bank bills, to repay consolidated overdrafts. The net effect will be to switch the banks from the currently more risky debtor, the farmer, to the more creditworthy Land Bank.

But isn't this process inflationary?

One could argue it is inflationary. Land Bank bills qualify as liquid assets for the banks. So the size of their holdings governs the level of credit they extend. If the banks' liquidity base is swelled by an unscheduled issue of these bills, and they respond by increasing their credit facilities to the public, it could be inflationary. But in this case, Land Bank bills issued to finance debts taken over from banks will be minimal. In recent months the reduced demand for funds from the Land Bank has meant a decline in the utilisation of these bills, making it less of a problem now than it was last year.

How does this fit in with the Land Bank's outstanding borrowing facility with the commercial banks?

The Land Bank still has plenty of scope for funding its short-term requirements. In June last year the Land Bank finalised a facility of R3,1 billion with the commercial banks, bringing its estimated short-term cash requirements to a total of R3,8 billion. But only R2,2 bil-

lion of the R3,1 billion has so far been used by the Land Bank. This decline in demand for its funds is due partly to the drought itself and to the fact that the Wool Board and the Deciduous Fruit Board were using foreign finance.

Why, and how, do you intend to encourage the development of a secondary market in Land Bank bills?

When finalising Land Bank facilities last year we found the commercial banks felt they were subsidising farmers through the lower rate at which they lent to the Land Bank. The fact that the bills were virtually untradeable on the secondary market only exacerbated their dissatisfaction.

So in consultation with the banks we decided to foster a secondary market by adjusting our rediscount rate policy for Land Bank bills. In the past almost no Land Bank bills were traded because the Reserve Bank's rediscount rate, linking them to the bankers' acceptance rate, placed them at a disadvantage. Now with Land Bank bill rediscount rate quoted at 1,5% over the Treasury bill rate, it is more attractive to use Land Bank bills to obtain accommodation from the Bank.

We have seen some trading in Land Bank bills since we changed our re-discounting policy three weeks ago. But it will take time to establish an active secondary market in Land Bank bills.

However, the long-term goal is that Land Bank bills should be traded at their own rates in the same way as BAs and TBs. It will be convenient as all three qualify as liquid assets for banks.

Balancing the book

3

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substantial restructuring of the Land Bank's balance sheet took place during 1982. Drought conditions, exceptionally high interest rates and increased input costs seriously jeopardised farmers' ability to repay loans, and some were effectively excluded. On the other side of its book, the bank changed its method of raising

According to the bank's latest annual report for the year ended December 31 1982, farmers' debts increased by 14,8% from R849m to R976m. Higher interest rates meant that servicing these debts also increased dramatically. The government decided to subsidise interest payable by farmers on production credits to the extent of 3% for a period of one year until August 31 1983. This is estimated to cost around R10m.

The main restraining influences on farmers have been exceptionally high interest rates, and higher purchase prices for tractors, implements and livestock. Coupled with increased production costs, farmers have found it increasingly difficult to meet commitments and farm on an economic basis. The bank therefore decided to increase the repayment periods of intermediate and medium-term loans to between two to 10

years. Serious drought conditions over large areas of the country meant that summer grain crops declined by 45%. Drought conditions also prevailed throughout 1982 in the main stock-producing areas. There were no less than 36 distressed grazing areas listed. Relief has been granted for a number of years in respect of those production credits farmers could not repay as a result of crop losses. Debts which had to be carried over to the following year received an interest rate subsidy of 3,5%.

Aid scheme

The subsidies, both for summer grain and winter cereals, were abolished last year, however. In their place a new aid scheme was introduced. All outstanding debts in respect of production credits up to the summer 1982 season were consolidated and allowed to run for a maximum period of four years. Interest on these carry-over debts will be subsidised as a percentage of the Bank's ruling rate of interest to co-operatives.

Beginning on September 1 1982, the subsidy will amount to 30% for the first year, reducing 5% each year thereafter for a maximum period of four years. No subsidy will be payable for the production of summer grain for the 1983 season.

Instalment and interest arrears increased considerably through crop failures

and the increased burden of larger loans. Total medium- and long-term borrowing arrears to farmers amounted to R25,3m. The largest increase occurred in the medium-term sector. As a percentage of capital owing, arrears rose from 2,5% to 6,3%.

The Bank was able to meet all short-term loans required by the co-operatives for production and crop handling, but had to restrict long-term lending to essential capital expenditure.

The Land Bank's total book debt increased by over R510m during 1982. At the same time, the commercial banks experienced a sharp increase in demand for short-term facilities from other sectors, and were unwilling to satisfy the Bank's demand for funds through the normal preferential channels.

A new policy effected on July 1 1982 reduced the Bank's reliance on commercial bank overdraft facilities from R2,2 billion to R436m. Instead, funds were raised by the issue of negotiable paper. Two ordinary debenture loans were floated to raise a total of R425m, while slightly more than R1 billion debentures was issued to the commercial banks.

In addition, by the 1982 year end, bills to the value of R2,8 billion had been discounted at commercial banks.

A surplus of R34,3m was transferred to the Bank's reserve fund on December 31.

Cricketer fined R250 for assault

DURBAN — Natal fast bowler Evan Hodgkinson was fined R250 (or 100 days) in the Durban Magistrate's Court for assaulting a man with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Hodgkinson, 22, pleaded not guilty to assaulting Mr Ernest Hayes, at the Northlands Sports Club on February 20.

The scuffle between the two men followed an incident when Hodgkinson slapped a dog and was reprimanded by a woman sitting nearby.

The court heard he told the woman to mind her own business.

Hodgkinson, said he had slapped Mr Hayes in self-defence because he thought Mr Hayes was going to attack him.

Hodgkinson is due to leave shortly to play for an English cricket team on a six-month contract and is also facing civil action. — Sapa

Warning as farm workers start quitting the land

Weekend Post Reporter

FARM labourers and their families are quitting the land and trekking to the cities because the drought has left them without work and wages, claims Mr Solly Essop, chairman of the Farm Workers' Union.

He said as many as 1 000 labourers could have left farms in the Karoo and headed into Port Elizabeth or East London.

Mr Essop said a catastrophic depopulation of the rural areas was under way and called on the Government to assist farmers with subsidies for workers' wages.

Workers and their families were leaving on donkey carts to find work in the cities. "This must be stopped because many of these people will never return," he said.

He told Weekend Post the exodus could be worse than in 1932, when whites headed for the cities.

"A few months ago I made a plea to the Government to subsidise farmers because they couldn't afford to pay their workers.

"My biggest concern is that the workers will drift away and never return to the land — and there is no housing or work for them in the cities.

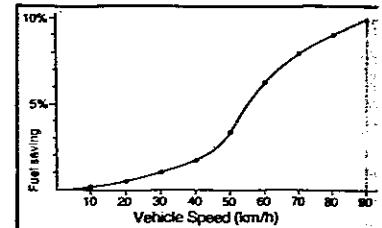
"They are not qualified to do anything but manual work. There will be cause for friction and the situation in the cities will worsen."

● A spokesman for the East Cape Agricultural Union said he had no knowledge of such a large-scale exodus from the land and a spokesman for the Farmers' Union pointed out that Government loans were available to farmers to help meet wage bills.

W cuts

The new Hino F-Series medium to heavy trucks have all-new look. Biggest change Air Flow Cab, aerodynamic reduce air resistance by 30% usage by up to 10%.

Inside, the cab is human engineered for maximum comfort.



The cab is designed along aerodynamic principles resulting in 35% less air resistance than the previous cab, and up to 10% improvement in fuel consumption, as the graph above shows.

good Living

THE Evening Post's next edition of GOOD LIVING will be published on Wednesday, April 27. Editorial inquiries to Sandi Krige, Good Living Editor, ☎ 523480.

To advertise in GOOD LIVING, the Eastern Cape's only consumer magazine, contact the deputy advertising manager, Dave Grey, at ☎ 523470. Booking deadline is Tuesday, April 12.

Top SA road runner is out of job

Weekend Post Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — One of South Africa's greatest athletes, Matthews Batswadi, is destitute and out of a job after being retrenched by a mining company three months ago.

Batswadi, 34, a Springbok who won the South African cross-country title three years in a row, took the country by storm when he broke several road records in the mid- and late 1970s.

He is perhaps the finest cross-country runner South Africa has produced and dominated this branch of athletics like a giant for several years.

He was also a superb road runner and was unbeatable for some seasons over 16 kilometres and the

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7/4/83

Drought is seen as big typhoid source

By LIZ MCGREGOR
Medical Reporter

THE drought is probably a major contributor to the outbreak of typhoid in KwaZulu, according to the Durban Regional Officer of Health.

Thirty cases of typhoid including two deaths, have been reported in Newcastle in the last month. Dr S Smith, Madadeni Hospital's superintendent, said yesterday that 53 typhoid cases had been admitted to the hospital since January. This was a sharp increase over the average, he said.

A major outbreak would be difficult to cope with because the hospital's water intake had been reduced by 60%, he said.

Dr J van Rensburg, Regional Officer of Health in

Durban, said yesterday that when water sources started drying up, they became increasingly polluted and people became less discriminating in their choice of drinking water.

Typhoid was spread through poor environmental circumstances and poor hygiene, he said.

Meanwhile, the number of bacteriologically proven cholera cases has risen to 3 421, according to a spokesman for the Department of Health and Welfare in Pretoria.

The number of people who have been treated for cholera is 15 361, she said.

This figure excludes Transkei and Bophuthatswana, for which figures were not available.

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Every hour that a one-bar electrical heater burns 2½ litres of water are used.

Blackouts in a thirsty land

36 and 220

Weekend Argus Reporters April 1983

BY August or September this year, the drought wilting South Africa's agriculture could be shutting down industrial production and switching off domestic lights.

And inside that gloom more jobs could be threatened — in a country where recession has already stretched the unemployment queues.

Escom, the major producer of electricity, believes it has sufficient water available to its crucial Highveld power stations to keep generating fully through the winter.

Protected

Industry, by far the major consumer of electricity, will undoubtedly be protected as far as possible from damaging power cuts, but a critical shortage of power could be disastrous.

"Obviously, if there were extensive power cuts, it would affect gold mining very seriously indeed," said a spokesman for the Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg. Some industrialists believe most factories in the country would be laying off workers if power cuts were widespread and lasting.

"This is one of the things that Escom is tremendously worried about at the moment," Escom regional public relations officer Mr Andre van Heerden said in Cape Town this week. In the event of serious blackouts, "mines and industry are liable to be hit the hardest".

Repercussions

The effect on the Western Cape would be felt in "pretty much the same way" as in the north of the country. "You can imagine the sort of repercussions if we were in the position of not having water to produce power. It affects production, and jobs."

Were the Koeberg nuclear-powered station on stream and generating to its full capacity, Escom could be exporting its excess to the north.

The Highveld power stations use about 2½ litres of water to generate one kilowatt hour of electricity, and Escom is stressing the need for consumers to save electricity: every hour that a one-bar electrical heater burns uses 2½ litres of water.

In Johannesburg this week, Mr John Nelson, acting president of the Steel and Engineering Industries' Federation of South Africa, said power cuts would inflict a "gigantic problem" on industry. "If power cuts occur on a big scale, industry will grind to a halt," he said.

Computers

Banking, reliant on computers, will also be hit hard. "If there were a serious power failure, it would certainly set the cat amongst the pigeons," said Mr Bill Jones, general manager of operations for the Standard Bank.

"Power is vital to our industry. If the supply collapses, so does much of the banking system."

Blackouts would seriously disrupt the South African Iron and Steel Corporation (Iscor). Managing director Mr Floors Kotzee said: "We can only hope this situation does not arise. We have limited back-up supplies to keep furnaces ticking over, but if power to a particular works were cut, men would have to be laid off."

Cutbacks

Cape Town City Electrical Engineer Mr D C Palser believes the city could run up its Athlone power station to make up a cutback on Escom power from the north, and that only towns without their own generating ability would feel full blackouts.

Table Bay power sta-

But, come spring, selective blackouts could be introduced. And the Western Cape, dependent on Highveld power stations for up to 80 percent of its electricity, will be hit as hard as northern consumers.

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Drought has emptied the country's major rivers and storage reservoirs, and dams supplying water for power stations' cooling systems are dropping so rapidly that emergency measures are being considered to keep water flowing to the utilities.

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DOWN

1. Few people give much thought to the problems typical — has to face **WAITER/WRITER**
2. Consumes **EATS**
4. Desires **WANTS**
5. One — often clashes with another **REBEL/REVEL**
8. It would be unusual if people show no response at all to a — **JEST/PEST**
10. It's particularly the sensitive person who is repelled by acquaintance with — in his temperament **ICE/IRE**
11. Persons who — would obviously benefit from a firm but sympathetic discipline **MOPE/TOPE**
12. To — someone is an obvious act of hostility **SMEAR/SPEAR**
13. — might be none too pleased if work is required in haste **PAINTER/PRINTER**
14. Short winter days could be a handicap to — **ROVERS/ROWERS**
16. Vessel that is — is hardly going to make rapid progress **ROWED/TOWED**
17. Illuminated — might glow with colour **PAGE/PANE**
18. Festivity **GALA**
19. One tends to think of a — as long and narrow **SLIT/SLOT**
21. All sorts of questions may come into one's mind as one prepares to — an exam **SET/SIT**


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COUNTRY

did nothing for me - I learned a lot, but my life was empty."

He said there were many other sportsmen who had also been converted. Henry Hauser, ex-Springbok soccer player, was involved in his being converted and they have become very good friends.

Snowy Sooter, ex-Springbok rugby captain, Trevor Goddard and many others had also committed themselves.

"Daily there are more and more sportsmen. I think that's all in His plan and perhaps he did not intend me to find him before. "Christianity is great fun, it's full of smiles, full of joy and a whole new world of peace."

a thirsty land

Weekend Argus Reporters

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blackouts, but unless substantial rainfall improves the situation in the north, the likelihood will be probability by the end of the north's dry winter.

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Table Bay power station, which the City Council has decided to shut down, is unlikely to be retained as a standby. "I can not see that we would get into such dire straits that that we would have to run Table Bay," he said.



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When a dream turns into a nightmare

FARMER'S AMBITION A WITHERED RUIN

THE drought has turned a man's dream into a nightmare of parched fields, dead crops and empty dams.

This week Mr Michael van Huyssteen, 60, told how he had worked hard all his life to make his fortune as a trucker ... so that he could buy a farm and realise his life's ambition.

The day he took over his "dream" farm, Tweefontein, near Parys, it poured with rain. The fields were green, the dams were full.

That was in December 1980. It has hardly rained since.

Mr van Huyssteen is still waiting for another good downpour to soak the parched ground that won't be yielding the crops he expected.

As he stood in his yellow field, where the mealies have withered at waist level, he looked up at the purple-grey clouds that loomed teasingly above Parys.

"Don't let that fool you," he said, pointing skywards. "The clouds look like that every day, but they never bring the rain."

As he has watched the clouds each day and waited in vain for the rain, he has also seen his dream of being a farmer crumble into dust.

He has now been forced to admit that he might have to leave the land and return to town.

"I grew up on a farm and it has been my life's ambition to own my own farm, but if this drought continues, I will not be able to stay on," he said.

"I came to farm for the pleasure of it, but I can assure you there is no pleasure in farming when there is no rain."

"I can't stand it any more." Mr van Huyssteen bought Tweefontein and another farm, Hermanus, for R148 000.

Punch drunk
He still operates his Sasolburg-based transport company, but his main line of business — transporting fertiliser for farmers — has also been affected by the drought. "I have lost a lot, and I don't know what is going to happen as we go deeper into winter."

DAVID FORRET REPORTS FROM THE STRICKEN FARMLANDS
PICTURES BY HORACE POTTER



Mr Michael van Huyssteen ... dead crops and empty dams are all that remain

Farmers gamble as flocks face starvation

AN auction of despair was held this week in a town surrounded by cattle and sheep facing starvation.

For sheep farmer Oom Gert van Rensburg, it meant a decision on whether to cut his losses and concede a victory to the drought ... or gamble on a break in the weather soon.

He was offered R36 a head for the Merino sheep he had taken in desperation to the cattle auction at Tweeling, in the arid northern Free State.

The auctioneer's lilling tones had stopped abruptly at that amount.

Oom Gert had to decide whether to let his flock go at the low price or take them back to his farm in the Frankfort district, where they could face possible starvation in the winter months.

Leaning over the rail of the cattle pen, he pushed his hand into the thick coat of one of the sheep, and made up his mind.



Wyn Dedwith ... "If next year's as dry we won't be able to take the punch"

R250 000 loss as family counts the cost

... the sheep, and made up his mind.

He could not let them go for that price, he said. He wanted at least R37 a head — which is already R12 lower than the price he would normally expect.

Imploping

"They are young and good ... moooi goed," he said, almost imploring the prospective buyers to think again.

Only the top bidder wavered in the silence that followed and pushed his bid up by 10c a head.

"Oom Gert, what do we do now?" the auctioneer asked sympathetically.

"Nee, I have already told you my price," he replied and, turning to his son, added: "We have worked very hard with these sheep ... we cannot just give them away."

Lake Oom Gert, most of the farmers at the auction have been compelled to sell off livestock because of the lack of grazing.

They are all feeling the squeeze of the drought — in its second successive year in the northern parts of the Free State, where most of the crop farmers also keep livestock as a financial buffer against poor harvests.

"Some of us have had to be content with unsatisfactory prices just to cut our losses," said Mr Nic Smit, 40, from Warden, who has sold about two-thirds of his livestock in the past few months.

It was the first time this year that Mr van Rensburg



Oom Gert van Rensburg and his son ... "No rain before winter and it's all over"

and his son had brought their sheep to the auction at Tweeling, the small Free State town south of Frankfort.

They had been holding out because prices were so low, but they now acknowledge

that they cannot hang on much longer.

"We brought 300 sheep to the auction, but we still have thousands that must go," said Mr van Rensburg.

"There is absolutely no grazing left and you can't even get fodder unless you pay about R8 a bale (four times the normal price)."

Mr van Rensburg estimates that he will have enough grazing and fodder for his 7 000 sheep and 1 200 cattle to last him until the end of next month.

Then he will have no alternative but to get rid of a large number of them ... no matter what the price.

His bitterness shows as he discusses the current prices. Like other farmers, he complains that the producers and consumers are losing out while the middlemen — the "speculators" — are cashing in on the misfortune of the farmers.

Limited

"When the speculators were buying sheep for about R23 a head at the auctions last month, I managed to get R38 a head, after transport and other costs had been deducted, at the abattoir. But our quota (to send sheep directly to the abattoir) was limited to 50."

"The speculators are sitting with all the quotas from the Meat Board," he claimed.

The present situation, coupled with the high costs of diesel, fertiliser, implements and other goods, was "trampling the farmer into the ground."

"If there is no rain before the winter then it's all over. There will certainly be no chance of survival."

... happen as we go deeper into winter."

Mr van Huissteen is only one of a number of farmers in the normally rich maize fields of the Northern Free State who have suffered because of the drought.

They see no hope for the future if the drought hasn't broken by the end of August.

Mr Ferdie Zitzke, 28, who farms with his father, Eric, on their farm Kleimbos, about 20km northeast of Koppies, is equally despondent about the future.

"The drought has left us punch-drunk," he said.

"We don't know what we will do if it continues. If there is no rain, we will have to go looking for work, but don't ask me where we'll find it."

Mr Nico Viljoen, 29, who farms near Heilbron, said there would have to be good rains in the winter if farmers were to survive on the land.

"I think many farmers will have to move from the land. Last year was bad, but this year has been the death of many farmers."

"And the critical time is still to come between August and October. If this drought lasts for another year, I estimate that only about five percent of the present farmers will still be on their land."

Mr Viljoen said he was fortunate in that he was not really in a desperate position at this stage and he had no intention of giving up farming.

Critical

Most of the farmers in the Northern Free State are not entirely satisfied with the massive aid that has been promised by the Government to save them from financial ruin.

They were critical of the plan to reschedule farmers' debts because this, according to Mr Viljoen, would be like "farming backwards".

Mr Gert van Rensburg, of Frankfort, agreed with this view.

He said: "Under this scheme, a farmer will become like a civil servant."

"This won't save the farmer, it will merely make him a slave of the State."

The crop failures and continuing drought have also had an adverse effect on the small platteland towns that are almost totally dependent on the agricultural industry.

In the Villiers district, where catastrophic crop failures are expected when harvesting begins later next month, many of the farmers have already left their homesteads to find work in the towns to help see them through financially.

The Mayor of Villiers, Mr Alexander Foster, says the townsfolk are extremely worried by the drought.

"We are dependent on the farming community for our livelihoods. Villiers will be hit very hard by the drought because there is absolutely nothing (in terms of crops) this time."

INZJU UUU IUSS AS FAMILY COUNTS THE COST

A FARMING family this week counted the cost of the drought — and totted up a R250 000 disaster.

That's what the Dedwiths, who farm vast tracts of land north of Parys, estimate they have lost so far.

Mr Walter Dedwith, 74, the Free State-born son of a Welsh settler, struggled through the 1933 drought as a young man, and is now experiencing again the nightmare on his farm, Rocky Ridge, about 20km north of Parys.

With him is his only son, Wyn, 30, who owns a neighbouring farm, Vrybeid, and hires three other farms in the same area.

They cultivate about 900ha of land for maize and grain sorghum which, with their

500 head of cattle and dairy farming activities, amounts to a total farming investment of R1.5-million.

At the start of the season the Dedwiths anticipated a profit of about R100 000 on their maize harvest.

□□□

Now, instead of a profit, they are counting their massive losses — and still waiting for the rain to come.

They estimate they have lost about R250 000 alone in "input costs", such as labour, seed, fertiliser and other requirements.

"This area was particularly badly hit by the drought and we have absolutely no crop

to speak of," said Wyn Dedwith.

"I can't see even 20 percent of the normal crop being delivered in the Parys district this season."

He said that they would probably harvest only 25 tons of mealies this year instead of the 3 000 tons that they anticipated at the start of the season.

"The people in the towns don't realise the full impact of the drought ... they might have to pay a little more for their milk and beef, but they are not really directly affected."

"But the guy on the platteland is going to face near disaster, no matter who he is. If this drought continues there are no ways that we are going to stave off bankruptcy without

aid (from the Government).

"If next year is just as dry we won't be able to take the pump."

Mr Walter Dedwith, who moved onto his present farm only three years after the 1933 drought, believes that the current disaster is far worse if only because the financial investment in farming is now much higher.

□□□

Farmers stand to lose a lot more money. For him, it means a lifetime's work.

He has vivid memories of the emergency measures he had to take to save his cattle 50 years ago, when he managed to get grazing for his family's cattle in Vryburg a couple of hundred kilometres away.

Public has yet to feel the bite



Mr Flip du Plooy, left, and Mr Jan Human ... hoping for relief from the drought

By RUTH GOLEMRO FROM an office in Pretoria, a worried Flip du Plooy surveys the calamity of a drought that has devastated South African agriculture.

Nothing has escaped, he says with a sigh. Every sector of the agricultural industry is reeling under the crippling blow of the drought.

It's gloomy talking to Mr du Plooy, secretary of the Transvaal Agricultural Union.

He shakes his head in despair when he tells how he has "seen farmers brought to their knees" by the drought.

Too late

And how it has even "wiped some small farmers out altogether."

He says: "Their means of income has been taken away from them and there is no chance of recovering with winter irrigation crops."

"Many have already been forced to abandon their farms and seek work elsewhere."

"Some who are frantically trying to sell their farms have failed ... there is little market demand."

"Luckily, there are others

PRICES OF ALL PRODUCE WILL RISE

who would never try to sell out. There is an Afrikaans saying among farmers that 'next year' will be the best year ever'.

"That is if they can hold out."

The Government's new drought relief plan will bring a little comfort — but it has come too late to save many farmers from financial ruin.

The real tragedy and ravages of the drought, according to Mr du Plooy, are still to be seen.

Worst hit

"Every facet of farming has been affected. No product has been spared. Every crop and every animal has suffered. The consumer can also expect to be badly hit."

The north-western Transvaal, from behind the South-pansburg mountains to Mes-

sina and Phalaborwa, has been worst hit. This is our most important cattle area.

"We have never experienced a drought like this — things are so bad that there are no crops, no feed and very tight water restrictions."

"Farmers are losing thousands of rands by having to reduce their stock — cattle and sheep are being sold at a third of the normal price."

"And then when better times come — they are going to have to buy back stock at the inflated price of the good times."

Expensive

The deputy secretary of the union, Mr Jan Human, pointed out that it was a vicious circle — with everyone being hurt.

"Produce is at a low, but we are going to have to continue exporting goods to keep to our contracts with overseas customers."

"And because of the small amount of fruit and vegetables produced, we are probably going to have to import goods to supplement our markets."

"When the situation improves, meat will become more expensive because there will be less of it."

Sympathy, slogans and suggestions pour in

THERE was an overwhelming response this week to the SUNDAY TIMES DROUGHT ALERT.

Letters and telephone calls poured in, showing that South Africans are deeply aware of the drought crisis and impending winter of hardship.

Many readers offered slogans and water-saving suggestions ranging from the traditional brick in the cistern to towing icebergs from the south Atlantic.

Here are some of the letters:

AFTER reading your Drought Alert, I felt I had to write to you.

Last Monday, a boiling hot day, we travelled home from Grahamstown via the Transkei.

The most heart-rending scene was small children holding up little hands for something to eat in the Bashee area.

There is nothing in this very remote area — no grass, no trees, no water, nothing. It's wonderful to think there is a newspaper that cares. — JENNIFER ADIE, Port Shepstone.

SOUTH Africa showed great resourcefulness and initiative in building Sasol as an alternative source of fuel. We can do the same now by finding alternative sources of water.

I think that the number one source of pure water is the icebergs of the South Pole. These icebergs can be towed to such places as Richards Bay, chopped up and distributed.

Another alternative source of water could be to build desalination plants along our coastline. — ALFIE CALENBORNE, Howick.

I SUGGEST "Operation Jerrycan". To help those in stricken areas obtain a

minimum ration of water, we should manufacture 10-million jerrycans forthwith.

Fill them with water and place them at strategic points in drought areas.

Every motorist going to the affected area must convey at least five jerrycans to a pre-arranged collecting point in the area and, on returning, pick up empties. — BRIGADIER G ROBERTSON, Pretoria.

HERE are some suggested slogans for the Drought Alert effort.

Water is a sacred trust To conserve it is a mast.

As a solace and a need Let water saving be your creed

Water is our greatest need Only fools do not take heed. — Mrs G M BAART, Kimberley.

HERE are a few tips for saving water in the garden:

● Gardens or flower beds should have small banks to make dams to prevent rainwater from running away.

● Roses, shrubs and small trees should be set in the centre of a saucer-shaped dam.

Then a sheet of plastic with a 30cm hole in the centre, should be placed on top of the saucer shape.

The sun on the plastic will cause the moisture in the soil to come to the surface.

If it should rain, the water will run to the centre and into the soil. — B J SOLAN, Benoni.

● How bad is the drought in your area?

Write to: Sunday Times Drought Alert, Box 1090, Johannesburg 2000, or phone 710-2604.



Mealies in northern Free State — farmers keep livestock as financial buffer against poor harvests

Rain brings little relief

EAST LONDON — Soft rain fell over parts of the Border, Transkei and Ciskei at the weekend.

Temperatures also dropped sharply in the wake of a cold front which swept across the area, according to a spokesman for the weather office in Port Elizabeth.

A light drizzle fell on Saturday morning and continued through the night in most areas.

East London registered 5,3 mm. There were also light showers around Alice, Bedford, Fort Beaufort, Stutterheim, Peddie, Middelbush, Whittlesea and Komga, and intermittent showers at Dordrecht and Queenstown, where 12 mm was registered.

No rain fell at Port Alfred but it was overcast.

"Although it's cold, it's still a long way from winter," the spokesman said.

Although rain fell throughout the country it failed to bring significant relief from the drought.

Most rain fell in the

Free State town of Zastron, where 35 mm was recorded. Aliwal North received 21 mm, while the highest rainfall recorded in the Transvaal was at Vereeniging, where 9,4 mm fell.

Thundershowers fell in the Drakensberg, but there was little rain in the rest of Natal, despite cloudy weather.

In the homelands and national states, there was no relief from a drought which has parched grazing land and meant a shortage of water for household use.

Officials in Ciskei said that unless good rain fell soon, irrigation schemes would cease to operate.

In the Transvaal, soft, soaking rain fell, but by the afternoon the weather had started to clear.

Oberholzer and Carletonville received about 65 mm of rain.

Aliwal North received 21 mm, Willomere 12,3 mm, Graaff-Reinet 7,5 mm, Middelburg Cape 9,3 mm, De Aar 8,4 mm, Bloemfontein 4,0 mm, and Potchefstroom 8,5 mm. — DDR-SAPA.

Shacks and cars were set alight during the fight which, according to sources in the area, developed out of a battle for the leadership of local residents.

The killings took place so quickly that by the time police arrived on the scene, the situation was already calming and the only action left for them to take was that of assisting rescue services in the grisly task of sifting through debris for corpses.

The battle started about 9 am with the stoning of a shack. The attack apparently took place after an earlier incident in which a faction leader was assaulted.

Police could not confirm the earlier incident.

It is understood about 300 people were involved in the fight. The groups used pangas and fire to settle their differences as other residents scattered for safety.

Few would later say anything about the incident and a woman who was in the house attacked said: "I was hit. I am deurmekaar. I don't know what it was about."

When the battle ended, one home, a "coffee shop," a "store" and a section of the Zizamele Primary School and five vehicles had been destroyed. Other homes nearby had been damaged by stones.

Mr George Zakade, who did not witness the battle but who knew the people involved, said as far as he knew all those who died had been members of one particular group.

Captain Jan Calitz, a police liaison officer for the Western Cape, could not confirm this.

Of the 26 injured men, three were shot by small calibre firearms, a spokesman for the Police Directorate of Public Relations said in Pretoria.

Police stopped the fighting but "no policeman fired a shot," the spokesman added.

Five had died from burn wounds and three from other injuries, including panga wounds.

The injured had been taken to hospital. None of the 26 was in a serious condition.

Captain Calitz said he could not comment on a report that a local leader was missing.

The reaction unit and policemen from nearby stations, firemen and ambulances raced to the scene as soon as they received news of the battle.

Thick palls of smoke rose from the camp. Bits of tin lay strewn about the area. The smell of burning rubber hung over the battle site as crowds of people stood looking at the scene.

While traffic officers and uniformed policemen set up roadblocks cordoning off Cross roads, rescuers set about their task of extinguishing the fires, treating the wounded and looking for bodies, many of which were found in the burnt debris.

At one stage at least 10 police vehicles were at the scene.

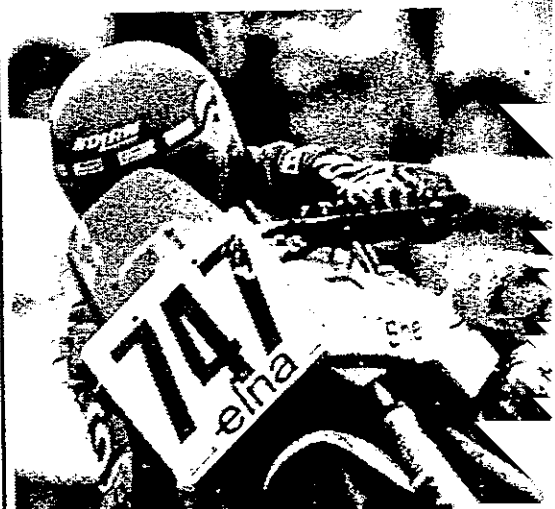
Initially police said they had found five dead people. At that stage they could not establish the sex of some of them.

By 11 am, the toll had risen to six dead. The further bodies were found in a wrecked shack about 12.30 pm. Firemen removed the bodies in bags while members of the reaction unit, some armed with shotguns, kept a watchful eye on the situation.

Last night trouble again flared when a shack was set alight by a crowd of between 50 and 100 people.

Captain Calitz said police had used tear gas to disperse the crowd. No one had been injured. — DDC.

D. Dipatcher 1/18/83
General
1/18/83



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D. Dipertek 1/18/83

General

(S)

EAST LONDON — Towns in the Border are confident their water supplies will survive the approaching winter "dry" season — if residents observe water restrictions.

The East London city engineer, Mr Graham Keppie, said the restrictions would be constantly monitored and updated if necessary.

"We can't assume we will get rain at the next available opportunity, so we have to keep ahead of the situation," he said.

In King William's Town, the borough engineer, Mr G. Smith, said the situation at present was "very serious".

"We are frantically installing pumps to transfer water from the lower part of town to the top," he said.

The town normally draws its water from the Maden and Rooikrantz dams, but had a line from the Laing Dam.

Maden Dam is virtually empty and Rooikrantz Dam is expected to dry up within the next two months.

Although Laing Dam was 94 per cent full, as there was little demand on it, water from there could only serve the lower half of the town, Mr Smith said.

"We are putting in two pumps, at a cost of about

Drought: towns live in hope

D. Dispatch 12/4/23

(3) General

R46 000, to pump Laing Dam water up to the top half of the town and to Bisho," he said.

"We hope to get them working by the end of this month, but if we don't, things could start to get a little hairy.

In Fort Beaufort, the town clerk, Mr Danie van Eck, described the position as "very difficult".

In Komga, it was not possible to know exactly how much water the town had, the town clerk, Mr H. J. de Villiers, said.

The town has no reservoirs or dams — only boreholes.

"The boreholes are still okay, but we just don't know how long they will last," he said.

The Stutterheim muni-

The town clerk of Bedford, Mr Godfrey Rudman, said the town's Andrew Turpin Dam was 44 per cent full and should have enough water for the winter.

"The inflow is 1 400 gallons (73 000 litres) an hour and at present the dam is dropping by an inch (2.5 cm) a day, but this is mainly due to evaporation.

"With the colder weather, I think the inflow will keep the dam at a steady level — about 40 per cent full," he said.

The situation in Queenstown was still "all right", the acting town clerk, Mr A. H. White, said.

"We should be able to last the winter."

Cathcart had a strong water supply from three dams, all of which were about 30 per cent full, the town clerk, Mr J. A. van Vuuren, said.

"We should have water for several months still — but it depends on whether the people play ball with the water restrictions." — DDR

RURAL DROUGHT PAGE 13

He said the town had just taken its second last "run" from the Kat River Dam, 30 kilometres away, to fill up its storage dams and that the dam had only about five per cent of its water supply left.

"We are very worried," he said.

He said the municipality was busy drilling boreholes to supplement its supply.

"We have just developed one which is yielding about 6 000 gallons (270 000 litres) an hour."

ality was also drilling boreholes, although, the town clerk, Mr J. H. Joubert, said, there should be enough water in the Gubu Dam to last the winter.

"We are making provision for the worst, but we should have enough."

Fresh spring water from sand dunes would be used to provide Kei Mouth with its winter water, the town clerk, Mr G. Herbert, said.

He said the spring water had been used before, and should be on line this week.

Dispatch 12/4/83

Border needs ^{(3) General} 150 mm rain to break drought

EAST LONDON — As winter approaches — with at least five “dry” months until the next rainy season in September — between 150 mm and 300 mm of rain is needed to break the worst drought in living memory.

The public relations officer of the East Cape Agricultural Union (ECAU), Mr Lourens Schoeman, said yesterday that farmers were now facing the toughest winter of their lives.

“There are acute shortages of water and fodder,” he said.

Mr Schoeman said that depending on conditions in individual areas, between 150 mm and 300 mm of rain was needed to replenish water reserves.

“But even if we get 300 mm of rain now and get a good runoff, we will not get growth in the veld. We will have to wait to September for that.”

Even now, however, farmers were still prepared to get grass into their lands if good rains fell, he said.

The two hardest hit areas were the Konap district near Grahamstown and the Komga-Kei Road district, Mr Schoeman said.

“We have already arranged with the Department of Transport to carry water for some farmers in these areas.”

The water would be transported in 27 000 litre tankers.

“We are also discussing with the Department of Defence the possibility of them making available small water trailers for use by farmers, but there has been no final decision.”

In Ciskei, the situation was “absolutely abysmal”, the director of planning, Mr Gary Godden, said.

Even the new country's prestige irrigation schemes were being threatened by the drought, although the schemes — Keiskamma, Tyefu on the Fish River and Shiloh near Queenstown — had all produced crops.

Water usage at the Keiskamma scheme had been reduced by half, Mr Godden said.

At Tyefu, which gets all its water from the Fish River, only crops tolerant to high salt levels were being grown.

The Fish River, which has a high salt content, was in no danger of drying up. “It is one of southern Africa's major rivers,” he said.

But the scheme was being threatened by the higher concentration of salt in the water.

“Its economic viability will be in grave danger if the concentration increases.”

At Shiloh, the situation was “alarming”.

Mr Godden said the scheme drew its water from the Waterdown Dam, which also served Queenstown, and which was less than a third full.

He said if no more water from the dam was made available for irrigation because of domestic water demand, which was more urgent, the scheme could face closure.

“I wouldn't even bear to consider it,” he said.

Mr Godden said the severe drought had put the irrigation schemes through their toughest test.

“They performed as we had anticipated. All the irrigation schemes came through with crops.”

“The drought has proved that this region cannot rely on rain fed agriculture — certainly not if it is to be economic agriculture.”

“The situation for those who depend on rain fed agriculture is absolutely abysmal. They are scratching around for domestic water.”

● The mean average rainfall in East London for the 42 years between 1940 and 1982 during the five months from April to August is 271 mm. — DDR

US GIVES HELPING HAND

THE United States Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Herman Nickel will today present cheques totalling about R27 000 (25 000 dollars) to three organisations in South Africa operating emergency feeding programmes for drought victims.

According to a statement issued by the United States Information Service yesterday each US ambassador has at his disposal a 25 000 dollar fund for immediate use to alleviate the suffering of disaster victims in his country of assignment. Ambassador Nickel is particularly con-

cerned with the effects of the drought on children in the hardest hit areas and has decided to give his funds to three organisations providing assistance to these young victims.

The cheques will go to the Institute of Race Relations for use in its Operation Hunger, to World Vision and to the Red Cross for use in KwaZulu. Today Mr Nickel will present the cheques to the Institute of Race Relations and World Vision and he will visit Durban to present the third cheque to the Red Cross.

3/2/83

12/4/83

D

3 General

Council votes R1,5-m to cut water wastage

By Lucille McNamara, Municipal Reporter

In a drastic move to cut water wastage, the Johannesburg City Council's management committee has allocated R1,5 million for the immediate repair of eroded pipes and defective meters throughout the city. Because of the urgency of the situation, the city council will obtain quotations for the work and dispense with the time-consuming procedure of putting the contracts out to tender.

Contractors are expected to be appointed by the end of this week and work should begin within the next 10 days. The project is expected to be completed by June.

Priority will be given to Johannesburg's older suburbs in the western areas, including Grey-mont, Newlands, Alberts-ville, Westdene and Brixton.

Announcing the decision, management committee vice-chairman Mr. Carel Venter said millions of litres of water were being wasted because of burst pipes and leakages from defective meters.

"The bulk of the piping is more than 50 years old and suffers constant pressure bursts because of erosion."

PRACTICAL

Mr Venter said it was no longer practical to repair the piping or the equally old meters, and because of the critical nationwide shortage of water the management committee had decided to allocate funds as a matter of urgency to replace the defective equipment.

This will take expenditure for the repair and replacement of water mains during the current financial year to R2 160 000 — as R660 000 has already been spent over the last 10 months.

"The water shortage is critical and we are well aware that considerable wastage is taking place because of the poor condition of the equipment.

"The money which has already been spent has been insufficient to improve the situation and it was felt drastic action had to be taken."

By Lynne Cornfield, Welfare Reporter

Help needed to improve the quality of life

A starving 10-year-old girl was found by a sister of the St Scholastica Mission Clinic in the bushes in the mountains near Mullima in Venda about two months ago. She weighed only 13 kg.

She was a victim of the drought crippling the land.

The child was too near death to be taken by air.

balance to the nearest hospital so the sister took her to the mission and began feeding her little by little. Slowly she recovered.

Part of her survival was brought about by a Johannesburg-based organisation, Imqualife, which stands for Improved Quality of Life.

Mr Len Apfel started Imqualife as a one-man operation in 1982 in response to the needs of the people in the Potgieters area whose lives were threatened by drought.

"That was supposed to be the worst drought in 30 years," he told The Star, "but what I have seen in my travels in the homelands this year has been worse than anything I have seen before. The prospects for winter are absolutely frightening."

What Mr Apfel did in 1982, and what he still does today, was to systematically go through the telephone directory phoning person after person, company after company, asking them to sponsor food for the hungry.

He said he did not believe in sending money but in sending the commodities necessary for survival — fortified biscuits, peanut butter, milk powder and soup powder — to supplement the staple diet of mealie meal.

The food is sent directly to committees in the needy areas from the factories. The donor then receives an invoice from the factory and a letter of acknowledgement.

Mr Apfel runs the operation from a non-profit trading store in West Street that sells foodstuffs to recover the cost of other non-profit trading to assist the homelands.

Imqualife has also encouraged people in the homelands to start home industries to tide them over in times of drought and the organisation finds markets for the goods in Johannesburg.

But, said Mr Apfel, the situation was now so serious that Imqualife had had to resort once again to handouts to help ease the situation.

Only credit preventing crash, says Nampo survey

Drought has maize farmers on their knees

By Hannes Ferguson

The disastrous drought has forced most maize farmers into effective insolvency, a shock survey has revealed.

Only a fragile credit system stands in the way of a crash that could plunge the country into its worst financial crisis since 1933.

This has emerged from a survey conducted by the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) in the key Western Transvaal district of Wolmaransstad. It shows that maize farmers as a group owe more than they own.

The survey sample is regarded as representative of most of the Maize Triangle during the present growing season.

Farmer's replies to the Nampo survey have been authenticated by their bank managers.

The data has been processed by Dr JPF du Toit, professor of agricultural economics at Pretoria University.

The survey reveals that if farmland values drop as farmers are forced off the land, the security basis for the credit pyramid would erode and the entire structure would collapse.

The virtual bankruptcy of the maize industry also threatens to drag the big co-operatives with their R6 000-million turnover into near insolvency.

Also threatened is the Land Bank, which provides farming credit. South African banks supplying goods to farmers could also face ruin.

Commercial banks could lose

Any drop in land value could spell insolvency

By Hannes Ferguson

The average maize farmer could be in the red by as much as R130 000, a National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) survey has shown.

The survey reveals average total assets of each farmer at R312 000 but, at Land Bank valuation, these were worth an average of only R195 000.

Total debts of each farmer averaged R201 807 of which R70 774 was owed to farming co-operatives, R99 157 to commercial banks and the rest to other short-term creditors.

This excluded mortgage debts to the Land Bank and other bondholders.

With Land Bank and other bond

debts estimated at an average of R125 000, the total debt of each farm is about R326 807. This is R14 807 more than the total assets at recent market value.

However, if farm value is taken at the lower Land Bank valuation, the average farmer owes as much as R131 807 more than he owns.

The survey also shows that maize yields were 1,8 tons/ha in 1979-80. This increased to 2,7 tons in the good year of 1980-81 but declined to 1,5 tons in 1981-82 and a disastrous 0,6 tons during the current season.

If the market value of farm land should fall, the maize industry's technical insolvency would immediately

grow into genuine bankruptcy.

Any rise in land value would improve balance sheets but no solution is possible unless farming costs drop or maize prices rise, says Nampo.

Production costs increased by 81 percent in the four-year period, but maize prices rose by only 55 percent.

The present drought came on top of a basic trend of increasingly unprofitable farming.

The general manager of Nampo, Dr Pieter Gouws, said that this year's drought had plunged the farmer into a desperate struggle for survival. What would happen if drought struck again next season defied imagination, he said.

**WINTER
OF '83**

ures widely reported the crisis have been left without security. The Government's decision to spread farm debts over 20 years has temporarily saved the co-ops and farmers, as well as the entire credit structure.

Drought
D. Disputable
14/4/83
(\$103) (B) General
Transkei

g h t m a y c o s t s k e i R 1 0 0 m



at the opening of Parliament

UMTATA — Transkei could lose about R100 million worth of stock because of the drought, the President, Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima, said yesterday.

Opening Parliament yesterday, President Matanzima said livestock deaths were expected to reach their peak from June to September.

"Our pastures have deteriorated due to prevailing drought and stock losses have been recorded in many districts. The main causes of stock losses are lack of drinking water, lack of grass and tick-borne diseases which cannot be effectively controlled because many dipping tanks are unable to operate as there is no water to fill the tanks," he said.

"There is no growth in the veld and farmers are already grazing their stock in the arable areas

and there will be no winter fodder this year."

Lack of rain had caused the level of water in the country's storage dams to drop alarmingly, underground water was dropping, and natural springs and boreholes were drying up.

"The time has come for every citizen of the country to be conscious of measures to conserve water.

"If the drought persists for another year, the country's hydro-electric schemes and irrigation schemes may be in danger of being curtailed because of the shortage of water to generate power and for irrigation. The available water would have to be conserved for domestic consumption."

The President said should rain fall before May, farmers were advised to seek the advice of agricultural officers on alternative crops that could be planted during the winter season.

"During the 1982 season, the Department of Agriculture launched an ambitious scheme to make the Transkei self-sufficient in staple foods such as maize and grain sorghum. An area of

60 000 ha was ploughed and planted with good seed and was properly fertilised under the strict supervision of agricultural officers. It was unfortunate this attempt coincided with the worst drought of our time.

"The expected yield of 15 to 20 bags a hectare from the area has been wiped out by the drought. In many areas there is total crop failure. The food situation in 1983 is bad and is expected to worsen towards the end of the year.

"An amount of R12,3 million for food in aid has been included in the estimates of drought relief aid which has been requested from the Republic of South Africa."

● Twenty-two districts in the Eastern Cape are now getting drought relief aid from the government.

This was confirmed yesterday by the Agricultural Extension officer for the Eastern Cape, Mr C. W. Smart.

The two latest districts incorporated into this scheme are Molteno and Tarkastad.

Cathcart is the most recent area to be placed

in phase three of the five-phase drought relief programme. Phase three is a 50 per cent subsidy on the stock feed loan from the government.

Mr Smart said the drought was in a critical stage and cattle were in a poor condition.

Because of the drought many farmers had been unable to grow cereal crops to use as feed for the coming winter and therefore had serious problems to face. Mr Smart said.

He said if these farmers hoped to cope with the limited supply of fodder they would have to cut down on their livestock.

The drought in the Hogsback area had caused a fire hazard, the assistant forester. Mr I. Garrett, said yesterday.

He said the veld in the area was extremely dry, and four farms had already been made available to farmers for emergency grazing.

The South African Defence Force would shortly start carting water for animals to farms in the area. Mr Garrett said.

He said the veld was overgrazed, and very few veld flowers had appeared this year. — DDR.

Irrigation from E Cape State dams suspended

General
E. Post Post Reporter 15/4/83

IRRIGATION from State dams in large parts of the Eastern Cape has been suspended until further notice.

The circle engineer for the Department of Environmental Affairs, Mr H.L. Horn, said today that irrigation from dams under the department's control would be stopped until the second half of the year when it was hoped that the water supply would have improved.

Water available in affected areas would only be available for household consumption and for stock.

Mr Horn said the new measures particularly affected farmers at Queenstown, Stutterheim, East London and the Katrivier Valley.

This meant that irrigation farmers in these areas could not plant winter crops.

Problems were not expected in the Fish River Valley which got its water from the Orange River or in the Gamtoos Valley. The Paul Sauer Dam still had water.

