

African I.C.U., "gave an instance of what he described as the exploitation of forced labour in the Union. It was well known, he said, that many diggers were at the mercy of the diamond buyers and could not afford to pay their Natives wages. They therefore deliberately forgot to enter into a wage contract or otherwise did not fill in their Natives' passes correctly. The result was that these Natives were arrested and, on being unable to pay a 15s. fine, were sent to a labour colony. Their services could then be obtained by a combination at 1s. 6d. per head per day without a warder, or 1s. 9d. per head with a warder."

TWO MONTHS HARD LABOUR FOR FAILURE TO PAY POLL TAX.

The daily papers frequently contain accounts of Natives being charged with failure to pay the poll tax or failure to produce the receipt therefor when challenged by the police. The following from the *East London Dispatch* is an example ; "That Natives who have paid their poll tax must carry their receipts with them and produce them to the police on demand, being guilty of an offence should they fail to do so, was made plain in the R. M. Court yesterday, when in more than one case it was found that the accused had actually paid but had left their receipts in their homes. Some of these were lucky enough to get off, the alternative charge of failing to produce not having been included in the indictment ; but future offenders are not likely to find this loophole left them. . . . There was a large batch of charges of failing to pay the tax, the sentence in each case being an order to pay forthwith with the alternative of two months hard labour."

INCREASING THE NATIVE CONVICT POPULATION.

There are no doubt men who omit to pay the poll tax from reasons that cannot be defended. On the other hand there are certainly others who do not pay for the simple reason that they have not got the money. They have come to town for the double purpose of assisting