

What the Divisions have been doing.

The following are extracts from <sup>*Comments on*</sup> Divisional Reports read at the third meeting of the South African Pathfinder Council on October 17th, 1931.

TRANSVAAL. There has been steady progress. There are now several more D.P.Ms and A.D.P.Ms, most of whom have been drawn from the ranks of P.Ms.- an excellent sign of progress. Unfortunately D.P.M. Paul Sykes, who was appointed in 1929 to organise the Witwatersrand troops, has resigned in order to devote his whole time to University studies. During his period of office the number of troops in the Witwatersrand Area has risen from thirty to forty-two, and his bulletin has developed into the Pathfinder, the official Headquarters organ.

An officers' training course was held at Pietersburg in July, when those present (twenty in all) not only devoted themselves to the training but also used their spare time in committee work on the regulations. Their recommendations proved most helpful to the Committee of Divisional Pathfinders which recently revised the regulations. Another feature of this course was the early morning physical drill in which even the Chief Pathfinder was to be found in strange postures on the ground.

The Transvaal census returns are interesting:-

<u>District</u>	<u>Troops.</u>	<u>Pathfinders</u>	<u>Officers.</u>
Northern Transvaal	23	643	38
Witbank District	4	227	8
Pretoria District	6	394	11
Witwatersrand District	42	1448	70
	<u>75</u>	<u>2712</u>	<u>127</u>

NATAL. Divisional Pathfinder D.McK. Malcolm is a cautious Scot and a trained Scout so he has been more concerned with quality than quantity. The most important feature of the year was the very successful First Pathfinder Gilwell Training Course held in July at the beautiful Gilwell Camp in Pietermaritzburg. There were twenty-five Native teachers present of whom only three had previous experience of Pathfinding. The training was thorough and was greatly helped by the assistance rendered by the Scout Deputy Camp Chief Marsh - who gave all his time to the course - and other Scouters. The weather was -cold-

cold and the life under canvass was somewhat spartan. The Chief Pathfinder stayed in camp for three days, sleeping in a Patrol Tent where he shivered o'nights! But the example of the others in camp made it impossible for him to complain, although he is alleged to have been very glad to get into a warm bed in a comfortable Maritzburg Hotel on the third night!

The Divisional Pathfinder in his report spoke of Natal as the "cinderella" of the Divisions, but it was later found that it was a comparatively rich Cinderella for a collection in the Natal Native Schools had yielded a tidy sum of nearly £60 for the Divisional Funds.

The census returns showed 8 troops, 212 Pathfinders and 8 Officers.

BORDER: This is a very large Division and Divisional Pathfinder E.A. Ball has tackled it valiantly. Not only has he travelled extensively and organised a successful training course, but he has also carried on the duties of Secretary to the Divisional Council during the absence of the Rev. Max Yergan in America.

The Census returns show how well distributed the Movement is in this Division:

District	Troops & Sections	Pathfinders	Officers
Alice District	7	110	7
Aliwal North	3	85	5
East London Dist.	6	163	12
Fort Beaufort	9	170	11
King Wms. Town	4	46	4
Stockenstrom	4	36	4
Queenstown	4	47	5
Umtata & )			
Transkei )	7	112	13
Clarksbury	1	12	2
	45	781	63

The training course at St. Luke's was most successful - 35 officers attending - and great help was received from Scout officials. It is hoped to have such courses at regular intervals.

The Chief Pathfinder reported that he had found great keenness in the troops he had visited and he paid tribute to the work of the Divisional Pathfinder and the other officers in the Division.

MIDLANDS: There are now 19 organised troops in this Division as against 4 last year, with six more about to be started.

The work in this Division owes much to District Pathfinder-master G. Bacon who acted for six months as Divisional Pathfinder during the absence of the Rev. J. Cowan. Mr. Bacon runs P/Ms classes in Port Elizabeth and during the year he also ran a training camp. Cradock, Grahamstown, Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth have strong troops and this Division like all the others, could do with the help of experienced leaders.

ORIOUALAND WEST. This Division has suffered through the removal of the Rev. W. H. Kinsey, The Divisional Pathfinder, who had led the Movement in this area. His work will be gratefully remembered not only in the Division but by Headquarters as well. It is to be hoped that his services will be available elsewhere.

The year has witnessed the consolidation of the organisation in this Division and though there are not more troops than before (10) the work is better organised. There are 255 Pathfinders and recruits and 16 Officers.

The Divisional Scout Council bore the responsibility for work in this Division until September 1931 when a Pathfinder Divisional Council was formed. Thanks are due to the Scout Council for its help in the development of the work.

#### ORANGE FREE STATE.

The Acting Divisional Pathfinder is also the Assistant Divisional Scout Commissioner and it is remarkable how Captain White manages to crowd in so much work into a day. He runs a weekly class for Pathfinder-masters in Bloemfontein, and is ever ready to help officers there and elsewhere.

The census figures showed that in the Orange Free State there were 11 Troops, 717 Pathfinders and 17 Officers. But when the Chief Pathfinder attended the Native Teacher's Conference at Ficksburg in October he found 18 who claimed to be P.Ms - many having troops in preparation for registration.

BASUTOLAND: The Divisional Pathfinder is His Honour, the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland (Mr. J. C. R. Sturrock) and he is enthusiastic. At a meeting of the Divisional Council attended by the Chief Pathfinder in October plans were discussed for the organisation of the whole of Basutoland and already the Movement is progressing steadily there.

-There-

There are 8 Troops, 160 Pathfinders and 12 Officers.

BECHUANALAND. There is only one troop here.- at Kanye, but His Honour the Resident Commissioner (Colonel C.F.Rey) is very keen to see the Movement developed in the Protectorate. He has asked Lieutenant J.Hope to undertake this task and the latter is keenly interesting himself in the work.

SWAZILAND. Plans are afoot for the starting of troops in this Protectorate and the Chief Pathfinder has been asked to go there as soon as possible to assist.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA. It had been hoped that a representative of the Southern Rhodesian Council would be able to attend the Bloemfontein Meeting, but the Divisional Pathfinder's recent illness made this impossible. We have no census return but letters show that the Movement is taking root in Southern Rhodesia.

NORTHERN RHODESIA. There were no returns from Northern Rhodesia.

An examination of all the reports show there there is urgent need for:-

1. The help of men trained in Pathfinding or Scouting to form new troops and to give instruction.
2. The running of training courses for officers. The Council considered this aspect and appointed a Committee to draft a scheme of training.

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