

# CHAPTER SEVEN

## ADMINISTRATIVE GROWTH, HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

### 7.1 Local administration

The ZAR Constitution of 1858 made provision for the subdivision of the Republic into districts, with each district in turn consisting of two or more wards. The administration of a district was entrusted to a magistrate, six *heemrade*<sup>1</sup> and the field cornets. The administrative duties of a field cornet entailed, inter alia, the surveying and inspection of farms, as well as the collection of taxes from both whites and blacks.<sup>2</sup> The taxes collected in the Gatsrand were paid in with the magistrate of Potchefstroom, since Potchefstroom was the administrative seat of the district.<sup>3</sup> Apart from the payment of personal taxes, whites had to pay additional railway as well as road taxes.<sup>4</sup>

The Volksraad also had to collect taxes for a special matter such as, for instance, in 1876 when the Council ordered that money had to be collected for the maintenance of the forts at Steelpoort and Magneels Heights. During two public meetings that year in the ward of Gatsrand, the local inhabitants decided to pay only the annual tax owing to difficult financial circumstances. Member of the *Volksraad*, JJ Hofman, informed the *Volksraad* of the decision of those living in the Gatsrand.<sup>5</sup> This was probably accepted.

Hut tax<sup>6</sup> raised from among the Gatsrand blacks, was regarded as their personal contribution for the performance of local government services.<sup>7</sup> These were used for services such as health committees that had to promote the wellbeing of blacks.<sup>8</sup> Farms on which hut taxes were collected, were Buffelsdoorn, Kraalkop, Deelkraal, Leeuwpoort and

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<sup>1</sup> A.G. Oberholster, "Ontwikkeling van die bestuur van landelike gebiede in Suid-Afrika met besondere verwysing na die Kaaplandse Afdelingsrade en die Transvaalse Raad vir die Ontwikkeling van Buitestedelike gebiede", *Acta Academia* B(21), 1985, p.67.

<sup>2</sup> F.A. van Jaarsveld, "Die veldkornet en sy aandeel in die opbou van die ZAR tot 1870", *Argiefjaarboek vir Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis* 13(2), 1971, pp.274-275.

<sup>3</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB) verw. 73: Persoonlike belasting wyk Gatsrand, 1864-1872. Kyk ook verw. 91: Register op hutbelasting, 1882-1883.

<sup>4</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 312: Plaasbelasting wyk Gatsrand, 1884-1890. Vergelyk ook verw. 73: Persoonlike belasting wyk Gatsrand, 1864-1872 en verw. 74: Belastingregister wyk Gatsrand, 1879-1881.

<sup>5</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 6: Verslag J.J. Hoffman/ Landdros, 17.10.1876 en 26.11.1876.

<sup>6</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 91: Register op hutbelasting, 1882-1883.

<sup>7</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 92: Register op hutbelasting, 1883-1896. Kyk ook W.J.J. Kok/Landdros, 17.4.1882 en B.F. Nel, *Naturelle-opvoeding en -onderwys I*, p.135.

<sup>8</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 9: Landdros/J. Geldenhuys, Augustus 1882. Kyk ook B.F. Nel, *Naturelle-opvoeding en -onderwys I*, pp.135-136.

Rhenosterfontein.<sup>9</sup> On these farms, there were huts in which even black labourers who worked on neighbouring farms lived. It would seem that not all farmers were prepared to allow a large number of workers accommodation on their farms. The reasons for this are not clear.<sup>10</sup> The huts on farms where hut tax was collected were not so numerous that one could refer to such as locations. Until 1948, there was, for that matter, not yet any talk of locations in the Gatsrand.<sup>11</sup> A few farmers did, however, provide accommodation for those who worked for them. In such instances, taxes were also collected from the labourers.<sup>12</sup>

The Potchefstroom District Council was tasked with the maintenance of roads and the building of schools. A large portion of the contribution of the Gatsrand ward to the road taxes was allocated to the Council. In 1885, TF Cronjé represented the Gatsrand ward in the Council.<sup>13</sup>

The interests of blacks were taken care of by a commissioner tasked with Native Affairs. In 1899, Field Cornet JT Martins was appointed as vice-commissioner for the district of Potchefstroom. He had to see to it that, inter alia, labour and accommodation on farms where farmers had applied for it, were made available to blacks.<sup>14</sup>

After the Second Anglo-Boer War, the British administration attempted to introduce a system of local governance in the Transvaal for towns and areas that either did not have municipalities or were situated far from municipalities.<sup>15</sup> Unlike the ward Lower Schoonspruit where the local authority of Klerksdorp took over some of the administrative functions of the ward on 12 September 1883,<sup>16</sup> Gatsrand was administered by the magistrate of Potchefstroom until the establishment of the Health Board for Peri-urban areas on 28 June 1944.<sup>17</sup> Apart from the town Fochville, which was proclaimed in 1920, the community was predominantly agrarian up to and including the start of mining activities in 1937, with no central point from which administrative matters were organised.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 91: Register op hutbelasting, 1882-1883.

