

BRITAIN BASHED IN BAGHDAD

BRITAIN'S decision, announced last week, to join the Turco-Iraqi Middle East Defence Treaty represents the final triumph of American over British foreign policy. The Middle East has traditionally been a "British sphere of influence." Up to the end of the last war it was Britain who ruled the imperialist roost in the Middle East, Britain who could make or break the governments of the Arab states, Britain to whom the Arab rulers traditionally looked for military and economic support. Britain was hated—but she was top dog.

But Britain has been dislodged from one after another of her Middle East strongholds. She has lost direct control over India and Israel; she has been pushed out of Egypt; she has surrendered to the United States her dominant position in Iranian oil

The Turkish-Pakistan pact was followed by further American intrigue in the Middle East—the announcement in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, that the United States had begun to supply military aid to Iraq to strengthen her forces "without any political obligations or commitments."

Now it is self-evident that the United States never supplies arms to anybody without an ulterior motive. It had already been expected that Iraq would join the Turkish-Pakistan pact, and during March, 1954, the Soviet Union had sent a Note to Iraq warning her that her adhesion to any sort of Middle East "defence pact" would be regarded as an "unfriendly and hostile act."

It took several months more of negotiations and intrigue before the Nuri es-Said dictatorship was able to bring Iraq into military alliance with Turkey, thus destroying the whole basis of the Arab League Pact in the Middle East, and fulfilling the "political obligation and commitment" undoubtedly insisted on by the United States when she first started supplying Iraq with arms.

WORLD STAGE BY SPECTATOR

and politics; her prestige is being undermined in Iraq, Syria and the Lebanon.

To-day there is little left to Britain in the Middle East except memories of her past glory—and the reduced dividends of a junior partner in the imperialist share-out. Uncle Sam pays the piper now, and calls the tune.

The over-riding aim of American policy in the post-war period has been to extend and tighten her economic grip on as much of the world as possible, grab maximum profits and to surround the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies and People's China with a steel ring of military bases from which an assault could be launched at any moment. The political basis for this plan has been the series of military pacts which have been concluded between the anti-Communist countries.

"Atlantic" Pact

The first of these pacts to be completed was the North Atlantic Treaty of April 4, 1949, in terms of which the Western European nations banded together to "resist aggression."

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation included the United States and —Greece and Turkey, which, as any schoolboy knows, have precious little connection with the Atlantic Ocean.

As it has turned out, the inclusion of Turkey in the NATO alliance was a master stroke of American diplomacy. Turkey has been the weapon which America has used, on the one hand, to complete her chain of alliances from Europe to Asia and, on the other hand, to undermine Britain's position in the Middle East.

A plant tool in American hands, Turkey has taken the initiative in getting the following pact signed:

- The Turkish-Pakistan Pact of April 2, 1954, providing for "co-operation" between the two countries in the military sphere.
- The Balkan Treaty of Alliance, Political Co-operation and Mutual Assistance, valid for 20 years, signed by Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey on August 9, 1954.
- The Turkish-Iraqi Pact, signed on February 24, 1955, to which Britain has now adhered, and to which, it is reported, the United States may also adhere in due course.

Similar Wording

The wording of the military clauses of all these pacts is almost identical. They bind the parties to come to one another's aid should they be the victims of "aggression" from any quarter. The circumstances in which the pacts were signed leaves no doubt that they are aimed against the Soviet Union.

The text of the Balkan Treaty, for example, was approved by the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation 10 days before it was signed by the three parties. Bringing together under a unified military command a total of 70 divisions of troops in the three countries, the treaty was hailed by the British Government as a "contribution to the defence of the free world in that part of Europe." It was also welcomed in the Western Press as "an appreciable Yugoslav step towards more active association with NATO"—thus exposing Tito's claim to neutrality as a complete sham.

When the Turkish-Pakistan pact was signed the Soviet Government sent protest Notes to both countries, pointing out that, since neither of them was threatened in any way, the pact could not be regarded as defensive. On the contrary, the Soviet Notes pointed out, the pact was closely connected with the military plans of the North Atlantic bloc.

