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Oil crisis gives new dimensions to cotton

Both the restricted supply and soaring prices of oil must have a profound affect on the availability and cost of synthetics which compete with cotton, said the chairman of the Rhodesian Promotion Council and of the Cotton Marketing Board, Mr. C. G. Tracey.

Even before the oil crisis there had been good reason to believe that market prospects would be favourable for the present and future crops.

Bright future

But the oil crisis had introduced a completely new dimension in this market. If this were the only influence he would have had no hesitation in saying that the future for cotton was as bright as it could be.

However, there was a possibility of a trade recession and transport costs had escalated fantastically.

There was no profit in having a desirable commodity if nobody could afford to buy it or if Rhodesia was denied the means of delivery.

Nevertheless, he was optimistic and felt that Rhodesia would reap more rewards than disappointments in the years ahead. Cotton was going to play an increasingly important role in the earning of foreign exchange.

History

Mr. Tracey gave a brief history of the cotton industry from 1960, when most people believed it was close to extinction. It now ranked among the country's three most important crops in European agriculture.

It was quite the most valuable African cash crop.

It was also one of the most powerful aids to the conversion of African tribesmen from the subsistence to the cash economy.

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Second from the right in the picture of the group of South African businessmen is Mr. C. G. Tracey, chairman of the Rhodesian Promotion Council, who were hosts to the visitors.

Raw materials of southern Africa now have added significance

Rhodesia and South Africa are well placed in the energy crisis and the world shortage of raw materials, according to the leader of a visiting South African trade team.

Dr. Etienne Rousseau, a financier, and his seven colleagues form one of the most important South African trade delegations to visit Rhodesia.

Dr. Rousseau said: "I believe that this part of the world has, under present conditions in the energy crisis, a relatively good position with a big future in the mineral field."

Raw materials

This was because Rhodesia and South Africa used a lower proportion of their energy in the form of

oil whereas European countries were far more dependent.

He said the world was becoming aware that Rhodesia and South Africa had raw materials to meet the present shortage.

"There are distinct signs that some of the major industrial countries in particular are recognizing this," he said.

The group was met by Mr. C. G. Tracey, chairman of the Rhodesian Promotion Council, and Mr. David Brewer, the director. The council had arranged a busy five-day programme of visits and meetings with VIPs.

Mr. Tracey said the visit was arranged to give the business leaders a chance to talk about developments and progress in Rhodesia with their counterparts and Government Ministers.

He said that together the visitors represented three-quarters of all South Africa's commerce, industry, mining, banking, agriculture and shipping.

(Continued from previous column)

This year, African growers contributed more than 21 per cent. of the total cotton crop and there was ample evidence to show the proportion would increase.

Substantial surplus on trading account for 1973 forecast

Rhodesia will show a substantial surplus on trading account for 1973, was the cheerful news given by the Minister of Finance, Mr. John Wrathall, in a Press interview sought to discuss the economy in the light of petrol rationing which began on February 1.

What is more, there is reason for cautious optimism in the year ahead in the economy as a whole; and in 1975 the situation should be even better, he said. "Our view is that from 1975 the investment that has been taking place will be showing returns—provided there are no serious upsets."

Some people, said Mr. Wrathall, seemed to think the economy was in a parlous state. This was not so.

In fact, the trading results of 1973 had allowed currency allocations in some sectors to be increased. Exports had shown a substantial improvement in volume and real terms.

Export bonus

The provision of R.\$4 000 000 in the budget for export incentives would not be enough for the year. There would have to be a supplementary allocation.

The Government was concerned, however, about the increased cost of imports and of "invisibles", which were eroding the position.

Insurance, freight and port handling charges, interest charges and travel costs, for instance, had all moved up.

At the same time Rhodesian companies had done well and dividend remittances had been greater.

Income from invisibles (tourism, for example) had taken a knock. But the balance of payments, Mr. Wrathall emphasized, was "not unsatisfactory". Detailed figures were not available now but would be published in the Economic Survey in April.

Broad picture

Whether the Arabs had precipitated an oil crisis or not, Rhodesia, with other countries of the world, would have had to move away from dependence on oil. Rhodesia would have to develop its electric power potential.

