

1979 Daw 59
Fidelity League
Longfield, Kent
2 Aug 1919.

My dear Len,

I am sending you the Report of our case in Parliament. It confirms what I wrote in my last letter namely that the English people this time are more amenable to reason than they were the last time.

For instance: the Government assured members that the Colonial vote will not be taken for a week then they took it ^{suddenly} on Wednesday while they were unprepared for it and most of our supporters were away. Yet the few who were present made a bold stand.

But I am very unhappy on the score of Finance. It will cripple the whole movement and bring it to naught. When I arrived here I found that I could not get freedom of movement unless I paid part of

-2-

the old accounts
so I disposed £54 and at least £200
is wanted immediately - It meant
that I handed over everything - pocket
money included and I am standing
now between two fires - the old
debts and my present expenses.
I have been to arrange two meetings
at Reading where I had three days
with Kyoathes friends now I have
come to address two meetings here
in Kent to get further resolutions
sent to Parliament. Bo Thema
le Mvabaza are doing food work.
I sent them to places that are
easy to manage (if I am engaged)
but not out of London because
there is no money. Our hope is in
the country - not London and this
scarcity of money is helping the
Boers, because we can't go out
and strike out.

Mr Mvabaza promised me £100
here in London and I laid my
plans in anticipation of it

But now that I am here I hear
 nothing from him. As soon as
 English people find out that I
 have no money there will be a
 terrible set-back because
 they will consider me a d—fool
 if after what I endured in
 1914-17 I came penniless ^{again.}

Life ^{here} is infinitely more costly
 than last time and if one
 shows any hesitation he loses
 his few friends and they are not
 so easily picked up again.

The other delegates are disgusted
 for I brought no money; and they are
 losing all heart in the campaign.

The fact that I (their so-called
 leader) am penniless drives
 them more desperate and I hope
 that something could be done to get
 say £300 partly for old debts and
 partly for the present campaign.
 The position is really serious and

I am beginning to tremble that
the deputation will soon be dis-
franchised - after which we will
NEVER AGAIN manage the Boer - we
have to strike out now or never

Please help or we are undone.

When I left S. A. I spoke with Mr
Malan. He promised to see into
the question of the Barstow money
at Mafeking - Since then I
have not had a word from him
tho' three mails came after me.
all these things make me feel very
desperate and I tremble that
the fight will be lost through lack
of funds just when we are thinking
of holding the reins.

What do you think

Please send me a line

Kind Regards

Please

another line -

Margaret and I have promised to
pay Mr Fairly £6 a month. Please
find out if they are doing it and
drive them to it as you have a more
serious matter to talk about.

Collection Number: A979

Silas T MOLEMA and Solomon T PLAATJE Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: Copyright for all materials on the Historical Papers website is owned by The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and is protected by South African copyright law. Material may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

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 is part of a collection owned by the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and deposited at Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.