Provocation

The signature of the Turkish-Iraqi pact was preceded on January 3, 1955, by the Iraqi Government's suspension of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. No reason whatsoever was given for this provocation, which was condemned by the Soviet Union as an unfriendly act which would undoubtedly increase international tension.

The policy of the Iraqi Government, said the Soviet Union in a protest Note, was "aimed at drawing Iraq and the other Arab countries into the aggressive blocs that America and Britain are building in the Near and Middle East."

Violent opposition to the Turco-Iraqi pact was voiced in most of the Arab states, which have had bitter experience of Western imperialism at first hand and have no desire, to commit themselves to the imperialists. Vast demonstrations against the pact took place in Egypt and Syria. The Egyptian Minister of National Guidance, Major Salem, said Egypt had envisaged the Arabs as "an independent force in international affairs."

Egypt's Protest

The Egyptian Premier, Nasser, told a conference of the Prime Ministers of the Arab states on January 22—specially called to try to prevent the Turco-Iraqi pact from being signed—that the pact was no use to Iraq militarily, as Iraq already had a treaty with Britain and was receiving aid from the United States.

Linking the pact with Iraq's suspension of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, Nasser stated bluntly that Iraq intended to "tie herself completely to the Western Powers."

General Nuri es-Said, the Iraqi Premier, sent to the conference a former Premier and member of his Cabinet, Dr. Jamal, who frankly told the delegates that "neutrality is impossible in the existing circumstances" and that "we have an interest in profiting from the economic and military advantages of the West for our defence."

Made Enquiries

This cynical attitude has undoubtedly influenced the rulers of the remaining Arab states, who, according to a report in the London Observer recently, "have made inquiries about joining the pact. They have been told they will be welcome, and American officials have informed them that military aid will flow more freely to pact members."

But the Arab ruling class must move carefully. The tide of nationalism and anti-imperialism is running strongly among their peoples. There are ever-increasing signs of the growth of a strong progressive movement in the Arab countries. Even in Iraq support for the imperialists is completely lacking among the people, and General Nuri es-Said has only been able to achieve his pact with Turkey on the basis of complete suppression of the opposition.

No Mouse Cheeps

"Ask any Baghdadi about the internal situation in Iraq," reported the London Times on February 23, the day before the pact was signed, "and the answer will be to the effect that not a mouse cheeps... he (Nuri) has imposed silence for the benefit of Iraq's economic progress and external security... all political parties have been dissolved, including his own. The application of a new Press ordinance has reduced the number of newspapers



A mobile exhibition, advertising the Cape Youth Festival with its motto for "Peace, Friendship and Racial Harmony" visited schools and factories all over the Cape Peninsula during the past fortnight.

HUGE PROTEST DEMONSTRATION ON EVE OF SLAVE EDUCATION

Five More Days Until Verwoerd Takes Over

JOHANNESBURG.—In five days' time, when the new school term opens for about 900,000 African school children in the Union, the new Bantu regime of Dr. Verwoerd will be in full control.

A HUGE PROTEST DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE IN MOROKA TOWNSHIP LAST WEEK-END WHEN STREAMS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AND PARENTS MARCHED IN PROCESSION THROUGH THE TOWNSHIP FOR THE WHOLE SATURDAY AFTERNOON. THE DEMONSTRATION STARTED OFF FROM AN OPEN-AIR MASS MEETING AND THEN FORMED INTO PROCESSION WHICH WOUND THEIR WAY THROUGH THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF MOROKA EMERGENCY CAMP.

A meeting of Dube residents last week decided to see to it that no parents accepted positions on the school committee to be set up under the Bantu Education Act. This meeting elected six parents and two teachers to serve on the parent-teacher association in the area.

And in Natal, African parents defied the Bantu Education Act when they refused to elect a school board for the two Government schools at Lamontville Location.

Mr. H. Makhanya, supervisor for African schools, was sent to Lamontville by the Department to persuade the parents to appoint the school board in terms of the Bantu Education Act.