Fuel was being provided for tourists, but there was no intention of offering a special exchange rate for South African tourists "since there is no evidence that tourist amenities in Rhodesia are overpriced compared with South Africa".

On Rhodesian holiday-makers, Mr. Wrathall said he agreed that

the petrol ration arrangements (1 000 km a year) could induce people to take their holidays outside Rhodesia.

The position was being reviewed. Within reason, people should be allowed to take holidays where they wished.

Immigration

There had always been a shortage in the skills and professions in the country and there was a particular shortage at present of tech-

Western world will look in

Speaking at a meeting in Bulawayo, the Minister of Mines, Mr. Ian Dillon, said: "We are in a very strong position; we have the greatest coal reserves in the world and I'm sure the day will come when the western world will want to turn our coal into oil".

nicians, scientists (researchers, for instance), university staff, many artisan grades, computer technicians and so on. These were the immigrants being sought.

Although Rhodesia's production was relatively small, gold had always been a useful sheet anchor. The price could go still higher. This had resulted in some re-development in older gold mines.

Despite drought economy went ahead

Despite last season's drought the Rhodesian economy continued to forge ahead.

The Monthly Digest of Statistics for January shows that the 1973 figures for manufacturing, mining and agriculture all compared favourably with those of the previous year.

The consumer price index for European consumers increased by 3.62 per cent. in 1973.

The average for 1973 was 128.8 compared with 124.3 for 1972 (1964 = 100).

For Africans

The consumer price index for Africans increased from an average of 119.1 in 1972 to 122.8 in 1973, an increase of 3.1 per cent.

The index of volume of manufacturing production from January to November, 1973, averaged 193.9 compared with 180.8 for the first 11 months of 1972.

The unit value index of mineral output from January to November was 127.7 compared with 114.7 for the same period in 1972, and the volume index was 197.5 compared with 172.6 in 1972.

The sales of main crops and live-stock yielded a total of R.\$204m. in the first 11 months last year, compared with R.\$197m. in the same period of 1972.

Production sold from European

agriculture increased by R.\$11m. over the year in spite of the drought. African production sold decreased, however, falling from R.\$19.6m. to R.\$15.8m.

A promising year ahead

A promising year ahead for Rhodesia, with high immigration levels, satisfactory economic growth and steady improvement in the balance of payments is predicted in the latest issue of the Rhobank economic review.

Inflation is tipped as the most pressing threat during the year, together with a risk of mild unemployment in the private building sector and worsening conditions in the tourist industry.

Rhobank's economist sees immigration prospects as good, "if only because of the chaotic conditions currently enveloping the western world".

A high level of immigration to this country would be "extremely beneficial" to the economy in general and would restore confidence.

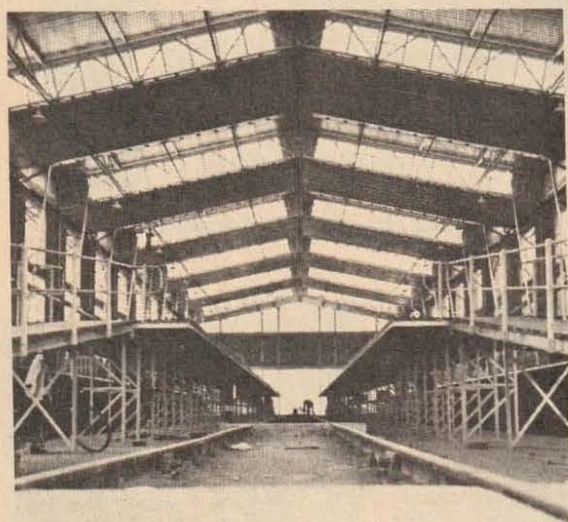
African employment would be the main beneficiary, along with the market for skilled and professional labour.

New rail motive power

The new railway motive power depot at Bulawayo has been completed at a cost of R.\$3m. The pictures show interior and exterior aspects.

A number of new design features are incorporated in the complex.

