

"THE STAR"

**UNITED FRONT OF NON-EUROPEANS.
Segregation To Be Discussed.**

11th April, 1939.

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aneous.—S.A. Press Association.

**UNITED FRONT OF
NON-EUROPEANS
SEGREGATION TO BE
DISCUSSED**

The Transvaal Non-European United Front held its first mass meeting at the Market Square, Newtown, on Sunday when over 3,000 Indians, coloured and Bantus attended. A resolution pledging support to the United Front was passed, and it was agreed to call a conference of all non-European organisations in the Transvaal to be held in Johannesburg, when legislation affecting non-Europeans will be discussed.

To carry out the policy against segregation outlined in resolutions passed yesterday, an executive committee of 21 were elected by the National Conference of the non-European United Front, at their final session at Cape Town to-day, states S.A. Press Association.

There was no opposition to the re-election of Mrs. Z. Gool as president. Mr. R. G. Baloyi, a member of the Native Representative Council of the Transvaal, was elected senior vice-president, with Mr. H. W. Cookson as junior vice-president. Mr. M. Kotane was elected secretary, with Mr. Booker Lakey as assistant. Mr. W. H. Andrews, a member of the Cape Town executive of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, was elected treasurer. Mr. H. C. October, Mr. J. Gomas and Mrs. N. Abdurahman were elected trustees.

Declaring that segregation was oppressive, humiliating, undemocratic and a source of racial antagonism, and that it degraded non-Europeans to a stage of slavery, yesterday's resolutions bound the organisations represented at the conference to resist its introduction by all the means at their disposal. They demanded complete equality and full freedom for all races and the right for all to own and occupy land wherever they pleased.—SAPA-Reuter.

BUCBY

NAZI ATTACK ON BRITISH PRELATE

*9/11/39
Sunday Express*

"TO this Church leader, Christianity and the Church are nothing but political factors which he believes can be utilised for the political aims of England by being employed for strengthening the front of hatred against the German Reich, which has again become free, great and powerful."

This is the introductory paragraph of a denunciation of the Archbishop of Canterbury by responsible leaders of all German Evangelical churches in a manifesto issued to-night, states a Berlin Transocean message.

ANGLO-SOVIET UNION

The attack is based on reports that the Archbishop has advocated co-operation between England and the Soviet and has attempted to form a common front of all Christian churches under the leadership of the Pope for the purpose of combating the "German menace."

"It is not a question of freedom and justice," the manifesto continues, "because otherwise he would have opposed the grave injustice imposed on the German people by the Treaty of Versailles.

"Nor is it a question of Christian faith, because otherwise he could not possibly have advocated an alliance with Bolshevism, which is the mortal enemy of Christianity and every religion.

"His only aim is to support, through hypocritical religious camouflage, a policy which is directed against the vital rights and will of the German people.

UNITED BEHIND FUEHRER

"As responsible leaders of the German churches we declare, however, that we shall have nothing to do with a church leader, his Church or Christianity of this type.

"With the entire German nation we stand unequivocally behind the Fuehrer of all Germans.

"BRITAIN IS TO BLAME"

England is blamed to-night for the Albanian situation by Der Angriff, the most militant of Nazi papers, states a message from Berlin.

England, the paper adds, has been working for months to draw Albania into her sphere of influence.

The British Intelligence Service had appealed to the personal vanity of King Zog, it is declared, and it was an open secret that British companies received all preferences in Albania.

"We believe we would not be guilty of exaggeration in stating that the Albanian plan to pit Italy against Yugoslavia should be placed to the account of the British Intelligence Service," adds the paper.

LONDON RIDICULED

Der Nachtausgaden ridicules attempts by the British Press to associate the holidays of Dr. Goebbels and Marshal Goering with the present developments.

"Italy does not need to confer with her Axis partner before sending three divisions and an appropriate number of warships and an air squadron to Albania," concludes the Nachtausgaden.—SAPA-Reuter.

COLOURED ISSUE MAY DECIDE PAARL ELECTION

10/4/39
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Capetown, Sunday.

IF there is one magic word which may easily decide the outcome of the Paarl by-election on April 19 it is the word "Hotnot," an uncomplimentary term applied generally to the Cape coloured population.

Fanned by the widely circulated Nationalist Coloured segregation petition, the fear among Europeans of being dominated by the coloured has grown to quite unreasonable proportions and it seems as if a considerable number of Europeans has been stamped into the wholly emotional view that unless the Nationalist candidate is returned, the country will be swamped by non-Europeans, socially, politically and economically.