<sup>10</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Onderhoud C. en T. Schutte, 27.10.1986.

<sup>11</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/30 nr. T1/30/3388. Sekretaris Gesondheidsraad/ Prokureurs Roux en Jacobs, 29.12.1953.

<sup>12</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 91: W.J.J. Kok/Landdros, 17.4.1882.

<sup>13</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 12: F.F. Cronjé/Landdros, 16.6.1885.

<sup>14</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 26: Diverse stukke, 1899.

<sup>15</sup> A.G. Oberholster, "Ontwikkeling van die bestuur van landelike gebiede in Suid-Afrika...", *Acta Academica* B(21), 1985, p.68.

<sup>16</sup> R. Marx, "Watter is die oudste dorp in Transvaal?", *Contree* 19, Januarie 1986, p.29.

<sup>17</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T6/13: Town regional planning: West Wits Local area committee, 1948.

<sup>18</sup> Fochville het in 1920 reeds 'n gesondheidskomitee gehad wat in die dorp en waarskynlik ook in die omgewing werksaam was. Hoe ver hulle grense gestrek het, is egter onseker. Dié dorp het nie oor 'n plaaslike

The establishment of mines and the proclamation of towns in the Gatsrand created a need for an administrative body at local level from 1937. In 1944, the administration of the northern and eastern parts of the area was transferred to the Health Board for Peri-urban Areas, while the southern and western parts were still administered by the magistrate of Potchefstroom.<sup>19</sup> The Health Board managed matters such as public health, administration and development of the areas. Municipal services such as water, electricity and sewerage were introduced. Town planning eventually received attention too.<sup>20</sup> In this regard, the company Consolidated Gold Fields also campaigned to investigate the West Wits Area with a view to its development. Development was planned for the surroundings of the farm Oog of Wonderfontein number 658.<sup>21</sup> The company approached a town planning expert of London, one Professor Holford, to take charge of the planning. At the same time, Consolidated Gold Fields requested the Health Board to wait with the planning for the area until the professor had submitted ideas in this regard. The Board was also requested to consider the expansion of the area's borders so that the West Wits Line could be fully managed by the Health Board.<sup>22</sup> In 1948, the provincial administration gave permission that the farms Deelkraal, Boschhoek and Stompfontein might be placed under the authority of the Health Board.<sup>23</sup>

On 2 December 1948, a town planning scheme was started by the Health Board when it became clear that Consolidated Gold Fields wanted to develop only part of the Carletonville area and the Board realised that the remaining part would hardly benefit at all.<sup>24</sup>

As early as in 1946, inhabitants in the vicinity of the mines established a vigilance committee consisting of residents of Carletonville (already known as such) and Oberholzer, as well as local farmers. Officials of the gold mining company of Blyvooruitzicht and West Driefontein were also involved. In November of that year, the Health Board was requested by the vigilance committee to constitute the latter as the local authority.<sup>25</sup>

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owerheid beskik nie en het eers op 1 November 1951 'n dorps= raad verkry. Kyk B.J.V. Naude (red.), *Gedenkuitgawe: Ontvangs van poskoets te Oberholzer, 9-11 Februarie 1952*, p.29.

<sup>19</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T6/13: Town regional planning: West Wits Local area committee, 1948.

<sup>20</sup> A.G. Oberholster, "Ontwikkeling van die bestuur van landelike gebiede in Suid-Afrika...", *Acta Academica* B(21), 1985, p.68.

<sup>21</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T6/13: Consolidated Gold Fields Beperk/Gesondheidsraad vir Buitestedelike gebiede, 11.2.1948.

<sup>22</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T/13: Gesondheidsraad/Consolidated Gold Fields Beperk, 28.7.1948.

<sup>23</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T6/13: Provinsiale administrasie/Gesondheidsraad, 31.7.1948.

<sup>24</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T6/13: Consolidated Gold Fields Beperk/ Gesondheidsraad, 17.11.1948. Vergelyk ook T6/13/3722: Gesondheidsraad/Provinsiale Sekretaris, 2.12.1948.

<sup>25</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/29 nr. 1: Waaksaamheidskomitee/ Gesondheidsraad vir Buitestedelike gebiede, 18.11.1946.