Soon after he began his address the parents demanded to know why they were being asked to form such a board. Mr. Makhanya replied that he was not there to explain policy, whereupon every parent rose and walked out of the hall.

IN actual fact, although the Native Affairs Department took over officially last week on April 1, Bantu Education has been creeping in insidiously over the last months.

● In certain schools the three-hour double session, (three hours' tuition repeated twice a day for two sets of children) has been operating for the last six months.

licensed in Baghdad from 60 or so to seven... criticism, or the reporting of any criticism, of the Government or its actions (is) a risky proceeding. Public meetings and demonstrations can be held only with official permission and with a representative of authority sitting in or supervising."

Britain has now adhered to the Turco-Iraqi pact because that is the only way she can retain a foothold in the Middle East—by kind permission of the United States. To have clung to a rapidly dis-

● One African principal reports that at the end of the 1954 school year an inspector held an examination for standard two children and issued a warning that any who failed again would not be re-admitted to school. This is in accordance with Dr. Verwoerd's instructions that at the end of the lower primary course (standard two) the pupils will be carefully selected for promotion to the higher primary course. Condemning this, the Rev. John Shand, Director of Anglican Schools, said the decisive examination of the child's life would thus take place at the age of 11!

● In yet another school the principal reported that he had neither the room nor the staff to enrol double sessions of beginners for 1955. He was instructed to carry out this proviso of Bantu education and to scrap his standard five class to make room for the grades' double session.

WITH THE CHANGE-OVER IN THE AFRICAN SCHOOLS, SOME AFRICAN TEACHERS ARE REFUSING TO TEACH BANTU EDUCATION AND ARE TAKING ON OTHER JOBS. SEVERAL REEF PRINCIPALS OF MANY YEARS' STANDING HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE TEACHING PROFESSION RATHER THAN SERVE DR. VERWOERD'S SYSTEM.

integrating Arab League would have meant ultimate isolation and exclusion.

But, despite the war pacts, the Middle East countries are by no means whole-heartedly committed to the imperialist camp. Most of the Arab countries will be attending the African-Asian conference, starting in Bandung on April 18, which is certain to open up new perspectives in world politics, and not least to result in an intensification of the world-wide campaign against the last vestiges of imperialism and colonialism.

"Apartheid Engenders Hate—You Fight For Friendship"

Jean-Paul Sartre's Message to Youth Festival

CAPE TOWN.—With the lighting of torches, the Cape Youth Festival for Peace, Friendship and Racial Harmony will be officially opened on Saturday night, April 9, by speakers from the European, Coloured and African communities.

But the festival will really begin that morning when delegates of all races arrive from all over the Peninsula at Festival Farm.

The Festival will last till Monday, April 11, and a programme of sports and cultural items has been arranged for the three days. There will be a ballet display, physical culture and boxing exhibitions, special children's session, soccer matches, and on Sunday night a grand variety concert with choirs, ballet, weightlifting, a poetry recital and a play.

OPEN TO ALL
The Festival is open to all, and

the charge for the whole week-end is 12/6, and for a day and evening visit, 7/6—these prices include transport, food, entertainment and sports. The Festival Bus will leave Fish Hoek station all day Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning for Festival Farm.

In their call to the youth of the Western Cape, the Festival Committee says:

"Let us, by our very act of

mingling, give the lie to those who wish to 'separate the races.' Let us show to the people that we can live together, freely and without fear of one another. And we say to those who doubt our words: Come along to the Festival, come and see young South Africa of tomorrow in the making, and help to build it all the more quickly!"

The Festival Committee continues to receive inspiring messages from overseas. The latest batch includes messages from Jean Paul Sartre, famous French writer; Martin Carter, people's poet of British Guiana and chairman of the Guiana Peace Council; Mr. D. N. Pritt, Q.C., and a number of British trade unions.

