



# THE BANTU WORLD



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## CORDIAL SPIRIT EVIDENT AT N. R. C. INFORMAL MEETING

### Dr. Eiselen's Sincerity Impresses Councillors

"The most important point about the informal talks between Dr. W. M. Eiselen and members of the Native Representative Council, was the desire on the part of Councillors for a definition of the Government's Native Policy," Councillor R. V. Se'ope Thema, interviewed on the outcome of talks held in Pretoria last week, told a "Bantu World" representative. All the African members of the Native Representative Council met Dr. Eiselen, Secretary for Native Affairs and Chairman of the Council for informal talks to which he had invited them.

Councillor Thema said, also, that the African members of the council did not talk about resignation; they pointed out at the meeting that they were doing what they regarded their duty in pursuing the line of action following their adjournment motion of 1946.

Explaining this point, Mr. Thema said that because Parliament and the Government would not pay heed to requests made by the council the motion calling for the abolition of discriminatory laws was then moved.

Resulting from this was the adjournment motion and the deadlock which followed. General Smuts had then made tentative proposals designed to give more power to the council. These General Smuts, then Prime Minister, had discussed with certain members of the Council at Cape Town.

#### SITUATION CHANGED

The full council had hardly had time to meet and discuss these proposals when, in 1948, a general election was held and the Smuts government defeated. With a new government, the situation changed. At the first meeting of the council under this, new government in 1949, members were told that the government intended to abolish the council which was to be replaced with something better, Mr. Thema went on.

"The members of the council did not object to the abolition of the council, but asked to know the nature of that 'something better' promised to replace the council. Councillors felt that because they came to these meetings, it must not be thought that they are satisfied with this form of government.

"Both black and white are here for all time; what we want is equal justice, opportunity and hope," Mr. Thema said.

#### FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

Replying to a question, Mr. Thema said that the two-day informal talks with the Secretary for Native Affairs at Pretoria last week, were conducted in a cordial manner, a friendly atmosphere prevailing throughout between councillors and government.

"Dr. Eiselen is a gentleman; the spirit was good," said Mr. Thema.

#### HOPE FORMAL SESSION WILL BE CALLED SOON

Mr. Thema said that feeling among councillors was that a plenary session would be called. He added that Dr. Eiselen had explained that informal talks held last week in no way substituted the ordinary council meeting. Earlier this year, the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. E. G. Jansen, announced in Parliament that the council would be summoned later in the year.

The African members passed a resolution at the Pretoria informal talks last week, whose text is: "This informal meeting of the non-official members of the Native Representative Council wishes to reaffirm its desire to meet the Minister of Native Affairs and to this end invites him to present, at the next meeting of the Native Representative Council, a statement on the Government's Native Policy."

The resolution was passed unanimously.

### New Lutheran Church Opened At Atteridgeville

Dr. C. Brennecke, Director of Lutheran Churches throughout the world, officiated at the foundation stone laying ceremony of a new Lutheran church at Atteridgeville last Saturday. He also contributed £50 towards the building fund of the church.

Addressing the large congregation present, Dr. Brennecke—who has come from Berlin on a world tour, delivered a message from the mother church in Germany. The International Mission Conference held lately in Amsterdam, and attended by 160 Protestant Churches, had given him the impression that Christian churches throughout the world still adhered to one Bible and had one belief, he said.

Paying tribute to the late Dr. Schwelms, former head of the church in the Union, Dr. Brennecke said that the new church building named after Dr. Schwelms, was a fitting tribute "to that great missionary who laboured in the Northern Transvaal for more than forty years."

Dr. W. W. M. Eiselen, Secretary for Native Affairs, speaking in Sepedi, congratulated the congregation for its untiring efforts. He also had a word of appreciation for the clergy present, among them being representatives of various religious denominations.

Mr. A. H. Selohlo passed a vote of thanks and Rev. J. M. Masipa, local Lutheran priest, presided.

### All Day Show By Girls' Clubs At Orlando

The Association of Transvaal Girls' Clubs has arranged two all-day functions to be held at the Donaldson Orlando Community Centre on September 30, and at the Kilmerton Institution Pretoria on October 7.

The following Clubs will take part at the Donaldson Orlando Community Centre function: Vereeniging, Evaton (4), Orlando, Pinville, Jabavu, Moroka, St. Thomas Institution, Sophiatown, Newclare, Western Native Township, Roodepoort, Krugersdorp and Randfontein.