On 12 October 1948, permission was granted for the establishment of a local territorial committee with eight members. TW Bruyns, JW de Villiers, D Gerson, SB Gibbs, DS McInnes, AV Ozard, JN Phibbs and R Soulsby were the first members to serve on the committee. Since the local territorial committee was not going to operate in the Carletonville area only, the Health Board gave permission for the committee to also change its name to the West Witwatersrand Local Area Committee.<sup>26</sup>

In May 1948, JJ Havenga of Welverdiend asked the Health Board to institute a committee in town to manage the interests of the residents and landowners, especially with a view to dealing with problems related to water and electricity.<sup>27</sup> Absolutely nothing resulted from his request. In November 1948, JG Fourie approached the Health Board with a similar request.<sup>28</sup> The Board left this decision to the West Witwatersrand Local Area Committee, since Welverdiend was part of the area of power of the body.<sup>29</sup> The provincial administration nevertheless granted the inhabitants of Welverdiend permission to go ahead with the establishment of a local area committee.<sup>30</sup>

The Health Board continued to provide the area with sanitation, water and electricity until 1948. The distance of towns from the gold mines had an effect on the speed at which such amenities could be provided.<sup>31</sup> Carletonville and Oberholzer were first to benefit in this regard because they were located closest to the mines. However, the towns West Wits and Blybank remained undeveloped owing to the long distances to the mines.<sup>32</sup>

Sanitation facilities differed from one town to the next. A flush sanitation system (waterborne sewage system) was installed at Carletonville and Blyvooruitzicht while, at Carletonville,

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<sup>26</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/29 nr. 1: Waaksaamheidskomitee/ Gesondheidsraad vir Buitestedelike gebiede, 3.6.1947. Kyk ook verw. T1/29 nr. 1: Waaksaamheidskomitee/Gesondheidsraad, 12.10.1948.

<sup>27</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/29 nr. 12: J.J. Havenga/ Gesondheidsraad vir Buitestedelike gebiede, 3.5.1948.

<sup>28</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/29 nr. 1: J.G. Fourie/Gesondheidsraad vir buitestedelike gebiede, 8.11.1948.

<sup>29</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/30 nr. 1: Gesondheidsraad vir Buitestedelike gebiede/J.G. Fourie, 28.11.1948.

<sup>30</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/29 nr. 1: Provinsiale Administrasie/J.G. Fourie, 21.12.1948. Die datum waarop die plaaslike Gebiedskomitee van Welverdiend gestig is, is onbekend. In 1950 het inwoners die dorp wel in die "West Witwatersrand Local Area Committee" verteenwoordig. Kyk Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/30: Welverdiend Township, 11.12.1950.

<sup>31</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. JG3/T nr. 3: Gesondheidsinspekteur Johannesburg/ Mediese beampte: Gesondheidsraad vir Buitestedelike gebiede, 8.7.1947. Vergelyk ook T1/29 nr. 1: Waaksaamheidskomitee/Gesondheidsraad, 12.10.1948.

<sup>32</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/30 nr. TA 540/7638: Townships-Board/ Administrator, 4.9.1937. Vergelyk ook verw. JB/3/T nr. 3: Verslag van die Gesondheids= inspekteur, 8.7.1947.

waste was transported to a refuse dump approximately 1,5 km outside town on a mule waggon and under supervision of the West Driefontein Mining Company. On the other hand, the mine doctor of the Blyvooruitzicht mine and his staff members had to supervise the sanitary conditions at the mine itself. Waste was collected every fortnight by dustcarts and then dumped down an old mineshaft.

Every house was also equipped with a receptacle. At Oberholzer, Bank and Welverdiend, use was made of decomposition cellars and staple sewage, while refuse was dumped everywhere and especially on open plots.<sup>33</sup>

Availability of water influenced the development of towns. A lack of water, as was the case at Welverdiend, put off prospective townfolk. A clause in the contract did not compel the owner to lay on the necessary water.<sup>34</sup> A Oliff complained on behalf of the inhabitants to the Health Board about the inadequate water provision. The major complaint was that the water furrow was being littered by livestock.<sup>35</sup> However, the sympathy of the Oberholzer Irrigation Board<sup>36</sup> that managed water from the Oog (Eye) at Wonderfontein lay with the farmers since they had paid high prices for their land.<sup>37</sup> In spite of the Irrigation Board's view, the Health Board recommended a borehole for Welverdiend rather than the use of the water for domestic purposes from an unhygienic water furrow.<sup>38</sup>

At Oberholzer, an unprotected irrigation furrow carried water to the homes from a galvanized tank of 9 000 litres. Blyvooruitzicht also made use of the water furrow.<sup>39</sup> The inhabitants of Bank and Carletonville got water for domestic use from boreholes. Carletonville, for instance, got water from a borehole of the West Driefontein Mine.<sup>40</sup> In 1946, the Water Board of the Rand had already started with the construction of a pipeline of about 24 km from Zuurbekom

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<sup>33</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/30 nr. 230: Mediese beampte/Landdroos Johannesburg, 7.2.1947. Vergelyk ook verw. JB/3/T nr. 3: Verslag van die Gesondheidsinspekteur, 8.7.1947.