There were some problems in pumping sufficient water from the Orange River to Lake Mentz.

Water restrictions have been introduced in several Eastern Cape towns.

King William Town residents are not allowed to water by hose and gardens may only be watered twice a week by hand for one hour.

Now hail batters Ciskei crops

Weekend Post Reporter

CROPS worth an estimated R100 000 were destroyed late yesterday afternoon in a hail storm which passed over the Ciskei border area near Grahamstown.

The farm Glenmore, part of the Ciskei Tyefu Irrigation Scheme, 14km from Grahamstown, lost 50% of its crops in the storm.

The manager of the farm, Mr Dirk Stone of Grahamstown, said that 30 hectares of brussel sprouts, 12 hectares of cauliflowers and an eight hectare seed bed prepared for cabbages had been destroyed.

"There was very little that wasn't damaged," said Mr Stone.

"This has come at a bad time for us because the drought has also destroyed our crops, but we have the water to start again.

"We will probably start planting next week, but with different crops."

The brussel sprouts and cauliflowers were to have been sold to a frozen food company in Port Elizabeth and the cabbages would have been sold in the Ciskei.

A farm at Committee's Drift belonging to Mr C C Kidson also suffered extensive damage to maize crops.

Water drill men told to streamline

(3) General

Unless South African drillers get together soon and put the groundwater industry right, bureaucrats and other interests will do it using methods that do not belong in a free enterprise economy.

This warning was given by Mr Norville Peterson, president of the Water Well Association of Minnesota.

He is a drilling expert touring South Africa as guest of the Borehole Water Association of Southern Africa.

"A national programme for the most economic use of underground water will come with or without action from the drilling fraternity, since water everywhere has become one of the most precious commodities," he said.

America, with a higher average rainfall than South Africa, already draws 34 percent of its municipal and 80 percent of its agricultural water from underground. South Africa's percentages are much lower.

"Whenever any commodity becomes valuable, big vested interests are always tempted to corner the market and sell to the public at their own price," said Mr Peterson.

"This should never happen to water, which is a gift from heaven and indispensable in raising living standards for all the population groups of South Africa."

Mr Peterson's visit is timely, not only because of the drought but because South Africa's underground water, like its rainfall, is severely limited.

Its development and utilisation should therefore be as efficient as possible. Operating standards among drillers and developers, however, are primitive compared with the US.

Drillers, the key men in the exploitation of underground water in the US, are highly qualified technicians.

Mr Petersen will lead a seminar for drillers at Mono-Pumps at Sibenza, the industrial area near Isando, on April 24 at 5 pm.

He will address them on the latest US techniques and answer questions.

He came to South Africa with the blessing of the National Water Well Association of America, the acknowledged world leader in its field.

His brief is to pass on the latest knowledge in waterwell technology.

Mr Petersen is also preparing the ground for a technical conference and trade exposition to be staged in South Africa next year by the National Water Well Association of America.



CAPE TIMES 15/4/88 *3 general*

Farmers face ruin — survey

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Thousands of maize farmers, their 1982/83 crop destroyed by drought, have been trapped in insolvency which will have dramatic consequences for the entire national economy.

This alarming assessment is made in a survey by a Pretoria University agricultural economist, Professor J P F du Toit.

The survey was carried out in the Wolmaransstad district which Professor Du Toit says is typical of most of the country's big maize-producing areas.

"There is no question that thousands of farmers, who have had their credit extended beyond normal limits and their resources exhausted, are facing imminent ruin."

Professor Du Toit said the picture could hardly be grimmer, and there were no quick solutions.

A major and urgent problem was to keep as many farmers on the land as possible, and to find the massive credit which would be needed to plant the 1983/84 summer crops.

"South African maize farmers have never been in so desperate and so hopeless a situation. A massive rescue operation

costing millions of rands will be needed."

The ripples of the crisis on the Transvaal plateau would have serious economic consequences for industry and even the banking sector, the survey found.

The Land Bank had lent vast amounts to farmers — last year R900-million was provided for production credit alone — and with failed crops farmers were unable to meet their commitments.

The crisis extended to commercial banks who had stretched farmers' credit.

Companies supplying farmers with items such as fertilizers, tractors and farm machinery were assessing with growing concern the disastrous effects of the drought on their sales and turnovers.

The government had aided farmers by permitting the consolidation of debt and spreading the repayment period over 22 years.

While this had brought long-term relief it had done nothing to solve the immediate problem.

The survey found that the average maize farmer could be in debt to the extent of R130 000.

Farmers are facing ruin

③ General

E. Post 16/4/83

Stock dying, no water for lands

By CLIFF FOSTER

MANY Eastern Cape farmers are facing ruin as the drought reaches crisis proportions over a wide area.

Sheep are dying on the land, stockfeed is running out and there is no irrigation water for planting winter crops.

At least one farmer is transporting his breeding cows to Natal in a desperate attempt to save them.

The drought, acknowledged to be the worst this century, has reached a critical stage with the ending of the seasonal rainfall period for the inland areas.

With grazing exhausted, many farmers have sold vital breeding stock. Others are playing for time with loans from the Land Bank, and debts will make recovery that much more difficult when the drought is over.

The consumer in the city, remote from the heart-break conditions on the land, is going to feel the blow before long when shortages result in higher prices to the food counters.

This weekend Mr Denys Ranger, whose family has owned the farm Thornhill Amble at Kei Road since the last century, is preparing to truck 70 cows in calf — the last of his breeding stock — to grazing on a friend's farm in Natal. He doesn't expect to bring them back for two years.

He has been waiting for a month for lucerne from SWA/Namibia, but it hasn't arrived.

Mr Ranger has experienced three droughts in his lifetime, but nothing like this one.

"For people who have borrowed from the Land Bank or sold off breeding stock it's a terrible time. I don't know how they will ever get started again," he said.

Mr Lourens Schoeman, liaison officer for the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union, said: "We don't know if there is going to be enough fodder for this winter. That's what we are most worried about."

"We think this is going to be the toughest winter farmers in the region have ever had."

Mr Fourie Schoeman, a farmer near Commando Drift Dam, Cradock, said: "There are already places where sheep are dying. People are losing stock in large numbers."

"When you chase them or move them from camp to camp, they start dropping."

"A lot of people are facing absolute ruin. The grassveld farmers are probably facing the worst winter in history."

Mr T Mundell, secretary of the Great Fish River Irrigation Board, said that for crop farmers near Cradock the period from August onwards could be a nightmare.

In the homelands, disaster has already struck.

Weekend Post reported three months ago on the failure of the mealie crop in Transkei. This week, President Kaiser Matanzima said his drought-stricken state faced a possible loss of R100 million worth of stock.

Opening Parliament, he said he expected livestock deaths would reach a peak from June to September.

"There is no growth in the veld and farmers are already grazing their stock in the arable areas. There will be no winter fodder."

"In many areas there is a total crop failure. The food situation is bad and is expected to be worse towards the end of the year."

In South Africa, a national chain store has launched a drought relief scheme, urging customers and suppliers alike to contribute to a giant food bank for distribution in the stricken areas, especially the homelands.

● Store to collect for drought relief — Page 7

● More reports — Post Focus, Page 13

Phase one relief insufficient, say furious farmers

By SIMON BLOCH

DROUGHT-stricken Karoo farmers are furious that the Government has offered them only phase one drought relief subsidies.

In what is being called "the most widespread drought in living memory", all except three regions of the Karoo have been declared drought stricken.

And farmers in the Laingsberg, Prince Albert and Willowmore regions are expected to ask for relief soon.

But farmers in the stricken areas of the Karoo, usually the worst-hit by drought, are puzzled why they have been offered only phase one of the drought relief. It is not good enough, they say.

Phase one entitles farmers to a 75% rebate on transportation of mealie stock-feed, but they complain there are no mealies available.

According to Mr Trevor Sheard, chairman of the Sneeuwberg Farmers Association where phase one of the drought relief plan was granted by the State last week, the situation is critical. There is not a bag of mealies for sale in Graaff-Reinet, and feed from other areas of the country is unavailable.

"People can't get fodder anywhere," he said.

"Even if it were available, we wouldn't be able to afford the price. According to the conditions of phase one, a farmer has to buy at least 14 tons of feed to get this rebate. Hardly any farmers can afford to pay R1 960 at this moment," he said.

He is adamant that right now, they should be declared at least phase two drought stricken.

"We applied to be declared drought stricken areas in February, but this only came through last week. The Department of Agriculture won't consider an application for any drought relief until such time as the situation is critical."

Phase two entitles the farmer to a stock-feed loan scheme embracing a loan of not

more than R2 per month per small stock breeding unit up to a maximum of not more than 1 200 units or R12 a month for cattle up to 200 head of cattle. This in effect is a loan of R2 400 a month.

"Phase one only means a rebate on transportation of stock-feed. What is the point of phase one if we can't even get mealies from the Maize Board? We have to send a cheque in advance, and it could be six weeks before anything shows up," he said.

This year the Maize Board has reported one of the worst crop failures ever and last year's surplus is believed to have been sold off already. Some of the previous surplus was exchanged for fertiliser in a deal with Rumania which upset the local fertiliser industry.

In the Graaff Reinet district and other areas of the Karoo, there have been three-and-a-half months of unrelenting heat and the "rainy season" is over. The town's population has been on borehole water supplies for more than a year and the chances of winter rainfall are slim.

North of Graaff Reinet, dams dried up long ago and farmers are depending on fountains for their water supply. But these, too, are drying up.

From the Pearston district come reports of farmers chopping down plantations of poplar trees and other bush to feed their stock.

A few years ago the Department of Agriculture encouraged the planting of drought resistant bush to help the farmers in hard times. This has paid off, but for how long can it last?

Another frightening result of the drought is that it is eating into South Africa's stock of cattle and sheep, and it is expected that a shortage of red meat could follow its wake. At present farmers are sending much of their stock for slaughter, while holding back their valuable breeding stock.

Mr Sheard said the last auction in Graaff Reinet was disastrous. Prices were extremely low and farmers were accepting almost anything for their animals.

Farmers face financial ruin as worst drought ever takes toll

By CLIFF FOSTER

THE Department of Water Affairs began ferrying water supplies to farms in the Fort Beaufort and Kei Road areas this week as the worst drought this century tightened its grip on what is left of the East Cape's livestock and its arable lands.

The army may be called in to ensure supplies to vital breeding stock — the lifeline for the region's farming future when the drought is over.

More areas, including Uitenhage, were granted phase-one drought relief by the Government this week and in other places relief was increased.

The Great Fish River Irrigation Board also announced that water was being cut off from more farms near Cradock.

A grim picture has emerged of conditions on the farms — one that city people may find difficult imagining.

At the farm, Thornhill Amble, Kei Road, which has been in his family all this century, Mr Denys Ranger was preparing to transport 70 cows in calf — all that is left of his stock of 400 — to an understocked farm in Natal.

"I want to keep these to start up again in two years' time," he told Weekend Post.

"I anticipated this situation last July and started selling off. For the first ones I got quite good prices but for those left — cows not in calf — I got R190 for animals that should have fetched R500."

"This is the worst situation I have ever faced."

A saddened Mr Ranger said: "I am negotiating now with the railways to move the rest of the cows to Natal."

"We are getting a 75% rebate for the transport of fodder and we can get a rebate for the stock. But some speculative-type farmers have taken advantage of it in the past and you only get the rebate when the cattle return."

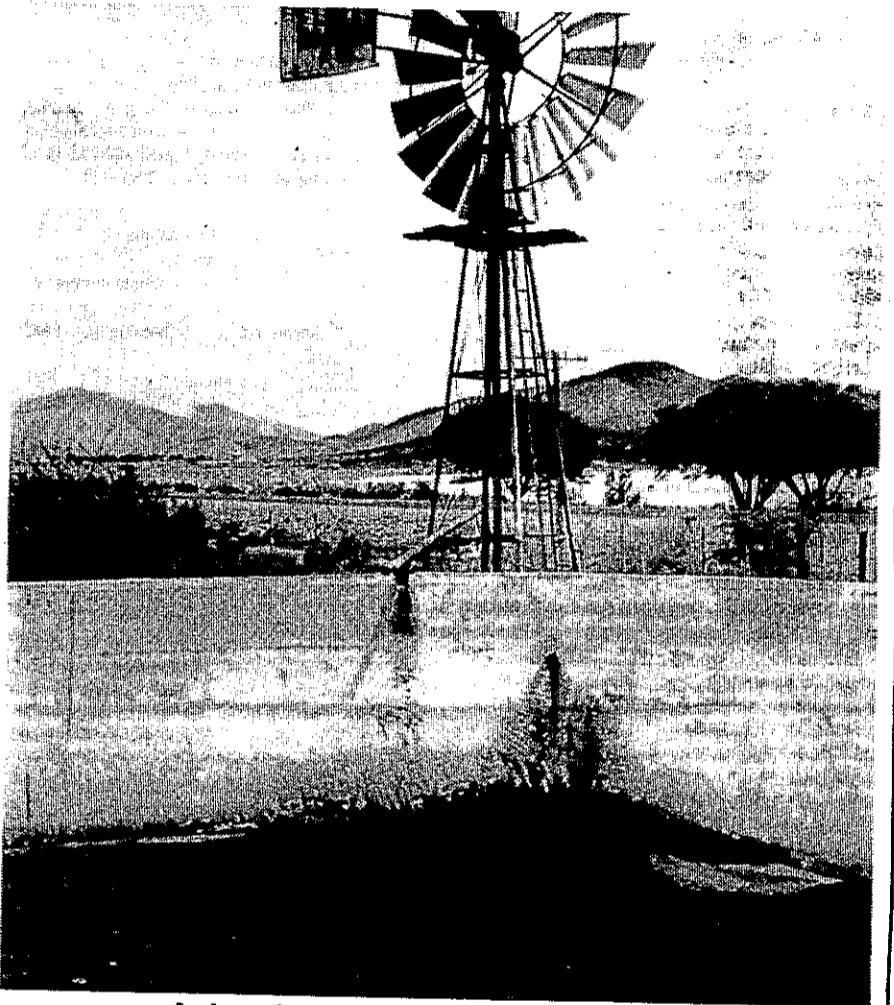
"It costs R4 000 to get them there and another R4 000 to get them back."

"Now I am trying to arrange for the railways to send them by road. To take them by rail means going first to Bloemfontein, then Durban, then Umzinto via narrow gauge and then to High Flats near Ixopo — a journey of 1 800 kilometres as opposed to 500 kilometres by road."

"The railways transporter can take 30 at a time."

"The grazing there has been offered to me through a family connection."

"I must leave them there until we get rain, but it doesn't rain grass, so if it rains now we would not have grazing until next year."



A sign of the times — not a drop of water.

know what has happened to it. It has not arrived and it should have been here a month ago.

"People have been told fodder is not available — and the price is going up all the time."

"This is the worst drought we have experienced in living memory."

"It's the third drought I have experienced and there has been nothing like this," he said.

"For farmers who have borrowed from Land Bank or sold off their breeding stock it's a terrible time. I don't know how they are going to start up again."

Mr Fourie Schoeman, farming below the Commando Drift Dam near Cradock said: "The position is absolutely critical. There's not enough water for planting the winter crop or for the lambing."

"Because we have not had normal rains our production must be down considerably."

"There's less mohair, less wool, less meat. We are all stuck with more sheep that we can feed, this also applies to cattle and the inflation is high, so we need to get good prices and the demand is not there."

"So we are already having losses."

"The next thing is to stretch our remaining food stocks as far as possible. Mealies are virtually unobtainable and I believe they are thinking of importing. It must be the first time in the history of South Africa if we do."

"There are already places where sheep are dying. People are already losing stock — here in this district, not just in the homelands."

"When you chase them, move them from camp to camp, they start dropping. Must of us have lost the odd sheep, not so many. But the sheep are pretty thin."

"There are a lot of chaps facing absolute ruin."

"Your grassveld farmers will probably face the worst winter in the history of South Africa."

Mr T Mundell, secretary of Great Fish River Irrigation Board in Cradock, said Commando Drift Dam was down to its last 4% and Lake Arthur to its last 5%.

The two dams served three smaller irrigation boards — Gannavlake, Tarka Bridge and Commando Drift.

"The seven farmers at Gannavlake had their water stopped last Thursday. Sixteen farmer at Tarka Bridge have got another week. Between them the people in these two areas farm 1 550 hectares."

"The Gannavlake people are already cut off and we can't do a thing for them. There is no water."

"Three of them are irrigation farmers, the rest are stock farmers."

"We must pray for rain. Normally, we stop leading water here at around the middle of May."

"I think these people are all right for another month but from August onwards it could be disaster."

Fort Brown were on phase two and Fort Brown had applied for phase three relief.

Under phase three, farmers are eligible for 75% rebate on the transport of foodstock and a 50% subsidy on loans to buy foodstock.

Under phase two they are entitled to loans to buy fodder.

"These areas are bad, especially now they are getting problems in purchasing fodder now that it's getting scarce. This difficulty arises because the drought is so widespread."

"There are signs now that the supply is running out. There is a waiting list for foodstock. But we haven't reached the stage yet where stock is dying on the land — not in the Republic."

"What is going to happen is difficult to say. We don't know if there is going to be enough fodder for this winter. That's what we are worried about."

"We really feel this is going to be the toughest winter farmers have had. People say it is even worse than the 1930s."

"The farmers are trying to get rid of as many of their stock as they can but there is no real market for this because everyone else is trying to do this."

"We have had a case of one farmer at Stutterheim who is going to transport his stock to Natal where he has got emergency grazing. Farmers are taking them to other provinces but

Among those chosen were three former senior league players. They are Pat Clarke, Louis Hay and Charles Hayward. Clarke, who teaches at Eastern Province and North-east Cape at lock. Hay also played No 8 for North-east Cape and has gained success as a coach.

Mike, one of whom also played rugby for England. There have been various attachments like Owen-Smith (cricket for SA and rugby for England), Fleetwood-Smith, the Aussie cricketer, and Steve Smith, the England scrum-half.

You can go on for a long time at this game.

Big crowd

Watson, pre-war rugby fly-half, Old Grey cricket all-rounder and Main Street founder, with some sort of challenge. It was one of those challenges, says Mr Hattie, that emerges casually, but sincerely at an after-the-rugby get together in the clubhouse. Said Denis Watson: "I believe the Watsons in big-

"This is the worst situation I have ever faced."

A saddened Mr Ranger said: "I am negotiating now with the railways to move the rest of the cows to Natal."

"We are getting a 75% rebate for the transport of fodder and we can get a rebate for the stock. But some speculative-type farmers have taken advantage of it in the past and you only get the rebate when the cattle return."

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"The railways transporter can take 30 at a time."

"The grazing there has been offered to me through a family connection."

"I must leave them there until we get rain, but it doesn't rain grass, so if it rains now we would not have grazing until next year."

Mr Ranger has already sold 400 sheep to Natal — lambs in feed and young ewes — but he still has his breeding ewes.

Of serious concern now is the supply of stock feed.

"I am still waiting for trucks of lucern from SWA/Namibia. I don't

"It's the third drought I have experienced and there has been nothing like this," he said.

"For farmers who have borrowed from Land Bank or sold off their breeding stock it's a terrible time. I don't know how they are going to start up again."

Mr Fourie Schoeman, farming below the Commando Drift Dam near Cradock said: "The position is absolutely critical. There's not enough water for planting the winter crop or for the lambing."

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"So we are already having losses."

"The next thing is to stretch our remaining food stocks as far as possible. Mealies are virtually unobtainable and I believe they are thinking of importing. It must be the first time in the history of South Africa if we do."

"This drought has been unusual. Often you get drought in the Karoo but they have rains in the Transvaal and so on. This time, the whole country is in the grip of this terrific drought and we have absolutely no reserves of mealie stalks or wheat. There is no roughage."

sheep are pretty thin.

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"We must pray for rain. Normally, we stop leading water here at around the middle of May."

"I think these people are all right for another month but from August onwards it could be disaster."

Mr Lourens Schoeman, liaison officer for the East Cape Agricultural Union, said the worst areas were Adelaide and Fort Beaufort which were on phase three of the Government's drought relief scheme, with Cathcart coming on to phase three today.

Komga, Kei Road and

are entitled to loans to buy fodder.

"These areas are bad, especially now they are getting problems in purchasing fodder now that it's getting scarce. This difficulty arises because the drought is so widespread."

"There are signs now that the supply is running out. There is a waiting list for foodstock. But we haven't reached the stage yet where stock is dying on the land — not in the Republic."

"What is going to happen is difficult to say. We don't know if there is going to be enough fodder for this winter. That's what we are worried about."

"We really feel this is going to be the toughest winter farmers have had. People say it is even worse than the 1930s."

"The farmers are trying to get rid of as many of their stock as they can but there is no real market for this because everyone else is trying to do this."

"We have had a case of one farmer at Stutterheim who is going to transport his stock to Natal where he has got emergency grazing. Farmers are taking them to other provinces but that's an expensive business and not everybody has got emergency grazing elsewhere."

"On forestry ground at Cathcart, grazing for 900 animals has been made available and we are waiting for applications from farmers in the declared areas."

959.50	334.20	57.41
993.80	321.00	*** ** *
974.80	300.20	124.35
965.70	305.80	44.66
*** ** *	340.08	26.50
973.40	321.80	24.65
906.90	268.90	389.95
944.90	432.60	35.29
951.00	432.80	14.78
944.40	430.00	76.54
958.50	435.70	305.76
957.30	428.50	65.96
964.10	430.00	16.52
968.10	422.50	44.53
972.80	433.20	28.56
956.10	413.50	34.02
940.20	436.00	68.58
969.90	436.90	34.81
924.80	432.60	25.10
919.40	427.00	64.37
951.00	453.40	787.50
932.10	443.40	*** ** *
973.00	448.80	423.77
945.00	416.90	159.71
921.00	455.00	*** ** *
969.70	464.10	150.25
951.10	493.40	28.49
967.20	532.00	*** ** *
909.00	540.20	21.78
972.10	536.20	*** ** *
907.50	577.00	22.83
940.60	528.60	46.24
971.20	451.80	64.17
956.20	460.70	*** ** *
936.80	482.30	17.05
975.60	493.70	130.69
886.40	443.80	50.17
907.50	450.20	155.31
898.80	475.60	31.60
926.90	454.30	34.73
938.10	450.70	43.00
896.90	421.40	42.66
890.40	401.10	49.49
927.00	414.50	37.81
952.20	387.40	30.52
911.60	383.80	46.28
934.20	437.60	59.41
919.30	395.40	15.95
932.70	387.90	42.28
783.50	406.90	5.26
815.20	411.70	9.92
765.40	430.70	84.77
746.30	413.70	53.66
765.00	388.70	54.49
737.10	393.00	70.54
800.00	429.30	134.05
730.80	366.30	64.83
745.30	374.40	54.57
790.60	355.80	69.89
814.80	370.20	19.36
794.20	363.40	64.68
801.10	389.70	53.11

THE WICKED DROUGHT

A BIBLICAL thunderbolt was delivered at a prayer-for-rain meeting in the sleepy East Griqualand town of Matatielle when townfolk were told the drought was the result of their — and the rest of the country's — wickedness.

Before Methodist minister Bryan Verwey had finished his startling sermon, a peal of thunder rocked the crowded Town Hall where the meeting was being held, and it began to rain for the first time in weeks.

Many of the 350 people present went on their knees to beg forgiveness of their sins.

Another later wrote indignant letters to several newspapers saying Mr Verwey blamed locals for the drought because they watched blue movies.

However, Mr Verwey said it was not only Matatielle locals he blamed

AND IN MATATIELE THEY'RE BLAMING IT ON BLUE MOVIES, SEX AND SINNERS

BY FRANCIS HENNY

Sunday Tribune 17/4/83 *General*

for the drought, but all wicked South Africans.

His sermon was based on 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, which reads in part that God will hold back the rain or send locusts to eat up the crops, or set an epidemic on his people for their wickedness. When they turn from their wicked ways, God will forgive them and heal the land.

"My Christian belief that God has brought the drought because we are wicked is based on facts and I believe God is calling on us to turn

from our 'wicked ways,' said Mr Verwey.

He said the main causes of the drought were:

- An increase in blue movies, sexual abuse, drinking and drug-taking as a means of escape.
- An increase in organised Sunday sport on a day of worship.
- South Africa has become a country motivated only by money and pleasure.
- Willful oppression.
- Idle gossip.
- Disregard of children, wives, husbands and the church.

Increasing slander against the church and Christians.

When asked how rampant sex and blue-movies were in Matatielle, one local said: "Blue movies here? That's something I haven't seen yet. But they must have been really hot to have caused such a drought."

Meanwhile Mr Verwey said: "I wasn't specifically saying these things happen only in Matatielle, but was talking about the whole of the country."

"We should hear what God is saying to us through the drought. Being a God of love, he doesn't want to see animals dying of thirst and people suffering, but we have brought this upon

ourselves.

"God is making people aware of their wicked ways by sending the drought. I'm aware scientists say we are in a drought cycle. We should hear these scientists but, at the same time, should hear the word of God."

"I didn't say things like that because I wanted to say something new, but because I felt that was what God wanted me to say."

A senior police spokesman in Matatielle said: "Things that happen in the city happen here too. But because it's a small town, it will be noticed more. But we get very few cases of sexual offences or possession of pornographic material."



BRYAN VERWEY: A thunderbolt from the pulpit... followed by rain

(3) General

Farmer Bouwer creates am

BY RUTH GOLEMBO

Pictures: HORACE POTTER

A FARMER with a degree in agriculture has tamed the drought... producing a green oasis in a desert of despair.

And the secret, he says, lies in "conservative farming methods".

While all about him complain and suffer, Mr Bouwer du Preez has fields of flourishing crops.

His meales, standing almost two metres high, have become the envy of the farmers in the badly hit Lichtenburg district of the Western Transvaal.

Mr du Preez expects a normal harvest this year, but other farmers in the area tell a different tale of drought devastation.

On some farms, meales are no more than lone dry sticks.

Mr du Preez is the first to admit that it has been the worst drought he has faced since he started farming 29 years ago.

Game farms littered with buck carcasses

By ANTHEA TASKER

GAME farms in the drought-stricken Northern Transvaal are littered with the carcasses of precious trophy animals.

Now some of the game farmers in the Tshipise area — in the extreme north-eastern corner of the country — are catching the animals to sell them to other farmers who still have grazing areas so that the remaining stock will not die.

Mrs Helen McDonald, of McDonald's Wildlife Ranch, said: "There is absolute carnage, carcasses litter the land. The smell is awful."

Moonscape

"We had a wee bit of rain last week and now there are a few leaves on the previously-bare mopani trees, but it is like a moonscape desert."

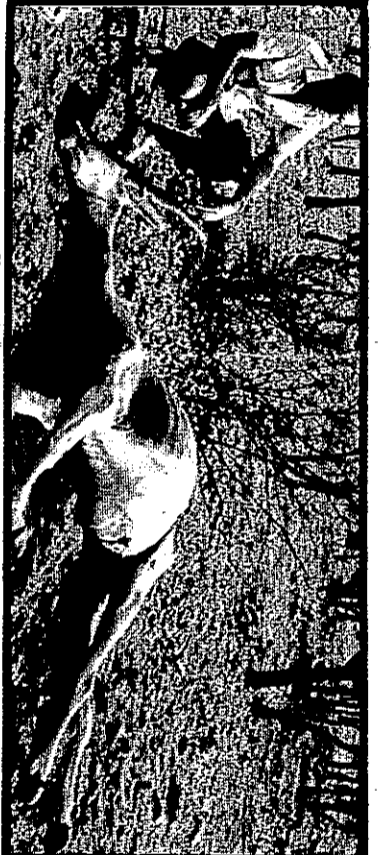
The problem is not so much that there is a shortage of water — there is ground water — but that without the rain there is no grass and no leaves and nothing for the buck to eat.

Their game farm has been the McDonalds' total livelihood for five years.

"In 1980 we had over 2 000 animals of various species and we had begun to build up our numbers," said Mrs McDonald.

"But since last May we have had no rain. The animals have nothing to eat."

"Three weeks ago we counted 1 240 animals but we have lost a lot more since then."



Game catcher John Brooker with a buck he was too late to save at Tshipise

Major cities are writing rationing laws

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN and ROTH GOLEMBO

managing to find food. But the leopards are doing splendidly with the fresh carcasses reaped from each day's burning sun and drought-ravaged land.

Mr Peter Nott, of Greater Kuddland Sataris, said it did not help for the "armchair conservationists" to criticise the game farmers' system of trophy hunting for wealthy tourists at a time like this.

Officials in major cities this week warned of tough new measures to conserve water.

In Durban and Maritzburg, residents have been told that water rationing could be introduced within two months.

Johannesburg is clamping down on water wasters and Mr John Bates, Press liaison officer for the city engineer's office, said many fines had already been issued to offenders.

The Johannesburg City Council has introduced legislation to increase spot fines from R20 to R100.

Mr Bates said such fines could be issued by any accredited peace officer.

Waste not and want not — like we Southwesterners

LETTERS continued to pour in to the Sunday Times Drought Alert this week. Here are some of them:

I AM very glad to see that your newspaper is mounting a "Drought Alert" campaign. Your greatest problem is that South Africans are not a water-conscious nation like we Southwesterners.

Each time we visit the Republic we stare wide-eyed at the water wastage we see — leaking taps, sprayers going full-blown for hours, etc.

Our South West children are conditioned from their earliest years to conserve water, even in years of plenty.

May I wish you all the best in your campaign. — Mrs C WYNGAARDEN, Windhoek.

AS A teacher who is gravely concerned about the drought, I try each day to give my pupils a message on the water shortage.

This is done in the form of poems which I have written. These give the pupils an awareness of the drought in our country.

Each day the pupils stop to read these poems as they walk past the board to the school library.

The poems have helped them to appreciate with grave concern the need to save water.

This is how we keep our pupils aware on "Drought Alert". — Mrs MONICA FRANK, Newlands Primary, Brindavale, Durban.

I HAVE had "save water" stickers printed for the doors of bathrooms, public toilets and kitchens in our hotel.

We have 211 rooms and bathrooms, and I do believe our guests are helping to save water.

Several large posters with my slogan have been put up at reception as well as a series of these devices out-

all might he collected enough to water fruit trees and shrubs.

It looked a bit strange... flourished while others were withering. — V. Cape Town

IT IS apparent that despite the constant presence of posters, daily news and warnings of the water crisis, many pay no heed to the plight because they believe the problem does not affect them as individuals.

I believe you are indulging in a very worthy cause. Good luck! — M GANSAN, Mount Edgecombe, Natal.

P. M. LAURENS, Wenzel, Natal.

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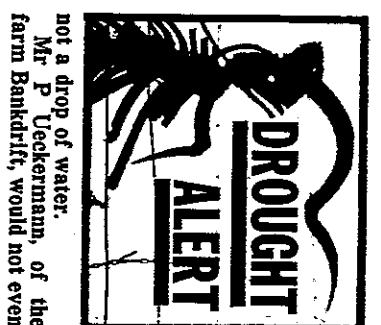
3 General

Oasis in a desert of despair

fertiliser then necessary. Fertiliser cost money and this punces their overheads sky high.

"I feel sorry for those really badly hit by the drought — but most of the people who are really in trouble have only themselves and their bad farming methods to blame."

A short distance from Mr du Plessis's lush mealle fields, a farming family in the Koster district are throwing their hands up in despair.



go to his fields with me. "You go and look for yourself. I have seen it and certainly don't want to see the mess again. It just upsets me," he said.

finished. We are just going to sit tight and hope next year will be better and we will be able to get back onto our feet again," she said.



SAD ... Mrs Cornelia Ueckermann and her daughter Mariana with their emaciated mealles

Where even the earth has died

OR seven years Boesmanland in the Northern Cape has been ravaged by merciless, seemingly unending drought — the worst in the country's history.



FLASHBACK: Mr Niemoller's farm in a time of plenty

And now, with little chance that rain will fall this year, the land has gone sour — it may never again regain the former bounty of grasses which once made it a sheep farming mecca.

"This drought has now passed the stage of a disaster and is now a permanent condition."

Already the baked, red sand of Boesmanland, is a graveyard of carcasses.

But the tough farmers of this scrubland territory have more to worry about than dead sheep.

They can barely manage to find the fodder to keep the rest of their flocks alive.

"We can't get enough lucerne and debts are running high," said farmer Gert van der Merwe.

"And the underground water supply is fast drying up. On the veld itself, there is not a blade of grass left for grazing."

But the farmers are per-

Mines project is guzzling water

THOUSANDS of litres of water are being used to grow grass in an industrial project.

Sprinklers belonging to the Chamber of Mines are spraying valuable water over three hectares of mine dump sand in Denver, near Johannesburg's M2 motorway, for eight hours a day.

The manager of the chamber's public relations section, Mr Wharrie Nelson, said the project was started last year and cannot be stopped at this stage — irrespective of water restriction laws.

"We put fertilizer on the ground last week and it is essential to keep watering it, or it will jeopardise the project. This is an industrial project and therefore perfectly legal."

"We are not watering to grow grass to make the area look nice, but to prevent a potential dust hazard. This is an essential job."

"Since water restrictions were introduced we have cut our watering down by 43 percent and only water from 7am to 4pm on weekdays."

"Our sprinklers are not on over-weak ends," he said.

Every day we lose 350 Olympic pools full of water

WATER to fill 350 Olympic-size swimming pools is leaked daily in South Africa.

This startling estimate was made this week by Mr H.C. Chapman, senior adviser to the Water Research Commission in Pretoria.

He said South Africa was "possibly throwing away up to a quarter of its drinkable water supply."

"The Rand Water Board supplied 2.3-million cubic metres of water a day for consumers — and an estimated 500 000 cubic metres of that never reached the consumers because of leaking pipes."

"Most of these leaks are traced and fixed within 24 hours of occurrence, but some could go undetected for months — or years."

Consumers

"About 350 Olympic-size pools full of water are being lost daily due to undetected leaks all over South Africa — and consumers are paying for it."

Picture: TERRY SHEAN

WESTNILE FACE WINTER OF DESPAIR, SAYS BUTHELEZI

14/83
Tribune Reporter

DROUGHT continued to ravage KwaZulu despite some rain, the Chief Minister of KwaZulu and patron of the Sunday Tribune-Red Cross Drought Relief Fund, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, said this week.

He said he was deeply grateful for the way in which South Africa and foreign embassies had re-

sponded to the needs of drought-stricken Kwa-

Zulu.

"We are approaching winter and it will be a very bleak period for many. Stock will die this winter and people will die."

"I fervently hope that the many who will be facing losses and despair will do so in the knowledge that South Africa is rallying behind the efforts

which the Sunday Tribune-Red Cross Drought Relief Fund is making.

The Fund received a boost this week when the United States Government donated R9000 "to demonstrate our concern and encourage others to do the same," in the words of the US Ambassador, Mr Herman Nickel.

The KwaZulu Water Development Fund established by the Supreme Court is now linked with the Tribune-Red Cross Drought Relief Fund to ensure that relief efforts are co-ordinated to the greatest advantage of the stricken.

This makes it the biggest drought relief fund in South Africa. It has distributed more than

R15 million of food and water aid in the past two years.

Although the amalgamated fund is still known as the Tribune-Red Cross Drought Relief Fund, donations intended specifically for water development should be marked "water", otherwise funds will be allocated by the Red Cross according to immediate need.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Fund, make your cheque payable to: Tribune-Red Cross Drought Relief Fund, and send it to the Promotions Department, Sunday Tribune, Box 1491, Durban 4000, or to the Red Cross Society, Box 1680, Durban 4000. You can also send your donation to the KwaZulu Water Development Fund, Box 507, Durban, 4000.

● See Page 8



... holds his 4-year-old daughter after his release on bail

D-Dispatch 18 APR 1983

Storms cause crop damage

EAST LONDON — Thunderstorms caused R100 000 damage to crops on a farm which is part of the Ciskei Tyefu Irrigation scheme, but did little to alleviate the serious drought

The manager of Glenmore farm, Mr Dirk Stone, said the crops damaged were 12 hectares of cauliflowers and 30 hectares of brussel sprouts. Also damaged were eight hectares of seed bed prepared for cabbage planting.

Although the weather is expected to be cloudy and cool today,

not much more rain is expected but isolated thunder showers may occur, a spokesman at the weather office said yesterday.

In East London about 13 mm of rain fell at the weekend, while Cathcart had only 5 mm. A spokesman at the police station at Cathcart said dams in the area were still empty and needed much more rain.

At Burgersdorp 15 mm fell and farmers were still disheartened although the rain gave a "little hope".

Queenstown had 12 mm and Molteno 10

mm. A correspondent at Molteno said the roads were not even damp after the rain.

In Port Alfred strong winds were blowing and 5 mm of rain fell at the weekend.

Cradock and Stutterheim had 10 mm rain and although thunder and lightning occurred on Saturday night, the rain was soft and there was no runoff.

Fort Beaufort had 5 mm and a heavy five-minute downpour hit Umtata before lunch on Saturday. —DDR/DDC

able to expose wealth-seekers

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe yesterday expressed "utter dismay" at the bourgeoisie tendencies that are affecting our leadership at various levels of government. "Even some government ministers, with a mere theoretical and thus hypocritical commitment to socialism, have, under one guise or another, proceeded to

acquire huge properties by way of commercial farms and other business concerns," he said.

Mr Mugabe said the nation's three-year development plan, intended to transform the economy for the benefit of the mass of Zimbabweans, must not be allowed to fail through lack of commitment by

ministers, government officials or party leaders.

The Prime Minister named no one and did not say how he would deal with wayward elements. Political analysts have been predicting a cabinet reshuffle for the past three months.

Mr Mugabe stressed his wholehearted com-

mitment to socialism, saying the anniversary must serve "as a reminder of our total rejection of capitalism because of its incompatibility with our definition of true democracy, which postulates the theory of equal political and economic rights." —SAPARNS

Nationalisation plan, P2.



Drought brings hunger, illness

JOHANNESBURG — The crippling South African drought is causing wide spread starvation among rural children.

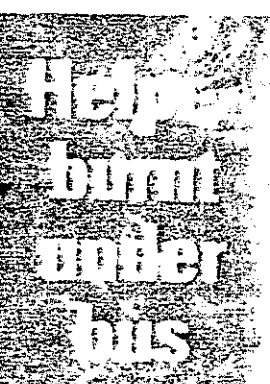
In the Northern Transvaal alone, the number of children admitted to hospitals with kwashiorkor has more than doubled as a result of drought-induced crop failure and authorities warn that a winter of acute starvation and rampant disease lies ahead.

The combined effort of the crop failure and the retrenchment of many migrant workers as a result of the economic recession has reduced thousands of rural families to the brink of starvation.

tion-related diseases were escalating and were more likely to be fatal, he said.

Most rural settlements, said Dr Mphahlele, had no safe, piped water. The limited water available from rivers and boreholes was likely to become polluted with the gastrointestinal illnesses such as typhoid.

Hospital wards and clinics in the Northern Transvaal are full of children suffering from kwashiorkor. Hospital authorities reported a two to three hundred per cent increase of children suffering from kwashiorkor and malnutrition — DDC



UMTATA — Umtata High School rugby players experienced a tense few moments at the weekend when their 68-seater bus "sank" onto a Good Samaritan who was helping them change a flat tyre

But luckily the man escaped unscathed except for a slight burn from the hot sump.

Yesterday, teacher and bus driver Mr John Schenk recalled the drama as he was returning with the junior teams from inter-school matches in Cathcart.

The front wheel of the bus had to be changed near Engcobo and a passerby and his passenger helped Mr Schenk and the boys

"We put the other wheel on but did not realise it was fairly soft.

"The jack was released while the man was still under the bus. The bus just started sinking on top of him.

"He screamed and luckily we were able to jack it up fast again. He escaped serious injury except for a slight burn from the sump." Mr Schenk said

Mr Schenk said the frightening experience left them bewildered for a few moments.

"I didn't even get the man's name but I know where to contact him. The school would like to say a big thank you to both people for their kind help.

"We will be contacting them." — DDR.

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Rain relief for part of the Karoo

By Hannes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

Extensive showers which have fallen over the eastern Karoo and the southern Free State have brought only limited relief.

The Department of Agriculture at Cradock reports that wide areas had an average of 10 mm. This would benefit the veld but was far too little to break the two-year drought.

Zastron also had about 10 mm. It was too late for the grass to recover but some farmers could now

plough and plant winter wheat. Others would plant oats for fodder.

Further north in Ladybrand the rain had been of little value.

A spokesman for the Free State Agricultural Union in Bloemfontein said the rains had not reached the crop-farming areas of the central Free State, but at some places farmers could plant oats or barley for winter.

The Bloemfontein area had received about 9 mm of rain.

The Weather Bureau reports that a cold front passed over the Karoo and brought scattered rain as far as parts of Natal.

De Aar had 23 mm, Alwal North 8 mm, Wepeber 8 mm, Macassar 6 mm and Maritzburg 7 mm.

The western Karoo where the drought persisted for four years received only sparse showers.

Isolated areas received good rains yesterday but not in the Transvaal.

A shower bringing 16 mm of rain was recorded at Louis Botha Airport, Durban. It was the first rain in the northern Free State was fortunate to receive 20 mm and Durban 9 mm.

Own Correspondent
PORT ELIZABETH — Almost the whole of the Eastern Cape has been declared an emergency grazing area as the drought tightens its grip on the province.

All the rivers in the area, with the exception of the Great Fish, have ceased to flow. Some farmers near the Ciskei border have had to buy water from tankers to keep stock alive, and in some instances even for household use.

A spokesman for the director of the Eastern Cape region of the Department of Agriculture, Mr Bill Smart, said today that 20 of the 28 magisterial districts in the Eastern Cape had been de-

Drought tightens grip on E Cape

WINTER OF '83

clared emergency grazing areas, while petitions to declare another three were pending.

"But conditions are far from good in the other five areas. We just haven't received petitions from them for emergency aid yet."

The declaration of an area as an emergency grazing area entitles farmers to rebates and loans on the purchase and transport of fodder.

The Cradock circle engineer of the Department of Water affairs, Mr H Horn, said the Graaff-Reinet Dam had had no water inflow for four years, and the quality of the borehole water on which the town survived was deteriorating as levels dropped.

Steytlerville Dam had been empty for a year, while other major dams were only around five to 10 percent full. Except

for the Port Elizabeth area, water was being released for human and animal use only.

The apple crop in Langkloof, which supplies almost 20 percent of South Africa's apples, is reported to have been badly affected by both heat and lack of water.

A leading farmer in the area, Mr James Baldie, said many apples had had to be sold for juice extraction at a fraction of the cost of first-grade fruit.

"But the worst aspect of the drought is that all the dams in the area are empty and our rainy season has ended. Unless we get winter rain there could be a total crop failure next year."

Children starve in SA drought

Couple robbed at home

Staff Reporter

AN ELDERLY Somerset West husband and wife were assaulted and robbed on Saturday night when three men burst into their home and forced them into a bathroom after they had answered a knock at the front door.

A police spokesman said yesterday that the couple, Mr and Mrs W C Bebington, aged 82 and 77 respectively, had opened the door in response to the knock about 7pm.

"Three men asked Mr and Mrs Bebington for directions to a certain street and for some water," the spokesman said. "They then pushed their way into the house, bumping the couple over in the process.

"The intruders pulled watches off Mr and Mrs Bebington's wrists.

"They forced the couple into a bathroom but luckily Mr Bebington was able to lock the door from the inside, thus keeping the intruders away from himself and his wife," the spokesman said.

The house was then ransacked and the men made off with the couple's wristwatches, cash and a portable radio.

Mr and Mrs Bebington had not been injured in the attack, the spokesman said.

Copy Times 10/4/83 3 General

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The crippling South African drought is causing widespread starvation among rural children.

In the Northern Transvaal alone, the number of children admitted to hospitals with kwashiorkor has more than doubled as a result of drought-induced crop failure.

Northern Transvaal hospitals and clinic wards are full of children suffering from kwashiorkor. Authorities reported a 200 to 300 percent increase in children suffering from kwashiorkor and malnutrition.

Lebowa's Subiaco clinic, which serves a community of about 25 000 people just south of the University of the North, has had one kwashiorkor death a week since January this year. The usual death rate is between five and 10 a year.

Authorities warn that a winter of acute starvation and rampant disease lies ahead.

The plight of farmers ruined by the drought, and the decimation of livestock, has received widespread press coverage, but the human tragedy being played out in the malnutrition wards of the remote "homeland" hospitals has gone largely unreported.

The combined effect of the crop failure and the retrenchment of many migrant workers as a result of the economic recession has reduced thousands of rural families to the brink of starvation.

Even the temporary relief usually afforded by seasonal labour on the

Varsities Day at Newports, page 17.

Picture: John Rubython



s for a ball during a match last year.

grabs win Connors

The victory by fifth-seeded Kriek ruined Connors' bid to become only the third player to win the 57-year-old tournament four times.

Connors, 30, romped to an easy first-set win after breaking Kriek's service twice.

The American, ranked number two in the world, jumped to a 2-0 lead in the second set before 25-year-old Kriek changed his tactics and gained the upper hand. — Sapa-Reuters

The mild one for mild smokers.

THE SILENT

Government short-sightedness may have added

The Star

By Stephen McQuillan

Government short-sightedness may have contributed to the water crisis in which South Africa finds itself because of the drought, it was said today.

More dams, canals, irrigation schemes and pipelines could have been built within an elaborate national water network had it not been for severe Government cash squeezes.

This is indicated in an article by the former Secretary of the Department of Water Affairs, Dr Jacques Kriel, in the Human Sciences Research Council's "RSA 2000" magazine.

"It is quite possible that if a severe drought

occurs during the next ten years, serious water shortages may be encountered because of the backlog in water projects, resulting from the limitation of expenditure," he said.

Dr Kriel made that statement in September — before the seriousness of the coming crisis became apparent.

"It seems obvious the Government has not been spending enough on water projects," he said today.

But the Directorate of Water Affairs strongly denies it has been lacking.

"There is no way we could have foreseen this crisis," said Mr Anton Steyn, PRO for the Department of Environment Affairs.

WINTER OF '83

"The cuts hit everything, apart from black education and defence. We plan 50 years ahead and no more. There were few big schemes which suffered because of the cuts."

The 1970 Commission of Inquiry into Water Matters estimated that total capital expenditure on water schemes from 1970 to the year 2000 should amount to R8 200 million, of which the Department of Water Affairs would have

to spend about R6 300 million — an average of R210 million a year.

But, because of inflation, that reflected an increase from R6 300 million to R17 325 million by 1980.

"Because of the increase in real as well as inflated costs ... it is obvious that annual expenditure on the planning, construction and operation of water schemes should increase substantially if demands are to be met," said Dr Kriel.

The Government was warned as far back as 1970 that huge amounts of cash were required for water projects.

Professor Desmond Midgley, former pro-

fessor of hydraulic engineering, and director of hydraulic research at the University of the Witwatersrand, said he hoped the Treasury would learn a lesson from the crisis and not remove money needed for building an effective water and power infrastructure.

Professor David Stephenson, director of water systems research and professor of hydraulics at the University of the Witwatersrand, said the agricultural sector would have benefited from crop irrigation schemes and projects shelved or slowed down because of the cash cutback.

● See also Page 11 of the World section and Page 1 of Metro.

Monday April 19 1983

APR 19/83
**Land for
coloured
farmers**

A BILL that provides for coloured ownership of farms to be created on former mission-owned land has passed through all its stages in the Assembly.

The Bill amends legislation by the defunct Coloured Representative Council which placed the former mission land, about 2-million ha, under the control of management boards which in turn initiated schemes to promote individual rather than common utilisation of the agricultural land.

