

Volume Two, Number Four

December, 1968

THE RHODESIAN JOURNAL

of

ECONOMICS

The Quarterly Journal of the Rhodesian Economics Society

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THE RHODESIAN JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS

The Rhodesian Journal of Economics is the quarterly publication of the Rhodesian Economic Society. It is published four times a year in March, June, September and December, by the Council of the Rhodesian Economic Society.

The subscription rate, including postage, for subscribers in Rhodesia and neighbouring territories is Rh. £2 per annum (10 shillings per single issue). There is an additional charge of 2 shillings per copy (Rhodesian currency) to subscribers abroad to cover postage expenses.

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THE RHODESIAN JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS

Educational Development in Rhodesia

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Major Institutional Requirements for Successful Economic Development.

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The Case for Road Transport in Rhodesia

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ADDRESSES

Employment Problems in Rhodesia (Address to the Annual Dinner of the Rhodesian Economic Society).

A. E. Abrahamson.

The Hon. A. E. Abrahamson is a former Minister of Labour and a leading industrialist.

Developing the Tribal Trust Lands (address to the Annual Dinner of the Institute of Directors).

J. J. Wrathall.

The Hon. J. J. Wrathall is Minister of Finance.

Address

DEVELOPING THE TRIBAL TRUST LANDS

The Minister of Finance, Mr. J. J. Wrathall at the annual dinner of the Institute of Directors, Bulawayo, October 11, 1968.

My subject is "The Tribal Trust Lands: Their Need for Development".

Many people may wonder why the need for developing the Tribal Trust Lands is receiving such emphasis today; and they may well conclude that this much talked of development is a new concept. It is not. However, this development is now being approached with perhaps a little more co-ordination, vigour and purpose than in the past. Although the need for developing the Tribal Trust Lands I feel sure is obvious to all, it may be advantageous to set out the three main objectives that Government has in mind in promoting this development. These are, firstly, to provide land for settlement to cope with the increasing demand for land by tribesmen and to provide a livelihood for a growing African population which cannot be absorbed in industry and elsewhere; secondly, to provide employment on Tribal Trust Land for those who are without land or who have to supplement their agricultural earnings in order to subsist in times of drought or crop failure, and finally to assist, by means of settlement, in the control and eradication of tsetse fly thereby opening up production and at the same time protecting areas which are being farmed properly.

Population growth

Undoubtedly the crux of the need for the injection of money into the Tribal Trust Lands is contained in the first objective I have mentioned, that is, the need to provide land and a livelihood for a growing African population. The population explosion and the impact which this is having, and will continue to have upon Rhodesia, is a major subject on its own and I do not propose to dwell on it at any length tonight. An understanding of the problems facing us, however, does require a brief reference to relevant statistics. In 1911 the African population was estimated as being some 700,000. That population was estimated as being 4,400,000 at the end of 1967, of which 3,774,000 live in and depend on the Tribal Trust Lands for their existence. The African birth rate is estimated as being 48 per thousand per annum with a death rate of 14 per thousand per annum, giving an increase of 34 per thousand or 3.4 per cent per annum compound-geometric progression. In basic terms this means quite simply that, at the present rate of growth, the African population will double itself in 20 years, and by 1988 the country will have to support a population of 9,000,000 Africans alone. The increase in population from 700,000 only 57 years ago to well over 4,000,000 today is itself, I believe, an answer to those critics who say nothing has been done to develop the Tribal Trust Lands over the years since the European first came to the country. The maintaining of even the same level of subsistence for a population that has multiplied itself nearly six times is by no standards a poor achievement. We cannot of course

afford complacency and I believe it must be clear to everyone in Rhodesia that this is not so; hence the sense of urgency that permeates our whole approach to developing the Tribal Trust Lands.

