

Reports File

NON-EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

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NOTES FOR COUNCILLOR K.G. FLEMING, CHAIRMAN OF THE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, FOR HIS "YEAR IN RETROSPECT"
SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF
THE CITY COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG.

It would be too monotonous to repeat the remarks I made in the last two reviews to this Council on the Non-European Affairs Department's reputation as the Department of Emergencies. However, I would like to remind Councillors that we found it necessary at the Council meeting of the 30th May, last year, to grant special powers to the Manager of the Non-European Affairs Department during times of emergency and made him responsible for the co-ordination of the services rendered by the other Departments of the Council in the Native areas under our jurisdiction and to act as liaison officer with the South African Police, the Department of Bantu Administration and Development and other Government Departments to ensure that services continued to be rendered without interruption.

Fortunately, I am able to report that once again we in this City have been spared serious manifestations of disturbances connected with racial strife which is rapidly becoming a feature in most parts of Africa. I have, however, to remind Councillors of the attempts shortly after the Day of the Covenant last December to cause serious bomb damage to Government property here and elsewhere and that at least one of these outrages was attempted within the Council's most exclusive Native Township - Dube - with the result that one person was killed and one of the Advisory Board members for the Township is facing a charge connected with this attempt.

I can only express the hope that this is an isolated instance and that the Council, and this City, will continue to enjoy harmonious racial co-existence for many years to come. To that end I want to call on everybody connected with the administration of this City now and in the future, to dedicate themselves anew for this purpose.

EUROPEAN LIQUOR.

The last year has, to some extent, been dominated by the prospect of the free supply of European liquor to the Native people. A good deal of the time and energies of the Non-European Affairs Committee and the senior staff of that Department has been occupied with this development. Unfortunately only scanty

information became available and at this moment the whole question is still very much shrouded in mystery. However, with the information available the Department has made all the possible arrangements it could reasonably be expected to make, in order that an immediate start may be made with the provision of all the necessary facilities for the provision of liquor to the Natives in the most congenial surroundings, as soon as the go-ahead signal is received from the authorities.

Councillors will remember that applications for 63 supply points, most of which are situated in the residential Townships, have been submitted, including a number of superior lounge type establishments where patrons of both sexes will be served by possibly female stewardesses.

The profits accruing to the Department will, like those from the sale of Kaffir Beer, be devoted to the provision of recreational and welfare services to the Native population.

It is not expected that the consumption of Kaffir Beer will be affected after the novelty has worn off. It is, however, expected that there will initially be a rush to buy European liquor and there may be a certain amount of drunkenness and disorderly conduct connected with excesses. The Department is, however, fully prepared to meet any such emergency. Thereafter it is expected that consumption will settle down to certain well-defined patterns, with the possible exception of those areas of the City where Kaffir Beer is virtually unobtainable. In these localities, the free supply of European liquors, in contrast with the non-availability of their own traditional drink, may lead to complications.

KAFFIR BEER.

The sale of Kaffir Beer during the year under review followed the same pattern of continued increase over previous years and the regular patrons have indicated their appreciation for the continued consistent quality of the brew. During the financial year 1960/61 the total reached 13,759,515 compared with 13,149,650 gallons the previous year and 12,684,700 in the financial year 1958/59. As mentioned previously, it is not expected that the availability of European liquor will in any way appreciably affect the consumption of Kaffir Beer after the first few weeks.

The Johannesburg Kaffir Beer Research Project started in co-operation with the C.S.I.R. during the previous year, is now well under way and it is hoped that some of the preliminary findings could be reported on in next year's review.

An additional beergarden of modern design and attractive appearance incorporating a number of novel features was constructed at George Goch during the year and was opened in the beginning of December last. Smaller improvements to existing off-sales establishments and the provision of a few additional such depots are planned for the next year.

PIMVILLE.

The protracted negotiations with the Government for the deviation of the Mentz line further to the East to include the Pimville area within the South-western Native Area complex came to fruition during the Mayoral year with the receipt of the desired approval of the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development after a personal visit by himself and his deputy. The relayout of Pimville and the consequent rehousing of the 7,000 families living under slum conditions in the township has, therefore, now become a matter of urgency and has been the subject of discussion with the Department of Bantu Administration and Development at a number of meetings of the Departmental Committee for Johannesburg and the Department of Bantu Administration and Development.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE.

Approval from the Minister of Bantu Education for the retention of the Vocational Training Centre in Dube was also received recently after a personal visit by the Minister and senior officials of his Department. In addition the Minister has given his approval for a new course in electric wiring, which was in fact introduced at the start of the new term earlier this year. Both these concessions prove the value of negotiation and consultation on the highest possible level and the Council's thanks are due to both Ministers concerned.

