

LENANEŌ II.

MAKHOTLA A MARENA.

Marena a Libaka	Palo ea Makhotla ao a ja			Makhotla ao a ja	Setereke	Palo ea Makhotla ao a ja			Makhotla ao a ja
	A	B	Kaofela			A	B	Kaofela	
Mohale's Hoek				£					£
Bereng Griffith	1	6	7	1824					
Moeketsi Mokhele	1	3	4	1068					
Goliath Mohale	1	1	2	588					
Phakiso Lebona	1	-	1	348					
Mohale 'Mako	-	1	1	240					
M. Hoek Reserve	-	1	1	204	Mohale's Hoek	4	12	16	4272
Leribe									
Letsie Motsoene	2	2	4	1116					
Jon. Mathealira	1	4	5	1212					
Masopha Molapo	1	2	3	732					
Khethisa Tau	1	1	2	504					
'Mamakhabane Peete	1	1	2	516					
Leribe Reserve	-	1	1	156	Leribe	6	11	17	4236
Teyateyaneng									
Gabashane Masupha	2	7	9	2208					
Majara Majara	1	1	2	660					
'Mamakhabane Peete	1	1	2	618	Teyateyaneng	4	9	13	3486
Qacha's Nek									
Theko Makhaola	3	6	9	2808					
'Mamohlalefi Bereng	-	1	1	616	Qachas Nek	3	7	10	3024
Maseru									
Morena e Moholo +	-	6	6	1896					
Jacottet Theko	1	4	5	1380					
'Mamohlalefi Bereng	1	3	4	1020					
Seeiso Maama	1	2	3	864					
Makopoi R. Api	1	2	3	624					
Maseru Reserve	-	1	1	240	Maseru	4	18	22	6024
Quthing									
Qefate Sempe	2	6	8	2448	Quthing	2	6	8	2448
Mafeteng									
P.C. Likhoele	1	3	4	972					
Mor. e Moholo feela	-	3	3	540					
Joel Moholobela	1	1	2	504					
Lerotholi Mojela	1	1	2	516					
Mohale 'Mako	1	1	2	420					
'Mamohlalefi Bereng	-	1	1	180					
Mafeteng Reserve	-	1	1	108	Mafeteng	4	11	15	3240
Butha Buthe									
Kuini Mopeli	1	2	3	792					
Tumane Matela	1	2	3	744	Butha Buthe	2	4	6	1536
Mokhotlong									
P. C. 'Mantsebo	2	8	10	2268	Mokhotlong	2	8	10	2268
KAOFELA						31 86 117 £30534			

+ Sebaka sa Morena e Moholo setereke sa Maseru. Bakeng sa makhotla a "A" bona serapa sa 76 khaolong ea VII.

- (1) Bona serapa sa 77.
- (2) Marena a lenaneong lena ke a lenaneong la I. Bona (2) katlase ho Lenaneo I.
- (3) Likhakanyong tsa Lichelete meputso ea maoto a lipere ha e kene tlasa "Meputso" ea batho, empa e bontšitsoe kathoko tlasa. "Mabaka a Mang" (bona Hlooho III, Makhotla, temanyana ea (b) katlase).

*With Capt. S. H. Kemp's Compliments
Wide pages 9 17-18*

**South African
Trades and Labour Council**



ANNUAL REPORT
and
BALANCE SHEET

For the period
1st January to 31st December, 1945

for consideration by the
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, DURBAN
22nd to 26th April, 1946.

Johannesburg

March, 1946

N.E.C. RECORD OF ATTENDANCES.

Twenty-four meetings of the National Executive Committee took place during 1945. The asterisk (*) denotes not re-elected at the 1945 Conference and the dagger (†) denotes new members elected at that Conference. Those members whose attendance records are small intimated that they were engaged on other important work, absent on leave or attending Overseas Conferences:—

†Blake, W.	9	Haldane, R. M.	15
†Botha, J. L. P.	12	*Kalk, W.	2
Brand, D. T.	22	†Kemp, S. H.	18
Briggs, J. D. F.	19	O'Keeffe, T.	12
Caddy, B.	16	McCormick, G.	9
Calder, J.	13	Merkel, A.	8
Clements, E. A.	16	*O'Meara, Mrs. R.	4
†Cornelius, Miss J.	11	Press, I. E.	20
Cowlard, W. N.	18	Rutherford, T. C.	13
†Cowley, H.	14	†Scheepers, Miss A.	14
Crompton, C. H.	14	Siebert, C.	21
De Vries, W. J.	14	Tyler, H. F.	23
Downes, A. J.	18	Venter, J. J.	21
†Du Toit, Miss B.	14	*Wadsworth, G.	3
*Engela, Mrs. F. J.	3	*Weinbren, B.	4
George, K. J.	7	*Wolfson, I.	5

PREVIOUS CONFERENCES.

Record of Annual and Special Conferences.—The South African Trades Union Congress came into being in 1925. The Congress met annually from 1926 to 1931. In February, 1931, the South African Trades Union Congress was merged into the South African Trades and Labour Council:—

Conference	Date	Place	Chairman
"All-in" ...	October 4th—6th, 1930	Cape Town ...	J. D. F. Briggs
First ...	April 5th—8th, 1931	Durban ...	J. D. F. Briggs
Second ...	March 26th—28th, 1932	Port Elizabeth ...	J. D. F. Briggs
Third ...	April 8th—11th, 1933	Cape Town ...	A. A. Moore
Fourth ...	March 31st—April 3rd, 1934	Johannesburg ...	A. A. Moore
Fifth ...	April 20th—24th, 1935	Durban ...	A. J. Downes
Sixth ...	April 13th—17th, 1936	Cape Town ...	A. J. Downes
Seventh ...	March 29th—April 2nd, 1937	Port Elizabeth ...	A. A. Moore
Eighth ...	April 18th—22nd, 1938	East London ...	A. A. Moore
Ninth ...	April 10th—14th, 1939	Kimberley ...	A. A. Moore
Tenth ...	March 25th—29th, 1940	Cape Town ...	A. A. Moore
Eleventh ...	April 14th—18th, 1941	Durban ...	A. A. Moore
Twelfth ...	April 6th—10th, 1942	Port Elizabeth ...	A. A. Moore
Thirteenth ...	April 26th—30th, 1943	Johannesburg ...	A. A. Moore
Fourteenth ...	April 10th—14th, 1944	Cape Town ...	A. J. Downes
(Special Workers' Charter) ...	November 20th—21st, 1944	Johannesburg ...	A. J. Downes
Fifteenth ...	April 3rd—6th, 1945	East London ...	A. J. Downes

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

BALANCE SHEET

For the Year 1945

South African Trades and Labour Council

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

A. J. DOWNES, J.P.

Vice-President:

J. J. VENTER.

Treasurer:

E. A. CLEMENTS.

Secretary:

W. J. DE VRIES.

Trustees:

D. T. BRAND and B. CADDY.

Committee:

W. BLAKE.	R. M. HALDANE.
J. D. F. BRIGGS.	S. H. KEMP.
J. L. P. BOTHA.	G. McCORMICK.
J. CALDER.	A. M. MERKEL.
W. N. COWLARD.	T. O'KEEFFE.
H. COWLEY.	I. E. PRESS.
C. H. CROMPTON.	T. C. RUTHERFORD.
J. CORNELIUS (Miss).	C. SIEBERT.
B. DU TOIT (Miss).	A. SCHEEPERS (Miss).
K. J. GEORGE.	H. F. TYLER.

South African Trades and Labour Council

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1945, presented by the National Executive Committee to the Sixteenth Annual Conference to be held in Durban on 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th April, 1946.

IN presenting its Annual Report and Balance Sheet, the National Executive Committee of the South African Trades and Labour Council desire to convey its sincere thanks to trade unionists who, during the past six years, unselfishly gave their services in support of the combined war effort, both at home and on the various battle fronts Up North and Overseas. This report, covering the period of climax, again shows our endeavours in various spheres to bring about improved conditions of employment with social and economic security.

During the period under review the Second World War came to an end, and this happy event brought us nearer to the problem of "peace" and reconstruction, upon the solving of which much planning in advance was in evidence during the last two years while we were still actively engaged on the many and far-flung war fronts, where our fighting men gained a reputation of being amongst the finest and the most gallant to be found anywhere in the world. With both Germany and Japan forced to accept defeat and unconditional surrender, it is appropriate to pay homage to all those who gave of their best—some never to return, others coming home wounded, disabled or suffering from the after-effects of the hardships of battle or through years of confinement in prison camps. They will not be forgotten by us; we shall do all we can to re-establish them wherever possible, on well-deserved good living standards.

To our less conspicuous army—those who stayed behind to keep the wheels of production turning—words are inadequate to describe what great service has really been rendered, individually and collectively. On "the Home Front" the Trade Union Movement can be proud of its achievements over the long and arduous period of war. The promise given to the Government when hostilities broke out, that organised labour would support the war effort with all its power and with all the means at its disposal, was indeed truly kept, and the Movement takes pride that such should have been so. It calls for prompt recognition by the Government, and, in fulfilment of a pledge that there shall be no forgotten men or women who have served their country, the utmost attention must be given to full employment and security in the future.

