

" "Coloured Spots" in Johannesburg.  
City Deputation At Cape Town.

## **"COLOURED SPOTS" IN JOHANNESBURG**

### **CITY DEPUTATION AT CAPE TOWN**

**FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF**

CAPE TOWN, Monday.

A deputation from the Johannesburg City Council arrived in Cape Town during the week-end, and to-day got into touch with Ministers and Members of Parliament.

"The object of our visit," said Mr. Lionel Leveson, chairman of the Council's Public Health Committee, in an interview, "is, first, to impress upon Ministers the necessity of urgent action.

"Conditions in certain parts of Johannesburg occupied by Asiatics and coloured persons have reached a state which, from a public health point of view, cannot be allowed to continue. We cannot take the risk of an extension of the dangers existing there to-day."

"We will ask the Government," Mr. Leveson said, "to accept the Feetham report with certain small modifications to agree to the council's policy of giving Asiatics freehold title in the Malay location, to agree to the assignment of Claremont for Asiatic occupation and to give us the necessary powers to enable us to bring the western areas of Sophiatown, Martindale and Newclare under rigid municipal control.

"Our object is to bring into being a policy under which only bona fide owner-occupants will be allowed to own property and trade there.

"The owner-occupant system rigidly excludes Europeans. Under our scheme they will be at least 95 per cent. Asiatics or coloured and not more than five per cent. native. There are a certain number of native owner-occupiers whom we are not justified in expelling but we feel that they are so few that they will prefer to go voluntarily to the native townships.

"We feel that although we cannot

wipe out the coloured spots in Johannesburg we can check the flow of the tide. That is our policy and we hope to get the support of the Government in carrying it out."

Other members of the deputation are Mr. T. P. Gray, chairman of the General Purposes Committee, Mr. A. Immink, chairman of the Native Affairs and Coloured Administration Committee, Mr. C. Beckett, chairman of the Town Planning Committee, Mr. F. du Toit, Town Councillor for Vrededorp, Mr. I. Marks, Town Clerk, Dr. Milne, M.O.H. and Mr. G. Ballenden, manager of the Native Affairs Department.

Appointments have been made with the Minister of Native Affairs and the Minister of the Interior. The deputation may remain in Cape Town for some days.

The modification of the Feetham areas which will be suggested includes the excision of Ferreirastown in the neighbourhood of the new magistrates' courts and of part of the recommended area in Ophirton.

ONLY WOMAN COMPETITOR IN

Mrs. Kay Petre, the only woman entrant for the Johannesburg Grand

# THE FUTURE OF PROSPECT TOWNSHIP

## PROBLEMS PENDING DECISIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT

Reports have been submitted by sub-committees of the Municipal Native Affairs and Town Planning Committees in regard to certain areas in Prospect Township where it was proposed to remove the existing buildings and erect others.

The Town Planning Committee states that the exemption of this township from the provisions of the Gold Law was not recommended by the commission but was agreed to by the City Council.

"In our opinion," says the Town Planning Committee, "it is not suitable for European occupation and should be zoned for industrial purposes."

The sub-committee appointed to co-ordinate with the Native Affairs and Town Planning Committee states, in a report presented to the joint meeting of Town Planning, Health and Native Affairs Sub-Committees yesterday that, owing to the uncertainty which exists regarding the Government's intention concerning Prospect Township, it is unable at this stage to recommend what procedure should be adopted in order to ameliorate the conditions existing in the township.

### NOTICES SERVED.

The medical officer of health has served a number of notices on the residents of Prospect Township and the premises have been declared slums. The owners have now been called upon to place their premises in order and, as a consequence, a number of plans have been submitted with regard to the replacement of existing buildings. If these plans are passed and new buildings erected, however, it is possible that the Native Affairs Committee might refuse to grant licences to house natives.

"A further problem is raised by the fact that the Railway Administration may desire to acquire Prospect Township for the purpose of establishing a goods yard, and until something more definite is known in this direction, it is questionable whether the Council should force the owners to rebuild. On the other hand, from a public health point of view, it is essential that the existing conditions should not be allowed to remain any longer than is necessary."

The city engineer was requested while in Capetown recently, to interview the Minister of Interior and Public Health, and the Minister of Railways, and on his return to submit a report.