In the face of such unreasoning prejudice, the true facts and proportions of the case seems to carry little weight and the United Party in many cases has to fall back on the argument that if a coloured menace indeed exists, the Government's segregation proposals, while at the same time more tolerant and sober than the Nationalist's "whole hog" plan, are adequate to ward it off.

Often, this argument prevails, but there are those diehards in whose minds the Nationalist shrieks of a coloured peril have worked havoc and they are not likely to be content with any plan which does not, like that of the Nationalists, seek the salvation of the Europeans by thrusting the coloured man completely aside even from the spheres where he has been allowed to live unhindered for generations.

COLOUREDS UNEASY

These segregation cries have not left the minds of the coloured population at ease and it is one of the major tasks of the United Party in the election to persuade the coloured electorate

that the Government proposes to do nothing more than to give legislative sanction to a state of affairs which has existed for generations.

At present the mentality of the non-Europeans in Paarl is distinctly uneasy, particularly because the aftermath of the unfortunate Capetown riots has been, at any rate in Paarl, an even more ruthless anti-coloured campaign.

It is, of course, hardly to be expected that a single one of Paarl's 1,100 odd coloured votes will be cast for the Nationalist Party, which intends to take away those votes, but the Nationalist game at Paarl is to put the coloured electorate against the Government on the rather dubious plea that it knows after all what to expect of the Nationalists, whereas the Government is accused of having repressive plans up its sleeve.

As long as only the Nationalists play at this game, unaided by any non-European propagandists, the result is likely to be nil and the coloured voters are not likely to refrain from going to the poll.

It is, moreover, an encouraging fact that Dr. A. L. de Jager, who for years represented Paarl in the old South African Party days and whose popularity and influence among the coloured population are undoubted, has thrown in his weight with the United Party candidate, Mr. F. P. S. le Roux and is doing everything in his power to ensure that the coloured voters actively support the Party which is determined to recognise their rights.

If he succeeds the Government's success in the election is almost assured.

Another defensive action is being fought by the United Party over the newly-revived Afrikaner bloc idea, which is largely engendered by the political advantage to which some Nationalists tried to turn last year's Voortrekker Celebrations.

This issue however, seems to have proved something like a broken reed at the recent by-elections in the Transvaal and it is doubtful whether it will do much harm at Paarl.

To some extent the same may be said of the Jewish question, which according to current Nationalist opinion was going to sweep the platteland, Pretoria City, Bethal and Lichtenburg told a different story and though at Paarl the situation is rather different since there is both a fairly substantial Jewish population and a Greyshirt element, the anti-Semitism has very definitely been relegated to, at best, second place.

Two other issues, out of which the Nationalists are trying to coin political advantage are those concerning deciduous fruit and wine.

Here, too, it is only the Opposition which would think of forcing the difficulty into a ready-made party political suit.

News by W. J. van Roooyen
Steet, Capetown.

(POLITICAL)

Mr. Hofmeyr On Danger Of Colour Clash.

Pass Law Protest.

11th April, 1939.

MR. HOFMEYR ON DANGER OF COLOUR CLASH

RESTRICTION LEADING TOWARDS NON-EUROPEAN FRONT

CHANGE OF HEART NEEDED

S.A. PRESS ASSOCIATION.

DURBAN, Monday

Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, newly-elected president of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. in South Africa, spoke on the dangers of the recent "setback" in race relations in the Union in an address on "The Y.M.C.A. and the World To-day" at a Y.M.C.A. congress in Durban at the week-end.

There was a growing race consciousness among non-Europeans, he said, and unless there was a change of heart on the part of many Europeans the country would see, as a result of the banding together of Asiatics and coloureds with Bantu, a clash of colour much more serious and far-reaching than anything ever before experienced.

The congress was attended by 35 delegates from Johannesburg, Cape Town, Maritzburg and Durban, who re-formed the Y.M.C.A. on a national basis after a lapse of 15 years, and agreed to extend the work of the Y.M.C.A. among non-Europeans and to start training courses for non-European social workers.

Speaking on race relations, Mr. Hofmeyr said: "Consciousness of difference is becoming more acute in the world, and bitterness based on that difference is becoming more inflammable. Europeans in South Africa

show increasing inclination to move in the direction of restrictive measures towards the removal of old-established rights.

TRUSTEESHIP

"We Europeans take unto ourselves in this land the position of trusteeship, but we are usually not prepared to face the fact that our wards are agog to grow up and attain majority status. Trusteeship is being used as a cloak to maintain superiority and dominance. It is making possible the formation of a non-European front.

