

**THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS
OF NATIVE SEGREGATION
IN SOUTH AFRICA**

THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF
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SOUTH AFRICA

BY
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WITH A FOREWORD BY
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FOREWORD

It is the firm belief of many that the solution of the so-called Native Problem of South Africa will in the long run be determined by economic conditions. Religious, humanitarian and social factors will certainly function, but the deciding influence will be economic. Does it pay to educate the Native? Is it economically sound to allow "squattling"? What is the financial aspect of a White Labour policy? Complete, accurate, unemotional answers to these and similar questions will, it is held, ultimately determine the attitude of white South Africa to the Native population.

If this view is correct, then the economic aspect of the Native Problem must receive in the future much greater consideration than it has received in the past. One of the greatest students of the Native Question, the late Mr. Maurice Evans, once expressed to me the view that the time had come for what he called the monographic treatment of the subject. The field of study is so vast that even the economic aspect deserves to be subdivided for detailed study and exposition. The author of this study has therefore been wise in restricting himself to the economic aspect of one proposed "solution" of the question, namely, segregation.

Mr. Kirk is one of the growing band of young South Africans who are bringing their trained and disciplined minds to bear upon South Africa's greatest problem. His essay was easily the best submitted for the Chalmers Memorial Prize of the University of Capetown in 1926, and I had no hesitation in urging its publication, although I did not agree with several of his conclusions. Probably every reader of this book will disagree with some of its conclusions and recommendations, but few will read it without being stimulated to cogitate again and anew on matters which have tended to become postulates if not axioms in our thinking on Native matters.

Since it is true, as Professor Richards of Dartmouth College has said, that it is an asset to a community if a considerable element in it is in the habit of making up its mind upon controverted questions on a surer basis than personal prejudice, snap judgment, or supine yielding to a well-organized propaganda, then Mr. Kirk and the Natal University College have deserved well of South Africa in putting before it this stimulating essay at a season when the country is, or should be, thinking of the Native Problem as it has never thought before.

C. T. LORAM.

Rondebosch, C.P.

PREFACE

FOR a physician there are three distinct steps to take in attempting to cure any complaint—diagnosis, prognosis and treatment. The corresponding steps for a politician are, first, an investigation of the present situation; next, a prophecy of future developments; then—and only then—the formulation of a constructive policy. It is the inversion of this logical order which has caused countless errors of statesmanship.

In South Africa, for instance, we have begun to administer a Native policy without clearly diagnosing our present problem. Nor have we attempted carefully enough to deduce the probable form that this problem will take in the future, left to itself, or modified by definite action. This book seeks to fill, however inadequately, the former want, and is therefore a work of economic diagnosis. Admittedly, though, the argument spills over in places into prognosis and suggestions for treatment.

Nevertheless, on its merits as a work of diagnosis it is my hope that this monograph will be received. It is written primarily for South African readers by a South African, but it should not be devoid of interest to very many English-speaking circles.

I would like here to acknowledge, with sincerest thanks, the kind advice of Dr. C. T. Loram; Mrs. M. Palmer, M.A.; Mr. J. S. Marwick, M.L.A., and Mr. A. V. Schwikkard; the assistance of the Council of the Natal Technical College, and the generosity of Lady Campbell, which has made this publication possible.

J. K.

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