At the Kilmerton Institution the following clubs will perform: Atteridgeville, Kilmerton, Lady Selborne (L), Nigel, Heidelberg, Springs, Brakpan and Benoni.

The entertainment given by the clubs will be mainly music and dramatic sketches. At the Donaldson Hall, guests will be admitted free to the gallery. The floor of the hall will be used by the children.

#### NEGRO SINGER SAYS:

### Robeson Has Been "Played For A Sucker"

Although the Negro race had been badly abused democracy was still the only hope for the world, said a Negro singer, who appeared voluntarily before the Ur-American Activities Committee of the House of Representatives, states Sapa.

White said that the statement by Paul Robeson that Negroes should not fight for the United States against Russia or any other enemy was "both wrong and an insult." White said Robeson had been "played for a sucker" by the Communist Party.

He was opposed to lynching and "Jim Crowism" but the Communists were using those grievances for their own purposes.

"When the communists and their kind talk about democracy and equality they are using double talk. They use good words to cover up bad intentions but for simple folk it takes time to catch on," he said.

White arrived at the hearing carrying the battered banjo with which he has entertained millions of Americans.

Earlier another Negro—Jackie Robinson second baseman for the Dodgers Baseball Team—also denounced Paul Robeson's support of the communists.

### THIS FARMER BRINGS HAPPINESS TO HIS TENANTS

Situated a few miles on the eastern side of Potgietersrus, on the main road from Pietersburg is the farm, "Planknek," owned by Mr. J. P. Amm and his son. On the farm live several hundred Africans, some in a compound and others being permanent tenants.

Like many other districts in the country, this farm has been scourged by drought this year, many people reaping very little by way of crops as a result. A little river traverses the farm, but for the most part, it is subterranean, making springs at intervals. These springs, therefore, have provided the people with some water for domestic use as well as for their flocks.

#### MEMORIAL SCHOOL

On the foot of the hills overlooking the valley close by is the Bryce Amm Memorial School, erected to the memory of Bryce Amm, the late son of Mr. and Mrs. Amm. This school is used by African children living on Planknek Farm as well as those from adjacent farms. The attendance roll is 140.

The official feeding scheme, as in other farm schools, has since been discontinued, but Mr. Amm supplies the African school children with food and fruit. The old school building erected by Mr. Gordon Amm assisted by Mr. Ezekiel Kuabo now serves as a place of worship and social gatherings.

#### CLINIC PROVIDED

But feeding children at school, and the provision of school facilities for children in the area is not the only concern of the Amms, they have other things to do in their effort to improve the lot of their tenants and labourers.

They are waging a fight against ignorance and superstition. At their own expense, they have provided a clinic for them and Africans there are treated free of charge for minor ailments.

Mrs. Amm herself takes keen interest in the health of her tenants; she sends serious cases to hospital for better treatment.

"We have been fortunate to have Dr. Hugo on the farm. His expert advice on health matters is valuable," states our correspondent. Not very long ago, a little boy, crippled, came to school one morning, from a neighbouring farm. The case was reported to Mrs. Amm who referred it to Dr. Hugo. Later, it was discovered that this boy's younger brother was also crippled. With Dr. Hugo's assistance, both boys were taken to Pietersburg Hospital where, in six months, they were treated successfully.

#### ROTARY WILL ATTEND MOROKA MEETING

The Moroka Advisory Board has invited the Johannesburg Rotary Club to attend their next monthly meeting to discuss housing. The Rotary Club has accepted the invitation and a deputation will attend the Moroka meeting.

### EILEEN JOYCE PLAYS TO PACKED HOUSE AT BMSC

Thrilled listeners warmly applauded a music recital given by Eileen Joyce, world celebrated pianist, before a packed house at the Johannesburg Bantu Men's Social Centre last Sunday afternoon. When the end came the audience asked for extra pieces to which Miss Joyce obligingly consented.

Mrs. M. H. Xuma, wife of Dr. A. B. Xuma, passed a vote of thanks on behalf of the African and other Non-European communities for whom the occasion had been arranged. After her speech young Miss Nkile aged about 10 presented Miss Joyce with a bouquet of flowers.

"No artist in the world, in my opinion, has ever played for such an appreciative audience and, in deed, it will give me the greatest pleasure to get a chance in the future to play for you," Eileen Joyce said.

#### FIVE KILLED BY STABBING LAST WEEK-END

Five Africans were fatally stabbed in assaults in various parts of Johannesburg during the last week-end, including Alexandra Township, Crown Mines, Sophiatown and Kensington.—Sapa.