The yard will be illuminated at night from "slimline" lighting masts each using 4 800 watts to light a radius of 100 metres. The 26-metre-high masts of galvanized steel were manufactured in Rhodesia.



The roofing of the servicing and repair sheds was of the Condor monitor type to give an even spread of light and improved ventilation.

There is a sophisticated water treatment plant to remove harmful chemicals from the waste effluents before passing them into the municipal drainage system. A number of other anti-pollution measures are incorporated including the means of recovering fuel and oil spillage.

The supplies branch would provide a 24-hour spare parts service from its own fully equipped stores complex at the depot which include the bulk storage of fuels and lubricants. Reticulation systems are installed for dispensing lubricating oil and diesel fuel.

Moving away from subsistence level

There was a greater awareness in 1973 by many sectors of the Rhodesian economy of the need for the more rapid development of the Tribal Trust Lands says the chairman of the Tribal Areas of Rhodesia Research Foundation, Mr. J. D. Cameron, in the fourth yearly report.

He said, too, there was greater awareness of the need for employers, particularly, to recognize the changing aspirations of the African population.

The association would make its contribution towards the solution of the problem of rural development, but it is pointed out that world-wide attempts to halt migration to towns had been almost uniformly unsuccessful, the cost of providing counter-magnets by way of greater amenities and jobs in the countryside having proved too great to permit much progress.

Away from subsistence

The Secretary to the Foundation, Mr. A. J. B. Hughes, states that statistics suggest the tribal agricul-

tural economy has moved a long way from a subsistence level.

He said that in 1972 sales of produce through official channels amounted to more than R.\$25m. A total figure for the value of commodities sold outside tribal areas through other channels was not available but it amounted to a considerable sum.

There was a growing trade in foodstuffs on orthodox commercial lines within the tribal areas themselves.

Land use

There was a clear need for a rationalization of patterns of land use. Increased production for the market was obviously desirable.

Mr. Hughes suggested there was a need for technical research to be specifically directed to the tribal situation.

It should be conducted simultaneously with sociological research. If a small proportion of the considerable funds spent on technical agricultural research could be re-directed to this type of investigation, the returns might be considerable.

Girl wins R.\$2 500 scholarship

When in 1968 she was awarded a Rotary Foundation Fellowship from Rhodesia to the California State College, Alison Clark of Sinoia (then 21) became only the second student in the history of the college to gain her Master's degree in English in one year.

Since then she has lectured at Cape Town University and has now, aged 27, won the Frank Connock Scholarship worth R.\$2 500. She has chosen to go to London University.

The "guy" she wants to concentrate on in her studies is Robert Graves who she believes is in the "forefront of the struggle to demolish sacred cows" in literature and present day society.

A credit company which used a demand slip simulating a civil summons was fined R.\$50,00 for contempt of court and a director was fined R.\$25,00 (or 10 days).

Shona art international



Thomas Mukarobgwa, head attendant at the National Gallery, shows one of the sculptures.



The exhibition hall showing the display of sculptures.



My Old John



Snail King



Sad Face



Magic Wizard Owl

For the first time since the inception of the National Gallery in Salisbury nearly 18 years ago, Rhodesians were able to see an exhibition of some of the works of the famous Shona sculptors who have, during recent years, brought this country recognition in the international world of art.

The 65 exhibits on view at Shona Art International were representative of those which have resulted in acclaim and sales in New York, London, Paris, Johannesburg and Lisbon. All 17 artists are members of the Gallery's famous Workshop School.

Some of the self-taught artists are employed on the staff of the National Gallery and sculpt during their free time. Others, full-time sculptors, live at Vukutu, in the Eastern Highlands.

Since the Workshop School was established in 1963, sculpture from the school has been sold to 27 countries.



Ant Eater

Portrait of a hero

A portrait of Major Allan Wilson, of Shangani Patrol fame, was painted by his brother after the massacre in December, 1893. It came into the possession of Mr. George Lipp, of Stellenbosch in South Africa, who was to have become the godson of Allan Wilson with whose family in Scotland Mr. Lipp's father was friendly.