IMPROVING

Mr Piet Badenhorst, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, said today these individuals had proved capable of acting responsibly and were scientifically improving their herds and their farming methods.

The Rural Coloured Areas Amendment Bill was read a second and third time with the support of all parties. — Sapa.

● See page 9.

Fanie silent over debt allegations

The Star
17 APR 1983

The Minister of Manpower, Mr Fanie Botha, today remained tight-lipped over allegations made in the House of Assembly yesterday by the CP MP for Brakpan, Mr Frank le Roux, that Mr Botha had asked the Government to write off a debt of more than R1 million on an irrigation scheme, of which the Minister's share was R190 000.

After an initial assurance by Mr Botha's secretary that a statement would be issued today on the allegations, it now appears that Mr Botha is likely to hold back his response until after Dr Andries Treurnicht's mass rally in Tzaneen tomorrow night.

It is thought the Minister is planning to meet Water Affairs officials before issuing a statement.

His secretary said the Minister did not wish to comment at this stage, as he was studying the text of Mr le Roux's speech, and also Press reports on the matter.

The allegations may be investigated by a Select Committee of Parliament if they are found to be objectionable.

There was no reaction to the the allegations yesterday from the Prime Minister.

Mr le Roux claimed that Mr Botha had asked for the debt to be written off without declaring his interest in the matter.

"That is why I say the Honourable Minister of Manpower is an embarrassment for the Cabinet, an embarrassment for the Prime Minister and an embarrassment for South Africa," Mr le Roux said in Parliament yesterday.

He was immediately stopped by the Deputy Chairman of Committees, Mr Val Volker, who asked him to withdraw his allegations.

Mr Volker said Mr le Roux had implied that he was questioning the honesty of a Minister.

"The rules of this House determine that the honesty of a Minister may only be questioned by means of a substantive motion."

He asked Mr le Roux to withdraw it and Mr le Roux agreed to withdraw anything he had said which indicated the Minister was dishonest.

(Report by Peter Sullivan, Press Gallery, House of Assembly)
● See Page 4 of the World section

... falsifying

UOL

Government's emergency drought plan comes under fire

Impure water fear

(3) General Star 20/4/83

By Stephen McQuillan

Against the growing threat of severe water and electricity crises, the Government has been accused of approving the wrong plan for resupplying power stations in the Eastern Transvaal with water.

The accusation was made by Professor David Stephenson, director of water systems research and professor of hydrology at the University of the Witwatersrand.

The plan, which is expected to cost R33 million, has already come under fire from several independent experts.

They have misgivings because the plan calls for fresh water to be pumped to the power stations from Vaaldam, leaving consumers with less pure water from the Vaal Barrage.

"There will be a lot of dissatisfaction on the Witwatersrand because the new scheme is to take fresh water," Professor Stephenson said.

"It now seems that our water will ultimately be supplied from the Vaal Barrage, south of Vereeniging.

"All the streams, rivers, drains and effluent from Johannesburg and the Witwa-

tersrand area flow into this weir. We will be left with a less pure fresh water supply."

Professor Stephenson said it would be more expensive to purify this contaminated water.

Industry would be hit because all the impurities in the water could not be removed.

It would cause scaling and corrosion in pipes and factories would ultimately have to face higher maintenance costs.

"It would have been far better to send this impure water to the power stations and leave the fresh water for the Witwatersrand," he said.

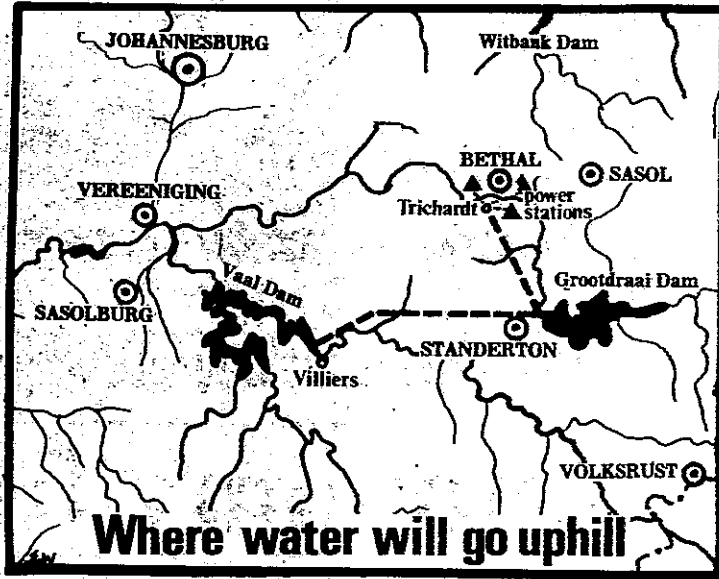
Power stations could have been serviced with pumped water from the sewage works on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

"It would appear from the map that less pumping would have been involved and it would have been a far cheaper, better idea," the professor said.

Water supplies to the Vaal Triangle were already being mixed with water from the Barrage but, as water was taken from Vaaldam for the new scheme, more contaminated water would have to be used.

Professor Stephenson said it was unlikely that water from Sterkfontein mountain dam would be used to re-supply Vaaldam until it became nec-

The Government's R33 million scheme for supplying water to the power stations in the Eastern Transvaal has come under strong criticism from experts who fear for the purity of the water which will be left for the Witwatersrand.



essary. There was less evaporation from Sterkfontein because of its high altitude.

"I can imagine a dispute developing between the Rand Water Board and the Government," he said.

He also said that the Government was optimistic in its pre-

diction that the scheme, which will take water from the Villiers area of Vaaldam, could be completed in five months.

A more permanent project, such as a pipeline, would have been better.

Professor Desmond Midgley, former professor of hydraulic

engineering and director of hydrological research at the University of the Witwatersrand, said logistics for the government project would be a big problem.

It was a big undertaking for a stopgap measure, said Professor Midgley, who worked for the Department of Water Affairs for 21 years.

"I would have preferred to have seen a permanent link — a pipeline — to connect the Tugela River with the power station complex," he said.

"The present scheme will not be permanent. It may get washed away when we eventually get heavy rain."

The scheme involves pumping water up-river through seven dams, made from stone and soil, to be constructed over a 100 km stretch of the Vaal River.

"When the floods come, they are bound to fail," Professor Midgley said.

"The Komati and Usutu rivers cannot meet all the power stations' future requirements. So why not build a permanent link now?" he said.

Mr Bert Boonzaaier, liaison officer with the Directorate of Water Affairs, said pump stations, built as part of the new project, would be permanent and the Government might consider building a permanent link later. This was not a priority at the moment.

"I saw Cedric for the first time on Thursday," Mrs Mayson said. "We returned from holiday with my sister in Richards Bay last Tuesday."

had, however, agreed to spare Dr Naude the ordeal of coming to court by making certain admissions in the case. All trial preparation had come to a halt with

pannee in south Africa. Officials at the BCC office would not say where Mr Mayson is staying, but said they expected him to visit them later today.

plicated several people before he was detained. He wanted to protect friends who would have been called as State witnesses. These include Dr Beyers Naude, banned former head of the Christian Institute, and a political lawyer, Mrs Priscilla Jana.

note a British passport which was kept for him in London. Efforts to extradite people who have sought refuge from South Africa can law in Britain have failed in the past.

Call for
subsidy
to cart
water

D. Dispatch

week for this vital commodity.

19 APR 1983
20 APR 1983
PORT ELIZABETH —
The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Sarel Hayward, is to be approached about the extension of the 75 per cent subsidy on transporting feed and licks to drought-stricken farms to carting water.

In the Albany district, where the drought has become disastrous in some areas, farmers are carting water, sometimes at exorbitant costs.

Water "imported" from here for his stock and household is costing Mr E. A. Thomson R160 a week. To the north 15 Fort Brown farmers are having water carted from the Fish River. At least one of them is paying nearly R200 a

Heading the organisation of Operation Water to the north is Mr Basil Were, a Fort Brown farmer who is a former chairman and member of the Albany and Bathurst Farmers' League.

He said farmers had been told that water carts from the South African Defence Force would be available.

"Some of the farmers wanted to make use of the carts but six weeks have passed and nothing has materialised."

Meanwhile negotiations with the railways resulted in the acquisition of a 20 000-litre capacity water tanker for which farmers were being charged R1 a kilometre. Initially this meant a daily charge of R70 for the tanker to travel from Grahams town to Piggott Bridge, before the tanker started carting its four or five loads a day to individual farms. — DDC.

Maize shipments to end in June

D. Dispatd

20 APR 1983

13 General

EAST LONDON — It was anticipated that the last shipments of maize from the East London harbour would go out in June, the system manager of the South African Transport Services (Sats) here, Mr A. J. Jonker, said.

Mr Jonker added there would then be no more exports of maize until the next season which would start about June 1984 depending on weather conditions and crops reaped.

He expected about 15 000 tons a month to be imported here from June. Projected estimates were that this would go on for at least ten months, Mr Jonker said.

Other imports of maize would be received in Cape Town and Durban.

Mr Jonker said the idea was that each of the three ports would serve its hinterland's requirements of maize and that Durban would also serve the Reef.

Asked whether the present grain elevator here would be used in receiving the imports, he said it was possible some of the maize received would be stored in it.

He said the decision on whether maize would be stored here would be made by the Maize Board.

He repeated an earlier statement that the loss of maize export would not affect the employment of workers at the grain elevator.

"We will use some of them in receiving the imported grain and others

may be placed in other areas within the system."

Mr Jonker said the amount of maize handled by the East London harbour in March was higher than the quantity handled during February but added that the March figure of 231 473 tons was 42 450 tons lower than the figure for the same month in 1982.

South Africa was still exporting maize in spite of the shortage in order to meet some of its commitments to importers but some orders had been cancelled because of the poor crops following the present drought.

A spokesman for the Maize Board, Mr P. J. Cownie, said South Africa "would definitely import 1,5 million tons" of maize this year.

R1 a month could help to save a life

Pretoria Correspondent

A tragic situation is developing in black rural areas, where few people qualify for agricultural drought relief.

A spokesman for Operation Hunger, a project of the South African Institute of Race Relations, said that in the north-eastern and Western Transvaal the "normally" impoverished families who are already well below the breadline will not reap the four to five bags of maize they need to see them through the winter.

She said cattle are dead or dying. large-scale retrenchment of migrant workers has cut off an alternative cash flow, and 1982 school-leavers are still unemployed.

Vast sums of money are needed to set up a hunger relief fund as a crisis measure to try to prevent starvation of families and the death rate of black children under the age of five increasing. It is already about 50 percent.

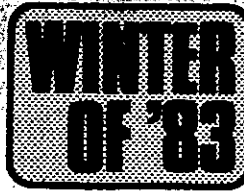
The organisers of Operation Hunger have calculated that R1.50 a month will buy five loaves of bread, 12 portions of high protein bean soup, or enough powdered milk for 20 cups.

A donation of R1.50 a month from a million people will enable realistic action on hunger relief, endemic malnutrition, and long-term self-help, she said.

WINTER OF '83

20 APR 1983

Chances of late rains are fading



~~25 APR 1983~~ *Gen* *3 General*

By Hannes Ferguson,
Farming Correspondent

Winter is at hand — and chances of further rain this season are becoming more remote.

Mr W J Louw, a senior Weather Bureau officer, said that the present pressure system was typical of winter weather.

Any rain that might fall would probably not be the result of a return of summer pressure systems, but of Cape winter rain-falls spreading northward.

He said winter rainfall in the Trans-

vaal was unstable and difficult to predict. But he was certain that the exceptionally dry late summer would not increase the chances of winter rainfall.

Mr Louw said weather science was still unsure about the causes of dry seasons such as the one South Africa had gone through.

Theories abounded and various wind and water temperature patterns were known to be associated with dry years, but whether they had to be seen as causes or effects of dry years was not known.

State ignored water threat

21 APR 1983

By Stephen McQuillan

The Government was urged to vastly increase expenditure on major water-engineering projects 13 years ago.

The Commission of Inquiry into Water Matters, launched by the Government, warned of serious water shortages before the end of the century unless there was "more effective planning and development" of water resources.

"Maintenance of a balance between supply and demand will in future call for huge and steadily increasing capital expenditures," said the commission report.

Despite the warning, severe restrictions on the cash flow to the Department of Water Affairs were ordered.

From 1975/76 to 1980/81 the department's budget increased by a mere R72,19 million.

In 1977/78 the budget was cut from R162,46 million to R154,13 million.

By 1980, according to the former Secretary of the Department of Water Affairs, Dr Jacques Kriel, the budget should have been running at R800 million instead of R218,24 million.

As cuts in electricity supply and water rationing are set to sweep the country because of the drought, did the Government miscalculate or disregard its obligation?

Did it allow major engineering projects to be either shelved or slowed down because of the cash squeeze?

Leading independent water experts suggest it did. The Government says it did not.

"There is no way we could have foreseen this crisis," said

A commission of inquiry warned the Government 13 years ago that "more effective planning and development" of water resources was needed. Nevertheless, cuts were made to the Department of Water Affairs budget. Government experts say they did their best — outside experts disagree.

3 General
The Staff



Mr Anton Steyn, public relations officer for the Department of Environment Affairs, which controls the Directorate of Water Affairs.

"Very few big schemes suffered because of the cuts."

He did admit that the Kloof canal scheme and dam projects had been shelved, though the dams would "not have alleviated" today's problem.

"Of top priority projects, not one was shelved."

Others disagree.

Professor David Stephenson, director of water-systems research and professor of hydrology at the University of the Witwatersrand, said that agriculture — badly hit by the

drought — would have benefited from crop-irrigation schemes, projects shelved or slowed down because of the cash cutback.

Professor Desmond Midgley, former professor of hydraulic engineering and director of hydrological research at the University of the Witwatersrand, said that when the cash stopped, important projects were affected.

Woodstock Dam on the Tugela River was delayed, along with pumps and canals to the Eastern Transvaal from the Usutu River and Komati Dam on the Komati River. Dams on the Usutu were still not built.

Construction of the Balmoral

Dam on the Upper Vaal had not been started. "Various dams, canals, pipelines and tunnels were delayed," he said.

The Lesotho Highlands Scheme, on the Upper Orange River, was designed to supply the Upper Vaal by tunnel.

The scheme had not started because of political wrangling, though the cash may not have been available to enable water engineers to act quickly.

"I think that the Treasury should be most careful about cutting funds in the future. It should have learned a lesson," said Professor Midgley, who worked for the Department of Water Affairs for 21 years.

"I remember working out years ago that the Department should have been spending about R400 million a year."

Expert staff had left the because higher wages could be had in the private sector and the department was now more reliant on contractors.

"If there is no staff left to plan and design projects, it is no use having the money."

South Africa had an elegant, long-term plan to establish an overall water network, and that had been held up by cuts.

"It seems the Government did not realise or appreciate the importance of water or power in a country like this," said Professor Midgley.

Dr Kriel said that more than three times the present number of dams were needed.

The country also needed improved international relations, co-operation of the public, efficient water use and increased water prices to ensure frugal use of the supply.

Drought: food prices to soar

General
21 APR 1983
The Star

By Colleen Ryan, Consumer Reporter

Prices are expected to soar as a result of the drought and basic foods could become too expensive for many this winter.

Consumer organisations fear that, if maize and dairy farmers are granted the price increases they have requested, low-income earners will be unable to buy enough food. The organisations have called on the Government to give urgent attention to the plight of consumers. They are alarmed at the requests of:

- The National Maize Producers' Organisation (NAMPO) which has asked the Government for a 25 percent price increase as compensation for huge crop losses.

Another factor which will contribute to higher prices for this product is the decision by the Maize Board to import 1.5 million tons of maize from the United States.

- The Dairy Board which is waiting for a Cabinet decision on its request for a price increase, according to a spokesman for the board, Mr Jaap de Bruyn.

"We welcome relief to drought-stricken farmers but, on the other hand, as a consumer representative we are extremely worried about the long-term effects of drought devastation and the possible shortages of basic foods," said Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the Housewives' League.

Excessive

The prices of basic foods such as maize, milk, dairy products, meat and wheat are already excessively expensive, said Mrs Hurwitz.

"We insist that relief must be given to consumers to counteract the long-term effects of the drought.

"The Government has assured us that it is giving priority to fighting inflation. These efforts will fail unless spiralling food prices are tackled."

The chairman of the Consumer Union, Mrs Betty Hirzel, has called on the Government to grant a temporary maize subsidy to prevent a price increase.

"The Consumer Union is not generally in favour of subsidies but we recommend one now because it is an emergency situation," she said.

On the Johannesburg Produce Market the price of fresh vegetables continues to rise. A 15 kg box of first-grade potatoes sold for as much as R11 yesterday. In March the average price was between R7 and R9.

First-grade tomatoes cost between R4 and R5 a box compared with an average of R3 a year ago.

Parliament and Politics

Parliament and Politics

No referendum before drought breaks

CAPE TIMES 21/4/83 3 general

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
— The Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, yesterday ruled out the possibility of a referendum on the proposed new constitution before an easing of the severe drought.

Speaking during his vote in the Budget debate he said he was not prepared to force a referendum on the country while the drought persisted.

"My very background dictates to me that I cannot subject the nation to a referendum at this stage.

"I shall wait with the referendum in the hope and faith that conditions will improve soon."

A referendum would also not be held before the lengthy and tedious pro-

cess of the registration of voters was completed.

The Prime Minister said he would subject himself to the outcome of the referendum, whatever it might be.

If the people voted "yes" in the referendum it would indicate their wish for peaceful co-existence.

"If the people say 'no', however, it would indicate that they wish to steer the country into a cul-de-sac.

"People with courage and faith will vote 'yes' but if they are in the minority South Africa will go on a road of doubt."

Mr Botha said the Leader of the Opposition should state clearly which way he was going to recommend his party to vote

because the Progressive Federal Party would also be affected.

There would be lots of time to discuss the government's guidelines for a new constitution as Parliament would sit until legislation in this regard was completed.

"The Leader of the Opposition can prepare himself for a winter sitting."

After the legislation was presented to Parliament it would go to the Select Committee on the Constitution where it would again be thoroughly debated.

Mr Botha said that if the coloured people and Indians wanted referendums they would get them but this would be decided

after consultation with them.

He had said on previous occasions that a referendum would be held if the government's new constitutional guidelines differed drastically from the NP's 1977 proposals and a referendum on those grounds was therefore unnecessary.

He had not, however, ruled out a referendum on other grounds.

As far as the new constitution was concerned, this was a long process because it was not only the constitution that was affected but other laws as well.

The government was using the opportunity to formulate its guidelines and

its legal advisers were completing the process.

The main reason for the referendum was that the new guidelines would differ sharply from the Westminster system and it was therefore only right to consult the public.

"I offer the Leader of the Opposition and every member of this House the opportunity to submit to the government recommendations as to what they feel the question or questions should be.

"But the decision lies with the government because it rules the country."

Dr Slabbert should divide his party into two sections so that they could put different questions

and then there should be a special question for Mr Harry Schwarz (PFPP Yeville) so that he could vote yes and no at the same time, Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha said adaptations or reform in South Africa should be evolutionary.

Coloured and Indian leaders would be consulted about a date to test their peoples' opinion and if they chose to do this by way of a referendum it would be done.

"The choice for everyone is clear: Boycott or participation in the process of self-determination and devolution of power."

The Indians also had a number of choices:

- They could opt for the

status quo.

- They could opt for being included in Kwazulu.

- They could follow the guidelines as set out by him.

Referring to the rights of Indians in the Free State, he said the interests of the Free State should be discussed with the leaders in that province whom it was only right should decide for themselves on the issue.

A prime minister of South Africa had to keep many things in mind and part of his responsibility was for that section of the people who were represented in Parliament.

"I am not prepared to walk the road of chaos," Mr Botha said. — Sapa

Speaking in committee during the debate on the Prime Minister's Budget vote, Mr Raw said he had appealed to the Prime Minister to restore and foster the climate of reform, but that this was now being broken down.

"I agree that reform cannot be rushed, but if you make it so slow that it appears negative, then you destroy the climate for reform."

He said the Prime Minister had said very little that was new.

"It was a mark-time speech, a restatement of attitudes more than an inspiring of confidence in future steps to be taken."

What was needed was to restore the excitement and spirit in favour of reform that had been building up in South Africa until recently.

The Prime Minister had come with platitudes when what was needed was a bold step further than what has been said before."

● Mr Ron Miller (NRP Durban North) said during yesterday's debate that the question was whether South Africa would remain "locked" into the Westminster system, which was totally inappropriate to the country, or whether it would attain consensus government. — Sapa

Reform climate 'broken'

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
— The leader of the New Republic Party, Mr Vause Raw, said yesterday he had been "frankly disappointed" by a speech by the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha.

THURSDAY,

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

R1 218

General ~~747~~ *Hansard*
Agricultural production/exports
Q. Col. 1051 2/14/83
725. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the
Minister of Agriculture:

What was the value of the Republic's
agricultural (a) production and (b) exports
in 1982?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (a) R7 649 million (preliminary figure)
- (b) R2 100 million (estimate).

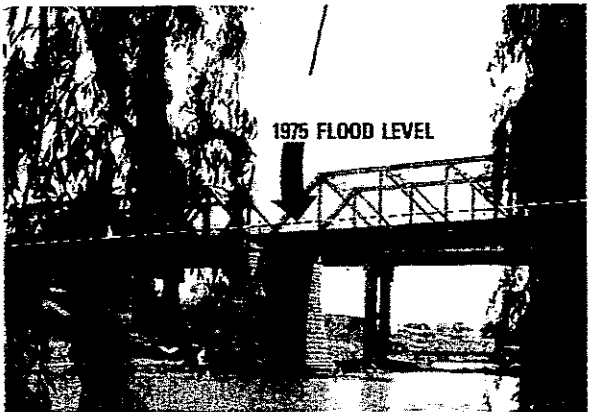
3 General

The Star Friday April 22 1983



The huge Vaaldam as it was only days after the Standerton flood which swept away luxury and other homes and caused millions of rands damage.

The mighty Vaal turns into a ghost of a trickle



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Flashback: February 1975. Standerton is awash. Passers-by halt their cars on the new road bridge to see the ever-rising floodwater sweep across the old bridge.



Today: The same bridge — with the flood line indicated — stands above a quiet lagoon. At several points the river is only finger deep.

By Stephen McQuillan

The mighty Vaal River released its deadly power in a raging flood which devastated the small border town of Standerton in the Eastern Transvaal.

As the angry river burst its banks, the Indian community was swamped.

Families watched in horror as homes and belongings were engulfed by the torrent.

Eye-witnesses stood helpless as the town was cut in two by the rampant river.

Shopkeepers watched plate glass windows shatter as the swirling water claimed property worth R500 000 from one trader alone.

A motor-boat lifeline carried supplies — mainly bread, milk and fresh water.

Hours later the chain was broken as officials feared the little boats would be swept away.

"I think it's just a matter of time before the town is cut-off completely," a desperate official said.

That was eight years ago.

Today, the story could be fiction.

Under the huge railway bridge, where flood water rushed around its supports, the Vaal is barely a metre wide and finger deep.

A still, quiet lagoon stands under the road bridge, some 25 m below the flood level.

The Vaal is now no more than a stream. It lies dormant, as if to hide the ghosts of the past.

Old cars lie on their sides on the banks exposed by the receding water. Old tin cans, garbage, a bicycle sit on the dry, boulder-strewn river bed, waiting for the water's return.

The Vaal River — third largest after the Orange and the Tugela —

ply and head off power blackouts.

The biggest in a chain which supplies water to the massive Eastern Transvaal power complex, the Grootdraai can re-supply the other dams with water for cooling the eight power stations

WINTER OF '83

has been almost lifeless for more than two years.

The river has been tamed by a god and a demon — the huge Grootdraai Dam and the drought.

Grootdraai Dam, a short way up from Standerton, began restraining the river in December 1978, releasing only a token amount of water from its sluice gates to keep the small, downstream town, alive.

The dam was considered fully operational by the end of 1979 and last April was 72 percent full.

Today the muddy banks and stark dam walls hint at its mere 35 percent capacity.

Nature could not feed it.

Drought is slowly rendering the giant impotent.

The dam is a key to survival for South African society as the drought deepens and a crisis nears.

It is the main facet of an elaborate Government plan to maintain an uninterrupted electricity sup-

ply and head off power blackouts.

In a multimillion rand emergency plan, the Government plans to pump water to Grootdraai from Vaaldam.

The Directorate of Water Affairs in Pretoria is now allowing only a trickle of water down the river.

"It seems pointless to allow water to go down river to the Vaal Dam when we are planning to pump it back," a spokesman said.

And so, the river slowly dies — until the drought breaks; until the dam increases its capacity; until power stations have enough water; until the Government scheme is complete.

It seems clear the river will not run in force for a long time yet.

It also seems the Vaal River will never again be allowed to run rampant, now there is an up-river master to ration its anger.

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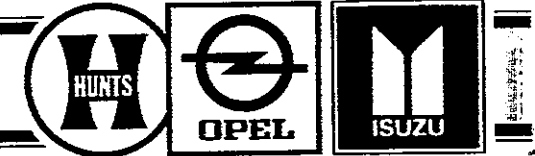
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WHERE IT'S SIMPLY CHEAPER

A threefold overdose?

The fertiliser industry will be hard put to refute the contention of a Pretoria academic that farmers are using, on average, three times more fertiliser than they really need. He is Willem Fölscher, Pretoria University's professor of soil science and plant nutrition since 1955.

According to him, maize farmers alone overbought to the tune of R340m in the 1981-1982 season. He adds that since 1967, when their usage was at realistic levels, they have bought un-needed product costing R2 000m at today's prices.

Fölscher's view is based on published agricultural statistics which show that between 1967 and 1982 maize yields remained fairly constant at around 2 t/ha while total use of nitrogen, phosphate and potash fertilisers increased nearly fourfold from 37 kg/ha to 131 kg/ha (see graph).

He claims this evidence has been confirmed in practice by a number of farmers who drastically reduced their fertiliser usage, and by controlled experiments carried out by the university in the eastern and western Transvaal.

If this is found to apply on a national basis, farming costs would plunge — but it could spell disaster for fertiliser manufacturers currently making heavy weather of the present downturn.

Demand has slumped due to the drought. Because of government's determination to curb inflation, controlled prices are too low for a satisfactory return on investment. And the prospect of increased competition from cheaper imports looms larger after the Maize Board's swap deal of maize for fertiliser with an eastern European country last year.

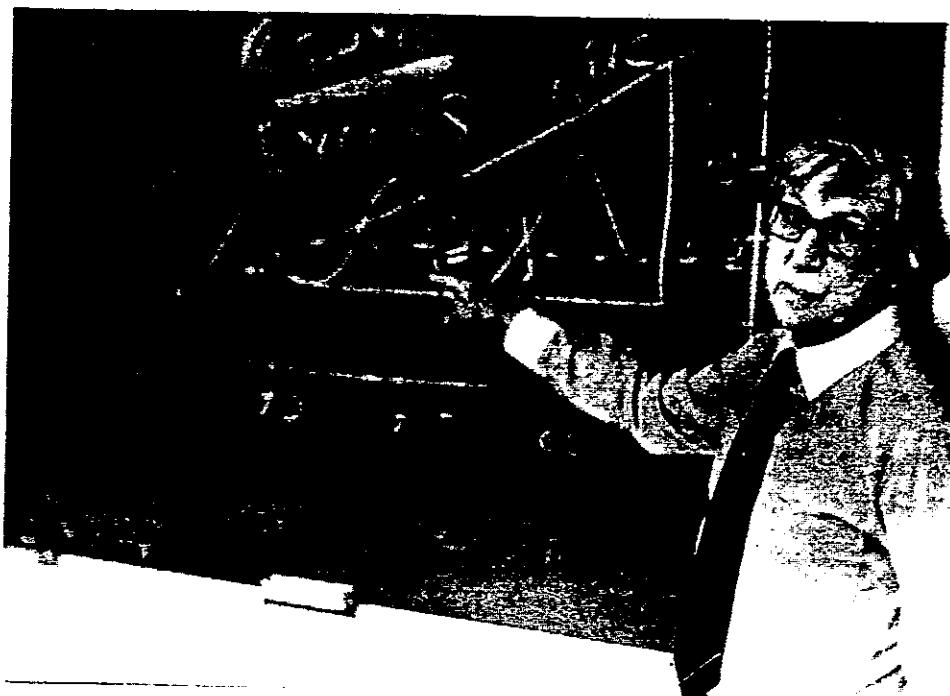
There has so far been no comprehensive refutation of Fölscher's controversial views, which have been known in the industry for some time. The Fertiliser Society of SA (FSSA), which represents producers such as AECL, Fedmis, Omnia, Sasol and Triomf, declines to comment on his arguments on a point by point basis. It indicates that much of its thinking on the matter will be revealed in papers to be delivered at its agm later this month.

The FM will publish relevant argument when this becomes available.

Executives of fertiliser companies are hardly less reticent, although some point out that their own field tests indicate that high usage of fertiliser pays off.

Director of the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) Piet Gouws says. "There may be a grain of truth in Professor Fölscher's ideas, but I feel they are something of an over-simplification."

Fölscher contends that the fertiliser



Pretoria's Fölscher ... bucking the system

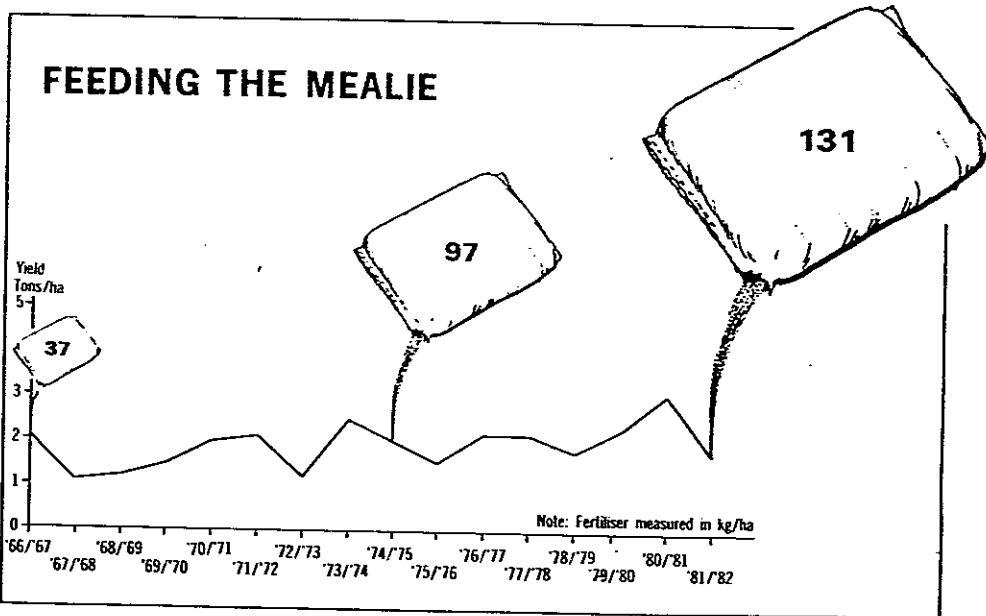
companies' tests, which support increased usage, are carried out under ideal conditions relating to planting times, soil preparation and moisture, which are almost impossible to duplicate under SA farming conditions.

"Even our best farmers on some of the best land cannot get the yields obtained under these tests except in isolated spots," he says.

Excessive use of fertiliser has further

costly consequences, says Fölscher. Unassimilated nitrogen in fertiliser gives rise to nitric acid, the cause of the highly acidic soils which plague many farmers. This in turn leads to a greater use of phosphate fertiliser to counteract the acidic effect.

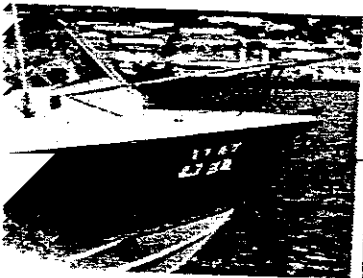
Excesses of these chemicals find their way into rivers and dams where they upset the ecological balance leading to a reduced oxygen content and putrefaction of aquatic





1 of the 1983 Cape Town Festival today, the
Coote, Helmut Otto and John Hargreaves,
the four men are all members of the Capab

the NSRI



station at Bakoven. It is the sec-
any has given to the institute.
ed and constructed by Acecraft
and modified to NSRI requir-
beam, weighs about 300 kg and
f 200 l.

xplicable'

our. used to deal with squat-
ould ters and the problems of
ing squatting?" said Mr Dall-
me ing.
or

Justice Minister Mr
Kobie Coetsee, who intro-
duced the Bill, said it
was intended to protect
national key points. When
Mr Dalling argued that a
specific Act had been
passed already for this
purpose, Mr Coetsee said
there were hundreds of
key points not covered by
that Act.

SAAF crew responsible for collision

PRETORIA. — A board
of inquiry has found the
crew of an Air Force
Merlin aircraft responsi-
ble for the mid-air colli-
sion with a private air-
craft above Erasmia,
near Pretoria last year,
in which 13 people died.

SABC radio news re-
ports that the accident
was found to have been
caused by negligence on
the part of the Merlin's
crew.

The board found that
the crew, under the com-
mand of Captain JIT de
Villiers, could and must
have seen the Piper Na-
vajo with its five occu-
pants, particularly as
they had approached
from the starboard side
and therefore had right-
of-way.

According to the find-
ings, the Navajo's pilot,
Mr Charles Marais, was
not guilty of any offence.

The board said it was
well known that flight
control in the airspace
where the accident oc-
curred was difficult.

Planning for the blackout

W/6 AFRICA 23/4/83

By SYLVIA VOLLENHOVEN

Weekend Argus
Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA could
be given details next
week of selective power
blackouts forced on the
country by a scarcity of
water at Highveld power
stations.

The Minister of Miner-
al and Energy Affairs,
Mr P T C du Plessis, will
deal with the vital issue
during Parliamentary de-
bate next week, accord-
ing to a Government
source.

The move follows a re-
cent Escom warning that
electricity power cuts
could sweep the country
within weeks, in an effort
to make water supplies
at power stations stretch
further.

Drought

The crippling drought
has forced agriculture,
commerce and industry
to consider drastic water
saving measures.

Top-level meetings
with the major power
consumers will continue
for the next two weeks,
according to Escom's
chief Press spokesman,
Mr Etienne du Plessis.

Escom — the country's
major producer of elec-
tricity — has warned
that power cuts could be
introduced as early as
June.

Water is needed main-
ly for cooling at power
stations and for steam to
drive turbines.

Alternative

Cape Town's City Elec-
trical Engineer, Mr D C
Paisler, says the city
could run up its Athlone
power station to increase
its capacity and make up
for cutbacks on Escom
power from the north.

Towns without their
own generating ability
will hit hardest by the
proposed blackouts.

Weekend Argus Parlia-
mentary Staff reports
that power stations ac-
count for about 20 per-
cent of the total con-
sumption of metered and
unmetered water in South
Africa

3 General

By Stephen McQuillan

Reef demand for water to outstrip supply in nine years

Demand for water in the Witwatersrand — the hub of South African industry — will outstrip supply in nine years, according to the Rand Water Board (RWB).

Engineers have until 1992 to come up with new projects to boost the amount of water available.

This is highlighted in a report by Mr Les James, the RWB's chief water engineer.

"The 70s were difficult years for the water supply authorities in South Africa, but I believe the 80s may well be more difficult," said Mr James.

About five million people — a fifth of the country's population — rely on the RWB for water in the board's 17 000 sq km area.

The area stretches from Sasolburg in the south to Pretoria in the north, from Bethal in the east to Carltonville in the west and Rustenburg in the north-west.

The area covers the most important industrial region in South Africa, supplying 60 percent of all industrial output.

The Vaal River catchment area produces a third of all agricultural

output and has half the available crop-producing land in the country.

From 1935 to 1979 the population growth was 3,5 percent but consumption increased from 100 litres to 350 litres of water a person each day.

The RWB needed 38 percent of the total water available from the Vaal Dam in 1975. This figure will increase to 50 percent in 1990, 60 percent in 2000 and 80 percent in 2020.

Considering the importance of the area and growth in demand, Mr James outlined four elaborate projects in his report to maintain water supplies to Johannesburg and its satellite towns.

The Lesotho Highlands project: The scheme is based on storage dams in the highlands. Water would be transferred by tunnel to Sterkfontein Dam in the Orange Free State.

Mr James says the advantage of this scheme is that hydro-electric power could be generated and the project could make a major contribution to the development of Lesotho.

The scheme could provide 3 000 million litres of water a day — sufficient to satisfy demand in the Vaal Triangle until 2010.

Political wrangling stalled moves to draw up the project, though it is understood relations between the two countries'

water chiefs are good.

Linking the Orange and the Vaal rivers: Outlets of the P K le Roux Dam on the Orange River could be linked with Vaalhartz weir on the Vaal River, using about 200 km of pipelines and canals.

This would boost the water supply to Bloemhof Dam, which cannot meet its requirement. In turn, this would relieve Vaal Dam of its back-up role for Bloemhof, releasing another 400 million litres a day for the Vaal Triangle.

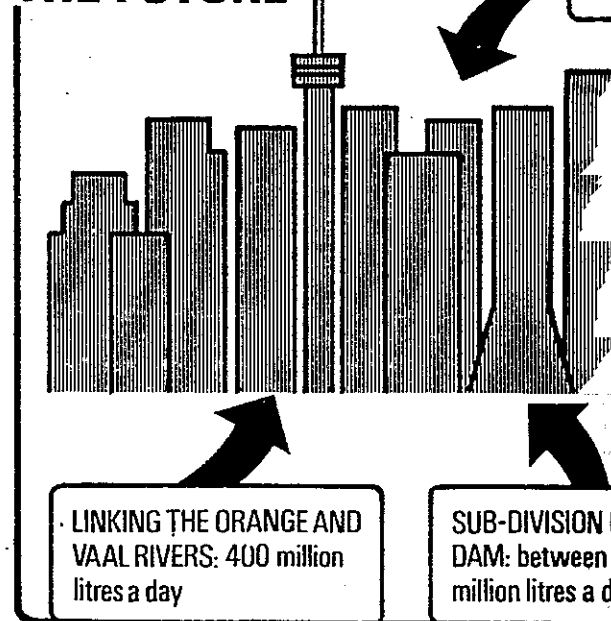
Another possibility was to pump water from the outlets of the H F Verwoerd Dam to Vereeniging. It would be an expen-

sive scheme to build and run and the link would be 500 km. Between 500 million and 1 000 million litres a day could be made available from the first stage of the scheme.

Subdivision of Vaal-dam: The dam could be divided into compartments. Water would be transferred by pumps from shallow to deep compartments, cutting evaporation losses.

All the power needed for pumping could be generated at the dam outlets, but this idea would be expensive to develop. Evaporation losses from the dam amount to about 900 million litres a day when full and 500 million litres a day when

WATER: THE FUTURE



half empty. The environment would have to be protected. Mr James said a large quantity of water was available and provided the amount taken was not a large portion, a scheme could be evolved that

- Saturday (P. Roberts)
- Sweet Wonder (M Roberts)
- Magic Bull (R Curling)
- Lawn (M Cave)
- Secret Service (R Rhodes)
- Larne (R Carr)
- North Island (P Wynne)
- So Proud (E Chapman)
- Wayward Son (G van Zyl)
- Carlsbad (P Dillon)
- Count du Barry (P Sieg)
- Duke of Marmalad (J Lloyd)
- Golden Chance (M Sutherland)
- Salvage (L Riley)

nacked to death and the man bashed to death with a hammer. A man was arrested later at a caravan park after giving himself up. A resident of the caravan park where police arrested the red-haired man in a blood-splattered shirt said he "seemed dazed and I heard him say he couldn't remember a thing". — Associat-

producer and part-time marathon runner, believes in "self-inflicted torture". After running in last Sunday's London marathon, he flew the Atlantic by Concorde and then ran in the gruelling Boston marathon — all in the space of 19 hours. In London on theatre business last week, Mr Kasser (42) thought it would be a "good experience" to run in the London marathon. He also mistakenly thought the Boston marathon was a few weeks away. Instead, both marathons were within 19 hours of each other — allowing for the five-

both famous events. "The biggest problem was logistics," he said. "I had to get a friend to pick up my race number in Boston since I wouldn't be there until Monday. Then I had to arrange for a Monday morning massage in Boston. "But first he had to survive the London race. The test was whether or not I could lift up my leg after the race. "If I could put my tracksuit pants on by myself, I'd run in Boston. If I couldn't, I'd forget it," he said. Mr Kasser finished the London course in 2 hrs 56 mins, returned to the hotel for a

A connecting T 5 pm and he spe his feet up in the. The next morn. gun in the Boston little jaded" and "utterly pooped". But he battled 42 km event in 3 This time, how to put on his tr quite manage al. The Comrades

The lambs spared from death

By SARAH HETHERINGTON

FIFTY tiny victims of the drought have become almost part of the family on a remote Karroo farm.

Newborn lambs huddle in pens on the lawn. Others, weak from hunger and thirst, spend the night in the gracious 19th century homestead in a desperate bid to save their lives.

The lambs are being abandoned by their mothers at birth as the drought tightens its grip.

And their only hope of survival is the bottle of milk that farmer's wife Mrs Hazel Steven-Jennings holds out to them three times a day.

But loving care is not always enough.

"I can't count the number of lambs that we have lost since lambing started a month ago. It must be at least 50 by now," said Mrs Steven-Jennings, on her mountain farm 60km from Beaufort West.

Although the area around Beaufort West has not yet been officially declared drought-stricken, the grazing is diminishing daily and the last of the water is drying up.

"Ten days ago we had an inch (2.5cm) of rain but that was not nearly enough to see us through the winter. Our last proper rains were in October," says Jim Steven-Jennings.

Wail

"We are extremely worried. The rainy season has ended and it will be a miracle if we get rain after the end of the month."

The 2,000 sheep on the 642 ha farm are beginning to feel the drought's harsh grip.

"The ewes are in poor condition and their animal instinct tells them to preserve themselves.

"They know the lambs will be a drain on them and so after the birth they just walk away," said Mrs Steven-Jennings.

Some of the newborn lambs never see their mothers at all - they are left to die uncleaned and unfed.

The lucky ones land in the pens on the lawn and soon



Bottle-fed babes in the lounge

learn to wail loudly when they see their new foster mother approaching with buckets of milk mixture.

They totter around on feeble legs, bleating in their excitement.

Then after a minute-long, tail-shaking tug at the bottle, they collapse - satisfied for a few hours.

For the very weak newborn lambs there is a mixture of milk, egg, olive oil and sugar - and it takes a lot of coaxing to get them to drink.

"Sometimes a lamb seems better and then we lose it," said Mrs Steven-Jennings.

"We hope to get them through and wean them early. But they come from weak ewes and drought-reared lambs make poor quality sheep. It really sets one back."

Mrs Steven-Jennings said the drought meant that they would get no lucerne off the land this season and they hadn't grown any wheat for several years.

"We've scared out of our wits about the shortage of fodder."



Mrs Hazel Steven-Jennings and two helpers bottle-feeding the stricken lambs in the living room of their 19th century homestead

Picture: TERRY SHEAN

Tough rationing for a

Water gushes at hotel oasis in a 'desert'

CASIO TONIC

of a parched province

Sunday Times Reporters
EMERGENCY water-saving measures were stepped up this week as the drought tightened its grip on parched South Africa.

Natal's emergency water committee announced a limit of 200 litres of water a day for flat dwellers and 400 litres a day per house in Durban and Maritzburg.
So, the Maritzburg municipality is to sink its first borehole.
The chairman of the city council's water action committee, Mr Robin Dales, said the borehole would be sunk in Churchill Square and drilling would start on Monday.
The borehole is successful it is expected to produce about 10 000 litres of water an hour.

Critical

Ray Haslam, chairman of Natal's emergency water committee, said this week rationing was the only possible way the city could last through the next seven or eight months until the next "rainy season" is expected.

There are in a critical situation which calls for critical action," he told the Sunday Times.

Anyone using in excess of the ration quota will pay R10 a kilolitre — as opposed to the usual 42c.

In case people do not feel the pinch of a higher tariff we will watch the meters of anyone abusing the system very carefully and will install washers in their meters which will only allow a trickle of water out of their taps at a time."

Hospitals and nursing homes have been exempted from the rationing system, as have commerce and industry.

The Rand Water Board also announced tighter restrictions aimed at cutting consumption by 20 percent in Johannesburg.



Women collect water from the Holiday Inn at Ulundi

Huge cut-price boost for food bank

A SUPERMARKET chain is launching a massive cut-price campaign ... to fight the drought.

Checkers, which disclosed plans for a "food bank" earlier this month, announced yesterday that it was stepping up its relief effort with discounts on basic foods.

Managing director Gordon Utian said his company would give its customers nearly R500 000 a month in subsidies — in the hope they would contribute generously to the "food bank."

Mr Utian said he would subsidise one basic foodstuff a week to the tune of R100 000.

He will also try to enlist the support of his stores' suppliers.

From May 2, all 170 Check-

By ANTHEA TASKER

ers stores will have collection bins in which customers can place either food or money.

The "food bank" will be linked to the Institute of Race Relations' "Operation Hunger", which has distribution points in rural areas.

R50 000 cheque

"It is time private enterprise did something about the drought," said Mr Utian.

"It is much bigger than just one company."
"Operation Hunger" will

In a desert — and it's free

WATER gushes from taps, and sprinklers constantly nourish lawns and vegetable gardens in the centre of parched KwaZulu.

The Holiday Inn at Ulundi, administrative centre of KwaZulu, has more water than it can use ... and freely gives it away to whoever asks.

By VAL CARTER-JOHNSON

Manager Max Alexander explained that the hotel receives its water from a large reservoir on a nearby hill.

Eventually the reservoir will serve two new government buildings still under construction, but at the moment the hotel is the only big consumer with water pipes into the reservoir.

Lucky

"We are just very lucky," he said. "We haven't been affected by the drought at all. The reservoir is there and it is full."

"At one stage the pipes were getting overgrown with algae because we were not using enough water."

"Now we share it with

whoever comes and allow them to take what water they want.

"It is strange to see the grounds of the hotel so green while outside our front door it is so dry," Mr Alexander said.

Throughout drought-ravaged KwaZulu, women continue to eke out an existence on their lands while their husbands look for work in other areas.

Women and children walk many kilometres to fetch a daily supply of water for cooking and drinking.

Mrs Inka Mars, vice-chairman of the Natal region of the South African Red Cross, and co-ordinator of the KwaZulu drought relief fund, said that the people in KwaZulu "are not able to provide for themselves any longer."

Precarious

"It was a precarious situation before the drought started in 1979, but now it is critical.

"The people have no water and now they have no crops so they are literally unable to provide for themselves. The people have to get their water from the rivers or any other source they can find."

"Since 1980 we have sent over 100 tons of mealie meal into KwaZulu, and are now stepping up our programme," Mrs Mars said.

Mrs Dnasile Dlamini and her daughter Nonose, 4, walk six kilometres everyday to fetch water from a borehole.

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Bottle trick saved her only luxury

ELDERLY woman's only luxury in life — her garden — is threatened by the drought ... until she thought of a water-saving trick.

She wrote this letter to DUGHT ALERT:
"I HAVE lived in our 49 years and I am cars old now. I have always been a gardening person and I have loved a very green spot very dreary street. I have been here since 1946."

and it seemed as if I would have to give up my one beautiful luxury in life.

Then I thought of an idea: I cut off the bottoms of plastic bottles, filled them with water and planted them upside down next to my favourite plants.

