

work, with the natural result that this source of labour-supply is being withdrawn.

Again, as regards the liquor traffic among natives, which was at one time a most serious evil, destroying the efficiency of the workers and making them peculiarly susceptible to pneumonia, the Chamber of Mines have taken stringent steps to effect an improvement. It was largely owing to their exertions that the rigorous laws against supplying liquor to natives were passed, and it is due to their co-operation with the police that these laws are enforced with the utmost rigour. What has been the result? The miners now save the money formerly spent in liquor, and consequently retire from work all the sooner. To effect this particular improvement more native police and their assistants are employed, thus again diminishing the supply of miners.

But other influences are at work in the same direction. Once more owing to the expansion of mining work, the railways and public works are rapidly extending and developing. Consequently these require a further supply of natives, who are thereby engaged upon a highly congenial kind of work. As a result some 16,000 natives are permanently withdrawn from mine work. Thus every advance made by or through the mining community cuts off its own supply of native labour. The net result of all these causes has been already shown, namely, that in the year 1904-05 only 51,001 native miners remained out of 101,524 recruited, 87·7 per cent. taking their discharge, 6·4 per cent. deserting, and 4·5 per cent. dying. It is obvious that no business can be conducted on a sound and stable basis with a labour-supply of this kind.

It must also be remembered that it will take a very long time for the natives to recover from the highly artificed state of affairs created by the war. At that time the closing of the mines not only resulted in Othello's occupation being gone, but destroyed the traditions of native work on the mines at the mines' rate of wages. The "Tommies" fraternised with the natives, gave them a taste for white food luxuries and to some