

African branch were assigned to us as hosts. These included Hon. E. G. Jansen, M.L.A., Speaker of the Union House of Assembly, Senator Reitz, who was President of the Orange Free State and was one of Kruger's righthand men in the Boer war; in fact, he was the man who wrote the ultimatum to Great Britain which preceded the war, a splendid man, thoroughly loyal now, and a very interesting person indeed. He recently celebrated his eightieth birthday. He represented the Nationalist party. Then there was his son, Colonel the Hon. Denijs Reitz, representing the South African party, and Senator P. Whiteside, representing the Labour party. At various points during the trip other parliamentarians joined the party. We had General Smuts with us for a while, and General Hertzog was also with us at various points. We travelled over 8,200 miles by rail in South Africa and over 3,000 miles by motor. Reception committees waited upon us at all points, and we attended something like one hundred official functions, most of which were of a formal character. We made a complete tour of the Union of South Africa and most of the native territories, including Zululand, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland—the latter an imperial protectorate; also southern and northern Rhodesia. We also visited Lorenzo Marques, Portuguese East Africa. It is a wonderful country—a land of sunshine and flowers, of beautiful scenery, and with a splendid climate. It has a great variety of vegetable, mineral and other products, including ostriches, sheep, angora goats, cattle, horses, tea, sugar, cotton, bananas, citrous fruits, pine-apples, tobacco, maize, diamonds, gold, copper, tin, and so forth. In a great many places we visited tree plantations which have been put in by the government. They have gone in extensively for tree planting and highly beneficial results have been obtained. They have magnificent public buildings, municipal halls, art galleries, museums, parks, zoological gardens, and so on; also agricultural colleges and experimental farms. We found men in charge of some of these agricultural colleges who had taken their courses in Canada. "Darkest Africa" no longer exists. We used to hear of the fierce, warlike native tribes in South Africa but they have largely become civilized. We also used to hear about the wild animals in that country but wild animals are now confined to the game reserves. Generally speaking the white man has accomplished a great deal in South Africa, and when you consider the fact that there are only something like 1,500,000 whites in that dominion the results they

have achieved are simply marvellous. Life in that country has many disadvantages as might be expected. For instance, there is a lack of moisture. Periods of very bad drought prevail in certain districts. At some places where we visited they had had no rain for over a year. However, a great deal is being done to overcome this disadvantage by constructing large irrigation dams, and in consequence a great change for the better has taken place in that country. In South Africa there are certain diseases of men and of cattle, for instance, malaria, blackwater fever, sleeping sickness, and so on. Malaria is very prevalent particularly in Rhodesia. All the time we were in southern and northern Rhodesia we were required by the doctor's orders to take ten grains of quinine a day. Then there is the tsetse fly and rinderpest which cause diseases among horses and cattle. The tsetse also causes sleeping sickness. Someone has said the sleeping sickness is a combination of tuberculosis and leprosy; it certainly is a very terrible thing. Then there are insect pests, notably the white ant, which do a great deal of damage. The white ant attacks trees and the woodwork in houses; it literally eats the inside of a structure. A house will appear to be perfectly stable but some day will fall down because the inside of all its supports has been eaten away by these white ants. Then there are locusts; the locusts work terrible destruction in that country. There are also snakes of all kinds. At Port Elizabeth we saw a snake farm.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I was on the water wagon myself so I cannot be blamed for the snakes I saw. At this snake farm there were so many snakes that really I saw snakes for nights after that. There are snakes all over South Africa but the people pay no attention to them except to kill them when they cross their path. There is one snake called the Black Mamba which has earned the respect of all including the natives. If that snake bites a person he has no chance in the world to recover. They have serums of all kinds but there appears to be no real antidote for the Black Mamba. In going through the sugar and cotton plantations where snakes are very common, I for one was very careful where I stepped; I was really frightened. One South African said to me not to be frightened about them; that they would not attack us. I observed "What about the Black Mamba?" My informant said to me, "Never mind about the Black Mamba, he won't bite you either unless you happen to get between him and