

# African Welfare Bulletin

Published by the Federation of African Welfare Societies in Southern Rhodesia  
P.O. Box 740, Bulawayo

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BULLETIN : NO. 128.

APRIL, 1955.

## MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF THE ORGANISING SECRETARY.

The Chairman and Members of the Executive Committee desire to express their grateful thanks for the many messages of sympathy received by the Federation on the recent death of the Rev. Percy Ibbotson.

## THE IBBOTSON MEMORIAL FUND.

Following the inaugural meeting of the Fund held in Bulawayo on the 14th April, 1955 which was attended by representatives from all sections of the Community as well as by representatives of organisations with which the Rev. Percy Ibbotson was connected, a Committee was appointed to launch the Fund on a National basis. Sir Robert Tredgold, K.C.M.G., Q.C., has indicated that he is proud to accept the Chairmanship of the Fund. Notices advising the Public of the inauguration of the Ibbotson Memorial Fund have been circulated throughout the Colony. It is hoped that local committees of the Fund will soon be established in all Towns and Districts. In the meantime, donations may be sent to :- The Hon. Secretary, "Ibbotson Memorial Fund", P.O. Box 740, Bulawayo.

## LAND : THE NATIVE PURCHASE AREA.

The Native Purchase Area, as now defined by the Land Apportionment Act, after numerous amendments, comprises 8,039,325 acres, contained in 85 Divisions. To date, approximately 5,000 farms have been surveyed in 51 of these Divisions, totalling, including waste land and communal and other reservations well over 1,000,000 acres. The following table gives the position in the five provinces into which the country is divided :-

<u>Province.</u>	<u>No. of Divisions.</u>	<u>No. of Divisions in which farms have been surveyed.</u>	<u>No. of farms surveyed (approx.)</u>
N. Mashonaland.	22	12	1,560
S. Mashonaland.	11	8	1,220
Midlands.	15	8	380
Matabeleland.	19	10	870
Manicaland.	18	13	970
Totals	85	51	5,000

The average size of farms so far surveyed is approximately 235 acres, but this includes many large farms surveyed in the early years of the scheme. With the advance in the standard of Native agriculture, and the increasing demand for individual farms by Natives, the size of farms has been steadily reduced and now averages about 170 acres. In the high rainfall areas the size of farms is usually about 100 to 150 acres, depending on the nature of the country. It must be remembered, however, that nearly 30% of the Native Purchase Area lies in the low rainfall areas (below 20" per annum), where farmers will have to depend almost entirely on a stock economy and the farms will therefore, have to be very much larger. Very few farms have yet been surveyed in these areas.

The demand for farms in the Native Purchase Area has been heavy for many years. During the last 10 years over 5,800 applications to purchase farms have been approved by the Native Land Board. During the same period only 2,900 farms have been surveyed, due largely to the difficulty in obtaining survey staff after the war. The position is now improving and the number of new farms being surveyed is approximately 500 a year, and it is hoped, to increase this number to at least 600 a year.

#### TUBERCULOSIS AND NUTRITION.

According to the annual report of the Nutrition Council (Southern Rhodesia) for 1954, tuberculosis is at present the main immediate cause of death amongst the African population and the incidence is rapidly rising. Public concern has been expressed by the establishment of a Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is foremost among the "economic diseases", i.e., those diseases whose spread depends on a low standard of living, notably poor housing and malnutrition. The provision of diagnostic and immunising facilities and of Hospitals for the sick is only a palliative for a disease which has its roots in those very conditions which the Nutrition Council has for the last seven years been attempting to improve. It is hoped that the Society and the public will recognise that poverty, ignorance, malnutrition and disease are accomplices which cannot be overcome one at a time.

#### EFFORTS TO COMBAT MALNUTRITION.

The Federal Government had under review a scheme for making available ready-cooked and nutritious food such as tempe and tortillas, mainly for Africans employed in urban areas, the Minister of Agriculture, (Mr. J.M. Caldicott) said in the Federal Parliament recently.

It was also announced that a French baking expert, attached as a technical adviser to the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, has arrived in Salisbury to carry out experiments in making bread with flour made from Kaffir corn and munga (sorghum and millet). If he succeeds it will probably be the first time that a baker has made bread on a large scale with small-grain flour.

#### LABOUR BUREAU FOR AFRICANS.

A labour bureau has been established by private enterprise in Bulawayo whose object is to furnish Commerce and Industry with African Labour classified according to experience, education and aptitude. This service fills a long-felt need and should be of as much value to Africans requiring work as to Employers having vacancies.

#### NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

PLUMTREE. An "Any Questions" evening, was held during the month when problems of race relations were debated. About 25 Europeans and 50 Africans attended.

FORT VICTORIA: The Society has resolved to abolish the old set up of having two committees of the Society, African and European. The revised Constitution provides for the control of the Society by an Executive Committee of European and African members.

WEST NICHOLSON: A very successful sports meeting for the children was held on the 16th April, 1955.

A/REC/8/3

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## DEATH OF THE CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER.

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. John Vass Kerr, Chief Native Commissioner, who died suddenly in Salisbury on 20th May, 1955.

Mr. Kerr always made himself readily accessible to deputations from this Federation and received our representations with sympathy and understanding.

## ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION.

This was held in Gwelo on 7th May. Delegates from sixteen constituent Societies attended. Official visitors included: the Acting Secretary of Native Affairs, Directors of Native Administration from the Municipalities, the Nyasaland Government Representative, the Assistant Commissioner, Native Labour Department and Representatives of the Wankie Colliery Co. Ltd. The Conference was opened by Mr. R. Williamson M.P. for Gwelo.

## THE PRIME MINISTER OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA ON RACE RELATIONS.

Speaking in Salisbury last month, the Prime Minister, Mr. R.S. Garfield Todd, said people had tried to evade so many issues in the past, but if they did not wish to be too late, they could evade them no longer.

"It is possible", Mr. Todd continued, "for Governments to do a great deal. Governments can build houses, provide medical facilities and meet educational needs. Admittedly even in these very practical things Governments are often unable to do all that they would like because of a shortage of funds.

"Governments, however, can do very little about some of the most important things concerning race relations and especially... I refer to attitudes - the attitude of the peoples, one to another."

It was one thing to speak of the importance of mutual respect between races, Mr. Todd said, and quite another thing in everyday life to show in any degree the respect which was so glibly said to be necessary for improving race relations.

People who rode roughshod over the feelings of Africans failed to recognise that Africans had feelings at all and they never stopped to think what might be the reaction in the hearts of the African people.

"What I am pleading for today", said Mr. Todd, "is a new order which will be beneficial to all concerned. I believe that Europeans have the right to demand that their civilised standards be maintained, but they have not the right to deny to others their full manhood because their skins are brown."

## RESETTLEMENT OF AFRICANS.

The 1955 instalment of a great trek involving some 110,000 Africans in Southern Rhodesia, will take place within the next few months. Before the next rainy season starts towards the end of this year, the Native Department will have moved between 5,000 and 6,000 Africans from their present homes on Crown land in European areas to new homes in other parts of the Colony.

A Native Affairs Department official in Salisbury said on May 26 that in the past five years, about 64,000 Africans have been moved, but there are still about 47,000 Africans on Crown Land who have still to be moved.

This year, about 1,200 families - between 5,000 and 6,000 people in all - will be moved from Selukwe, Shabani, Que Que, Chipinga, Essexvale, Matobo and Beit Bridge, to new homes in the Nuanetsi, Gwanda and Wankie Districts.

According to a Native Affairs Department official, resettled Africans were finding their agricultural yields better than the yields from the land they used to occupy.

#### AFRICAN TRADE UNION ENQUIRY.

The report from the Select Committee, on the Native Industrial Workers' Unions Bill will not be presented to Parliament until next year.

The Southern Rhodesia Prime Minister, Mr. R.S. Garfield Todd said recently that the Committee still had to take a certain amount of evidence from organisations in the Colony which had asked for extra time to prepare their memoranda.

#### MEDICAL SCHOOL PLAN.

The Rhodesian Federal Secretary for Health, Dr. R.M. Morris is investigating abroad, the possibilities of raising £1,250,000 needed to establish a Medical School in Rhodesia to be attached to the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The Acting Federal Secretary for Health, Dr. D.M. Blair said recently that the Medical School would cater for people of all races, but the Federation badly needed African doctors to tend the sick of their own people.

At present there was no Medical School in the Federation, and there were no African doctors practising.

#### AFRICAN RADIO LISTENERS.

The number of African-owned wireless sets in the Federation is over 40,000 and possibly as many as 54,000 and to every set there is an average of five listeners. It is estimated that the Central African broadcasting station at Lusaka, which caters for African listeners throughout the three territories of the Federation, has at least 200,000 listeners.

#### NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

Enkeldoorn. Homecraft classes are being held weekly under the guidance and instruction of two European lady members.

An African Boy Scout Troop has been established.

Matters relating to the condition of the African cemetery and sanitation arrangements in the Location have been taken up with the Town Management Board.