The impact of the massive increase in the population can best be appreciated if it is remembered that, in 1952 when the Government then in power introduced the Land Husbandry Act, it was contemplated that the African farming population would be stabilised at about 350,000 families and that the remainder of the population would be absorbed into an expanding economy. In retrospect the visions of the planners at that time did in fact appear to be substantially correct. With the advent of the Federation the industrial economy of the country forged ahead and for some five years the demand for labour in Rhodesia was slightly in excess of the number of school leavers which, of course, resulted in a stabilisation of the population in tribal areas. This satisfactory state of affairs began to change, however, when the ugly head of political uncertainty raised itself for the first time in 1958. By 1960 the position was reversed in that the number of school leavers exceeded the demand for workers. This, together with the population explosion, resulted in an inevitable increasing pressure on the tribal areas for sustenance and with it an associated and complementary demand for more and yet more land. A marked upturn in the employment of Africans in 1964, which, if continued, would have alleviated our problems to a degree, was unfortunately reversed in 1966 because of sanctions.

History

I mentioned earlier that the development of the tribal areas was not something new and I would like to expand on this just a little. It was in 1894, that the first Native Commissioners were sent out, literally into the wilds, often with only a compass bearing to guide them with the instruction "to get to know your people and don't bother head office". At that time there was a very sparse population and no hint of civilisation as we know it—no roads, telegraphs, medical facilities, schools, and so on. It was not long before the beneficial influence of the Native Commissioners came to be felt and it is interesting to note that in 1902 the Chief Native Commissioner reported that "the Africans were planting extra crops for trading purposes". This may come as a surprise to those who believe that the conversion from a subsistence economy to a cash economy was some new-fangled idea. The history of the early days of the tribal areas, as recorded in the Chief Native Commissioner's reports, shows that development took place steadily over the years; that the need to conserve the fertility of the soil was recognised over a half century ago and perhaps more than anything else shows that because of his inherent characteristics the African, by and large, did little for himself. Depending on the phase of history he had to be persuaded or coerced in varying degrees into increasing productivity. It is also interesting to note that as long ago as 1923 the Chief Native Commissioner stated emphatically that "without better methods of agriculture it will be impossible for the African reserves in the near future to accommodate the African population". This statement was made when the population was considerably less than one quarter of what it is today and I

suggest lends support to my earlier contention that maintaining the level of subsistence in the face of a rapidly increasing population has in itself been no mean achievement.

However, notwithstanding a history of lack of funds, shortage of skilled manpower, changes in policy over the years and the apathy of the local population who, provided they had full stomachs and a few cattle were content to let tomorrow look after itself, much development has in fact been achieved in our relatively short history. I would like you for a few moments to take a look at some of these achievements.

A well balanced marketing system in the broadest sense of the word is an essential element in any development programme. The production of bigger and better crops is of little use if an outlet is not provided. Indeed, the production of bigger crops with no outlet could well lead to frustration and the loss of desire, achieved possibly after years of faithful persuasion, to reach the higher status of a cash crop producer instead of simply a subsistence level producer. The Co-operative Society movement is of course a major factor in orderly marketing and there are something like 197 societies operating at the present time, and more and more of these societies will be established as resources permit. The first co-operative society was established in the tribal areas only 10 years ago and the growth of the movement itself is evidence of its success and acceptance by the ordinary tribesman. A point not always appreciated is that the co-operative society movement is a bridge over which traffic moves in both directions. Not only does a society facilitate the orderly disposal of its members' products but it also opens the door to trade between commerce and the most humble tribesman—trade which otherwise would in all probability not come about. Purchases made by societies for their members in 1967 amounted to £168,000. Although this may not seem to be much, it is by no means insignificant and does give some idea of the purchasing power of co-operative societies.

