

RACE RELATIONS NEWS

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SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE URBANIZED AFRICAN

A complete scheme of social services for the Union is outlined in the full Report of the Social Security Committee. The principal or "A" scheme is to include urbanized Natives, who will become eligible for the various benefits such as old age and invalidity pensions, unemployment and sickness benefits, family and dependants' allowances, and maternity and funeral grants. Contributions payable by workers earning under £96 a year will be at the rate of 2½ per cent ; those earning £96 to £240 per year will pay 3 per cent. Other urbanized Natives who qualify for inclusion will contribute £1 per year.

The Committee gave close attention to a suitable test of urbanization. The onus of proof whether he is permanently urbanized is put on the Native. Three factors should be taken into account :—

(1) The period of residence in an urban area ; (2) where the family habitually lives ; (3) whether the applicant has an allotment in a Native area or not. Applied singly, none of these factors would be a satisfactory criterion ; collectively, says the Report, they should constitute final proof. Where single Natives are concerned, the question of family residence will obviously not arise if they comply with the other conditions.

The period of residence to qualify as an urbanized Native should be defined as the presence in an urban area for not less than five out of the preceding seven years, coupled with the proviso that, in the case of a married Native, his wife (or principal wife if there are more than one) must have been in an urban area for not less than three out of the preceding five years. No Native with a free allotment in a reserve can qualify as urbanized. The residential qualification is designed to prevent an influx of country folks who want the cash benefits.

Under the "B" scheme which is expected to apply to the great majority of the Natives, namely those in the reserves and on farms, old age, blindness, and invalidity pensions will become available at the rate of 10s. a month for each pension, plus rations to the value of 5s.

While the Report retains the existing practice of discrimination on racial grounds, it points out that racial groups do not live on different standards of diet, clothing, housing, or transport, and any social security scheme which is based on realities cannot neglect to take this into account. There are, however, many Coloureds and Asiatics, and a growing number of Natives as well, who approach "civilized" standards. The Committee regards it as logical and equitable that the benefits open to Non-Europeans should be made to depend on their actual standards, not merely on their race. The living standards of Non-Europeans with monthly incomes of £15 or more approximate to civilized standards. Natives earning £8 a month or more will be eligible for Coloured benefit rates. Benefits partly depend on contributions, which in turn depend on wages. Non-Europeans will thus get higher benefits open to Europeans when their contributions are as large.

The Report of the Social Security Committee together with the second report of the Social and Economic Planning Council is obtainable from the Government Printer in Pretoria or Cape Town for 6s. (postage free).

In his Budget speech, Mr. Hofmeyr announced that old age pensions will be granted from this year to Natives at the same rate as the present blind pensions, which is 20s. a month in cities, 15s. in towns, and 10s. in the country.

THE FINANCES OF NATIVE EDUCATION

In his Budget speech the Minister of Finance, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, announced that a sum of £275,000 will be granted this year from general revenue for Native education.

It is estimated that the total expenditure on Native education for the year 1943-44 will amount to £1,711,452, of which £41,000 is set aside for school buildings on the Witwatersrand as a contribution to efforts to deal with juvenile delinquency. The expenditure for 1944-45 is estimated at £1,938,828, which also includes an amount of £40,000 for school buildings, and which includes the vote of £275,000 provided for in the Budget. The expenditure for the forthcoming financial year will thus amount to about 13 per cent more

than in the current financial year. The amounts include provision for cost-of-living and special war allowances, improvements in teachers' salaries, and provision for substitutes for teachers on military service.

At the conference with the ministers in Cape Town, the question was discussed whether Native education should come under provincial or central control in future, and whether it should fall under the Native Affairs Department or the Union Education Department. It appeared that informed opinion, with the exception of the representatives of the Dutch Reformed Church, was not in favour of control by the Native Affairs Department. In any event the Native Affairs Department was unwilling to take over control, and it may therefore be assumed that that alternative is quite unlikely to be adopted.

The Institute was represented at the conference by Mr. and Mrs. Rheinallt Jones, who expressed the Institute's view that responsibility for finance, policy, and the development of a national programme should be vested in the Union Education Department, but that administration should be decentralized. They also urged the importance of the principle of making a *per caput* grant based on the number of children in school.

SCHOOL MEALS NOT YET READY

Disappointment is being felt in many Native schools in the Transvaal over the Administration's delay in putting into action the school feeding scheme for African children.

For Native schools funds will be made available to the Provinces in quarterly advances which will be paid to school feeding committees approved by the chief inspector.

The Government's decision to bear the total cost of the scheme means that the Provinces will only be called on to provide the machinery necessary for administering it.

Many Transvaal Native schools already have efficient local committees. These find it difficult to understand the Administration's emphasis on the difficulties involved in carrying out the scheme for Native school children. The delay is all the less understandable when it is considered that the position of the Native people makes the early operation of such a scheme a matter of urgent necessity.

Thus far only the Natal Administration has introduced the school feeding scheme in its full range. It came into operation there in January of this year. The Cape Administration is to start the scheme for a trial period of one year, and the Orange Free State is still considering the feeding of Non-European children.

PENSIONS TO DIE ON

In the House of Assembly, Mr. D. B. Molteno last month pleaded the case of African government pensioners. Their pensions are at a very low level and they are not entitled as of right to cost-of-living allowances. Such allowances, when granted, may not exceed an amount which, added to the pension and other means of the applicant, will bring his total income up to £2 10s. per month. In the case of a Coloured pensioner the corresponding means test is £7 10s. per month, and in that of a European £15 per month.

