

Land Question.

1. One of the most vital war needs today is the question of the increased production of essential agricultural products. Food is required now because S.A. must try to make itself self sufficient and so save shipping space. It is needed to make S.A. an A1 nation capable of standing up to the rigours of war conditions. It is needed for the S.A. and allied soldiers. It is needed generally for the Allies in their struggle against the Axis.

2. In S.A. most of the agricultural products are actually produced by the Africans who form the vast majority of the land workers. Not only are they working on every European farm but also in the reserves and Crown lands they have their own land. If there is to be increased production special attention must be paid to them.

3. But what is the position as regards the Africans on the land. Little need be said on the question of Africans working on European farms. Their position is obvious. They receive starvation wages. Little effort is made to farm scientifically.

4. The position of the Africans on the Reserves is very grave. They suffer from chronic shortage of land, which is resulting in their land being deroded, and every year less and less being produced on the land while the number of Africans on the land increases.

5. When the Native Land and Trust Act was passed the Africans expected an immediate alleviation of their conditions. They all expected to receive more land and also that agricultural demonstrators would show them improved methods of farming methods. On the whole the Act was at first welcomed.

5. In practice this has not worked out. In the first place the Africans on the Reserves are not receiving additional land. It seems that they are not affected at all by the acquisition of new land. Secondly there are the Africans who were living on the land that was bought by the Trusts. They have suffered instead of receiving improvements. Previously their custom was for each person to receive a piece of land sufficient for himself and extra pieces of land for each wife and child. When the land was bought by the Trust the Commissioners redivided the land into ~~six~~ fixed allotments for each family. Little or no account was taken of the the size of the family etc. so that large and small families received the same allotments. Furthermore often ~~land~~ persons were removed from the land that they had been ploughing for years, and which they had improved, and were given other land usually much poorer in quality. Little or no attempts were made to train the peasants in better farming methods. Added to this are hundreds of petty restrictions; Not allowed to cut trees, not allowed to graze cattle in certain parts even if the cattle are starving, not allowed to sell their products etc. Such conditions have resulted in the greatest dissatisfaction existing among African peasants and led to the recent mass revolt in the Zoutpansberg area. There people were expected to live on 1 1/2 morgen of land which on the average could produce 5 to 6 bags of mealies a year. Furthermore one finds that after the redivision of the land that has been bought by the trust a large part of the land is left vacant and unused.

6. An immediate end must be made to the above conditions. Immediately more land must be supplied to the Africans on the land and there must be further land purchases under the Native Land and Trust Act at prices that are not excessive. All idle land must be taken by the Govt. Modern machinery and training of how to use that machinery should be given to the farmers. Minimum wages should be paid to the African agricultural workers. Cost of living. The Government must immediately work out a full plan for agricultural production so that our war needs will be met.

YOUTHFUL DEAN OF FLORIDA NORMAL COLLEGE NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla, May (ANP) Howard R. Barksdale, dean of Florida Normal Collegiate institute, has been selected by a unanimous vote of the board of trustees as acting president of the school to succeed the late Dr. Collier who died in office several weeks ago.

This action on the part of the board came as a pleasing surprise to the faculty and student body. When the announcement was made on Founder's Day by the board's secretary, Atty. D.W. Perkins, the entire student body stormed the large gymnasium which was filled with patrons and friends gathered for the anniversary exercises. Applause and college yells which lasted indefinitely, followed.

Dean Barksdale is a native of St. Paul, Minn. He was graduated from Fisk university in 1935 and received his master's from that institution the following year. During the next two years he was head of the English department and dean of men at Palmer memorial institute in Sedalia, N.C.. For the past three years he has served as dean of Florida Normal, and carried on additional executive duties most successfully during the illness of Dr. Collier. He and his wife, the former Ruth Cromer of Evanston, Ill., have two children, and are members of the Baptist church.

Other changes made at the time of the board meeting include the retirement of Miss Sarah Blocker, dean of women, who is one of the two living founders of the institution. Miss Carrie Felder, graduate of the business department of the school, has been named corresponding secretary of the college and assistant secretary of the board of trustees. The board commended the work of Dr. J.W. Drake of Miami who for several months has served very capably as business manager. He is credited with effecting changes in the Baptist's educational and financial program for Florida Normal.

SOUTH AFRICAN PROTEST TO SMUTS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, May (ANP) Dr. A.B. Xuma, president of the African National congress, wired Gen. J.C. Smuts, premier of South Africa, a strong protest last week over provisions in the new factory bill passed by the legislature. The bill, Dr. Xuma declared, gives the governor-general great powers to discriminate on race or color.

"The African people hope the state authority will not be used at the expense of any section", said Dr. Xuma. "Further restrictions and discriminations may strain their loyalty and drive them into the arms of anti-state propagandists", he threatened. "My congress most respectfully prays you to intervene in the name of Christianity and democracy".

Dr. Xuma, well known in America where he was educated at Tuskegee institute, Northwestern university and Marquette before taking graduate studies in both Berlin and Scotland, is one of the leading professionals of South Africa regardless of race.

BAHAMAS HEAR THEY CAN ENTER R.A.F.

NASSAU, Bahamas, May (ANP) "There is no color bar in the R.A.F." said T.A. Toote here Monday. Mr. Toote is a member of the committee appointed by the government to examine applicants for admission into his branch of service.

Sidney Farrington, white, chairman of the committee, said "a few of the colored men who have offered their services have now been recommended and they will be accepted if they can pass the physical examination. Constable Jordan passed one of the highest in academic and mental ability but unfortunately he did not measure up to all the rigid physical requirements".

Farrington and Toote said that the committee is awaiting instructions from England and hope that some of the colored applicants will be in the next lot to leave the island.

BURY 575 POUND WOMAN IN GARY

GARY, Ind., May (ANP) Mrs. Bertha Claiborne, weighing 575 pounds, was buried Saturday in a 1,475 pound specially constructed casket. Sixteen pallbearers were used and the casket was tilted sideways to be moved through the chapel doors.

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