Communications

Good communications are similarly an essential factor in orderly marketing. Although I do not intend to describe these in detail, nor indeed could I, I must just mention that at the end of 1967, there were no less than 26,000 miles of road in the tribal areas. The maintenance of those roads is in itself a major problem and as the volume of traffic on them is steadily increasing, more funds are having to be diverted to their improvement in order to keep them open. The increase in traffic within, and to and from the tribal areas has been publicised recently through the unfortunate spate of accidents involving passenger buses. In one chief's area alone at least 12 separate 65 seater passenger buses travel the roads each week; another example is the 100 large buses passing through Tjolutjo Tribal Trust Land to and from Bulawayo weekly. The volume of passenger traffic never fails to surprise. The amount paid in fares can only help to dispel the oft expressed view that there is no money in the tribal areas—although I must admit that I sometimes wonder where it comes from. Hand in hand with the construction and maintenance of roads in both old and new tribal areas goes the

construction of bridges and last year alone no less than ten high level bridges were either completed or started. Indeed, I am pleased to say that, except for a few major bridges which remain to be constructed, the programme of major road and bridge building in the tribal areas is nearing completion. The reduction in funds required for these purposes will, of course, make it possible to provide a greater proportion of the funds available to the other spheres of primary development and in particular to irrigation schemes.

Irrigation

Reference to development that has taken place to date would be incomplete without specific mention of irrigation schemes. The first irrigation scheme, situated on the Nyanyadzi river between Umtali and Birchenough Bridge was established some 35 years ago and because of its age and its situation is the scheme, perhaps more than any other, that has been seen by Europeans. Indeed the majority of schemes deep in the heart of tribal areas are unlikely to be seen by many Europeans other than those directly involved in their development and maintenance. Some of my audience may be surprised to know that, excluding the Chisumbanje Scheme, there are nearly 50 irrigation schemes in existence with an effective area of more than 9,300 acres for the current year. What is more important perhaps is the fact that potential acreage when these schemes have been fully developed is over 21,000 acres from which the potential income is estimated at over £600,000 per annum. The severe droughts that Matabeleland has experienced over the last few years have highlighted the need to provide the tribal areas with the means of raising crops without regard to the vagaries of the weather and to this a number of new schemes have been established in the southern half of the country. The Tuli-Makwe, Silalabukwa and Ingwesi schemes, which are all new, will no doubt be familiar names, particularly to those of you who live in this part of the country. When these three schemes achieve their full potential their 4,000 acres of irrigable land should provide a good living for 2,000 families or, since we regard a family unit as being 5 persons, 10,000 tribesmen and dependants.

On the debit side of irrigation schemes you may have heard that they are not entirely successful or as efficient as they could be expected to be. This is to an extent true of the older schemes in Manicaland but following the publication of regulations designed to give District Commissioners the power to ensure that plot holders farm properly, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is confident that in the future the standard of farming will improve. Irrigation schemes are expensive and the capital investment demands that the highest possible levels of productivity be achieved. This in itself implies a measure of discipline either self-imposed or imposed by authority and those who are not prepared to accept this discipline must, in the light of demand for plots on many of the schemes, make way for those who are prepared to work with a will to achieve that productivity.

Population density

A cry frequently heard in these times is that there is insufficient land for the tribal African and what land is available to him is of poor quality.

In fact, there is no real land hunger as such, but rather more of an uneven distribution of population. More than half of the area of Rhodesia, excluding Crown land, national parks and forests, are through the Land Apportionment Act, set aside for Africans. This amounts to some 44,000,000 acres (i.e. 40,000,000 Tribal Trust Lands and 4,000,000 African Purchase Areas), of which even today a fairly substantial proportion is still very sparsely populated or unpopulated.

Much of this unproductive land is eminently suitable for agricultural purposes. However, lack of water, communications and the inherent reluctance of the tribal African to move from his traditional homeland has inhibited resettlement in new areas. The tsetse fly, of course, is also a major problem that we have to overcome in the opening up of new areas and to a certain extent the African's attitude to cattle is a frustrating factor in the successful resettlement of people in the tsetse fly areas. It is a well established fact that human habitation is a significant and positive factor in our fight against the fly. Human habitation is therefore obviously to be encouraged once the primary facilities have been provided. The African, however, is wedded to his cattle and does not take kindly to the suggestion that he should leave them behind when he moves to new areas. Despite this, however, movement is taking place and during the past year something like 5,000 tribal Africans settled in the Gokwe area. Not many, perhaps, but nevertheless the trickle has started and I am confident that when the advantages of resettlement are seen the trickle will increase to a stream.

