

Telegraph :
50 CITIZENRY, SOWEST, LONDON

Telephone :
VICTORIA 6065

29.1.3

The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society

(in which are incorporated the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society and the Aborigines Protection Society)

Joint Presidents :

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON,
P.C., K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

THE RT. HON. LORD MESTON, K.C.S.I.

THE RT. HON. LORD NOEL-BUXTON, P.C.

Chairman : CHARLES H. ROBERTS, Esq.

Vice-Chairmen : CHARLES RODEN BUXTON, Esq.

TRAVERS BUXTON, Esq.

Joint Hon. Treasurers :

ALFRED BROOKS, Esq., J.P.

H. J. TAPSCOTT, Esq.

Secretary : SIR JOHN HARRIS.

Assistant Secretary : MISS E. K. BATTY.

(DENISON HOUSE,

296 VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.1.

(CLOSE TO VICTORIA STATION.)

Confidential.

20th March, 1939.

My dear Rheinallt Jones,

I have had a little trouble with te Water,
which I think should be known to you and Molteno.

As you are aware, I have repeatedly drawn
attention to misstatements by our opponents and even
some not too friendly innuendo from our friends in South
Africa. No matter how, when, and in what circumstances
these are made, they nearly always come to our knowledge.
At the same time, the curious situation exists that many
people in South Africa seem to be more thin skinned than
in any other Dominion. However, this time the mis-
statement is pretty bad, and it was actually made whilst
Pirow was a guest in London. He was reported as having
said that "There was quite a body of opinion here determined
that the Protectorates should not pass to the Union until
the people holding those opinions were satisfied regarding

the future of the natives. Among other things they were asked to give the native the individual vote."

This statement created a good deal of resentment, and I at once wrote te Water and asked if we might be given the authority upon which this statement rested. te Water replied that it was a case of the "Reporter" again. I saw the head of the Institute of Journalists, and it was found that the shorthand notes of the principal papers and the News Agencies were identical in terms. te Water's action added to the resentment, because it was the second occasion on which he had done this.

I, of course, wrote him at once and asked whether we might be allowed to publish the correspondence, but I suppose, knowing the hornets' nest that would be created by putting it on to the Reporter, he went off the deep end, and the upshot is that we decided on the whole it was better not to publish.

But the blunt fact remains that here is yet another misstatement made by a South African person of authority, designed with the sole object of discrediting people merely because they take up the cause of justice for the natives. There is not a scintilla of truth in the allegation made by Pirow, and so far as we know he has taken no steps either to explain or to apologise for his action.

I think these are things you ought to know, and possibly some time you or Molteno may be able to ask what authority Pirow had for making this statement in London.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

John Harris

Senator The Hon. J.D. Rheinallt Jones, M.A.,
The University,
Milner Park,
Johannesburg,
S. Africa.

COLOUR BARS IN THE UNION

CRITICISM AT LONDON MEETING

London, Monday.

Sir Samuel Hoare, the Home Secretary, presiding at a luncheon held to commemorate the centenary of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, introduced a resolution reaffirming the determination of the society to strive for the abolition of slavery in all its forms, and referred to problems in Africa which, although they were outside the problems of Europe, were the greatest problems with which the Commonwealth would be faced in the next generation.

He had been immensely impressed by Lord Hailey's great survey of African problems.

WATCHFULNESS NEEDED

Lord Noel-Buxton, president of the society, supporting the motion, said that the Bledisloe report was another proof of the great need for watchfulness in their dealings with native races.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Strong criticism of South Africa's colour bar legislation was passed by Sir John Harris, secretary of the society, speaking afterwards at the society's annual meeting.

He said that the colour bar was not only maintained by the Dutch population, but an industrial colour bar was promoted by white trade unions, and a colour bar was even to be found in the religious sphere.

During his recent visit to South Africa native councils had emphasised to him that if the Protectorates came under this same policy it would be a fatal day for the British Empire. Once the policy spread to the Protectorates nothing could prevent its crossing the Zambesi and spreading through the whole African continent.

