

FORCED LABOUR FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYERS.

The Labour Office Report (p. 286) states, "almost all legislation on the subject of forced labour forbids recourse to it for the benefit of private individuals. The only direct legal compulsion of this kind appears to be in the Dutch East Indies, where it is a survival of a feudal institution. . . . the Government's policy in this case is to buy out the rights of the feudal lords, and considerable progress, at great expense has been made."

The Report further states (p. 290) "*Taxation as a means of forcing workers to seek employment.* There have been cases where the taxation imposed upon Native populations has been devised with the express intention of forcing them into private employment in order that they might earn the money necessary to pay their taxes, and measures of this kind have been frequently advocated by interested parties.

"It need hardly be said that taxation designed for this purpose is an alternative to the direct enactment of forced labour for private employers."

THE NATIVE SERVICE CONTRACT REGISTRATION BILL.

The Minister of Justice has prepared a Bill with the above title under which with certain limited exceptions, any Native male domiciled in the Transvaal or Natal outside any location who is or appears to be above the age of 18 and under the age of 60 will be liable to a special tax of £5 unless he can prove that in the year in question he has worked for at least three months under a contract of service or as an artizan. This is in addition to the poll tax and, as in the case of the poll-tax, non-payment is an offence rendering the defaulting Native liable to imprisonment and that without cancellation of his liability to pay the tax.

THE BILL EMBRACES ALL THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE FARMERS.

The Minister of Justice, in an interview with *Ons Vaderland* stated that the new Bill "embraced all the