Soil fertility

In the more populated and older areas there has undoubtedly been a decline in fertility of the soil. The traditional manner of cultivation and the African's inclination to measure wealth in terms of livestock, which in turn results in severe overstocking in many areas, are the major factors contributing to this state of affairs. Whilst there has been much criticism over the years of deteriorating fertility this has in some instances been exaggerated and on the reverse side of the coin little or no credit has been given for what has been done to alleviate the position. In fact the soil protection measures which have been achieved are, in relation to the magnitude of the problem, quite remarkable and reflect an encouraging degree of co-operation between the tribesman and the officials in the various departments concerned with the conservation of our resources. I might mention in this context that I have recently agreed to the appointment of 22 additional land inspectors whose function will be to ensure that the contour levels pegged out by conservation officials are correctly constructed. Although we do have land inspectors, experience has shown that the numbers are inadequate to provide the necessary follow up actions. I am hopeful that the additional staff, which will now provide complete country-wide cover, will alleviate this particular problem.

In addition to the action taken and being taken to retain the soil and to avoid erosion, efforts are being made to maintain the fertility of the soil by encouraging good farming practice. Some notable successes have been registered. A growing number of people are learning the benefits of fertilis-

ation and rotation of crops and instead of adhering to traditional crops such as maize are growing a diversity of crops including ground nuts, cotton, coffee, tea, fruit, vegetables, potatoes and beans. This diversification is having a beneficial effect on both the land and the farmer's pocket. But bearing in mind the African's ultra conservative attitude and his general mental approach we cannot and must not expect dramatic changes to be made in the short term.

So much for what has been done in the past in the way of development. At this point I must stress that I have only touched on the fringes. We are surely more interested in the future than the past.

The future

What stands out like an gangrenous wound is that we are really little further forward in the development of a vibrant economy in the tribal areas than we were a half century ago. Let us look at the reasons for this as I see them. The population explosion to which I have already referred is the outstanding reason. The second and I think perhaps the most frustrating reason of all is the rural African himself. Earlier on I said that history showed a record of apathy amongst the tribesmen but I feel that at this stage I should perhaps express myself in clearer terms. We all know of the African's tendency for regarding his livestock as a medium of wealth without regard to their monetary value, and how he will hold on to them until the bitter end when they either die or they fetch far less than they would have done a month or two earlier. We all know how in the good season which preceded the last drought, tribesmen did not bother to reap all their crops simply because their storage bins were full. Those of you who have read the Secretary for Internal Affairs' report for 1967 will have been amused no doubt at the story of the tribesmen who refused the suggestion that they plant a shorter stalked, quicker maturing, sorghum in place of the older longer stalked and slower maturing variety because after long deliberation they decided that the 'tsumatsuma' insect would eat more of the short variety than of the long. This was because the 'tsumatsuma' which is a slow-moving cricket-like insect which only moves at night would take longer to crawl up and down the long stalk than the short stalks and would therefore have less time to eat. Amusing perhaps, but along with the other two examples of the rural African mind, a fair indication of the problem that we face in trying to achieve a change from a system or approach to life that is inherently a characteristic of the African. It is easy to be wise after the event but in looking back it seems clear that the various attacks, if I may use that word, on the problem of productivity in the tribal areas failed because the various economic theories that were the mainspring behind the attacks did not take account of the most important factor of all—the mind of the rural African. Hereditary characteristics of the rural African—and here I must generalise because there are always exceptions to a rule—inertia, a high leisure preference and a degree of want which is easily satisfied, are characteristics which can only inhibit the efforts made to increase productivity. Persons more experienced than I in dealing with the African mind have, I think, put their finger on the root of the problem where they have said that

the degree of felt need in the rural African is far lower than in more civilised peoples. We all know that the desire to satisfy want is the mainspring of activity and it is the activation of this mainspring that we must pursue with vigour. We cannot hope to ring changes overnight, because it must be remembered that we are dealing not with individuals as such—and this is where perhaps we have gone wrong before—but with a society as such with patterns of feeling, thinking and acting which have emerged as the result of co-operation of many minds over many generations. Nothing is more difficult than to change or try to change the mentality of a society—but try we must.

