

the more gifted and stable peoples to provide a lead, as the Florentines did artistically, as England did politically, to so many countries in Europe. Benin bronzes became ever more debased as the slave trade spread its hideous tentacles, there was every discouragement for the interplay of thought and idea. And after slavery was abolished red rubber took its ghastly toll in the Congo. The White men's handiwork in Africa is nothing very much to be proud of.

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THE RESETTLEMENT OF INDIANS IN JOHANNESBURG

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WHEN THE INDIANS first came to Johannesburg in the 1880's President Kruger had set aside the "Coolie Location" — the present Vrededorp and Pageview — in which they believed they would live in perpetuity.

There are to-day certain areas in the city where there are large numbers of Indian Traders: Vrededorp and Pageview, with its well known 14th Street, patronised by many white customers; West Market Street and its vicinity where there are big wholesalers of dry goods and small shops; Diagonal Street where the fruit and vegetable shops are all Indian owned. Fordsburg has numbers of Indian shops and many of the wealthier Indians have their homes here. There are also Indian shops and houses in many other areas.

It is the policy of the present government that all Johannesburg's Indian people must move to Lenasia 22 miles to the south west of the city hall. Many have already moved and about 20,000 remain waiting to hear their fate.

For the past ten years, Johannesburg Indians have fostered the hope that if Group Areas and residential segregation have to be imposed on them the government would agree to the establishment of an area for Indians within the present Municipal boundaries and they have been supported in this by the City Council. But the government has been adamant that Lenasia shall be the only township for Indians, and have asked the City Council of Johannesburg to incorporate Lenasia within its jurisdiction. They did not, however, explain why the chosen area should be so far away in the first place nor did they clarify the apparent contradiction of aiming on the one hand at "a full fledged local au-

thority" and on the other incorporation by the Johannesburg City Council.

In Lenasia the township control comes under the Peri Urban board — a white body. The residents may attend meetings of the board. A local committee of Lenasian Indians has an advisory function.

There are now approximately 35,000 people living in Lenasia.

Lenasia:

Lenasia is a bleak, flat area of country without trees and exposed to the cold south winds of winter. Lenz railway station is on the outskirts of Lenasia to the west. A weekly return ticket from Lenz to Johannesburg costs R2.00.

No comprehensive town plan was drawn up making provision for social amenities and services. The township is divided into four sections:

1. Township Area. About 300 houses where

land can be bought freehold and houses are owner built.

2. **Rainbow Valley.** Houses cost approximately R4,000.00 to build and can be bought on Hire Purchase over 25 years at R42.00 per month. In addition rates, taxes and water must be paid.
3. **Greyville.** Each house consists of two rooms plus a kitchen and a bathroom with sewerage. Electricity can be laid on by arrangement, and each house has a small plot of land. The rent is R12.00 per month.
4. **Thomsville.** Sub Economic Housing. Two room units, semi-detached, 8 or 4 in a group. Front room about 10' x 8', back one smaller. There are no ceilings, no stove, no chimney, no electricity and no running water in the house. Houses are arranged in rows with a 30 yard area between the backs of the houses where communal waterborn latrines (one per four units) and water taps (one per four units) are located. The rent per unit is R1.84 cents per month. Two units can be hired by one family, when a hole is knocked between the two back rooms. There are no bathrooms in the entire area, the streets are not tarred, and there are no street lights.

The majority of people in Lenasia live in this area.

Schooling:

The schools were prefabricated buildings when Lenasia started 13 years ago. No permanent structures have yet been built. There are two High and 3 Primary Schools designed to take roughly 500 children each but there are over 1000 children in each school. Schooling is not compulsory and many children have been turned away for lack of accommodation.

There are 50 children per class and two sessions per day to cope with the numbers. The schools were formerly under the Transvaal Education Department, but are now under the Department of Indian Affairs. Up to Standard VIII, all requirements and schooling are free. Above Standard VIII only set books are provided and other books must be paid for. The system of Rand for Rand contributions for improvements has been done away with for the Transvaal and any amenities must be provided by parents.

Because parents leave home so early for work, children frequently arrive at school

without breakfast. School feeding is not allowed.

The High School was amongst the first public buildings to be erected in Lenasia. As soon as it was completed Indian children were no longer allowed to attend High School in Johannesburg itself. Parents had the choice of moving to Lenasia or making their children travel 22 miles to and from school.

Primary schools in the Johannesburg area are being closed down towards the end of this year. Thousands of pupils will be attempting to enrol in the already full schools in Lenasia.

Medical Services:

Coronation hospital, roughly 18 miles away in Newclare, serves the township. This hospital runs a daily clinic in Lenasia from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. No service is provided for those ill in bed and unable to attend the clinic. The Coronation ambulance serves clinic patients only.

So great is the consciousness of the need for an ambulance to serve all in the township that Indians themselves have raised R5,000 and bought an ambulance. There are private nurses and doctors in the district.

The average size of a family is 7. A family clinic run by the Indian Social Welfare Association was opened six months ago and 700 people have attended it.