Mr. Molteno, supported by Mr. G. K. Hemming, protested against this wide and unjust discrimination. He pleaded for the principle that cost-of-living allowances should be paid as of right to pensioners in proportion to the amount of their pensions, as is done in the case of government servants in proportion to the amount of their wages. If this principle were applied, an African pensioner with a pension of less than £50 per year would receive a cost-of-living allowance of £1 10s. per month.

THIS HAPPENS IN PRETORIA

A Native woman gave birth in a taxi after she had been refused admission at the Pretoria Hospital. Another young mother last month gave birth on the side-walk of a street in a wealthy suburb of the city. These two instances of the difficulties Native mothers have in getting attention when their children are born have been reported by the Joint Council of Europeans and Africans.

In the second case a doctor and ambulance came after the baby had been exposed for some time and it died in hospital that night. In the first case when the woman reached the hospital she was refused admission because her case appeared to be a normal one and the Native maternity ward, which has a total of 12 beds, was full. The birth was about to take place, so the taxi cruised about while the baby was born and then mother and child were admitted to the hospital.

Many Native women who are refused admission for their confinements have their babies in the hospital grounds so that they may be taken in after the birth.

The Joint Council points out that neither the hospital nor the ambulance authorities can be blamed for this state of affairs. The fault lies with the Province which fails to provide the necessary

maternity hospitals for Native women. The Provincial Secretary takes the view that the central government should subsidize such a service. This is yet another illustration of the fact that the present provincial system is obsolete and is retarding social progress in many directions.

WHITE SETTLEMENT IN KENYA

Plans for renewed European settlement are being made in Kenya. Is public money to be spent on bolstering up the privileged position of white settlers, asks *Empire*, while the Africans continue to suffer from land hunger, unsatisfactory social services and labour conditions?

The history of white settlement in Kenya has been disturbing, if not dismaying, to British public opinion. The rich highlands through which the railway runs were long ago opened to European settlers. To encourage settlement some of the most fertile regions were carelessly and over-generously alienated. This led to friction with the Native population—friction which has been stiffened, though not allayed, by dividing the coveted land into clearly demarcated “white high lands” and “Native reserves”. The white highlands, though a small proportion of the whole country, contain some of the most fertile and attractive regions. The Africans have never acquiesced in this, and there has been a smouldering discontent among them for two generations.

In spite of generous subsidies in various forms, the attempts to encourage white settlement have had small success. Of the enormous area of seven million acres which has passed into European hands, only about 10 per cent has actually been cultivated. There is a population of 20,000 Europeans in Kenya to-day, of whom less than 2,000 are farmers. The African population numbers 3,281,000.

WHY SOUTHERN RHODESIA IS POOR

The problem of poverty in Southern Rhodesia is so vast, said Mr. F. T. Russell, Social Security Officer, in an address in Salisbury, that no department could possibly tackle it on its own, but would have to work through local authorities and subsidized voluntary organizations as was done in the Union.

The position the Colony had to face was that the large majority of its population was in poverty not because earning power had been

interrupted, but because efficiency was low, with the result that earning power was low and poverty widespread. Ninety-five per cent of Southern Rhodesia's population was Native and for that reason the country was fundamentally poor. Unless social security was seen against such a background, a false impression of the problems ahead would prevail.

Mr. Russell said that he did not see how Rhodesia could raise a large national income with untrained, unskilled, superstitious, and ignorant workers. Two alternative methods of development were apparently before the country. One was to follow the policy of parallel development, and the other was to accept the fact that Native urbanization would increase. So far Rhodesians had not made up their minds to accept either, and until they decided which they wanted, it was impossible to frame a plan for social security.

CAPE TOWN'S UNDERWORLD

This¹ is one of those pamphlets which we should not brush off our desk to our reference cabinet for future reading. Its claim for our attention is urgent. Within its pages are set forth in hard facts the conditions of the Coloured people in Cape Town. The pamphlet is based on the scientific social survey carried out on the initiative of Professor E. Batson. Bishop Lavis adds his own emphasis to what in themselves are startling facts about the actual living conditions of the poorest classes, and an exposure of the underworld almost at the doors of Cape Town.

The pamphlet details "the devastating poverty of the Coloured people". This means, in the first place, deprivation of food, clothing, shelter, artificial light and warmth below a standard of health, comfort, and decency recognized by the community. The people who came under observation could never spend a penny on a railway fare, could never go into the country unless they walked, could write no letters to absent children for lack of postage.

Condemnation is centred on "the trinity of social evils arising from poverty" (a phrase we should expect from the Bishop!)—bad housing, disease and death, and ignorance. With regard to housing, the Bishop tells, "no one will grasp the horror involved in these facts given, nor be alive to the squalor, filth, misery and degradation

¹ *Cape Town's Underworld*. By Bishop S. W. Lavis (Christian Council Series No. 6. Lovedale Press. 6d.). Copies can be obtained from the South African Institute of Race Relations, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg for 6½d. (postage free).

of the slums, and the dreadful plight of the victims, unless their conscience has been awakened by what is meant by the 'sharing of rooms' ". As for the second evil in the trinity arising from poverty, such facts are elicited as that, among the Coloured people, the infant mortality rate is about three times as great as that of the Europeans. The far higher Non-European rate of tuberculosis is pre-eminently associated with bad social conditions. The fact is "that slums kill, poverty kills". Ignorance, the third of the trinity of evils, concerns both parents and their sons, sooner or later these boys are as flotsam on the sea of the unskilled labour market, which might be described as the casual labour market, and the parents know that this will be the case when their sons are born.

This pamphlet is a vivid indictment of our social system. It deals specifically with Cape Town, but it is much to be hoped that such social surveys will be carried out in other equally needy areas.