JEAN PAUL SARTE

It is evident that apartheid engenders hatred, wrote M. Sartre, adding: "I send my warmest greetings to all the members of the Festival, and I am sure that their efforts and their work will not be in vain, since they fight for that which is the most basic desire of all men: peace in the world and friendship among the peoples."

MARTIN CARTER

Sending warmest greetings from "a country of six races," Martin Carter writes: "Our job as humans is to protect humanity, not an abstract humanity, but the humanity walking beside you in the streets of your cities, wearing a black skin and a brown skin and a white skin. You must protect all of this from those whose work in this world is to beat and to crush and to despise."

"Long live Peace on earth, friendship among the peoples and harmony among all the nations and all the races of this wide world!"

D. N. PRITT

"It has become imperative for all those who want to survive in a world where they may live in comfort to work for the three aims of peace, friendship and racial harmony," wrote Mr. D. N. Pritt. "These aims are not achieved without hard work, constant propaganda, sacrifice and real struggle."

"It is the young people who have the deepest vested interests in these aims and I, who am no longer young in years, send you my warmest wishes in all you do and all you plan to do, and wish you a very successful festival, in spite of the special difficulties you face in your daily lives."

BRITISH TRADE UNIONS

John Burns, president of the 180,000 strong Fire Brigades Union, concluded his message thus:

"I express to you my hope that you will have a successful festival, and the day will surely dawn when there will be no such thing as racial, religious or political barriers—when mankind really will be brothers."

In their message on behalf of their 220,000 members the Electrical Trades Union said that over the years the delegates to their annual conferences have condemned the racial segregation policy of the South African Government. "Success to your fight against all race segregation laws!"

The Constructional Engineering Union also sent a message as did the British Youth Festival Committee, which recorded its "deepest feelings of solidarity and friendship."

In a message to the Committee, Mr. Len Lee-Warden, M.P., African representative, said: "May peace, friendship and racial

CENSORSHIP COMMISSION ISSUES AN UNDESIRABLE PUBLICATION

Johannesburg.

THE Government Commission Into Undesirable Publications, set up last November, has compiled a mammoth questionnaire now doing the rounds of Government departments, educational establishments, libraries, church bodies and organisations.

In all there are 284 questions, most of them sub-divided again. The commission stipulates that replies to the questions must be typed in eight copies on foolscap sheets, one side only, with a two-inch margin!

The Commission is to enquire into the combatting of "indecent, offensive and harmful literature."

Many of the questions, pompous and pretentious, would require a short thesis in reply. Here are some examples: Describe the character of literature which, in your opinion, is 1. indecent. 2. offensive. 3. harmful.

What, in your opinion, is the influence of the written word in our times in connection with the education and guidance of our community, and the forming of public opinion? Are you of the opinion that it is the task and responsibility of the State to protect and promote the moral and spiritual welfare of the community in respect of literature?

Do you consider that the author has a definite responsibility towards the community?

PRIZE QUESTION

Perhaps the prize question is contained in the section which asks "What, in your opinion, from a religious and moral point of view, is the nature of the problem of undesirable literature?" and then goes on to ask for the witnesses' opinion from an "educational" point of view, the "literary" point of view, also the "cultural," "social" and "psychological" points of view, and then—the piece de resistance—the "South African" point of view!

ANOTHER QUESTION ASKS THE EFFECT OF UNDESIRABLE LITERATURE ON, SEPARATELY, EUROPEANS, COLOURED, THE BANTU, AND INDIANS!

The questionnaire is a typical civil service document run riot. It is an open invitation to every conceivable "Mother Grundy" type of organisation to suggest more and more control over publications.

The first nine pages of the questionnaire detail the already existing statutes and regulations for the control of publications, naming both the Union-wide laws, and also those restricted to the different provinces and South-West Africa.

The questions go on to invite proposals on the registration of printers, the enforcement of the laws, the imposition of conditions on sales of literature, the punishing of authors, photographers and publishers.

There is the hint of a guilty conscience in the question "Do you think that if the community should be protected against undesirable literature, the freedom of the individual will be curtailed?"