Community Development

I need not tell you that community development, which we see as a major force in effecting the mental change so necessary if we are to achieve our desired goals, is the cornerstone of Government policy, not merely in the tribal areas but in the country as a whole. While progress in this field is, in the tribal areas, slow, it is nevertheless clearly evident and shows that Government's search for the intangible and vital element of human acceptance of the principle of community development is bearing fruit. I mention community development, not to speak at length on it because it is a subject on its own, but to connect it with the need for increased productivity. You may say that the two go hand in hand and this of course is true. What we have to try and achieve, however, is a desire to increase productivity at a greater rate than we can expect community development with all its ramifications to progress at, and what is even more important, maintain that increased productivity.

“Felt needs”

At this point I would like to go back to the question of felt needs. As I said, and as I think you will agree, the key to the problem is to find ways and means of strengthening the felt need. It is no good persuading a tribesman to increase his productivity if the result of this will be that he will put his surplus cash in a tin in the ground or under his bed. If we are going to promote economic activity we must also encourage the tribesman to spend his money or at least some of it. Professor Sadie summed up this problem rather neatly when he said that the fundamental problem is to raise the marginal utility of income, and specifically of money income, and thus to increase effective demand. A maximum portion, if not the totality, of economic activity should be drawn into the ambit of the market and money system. Included in his conclusions on how to achieve this end were two which I think are of particular interest to us tonight. The first of these conclusions was that the population should be able to observe in its immediate neighbourhood the items of consumer goods that can be exchanged for its money. He went on to say that the establishment of retail businesses was indicated wherever there was a reasonable concentration of population and at least in those places where the co-operative societies had their depots. It seemed desirable to him that co-operative societies should extend their activities and deal in consumer goods and in this connection it was import-

ant that the articles should appeal to the tribesmen and should include clothing, shoes, radios, cycles, furniture and also foodstuffs different from the traditional diet. Earlier I mentioned the co-operative society movement and said that there were now 197 co-operative societies in existence. I also mentioned the value of goods which had been purchased. These, of course, were mainly input items such as seeds and fertilisers and the extension of the co-operative activities on the lines suggested by Professor Sadie will, I am sure, make a significant contribution towards strengthening the felt need and the economic activity that will flow from it. At the same time however, I must at this point sound a note of caution. The co-operative society movement in the tribal areas is yet in its infancy and its successful operation is due largely to the outstanding efforts of the staff of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in providing the necessary expertise and supervision. That staff is already stretched to the limit and the extension of goods supplied by co-operative societies will have to be geared to the societies' ability to handle them. We cannot therefore expect an overnight change. Co-operative societies are, of course, only one medium for bringing consumer goods to the attention of the rural African; the other important medium is the trading store of which there are so many scattered throughout the tribal areas. The present lack of variety in those stores indicates that they are under-capitalised and I put it to you that it is in this sphere that commerce can play a very significant part.

Professor Sadie's other conclusion which I want to mention is related to the role played by the feminine species of the human race in strengthening felt need. He suggests that the particular role of the African women in this field could be the subject of a major investigation. We all know, to our cost in many cases, how the feminine persistence and constant demand for more and more, can spur us on to efforts that we thought were beyond us. If we can get the African women on our side in the same way then I suggest, gentlemen, that we will be clearly and firmly on the path to success.

