

Major T. E. LIEFELDT, D.S.O.

OPEN LETTER

Major T. E. LIEFELDT, D.S.O., has, at the request of the Natives in the Zoutpansberg, agreed to accept nomination as a candidate in the election of a Senator to represent the natives of the Transvaal and Orange Free State in terms of the NATIVE REPRESENTATION ACT OF 1936.

Major Liefeldt, generally known as "Malamulela" signifying "The Peacemaker" amongst the natives, comes of a stock which has for four generations been closely associated with native administration in South Africa. He himself having served for twenty-seven years in the Department of Native Affairs. During this period he filled the post of Native Commissioner on the Reef, at Pretoria, Hammanskraal, Zoutpansberg and Rustenburg.

In 1929, although only 55 years of age, Major Liefeldt retired at his own request from the Public Services to devote himself to farming in the Zoutpansberg. He takes a prominent part in Farmers' organisations in the district and he is the local representative for Native Affairs to the Transvaal Agricultural Union.

Major Liefeldt, during the Great War, was chiefly responsible for the organisation and control of the Native Labour Corps (some 20,000 men) who served in South-West Africa. On the cessation of hostilities he went with Major Pritchard through Ovamboland to Angola where war was still being waged by the Portuguese against the natives. Major Liefeldt remained on the Border, as British Representative, and there with only a large tree for his courtroom established the first Court of Law, under European jurisdiction, ever held in Ovamboland. At the beginning of 1916 he was ordered to East Africa where he commanded all South African Natives in the country—some 18,000 of whom served with the Expeditionary Forces.

Again Major Liefeldt in the present war has answered to the call to render service with the native people of South Africa, with the object of securing peace and freedom for all who live in our country.

Thus it will be seen that both in times of peace and war Major Liefeldt's services have been closely bound up with the Native People's interest and amongst them he has become widely known as being considerate and just in his endeavours to maintain a fair balance between the races.

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