South African industries have made headway in modern development, and improvements in production methods, linked with somewhat better conditions of some workers, have been largely responsible for a better and greater industrial output during the last six years. Firstly, it has been shown that South Africa is able to take an important place among the leading industrial countries; and, secondly, that workers, individually and collectively, should be "partners," not merely the tools, in our potential industrial output and strength. Whatever else, they must be resolved not only to retain but improve on what has been gained during the past six years of war.

Government efforts are on the way to prepare the country for the rehabilitation of returning man-power. In this respect the Trade Union Movement as a whole, and this Council in particular, has again rendered invaluable services to the various authorities concerned. It is gratifying to note that the Government is relying on the assistance of the Movement, and our willingness to co-operate has proved a wise step taken in the right direction.

There is still much to be desired in the form of amending our industrial legislation, of implementing social and other reforms as set out in the "Workers' Charter," and providing the nation with adequate health and other national services. The efforts of those who have given much of their time and knowledge on matters directly affecting the individual worker should not be wasted and they should be discouraged. Their contributions must receive the backing of all progressive men and women, although this may call for patience. The determination we displayed when our liberty was at stake must carry us forward to overcome, not merely by-pass, the manifold after-effects of a ghastly and destructive war. We must use all our influence, political and non-political, to ensure that we do not lose what we have gained, and, further, we must unite to frustrate any attempts that will be made to set the clock back.

Whilst there has been little or no unemployment during the past twelve months—industry and commerce together with agriculture having produced to full capacity—signs are already evident that the change-over from war to peace cannot be carried through entirely without a certain amount of dislocation. It is said that elaborate provisions were formulated well in advance to cope with this conversion, and although we cannot hope for the transition to take effect instantaneously, we should endeavour to avoid upheavals and dislocations in the future by exercising tolerance, but tolerance may be taxed beyond endurance, for cases can be cited where provocation left workers no option but to fight for the right to a better life.

Amongst our achievements was the handing over to the Government of the "Workers' Charter," compiled and set out by members of the National Executive Committee, and concrete action should be taken in the near future to ensure the implementation of some of the most pressing points. This document has been given a wide circulation, and signs are evident that workers are becoming more conscious of the discrepancies in the social and other standards of the past decade; that they will stand solidly behind their leaders when the time comes to press for the implementation of the main principles of this Charter.

Outside the boundaries of the Union, this Council has made its presence felt on various occasions, and in that connection a detailed report of the Trades Council's delegation to the Conference of the World Federation of Trade Unions in Europe will be found at the end of this report. The report on the International Labour Conference is published under separate cover.

The N.E.C. takes this opportunity of extending sincere thanks to officials and members of the Movement as a whole for the good and loyal services rendered, not only during the past twelve months, but from the outset of hostilities six years ago.

ORGANISATIONAL.

List of Affiliated Unions.—The following shows the affiliated strength of each union as at the end of December, 1945:

African Broom and Brush Employees' Union	25
African Cement Workers' Union	100
African Commercial and Distributive Workers' Union	501
African Laundry Workers' Union	100
African Sweet Workers' Union	100
African Tin Workers' Union (Transvaal Non-European)	25
Amalgamated Bricklayers' Trade Union of S.A.	365
Amalgamated Engineering Union	2,100
Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers	2,005

Box Workers' Industrial Union	25
Brewery Employees' Union	200
Brick and Tile Workers' Union	100
Building Workers' Industrial Union	1,500
Candle and Soap Workers' Union	501
Cape Butchers' and Slaughtermen's Association	20
Cape Explosive Industrial Workers' Union	180
Cape Furniture Workers' Union	500
Chemical Workers' Union	120
Cape Western District Bespoke Tailors' Union	150
Concession Stores and Allied Trades Assistants' Union	501
Diamond Workers' Union	150
Durban and District Transportation Employees' Union	10
Durban Indian Municipal Employees' Society	200
Durban Municipal Transport Employees' Union	350
East London and Border Furniture Workers' Union	50
East London Transport Workers' Union	40
Food Canning Workers' Union (Cape)	505
Food and Canning Workers' Industrial Union (Transvaal)	501
Furniture, Mattress and Bedding Workers' Industrial Union	100
Furniture Workers' Industrial Union (Natal)	350
Furniture Workers' Industrial Union (Transvaal)	1,005
Garment Workers' Industrial Union (Natal)	501
Garment Workers' Union	9,165
Glass Workers' Union	50
Glass Manufacturing Workers' Union	30
Ironmoulders' Society of South Africa	501
Johannesburg Municipal Transport Workers' Union	1,000
Johannesburg Musicians' Union	240
Jewellers' and Goldsmiths' Society	180
Match Workers' Union (Transvaal)	20
Match Workers' Industrial Union (Natal)	100
Mine Workers' Union	10,000
Motor Industry Employees' Union	1,520
Motor Transport Workers' Union	200
Natal Liquor and Catering Trade Employees' Union	250
Natal Non-European Mine Workers' Union	179
Natal Sugar Industry Employees' Union	100
National Baking Industrial Union	300
National Cement Employees' Union	84
National Union of Laundry Workers	501
National Milling Workers' Industrial Union	50
National Union of Commercial Travellers	1,225
National Union of Distributive Workers	1,150
Optical Workers' Union	59
Operative Plumbers' Association (Port Elizabeth)	20
Pietermaritzburg Tram and Bus Workers' Union	20
Port Elizabeth Tram and Bus Workers' Union	100
Pretoria Non-European Municipal Workers' Union	100
Pretoria Liquor and Catering Trades Employees' Union	40
Pretoria Tram and Bus Workers' Union	300
Public Service and Provincial Council Workers' Union	120
Rope and Mat Workers' Union (Natal)	50
S.A. Association of Municipal Employees	1,500
S.A. Boilermakers' Society	1,005
S.A. Broadcasting Employees' Union	200
S.A. Canvas and Rope Workers' Union	120
S.A. Cinematograph Operators' Union	1,026
S.A. Coloured Mine Workers' Union	100
S.A. Electrical Workers' Association	1,101
S.A. Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association	1,000
S.A. Hairdressers Employees' Industrial Union	1,147
S.A. Iron and Steel Trades Association	600
S.A. Mint Employees' Union	501
S.A. Railway and Harbour Workers' Union (Non-European)	501
S.A. Reduction Workers' Association	2,500
S.A. Society of Bank Officials	3,000
S.A. Theatre and Cinema Employees' Union	600
S.A. Tin and Sheetmetal Workers' Union	75
S.A. Typographical Union	3,600
Sweet Workers' Union	500
Tailoring Workers' Industrial Union	500
Tea, Coffee and Chicory Workers' Union	55

Textile Workers' Industrial Union	500
Tobacco Workers' Union	510
Transvaal Explosives and Chemical Workers' Union	510
Transvaal Leather and Allied Trades Industrial Union	501
Transvaal Non-European Iron, Steel and Metal Workers' Union	501
Transvaal Retail Meat Trade Employees' Union	214
Trunk and Box Workers' Industrial Union	25
Twine and Bag Workers' Union	25
Umbogintwini Workers' Industrial Union	72
Witwatersrand Baking Employees' Association	100
Witwatersrand Liquor and Catering Trades Employees' Union	280
Witwatersrand Taxi Drivers' Union	40
Witwatersrand Tea Room and Catering Trades Employees' Union	510
	<hr/>
	63,953
	<hr/>

A number of unions increased their affiliation during the year, comparison being as follows:—

	1944.	1945.
Amalgamated Engineering Union	1,600	2,100
Furniture Workers' Industrial Union (Natal)	250	350
Garment Workers' Union	60	9,165
Match Workers' Industrial Union (Natal)	50	100
Mine Workers' Union	6,606	10,000
National Union of Commercial Travellers	550	1,225
S.A. Hairdressers Employees' Industrial Union	560	1,147
S.A. Reduction Workers' Association	2,003	2,500
S.A. Society of Bank Officials	2,000	2,500
S.A. Typographical Union	3,100	3,600
Sweet Workers' Union	270	500
Tailoring Workers' Industrial Union	250	500
Textile Workers' Industrial Union	300	500
Transvaal Retail Meat Trade Employees' Union	150	214

The following union decreased its affiliation:—

S.A. Mint Employees' Union	762	501
-----------------------------------	-----	-----

The following unions were accepted during 1945:—

- Brick and Tile Workers' Union.
- Cape Furniture Workers' Union.
- Cape Western Districts Bespoke Tailors' Union.
- Food and Canning Workers' Union (Cape).
- Operative Plumbers' Association.
- Optical Workers' Union.
- Pretoria Non-European Municipal Workers' Union.
- S.A. Theatre and Cinema Employees' Union.
- Umbogintwini Workers' Industrial Union.
- Witwatersrand Tea Room and Catering Trades Employees' Union.

An increase of 4,411 is registered, bringing the aggregate number of trade union members covered to approximately 188,000.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

Although busy with State affairs and absent from the Union for some months on important missions in the United States of America and Great Britain, the Prime Minister met the Advisory Committee of the Council early in September and at the close of the year. An important meeting took place on the 10th September, 1945, when matters such as the implementation of the "Workers' Charter," war-time controls, Governmental boards and other items directly and indirectly affecting the country were freely discussed.