Sir John Harris further asserted that the Union was the only Government in the world practising a legislative colour bar.—S.A.P.A.-Reuter.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY AND ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY

Denison House,
296 Vauxhall Bridge Road,
London S.W.1,
England.

Confidential

20th March, 1939.

My dear Rheinalt Jones,

I have had a little trouble with te Water which I think should be known to you and Molteno.

As you are aware, I have repeatedly drawn attention to misstatements by our apponents and even some not too friendly innuendo from our friends in South Africa. No matter how, when, and in what circumstances these are made, they nearly always come to our knowledge. At the same time, the curious situation exists that many people in South Africa seem to be more thin skinned than in any other Dominion. However, this time the misstatement is pretty bad, and it was actually made whilst Pirow was a guest in London. He was reported as having said that "There was quite a body of opinion here determined that the Protectorates should not pass to the Union until the people holding those opinions were satisfied, regarding the future of the Natives. Among other things they were asked to give the Native the individual vote".

This statement created a good deal of resentment, and I at once wrote te Water and asked if we might be given the authority upon which this statement rested. te Water replied that it was a case of the "Reporter" again. I saw the head of the Institute of Journalists, and it was found that the shorthand notes of the principal papers and the News Agencies were identical in terms. te Water's action added to the resentment, because it was the second occasion on which he had done this.

I, of course, wrote him at once and asked whether we might be allowed to publish the correspondence, but I suppose, knowing the hornets' nest that would be created by putting it on to the Reporter, he went off the deep end, and the upshot is that we decided on the whole it was better not to publish.

- But -

But the blunt fact remains that here is yet another misstatement made by a South African person of authority, designed with the sole object of discrediting people merely because they take up the cause of justice for the Natives. There is not a scintilla of truth in the allegation made by Pirow, and so far as we know he has taken no steps either to explain or to apologise for his action.

I think these are things you ought to know, and possibly some time you or Molteno may be able to ask what authority Pirow had for making this statement in London.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) John Harris

P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

CONFIDENTIAL

19th July, 1939.

Sir John Harris,
c/o Anti Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society,
Denison House,
296 Vauxhall Bridge Road,
LONDON S.W.1,
England.

PROTECTORATES

I owe you an apology for not having even acknowledged your letter of 20th March. I have before me the reply dictated at the time, but I put it aside to have a quieter moment to think further over your letter. Unfortunately I mislaid your letter and my reply to it through the constant travelling, and it is only now that I have the correspondence by me. In addition I can plead that it is only now that I am back home for more than a few days together for the first time since I returned to South Africa.

By now you will have seen Molteno who is in England on a short visit, and no doubt you have had a talk on the Protectorates question.

With regard to Pirow's remarks in London, I take it that you disclaim having asked for the "individual vote" for the Natives of the Protectorates on their coming into the Union. But is the "individual vote" so much out of the question? It is certainly what I want to see extended to the northern provinces. There is of course a big difference between the "individual vote" of the old Cape franchise and the "individual vote" which sends Molteno and his two colleagues to the House of Assembly. I still stand for the old Cape franchise form of representation which, for many reasons I prefer to the new form, but I see no chance of the old form returning in this generation. It is however likely that the Africans in the three other provinces will soon become restive over the electoral college system under which the Senators are elected. They will soon begin to agitate for representation in the House of Assembly and for the "individual vote" in the election of these representatives. Tens of thousands of Africans are to-day voted for by Chiefs

- and -

and local councils in whose territories they have not been for twenty or thirty years - or never. Technically domiciled in a Reserve they are really domiciled in urban areas and must be content to know that they are included in the number of votes cast by Chiefs or members of local councils hundreds of miles away.

What form of political representation for the Protectorates is your Society going to press for? To deal with Mr. Pirow we should have to know your views.

This point suggests to me the desirability of there being fuller consultation on the whole Protectorates question between - on the one side - your Society and other bodies interesting themselves in the Protectorates and - on this side - the parliamentary representatives, the members of the Natives Representative Council and others concerned, so that we may be agreed on the attitude to adopt if and when there are definite proposals put forward by the Union Government.