<sup>34</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/30 nr. TA540/7638: Townships Board/Gesondheidsraad, 14.8.1945.

<sup>35</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/30 nr. TA540/7638: A. Oliff/Gesondheidsraad, 18.6.1946.

<sup>36</sup> In 1923 is die noordelike deel van die Gatsrand deur die Uitvoerende Raad van die Unie as besproeiingsdistrik verklaar onder die naam Oberholzer-Besproeiingsraad. Die Besproeiingsraad moes onder meer toesien dat al die boere voldoende water kry. Kyk Uitvoerende Raad van die Unie (SAB), verw. 654 nr. 3327: Oberholzer irrigation district, 9.8.1923.

<sup>37</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/30 nr. TA540/7638: Besproeiingsraad/ Gesondheidsraad, 12.8.1946.

<sup>38</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. T1/30 nr. 230: Mediese beampte/Landdroos Johannesburg, 7.2.1947.

<sup>39</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. JB/3/T nr. 3: Verslag van die Gesondheidsinspekteur, 8.7.1947.

<sup>40</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. JB/3/T nr. 3: Verslag van die Gesondheidsinspekteur, 8.7.1947. Vergelyk ook A. Nieuwoudt, *Die beplanning van die ontwikkelende verspreide stad in die gebied van Carletonville, Fochville en Westonaria*, p.121.

and Lebanon (towns outside the Gatsrand) to the Blyvooruitzicht and West Driefontein mines. Some of this water would then be pumped from West Driefontein to Carletonville.<sup>41</sup>

Towns adjacent to the Gatsrand mines were some of the first to be supplied with electricity. This was in 1946.<sup>42</sup> Previously, the majority of the inhabitants were dependent on candles, lamps and lanterns.<sup>43</sup> Developments at the mines sped up electricity supply since electricity was required for the provision of lighting underground and the transportation of gold ore. Prior to electrification, mines used mules to draw cocopans with ore in them both underground and above ground.<sup>44</sup>

The Klip Power Station (eight kilometres to the north of Vereeniging), which was started up in 1936 by the Electricity Supply Commission, was used to supply power to three mines, namely Blyvooruitzicht, West Driefontein and Doornfontein. The company Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Company Limited (VFP) had a power line constructed from Klip Power Station across the farms Kaalfontein, Cardoville, Wildebeestkuil, Weltevreden and Kraalkop to the three mines. Farmers across whose farms the power lines spanned, were, however, not supplied with power.<sup>45</sup>

Further to the east, the power line was connected to that running from Lebanon to Bank, while the line from West Driefontein was also connected via Vlakplaats with the lime works at Rooipoort.<sup>46</sup> This power grid that was completed by the VFP in 1946, did not supply power to the towns Oberholzer, Welverdiend, Blybank and West Wits, but did supply power to Carletonville, Bank and Blyvooruitzicht.<sup>47</sup> It was only in February 1948 that the supplying of electricity was planned for, inter alia, Oberholzer and Welverdiend by means of a power line from Randfontein. Completion thereof was, however, not anticipated to occur before March 1949.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 22.11.1946, p.2.

<sup>42</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. JB/3/T nr. 3: Verslag van die Gesondheids= inspekteur, 8.7.1947.

<sup>43</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Onderhoud C. en T. Schutte, 27.10.1986.

<sup>44</sup> Anon., *ESCOM, twenty five years: A record of the origin progress and achievements of the Electricity Supply Commission in the Union of South Africa, 1923-1948*, p.19.

<sup>45</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit) verw. JB/3/T nr. 3: Plan of West Witwatersrand Local Area Committee, 1946. Vergelyk ook Anon., *ESCOM, twenty five years: A record of the origin, progress and achievement of the Electricity Supply Commission...*, p.20.

<sup>46</sup> Carletonville (Munisipaliteit), verw. JB/3/T nr. 3: Verslag van die Gesondheidsinspekteur, 8.7.1947.

<sup>47</sup> *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 20.2.1948, p.5.

<sup>48</sup> Carletonville/Fochville Herald, 30.4.1976, p.8.