The Advisory Committee consists of Messrs. B. Caddy, K. J. George, A. M. Merkel, T. C. Rutherford, J. J. Venter, C. H. Crompton, Miss A. Scheepers (members), with the Council's President and Secretary ex-officio, and Messrs. J. Calder, H. F. Tyler, J. L. P. Botha, D. T. Brand, W. N. Cowlard, C. Siebert and T. O'Keeffe (alternates).

"Workers' Charter."—The deputation pressed for the early implementation of the "Workers' Charter," particularly in regard to the Labour Laws of the Country. It was pointed out that amendments in regard to Section 1 of the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1937 would be desirable. The immediate establishment of a standing Industrial Arbitration Court was urged, to which cases for voluntary and compulsory arbitration could

be referred. The many malpractices evident in "back-yard" manufacturing establishments such as disproportionate profits being made for inferior goods, conditions of employment and other discrepancies, with particular regard to furniture making, were debated. Further, such items as the forty-hour working week, the training of Africans to produce their own consumption goods and the necessity for the tightening-up of the licensing laws were discussed at length. The Prime Minister requested our representatives to submit data on these particular points.

Repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War.—The deputation referred to the urgent necessity of repatriating Italian prisoners-of-war, many of whom were being employed by private undertakings at the wage rate of one shilling per day and their food. The presence of prisoners thus employed was giving trade unions much concern, and, if allowed to remain in the Union, they would become a source of much trouble. The Prime Minister assured the deputation that all the prisoners of war would be repatriated, that he had personally consulted the Italian Government whilst in Italy on this point, lack of shipping facilities being the main reason for the delay.

Cost-of-Living Allowances—War Measure No. 43 of 1942.—When advocating an increase in the allowances payable to employees in view of the rise in the cost of living, the deputation drew attention to the discontent created by the disparity between rates of allowances which the Government compelled other employers to pay to their employees and the rates which it considered reasonable for its own employees. It was pointed out that the workers are little better off every time an adjustment is made in such allowances, owing to the rise in prices which has taken place in the meantime, and the necessity was therefore stressed for the pegging of prices and adjusting wages to that pegged level of prices. In that respect it was strongly urged that the authorities tighten-up regulations covering profits and introduce means of keeping closer surveillance of price trends in general.

Import Control.—Although this issue had been subjected to searching criticism by many interested and competent bodies, the deputation, in order to avoid any further misinterpretation of the views the N.E.C. hold on this matter, urged the Government to retain certain import controls for a limited period, so as to enable manufacturers in South Africa to adjust themselves to a peace-time production and to equip themselves with machinery and plant to meet overseas competition, once trading has settled down to normal. The Prime Minister assured the deputation that essential controls would be retained and only relaxed gradually and selectively as the occasion demanded.

Price Control of Essential Commodities.—In line with the evidence given at the enquiry of the Distribution Costs Commission, the deputation strongly urged that essential commodities now carrying a fixed ceiling price laid down by Price Control Regulations be reviewed, and the Prime Minister agreed with the criticism levelled, but although admitting that the proposals set out in the report issued by the Distribution Costs Commission were both progressive and useful, he felt that the task of compiling figures of the country's capacity to consume and produce (in relation to price fixation) would be far beyond the present means at our disposal. However, it was felt that useful work could be undertaken by experts to ascertain production capacity and cost of such production together with investigations covering wholesale and retail margins of profit. The deputation drew attention to disproportionate profits being derived within the orbit of the distributive machinery, and urged that the introduction of more rigorous zoning and centralisation be carried out to prevent costly overlapping in respect of essential commodities, such as food and other perishable produce.

Mine Native Wages Commission.—The Government's failure to put the considered recommendations of the Mine Wage Commission into operation in respect of natives employed by the Victoria Falls Power Co. led to lengthy discussions with the Prime Minister during 1944. Despite the

efforts made by the European trade unions, much restiveness and dissatisfaction was evident at the various power stations. At that time the promise was received that their case would be placed before the Government, and on that assumption no serious strike or disturbances took place. In the meantime, however, nothing has been done, and wage differences between native employees at the V.F.P. and those working at Escom are still operating to the dissatisfaction of those receiving the lower rates of pay. Attention was therefore drawn to the fact that this disparity in wage levels was a matter of very grave concern and might easily be the cause of serious trouble in the future. The Prime Minister was disinclined to reopen the question, indicating that the mines could only be kept going at their present level by the employment of cheap labour, and was furthermore of opinion that many mines would have to be closed immediately native wages were increased. He regarded the whole matter as a very difficult and delicate problem, and agreed to a proposal made by the Council's President to interview the Minister of Mines and the Minister of Native Affairs to discuss the questions regarding disparity in wages.

Diplomatic Relations with the U.S.S.R.—The Prime Minister assured the Council that this matter was receiving serious consideration by the Government. As the relationship between the two countries was better than it had ever been in past years, he was anxious to establish a relationship which would benefit all concerned.

Industrial Organisation and Equipment.—In support of a resolution passed at our last Conference held in East London, the deputation again urged the Government to recognise the need for industrial organisation and equipment in order to promote efficient production and to enable South African workers to produce the needs of the country as against importing such needs from overseas. The Prime Minister, in acknowledging the services rendered by the Home Front during the war, expressed his desire to promote all-round modernisation to bring South African industries on a sound and economic basis. He expressed his faith in the future development of the country, based on the possibility of the importation of modern plant and other industrial equipment.

Special Interview with the Prime Minister.—The Prime Minister met a delegation of the Council consisting of the President, Mr. J. D. F. Briggs, the Council's Secretary and Mr. I. Wolfson (the Council's representative on the National Council for the Disposal of War Stores) on the 23rd December, 1945. Important problems bearing on the immediate post-war policy were discussed in an atmosphere of collaboration and reciprocity. A free discussion took place on the method of *allocating and distributing surplus war stores, e.g., vehicles, clothing and machine tools and plant.* In particular, attention was drawn to the high profits being made on motor vehicles and that the distribution of serviceable clothing should remain in the hands of the S.A.W.A.S.; as far as possible such clothing should be sent to people living in distressed countries abroad. In order to assist existing South African industries and to promote the creation of new industrial undertakings, the deputation strongly urged that the best possible use should be made of surplus machines and machine-tools in that direction.—The Prime Minister gave the assurance that war stores would be distributed in the best possible manner at prices which would be both equitable and fair to the recipient. In regard to motor cars, however, it had been agreed as a matter of policy to allocate a certain percentage to the trade for re-conditioning and re-sale under existing ceiling price regulations. Profit margins now operating for such vehicles would be investigated forthwith; if found excessive, the margins would be revised.

The Prime Minister was also asked for a declaration on the *Government's post-war development policy.*—The Prime Minister stated that the whole position would be examined and consideration would be given to the question of issuing a statement on the Government's intentions and proposals.

As on previous occasions when meeting the Prime Minister, an atmosphere of co-operation was evident, and it can be said that the efforts of the

Prime Minister's Advisory Committee over a period of nearly six years have opened up hitherto untouched channels, with a measure of improvement for the bottom-dog.

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF LABOUR.

The Minister of Labour, Mr. W. B. Madeley, who resigned from the Cabinet in November, attended a special meeting called in July to discuss the *position of African workers at the Modderfontein Dynamite Factory*, who at that time had threatened strike action should their demands for an increase in wages not receive due consideration; furthermore, points in regard to a *hunger strike of natives employed at the Crown Mines* were put to the Minister. The hunger strike arose out of the dissatisfaction of those natives about the quality and quantity of food supplied to them.—The Minister was sympathetic and assured us that these matters would be discussed with the Prime Minister.

The implications of the Mines and Works Act (No. 12) of 1911 in relation to the Van der Byl Steel Works, were also debated, following which a sub-committee was appointed to compare the two Acts and draft a report for submission to the Prime Minister through the Council's Advisory Committee.

The Minister drew attention to anomalies taking place in respect of the *issuing of artisans' certificates to ex-volunteers* after having served as artisans in various technical units. This practice enabled people to enter into industry by diverse channels, despite the fact that the efficiency tests set by the Army Artisans Board were of a low standard.—It was agreed that the Department of Labour should handle the entry of personnel into industry, and the Minister promised that this matter would be discussed with the Prime Minister at an early date, in addition to which the Apprenticeship Board would also be consulted.

On the above occasion, the President, Vice-President and Messrs. C. H. Crompton, R. M. Haldane, H. F. Tyler and S. H. Kemp, were in attendance. Messrs. R. H. W. Fleet and L. C. Scheepers (of the Johannesburg Local Committee) were co-opted to give evidence in regard to conditions at the Modderfontein Dynamite Factory and the Crown Mines.

INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOUR, Dr. COLIN STEYN.