### EUROPEAN ZONES.

The sub-committee further recommended that Rosebank, Birnham, Waverley, Oaklands, Rouxville, Victoria, Riviera and Highlands be zoned purely as European residential areas.

In regard to coloured persons, the manager of native affairs has submitted a report pointing out that considerable difficulty is experienced in regard to the lower elements of the coloured population in Johannesburg. When areas are cleared of natives, those areas are repopulated by coloured persons hardly distinguishable from natives, whose presence retards such areas from becoming rehabilitated. These coloured families have become scattered in many of the European residential areas, to the discomfort of the European residents.

### LAW OF 1871.

He quotes an old Republican law of 1871 to the effect that no erf holder in any town in the Transvaal is allowed to have coloured persons on his land unless they are in his service or under contract with him. He asks that the Government be asked to enforce this law and that if this is carried out, the native affairs committee be given the necessary powers and that the committee and department be styled "The Native and Coloured Administration Department."

The town clerk was of the opinion that the old law was only enforceable in regard to Cape coloured persons, but not Asiatics.

For some time the Native Affairs Committee was undecided regarding the best course to pursue. Eventually it approached the Minister urging that the old law should be enforced. The Secretary to the Minister replied that one of the reasons why action had not been taken was that if the coloured inhabitants were ejected they would not be able to get other accommodation. Before submitting the matter to the Minister he asked whether the Council had made any provision of this sort.

The Native Affairs Committee then recommended that accommodation should be provided for such persons. Subsequently the matter was held up pending the publication of the report of the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission. Again there was delay.

In a report signed by the chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. L. Leveson, it is stated that "The functions of the Native Affairs Committee should be extended to include all matters affecting the actual man-



### O.C. CONTINGENT.

Colonel K. R. VAN DER SPUY, M.C., who will be in charge of the South African Coronation contingent. Colonel van der Spuy has just taken over the Cape Command, having been transferred there from Durban.

agement of the places of residence and the housing of coloured persons. In view of the fact, however, that it should be the policy of the Council to endeavour to uplift the outlook and social standards of the coloured person, we are of opinion that the title of the Native Affairs Committee should be altered to 'The Non-European Housing and Native Administration Committee.'

"We are also of opinion that the Public Health Committee should retain control of the housing schemes for coloured persons until such time as they are completed, when the administration thereof could be handed over to the non-European Housing and Native Administration Committee. The manager, Native Affairs Department, should, however, collaborate with the Medical Officer of Health during the construction of the houses with regard to all matters appertaining to their design, etc."

These various reports will be considered this afternoon.

### BLOEMFONTEIN'S NEW BUSES

BLOEMFONTEIN, Friday. — The Town Council decided to-day to spend £29,104 on the purchase of 12 single-decker buses, two double-decker buses and one spare engine operating on crude oil. These will replace the existing trackless trams, which are to be discarded. The vehicles will be coloured almond and empire green. —Reuter.

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## SOPHIATOWN SLUMS

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### CITY COUNCIL'S AIM

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### REPLY TO DR. HERTZOG

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### INDIAN TOWNSHIP CHALLENGE

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Overcrowding to the extent of 16 families living in a single-storey building on a stand of 50 by 100 feet is quite common in Sophiatown, within three miles of the centre of Johannesburg. Of 1,700 properties, 1,463 are slums, and 408 of these are major slums. Many of the inhabitants are half-starved and large numbers are exploited by slum landlords.

Mr. Graham Ballenden, manager of the city's native affairs department, gave this evidence in answer to questions by Dr. Albert Hertzog at to-day's session of the commission to inquire into a City Council plan to establish a township for Indians at **Claremont**. Mr. F. Glen Leary presided.

#### INDIAN HOUSING PROPOSAL

Dr. Hertzog suggested that the Council could expropriate sufficient properties in Sophiatown to house 400 Indian families in what was already a non-European township, instead of creating a new one at Claremont. Mr. Ballenden explained that his ideal was to have not more than one non-European family to a stand in all the townships. The Council had powers to expropriate, but under the Cape Town agreement had to provide alternative accommodation for native tenants and property owners.

The cost of removing residents from half Sophiatown alone, and preparing the area for 400 Indian residents, would be more than £700,000. The cost of land at Claremont for the whole scheme was £35,000.

Mr. Ballenden said the Council was trying to improve conditions in Sophiatown and elsewhere, but it found that as fast as it moved a native family out a coloured family came in. Many of the slum landlords had only one policy—to spend as little as possible to get as much as possible.