Colonel G. E. Wells, of Salisbury who is a friend of Mr. Lipp, was given the portrait for presentation to the Allan Wilson School, but the school decided such a valuable possession would best be housed for posterity in the National Archives. In turn the Archives provided a framed copy of the portrait and in the above photograph Col. Wells (right) is seen presenting it to Mr. W. E. Ashmole, acting headmaster of the school.



Defer marriage by five years

Rhodesia has the doubtful virtue of exhibiting the greatest population increase in the African continent, Dr. Timothy Stamps, Medical Officer of Health in Salisbury, told a meeting of the Rhodesian National Affairs Association.

This is not because the actual birth rate is a lot higher than other parts of Africa. It is about 41 per thousand compared with western Africa's 49 a thousand.

It is because of the effectiveness of curative and preventive health services.

Overtake U.K.

If the trend continues, Rhodesia should overtake Britain in terms of population by the year 2070; and with an agriculture which is considerably less efficient and with fewer skills than that of Britain.

Dr. Stamps said it had taken a million years to attain the present world population of 3 600 million.

As things were going, it would take only 30 years to double that population.

He said the countries which had had the greatest success in restraining population growth were those which permitted abortion.

Defer marriage

China had made it socially unacceptable for a woman to have children before she was 25. He suggested that if other countries,

including Rhodesia could defer marriage by five years the birth rate would drop drastically.

By then the husband should have enough money to provide a proper home and the ideal family size could have been worked out.

Unfortunately, in Rhodesia by the time the ideal size of the family had been realized there were already more children.

Jehovah's Witnesses get concessions

The Rhodesian Army makes concessions for Jehovah's Witnesses—they do not have to handle arms and can be employed as medical orderlies, Lt.-Col. John Thompson, Officer Commanding the Rhodesia Regiment, told African chiefs.

He told members of the new Matabeleland North Regional Council who were on a sightseeing tour of Llewellyn Barracks near the city: "I have been here 18 months and there has been only one case of a man refusing to do any military training.

"He thought he could not be prosecuted but he was court martialled and sentenced to six months' imprisonment."

Lt.-Col. Thompson said Jehovah's Witnesses were a problem all over the world.

"We have had them here and we try to respect their beliefs as much

as possible," he said.

After an informal talk by Lt.-Col. Thompson in which he explained the policy and training at the barracks the nine chiefs were shown around the advanced weapon handling, bayonet fighting and assault course areas.

Printing inks production

Mander-Kidd Rhodesia which is backed by the technical facilities and experience of Mander-Kidd South Africa and overseas companies, has extended its premises in Salisbury to enable larger quantities of letterpress, lithographic inks and screen inks to be produced under more suitable conditions.

Attending the ceremony was Mr. A. A. Barr, technical director of Mander-Kidd (U.K.) Ltd.

Customs and beliefs of African people

The Man—and his Women

Under pure African law, unaffected by any contact with the legal system which has since been introduced, a woman was under perpetual tutelage.

She never ceased to "belong". Before marriage she belonged to her father or guardian. Upon her marriage the guardianship passed to her husband, and upon dissolution of her marriage the guardianship passed back to her father.

In the event of her father's death his rights of guardianship over her passed to his heir, her brother or her uncle.

She was never free—nor did she want to be because guardianship afforded her protection. In fact today, although many women would welcome the freedoms enjoyed by women of other races, the vast majority are reluctant to give up the security which they have hitherto accepted under customary law.

Folk songs of Rhodesia

Songs of Rhodesia. Arranged for guitar, piano and organ, with chord diagrams, illustrations and stories. (Music Publishing Co. of Africa, Box 6216, Johannesburg.) Rhodesia R.\$1.95, S. Africa R.2.00.

This is a first-rate album of a dozen folk songs by John Edmond which very satisfactorily encompass the history of the country from The Scottish Pioneer and The Spirit is Strong (Cecil Rhodes) through warfare, the Zeederberg coaches and Operation Noah at Lake Kariba right up to Flat Dog Blues which refers to the dangerous beasts met by the Security Forces in the bush.

The libretto has sound historical meaning and is often enchantingly lyrical as in reference to the Victoria Falls — rainbows and moonbeams kissing in the forest of rain; and Christmas in Rhodesia — with the carols of cicada and gentle-eyed impala replacing the reindeer.