Although this interview took place on the 3rd of January, 1946, it is thought appropriate to include the discussion in our Annual Report as it touched on points of importance which in all probability will be discussed at the Conference in Durban, 1946. The President, attended by Miss J. Cornelius and the Council's Secretary, drew the Minister's attention to the *delays experienced in gazetting wage determinations and agreements* entered into under the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1937. Evidence was submitted later in writing, and it is anticipated that these matters will be speeded up in future.

The inadequacy of compensation paid to injured workers and the method of payment of such compensation in respect of daily and weekly paid employees was put to the Minister, who assured the delegation that this matter would be given immediate attention in consultation with the Compensation Commissioner.

Next discussed were the difficulties trade unions had to contend with by reason of the *restricted definition of the term "employee"* in the I.C. Act of 1937, arising out of the judgment given in the case of the Sweet Workers' Union *versus* the Industrial Registrar and the Minister of Labour.—The Minister admitted that ways and means must be found to overcome this state of affairs as expressed in the above-mentioned case.

Protests were made against the provocative attitude displayed by the police during the *laundry workers' strike in Durban*, leading to the arrest and prosecution of union officials.—Although appreciating our viewpoint, the Minister said all he could do in this particular case was to refer the matter to the Minister of Justice, the competent and responsible authority.

The delegation then discussed the implications of the *refusal by State Departments to recognise unions registered under the I.C. Act of 1937* (e.g., S.A.R. & H. Workers' Union, Non-European).—The Minister stated that his Department had no jurisdiction as far as trade union recognition was concerned in another State Department, but he promised to approach the Minister of Transport on this issue and see what could be done.

Concern was expressed that *African mine workers* were again *excluded from the benefits of the cost-of-living allowances*, whilst in fact these natives were equally feeling the effects of the high living costs during periods of scarcity and abnormal price levels in respect of essential commodities such as food and clothing.—The Minister promised that he would consult with the Prime Minister, in order that this matter could be given consideration by the Government at an early date.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

As in former years, the Council has maintained its representation on several Government Commissions, Boards, Councils and Committees. With the defeat of Germany early on in the year, it was evident that a speed-up of demobilisation and rehabilitation had to be undertaken; and, in addition to our normal representation on statutory bodies, we were called upon to serve on newly-established committees, mostly dealing with the future welfare of our returning man-power.

Commission on Technical Education.—During March, 1945, the Government appointed a Commission to investigate and report on technical and vocational education in general. In particular the most suitable methods of training for industry, e.g. apprenticeship and learnership, were to receive a thorough investigation. Mr. C. H. Crompton, of the Ironmoulders' Society, and a member of the N.E.C., was approached and agreed to serve on this Commission. The terms of reference were circulated to all unions directly affected, and comprehensive data covering many fields of industry were submitted by the N.E.C. in support of the concerted views of the Trade Union Movement, the necessity for planned work, skilled and intensive tuition, periodical tests and adequate technical facilities being strongly emphasised.

In June, a considered statement prepared by the Secretary was submitted to the Commission, who have requested the N.E.C. to tender oral evidence, which has been agreed to. Messrs. B. J. Caddy (S.A. Boilermakers' Society), E. A. Clements (Amalgamated Engineering Union), and H. F. Tyler (Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers) have been deputed by the N.E.C. to appear before the Commission. Several unions affiliated to the Council have already tendered evidence and others intend to do so.

In the Secretary's memorandum to the Commission various provisions in the Council's Workers' Charter were stressed—Section V, Education, being quoted in full.

Road Motor Transportation Commission.—In August, 1945, the Government publicly announced its intention of appointing a Commission of Inquiry into Road Motor Transportation. In view of the number of transport workers' unions affiliated to the Council, and the fact that very few industrial workers and commercial workers can afford to own their own transport, the N.E.C. approached the Minister of Transport for representation on the Commission. The N.E.C. felt that not only employees in the various passenger transport undertakings who are actually vitally interested from an operational standpoint, but that workers who have to use the public vehicles daily in their journeyings to and from their homes, factories, stores and offices should have direct representation on a Commission of this character. The Minister of Transport thought otherwise. In a letter (dated 28th August, 1945) from the Secretary for Transport, he stated: ". . . no member of the Commission will be appointed to represent any particular interest." The Trade Union Movement is particularly interested in Clauses (3) and (4) of the "Terms of Reference" to the Commission.

Clauses (3) and (4) read:

- “(3) The methods by which the safety and convenience of the general public, as affected by road transport, can be promoted.
- “(4) The measures to be adopted for the better regulation, control and co-ordination of road motor transport and the practicability of introducing a Road Traffic Act for the Union.”

The N.E.C. is of opinion that the Council's application has not received the consideration due to it. The Prime Minister was interviewed on two occasions in regard to the appointment of an N.E.C. nominee, but in spite of the Prime Minister's sympathy with us, the Minister of Transport gave no heed to our representations.

National Housing Commission.—The Minister of Welfare and Demobilisation (Mr. H. G. Lawrence, K.C.) invited our nominee on the National Health Services Commission to continue his work in regard to the environmental health services by accepting a seat on the National Housing and Planning Commission for twelve months. In August, 1945, the Commission's term of office expired and the N.E.C. was requested to submit the name of a suitable person, in consultation with the building workers' unions. The N.E.C. unanimously supported Captain Kemp's reappointment.

There are several obstacles which militate against the solution of the housing problem. The major bottle-neck is undoubtedly that of finance. The responsibility for the housing of their citizens ever since the Housing Act (No. 35) of 1920, was placed on the Statute Book as been that of Local Authorities. However, during the past five years they have had little consideration from the Union Government in the way of help in financing economic housing schemes. Even the most progressive Local Authorities which have campaigned against slums and bad housing conditions for the past two decades have now apparently thrown up the sponge. The hardest blow Local Authorities received from the Government was in March, 1940, when the rate of interest on Economic Housing Loans to Local Authorities was raised from 3½ per cent. to 4 per cent. per annum, to operate as from the 1st April, 1940. This was done at a time when the Government was raising loans for hundreds of millions at 3 per cent. and less (*vide* Reports of the Controller and Auditor-General). The Auditor-General in his report for the year 1943-4 shows that the average rate of interest payable on the interest loan debt of the Government of £455,994,290 is 3.103 per cent. per annum. The Government is almost entirely responsible for throttling the initiative of Local Authorities in tackling their own housing problems.

The six thousand national houses promised during the next eighteen months, which are to be erected by the Housing Commission, is only playing with the problem. In November, 1944, the Government convened a two-day conference of representatives of Local Authorities, ex-servicemen's organisations, building societies, the Trades and Labour Council and other bodies vitally interested in housing. The Conference tackled the housing shortage from several angles by appointing committees to study every phase of the problem. The Committee's reports were unanimously endorsed by Conference and were in due course submitted to the Minister. After months of delay the major recommendations were turned down, and although this Council actively participated in the proceedings, it only heard of the Government's decision eight months after the Conference met. Ex-servicemen and women and keymen who were debarred from joining the forces have been let down by the Government in regard to help in financing the purchase or erection of a dwelling.

Other bottle-necks are the excessive cost of decent building sites, the high cost of building materials, the slow rate of demobilisation of building artisans, and the lack of apprentices coming forward during the war period. Towards the end of the year, however, several of these difficulties were passing away. The Council and the building workers' unions have pledged themselves to help the Government to fulfil its promises to the people of South Africa. In return for such help the workers will naturally

expect the Government to smash the financial bottle-neck and make money available for the provision of hundreds of thousands of dwellings at a low rate of interest.

National Food Supplies Council.—At the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture, the Council's Secretary was given permission by the N.E.C. to accept appointment as a member of the Food Supplies Council in his personal capacity. During his absence overseas the Council's President was asked and agreed to act in his place and he attended a number of meetings. Recommendations submitted by the Food Supplies Council to the Minister are in the nature of advice and invariably acted upon, such being as a general rule in line with Governmental policy. The "poor man's case," however, as we know and argue it, is not seen by some in the same perspective. Unfortunately, those from the class "that have" know little of the trials and tribulations of juggling with ticcys and sixpences in order to make ends meet. That being so, we have had little success so far in the pursuance of our ideals; bringing about equality in the distribution of essential foodstuffs and raising the standards of living, through the lowest possible price levels, of the lower paid group (a group regarded by some as an economic necessity) are points which have not as yet received the deserving consideration. We are, nevertheless, indebted to the Government officials who serve on the Food Supplies Council for the information and guidance they have given to the members—they, at any rate, are realistic.

Advisory Council of Labour.—Although this Council is representative of many of the interests concerned with labour, and the trade union representatives thereon constitute a small minority, it does offer a forum for the discussion of matters of great importance to the workers and, by reason of the early information available to its members on the various matters under consideration by the Department of Labour or the Minister, provides an opportunity (not easily obtainable otherwise) for the trade union representatives to submit concrete suggestions for the improvement of the workers' conditions in time to be given proper attention.

A case in point is the Unemployment Insurance Bill. As a result of the discussion on the draft Bill at the meeting of the Council in July last, the Bill was referred to a departmental committee for further examination with a view to incorporating therein some of the suggestions submitted by the Council.

At the above meeting, the Council's President raised the question of a larger representation of South Africa at the International Labour Organisation Conferences than had been customary in the past, and as a result a very much larger delegation was sent to the 1945 Conference.

