

the migrant labour system. He is factual and scholarly and has kept emotional comment to a minimum but even so he has been quite unable to produce any convincing reasons why the migrant labour system should be retained.

The case against it is so strong that one wonders why everyone is not immediately convinced that it should be completely done away with. The arguments in favour of the system are entirely rationalisations of White determination to keep power and privilege in White hands.

The book provides well-thought-out suggestions for doing away with migrant labour which provide a constructive framework for all those who are working towards the abolition of the pass laws and influx control and the achievement of freedom of movement for all South Africa's people.

This book must be read. It is important to all of us. It may be ordered from Spro-Cas, Pharmacy House, 80 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg or from booksellers throughout the country.

Quotes from 'Migrant Labour in South Africa'

FRANCIS WILSON

'TOTAL number of blacks employed on the gold mines: 367 400. By law the gold mines were until 1969 allowed to provide family housing for not more than three per cent of the Black labour force excluding "foreign natives". But as the proportion of South Africans was not more than one third of the total this means effectively only one per cent of the Black labour force was eligible for family housing. However the position of even this one per cent has become tenuous since the issue in 1969-1970 of an official circular sent out by a local Bantu Affairs Commissioner to the mines in the Klerksdorp area instructing them that children might no longer stay in the married quarters.'

'HOWEVER, despite being in the homeland, Mdantsane itself has need of hostel accommodation. Early in 1972 family houses were being used to house approximately 200 contract

workers from the Transkei who did not qualify to live with their families in the area, but who were needed as bus drivers. Moreover, there was in Duncan Village a hostel for 752 men and they had yet to be accommodated in Mdantsane. Thus application has been made for preparation of plans for a hostel complex to accommodate single men.'

'THERE ARE nearly 16 000 men in the zones which are very similar in construction and "feel" to the Dube hostel in Soweto. But it is a bleak, windswept area with hardly a blade of grass and not a flower between all the buildings. The most disturbing feature of the zones, however, is the large number of children living there. They are said to have been brought from home by their fathers in order that, by growing up in Cape Town, they might gain the right to work there as adults.'

STATISTICS for 80 percent of the South African economy show that in 1968 the average White worker earned R2 672 a year, the Coloured R830, the Asian R909 and the African R412.

In 1971 the average White worker earned R3 513, the Coloured R1 058, the Asian R1 182 and the African R519. For the White man this was a 31,8 per cent increase, for the Coloured a 27 per cent increase, for the Asian a 30 per per cent increase and for the African a 26 per cent increase.

The pay gap increased between four and six per cent for Africans over the four years.

The Star. December 15, 1972.