Untali. The African Section is considering the possibility of opening a creche for children whose parents are away at work all day.

Gwelo. The Society has generously presented a new Perry Cup to the Southern Rhodesian African Football Association. This trophy is competed for by soccer teams from the Midlands and Matabeleland.

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## Monthly Bulletin

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JULY, 1957.

### SOUTHERN RHODESIA GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN 1957/1961 : EXPENDITURE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

The total loan and revenue provision for capital development in African rural areas during the period is £4,416,000. Of this £1,598,000 is a direct revenue contribution towards implementing the Native Land Husbandry scheme, in particular for the provision of water supplies, development of roads and communications and for surveys. Revenue contributions towards development in African areas which is not directly associated with the Native Land Husbandry Scheme amount to £1,118,000 of which £984,000 is for development of water supplies and £134,000 for the resettlement of Africans and for African Township building loans.

In urban areas, home-ownership schemes for Africans financed by the Government are being operated in Salisbury, Bulawayo, Gwelo, and Que Que. Title to land is granted on a 99 year lease to Africans who are in a position to purchase their own homes. The schemes provide for purchase by instalments over periods of up to twentyfive years.

Local authorities normally provide housing on a rental basis for those Africans employed within township areas who are not provided with accommodation by their employers. These rental schemes are co-ordinated with home-ownership schemes sponsored by the Central Government.

Due to general expansion of industrial development and a consequent increase in urban African populations, there is a growing demand for both types of accommodation.

### AFRICAN POLICE.

There were 8,094 Africans on the strength of the British South Africa Police force as at 31st December 1956. The Commissioner of Police in his Annual Report 1956 states that 299 African Police were attested during the year. The minimum educational standard for African recruits has been raised from Standard IV to Standard VI. The Report states:-

"Generally speaking the more advanced African Police recruit settles down to discipline quicker than his less fortunate contemporary of earlier years - he has the education which enables him more readily to assimilate what is required of him. Ability to accept more responsibility is illustrated in the growing number of commendations awarded for good work resulting from individuality and sound common sense required so often by the Policeman working on his own."

Four African members of the Force received the Commissioner's Special Commendation while nine others received Commendations during the year.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FOR AFRICANS.

An agricultural college to train African farmers up to the same standards as obtain at the Gwebi Agricultural College for Europeans is to be established in Southern Rhodesia. It will be open to students from any part of the Federation who have reached the Cambridge school certificate standard of education and will fall under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

It was proposed that the college should provide a three year diploma course, and it would accommodate between 30 and 40 students. A sum of £100,000 is set out for the college in the current Federal Estimates, £50,000 of it to be voted for the present financial year.

LEVY ON REJECTED AFRICAN MAIZE.

A considerable proportion of maize grown by Africans in Southern Rhodesia has been rejected by the Grain Marketing Board this year because it has not reached the required standards. The Government has decided to impose a levy of 9s. 1d. on bags rejected by the Grain Marketing Board. The levy will have to be paid by the person who purchases the maize from Africans in the first place, with the intention of selling it to the Board. At present if maize is rejected by the Board the trader can take it away and there is no control on its sale. It is hoped that the levy will discourage traders from buying inferior grain. Because it now has to sell large quantities of grain in the export market the Board is being strict about the interpretation of the standards laid down for maize submitted to it. The new levy will come into effect from August 1st. Levies have also been placed on other types of grain rejected by the Board.

PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE NATIVE LAND HUSBANDRY ACT.

The Natural Resources Board in its Report for 1956 states - "The Native Land Husbandry Act is the key to progress in the communally occupied Native Areas and it is pleasing to be able to record that colossal strides are being made by the administrative and technical officers of the Department of Native Affairs towards the target of completely implementing the Act by the end of 1960.

"The Native Reserves and Special Native Areas comprise approximately 30,500,000 acres and to date over 9 million acres have been proclaimed under the Act. The initial survey and collection of data necessary for land-use planning and for guidance of the Assessment Committees appointed under the Act has been completed on nearly 7½ million acres.

"Seventyeight Assessment Committees have met and submitted their recommendations as to the acreage of arable land that each family should be given as a right and the maximum number of life-stock that should be permitted in their respective areas. These recommendations cover nearly 7 million acres of land. .... "

" ..... The speedy implementation of the Native Land Husbandry Act is a matter of the greatest national concern and nothing must be allowed to upset or retard the planned rate of progress. It must be clearly appreciated that the Act in itself is not the solution to the very serious conservation problems in the Native Areas, but only the foundation on which it will be possible finally to establish a settled African agricultural community employing good farming methods. .... "

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