LABOUR BUREAU.

(a) Juvenile Employment.

Another achievement is the successful work of the Juvenile Employment Section, which has been in operation now since May, 1960, as a branch of the Labour Bureau. By the end of 1961 this section had placed 6,092 young men and 285 young women between the ages of 15 and 18 in employment. However, large numbers of young people are still out of work and employers are appealed to to do all in their power to create employment opportunities for these young people, lest they become hopelessly frustrated.

The original intention was to have regular visits by the social workers to these youths and their employers at their places of employment to assist in ironing out any difficulties either or both may have. However, notwithstanding the appointment of additional staff, it was found impossible to continue with such visits, which are now confined to attending to complaints, and very occasional spot visits at random. A centre has been established at Dube where those boys waiting for employment are kept busy by the staff of the Recreation and Community Services branch in various constructive ways. This assists in keeping them off the streets and out of mischief and it is felt that this scheme has made a very material contribution towards the elimination of juvenile delinquency among Native youth. In fact the section was instrumental in breaking up various youth gangs, some of which were noted for their viciousness.

(b) Female Employment.

The other new section of the Labour Bureau, the Female Registration Section at No. 1 Polly Street which was mentioned in my last review, continues to operate successfully. The medical examination and X-ray unit came into operation during the year under review with a Coloured female doctor in charge who was assisted in her studies by a bursary from the Council. This unit has proved its value right from its inception through the discovery of T.B. in would-be domestic servants, before any other sign of the illness could be detected. During 1961 4,617 applicants were placed in employment and 3,357 were still registered as work-seekers. The majority of these were married women living with their families in the Township, many of whom are in possession of excellent references, but who could not be placed because of employers' preferences for domestic servants who sleep-in.

(c) Male Employment.

The Labour Bureau for adult males continued to render a valuable service to both employers and work-seekers. During the 18 months July 1960, - December 1961, a total of 207,523 registered for employment. During a short period in the winter of last year unemployment among adult males reached a high level for Johannesburg, reaching its peak during June when 16,762 were registered as unemployed.

Fortunately the position started to improve in July to below the "normal" rate of 5 per cent of the total labour force, i.e. 11,250 persons in October. In November it again deteriorated, but signs of improvement became evident after the beginning of December. Whether this position will be maintained in the coming year is doubtful.

HOUSING.

Under this heading there are several aspects to which attention should be drawn, the first of which was undoubtedly the disappearance of the Site and Service schemes at the end of June last year with the completion of the last houses in Emdeni. I think Councillors are all happy to see the last of this emergency measure in Johannesburg and I want to express the hope that we will never see its return in this city, whatever its merits might have been. Last year I mentioned that a total of 5,864 families still lived in shacks on Site and Service schemes of the Council at the end of June, 1960. It took, therefore, almost exactly a year to house all those families in permanent structures.

The Housing Division started on the new houses in Moroka towards the middle of June last year and is now working on the last few houses in this township, destined to house the 2,500 families from Western Native Township.

Removal of the 15,000 odd residents of this oldest, bar one, of the Council's Native Townships is the second aspect I want to refer to. It started voluntary at the middle of September last year and the target of approximately 100 families per month was almost reached in the first month. A steady stream has since been moving from Western Native Township to Moroka where the standard houses have been improved by the fitting of internal doors, internal plastering as well as a concrete floor in each room as opposed to one in the kitchen only. Strenuous efforts are being made to have electricity and water borne sewerage installed in these houses as soon as possible.

At the end of 1961 471 families had been moved. At the time of writing more than 800 families have been so resettled.

Experience gained in the removal of Moroka and Shantytown, especially the 80 families of the below sub-economic group in the latter, mentioned in last year's review, proved invaluable in the removal of a similar group from Western Native Township. These virtually indigent families have been, and are being moved into sub-economic dwellings in Orlando East and Jabavu, 66 having been settled there by the end of 1961.

Every effort has been made to carry out the removal with as little hardship and disruption to the lives of the people concerned as possible and I am happy to say that the Department's efforts have been crowned with success so far.

Towards the end of last year approval was also received for the building of 3,104 houses and double-storey flats in Chiawelo Extension No. 2, to house the large number of Venda and Shangaan families who have been on the waiting list for a long time. Completion of this scheme will undoubtedly relieve a great hardship on these people who have been living under very trying conditions for a long time.

