

called upon to pay out of that to inland revenue, while a European did not pay any personal tax until he was earning £300 and, if married, £400. The Native was also taxed far more heavily indirectly through Customs duties."

Whatever the motives may have been for the imposition of heavier taxation upon Natives than upon Europeans, the effect is to drive the Natives to earn more money by working for Europeans. The poll tax in certain circumstances is in effect a labour tax.

CONVICT LABOUR FOR PRIVATE PERSONS.

On 10th Dec., 1929, *Ons Vaderland* announced (*Reuter*, Pretoria) that before the end of the year convict labour would be made available for farmers. It was estimated that about 3,000 convicts would be dispatched in order to perform ordinary farm work.

On 9th January, 1930, *Reuter* Pretoria reported "In an official statement to-day dealing with the employment of prisoners for farm labour, the Director of Prisons states that farmers requiring prison labour must take gangs of not less than 25 for a period of three months. The price of this labour is 1s. 6d. per unit per day. If, however, the employer is willing to supply food and accommodation the cost is reduced to one shilling per unit per day. . . . In the event of farmers being unable to employ 25 prisoners, arrangements can be made in one area for central accommodation for a gang of 25, which may be divided up between a number of farms, provided that they are within reasonable distance of the accommodation provided."

It is obvious that the men whom it is proposed to distribute in this casual fashion among the farmers are not criminals in the ordinary sense of the term. For what offences are these men in prison?

LABOURERS BECOME CONVICTS THROUGH A TRICK OF THEIR EMPLOYERS.

At a public meeting in East London on 26th September last Mr. Ballinger, European adviser to the South