D. K. C.

SHORTER ITEMS

Indian Inquiry.—A commission has been appointed to inquire into the position of the Indian community of Natal. It will pay special attention to housing and health needs, municipal amenities, civic status, and the provision of adequate facilities for residence, education, and recreation. The members of the commission are Mr. Justice F. N. Broome (chairman), Mr. W. M. Power, M.E.C., Senator D. G. Shepstone, Mr. S. R. Naidoo, and Mr. A. I. Kajee.

Prices in the Transkei.—The results of a private survey of retail prices in the Transkeian territories were described by Mr. G. K. Hemming in the House of Assembly. It was found that compared with the prices obtaining in 1939-42, mealie meal had risen 33 per cent, tea 18 per cent, paraffin 50 per cent, candles 50 per cent, and ordinary groceries 20 per cent. Such things as ready-made clothing and footwear had risen 75 to 100 per cent.]

In Urban Areas.—According to the Minister of Native Affairs, the Native population in the main towns of the Union in 1943 was estimated as follows:—

Johannesburg	210,000	Cape Town	60,000
Pretoria	45,000	Port Elizabeth	35,000
Durban	74,000	East London	33,000
Bloemfontein	34,000	Kimberley	15,000

Typhus in the Transkei.—The present typhus outbreak in the Transkei has drawn attention to the utterly inadequate health services in the territories. Overcrowding, poverty, filth, and food shortage are the cause of the disease, which has for long been endemic there. Dr. R. Smit, Chief Medical Officer, stated that work in combating typhus had been considerably hampered by the fact that there is no registration of Native births and deaths. For the same reason he did not know how many Natives had already died in the present outbreak.

Save the Land.—The national soil conservation campaign has been extended to African volunteers serving outside the Union. Lectures on the menace of soil erosion and preventive measures are being given by information officers throughout North Africa and the Middle East. To reach as wide a public as possible, the lectures have been printed in pamphlet form under the title *Save the Land*. All officers in contact with Non-European troops have been urged to discuss the problem with their men.

Bishops Denounce Colour Prejudice.—In a statement issued recently by the episcopal synod of the Church of the Province of South Africa, representing more than twelve Bishops, colour prejudice in Southern Africa is condemned as "cruel, wasteful, and dangerous".

"In view of the widespread opinion that Southern Africa may be destined to play a leading part throughout the continent in post-war reconstruction, we feel impelled to address the members of our own Church, and indeed all people of goodwill, on what we believe to be a grave evil in our midst. . . . That is the evil of colour prejudice."

The idea of a herrenvolk or super-race is wholly repugnant to the Christian religion, although it is held by many in Southern Africa to-day, says the Bishops' statement. It contradicts the teaching of the Church with its clear call for a brotherhood of man. The statement goes on to say that, while it is recognized that in Southern Africa there must be differences based on the racial characteristics of the various population groups and on varying standards of education and culture, discrimination based solely on skin colour must be strongly condemned. The civilizations of India and the East afford ample proof of the fallacy inherent in the belief that civilization and culture are the prerogative of the white-skinned races.

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MASS EDUCATION IN AFRICAN SOCIETY

A plan for the conquest of illiteracy in British Africa has been published in the form of a White Paper by the Colonial Office in London. The plan was drawn up by a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies, which included Mr. C. W. Cox, Sir Donald Cameron, Sir Fred Clarke, A. Creech Jones, M.P., Dr. Julian Huxley, Professor W. M. Macmillan, Miss Margery Perham, and the Rev. H. M. Grace.

The report, which is entitled *Mass Education in African Society*, sets out the lines on which the problem may be most helpfully tackled and the objectives which should be kept in view. These are as follows : (1) The wide extension of schooling for children with the goal of universal primary education within a measurable time. (2) The spread of literacy among adults, together with a wide-spread development of literature and libraries, without which there is little hope of making literacy permanent. (3) The planning of mass education of the community as a movement of the community itself, involving the active support of the local people from the start. (4) The effective co-ordination of social welfare plans with mass education so that they form a comprehensive and balanced whole.

The Report urges that means must be found, and found quickly, whereby the people can understand and appreciate the forces which have changed and are changing their lives so radically. Mass education should, as it spreads and develops, be able to give this knowledge, and at the same time call out the ability and the will to share in the direction and control of social, economic and political forces. Nothing is more frustrating than the sense of being the plaything of impersonal forces, and nothing is more contrary to the spread of true democracy. The attitude of Africans in the face of evil conditions has under-

gone a significant change. In the past that attitude was one of social fatalism which led the people to tolerate with patience, conditions of misfortune and even of injustice. They were accepted with the same fatalistic resignation as fire and flood and earthquake. A marked change seems to have developed in the mass consciousness which now exaggerates the responsibility of groups of individuals, especially those in authority, for these happenings, even going so far as to ascribe material calamities to such a source. The explosive temper which may result from such a change can only be controlled and guided by wisely directed mass education with particular stress on the development of social and civic responsibility.

The Report outlines a plan for developing a system of mass education. It points to the work of this kind that has already been undertaken in Soviet Russia, China, and the Netherlands Indies.

AGREEMENT ABOUT THE PEGGING ACT

On the eve of General Smut's departure for the Premiers' conference, an effort was made to find a solution to the conflict that arose over the Indian Pegging Act and has continued since the Act was passed. A deputation that included the Administrator of Natal, the Minister of the Interior, Senator D. G. Shepstone, chairman of the Asiatic Affairs Advisory Board, and representatives of the Natal Indian Congress, saw the Prime Minister and reached an agreement, the points of which are : (1) The Natal Provincial Council is to set up by ordinance a licencing board of 5 members, 2 of them Indian, to control racial changes of residential occupation in defined areas. (2) On the passing of this ordinance the Union Government to de-proclaim Durban from the provisions of the Pegging Act. (As Durban is the only area that has been proclaimed the Act would thus be suspended. By inference the Government undertakes not to proclaim any other areas, thus letting the Act become inoperative until it lapses in 1946).

