

THE STAR, JOHANNESBURG, TRANSV

PARLIAMENT TO-DAY

NATIVE VAGRANCY AND
REEF CRIME

MORE CASES OF HOUSEBREAKING
AND THEFT

MR. STURROCK ON AIRWAYS
LOSSES

FROM OUR GALLERY

Resuming the Budget debate, which entered its fourth and last day in the Assembly this afternoon,

Mr. SUTIER (U.P., Springs) said native vagrancy on the Witwatersrand had reached grave proportions. Experts on native affairs put down its cause to the lack of control by the Native Affairs Department over the comings and goings of natives to and from the Witwatersrand.

The East Rand towns were greatly concerned about the position, the seriousness of which was proved by the large and increasing number of cases of housebreaking and theft. The crime position had got so bad that the insurance companies were refusing to take housebreaking and burglary risks and nowadays, when men went out on night shift, their families went to neighbours' houses for safety.

To cope with the evil the local authorities, which controlled every other aspect of native affairs on the Rand, should be allowed to take over the registration of service contracts. The suggestion had the blessing of the Minister of Native Affairs and the Secretary for Native Affairs.

The local authorities, however, should receive adequate financial compensation, such as a portion of the pass fees now collected by the Provincial Administration. Unless some steps were taken to check vagrancy a major tragedy might happen any day, for many of these undesirable native characters carried firearms and all carried weapons of some kind or other.

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MALANITES UP "OLD BONES" "Kaffir Farming" Handbill Revived at Lichtenburg

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Lichtenburg, Friday.

THE mouldering bones of dead political controversies are the stock in trade of the "purified" Nationalists who are assisting Mr. C. R. Swart in the Lichtenburg by-election and Hansard is their Bible.

To-day they distributed throughout the length and breadth of the constituency a green double-sided handbill which first saw the light of day at the last General Election.

It deals with the purchase of land for natives and contains the same old "cock and bull" stories which stood the Malanites in such good stead at Marico.

"Millions of pounds," it asserts, "are being wasted by the Fusion Government on kaffir farming," and it quotes figures to show that, in addition to the £10,000,000 voted by Parliament for the purchase of land for natives, the European taxpayers of the Union are being mulcted to the tune of £1,496,611 a year for "kaffir-farming."

The Nationalists have conveniently forgotten that they voted for the third reading of the Native Trust and Land Bill and are as much responsible as the Government for the state of affairs they now so vigorously condemn.

Heavy rain has fallen at Lichtenburg during the last few days, but the state of the roads has not been seriously affected and the weather is unlikely to play the important part it played in the Bethal by-election.

QUIET DAY

To-day has been one of the quietest at Lichtenburg since the beginning of the by-election campaign; but, although there are few outwards signs of activity, the organisers on both parties are working at high pressure to get everything shipshape before Tuesday and the candidates and their supporters are still conducting an intensive house-to-house canvass.

The shifting nature of Lichtenburg's population has resulted in the distribution of a record number of postal voters. Up to and including yesterday, the closing date on which the forms could be despatched, 700 postal ballot papers had been sent out and of these nearly 400 have already been returned.

News by H. H. Gill, 155, Jeppe Street, Johannesburg.

Diggers D

"STAR" Native Trust And Land Act.

"R.D.M." Readers Points Of View: No Time To Talk Of Servitude

Bills..... N.H.Motan. 3/4/39.

MR. N. C. HAVENGA

released, and that natives would be allowed to buy it.

The Minister had said it would be unfair to accept Mr. Strydom's amendment, since it would mean that portions of the scheduled areas might be expropriated and no compensation in the form of other land given. The question whether the 7,250,000 morgen of land should or should not be bought for native occupation was not affected either by the clause or the amendment, since it had already been laid down in the original Act that the land be bought.

Mr. GILSON (U.P., East Griqualand) said the clause only dealt with an exchange of land for the benefit of Europeans and not for the benefit of natives.

WIDE POWERS

Mrs. BALLINGER (Native Rep., Cape Eastern) said the clause affected the 300,000 morgen of land under native ownership outside the released areas. She hoped that the Nationalist Party would not press its amendment, as it would introduce a breach of the spirit of the original Act. The clause itself, however, was bad, as it gave the Minister powers of land transfer so wide as to create a feeling of in-

stability among the natives. It was much more important that security should be established than that power should be given to the Native Affairs Commission to change these "black spots" easily. She hoped that the Minister would agree to give the same security as applied to the scheduled areas.

On a division Mr. Molteno's amendment was defeated without a count, only the Native Representatives voting for it.

Mr. Strydom's amendment was defeated by 38 votes to 11, only the Nationalists voting in the minority.

The clause was agreed to.

On Clause 7, Mr. Molteno moved an amendment to compel the Trust to offer an exchange of land in scheduled or released areas to natives whose land was being expropriated before the expropriation took place. A further amendment by Mr. Molteno provided that the valuation of land proposed to be substituted for the expropriated land should be a matter of agreement between the Trust and the natives concerned, and in the event of no agreement being reached should be referred to a water Court.

Progress was reported, and the resumption set down for to-morrow.

The House rose at 10.55 p.m.

CORRECTION

In the report of Tuesday's debate Mr. Marwick was reported as having said: "he did not condemn any acts of violence or disturbances." This should have read: "he did not condone any acts of violence or disturbances."

cerned the special provision which was now given to scheduled areas. It should be remembered that the scheduled areas consisted of land which had been occupied by natives for many years. Acceptance of Mr. Molteno's motion would make the administration of the Native Trust and Land Act difficult.

Mr. Strydom's amendment was based on the argument that the purchase of extra land for natives was unnecessary. The Beaumont Commission recommended that an area of 8,000,000 morgen be released for native occupation. This recommendation had not been fully accepted, and it had been decided to release 7,250,000 morgen. It was necessary that this land be released to prevent the present native areas from becoming deserts. The native areas were seriously overpopulated.

Dr. VAN DER MERWE (Nat., Winburg) said it had never been intended to buy 7,250,000 morgen of land for the natives. The promise made in 1913 were merely that this land would be

NO TIME TO TALK
OF SERVITUDE BILLS
OUTSIDE PERKS CALL FOR
UNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

To the Editor, "Rand Daily Mail."

Sir,—With reference to the recent demonstration outside the House of Parliament, Communist leaders are being blamed for taking advantage of the segregation proposals to provoke the non-Europeans against the Europeans. The fact is that the instigators of this segregation plan are forcing the non-Europeans to mobilise to speak with one voice through the so-called "non-European front."

We must not run away from the fact that the non-Europeans have lived in this country for many years, and I feel proud to say that they fought as loyal subjects in the Great War. They gave a hand towards the development of our industries, yet their reward is to be deprived of their rights and freedom. Are we to share the results of the teachings of modern civilisation, or are we to be sacrificed to ancient barbarism?

But us be broadminded and think of the future, and take a lesson from what is happening abroad. South Africa is a young country, with plenty of everything. She is the "apple of the eye" of the world to-day. Is this young country to follow in the footsteps of Slovakia?

The world is in peril, and, in my humble opinion, this is no time to debate segregation or "Servitude" Bills, and thus to cause racial ill-feeling. Let us try to unite and live freely in God's country, and in time of need stand together as South Africans, irrespective of colour, to fight for the welfare of our land.

N. H. MOTAN.

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