Although the Council may look back with pride on a great achievement as far as the housing of the Native population of this city is concerned, there still remains a lot to be done. Mention has already been made of the 7,000 odd families in Pimville requiring houses and the residue from Western Native Township who cannot be housed in either Moroka, Chiawelo Extension No. 2 or the sub-economic townships of Orlando East and Jabavu. In addition 9,000 odd families are still on the waiting list. To house all these families plus an estimated annual natural increase in excess of 2,000 families, means that the Council will be required to build at the rate of approximately 5,000 to 6,000 houses per annum during the next seven to 10 years and thereafter at a steady rate each year. As I mentioned in my last review, the acquisition of the necessary land to accommodate all these dwellings is a difficult matter occupying the minds of the senior officials of the Non-European Affairs Department.

The last of the aspects I want to draw attention to under this heading, is the implementation of the "Locations-in-the-Sky" legislation. The new George Goch Hostel for approximately 3,000 men was officially opened in December 1961 and is now being filled with employees in "essential categories" of work. Considerable

difficulty is being experienced in persuading employers to allow their employees to take up residence in the hostel. However, I want to give this assurance that the removals will be carried out in a fair and just manner so as to cause the least inconvenience and hardship.

The housing of the more than 10,000 Native female domestic servants living in these so-called "locations-in-the-sky" has proved to be a rather hard nut to crack. The Council is of the opinion that a hostel in or near Alexandra Township would be the only practical and fair solution. However, negotiations with the Peri-urban Areas Health Board, the controlling body of the area, and the Department of Bantu Administration and Development have so far proved fruitless. These negotiations are, however, being continued. In the meantime land adjoining the new George Goch Hostel and Eastern Native Township has been bought for a hostel for females and a building to house 500 women is now being planned, which could be extended to house another 1,000 if this proves necessary.

A different luxury type of hostel of a double-storey/bachelor flat type of construction for females is under consideration for Orlando West. An experimental proto-type to house 28 persons has been completed during the year in Mofolo North.

It will, however, be some time before any of these hostels are ready for occupation.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Completion of the lake at the bottom end of the Moroka valley marked the first step in the ambitious development scheme of this counterpart of the Johannesburg Zoo Lake. Future gradual landscaping by the Horticultural Section with the limited resources available will be part and parcel of the steady and gradual beautification of the Townships. Special attention has recently been given to beautification of the Oppenheimer Koppie where large numbers of indigenous flowering plants and shrubs have been planted. Another 4,000 fruit trees in front gardens of new houses have been added during the last winter season, bringing the total planted during the five planting seasons since the scheme was started to 44,000. A very high percentage of these fruit trees survived, but unfortunately the direct opposite is true of the 22,000 decorative trees planted in streets, parks and playgrounds, during the same period. More attention is now being given to evergreen types of decorative trees for streets to counter the bleak appearance of the Townships during

winter periods. Unfortunately these types of trees are also slower growers than the deciduous types.

A large public hall was completed in Mofolo Township at a cost of R40,000 and the administrative block in Zola (R40,000) which was the first of the public buildings erected in the townships to be decorated with works of art by the pupils and instructors of the Cultural Section of the Department, relieved the trying conditions under which the staff had to work in that area. A small chapel for use by all religious denominations was built in Dube Hostel at a cost of R6,000 and was opened by me during the year. The first bank in the Townships, incorporating various novel devices was also opened during the period under review. Every one of these buildings undoubtedly fills a real need.

The normal welfare work of the Department continued at, perhaps increased pace during the period under review, specially during the period when such an unusually high percentage of the breadwinners were unemployed, to which I referred earlier on. Reference must, however, be made to the especially difficult problem facing welfare workers in connection with the placing of T.B. and ex-T.B. sufferers. Due to much ignorance about this illness employers are not keen to employ ex-T.B. patients or T.B. patients who have reached a stage in their treatment where it is non-infectious. Work for these people is an urgent necessity to prevent them from backsliding.

Special mention should also be made to the work of the youth section of the branch. Many thousands of youths are kept busy in youth clubs during the afternoons when they are normally free to roam the streets and drift into bad company. It is a matter for regret that not more boys take advantage of the facilities offered by these clubs.

The Christmas party which this year took the form of stock car and motor cycle racing at the Orlando Stadium was attended by an estimated 20,000 children from all over the Townships and senior Government officials who attended by invitation, were lavish in their praise for the undertaking. This was probably the biggest party of its kind ever held in Johannesburg.

C.S.I.R. INVESTIGATION INTO PRODUCTIVITY.

The C.S.I.R. reported on its investigations into the better utilisation of the Native labour of the Council during the latter part of the period under review and the Council acted expeditiously in applying the recommendations which resulted in a considerable increase in wages and, it is confidently expected, increased efficiency. In company of all the progressive employers of Native labour in the city the Council will continue to stimulate the efficiency of its Native employees and endeavour to ensure that they are adequately remunerated.