When the ordinance has been passed and Durban de-proclaimed, freedom to purchase for investment or for business will be automatically restored.

The Pretoria agreement had a good press in Natal when first announced and there were general expressions of satisfaction that the parties to a long and bitter conflict had found an acceptable com-

promise. Opposition has since been voiced from both sides. The City Council of Durban recorded unanimously a protest, not against the agreement itself but against the exclusion of the Council from the negotiations. European opinion centred in, but not confined to, the Dominion party has declared against the suspension of the Pegging Act, or any concession to the Indians. Among the Indians there have been expressions of dissatisfaction at the action of their leaders in making any kind of compromise on the segregation issue.

If the Pretoria agreement secures substantial support from both Europeans and Indians, and the Licencing Board works satisfactorily, the way may be opened to agreement on the fundamental questions of franchise, provincial boundaries and occupational opportunity.

URBAN CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

A minimum wage of £1 per *month* should be paid to all African workers—men, women and juveniles in urban areas; in addition the employer should provide food and accommodation. This is one of the recommendations of the official committee which recently investigated the economic, social, and health conditions of Africans in Southern Rhodesia.

The Report says that the policy of segregation assigned to Native workers a purely temporary, makeshift existence in the towns in the belief that homes and communities were something to be associated only with the reserves to which the worker was expected to return. As the years have passed, experience has increasingly overridden this belief, but the failure to adapt to changed conditions is shown by the serious inadequacy of official services.

Segregation has not only tended to suppress family life but to put the most strenuous obstacles in the way of those who have sought to set up homes in the urban areas. The consequences of this policy can be traced in every field of the economic, industrial, moral, and social order.

The Committee emphasizes the paramount importance of focusing Native urban policy on the provision and maintenance of homes. This means adequate Native urban areas, the planning and designing of villages or towns with adequate houses, allotment areas, and all that is necessary for good health, education, and civic consciousness. It also means recognizing the importance of groups of families

cohering into communities and so avoiding an indiscriminate and unwieldy mass of population unresponsive to the processes of social self-control.

Among other things, the Committee recommends the Government to consider marriage allowances to be paid from public revenue to African workers in the towns. It also recommends the building of hostels for African women who have flocked to the towns in the last few years; that more undenominational schools be established, and that education for all juveniles from 8 to 15 be free, and compulsory in the towns; that municipal feeding schemes be closely associated with the compulsory educational centres; and that Native labour officers be appointed to organize, among other things, a servants' registry.

The Report says that its main recommendations are identical with those put forward by the Rev. Percy Ibbotson in his own survey of urban African conditions, and it pays tribute to the work which Mr. Ibbotson had already done in the same field.

PRETORIA IS THEIR HOME

Speaking in Pretoria, Mr. E. Gordin, Chairman of the Joint Council of Europeans and Africans, said that of the 79,000 Africans in and around Pretoria, he estimated that at least 60,000 were urbanized. They looked on Pretoria as their home and employment in the city was their sole means of existence.

A survey made by the municipality revealed that of the Africans living in Atteridgeville, no less than 30 per cent were employed by the Union Government and the Provincial Administration. Of the rest, 40 per cent work in industrial and business concerns, and 3 per cent as domestic servants.

An investigation by the Social Services Association showed that the average income per family was about £5 10s. per month. The percentage of total family income paid out in rent and transport was 35. It is not surprising that the average family is in debt and that its debts increase almost daily.

Rack-renting in Pretoria has forced many Africans to trek outside the city's boundaries where they live in the most unsanitary shacks and hovels. Drastic steps are urgently necessary to avert the possibility of the peri-urban areas becoming a grave danger to the health of the city.

COLOURED PUBLIC SERVANTS WANTED

That the Government should take the necessary steps without delay to employ Coloured persons in the various Departments of State, is urged by Mr. G. J. Golding, a member of the executive committee of the Coloured Advisory Council in a memorandum appended to the Council's first annual report.

The memorandum recommends that employment of Coloured persons should be provided for on the basis of a pro rata share of the administrative, clerical, technical, and professional posts, and a progressive policy embodying the principles of equal pay for equal qualifications, with promotion based on ability, and unlimited scope and responsibilities.

It urges that the time has come for the Government to translate its policy of goodwill to the Coloured people into action through a re-orientation of its own State policy regarding the employment of Coloured persons in the Public Service and by putting into action many of the recommendations made by the fact-finding Commission of 1937. By putting before the Coloured people the Public Service as a definitely attainable goal, the Government would be recognizing the fact that the Coloured people are citizens of South Africa.

RAND STUDENTS GET BUSY

Students of the University of the Witwatersrand held their annual "rag" this year in aid of the Fordsburg Community Health Centre, the Alexandra clinic, and the Occupational Therapy Society. The last two institutions are doing work of great value among Africans.

The Alexandra clinic has grown from small beginnings in 1934 and is now housed in fine buildings with modern equipment. It has a staff of African nurses, and includes a midwifery service with pre-natal and post-natal care, and a service of advice for mothers. Funds are urgently needed for a lecture hall where hygiene, preventive medicine and correct dieting may be taught, a depot for retailing at cost price essential foods such as milk, and new premises to be used as a casualty ward.

The Occupational Therapy Society enables hospital patients to

spend their time as usefully and happily as possible. It has installed 15 radio sets, started sewing and knitting classes, and a library, and is running a nursery school for convalescent Non-European children, thus restoring them to complete health before they return to their homes.