## 7.2 Health services

When white pioneers settled in the Gatsrand area, there were – quite understandably – no doctors or medical services in the ward. Farm residents had to do with traditional Boer remedies and home pharmacies (also referred to as *trommeltjies* (small cases)). Whenever anyone fell seriously ill, a messenger hurried to Potchefstroom to summon a doctor. The doctor would respond by going to the seriously ill person on horseback or in a horse-drawn cart.<sup>49</sup>

The need for a health commission for Gatsrand arose during the outbreak of smallpox in 1882 when it was apparent that Field Cornet J Geldenhuys was not going to cope on his own.<sup>50</sup> In order to assist the field cornet (who was also tasked with the health conditions in the ward), a temporary health committee was instituted for the Gatsrand in 1884, with JT Martins (chairperson), BJJ Vermaas, JP Nortje, HT Otto and J Geldenhuys as members. Committee members had to see to it that certificates of approval were issued to burghers that entered and left the ward. Farms also had to be visited regularly and reports had to be submitted to the Smallpox Commission at Potchefstroom.<sup>51</sup>

The Smallpox Commission bore the expenses of the Health Committee and each committee member was also compensated to the amount of two shillings per hour.<sup>52</sup> It would seem that smallpox was an epidemic mainly among blacks and they were required to pay smallpox tax of five shillings per family per annum so that expenses might be covered.<sup>53</sup>

In 1895, acting Field Cornet JF van der Merwe was chairperson of the Health Committee of the Gatsrand ward. Newly appointed members were AJG Oosthuizen, HM du Preez, OJ Opperman and G Kleyn (secretary).<sup>54</sup> Van der Merwe experienced the same problem as his predecessor, namely a shortage of doctors to visit the ward.<sup>55</sup> When Doctor WO Kan visited the ward in 1895, the smallpox epidemic was not yet over. The farms Taaiboschspruit, Wonderfontein, Kaalplaats, Kalbasfontein, Weltevreden, Jachtfontein, Kraalkop, Elandsfontein number 289, Doornkop and Poortjie were burdened with the smallpox

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<sup>49</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 1: Herinneringe P.F.J. van der Ryst, 23.9.1986.

<sup>50</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 9: Landdros/J. Geldenhuys, Augustus, 1882.

<sup>51</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 11: Regulasies van die Gesondheidskomitee Gatsrand, 1884.

<sup>52</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 23: Lys van onkoste van die Gatsrand Gesondheidskomitee, 19.10.1886.

<sup>53</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 15: Pokkebelasting, 1888.

<sup>54</sup> Staatsekretaris (TAB), verw. R5538/95, Landdros/Sekretaris, 8.11.1895.

<sup>55</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 20: J.T. Martins/Landdros, 8.9.1893. Vergelyk ook verw. 22: J. Geldenhuys/Landdros, 3.5.1895.

epidemic.<sup>56</sup> Blacks were inoculated and there would be a yellow flag to indicate where smallpox had broken out.<sup>57</sup>

To see to it that the regulations with regard to the fight against smallpox were not transgressed, the magistrate at Potchefstroom appointed black policemen for a period of four months to supervise the Gatsrand.<sup>58</sup> The state of health in the area had apparently improved by 1899, since the health committee was dissolved.<sup>59</sup>

Poor communication with Potchefstroom was probably one of the reasons for the poor provision of health services in the area. FGA Schutte complained about it during the Second Anglo-Boer War. He made mention particularly of the sick ones at Wonderfontein and Leeuwpoot, as well as of one Van der Berg who had an inflamed leg while no-one with medical knowledge was available.<sup>60</sup>

In instances of severe illness, the people had to go to Potchefstroom. It would appear that the residents of farms such as Bank, Jachtfontein, Rooipoort and Elandsfontein number 494 also paid visits to doctors at Randfontein and Krugersdorp after the Second Anglo-Boer War (1902).<sup>61</sup> To assist mothers at childbirth, ladies such as S Hull, H Dreyer and D Brits offered their services as midwives.<sup>62</sup>

During the Spanish influenza of 1918, the inhabitants of Gatsrand were mainly dependent on one another for help owing to a lack of medical facilities. Thus, for instance, JB Wolmarans asked the magistrate at Potchefstroom to make a nurse available so that he could visit farms in the Gatsrand and Vaal River wards with her assistance. Food was transported and farmers helped one another with the upkeep of the fields.

In spite of the presence of a district surgeon in Fochville, who also served a large area around the town,<sup>63</sup> there was still a shortage of health services in the Gatsrand by 1930. In that year, Mrs D Curlewis of Welverdiend requested the Minister of Public Health to appoint

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<sup>56</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 22: W.O. Kan/Landdros, 1895. Kyk ook Staatsekretaris (TAB), verw. R2758/98: Landdros/Staatsekretaris, 19.7.1898.

<sup>57</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 22: W.O. Kan/Landdros, 1895.

<sup>58</sup> Potchefstroom Landdros (TAB), verw. 23: G. Kleyn/Landdros, 19.10.1896.

<sup>59</sup> Staatsekretaris (TAB), verw. R1621/99. Landdros/Staatsekretaris, 21.1.1899.

<sup>60</sup> Staatsekretaris (TAB), verw. R4257: F.R.P. Schutte/Staatsekretaris, 24.1.1900.

<sup>61</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 2: S.A.M. Erasmus/C. Rautenbach, 19.5.1985.