Certain it is that whatever new controls emerge from this Commission's findings, they will make it possible to snuff out not only publications found "undesirable" from a moral point of view, but also those publications that do not toe the Nationalist Party line.

R. F.

EASTER CUSTOM

There is a very good custom at Easter-time of giving children Easter eggs.

It is a good custom.

New Age is a very young (though amazingly tough) little babe—not even one year old.

We need an egg. NOT A CHOCOLATE EGG BUT A GOLDEN EGG (or a silver or copper or paper egg)!

Just a little nest egg that we can put in the bank to pay our bills this month.

Come on, readers—send those eggs.

We'll hatch out the news!

MAY DAY ISSUE

CLOSING DATE IS APPROACHING FOR YOUR MAY DAY MESSAGES.

GET YOUR ORGANISATION TO SEND ITS GREETINGS TO ALL FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM.

The charge is 10s. per inch, or 1s. a line (five words).

MESSAGES HAVE TO BE IN BY FRIDAY, APRIL 22.

MANNIE MONEY.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN TAKES STAND AGAINST SECTION 10

CAPE TOWN.—Concerned about the way the African women of the Western Cape are being hounded under section 10 of the Urban Areas Act, Cape Town branch of the National Council of Women recently called a special conference to discuss the matter.

At this conference, which was attended by over 40 members of some 20 organisations, it was decided to elect a special committee to help alleviate the position of the African women.

The committee, it was decided, would test (a) the validity and (b) the method of administration and interpretation of section 10 to African women by the Cape Town Native Affairs Department. For this a series of test cases is envisaged.

The committee will also, through leaflets, etc., inform African women of their legal rights under the Urban Areas Act. A third aim of the committee is to inform the general public of the position, and a fourth is to collect funds to cover all the costs.

"JUNIOR OFFICIALS"

In her circular letter inviting organisations to attend the conference, Cape Town N.C.W. secretary Mrs. B. M. Grieve pointed out that, despite the fact that many African women are legally entitled to remain in the Cape permanently in terms of the Urban Areas Act, not one of them has been granted permission to remain here longer than one year. Some of them have been given permits valid only for a month.

"In the administration of the registration and the interpretation of the terms of the Act, as it applies to women, there is no uniformity whatsoever," states Mrs. Grieve. "The arbitrary judgment of a junior official seems to be the only criterion used in the issuing of permits for different lengths of time. No proper investigations are made into the merits of each particular case, and the women are not being given a chance at the time of registration to explain their circumstances to the official."

The N.C.W. letter continues—"The life led by Africans in urban areas is always insecure, hemmed in as they are by numerous restrictive laws, but the implementation of this particular measure is causing a great deal more insecurity, confusion and distress. Wives are being ordered to leave their husbands, families are being broken up; home life and the stabilising effect it has on the upbringing of children will cease to exist."

"Instead, those men whose wives

are forced to leave the area will live here as so-called 'bachelors,' and all the evils accompanying the migrant labour system will be intensified. Most women have no place to go to in the reserves—their relatives are too crowded to give them a roof, and too poor to keep them in their homes. Where are they to go? If they remain here longer than the permits issued to them allow, they are deemed to be criminals. What are they to do?"

The N.C.W. states that, "most of all, as women, we are perturbed about the fate of these unhappy and bewildered women."

BUDGET IGNORES NEEDS OF AFRICANS

Non-Europeans are "Shareholders Without Votes or Dividends"

CAPE TOWN.—As far as the Non-Europeans, and especially the Africans, are concerned, the Budget was a very bad one, Mr. Len Lee-Warden, Africans' representative, said in the House of Assembly last week during the Budget debate.

"It follows the line of its predecessors, taking into consideration nothing that will benefit the poorest sections of our population," said Mr. Lee-Warden, pointing out that there was a great deal of racial discrimination, even in direct taxation.

Many Europeans go tax free, but every African has to pay at least his poll tax.

"Personal tax is payable by Europeans over the age of 21, whereas the poll tax is payable by Africans over the age of 18 years. And there is also a big discrimination as far as general taxation goes.