It is no doubt this absence of consultation which has been responsible for no little measure of irritation and "even some not too friendly innuendo from our friends in South Africa" over public statements on matters in which your friends in South Africa are also concerned. You are quite right in saying that "the curious situation exists that many people in South Africa are more thin skinned than in any other Dominion". I am only surprised that you are not more definite in saying so. We are more thin skinned because not only do we live in an explosive situation as between White and Black, but in a very delicate situation as between Dutch and English - as you may only too soon have evidence if war breaks out. It is this complex situation that makes it very necessary for us to be particularly careful in the presentation of our views on racial issues. So far as I know there is no difference of principle between liberals like myself and yourself on these issues. It is, however, very important that the comparatively small band of us who really care should keep in step. This can only be done by frequent consultations as I have suggested earlier in this letter.

On the day the Duke of Devonshire left the Union I had a private talk with him, and put before him the views of my colleagues and myself on the transfer question. He had been so much surrounded by the pre-transfer view that it was very necessary that other views should be put before him. I hope later to set out these other views in written form, and I will let you have a copy. In the meantime I send a copy of a confidential memorandum which I sent to my colleagues on my return here? There are several points to be added to those brought up in the memorandum.

I hope that one result of this letter will be a closer understanding between the Anti-Slavery Aborigines Protection Society and those of us in South Africa who appreciate all that the Society has done for Africans.

I sincerely hope that you are quite well again and that you have had no recurrence of the attack which you experienced in December.

My wife joins in kind regards to Lady Harris and yourself.

Yours sincerely,

JDRJ/MM

Enclosure: Confidential Memorandum

Telegraph:
50 CITIZENRY, SOWEST, LONDON.

Telephone:
VICTORIA 6065

The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society

(in which are incorporated the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society and the Aborigines Protection Society)

Joint Presidents :

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON,
P.C., K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

THE RT. HON. LORD MESTON, K.C.S.I.

THE RT. HON. LORD NOEL-BUXTON, P.C.

Chairman : CHARLES H. ROBERTS, ESQ.

Vice-Chairmen : CHARLES RODEN BUXTON, ESQ.

TRAVERS BUXTON, ESQ.

Joint Hon. Treasurers :

ALFRED BROOKS, ESQ., J.P.

H. J. TAPSCOTT, ESQ.

Secretary : SIR JOHN HARRIS.

Assistant Secretary : MISS E. K. BATTY.

DENISON HOUSE,
296 VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.1.
(CLOSE TO VICTORIA STATION.)

24th March, 1938.

Dear Dr. Rheinallt Jones,

Lord Noel-Buxton will be arriving at Cape Town about May 12th or 13th, on the Union Castle Boat. He will be accompanied by Mr. Riley, M.P., for Dewsbury, and Mr. Ponsonby. They will spend a few days in Cape Town - perhaps two or three only - and then go North to Northern Rhodesia. According to plans, we shall be back, all together, in Cape Town, about July 8-13, when we trust it will be possible to have a considerable discussion with several of you upon the general outlook South of the Zambezi, and what cooperation is possible between us.

At the moment I am only concerned about one point, namely, would you be so kind as to see what you can do to get two or three together, perhaps including Mr. Hoffmeyer, to meet Lord Noel-Buxton and the others during their short stay on arrival. I expect they will be staying at the Grand Hotel. I know he

would like to have this preliminary discussion with you, so that we might make our return visit as fruitful as possible.

On our return, there will probably be an additional member, in the person of Mr. de Bunsen, who is crossing Africa up through the Congo River; and according to present arrangements will join us at Bulawayo.

