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1944?

A.N.C

17/12

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The Editor
Rand Daily Mail
Johannesburg

re Stoning of Cars in Western Areas, Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

In your issue 17th December, you painted a depressing picture describing the conditions of some cars and their occupants which were stoned on the Main Road through Western areas. I am writing to state that this incident is deeply deplored by all responsible Africans and I am sure they join me in extending our sympathy too all those and their relatives who sustained either material or personal physical injury. Responsible African do not care to provoke any incidents that bring about interracial animosity and hostilities.

This matter, however, recalls to mind your magnificent editorial of Dec. 13th, 1944 on "Negligence of Duty". It is most probable that many of the participants in the stoning were irresponsible unemployed young people who because of lack of educational opportunities which alone give formal discipline to a child of any race or colour and prepares him for useful citizenship, find themselves unadjusted to community life. They have developed anti-social, anti-colour, and anti-state attitudes because they believe that it is the Europeans - the State, who deny them educational facilities, opportunities for employment and the right to choose and decide as human beings where to live without being forced at the will of those who have political power. As long as these things are denied to Africans we shall always have to spend more money on police, magistrates and prisons, - that is penal servitude than on, namely, schools, teachers and social welfare of the African people.

Collection Number: AD843

XUMA, A.B., Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers Research Archive**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

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