The Council aimed at providing proper living and social conditions at nominal charges in the new township.

A COLOURED TOWNSHIP.  
Site West Of Orlando Suggested.

THE STAR, JO

NEWS

A COLOURED TOWNSHIP

SITE WEST OF ORLANDO SUGGESTED

To the Editor of The Star

Sir,—I read with interest your leading article of June 13. I am sure every citizen in Johannesburg and on the Reef is agreed on the policy of setting aside land for the establishment of a coloured township, where this community will be provided with facilities for acquiring their own ground and erecting their own homes.

The vital point at issue is where to establish this township so that it will not conflict with the interests of the three communities, European, native and coloured, and to study carefully the cost to the ratepayers of Johannesburg of the scheme. Johannesburg is expanding in every direction to-day, and the phenomenal development to the west makes it apparent that the European expansion is tending to envelop the native townships in this direction. Those who permitted the establishment of these townships had no conception that Johannesburg would one day find that it had made the same mistake as every town on the Reef in regard to the position of its locations. The bold and far sighted policy of the Council in establishing Orlando Township which is 10 miles from the heart of Johannesburg, was an inspiration, and, given a faster train service and reduced railway fares, combined with rents adjusted more in line with the European sub-economic housing scheme. Orlando will fill up with the rapidity that the Native Affairs Committee hoped for. The disinclination of the native to go and live at Orlando is purely an economic one, and the ratepayers should foot the bill to enable the native to make both ends meet.

Are we to repeat the mistake perpetrated at Alexandra Township and in the western suburbs, by allowing a coloured township to be established between Newclare and Newlands? The citizens of Fordsburg, Mayfair and Mayfair West, have justifiably protested to the Health Committee. One of the replies received was to the effect that Mayfair West would be separated by a "blanket" from the coloured township. "Blanket" presumably means a belt of trees. Is it reasonable to expect the adjacent

European townships proposal, with the consequent to property value, and a resultant stream of traffic percolating through the suburbs affected?

It is understood that an alternative scheme has been submitted which is strongly favoured by many councillors and which will find favour with the majority of the public when it has been given the necessary publicity. It is that land should be set aside farther west adjoining or near to Orlando. In every possible manner the feelings of the coloured people should be considered with a view to uplifting them, and not pulling them down to the level of the native. The Council has 3,000 acres at Orlando, and the right to take up another considerable tract of land adjoining Orlando, known as Spencer's Lease; at present barely 300 acres are built on. It would not be necessary to have a "blanket" separating the two communities, for the two townships could be far enough apart to be totally different in all characteristics and to have separate names. The prejudice of the coloured people against the word Orlando must be overcome. The electric train service shortly to be inaugurated will speed up communications and will bring these townships within a few minutes of Johannesburg, and the prejudice of distance will eventually fade.

The proposal of the Health Committee is to spend £200 per acre and acquire 200 acres at a cost of £40,000 and the sellers of the ground stipulate that the ground is to be used for no other purpose than that of a coloured township. For this sum the Council could probably acquire 1,000 acres of ground in the vicinity of Orlando and not to be faced in a few years' time with the problem of providing additional facilities for the coloured population which now numbers 20,000.

I ask you to give this important matter the publicity it deserves. It may be the means of causing our public men to go into this problem very carefully before finally coming to a decision.

A. E. STAFFORD.

## NATIVE HOUSING AT KORSTEN

### WORST CONDITIONS IN THE UNION

#### STRONG CRITICISM BY COMMISSION

PORT ELIZABETH, Tuesday.—A denunciation of conditions at Korsten, the native area on the outskirts of the city, by Mr. A. D. Moody, chairman of the Urban Natives Commission, was a feature of to-day's proceedings when the Commission sat to take further evidence.

"I would like to say that, of all the localities we have so far visited, conditions in Korsten are very much worse than anything we have seen throughout the whole of the Union. I think it behoves the European residents of Port Elizabeth to take some steps to remove a state of affairs which is going to react very adversely on them," said Mr. Moody.

Later, in giving evidence, the chairman of the municipal native affairs committee told the commission that Korsten has a population of 23,000, made up of Europeans, Chinese, Indians, Euraficans and 12,500 natives.