Ways of increasing productivity

Assuming that we will achieve the necessary awakening of felt need, we can now look briefly at the ways and means of increasing productivity and thereby income. (1) Increased support for the 'Stanning' scheme. This scheme which originally started as a 'help thy neighbour' approach is well known to you all and you no doubt also know that the African Farming Development Company is an extension of that scheme. I am satisfied that it is doing a first class job in assisting selected tribesmen to get on to a cash economy. In fact my satisfaction is backed up by an undertaking I gave not very long ago, in response to an appeal by this organisation, to provide assistance for three years to help the Company develop its full potential.

What must not be forgotten in relation to 'Stanning' type schemes is that their success is largely due, as in the case of co-operative societies, to the operation and supervision of the Europeans who so willingly gave so much of their time to helping the tribesmen. We look forward to the day

when the need for the superimposing of European skills will no longer be necessary but we must accept that it is still a long way off.

(2) Consideration must be given to increases in African Development Fund levies to provide, if needs be, free fertilizer and lime in the first instance to the areas most affected by declining soil fertility. To insist on the tribesmen in these areas improving the fertility by recourse to loans will I feel be providing a serious obstacle to the object of the exercise.

(3) Increased use of irrigation schemes, particularly in the low rainfall areas. As I have already dealt with this aspect there is no need for me to repeat myself other than to say that in the agricultural field as a whole we see a great future for irrigation.

(4) Integration of cattle into irrigation schemes and overall promotion of better husbandry practices. The integration of cattle into irrigation schemes is a comparatively recent innovation and is showing exciting results.

(5) Assistance by means of settlement in controlling and eradicating tsetse fly thereby opening up new and protecting old areas.

Employment

With the exception of the increased levies the measures I have just mentioned are of course already being implemented to a degree dictated by resources, and are aimed at increasing productivity at ground level. In addition, however, we must also aim at providing employment opportunities, as distinct from self employment, for an increasing number of tribesmen. Bearing in mind our dual aim of increasing productivity and converting the African to a cash economy I do not think that production at an individual level is the be all and end all. If, in return for increased production, we can put cash into the African's pocket, does it really matter whether this is done by letting him sell his own crops or paying him a wage for producing them for someone else. I think not.

Particularly on the larger water conservation schemes in which Government has invested considerable sums of money there is a need, I feel, to ensure that the full potential is exploited and an economic return obtained. Bearing in mind what I said earlier about the difficulty in changing the African approach to life, we cannot rely on the tribesman seeing, and acting on, the opportunity by himself. Desires have to be created and the possibilities demonstrated before we can confidently expect a sustained response. The estate type development which is taking place at Chisumbanje where 1,500 acres have already been put under irrigation and where the potential is vast, is a good example where employment opportunities are provided for a large number of families. In an area where not so long ago there was virtually no activity, no less than £28,000 was generated in the form of wages and released into the economy during the Chisumbanje Development Company's last trading year. Here again it is our intention in the long term to convert the estate type development to individual leasehold plots where families can work for their own account. In the short term, however, the estate approach is in the best interests of both tribesmen and country on schemes of this magnitude.

