

SABI PROGRAMME
SOUTH OF LUNDI AND SABI EAST

Jan 59.

As explained in earlier papers it is intended that a defence line (which will also be the base from which to attack) will be established on the unfavourable black basalt zone stretching south eastwards across the Sabi from the Musaswi drainage on the east bank and southwest around the outer face of the Chihonja Range past Chipinda Pools and, south of the Lundi, underlying the Matibi II Reserve. This takes us to the Railway and Hornby's "dry belt" lying roughly along the watershed between the Sabi and Limpopo/Nuanetzi systems. The "dry belt" with its axis approximately in a NW-SE direction meets the basalt, which are at right angles to it in a NE-SW direction in the neighbourhood of Chikombedzi. These two zones form the western and southern boundaries of the Gonakudzingwa Native Purchase Area which we must now regard as largely infested with tsetse fly, but more especially in its northern and eastern portions.

The first task of this paper is to explain the exclusion of the Gonakudzingwa N.P.A. from any present reclamation programme, except in the extreme north below the Clarendon Cliffs overlooking the Lundi River and near the Railway where it may well be found that tsetse are already established around some of the Gorchwe pans which certainly for part of the year, provide a suitable habitat. The intention is to use the Matibi II Reserve as the main bastion against advance westwards and northwest and the dry zone along the Railway (after excision of the pans) to prevent further movement (inside Rhodesian territory), towards the Nuanetsi and Limpopo Rivers. Excluding the country north of the Clarendon Cliffs, we shall be left with about 1000 sq. miles of country in the centre of the Gonakudzingwa N.P.A. where the tsetse must remain indefinitely. This N.P.A. is practically waterless and completely undeveloped. It is not likely, with or without tsetse-fly, to commend itself to a prospective African purchaser.

It is probable that we shall shortly be involved in tripartite talks with the South Africans and the Portuguese over this area. We shall have to convince the South Africans that we can eliminate any weaknesses (such as the Gorchwe pans) in Hornby's dry belt. We shall also have to resist Portuguese pressure to begin a shooting campaign in Gonakudzingwa. I think we should counter this with a demand that (a) the Portuguese erect and maintain a proper game fence along the border between Marumbeni and Malvernia and (b) that they should establish a proper de-flying chamber between 5 and 10 miles NE of Malvernia. (Recent information is that a chamber is planned. We should see that it is suitably sited).

It will help to see the problem in perspective if we examine costs (see Appendix 1). It is estimated that £150,000 would be required to reclaim Gonakudzingwa by shooting.* This is probably the cheapest method, assuming that enough water adequately dispersed, can be found for the hunters. Other methods might cost more: any method because of the inhospitable nature of the country would be difficult. By any method we should have gained little in the way of immediate economic benefits. On the other hand, assuming that of the £150,000 already mentioned we took, say, £30,000 to deal with the Gorchwe pans and to maintain two or three chambers or gates over 5 years, we would still have unspent some £120,000, which could be made available to achieve the double object of turning Matibi II into a fully effective defence line and at the same time, increasing its agricultural and/

figure is based on Stokes' estimate for the 400 sq. miles of the Sabi West Shooting Scheme. Mr. Phelps believes that the figure should be doubled.

In the event of a need for further intensification of anti-tsetse defences towards the south, the same principal of land management directed both towards increased productivity and creation of a land surface unfavourable to tsetse, should be adopted as the basis of planning.

It is proposed to establish stations at Malvernia (Border) and Chikombedzi as centres from which survey may be undertaken as soon as trained officers are available. The country is unmapped except by ourselves. It is likely to be inaccessible during most of the next three months, except by rail.

To sum up: south of the Lundi the policy is and must be purely defensive and, wherever possible, money spent on defence should serve also the purposes of land betterment. (This implies that much of the money required for tsetse defense would not be spent by the Tsetse Control Department, although the system of putting a special vote on the Tsetses Control Estimates would not be acceptable).

The principal recommendation, therefore, for immediate control south of the Lundi River is to invite the co-operation of the Native Affairs Department to examine the Matibi II Reserve from the point of view of land betterment projects which would have the effect of reducing the present amount of tree growth; increasing available grazing; improving control of cattle movement and in general turning the face of the land into a form unsuited either to the establishment or to the passage of tsetse. Meanwhile, the surveys which have been in progress south of the Lundi since August, will continue and will be intensified as soon as it is possible to establish more staff in the area.

(It may be noted that our request for an alteration in priorities in the production of 1 : 50,000 maps by the Federal Surveys has been agreed to and the S. Lundi area will be mapped during the next year).

The country north of the Cliffs of Clarendon has been mentioned. This is, perhaps, the only part of the Gonakudzingwa N.P.A. which might carry a reasonably dense population without large expenditure on artificial water. There are a number of people living round Marumbini.

North of the Lundi River the intention is to eliminate tsetse completely from Rhodesian soil. It is important at this early stage to examine the measures which will have to be taken to prevent re-entry of the tsetse from P.E.A. The wedge shaped piece of country containing the Makosa Hills - the present main focus of tsetse in the area) which lies between the P.E.A. border and the Sabi River, with Mahenya's at its southern apex, is another N.P.A.

A part, at least, of this N.P.A. should be converted into a special Native Area. This should include the Makosa Hills and all country to the south of them. North of these hills a strip 5 - 7 miles wide, bounded on the east by the international border and covering the headwater drainages of the Rupembe and Honde Rivers. Further north the proposed Special Native Area

expect, eventually, to find tsetse. A link across to the Musikiwanthu Reserve will complete the area. The aim should be a continuous band of settled country from the Cliffs of Clarendon, south of the Lundi, through Mchenya's and north to the Umselezwe. The area south of the Lundi is, of course, in another District and may require separate consideration. But it is of great importance.

A wedge will be cut into this defence zone by the country west of the Sabi, near the Sabi-Lundi confluence. This is Chitsa's and is European Crown Land. I am unaware of any plans for this area, but a concentration of rural industry here would be an obvious advantage.

Assuming, for the present, that the necessary modifications to the Land Apportionment Act may be obtained - and the Committee is urged to press strongly for it - the onus of developing the new S.N.A. will fall upon the Native Affairs Department. A request is made, however, that, since the area will have to be developed gradually, the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control and Reclamation Department should state which portions should receive priority treatment.

Estimated Costs of Shooting out Gonakudzingwa N.P.A.

(1)	Fences. 213 miles at £100 p.m.	= £21,300
(2)	@ 1 hunter p. 5 sq. miles, 1350 sq. m. will cost, at £5 p. man p. month for 4 years	= £64,800
(3)	Ammunition, 25,000 head of game @ 3.5 rounds each @ 7d. per round	= £ 2,500
	200 Rifles at £5	= £ 1,000
(4)	Seven European Houses @ £400	= £ 2,800
(5)	Transport @ 7,000 landrover miles (1/2) and 1,000 lorry miles (2/4) per month	= £19,500
(6)	Fence maintenance, Fly boys, Gate guards gates, Native Housing, etc., etc., Say	= £10,000
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		£121,900
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	Plus seven European Salaries @ £1,000 for 4 years	= £28,000
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	Total	=£149,900
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	Say	£150,000
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Alternative estimate for reclamation at 2/6 per acre for 1350 sq. miles
= £148,500.