Now their roots are being watered with no wastage and on Wednesday afternoons I only use about half the water I would normally have used.
— GERTRUDE THOMAS, Krugersdorp.

□ A CONSIDERABLE amount of water could be saved if home owners throughout the country had tanks in their gardens or back yards to collect rain water which drains off the roof and gutters during a heavy downpour.

In a nation-wide campaign to conserve water, the Government should consider a tax deduction on the purchase of a water tank.
WATER IS LIFE — SAVE

IT. — L KIMMEL, Green Point, Cape Town.

□ CONGRATULATIONS Sunday Times! How wonderful to have a Sunday paper that CARES!

My suggestion is that we turn to the Bible. I believe God hears today as he did then. — JOYCE VON BACKSTROM, Vanderbijlpark.

□ I WAS thrilled by the article of Ruth Gosenbo about

farmer Boswer de Preez and his method of combating the drought (April 17).

The method of farming described falls under water-conservation methods.

The ripper is an ingenious invention to ease labour in cultivation. — A C M VIN-GERHOETS, Marine Parade, Durban.

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Borehole cutbacks also urged

A drought relief organisation today called on water authorities around the country to impose restrictions on the use of borehole water.

Imqualife, a small, non-profit body of volunteer workers, says a cutback in the use of underground water is just as important as imposing water restrictions on mains supply users.

Mr Len Apfel, the organisation's official spokesman, said that if boreholes ran dry, demand for water from regional authorities would increase.

"It is just as important not to take water out of the ground as it is not to use up the mains supply," he said.

In the homelands, water tables had already dropped to low levels. "It is essential, especially in places which rely heavily on boreholes, that the water table is kept at a reasonable level," said Mr Apfel.

"It is not an endless supply and will not be replenished. We have to restrict the use of this water."

Mr Apfel has already appealed to the Rand Water Board (RWB) and the Directorate of Water Affairs in Pretoria to impose restrictions.

Rationing unfair, say confused flatdwellers

General Star 125 APR 1983

Angry Durban flat and duplex dwellers last week criticised the "grossly unfair and confusing" allocation to them of only 200 litres of water a day per flat — half as much as that allowed for houses.

Supervisors of blocks of flats which buy bulk supplies and then sell to individual apartments said they had no way of monitoring consumption or catching anyone who was using more than his allocation.

The situation was made even more unfair, people said, because the aged and families with babies would be allowed only as much as, for example, bachelors living alone.

Mrs Troon Dardagan, of Berea, said the rationing was unfair as her family of five lived in a three-bedroomed duplex flat and would find it difficult to be restricted to 40 litres each for all their needs.

"I feel it would have been fairer all

round if water was rationed on a per capita basis.

"A single person in a flat will be allowed the same amount of water as my family — which includes a baby still in nappies and two under six. It just does not make sense.

"I know one will be able to apply for more water, but it appears it will be a long and wasteful process," she said.

The chairman of Natal's emergency water committee, Mr Ray Haslam, said the extra tariffs for exceeding the water allocation in flats would be charged to owners.

"Obviously, this charge would then be passed on to the tenants," he said.

Asked why rationing had not be applied on a per capita basis, Mr Haslam said it would have taken eight to 10 weeks to implement such a procedure.

"We just cannot afford that length of time in this crisis situation. — Sapa

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Assocom fears worsening drought

By Colleen Ryan, Consumer Reporter

The Association of Chambers of Commerce is to meet the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Fisheries, Mr Sarel Hayward, this week to discuss the serious impact of the drought on commerce and industry, the chief executive of Assocom, Mr Raymond Parsons, said at the weekend.

The drought was adding to the problems of the recession and fuelling the rate of inflation, said Mr Parsons at Assocom's Transvaal regional congress in Rustenburg.

Water authorities should be in close contact with the various chambers of commerce to ensure that the measures introduced were effective.

Some of the measures have been implemented in great haste and the regulations have been poorly

communicated to consumers," he said.

Congress delegates unanimously accepted a motion which urged chambers to liaise closely with local authorities.

Water restrictions could lead to loss of business and an increase in unemployment, said Mr D Mackintosh, a member of the Springs Chamber of Commerce.

"When the water boards introduce their water quota, it is essential the quotas are fixed at equitable levels," he said.

Delegates from country areas described the grim impact of the drought on agriculture.

WINTER OF '83

Mr A Keller, Assocom past-president and a member of the Letaba chamber, said the full effects of the drought would not be felt until 1984.

"This year's citrus crop has not been affected because there was adequate water at the start of the season. Next year we could lose a million orange trees."

In the Nelspruit area, the entire cane crop would have to be re-planted next year, said Mr B Shrosbee from the Nelspruit Chamber of Commerce. "The Mal-lane sugar mill has already had to close because of the water problem."

A Benoni delegate, Mr J M Tilley, said businessmen should explore every avenue to conserve water and to find alternative sources. Industry should investigate the possibility of tapping the vast quantity of water stored in old Reef mines.

Cape Times 27/4/83. (3 Genes)

They're not giving up

TINUS DE KOCK of Nuwerus trains his pale-blue eyes on you and jokes: "When the first settler came here the Bushmen should have shot his backside full of arrows so that he went away and never came back again."

He is one of the foremost farmers in the Hardeveld, a compact, weather-beaten man famed for his blunt talk:

"From Vanrhynsdorp to Nuwerus there isn't a farmer left on a farm, just a couple of labourers. The farmers all have jobs.

"The boreholes which haven't given up have dropped. The borehole which gave Nuwerus water from 1960 has now given up ... There's a dam around here which used to break open whenever it had a lot of water in it. It doesn't happen any more — the dam's been empty for seven years."

With some cynical amusement he recalls that in 1980 one organization offered Hardeveld farmers insurance against the drought, and "they had to pay out in 1981 and now they won't insure again. Thank God I didn't sow any wheat last season. That's what's happening ... you can't

farm here at the moment".

But like his neighbours he is not giving up:

"If it's the breeding season you put your rams among the ewes and hope for rain. If you won't do that, you're not a farmer."

He recalls a long-ago drought when "I started off with 1 270 sheep and ended with 410. Those days we had no co-op or medicine against internal parasites. Now we have, and I can keep going longer — if only I can get fodder."

"In the 1933 drought you used to see heaps of skeletons. You don't see that today. Now we have antibiotics and other ways of keeping your sheep alive. But the suffering's still there — it's just not so visible."

Mr De Kock's close friend and partner, Otto Basson, has a ledger full of rainfall figures which tell the sad story of the past nine years. In 1974 they recorded 206mm of rain — a large amount by Hardeveld standards. In 1975 it fell to 134mm, but rose to an excellent 237,6mm in 1976.

Then in 1977 only 67,6mm fell, and in 1978 a minuscule 26,8mm. In 1979 it was a little better at 53,2mm. Then 1980 brought 129mm and 1981 was even better

at 203mm, followed by 153mm last year.

So far this year there has been 3mm in February and 2,8mm last month. The rainy months are still coming, since the Hardeveld is in the winter rainfall area, but Mr De Kock is not all that optimistic.

The problem is that the figures do not tell the full story. The rain falls in patches — one farmer will get some, but his neighbour nothing at all.

Everywhere in the Hardeveld one sees what look like great patches of newly ploughed but unsown wheatlands. It is deceptive. The fields have all been sown, but nothing has come up — or the wheat has been so sparse and stunted that the farmers have cut their losses by putting their sheep in to graze on it.

But drought has done more than just blight the wheat harvests. Its most serious damage has been to the natural vegetation, the dowdy "bossieveld" which, in spite of its uninspiring appearance, provides excellent grazing.

The bossieveld is the Hardeveld's richest natural resource, but Mr De Kock speaks for many

farmers when he says flatly: "I believe 80 percent of the bossieveld is dead. And one year's rain won't be enough to revive it."

Like Mr De Kock and others, Louis Coetzee, one of the leaders in the farming community, is desperately worried about the way the bossieveld has been savaged by the drought.

"Bossieveld is much more vulnerable than grass," he explains. "The grass will come up again after a year if it rains, but once the bossieveld has been uitgetrap it takes years to recover. I can show you fields that haven't been ploughed since 1935, and you can still see them clearly ... You can do irreparable damage to bossieveld — a knee-high bush might be 40 years old.

"That's our problem. If you can't afford to put livestock in the kraal you have to put them in your veld, and if that veld has already been weakened they'll destroy it totally. The bossieveld will take generations to recover."

The officially determined ratio of sheep to hectare during the good years was 1:5. Now it has been revised it to about 1:6,7, but he has imposed his own ration of 1:12.

● **TOMORROW: The drought in Bushmanland**



In more prosperous times the pressure of water in this dam used by Nuwerus farmer Otto Basson twice burst its retaining wall. But that was before the lean times came to Namaqualand — the dam has been empty for more than seven years

Picture by JOHN VAN DER LINDEN

Cape Times 27/4/83

3 General

Farming for survival

LOUIS COETZEE of Bitterfontein sits back in his chair, sips a cup of coffee made with water railed from Lutzville, 80km away, and says: "We're farming for survival now, not to make a living."

Faith, hope, humour, a distrust of charity and a fierce attachment to their land. These are the things that still drive the tough farmers of the vast region of Namaqualand as they watch it bleed to death in the seventh year of one of the worst droughts in memory.

The Namaqualanders are no strangers to drought. They discuss past droughts the way Boland wine-farmers talk about vintage years, and by their calculations this one is the worst since 1933 and before that, 1895.

But now the crunch is coming. Namaqualand is primarily stock-raising territory, and the lambing season is due to start in about a fortnight... without there being any indication that the drought will break. Yet they still hope. The bad times have always been followed by the good years. The problem is

'They discuss past droughts the way Boland wine-farmers talk about vintage years'

hanging on till then. As Louis Coetzee says: "If you get 10 good years they're spread over half a century."

And so they go on spending their hard-earned money and tightening their belts, and they grin derisively at tales about drought in the north — "the Transvaalers say they've got a drought because they've had bad harvests," Tinus de Kock says. "We know we've got a drought when we've had no harvest at all."

Namaqualand is not one amorphous mass. It has distinct regions, including the Sandveld along the west coast; the Landplaas-Bitterfontein area, or "Hardeveld", in the south-east; and the Bushmanland, which lies inland, east of the mountains that run like a spine up Namaqualand.

The Sandveld receives most of the rain but the Hardeveld is Namaqualand's granary, with thousands of tons of wheat and thousands of kilogrammes of top-quality mutton being produced there in a good year; while connoisseurs prize the mutton raised on the high sweet grass of the Bushmanland.

There is a close symbiosis between regions and products in Namaqualand. Many farmers own land both inside the Bushmanland, which is a summer rainfall area, and the western parts, where the rain falls in winter, and move their stock from one to the other as the grazing and lambing seasons dictate.

Many farmers are both pastoralists and cultivators. When they have harvested their wheat, they fatten their sheep on the stubble-fields, if necessary supplementing their diet with fodder from the lush irrigation farms along the Olifants River.

As they say, one hand washes the other.

Namaqualand is suffering from the worst drought in living memory. WILLEM STEENKAMP, a Namaqualander himself, went to investigate.

In the good years, that is. But the good years have stayed away for a long time, and the symbiosis is breaking down.

The man who sees the picture in all its implications is Mr J J Kellerman, manager of the Namakwalandse Koöperasie, based at Vredendal:

"Lucerne production (in the irrigation area) was the best for many years this past year, and till the end of February we could supply the people in our area with fodder and even export a little. And then it went wrong.

"In a good year on average this co-operative ought to get 20 000 to 30 000 tons of wheat. Then a man can walk out of this office with a cheque of up to R80 000 in his pocket — but we haven't had a good average year since 1977.

"In 1980/1 we took in about 12 800 tons. In 1981/2 it was 5 600 tons, and in 1982/3 it was 3 700 tons." And 1983/4? Mr Kellerman shrugs.

The Namaqualanders have been hit by a vicious set of circumstances. It would have been bad enough if they had had only to buy fodder for their sheep. But thanks to the nation-wide drought, fodder of all kinds is at a premium in both price and availability.

Mr Kellerman says: "The supply of raw fodder is totally cut off in almost all aspects. At the moment we're getting practically nothing from the Boland or elsewhere — they just haven't got it.

Nothing can be done now but hope for rain: "We watch the (weather) fronts. The thunderclouds come and come, but they don't bring rain.

"In the summer rainfall area, no matter what happens, the grass-growing time is now past. The Bushmanland wouldn't get the full benefit now even if there is rain.

"In the winter rainfall area, if it rains 50mm in the next fortnight and there are a couple of follow-ups, we've got no problems and people can start talking about a crop".

A man who sees the farmers' struggle at first hand is Mr Harry Burnett, manager of the Namakwalandse Koöperasie's branch at Bitterfontein, where the railway line from Cape Town ends.

"Today we got in 550 bags of mealies," he told me as we sat in his small hot office near the railway line, "and they'll be gone by tomorrow."

As we talk a farmer comes in to ask for mealies. He is allocated 10 bags. "Ten bags! What can I do with 10 bags?" the farmer cries. But that is all he gets, and he goes off to load them, straight from the railway truck.

The farmers have been giving fodder since 1978, Mr Burnett says — the Bushmanland was proclaimed a drought-stricken area in August 1978 and had been giving fodder since then, and two years ago the Hardeveld was also proclaimed.

As chairman of the Bitterfontein farmers' union branch, Louis Coetzee has an intimate

knowledge of the drought's underbelly. "One man here told me the other day he'll feed his sheep till the end of April and then he'll let them die because he can't put more into them than he'll get out. I told him he won't do it — how can he do it, specially if the ewes are pregnant? We'll see."

Mr Coetzee he is intensely aware of the on-going cost of the drought:

"We've got people here who were going to retire when they were caught by the drought. One man had R40 000 saved and also some stock, which he was going to sell and then retire. Now he can't — he's spent all his money on fodder.

"In the Hardeveld the smallest farmer I know is spending about R1 500 a month on fodder if he has a loan. He doesn't spend less than R50 a day. One farmer around here has been spending R6 000 a month or more."

According to Mr Coetzee it costs a farmer at least R3 a month to ensure one sheep has its minimum requirement.

'Namaqualanders don't go bankrupt... we live on the verge of it'

The Hardevelders are receiving help in terms of Phase 4 of the government's drought-relief scheme — a direct subsidy of 60 percent, or R3 a head — for a maximum of 1 200 stud ewes. This sounds like a good deal... but only till one realizes that farmers have been buying fodder off and on for several years. Then that remaining 40 percent mounts up to very large sums.

Within the next few days the Bitterfontein farmers will apply to be upgraded to Phase 5, which will mean a 70 percent subsidy or R4 a head; but they are nearly at the end of their tether already, and as Louis Coetzee says, "You still have to have a hand to make a fist."

Many Hardeveld farmers have reached the stage at which they have exhausted their own money, their credit at the co-op and their bank credit as well.

Yet they go on. Echoing Mr De Kock's sentiments, Mr Coetzee says: "When you put your rams among the ewes in December you don't know if it's going to rain in five months' time, but you can't not put your rams in... It will just have to rain."

In the meantime the people are fighting on — "Namaqualanders don't go bankrupt — we live on the verge of it. But few here have gone bankrupt. But lots of farms are empty. But they aren't leaving the land. They work, and at weekends they go back to their farms."

And as always, the talk finally turns back to water, that most precious of all commodities in Namaqualand:

"Many farms don't have even one borehole still working. One man has to truck water to his sheep and it's the nearest thing to seawater that you can get... One of my own

Eastern Cape may be hit by floods soon, says expert

Argus Bureau

2 General

EAST LONDON. — Floods similar to those of the 1970s could occur in the Eastern Cape in the spring this year, says Mr W Karberg of the Bathurst agricultural research station.

After an intensive study of records of world and local weather patterns in the past 80 years, Mr Karberg believes similar or even worse floods than before could hit the Eastern Cape from August.

The records showed that whenever the northern hemisphere was affected by severe floods and snowfalls, floods usually occurred in the southern hemisphere the following season. "This has happened three times in the past 50 years."

FLOATING IN STREET

In the early 1950s severe floods occurred in Port Alfred. "People were floating in the main street in boats," Mr Karberg said.

During the 1970s floods occurred in Port Elizabeth and East London.

Mr Karberg emphasised this was a "broad" prediction. "Man can't predict the weather exactly."

It was not possible to say precisely where the floods might occur or how severe they would be. "They may happen in Port Elizabeth or East London or both or in another part of the country," he said.

Agriculture Vital to Ciskei — Fani

D. 216/AT/41
27 APR 1983

BISHO — The economy of Ciskei would depend heavily on agriculture for many years, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr L. M. Fani, told the National Assembly yesterday.

Delivering his policy speech, he said if agricultural development did not accelerate, the total economic structure of Ciskei would be in danger of either of stagnation or complete collapse.

He said he was convinced the battle for the economic viability of the country would be fought mainly in the rural areas instead of in the industrial areas of a few Ciskeian towns.

It was absolutely essential that a new awareness of the need for agricultural development as part of development on a national basis should be created at all levels. If such awareness did not exist people could not be motivated to accept let alone create, the changes that were necessary to achieve the goal.

What was required was the creation of a climate conducive to development. The fact that Ciskei needed outside assistance, and internal adaptations to utilise such assistance, must be admitted and accepted at all levels.

Mr Fani said three basic requirements for development were funds, manpower and management.

Today the main limiting factors were those of skilled manpower and management. That being so there was an urgent need for a major change



MR FANI

in Ciskei's existing largely traditional way of life especially as far as the farming system was concerned.

It was possible to adapt the present system to bring about a tremendous increase in agricultural output without creating chaos in the rural areas. The change would of course be a gradual process.

He said by developing the rural areas or helping the rural people to develop themselves the government would set in motion a reaction that would follow the natural course of peaceful change that it wanted.

By neglecting the rural areas and concentrating on the development of towns, the country would drain the rural areas of able-bodied and trained men who were so urgently required for rural development. Rural development schemes could however only succeed where it had been preceded by careful

planning on a regional and national basis.

"It is an important prerequisite for the successful implementation of such plans that all lower authorities and the people themselves play an active and positive part in all stages of planning," he said.

"Furthermore it is essential that the government of the country provides sufficient funds and manpower and a planned programme of action."

Mr Fani said the development decision had played an important role in the relief rural development programme in that 58 woodlots of about 10 hectares each were plotted in certain rural communities which provided work opportunities for about 1200 men and women.

The animal husbandry division had experienced a reasonably active year despite the ravages of the drought on livestock and agriculture in general.

The severe drought had seriously affected the activities of the forestry branch. Considerable loss of income was expected due to the fact that the growth of trees came to a standstill and this could have a serious effect on the long-term planning.

Mr Fani said army veterinarians from the South African Defence Force had been of great help to Ciskei as there were no qualified Ciskeian veterinarians. Women stock inspectors, the first in Ciskei and Southern Africa were used to man veterinary clinics. — DDR.

Market board moved R3m worth of goods

BISHO — Despite severe drought conditions, agricultural products valued at R3 414 000 were marketed through the Ciskei Marketing Board by Ciskeian producers.

This was announced by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr L. M. Fani.

Various schemes ensured that farmers obtained a considerably higher income from their produce than in the past. The board's marketing services had brought market prices to the doorsteps of rural farmers.

Despite enormous difficulty and fierce com-

petition experienced from milk produced by white farmers entering Ciskei, a pleasing five per cent growth in sales of fresh milk and fresh milk products was achieved. The total sale for 1982 amounted to 5 974 831 l.

Comparatively small quantities of maize were offered for sale with 434 bags collected from 82 rural farmers and marketed.

With regards to citrus, Mr Fani said the Tyumie estate in Alice had achieved a very high standard and had the distinction of being the best in South Africa and

Ciskei. Considerable expansion was planned when additional estates were handed over to Ciskei later in the year in the Kat River area.

Citrus was exported to countries in Africa and in the last financial year 65 000 cartons of naval oranges left Ciskei.

Ciskei received 20 Cape mountain zebra from the National Parks Board, which were kept at the Tsolwana game park.

Three giraffe which were bought this year had adapted very well. — DDR.

3 General

Jersey club gives 25 heifers

BISHO — The South African Jersey Club had through the Albany Club donated 25 Jersey heifers, some of which were already cows, in response to President Lennox Sebe's appeal to private companies to help towards the rural development scheme.

This was announced by the minister of Rural Development, Mr V. H. Mafani, in the National Assembly yesterday.

The heifers would be handed over to President Sebe at Bisho Stadium on May 10.

The club had invited the South African Minister of Agriculture to be present at the ceremony, he said.

The herd would be kept at the Iziko Lolutsa youth camp. — DDR

Control of farm projects criticised

BISHO — Since the Ciskeian economy depended on agriculture it was imperative that agricultural officers should be sincere, the deputy whip, Chief D. N. Mavuso, said in the Assembly yesterday.

Speaking during the discussion of the policy speech for agriculture he said produce from Ciskei's three irrigation schemes would be abundant if the schemes had been properly managed.

"Is it proper administration at the Shiloh irrigation scheme that potatoes produced there are sold for R9 a pocket to the local people and sold to white shop owners in Queenstown for a lower price?" he asked.

"Is there justice in selling these to white traders at a cheaper price while they are being sold at a higher price to Ciskeians?"

Chief Mavuso said the policy of the government was that Ciskei should be able to feed itself before exporting produce.

He said produce from the Tyefu irrigation scheme was being exported to Port Elizabeth before it had been consumed by Ciskeians.

He asked why the three schemes were not able to produce enough fodder for Ciskei. He said there must be a lack of administration.

He also criticised the running down of released farms before they were handed over to Ciskei. One found machinery, windmills and other utensils being broken or

missing before the handing over.

Other speakers who called on the South African Government to hand over the promised land were Chief A. M. Mqalo, Chief S. M. Hebe, Chief B. N. Nciya, Chief D. Zimema, Chief W. P. Zibi, Mrs F. F. Matiyase and the Minister of Education, Mr A. M. Tapa.

Parliament will resume on Friday.

Today MPs will attend the official handing over of the Dimbaza automatic exchange by Dr L. Munnik to the Ciskei Government at the Lennox Sebe Teacher Training College. — DDR.



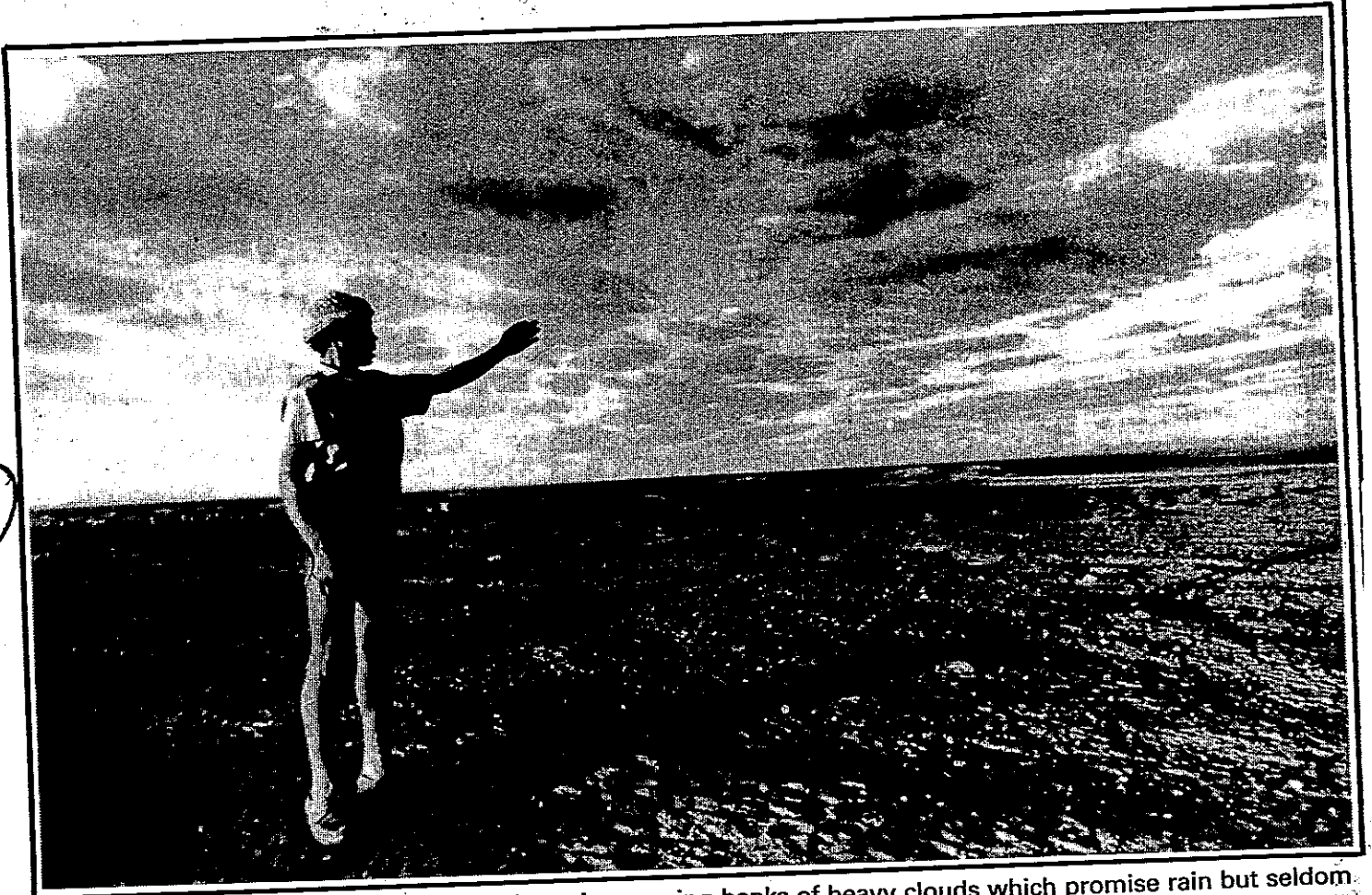
MR TAPA

Even old people can't remember a drought like this'

Some still hang on to their farms

CAPL TIMES
28/4/83

3 General



Shepherd Dirk Cloete gestures hopelessly at the growing banks of heavy clouds which promise rain but seldom deliver

WILLEM VOLLGRAAFF, of the farm Bossiekom in the far southern marches of the Bushmanland, is a hospitable man, and when two dusty strangers from the city appear unexpectedly at his front gate he invites them inside for a cup of coffee. But it is made with powdered milk — "we had to sell our milk cow", his wife apologizes. "She was eating too much fodder."

And Mr Vollgraaff is not some dirt-poor scabbler. In Namaqualand it is not polite to ask a man how much land he owns, but he has been a solid, well-established farmer for a long time.

In a sense Mr Vollgraaff is as much a soldier as a farmer, for he has spent most of his life — he is now in his late 60s — in a never-ending campaign against a relentless enemy, General Drought.

Sometimes he has won, sometimes he has lost. At the moment, after seven years of struggle, he is at the receiving end. But he is not beaten yet. He pauses to look out over the grassless plains below his house and says simply: "If a farmer doesn't have faith in the Lord he can't survive around here."

Here there are no trees

To get to Mr Vollgraaff's house one leaves the tarred national road at Bitterfontein and then heads roughly east. At first the dirt road winds through the foothills of the Kamiesberg range. Then they flatten out and the awe-inspiring plains of the Bushmanland begin.

Here there are no trees, just low, stunted bushes stretching away far as far as the eye can see; big dust-devils dance across the road and disintegrate. The land goes on and on, with little sign of life beyond the occasional distant farmhouse or passing car. The Bushmanland is a big place with few people; now, in the seventh year of drought, the people are fewer than ever before.

One's car passes a sad group of buildings near a place appropriately named Stofvlei. Near the road is a neat white-washed building, obviously a place of business. Behind it is an older stone building.

Both have been abandoned. The white-washed building has been shuttered and loc-

WILLEM STEENKAMP concludes his series on the terrible drought with this report on the conditions in Bushmanland. JOHN VAN DER LINDEN took the pictures

FEW Namaqualanders today know of William Charles Scully — traveller, writer, poet, naturalist, geographer and, in the 1890s, the only magistrate in the whole territory. But many years after his sojourn there Scully wrote an evocative poem which described Namaqualand better than anyone before or after him:

The following is an extract from the poem:

*A land of deathful sleep, where fitful dreams
Of hurrying spring scarce wake swift fading flowers;
A land of fleckless sky, and sheer-shed beams
Of sun and stars through day's and night's slow hours,
A land where sand has choked once fluent streams —
Where grassless plains lie girt by granite towers
That fright the swift and heaven-nurtured teams
Of winds that bear afar the sea-gleaned showers ...*

open to the weather.

A startled owl flies out of a garage where the remains of an old donkey-cart stands; the only sound after the stutter of its wings have died away is the mournful groaning of a loose sheet-metal gutter flapping in the fitful veld-breeze. One's foot kicks up a tiny chip of willow-pattern plate lying embedded in the hot red sand.

Stofvlei's very name is a contradiction in terms: How can there be such a thing as a dust-marsh? But such things are possible in the Bushmanland.

To Mr Vollgraaff the abandoned buildings at Stofvlei symbolize man's slow retreat from the Bushmanland.

"In 1940," he says, "there was a farm school there with about 10 children, and there was a little shop with the only telephone around here. In those days all the farms usually had two or three families living on them."

"Now they stand empty. The owners can't make it. From here to Pofadder you can go 50km before you find farms with people living permanently on them."

One of the biggest problems, he says, is that the young people are leaving the Bushmanland because the young men can't find wives who are willing to live out here. Fortunately for him, his son Hentie, 41, is an exception; he has a wife and two children and they live next door, just like in the old days.

The summer should be the high point of the Bushman-

land's gold. When it is plentiful — and a laughably small amount of rain will send it shooting up in its full glory — it nurtures a superlative mutton. But when it stays away disaster follows, because Bushmanlanders are stock-raisers, not cultivators.

The "illimitable fields" have not been seen in the Bushmanland for a long time. Mr Vollgraaff says: "I used to be able to stand in front of my house and see the grass almost hide the fences, dancing like ripe wheat, and now all you see are little black things like mounds of cattle-droppings. And that's all. You just can't believe it."

"Even the old people can't remember a drought like this ... They talk of 1933. Well, I survived 1933. In October 1932 we had a few thousand sheep, and when 1933 was over we had 360, and many people who had had thousands of sheep had even less left, maybe 100 or so."

He can tell one to the day when the great thirst started: "On March 13 this year it was seven years since the last time enough rain fell. Not since the last rain fell, mind you, but since the last sufficient rain — 4mm here and

5mm there is no good. It just makes the ground damp."

So far this year one part of Bossiekom has received 3,5mm and another part 7mm, and Mr Vollgraaff remarks: "Now what can you do with that?"

Incredibly, Mr Vollgraaff still counts his blessings. "Further east it gets much worse," he says. "With me it's not so bad yet." He notes that "it's a great miracle, but not one of my boreholes has failed."

One borehole lies in a dip below his house. The wind-pump pours its sweet water into a sturdy old stone dam, and among other things he uses it to water a little clump of quince trees "because you've got to have something green here."

His vision of a better future is a modest one in all conscience:

"If we could get one inch (25,4mm) of rain all at once and at the right time, then things will come right, although really we need two or three inches (50-70mm) to help the soil to recover. "If we could get six inches (150mm) of rain it would be more than enough ... So we live in hope that things will get better."

'Faith is wellspring'

Mr Vollgraaff's land holdings are measured in thousands rather than hundreds of hectares. In the Bushmanland the carrying capacity is so low that there is no place for the small farmer.

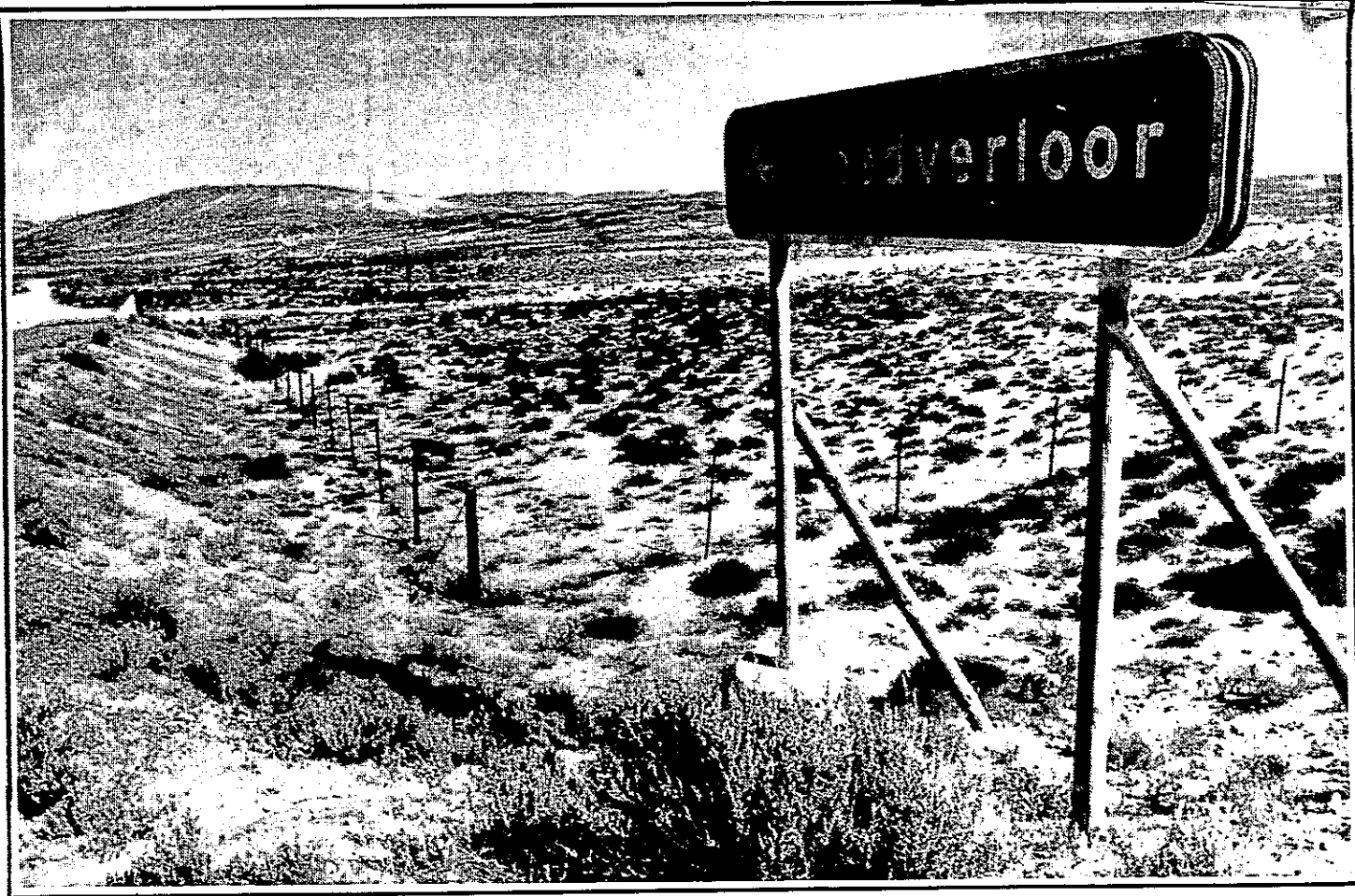
In the good years, he says, most of his land was rated as capable of supporting one sheep to seven hectares, and the rest one sheep to nine hectares. Now however, "my son and I have maybe one sheep to every 14ha, and we can't make it even then ... I don't think one farmer around here keeps the number of sheep he is officially entitled to keep. And we have to give them fodder. And so our income keeps going down."

Stay put or leave: Those are really the only alternatives for the Bushmanlanders. He is hanging on. Faith is his wellspring. Faith in himself as a survivor of droughts, an abiding faith in God that makes it a pleasure rather than a duty to drive 140km to Nuwerus on a Sunday to attend the morning and evening church services — and drive back the same night.

"Yes," he says. "If a farmer in this region doesn't have faith in the Lord he can't survive."



After seven years of fighting the worst drought in half a century Mr Willem Vollgraaff still has a smile as he stands next to the windpump which has been lifting cold, sweet water from deep beneath the heat-ravaged Bushmanland soil for more than half a lifetime.



This sign, rising up from the dying bushland on the southern fringes of the Hardeveld, says it all: Moedverloor (Hope Forlorn). But all hope is not yet gone — the weak one went to the wall long ago, and most Namaqualanders are hanging on because they are survival experts

SMAC
Barclays
starts
farmers'
fodder info

29 APR 1983

By Stephen McQuillan

Barclays Bank has established a Fodder Bank Information Bureau to aid drought-stricken farmers.

It already has 9,000 tons of cattle fodder of various types and grades listed on a central register, drawn up by its agricultural services division.

Branch managers who have clients with fodder for sale will telex the information to the central register.

Branches in areas where feed is needed can call the agricultural division to be advised of location, quantity, type and price of fodder. The bank will then be able to tell farmers about the availability of feed.

"This free service is available to all farmers," the bank's chief agricultural adviser Mr. Frans Venter, said.

"We regard this drought relief scheme as a service to all farmers and will use our facilities in rural areas to bring what measures of relief we can while the drought lasts," he said.

Barclays would act only as an information bureau with the sole function of putting fodder sellers and buyers in touch.

Natal water shortage blamed on the Goyt

③ General
29 APR 1983

Political Staff

SNAP

CAPE TOWN — The water crisis in Durban and Maritzburg could have been averted if the Government had acted in terms of its own White Paper on the development of the Umgeni river catchment area tabled in Parliament in 1961, a Daily News investigation has shown.

The proposed developments included the raising of the Midmar Dam wall and the construction of a new dam at Inanda near Durban.

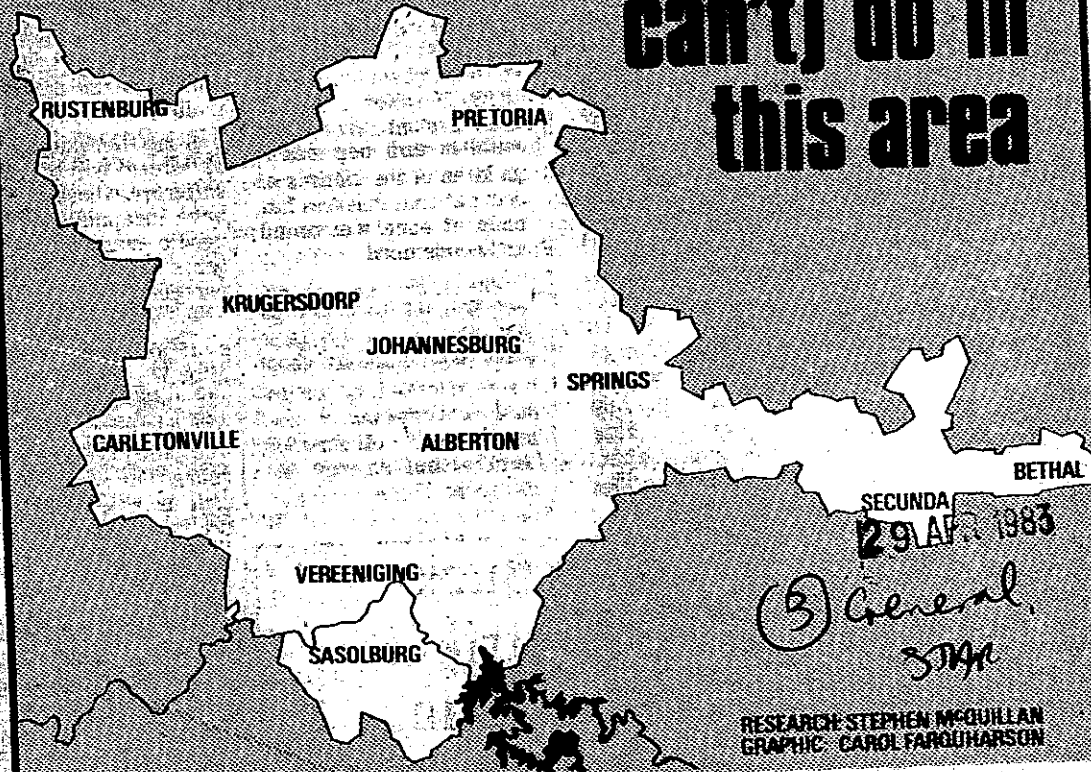
A spokesman for the Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission confirmed yesterday that the projects should have been started earlier because the population of the area had grown far more quickly since 1977 than had been projected in the original reports.

Mr J Otto, director general of the Department of Environmental Affairs, said recently nothing could have been done to avert the water crisis except at great expense because under normal conditions there were sufficient resources to meet the requirements of Durban and Maritzburg until 1995.

It was recommended in the White Paper that the height of Midmar Dam should have been increased by 5 m in 1975, substantially increasing its volume of water.

The Department of Environmental Affairs is rushing into the construction of the Inanda Dam, which will not relieve the situation but will be ready for use long before it is needed in terms of the department's latest estimate that there are sufficient water supplies until 1995 in normal circumstances.

WATER: What you can (and can't) do in this area



More than five million people in the 17 000 sq km Rand Water Board (RWB) area are to be hit with new far-reaching water restrictions in a bid to meet a 20 percent cutback ordered by the Government.

Gardeners and sportsmen are again hit severely by the new restrictions, which are to be introduced on May 1 by local authorities. But sprinklers will be allowed.

The restrictions:

- Private gardens may be watered by any method, but only between 10 am and noon on alternate days: even dates for homes with even street numbers, uneven dates for homes with uneven numbers.

- Playing fields, sports grounds, cricket pitches, bowling greens and golf-course greens, excluding fairways, may be watered by any method, but only between 9 am and noon on Mondays and Thursdays.

- Government and pro-

vincial gardens, municipal parks and factory gardens may be watered by any method between 9 am and noon on Tuesdays and Fridays.

- Racecourses may be watered by any method at any time, but a 30 percent saving on the same period last year must be made with proof going to the local authority.

- Nurseries may water stock by any method, any day, but only from 9 am to 1 pm.

- Landscape gardeners may use any method to water new gardens, but only between 10 am and noon daily and only for the first three weeks. A permit will be required from the local authority.

- The directing of water for gardening or other purposes from a free-running tap connected to the municipal supply is banned.

- All automatic toilet-flushing systems must be

turned off in all buildings when they are normally empty of everyone but cleaning staff.

- The use of hoses for washing cars, excluding commercial car washing, is banned.

- The use of water to fill swimming pools is banned, but pool owners may fill new pools once and re-fill pools emptied because of repairs. Permits are needed from the local authority. Topping-up is allowed.

- The watering of gardens with buckets or watering cans is allowed at any time.

- The board appeals to authorities allowed to water plants on mine dumps using any method to cut consumption and not plant anything else.

If the new measures do not meet the Government-ordered cutback more restrictions will be introduced.

© Star Info-Pak

Doctors fear thousands may die of starvation in kwaZulu

Own Correspondent

WINTER OF '83

DURBAN — Doctors working in kwaZulu predicted this week that thousands of people would starve to death this winter.

Hundreds more would succumb to diseases such as typhoid, cholera and measles.

The worst drought this century has brought on a crisis situation in the already impoverished hinterland, where malnutrition and unemployment are rife.

The superintendent of Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital in Nqutu, Dr Arthur Goetzee, said more than half the malnourished children admitted to the hospital died.

"And we only get to see the tip of the iceberg. There is no way of telling how many will die before they reach us," he added.

As the winter drew on,

he expected more and more children suffering from starvation to be admitted. He feared the recent maize price increase would exacerbate the situation.

"Because of the drought there has been a total crop failure in the area and people have to buy food"

The hospital, he said, had a 120-bed children's unit. Most of those admitted to the unit suffered from malnutrition or a combination of malnutrition and infectious diseases.

The doctor said the Charles Johnson was overcrowded. A recent report to the kwaZulu

Minister of Health said: "We have to accept that it is normal for patients to die on the floor underneath the bed of another patient."

"What relatives think of this I shudder to think, but since most of them have no voice at either local or government level it doesn't seem to matter."

Other kwaZulu hospitals face crises.

At Madadeni Hospital, near Newcastle, 40 people have been treated for typhoid in a month.

Superintendent Dr Leslie Stewart-Smith said 82 had been treated since January.

At Limehill, a nurse in

a small clinic said that for the first time she was treating marasmic (extremely emaciated) children.

One of the few regions to escape the drought has been Tugela Ferry, where irrigation farming is practised.

But residents there are faced with another problem. The incidence of cholera is one of the highest in the country. Recently more than 100 sufferers were treated in a single weekend.

Doctors at a mission hospital in the area said the disease was endemic. They treated up to 10 cases a week.

They fear recurrence of the 1980 drought when farmers lost all their stock and the water shortage is desperate throughout the region.

One of the worst-hit areas is Tholeni, near Wasbank, where the 60 000 residents dig holes in a dry river bed.

Elsewhere people have to walk for up to four hours to get water.

~~124~~ (3) General

Drought: Fears of eviction

Cape
Herald

13 0 APR 1983

THE CRIPPLING drought, the worst this century, is taking its toll on the workers in the Karoo and this month about 100 families in Beaufort West's coloured township, Rustdene, face eviction for failure to pay their rent.

The arrears are due mainly to the vast majority of tenants having lost their jobs. There is precious little work available as the drought has hit farmers hardest and they are the biggest employers in the area.

Mr Solly Essop, head of the Farm Workers Union, said the situation in the Karoo is "nothing short of a disaster".

SUFFERING

"People are suffering down here," Mr Essop said. "There is no work, no income and it is a miracle people survive."

He said he would be looking into the eviction issue this week.

"But what is really needed is some assistance for these people from the Government.

"Drought-hit farmers are being helped by the Government and it is only right that the work-

ers should receive some assistance as well. I call on the authorities to subsidise the wages of the workers so that jobs can be retained and others created."

He would meet with the authorities soon, Mr Essop said.

CONFIRMED

Beaufort West town clerk, Mr Jan van der Merwe, confirmed that eviction notices had been sent out but added that very few people would be evicted.

He said arrears were usually paid after the notices were sent. Those who could not pay, could come to some arrangement with his administration. It was a very small number that did not respond, Mr van der Merwe said.

"When that happens the houses are locked by council officials. Tenants are not allowed access until the rent has been paid or a satisfactory explanation given," he said.

Mr van der Merwe emphasised that only in extreme cases are evictions carried out.

He also disclosed that the waiting list for houses in Rustdene was 1 000 long.

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

SPM
PHALABORWA — A family of hippos is fighting for survival in the Letaba Valley near the Hans Merensky Nature Reserve in the North Eastern Transvaal as the crippling drought continues to take its toll in the area.

The 12 hippos are occupying the only remaining deep pool in the district. By nature, these animals do not move very far from their pool when searching for food at night.

They have eaten all the food

No water, so starving hippos raid farmland

supplies along the river banks and are now going for farmers' fruit and vegetables.

The farmers have now posted sentries along their farm boundaries to keep the large animals away.

A farm worker was recently trampled to death when he fell in the path of an aggressive

General 30 APR 1983
hippo.

Mr Ron Selley, a nature conservation officer employed by the Department of Co-operation and Development, is in charge of these Trust land matters and is watching the situation carefully.

"There are two possible solutions — to shoot the animals to

save them from a slow death, or to persuade the farmers to put food out for them — a very expensive plan," Mr Selley said.

To move the creatures elsewhere is apparently a risky business as the nearest adequate hippo pool is a long distance away.

One farmer has suggested feeding the hippos with spoilt fruit and vegetables and he feels an emergency borehole could guarantee them a river home for the winter.

Mr Selley is investigating all possibilities.