CONFLICT OF NATIVE AND EUROPEAN LAW

Students of Native law have never yet had a simple handbook available to guide them, nor has such a handbook been available for intelligent Africans desirous of understanding their own legal position. Mr. Lewin's book, *An Outline of Native Law* (R. L. Esson and Co., P.O. Box 3664, Johannesburg. 1s.) fills this gap admirably. The fact that it is very short and very simple must not be allowed to disguise its real merits as a scholarly work with a great deal of research behind it. Past works on Native law though very valuable have usually been too elaborate, so that one could not see the wood for trees. Very often there have been such works on social anthropology as on law. More often than not their main stress has been on a condition of affairs that is rapidly disappearing. Mr. Lewin's practical wisdom and experience are shown in the fact that his main stress is laid on the fundamental question whether Common law or Native law applies in a particular case. It is this conflict of laws—conflict which mirrors correctly the conflict of civilizations—which is the main practical issue in what we call "Native law" to-day. It is to be hoped that Mr. Lewin will follow this most useful monograph by further studies, both on Native law in the narrower sense, and also the conflict of laws. In regard to the latter, a digest of a few specimen cases explained in simple language would be most illuminating.

EDGAR H. BROOKES

SHORTER ITEMS

It Happens in Barberton, too.—Having read in the April issue of *Race Relations News* about the birth of Native babies in the grounds of the Pretoria hospital, George Nkosi writes to us from Barberton as follows: "I have read of what herpend in Pretoria to the two

woman whom were in family way. It happend the same here in Barberton's Hospital last week one lady accompanied by her husband to Hospital being in family way. She was unadmitted too. On their way back, just about 100 yards away, the child came out. The husband ran back to nurses-home, and one of African kitchen lady went and assist the man and they brought some regs to cover the baiby."

Municipal Representation.—By eight votes to five the East London City Council has rejected the following motion by Mr. W. G. Howard Shaw : "That this council support the principle of representation of African interests on municipal councils and with that end in view instruct its delegates to the forthcoming session of the Cape Municipal Congress accordingly."

Mr. Shaw, said the African had his representatives in parliament and on the provincial council and he thought that the African should have representation on municipal councils. That would only be conforming with the principles of democracy. They knew the African was becoming dissatisfied with his lot. The suggestion was that the Africans should elect one European representative for the locations to the council. He thought the suggestion was one which would get much support at the congress. Such representation need not be compulsory on councils ; it could be a matter of local option.

On Active Service.—Fully trained in the use of arms, 20,000 Basutos are now serving in Italy, said Lord Harlech, British High Commissioner, at a meeting of the Cape Peninsula Joint Council of Europeans and Africans. About 9,000 Africans had joined the forces from the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and 3,000 from Swaziland. Paying tribute to the achievements, both in war and in peace, of the three protectorates, the High Commissioner stated that educationally, economically, and financially, Basutoland was far in advance of the other two territories. The Africans in Basutoland had made considerable progress in education and in the learning of skilled work. They had also shown an aptitude for local government.

Industries in Reserves.—During a recent debate in the House of Assembly, a member of the Herenigde Party, Mr. J. H. Conradie, asked the Board of Trade and Industries to consider the desirability of establishing industries in Native areas for the manufacture of African goods, and also certain articles for European consumption. Such a policy, said Mr. Conradie, was in keeping with the principle

of guardianship by the Europeans over the Africans, and would add to the prosperity of the Native areas. Educated Africans should be given the chance to serve on the directorates of such industries.

Care of Native Blind.—Wonderful work is being done by the Natal Bantu Blind Society, which has for its object the care of the Native blind. This is reflected in the latest annual report. Besides the care of sightless Natives, the Society endeavours to educate Natives in the prevention of blindness by encouraging them to seek medical treatment at the earliest sign of infection. The Natives are now losing their fear of hospital treatment, and last year no fewer than 5,943 presented themselves for treatment as out-patients. This was an increase of 3,568 over the previous year. A proud achievement was the erection and opening of a vocational training centre and hostel at Westville, at which some 35 blind Natives are now being taught basket-making under a competent instructor. Many more have made application for admission for training, but the Society is as yet unable to accommodate them.

AFRICAN INTELLIGENCE

by Dr. S. Biesheuvel

This book, by the Lecturer in Psychology in the Witwatersrand University, deals with the question whether the differences, if any, between the mental capacity of Africans and Europeans can be scientifically measured.

It is a book of vital interest to all concerned with Native Affairs.

Obtainable from all booksellers or direct from the publishers, S.A. Institute of Race Relations, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg.

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OLD AGE PENSIONS — A NOTABLE STEP FORWARD

From September next, South African Natives will become eligible for pensions in old age and invalidity. The rates will be the same as those now paid to blind Natives, namely, £12, £9, and £6 a year in city, town, and country respectively.

This extension of old age pensions to Natives marks the growing recognition of the fact that the State owes it to *all* the inhabitants of the country, and not only to the Europeans, to provide a satisfactory system of social security.

The necessary legislation was, however, not allowed to pass through Parliament without opposition. In the course of a speech, Mr. M. C. de Wet Nel, Herenigde Party M.P. for Wonderboom, said: "This Bill will dislocate the entire structure of Bantu social life. There is probably no people in the world that cares for its old people as well as the Natives do. It is one of the beautiful things in the social life of the Native people, and the Government has no right to interfere with it. It has always been a spiritual matter with the Native people to care for their aged and it has served as an incentive to the younger people to go out to work."

Commenting on this speech, the *Cape Times* said that "we should never think of suggesting that Mr. Nel might pray to be re-incarnated as a Bantu in his next life in order to experience the social and spiritual beauty of being poverty-stricken from infancy to the grave. But we do doubt his competence to add anything of value to the discussion of Native affairs when the best he can do is to implore the Government to keep the Native perpetually poor in order to preserve this beautiful thing, charity; and in order to induce a regular flow of dutiful Native sons into the labour market for the sake of starving parents."