On many other matters, it has been possible, through the trade union representatives on that Council, for the trade union point of view to be presented in an effective way, and very often with beneficial results from the standpoint of the workers. The Trades and Labour Council's representatives on that Council are Messrs. A. J. Downes and H. F. Tyler.

Broadcasting Board.—Mr. J. D. F. Briggs continued as a governor on the Board of the Broadcasting Corporation, and reports that everything possible is done to satisfy the taste of South Africa's varied and critical listeners in the field of educational and travel talks, music, dramatics and news.

War Stores Disposal Board.—On the invitation of the War Stores Disposal Board, Mr. I. Wolfson was appointed by the N.E.C. to represent them on the National Council for the Disposal of Surplus War Stores. Mr. Wolfson has kept in close touch with the N.E.C. and has furnished them with reports of the meetings he attended. The Board has the responsibility of selling on behalf of the Government of South Africa all military stores which are declared surplus, estimated at £50,000,000. In addition to that they will have to dispose of £10,000,000 surplus stores held in South Africa on behalf of the British Government. The method used by the Board in selling surplus stores, is to offer them to Govern-

ment Departments, and when Government needs have been fulfilled, to sell the balance either by public tender or direct sale to buyers. Over £4,000,000 sales have been effected, of which £2,500,000 has been sold to Government Departments.

Grave dissatisfaction was expressed by the N.E.C. in the method of disposing surplus motor vehicles through the trade at exorbitant prices. Acting on this, the matter was taken up with the Prime Minister, reference to which appears under the heading of "Special Interview with the Prime Minister."

Union Tender and Supplies Board.—The Council's Secretary and Mr. B. Caddy as alternate were renominated for a further period of three years, as from the 1st January, 1946, to represent the Trade Union Movement on this Board. The Board ensures that Government supplies and contracts are placed with firms who observe fair labour standards and that local manufacturers receive preference over overseas firms, with due regard, however, to the quality of articles and other factors. As a matter of interest, to give only one example, lesser quotas were given for the cut, make and trim of certain items of clothing to a firm in an area where wages are lowest as against recommendations made by the Department concerned for higher quotas than required for such areas. On the other hand, the Council's representatives were able to give proper directives regarding the quality of goods with firms running the risk of being restricted as a result of indifferent workmanship. Trade union representation on this Board is indeed valuable, and, we believe, helpful to employers too.

Rent Boards.—The Council has continued to maintain contact with about 200 Rent Boards during the year. Annual reports from trade union representatives on these Boards are called for each year, but the response in 1945 was not good. Approximately 150 renominations for the ensuing twelve months were forwarded to the competent authorities. For the nomination of representatives in small towns and villages the N.E.C. has had to rely on the good services of the S.A. Association of Municipal Employees. While some have little or nothing of importance to report, detailed reports have been received from the following centres, which are open to inspection if required:—

Barkly West, Beaufort West, Benoni, Bloemfontein, Boksburg, Bredasdorp, C.P., Cala, Cape Town, Carolina, Cradock, Durban, Germiston, Grahamstown, Harding, Humansdorp, Idutywa, Kimberley, Kingwilliamstown, Koster, Kroonstad, Lindley, O.F.S., Middelburg (Transvaal), Middelburg, C.P., Montagu, Murraysburg, Oudtshoorn, Pearston, Pietersburg, Port Elizabeth, Rustenburg, Standerton, Trompsburg, Umtata, Utrecht, Uitenhage, Vrede, Vredefort, Vryheid.

National Board for Sheltered Employment for Disabled Ex-volunteers.—The Council is represented on this Board by Mr. T. C. Rutherford and Mr. F. R. Budd. of the Council's Western Province Local Committee. Further, in most large centres, members of our Local Committees are serving on voluntary agencies under the auspices of the Board. It is reported that the activities of the Board were hampered by the Treasury's refusal to implement certain recommendations contained in its report in respect of State subsidies and other financial assistances. The Board, however, succeeded in obtaining the approval of the Treasury after an interview with the Ministers concerned.

The financial recommendations are to be given a trial until such time as it is practicable to review the matter in the light of past experience. Matters such as the standardisation of wages of disabled ex-volunteers, irrespective of race or colour, are now being dealt with by a sub-committee, which includes Mr. Rutherford. Projects directly catering for epileptics, nervous and mental cases, both for Europeans and non-Europeans, are now in operation in several centres in the three Provinces. Community centres for tuberculosis cases are being contemplated for the Transvaal and the Cape Province.

The services of trade unionists on the Sheltered Employment Committees, on a voluntary basis, are highly valued.

Demobilisation Directorate.—Although the N.E.C. was unable to secure representation on this Directorate (equivalent to a Board), we were asked to nominate on numerous regional committees dealing with production, building, man-power and other factors vital to the successful prosecution of the war, and the year 1945 witnessed an even greater demand on representatives of the N.E.C. than at any other time during the period of hostilities. These demands were predominantly in connection with the Government's plans for post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation. Members of the N.E.C. have performed arduous duties on many boards and committees dealing with the problems of returning man-power, conversion of industries, and other factors directly linked with post-war expansion in industry, commerce and agriculture. Reports having been circulated during the year to our affiliations, it can be stated that the authorities are looking to the Movement in an ever-increasing measure for advice in matters of future industrial policy.

Mr. E. A. Clements represented the Trades Council on the National Advisory Council on Demobilisation, and various committees under the auspices of the Directorate are now functioning to assist ex-volunteers on returning to civilian occupations, and it is of interest to note that the N.E.C. nominate a large number of trade unionists to serve on some of the 300 Discharged Soldiers and Demobilisation Committees. The widely divergent problems which have arisen require in many instances individual consideration, with particular emphasis on employment, apprenticeship and further training of already partially trained men. At the request of the demobilisation authorities, the Council's office compiled a comprehensive survey of minimum tool requirements to be issued to ex-servicemen on resuming their former vocations. Tool grants are part of a scheme whereby ex-volunteers receive financial or other assistance as the case may warrant.

As the general claims of the ex-servicemen constitute problems which require individual attention—e.g., men returning to their pre-enlistment occupations, those seeking further education or technical training, as well as those who have no employment to go back to but wish to secure similar or even better employment as compared with their pre-war occupation—trade unionists serving on these bodies have not only given of their best but also much of their precious time attending meetings and personally interviewing individuals in order to prevent undue hold-ups in the various dispersal depots. The Directorate has gratefully acknowledged the services rendered by our representatives. The N.E.C. associates itself with the views expressed by the Directorate and extends sincere thanks to all those who have considerably helped the authorities in assisting ex-volunteers in the change over from war-time to civilian duties.

[The case of an ex-serviceman who was allegedly wrongfully dismissed (see Minutes, Fifteenth Annual Conference, pp. 21-22) was examined by the President and the Secretary with Messrs. J. L. P. Botha and H. Cowley, a report on whose findings will be made at the Sixteenth Conference.]

The N.E.C. nominated Miss A. Scheepers as member and Miss B. du Toit as alternate member on the main "Women's Dispersal Depot," while Mr. J. J. Venter served on the important Witwatersrand Committee, which dealt with the largest quota of ex-servicemen.

Soldiers and War Workers Employment Board.—Messrs. J. Calder, S. Mann (A.E.U.) and R. Knevitt (Motor Transport Workers' Union) represent the interests of employees on this Board, which continues to function successfully, being charged with much of the detailed administration of Act No. 40 of 1944. For example, any person who feels aggrieved by a committee established to deal with disputes in respect of the reinstatement of ex-volunteers can appeal to the Board. The Board may, on its own initiative, and at the request of the Minister shall, from time to time, recommend facilities for the technical training of persons who have rendered military or war service, or who have become or may become unemployed as a result of economic circumstances arising out of the war.

Messrs. B. Caddy, G. McCormick, I. Press and H. F. Tyler represent the workers on the large Witwatersrand Committee.

Witwatersrand Juvenile Affairs Board.—Being situated in the hub of the Union's industrial activities, this Board is regarded to be in a more favourable position to view the problems of our boys and girls up to the age of 17 in wider perspective than most J.A.B.'s. Some of the questions dealt with during the period of review were: the desirability of aptitude testing on lines not dissimilar to those practised in the Air Force; the placing of youths who only passed Standard V or VI in suitable employment; the reluctance of girls to accept employment in factories, such being, it is said, regarded by many as "beneath them"; restricting school-leaving youths as apprentices in certain trades until ex-servicemen have been placed; encouraging pre-apprenticeship training at recognised centres before indenture with employers; and a number of other matters which stand in close relation to trade unionism. The wellbeing of our young people—men and women of to-morrow—is thereby closely watched and protected. The Council's Secretary has represented the N.E.C. on the Board for several years past and he is now its chairman.

Consumers' Advisory Committee.—A member of the N.E.C. (Mr. K. J. George) represents consumers in South Africa on the Consumers' Advisory Committee appointed under the Marketing Act (No. 26 of 1937) to deal with amendments to schemes under the Act involving major powers, and to nominate the consumers' representatives to the various control boards.

