

BLACK AND WHITE IN THE TRANSVAAL

THE LOCAL LABOUR PROBLEM

THE discussions in England during the past three years in connection with the vexed question of Chinese Labour in the gold mines of the Witwaters and have shown that the whole conditions of the labour question in the Transvaal are most imperfectly understood. This is but natural when it is remembered that before the war the Transvaal was practically a *terra incognita* to the masses of the population in England, and that the very causes, events and results of the war, involving as they did the relations between two dominant white races, tended to obscure entirely the local labour problems. Further, the association in the popular mind of the name of the country with the gold-mining industry suggested a train of thoughts and of recollections of the life of glittering gold in early Australia, California, and Klondyke, which has no connection at all with the actual state of affairs in the Transvaal colony.

It is proposed to show from statistics in the possession of the Government Departments, the Municipalities, the Chamber of Mines, and the Chamber of Commerce, that the labour problems to be met and dealt with in the Transvaal are not such as can be solved (or even appreciated) by any merely *a priori* reasoning, or