

**What
Chance
Have
They
?**

ADDENDUM.

It is pleasing to report that while this pamphlet was in the press the City Council have agreed to the conditions laid down by the Administrator, when approving borrowing powers to the extent of £320,100 for effecting a number of improvements in the locations and hostels and the provision of a Civic Centre. One of these conditions is that any deficit on the Native Revenue Account on the 30th June, 1942, as well as any deficit in any following year as a result of the proposed loan should be met from the Council's General Rate Fund.

The City Council **have gone further** and adopted the recommendation of the Non-European and Native Affairs Committee, which was, "That the conditions be accepted provided the deficit at 30th June, 1942 on the Native Revenue Account (estimated £47,061) be transferred to the Rate Fund over a period of two years, i.e. half in each of the financial years 1942-3 and 1943-4 and, **that as from the 1st July, 1942, any deficits on the Native Revenue Account be transferred to the Rate Fund each year.**"

The estimated deficit for the financial year 1942-3 on the Native Revenue Account is £38,000.

Provision has been made in the estimates for a sum of £6,000 for the building of Primary Schools in Orlando West.

It is also understood that it is proposed to transfer the payment of Grants-in-Aid from the Native Revenue Account to the General Rates Fund.

THE AFRICAN TOWNSHIPS COMMITTEE consisting of representatives of organisations and of citizens interested in the living and housing conditions of Natives living in Johannesburg and adjacent Districts has made a careful study of this subject and some of the findings are revealed in this pamphlet.

THE WHITE HALF OF THE CITY DOES NOT KNOW HOW THE NATIVE HALF LIVES.

We think you will agree with this statement when you try to answer the following questions:

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY — WHAT ELSE CAN YOU EXPECT?

DO YOU KNOW

That Juvenile Delinquency amongst Natives is rapidly increasing?

That the Native child population, of school-going age, in Johannesburg (including Alexandra Township) is estimated at 40,000, and that of these only 16,000 are in school at any one time?

That of those children who are at school only a small percentage stay long enough to pass Standard 1?

That because of economic necessity, on account of the low wages of the husbands, most women have to go out to work?

That the children are thus left uncared for? Small wonder that these youngsters are turning into raggamuffins. What else can we expect?

That if it were not for the missions, there would be practically no Native education at all?

That the Pretoria, Brakpan and Springs Municipalities have considered education so necessary that they have built schools and leased them to the Provincial Council?

That Johannesburg has not yet done anything like this?

WHERE CAN NATIVES MEET AT PRESENT IN THEIR FREE TIME?

DO YOU KNOW

That Johannesburg has a population of 42,000 Native domestic servants, living on their employers' premises?

That Natives congregate in large numbers at the Zoo Lake — at the Zoo — at the street corners — on islands in the streets?

WHY?

Because they cannot be expected to remain in their rooms during their off hours, and because, apart from the Beer Halls, recreational facilities for domestic servants barely exist.

There is an urgent need for the provision of Social Centres, equipped with sports field, class rooms for adult education, libraries, etc., where these people could meet and find wholesome diversion during their leisure time.

Centres could be provided in the Northern and Eastern Suburbs if part of the large tracts of land used as sewerage farms were made available. It would be possible for such Centres to be so placed as to give no cause for the all too familiar objections to meeting places of Natives in European residential areas.

THE CITY COUNCIL AS LANDLORD.

DO YOU KNOW

That in Pimville, a municipal location, half-tanks were put down in 1904 as a **temporary** housing measure when Natives were removed from Newtown in breathless haste because of an outbreak of plague?

That these half-tanks **to-day** still serve as dwellings for Natives, for which they pay rent to the Municipality?

That there is no street lighting in the location?

And that the roads are among the worst to be found in the Province?

MEDICAL SERVICES.

DO YOU KNOW

That, though Johannesburg proudly boasts that it gives every location dweller a complete and free medical service, there are in Orlando only 2 doctors to care for the medical needs, and supervise a number of specialised clinics, for 40,000 people?

That in Pimville there is only 1 doctor for 20,000 people?

That of the total expenses for medical services to Non-Europeans and Natives, amounting to £24,469 for the year ended 30/6/41, £12,157 was paid by the Natives themselves through the Municipal Native Revenue Account?

The decision of the City Council to embark on a policy of caring for Native health was deservedly welcomed, but it is now time to insist that the scheme fulfil what it set out to do.

THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE.

DO YOU KNOW

That under the Urban Areas Act of 1923 (as amended) the Municipality is responsible for providing housing for Natives within its boundaries?

That there are still approximately 40,000 Natives living in slums which are not only a disgrace to the City, but a menace to its health?

That in places like Martindale, Sophiatown and Newclare the Natives are totally uncared for?

That for these Natives the Municipality provides **no medical services**?

That Natives have to pay exorbitant rents to private landlords?

That whole families live in one room?

That Roads are neglected?

That water has often to be bought by the can?

Such environment is a natural breeding place for disease and crime. Of all forgotten people, these are **the** forgotten people.

A PEOPLE WITHOUT A VOICE.