### 200 PUPILS SENT HOME FROM ADAMS COLLEGE

Nearly 200 of the 500 students of Adams College, the century-old school for Africans a few miles from Amanzimtoti, were sent home on Monday by the Principal, for a breach of discipline, reports Sapa.

Unrest among the pupils began on Friday when they refused to eat their lunch. They stayed away from classes that afternoon and on Monday they refused to attend Chapel.

Adams College is the oldest educational centre for Africans in Natal. Just before the war it was handed over by the American Board of Missions to a local Council of Governors, of whom the present chairman is Mr. D. G. Fannin, K.C., M.C., M.P.C.

The headmaster is Mr. G. C. Grant, former Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team.

#### STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN

In a statement, Mr. Fannin said "On Friday a number of male students at Adams College refused to eat their lunch. Immediately after they refused to attend afternoon classes.

"That evening these students sent a deputation to the Principal. They apologised for their behaviour and assured him that the students were prepared to accept any punishment which he deemed necessary.

"On Saturday the Principal addressed the students, pointing out that a restitution of discipline would lead to the closing of the school. Four students were sent home and the rest of the day was quiet.

"On Sunday about 200 of the students refused to go to Chapel. The Principal again reminded them that their action might lead to the closing of the school.

"In spite of the warnings, these students refused to go to Chapel and were later sent home for this disobedience. School re-opened on Monday for those who took no part in this breach of discipline.

"The students who have been sent away will be permitted to re-apply for permission to attend the college, but each applicant will have to be interviewed by the College authorities before he is readmitted.

The Council of Governors has embarked on an ambitious programme to improve the college training facilities.



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**What Became Of T.E.D. Bursaries**

Johnson Nsongwane, Pretoria, writes: I would like to know why the Transvaal Education Department no longer grants bursaries to promising African students? Some years ago, many candidates who qualified for bursaries were helped further their studies. The discontinuance of this valuable help is a discouragement to many brilliant African students who, because of lack of means, are hindered from making progress.

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**READERS' FORUM**

**FEMALE TEACHERS, NURSES DEFENDED**

"Pamile", Vereeniging, writes: Disagreeing with Mr. Mogorosi on education for girls, your correspondent, Mr. Calvin R. Masekane tells the world that female teachers and nurses seldom get married, "nobody wants them because being educated, they are too proud; kitchen girls are better".

What a shocking statement to make! Will Mr. Masekane tell us in what respect kitchen girls are better than female teachers and nurses who are mentally, morally and socially exemplary in African society?

Being human beings, both classes of African women are, of course, subject to mistakes; but because these much-maligned teachers and nurses hold responsible positions in society, they seem to turn out special targets for attack by some people.

The truth of the matter is that Mr. Masekane is wrong to say that female teachers and nurses never get married; they do. Some of course, enter upon the marital state at a late age: (a) because of a desire to make a name while still spinsters; (b) to work for a while and help repay parents or guardians who have helped in their education and (c) in the case of nurses, it takes something like sixteen years to reach the doubly qualified stage of general nurse and midwife, from sub-standard "A". In fact, the same would apply in the case of a girl who wants to turn out a teacher.

Domestic science subjects are now being offered to girls in high schools and training institutions these girls will certainly make better housewives than those who have not had training in this course.

It would appear that some men suffer from inferiority complex and take shield under such state-

ments as "female teachers and nurses are too proud!" In any case such men would not want educated girls for wives; they will naturally turn to the uneducated kitchen girls.

**Work And Prayer**

P. A. Mseng-Sempe, Port Elizabeth, writes: I think Mr. Maisella has forgotten that in order to get anything, we all have to work hard to that end. Merely to fold arms and pray will not bring us freedom. It should not be thought that when people go on strike they are unaware of the Almighty who is ever there to help them. A strike is a form of protest.

Mr. Maisella should not be too much of a pessimist. He must work and pray, or choose this for his motto. The freedom of our people is in their own hands; they must work for that freedom.

What reason has Mr. Maisella to offer substantiating his claim for the return of Dr. Xuma?

**Cookery Course Should Include Hygiene**

Obed A. B. Tabane, Pretoria, writes: I would suggest the inclusion of hygiene as a subject for students taking a course in cookery. Knowledge of hygiene will ensure clean preparation of food in fact, it would safe guard and promote good health.

Often we hear or read about people poisoned by foreign elements in the food they consumed. If cooks are given sound training in hygiene, cases of food poisoning would be rare.