"In the Transvaal and in the Cape a married person who earns less than £250 per year does not have to pay tax, but an African does have to pay tax, irrespective of what his social conditions are and of what he may earn.

"In Natal a married person who has an income of less than £150 per year pays only 10s. personal tax, whereas an African who earns less than that amount still has to pay £1 poll tax."

PAY BY COLOUR

Going on to the question of indirect taxation, Mr. Lee-Warden said the African worker was grossly underpaid, not only by private enterprise but also by the state. "He is not paid according to his ability but according to the colour of his skin."

Millions of Africans were not paid their true value; their trade unions were not accorded proper recognition; they were prohibited the opportunity of bargaining for better wages, and legislation was passed to fit them only for certain jobs. All this was to ensure a constant supply of cheap labour, said Mr. Lee-Warden.

"In turn, the State, by these methods, saves millions of pounds, and so does private enterprise. These profits are taxable, and the goods they make are taxed. It is through this taxation that we have been able to subsidise many amenities we enjoy to-day which are denied to the Non-Europeans.

NOTHING FOR NON-EUROPEANS

"But this Budget has completely overlooked the Non-European people. It offers nothing to relieve the hardships that face them day by day.

"We have been told the fairy story about the industries that are going to be set up in the reserves.

WINDHOEK HAS THE WIND-UP

CAPE TOWN.—The authorities in South West Africa are very busy looking for "Communists"—but so far have not found one! This was revealed in a front-page story in a recent issue of Die Suidwester, organ of the Nationalist Party.

There is as yet no listed Communist in South West, says the article wistfully. There are, however, a few suspicious cases of people who are favourably inclined towards Communism, and a strict watch is kept over them, Police Commissioner Col. C. van Wyk said.

Most of the suspected cases were Non-Europeans, said the colonel, but Europeans were also involved. Their activities were not confined to Windhoek, but there were suspects also on the plateland and on the farms.

The biggest sin committed by the "Communists" seems to be the fact that a number of them are still in contact with the Rev. Michael Scott.

But Naturally

A listed Communist was "naturally not allowed" to enter South West Africa, said the colonel. Persons who were on the suspect list did come to South West, but they were carefully watched. Such a person, the colonel reported, pitched up in South West the previous week, and after a day's stay left Windhoek.

The newspaper does not report what fearful plots were hatched by Mr. X in those apparently fateful 24 hours.

U.N. REPORT EXPOSES U.S. PRICE FIXING

LONDON.—One of the reasons for the high cost of motoring in the Western world, and therefore also for high bus fares, is that the American oil companies, acting in conjunction with the United States Government, are operating a world-wide racket to keep prices high.

This was exposed recently by a United Nations report issued in Geneva and prepared by the Secretariat of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe.

It discloses that the American Aramco Oil Company in Saudi Arabia, for example, is making a profit of 10s. on every barrel of crude oil it is selling for 12s. 6d. "The lion's share of crude oil production and refining throughout the world," says the report, "is in the hands of eight major companies—five American and three European.

"The U.S. price of oil is the keystone of the world-wide structure of crude oil prices, and is divorced from normal commercial forces."

Middle East oil production is not yet as large as domestic U.S. and Venezuelan production, but that is only because the Middle East's resources have not yet been exploited to their fullest extent. Geologists have stated that the world's largest known reserves of oil (outside of the Socialist countries) lie in the Middle East.

HIGHER RETURN

Above all, the Middle East gives a far higher return on the capital invested. By the end of 1954 gross investment in Middle East oil was estimated to total \$3,000 million—and the annual profits on crude oil produced in the Middle East are now running at between 800 and 900 million dollars, or about £300 millions.

Some of these profits went to the rulers of the Middle East countries, but the bulk of them went to the oil magnates in the United States and Europe.

In the United States the average output per oil well in 1950 was 31 barrels a day.

"In Venezuela, by contrast, the daily average was over 200 barrels and in the Middle East some 5,000 barrels, with production from some Kuwait wells rising as high as 9,000 barrels a day.