#### "FILTHY SURROUNDINGS."

"These are all mixed up to an extent almost unbelievable unless personally investigated. The children of Europeans play freely in the filthy surroundings with those of brown, yellow and black parents.

"Our housing survey shows that, so far as the housing of these 23,000 people is concerned, only 297 houses and 18 separate single rooms can be classified as reasonably fit for occupation. There are over 2,800 families in Korsten for whom housing must be found at New Brighton or elsewhere if the provisions of the Native Urban Areas Act is to be carried out."

The chairman of the native affairs committee said: "Korsten is a tragedy. Crime, disease, filth and moral degradation make it almost a matter of despair for magistrates, police, the medical officer of health and everyone else."

He added that he was prepared to show that the Union Government, the Provincial Administration and the municipality all contributed to the creation of this state of affairs. It has been estimated that about £200,000 would be needed to provide housing in New Brighton location for the accommodation of the natives now resident in the city, but not in the location. The problem could only be solved by the Government taking a hand.

Illustrating the contrast between conditions at Korsten and those at the New Brighton location, Mr. T. C. White, the Mayor, said that convictions for drunkenness in the location last year totalled no more than 20.

#### AN ECONOMIC PROBLEM.

The native problem was, he said, an economic problem. The field of employment for natives had been whittled down and that policy was partly responsible for the conditions ruling to-day. The City Council was the only employer, with three or four exceptions, who paid natives at the

rate of 4/- a day. A great deal of the trouble at Korsten was not due to the males, but to the unemployed females. It was they who conducted the illicit liquor traffic.

The Mayor suggested that the most effective method of dealing with liquor traffickers was not to impose a nominal fine, but to send them to a labour colony. The Council was at present proposing to build an additional 500 houses in the New Brighton location. An alternative scheme was that the Council should give land and supply the material for the houses and take a bond on the property. The municipality's greatest loss had been incurred on houses built of brick, in the construction of which they had had to employ skilled white artisans. Of late the municipality had spent £25,000 on Korsten in an attempt to improve conditions.

Mr. Wm. F. Caulfield contended in his evidence that in the matter of natives the Government itself was not doing its duty. If they wanted cleaner and better conditions for natives, the first need was to see that natives were given a fair return for their labour. They were not getting that to-day.—Reuter.

(Continued in next column.)

# City Council to Start Big Housing Scheme

**A**N immediate start on the City Council's Klipriviersberg housing estate, for which borrowing powers to a total of £1,437,050 were approved some time ago, will be made if the Council accepts recommendations which were passed by the Public Health Committee last night.

The Committee recommended that the scheme be proceeded with at once and the City Engineer be instructed to prepare plans, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, for the erection of 1,000 sub-economic houses. It was considered that in the event of this scheme not being adopted, the Council should approach the Central Housing Board and the Administrator with the object of allocating a sufficient proportion of the loan for Klipriviersberg for the erection of 600 houses at Albertsville, the sum to include the cost of expropriation.

It was also decided to ask the non-European and Native Affairs Committee to press as an urgent matter its request for a loan for sub-economic housing of coloured people at Orlando, or alternatively, in the event of failure to obtain a loan, to consider submitting a scheme for the reallocation of the £680,000 loan for Coronation Township so as to devote a portion of the loan to coloured housing at Orlando. The Native Affairs Committee is also to be asked to make further urgent representations to the Administrator for sanction of a loan of £1,347,340 for native housing at Orlando.

**NO ALTERNATIVE**

The committee's decisions last night were influenced by the general recognition that effective slum clearance cannot take place until the native and coloured populations have been fully rehoused. It has been found that in the majority of slum areas Europeans and coloureds are so mixed that even if premises were condemned, demolition cannot take place owing to the Council not having any alternative accommodation available.

The £1,437,000 Klipriviersberg scheme, which was allowed for by Mr. D. F. Corlett, chairman of the Finance Committee in his estimates, was intended in the first instance to provide 2,000 houses, but delay has been caused by a suggestion of the Railway Administration that it should take over the land for a housing scheme for its own employees.

It is understood by the Council that the Railway Administration, for the time being at least, has abandoned this project, and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. J. Milne, stated in a report presented last night that there was now apparently no reason why the Council should not proceed with the scheme. He added that there was indeed every reason why the Council should do so, in order to provide accommodation for families displaced under the Slums Act.

