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CORRIGENDA

From PULA Volume 3 No. 1 (May 1983)

As indicated in our last issue two pages from one article were accidentally missed out. The pages were added as a loose sheet. In addition we promised to reproduce the missing pages in this issue of November 1983.

The missing pages from an article entitled:

BOTSWANA'S BEEF CATTLE EXPORTS: ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESERVE INDUSTRY c.1900-1924

written by Michael Hubbard follow from the next page.
Reluctant negotiations followed, and, as a result of pressure from Rand Mines, an agreement was reached whereby Rand Cold Storage Ltd. (an ICS subsidiary) would distribute all Exchange meat.

Complaints of a meat combine followed, farmer support for the Exchange fell away, and in the first year of its operations it imported twice as many cattle (from Southern Rhodesia, Bechuanaland Protectorate and South West Africa) as it obtained domestically—leading to further calls in Parliament for import restrictions. Owing to mismanagement and alienation of members the Exchange collapsed in 1923 when Rand Cold Storage gave notice to terminate its distribution agreement.

Concerning the FOMI, the negotiations with ICS resulted in the effective incorporation of the cooperative by 1925, through its receiving financial assistance from ICS repaid in shares sufficient to give ICS a controlling interest.

In sum, State reaction in South Africa to pressures from both farmers and meat wholesalers was protectionist: import restrictions to appease the farmers and export subsidies, primarily for the relief of the meat trading interests concentrated in ICS.

The first import restriction was the ending in February 1923 of unrestricted entry of cattle from Southern Rhodesia and Bechuanaland. The Ramatlabana and Sikwane quarantine camps were shut down, and cattle imports were once more confined to the Johannesburg quarantine market.

The build-up of protectionist forces in South Africa was watched with dismay in the Protectorate. The bleak outlook for the people of the Protectorate in mid-1923 was poignantly summed up by Isang Pilane, Chief of the Bakgatla, in an appeal to British Royalty (reminiscent of Khama, Bathoen and Sebele's appeal to Queen Victoria in the 1890s):

The Union of South Africa has stopped cattle from crossing the border, with the exception of cattle that are railed direct to the Johannesburg quarantine market, for immediate slaughter. Today a certain section of the inhabitants of the Union is agitating for a complete embargo on all cattle from Rhodesia and the territories under His Gracious Majesty's Protection. If this becomes law, we see no hope for ourselves as a Nation and we humbly pray that your Royal Highness should avert the threatened evil.

We are all South Africans, and can recognise no such artificial barriers as legally or morally right. The labour of our hands has assisted to build up the diamond and gold industries in the Union, and is still doing so. When drought and disease have visited our neighbours in the Union, we have sold them breeding stock freely and with goodwill, to enable them to replenish their herds, and we cannot understand what fault we have committed that such harsh measures should be proposed against us.
We see that the Great War has left poverty and distress behind it, and that our country has not escaped, but this is no reason why members of the same household should propose to destroy each other: Rather should we unite and endeavour to devise some common means to help each other to survive the evil times.

III.
By the early 1920s the Protectorate had become established as a reserve area of the South African economy mainly through colonial consolidation. The cattle export industry, growing with the Johannesburg market, was established within this formation as a reserve industry. But with the end of the War the expansionary phase ended and the full costs of being a reserve industry were threatening to be loaded upon it: namely to bear the cost of efforts by power groups within the South African industry to recover their profitability, without any recompense.

With the market collapse and looming South African protectionism the Bechuanaland Protectorate colonial government found itself in a three-sided crisis. Firstly, the major source of purchasing power for imports for the population of Bechuanaland Protectorate was under threat - also the major domestic source of government revenue.

Secondly, Bechuanaland Protectorate was falling victim to the protectionist policy of a state with which she was effectively integrated in almost all but name. South Africa was virtually the only market for exports and source of imports; customs receipts from the agreement of (1910) were the second most important source of government revenue; plans for full political integration with South Africa stood on the South African statute book (South Africa Act 1909). Alternative markets for Bechuanaland Protectorate beef did not exist, the export trade to the Copperbelt being only nascent at this time and confined to Ngamiland.

Thirdly, the post World War I collapse of commodity markets (which occurred in all western countries) ushered in an era of protectionist commodity trading in which governments, through international bargaining, were cast in as important a role as were the commodity producers and traders themselves. In the case of meat exporting, in which national veterinary standards are so important a component of product acceptability internationally, the government role became particularly crucial. The Bechuanaland Protectorate colonial government, lacking any independent resources, or a sizeable domestic market to use as a bargaining counter, was most ill-equipped to defend her major export trade, as the subsequent historical period was to prove.
INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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