RENT ARREARS.

I now come to the hardy annual which has proved a headache to the Council during the last decade and more, the high proportions of arrear rentals. This question is as I pointed out last time, intimately connected with what is generally regarded as inadequate wages on the one side and on the other hand has its roots in a series of legal processes started at the time when the principle of differential rentals in sub-economic Townships was introduced.

Strenuous action was taken during the period under review to reduce the unhealthy proportion of outstanding rentals, by appointing special rent collection officials, approaches to employers which again proved unfruitful and arrangements with the Department of Justice for the more expeditious handling of cases which warranted court action. At the same time a special sub-committee of the Non-European Affairs Committee was appointed to give special consideration to this vexed question.

All these activities notwithstanding, the figure of arrear rentals still stood at R358,797 at the end of November 1961 compared with nearly R500,000 at the end of September 1960.

Here again I wish to stress what has repeatedly been said during the course of the past several years, that the Council and its Non-European Affairs Department is not acting in a harsh or inhuman manner in its efforts to get every responsible tenant to carry his or her fair share of the burden, and that every effort is made to get tenants to pay their rent, before court process is resorted to.

RESEARCH:

The Research Section of the Department was more than fully occupied with three urgent requests by the Government intimately connected with various aspects of its Native policy. One survey required that the district of origin of every registered tenant in the Townships and the Chief he acknowledged had to be established. This was completed in June 1961.

Early last year two Commissions of Inquiry were appointed by the Department of Bantu Administration and Development both of which required the urgent, and almost, full-time assistance of the Research Section. The Commission of Inquiry into Idle and Unemployed Bantu in urban areas appointed in February 1961 required details of all Natives in Johannesburg, in different age and sex groups and whether they attended school, whether employed, unemployed or unemployable. This work was done in close collaboration with the Department of Census and Statistics and it is expected that the work - for which considerable extra staff had to be employed on a temporary basis - will be ready in April, 1962.

The Commission of Inquiry into Protectorate and Foreign Bantu within the Republic required Superintendents to interview every non-Union Native in their particular areas personally to extract the information required. This information has been co-ordinated, tabulated and submitted to the Commission.

INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:

The stream of people desirous of seeing the Native Townships, both locally and from overseas, gradually swelled during the last three years to virtually a raging torrent, leaving the Information Officer of the Department little time for anything else. Close liaison has been established with the Department of Information (previously the State Information office in the city), the South Africa Foundation the S.A. Institute of Race Relations, the University of the Witwatersrand and the two Colleges of Education in the city and similar institutions and many influential people from all over the world have been interviewed and conducted through the Townships, undoubtedly to inestimable benefit to the Council and the country as a whole. Without exception they all

express amazement and admiration for what has been done for the Native population of the city. Their reaction generally could best be summed up in the words of a distinguished American visitor after seeing inter alia Pinville and some of the new Townships, he said "We certainly have as bad slums as you have shown us this morning in my own country, but we have nothing comparable to show how we have tried to remedy the matter".

The stage has been reached now that hardly any conference of any importance is held in the city without requests for most, if not all, delegates to be conducted on a tour of the townships. During the year under review for instance almost all delegates to the mining and metallurgic conference, as well as the distinguished visitors who attended the opening of the new stock exchange building were taken to see the townships. Other prominent persons included the late Lord and Lady Birdwood and recently Mr. Stephen McAdden, M.P. from Britain, Lady Logan, Prof. Heilperin, Dr. and Mrs. Grant and Dr. and Mrs. Stevenson, chairman and secretary respectively of the British Medical Association, Dr. Andres Revesz the distinguished Spanish author and editor-columnist of about 30 different newspapers over the world, and many more.

The average number of visits to the townships is now seven a week, with ten or more nothing out of the ordinary.

The Department's brochure on housing, "Thousands for Houses", of which 7,500 copies were printed in both official languages in December 1960, was in such demand that a reprint became necessary towards October 1961. The Government Department of Information ordered 1,000 copies for its offices in America, in addition to a similar number distributed to its offices in different parts of the world. The South Africa Foundation also ordered 1,000 copies and the Director of Libraries of the Transvaal requested 200 copies for distribution to all libraries under his direction. Requests for smaller numbers are continually being received from other sources, inter alia, various other Government Departments, the most recent of which was the Department of External Affairs.