"Mr. Nel's voice was not the only one raised against the proposal to provide Natives with modest old age pensions. Mr. J. J. Serfontein (Herenigde Party M.P. for Boshoff), deplored the growing tendency to grant more social services to Natives and held that such extension should be accompanied by an increase in Native taxation. According to his view, not only should the poor be kept poor but they should be made poorer still in order that the State might show them charity out of the takings. This 'beautiful thing' of Mr. Nel's is therefore to be an attribute of the Natives' allowance. The Europeans should not be allowed to share in the virtue of care for the aged in the land who are too poor to look after themselves.

"The answer came straight from Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr himself, who introduced the Bill and who spoke, as he said, for a Christian country. In the first place, who ever heard of the poor section of a people being expected to pay for their own social services? And, secondly, if it were not for the Natives who work in our mines, from where would anyone in South Africa derive his present income or even sufficient income to live?"

THE COMPOUND SYSTEM DESTROYS FAMILY LIFE

The criticism of the Native compound system made by Dr. E. H. Cluver, Director of the Institute of Medical Research, is more than justified, says the *Natal Mercury*. As he explained, the isolation of a quarter of a million young Native men from their womenfolk is deplorable and can but encourage the spread of venereal and other diseases. In a sense it is remarkable that in these circumstances the Native population is as law-abiding as it is. Large numbers of them are denied the privilege of home and family life, and yet are expected to maintain a high state of morality and lawfulness. The urban compounds are a grave reflection on our civic consciousness, and both the employers of Native labour and the municipalities must take their share of the blame. It is true that some employers have a real sense of their social responsibility in this respect, but apparently they have been unable to provide the necessary accommodation and have been compelled to rely on the inadequate and unsuitable facilities offered by the municipalities. It is imperative that this aspect of Native housing should be dealt with immediately by the provision of Native villages in the outlying suburbs, each

catered for by a fast, regular, and cheap transport service, and provided with all other essential public amenities.

A FICTION ABOUT TOWN COUNCILLORS

"Far too deep and wide a gulf exists between town councillors and the large African communities for whose welfare they are responsible", said Miss Eleanor Hawarden in an address to the Krugersdorp branch of the National Council of Women. "This leads, as the report of the Smit Committee showed, to grave neglect of the most elementary needs for Native housing, health, and recreation. If General Hertzog and the Nationalist Party thought it necessary to have some representation in Parliament for the Native point of view, it is surely not unreasonable to argue that there should be similar representation of Natives on town councils." It was absurd that there should be not even one member of any town council whose task it was to remind the council of the reasonable requirements of the Natives and to watch over their interests. The claim that the Native affairs committees of municipal councils performed this task adequately was a fiction that deceived nobody who had any knowledge of the facts. It was obvious, indeed, that however well-disposed a councillor elected by European voters might be, he must, if he wished to retain his seat, avoid any grounds for the accusation that Native interests were his first pre-occupation.

It was considerations such as these that had led the Provincial Secretaries, at the instigation of the Union Department of Native Affairs, to circularize municipalities on the subject. A few had passed resolutions in favour of the proposal; in Johannesburg it was defeated. Most councils were hostile largely because of a misunderstanding which led them to believe that it was proposed that the Native representative should himself be a Native, when in fact the proposal, modelled on the Parliamentary Native representation, was for a European representative.

Against Amalgamation.—Africans in the Southern Province of Nyasaland, at a well-attended meeting at Blantyre, passed a resolution asking the Governor to cable the Secretary of State for the Colonies deprecating the recent resolution by the Nyasaland Chamber of Commerce which urged the amalgamation of Nyasaland and the Rhodesias. They said they feared colour bars and pass laws and wishes to remain under the Colonial Office.

TRANSVAAL ADMINISTRATION CRITICIZED

"The Budget which the Administrator has placed before us is conservative. We cannot find in it any vision of the better things to come that have been so generously promised", said Mr. R. Feldman in the Transvaal Provincial Council. "The Administration, by its successive surpluses, has demonstrated that it is not budgeting for the needs of the people of the Province but rather for the minimum of the Province's commitments.

"The Province's grants-in-aid to charitable institutions are parsimonious. The Province makes an annual grant-in-aid of £400 to the Alexandra Health Centre. To some Alexandra is but a 'Kaffir location'. To us Alexandra is a town with a population of 65,000, and for the health services of this town of 65,000 the Province pays £400. There are other towns like Sophiatown, Kliptown, Pimville, Orlando, and others, which are not even as favoured as Alexandra, as there are no grants at all for these Native towns.

"The position in the Non-European hospital in Johannesburg is well-known. When I was there last, I saw as many patients on the floor as on beds. In Pretoria there are only twelve beds for Native maternity cases. The position calls for emergency measures, but no such measures are contemplated. We need to train Native nurses by the thousand; we need Native doctors and chemists.

"There is an acute shortage of Indian and Coloured teachers because the inducements to take up teaching are so meagre. After the first or second year, teachers come to a dead end without any expectation of improvement in their pay, which is £12 6s. 8d., with just one or two increases of £6 per year. Certificated teachers also start from £12 6s. 8d., but get yearly increments of £6 per annum for 15 years. This means that after fifteen years of service with the Education Department they receive £20 per month."

Honoured by the King.—Congratulations to the Rev. Percy Ibbotson, who was awarded the O.B.E. in the King's birthday honours list, where he is described as the organizing secretary of the Federation of Native Welfare Societies in Southern Rhodesia. He is also the regional representative of the Institute.