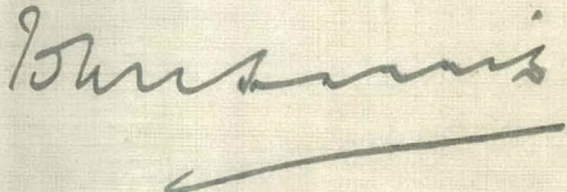
I shall be on the "Themistocles", due to arrive about the 26th or 27th of May. On the same boat will be the delegation from the Society of Friends, which is mainly concerned with the religious and educational freedom of the races in South Africa. This deputation comprises: Principal and Mrs Jones, from Fisk University, E. Russell Brayshaw, and Lady Harris.

I am afraid there may be some confusion of thought as to whom we represent. Lord Noel-Buxton is one of the Presidents of our Society; Mr. Riley is a member of our Committee. But they are not coming out officially for our Society. I represent the Society. The Friends deputation, again, is not connected with our Society, although my wife is a member of the Committee.

I think it well to make these points clear, in order to avoid confusion.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Dr. Rheinallt Jones,
Glandwr,
Florida,
Transvaal.



R.R./33/a.

April 5th, 1938.

Sir John Harris,
Secretary,
The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society,
Denison House,
296 Vauxhall Bridge Road,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

In the absence of Senator Rheinallt Jones in Capetown, I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th of March, which will be sent on to Senator Jones for his attention.

Yours faithfully,

ADVISER'S SECRETARY

Telegraph:
50 CITIZENRY, SOWEST, LONDON
Telephone:
VICTORIA 6065

The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society

(in which are incorporated the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society and the Aborigines Protection Society)

Joint Presidents:

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON,
P.C., K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

THE RT. HON. LORD MESTON, K.C.S.I.

THE RT. HON. LORD NOEL-BUXTON, P.C.

Chairman: CHARLES H. ROBERTS, ESQ.

Vice-Chairmen: CHARLES RODEN BUXTON, ESQ.

TRAVERS BUXTON, ESQ.

Joint Hon. Treasurers:

ALFRED BROOKS, ESQ., J.P.

H. J. TAPSCOTT, ESQ.

Secretary: SIR JOHN HARRIS.

Assistant Secretary: MISS E. K. BATTY.

DENISON HOUSE,

296 VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.1.

(CLOSE TO VICTORIA STATION.)

J.D. Rheinallt Jones, Esq.,
University College,
Johannesburg.

23rd February, 1938.

My dear Rheinallt Jones,

I think you may have heard already that several Englishmen and Americans interested in native questions will be visiting South Africa during June and July. At the time of writing, I am not in a position to give all the names, but you may like to have my own programme, which will, I think dovetail with that of others in the principal centres.

We are all of us most anxious to obtain as much accurate information as possible, and especially to consult with individuals and organisations willing to meet us. We should like to confer with such bodies as the Race Relations Committee and native organisations, and to visit one or two of the mines and other centres of industry.

I need hardly say how grateful we should all be for any help you can give us.

Yours sincerely,

John Harris

J.D.
I will write you again in a few days about the possibility of a Conference between all of us in Cape Town about July 9/13
J.H.

Approximate dates at which Sir John Harris will be at the
following places.

May 27-29	Cape Town	Letters should be addressed c/o Grand Hotel.
May 31 - June 9	Bulawayo/Salisbury	Post Restante, Bulawayo.
June 10-15	Tati/Bechuanaland	Post Restante, Serowe.
June 16-19	Kimberley/Vryburg	C/o Rev. A. J. Haile, M.A., Tiger Kloof, Nr. Vryburg.
June 20-27	Johannesburg/Pretoria.	Post Restante, Johannesburg.
June 29- July 7	Swaziland/Basutoland, and possibly Bloemfontein.	Post Restante, Mbabane until June 30 Maseru July 1.
July 8-13	Cape Town.	Post Restante.

*Since as per
2/27/13*

R.R./33/f. March 5th, 1938.

Sir John Harris,
Secretary,
The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society,
Denison House 296 Vauxhall Bridge Road,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

In the absence of Senator Rheinallt Jones, I have to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of the 23rd ultimo, which will be sent on to Senator Rheinallt Jones at Cape Town.

Yours faithfully,

ADVISER'S SECRETARY

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.