A similar brochure less expensive, but of similar high standard, is under preparation on the recreational amenities and social welfare services provided by the Department. In addition a less ambitious brochure dealing with the treatment of Native domestic servants entitled "Your Bantu Servant and You" has been prepared and was printed by the Town Clerk's Department to co-incide with the courtesy campaign recently launched by a number of private individuals to improve race relations. These will be distributed from the European counter of the registration section to interested employers.

Close liaison, on a personal friendship footing, has been established with all daily and Native newspapers and periodicals published in Johannesburg. Regular news items are being supplied to all these news-vending agencies, as well as to Radio Bantu and Radio South Africa, mostly in the form of background material from day-to-day occurrences, which assisted materially in putting the Council's Native administration in proper perspective and eliminated a good deal of, but unfortunately not all, ill-informed criticism. Approximately one third of all news bulletins broadcasted on Radio Bantu deals with the activities of the Council and its Non-European Affairs Department.

All possible assistance was given to the City Health Department in propagating the three immunisation campaigns conducted so far against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in which up to approximately 90 per cent and over of the estimated number of persons in the relevant categories have been reached. Excellent co-operation with the news-vending agencies also resulted in wide dissemination of information the Department wished to bring to the notice of the Native population.

COLOUREDS:

I am happy to be able to mention the start, just before the Christmas holidays, of the Riverlea housing scheme for Coloureds on the historic Farm Langlaagte. The Housing Division is also undertaking this scheme on the same lines as the Council's Native housing schemes and intends to make as much use as possible of Coloured artisans. The first houses should be available for occupation within the next few months.

In addition the City Engineer's and the Electricity Departments assisted materially in the provision of services in Bosmont where the first of the houses constructed for the Group Areas Development Board should be ready for occupation in the near future.

The removal of the Natives from Western Native Township to Moroka made a considerable number of these houses available for Coloured occupation since September last year. It is true that those houses are not ideal and the Council would certainly never have agreed to such occupation had it not been for the terrible conditions under which many hundreds of Coloured families lived elsewhere. Compared with those shocking conditions the houses made available to them in Western Native Township are palaces. These will all be renovated as soon as circumstances of labour, materials and finances allow. It must, however, be remembered that this is an emergency measure and that the Township as such will have to be demolished, re-layed-out and re-built as soon as possible.

The slum properties acquired by the Council in Newclare as well as those privately owned are being cleared as fast as possible and the families occupying these moved into Western Native Township. Schemes for the erection of multi-storey tenement buildings on these sites are receiving attention.

Acutely conscious of the dire need for Coloured housing, the Department early in 1961 approached the Department of Lands for the use of the old Diepkloof Reformatory site for emergency Coloured housing. The Government Departments concerned welcomed the suggestion, but preferred to have the Group Areas Board as controlling authority. It is hoped that this scheme will be rapidly implemented because the Coloured housing position is acute.

With all these schemes under way, the exceptionally difficult housing position for Coloureds should be relieved considerably during the next mayoral year.

At the moment the Group Areas Board is reconsidering the future of another Coloured area namely Albertville which has previously been declared a white area. The Council again reiterated its recommendation that Albertville

should be declared an area for Coloureds and that the Coloured families who have been living in the area for generations should be allowed to remain.

The Council has been able to steadily increase the amenities within the Coloured complex during the last few years. The most recent addition is the swimming pool opened early in December, 1961, in Charles Phillips Square, Newclare. In the short period of its existence this pool proved to be just about the most popular of all pools under the control of the Council. The average attendance figures during the first month was 1,500 a day, the record being over 3,000! The Coloured community now has the use of a multi-purpose stadium, four tennis courts of championship standards, also completed during the year, and the swimming pool, all of which compare favourably with anything similar provided for other racial groups of the city.

ASIATICS.

The Council's efforts on behalf of the Indian community during the period under review unfortunately proved exceptionally barren. All efforts to find alternative sites to house those sections of the community whose employment requires them to be housed within easy reach of the centre of the city proved fruitless.

The future of Pageview, which has also previously been declared a white area, has also recently been under reconsideration by the Group Areas Development Board and again the Council reiterated its contention that Pageview should remain an area for Indians.

The Council continued to control the emergency housing project in the old military camp at Lenz, until 31st December, 1961, when it was taken over by the Government.

CONCLUSION.

This brief review, highlighting some of the more important aspects of the city's Non-European administration, may serve to indicate the size, complexity and importance of the Council's activities in this field.

It cannot, however, bring out the value of the day-to-day work being done quietly in the enormous Native Townships, where so much is achieved in ensuring a contented Native population.

The efforts to establish and maintain harmonious race relations are probably among the more important aspects of this Council's achievements.

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