"A few days ago a Church Synod in the Cape passed a resolution strongly condemning Communism. It is a long time since I have seen such a pathetic confession of weakness."

There was more professed Communism in the Cape Peninsula than anywhere else in the Union, although there was probably no more Communism in South Africa than there was 20 years ago, said Mr. Hofmeyr.

WEAKNESS OF CHURCH

Communism was making headway among the coloured people at the Cape because their race consciousness was being stimulated through the stimulation of their sense of antagonism. The fact that Communism was falling on fruitful soil was due to the weakness of the Church, which had lost the confidence of the coloured people at the Cape.

"The world is, to a large extent, an un-Christian world, where idealism is in retreat before despotism. It needs renewal in the faith of our fathers in the belief of the personality of the individual as a gift of God. It needs a spiritual revolution, and that revolution must begin with individual men and women. I believe that such a spiritual revolution is on its way. As evidence, there is the spirit of the persecuted Church in Germany. Pastor Niemoller and men like him are pioneers of revolution."

The resuscitation of the Y.M.C.A. was evidence that they were getting on with their job and doing their best to see that South Africa responded to the challenge.

YOUTH AND RELIGION

Speaking from the pulpit of the Central Methodist Church last night, Mr. Hofmeyr said that the Youth of to-day wanted a positive, practical and personal religion, a creed of enthusiasm, of achievement and of adventure, a religion in which the real emphasis was not on what he must not do but on what he should do.

"There are those to whom it seems that religion and Youth do not appropriately belong any more, and who would say that there is a great gulf between the two," he declared. "To outward seeming, Youth has thrown reverence to the dogs. But I emphasise 'outward seeming'. It does not take Youth very long to learn the truth.

"The desire for spiritual satisfaction still remains substantially the same in the heart of Youth to-day, as it always was, and that desire religion and Christianity alone can satisfy. Despite Youth's apparent surrender to the pursuit of pleasure and the creed of self before service, there is still that fine complex of idealism which is waiting there to be touched into vitality by some spark."

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INDIANS, coloured people and natives united in a big meeting on the Market Square, Newtown, on Sunday, held under the auspices of the newly-formed Non-European United Front in the Transvaal.

Banners were displayed with the words "We Want Decent Homes," "Down With Segregation Bills," "Abolish Pass Laws," "Abolish Poll Tax," "Equal Opportunities for the Non-Europeans," and other slogans. The meeting which was orderly throughout, was addressed by a number of speakers, including Mrs. J. Mphahlele, on behalf of the Bantu section, Mr. S. Nkomo, of the coloured community, and Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, on behalf of the Indians.

Resolutions were carried in support of the Non-European Front, and the meeting pledged itself to resist oppressive measures. It was also decided to call a conference of all Non-European organisations in Johannesburg, and greetings were sent to the Non-European Front at Capetown.

The meeting was the first of its kind, and the organisers intend to embark on a propaganda campaign among Non-European communities in Johannesburg and along the Reef.

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AL, FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1939.

BY-ELECTION AT

Star
PAARL

UNITED PARTY
POLICY

STATEMENT BY
MR. LAWRENCE

S.A. PRESS ASSOCIATION

PAARL, Friday.—Speaking in support of Mr. Frank le Roux, the United Party candidate for the Paarl parliamentary by-election, at a meeting at Groot Drakenstein, attended by about 400 coloured people, Mr. H. G. Lawrence, Minister of Labour, said that the United Party stood for the maintenance of the rights of all minorities.

In 1927 Dr. Malan had refused to vote for the Women's Suffrage Bill, because there was no provision for the vote being given to coloured women. Now he had completely somersaulted on this question, as he had done on all big questions in recent years.

Whereas the Nationalist Party's policy was to tamper with the question of the coloured people's franchise and economic rights, the United Party stood for the maintenance of these rights. The coloured people had traditions in this country and they had done nothing to deserve that their traditions should be trampled underfoot.

GOVERNMENT AID

The Government appreciated the difficulties of the coloured people. As Minister of Labour he had endeavoured to see in what way he could help them, and he was attacked in Parliament by the Opposition for trying to do so.

If they desired to maintain white civilisation in this country they must also help the coloured people. The latter did not desire social equality, but this country could not be made safe for white civilisation while the coloured people were trodden underfoot. The coloured man asked for an opportunity for improving his position and the future of his children. The Government wanted to give him that.