EL plea for urgent action on drought

EAST LONDON — Drought has put the Border in a position "so desperate that the government should resort to unorthodox methods such as cloud seeding to bring rain, a delegation from the East London Chamber of Commerce told the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr S. Hayward, in Cape Town yesterday.

The chamber's president, Mr George Orsmond and secretary Mr Jock Allison also suggested to Mr Hayward that water be piped from the Fisher River into the Buffalo River in order to increase the local water supply.

In a statement released to the press by the chamber yesterday, it was estimated that the cost of the pipeline would be "minimal" and that it could be completed "within a few weeks".

Interviewed after he returned to East London yesterday afternoon, Mr Allison said that Mr Hayward had been "very receptive" to the chamber's proposals.

"We left Cape Town feeling optimistic," Allison said, adding that Mr Hayward was "greatly concerned" about the effects of the drought.

Mr Hayward pointed out, however, that he would not be in favour of spending "a tremendous amount of money simply to overcome a drought which one experiences only once in 200 years," the press statement reported.

The government "could only take measures to try to counteract the effects of the drought".

The East London delegation, accompanied by executives of the Association of Chambers of Commerce (Assocom), also suggested to Mr Hayward that "all population groups" be made more aware of what they could expect if the drought continued for long.

They proposed that a recent television programme on the drought be translated and broadcast on TV2 and TV3. —
DDR

Has politics run SA dry?

~~Political Staff~~
Political Staff

③ General

~~SPAR~~
SPAR

30 APR 1983

CAPE TOWN — It is suspected the Government has neglected the development of the Tugela River for political motives, says Mr Roger Hulley, the Progressive Federal Party spokesman on environmental affairs.

He asks whether the lack of development on the Tugela, despite many recommendations for a string of hydro-electric dams, could be because most of the scheme would lie within kwaZulu.

Natal and kwaZulu account for about 25 percent of total water run-off in South Africa and yet the region is one of the worst hit in the current drought.

Criticism, sparked by the drought, is now growing that the Government has been lax in developing these resources and has treated Natal as a Cinderella province to the advantage of other areas, particularly the Transvaal.

Mr Graham McIntosh (PFP, Maritzburg North) said this week there was a frightening prospect that, as a result of bad planning, the future development of Natal and kwaZulu could be in jeopardy.

There is clear evidence of Government sins of commission and omission in the development and planning of the water resources of the region, he said.

Durban and Maritzburg, with 162 days of water left and households being limited to 400 litres a day, could have escaped at least partially from the ravages of the drought if the Government had stuck to recommendations made by its officials and by outsiders at least 20 years ago, he said.

Not only does Natal account for 25 percent of the run-off but, because of low evaporation rates and other factors, the province holds 40 percent of the country's usable water resources.

Five years ago town and regional planners Thorrington-Smith, Rosenberg and McCrystal published a report: "Towards a plan for kwaZulu".

The report gave the potential of nearly every river in the region, but earmarked the Tugela for prime attention as "the Tugela basin has long been recognised as the undeveloped area having the greatest potential for industrial development".

The report listed recommendations for a chain of large dams backing on one another up the Tugela and its tributaries and capable of providing one of the biggest hydro-electric schemes in the world.

It would be larger than the Australian Snowy Mountain scheme or the Tennessee Valley scheme in the United States which generated less electricity than recommended for the Tugela.

3 General

Suffer little children

JAMES SOULLIER
took the pictures



Four to a cot and still not enough room at Jane Furse Hospital



By **BLAISE HOPKINSON**

Infants will die because their parents don't have R4



Dead earth ... three generations face a winter of hunger



THE children of drought are dying.

Hunger, disease and tragedy are more familiar to them than a bowl of food. And the parched veld is a constant reminder that worse is to come.

As winter approaches more children will die from malnutrition and starvation.

Some will have proper burials in graveyards, for others a mound of dry sand and a makeshift cross will be all.

The disease of the weaned child, kwashiorkor, has claimed 50 percent more children than last year. The sick and dying lie four abreast in iron cots at rural

hospitals where nine young foreign doctors battle to keep them alive.

The children, inmates at the Subiaco Clinic run by nuns near the University of the North, rest in cots and choke on their rations of powdered milk and play on mats.

To the south 70 children like them cram the malnutrition ward at the Jane Furse Hospital, where nine young foreign doctors battle to keep them alive.

The ward, an L-shaped room, has a stench of mealie-meal, sweat and sickness. Mothers crowd around to tend their children.

Swollen little bellies poke against the cot bars. One child sits forlorn on a chair. There is a canine sore on a

cause they haven't got the money," he said.

The symptoms of kwashiorkor are ghastly. The skin peels, the black, curly hair becomes reddish and straight before falling out. The limbs and abdomen swell.

"That is 50 percent up on the month before. The drought is making things much worse.

"There has always been a high incidence of this disease in these parts but we see more coming in every day," he said.

Of those 30 maybe five or even 10 will not go home. Dr Stevens said many are admitted when there is almost no hope for them. Deaths, he says, are up by half.

He said that hospitals like Jane Furse only see a fraction of kwashiorkor cases.

The rest die in the outlying areas, because the admission

cause they haven't got the money," he said.

The symptoms of kwashiorkor are ghastly. The skin peels, the black, curly hair becomes reddish and straight before falling out. The limbs and abdomen swell.

"That is 50 percent up on the month before. The drought is making things much worse.

Of those 30 maybe five or even 10 will not go home. Dr Stevens said many are admitted when there is almost no hope for them. Deaths, he says, are up by half.

He said that hospitals like Jane Furse only see a fraction of kwashiorkor cases.

The rest die in the outlying areas, because the admission

get a little better."

It is a 24-hour job to keep the small flock alive. They need feeding every couple of hours. Their stomachs can't take more than the smallest amounts of food.

At 10 in morning the children sit in a ring and recite the prayer: "We thank you, Lord, for the food you give us." They then feebly clap their tiny hands and drink their milk.

One little child, aged three-and-a-half but looking like a new-born, spilled most of it then threw up what she managed to drink from the cup in her claw-like hands.

The sunlight streaming through the clinic windows made her look transparent.

"They come in and some of them you know will die. But in your heart you try to

hospital while their children are interned are given lectures on how to fight malnutrition.

"One child came back after a month, sicker than before. I asked the mother if she had listened to the lecture.

"She told me she had but couldn't afford to feed her child. Her crops had failed and she had no money," he said.

Dr Stevens said as winter closes in, he and his colleagues will have to contend with a vast increase in the number of cases.

Even the simplest cough can, if the child is ill-fed, develop into a fatal illness.

The situation is worse in the outlying districts of the

Cholera, gastroenteritis, pneumonia and even tuberculosis claim the weak.

Not 30 minutes down a dirt track from the thriving Northern Transvaal town of Pietersburg, 16 black child-

In the corner a child, barely three months old, lies feebly. Its legs as thick as a farmer's fingers, joints knobby and swollen from disease.

The doctors fear the child has TB and malnutrition has

plenty to eat. This year there is nothing.

Last Sunday two children died in her ward. They made room for two more.

"I cannot keep all of them. There is no space. I have to send them home when they

survive.

"A child could be half dead. It may take a year to make them better. You must try," said Sister Francesca.

At Jane Furse, Dr Stevens said mothers who live at the

hundreds of thousands of children need food, not just porridge but a full diet. They won't get it until the rains come.

Before then many will be dead.

Hungry children cannot learn



In the hands of the Lord ... some of them you know will die, say the nuns at Subiaco



A cup of milk, a chance to live ... but some children will return, more ill than before

THE child sits listlessly at his kindergarten desk. Before nine his little head is hanging. He is faint and cannot concentrate.

"The children come to school and they have had no food. We give them soup and milk but sometimes it is not enough," said Sister Cecilia, principal of St Benedict's Pre-School at Tholongwe in Lebowa.

Some of the children walk 20km to get to their school. Since the drought took hold Sister Cecilia and her colleagues have been faced with even greater problems teaching the youngsters.

Fainted

She said: "They have had nothing before they come to school. They cannot do their work and often we have to take them outside for fresh air because they have fainted from hunger."

She fears that as the months of the drought pass

more children will fall behind in their learning and become impossible to educate.

"If their stomachs are not full they cannot listen to us."

"Even last year it was not so bad. Now we must help them," she said.

When you walk into the classroom you see upturned faces; they peer at you as you walk among them.

Some children reach out and clutch your hand.

Others stare vacantly. They say their prayers ... for food ... for rain ... and tuck into their mug of milk.

The visitor is forgotten until the milk is gone.

"We are doing the best we can," said Sister Cecilia.

But she fears the children — and others like them — are becoming a backward generation.

Pray

They cannot learn and are more intent on filling their bellies than grasping the three Rs.

Sister Cecilia said: "You can tell. When a child looks dizzy in your class you know that he has not had anything before coming to school, not even a glass of water."

"They cannot follow their lessons."

It is the worst year the good sisters have seen but still they make do.

They are patient with the slow learners.

"When we see children are not well we take them to the clinic or give them something to eat. For some of them the only time they eat is when they are here."

"They go home at two and must wait until the next day for more food. Maybe they will have some mealie-meal, that is all."

In the schoolyard you can pick out the ones who are suffering. They do not run and shout like the others. They sit quietly in the shade.

"Something must happen. We pray to God," Sister Cecilia said.



Child of drought, victim of poverty ... barely three, Mashaledi, is dying from kwashiorkor

Homelands on the brink of disaster

MILLIONS of drought are being spent on drought aid in South Africa and the homelands, but more money is desperately needed.

Welfare and government agencies are hard-pressed to meet the region from the brink of disaster, but still thousands of rural blacks go bed hungry.

World Vision, which has a base in South Africa, operates 176 projects directly linked with the drought in its country.

Over 200 000 children are given some form of sustenance each day. For most it is a slice of brown bread

and a cup of soup.

"We try to offer protein-enriched supplementary meals. Children cannot exist totally on what we give them. These meals are merely a back-up," support director David Catbert has said in Johannesburg.

Hardship

He explains that although malnutrition and even starvation are not new in his territory the drought has stretched aid potential to the limit.

"Our aim is to feed the children, save them from starvation. We also work to

prevent the same situation in the future. We attempt to educate and also launch schemes to preserve water."

Only a third of World Vision's funding for local projects comes from South Africa. The rest is from overseas.

Mr Catbert says most of his agency's drought activity centred on the homelands where the greatest hardship is felt.

The menu of soup and a piece of bread costs only 10c but the mechanics of getting the food to the needy are a major headache.

Mr Catbert blames the

drought and the economic downturn on the tragic increase in malnutrition.

"The menfolk have no work in the cities. The cattle are dying or have to be slaughtered before the time is right."

Despaired

"The cattle cannot be turned into cash. The crops have been burnt and many have despaired and not planted."

Operation Hunger is the feeding scheme run by the Institute of Race Relations.

Transvaal regional secretary for Operation Hunger,

Ina Perlman, describes the situation as "the worst in memory."

Worst hit of the homelands are Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu. Figures show that up to 1.5-million people need some form of relief in the new states and in this country.

In Gazankulu some 300 000 are hungry and many are suffering from acute malnutrition.

In Lebowa there are upwards of 400 000 while Kwazulu, the Ciskei and Transkei report equally serious hunger situations.

The Lebowa Secretary of Health, Dr Macshupe Mphahlele, has stated hundreds of thousands of his countrymen need food aid to survive the winter.

A further threat to lives is the approaching winter. Mrs Perlman said children who are hungry or suffering from kwashiorkor and other malnourished conditions need to stay warm.

"They are weak and cannot stand the cold. You see them in circles around the fires. It seems nothing will keep them warm. This makes their condition deteriorate," she said.

In KwaZulu Operation Hunger's has doubled its school feeding programme to 60 000 children.

Last year, the debt amounted to R369-million, and the estimate for 1983 is more than R700-million.

Platteland traders' crisis

PLATTELAND shopkeepers say they are facing their worst economic crisis in history.

The spending power of farmers had plummeted by more than 50 percent as a result of the crippling drought.

"It's a desperate situation," said Mr Bill Lacey, economist for the Association of Chambers of Commerce (Assocom), in this week.

Assocom took an in-depth look at the situation during a

regional congress in Rustenburg.

Rural businessmen spoke of dustbowl conditions in their areas resulting in empty cash tills.

Luxury goods such as television sets, furniture, radios and even clothing are no longer being bought.

Other goods off shopping lists this year include farm implements, tractors, trucks,

cars and fertiliser.

There has also been a ripple effect in areas such as legal offices, accountancy firms and other business houses in which staff has been retrenched.

On the Free State gold-fields trade has also been affected.

Expatriate mineworkers are sending home more money than before to help their wives and children survive in drought-hit countries such as

By NORMAN CHANDLER

3 Guard

Drought: Farm workers' move

Staff Reporter

THE Farmworkers' Union has temporarily frozen its negotiations for better service conditions until the end of the nationwide drought, and has called on the government to subsidize farmers who are struggling to pay their workers.

In a statement issued yesterday by the union's chairman, Mr Solly Essop, its executive committee said many farmers had actually gone into debt to pay their workers' wages and urgent steps were needed to keep labourers on farms or some country towns would become "like Crossroads".

The union has been engaged for years in seeking such benefits as a minimum wage and annual leave for farm workers, but at last week's meeting "it was decided that at this stage that the union would not press on with

negotiations for better service conditions, but resume at a later stage when the situation has improved".

"This decision was taken in the light of the devastating drought under which farmers virtually throughout the country are bowed."

"The union realizes that the farm-owner finds it a great burden to retain his workers, and therefore the union begs the central government to subsidize farmers immediately so that they will be in a position to pay their workers' wages.

'Appreciation'

"The union has great appreciation for farmers who have shown tenderness towards their workers by keeping them on the farm, caring for them and providing housing. Numerous such cases have come to the union's attention.

"The union feels this good attitude exhibited

by the farmer has promoted good race and labour relations"

Mr Essop said that as chairman of the union, he believed "this drought has brought the farmer and his workers closer to one another".

50 000

● About half-a-million blacks — 50 000 farm workers and their dependents — might be forced to evacuate farms because of the drought, reports our Pretoria correspondent.

This is the finding of a study by the National Maize Producers' Organization (Nampo) in the worst-affected drought areas.

Nampo's economist, Dr Kit le Clus, said there was just no work for the 50 000 farm labourers who had had to be retrenched because of the drought. Most of them, with their big families, would trek to the urban areas in search of work and housing.

Rationing

● Water rationing goes into effect in Durban and Maritzburg today.

Home-owners in the metropolitan areas of both cities are allowed 400 litres a day, Sapa reports. Flat dwellers are allowed 200 litres in Durban and 300 litres in Maritzburg.

From June 1 there will be a fine of R10 for every kilolitre used over the quota.

Farmers oppose nature area

one time
3/4/85
3/4/85

Staff Reporter

The newly-formed Kogelberg Landowners' Association issued a statement yesterday opposing the proclamation of a nature area between the Rooi Els and Bot rivers on the southern Cape coast.

The association was formed by landowners who fear their land rights would be "frozen" if the nature area was established. They want to "ensure a balance between appropriate land use and nature conservation".

The statement stressed that the association was not adopting a negative attitude towards nature conservation and that "it was concerned about the grave threat to the area's unique flora caused by the spread of alien invaders".

"The landowners fully accept their duty to safeguard the heritage entrusted to them, but they question whether declaring a nature area under the Physical Planning Act is the right course of action."

They emphasized that they were being asked to contribute some 90 percent of the land involved, without any compensation for the "freezing of their rights" which would result from the declaration of a nature area.

"Unless the existing difficulties are resolved and the merits of other and possibly more practical and effective ways of dealing with the situation are examined, the association is opposed to the suggested nature area," the statement said.

Police arrest man after ^{(3) dead} labourer drowns in pool

SOWETAN 3 MAY 1983

By MONK NKOMO

POLICE have arrested a 22-year-old white man who allegedly murdered a farm labourer by repeatedly submerging his face in a swimming pool on a plot near Hammanskraal at the weekend.

Brigadier H A du Plessis, chief criminal investigating officer for the Northern Transvaal, said Mr Victor Mogale (33) of Lushof Plot near Hammanskraal, was invited by a white man to the plot on Saturday.

At the pool Mr Mogale was allegedly grabbed and his head pushed repeatedly under the water until he lost consciousness and died. His body was found floating in the pool at about 2.30pm.

A 22-year-old white man appeared in court yesterday.

Farm policy supported

by Hannes Ferguson,
Farming Correspondent

Farmers are supporting new measures to ensure a denser white occupation of border farms.

The director of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Piet Swart, said organised agriculture supported the policy of compelling owners of border farms to occupy them effectively.

Cattle farming in Northern Transvaal had been bedevilled by people buying ranching land for speculative purposes and then neglecting it, he said.

the generation of hydro-electric power for Lesotho and will be of mutual advantage to both countries.

The hon. the Minister also had discussions as recently as 30 April 1983 on the proposed project with my opposite number from Lesotho and that country's Minister of Water, Energy and Mining. At these discussions the importance of the project was re-affirmed and it was agreed that the feasibility study should proceed as expeditiously as possible. It is expected to be completed in approximately 18 months. If the feasibility study should indicate that the scheme can be realized, agreements will still have to be reached on certain other aspects which will be embodied in an inter-governmental agreement.

Views have also on occasion been exchanged with Transkei in the Permanent Water Commission on the possible supply of water to South Africa.

It may be of interest to note that South Africa has on a number of occasions had discussions with certain other neighbouring countries on the best utilization of water from rivers of common interest. The most recent example is the talks which resulted in an agreement being signed during February 1983 between South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland in terms of which a technical committee was created to make recommendations about the optimum utilization of water from rivers common to the three countries.

The Government has for years already been concerned about the water supply problems of South Africa and goes out of its way to obtain and utilize all possible additional sources. Since a number of these sources are not within our territory, or some of them are not exclusively within our territory, complex negotiations with neighbouring states are required to ensure that agreements which are in the interest of both South Africa and the relevant neighbouring state are reached.

Mr. W. V. RAW: Mr. Speaker, arising out of the reply given by the hon. the Deputy Minister, can he tell us what attention has been given and what guarantees have been obtained to ensure that what happened to the Ruacana or Cabora Bassa schemes

cannot be repeated in any new scheme in which we get involved?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, certainly this Government has learnt from events in the past and from the occurrences in connection with the schemes mentioned by the hon. member, and these facts are foremost in the thoughts of those people who conduct negotiations on behalf of the Republic of South Africa.

*18. Mr. P. G. SOAL.—Environment Affairs and Fisheries—Reply standing over.

Transvaal : ION

Supply of water

*16. Mr. P. G. SOAL asked the Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether his Department has any contingency plans to maintain the supply of water in the event of the present drought continuing into 1984: if not, why not; if so, what is the nature of such plans;
- (2) whether he intends to give attention to the (a) implementation and (b) engineering of a national water grid system along the lines of the electrical grid system: if not, why not;
- (3) whether any steps are being taken to augment the water supply to the Vaal Dam: if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) how long will it take to implement them?

†The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES:

(1) Should it later in the year appear that the rainfall during the second half of the year is insufficient to relieve the drought, priorities will have to be re-determined in the light of the water supplies still available at that time, whereafter further emergency plans will be considered and implemented.

(2) (a) and (b) On account of the long distances over which water would have to be conveyed, the high temperatures with resultant high evaporation losses and the topography of the country, a general national water grid system is unpractical. Wherever it can be justified, such link systems are built e.g. the Tugela-Vaal, the Usutu-Vaal and the Usutu-Komati Government Water Schemes. Where possible provision is even made in the design that alternative water sources can be utilized in the system.

(3) Yes. (a) and (b) Studies and investigations to further augment the Vaal Dam have been in progress for several years. These entail possible schemes to import water from Lesotho, Natal and the Orange River. The target date for implementation of one of these schemes is at present 1992.

(3) Acme ~~107/103~~ 4/5/83
 Handled O. Col. 1190 - 1192
 *17 Mr. P. G. SOAL asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information:

Whether the Government has entered into negotiations with (a) Transkei, (b) Lesotho and (c) any other neighbouring states with a view to importing water from them, if so, with what results?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION:

(a)(b) and (c) Yes. South Africa has already been involved for some time in negotiations with Lesotho in connection with the proposed Lesotho Highlands Water Project. This project combines the supply of water from the highlands of Lesotho to the Republic of South Africa with

Membership	Year
African	1971
Asian and Coloured	1970

5 MAY 1968
DISPATCH

3
**Trespass
charge
dropped**

PORT ELIZABETH —
With offers of money —
one as much as R500 —
pouring in from all over
the Cape Province
yesterday, the partially
blind man who faced a
R40 admission of guilt
fine for trespassing on a
farm near Beaufort West
could have paid his fine
at least 20 times over.
But charges against him
have been withdrawn.

Concerned people
offered to pay the fine
after a report yesterday
that a man, caught tres-
passing on a farm to
fetch water for his chil-
dren and donkey, faced
an admission of guilt
fine of R40, and R100 or
three months in prison if
he could not pay the ini-
tial amount within 30
days.

Beaufort West's magis-
trate, Mr C. P. Cloete,
said his office had been
inundated with phone
calls but the man would
not be fined as the pub-
lic prosecutor had de-
cided to withdraw
charges. — DDC.

5 MAY 1983

Drought breeds daring

General

PORT ELIZABETH —
The drought was driving wild animals to acts of recklessness. Searching for ever-decreasing feed and water, they are approaching humans fearlessly — as a Grahamstown photographer proved this week.

Seeking pictures of Mr Harry Moss's dam which the Port Elizabeth/Grahamstown road bisects about 18 km from Grahamstown, Mr Petrus van Niekerk was confronted by a heavily pregnant bushbuck ewe.

Normally one of the most timid of creatures, seldom seen by humans in the thick bush they frequent, she continued grazing, moving even nearer to a water hole to drink.

Then, about 100 metres downstream, he saw a young kudu ram. —
DDC.

(1st) (3) Central ROOM 5/5/83

Border farm plans are welcomed

By PATRICK LAURENCE
Political Editor

THE introduction tomorrow of Draconian measures to check the exodus of white farmers from a corridor running along the border with Botswana and Zimbabwe — and through sections of the Waterberg and Soutpansberg constituencies — was welcomed yesterday by the Transvaal Agricultural Union.

"Occupation of the area is a very important matter for the Transvaal Agricultural Union," Mr Nico Kotzé, president of the union, said yesterday.

The measures, which will be applied under the Promotion of the Density of Population in Designated Areas Act, were announced by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr Gert Kotze.

The Act was passed in 1979 but was not applied until March this year, when its clauses providing for special financial assistance to farmers wanting to occupy land in a 10km-wide border corridor were brought into operation.

At the time Dr Andries Treurnicht, leader of the Conservative Party, and Mr Jaap Marais, leader of the Herstigte Nasionale Party, labelled the timing of the decision to make money available an electoral manoeuvre.

The pending application of measures to enforce occupation of the area is a logical sequel to the March decision.

Under regulations to be gazetted tomorrow, owners of farms in the 10km-wide zone will have to:

- Occupy their farms for 300 days a year or ensure that they are occupied for the same period by a white lessee or a full-time white manager.
- Maintain farm roads in a usable condition and fences around the farms in good order.
- Keep written records of all people living on the farm and submit these on request to the Director-General of Agriculture.
- Inform the Department of Agriculture within 30 days of any change in

ownership or of lessee.

Contravention of the regulations carries a maximum penalty of a fine of R2 000 or imprisonment of two years. Subsequent contravention can result in a fine of R5 000 or five years imprisonment.

The measures will apply to whites acquiring land in the corridor from tomorrow onward, not to existing landowners.

The exodus of whites from border areas and the resultant *verswaring* of the platteland has evoked concern in Government circles for some time. Apart from the belief that it results in neglect of good agricultural land, it is held to have serious implications for the security situation.

Neither the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, nor his deputy, Mr Kotze, were available for comment yesterday on the allegation that financial assistance was made available under the Act as a by-election ploy.

2453 (3) General

- 5 MAY 1983 SOWETAN, Thu



DESPERATE: Residents were forced to tap pipes for water.

Sixteen waterless hours

TEMBISA township ran dry yesterday and residents were out of water for more than 16 hours. Mr J H Opperman, senior director of the East Rand Administration Board, said yesterday the problem had been caused by changing

from an old water reservoir to a new one that was completed recently. Women from the area could be seen walking long distances to draw water at schools in the area. In other sections of the township, people were forced to hire taxis to get water as far as Kaalfontein. In Makh-

long Section, we were told, people in desperation even drew water from a spruit nearby. Meanwhile the past four days have been an ordeal for Orlando West residents whose homes have been without water since the beginning of this week.

Tiger offers 500c a share for Units

ARGUS 5/5/83
34941

SUBSTANTIAL sums of money will soon be on the way to holders of shares in the three cash-rich pelagic fishing companies, United Oceana Holdings (Units), Lamberts Bay and Seaswa.

MONEY

now part of the Barlows group, is tidying up its fishing interests.

Tiger Oats, which is

It is to absorb Units by making an offer of R500 in cash on R175 and 61 Lamberts Bay shares for

every 100 Units shares it does not already hold.

Tiger says it owns 90 percent of Units' ordinary share capital.

SPECIAL DIVIDEND

As part of the restructuring, Seaswa is paying a special dividend of 250c a share and Lamberts Bay intends repaying 200c a share to shareholders.

Tiger is investigating the possibility of structuring the Lamberts Bay payment so that a part will take the form of a capital repayment and the balance that of a special dividend.

The move represents a rationalisation of the line of control which will be from Tiger to Lamberts Bay through to Seaswa.

Tiger says documentation is being prepared and will be sent out as soon as possible.

OFFER FAIR

The directors of Units, UAL (the merchant bankers to Tiger Oats) and the Standard Merchant Bank (advisers to the minorities in Units) say the terms of the offer are fair and reasonable.

Units shares were 300c before their recent suspension so the offer of 500c a share represents a substantial premium on the market price.

Lamberts Bay shares were last quoted at 600c and Seaswa at 495c.

Investors in the three companies have complained for several years about the large sums of cash the companies have retained.

● Lamberts Bay Holdings today reports a pre-tax profit of R9,95-million for the six months to March, compared with R8,63-million for the preceding seven months. The interim dividend is 12c (10c).

United Oceana Holdings, for the same periods, shows a pre-tax profit of R10,13-million (R8,84-million). Earnings a share are 33,1c (25,2c).

Sea Products SWA reports a pre-tax profit of R3,21-million for the six months to March. The company is paying an interim dividend of 18c and a special dividend of 250c to return cash surplus to shareholders.

Derek Tommey

**Ciskei
tightens
water
curbs**

D. Disputa General
MAY 1983
ZWELITSHA — Strin-
gent water restrictions
in Ciskei were
announced yesterday by
the Minister of Public
Works, Chief D. M. Jongi-
langa.

The watering of gar-
dens and lawns with
watering cans and buck-
ets has been restricted
to Mondays and Thurs-
days for one hour be-
tween 4 pm and 5 pm.
The use of hoses had
been prohibited for
some months now.

Chief Jongilanga has
prohibited the watering
of all sportsfields except
bowling greens and
cricket pitches. Both can
be watered once a week.

He warned that those
who did not observe the
new restrictions would
be liable to a fine not
exceeding R500 or three
months imprisonment
for first offenders and
R1 000 or six months for
second and subsequent
convictions. — DDR

Churches
launch
massive
rescue
campaign

KILLER DROUGHT

w/c
7/5/83
3 General
Areas

Weekend Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — South Africa's churches this weekend launched a huge campaign to alert the nation to the deadly reality of drought in the homelands, where they say thousands have already died.

In one area alone, Onverwacht near Bloemfontein, they claim a child dies every day for want of food. Churchmen warned this week that unless a major rescue campaign gets under way soon, people may kill one another to get food.

The entire rescue plan depends on the national accepting the concept of simple Christian charity — of sharing one's loaf with one's neighbour.

Rammed home

The message will be rammed home from pulpits throughout the country in the weeks ahead, as the church drives home its appeal for food and other forms of help.

Appeals for food and money will be from pulpits Countrywide. Congregations will "adopt" drought-stricken congregations in rural areas, and school children will be asked to bring double lunchboxes to school so that food can be shared with rural schools.

Twenty-five representatives of all the members of the South African Council of Churches met in Johannesburg this week and mapped out an ambitious and far-reaching plan to combat the killer effects of the drought.

Explosive

At a press conference later, Secretary-General Bishop Desmond Tutu warned that the country faced an explosive situation.

"I am fearful that people will kill for food. Men and women are not going to sit by passively while children starve.

"Unless we ameliorate the situation, we will be involved in something which we cannot control."

Bishop Tutu said the Government could not be blamed for not doing enough.

"With a problem which is so big, anything anyone does is inevitably inadequate. But we can't blame anyone."

He said the SACC would ask for overseas help, including finance, to combat the drought. Bishop Tutu said there were millions of "forgotten people" in the rural areas who had been suffering from hunger before the drought took hold.

Now that food in some areas was virtually unobtainable, parts of the country would become "potential flashpoints, with thousands dying this winter"

"There were thousands of children dying elsewhere in Africa before, but it used to be far away. Now it's here on our doorstep."

Hunger may lead to rural unrest ^{the} ~~Tutu~~ ^{General} Tutu

May 1983

The general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Desmond Tutu, has warned that a combination of crippling drought and unemployment in South Africa meant black unrest was more likely in rural areas than in the towns.

Launching the SACC hunger relief fund, Bishop Tutu said: "Trouble will erupt not in the towns but in the rural areas... if men and women will not let their children starve.

"I fear men will kill for food and we will be em-

broiled in something we cannot control."

The Bishop said the situation, particularly in tribal homelands, had been exacerbated by recession and one of the worst droughts in South Africa this century.

The council's director of development, the Rev Saul Jacob, said he had learnt how extensive the crisis was when SACC regional representatives met on Thursday.

The delegates spoke of starvation, malnutrition and death in the homelands, he said. — Renter.

capl Fri 7/5/83

Ovenstone lifts profits by 26%

3.5c (3c)

OVENSTONE INVESTMENTS LTD has reported a rise of 26 percent in its pre-tax profit for the year to February 28, 1983 and has declared an increased final dividend of 2c a share (1.5c) which makes a total distribution of 3.5c (3c) for the year.

This is the first increase in dividends since 1979, and reflects the improvement in the company's fortunes which has been apparent in the last couple of years and looks set to continue in the immediate future.

The preliminary profit statement shows the unaudited pre-tax profit at R8 166 000 (R6 478 000) and the after-tax profit attributable to ordinary shareholders at R4 759 000 (R4 055 000). This is equal to earnings of 9.64c (8.22c) a share.

The increase in profits is attributable to an improvement in the performance of the property, home building and construction divisions.

Turnover increased to R124 138 000 (R65 608 000) due to a higher proportion of construction activity relative to the total.

Commenting on the fishing operations, the chairman, Mr A D P Ovenstone, says that the improved fishmeal prices will benefit the group's Chilean investments.

"Local fishing reflected a reduced profit contribution primarily as a result of anchovy quotas not being filled and poor fish oil yields.

"In Chile, Pesquera Playa Blanca SA, which is managed by us, is operating according to budget and could be a significant contributor to group profits in the future."

Commenting on the outlook for the immediate future, Mr Ovenstone says: "The new year has generally started well, and the outlook for improved results is promising. In particular, property, homebuilding, and construction are well set."

Sterilisation drive stepped up

3 years
about 9/5/83

SOUTH AFRICA has just enough water to support a population of between 70-million and 80-million people. The present population is 29-million and already there are reports from the drought-stricken areas of the country that children are dying of kwashiorkor. If every woman limits herself to two children between now and the year 2000 — a short 17 years away — there will be 65-million people in South Africa. How much worse will the drought situation be then?

THESE figures from the recent PC Demographic Report are frightening. What is being done to limit the run-away population growth?

The Association for Voluntary Sterilisation, founded in 1974, is currently stepping up its campaign. Funded by the private sector, the organisation, under the chairmanship of Dr V. P. de Villiers, has the blessing of the Government.

Voluntary sterilisation in men and women, as a means of family planning, is being widely encouraged and the majority of the large medical aid societies are paying for the operations.

Sterilisation for the underprivileged is free of charge and transport is arranged from home to hospital or clinic and back again.

In the Cape there are three educational, audio/visual programmes aimed at the lower income groups. These programmes have been scientifically worked out to appeal to the widest possible audience and copies of the colour slide shows

have been made for showing in hospitals, clinics and factories.

There are two basic programmes — one tells the personal story of a coloured man who decides to have a vasectomy.

Sensitively handled, the story answers all the questions a man would ask on whether the operation will affect his sex life, whether it is painful, if he will need time off work and how effective it is.

The second programme is the story of Marie, who has her "tubes" tied after the birth of her fourth child. It goes on to show how she and her husband manage to save up for a refrigerator and are also hoping one day to own their own home.

There are plans to take the educational programmes into the country districts to be shown at farm club meetings and clinics, where there is difficulty in breaking down cultural prejudice against sterilisation and where it is an established tradition to have large families as an insurance against old age.

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Natal

Motor

Kimbe

Johannesburg Municipal Transport Workers Union

Golden Arrow Officials Staff Association

General Workers Union of South Africa

General Workers Union

East London Municipal Transport Workers Union

Durban Municipal Transport Employees Union

Coloured Postal Employees Association of South Africa

Black Allied Workers Union

Bay Bus Workers Company Union

Artisan Staff Association

African Transport Workers Union

TRANSFERT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Witwatersrand Tearoom, Restaurant & Catering Trade Employees Union

Witwatersrand Liquor & Catering Trade Employees Union

South African Allied Workers Union (SAAMU)

Pretoria Liquor and Catering Trade Employees Union

Pretoria Catering Trades Employees Union

National Union of Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers

Natal Liquor and Catering Trades Employees Union

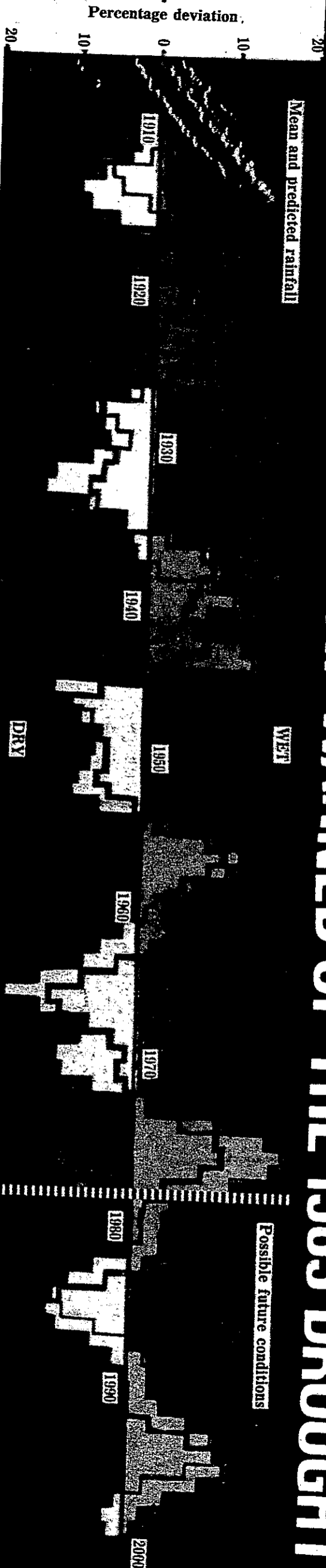
Liquor and Catering Trades Employees Union

Hotel, Liquor and Catering Trade Workers Union

Hotel, Bar & Catering Trades Employees Association

General

THE 1978 GRAPH THAT WARNED OF THE 1983 DROUGHT



Mean and predicted rainfall

Possible future conditions

DRY

WET

Today's drought was predicted five years ago by two weather experts at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In a paper called "The Predicted Above-normal Rainfall of the 70s and the Likelihood of Droughts in the 80s in South Africa", they suggested droughts occurred in a 20-year cycle.

Research had shown that wet periods or dry periods lasted about 10 years. The paper, by Professor P D Tyson and Dr T G J

Dyer, indicated a severe dry spell between 1980 and 1990 — the worst year being 1985.

But they stressed they were working on projected figures for previous years and it was impossible to guarantee what would hap-

pen in the future because the cycles were subject to interference.

Oscillations in meteorological data were notoriously subject to change and it was impossible to say how long the 20-year cycle would continue.

But it has continued, and the predictions of Professor Tyson and Dr Dyer still hold today.

Their report indicated that the same pattern went back as far as 1841, though a double dry spell occurred from 1897 to 1915.

"There is no doubt that the 20-year oscillation was stronger over the 1910 to 1977 period than over the interval 1910 to 1967," said their report.

"Provided the oscillation continues in the future, as it has since 1906, then the

estimated future wet and dry spells are not only probable, but highly likely."

It was not possible to predict accurately annual rainfall a year ahead but only two or three years if the wet or dry periods,

lasting nine or 10 years, did not conform.

Working on the same theory, their research indicates the weather will become more "normal" in 1990. But between 1990 and 2000 South Africa will experience another wet spell.

The Transvaal Agricultural Union feels that the new farm occupation rules are too limited in their scope and wants them extended to include all farms within 50 km of the border — and all other present absentee landowners as well.

Farmers want new occupation rules extended

By Hannes Ferguson,
Farming Correspondent

The Transvaal Agricultural Union wants the new "white occupancy" rule for some border farms to be extended.

The president of the union, Mr Nico Kotze, said the recent proclamation requiring absentee landowners to provide effective white occupancy of the bushveld farms applied only to a narrow strip 10 to 20 km wide along the Limpopo River.

It also applied only to farms newly sold as from today — not to all existing absentee-owned farms.

Mr Kotze said the TAU would do all in its power to have the restrictions lifted. The proclamation should be made to apply to all farms within at least 50 km from the border and to present absentee owners as well. Farmers were needed to see the bushveld repopulated as soon as possible.

The secretary of the TAU, Mr Filip du Plooy, said absentee owners would now find it more necessary to co-oper-

ate with their full-time neighbours.

Genuine hardship cases could always be dealt with through the exemption powers given to the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr S C Bekker, an estate agent in Ellisras, said the new regulations would affect land prices, but he could not now foresee how much or in what direction.

Some absentee landowners would feel inclined to sell, but others might decide to develop their farms properly to justify a white manager. This would increase land values.

Mr Johan Kriel, chairman of the District Agricultural Union of Koe-dostrand, said that the white occupancy rule was closely tied to the policy of settling new farmers in the border strip.

Intending new settlers would have to find farms to buy with the loans the State was prepared to make to them. Enforcing the white ownership rule could bring absentee farms into the market.




Border farmer Mr J S van Eyck . . . in addition to all the other difficulties, he is facing the worst drought he can remember.



By August she could be just another skeleton in the sand.

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ALLSOP 3

CAME TIPS 5/5/83
36 word *181* *187*

Drought worse than 1930s — Tiger Oats chairman

By JOHN MULCAHY
JOHANNESBURG. — Tiger Oats, the food giant that is now a subsidiary of CG Smith and in the Barlow Rand stable, produced attributable profit of R27 137 000 for the six months to March 31, and is paying an interim dividend of 50c.

The profit compares with R28 096 000, which is the pro-rata figure for the six months to September 30, and the closest comparison possible because of the change in year-end — firstly, to February from December last year, and then to September to bring it into line with Barlow Rand.

Tiger's executive chairman, Mr Rudi Frankel, said yesterday he was making an un-

characteristic forecast of the year's dividend — at least 75c — because of the confusion surrounding the two changes in the year-end and the difficulty in comparing interim figures with any results last year.

Turnover was R947m compared with R848m for the six months to September, and operating profit was 11,2 percent higher at R63m compared with R56m. Net interest paid rose to R10 860 000 from R7 934 000 and dividends from investments fell to R4 058 000 from R6 221 000.

Non-trading items absorbed R3 124 000, relating to a provision for diminution in the value of certain investments in associated companies

and losses on translation of net assets of foreign subsidiaries.

On the positive side of the extraordinary items is the surplus realized on the sale of Tiger's stake in SA Breweries and of its 49 percent holding in Mague Number One (Pty).

Associates, in which Tiger holds 30 percent to 50 percent of the share capital, are not accounted for on the equity basis.

These companies had a total turnover of R1 189m for the six months, and had they been equity-accounted, the group's earnings would have been 232c a share, or 5,3 percent higher.

Borrowings

The balance sheet at the end of March shows that total liabilities amounted to 93 percent of shareholders' funds, while the current ratio had improved to 1,2 from 1,7 at the end of September and total borrowings represented 46 percent of shareholders funds, compared with 53 percent at the end of September.

Long-term liabilities amounted to R49m at the end of March compared with R51m at the end of September.

Current, interest-bearing debt at the end of March was R135m compared with R150m six months earlier, while other current debt amounted to R184m (R175m).

Mr Frankel said the review period had been difficult, a feature being the intense competition in the oil and margarine industries, with fierce battles for market share.

The significant impact of the drought on the whole agricultural sector meant that exports would be seriously affected, but that domestic consumption of feed for animals would increase.

He applauded the government steps taken to alleviate the problems facing the farmers, and added that although there could be no monetary compensation for the tragedy, the measures now being implemented to relieve the financial burden were commendable.

Protein shortage

Apart from the hefty maize imports that will be required, Mr Frankel foresaw substantial shortages of protein material for feeds and oil.

Wherever possible the group would attempt to import raw materials for processing at the coastal plants, but the procedure to be followed would depend on relative prevailing rail-age costs.

From the group's viewpoint, Mr Frankel said that irrespective of decreased exports and increased imports, it was Tiger's duty to supply the major portion of the country's food and feed requirements, and it would do its best to provide a service on a margin which would keep prices at as low a level as circumstances made possible.

Tiger's taxed profit amounted to 3,7 percent of turnover for the six months to March, and Mr Frankel said the switch from an exporter to an importer would necessitate adjustments.



The Scotch the Scots drink

BELL'S

Maize crop

The official estimate of South Africa's maize crop for the 1983/84 season of 4 300 000 tons is significantly lower than preceding years, and Tiger's export earnings

Kruger rands

JSE Closing

	Buyers	Sellers	Sales
1 oz	552	555	555
1/2 oz	—	—	290
1/4 oz	14500	15000	14500
1/10 oz	—	6200	6200

Cape Gold Coin Exchange

D. Disman
28/5/83

Emergency measures to combat famine

PORT ELIZABETH — The Eastern Cape, Ciskei and Transkei, are preparing an emergency programme to combat a possible disastrous famine this winter in the wake of the crippling drought in many areas.

In an attempt to alleviate the effects of the drought during the winter and stave off the threat of famine, various country-wide organisations have launched crisis hunger relief programmes.

The Red Cross, the Institute of Race Relations through its Operation Hunger, and World Vision, have banded together to form a committee to co-ordinate the funds made available by public response to the

drought crisis.

If these organisations do not succeed in feeding millions of people, the situation will be disastrous, says Mrs Ina Perlman, organiser of Operation Hunger.

She said the chances were that families would starve and the death rate of black children under the age of five, which was already high, could become worse than ever.

This winter would not only be one of hunger and malnutrition among the very old and very young but also one of family starvation.

Help on a massive scale was needed from the public, Mrs Perlman said.

Aid is already being given to Ciskei and the

eastern parts of the Eastern Cape which are among the areas hardest hit by the drought.

But some organisations, being dependent on public donations, are hampered by lack of funds and can provide only limited help.

The Minister of Health for Transkei, Dr Charles Bikitsha, said the drought was worse than usual and the country was experiencing great food shortages.

The government was to step up its relief programmes.

Mr T. Saula, secretary for the Department of Welfare, Sport and Cultural Affairs, said the Transkei Government expected to feed one million people. — SAPA.

The latter part of 1981 was marked by increased repressive action against the trade unions and many unionists were detained. The death of Neil Aggett, Transvaal Secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, in detention in February 1982 has increased the strain on the already tenuous relationship between the State and the trade unions. The General Workers' Union, the Food and Canning Workers' Union and the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, the Cape Town Municipal Workers' Union and FOSATU have stated that there could be no further relations between them and the government until further Security Police action against the unions ends.

(3) General News 1/1/73

Mine water may relieve the drought

By Lawrie Bedford

Experts are to investigate the possibility of using water from mines in the Vaal catchment area for drinking purposes and generating electricity.

Thousands of litres, which have to be kept at bay to prevent flooding of working areas, could be made available to help beat the drought.

The suggestion came at a drought crisis meet-

ing of Electricity Supply Commission consumers.

Today the Department of Environment, Directorate of Water Affairs liaison officer, Mr Bert Boonzaaier, announced they were to study the possibility of supplementing dwindling water supplies from the mines.

"But it will be no use to us if it is 5 km beneath the surface," he cautioned. "It just would not be economically practicable to pump it out.

Mr Boonzaaier said the chief engineer in charge of geo-hydrology was compiling a study on underground water sources, including aquifers in the mineral rich dolomitic rock series.

Towns in Natal and Ermelo in the Eastern Transvaal are already using mine water.

A spokesman for Gencor said mines, particularly those in the Free State, had considerable quantities of water.

"Even if it cannot be piped into the Vaal system it could be exchanged with other sources, fed to power stations or sent to municipalities which have the necessary plant to upgrade it," he said.

The fertiliser flies ³ ~~FE~~ ~~FE~~

FM 20/5/83

Are SA farmers wasting hundreds of millions a year by using a lot more fertiliser than they really need?

Professor of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition at Pretoria University, Willem Folscher, believes so (*Business* April 22). His views are based partly on published statistics which show that fertiliser usage has increased more than threefold while average maize yields have shown little growth over the past 15 years.

The question is vital because, if farmers abandoned conventional wisdom and followed his advice, fertiliser sales would plummet and bring disaster to that industry. And if he is proved correct, the burden of the farming debt would be considerably eased as fertiliser accounts for at least 30% of farming costs.

The Fertiliser Society of SA (FSSA), which represents manufacturers like AECI, Fedmis, Omnia, Sasol and Triomf, predictably disagrees with Folscher. But its written rebuttal of his views submitted to the *FM* last week does not do justice to its case. It also appears to contradict the FSSA's own guidelines to farmers.

In its statement, the FSSA says that current average fertiliser usage of something above 100kg/ha is not excessive. But in its official maize fertiliser guidelines issued in April 1981, it suggests that most SA soils need only about 36kg/ha for yields of 2t/ha.

SA maize yields have remained around this level for the past 15 years, despite the fact that fertiliser usage is now about three times the FSSA's 1981

recommendation for this yield level.

The FSSA has previously admitted that it has "been worried for some time that maize production has not kept pace with fertiliser consumption."

But its latest statement says: "The inference that fertiliser usage has increased out of all proportion with yield is incorrect and misleading... the disparity is partly an arithmetical illusion because of soil fertility status and its changes, and partly because of the relative inefficiency of crop production practices.

"This does not mean that fertiliser is used in excessive amounts but rather that other factors cause inefficient crop response to fertiliser application."

These arguments hardly wash. In stating that the growing use of fertiliser is not excessive, the inference is that the disappointing increase in maize yields is due to the fact that farmers are steadily becoming less efficient in other aspects of crop management. It also suggests that yields can be significantly affected by factors other than the amount of fertiliser used, a view endorsed by Folscher.

The FSSA says that very high maize yields in the US (about 7t/ha against 2t/ha in SA) would not be possible without a fertiliser usage of 260kg/ha, more than double the figure in SA.

But this is not relevant to most SA farms which are far drier than those in the US. Plants can assimilate far more fertiliser nutrients in wet soils than in dry ones. It also says that its claims on the efficacy of fertiliser have been validated by hundreds of experiments over the past 20 years.

