



*The Railway Board of the pre-Union Central South African Railways.
H. C. Hull in the Chair, on his right Dr. Ramsbottom, on his left Johann
Rissik*

On 16 June 1905 Lord Selborne who on 1 April 1905 had become Governor of the Transvaal wrote Johann Rissik "I have received a copy of your letter of the 1st June in which you resign your appointment as a member of the Inter-Colonial Irrigation Commission in consequence of the arrangements which you have made for taking a holiday in Europe. I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere appreciation of the good work which you have done for the Transvaal and Orange River Colony as a member of the Commission. Please accept my thanks for the trouble which you have taken in furthering an object of the greatest importance for the welfare of these Colonies".

On 8 August 1906 the Commissioner of Lands wrote Johann Rissik "I have been honoured to inform you that it is proposed to erect a new Post Office at Pretoria on the site of the present building, and also to erect a building to accommodate the Department of Agriculture on the site of the Volksstem Buildings in Pretorius Street. Sketch Plans have been drawn by the Public Works Department and have been considered by the Executive Council by whom it was decided to appoint a Committee to confer with the Secretary for Public Works and assist him in coming to a decision as to the requirements of the departments that it is proposed shall be accommodated in the two buildings, before proceeding with the preparation of detailed plans. It was proposed that the Committee should consist of Mr. Duncan, Sir George Farrar and yourself. I have accordingly the honour to enquire whether you will consent to act on the Committee".

He agreed to act and on 12 February 1907 the Commissioner of Lands wrote him: "I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council to convey to you His Excellency's appreciation of the valuable services you have rendered to this Colony as a member of the Public Buildings Committee".

On 22 August 1906 Sir Richard Solomon then acting Lieutenant-Governor appointed the Transvaal Indigency Commission including Johann Rissik, General Louis Botha and Mr. Richard Feetham to enquire into indigency in the Transvaal. Johann Rissik inspected, reported on, recommended and was largely responsible for the acquisition of portion of the farm Onderstepoort for the establishment of a veterinary bacteriological station. On 10 October 1906 he received a letter from the heads of the Lands and Agricultural Departments thanking him for his services and ending "The acquisition of such a good site for Dr. Theiler's laboratory is a step and a very long one towards the realisation of my cherished aims, hence my gratitude to you for your advice and support".

RISSIK—THE FARMER

IN addition to these many public duties Johann Rissik had considerable farming and business interests, took an active part in the social and cultural life of Pretoria and found time for recreation. With J. C. Gilfillan





Left to Right: Johann Rissik, H. Lorentz, Dr. F. V. Engelenburg and J. van Leenhof inspect cigar-wrapping tobacco leaf growing at Skinner's Court, Pretoria West, 2 March 1907

he pioneered ostrich farming and was a successful citrus grower on the farms "Zandfontein" and "Doornput" on the Springbok Flats. Later he bred Friesland cattle from imported stock on the farm "Elbrinxen" near Potchefstroom and sheep on "Koppie Alleen" in the Orange Free State and tobacco and citrus on "Hartebeestfontein" below the Hatebeestpoort Dam.

DIRECTOR OF COMPANIES

HE was a Director of the leading Board of Executors whose chief officials were J. J. ("Jan Bokkem") Marais and Loftus Versfeld after whom the famous Pretoria Rugby arena is named. He was associated with the establishment of the Pretoria Portland Cement Company, and later with the Delfos Brothers in forming the Pretoria Iron Mines from which grew the present Iscor. He and the Delfoses often met for talks in Turkstra's



Mrs. Rissik and Johann Rissik at the Pretoria Country Club after he had formally opened it on 10 October 1910