The coloured voters of Paarl had an opportunity of showing on April 19 that they had full confidence in the Government and that they would assist the Government to proceed on the road to co-operation.

The meeting was also addressed by Mr. F. le Roux and Capt. Joubert. The meeting was
The Star speakers were

ROAD, KRUGERSDORP

GOOD DEBATING BY NATIVES' M.P.s

Mrs. Ballinger Scores Over Mr. Nicholls

From T. C. ROBERTSON

"Rand Daily Mail" Political Correspondent
House of Assembly, Tuesday.

THE three representatives of the native voters came into action in Parliament this afternoon in the first full-dress debate which they have initiated.

Differences of opinion about the merits of the case which they argued are inevitable, but their handling of that case was extremely interesting.

It shows, in the first place, how important the experiment made by General Hertzog in giving the natives this form of representation has proved to be. Quite apart from the theoretical objections to the change from the old system of representation, it is now generally accepted that in practice the new method is proving more effective.

Yesterday, while the question of stock theft was discussed, Mr. L. D. Gilson (U.P., East Griqualand) attacked them for "always trying to insinuate that the farmers treat their natives badly." I have listened carefully to most of the speeches made by these natives' representatives and I think that Mr. Gilson's remark was completely unjustified. But this afternoon, Mr. G. Heaton Nicholls (U.P., Zululand) adopted a new line in dealing with Mrs. V. M. Ballinger's demand for natives to be brought within the scope of the Industrial Conciliation Act—"That they want to go the whole hog; that they want to see all barriers broken down and all sections placed on an equal footing. But it would be impossible for a realist to follow Mrs. Ballinger very far on that tack."

"NEVER EXTRAVAGANT"

Mrs. Ballinger immediately repudiated this interpretation of her attitude.

"I claim," she replied, "that never since I came into this House have I made any extravagant demands for the people I represent and that, on every occasion, I related such demand as I did make to what is the general consideration of the welfare of the European population."

This afternoon, quite unexpectedly, she proved herself to be a worthy opponent in the rough and tumble of debate. Mr. Heaton Nicholls, a recognised expert on native affairs, crossed swords with her; but the House laughed heartily at the blushing expert, when his woman opponent replied: "One of the things which gives charm and freshness to the speeches of Mr. Heaton Nicholls in this House is the abandon with which he treats recognised economic and sociological principles."

The remark was not altogether of thing

On the motion for the third reading of the Native Trust and Land Act Amendment Bill, Mrs. BALLINGEN (Cape Eastern) said the native representatives felt that the Bill was a mistake. It was certainly not a useful addition to the legislation of the country. Its effect was to put the whole native land position into a state of flux.

It made it possible for the Government to change reserved areas without even coming to Parliament for approval. The Government was creating an instrument to accomplish the removal of certain spots in native areas, but at the same time was making it possible to change the whole question of native land ownership. It was like using a sledge hammer to drive in a tack. It was bad legislation and was bad economics as well.

Numerous letters were coming in from native areas asking what was the position of people who had held land there from time immemorial. They were being told that the Government did not intend to remove them, but that did not do away with the uneasiness in the minds of these natives, because they knew that the Government was now taking powers to remove natives from any area.

It had been suggested that Europeans were playing upon the fears of the natives. She repudiated that suggestion—on a very good ground that the opposition to the Bill at the Native Representative Council last November came from the native commissioners.

NATIVE REACTIONS

The Senior Native Commissioner framed a resolution asking the Government not to proceed with the Bill but to retain the old provisions of the Land Act, whereby any change in scheduled areas could only be made by Parliament.

The agitation of the natives over this Bill was not an artificial agitation created by outside forces. It was a natural reaction to all these questions of native land and security of tenure for the natives.

In the history of land legislation in South Africa there was ample justification for the sense of insecurity which this Bill had created among the native people. In 1913, when the Land Act was passed, it was given out that the areas for occupation then (now the scheduled areas) were for occupation for all time, and a prominent member of the Government who went to the native territories told the native people that the one thing they could bank on was that the scheduled areas belonged immutably to the natives and would not be altered; that Parliament would discuss in full detail every proposal to alter that schedule.

This Bill was in direct conflict with that promise. The Minister would say that the Government had been careful to provide in this Bill for the substitution of other land for those areas, but that was no guarantee to the natives and did not involve any security to them, partly because of their attachment to the land they owned.

SUSPICION AROUSED

The Bill would create more difficulties than it would solve. The suspicions it would arouse among the natives would place a big burden on the Native Affairs Commission. She was glad to have had this opportunity of placing on record her disapproval of the Bill.