## 2,000 HOUSES

If the committee's recommendations are adopted by the Council, it will mean that with the erection of only 1,000 houses instead of 2,000, half the ground will still be available for the Railway Administration if it still requires it. The Council would then split up its total scheme by building the remaining 1,000 houses it needs at Albertsville and Claremont. Whatever happens, however, the Public Health Committee intends this year to make a serious effort to begin the building of the 2,000 houses which will ultimately be required.

Dr. Milne, in a special report on the present position of slum clearance and rehousing to last night's meeting, emphasised the "universally accepted axiom" that the demolition or evacuation of slums was only justified in the presence of simultaneous provision of alternative accommodation. A municipal survey completed in March, 1937, showed that 6,735 European families, 874 Asiatics, 2,747 coloured and 5,497 native families had to be displaced from insanitary conditions.

Since the promulgation of the Slums Act, 488 European, 731 coloured, 114 Asiatics, and 1,939 native families have been displaced from insanitary properties. The report gives details of the various rehousing schemes now in hand by the Council and private organisations, but calls attention to the still pressing need for more housing.

There are 999 European applicants alone on the waiting list for sub-economic housing, and it is known that there will be large numbers of families who will be applicants when housing becomes available. Every effort, Dr. Milne adds, should be made to rid the Malay Location once and for all of the remainder of its native occupants.

"THE RAND DAILY MAIL" SEPERATE MUNICIPALITY IN NORTHER CITY AREAS POSSIBLE.  
Report To Council Committee.

# SEPERATE MUNICIPALITY NORTHERN CITY AREAS POSSIBLE

## Report to Council Committee

THE possibility of a separate municipality on the northern boundaries of Johannesburg is visualised in a lengthy report by the Town Clerk, supplemented by a report by the City Engineer, Dr. E. J. Hamlin, which is to be presented to a special meeting of the General Purposes Committee to-day.

The report has been drawn up as a suggested basis of the views of the City Council to be placed before the commission appointed by the Government at the end of last year, at the instance of the Union Public Health Department, to consider the administration of areas which are becoming urbanised, but which are not under local government control.

After recalling some of the findings of the Boundaries Commission under Mr. Justice Feetham, the report states that "it is abundantly clear that an urgent problem is growing up on the outskirts of a number of Reef towns, and it is considered that before the development of these areas is completely out of control some comprehensive scheme should be devised for dealing with this problem to take the place of the past and unsatisfactory method of further incorporation into municipal areas from time to time as the occasion warranted."

For dealing with the areas concerned, in the case of Johannesburg a

large number of townships are immediately north of the municipal boundary, the report states there are four alternative methods.

These are the establishment of new municipalities, establishment of a system of divisional councils similar to those at the Cape, extension of municipal boundaries, or the granting of extended powers to municipalities to control land outside their areas.

In an analysis of the pros and cons of these four schemes, the Town Clerk points out that the northern areas of Johannesburg are becoming increasingly popular for residential purposes, and provided the gold-mining industry does not experience some unforeseen setback, "there can be little doubt that the time will come when the establishment of a separate municipality on our northern boundaries will be a practical proposition."

### CONTROL NEEDED

He says that if this statement is correct, it would seem that all that is now required in respect of the areas of Johannesburg, is to ensure a satisfactory system of control that will safeguard the interests of Johannesburg, ensure a satisfactory standard of public health and prevent disorderly and scattered development until such time as the municipality comes into being.

The report emphasises, however, that unless some such system of control is established without delay, the local authority of the future will be handicapped from the date of its inception.

The Johannesburg municipality, it is stated, can accommodate a European population of approximately 500,000, without any overcrowding of buildable land, and if a section of the population does not wish to take advantage of municipal services and chooses to settle in outside areas, it would be an injustice to impose additional taxation on Johannesburg's citizens in order to support a new local government body such as a divisional council for the purpose of improving conditions in such areas.

Mr. Marks considers that the suggestion to grant existing municipalities extended powers to control peri-urban areas would result in a more efficient service at lower costs per head. A separate rate and attendant costs of assessment and collection would be unnecessary.

The Town Clerk has recommended to the committee that his report be submitted to the commission as expressing the Council's views and that the Town Clerk, City Engineer, Medical Officer of Health, the City Treasurer, and the Manager of Native Affairs Commission be authorised to give evidence before the commission.

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