While the principle, common to all tribes, that a woman is a perpetual minor, is accepted, it follows that a grown up woman is not capable of contracting a marriage by herself, or in fact, of entering into any other form of contract.

She cannot sue nor can she be sued, unless her guardian is joined with her in the action. She cannot inherit property and there are only limited circumstances under which she can own property.

Generally speaking what is hers is her guardian's and what he has is his own. Even the children born to her belong, as we have seen, to her guardian be he husband, father, or brother.

If the woman has sexual intercourse outside the bonds of marriage her lover may be sued for damages by her guardian—and this applies even in her widowhood.

In fact, before a dead man's estate was distributed, the widows to be inherited (his wives) were required to jump across their deceased husband's bow, for it was believed that the bowstring would snap if they had been unfaithful since his death.

Because of her status a woman has no say in tribal politics or any matters of importance. However, events in Africa have shown that the women exhort their menfolk to action. Can this be frequently said of us?

There are many practices and taboos relating to women but here again some have been modified or discarded under the influences of Christianity and civilization.

Because of the woman's mysterious power of creating new life it is understandable perhaps that many primitive beliefs are

(Continued in next column)

Town of Gwelo is ready for decentralization

The value of plans passed by Gwelo Municipality in 1973 reached a record of more than R.\$6 000 000 —R.\$1.7m. higher than for 1972.

The Mayor, Cllr. G. A. Sulter, said these figures were indicative of Gwelo's pattern of growth.

"I would be happier to see even greater figures for industry, for I have always believed that it is industry that is the keypoint to Gwelo's future," he said.

"I believe that the Rutenga rail link and the Dabuka marshalling yards have already contributed to this and will continue to do so, for we now see being established in the city offices for transport firms and manufacturers' representatives. This all augurs well for the future of Gwelo as a centre of growth.

"If the Government will go ahead with its decentralization policy and establish growth points, then Gwelo is an obvious one."

The City Council, said Cllr. Sulter, was aware of this potential and was constantly planning ahead to cater for it.

Free law advice: Four young University of Rhodesia law students are to pioneer a new form of legal aid in Salisbury—a clinic where free legal advice will be given to those who cannot afford to engage lawyers.

(Continued from previous column)

associated with her bodily functions.

At certain times, for example, she may not visit the cattle kraal or handle the family herd lest harm should befall it. When pregnant she must not walk through gardens where monkeynuts are growing or the pods will burst and ruin the crop.

It was stated at the outset that it is not intended that this series of articles should be a text book on African customary law—nor is it intended that this chapter should be a legal treatise on the present day status of African women.

There have been modifications to customary law and today some women have moved towards complete emancipation. But old customs die hard—especially when so many want them kept alive.

(Series concluded)

Half the country awaits the surveyor

Half Rhodesia has yet to benefit from the surveyor and his technicians, Mr. Mark Partridge, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and of Water Development, said when he opened the fifth Conference of Southern African Surveyors at the University of Rhodesia. This situation arose because of the tribal system of land holding.

"One of the anomalies that we face in Africa is the continuance in the Tribal Trust areas of the system of holding land under the tribal system, while in the adjoining European area a modern and efficient system of surveyed and recorded land tenure under private ownership flourishes.

With evolution

"With the growth of our population and the development of the tribal areas, I have no doubt that there is a vast field—in fact practically half the country — waiting for the surveyor and his staff as the tribal system of land holding evolves."

The Minister was delighted that Rhodesia was host to the first Southern African Surveyors conference outside South Africa.

"We are committed in Rhodesia to the freedom of the individual within an orderly and enlightened state," he said.

An association like the conference, made up of people with high standards of skill and conduct could only assist in this object.

The Minister praised the Rhodesian Institute of Surveyors, the conference organizers, because of the all-embracing character of its membership.

No arbiter

There was no need for the Government to act as an arbiter between the separate parts of a common service, professional land surveyors, mining surveyors and related technicians.