One of the facts that aroused suspicion in the minds of the natives was that only 1,000,000 morgen had so far been bought, although the 1936 Act specified that 7,250,000 morgen would be acquired.

Mr. ERASMUS (Nat. Moorreesburg) said that the Nationalists agreed with the principle of the Bill—to eradicate "black spots" in European areas—but they had proposed several amendments. If land was taken away from the natives, it was only just that they should be accommodated elsewhere.

But where would they be given this new land? Would they be placed in the same area or outside it? Would they be placed in the same area or outside it? If it was outside the old area in which they lived, more land than that allowed for in the 1936 Act would have to be obtained.

Mr. BEKKER (U.P. Wodehouse) said he protested against the Bill at its second reading on grounds similar to those given by Mr. Erasmus. He had since come to the conclusion that the Bill was fair and just. If the natives were suspicious, as Mrs. Ballinger alleged, it was due to speeches such as hers.

Mr. SERPONTEIN (Nat. Boshof) asked for an explanation of the procedure which would be followed in expropriating land which was owned by individual natives and land which was communally owned.

MINISTER'S REPLY

Replying to the debate, the MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS (Mr. Fagan) said he had no information about the number of morgen of native-owned land which would be expropriated. Each area would have to be considered on its merits. In some cases it was considered advisable to eliminate "black spots," but in other cases the neighbouring farmers would probably object to the removal of native tribes from their vicinity, because they would not wish to be deprived of the labour supply.

When the Prime Minister stated in 1936 that the required £10,000,000 for the purchase of land for natives would be provided over a period of five years, he naturally meant that the money would be voted when the country could afford it. So far £3,000,000 had been provided, if the amount of £1,000,000 on the 1938-40 Estimates were included.

It was unlikely that the remainder of the money would be made available by 1941.

Mr. Haywood had asked him to state whether an extra fund would be instituted for the purchase of land offered in exchange for expropriated land. No amount for this purpose had been placed on the estimates this year, and up to the present he had no intention of instituting a separate fund.

The expenditure would be covered from the general funds of the trust, into which would be paid the amount received for the expropriated land.

SAFEGUARDS FOR NATIVES

There were sufficient safeguards for natives to ensure that if land was taken from them, they would get other suitable land in exchange.

There was absolutely no reason for uneasiness. The Department of Native Affairs had proved that it had the welfare of the natives at heart. There was no need for a clash of interests.

The land to be exchanged for that expropriated was naturally not part of the 7,250,000 morgen stipulated by the 1936 Act. But it was not in addition to it for the grand total of native owned land would remain the same.

The third reading was carried without a division.

The House resumed in committee on the Electrical Wiremen and Contr-

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"Rand Daily Mail"

27th April, 1939.

Native Bill Protest

...that remain-
...during the past few
...had not enhanced his respect for
...the highest legislative institution in
...the country.

The State Advances Recoveries
Office vote was approved and progress
was reported.

NATIVE BILL PROTEST

The MINISTER OF NATIVE
AFFAIRS, the Hon. H. A. Fagan,
moved the third reading of the Native
Trust and Land Amendment Bill.

Mrs. V. M. L. BALLINGER (Native
Representative, Cape Eastern) said
that she wished again to protest
against the Bill, which the native
representatives regarded as a mis-
take. The effect of the Bill would be
to put the whole native land position
in a state of flux.

The Bill would enable the
Government, with the consent of
the House but without the cumber-
some legislation which had been a
safeguard, to change native areas
granted in 1913 on an ostensibly
immutable basis and enlarged in
1936. The Government would be
able to expropriate native owners.

Mrs. Ballinger said that it was
claimed that the Bill would further
the interest of natives by facilitating
their removal from "black spots" to
areas where they could build up a
more effective existence. Though
there were comparatively few "black
spots," the Government was creating
an instrument which would change
the whole native land situation. She
likened the Bill to the use of a sledge
hammer to drive in a pin.

In order to make a minor adjust-
ment, the Government had created un-
rest among the whole native population.

Mr. S. F. BEKKER (U.P., Wode-
house) said it was more or less under-
stood at the joint sitting of both
Houses on the Native Bills that the re-
moval of black spots would involve the
purchase of land in addition to the 7½
million morgen belonging to the Native
Trust.

At the joint sitting it had been made
clear that the natives living in white
areas must be segregated. It was
wrong of members to tell natives that
an injustice was being done to them.