With no hospital at Lenz, and the realisation by the Indian Community of this necessity, the Indians themselves have collected R40,000 towards a maternity wing when and if the government builds a hospital at Lenasia.

Whenever pleas are made by the community for services the answer is that there is no money available. The Indians themselves are attempting to provide these services but there seems to be a reluctance on the part of the authorities to accept them.

Social Amenities:

There is a civic centre with one hall where young people can congregate, and one cinema. The only real recreation that people have is walking the streets and visiting. When the Olympic Committee visited South Africa an area was fenced in and stands put up for a sports field. No sports field has actually been laid out.

In the freehold area and in Rainbow Valley gardens have been and are being esta-

blished. This applies to a more limited extent in Greyville. In Thomsville a minute area in front of each unit can be enclosed and used but the majority of land is communal, bare veld -- mostly dust.

No African servants may be employed in the township. Raids are carried out to see that this is enforced.

Trading in Lenasia:

The shops are grouped at one end of the township near the Railway station — at least a mile away from some of the houses.

The shops are not well supported by the population of Lenasia, most of whom find it easier to shop near their place of work. White people in the vicinity patronise some of the shops. There are few shops but a new block of about six shops is being constructed to accommodate the displaced businessmen of Johannesburg. No hawkers licences are issued. Garages look prosperous.

There are two factories in the area, a small one making candles, employs 20-30 people while another employs about 500 people making small tools for the mines. The area surrounding Lenasia, apart from a Military camp across the railway line, is open veld. There are no other opportunities for employ-

Indians still in Johannesburg:

Many Indians are still living in Johannesburg mainly in Pageview, Vrededorp and Fordsburg. These are mostly traders. There are 600 traders in Pageview alone and all are due for removal. The Pageview traders live in small villas in the vicinity but will be moved to Lenasia within the next three months. The residential move was scheduled to take place nine months ago into Greyville type houses. The traders, who are reasonably well off at present, refused to move to this type of house and houses are now being built in Rainbow Valley for them. There is tremendous uncertainty about when they will have to leave their trading sites. Pageview will become completely "white" in the near future. At the moment there are some empty shops in Fordsburg (the last area to be moved) which are available for Pageview traders.

Eventually there will be small shops available in the "Asiatic Bazaar" in Fordsburg. Provisional approval has been given for a loan of 12 million Rand to the City Council for the building of this complex of sixty shops,

a bazaar with 132 stands and a market with 102 stands all to be rented by Indians. All the present traders will have to be accommodated in the "bazaar" or will have to trade in Lenasia. This must mean a change in employment for many and economic ruin for many more.

Thomsville residents were living in slum conditions in back yards in Pageview, but their move to Thomsville has not improved their situation. The squalor of Thomsville has to be seen to be believed. We talked to one woman living there. She is better off than most, the family rents two units for R3.68 per month, the husband earns R19.00 per week and pays R9.00 per month for his railway ticket. He leaves home to work in Johannesburg at 5.30 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Their three children must play in the dusty and sordid back yard between the houses.

There are many good Indian owned houses in Pageview and Fordsburg and compensation is to be paid for them, but it is frequently only half what has been spent on the house.

Martindale:

Before removals started there was 1,750 licenced Indian dealers in Martindale. Most traders have been removed from this area and the few that remain are expecting daily notice that they must go. A few shops are being built for them in Lenasia, which is already over traded. A spokesman, worried out of his wits, could not see how they would make a living. His only suggestion was that Lenasia should become a trading area for customers of all races. There is no doubt that most of the traders will be ruined. This will have far-reaching consequences for all, as the Indian Social Welfare depends for its funds on the traders.

The consequences of the Group Areas proclamations for the Indian people of Johannesburg:

Means of Livelihood. Indians first came to live in Johannesburg in the 1880's. They settled down as small traders, hawkers, labourers, market gardeners and hotel workers.

They have become a prosperous community. There is no doubt that the credit they gave saved many an embarrassed white person

in time of drought and difficulty. They have contributed generously towards social welfare and relief to all races.

For many years they have paid rates and taxes in Johannesburg, but have no say in local government.

The Plight of the Traders.

Indian shops in Johannesburg are patronised by all races. In future traders will have the choice of trading in Lenasia, almost exclusively amongst their own people, or in the projected Asiatic bazaar for the tourist trade, or to find other means of employment. It was very evident to us that the traders still remaining in the Johannesburg area live with fear for the future and a dreadful feeling of insecurity.

They realise that the chances of being able to continue as traders and make a living are very small. Many of them are no longer young. They face a certain future of complete impoverishment. One trader we spoke to, a man of some influence among his people, was filled with a deep resignation, with no hope for the future — merely hoping to be allowed to trade where he was as long as possible before his order to move was served on him. It may be a question of months, or at most a few years.

It is estimated that three quarters of Indian Traders will no longer be able to trade when the removals are completed in five or six years. What will these people do? There are no facilities in the Transvaal for the technical training of Indians, so it appears that the only employment open to them will be unskilled labour.

Waiters:

Many Indians are employed as waiters in hotels and clubs, but are gradually being replaced by Africans, as employers find them inconvenient to employ because of the limitations imposed by hours, transport, and distance. Waiters themselves cannot cope with the cost of transport to Lenasia.