The Minister said the aim in Rhodesia must be to have a balance between what is done by private

Eight-man star in the sky

The first eight-man star of sky-divers in Rhodesia was formed at Excelsior, near Salisbury, by the Rhodesian Parachute Association, a spokesman of which said it was a great achievement for this country.

The sky-divers jumped from two aircraft at a height of about 3 643 m and formed the eight-man star at 2 122 m.

The sky-divers were Buster Brown, Major John Pierson, Lance Corporal David McDonald, Basil White, Mike Godfrey, Keith Sanler, Derek Boersma and George Oldbury.

enterprise and the surveying work of the Government.

Last year 25 300 maps were sold by the Government to the public and more than 48 000 aerial photographs.

Enthusiastic visitors

Enthusiasm for Rhodesia was expressed by several of the visitors from overseas attending the Fifth Conference of Southern African Surveyors held in Salisbury.

Dr. Donald Tarling, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who read a paper on earth movement, praised the work going on at the University of Rhodesia and said that most of the scientific data on the movement of the African continent has been collated in this country.

Mr. Malcolm Macleod from Toronto was "thrilled with everything. There is no question of our not coming back and I will certainly urge friends to come as tourists, too," he said.

Mr. David Rice, a mining surveyor from North Carolina, said: "The standard of surveying here is probably far superior to what you will find in the United States."

Mr. Allan Blaikie, a member of the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors, said he was taking advantage of some sabbatical leave to attend the conference. He had been impressed by the high quality of the speakers.

Central and local government combine

The shortage of African housing and its social consequences was, next to security, the biggest problem facing Rhodesia, said the Minister of Local Government and Housing, Mr. William Irvine.

Addressing the Associate Member Council of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of Rhodesia in Bulawayo, Mr. Irvine said he intended to bring the Government back into planning and provision of African housing in the bigger towns.

He considered the problem could be solved only by the combined efforts of central and local government.

Quality

To overcome in five years the present country-wide shortfall of at least 40 000 units would cost a minimum of R.\$14m. a year.

There was little accommodation for Africans between the cheap norm provided up to now and the expensive houses at Salisbury's Marimba Park, and the Government intended to promote reasonably priced accommodation of higher quality for the many Africans now "earning good money".

"I believe it is essential to make provision for the emerging urban-



Mr. William Irvine

ized middle-class African and his accommodation must be up to 20th century standards."

On finance for African housing, the Minister said the Treasury was taking an "enlightened view" and that local authorities should be able to provide considerable sums including, he hoped, up to 50 per cent. of beer profits.

Every employer of African labour also had a duty to see that his employees were decently housed.



Divorce not matter of victory or loss

An inquest or investigation to see if a marriage is dead or not was advocated by Mr. Justice Goldin who has previously spoken on the Rhodesian way of divorce as unsatisfactory and who is the author of a book on the subject.

The judge said he believed dissolution was inevitable in many marriages, but our present approach to divorce was unrealistic and harmful. Divorce should not be a reward for marital virtue or a penalty for marital delinquency.

Preparation for marriage was as necessary as that for a career or playing sport and so on.

The majority of young people failed to appreciate the adjustments necessary to cope with a husband

Granary of the country

The fabulous Lowveld in which some crops, like wheat, can be raised twice a year, steadily earns recognition as the granary of Rhodesia. Enormous acreages of all types of crops — sugar, cotton, groundnuts, sorghum and rice — thrive in the rich soil under irrigation. Over 11 000 hectares of wheat alone grow here every year and the aerial picture shows a small part of the area.

or wife and lacked training in the management of children.

Mr. Justice Goldin said he was asked about "trial marriages" by a group of school-leavers.

"I told them that I was all in favour of it if you could have a trial marriage to simulate a real marriage," he said.

The judge believed "marriage guidance" was vital because unhappily married people were often in such an emotional state that they are as helpless and incapable of solving or resolving their suffering

without expert help, as a man with toothache.

He emphasized that a reconciliation period was needed so that problems could be looked at coolly.

The judge referred in particular to safeguarding the children of a broken marriage and of making certain that psychological upset is reduced or avoided.

He warned that marriages cannot usually be brought to an end as if they had never taken place or without further obligations arising from them.

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