"The question is," says the report, "why, since Middle East production costs so little, it does not bring about a decline in price and drive out a large proportion of higher cost American production?"

The report gives the answer—"The price is tied to that in the United States."

FIXED PRICE

The selling price of Middle East oil is fixed by the international consortium (dominated by the United States) at a point equivalent to the price of Texas Gulf oil in the markets of the eastern ports of the United States.

In this way the Americans not only ensure enormous profits from Middle East oil, but manage to keep the world price high enough to guarantee also high profits from their domestic wells, despite their much higher production costs.

When the Soviet Ukrainian delegate at a recent meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe pointed out that oil prices were too high and suggested something be done about it, the British delegate tried to play down the findings of the report, adding that he did not think the Economic Commission for Europe provided a suitable forum for opinions on this matter.

PIPELINES, TOO

The power of the eight giant oil companies does not stop at the oilfields. The report says—"All the important pipelines outside the United States are owned by the same companies."

In addition, "seven out of the eight companies owned or had on charter about two-thirds of the world's privately-owned tanker fleet."

The eight companies own most of the world's refineries and are also in a dominant position in the oil distribution industry. In Britain, for example, more than two out of every five garages sell only Shell and B.P. brands of petrol—distributed by a company owned by two of the Big Eight.

holder," Mr. Lee-Warden said—"I would like to point out that one is inclined to overlook the fact that the Non-European is also a shareholder, who for a long time has had no dividends, and this Budget certainly has not helped to produce any dividends for him.

"They have shares, but they are not voting shares and they are not profit-bearing shares. But I am pretty certain that the Non-European is not likely to surrender his shares, because he knows that the market is good and one day he will be able to use those shares."

"RAILWAY WAGES INADEQUATE"

—LEE-WARDEN

CAPE TOWN.

When Mr. Lee-Warden, M.P., in the House of Assembly recently, raised the case of the 90,000 Non-European railway workers who are grossly underpaid, the Minister of Railways gave the undertaking that he would investigate the matter.

Mr. Lee-Warden said the wages of the workers range from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 9d. a day, only married Coloured employees reaching the maximum of 8s. 3d. a day. None of these workers receives rations or other benefits.

The wage of £2 15s. a week, which was the average, was totally inadequate for a labourer who had a family to support, said Mr. Lee-Warden. It barely covered the cost of food. What about rent, transport, fuel for cooking and heating, cleansing materials, home equipment, clothing, medical expenses, schooling expenses, taxes, etc.?

The African railway worker's needs were even greater because of the heavy nature of his work and his generally inadequate clothing.

"These railway workers have had the bitter experience of seeing the European worker obtain higher basic wages and cost of living allowances, while their basic wages have been frozen since 1944," said Mr. Lee-Warden.

Strangely enough, there is no reference to that in this Budget speech at all.

"Instead we have heard during the course of these financial debates of the vast amounts of money which are spent on recruiting missions overseas to induce people to come and work in our public service. . . .

RECRUITING FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

"It is totally unnecessary to send missions overseas for this purpose, because, with our vast reserves of man-power here, it would not be difficult to train the Non-European people to go into the public service. . . .

"There are thousands of Non-Europeans who have qualifications to-day that are equivalent to those which will be found in Europe or here. There are thousands of men whom I know with matriculation certificates who can rise no higher than the status of labourer on account of the colour bar."

A SHAREHOLDER

Referring to the slogan "Buy South African—You're a Share-

LHASA, the once "Forbidden City," the capital of Tibet, is soon to have its first hydro-electric power station. This is part of a plan for the development of Tibet worked out by a delegation headed by the Dalai and Panchen Lamas, which recently concluded negotiations in Peking. The military and administrative commissions set up in Tibet after its liberation by the Chinese People's Army five years ago have now been abolished. Instead a committee of 51 has been formed to prepare the way for an autonomous democratic republic. Chairman of the committee is the 18-year-old Dalai Lama, the governmental head of Tibet; vice-chairman is the Panchen Lama (17), the spiritual head.

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