

Competition In Africa Between Black and White Labor Keen, Says Tourist

Robert Williams, a co-worker in Africa, almost forty years ago, with Cecil Rhodes, and directly in touch ever since with events and developments there, read an interesting paper recently before the Royal Colonial Institute in London, describing his observations and experiences in an extensive continental tour last year. Mr. Williams said:

"Since 1911, when I last went through Africa, the black man has been rapidly rising above his former status of a mere laborer, but he may have a long furrow to plough before he arrives at the stage of self-government. The Sudan is now full of promise and destined to play an important role in the future of Africa and the whole world.

"The desert begins to give place to rich vegetation, and enormous tracts of fertile land are adapted to cotton, sugar, tobacco and other crops, while tens of thousands of square miles in the highlands are fit for cattle ranching. More than 300,000 acres are now under cotton cultivation and irrigation will bring in some further 3,000,000 acres, a

production of 1,000,000 bales annually within fifteen years, a fact of the utmost importance to Europe. Were it not for the sections of the Cape to Cairo Railway, already built, running from paying their way from Cape Town to Bukama on the Congo, 2,600 miles, it would be impossible to operate the great diamond, gold and copper industries of South and Central Africa.

"In many spheres of work, the black man is edging out and displacing White labor. The lower standard of living of the native enables him to undercut the white man wherever their labor comes into competition. The white would starve on a wage which is wealth to the black man. Is the native to be held down forcibly from engaging in work which lies within his ability, or is he to be kept from rising to the full height of his power; or is the black worker to be paid on the same scale as the white on the principal of equal pay for equal work, which would simply mean that all mines would shut down? They would not work."