DO YOU KNOW

That, although the Natives make up nearly half of the population of Johannesburg they have no direct representation on the Governing Institutions of our City? Not even those among them who are property owners and ratepayers? In the locations they have their own Advisory Boards, but because their functions are purely advisory, these bodies are without much influence.

The Government has set a good example by giving Natives direct European representatives in the House of Assembly and in the Senate. Is it not time that Johannesburg did likewise and made provision for Natives to elect a certain number of European Councillors to represent them?

JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

The City is obliged to keep a Native Revenue Account in which is reflected the income and the expenditure on Native Affairs. For the period 1914-1937, deficits on the Native Revenue Account amounted to £302,012, which were met out of General Revenue.

DO YOU KNOW

That in 1938 (the year in which Beer Halls were opened), the deficit was not met out of General Revenue, as had always been the practice previously, but was carried forward in anticipation of Beer Profits in the succeeding year? That this policy continues and that deficits are no longer met out of General Revenue?

How is the Native Revenue Account financed?

The income in 1941 was:—

Rents	.....	£155,464
Beer Hall Sales	.....	122,767
Sundries	.....	8,353
		<hr/>
		£286,584
		<hr/>

As the City Council has recognised the necessity for reducing rents, income from that source cannot increase. The only other source is increased Beer Profits OR a Contribution from General Revenue.

WHICH DO YOU WANT IT TO BE?

DO YOU KNOW

That in addition to the interest on the money borrowed to finance the purchase of land and the development of the hostels and locations, the Native Revenue Account is charged with the repayment of the money borrowed?

That, thereby, the Native Revenue Account is paying for the Locations, **but the people who pay never get ownership?**

Under the Sub-Economic Housing scheme, the Government advances to the Municipality loans at 3% on condition that rents are fixed at such a level that a loss of 1½% is incurred. In Johannesburg, who bears the loss of 1½%? the Municipality? NO. Beer Profits are used to pay this amount.

When the establishment of Beer Halls was advocated, one of the main arguments in favour was that illicit liquor traffic would be reduced, thus decreasing drunkenness and the criminal prosecutions resulting from both. Has this effect been achieved? The answer is NO. The expectation of large profits has, however, been amply borne out.

DO YOU KNOW

That the Profits on the sale of Beer were:—

1938 (part year)	.....	£7,000
1939	.....	£33,000
1940	.....	£64,000
1941	.....	£63,000
1942 (estimated)	.....	£80,000
Total		£247,000

HOW HAVE THE BEER PROFITS BEEN USED?

- (1) To reduce rents of houses in the locations.
- (2) To relieve the General Rates Fund of the deficits. For the period of 1914-1937, the deficits amounting to £302,012 were made a charge on the General Rates Fund. Deficits on the Native Revenue Account are now carried forward in anticipation of Beer Profits wiping them out.
- (3) To relieve the General Rate Fund of Grants in Aid of Charitable Institutions interested in Native Welfare. Since 1939, these grants amounting to approximately £4,000 have been transferred from the General Rates Fund to the Native Revenue Account.
- (4) To make a contribution for indirect Administration by the Town Clerk, City Treasurer, and Audit Department. In 1941 this amounted to approximately £5,000. Before the Beer Halls were established, no such charges were debited to the Native Revenue Account.
- (5) To pay for development and additional services in the locations and hostels.

WHAT IS THE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION?

That beer profits are being used to relieve European rate-payers of their responsibility to the poorest section of the population.

HOW DO WE SUGGEST BEER PROFITS SHOULD BE USED?

We consider that Beer Profits should be treated as a windfall and used to provide services which the Municipality is not normally obliged to provide. On no account should beer profits be used to relieve the European community of all contribution towards the welfare of the Native population, on whose labour the economic prosperity of the City largely depends.

Although reforms are needed in many directions, we are convinced that concentration on measures that will ensure a well adjusted and law abiding young generation and a contented adult generation are the most immediate need.

We therefore want your endorsement of our claim that beer profits should be used :—

1. To build schools which the Province will staff and equip, so that children may be taken from off the streets and given elementary education;
2. To provide facilities for leisure-time pursuits which will ultimately replace the demand for beer.

WHAT YOU CAN DO.

Field Marshall Smuts said in January, 1942:

"If we honestly and sincerely ask ourselves the question: Are we doing our duty as trustees? I do not think we can lay our hands on our hearts and say we are doing it."

Can WE in Johannesburg lay our hands on our hearts and say honestly and sincerely that we are fulfilling our duty as trustees? NO. We cannot. While more than one half of the Native children are not in school, while the population is driven to beer halls in search of recreation, we must confess our failure.

We want your support in demanding that improvements be brought about immediately. **Now** is the time to stop the spread of crime, poverty and disease. If the rot is not stopped now, it will spread and undermine the welfare of the European section. Are you, as a responsible and thinking citizen of Johannesburg, prepared to accept this position? Or are you going to voice your demands and see justice is done in the interests of the **whole** community?

The City Council cannot be expected to change its policy except in response to the wishes of the electorate. You are asked to help by influencing Public Opinion so that the City Council may improve conditions, knowing this is the wish of the European population.

We citizens must give a lead. The Council will follow.

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE AND DONE SOON.

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