

so that you can see that wage conditions on the mines are a brake to the advancement and progress of the African worker.

More than anything else this decision on soldiers' pay and its support by General Smuts showed the influence of the vote. This was before the election. The white soldier's vote had strength and influence in the pending election and they got all they wanted because they could help support or defeat the government, and your African soldier, having no vote, no one need pay attention to him.

The refusal to arm the African soldier has a two-fold meaning, one is keep him for ever in subjection and the other is to declare the African by implication that he is an internal and eternal enemy of the white man in South Africa notwithstanding the African's willingness to die in defence of South Africa.

The Pretoria Riots.

At Pretoria when our people pressed for the implementation of the Wage Board Award the delays that followed led to some of them getting bullets instead of bread. Compensation for the bereaved does not revive the lives lost. We deplore and protest against the use of force against unarmed and defenceless persons.

Creation of a Crime Wave.

As a result of a regulation of freezing timber, between 150 and 200 African woodworkers were refused supply of timber under the pretext that they may be sweated labour for certain Europeans who are trying to use them in order to avoid factory regulations. It was suggested that in this way the Europeans would be forced to employ them in open market. It was not realised that the individual worker resulted as a result of a wage determination in the furniture industry which caused many employers to dismiss their African employees in order to employ whites since they were not prepared to pay such high wages to African employees.

Further, since this year the Johannesburg Municipality has thrown off the road 36 men who were earning their livelihood by running cafe-de-moveeons. These men have been refused renewal of their licences although they have been trading numbers of years and had paid to £30 for their carts.

Here then over 200 men most of them with families have been thrown out of work and the municipality of Johannesburg is opening a trading station at Noord Street in Johannesburg. The African people must boycott this place, and, as long as trading rights are a private enterprise in this country, our people must be allowed to trade, and the local authorities must not be permitted to encroach on the preserves of private enterprise unless we socialize other services. All Native Eating Houses must be run and owned by Africans.

Unven Justice.

You have noted that recently there has been a number of rape cases between white and black. White men raping black women and black men raping white women. Three men have been convicted recently for this crime on black women and sentenced for about 2 years imprisonment. An African soldier was convicted for raping a white girl and was sentenced to death in the same court and I believe by the same judge who sentenced the white man for a similar crime on an African girl. So you can see that those people who said justice is blind knew nothing about South African justice where black and white are concerned. We deplore the crime as revolting whether committed by a whiteman or a black man; but we demand equal justice before the law.

Segregation Fallen On Evil Days.

Early in 1942 at a meeting of the Institute of Race Relations General

Smuts speaking on Trusteeship, said that the Segregation policy had fallen on evil days or segregation had failed. This, ofcourse is no news to any honest, fair-minded, student of Colour and Race Relations in South Africa. Except as an instrument of oppression and retardation of the progress of the African, segregation is only a political bogey intended not to be carried to its fair and logical conclusion but to made use of when it is desired to deprive the African of some right or privilege in the interest of the privileged and mighty European in South Africa. No European is prepared to accept the sacrifices implied in the faithful carrying out of the policy.

Official Contradictions on Segregation.

However, we were shocked in February 1943, to hear the Hon. Major van der byl, Minister of Native Affairs, in reply to the able motion of Mrs. M.V.L. Ballinger M.P. demanding the abandonment of Segregation, say that we stand by the 1936 Acts or Segregation. This minister's reply appeared an official contradiction to the statement of the Prime Minister. The apparent contradiction appears to be justified by the fact that the Minister of Native Affairs spoke on the eve of a general election and he had to prove to the country that the United Party on Native Policy is not different from the opposition Party.

Mass Raids.

The mass raids that followed in Johannesburg and the Reef seemed to have been intended to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the United Party can keep the native in his place as good as any other.

The African Soldier and his conditions of service.

We had been disturbed by the low pay of the African soldier by the low rate of allotments to his dependents, by the refusal of our government to arm the African soldier and by the refusal to commission African soldiers and African padres.

On February 1943, a Parliamentary Select Committee on Soldiers' Pay was appointed. Evidence was called on the subject. During the hearing of the evidence strong pleas were made for better pay of the African soldiers. We thought the Committee had been impressed; but to our surprise an increment of only 3d. was awarded to the African when the European soldier and his dependents received lordly pay, allowances and benefits. This again was before the election. The European soldier had a vote which would decide the fate of the party to govern the country. Their demands had to be listened to. The soldiers received what they wanted and their vote helped to return the Government with an overwhelming majority.

Here then we must realise that South Africa has put herself beyond the influence of African demands as long as the African is disfranchised as at present.

The franchise right is fundamental. From it all other rights must flow.

"Joke" at the Main Pass Office, Johannesburg.

Recently at the Johannesburg Pass Office two Europeans are reported to have pulled a rope around the neck of an African because it is alleged he was too slow in giving the information wanted. In defence, they are alleged to have said they did this for a "joke". This reminds us that on March 4th 1942, a representative deputation of Congress which met the then Deputy Prime Minister, Colonel the Honourable Deneys Reitz told him that Pass Offices and especially the Main Pass Office in Johannesburg were places where Africans were served roughly and with discourtesy and that respectable Africans detested visiting the Pass Office because

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