The Tribal Trust Lands Development Corporation

As I am on the subject of providing employment opportunities for tribesmen this is I think an appropriate moment to refer to the Tribal Trust Lands Development Corporation. Legislation relating to the creation of the Corporation is at present before Parliament and consequently will no doubt be fresh in your minds. Quite simply, the basic purpose of the Corporation is to plan, promote, assist and carry out the development in Tribal Trust Land of its natural resources and of industries for the benefit of the inhabitants of those areas. The establishment of this Corporation is not seen by Government as the panacea to the problems of the tribal areas but as part of the overall scheme of developing the Tribal Trust Areas so that they will play their full part in the overall economic development of Rhodesia and all its people. The work of the Corporation will thus go hand in hand with the other important facets of the programme and to which I have already referred. These include community development and local government, primary development in the form of roads and bridges, marketing facilities, basic water supplies and so on. I envisage that the Corporation will seek and promote viable projects and thereby attract investment from the private sector. This is but one example. Earlier I mentioned the part that could be played by trading stores. This is where the Corporation could come in and provide the necessary capital. The provision of transport facilities to assist in marketing of crops and livestock is another example that comes to mind and I believe the opportunities will be almost endless. What we have to remember is that the tribal areas contain a tremendous latent wealth that merely needs to be capitalised and I see the Corporation playing a major part in achieving this objective. I also hope that in time some of the private sector investment will come from Africans. We foresee also that subsidiary companies will be established which will be owned and controlled by Africans. For example the Corporation may form a subsidiary company to develop and operate an irrigation complex in much the same way as the Chisumbanje Development Company operates as a subsidiary of the Sabi Limpopo authority. The scheme may well be operated in the first instance with paid labour with a gradual transition to tenant farming under company management. Eventually the Corporation would dispose of its shares in the Company by selling them to the tenants. During this initial period, which will inevitably be fairly lengthy, economic use will have been made of the land, the farmers concerned will have been trained in crop growing techniques and ultimately would pay for and own the project. Views have already been expressed to the effect that the purpose of the Corporation is to gain a European foothold in the tribal areas and to exploit the African. To the first point I would only say that the rights of the African are fully protected by the Constitution. To the second charge I would ask those who voice it to consider the reasons why Government is promoting the establishment of the Corporation and investing very heavily in it and if they consider them seriously they will see for themselves the emptiness of the charge. Naturally we hope that the Corporation will make profits—this is, after all, what people provide capital for and which we hope will be

forthcoming from the private sector. Here, gentlemen, I am looking at you as a very good cross section of that sector.

Conclusions

The problems of the tribal areas, which in many ways are the problems of Rhodesia as a whole, is a subject on which one could continue indefinitely; and of necessity I have had to speak in general terms only and omit much. For example, I have not dwelt at any length on agricultural credit and the sterling work done in this field by the Agricultural Loan Fund and the Agricultural Loan Development Company. What I have set out to do—and I hope that to an extent I have succeeded—is to show you that Government is aware of the tremendous challenge and importance of developing the tribal areas, that it has been far from idle in the past and has in fact poured many millions of pounds into development, and furthermore is continuing to pursue the problem with great vigour—indeed greater vigour than ever before in the history of Rhodesia. Those of you who came here tonight expecting to be given the solutions to the problems will I am afraid have been disappointed. We all know what the problems are—a human population explosion and a human sociological problem. Neither of those can be overcome in a matter of days or months or even years and as we all know theoretical solutions have a nasty habit of failing to produce the desired result in practice. That there is no easy practical solution is, I believe, acknowledged by the approach to the problem adopted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Rhodesia. At considerable cost and over a spread of five years ACCOR is sponsoring a research project to be undertaken by the Department of Sociology at the University College of Rhodesia, aimed ultimately at converting the tribal trust areas from a subsistence to a cash economy. This objective is, of course, the same as Government's but ACCOR believe, and I would not be inclined to argue with them on this point, that there is a need for an independent body free of any preconceived ideas to undertake pure research aimed at arriving at a practical solution. ACCOR acknowledges that many of the schemes ultimately produced will have been found within the vast body of knowledge and experience that exists amongst those men both past and present that have served the cause of the tribal African with such dedication and distinction. Nevertheless a research project as is now being sponsored and which incidentally will, I understand, be getting under way soon, can only serve a vital part in the search for practical solutions. I cannot praise too highly the public spirited nature of ACCOR'S voluntary involvement which makes a refreshing change from the usual critical "and what's Government doing about it" approach. The tribal areas represent in my view the key to Rhodesia's future and whilst Government will continue to do all that it can, I ask every one of you, in all sincerity, to assist in every way you can to ensure that these areas progressively develop and move forward in full association with and in step with the rest of Rhodesia.

October, 1968.



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