Wheat Industry Control Board.—The same member also represents consumers on the Wheat Industry Control Board constituted under a scheme promulgated under the Marketing Act (No. 26 of 1937) *inter alia* to advise the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in regard to quality standards, packing and marketing of wheat and wheaten products, and on the prohibition, control or regulation of imports or exports of wheat and wheaten products. Also, and with his approval, to prohibit the sale by any producer of wheat or wheaten products except to the Board, to fix the relative prices, and to register millers, bakers and confectioners.

Workmen's Compensation: Assessors Nominated by the N.E.C.—In October the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner invited the N.E.C. to submit to him the names of persons willing to represent the workers' interests under Section 13 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1941, as (a) an assessor for Port Elizabeth; (b) an alternate for the Transvaal, Orange Free State and Kimberley, and (c) an alternate for the Natal Province. "for those occupations which do not fall within any well-defined industry."

The affiliated national unions and the Local Committees of the Council submitted the names of the following, which were in due course forwarded to the Commissioner:

- (a) Assessor, Port Elizabeth.—Mr. E. B. Blewitt (Chairman of the Council's Interim Local Committee).
- (b) Alternate, Transvaal, O.F.S. and Kimberley.—Miss A. Scheepers (President of the Garment Workers' Union).
- (c) Alternate, Natal Province.—Mr. G. Melville (of the Natal Branch of the S.A. Hairdressers' Employees' Industrial Union, Durban).

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S NATIONAL WAR FUND.

Mr. A. J. Downes, as President of the Council, was again nominated by the Officer Administering the Government to serve as a member of the National Executive Committee of the Fund. The Council's Secretary, as before, served as alternate to the President. The Secretary attended most of the meetings of that Executive, as well as meetings of the National Assistance Committee of the Fund. It is not generally known that, but for the subsidies given by the Fund to several trade unions and organisations catering for ex-service personnel, much financial and other assistance in the name of trade unions and other bodies would not have been forthcoming. Individual members of trade unions, not a few in number, can testify to the help given in various ways through the intermediate actions of the Council's representative on the G.G.N.W.F.

LOCAL COMMITTEES.

Reports in general indicate that there has been a prevailing tendency to widen the scope of general activities. Regular meetings held during the past twelve months show an ever-increasing interest being taken in matters of local importance. Over and above such work, a great deal of time has been spent by members on matters of current national interest, such as demobilisation, rehabilitation and other factors concerning the welfare of ex-service personnel.

The Durban Local Committee continues to progress and exceptionally good work has been done by obtaining representation on various Boards and Committees in the Durban area. Efforts were made to appoint a full-time secretary-organiser owing to the large amount of work dealt with by the Local Committee, but unfortunately it was not possible to make the appointment owing to the differences of opinion, the position becoming so serious at one stage that the Council's Secretary had to be called to Durban to prevent a definite split in the Movement. There is, however, urgent necessity for the appointment of a full-time official here. Full use has been made of the Local Committee by many of the affiliated unions, particularly the newer organisations, Messrs. B. Matthews, E. Shanley and J. C. Bolton being in great demand to assist other unions at conciliation boards, etc. A dispute in laundries was also referred to the Local Committee, who enlisted the assistance of the N.E.C., the appeal for financial assistance receiving a good response throughout the country; the exact amount subscribed is not yet known. A large section of opinion is veering in favour of compulsory arbitration for the settlement of similar disputes. A contentious matter dealt with was the recognition of African trade unions, and here the difference of opinion was very clear. The Left Wing demand full recognition with no qualifications, whilst the Right Wing opinion is that even partial recognition would prevent the exploitation of Africans by opportunists pending the time when the Africans are given equal rights with the rest of the workers. The Council's Secretary paid several visits to Durban during the past year and received a cordial welcome from the Local Committee. Mr. E. Bussey, who included Durban in his tour of the Union, addressed two well-attended meetings in this centre, both being convened by the Local Committee. Active participation for action in the food shortage by this Committee resulted in the establishment of food depots by the Food Control Organisation, and these depots have been of tremendous assistance in preventing black marketing and helping the workers to obtain food that was in short supply.

The East London and Border Local Committee reports that seventeen bodies are now affiliated, constituting a gain of two as compared with the previous year. This Local Committee is now representing approximately 2,500 workers. Members have again served on the Price Control and Regional Food Committees, and excellent services have been rendered in various sub-departments of the Discharged Soldiers and Demobilisation Committee. Matters dealing with the training of apprentices, general employment, grants and other forms of financial assistance have been the chief concern of these committees. At all times the furthering of the interests of the ex-volunteer have taken first place, although such matters directly affecting the welfare of the town have been given due consideration, members having served on the Harbour Advisory Board and the Textile and Allied Trades Unemployment Benefit Committee. A member has been re-nominated to the East London Rent Board and will be serving for a period of three years. It is appropriate to mention that all members have taken keen interest in their work. In addition, a word of thanks is extended to all members of the East London Local Committee for the good services rendered in connection with the Council's Conference held there in April last year.

Bloemfontein Local Committee.—The activities of this Committee have been of a varied nature, although not as many meetings have taken place as in preceding years. Among the items which gave concern to members of the Committee were apprenticeship facilities and problems connected with demobilisation.

The Kimberley Local Committee.—Although only effectively operating for the last two years, notable achievements are reported. Attendances at meetings, though small, have been regular, and members have displayed keen interest and foresight in their deliberations. Conditions of employment in general have been improved. The commercial distributive and the building trades have gained notable all-round improvements, due primarily to the efforts of the industrial councils concerned. This Committee has been represented on the local Rent Board, Juvenile Affairs Board, Demobilisation Committees and the Northern Cape Technical College Council. Furthermore, there has been a general drive to strengthen trade union influence in shaping the future social and other amenities put forward in the Workers' Charter. The prevailing co-operative spirit shown by members of this Committee, who are all holding responsible and leading positions in their respective organisations and trades, should prove an asset for future success and in the immediate post-war period.

The Pretoria and District Trades and Labour Committee has held regular meetings each month with excellent attendances. As in the past, this Committee has rendered good services, particular attention having been given to such matters as food distribution, soldiers' unity, municipal transport and the welfare of the lower-paid workers. It is reported that considerable improvements in respect of wages and general working conditions of the low-paid Government employees have been gained, mainly due to the endeavours of Mr. L. Bezuidenhout, who acted for a period as the Council's National Organiser. As a result of a campaign led by him the National Cement Employees' Union and the Public Service and Provincial Council Workers' Union have expanded considerably. The efforts of the Local Committee in dealing with the acute problems of unemployment caused through the closing down of the munitions section of the South African Mint deserve high commendation. The Committee, in common with the whole trade union movement, is looking to the Government to create fields of suitable employment for war-time workers now faced with problems of readjustment.

The Pietermaritzburg Local Committee, composed of eleven affiliated unions, has secured permanent representation on various Government bodies during the last twelve months. Its activities, too, have largely concentrated on matters dealing with post-war reconstruction. Besides, the Local Committee was represented on the Juvenile Affairs Board, Technical College Council, Urban Sheltered Employment Committee and the Demobilisation Committee. At a Wage Board investigation, held in March, important evidence was submitted on behalf of the unskilled workers, and the Committee further assisted in the settlement of disputes, notably that of the Textile Workers' Union. On the occasion of a visit by Mr. E. Bussey, the Committee arranged and organised a public meeting, which proved a very successful one indeed.

A Local Committee in Port Elizabeth is in the course of formation, destined to take the place of the Eastern Province Trades Council, which body has hitherto been the mouthpiece of the Trade Union Movement in that area. It has acted on behalf of the affiliations of the former Cape Province Federation of Trade Unions and branches of unions affiliated to us. With the dissolution of the Cape Federation and in pursuance of our policy to direct trade union affairs under the supervision of the N.E.C., the time had arrived to implement that policy, but it was nevertheless left to the P.E. trade unionists themselves to take appropriate steps at the right moment, which materialised towards the end of the year, when an Interim Committee was set up. It is hoped that before long a satisfactory arrangement will be evolved to obviate a split, for the E.P. Council has notified us that it is not prepared to sink its identity "merely to satisfy the wishes of 'a break-away group' of persons."

Witwatersrand and Vereeniging Local Committee.—By mutual agreement, and in accordance with a decision taken at the last Annual Conference, the Johannesburg Local Committee was liquidated and the above-mentioned Committee established, its jurisdiction covering the Witwatersrand, Nigel

and Vereeniging. The Local Committee was instrumental in settling several disputes which occurred in the explosive, textile and steel-pressing trades among African workers. Valuable work has been done by members serving on the Discharged Soldiers and Demobilisation Committee and at the local dispersal depots. Ex-servicemen have been given advice and help in procuring suitable employment and other benefits during the process of rehabilitation. In all its sections the Committee has endeavoured to foster unity among workers and has shown progressiveness in all its dealings of a manifold nature, and members can be congratulated on these achievements. Particular thanks are due to Messrs. J. J. Venter, L. C. Scheepers and R. H. W. Fleet, who greatly assisted the N.E.C. in organising meetings during the visit of Mr. E. Bussey from Great Britain.

