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AFRICAN SELF-HELP.

One of the pleasing features of African welfare work in recent months has been the willingness of many Africans to accept responsibility for the welfare of their fellow Africans, and the inauguration of schemes to assist those in need. These schemes have included the Society for African Physical Defectives in Bulawayo and the African Bursary Scheme in Que Que. The latest scheme is the African Hospital Charity Fund in Bulawayo.

At the instigation of the Bulawayo African Welfare Society, Mr. J.W. Vera, who is the African Welfare Officer employed by the Society, formed an African Committee to raise funds for the purpose of assisting patients at the African Hospital. Funds have already been raised by means of concerts and a street collection in the African Townships. The sum of £20 was donated by the Committee to provide Christmas comforts at the Hospital. It is anticipated that valuable work will be carried out in future by this Committee.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS.

The Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, the Hon. R.S. Garfield Todd, when addressing the Annual General Meeting of the Que Que African Welfare Society, expressed the view that a large proportion of people in Southern Rhodesia accepted the fact that there must be brought into being more adequate machinery by which African employees would be able to state their case, and through which satisfactory negotiations would be able to take place.

It had already been announced that Government intended to introduce a Bill at its first session to give official recognition to African Workers Associations which could discuss questions concerning the interests of both employers and employees. The workers must have some organisation in which they have confidence, and which is able to represent them satisfactorily. Whatever form of organisation was eventually set up it would be a trade union at some stage of its development. Whatever method was used it was hoped to bring more closely into conference employers and employees, but negotiations could not be carried out with hundreds or thousands of workers in a body. Mr. Todd hoped that when the matter came before Parliament a Select Committee would be set up and evidence submitted by interested people.

Mr. Todd emphasized that trade unions to be of use to employees, employers and the country in general must be well organised and responsible bodies. They must not be the tools of irresponsible leaders but should be able to earn the respect of all. Some of the unofficial trade unions and associations which have flourished, and some which had died, over the last years had not been of very great use to the people who paid their subscriptions or to anybody else.

AFRICAN BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Inspired by the aims and work of the National Council of Women, African women have formed their own branch at Luveve African Village Settlement near Bulawayo. The Chairman is Mrs. M.M. Hove, whose husband is an African Member of the Federal Parliament. The Luveve Branch is to meet twice monthly and the first aim is to organise classes for cooking, laundry, sewing and housewifery. It

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is hoped also to arrange lectures on civics and other matters.

BURSARIES - MEDICAL TRAINING.

The Southern Rhodesia Government has awarded the following bursaries for medical training in 1954 :-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Amount</u>
S.D. Mundawarara	Witwatersrand Univ.	£250
E.J. Pswarayi	Witwatersrand Univ.	£250
P.S. Parirenyatwa	Witwatersrand Univ.	£250
C. Matondo	Natal University.	£200
Sebastian Mautsa	Natal University.	£200
Sipho Zwana	Natal University.	£200
Herbert Ushewokunze	Natal University.	£200
McLeod Chitiyo	Natal University.	£200

WELFARE CENTRE FOR GWELO AFRICANS.

This centre which has been erected recently is to cater for committee and other meetings. Facilities include a wireless set for those interested in news and music, also a library and games department.

The provision of this centre represents another step forward on the part of the Gwelo Municipality to meet the social needs of the African community. A large recreation hall is planned for the future.

NATIVE AGRICULTURE.

44 more African demonstrators have recently been engaged by the Department of Native Agriculture and posted to work in the Native Areas in all parts of the Colony. These men completed their training at the end of last year, and for the first time the Department of Native Agriculture has been able to bring its establishment almost up to strength. The Department now has a total of 519 demonstrators for agricultural, community and forestry work, and also 83 African agricultural supervisors; its European Field Staff consists of 74 European Land Development Officers, 4 Animal Husbandry Officers, 3 Soil Conservation Officers, 2 Land Inspectors and 5 Provincial Agriculturists. The Director of Native Agriculture states, however, that he would still like an additional 350 demonstrators at least, and 58 more European Officers over the next five years in order to intensify and develop the productivity of the Native areas.

Africans are at present being recruited to the Department of Native Agriculture from Domboshawa and Mzingwane Government Schools and from Waddilove and Chikoro Mission Schools. The first pupils to complete their training at the Agricultural School at Chikoro Mission, which was founded and is run by Mr. E.D. Alvord, O.B.E., a former Director of Native Agriculture, were engaged by the Department in August 1953.

NATIONAL NATIVE LABOUR BOARD.

In accordance with directions issued by the Minister of Native Affairs, the National Native Labour Board is now proceeding with investigations into grading and wage scales for separate industries. The Board is at present engaged on investigations into the weaving industry and when these investigations have been completed a report will be presented to Government regarding recommendations for this particular industry. The Labour Board will then proceed to investigate other industries.

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