

mountain areas of Lesotho.

Two possibilities for opening up the mountain areas exist. First, these areas can be linked with the lowlands by an expanded and improved air service. Yet for this service to operate economically and efficiently, you the people living in the mountains will have to congregate in larger settlements. The Government has no resources for building airstrips for every village in the mountains even if it wished to do so.

Second, the mountain areas can be made accessible through a system of roads. The terrain of the country will make the construction of such roads costly in terms of equipment and know-how. To minimize these costs people here will again have to constitute themselves into larger settlements. The Government hopes that the different surveys now underway will identify the areas in which the growth of larger settlements should proceed.

The opening of the mountain areas of Lesotho, as well as the interior of the country, is expressive of the Government's confidence in the economic potential of these areas. The costly nature of the process represents an investment which is unlikely to fail us in the long run.

It is not, however, the intention of the Government to wait until the roads are built before active assistance to farmers is enforced. The Government will offer every assistance possible for the improvement of livestock and the by-products thereof. Good quality animal stock will always earn higher prices in meat markets.

The Government's objective is to help wool and mohair growers to improve the quality of their products. To this end it has invited experts from the South African Wool and Mohair Boards, who are working with and training our people in wool grading and classification. This help will be easily available if people organize themselves into associations or co-operatives. It is the Government's intention to ensure the optimum utilization of our hides and skins through proper curing and tanning. These hides and skins will form the basis of a leatherwork industry at a later stage.

Concerning crop production, it is our policy to co-operate with the people in improving efficiency in the utilization