Western Province Local Committee.—The protracted negotiations with the Cape Province Federation of Labour Unions finally bore fruit in the middle of the year when the inaugural meeting of representatives of interested parties decided to merge the Federation's activities into the Western Province Local Committee of the Council. The Local Committee took over the assets and liabilities of the Federation. It is pleasing to record that during the interim period the Executive Council of the Federation continued to function. Mr. V. E. Hanneman was appointed full-time Secretary-Organiser by the N.E.C. as from the 1st August, 1945.

At the inaugural meeting of the Management Committee, Mr. R. F. Budd and Miss Ray Alexander were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. Many meetings of the Committee were subsequently held when matters of extreme importance were thoroughly debated and action taken. The Committee has kept the N.E.C. informed on all decisions taken. The manner in which the W.P.L.C. is functioning has given the N.E.C. great satisfaction.

STRIKES AND DISPUTES.

Dried Fruit Industry Strike.—Following a complete breakdown in conciliation proceedings with the employers in the dried fruit industry during March, 1945, on the increasing of wages, approximately 1,000 workers at Robertson, Worcester and Wellington came out on strike. In Wellington 38 summonses were issued for alleged contravention of the Riotous Assemblies Act. The N.E.C. was asked to protest against the action and to make representations to the Ministers of Justice and Labour for the summonses to be withdrawn. The N.E.C. took action accordingly and a notification of the withdrawal was received on 25th September. An appeal for funds was made, and the response from affiliations brought in the sum of £105.

Brush and Broom Industry Strike.—Workers in this industry in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth came out on strike in October, 1945, as their demands for an increase in wages had been rejected by the employers. At the request of the Western Province Local Committee and the Council for Non-European Trade Unions, the N.E.C. made representations to the Minister of Labour to consider the reopening of negotiations with the employers, which negotiations took place. On the 15th November, 1945, the N.E.C. was informed that the employees had agreed to accept the employers' original offer, work having been resumed on the 5th November; both parties had accepted these conditions of settlement in writing.

Durban Laundry Workers' Strike.—A breakdown in conciliation negotiations in respect of increased wages and improved conditions of employment in the above industry led to a strike on the 11th December, 1945, affecting approximately 800 workers in the laundries in Durban. The national secretary of the Laundry Workers' Union was arrested on a charge of incitement to public violence in connection with picketing, and found guilty and fined £10. Soon after 18 laundries came to terms with their employers. Essential laundry work for the local hospitals was carried out to avoid complications and dislocation of medical services. The N.E.C. gave every possible assistance, and a loan of £400 taken from the Council's strike

Fund was forwarded to its Durban Local Committee in support of the strike, pending the receipt of donations which had been asked for from our affiliations. To date the amount received is in the vicinity of £300.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES.

So far as we have been able to ascertain, little progress has been made to implement the main recommendations of the National Health Services Commission, on which body Captain S. H. Kemp was the N.E.C.'s nominee, and who, upon the invitation of Dr. Henry Gluckman, the new Minister of Health, became a member of the Health Advisory Committee to the Government late in 1945. The Commission strongly recommended that there should be only one legislative and taxing authority for all personal health services for the whole of the Union, viz. the Union Parliament. According to newspaper reports the Government is not prepared to accept that major recommendation.

However, it brought into being a joint committee of Government nominees and representatives of the four Provincial Administrations to plan for the continued maintenance of general hospitals by the Provincial Councils. Each of the four Provincial Councils will continue to raise funds from its own taxpayers, with assistance from Union funds, for the upkeep of general hospitals. It looks as if free hospitalisation for persons suffering from ordinary ailments and injuries is still a long way off.

Hospital and sanatoria for tuberculotics, irrespective of whether they are suffering from the disease in a communicable or non-communicable form, are, according to newspaper reports, to become the sole concern of the Central Government. The cost of the maintenance of these institutions will be met from Union revenues. The N.E.C. has no information as to whether free hospitalisation for tuberculotics has been accepted in principle by the Government.

Hospitals for the accommodation and treatment of persons suffering from ordinary infectious disorders are to remain the concern of the five hundred odd local authorities who will be subsidised out of the Union funds. Here again the question of free hospitalisation, which so vitally affects workers, has not yet been decided by the powers that be.

We understand that the Union Government will accept full financial responsibility for the isolation and treatment of persons suffering from any formidable epidemic disease. The same remarks apply to the unfortunates who have to become inmates of or who have to attend leper institutions, mental hospitals and general disease clinics. From all that we can gather the Joint Government and Provincial Hospitals Committee is not expected to advise the Government in regard to special hospitals and institutions which are the sole financial and administrative concern of the Central Government.

NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL.

Health Foundation.—Connected with the foregoing, it is of interest to learn that the N.E.C. was invited to send a delegate to an informal conference of serving military personnel, Government officials, representatives of ex-servicemen's societies and other welfare organisations (twenty in all) likely to be interested in memorialising those who sacrificed their lives in the 1939-1945 World War. Captain S. H. Kemp was deputed to represent the Trade Union Movement, and our representative was elected on the Interim Committee to plan for a scheme "... supporting a National War Memorial of a living character which will provide some form of Health Services for all the needy sections of the community, with special regard to the non-European population."

The Interim Committee met on numerous occasions and interviewed several Cabinet Ministers, when the scheme hereunder was ultimately adopted. A conference of delegates of local authorities and all national organisations is to be held in Cape Town on the 5th March, 1946, to launch the scheme

which is to be known as 'The National War Memorial Health Foundation.' The Foundation's aims are: (1) To establish an institute for nutritional research to determine adequate nutritional standards for all sections of the population with special regard to the needs of the non-European, and to promote measures for the effective application of scientific knowledge upon health matters. (2) To assist in the education of all sections of the population in sound food habits and other matters related to personal and community health. (3) To provide scholarships and grants-in-aid for research in all fields of inquiry related to the promotion of health and prevention of disease, with special reference to the health problems peculiar to South Africa. (4) To provide bursaries for the training of personnel, particularly non-European, for the national health service. (5) To support any other projects which, in the opinion of the trustees, will promote the health of the people of the Union of South Africa."

GUARANTEED EMPLOYMENT FOR AND TRAINING OF BUILDING ARTISANS.

Much time was devoted by the craft and industrial building workers' unions, acting as a joint consultative committee, in trying to hammer out a scheme for the training of artisans for the building industry. The N.E.C. did what was required of it in giving its moral support to all efforts in this direction by appointing a special sub-committee consisting of Messrs. W. Blake, J. D. F. Briggs, J. Calder, S. H. Kemp and H. F. Tyler under the designation of the "Housing and Slums Amendment Bill Committee."

In April, 1945, the Secretary for Public Health supplied the Council with a draft of the proposed amending legislation, running into fifty-two sections containing fifty typewritten foolscap pages. Section 37 dealt with provision of labour for national housing needs by making arrangements for the establishment of facilities for intensive training in the work of artisans of ex-volunteers, C.O.T.F. trainees, war workers or other persons; for the absorption of the trainees into employment; and the ordering by the Secretary for Labour of the engagement, registration of the contracts of apprenticeship of and the training of a specified number of apprentices by any employer in the building industry, under such conditions as he may determine. In any area in which there is a housing shortage the Secretary for Labour could, in writing to the person concerned for such period as he specified, or from a specified date and until further notice, order all artisans to apply for registration; fix wages and working conditions; order the engagement by employers of additional artisans and trainees; require registered artisans to participate in the training of trainees; divert any artisans; regulate the employment of artisans and trainees; and prohibit the employment of trainees otherwise than on the erection of dwellings or the laying out of building schemes under the Housing Act.

When the Bill was submitted to the Government Law Advisers, it was decided to reduce the draft to nine sections, and to make provision for most of the matters dealt with in the original typescript by giving the Governor-General the power to make regulations. The Bill was passed during the last few days of the 1945 Session of Parliament.

The trade unions vitally affected by its provisions and the drafting of the necessary regulations to give effect to them had innumerable conferences with the ex-Secretary for Labour and later the ex-Minister of Labour, but there was a long delay in the promulgation in the "Labour Chapter" of the Regulations framed under the Housing (Emergency Powers) Act, 1945. Meanwhile, the Government proceeded with its scheme for the training of building artisans by establishing its first centre at Milner Park, Johannesburg. The scheme was started in August with sixty volunteers, and in December there were 1,300 men being trained as bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, painters, plasterers and plumbers. Attention is drawn to the illustrated article on the "Ex-volunteers' Training Scheme" in the January (1946) issue of "Ambag."

STATISTICAL WORK.

Although reports and surveys have not been circulated to the same extent as in 1944, considerable data has been obtained throughout the past twelve months. This information has been made available to all affiliated organisations whenever required. Various overseas State Departments have been contacted for comparative data, such as employment, unemployment and cost-of-living figures, with the result that a number of publications now reach us regularly, among which is the "Ministry of Labour Gazette," published in London. In addition we received literature and documents relating to industrial laws, war-time emergency, regulations, control of man-power, conciliation and arbitration proceedings from a number of overseas countries; and data has been received from Australia and New Zealand, and also the International Labour Office's publications, which are at all times at the disposal of our affiliations.