MINISTER REPLIES

Replying to the debate, Mr. Fagan
informed Mr. Haywood that it was
estimated that the "black spots"
totalled 250,000 morgen. The Gov-
ernment had no intention of expro-
priating all these areas because that
would deprive farmers of sources of
labour. The Government would only
expropriate natives from these Euro-
pean areas where they had no
prospect of expansion and better-
ment. Each case would be treated
on its merits.

He assured the native representa-
tives that there was no need for unrest.
"We can in most cases serve the
interests of both Europeans and
natives and this is such a measure,"
he said.

The Bill was read a third time.
The House resumed in committee on
the Electrical Wiremen's and Con-
tractors' Bill.

Progress was reported, and the re-
sumption set down for to-morrow. The
House rose at 11.15 p.m.

News by J. C. Sutherland, C. S. Mor-
gan, H. E. O'Connor and J. M. Lawless,
Press Gallery, House of Assembly, Cape

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ASSEMBLY TO-DAY

ELECTRICAL

The Star
 MINISTER ON

2/5/32
 NO COLOUR BAR
 ALLOWED

FROM OUR GALLERY STAFF

House of Assembly, Tuesday.

In the Assembly this afternoon, the third reading of the Electrical Wiremen and Contractors Bill was opposed by the Nationalists.

Mr. LOUW (Nat., Beaufort West) said he desired to protest against the Minister's refusal in the Committee stage to accept Nationalist amendments to confine registration under the Bill to European Union nationals. Their purpose in moving an amendment to reserve registration for Europeans was that they wished to take steps against the increasing competition which Europeans had to-day to meet from non-Europeans. The amendment also embodied the Nationalist policy of economic segregation.

More and more coloured people were moving to the towns and work which in the past had been done by Europeans was now being done by coloured people. If the Government would adopt the policy of residential segregation it would not be necessary to move amendments of this type because provision could then be made for coloured wiremen to be registered and to work among their own people. The amendment, which sought to limit registration to Union nationals, embodied the principle of first looking after one's own people.

DANGER OF SABOTAGE

Many aliens, who were artisans, had entered the Union in the last few years and it was necessary to safeguard the interests of Union nationals. There was also a certain amount of danger of sabotage by aliens in work of this type. The Nationalists did not consider the Bill itself a very important or necessary measure, but as these two important principles had not been accepted by the Minister he could not vote for the third reading.

Mr. WARREN (Nat., Swellendam) said the Minister's object of protecting certain large municipal undertakings could have been achieved by much simpler legislation than this Bill, which applied to small local authorities as well. The Bill threatened the livelihood of electricians employed in the smaller areas and it would make the electrical industry a closed shop.

Mr. SERFONTEIN (Nat., Boshof) said the Minister should have accepted the amendment providing for South Africans to be given preference. Why did South Africans always have to play second fiddle to imported men? The Bill touched upon a principle which was of the utmost importance to South Africans yet did nothing to help them. The Nationalist Party would vote against it.

Dr. MOLL (U.P., Rondebosch) said the Nationalists were responsible for trying to create a major injustice—the exclusion of coloured people from the ranks of skilled labour.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

The MINISTER OF LABOUR (Mr. Lawrence) said the Bill was of a technical nature, providing for the registration of a body of men who were engaged in responsible work. The report of the Industrial Legislation Commission stated that electrical work, unless properly executed, must lead to injury, loss of life, or loss of property through fire. The Government in this Bill took precautions in the interests of public safety. It was not suitable vehicle for such changes in policy as the Nationalists sought.

The Bill had not been introduced in a hurry. It was considered by the four Provincial Administrations and by technical and professional bodies. There was no intention of taking away the rights of people who practised in the past as wiremen in rural areas. But if these men moved to the towns they would have to become registered. If they were proficient the regulation would not hinder them in any way.

Mr. Louw had protested against his refusal to accept the "colour bar" for the purpose of the Bill or to confine registration to Union nationals. The Prime Minister's policy, as stated to the House, allowed no discrimination between coloured people and Europeans in the economic sphere. He did not propose to abandon that policy. If the Nationalist policy were put into practice, the Government would have gone a long way towards sapping the vitality of white South Africa.

"If we are continuously to provide economic anaesthetics against the pain of competition, then God help white South Africa," he said.

White civilisation could not be preserved at the cost of the non-Europeans. There was, in fact, no danger to European wiremen from the non-Europeans. So far from there being any danger to European artisans, the coloured people were becoming perturbed by the fact that it seemed as if skilled work was being closed to them.

MATRIMONIAL BILL

Collection Number: AD843

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