Not surprisingly, Folscher also claims experimental verification of his views. And recently one of his ex-colleagues, who farms in Lichtenburg, made the headlines after employing Folscher's methods to produce a good crop in this season of drought while others around him failed. The technique calls for significantly less fertiliser and lower plant density than currently recommended.

The FSSA questions Folscher's assertion to the *FM* that farmers overspent by R340m on fertiliser last year. It says that with total fertiliser expenditure by maize farmers at not more than R400m last year, purchases of only R60m would not have been worth the time and effort. Folscher, however, believes that total expenditure by maize farmers was about R460m; this would have left R120m for fertiliser purchases — an adequate level by his standards.

The FSSA asks: "Can Professor Folscher assure maize farmers that, by reducing fertiliser usage by two thirds, they will not suffer severe long-run yield losses and will he guarantee to make up such losses if they occur?"

Folscher replies: "With lower use of fertiliser, yields will continue to fluctuate with the rainfall figures, but production costs will be significantly lower. In its turn, can the FSSA guarantee that farmers will not get even deeper into debt if they continue to fertilise at current high levels?"

□ The FSSA says it has been quoted out of context in this article. The *FM* undertakes to provide reasonable space in a future issue to give its arguments more fully.

D. Dispatch 21/5/83
SA dams only 40 pc full ③ General

EAST LONDON — South Africa's dams are 40 per cent full on average, 17 per cent less than this time last year, according to figures released by the Department of Environmental Affairs in Pretoria yesterday.

The dams which supply water to East London, Nahoon Dam and Bridle Drift Dam, were 20 per cent and 32 per cent full respectively on May 16, Mr G. Keppie, the city engineer, said yesterday.

Because of the low percentage of water in the Nahoon Dam, the water supply had been cut back from that dam and East London was relying more on the Bridle Drift Dam.

"There is enough water in the dams to last

another 12 months," he said.

"The situation is very serious. We don't normally get rain until August. If there is no rain then we will have to wait until March, the next rainy season.

"If things get worse, besides the present water restrictions, we will appeal to industries to cut down on their water use and introduce a tariff on domestic water."

The Waterdown Dam

which supplies Queenstown and was 22 per cent full on May 16, was half a per cent down last week, Mr H. L. Horn, the circuit engineer for the Department of Water Affairs, said.

Gubu Dam, which was 77 per cent full, was supplying Stutterheim municipality with "a trickle for domestic use and stock use," he said.

King William's Town is the worst hit in the area, with the Rooikrantz Dam only six per cent full.

"The Laing Dam, which is 83 per cent full, is also supplying King William's Town, as well as Zwelitsha.

"Smaller towns in the Border area are getting water from boreholes," Mr Horn said. — DDR

Drought forces Komga farmers deeper and deeper into debt

3 General

KOMGA — "If I were forced out of business by the drought, there would at least be one consolation: I would be in good company." Mr. Julian Odendaal said, with just a hint of a smile on his face.

Drought seems to have a way of producing a grim sense of humour, because Mr. Odendaal doesn't really have much of anything to smile about these days.

A cattle rancher and dairy farmer who is also the chairman of the Komga Farmers Association, Mr. Odendaal knows only too well what the drought is doing to farmers in the hills, flats and steep-sided valleys that stretch away from the Kei River toward East London.

"Farmers in the Komga area are going deeply into debt. A few have

gone out of business, and a lot more are coming to the same."

If it were not for government drought relief, many Komga farmers would have been out of business by this time, Mr. Odendaal said.

Komga is at Stage Three of the drought relief programme. Farmers receive a subsidy on rillage costs for imported fodder, and subsidised loans for purchasing fodder.

Livestock farmers are purchasing fodder because there is little, if any, grazing left in the Komga area. Some pastures have been grazed down to the ground", Mr. Odendaal said.

But even with government help, buying fodder is an expensive financial burden, and in any case it is widely believed that supplies have nearly run out. Farmers, not wanting to be left holding animals they can't feed through the winter, have been paring down their herds. Komga has seen a mass sell-off of livestock in recent months.

Both cattle and sheep farmers "are selling whatever they can sell. They're just trying to keep a basic herd," Mr. Odendaal said.

"They are selling animals they would never normally sell— young stock, breeding stock, cows in calf."

And prices are rock-bottom. At a recent stock sale in Moolplaas, some animals were fetching just one-third of their normal value.

"But as one farmer there told me, it's better to get R200 for a R600 animal now than to wait and get R10 for a skin

By MARK SCHAFFER



Mr. Julian Odendaal, chairman of the Komga Farmers Association, on his farm near Komga.

later," Mr. Odendaal said.

Komga farmers trying to get rid of slaughter stock are doing no better. With abattoirs already gutted, there is little market for mutton or beef.

Farmers who haven't been able to sell as many animals as they would have liked can only be apprehensive about the months to come.

"There has been far more stock death than normal in the Komga area already, and I think we will lose quite a bit of stock this winter," Mr. Odendaal said.

Komga's dairy farmers also face a difficult winter. Because grazing is so poor, they are bag-feeding all their cows— dry ones as well as lactating ones — and the extra feed purchases are not covered by the drought relief subsidies.

Nor has the drought spared Komga maize farmers. "There has been no maize crop," Mr. Odendaal said. "One farmer I know who is on land well situated for rain, and who normally sells 2 000 bags of grain has nothing to sell, and doesn't even have enough for his own use."

All in all, Komga farmers face a long period of recovery and rebuilding once the weather returns to normal.

"It will take three to four years for them to return to the economic condition they were in before the drought began."

Livestock farmers, for example, "have lost out on a calving season, and the lambing season has been upset," Mr. Odendaal said. "That alone puts you back a year, and then there is the cost of all the feed you have had to buy."

As for the prospects of his own farm, Mr. Odendaal is under no illusions about the hard times that lie ahead.

But he is far from grim, and his wry, drought-parched humour is proof of that.

"Come back," he says, "and see me when the drought is over... If I'm not an old man by then"

If there has been anything at all like a bright side to the drought in Komga, it has been seen in the unstinting willingness of the area's farmers to come to each other's help in an extraordinarily difficult time

"Sixty to 80 per cent of Komga farmers have watter problems. There are some with almost no water at all. But farmers who have water to spare are sharing it... they're excellent."

As for the prospects of his own farm, Mr. Odendaal is under no illusions about the hard times that lie ahead.

But he is far from grim, and his wry, drought-parched humour is proof of that.

"Come back," he says, "and see me when the drought is over... If I'm not an old man by then"

3 General 20/4.

There's no water shortage here

By MARK SCHACTER
MOOPLAAS — It's nice to be lucky.

And if you happen to be a farmer trying to see your way clear through the worst drought you have ever known, a little bit of luck may be all that stands between survival and total failure.

Ivan Kieck is lucky. Three months ago, Mr Kieck's cabbage farm at Blue Water, near here, was running short of water. He called in a drilling company to drill a borehole.

On February 12 the drillers struck water — and it was no ordinary strike. With an estimated capacity of 100 000 litres an hour, it was described as "the greatest flow yet tapped in the East London area".

Visit Ivan Kieck's farm today, and you will see what that one lucky strike has meant for him. You see sprinklers gushing water, making rainbows on a hot, sunny day. You see fields of cabbage, soon ready for harvesting.

"Without the borehole, my crops would have been a total failure," Mr Kieck said.

"But Mr Kieck, though lucky and in a far better position than many of his neighbouring farmers, is not unaffected by the drought. Even he has a "water problem" — a measure of just how severe this drought is.

"Even with all my water, I only have enough to farm half my land, and I haven't been able to irrigate the field of oats I had sown to feeding my cat."

(E.g. grain examination)

Any dishonesty v

Made in South Africa

the " Mr Kieck said. The grazing on his land is in such poor condition that Mr Kieck — letting nothing go to waste — is supplementing the diet of his 150 head of cattle with cabbage leaves.

Mr Kieck said he would share his water with neighbouring farmers. Already one neighbour has taken a tankerload, and Mr Kieck has also been supplying a nephew and son-in-law.

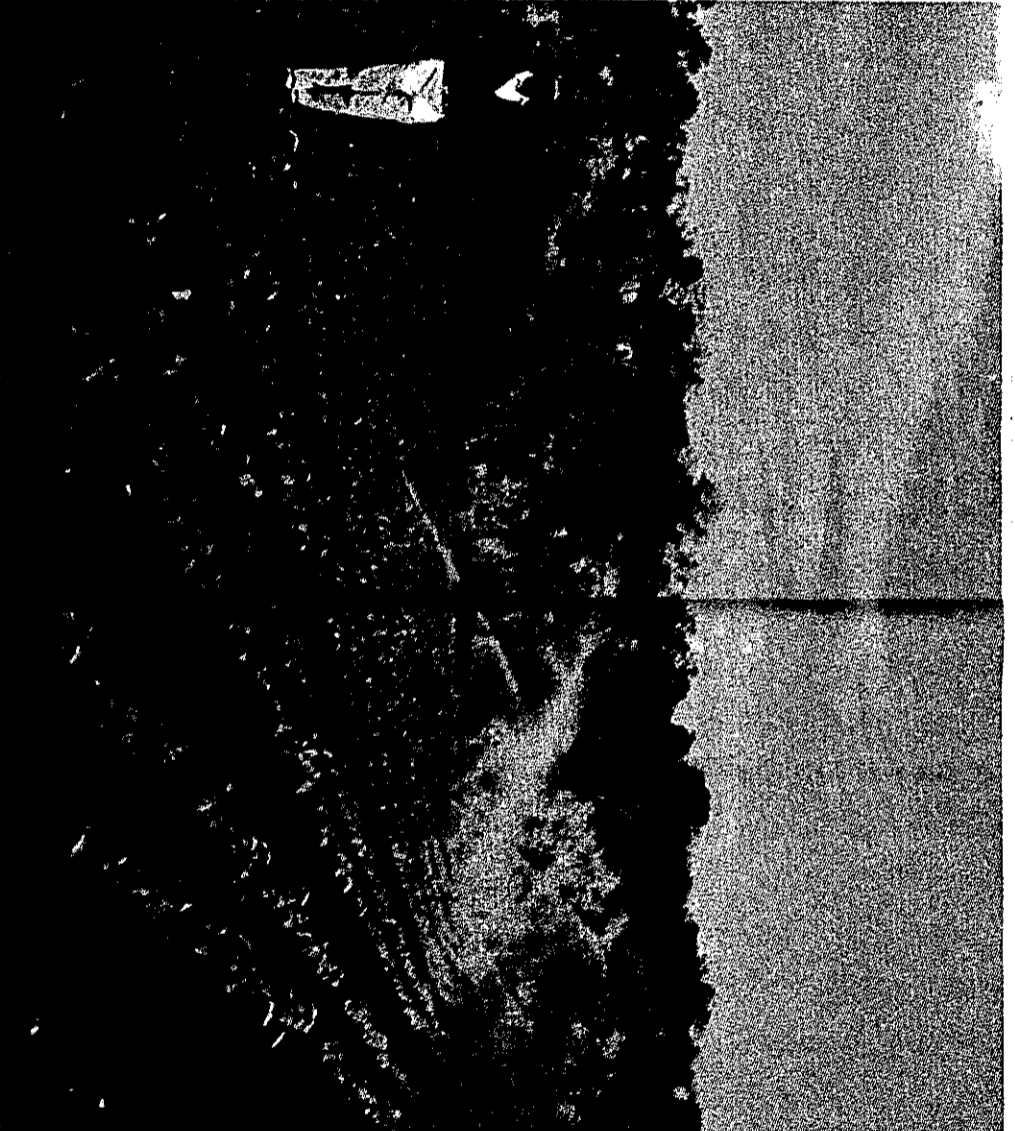
At the moment, he is not able to exploit the borehole as fully as he would like to do. He wants to pump from the borehole for 24 hours a day, but until Eskom supplies his farm with more electric power, he can pump for only 12 hours.

Pumping the water, Mr Kieck said, is costing a "hundreds of rands a month".

The men who drilled the hole, Mr Kieck said, were guided to the spot by him and his forked divining stick. Mr Kieck, who claims to be able to divine water, took his stick in hand and showed a visitor how it turned toward the ground as he walked over the underground watercourse into which the borehole had been sunk.

The visitor then took the stick, and tried to achieve the same result. Nothing happened.

"Not everyone can do it," Mr Kieck said. — DDR



Above: Ivan Kieck is lucky. Thanks to borehole water he is able to irrigate his cabbage farm near Mooiplaas. Left: Divining stick in hand, he shows how he guided drillers to the site of a record-breaking borehole on his farm.

Drastic drought relief measures

FORT BEAUFORT — For the first time ever the Fort Beaufort Farmers Association will apply to have the district placed in the fourth phase of drought relief.

The situation here, where farmers have had to resort to wholesale feeding of stock for the past two months, is well-nigh critical as they enter a winter which could prove disastrous if good rains are not forthcoming soon.

The fourth phase of drought relief entitles farmers to a 60 per cent subsidy on feed expenses to a maximum of R4 500 a month for a maximum of twelve hundred small, or 200 large or a combination of both stock units.

There is a seventy-five per cent subsidy on rail-age and on cartage by licensed private transport as well. No reduction of stock as a prerequisite for aid is required in this part of the country, because the pressure on the already over-supplied markets would be too great.

In Fort Beaufort itself the water position is critical and a state drill is sinking boreholes in the area.

Watering times on Wednesday have been changed from seven to nine a.m. to four to six p.m. as it is felt that these hours of watering are more effective for plants. The water situation is being carefully monitored by the authorities here. — DDR

Kubusie River is drying up

By MARK SCHACTER

KOMGA — "That's normally a rushing rapid," Gordon Renton said, as he pointed to a broad stretch of dry, boulder-strewn riverbed.

The Kubusie River used to flow through his farm, but that was before the drought. Today all that remains of the river on Mr Renton's land, 12 km east of Komga at the end of a winding gravel road, are a few isolated pools. And as those pools steadily evaporate and shrink, so too do Mr Renton's hopes of maintaining a water-supply for the thousands of chickens in his poultry sheds, and for his 180 head of beef cattle.

On a hot, sunny autumn day Mr Renton and a visitor to his farm bounced and inched their way in his four-wheel drive bakkie down a steep and rough track to the bottom of the Kubusie valley, nearly 400 metres below the farm buildings up top.

Mr Renton was carting diesel fuel down to a pump house at one of the pools on the river — the single pool supplying water to his farm.

Round the clock, he pumps 2 000 litres of water every hour out of the valley and up to the farm. By pumping steadily three days a week, he keeps his reservoir topped up.

"When this pool is gone, I don't know what I'll do," Mr Renton said.

Some day, perhaps, when plans to build a R91 million dam and water diversion scheme on the Kubusie are translated from paper to reality, Mr Renton and other farmers who depend on the river may be spared the ravages of drought.

For now though, the problems presented by the immediate future are so pressing that it seems an extravagance even to think about how different things might have been if the Kubusie scheme were already complete.

By MARK SCHACTER

"There is no grazing left," Mr Renton says as you drive with him down to the riverbed — and indeed it is only then that you notice that beneath the low and still-green canopy of brush, there is hardly a blade of grass to be seen anywhere. There is only bare, brown earth.

His cattle have actually become transformed from grazers to browsers, feeding on the leaves of thorn bushes and wild olive trees and prickly pear.

"The leaves will drop in June and July... the worst is yet to come," Mr Renton said.

And as he watches a thinning cow walking haltingly near the side of the track, he observes that "she's going downhill quickly." Then he explains that his cattle are "going downhill" in another way too.

Searching desperately for food, they are abandoning their natural caution and are plunging to their death after edging too closely to steep drop-offs on the valley slope.

"I have lost six in the last month from falling over precipices," Mr Renton said.

He intends to get his herd through the winter by having it feed on poultry manure, of which he of course has plenty.

Poultry manure has long been recognised as a highly nutritious cattle feed. Mr Renton is now introducing it to his stock, and hoping that they will take to it.

The drought, he says, has "messed up" his chicken farming too — in the first place because drought-stricken cattle farmers selling off their stock have glutted the meat market and driven beef prices so low that chicken has for the time

being lost its usual status as a lower-priced alternative to beef.

In the second place, there is the urgent need to conserve water — and raising chickens, Mr Renton said, "takes an enormous amount of water".

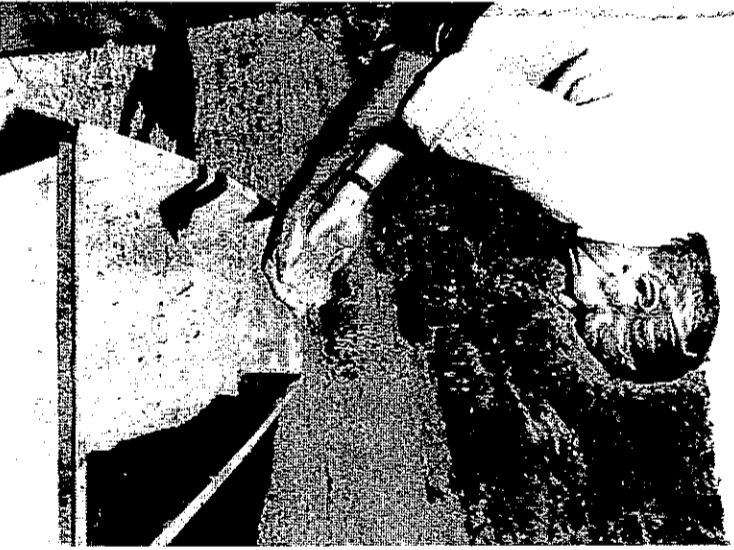
Mr Renton is now selling between 3 000 and 4 000 fewer birds a month — a drop of about 30 per cent — than he was in January.

This drop he attributes partly to the general economic recession, and partly to drought-related factors.

In short, "the drought is costing me a hell of a lot," Mr Renton said. Don't all these problems — caused by something over which no farmer has any control: the weather — make Mr Renton sometimes think he'd be wise to find another way of making a living?

He pauses a moment, and then answers the question indirectly.

"My wife," he says, "tells me my hair is getting greyer by the day." — DDR



Poultry manure is a high-quality cattle feed. Gordon Renton intends to drought-feed his livestock on it through the winter.

Drought will hit housing position

Handwritten scribble and signature

By LIN MENGE
Homefront Reporter

THE present drought would accelerate urbanisation in South Africa to a point never experienced before, Mr Louis Koch, chief director of the Eastern Cape Administration Board, said at the "Housing Challenge" conference in Pretoria yesterday.

"Those people who move to the towns because of the drought are not going to go back — only a very small percentage will return," Mr Koch said.

Unless this was taken into account, forward planning for housing could be off target.

"We do not have a squatter problem, we have an urbanisation problem," he said.

The shortage of serviced land lay at the heart of the housing problem. There was far too much red tape, he said.

"You could cut millions of rands off the cost of infrastructure if you cut the time span in the provision of land."

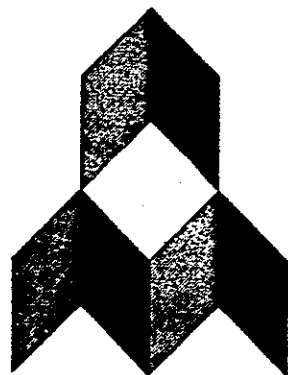
Undue delays in housing development would harden attitudes and whip up emotions to the point where people did not even feel welcome in the areas to be developed.

Mr Koch said the sale of 500 000 State-owned houses did not go far enough — it should be extended to serviced vacant stands to help new homeowners. The private sector, through utility companies, rather than local authorities and administration boards should be brought into the selling action.

He pleaded for more realistic building standards. People were being forced to break the building regulations because they could not afford to meet them. Then if their houses were broken down they were upset and suspicious and felt that the "have's" did not want them — the "have-nots" — to have anything.

Opening the three-day conference, which was organised by the National Building Research Institute of the CSIR, the Deputy-State President, Mr A L Schiebusch, said South Africa's 14.9% inflation rate had tremendous implications for housing because costs could double every seven years even if the average inflation rate was only 10% a year.

Mr Schiebusch said the cost of service land was 20% to 25% of the total cost of a middle income house, but this



increased to 50% of the total cost of a house for the low income group.

Building researchers believed engineers would be forced to adopt an appropriate technology approach to services to cut costs, he said.

Dr D Mullins, senior planner, economic planning branch of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning, said housing requirements for the period 1982 to 1990 stood at 2 300 000 (1 792 500 for blacks, including a 501 000 backlog, 250 000 for whites, 180 000 for coloureds and 80 000 for Asians).

Dr Mullins said that while State expenditure on defence had risen from 11.5% in 1970 to 17.3% in 1980, expenditure on housing had fallen from 2.68% to 2.3% in the same period.

Mr L van Gass, deputy director constitutional services in the Department of Co-operation and Development, said the possibility of converting "the deed of grant" system used in the homelands to a conventional land title would be investigated.

Building societies did not accept the deed of grant as adequate security and had suggested that a system similar to 99-year-leasehold be applied in the homelands.

Mr J K Matjila, of the Vaal Triangle Community Council, said Escom was to finance the servicing of 1 500 stands in Sebokeng and the erection of 1 500 houses and a 1 500-bed hostel in a R40-million development over the next seven years.

In a paper read on his behalf, Professor R Weitz, director of the Settlement Study Centre at Rehovot in Israel, urged the creation of a system of rural towns, as opposed to villages, which would provide a link between industry and agriculture, provide markets for farmers' produce and attract much-needed professional workers and entrepreneurs who would otherwise all settle in the main cities.

LAND BANK FM 27/5/83
Losing credit

(3) *revised*
The Land Bank is currently revising its criteria for land valuation. This follows representations by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) for a less conservative valuation policy to improve the ability of farmers to obtain credit.

An amendment to section 26 of the Land Bank Act of 1944 was promulgated recently in which the maximum amount of an advance on the security of land was increased from 80% to 100%.

This means that a farmer may borrow up to an amount equal to the bank's valuation of his land, based on agricultural as opposed to market value. This may range from R50/ha to R1 000/ha, depending on location and usage. Value generally correlates with potential production, so that a low value area would be land in the Western Cape used for sheep farming, while a high value area would be one where maize and wheat are produced.

Bad harvests

Farmers experienced bad summer crop harvests in 1979, 1982 and 1983. This has meant they have been unable to repay production credit provided by the co-operatives to pay for input costs of seeds, fertiliser, insecticide, spare parts and fuel.

The debts consolidated up to 1982 in respect of grain amounted to R360m. Farmers were given four years to repay. As co-operatives work on the basis of zero-budgeting, the monies earned from current production must first be applied to outstanding debt. If necessary, the farmer must then re-apply for new production credit for the following season.

Unfortunately, this year's bad season has compounded the debt so that carry-over production credit amounts to about R870m. This carries an interest rate of 14% per annum (less reducing interest rebates for consecutive years), while the repayment period has been extended to six years.

Co-operatives are wilting under the strain of this extended credit. They will press farmers to apply for a transfer of their debts directly to the Land Bank under its new land valuation scheme. Indeed, if he has sufficient equity, a farmer may be allowed to consolidate all his debts, not only those in respect of production credit, but also loans from commercial banks, finance houses and local garages, to name but a few.

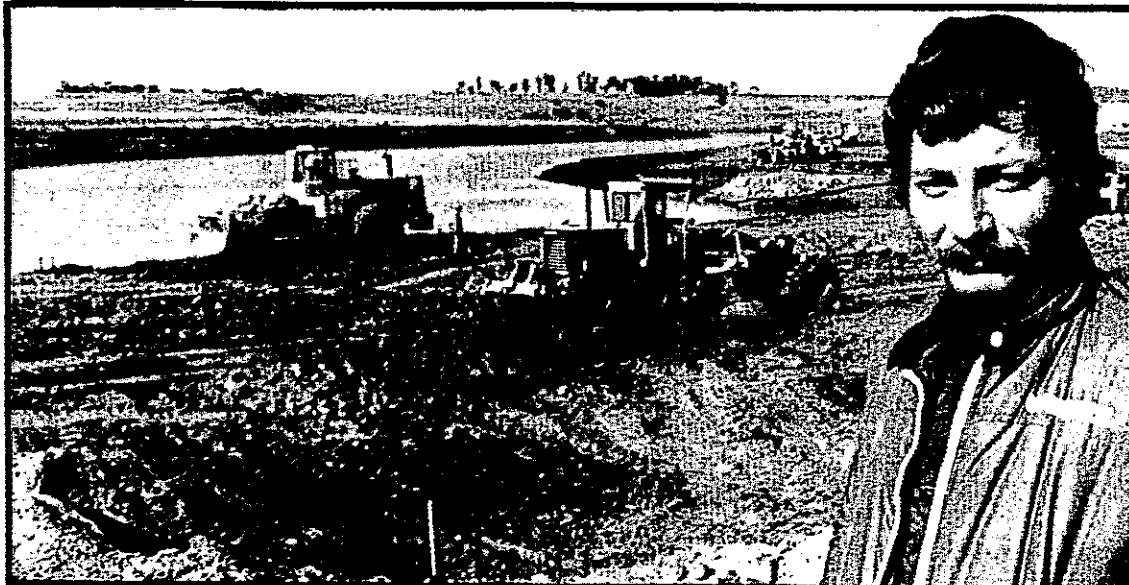
If he is short of equity, or indeed just plain uncreditworthy, there is always the Agricultural Credit Board which, as lenders of last resort, charges a rate of 8% per

annum.

An approved bond will run for 22 years at an interest rate of 11% per annum. However, as farmers will repay nothing during

the first two years, their debt will accumulate even further. Consumers should be fervently hoping that 1984 does not bring in another year of drought.

The man who's toil succeed where Kin



ENGINEERS are working against the clock in an amazing project to turn the tide against the devastating drought that is threatening South Africa's power supplies.

But to achieve success, Sakkie van der Westhuizen must prove that he is a better man than King Canute, even though he does not have as grand a title.

For whereas the 11th Century monarch failed to turn back the tide, Sakkie van der Westhuizen and his colleagues intend succeeding — with the help of modern civil-engineering techniques and a good deal of improvisation.

"You could say that this is the ideal case of 'doer maak 'n plan'," said Mr van der Westhuizen at one of the seven weirs under construction to reverse the flow of the Vaal River.

"We were looking at a lot of uncertainties when we started because we had to tackle the job without the proper investigations and planning that are normally undertaken in major projects.

"The scheme took only a couple of weeks to plan and we started within a couple of hours of the Minister's announcement — there was just no time to waste," said Mr van der Westhuizen, 32, the engineer responsible for the unique project.



course, thus preventing the possible catastrophic consequences for the country's economy.

In short, the livelihood and convenience of South Africans are dependent on the scheme's success — and none are more aware of these high stakes than the 400-odd construction workers who are labouring from dawn to dusk, seven days a week, to turn back the river.

Saying goodbye to their families and the comforts of home, these men are now living in cramped caravans and mobile apartments in the veld as they dedicate themselves each day against their common adversaries — the natural flow of the Vaal River, and time.

No hot water

All they have time for is work and sleep as they take part in man's oldest and most fundamental activity of producing change by trying to control his environment.

And, ironically, many of them are living without the amenity which they are trying to safeguard. With no elec-

tricity on site, they are having to get by without hot running water.

"People in the cities should know what it's like to live without power," says Mr Ewald Scholtz, 49, one of the site foremen, "perhaps that will impress upon them the need to save water."

Mr Scholtz, a bachelor, is looking forward to his next hot bath. The last one he had was a month ago. Since then he has been washing out of a bucket, with cold water.

Rigorous

Like many of the other construction workers, he has come down with a chest cold, but has laboured on regardless, sticking to the rigorous schedule of a 12-hour working day.

"Ag, man, when you're in the veld you must make the best of a bad situation... you cannot expect a hotel life," says Mr Hennie 'Doep' du Plessis, 53, a plant operator.

"But it will be lekker to get home to my family again and have a nice home-made meal instead of eating all these tinned foods and bread," adds Mr Du Plessis, a grandfather, who was transferred to the Free State site from his home in Worcester.

"I'm getting used to eating out every night... out of tins," joked Mr Frederick Brand, 37, who travels to the nearest town, Villiers, twice a week to phone his wife and three children in Eshowe, because there is no time to write.

"But I am quite happy making these sacrifices because it is a case of an

emergency. If it wasn't, my morale wouldn't be so high and I might not be here."

The sentiment was echoed by Mr Du Plessis, who would never have believed it possible to reverse the flow of a river in his youth.

Seven weirs

This will now be done by building seven weirs at strategic points along the river — from the upper reaches of the Vaal Dam to the outskirts of Standerfontein — ranging in distance between 5.5kms and 46.5kms, depending on the slope of the Vaal River bed.

In these mini-dams, the water will be shored up by the lower weir so that it reaches the toe of the preceding one, from where it will be pumped through a specially constructed canal on the side of the wall to the next mini-dam upstream.

"The slope of the river bed is nullified by the effect of the mini-dam, and with the pumping and extraction on the top end of the dams, the water is caused to flow in the opposite direc-

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Sophisticated

"We have played it by ear and so far the scheme is working out well."

The work has been kept on schedule in the five weeks since the project was launched. The weirs, canals and spillways are under construction, and Escorn workers have begun installing the electrical equipment needed for the sophisticated pumps that will be used.

A lot is at stake in the battle against time to reverse the flow of the river in an attempt to resupply power stations with water in the Eastern Transvaal, where 80 percent of South Africa's power is generated.

The R33-million scheme must be completed by the end of September if the dual threat of power and water rationing is to be averted — and, of

who's toiling to where King Canute failed

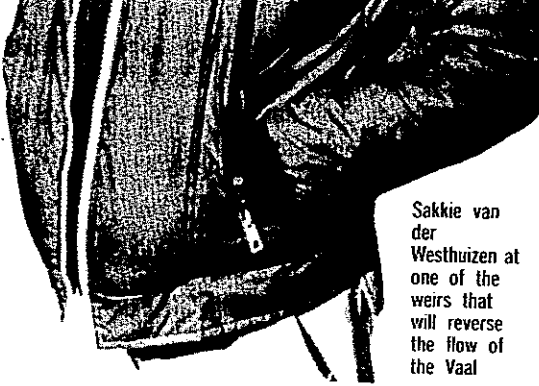
Reports by DAVID FORRET
Pictures by JUHAN KUUS



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Sakkie van der Westhuizen at one of the weirs that will reverse the flow of the Vaal

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the top end of the dams, the water is
caused to flow in the opposite direc-

tion," according to Mr van der West-
huizen, who is deputy chief engineer
(construction) in the water affairs di-
rectorate of the Department of Envi-
ronment Affairs.

In effect, the flow of the river will
be reversed for a distance of about
215kms as the sophisticated pumping
equipment goes about its task, push-
ing the water upstream until it
reaches Grootdraai Dam, about 5kms
north-east of Standerton.

Flood precaution

"We will be keeping the water with-
in the natural river banks as far as
possible, so as to minimize evapora-
tion," according to Mr van der
Westhuizen.

"We are building the dam walls low
enough so that we don't flood the flat
areas (next to the river).
"We are also planning for the possi-
bility of a flood between the Groot-
draai and Vaal dams if it starts rain-
ing heavily in the area. Spillways will
be built on a flank of each weir so that
our walls aren't washed away."

Ian seeks riches in the misery of the Vaal

A FORTUNE-hunter is scouring
the Vaal Dam with a metal detec-
tor to find valuables left high and
dry by the drought.

Mr Ian Shield, 24, is not the least bit
concerned about the effects of the
drought. In fact, the more the Vaal Dam
dries up, the more he likes it.

For, while impoverished farmers are
being pushed towards bankruptcy by
the killer drought, Mr Shield is search-
ing for the fortune that he's sure he will
discover in the cracked and dry
earth where the water has
receded.

Armed only with a British-made
metal detector worth about R500,
Mr Shield works his way slowly
and meticulously across the
parched earth that was once the
bed of the Vaal Dam.

"I reckon there must be a lot of
jewellery items here just waiting
to be picked up," he says rather
optimistically as he scans the
earth with his apparatus that will
detect any metal object buried
less than a metre underground.

He is quite sure that these minor
treasures await him because, he
reckons, hundreds of people must
have lost valuable items, such as
bracelets, necklaces and rings, in
moments when their minds were
lost to skiing and boating in the
sun over the years.

Argument

He even knows of a case where a
young woman, in a fit of anger,
threw her expensive diamond ring
into the water from her fiancé's
yacht during a stormy argument a
few years ago.

That is but one of the items he
would be only too pleased to
recover.

But so far he has had no luck.
"I have been doing this for about
three months now, ever since I
finished my army training, and
apart from some old watches and
a few coins, I have not found any-
thing really valuable or unusual."
Up till now, however, he had



Mr Ian Shield with his fortune-hunting metal detector

done most of his searching on
beaches.

He was hoping his luck would
change once he moved to the
banks of the Vaal Dam, where his
father owns some property.

But, alas, he is still being dogged
by bad luck.

"I am a little bit disheartened,"
he told us when we came across
him as his search at the Vaal con-
tinued into its sixth day.

"I sometimes wonder if I am
ever going to make it. I really need
to find something worthwhile to
get my spirits up."
But he consoles himself with the
fact that, as a man who is con-

cerned about the environment, he
has contributed a lot to cleaning
up the dam for the day when the
water comes back.

He has found a couple of 50c
pieces, scores of lead-sinkers lost
by anglers, and a countless num-
ber of pull-tabs from soft-drink
and beer tins.

In all, he estimated, he could
earn himself about R3 or R4 with
what he had picked up in five days
of searching.

"But I'm still convinced that
there is money in this if you tackle
it sensibly," he said, before buck-
ling down to resume the search in
earnest.

Drought ^(M) hits life in ^{(3) General} settlement ^{S. Post} areas in ^{14/5/83} East Cape

Weekend Post Reporter

THE drought which has devastated farmlands throughout the country has reduced life in the resettlement areas of the Eastern Cape to a pitiful state.

The Grahamstown Resettlement Committee (GRC) monitors black removals in the region and recently visited the Hewu Resettlement Area near Whittlesea in Ciskei. The area includes Oxton, Sada, Thornhill and Zweledinga, and houses 100 000 people.

The main water source for Zweledinga, the Oxkraal River, is completely dry. Waterdown Dam, which supplies the whole of Queenstown and the Sada-Whittlesea area, is about a third full.

Most of the resettlement villages rely entirely on boreholes and there is now only enough water for basic consumption.

At Embekweni, near Oxton, the GRC discovered that the communal taps run for the first few hours of each day and then are empty. Buckets fill slowly and queues are long. After midday the supply runs out.

The area is hopelessly overgrazed and, although there are limits of 10 goats a family, the animals are ecologically punishing and have virtually stripped the veld.

Places where erosion and overgrazing are particularly bad, such as Thornhill, look like a lunar landscape — thousands of brown mud huts scattered at random, it seems, over

equally brown and desolate hills.

"Haunting is the best word to describe the feeling of these places," says the GRC report.

Oxton is a particularly gruelling place to live.

"It is incredibly windy and dust devils constantly chase across the soil. Gusts of wind raise dense dust clouds, which blot out vision and make the air unhealthy to breathe.

"Homes and latrines in the area have to be held down by heavy stones on their roofs and by wire guys fastened to the ground."

The people in these areas have no visible means of support. There is no agricultural land, except for some large irrigation schemes, which can accommodate relatively few farmers.

Some money comes in from family members working on the mines or in Port Elizabeth and East London, but this is erratic.

The major source of income seems to be old age pensions — about R80 every two months — which have to support whole families.

The Ciskei Government has a drought relief programme, which is allocated to women without husbands.

A group of women near Zweledinga is selected to work for three months at a rate of R42 a month on tasks like clearing stones or digging dams or gardens.

After three months, another group of women is selected.

Industries

14 MAY 1983

cut water consumption

SAR
A/

③ General

The devastating drought, which has already brought misery to South Africa's rural areas, is now forcing industry to use less water to help prevent power cuts later in the year.

Industrial and mining spokesmen said they were trying to conserve water in line with official demands so that water-cooled power stations would not have to close or reduce output.

The Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said in Parliament that power stations might be shut down in August if no rain fell before then.

Companies fear that if factories or mines have to close or are forced to work short-time as a result of power cuts, workers will have to be laid off. This could further depress the economy, they said.

The drought, described by meteorologists as the worst in the history of Southern Africa, has already cost the country millions of rands in lost food exports and has reduced demand for goods such as tractors and fertilisers.

VAAL RIVER

He said work should be completed by September on a R33 million scheme to reverse the flow of the Vaal River. The Vaal, one of the country's major waterways, feeds stations in the Eastern Transvaal which supply most of South Africa's electricity.

The Chamber of Mines, which groups South Africa's gold mining houses, has set up a committee to examine the effect power cuts could have.

Coal mines, which need huge amounts of water to crush and wash their produce, have already taken steps to reduce consumption by the officially requested 20 percent. One washing plant at a Rand Mines coal mine has already been closed.

Mr Roy MacGillivray, of Rand Mines' coal division, said water meters were being installed to keep a closer watch on results. — Reuter.

equate
①①

Benefits brought by alien plants to Cape coastal areas

CONSERVATIONISTS glare, with beady, hating eyes at the aliens, the Cape fynbos destroyers, the rugged Australian rapists of our natural heritage.

A suspicious public gazes warily at vast tracts of coastal land choked monotonously by the dreaded legumes — Port Jackson willow (*Acacia saligna*) and rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*).

But all is not as it appears and perhaps conservationists — and the public

— need to re-examine the objects of their prejudice.

Described as a weed, a plant invader, a pest — the plants have been responsible for the reclamation of large parts of Port Elizabeth coast — areas which today would have been ever-spreading sand dunes.

The plant invaders simply have no indigenous equal in their capacity to reclaim primary and littoral dunes quickly — and that is why they were introduced to South Africa's coastline in the middle of

the last century. The Cape Flats began to be reclaimed by the hardy Port Jackson willow in 1877 — and the result has been spectacular.

Advancing sand dunes have been halted by active distribution of the rooikrans from Port Nolloth to Port Elizabeth. Between 1850 and 1910 Port Jackson was grown as a sand binder and a source of tannin in the Cape.

From 1873 to 1890 the Port Elizabeth Harbour Board had tried in vain to

prevent sand drifting on to railway lines and into the harbour.

In 1893 a scheme of rooikrans reclamation was implemented and was successfully completed by 1909.

In a 1936 document a driftsands, by the then Director of Forestry, Mr J D M Keel, it is stated that "5 000 acres (2 000 hectares) of Port Elizabeth land were reclaimed. It is quite impossible to realise now how waving fields of verdant cover was a wilderness of desolate sand.

"The railways and harbour were saved, the amenities of the town were immensely improved and once barren land was restored to productivity."

In addition, advancing dunes near the mouth of the Kowie River were fixed for the Port Alfred Municipality. The report also says that vast tracts of Eastern Cape lands, threatened by advancing dunes, were saved by the plant invaders.

Today large recreational and residential areas — including the University of

Port Elizabeth itself — exist where sand dunes once dominated. If Port Jackson and rooikrans plants were eradicated from these areas, many buildings could, in time, collapse and indigenous plants, growing alongside them, could be unable to withstand the subsequent dune advance.

Perhaps, too, it needs to be remembered that the two Australian plants are not solely responsible for the crowding out of vast tracts of Cape fynbos — altogether 50 foreign plants are — according to the

Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation.

The Director of Forestry (Marketing) of the Directorate of Forestry, Mr Martin Wright, said during a brief visit to Port Elizabeth this week that the Port Jackson and rooikrans had in fact enabled indigenous plants to gain a foothold in many dune areas — because of the shelter and humidity-providing aliens.

"The plants continue to provide an almost inexhaustible source of firewood for the less-privi-

leged along the coast.

"I also suspect that over the years since the introduction of the Australian plants, people would have decimated significant tracts of indigenous vegetation for firewood — which also would have quickened the advance of sand dunes."

Mr Wright said Port Jackson and rooikrans had, in fact, produced suitable conditions for the introduction of indigenous bush in many coastal areas.

However he warned that outside the established reclamation areas the acacias

should be eradicated.

"It's a matter of balance — where the two acacias are interfering with inland vegetation, they should be destroyed and replaced with indigenous flora. Where they are doing good they should be left alone," he said.

The head of UPE's Botany Department, Prof Guy Bate, agreed that the debate revolving around the two plants was a multi-faceted one and opinions differed considerably — "depending on one's priorities".

Pest is a lifesaver

Drought-hit Cape farmers turn to rooikrans

**Reports: GARTH KING
Pictures: JACK COOPER**

MOST coastal Eastern Cape farmers — faced with the grim prospect of no fodder for their own and little chance of obtaining lucerne — are literally sitting on an abundant, free solution to their problems — and they don't know it.

In a drought-ravaged land where even the thorn trees are dying, the hardy Australian acacias — rooikrans and Port Jackson willow — are emerging as a stock lifesaver.

Recent studies by the chief extension officer of United Dairies, Mr Mike Kingwill, have shown that the traditional plant pests can provide livestock with fodder as good as, if not better than, lucerne.

In fact, Mr Kingwill believes the fodder mixture can even do more than keep stock alive. A good "weed-feed", he thinks, can even make dairy cattle yield more milk than lucerne can.

He said this week many farmers whose stock are wast-

ing away from lack of nourishment could save them with the vast quantities of the unused plant invaders on their land.

Some farmers such as Mr Edgar Crews, honorary life vice-president of the East Cape Agricultural Union, have been using rooikrans as a fodder for years.

Rooikrans is considered better as a feed than Port Jackson — many mistakenly call the rooikrans Port Jackson willow.

Mr Crews speaks glowingly of the two Australian acacias. "They are great savourers — better than any drought feed," he said.

Mr Crews said the plant invaders had potential as a general feed and not only a substitute during drought. He suggested an investigation be launched into bush cutting the plants to provide a continuous source of tender, young rooikrans harvests.

Some desperate farmers in such areas as Alexandria, Grahamstown, Greenbushes and Tsitsikama have begun plundering the Australian acacia-choked coastal bush and have found the answer to their prayers.

An excited Mr Kingwill, who only recently began investigating the idea, said wet milled rooikrans was roughly 16% crude protein, 55% total digestible nutrients and the rest fibre and trace elements. Port Jackson willow had a wet breakdown of 18.8% crude protein and 45% total digestible nutrients.

Lucerne consisted of 18% crude protein and 56% digestible nutrients. He said the cost of producing hammermilled rooikrans was about R12,40 a ton while lucerne — when it could be had — could cost up to R8 a bale.

"Rooikrans as a drought feed is a new concept and needs to be thoroughly investigated," he said.

Mr Kingwill is preparing a brochure on the revolutionary drought feed for United Dairies' 320 fresh-milk farmers whose land stretches from Kleinmond to Storms River and inland to Bedford and Somerset East.

He said the hammer-milled plant was mixed with a diluted molasses mixture and a concentrate to make it more palatable to stock.

"There is a possible problem in the high tannic acid content of the feed, but there is no concrete evidence of detrimental effects," he said.

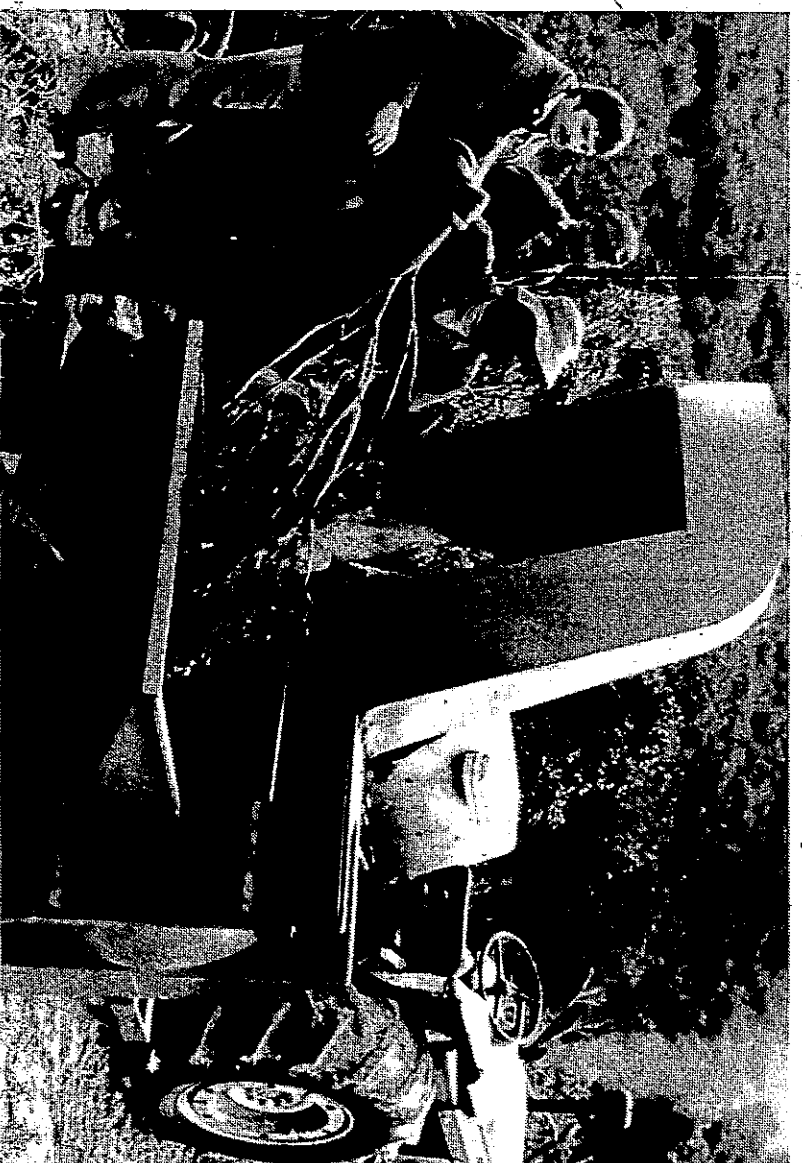
On the farm of Mr A M Kingwill, Vaalkrans, near the Gamtoos River mouth the sweet-scented, pungent smell of milled rooikrans spells salvation for the farmer.

Mr Kingwill has already fed his cattle with 2,500 bags (32 kilograms each) of the plant. His labourers spend hours every-working day harvesting the feed.

"It's a lifesaver. We've had problems and our cattle are healthy and satisfied. The feed is some saws, a tractor and a hammermill and the harvest is yours. We have access to an abundant supply and farmers whose



Mr. A. M. KINGWILL, of the farm, Vaalkrans, near the Gamtoos River mouth, with a bag full of milled rooikrans. It's a lifesaver. Some of



Mr. KINGWILL with his son, MIKE, the chief extension officer of United Dairies, watch as a hammer mill slashes and pounds branches of rooikrans. Mr. Kingwill has found the plant a

(3) Colne road

571

By **BENNIE VAN DELFT**
AN EPITAPH to a brave woman was written this week ... two years after she died.

Hettie Nortier sacrificed her life in a bid to save a child at the height of the Laingsburg flood.

Now her body has been discovered amid rusted old stoves and broken furniture at the bottom of the town's Floriskraal dam, at its lowest level in years because of the drought.

The dam was a dumping ground of the Buffels River, which wiped out three-quarters of Laingsburg when it came down in a raging torrent in 1981, killing 104 people.

And as the water recedes, there are gruesome finds of smashed household furniture and other flood debris.

Drought gives up a heroine of the floods



Warrant-Officer Johan Kriegler, police station commander at Laingsburg, be-

lieves more bodies will probably be found as the dam level drops further.

Mrs Nortier's body was among debris in an almost inaccessible part of the dam.

W/O Kriegler said the debris was "an incredible sight".

