

NOTE ON CONVENTIONS

For convenience I have followed official usage in the Orange Free State and in South Africa in respect of units of land measurement and of currency. Farm sizes were expressed in morgen until the 1960s and in hectares thereafter. The conversion factor is 1 morgen (10,000 square yards) = 0.836 hectares = 2.067 acres; or 1 hectare (10,000 square metres) = 1.196 morgen = 2.471 acres.

Similarly, I have expressed land prices etc. in pounds sterling until 1961, when the Union became the Republic, and in South African rands thereafter. The rate of exchange was £1 = R2 until devaluation of the pound in 1967, and fluctuated through the 1970s and 1980s. The value of the rand declined sharply in the 1980s against many other currencies; it was worth US \$1.30 in January 1980 and \$0.43 in January 1988.

Quitrent tenure is a form of long-term occupation of land, subject to a small annual payment of rent to the government, depending on the quality of the land occupied.

I have retained the prefixes used by Africans to distinguish the people of the eastern Orange Free State, collectively (Basotho, Barolong) and individually (Mosotho, Morolong), from their language and culture (Sesotho, Serolong). My inconsistent use of particular orthographies in the text reflects the variations of habit and preference that are commonly found between different languages or dialects and between speakers of the same language from different regions. In any case, orthographical conventions themselves changed over time. For example, *pitso* (public assembly), a word common to Sesotho and Serolong, was also written *pico* in Serolong; and the name Bogatsu appears in some sources as Bogacu. I have used some words familiar in Serolong or Sesotho or Afrikaans: their meaning is explained in the text at the point they first appear. Casspirs and hippos are armoured trucks that were sent into black townships during the States of Emergency of the 1980s.