Major S. Biesheuvel, the author of *African Intelligence*, which was recently published by the Institute, was awarded the M.B.E. for his work in the S.A. Air Force.

CO-OPERATIVES FOR RHODESIAN RESERVES

Proposals for starting co-operatives in the Native reserves in Southern Rhodesia were outlined by the Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. H. H. D. Simmonds, to the Native Trade and Production Commission in Salisbury.

Mr. Simmonds proposed that a central Native co-operative able to borrow from the Government should be started, and that its satellite co-operatives in the reserves should concentrate first on collecting and transporting Native products, but it should also acquire Native stores as, and when, they happened to close down. The first step of all would be to set up a sub-department of Native trade and commerce in the Native Department as part of the plan to start small industries in the Native reserves.

Asked how the authorities could get, say, 100 acres planted to a special crop in any one area, Mr. Simmonds said that something on the Russian model might be done with communal work, the various individuals jointly sharing in the proceeds. It would be an innovation, but he thought it would work.

CAPE PENINSULA ATTRACTS LABOUR

The coming of Natives to the Cape Peninsula and other coastal areas has created one of the biggest problems in urban administration, says the Native Affairs Department in the latest review of its own activities. This large-scale movement has sprung from two main causes, attractive wages, and the extraordinary demand for labour to meet the requirements of military and naval authorities, and of industries established or developed mainly as a result of the war. Wages of unskilled labour in the Cape Peninsula are higher than elsewhere, owing to the higher standard of the Coloured worker, but there is a tendency to prefer Native labour particularly for the heavier types of unskilled work. As a result more than enough Native labour has been attracted to the Cape, causing a growth of slum settlements of the worst type and serious overcrowding.

Steps are being taken in close co-operation with the local authorities concerned to bring about an improvement in the living conditions of Natives. These include the establishment of location housing schemes, considerable additions to the Langa and Simonstown locations, and the establishment of a big reception depot at Cape Town.

For additional Native housing in the municipal area a sum approximating £1,500,000 has been provisionally allocated by the Central Housing Board.

BTHELSDORP DEFENDS ITS RIGHTS

The question of the local government control of Bethelsdorp, the famous old Coloured settlement near Port Elizabeth, has been the subject of controversy. Conditions in this area, having been bad for many years, have recently become deplorable, and the existing local board could not cope with the situation. It was therefore decided that the area should be incorporated within the Port Elizabeth municipality, as the Council was considered to be the most competent body to deal with the problem. The decision was made subject to certain conditions, one of which was that there should be no interference with the rights of the Bethelsdorp community as embodied in the Bethelsdorp Settlement Act of 1921, and that there should be differential rating owing to the poor financial circumstances of the community.

The residents of Bethelsdorp, however, objected to the decision and sent deputations to the Coloured Advisory Council and Government authorities. As a result the original intention has been shelved, and the Government has now to find a form of control which will improve the conditions obtaining in the area and at the same time meet the local objection that the community was being deprived of its rights.

"It is indeed sad to see how little has been accomplished there after 140 years of settlement", said Councillor A. Schauder.

NATIVE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN NIGERIA

"Our policy is the education of the Colonial peoples in the management of their own affairs, with responsible self-government as the final goal; and it is my conviction that circumstances in Nigeria are such that we may reasonably hope that progress towards our goal may be accompanied by considerably less friction than we have experienced in other parts of the Empire", said Sir Bernard Bourdillon, former Governor of Nigeria, in an address in London.

Sir Bernard went on to examine the merits of the Native Authority system. Indirect rule provided an excellent training in the art of government, and, owing to its extreme elasticity, permitted the

handing over of authority to proceed gradually and almost imperceptibly. Local administration, throughout Nigeria, with the exception of a few large towns, is in the hands of Native Authorities. These are entrusted with the duties of maintaining law and order, collecting the direct tax, road upkeep, and other services, including in some cases the maintenance of schools, hospitals and veterinary clinics. They administer their own funds, which consist mainly of an allotted portion of the tax they collect. Associated with them are Native courts, which deal with the great mass of petty civil and criminal work throughout the country. The Authorities vary greatly in constitution and size, at one end of the scale being an Emir with two million subjects, and at the other a village council.

KNITTING FOR THE SOLDIERS

In country districts all over South Africa, African women have formed themselves into little groups for the purpose of making gifts and comforts for Non-European troops.

At Pietermaritzburg one of these circles has been established. It is called the Bantu Women's Village Association, and has obtained all its wool from the South African Gifts and Comforts committee. Knitting needles were purchased from a grant given by the Native Affairs Department. In Louis Trichardt there are the African Women War Workers, who have obtained some of their material out of funds raised by subscription.

All these knitting circles have been organized by European women who conduct classes and instruct the African women in the production of the various articles. The Director of Non-European Army Services has expressed his gratitude for the excellent work that has been done by these groups, whose efforts help so greatly to maintain morale among the members of the Native Military Corps.

TOWARDS SOCIAL SECURITY

There is much that is interesting and informative in this collection of essays and addresses on South African social services, *Towards Social Security*, by Professor Edward Batson (Modern Books Ltd., 12 Church Street., Cape Town. 7s. 6d.). Members of the Institute will perhaps be most interested in Professor Batson's remarks on two conflicts within our socio-economic system: the conflict within the system of social services which arises from the racial discrimina-

tion which is one of their chief characteristics; and the conflict between the social services and what he well calls "the social dis-services".

The tabulated examples (pp. 48-53) of discrimination in the availability of social services, in the terms on which services are available, and in the scales of benefit, though not exhaustive, are useful for reference. So are the figures which indicate the extent to which various services are actually made use of by Europeans and Non-Europeans respectively. Social disservices, operating through the customs tariff, marketing control, restrictions upon entry into industry, restrictions upon the geographical mobility of labour, and regressive taxation, have developed more rapidly during the past ten years than social services. 'Pollok's mean almsgiver

... with one hand put

A penny in the urn of poverty

And with the other took a shilling out.