Labourers:

The cost of transport is here a serious difficulty. When these people are out of work they cannot afford cost of transport in order to find another job. They already live in slum conditions in Thomsville and have no hope of employment in or around Lenasia.

It is quite apparent that Lenasia will never be a self-supporting community, and will al-

ways depend on Johannesburg for a living for its people.

The standard of living of the Indian community must inevitably fall. Those who are buying houses, as in the Rainbow Valley Scheme, naturally face the future with trepidation as they fear they will not be able to continue their Hire Purchase payments. People will have to seek new ways of earning their living — in many cases not as lucrative as before.

Change in Social Patterns as a consequence of removals

For most Indians the father is the wage earner and entirely responsible for the upkeep and conduct of his family. In the old days the family lived, sometimes in squalor, above or behind the family business. This made for close family life and strong parental influence. This has been affected in two ways by the move to Lenasia.

Firstly the father is forced to leave home very early and come back late at night from his work, and consequently the children see very little of him. Secondly, what he earns is now not sufficient, with increased transport and other costs to keep his family, and the teenage children have to work. This makes them independent and undermines the father's influence, and as may be imagined, much unhappiness and dissension results.

Delinquency and illegitimacy have increased. The old pattern of arranged marriages is disappearing. These are perhaps inevitable changes, but they have come about too suddenly, largely owing to the new conditions under which the people are living.

The Influence of Isolation

The Indian Community of Lenasia faces a future of isolation in accordance with the dictates of separate development. They are removed from the mixed urban life which they enjoy. The educated section fear and hate this isolation because of the cutting off of wider horizons in their own lives and also for the consequences they foresee in the Indian community as a whole. There is likely to be an increase in sectionalism and inter racial quarrels.

We visited a wealthy Indian family, living in a beautiful house they had built for themselves at a cost of some R60,000.00. They were not happy, cut off from their contacts in Johannesburg, and were deeply resentful of

the fact that they had had no choice but had been forced to move to Lenasia. In common with many other Indians, living in Lenasia, these are cultivated people forced to live where there are no cultural facilities whatsoever. There is increasing emigration of teachers, lawyers and doctors to countries like

Canada. Educated people of this type fear the stultifying effect of Apartheid, and neighbouring Black States are willing to pay well for professional immigrants.

Apartheid is destroying a community which was making a real contribution to South Africa.

WORKMENS' COMPENSATION

BARBARA VERSFELD

Mrs. Versfeld is organiser of the Athlone Advice Office

ON FEBRUARY 20TH of this year, Mr. G. N. Oldfield M.P. Ombilo, asked the Minister of Labour a comprehensive question in the House of Assembly on the subject of unclaimed awards in terms of the Workmens' Compensation Act of 1941. Mr. Oldfield asked for information regarding the value of unclaimed awards and the number of untraced claimants in each of the different population groups. The Minister replied that the total sum of unclaimed moneys since 1943, including old cases under the previous Act, amounted to R1,365,131, representing less than 1% of the total awarded over the same period. He could not give precise information about the proportion of persons untraced in the different population groups, and assured Mr. Oldfield that all possible avenues of tracing claimants had been explored. In the case of "Bantu workmen, an arrangement was introduced in 1967 whereby advances were made by the larger employers in respect of temporary total disablement . . ." Bantu Affairs Commissioners and the Bantu Reference Bureau of the Department of Bantu Administration and Development supply information regarding the whereabouts of claimants, which is followed up by the Workmens' Compensation Office . . . Details of unclaimed benefits are also published regularly in the Government Gazette.

Fatal accidents

In the event of fatal accidents, the Minister explained, the dependents of workmen are entitled to the claims and Bantu Affairs Commissioners are responsible for arranging that the money goes where it should.

It is evident from this statement, recorded in Hansard No. 3 Paragraph 835, that the authorities do use the cumbersome official

channels available for tracing individual claimants. It is also evident that this system has many drawbacks, like all the processes of bureaucracy. Many workers, particularly Africans, never get to hear that there is compensation money awaiting them at all. A survey of the Government Gazettes shows that the proportion of African claimants is very high indeed. What would appear to be needed is more general information on the subject, and the chief responsibility for acquiring this information and for passing it on to all workmen as a matter of essential routine devolves upon employers, large-scale and small. Employers should realise the importance of informing *all* workmen of the existence of the Workmens' Compensation fund, and in the event of injury should ensure that claimants have a written note giving any available details, particularly the claim number when available. African claimants should be instructed to maintain contact with the Department of Bantu Affairs. No workman who has been injured at work should ever be discharged without clear instructions about claiming his compensation. Many of the bigger firms pay their injured workmen in advance, as the money takes about six months to come through. They are then entitled to reclaim this amount from the Compensation money before the balance is handed to the recipient. Awards for temporary disablement are handed out as lump sums, whereas for permanent disablement a regular fixed allowance must be fetched.

ADVICE OFFICE RECORDS

During the first three months of the year:

Firms circularised approx.	180
Number of workmen involved: over 200	
Replies received:	54