<sup>62</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname K. du Preez, 6.11.1986. Vergelyk ook verw. 2: S.A.M. Erasmus/C. Rautenbach, 25.1.1985.

<sup>63</sup> B.J.V Naudé (red.), *Gedenkuitgawe: Ontvangs van poskoets te Oberholzer, 9-11 Februarie 1952*, p.29.

an additional district surgeon for the area. However, as a result of the shortage of funds in the 1930s, this could not be done.<sup>64</sup>

Attention was paid to health services only when mining activities were started in the Gatsrand. In 1937, a mine hospital was built for black mineworkers at Blyvooruitzicht. At the official opening of the facility in November 1938, Matron Beard, medical official MacDonald and Sisters Lambert and Southwaite assumed duty.<sup>65</sup>

Clinics for the treatment and prevention of venereal disease among blacks were opened at Oberholzer and Welverdiend by the Department of Health. Waiting rooms at stations were used for this purpose and the district surgeon of Fochville treated patients there every Wednesday.<sup>66</sup>

By April 1941, 150 cases had already been treated weekly in the clinics. This caused Mrs M van Someren, assistant of the district surgeon, to request the Department of Native Affairs on behalf of the inhabitants to build clinic facilities at Welverdiend and Oberholzer.<sup>67</sup> The justice of the peace at Fochville, J Venter, was asked by the magistrate in Potchefstroom to determine whether the erecting of such buildings were at all necessary.<sup>68</sup> However, the decrease in the numbers of consultations at the clinics thwarted such plans. Moreover, the clinics were closed on 2 February 1942.<sup>69</sup>

Although means of communication and transport (such as train services) had already improved considerably in the Gatsrand by 1943, inhabitants still experienced problems with getting to Potchefstroom for medical treatment. The times of the departure and arrival of trains running daily to and from Krugersdorp were more convenient than the train that departed at two in the morning from Welverdiend for Potchefstroom. Although the provision of medical services in the Gatsrand was the responsibility of Potchefstroom and Fochville, the hospital at Krugersdorp as a consequence saw to the needs of numerous outpatients

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<sup>64</sup> Gesondheid (SAB), verw. 304 nr. 500/1. Additional district surgeon Welverdiend, 1930-1943, 20.10.1930.

<sup>65</sup> W. Hagan-Watson, "Down memory lane...", p.13.

<sup>66</sup> Naturellesake (SAB), verw. 2920 nr. 365/303. Venereal diseases clinic Welverdiend, 20.5.1941. Vergelyk ook Sekretaris Naturellesake/Landdros, 30.5.1941.

<sup>67</sup> Naturellesake (SAB), verw. 2920 nr. 365/305. M. van Someren/Sekretaris Naturellesake, 2.4.1941.

<sup>68</sup> Naturellesake (SAB), verw. 2920 nr. 365/303. J. Venter/Landdros, 11.7.1941 en 23.7.1941.

<sup>69</sup> Naturellesake (SAB), verw. 2920 nr. 365/303. Sekretaris Naturellesake/M. van Someren, 2.3.1942. Daar was vroeër klagtes dat die distriksgeneesheer net die Swartes vir geslagsiektes behandel het en nie ook na hulle ander probleme geluister het nie. Dit was moontlik die rede waarom die klinieke swak bygewoon is. Kyk Naturellesake (SAB), verw. 2920 nr. 365/303: Venereal diseases clinic Welverdiend, 20.5.1941.

from the area. Many of these had to be admitted and treated. One Bruyns of Welverdiend asked for a district surgeon to be stationed at this town,<sup>70</sup> but this happened only in 1949.<sup>71</sup>

An increase in black mineworkers and the need for medical facilities for white mineworkers led to the erection of a new mine hospital with 250 beds for blacks at Blyvooruitzicht in July 1948. The old building was converted into a hospital for whites.<sup>72</sup>

From 1944 onwards, the main health official of the Health Board for Peri-urban Areas controlled the West Wits Line (part of Gatsrand under the authority of the Board) with the help of health inspectors. They had to visit the area regularly to prevent, inter alia, unhygienic conditions. Mines had their own health inspectors who were responsible for hygienic conditions on the land of the mines.<sup>73</sup>

By 1948, inhabitants of the Gatsrand were still dependent on Potchefstroom, Krugersdorp and Fochville for medical treatment. The first private medical practice was opened by Doctor WP Roux at Carletonville only in 1949.<sup>74</sup>

### 7.3 Welfare services

Stock diseases, droughts and wars were some of the reasons why farmers were impoverished.<sup>75</sup> Circumstances were worsened by the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902), which disrupted economic activities. The scorched-earth policy of the British powers during the war played a crucial role in the impoverishment of the burghers since herds of stock/cattle were destroyed and farmhouses and outbuildings were razed to the ground.<sup>76</sup> Following the war, government appointed repatriation commissions to supply farmers with essential necessities of life such as vegetables, seed and implements.<sup>77</sup>

Poverty gave rise to the growth in the numbers of *bywoners* on farms.<sup>78</sup> *Bywoners* were employed by landowners in exchange for accommodation and food. In the absence of the

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<sup>70</sup> Gesondheid (SAB), verw. 304 nr. 500/1: Additional district surgeon Welverdiend, 1930-1943, 7.9.1943.

