



Notes on Natives.

No. 2

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Some gentlemen assure us that the natives are essentially different from us. They tell us that they are unable to do mental work of the same sort as we do.

Yet, J. Rubesana, a Xosa, holds the degree of Ph.D. from a wellknown University in Germany. Several dozen natives have passed the Matriculation examination of the Cape University. Over two dozen hold the degree of B.A. The Ohlange school, in Natal, put up two students for the Cape Junior examination in 1916. One passed. Six more are preparing for this same examination at another Natal school this year. Let it be noted that this is an examination at which even some school inspectors have failed.

Within the past seven years the requirements for entrance to Teachers' Training courses for natives in Natal have been raised continuously. Today these requirements are within a year's study of the like requirements for Europeans. Yet in all this period the enrolment in Native Teachers' Training courses has *steadily* increased.

The truth is that the alleged "mental deficiencies" of natives are a fairy-tale. Measure up the natives with the backveld white children, or with slum children of Europe, who suffer from like meager school facilities. The contrast is in the natives' favour, for they *desire* education.

This being true, let us recognise natives as *people*. Especially, let us not forget that they, too, are subject to the Class Struggle. Let us realise that they are proletarians as much as we are. A working-class movement that neglects natives condemns itself as a *sectional* movement, not a class movement.