

True Spences. 1957

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NON-EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE.

On its inception some seventeen years ago, the Vocational Training Centre supplied a need in endeavouring to reduce the incidence of juvenile delinquency, which in the war years, had risen sharply consequent upon the rapid industrialisation of that time, the emergence of squatter camps, both parents going out to work and the inability of the local authority to cope with the unprecedented demand for houses.

Today, after seventeen years of existence it has proved its worth in the number of qualified trainees now working in the Native Townships, not only as bricklayers, carpenters, tailors, etc. etc., but as disciplined and character-trained men, whose influence on the life of the community does not end with the actual work in which they are engaged.

The increase in the population of the Native Townships in the south-western areas has been phenomenal, and when the present schemes are completed at the end of 1960, it is estimated that the Native urban population will be in the neighbourhood of half a million souls. It is in the centre of this vast concentration of Native peoples that the Vocational Training Centre is set as a centre of instruction and learning, the only one of its kind, exerting an influence for good by the work it does, by the students it trains and by the quality of the work and the character of the students whose alma mater it is.

The courses of training and the enrolment associated therewith must always be related to the occupational prospects in the townships, and the Council is taking great care in this regard. It is in no way concerned with training Natives for infiltration into European areas as backyard artisans, but rather to train Natives for employment in their own areas.

The City Council of Johannesburg believes that the courses of training undertaken at the Vocational Training Centre have a profound effect upon the progress and stability of the Natives under its care, and desires to continue to sponsor at its own expense, not only the maintenance of existing courses, but to seek for permission to extend its activities in those fields in which experience has shown may profitably be used to serve the peoples resident in the Council's locations, villages and hostels.

The City Council places on record its sincere appreciation of the work of the Principal and staff of the Centre, in maintaining high standards of workmanship and exercising constructive disciplinary and training methods in character and way of life.

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