Unions have been assisted in the preparation of cases for arbitration or when memoranda covering price trends, price comparisons, the Retail Price Index in relation to the cost-of-living allowances, the effects of commodity scarcities and the incidence of substitution were needed. Our affiliations made full use of these services and letters of appreciation have been received by this office on many occasions. Further, the Council's Statistician addressed six aggregate meetings called by the Amalgamated Engineering Union on rationing, the rise in the cost of living and methods to be adopted to prevent further deterioration of the general situation. In connection with the Finance Sub-committee's investigations in respect of a new basis of affiliation to the Council, the Statistician assisted in compiling data on membership and membership contributions of affiliated organisations, showing income approximations to the Council on the various suggested bases of affiliation, although considerable difficulties were encountered in our efforts to compile the information, in some instances due to a reluctance by some unions to supply the data required.

COST OF LIVING.

On several occasions strong representations have been made to various authorities urging that some method of stabilising prices of essential consumer goods be instituted to alleviate the many hardships endured by a vast majority of the working class. It was at all times stressed that any "compensation" given for the rise in the cost of living—cost-of-living allowances—lagged far behind the actual cost to live. Although an increase was gazetted, the consumer found by experience that he was no better off, as prices again rose out of proportion to the increase granted. Further, the N.E.C. having pointed out that scarcities in certain categories of consumer goods and foodstuffs added more hardships, comprehensive data was prepared showing that proper rationing would prevent inequitable distribution and provide a stabilising influence in respect of current prices of such commodities. Although the authorities were sympathetic, the Government was disinclined to introduce any form of rationing at this late stage, and defended its actions by stating that any such scheme would involve great difficulties owing to the varied make-up of our population.

CONSUMER GOODS FOR OVERSEAS.

Various statements have been issued throughout the year in respect of anticipated scarcities, and although a marked increase in volume of certain goods has been noticed, e.g. clothing and household goods, such as furniture and hardware, etc., the N.E.C. still contends that South Africa will experience very severe shortages during the ensuing year. In the first instance these shortages will be due to a world shortage of raw materials; secondly, they will be due to a shortage of labour prevailing in most instances in the major producer countries, such as Great Britain and America; and, lastly, due to the still acute shortage of shipping space. Further, the commitments to UNRRA, now engaged in rehabilitating the ravaged countries of Europe, will retard the normal flow of essential merchandise to other parts of the world for some considerable time.

SUB-COMMITTEES APPOINTED DURING 1945.

Registration for Employment Bill.—Messrs. I. Wolfson, C. H. Crompton, G. Wadsworth, H. F. Tyler, the Council's Secretary, and Mrs. R. O'Meara made up the Sub-committee to consider the above Bill. The Sub-committee's recommendations and certain proposed amendments having received the N.E.C.'s approval were circulated and submitted to the authorities for consideration.

Welfare Organisations Bill.—The President, Vice-President, Messrs. J. D. F. Briggs, H. S. Kemp and Miss B. du Toit were asked to scrutinise the implications of the provisions of this Bill. After considerable discussion thereon they agreed, in view of an assertion made that trade unions could be restricted under certain circumstances in their activities, that legal advice be obtained as to whether the provisions would adversely affect trade unions or be in any way inconsistent with Section 8, Sub-section (2) of the Industrial Conciliation Act, 1937. Mr. Briggs, on behalf of the Sub-committee, undertook to get such advice. The opinion received was a reassuring one that *bona fide* trade unions had nothing to fear from the new Measure.

Unemployment Insurance Bill.—Messrs. J. D. F. Briggs, H. F. Tyler, A. M. Merkel, G. McCormick and Miss J. Cornelius were appointed to serve on a Sub-committee to discuss the Unemployment Insurance Bill, which the Government intends introducing to replace the Unemployment Benefit Act of 1937. At the first meeting of the Sub-committee, it was agreed to co-opt Messrs. W. N. Cowlard, J. J. Human (furniture workers), E. S. Sachs (garment workers), G. Somerville (building workers), and I. Wolfson (tailors) to assist in drafting a memorandum. At subsequent meetings a very able memorandum prepared by Mr. Sachs at the request of the Sub-committee, formed the basis of all the discussions, and ultimately Mr. Sach's report after slight amendment was submitted to the N.E.C., the members of which body finally endorsed it for presentation to the Minister of Labour. The N.E.C. expresses its thanks to Mr. Sachs for his services in this respect.

Mines and Works Act, 1911, and the Factories, Machinery and Building Work Act, 1941.—Concern having been expressed at the omissions and conflict of interests affecting workers whose labours are controlled by these two measures, the N.E.C. requested the Mechanics' Unions' Joint Executives to submit a report dealing with the difficulties encountered. At an informal conference with the ex-Minister of Labour, it was pointed out that while the administration of these measures was under the control of different Cabinet Ministers and administered by two separate Departments of State, little progress would be made in the direction of remedying their defects. It is the intention of the N.E.C. to discuss the problem with the Prime Minister immediately it receives the report from the Joint Executive of the Mechanics' Unions. Messrs. D. T. Brand, B. Caddy, J. Calder, E. A. Clements, C. H. Crompton, G. McCormick, C. Siebert and H. F. Tyler are the members serving on this Sub-Committee.

CONFERENCE ON RAILWAY POLICY.

The N.E.C. accepted an invitation issued by the Association of Chambers of Commerce of South Africa to take part in a Conference of national organisations interested in Railway Policy and Rates. Seven other co-ordinating national bodies, several regional organisations and the major local authorities sent representatives to the Conference, which was held in Johannesburg in October, 1945. The Minister of Transport was present and addressed the Conference between the speeches made by a score or more of the delegates.

The delegation consisted of the President (Mr. A. J. Downes), Messrs. E. J. Burford (N.U.D.W.), B. Caddy, W. N. Cowlard, S. H. Kemp, R. J. Louttit (S.A.A.M.E.), T. O'Keeffe, Misses B. du Toit, and A. Scheepers, when Mr. Downes stressed the fact that the Trades and Labour Council was the only co-ordinating organisation present which solely represented the workers of the country.

The following resolutions were adopted *nem. con.* :

- “(1) This Conference respectfully requests the Government to institute a judicial enquiry to investigate and report on railway rates so that the terms of the South Africa Act governing the administration of the South African Railways and Harbours may be given effect.”
- “(2) That the above resolution be transmitted to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister with a request that he receive a deputation appointed by this Conference to give any further information required, and that if a judicial enquiry is granted an opportunity be given to make representations as to the ‘terms of Reference’ and constitution of the Commission.”

Mr. Downes was appointed a member of the delegation to the Prime Minister.

The N.E.C. regrets to report that the Prime Minister “. . . refused to see the deputation appointed at the Conference. . . .” It has been informed that the Association of Chambers of Commerce, as the convenors of the Conference, is pursuing the matter and arrangements are being made to meet members of the Commerce-Industries Group of the House of Assembly on the matter.

RIVAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

The N.E.C. for several years has been perturbed in regard to the activities of several trade unions catering for the same type of workers. The rivalry engendered by having several unions operating more or less of service for those employed in any particular industry or undertaking and doing identically the same work must be deprecated by every *bona fide* trade unionist. Apart from the limitations laid down in Section 4 (3) of the Council's Constitution in regard to interference in the domestic affairs of any of its affiliated unions, the N.E.C. is frequently faced with the position that some of the rival unions are not even members of the Council. In October, 1945, the N.E.C. was approached by the then Minister of Labour, through the then Secretary for Labour, in regard to “the rivalry between two trade unions in the clothing industry.” He asked for the Council's assistance in straightening out the difficulties which had been created. Unfortunately, the Garment Workers' Union of the Cape Peninsula is not affiliated to the Council, but is a member of the Western Province and District Council of Trade Unions. However, the N.E.C. informed the Minister of Labour that it was willing to do all in its power to bring about a better understanding between the two unions affected. Messrs. R. M. Haldane, S. H. Kemp and Miss B. du Toit, members of the N.E.C., were appointed as a sub-committee to deal with the problem.

The Garment Workers' Union was supplied with a copy of the Minister's request, and in reply the Garment Workers' Union submitted a well-reasoned statement of its grievances and difficulties, which was subsequently forwarded to the Ministry of Labour. In November the Secretary for Labour replied saying, *inter alia*, “. . . it is not considered appropriate for the Minister or his Department to intervene in a matter which was essentially one between two opposing unions. In these circumstances it is not possible to pursue the matter on the lines proposed by you, thereby involving the Minister and his Department, and if your Council is unable to find any solution to the difficulties the matter must be dropped by the Department. . . .”

When considering the Department's reply, the N.E.C. felt that it should not let the matter rest here. It was of opinion that if the Minister and his Department were as much concerned about the rivalry of these two unions as the N.E.C., then the least that could be expected from the Department was the agreement to the holding of an informal conference. The Department was asked whether the Western Province and District Council of Trade Unions had been approached by the Secretary for Labour in the same manner and with the same object as the N.E.C.

Collection Number: AD843

XUMA, A.B., Papers

PUBLISHER:

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 is part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.