**Teachers' Qualification**

Jeremiah Kali, Ventersdorp, writes: Teachers who hold only the junior certificate are not recognised in the Transvaal; why is this so? Then, I notice also that nobody can qualify as a teacher by private study.

As the teaching profession is the main channel of employment for the educated among us, many of whom cannot afford to reach matric save by private study, what encouragement is there to raise the standard of education among Africans? Not even bursaries are being offered to us.

**Money Is The Root Of Evil**

Joseph Mositi Ramosene, Marquard, writes: Many among us seem to think that money is all that matters in life. Admittedly, it is a vital factor in our fight in this complicated life as well as being a means by which we have to preserve ourselves.

But I must say I am against this great devotion and love shown for money, also the way people go about this money business. After all, money is a mere tool; it is a good servant, but can be a bad master.

Many people who have amassed wealth in the form of money have lost all balance of themselves. You may either use money for a good purpose or for one that is bad.

**Nothing Wrong On Earth?**

Larry J. Benjamin, Klerksdorp, writes: In a letter published here on August 19, Mr. Tabane attacked clergymen who preach against strong drink, and said there is nothing bad on earth.

Mr. Tabane pretends not to know the evils which liquor has brought upon people. Clergymen and leaders must preach against liquor which leaves people's pockets empty. Not only that, liquor empties the stomach as well as the head of whoever takes it.

Our young people to-day are victims of this evil thing called liquor and, surely, Mr. Tabane knows only too well what will eventually become of these young people. The clergyman who can still speak successfully to his people and warn them against strong drink, deserves every praise and encouragement.

**LITERATURE AND LIFE**

**More About Negro Poetry**

By Dr. R. H. W. Shepherd

In the time of the first great war a new group of Negro poets emerged. They were marked by a revolt against Negro dialect poetry. They held that such poetry is the vehicle of the primitive and crude conceptions of some of the American Negroes before they were touched by the refinements of education. To write as if they truly represented twentieth century thought and expression among Negroes was, they felt, to do the race a disservice. They revolted also against much else. They sent forth the poetry of protest, rebellion and despair.

**AT THE CLOSED GATE OF JUSTICE**

Here is a typical voice:  
To be a Negro in a day like this  
Demands forgiveness. Bruised with blow on blow.  
Betrayed, like him whose woe dimmed eyes gave bliss,  
Still must one succour those who brought one low.  
To be a Negro in a day like this  
Demands rare patience—patience that can wait  
In utter darkness. 'Tis the path to miss,  
And knock, unheeded, at an iron gate.  
To be a Negro in a day like this  
Demands strange loyalty. We serve a flag  
Which is to us white freedom's emphasis.  
Ah! one must love when Truth and Justice lag.  
To be a Negro in a day like this—  
Alas! Lord God, what evil have we done?  
Still shines the gate, all gold and anathyst,  
But I pass by, the glorious goal unwon.  
"Merely a Negro"—in a day like this!

There is a plaintive patience in the foregoing poem that came to be absent in many other poems. The gentler note of protest deepened into one of hatred. Race riots broke out. There were lynchings. Feeling became tense. One of the bitterest of the voices was that of Claude McKay. In a terrible poem he pictures the lynched body hung up.  
His spirit in smoke ascended to high heaven.  
His father, by the cruelest way of pain,  
Had bidden him to his bosom once again.  
The awful sin remained still unforgiven.  
All night a bright and solitary star  
(Perchance the one that ever guided him,  
Yet gave him up at last to Fate's wild whim)  
Hung pitifully o'er the swinging char.  
Day dawned, and soon the mixed crowds came to view  
The ghastly body swaying in the sun:  
The women thronged to look, but never a one

Heart free, hand free,  
Blue above, brown under,  
All the world to me  
Is a place of wonder.  
Sun shine, moon shine,  
Stars and winds a-blowing,  
All into this heart of mine,  
Flowing, flowing, flowing!  
Mind free, step free,  
Days to follow after,  
Joys of life sold to me  
For the price of laughter,  
Girl's love, man's love,  
Love of work and duty,  
Just a will of God's to prove,  
Beauty, beauty, beauty!  
A little poem by Joseph Seamon Cotter seems to have a touch of Africa about it:

**RAIN MUSIC**  
On the dusty earth-drum  
Beats the falling rain:  
Now a whispered murmur,  
Now a louder strain.  
Slender, silvery drumsticks,  
On an ancient drum,  
Beat the mellow music  
Bidding life to come.  
Chords of earth awakened,  
Notes of greening spring,  
Rise and fall triumphant  
Over every thing.  
Slender, silvery drumsticks  
Beat the long tattoo—  
God, the Great Musician,  
Calling life anew.

