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NHLAMBA ^{2x}

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NHLA MBA

A. 71 / 86-7

loosening the various ties of life and thereby killing the people, they are themselves busy doing their best taking one another's lives. That takataing is ^{very} widespread is beyond all question. The Courts refuse to take cognizance of complaints about takataing unless there is positive evidence that the person accused was actually seen administering the poison. So strongly aware are abatakati of this refusal on our part that they actually use threats against a person they dislike that they will poison him, no notice being taken of the matter should the man go to court to complain. And we are met with the spectacle of a single person going up and down the country killing as many persons as he likes, himself escaping without injury. In former days there used to be abatakati, but not nearly as they are now, for they would be found out by having a recourse to bulaing. Nowadays people are perpetually celaing their kraals with intelazi so as to resist the effects of evil-doers' drugs.

10.10.03.

Conversation with Nhlamba 71/86-7

I had a talk today with Nhlamba, our old servant aged about 46. He says the various chiefs, who might be expected to make representations to the Government as regards the unsatisfactory state of affairs say nothing. It is the larger ones who ought to act but they are silent & therefore no one else will, & consequently no opportunity is given the various members of the tribe to speak their minds. There is no encouragement given to express opinions.

The great grievance is the attitude assumed by the present, newer European generation towards the native. In former days opportunities for reasoning were given. A man was, for instance, given a certain work to do and he either succeeded or failed to do it, being blamed if failing & shown what he ought to have done. Nowadays natives are kept guard over and pressed to work, they are so many machines, no account being taken of the fact that they are human beings.

Then when going about for hut tax & dog-tax receipts, for the purpose of checking, European police will burst open a man's box if the key is not at once forthcoming. This shows that they come in a hostile spirit. A man then is deprived of the security that his box gave him.

Some Europeans cannot even bear the sight of a native, even at a distance, much less close by.

I pointed out that all this must be due to some cause. What is that cause? Find the cause and the remedy appears. Those police ^{who} burst open boxes are usually those who do not know natives well consequently the secret is to educate them if they are to continue to manage natives. But in view of the increasing number of natives and the inadequacy of the supply of Police who do understand natives it becomes a question whether, to make things not only efficient but also uniform, it would not be well to employ ^{natives} police to carry out these duties. And therefore the greater the lack of knowledge of the native the stronger the tendency ought to be to allow natives to manage their own affairs. When they come to work ^{in towns} let them be managed as amabuto were of old i.e. under responsible leaders and divided into tribes - let locations be set apart for them.

Nhlamba appeared to agree with these remarks. He quoted the case of Ngoza who had been appointed to act as chief over late Ngeekumana's tribe in Titi's absence at work in Johannesburg, Titi being guardian for Ngeekumana's son & younger brother of Ngoza. Ngoza some two years ago was imprisoned for 2 years for stealing Mr. Stone's sheep. The latest news is that after becoming ^{acting} Chief Ngoza took to his old habits & is now about to be tried once more for theft! Dhlozi, Nhlamba & others believing he would turn over a new leaf had recommended him for the acting appointment.