<sup>71</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Onderhoud dr. W.P. Roux, 15.4.1987

<sup>72</sup> W. Hagan-Watson, "Down memory lane...", p.50.

<sup>73</sup> J.H. Coetzee (red.), *Voortgesette streekopname van beheerde gebied nr. 2 verslag nr. 2: Gebied Potchefstroom*, p.44. Kyk ook Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Onderhoud C. Rautenbach, 7.5.1987.

<sup>74</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Onderhoud dr. W.P. Roux, 15.4.1987.

<sup>75</sup> Staatsekretaris (TAB), verw. R1470/96: P.J.W. Schutte/Staatsekretaris, 7.1.1896.

<sup>76</sup> In hoofstuk 2 en 6 is ook aandag aan die ontwrigting van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog geskenk.

<sup>77</sup> Potchefstroom Repatriasie Kommissie (TAB), verw. 8 nr. C11, Commission applications for assistance, 1902.

<sup>78</sup> Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Bandopname K. du Preez, 6. 11. 1986.

member of the House of Assembly, L Botha, Commandant TFJ Dreyer paid attention to the establishment of a settlement at Klipdrift for the purpose of compromising with bywoners and other indigents. Plots were laid out in 1911 and a dam was built and completed in 1917.<sup>79</sup>

In 1924, the District Economising Committee of Potchefstroom identified needy farmers and provided them with seed and implements. Inhabitants of the Gatsrand who were members of the committee were PJ Schutte, CJ Burgers, BC Greyling, AS Grimbeeck, JB Wolmarans, GH Davidtz and PJ Davidtz.<sup>80</sup>

Many farmers battled to exist owing to the economic depression in which the country found itself since 1929. The subsequent drought that lasted until about 1933 caused farmers to become even more impoverished.<sup>81</sup> Even the newly established Nederduitsch Hervormde Congregation at Losberg could not completely relieve the needs of its poor members. The congregations' consistory was rented to the school board of Potchefstroom for its meetings at a rate of £1 per month. Families in need were provided for with these funds. The church council also collected shoes for distribution among needy children. Parents who did not have money for the christening and confirmation of their children did not have to pay anything in this regard.<sup>82</sup>

In the times of drought and depression, the Gatsrand youth went to seek employment in cities like Pretoria and Johannesburg.<sup>83</sup> Farmers in the area accommodated poor whites on their farms as *bywoners* via the Department of Social Welfare and Labour and the Rural Rehabilitation and Home Scheme.<sup>84</sup>

In November 1940, a branch of the *Reddingsdaadbond (ROB)* was founded in Fochville on the initiative of Reverend G Nel of the DR Congregation Losberg. This organisation, resulting from the symbolic ox waggon trek, was intended to uplift the Afrikaner economically. Representatives of the three sister churches, Transvaal Teachers' Society, Federation of South African Women and the Women's Agricultural Union, performed upliftment work especially among the local Afrikaners.<sup>85</sup> Funds raised by fund-raising actions such as

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<sup>79</sup> *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 2.5.1947, p.9. Kyk ook Carletonville (PU vir CHO), verw. 3: Onderhoud T.F. Dreyer, 6.5.1987.

<sup>80</sup> *De Westelike Stem*, 9.4.1924, p.8.

<sup>81</sup> *Carletonville/Fochville Herald*, 5.8.1977; p.8.

<sup>82</sup> Anon., *Die Nederduitsch Hervormde Gemeente Losberg-feesuitgawe, 1925-1975*, pp.6, 10.

<sup>83</sup> Anon., *Die Nederduitsch Hervormde Gemeente Losberg-feesuitgawe, 1925-1975*, p.10.

<sup>84</sup> *Volkswelsyn en Arbeid (SAB)*, verw. 113 nr. B645/199/20: T.F.J. Steyn/*Volkswelsyn en Arbeid*, 1.6.1935.

<sup>85</sup> NG-Gemeente Losberg (Fochville), *Notule van die Reddingsdaadbond*, 5.11.1940.