One of the most famous of the modern poets is Countee Cullen. His books, and especially COLOR have had a great sale. He is a poet of high rank, but he does not avoid dealing with racial matters, though to him art, and not propaganda, is the prime concern. We may conclude with one of the most impressive of his poems.

**YET DO I MARVEL**

I doubt not God is good, well-meaning, kind,  
And did He stoop to quibble could tell why  
The little buried mole continues blind,  
Why flesh that mirrors Him must some day die,  
Make plain the reason tortured Tantalus  
Is baited by the fickle fruit, declare  
If merely brute caprice dooms Sisyphus  
To struggle up a never-ending stair,  
Inscrutable His ways are, and immune  
To catechism by a mind too strewn  
With petty cares to slightly understand  
What awful brain compels His awful hand,  
Yet do I marvel at this curious thing:  
To make a poet black, and bid him sing.



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1950

Welcome Suggestion

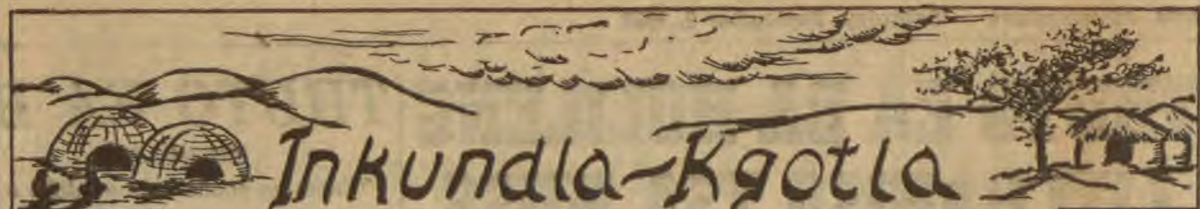
The suggestion made by the Association of Administrators of Non-European Affairs to the City Council of Pretoria that judicial courts should be established in the larger African townships...

It is our firm conviction that if Africans were given responsible positions in the administration of local affairs...

Health Foundation Lends Assistance To Nigel Creche

Releasing African mothers for work so that they can help finance their homes, the day nursery organised by the Nigel and District Welfare Organisation...

Centres Financed By Appeal To teach people to help themselves to health is one of the aims of the National War Memorial Health Foundation...



'TIME IS MONEY'

The old adage, "time is money," is freely applied in the Belgian Congo. At Leopoldville, for instance, no restrictions are placed on anybody desiring to work for gain on Sundays...

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTY

An African recently back from the Belgian Congo says he was amazed at the number of dialects spoken there. He had thought that Africans living south of the Limpopo were the only people of their colour affected by what Dr. Nhlapo terms a "Babel of Bantu languages."

Now he knows that even in the Belgian Congo where, he says, it is possible to find about 200 distinct tribes each with its own language, a "Babel of Bantu languages" even worse than that obtaining in South Africa exists.

But, of course, he was wrong. The white man was probably French-speaking and this he found after the event. Actually this is what happened:

The African: "Excuse me, sir." The European: "Good morning; good afternoon." That was all the conversation they had; they could not get any further owing to language difficulty!

SAME DISEASE BUT DIFFERENT NAME

Is it not strange that many Bechuana cattle owners in northern Bechuanaland take fright at the mention of "foot and mouth" disease? This only shows how deeply a change of name can affect the minds of some people.

"Foot and mouth" is not uncommon among cattle in northern Bechuanaland. Inhabitants of that part of the country have always known this disease which they call "Boilele." The fact that the first inhabitants of that country have given this self-same name to a river in the district is sufficient to show how long the disease has been prevalent in the area.

SIKALANGA NAMES IN BECHUANALAND

Africans in the Union are often puzzled by foreign names given to certain areas in Bechuanaland, particularly names which belong to the Kalanga group. The Bakalanga claim to be the first inhabitants of the vast Bamengwato Reserve.

Donota means "to pick up something." Years back, a kind of berry shrub abounded in this area and it was the practice of the Bakalanga male folk to rise up early morn and shake the berries vigorously off the trees. The women folk following later in the morning, would "pick up" the fallen fruit which was gathered and brought home.

Tjizwina (Sibina) means defence. Inhabitants of this village were famous for their defence against Matebele inroads.

