

SAMUELSON, S. O.

<28.6.1907>

File 65, item 4, pp. 130-2.

130 Chat with S.O. Samuelson.¹

He says he was present at the *umkosi* of 1876 when it was proclaimed that (a) no one was to court a girl on account of whom some *lobola* had already been paid; (b) no one was to enter a hut with a cap on the <sic> of his gun, if the gun were loaded; (c) no one was to kill any buffalo that year.² These were each proclaimed in a loud voice to the leading men and these to the rank and file.

The Governor (MacCallum) had an interview at night about a month ago with Mnyaiza, a chief of the Vryheid Division, in regard to rebels concealed in his tribe.³ He was told that Dinuzulu had no authority whatever over him. Since this, Lubudhlungu, son of Faku, has been arrested, probably on information given by him.⁴

The Governor asked for Dinuzulu's photo - signed and promised to give Dinuzulu one of his own. This was done.

131 The meeting of Dinuzulu with the Governor was practically like the one showing the other his 'photograph', i.e. insofar as the communications between them were concerned.⁵

Manzolwandhle and Mciteki hobnobbed together.⁶ They would not use the W.C., so went away out of town each morning in a ricksha.⁷ This association or alliance is a strong one for Dinuzulu, and probably undesirable for the Government.

H.W. B...t <sic> told the natives they ought to refuse to pay the poll tax.⁸ He is related to H.D. W...r <sic>.⁹

132 Is against the S.N.A. being too much in evidence among the natives.¹⁰ Says Sir T. Shepstone called up groups of chiefs to Pietermaritzburg when he had any law or important announcement to make to them, e.g. raising of hut tax from 7s. to 14s.¹¹ He did not go round the colony. It might have been well to have adopted this plan during the poll tax affair. Winter went about, but not to explain the poll tax.¹²

SAMUELSON

Notes

¹S.O. Samuelson was Under-Secretary for Native Affairs, i.e. the senior permanent official in the Native Affairs Department, in the colony of Natal from 1893-1909. (See also note 10 below).

²The reference is to an *umkhosi* held by Cetshwayo in the Zulu kingdom.

³Sir Henry McCallum was Governor of Natal from 1901 to 1907. Mnyayiza was chief of the Mthethwa in the Vryheid, Paulpietersburg and Ngotshe divisions. On his interview with McCallum see Marks, *Reluctant Rebellion*, p. 301n. This Mnyayiza should not be confused with Mnyayiza kaNdabuko, an influential member of the Zulu royal house and another supporter of Dinuzulu.

⁴Faku kaZiningo was chief of the Ntombela in the Nqutu division. He should not be confused with the Faku kaDonsela who was chief of the Dunge in the Ixopo division.

⁵Dinuzulu's meeting with McCallum took place in Pietermaritzburg in May 1907, shortly before the latter's departure from Natal.

⁶Manzolwandle kaCetshwayo was the brother of Dinuzulu. Mcitheki kaZibhebhu was appointed acting chief of the Mandlakazi after his father's death in 1904.

⁷W.C. stands for water closet.

⁸We have been unable to identify 'H.W. B...t'.

⁹'H.D. W...r' presumably stands for H.D. Winter, who was Minister of Native Affairs in Natal from 1905 to 1906.

¹⁰S.N.A. stands for Secretary for Native Affairs. Before 1893, this designation was that of the senior permanent official in the Native Affairs Department. From that year onward, the designation became that of the political head of the department. The title was changed to that of Minister of Native Affairs during Winter's term of office (see previous note).

¹¹Theophilus Shepstone was successively Diplomatic Agent to the Native Tribes and Secretary for Native Affairs in Natal from 1845 to 1876. The hut tax was raised from seven to fourteen shillings a year in 1875.

¹²One of the prime sources of grievance among Africans in Natal immediately prior to the rebellion of 1906 was the government's imposition of a poll tax in August 1905.