"Everything is there — from stoves, fridges and pieces of furniture to personal items.

"I even found our old cot which we had sold several

years before the flood.

"There were also many handbags. But looters had been there before us. The handbags had been opened and the contents removed."

Courage

Mrs Nortier's body is the first to be reclaimed from the water in almost two years.

The last victim, Mrs Nonnie Botes, was found about five months after the flood in

more or less the same area.

Mrs Nortier was buried on Friday at the special "disaster graveyard" for flood victims at Laingsburg.

Relatives from Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Paarl attended the funeral, conducted by the Rev Jan Ackerman.

Her remains were placed in a white child's coffin and carried to her grave by her two eldest children.

At the time of the flood,

Mrs Nortier's courage made headlines.

She and her husband, Johan, were swept away by the raging Buffels River while trying to save a young boy from drowning.

The couple had returned home to fetch some personal belongings when they noticed that a child — the son of a policeman — was in trouble.

Mr Nortier got hold of the boy. But the fast-rising waters prevented his escape to higher grounds.

He returned to his house where his wife was waiting.

Pendant

The couple and the boy, still desperately clinging to his rescuer's neck, were last seen on the roof of their house shortly before it collapsed and was washed away.

The bodies of 54 other flood victims have not yet been found.

Mrs Nortier's body was identified by her engagement and wedding ring and her pendant.

Major Basie Hurhan, a relative of the Nortiers, said he had arrived at Laingsburg a day after the flood.

"I dug at the place where their house had stood. But all I found was their wedding album," he said.

Their three children — one of them only a few months old — were placed with their grandparents in Paarl.



Tip-offs nail illegal water thief sneaks

WATER cheats are inventing crazy ways to beat the tough drought restrictions.

A "water-dispensing lawnmower", a secret underground watering system, and a midnight sprinkler are some of the tricks desperate Natal gardeners are using to break the law and use more than their fair share of water.

These methods were revealed by a Maritzburg municipal official who said many sneaks were caught after tip-offs to inspectors from irate con-

By **SHAUN HARRIS**

servation-conscious neighbours.

"We heard about a man who had strapped a hose-pipe to the side of his lawnmower so he could water his lawn while pretending to mow it," said the spokesman.

"Another man had buried his hose-pipe and devised an underground watering system.

"We put a stop to it after his

neighbour took photographs of the watering system and showed them to us."

Other tricks were being used to evade the water restrictions, the spokesman said. One was to fill a washing machine with water and then immediately pump it out so that it could be used on the garden.

"Some people with high garden walls are still using sprinklers on their lawn but we are receiving more and more tip-offs from their neighbours."

Others have even "stolen" water by attaching their hoses to neighbours taps.

Durban's deputy city engineer, Mr E V Norman, advised people either to remove or lock up taps in their gardens to stop late night water thieves.

He said people in Durban had been responsive to the call to save water and were regarding, as a matter of pride, their low water consumption.

Large stylized signature or graphic at the bottom of the page.

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S-Times (3) General



15 MAY 1982

rs Nortier's courage made headlines. She and her husband, John, were swept away by the raging Buffels River while trying to save a young boy from drowning. The couple had returned home to fetch some personal belongings when they noticed that a child — the son of a policeman — was in trouble. Mr Nortier got hold of the boy. But the fast-rising waters prevented his escape to higher grounds. He returned to his house where his wife was waiting.

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Top welfare groups band together to save lives

WELFARE agencies are fighting for the lives of more than 1.5-million people who face starvation this winter.

This week the three main organisations involved in relief work — the Red Cross, Operation Hunger and World Vision — banded together to form a committee to co-ordinate their efforts.

By BLAISE HOPKINSON

The aim of the united front is to establish an infrastructure to dispense aid during South Africa's worst drought.

"We are not yet at a crisis point. But the crisis is building up. We must be ready," said Red Cross national president Dr Pieter Smit.

"We must ensure that food goes to the mouths and stomachs which need it most."

The committee, made up of executives from the three bodies, wants to hear from the smaller groups already active in the field in order to prevent any duplication of services.

"We all have the same aim, so this committee will help us achieve a solution," said Ina Perlman of Operation Hunger, an Institute of Race Relations project.

The Red Cross in Natal has spent close to R1-million on food distribution since the winter of 1980. Upwards of 50 000 schoolchildren in Kwa-Zulu are given a meal each day.

"The drought has been with us since 1980. It abated slightly at the beginning of 1982 but it has come back to hit us with a vengeance.

"It will get much worse. We are facing a very fragile situation," said Mrs Mars.

"Food supplies are right down. The cattle losses of 1980, the massive retrenchment of labour and the increase in malnutrition have made this a shocking situation. We need unlimited funds."

But the fight continues. "If we can save even one at a time then the effort is worth it," Mrs Mars said.

In South West Africa/Namibia the Red Cross operates famine and drought relief schemes which assist thousands of rural inhabitants.

"We need R1-million to do this efficiently.

"There must be 50 000 people in this region who need some kind of help this coming winter," said Mrs Ruth Kiwi, director for the SWA/Namibia Red Cross.

A recent scheme saw 5 000 children fed in the Kaokoland territory, which has been particularly badly affected by the drought.

"We are hoping to start daily feeding schemes soon because the situation here is getting much worse every day," she said.

She warned that, without sufficient funds, the Red Cross work would remain "a drop in the ocean".

"We are hoping for new funds from overseas. It is important that we establish a network for distributing food across the country."

In the arid Namaqualand area of the Cape, the Red Cross is providing 5 500 schoolchildren with a cup of protein-enriched soup and a slice of bread each school day.

These schemes, centred at eight schools in the territory, are not new, but the Red Cross has found an increasing

STARVING: Little Mashaledi, 3, is one of hundreds of children at a kwashiorkor clinic in Lebowa

Picture: JAMES SOULLIER

Relief schemes underway

SUNDAY TIMES readers wishing to contribute to the drought-relief programmes can send donations to:

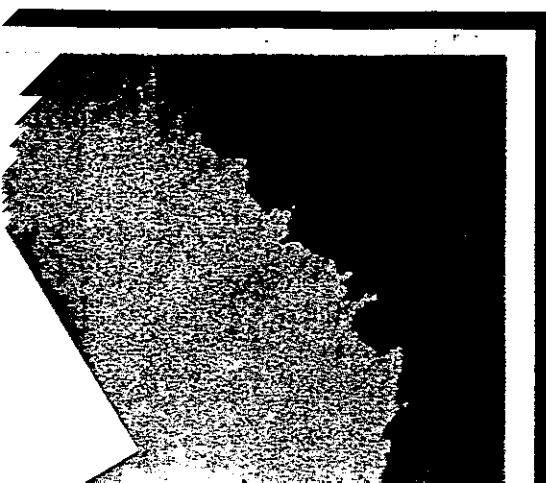
- South African Red Cross, PO Box 8726, Johannesburg 2000. Tel 29-2449;
- Operation Hunger, PO Box 97, Johannesburg 2000. Tel 724-4441.
- World Vision, PO Box 1101, Florida 1710. Tel 674-2043.

The new co-ordinating committee would also like to hear from smaller organisations involved in drought and hunger-relief schemes with a view to forming a complete infrastructure to fight the ravages of the drought.

El Nino blamed for the

A STRANGE weather phenomenon known by the Spanish name El Nino is being blamed by scientists for the drought which

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97, Johannesburg 2000. Tel 724-4441.
 ● World Vision, PO Box 1101, Florida 1710. Tel 674-2043.
 The new co-ordinating committee would also like to hear from smaller organisations involved in drought and hunger-relief schemes with a view to forming a complete infrastructure to fight the ravages of the drought.

initiating new schemes.
 "Without the necessary funds it is impossible for us to do more. We ask the Government to tell us where the areas of need are.
 "We are playing it fairly low key. You dare not raise people's hopes," said Mrs Inka Mars, Red Cross vice-chairman for Natal.
 Money for many of the schemes is supplied by Operation Hunger.

getting the situation here is becoming much worse every day," she said.
 She warned that, without sufficient funds, the Red Cross work would remain "a drop in the ocean".
 "We are hoping for new funds from overseas. It is important that we establish a network for distributing food across the country."

In the arid Namaqualand area of the Cape, the Red Cross is providing 5 500 schoolchildren with a cup of protein-enriched soup and a slice of bread each school day.

These schemes, centred at eight schools in the territory, are not new, but the Red Cross has found an increasing number of children in need of food.

Using its existing nationwide infrastructure, and using food supplied by Operation Hunger, the Red Cross is attempting to broaden the base of its feeding schemes.

El Nino blamed for the strange weather turmoil

A STRANGE weather phenomenon known by the Spanish name El Nino is being blamed by scientists for the drought which now grips South Africa and many other countries in the southern hemisphere.

El Nino, also known as "the southern oscillation", is held responsible not only for our crippling drought, but also for the erratic weather being experienced from California to Australia.

The southern oscillation is a phenomenon caused by the sea-sawing of pressure over the Pacific Ocean which in turn creates reversed wind patterns.

Turmoil

The Pacific is also warmer and greater in volume than before.

Nature is in turmoil and strange things are happening.

Meanwhile research done by a Wits University Geography Professor, Peter Tyson, shows this country is in for another few years of drought if the rhythm of history is to be believed.

In a paper he and a colleague completed in 1978 Prof Tyson found that during a period of 18 years there were likely to be nine wet and nine dry.

He allowed, too, for high and low rainfall figures in the opposite oscillations.

But he contends now that to understand fully the present drought, highly complex data must be collected over an extended period.

In effect, the boffins will know what caused the drought when it has long been replaced by a rainy oscillation.

El Nino, Spanish for Little One or Christ Child because it usually occurs around Christmas, is on the wane.

By BLAISE HOPKINSON
 in Johannesburg
 and PATRICIA CHENEY
 in Washington

But American weather experts predict this country will have to wait for the next rainy season for relief.

Dr Eugene Rasmusson of the National Weather Service in Washington said the record South African drought was "typical" of El Nino.

He said this visit of El Nino is the worst in memory.

The Pacific's winds usually blow from the southern tip of California southwest and south of the equator from Chile to the northwest, converging in the central Pacific.

Havoc

Last June and July the atmospheric pressure changed so dramatically a high pressure zone developed over the eastern Pacific and created a low pressure zone over the western United States and Latin America.

This reversed the direction of the Pacific trade winds creating unheard of weather conditions around the globe.

Hundreds of deaths and millions of rands of damage have been blamed on El Nino, both in the drought ravaged regions and in areas like California where unseasonably high tides wreaked havoc along the coast.

Aid in drought ravaged areas

The Christian Aid agency World Vision is currently assisting 173 community projects in the drought ravaged areas.

World Vision has just launched an appeal for R1-million for drought relief and letters have been sent to 10 000 businesses and 31 000 supporters across South Africa.

Part of the new World Vision drive makes provision for individuals, churches, schools and businesses to contribute to the fund.

"While World Vision understands the need for hand-out action to keep women and children alive, we are also committed to long-term development and education which will prevent similar disasters in the future," World Vision's support director, David Cuthbert, said this week.

The agency has made R200 000 available from existing funds to feed the hungry through the winter months.

Every effort not to overlap

"We make every effort not to overlap with Operation Hunger and the Red Cross feeding schemes.

"The need is so widespread we must serve as wide an area as possible and work together," Mr Cuthbert said.

In Cape Town, Operation Hunger co-ordinator Hillary Morris said public concern for the drought hunger victims is growing.

"Workers at a number of factories here have got together and collected food for the hungry.

"We have sent out over 200 letters to rural communities and clinics asking them what sort of help they need.

"Once we know where the need is, we'll start sending the food," Miss Morris said.

This beer really gets 'em frothing

Sunday Times Reporter: Washington
 IT is the latest in California chic and a must for this year's drinkers... it is "nude beer", and sales of it are sweeping California faster than a bush fire.

It comes served in a sexy six-pack and the bubbling

Work from home and become an

Winter rolls in to ease drought

Cape Times 16/5/83 3 General

A From page 3

eastern Free State as snow fell on the peaks of the Drakensberg in Qwa-Qwa and the Maluti range in Lesotho.

Heavy snowfalls were also recorded in the Boland and the Hex River Valley. Icy conditions spread to the Eastern Cape at the weekend and snow fell at James town and on the Toorberg between Graaff-Reinet and Murraysburg.

The first snowfall in the North-Eastern Cape fell on the mountains near Rhodes, where 16mm of rain were recorded yesterday.

The cold front sweeping the country is likely to remain for at least a few days. Skies across South Africa are blanketed by thick cloud but once this disperses, an extremely cold bite will be felt. — Staff Reporter, Own Correspondent and Sapa

● Picture, page 3



WINTER swept in at the weekend as harsh winds and an intense cold front moved across the country, heavy snowfalls sent temperatures plunging and rain brought some relief to drought-stricken areas.

Thunderstorms ripped through parts of the Free State and Natal and good rain brought some relief to the drought-stricken North-Western Cape. However, a spokesman at the Weather Bureau in Pretoria said most of the rain fell where it was least needed.

Drought conditions in Natal remain critical. Only 2mm of rain were recorded at Escourt.

In Lower Bushmanland, where rain last fell in 1974, the first winter rains fell at the weekend, bringing relief to farmers in the area.

27mm of rain

About 27mm of rain has fallen in the North-Western Cape over the past two days.

In the Clanwilliam district, where irrigation water has been cut off because of the drought, up to 32mm of rain were recorded at the weekend. Sixty millimetres were recorded at one farm in the Cedarberg.

Thirty millimetres were recorded at Griekwastad and 25mm at Groblershoop, where it has not rained for years. Uppington and Olifantshoek reported 19mm and 16mm respectively.

Rejoicing

Soft, soaking rain fell on the Sandveld and at Springbok in Namaqualand. There was rejoicing in Okiep where the Rev R Jacobus said it had been raining since Saturday. Up to 44mm were recorded on farms in Namaqualand.

Bushmanland has not received much rain, and Pofadder and other towns are dry.

Rain fell over most of the South-Western Cape, Boland and parts of the Karoo. In most cases the rain was accompanied by unusually violent thunderstorms and high winds.

Sutherland reported a total of 57mm, the highest in the province, and it was still overcast there last night. Mr Abe Keuler, who formerly did weather recordings

for the small Karoo town, said many farm dams were at last getting water. If it continued to rain there was a chance the drought could break.

He said temperatures of minus-10C had been recorded there last week.

Calvinia hotel manager Mr Karl Schell said some people had held a party to celebrate the 13mm which fell there on Saturday.

Among other places to report at least 5mm were: De Aar — 8mm, Douglas — 15mm, Kuruman — 10mm, Port Nolloth (reputedly one of the driest places in the world) — 8mm, Prince Albert — 27mm, Touwsriver — 26mm, Aliwal-North — 16mm.

Rain pel as police

Staff Reporter

AS COPIOUS rains at the weekend turned the KTC squatter camp into a muddy morass, police and Western Cape Administration Board (WCAB) officials maintained their round-the-clock vigil, continuing to remove the squatters' plastic shelters.

The police keeping vigil have a refreshment kiosk and portable TV for themselves at the camp.

At least four children from the camp have been admitted to hospitals suffering from chest complaints. According to Professor Maurice Kibel, head of the UCT children's health unit: "You cannot but expect health problems with children living like this."

The four children, taken to hospital by members of the health unit, were all "doing well".



KTC freezi

illness. The s huddle, terday scrap around said th had co larger

Girl finds mother's body

Monday, May 16, 1983

*3 Gaard ~~1/2~~

Murder dockets on Dirkiesdorp deaths

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Police have started murder investigations after the deaths of two men in police custody at Dirkiesdorp near the troubled south-eastern Transvaal settlement of Driefontein, where community leader Saul Mkhize was shot dead by police last month.

A state pathologist has taken skin samples from the wrists of one of the dead men, Mr Themba Manana, 30, to test for burnt

skin which could be linked to electrical shocks. Mr Manana died on May 2.

It is believed that a post-mortem has shown the second man, Mr Zofanie Seboyane, died of natural causes.

Despite this, police are investigating a murder charge. Murder dockets are automatically opened when someone dies in detention but this does not necessarily mean a murder charge will be brought to court.

On Friday, Mr Manana's

brother, Mr Habile Manana, claimed the dead man and their father had been ill-treated by the police.

"When my father came back after being released he walked stiffly and told me what had happened to him. My father didn't look good at all," Mr Habile Manana said.

According to a police statement, Mr Seboyane, 33, whom they said had been held as a witness in a cattle-theft case, died "while enjoying a meal in the

police kitchen".

A senior Secunda police officer, Captain Stompie du Pont, has taken over investigations into the deaths.

The Manana family has instructed a Johannesburg firm of attorneys to arrange for a private post-mortem which will be performed today.

The District CID Chief for the South-Eastern Transvaal, Captain M Scheepers, said yesterday investigations into the deaths were receiving top

priority.

"A thorough examination of the deceased Manana was made by the chief state pathologist of Johannesburg," he said. "We too are deeply distressed by the deaths."

Captain Scheepers said the docket would be handed to the Attorney-General's office for a decision.

"We have opened a murder docket and investigations are continuing," he said.

Police were still awaiting

the results of certain tests, including a ballistics report, in the case of Mr Saul Mkhize, he said, who died after being shot by a policeman on April 2 when he tried to address an "illegal" protest meeting over the planned resettlement of the 5 000 villagers at Driefontein.

Dirkiesdorp is a small police station about 35 km from Wakkerstroom, manned by fewer than 10 policemen.

③ General

Hayward: Curbs could get tougher

EAST LONDON — Water restrictions already in force as a result of the drought could become more severe, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Fisheries, Mr Sarel Hayward, said here yesterday.

He was speaking at the opening of the Institute of Water Pollution Control's biennial conference.

"We cannot afford to waste or pollute this precious commodity — water," Mr Hayward said.

As a result of the serious drought which the Southern African sub-continent was experiencing at the moment, water restrictions had to be applied in many areas to ensure adequate supplies through the dry season, he added.

In many rural areas,

water for domestic use had to be transported over long distances in tankers, because reservoirs and underground sources had dried up.

"While it is accepted that no wastage or pollution of water can be tolerated at any time, its importance must be stressed during the crisis.

"The planning and development of new water-borne sewerage schemes must be carefully considered in times like these, particularly in areas where there are no assured water supplies.

"Dry methods of disposal systems where very little water is used should be considered instead.

"The department is not opposed to the augmentation of water supp-

ly and water-borne sewerage schemes, but the planning and construction of water supply as well as sewerage schemes must be within the means and standard of living of the community requesting such services.

"Industrial users would have to account for every drop of water used and recycling would have to be encouraged as far as practicable," he added.

The use of effluents for the irrigation of crops, in accordance with health standards, needed to be encouraged.

"A Council for the Environment has been formed and attention will be given to laws concerning pollution control," he said. — DDR



MR HAYWARD

Drought emphasises poor water resources

EAST LONDON — The severe drought emphasised the fact that the Eastern Cape was one of many areas in the country which was not blessed with abundant water resources, Mr T. P. C. van

Robbroeck of Stellenbosch University said here yesterday.

He was speaking at the opening of the Institute of Water Pollution Control's biennial conference.

An important feature of water supply in this area was that it involved South Africa, Transkei and Ciskei.

The total raw water requirement of urban and industrial consumers in the Border region was about 36 million cubic metres and the latest estimate for the year 2000 was 72 million cubic metres, he added. The Port Elizabeth - Uitenhage - Despatch region was one of the few that had a supply of water which would last well into the next century, he said. — DDR

There was pandium as the troops clambered the barbed wire fence some of them were into the fence and were temporarily blinded by the tears. An old man caught in the fence and injured and s

Midweek Homefinder appears tomorrow

Read Watchdog today on page 9



Teleletters
 ARE people getting too jumpy about processed foods? Are fears about pollution justified? Are imaginations, fuelled by news of the latest scientific discoveries, running away with us? If you would like to comment call Teleletters, ☎ 41 3361

First good rain in seven years

Cape Times 17/5/83 36mm
 Staff Reporter

THE cold front which brought heavy rain to most of the southern Cape at the weekend has brought broad smiles to farmers in Namaqualand who had good rains for the first time in seven years.

At Vredendal, where irrigation farmers faced a 95 percent cut in water allotments earlier this month, more than 28,8mm had been recorded yesterday morning and local farmers believe it may save crops.

The manager of the Namaqualand Co-operative, Mr J J Kellerman, said yesterday it was the first time in many years that good rains had fallen over such a widespread area in Namaqualand.

At Bitterfontein, where up to 35mm was recorded, farm dams which had been empty for months filled overnight. At Nuwerus, farmers were optimistic and one, eager to make the most of the rain, started ploughing at 4am yesterday.

The extremely low temperatures have however caused North Cape farmers to fear stock losses.

It will be fine and warm and partly cloudy in the morning over the Cape Peninsula and fine and mild along the Western Cape coastal area. The Cape interior will be fine and cold but no cold front is expected and no rain predicted.

However the weatherman predicts the big freeze for the rest of South Africa for the next 48 hours.

● Sapa reports that the cold weather has resulted in large-scale transport delays and the death of hundreds of farm animals already in poor condition because of the prolonged drought.

Rivers in Plettenberg Bay are in flood after 160mm of rain fell in the area.

Dallas star scared

From RICHARD WALKER

NEW YORK — "Dallas" star Victoria Principal is so terrified of attack that she has turned her Los Angeles mansion into a fortress.

Six alarm systems and two killer attack dogs are the first lines of defence in her beautiful Benedict Canyon home.

Windows have been bricked up and she has even installed a bullet-proof bathroom.

"You bet I'm paranoid," she told People magazine. Four years ago, she narrowly escaped an attack by three youths in her garage. Recently, she had received threatening calls and letters.

The bathroom skylight has steel bars and the lone window is electrically hot-wired, so that "by the time anyone gets this far, they'll be fried", she said.

bbert's objection the measure fundamental ll take a political assault by the ent to meet on the bill goes arliamentary ommittee later k. This could sage the PFP g a "no" vote oming referen-

trast the other al opposition e New Republic epted the bill arting point for . The NRP r Vause Raw, arty would not he bill in print would try to it.

ft wider tand has further the rift in NRP started by the i resignation of ner MP for Be- Nigel Wood. onservative Par- er, Dr Andries cht, said the bill straying of nation- It ended white ermination and gnty by propos- ixed parliament, d cabinet and a President's Coun-

page 4 g article, page 8

6, guilty of two murders

The court ordered that the boy may not be identified. It found that the 16-year-old Accused One killed and robbed Mr Lucius Steynberg and that he and the 18-year-old Accused Two killed and robbed Mr Joseph Francisco Pavia.

Accused One said in a statement handed in to court that he met Mr Steynberg at Johannesburg station on April 14. They had drinks. Mr Steynberg offered to drive him home.

At the flat where Accused

One was staying with his brother, Mr Steynberg made sexual advances. The boy rejected these. His brother told him to leave the flat.

They then drove to the Blue Dam in Mayfair.

Mr Steynberg undid his trousers. When he tried to take off the boy's trousers, the youth stabbed him with his pocket knife.

He pulled the body out of the car and drove off. He abandoned the car next day.

He denied he had intended to kill Mr Steynberg. He had

stabbed him to frighten him

On May 3, Accused One responded to Mr Pavia's advertisement for someone to share his flat. At the flat, Mr Pavia offered him R50 to have sex.

The boy refused and told him they should go to Joubert Park where he could find someone. They saw Accused Two, whom Accused One knew. Mr Pavia asked Accused One to approach Accused Two on his behalf. He did so, but arranged with Accused Two to rob Mr Pavia.

Accused One drove to Doornfontein where Accused Two ordered Mr Pavia into the boot of his car. Both youths stabbed him after he refused. The two then stole clothing, jewellery and liquor from Mr Pavia's Yeoville flat.

According to medical evidence, Mr Steynberg was stabbed eight times.

The court was told Accused One was a certifiable psychopath, was emotionally immature, could not control his urges of violence and suffered from a diminished responsibility.

cus 2 Racing 12
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Aircraft 7 Court Roll 7 Radio 7
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 Business ... 10-12 Editorials.... 8 Transport 5
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 Column 5 Parliament ... 4 World Report. 5

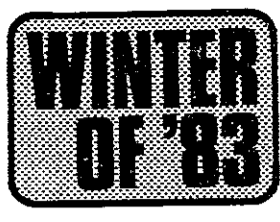
The Facts correction service, ☎ 41-3361 (Mon to Fri)
 Cape Times, Box 11, Cape Town.
 (Registered at the GPO as a newspaper.)

By STEPHEN WROTTELEY
 came into the City to buy a special light bulb yesterday morning.
 A GORDON'S BAY coffee-shop owner had a narrow escape yesterday when a large piece of metal fell eight floors from the ceiling of the building. At about 11.45am, she drove up to the Loop Street entrance to City Park only to find a man was rooking in my car. The next moment I was struck by the blast. There had been a bomb there and thought she might have been killed. Two pieces of metal had fallen through the metal curtain walls of the building.

the commission an ex- session.

dignity

Experts fear economic ruin through rationing



Mining leaders warn of complete shut-downs

Power cuts a threat

By Stephen McQuillan and Lawrie Bedford

The South African economy will face a major challenge and possible ruin if electricity rationing is introduced because of the drought.

This was the consensus of leaders in industry, commerce and local government who were interviewed after high level crisis talks in Johannesburg yesterday.

According to the bleakest predictions the country could be plunged R2 000 million into the red in just six months.

Exports, mine production, commuter transport, manufacturing industry and food production could all be halted, throwing thousands out of work and the country into darkness.

Leaders of the mining industry — the mainspring of South Africa's wealth and the largest user of electricity — fear any rationing would lead a huge setback for the economy.

Chamber of Mines technical adviser Mr Gordon Grange said the mining industry would lose R90 million a month with only a 10 percent cut in production — representing roughly a 10 percent cutback in power.

Mines could also be lost forever through serious flooding as a result of the failure of electrically powered pumps.

"I cannot impress upon the public and Government enough the effect that rationing would have on the industry on which the whole of the national economy is balanced," said Mr Grange.

Mining should be treated as a special case by Government because of its strategic importance to the whole economy.

"We are the crutch, more so than any other industry, of this country's wealth. Any cutback in mining will have a multiple knock-on effect. We cannot reduce our consumption of electricity by any considerable amount without damaging the economy of the country."

About 35 percent of South Africa's Gross National Product (GNP) could be attributed to gold mining. The mining industry consumed 28 percent of total electricity output.

"I believe there will be rationing. And I believe we, as an industry, must be affected," said Mr Grange. "If some mines were flooded because of electricity cuts, they may never re-open."

He said cuts in electricity would ultimately lead to a wave of redundancies. The legacy of this would be millions of rands spent on re-training after the crisis.

The gloomy forecast was presented during a conference on the effects of electricity rationing, organised by the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom).

The meeting of about 50 representatives of major electricity consumers decided to establish an ad-hoc committee, headed by



"I cannot impress upon the public and Government enough the effect that rationing would have on the industry on which the whole of the national economy is balanced."
— Mr. Gordon Grange.

Dr. Rudolph Fockema of the Federated Chamber of Industries to examine the repercussions and make recommendations to Government.

They are to establish a steering committee and will meet again on June 1.

South African Transport Services are considering an emergency plan to keep the trains running.

Mr. G.D. van der Veer, assistant general manager (operations), said the only way savings could be made was by cuts in services or by using diesel powered locomotives, if they were available.

Mr. van der Veer said he would prefer less severe electricity cuts over a longer period.

Urgent appeal

Mr. W.F. Stockenström, of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut, made an urgent appeal to the private sector to act now and cut unnecessary use of water and power rather than risk losing the country's export potential.

Mr. Len te Groen, general manager of Escom's finance, said it faced a deficit of R154 million by the end of this year.

A 15 percent cutback from July 1 to December 31 would cut Escom's income by R260 million and its costs by R60 million, leaving a net deficit of R200 million.

About 35 percent of South Africa's Gross National Product (G.N.P.) could be attributed to gold mining. The mining industry consumed 28 percent of total electricity output.

"I believe there will be rationing. And I believe we, as an industry, must be affected," said Mr. Grange. "If some mines were flooded because of electricity cuts, they may never re-open."

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Mrs. Jean Tatham, of the Housewives League of South Africa, said retrenchment and short-time working in drought-hit industry could land thousands of people, particularly blacks, in a poverty trap.

● See Page 3.



land. An estimated 4 000 spectators
ng queen of the cows. Coquette won

Game farmers need relief

(S) General D. Dinga 18/5/83

EAST LONDON — Game farmers should also qualify for the phase drought aid scheme of the Department of Agriculture, the national game committee of the SAAU decided in Pretoria yesterday morning.

This request will be submitted to the authorities.

The chairman of the committee, Mr Andrew Brent Conroy, says game farmers were as much affected by the drought as other stock farmers and while the department recognised game farming as an agricultural industry, the committee cannot accept that game farmers be excluded from the scheme.

It was also decided to

request that the game industry be accommodated in some manner in the long-term drought aid plan.

Mr Conroy said the scheme was aimed at soil conservation and it would not fully succeed in that objective if game was excluded

"Sufficient information is available on the comparative food absorption of game to determine capacities, game can be counted, and farmers can provide evidence of game which is removed," he added.

"This eliminates most of the practical objections and methods also should be studied to solve other problems," Mr Conroy said. — DDC.

course

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN — Eight Ciskei nurse educators from head office and hospitals throughout Ciskei would attend a course on curriculum development for a day on a monthly basis starting in Bloemfontein on Friday until November 25.

This was announced by the Director General for Health, Dr L. Mzimba

The course, organised by the Department of Nursing of the University of the Orange Free State was intended to update educators in the basic and essential skills in training nurses in the new integrated comprehensive approach.

Different subjects would be presented monthly. — DDR

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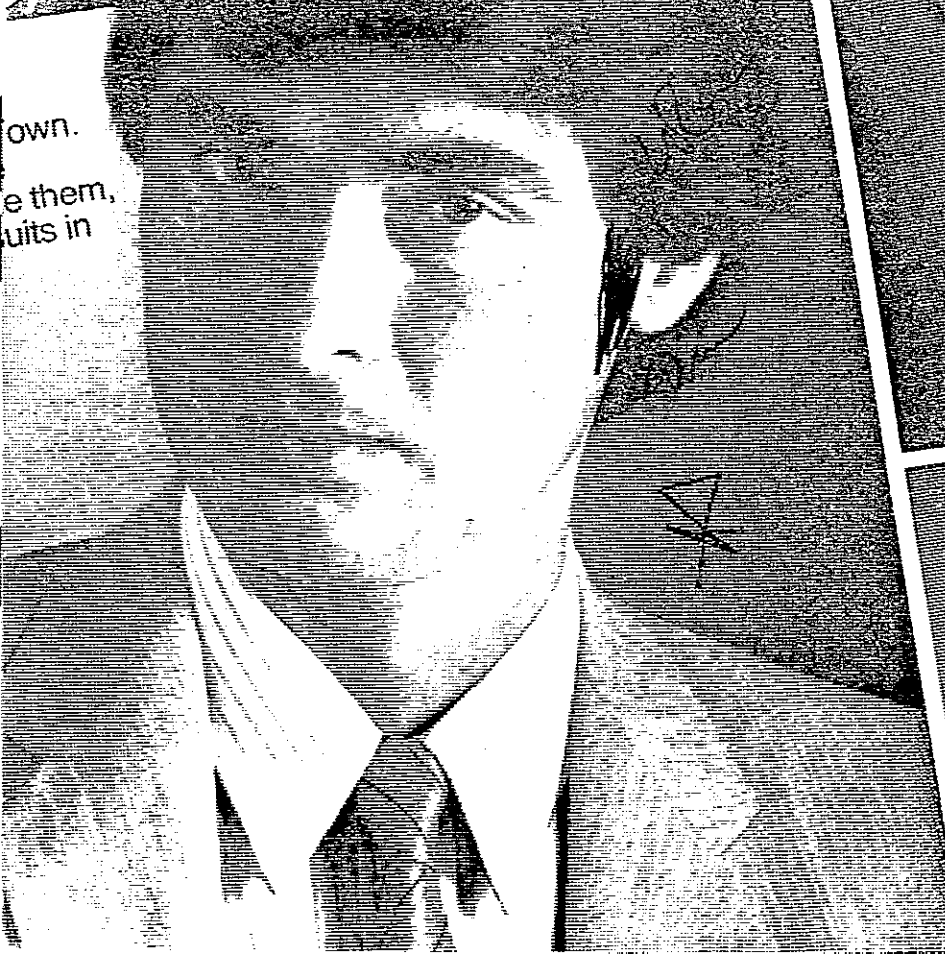
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Drought: disaster holds seeds of hope

ALICE — Drought is a double-edged sword in Ciskei.

Not so, certainly, for Ciskeians living on the land. For them there is nothing "double-edged" about it. There is only one edge, and it cuts harmfully, even tragically.

But from the point of view of agricultural scientists at Fort Hare University here who are concerned about saving this young country's precious veld, drought brings a measure of hope along with disaster.

Members of Fort Hare's Faculty of Agriculture will tell you — with some hesitation, for fear that their remarks will be misrepresented as signs of academic heartlessness — that the same drought that is causing an "alarming

rate" of stock death in Ciskei may also be a blessing as far as the long term prospects of the veld are concerned.

"One of the most serious factors limiting livestock raising in subsistence areas such as Ciskei is the problem of overstocking, said Mr Winston Trollope, of the agriculture faculty's Department of Pasture Science.

"So the one bright star of the drought," Mr Trollope said, "is that stock losses will reduce pressure on the veld and allow it to make a significant recovery."

Overstocked for decades, the Ciskeian veld is perennially in such bad condition that even the current drought has had relatively little effect on it.

"The veld is so degraded that it could

hardly have become more degraded," Mr Trollope said.

Even so, in the exceptionally dry weather of the last two or three years, the veld has gone from bad to worse.

"Some areas of Ciskei — around Keiskammahoek and Peddie, for example — already look like a desert," Mr Trollope said.

"If there is no rain, the existing high rate of stock loss and the severe defoliation of the veld will continue."

But even with adequate rainfall, it would take 20 to 30 years of proper stocking and proper grazing management to restore the Ciskeian veld to good condition.

Proper stocking and management of the veld, aims often neglected in Ciskei, were now more

possible to achieve than ever before, Mr Trollope said, because of recent research into the "carrying capacity" of the sweetveld of the Eastern Cape.

"Carrying capacity", expressed in hectares per animal unit, is a measure of the veld's ability

By MARK SCHACTER

to support grazing animals for a sustained period.

"Up until recently, carrying capacity has been one of the most difficult things for the farmer to estimate," Mr Trollope said. But now, by using a statistical model developed by research at the Dohne agricultural station, it appeared that carrying capacity could be esti-

ty to support grazing animals for a sustained period.

To arrive at an estimate for any particular piece of veld, the veld is first analysed for its botanical composition, and is then given a score (ranging from 0 to 100 per cent) accordingly.

The score is entered into an equation, which yields a figure for carrying capacity.

Ideally, farmers will balance their "stocking rate" — the rate at which they put animals out to graze — with the carrying capacity of their land.

"But in Ciskei, stocking rates are generally far in excess of carrying capacity. Therefore, we

end up with overstocking," Mr Trollope said.

Mr Trollope said he believed that the system of communal land tenure in Ciskei was a major cause of overstocking. When grazing was held in common, individual farmers had little motivation to remove stock.

"If you reduce your stocking rate, someone else will just move more livestock in."

Another factor, Mr Trollope said, was the production costs involved in livestock raising. In Ciskei they were minimal because the government covered the farmer's expenses for items such as watering points, fencing, and dipping.

"In commercial farming, the most important factor controlling stocking rates is the ability to

make a profit, so stocking rates depend on production costs."

Farmers whose costs were heavily subsidised would, by contrast, be less interested in maintaining a profitable stocking rate, and would tend to overstock.

"We must allow economic forces to set stocking rates," Mr Trollope said.

Mr Trollope suggested several ways in which this might be done:

- Have farmers contribute directly to the cost of livestock production.
- Introduce a tax on livestock ownership, but give rebates for efficient beef production.
- Allow the buying and selling of grazing rights. This would result in a "natural selection" among livestock farmers, allowing the best to expand and prosper.

A tax would be attached to the grazing rights, but, again, rebates would be given for efficient production.

Mr Trollope said he believed it would take a long time to change the habits of Ciskeian farmers — to encourage them to farm more efficiently and adopt methods that would not damage the veld.

But this, he said, "was the challenge for the agricultural extension officer."

Meantime, a vast, if only short term, improvement in the state of the veld could be brought about by something beyond the control of any farmer — a change in the weather.

"If we were to get 75 mm of soft, soaking rain now," Mr Trollope said, "you wouldn't recognise the veld in the spring."



MR WINSTON TROLLOPE

③ General D. Dispatch

Reuse of water seen as industry's solution

6/5/83

EAST LONDON — Reuse of water by the industrial sector and reclamation of water from secondary treated waste water would be the most practical way of solving water shortages in industrial growth centres, Mr W. C. Tworeck said here yesterday.

He was speaking at the Institute of Water Pollution Control's biennial conference.

Industrial development placed an increasing demand on available water resources and reclaimed water should be used for industrial pur-

poses, he added.

Mr Tworeck was one of three speakers who dealt with the re-use of water, particularly as far as the textile, tanning and fruit and vegetable canning industries were concerned.

The speakers all stressed, however, that cost was a limiting factor.

Mr D. R. Cooper referring to waste water from tanneries, said it was not readily acceptable into domestic waste water treatment plants of local authorities without pre-treatment.

Tanneries were lo-

cated on rivers to provide them with water and an effluent discharge facility, but this could be a serious problem, especially if the river was slow flowing and had a low volume of water.

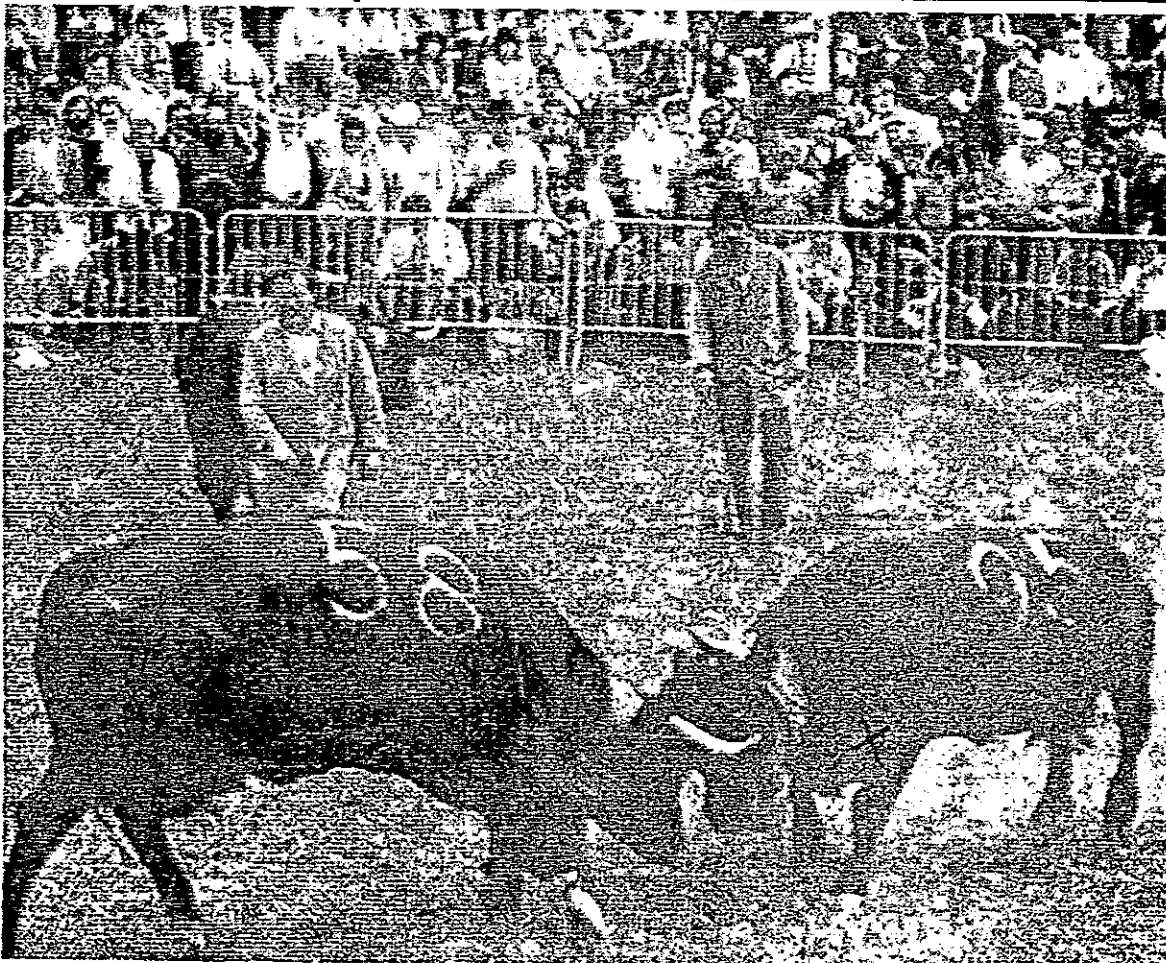
The indiscriminate dumping of effluent discharge by all industries; the high cost of water; cost of waste water treatment; the need to preserve and recycle water; availability of land for ponding systems and various inter-related problems, had to be dealt with, he added.

There was, however

no one solution to waste water management. Obvious steps which should be taken were:

- Reduce water consumption and wastage.
- Reduce chemical pollution:
- Recycle chemicals and water wherever possible without affecting product quality.

Professor R. C. Squires who spoke on water and effluent management in the fruit and vegetable industry said in-house water conservation and renovation could save a significant quantity of water. —DDR



Action from the traditional cow fight in the Vallis region of Switzerland. An estimated 4 000 spectators watch Coquette (95) and Chateau (58) lock horns for the honour of being queen of the cows. Coquette won this event.



A man wearing a cap, and jumpers, is seen climbing the building in Houston, Texas, because he's afraid to make the climb when...

Game need

EAST LONDON farmers should qualify for the drought aid scheme, the Department of Culture, the national game committee (SAAU) decided in Victoria yesterday morning.

This request was submitted to the committee.

The chairman of the committee, Mr A Brent Conroy, says farmers were affected by the drought as other stock farmers and while the committee recognised farming as an agricultural industry, the committee cannot accept game farmers included from the scheme.

It was also decided...

OFF ALL MENS SU

19/5/83

Recycling (3) General 'should end'

WINTER OF '83

By Stephen McQuillan

Southern Africa faces social and economic disaster at the beginning of the next century unless it can become self-sufficient in food, according to an influential report.

And this could be achieved only with more irrigation.

The report, Co-operative Water Resources Development in Southern Africa, recommends that water recycling in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging-Sasolburg (PWVS) area should be abandoned to allow the expansion of irrigation.

"Self-sufficiency in food production is of vital strategic value if the sub-continent is to avoid social and economic disaster that is likely to befall most of the developing world in the early part of the next century as a result of inadequate food resources," says the report.

The study by Dr Philip van der Riet, formerly of the Hydrological Research Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand, said — in what he called the most important conclusion of his report — that water recycling in the PWVS area would not help in the long term.

It would not solve the problem of the imbalance between water resources and demand but merely slow down the importation of water.

"If there is no expansion of irrigation, regions will become increasingly short of food and will

have to import from other regions — as long as surpluses exist there — and eventually, if possible, from abroad," said Dr van der Riet.

"Since the developing world has come to depend to a dangerous degree on the outcome of the harvest in North America, it is living to an increasing extent under a sword of Damocles that could drop and kill millions whenever the harvest fails," he said.

But if water recycling was discontinued more water would flow into the Vaal and Limpopo river systems to meet the growth in demand.

This would permit major expansion of irrigation in areas that already had moderately good rainfall.

"The proposal represents Southern Africa's best hope of prolonging its self-sufficiency in food production," says the report.

Water available now for irrigation expansion would not be sufficient to meet expected demand by the year 2020.

Dr van der Riet said about 65 percent of the expected expansion in irrigation could occur in the Vaal and Limpopo river basins if water recycling was halted in the PWVS area.

Dr van der Riet suggested the problem could also be eased by recycling water in coastal centres such as Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, instead of discharging it into the ocean.

East Cape prepares for famine

③ General E. Post
19/5/83

By SHARON LI GREEN

THE Eastern Cape, Ciskei and Transkei are preparing an emergency programme to combat a possible disastrous famine this winter in the wake of the crippling drought in many areas.

In an attempt to alleviate the effects of the drought during the winter and stave off the threat of famine, various country-wide organisations have launched crisis hunger relief programmes.

The Red Cross, the Institute of Race Relations through its Operation Hunger, and World Vision have banded together to form a committee to co-ordinate the funds made available by public response to the drought crisis.

If these organisations do not succeed in feeding millions of people, the situation will be disastrous, says Mrs Ina Perlman, organiser of Operation Hunger.

This winter would not only be one of hunger and malnutrition among the very old and very young but also one of family starvation.

Help on a massive scale was needed from the public, said Mrs Perlman.

Black rural communities, she said, were hit in three ways.

- They could not grow crops because of the drought.

- They were dependent on seasonal labour which was cut, as farmers did not have crops and were not employing people to harvest.

- There was substantial retrenchment, with migrant labourers being the

money and provisions. These are sent to Operation Hunger for distribution to the destitute in the Eastern Cape.

Operation Hunger is channelling funds through Nahoon Methodist Care in East London, and will also work through the same group in Grahamstown. It is also subsidising Hunger Relief in East London, while the Red Cross is helping in Ciskei and Transkei.

Mr A Johnson, regional director for the Border Red Cross Society, said the situation in Ciskei was "pretty desperate". The people were in dire need of help.

This winter, the Red Cross would provide for needy families in Ciskei and Border, and any other regions with urgent needs. The immediate need was clothing.

He said it was "heart-breaking, shocking and frightening" on a recent visit to Ciskei to see duststorms whipping across the land where there were no crops, and to see animals dying.

Ciskei Government officials could not be reached for comment on State drought relief plans.

Other areas badly needing help include Grahamstown, Alexandria, Stutterheim, Cathcart, Queensdown, Kwelegna and Moolplaas.

(a) how many and (b) what is the subject matter of each such agreement?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTION,
AND DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

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

(3) General Hansard
Drought-stricken areas 19/5/83
CX 601 1305 - 1320
709 Mr I. K. MOORCROFT asked the
Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) How many magisterial districts had been declared drought-stricken areas in terms of the Agricultural Credit Act, No. 28 of 1966, as at the latest specified date for which figures are available.
- (2) (a) what are the names of such districts and (b) under what phase of the drought relief scheme are they categorized at present?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Drought-stricken areas are not listed in terms of the Agricultural Credit Act, 1966, but loans to farmers are granted in terms of the said Act. 126 Magisterial districts or portions of districts have been listed up to 4 May 1983.