Whether or not the poor show gratitude for such ambidexterity, they cannot be expected to flourish upon it, even if the penny is made twopence." Reduction of the social disservices will prove no easy matter. It must be achieved before any real social security will be possible. But Professor Batson is not a counsellor of despair. He sees hope in the fact that the social disservices have proved less advantageous to the groups whom they were intended to benefit, and more burdensome to the rest of the community, than was expected.

This is a readable, thoughtful, and stimulating collection of papers.

N. N. F.

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“... the Council has noted with profound concern that, notwithstanding many advances in goodwill and understanding among the European public, there has been in many circles a hardening of attitude towards the Non-Europeans, and that there is a growing tendency among younger people in all the Non-European groups to despair of conciliatory methods and to believe that only hatred employing the method of direct action, and, if need be, culminating in revolution, can bring about the fundamental changes in status which they desire. . . .

“The Institute cannot commit itself to policies of hatred and violence for these are in direct conflict with its own essential aims. . . . The Institute was conceived in the faith that . . . the racial problems of South Africa can be solved by constructive and continuous co-operation between all those concerned in discovering the facts and working for them with goodwill, reasonableness, and reliance upon the sources of moral and spiritual strength which alone can fit us to face the formidable difficulties of our country in this generation. . . .”

These extracts from the Findings on Racial Attitudes of the Institute Council, which met in Cape Town in January last, indicate the present racial situation in the Union, and show clearly the importance to the country of the Institute's work.

The late Sir Patrick Duncan, speaking in 1934, described the Institute as “an absolute necessity”, and he was its warm supporter until his death. Since 1934 the activities of the Institute have grown in number and effectiveness, and have extended far beyond the boundaries of the Union. Its studies and findings have profoundly affected public policy in regard to racial matters, and have made available to the public knowledge and constructive ideas which are shaping public opinion. Its practical efforts in social welfare, such

as legal aid for the poor, and medical health services, have made available to Africans and other Non-Europeans services which a generation ago were available only to Europeans, whilst its work for penal reform has already borne hopeful results, including a promise from the Government that it will appoint an authoritative commission to review the Union's penal system.

Although the Institute's membership has doubled itself during the war period, its financial resources are quite inadequate to meet its existing needs, let alone the further development of its work. The Institute closed its last financial year (1944) with a deficit of £987, and this year, despite economies which have thrown heavy burdens upon an already over-worked staff, a deficit of £2,356 faces the Institute.

The Executive Committee has decided that every possible effort should be made to raise sufficient funds to ensure the future of the Institute, and to enable it to play an even greater part in the affairs of Southern Africa. It aims at raising £25,000 this year and at increasing the membership to 10,000. Dr. O. D. Wollheim, the Institute's honorary representative in the eastern districts of the Cape Province, has agreed to organize this campaign for funds and membership, and his full-time services will be available from 1 April.

I appeal to members and supporters of the Institute to help by increasing the amount of their own subscriptions if possible, by securing new affiliations and interesting their friends, by sending to the Head Office (P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg), the names of persons, firms, or other likely sources of support for the Institute. If every member will secure at least five other members, the 10,000 mark can easily be reached. It is gratifying to record that during recent weeks several spontaneous donations, including one of £150 and another of £100, have come in. The following quotation from the £100 donor indicates the enthusiastic support which the Institute's steady, unpretentious work has evoked:—

"I need hardly say that I have given this money to the Institute because it seems to me to be making the best kind of approach to a problem which—unless it is handled with knowledge and understanding—may hold South Africa back from the path of true progress for many, many years. Consequently any donation made assumes the form of a long term investment, and the interest paid cannot be measured in terms of hard cash."

MAURICE WEBB

A HEALTH SERVICE IN ACTION

New Brighton Village, Port Elizabeth, has an African population of 25,177. The people are provided with a health service approaching that recommended by the National Health Services Commission. It is a comprehensive scheme and includes domiciliary visits by nurses and doctors, hospitalization, midwifery, dental treatment, clinics, a dispensary, and modern methods of immunization. The area is well provided, too, with non-personal health services. Except for the old portion of the village the people have been provided with hygienic dwellings, with good schools, electric lighting, and all the amenities of a modern well-planned town. The European medical officer has a staff of trained African nurses and midwives under her control, and cases for hospitalization are referred to the Provincial Hospital or the Elizabeth Donkin Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

In contrast to New Brighton Village is the rest of the Port Elizabeth area. This has a population of 21,099 Africans. They make haphazard use of the limited health facilities available at municipal clinics, hospital out-patient departments, private medical practitioners, and so on. Here there is no comprehensive health organization such as exists in New Brighton, and the non-personal health facilities are poor.

In an interesting report, the Medical Officer of Health for Port Elizabeth, Dr. Duncan L. Ferguson, describes the health services in these two areas, and compares their health statistics. In 1944, states the report, 401 in-patients were admitted to the Port Elizabeth Hospital from New Brighton (population 25,177). From the remaining Port Elizabeth area (population 21,099), 1,631 in-patients were admitted. The Elizabeth Donkin hospital during the same period admitted 61 patients from New Brighton, and 124 from the remaining area.

Figures in relation to the incidence of tuberculosis are significant. The African death-rate for New Brighton in 1944 was 7.35 for 1,000 and for the rest of the city 16.6 per 1,000.

The practical experience of Port Elizabeth demonstrates that the provision of a well-planned health service, good housing, and the expenditure of public money on preventive medicine and non-personal health facilities are sound economy.

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