*volkspele* (folk dances) and bazaars were used to provide for poor whites in the area. The branch also encouraged the establishment of local businesses.<sup>86</sup>

In December 1941, the *Reddingsdaadbond* branch at Fochville already had 418 members. The branch was subdivided into 12 wards and the persons representing each of these wards were J Oosthuizen (Cardoville), C Geldenhuys (Jachtfontein), DJ Bloem (Rietfontein), JA van Rensburg (Hermina), PF Ellis (Leeuwpoort), DJ Schutte (Buffelsdoorn), B Pienaar (Elandsfontein number 289), PA Steyn (Varkfontein), J Pretorius (Losberg), LEJ de Waal (Kaalplaas – Deelkraal) and KJ Kerling (Oberholzer).<sup>87</sup>



WOMEN'S CHARITY COMMITTEE  
Photo: West Driefontein Mine (Carletonville)

Ladies of the newly settled community at Blyvooruitzicht founded the Blyvoor Women's Guild under the guidance of Mrs BAD Kinahan (wife of the manager of the Blyvooruitzicht mine). Other founder members were Hagan-Watson (secretary), Clark, Coad, Coates, Emmett, Kinghorn, Robson, Sandham, Scott, Shaw, Shell Drake, Stickles, Woollacott and Zietsman. Money was raised for the poor by means of regular bazaars at Blyvooruitzicht.<sup>88</sup>

In 1946, the wives of mine officials of the West-Driefontein Mine founded the Women's Charity Committee with H Taylor (chair), M Pearce, S Smythe, M Hartman, H Rees, S Nicholls, H van der Merwe and M Fredrea as founding members. Like the MOTH (Memorable Order of Tin Hats), which founded a branch at Blyvooruitzicht in 1946, this

<sup>86</sup> NG-Gemeente Losberg (Fochville), Notule van die Reddingsdaadbond, 3.12.1940.

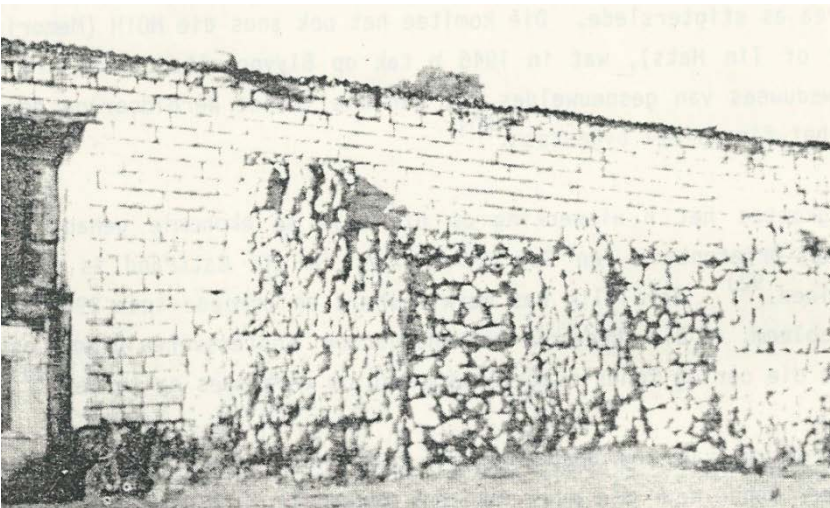
<sup>87</sup> NG-Gemeente Losberg (Fochville), Notule van die Reddingsdaadbond, 1.12.1941.

<sup>88</sup> W. Hagan-Watson, "Down memory lane...", p.14.

committee financially supported widows whose husbands had died in the Second World War.<sup>89</sup>

The costs of wars had an effect on the economy of the Union of South Africa.<sup>90</sup> The West Driefontein and the Doornfontein mines in the Gatsrand were also affected.<sup>91</sup> As a consequence, unemployment and poverty were still problems by 1946. The *Sustersvereniging* (Sisters' Society) of the Nederduitsch Hervormde Church at Losberg organised fundraising after the end of the war to help with the upliftment of the impoverished.<sup>92</sup>

The establishment of more towns in the Gatsrand in 1947 and 1948 implied that more people were being employed by the various mines. It was also occasion for the establishment of businesses, which also contributed to job creation. The local labour market was thus enlarged and for many people it was the start of prosperity.



PART OF THE MAIL-COACH  
STABLE AT WELVERDIEND  
Photo: BJV Naudé (ed.),  
*Commemorative Issue: Receipt  
of Mail-coach*

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<sup>89</sup> W. Hagan-Watson, "Down memory lane...", p.14. Kyk ook *Carletonville/Fochville Herald*, "Rand Mines-Blyvoor, 1937-198711, 19.6.1987," p.21.

<sup>90</sup> *Potchefstroom Herald and Western Gazette*, 21.4.1944, p.2.

<sup>91</sup> W. Hagan-Watson, "Down memory lane...", p.1.

<sup>92</sup> *Volkswelsyn en pensioene (SAB)*, verw. 272 nr. SWP 8/777: NH- Gemeente Susters= vereniging Losberg, 31.12.1946.