(2) (a) and (b)	Assistance applicable and date of introduction
Magisterial District	
CAPE PROVINCE:	
<i>Aberdeen</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983.04.01)
<i>Adelaide</i>	
Entire district	Phase 3 (1983.02.15)
<i>Albany</i>	
Entire district	Phase 2 (1983.03.01)
<i>Albert</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983.05.01)
<i>Alexandria</i>	
Entire district	Phase 2 (1983.05.01)
<i>Aliwal North</i>	
Entire district plus Jamestown	Phase 1 (1983.04.01)

(2) (a) and (b)
 Magisterial District
 Assistance applicable and date of introduction

- Barkley West*
Zone 6 and 8 Phase 1 (1983-04-01)
- Rathurst*
Entire district Phase 2 (1983-03-01)
- Braunton West*
Zone 8 (Loxton zone) Phase 3 (1983-04-01)
- Belford*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-03-11)
- Britstown*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
- Calvinia*
Crop producing farms Phase 4 (1980-03-01)
Remainder of district Phase 4 (1980-03-01)
- Carnarvon*
(1) Entire district excluding the farms between Loxton/Carnarvon/Prieska roads Phase 5 (1981-09-01)
(2) Farms excluded in 1 Phase 5 (1983-03-01)
- Ceres*
Zone 6 Phase 1 (1980-03-24)
Farms—De Syfer, Platfontein, Driefontein and Olivierskraal Phase 4 (1980-07-01)
- Clanwilliam*
Entire district Phase 4 (1980-03-01)
- Cathcart*
Entire district Phase 3 (1983-04-16)
- Colchester*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
- Cradock*
Entire district Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
- De Aar*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
- Elliot*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
- Fort Beaufort*
Entire district Phase 3 (1983-03-16)
- Fraserburg*
Entire district Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
- Gordonia*
Zone 2 Phase 4 (1982-11-01)
Zone 3 Phase 4 (1982-12-15)
Zone 4 (Southern part) Phase 5 (1981-12-01)
Zone 4 (Northern part) Phase 4 (1981-08-01)
Zone 5 Phase 5 (1981-09-01)
Zone 6 Phase 5 (1983-01-01)
Zone 7 Phase 5 (1983-01-01)

(2) (a) and (b)
 Magisterial District
 Assistance applicable and date of introduction

- Zone 8 Phase 3 (1981-12-01)
- Zone 9 Phase 5 (1982-07-01)
- Zone 10 Phase 3 (1981-02-01)
- Zone 11 Phase 3 (1981-06-01)
- Zone 11 (Southern part) Phase 4 (1982-01-16)
- Graaff-Reinet*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-04-08)
- Hamover*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
- Hanswater*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
- Hay*
Zone 1 Phase 1 (1983-03-01)
Zone 2 Phase 2 (1983-03-01)
Zone 3 Phase 3 (1982-12-01)
Zone 4 Phase 3 (1982-12-01)
Zone 5 Phase 3 (1982-12-01)
Zone 6 and 7 Phase 3 (1983-04-16)
Zone 8 Phase 3 (1980-03-01)
- Hofmeyers*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
- Hopetown*
Zone 5, 6 and 7 Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
- Humansdorp*
Zone 1, 4, 5 and 7 as well as a part of zone 2 Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
- Indwe*
Entire district Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
- Jansenville*
Entire district Phase 1 (1983-04-08)
- Kenhardt*
Brandvlei soil conservation area Phase 5 (1981-09-01)
Remainder of district Phase 5 (1982-06-01)
- Kimberley*
Zone 2 Phase 1 (1983-03-18)
Remainder of district Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
- King William's Town*
Entire district Phase 2 (1983-03-01)
- Kongka*
Entire district Phase 3 (1983-05-01)
- Kuruman*
Zone 1, 2 and 3 Phase 1 (1983-03-25)
Zone 7 Phase 3 (1981-08-01)
Zone 8 and 9 Phase 3 (1982-08-16)
Zone 10 Phase 2 (1983-05-01)

(2) (a) and (b) Assistance applicable and date of introduction

Magisterial District	
<i>Middelburg</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Moleno</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-08)
<i>Namaqualand</i> Zone 8 and 9 as well as eastern parts of zone 7 and 1 Zone 2 to 6 as well as western parts of zone 7 and 1	Phase 5 (1981-09-01) Phase 3 (1981-05-16)
<i>East London</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-02-15)
<i>Pearson</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Phillipstown</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
<i>Pofadder</i> Entire district	Phase 5 (1981-09-01)
<i>Port Elizabeth</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-03-11)
<i>Postmasburg</i> Zone 4 Zone 5 Zone 6 Zone 8	Phase 3 (1981-04-01) Phase 3 (1982-05-16) Phase 3 (1981-07-01) Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Prieska</i> Zone 1 Zone 2 Zone 3 Zone 3 (9 farms) Zone 4	Phase 1 (1983-04-01) Phase 4 (1982-06-16) Phase 4 (1980-09-01) Phase 5 (1982-10-01) Phase 3 (1982-08-16)
<i>Queenstown</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Richmond</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-04-16)
<i>Seymour</i> Stockenstroum district	Phase 3 (1983-05-01)
<i>Somerset East</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Sterksroom</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Steynsburg</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
<i>Steylerville</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Stutterheim</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-03-16)

(2) (a) and (b) Assistance applicable and date of introduction

Magisterial District	
<i>Sutherland</i> Previously zone 2 and 6 (New zone 8 and 12) Zone 7, 9 and 10 Zone 11	Phase 4 (1980-03-01) Phase 4 (1982-07-26) Phase 1 (1983-04-01)
<i>Tarkastad</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-08)
<i>Uitenhage</i> Zone 2 and 3	Phase 2 (1983-04-16)
<i>Vanrhynsdorp</i> Zone 2 Portion of zone 3	Phase 4 (1981-04-01) Phase 4 (1982-11-01)
<i>Venterstad</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Victoria West</i> 27 farms in zone 1, 2, 3 and 4 4 farms in above-mentioned zones (Total: 31 farms) Remainder of zone 2, 3 and 4 Remainder of zone 1 Zone 5 and 7	Phase 1 (1982-07-26) Phase 3 (1983-03-01) Phase 3 (1983-05-01) Phase 1 (1983-04-08) Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Vredendal</i> Zone 3*, 5 and 6 * Zone 3: Cederberg Divisional Council falls under Vredendal and Vanrhynsdorp	Phase 4 (1982-11-01)
<i>Vryburg</i> Zone 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9 Zone 3 Zone 11 (6 farms) Zone 12 (previously zone 9 and/or 10) 17 farms in zone 10 and 11 Remainder of zone 10 and 11	Phase 1 (1983-04-08) Phase 1 (1983-03-04) Phase 2 (1983-04-01) Phase 3 (1980-12-01) Phase 3 (1983-04-01) Phase 2 (1983-04-01)
<i>Williston</i> Zone 7 and 12 Remainder of zone 7 and 12 Zone 8 Zone 9, 10 and 11 (35 farms at Vis-/Rhenosterivier)	Phase 4 (1982-05-01) Phase 4 (1982-08-16) Phase 4 (1982-08-16) Phase 5 (1980-03-01)
<i>Willowmore</i> Previously zone 3, plus 6 farms	Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
<i>Wodehouse: Dordrecht</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-04-16)
ORANGE FREE STATE:	
<i>Bloemfontein</i> Portion of district Remainder of district	Phase 1 (1983-02-21) Phase 1 (1983-04-01)
<i>Beulah</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-03-11)

(2) (a) and (b) Magisterial District	Assistance applicable and date of intro- duction
<i>Boshof</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Bullfontein</i> Western and Southern part of district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Dealesville</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Edenburg</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-03-25)
<i>Edenville</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1982-10-01)
<i>Excelstor</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-08)
<i>Fauresburg</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
<i>Frankfort</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-03-11)
<i>Hertzogville</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-04-01)
<i>Henneman</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-01)
<i>Hoopstad</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1982-10-20)
<i>Jacobsdal</i> Entire district (Rietrivier Scheme excluded)	Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
<i>Jagersfontein</i> Portion north of Krommelenbooggpruit	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Kroonstad</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-05-01)
<i>Lindley</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Koppies</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1982-04-28)
<i>Marguard</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Petrushburg</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Parys</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Philippolis</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-03-25)
<i>Reddersburg</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)

(2) (a) and (b) Magisterial District	Assistance applicable and date of intro- duction
<i>Sonkhal</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-01)
<i>Smithfield</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Springfontein</i> Portion of district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Trompsburg</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-05-01)
<i>Vrede (Memel)</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Vrededorp</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Wepener</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
NATAL:	
<i>Magudu</i> Eastern half	Phase 1 (1983-03-18)
<i>Mount Currie</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-04-01)
<i>Newcastle</i> Northern part	Phase 1 (1983-03-11)
<i>Urethi</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-03-01)
TRANSVAAL:	
<i>Amersfoort</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-03-04)
<i>Barberton</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1982-11-12)
<i>Bethal</i> Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-29)
<i>Bloemhof</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-04-01)
<i>Christiana</i> Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Delareyville</i> South-western part	Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Ellisras</i> North-eastern part	Phase 1 (1983-05-01)
<i>Ellisras</i> Remainder of district	Phase 1 (1982-07-29)
	Phase 1 (1983-04-29)

(2) (a) and (b)	Assistance applicable and date of introduction
Magisterial District	
<i>Ermelo</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-04-08)
<i>Klerksdorp</i>	
Western part (Hartbeesfontein)	Phase 2 (1982-05-01)
<i>Letaba/Tzaneen</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1982-12-17)
<i>Middelburg</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-02-04)
<i>Messina</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1982-07-07)
<i>Nelspruit</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-02-14)
<i>Nigel</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-02-14)
<i>Pelgrimsrus</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-01-17)
<i>Pietersburg</i>	
28 farms (Leykraal area)	Phase 1 (1982-07-26)
Remainder of district	Phase 1 (1983-04-15)
<i>Potgietersrus</i>	
Koedoesrand area	Phase 1 (1982-04-21)
<i>Rustenburg</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-03-25)
<i>Schweizer Reneke</i>	
Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Soutpansberg</i>	
(Louis Trichardt) Entire district	Phase 1 (1982-07-07)
<i>Standerton</i>	
Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-05-01)
<i>Vanderbylpark</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-05-01)
<i>Volksrust</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-03-04)
<i>Wakkerstroom</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-03-04)
<i>Witbank</i>	
Entire district	Phase 1 (1983-01-17)
<i>Wolmaransstad</i>	
Entire district	Phase 2 (1983-04-01)

Berea police station: complaints

826. Mr. R. A. F. SWART asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many complaints were laid in 1982 at the Berea police station in Durban in respect of (a) bag-snatching, (b) assaults, (c) house-breaking and (d) robbery?

As the water crisis grows, electricity chiefs are urgently examining proposals to use mine water to keep power stations open.

The move came as yet another station was closed down because of the crisis.

Investigations into the feasibility of using water from Usuthu Mine, near Camden power station in the Eastern Transvaal, are going ahead.

A spokesman for the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom), Mr Etienne du Plessis, today said the mine held about three million litres of water.

Power stations may use mine water

"We are looking at the quality of the water and the possibility of it being acceptable for piping to the station," he said.

Mr du Plessis said a further cutback in electricity production at Camden was likely soon, unless water could be found. The station was now operating on three out of eight generating sets.

The latest power station to

close — Umgeni, in Natal — stopped generating today.

Earlier the power station closed five of its six generating sets, cutting its output from 100 Megawatts to 30. The station was served by Midmar Dam — now only 22 percent full.

Escom's general manager (operations), Mr I C McRae, advised the commission the coal bunkers were being run down.

It is the second power station in Natal to be closed — the first was the Ingagane power station, near Newcastle.

That station, which drew its water from Chelmsford Dam — only five percent full — suspended operations on April 11.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs and Directorate of Water Affairs said he was unaware of suggestions that water from mines in the Vaal area be diverted to the Vaal Dam.

The suggestion, made by the Chamber of Mines' technical adviser, Mr Gordon Grange, came at an emergency meeting of Escom consumers.

③ general Gov 19/5/83

I would like to thank the unions and federations who provided membership details and the SANDRU staff for assistance with proof reading and typing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**WINTER
OF '83**

Mmabatho earmarks ^{19/5/83} R40-m for ^{grain} drought aid

By Anthony Duigan

Bophuthatswana, facing a large drop in its crop production because of the drought, has set aside R40 million for drought relief.

This amount was based on the expected needs in three areas — livestock, crops and people — said Mr Lesley Young, Bophuthatswana's Minister of Finance.

To date the South African Government has set aside R20 million for drought relief in the six non-independent homelands

— Lebowa, Gazankulu, Qwa-Qwa, kaNgwane, kwaZulu and kwaNdebele.

The independent homelands — Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei — have not been given any direct drought aid but both Transkei and Ciskei have received grants to set up programmes to take up some of the tens of thousands of unemployed in these areas.

Bophuthatswana's decision to set aside the R40 million comes after two tough years for the state's farmers, who managed to push up production ten-fold in some sectors in the first few years after independence in December 1977.

Harvests will be about 40 per cent of what they were last season. Those in turn were already down more than a third on the previous season's yield, Mr Young said.

Livestock needed priority, he said. "In some areas there are pastures without water, in others no pastures but perhaps some water available. In a couple of weeks we will know better what the situation is regarding crops and what is needed there. What people need will flow from these two sectors as they affect different areas."

The R20-million relief to the non-independent homelands has been designated by the Government for specific sectors: water schemes, job creation and livestock feed.

The bulk of the aid is designed to create more than 22 000 jobs, mainly on public works projects, in these homelands for a period of eight months. The monthly salaries will be about R46.

SACC launches drought relief fund

IN AN EFFORT to help combat widespread poverty and misery resulting from the worsening drought situation in South Africa, the South African Council of Churches has allocated R50 000 to help launch the Hunger and Drought Relief Fund.

By MONO BADELA

This was announced by SACC general secretary, Bishop Desmond Tutu at a Press conference at the weekend.

Bishop Tutu blamed the plight of the countless victims of the drought-stricken South Africa on the Government's "unjust social dispensation".

Bishop Tutu said that

many problems were caused by ideological motives: "People are being uprooted from their homes in the cities and dumped in the poverty-stricken homelands and so-called independent states." He said if South Africa was one nation, a more ready solution to

the countless dying of starvation might be found.

He told the conference that the drought was depriving many people of their livelihood and has revealed an inadequate supply and storage of water.

"This has caused acute hunger and health hazards being highlighted in continual outbreaks of cholera epidemic. The economic situation of our land at present is also creating an alarming and escalating unemployment rate."

ing unemployment rate."

He referred to the situation "as potentially dangerous". He said the real flash points were in the rural areas where the rate of unemployment was very high.

"Men in future will not sit passively and watch their children die because of hunger. Men will kill for food and unless we do not ameliorate the situation we shall be embroiled in a more serious situation. We have to handle the basic causes and much of the problem stems from the unjust social dispensation in South Africa."

Bishop Tutu said 25 representatives from

member churches of the SACC and regional councils met last week to discuss the hunger and drought crisis in Southern Africa. He said it was decided that a campaign against hunger be launched which would include a project of food and work and an immediate relief programme. Churches were urged to make an all-out effort to ensure that water was available to all the communities; that all church workers help local development initiatives; that 1984 be declared as a Year of Water; and that all Christian people positively work for the abatement of unemployment.

He said the churches were not in competition with the Government but were aware of the theological imperative to care for the weak and the hungry.

Churches had already started a concerted effort to provide food and water to all the communities in need, particularly those affected by the present drought in the land.

Bishop Tutu appealed to all churches of South Africa to support and co-operate in this programme financially, and to assist the SACC's interdepartmental committee in implementing the vast humanitarian programme.

Wiley warns on long line hake catches

Adged 9/5/83
Political Correspondent

STRICT action would be taken against people who tried to catch hake by long line, the Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries, Mr John Wiley, warned today.

He said in a statement that it had come to his notice that various people and bodies wanted to concentrate on this method.

Before people ventured into this and incurred vast expense he wished to warn against this being seen as an easy way to make money.

Hake was a protected species and uncontrolled catches would not be tolerated, he said.

Quota holders

Promising prospects existed for long line catching of hake, but the method had not been adequately proved locally and too little was known about the effect it would have on this source of fish.

"I am prepared only to allow the issuing of experimental permits by the Marine Development branch to existing quota holders on a limited scale and then these catches will also have to be brought into account against the quota.

"Only after considerable experience and information will it be possible to take decisions on the manner in which the long line method can be implemented in respect of hake catches."

A notice would soon appear in the Government Gazette.

D. DISPATCH

(3) General

9 MAY 1983

Drought: Bracing for a hard winter crunch

QUEENSTOWN — Tell a livestock farmer around here you are surprised that the worst drought in living memory hasn't yet brought him to ruin, and he will tell you, "Come see me after the winter."

The feeling in and around this busy town at the heart of a wide and normally rich stock farming region is that the crunch is going to come in July or August.

For these farmers, whose situation is more or less typical of farmers throughout the Eastern Cape, winter will be make or break. And their pained tone of voice as they discuss their prospects would seem to indicate that while all are hoping for "make," many are bracing themselves for "break."

With grazing in most areas practically non-existent, farmers have already cut heavily into their stores of winter fodder. The critical question now is whether their emptying fodder sheds can tide them over until the veld, with help from the rain they all pray for, begins to grow again in the spring.

For months already, the famine on the veld has compelled farmers to rely heavily on purchases of feed concentrates and "imported" fodder from the Western Cape and other areas to keep their herds alive.

In a normal year, said Mr Corwyn Botha, the general manager of the East Cape Agricultural Co-operative here, the Co-op sold 1 000 tons of fodder. But in only the three

months since February of this year, farmers have bought 5 000 tons from the Co-op, and they still don't have all they need. The gap between demand and supply is unbridgable.

"We have no hope of supplying fodder to everyone who needs it," Mr Botha said.

He said the Co-op had not been able to conclude any new contracts for the purchase of fodder because "fodder is not available now."

"We are actually importing lucerne pellets from the US — can you believe it?" he asked.

"It is general knowledge," Mr Botha said, "that fodder will not be available this winter."

"We haven't seen stock deaths around here yet, but once the fodder runs out it's going to be a different story."

And the farmer is pinched not only by the shortage of fodder, but also by the price — as high as R200 a ton, more than twice the normal cost.

Among stock farmers, beef rather than dairy producers are hardest hit when fodder becomes difficult or impossible to get. Dairymen can rely more heavily on feed, which, unlike fodder, is still generally available. But current supplies are meeting only half the demand, Mr Botha said, and prices, naturally, are high.

So, come mid or late winter, stock farmers, especially beef farmers, may well find themselves stuck with a lot of animals that they won't be able to

feed. Shouldn't they sell them off now, and cut their losses before disaster strikes?

"Farmers would like to sell probably half their stock," said Mr Fred Pettit, the president of the East Cape Agricultural Union, headquartered here.

But market conditions, and the condition of the cattle, won't allow it.

It was impossible to get adequate quotas for slaughter stock from the controlled abattoirs, Mr Pettit said.

Meantime, sales at the private stockyards were "down 25 to 30 per cent — easily — in the last six months. There's very little market for breeding stock, young stock, or any stock not in slaughter condition. And what market there is offers only ridiculously low prices."

"We will get to the stage," said Mr Pettit, who raises 800 head of Merinos, and small herds of beef and dairy cattle on 1 000 hectares near here, "where you won't be able to give an animal away."

With no choice but to hang on to their stock, farmers can only hope that the winter will be a kind one — even, ironically, a dry one, Mr Pettit explained.

"Normally, cattle should be fat in the autumn, but they are not because they have been without adequate grazing since the summer, and farmers can't afford now to feed them to get them fat.

We're going into winter with cattle in poor condition. If we

get cold weather combined with rain, it could kill them."

But even if the winter is a mild one, stock losses will still depend on the availability of fodder, and whether farmers can afford to buy it.

And farmers, Mr Pettit said, "are very quickly getting deep into debt."

One of the people farmers go to for help when money runs low is Mr Botha.

"Due to lack of income because of the drought, farmers are coming to the Co-op to help them through the winter," he said.

Everyone who qualified for help would get it, Mr Botha said. But farmers who were genuinely in trouble because of the drought would have to be distinguished from farmers who might use the drought as an alibi for poor farm management.

The Co-op is feeling the economic effects of the drought in other ways as well.

"Farm business is dead. Sales of equipment have dropped off, and farmers are shelving any capital improvement projects," Mr Botha said.

One aspect of the Co-op's trade has picked up since the drought, though — but Mr Botha isn't especially pleased about it:

Animal medical products have been selling briskly, an indication, probably, of livestock weakened by bad conditions and vulnerable to illness.

And a portent, though everyone hopes not, of things getting worse before they get better. — DDR.

(2) General (S)

Water lack may shackle electricity

9 MAY 1983

By Stephen McQuillan

Dry-cooled power stations will have to be introduced before 1991 to enable South Africa's electricity generating complex to expand, according to an influential report.

The report, entitled "Co-operative Water Resources Development in Southern Africa", states that if dry-cooled power stations are not introduced before then the necessary expansion of coal-fired power stations will be shackled by lack of water.

The alternative to dry-cooled power stations was to import more water to wet-cooled stations on the Eastern Transvaal coalfields, which supply about 80 percent of the country's electricity.

The author of the report, Dr Philip van der Riet, said the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) was reluctant to introduce dry-cooling at new power stations because it would never be cheaper than water-cooling — as long as water was available at reasonable cost.

COST INCREASE

A dry-cooling system would increase the building cost of a power station by 10 percent and its coal consumption by five percent.

"It could be argued that to continue indefinitely with wet-cooling would not only benefit Escom's consumers but also stimulate development of water resources that could later be diverted to irrigation after coal reserves have been exhausted," said the report, which was circulated to Government leaders.

"Such an argument may have merit were it not for the probability that the demand for cooling water will still be increasing when the potential supply in Southern Africa has been exhausted."

DEMAND TOO GREAT

Dr van der Riet said that even if all stations commissioned after 1985 were dry-cooled, water demand would still exceed limits of supply by about the year 2000.

This problem could be alleviated only if wet-cooled stations were closed or adapted to dry-cooling within 30 years of commissioning.

But Escom's first wholly dry-cooled station — being built near Ellisras — was expected to start full operation only towards the end of 1990.

Seawater cooling was not viable because stations would have to be on the coast and that would involve expensive transportation of coal from the major coalfields — hundreds of kilometres away, the report states.

MONDAY, 9 MAY 1983

(3) ~~Benart~~ ~~24~~
 Indicates translated version.

Hansard Q 61.1233 -
 For written reply: 9/5/83 1234
 Tamboekiesvlei Commonage, Stockenström

521. Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

- (1) How many Coloured families are resident on the Tamboekiesvlei Commonage, Stockenström;
- (2) whether the rights of these persons to the commonage have been evaluated; if not, why not; if so, what are these rights;
- (3) whether these persons will be compensated; if so, in what manner;
- (4) whether they are to be resettled; if so, where?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) According to the Deeds of Transfer obtained in respect of the various portions of the farm Tamboekievlei in the District of Stockenström, there are approximately 84 Coloured owners, owning several portions of the farm individually or in undivided shares. According to the relative Deeds of Transfer, there is no commonage involved.
- (2) No. The Various portions of the farm which are being held under Title by Coloureds will be valued by the Land Tenure Board of the Department of Community Development in the near future.
- (3) The Coloured landowners will be compensated at market value determined on the same basis as the value of land which belongs to Whites.
- (4) There is no provision under which

the Department of Co-Operation and Development can resettle other persons than members of Black communities and the resettlement of the Coloured families concerned is there for being investigated in collaboration with the responsible Departments and other local authorities

Sporting facilities

679. Mr. M. A. TARR asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

What was the total amount spent by his Department on the provision of sporting facilities in South Africa in the latest specified financial year for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

The financial year 1982/83:
 R4 309 680.12

Note: Over and above the expenditure of the Department, considerable amounts are spent by administration boards on the provision of sporting facilities. The amount spent in respect of the 1982/83 financial year is not yet available as their financial year ends on 30 June 1983. For the financial year 1981/82 an amount of R3 888 779 was spent by these boards on the provision of sporting facilities.

D. Dispatch 10/5/83
Drought hits SL
(3) General

JOHANNESBUEG — Drought and the economic downturn combined to slash Stewarts and Loyds' halfway profits by 59 percent and its interim dividend by 40 percent in the six months to March 31.

The engineering group is paying 59 percent down at 13.2c against 32.5c. Dividend cover dropped to 1.8 times from 2.6 times.

Half-year attributable profit slumped to R3 023 000 from R7 405 000.

In spite of a 4 percent increase in turnover to R228 million from R219 million, pre-tax profit plunged 64.3 percent to R3 774 000 from R10 579 000.

Net profit, however, was again helped by a shrinking tax offtake — 82 percent lower at R536 000 against

R3 065 000 — thanks to the company's use of the investment allowances.

Chairman Mr Henri Kuiper anticipates a further deterioration in economic conditions during the next six months, and doubts whether the company's traditional second-half improvement will be as substantial as it has been in the past.

S & L makes and distributes metal tubing and allied products and is controlled by Ipsa, which in turn is owned by Metkor (60 percent) and Anglo American (40 percent).

S & L's agricultural branches on the coast have been seriously affected by the drought, although increased prospecting for boreholes could be reflected in the end-year order books. — DDC

Russell criticises prayers for rain

D. Dipatde
10/5/83
~~20~~ 3 *General*

CAPE TOWN — If South Africa is not doing enough to conserve water, the country has no right to pray for more rain in times of drought, says the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Reverend Philip Russell.

Writing in his monthly newsletter, Archbishop Russell gave reasons for not joining in the "day of prayer for rain" which the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, called earlier this year.

The archbishop said the daily prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread," involved so much that special "days of prayer" for specifics were unnecessary.

"How honest is it to call on God to do something which at least, in part, we should be doing ourselves?" he asked.

"I am thinking of our annual expenditure on state water schemes and comparing it with our expenditure on defence.

In the 1982-83 budget, the former is R261,9 million and the latter R3 073 million.

"If we are going to spend almost as much a month on defence as we do in a whole year on state water supply schemes, have we the right to ask God to help us in a drought situation?"

"Until we start thinking on these sorts of lines I will, I fear, be even more resistant to days of prayer for rain."

3 General

DAILY DISPATCH, TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1938 — 3

Queenstown farmers battle for survival

QUEENSTOWN—There are heifers in Fred Pettit's farmhouse garden—not because he likes having them there, but because there isn't much grazing for them anywhere else on his land.

To see these cattle in his backyard is to see a striking symbol of the dire straits into which stock farmers are being squeezed by the drought.

For Mr. Pettit though, cattle are but one small part of his concern. He is mainly a sheep farmer, raising 800 Merinos on 1,000 hectares of parched field bordering on the Calhoun road near here.

"I've never been in such trouble with my sheep before," said Mr. Pettit, who has been on the land for 30 years. "I'm terrified each time bringing them back from

grazing. I expect to find some dead."

Mr. Pettit explained that drought, though it was worrying him now, was not always a worry for a sheep farmer because sheep like short grazing and so can do well over a long dry spell.

"But they do well only up to a point," Mr. Pettit said, and he believes that that point has very nearly been reached. The yield does not have much more to give.

As for his cattle—not counting those in his garden and the few other youngsters he is feeding in a pen—"because if they were put out on the veld they would die"—they have long since abandoned their usual grazing preferences, and are now eating anything that is "vegetable". Mr. Pettit said as he pointed

to a herd grazing on sour-grass. "Normally they wouldn't touch that," he said. When the grazing finally runs out—and there is next to nothing left now—Mr. Pettit will have to rely on his stores of fodder. It is not a comforting prospect.

"Everyone asks if things will get better in the spring, but with the amount of feed I've got, I can't even see to the end of winter."

"I have lucerne that will last for two months, with rationing I ordered wheat straw about six weeks ago, but haven't received any yet."

It's very possible that he won't ever receive it. The agricultural co-operative here has warned that fodder will be unobtainable through winter. — D.D.R.

Mr. Pettit's one other feed resource is a rye crop he has planted "for my ewes when they lamb in the spring"—if they lamb at all.

Mr. Pettit said he had strong doubts about the possibilities for a lamb crop because drought conditions are not favourable for mating and successful conception.

"Spring lambing throughout the entire country could be severely affected," he said.

But any talk of spring was of little meaning at this stage, Mr. Pettit said. What really mattered was just coping with what the next four months or so might bring.

"Farmers," Mr. Pettit said, "are facing a battle of survival to get their livestock through winter." — D.D.R.

MARK SCHACTER reports on the effect of the drought on two farms in the Queenstown area—a situation that is mirrored in many other parts of South Africa. TOMORROW: A vet's vital advice.



Lucerne, withered by the drought, on Mr. Andre Ferreira's farm near Queenstown.

Hard times — but don't write them off

QUEENSTOWN—Just outside the milking shed on Andre Ferreira's farm near here, part of his herd of 100 dairy cows fill their bellies peacefully at the feeding trough.

But Mr. Ferreira doesn't share his cows' peace of mind, and if you let him take you on a tour of his farm, you will see why.

You will see an empty dam, a fodder shed two-thirds empty, a field of withered lucerne—these are the things Mr. Ferreira will show you if you ask him what drought means.

"I've got enough feed now to last two months," Mr. Ferreira said. "I don't know what I'll do if the feed runs out."

Bales of fodder stored away for winter feeding have already been cut into heavily, because the drought has depleted the grazing on his land and has drastically thinned his feed crops of maize and lucerne.

Relying on water from Feed concentrates.

though available, will be in short supply. "The feed I've got I'm using sparingly, to make it go as far as possible, and that affects milk production," Mr. Ferreira said. He estimated that his production was now 10 to 20 per cent below normal.

Lost production means lost income. So too do costly purchases of fodder and feed concentrates, and what Mr. Ferreira described as the recent "economic drought" of exceptionally tight money and high interest rates.

"Farmer's aren't going bankrupt yet, but you may see it soon," Mr. Ferreira said.

But after your tour of his farm is over, let him invite you into the farmhouse for a drink, and you will see his outlook brighten a little. In fact times or lean, he will tell you: "the South African farmer is one of the toughest species on earth," so don't go writing him off just yet.

Bushmanland now nuclear

By J Manuel Correia

The ground may be "hot", but sheep can safely graze not too far from the tiny corner of Namaqualand earmarked for the disposal of South Africa's nuclear waste.

The authorities are convinced they have settled on possibly the safest site in the world for this purpose.

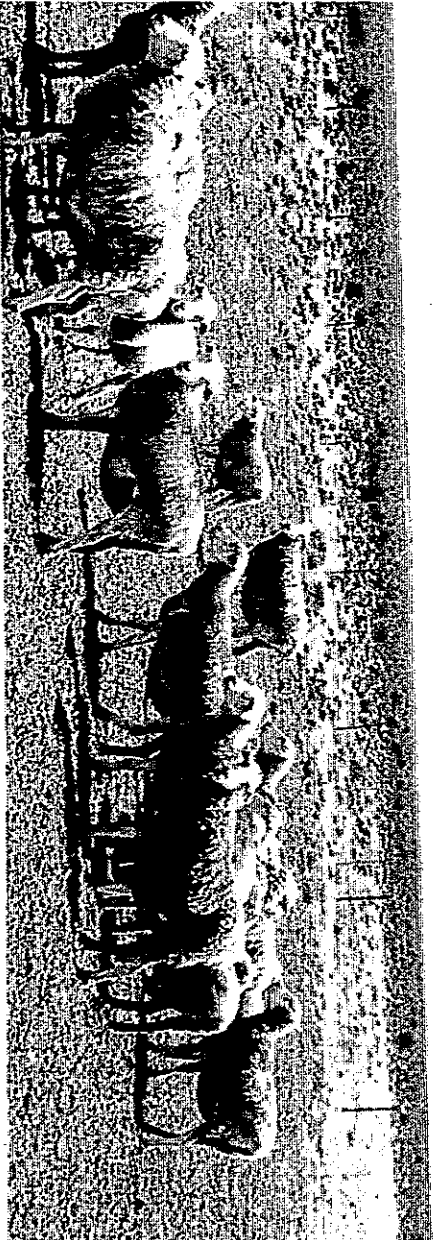
The area has not been seismically active for 100 million years. Even the underground water is about 6 000 years old. What little rain falls quickly evaporates so there is no danger of contamination spreading through underground drinking water.

There are only 500 people within a 25 km radius of the waste burial site, which is at Vaalputs, on the Bushmanland Plateau.

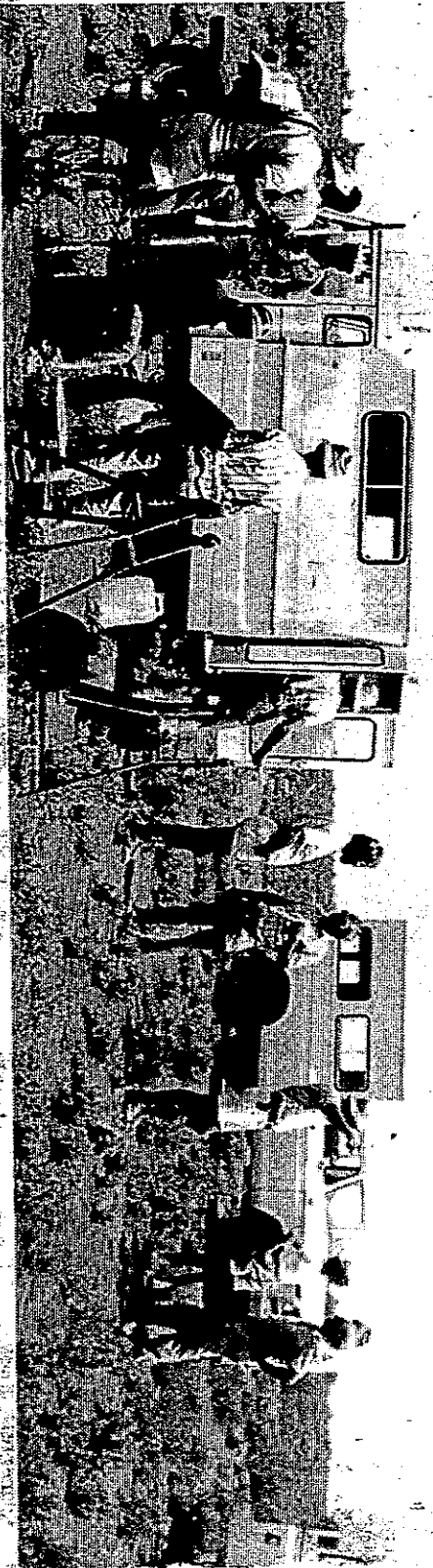
The area has been in the grip of drought for seven years. The only livestock remaining consists of sheep, which are free ranging.

Apart from taking care of nuclear wastes, the Nuclear Development Corporation of South Africa will be carrying out an environmental rehabilitation programme of the area it has bought.

Nucor has pointed out that the final burial site will measure only 1 sq km in the centre of the 10 000 ha area.



Though the ground below may be "hot" with nuclear waste, the sheep can still graze in safety at Vaalputs.



Geologists, geophysicists and geobotanists meet at the barren site in Namaqualand to co-ordinate the nuclear waste programme.

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O. DISPATCH
9 MAY 1983

If it's information day it must be raining

STUTTERHEIM — It wasn't much. But compared to what's been dished out lately the smattering of rain at Agric 83 yesterday was a mini monsoon.

Nobody could say they hadn't been warned, though. The agricultural director for the Eastern Cape, Mr. H. S. Niehaus, had warned farmers attending the show that it had rained on both previous information days arranged at Dohne research station.

And true to form, as the visitors headed for lunch, the looming clouds started "leaking", as one toddler put it.

"Mommy, mommy, look..." Not only children were excited by the steady splash of rain. Warmly dressed farmers who had travelled miles to attend the information day seemed to lose their travel fatigue as

General

By
CHRIS VICK

the heavens opened.

Drought was definitely the word on everyone's lips. As breeders viewed the stock on show it was time to recall the fat years of yore. The days when crops were lush — and debt something you barely thought of.

"It's almost a way of life now, being in debt," said Mr G. Dobson, who had travelled from Queenstown to attend the show.

"Most farmers I know seem resigned to staying in the red for a good while yet. It's something you can't avoid... almost as unavoidable as dry weather."

A modest farmer who preferred to remain unidentified said farmers were becoming "depressingly resolute" about their drought.

"For the young far-

mers in particular its pretty hard going," he said. "They always knew farming was tough...but at least it used to rain."

The world wasn't all gloomy, however. Despite the drought — and a bitter, bitter wind from the mountains — those ruddy-faced individuals managed to beam about most everything — including the sight of some of agriculture's top names making their own omelettes at an Egg Board promotional stand.

"There's always something to smile about," grinned Mrs S. Lamprecht, looking every inch a farmer's wife. "Sometimes farming folk get a little morose but most of the time we're looking ahead. Things can only get better as far as we're concerned."

It did. The rain kept falling.

See also, P7.

General: agriculture can forge links

*2-DISK
3-News*

CHRIS VICK reports from STUTTERHEIM

STUTTERHEIM — The agricultural sector could find political answers for South Africa in a way no politician could, the Chief of the Defence Force, General Constand Viljoen, said here yesterday.

In his opening address at the Agric 83 information day he told farmers that agricultural co-operation with neighbouring states had created better links than could have been created on a political level.

"Agriculture can serve as a channel of communication and a demonstration of the practical advantages of peaceful co-existence," General Viljoen said.

"The value of agriculture in terms of private initiative and capitalism, therefore, cannot be over-emphasised."

"It is an important factor which makes a healthy agricultural sector imperative for our survival."

General Viljoen said agriculture could be seen as part of the "total strategy" for defending South Africa. Farmers themselves formed an integral part of the "people's army" concept, particularly in the rural areas.

"The rural areas are one of the enemy's most important targets because they afford them the way to pass to the major centres."

"It also provides many

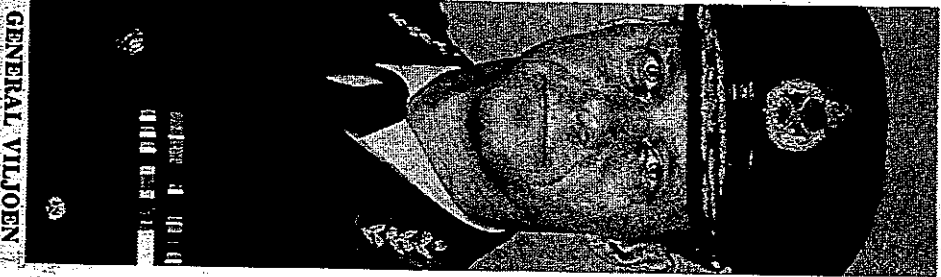
said. "All our efforts to improve our standards will be to no avail if we are not able to retain our hold over our country."

South Africa's military call-up system had been revised to allow for greater involvement in the rural areas, General Viljoen said, particularly where the commandos were concerned.

"In this way they plan to erode the military defence potential and weaken the morale of the population in those areas."

General Viljoen said it was essential that farmers and their labourers were "aware of the enemy" and ready to defend their property.

"And if we want to defend the land, we must occupy the land," he said.



GENERAL VILJOEN

QUEENSTOWN — It was only a matter of time before livestock farmers in this area began to see large numbers of their stock dying because of the drought, a spokesman at the state veterinarian's office here said in an interview.

"We haven't seen much stock loss here yet, but it's coming — in July or August," the spokesman said.

By that time, the health of animals badly weakened by too many months of poor grazing would be in a critical state.

With their resistance to disease lower than the best normal, stock would be more than usually susceptible to the whole range of maladies that can afflict them even in

Drought will stock will

MARK SCHWAB reports from QUIT

to disease lower than the best normal, stock would be more than usually susceptible to the whole range of maladies that can afflict them even in

Measles as drought factor

EAST LONDON — The measles outbreak in the Eastern Cape is of epidemic proportions and the drought could be a contributory factor, according to one doctor.

Dr J. Rawlinson, who is seconded to the Port Elizabeth health department, said yesterday that people were pouring into the metropolitan areas due to the drought and the unsatisfactory living conditions resulting from this could help to spread the virus.

"There is a current campaign against measles," he said "and mobile units are being used, but obviously they can't reach everyone."

In Transkei, there is not an unusually high incidence of measles, according to the deputy secretary for health. Dr

G. Sollede said "Measles is a dangerous child is so vaccinated done too early there were 50. No figures for the month of April were available."

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● Tick-borne diseases such as redwater and gall sickness (through ticks are less of a problem in winter than at other times of year)

● Wounds, such as cuts and broken bones, taking longer to heal and being more likely than normal to become infected, because of the generally weakened condition of livestock. — DDR

It must certainly be done by the age of nine months.

"Vaccine is available at clinics and mobile units throughout the country and we always appeal to parents to come forward," Dr Sol- leder said.

She did not have any figures available for the incidence of measles.

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Clisel health officials could not be contacted for comment yesterday.

● Abscesses on sheep, which will become apparent at shearing time.

● Nutritional diseases, caused by grazing deficiencies in protein and energy.

● Illness following on animals desperate for food eating poisonous plants that they would normally avoid.

National Union of Clothing Workers
National Union of Leather Workers
National Union of Textile Workers
South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU)
S.A. Canvas & Ropeworkers Union
S.A. Canvas & Ropeworkers Union (Cape)
Tailoring Workers, Dressmaking & Furriers Industrial Union
Tanning, Footwear and Allied Workers Union
Textile Workers Industrial Union
Textile Workers Union (Transvaal)
Transvaal Leather and Allied Trades Industrial Union
Trunk & Box Workers Industrial Union

Wood & Wood Products, including Furniture

National Union of Furniture & Allied Workers of S.A.
Paper, Wood and Allied Workers Union
South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU)

Paper & Paper Products, Printing & Publishing

Amalgamated Engineering Union of South Africa
Media Workers Association of South Africa
Paper, Wood & Allied Workers Union
S.A. Boilermakers, Iron & Steelworkers, Shipbuilders & Welders
S.A. Electrical Workers Association
S.A. Society of Journalists
S.A. Typographical Union
South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU)

~~10~~ (3) General Hammond
Government stock 11/5/83
Q. 61,1247 -
*12 Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the
Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether he has taken a final decision concerning requests to buy back the Government stock paid to farmers in lieu of cash for farms purchased under the consolidation scheme; if so, what is the nature of his decision;
- (2) whether it is his intention to compensate farmers who have sold their Government stock at a loss; if so, what are the particulars of the compensation envisaged?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Yes. As I announced some time ago, Government stock issued to farmers for purposes of consolidation are not to be repurchased, the Land Bank will, however, under certain circumstances be prepared to accept such Government stock as security against loans to be granted for the purchase of farm land
- (2) No.

Spectres of disaster

The multiplier effects of the drought could rob this year's gross domestic product of about two percentage points of real growth.

It could cost the country over R1 billion in lost foreign income, reduce personal savings, fuel inflation through higher food prices and increased bank liquidity and intensify unemployment, introducing "the spectre of social unrest possibly on the scale of the Soweto riots."

These are the joint findings of economist Roger Gidlow, of the University of the Witwatersrand, and geologist/broker Peter Miller in a report commissioned by Johannesburg stockbroker A Hobbs & Co Inc. The authors make the point that the contribution of agriculture to the SA economy has declined "in line with normal developments in a growing industrialised economy" from almost 10% in 1974 to a little more than 6% in 1982. "Nevertheless," they say, "the current drought is exerting a very negative impact on an already weak economy." Apart from maize, grain production "is being devastated" and deciduous fruit and vegetable production is sharply down in many areas. Again, the current full-capacity slaughter of the national herd because of poor grazing conditions may be boosting animal production figures, but will mean a significant fall next year.

Net farming income, say Gidlow and Miller, could fall 30% this year to R1,2 billion. And official predictions of a 10% drop in agricultural production "could prove to be hopelessly optimistic." They suggest a decline of at least 15% in 1983, which would alone have a direct negative impact of nearly one percentage point on economic growth.

"The total impact, however, could be much more substantial because the fall in incomes of the agricultural sector will lead to marked cutbacks by farmers in expenditure on fertilisers, tractors and other capital equipment, as well as encourage a further rundown in agricultural inventories." The multiplier effects of this could mean a negative impact on gdp of almost two percentage points. And this projection, they add, takes no account of the effects of water shortages in areas like northern Natal, where several coal mines and at least one more power station may face disruptions in production.

The drought will affect the rate of inflation, the authors say. Food prices rose by 2,5% in February alone, vegetable prices are already rising sharply and meat prices are expected to do the same when the current phenomenon of the meat mountain disappears. So although monetary and fiscal policies are conducive to a fall in inflation,

the improvement is "likely to be very modest in 1983," which in turn suggests that negative real returns on government stocks are likely to persist in coming months.

The drought will place strains on the system of farming credit. The SA Agricultural Union estimates that accumulated debt owed by co-operatives to the Land Bank will reach R872m this year, compared to R106m in 1981. On top of this, production credits to financially-strained farmers are expected to rise and the Land Bank will consolidate a portion of farmers' debts to commercial banks.

The Land Bank, therefore, will not be in a position to repay its debts to the banks and the outstanding bills and overdrafts through which it finances itself will increase. In the hands of commercial banks, this means added liquid assets and therefore an increase in the ability to create credit, which has inflationary implications. However, the success of the Land Bank in selling these bills to the institutions could offset this and mean overall little short-term impact on interest rates.

Farming incomes are the major contributor to income from property, fluctuations in which affect personal savings. The impact of drought on farm incomes will strengthen the three-year falling trend in personal savings. Overall, however, gross domestic savings should show little of this impact, since personal savings constitute only about 10% of the total.

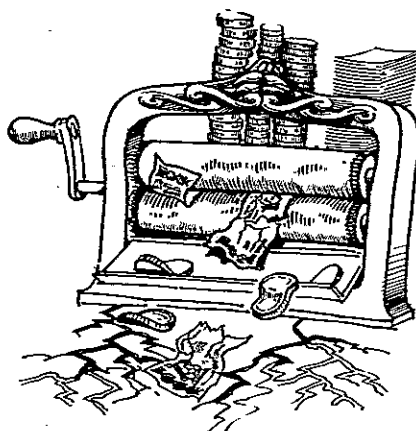
On the balance of payments, say Gidlow and Miller, "there are still grounds for expressing cautious optimism concerning the prospects for the current account this year." Exerting a drag on domestic expenditure, the drought will assist the trend of falling imports. The need to import maize to augment worst-case predictions of a 4 Mt crop against domestic consumption of up to 7 Mt will cost a minimum of R350m, but will not reverse the trend.

SMALLER SHARE

Economic contribution of agriculture

	Agricultural product (incl. forestry & fishing)	Share in gross domestic product
	Rm	%
1974	2 214	9,6
1975	2 129	8,2
1986	2 275	7,8
1977	2 578	8,1
1978	2 792	7,5
1979	2 974	6,7
1980	4 078	7,1
1981	4 609	7,0
1982	4 504	6,2

Source: SA Reserve Bank.



DRIER AND DRIER

Monthly rainfall in central Johannesburg

	20 Year average 1962/63 to 1981/82	Actual 1982/1983
	mm	mm
July	3,8	19,0
August	8,3	—
September	22,0	17,5
October	65,6	70,5
November	119,8	42,0
December	112,7	158,5
January	163,0	67,2
February	115,9	23,8
March	94,0	47,5

Foreign exchange foregone

Although the failure of agricultural exports in general could cost as much as R1,4 billion in foregone foreign exchange, the fall should be outweighed by an increase in non-gold mineral exports. Overall, a decline in the oil import bill, a 10% fall in the volume of merchandise imports, a 16% rise in merchandise exports and improved terms of trade should produce a current account surplus of about R2,1 billion in 1983.

This is one of the few relatively optimistic scenarios offered. "The debacle facing agriculture," say Gidlow and Miller, is going to be superimposed on an economy where the best scenario which could be envisaged before this calamity emerged was a nil growth rate this year." A more prolonged recession, they warn, will intensify "the migrant drift to the cities," swell unemployment in overcrowded conditions and promote social unrest.

They conclude by pointing out that this is only the second year of an established cycle of three-year drought periods. It offers little comfort to their prediction that "if good rains do not fall by the end of December, the nuisance factor will give way to real hardship."