

UMZUMBI MALARIA COMMITTEE.

1. The Chairman of the Umzumbi Malaria Committee, who is also Chairman of the Umzumbi Farmers' Association and acting Chairman of the Southern Natal Farmers' Union tendered evidence before the Commission, stating that the area of the Malaria Committee was some 150,000 acres.

2. It was represented to the Commission that there were eight acquisitions of farms by Indians from Europeans between the years 1934 to 1940, which were claimed to be "penetration". The extent of the farm so purchased was some 836 acres. It was admitted that Mr. M.E. Desai was obliged to take over property - Lot 3 Umhlanga, from the European owner under a Mortgage Bond which he held. This property is let to a European.

3. The fear was expressed that after purchase of farms / ....

farms Indians cut up same into portions and encouraged their compatriots to settle on small holdings. Trading activities by Indians, it was alleged, followed purchase of farms. There was no proof given to justify these fears.

4. The evidence revealed that Europeans sold their farms, to a limited extent, to Indians who carried on cultivation of sugar cane and bananas, also used a portion thereof for cattle grazing. Some of the European sellers were not actually in occupation of farms.

5. Even if it was true that there was a tendency by Indian purchasers to cut up farms into small holdings and sell them to their compatriots, which was not proved, the fact remains that any subdivision of farms must be approved by the Town planning Board before whom the Malaria Committee could appear and advance reasons, if they so desired, against the undesirability of subdividing farms.

6. It was established in evidence that a European Company which carried on fibre industry employed Indians

and / ...

and leased land ~~was~~ ~~not~~ to them for cultivation prior to 1927.

7. Mr. A.G. Blamey, Chairman of the Malaria Committee, who was also a Member of the Licensing Board, was apprehensive of Indians capturing the trade of the district but it was proved that there was not a single Indian trader in his area.

8. There is a Native settlement in the area at Fairview Mission, where there are 500 Natives.

9. Summarised the evidence disclosed that small parcels of farms out of a huge area were sold by Europeans to Indians who carried on farming operations. We submit that Indians are using the farms they purchased for agricultural purposes and this does not constitute "penetration".