FROM HORSEBACK TO PLANE TRAVEL

This column last week referred to air-mindedness among Africans in the Belgian Congo. Now, this form of travel from one place to another seems to have come to the Basotho as well, according to a correspondent in a local Basutoland paper.

"Speedy travel in the past entailed a horseback ride to the railway station when the rest of the journey was by train," he writes. "Now, however, we shall travel in the mail carrying aircraft which touches Mokhotlong between the Ladysmith and Maseru route. Already, many in this area make use of this means of travel as the fares charged are not high."

Then he gives an account of the reaction of the local community when the first machine roared over the area, saying many ran helter-skelter in all directions through fright. Now, however, the sight of planes being familiar, even children no longer fear "these gigantic hawks" but cry out "aeroplane! aeroplane!" whenever one flies past.

WANTS TO KNOW—

Why there was such poor attendance at the last monthly meeting of the Johannesburg Municipal Locations Advisory Boards, more so that important items were on the agenda; also, whether this is consistent with the demand often heard for more executive power and control for location boards. —"WOZANAZO."

SALUTE THE HEROES

(By The "Sphinx")

History is a fascinating study, more so to the man or woman who is broadminded and takes interest in it for what it teaches mankind, and not merely for the use man can make of history to suit his own ends.

But very few students of history are prepared to free their minds from prejudice and jealousy. Up to now, the slogan of many historians has been "my race, right or wrong."

That is to say, when they deal with a subject such as war, they emphasise the rights of their tribe race or nation, and magnify the wrongs of their enemies.

That this is the case with the South African history no one who knows anything about it can deny. Indeed the racial problems that have become so unresolvable to-day have their origin in the minds of those men and women who gave this country the distorted records of its history.

The written history of South Africa as we know it to-day is a one-sided affair, and the result is that European children know nothing about the part played by Africans in assisting Europeans to transplant Western Civilisation on this Southern end of the African continent.

JUSTICE IN OUR COURTS

It has sometimes been said that this is a wicked world, in which the poor man, white or black, finds great difficulty in obtaining justice to which he—and all of us—are entitled. Is South Africa, among all the so-called free and democratic countries, really a wicked land?

ON THE WAY HOME

Throughout the Copperbelt mines, Chingola, Mufuire, Kitwe, Luanshya and Ndola, the touring party found themselves back in a country more like their own. The Congo moiré, and language were over. On the Copperbelt they could buy as they pleased with very little money figure difficulties.

Good Points Of Copper Belt

What impressed me on the Copper mines are the living quarters for African employees. The mineworkers have quarters for married and single men. The compound system is being improved and the work of the Welfare Dept. on the mines is outstanding.

Woman Cashier

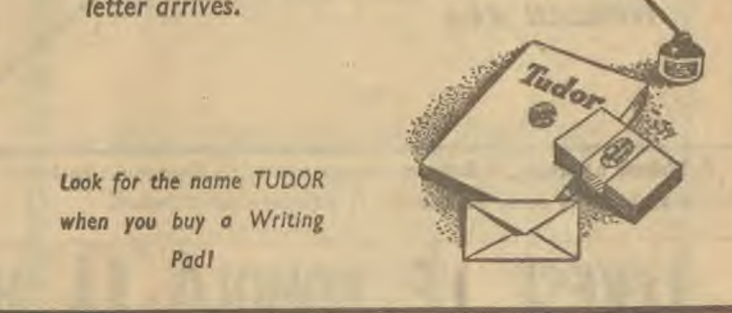
I was particularly interested to visit a huge commercial concern at Kitwe where I found an African woman behind the counter acting as a cashier. This was in a departmental store. Despite poor wages throughout the country, the African is allowed an opportunity to show his worth.

Education

On the Belt, education for children between the ages of 12 to 16 is compulsory. For adults, mass education is provided and supervisors are paid by the Government.



This is Mrs. Nomathemba. She is posting a letter to her son. The letter must travel a long way. It must be written on good paper. Mrs. Nomathemba bought a TUDOR writing pad with envelopes to match. Her son will be pleased when the letter arrives.



Look for the name TUDOR when you buy a Writing Pad

Advertisement for African Academy of Music, offering easy music lessons by correspondence course for 5/- per week.

Advertisement for Easy Double Control Driving School, offering driver's licence training at 5 Hoek Str. (Opp. Metro Theatre).

Advertisement for The Lyceum College, featuring a man and a woman and the text 'YOU CAN EARN GOOD MONEY TOO!'.













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