

WANTED : A GREATER AND BETTER WILBERFORCE INSTITUTE.

""

Five years ago we bought ~~seven~~ morgan of land for Wilberforce, and this year we procured 50 morgan of land for £4,000 only half of which has been paid.

The boys' Industrial Block is still to be completed, and the High School block is still at the "Blue-print" stage.

About 500 applications were refused this year through lack of accommodation.

Wilberforce Institute opens its doors to all African and Coloured children regardless of religious denomination. Wilberforce Institute has tremendous schemes but inadequate funds for carrying them out. The A.M.E. Church which maintains Wilberforce Institute has limited funds which must be devoted to serving Africa from Cape to Cairo.

The South African public both European and non-European is cordially invited to invest its money in Wilberforce Institute and earn the dividends of a more enlightened and law-abiding Africa.

What we have indicated is only a part of the total needs of Wilberforce Institute. We have not mentioned the Theological school block and have said nothing about teachers' houses of which we have only one ~~and no more~~.

£15,000 would help us carry out at least half of our immediate programme. Will you let us have your donation and so help us to help you!

Send donations to:-
The Superintendent,
Wilberforce Institute,
P.O. Wilberforce,
Transvaal.

P.N. Sesepe
P.N. Sesepe
ACTG. SUPERINTENDENT.

J.M. Nhlapo
J.M. Nhlapo
PRINCIPAL.

PNS/JMN/SPI.

9 Protea Street:
Kensington.

W^r.

A. B. Xuma:
Sophia Town.

Dear Sir,

Could you kindly
say if I may call round
your place at end of June?
my doubts arise from
the fact that you said
you were trying to adjust
matters.

The holidays have been marvellous
so far.

Hoping you and kiddies are
keeping fit

I remain,

Yours obediently,
W. Boyce Pitts.

DR. A. B. XUMA.

TELEPHONE 22-5311.

RESIDENCE: "EMPILWENI."
85, TOBY STREET, SOPHIATOWN,
JOHANNESBURG.

TELEPHONE 32 NEWLANDS.

Consulting Room:

Wilberforce Institution 104, End Street,

Doornfontein,

Johannesburg.

EDUCATION

BISHOP WRIGHT. 2/..

Early in August, I got hold of some confidential inside information from the Education department, indicating the feeling that was gradually crystalising about Wilberforce Institution. I then, as Chairman of the Teachers' Committee, approached the District Inspector and had a confidential chat with him which led me, for diplomatic reasons, to arrange with him for a meeting with the then presiding Bishop, D.H.Sims. I may say that, during the private interview that I had with him, he had been quite open about what was required and what he would be willing to put up with until the church was able to meet the department's requirements fully.

When I took in Bishop Sims, we went practically over the same ground and the Inspector was quite reasonable and willing to co-operate with us to put the work on the normal footing. After that Bishop Sims arranged, through the Inspector, for a conference of the Wilberforce school Board with the Director of Education, on matters of policy and relations of the school and the department. Certain points were discussed, the details of which I will give you when we meet, if you desire to know the true facts leading up to the present position.

After that Conference I received communication from the Director's office stating the date on which I should accompany the Director to Wilberforce Institution. I did that on the date prescribed and communicated what I gathered in our conversation to Rev.Tantsi who was the recognised Acting head of the Church. After that we got hold of reports that had been sent to Dr.Taylor asking the Organisation to show cause why the school should not be closed, because of the dilapidated condition of the buildings, lack of adequate equipment and poor staff.

After this information several meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Dr.Tantsi and it was decided that the proceeds of the Easter Rally should be used for the putting up of the buildings required at School.

For this undertaking we needed money which the Organisation did not have and it was suggested the, that the Rev.Tantsi should make every effort to go to the Conference to acquaint the Bishop and others about the acute situation that had arisen. I do not know how far Rev.Tantsi carried out this mandate, because I have not seen him since he left in April, but I understand that he returned last July,

BISHOP WRIGHT. 3.

Before he left he had entrusted me with certain undertakings as the Chairman of the Teachers' Committee, and a nominal Treasurer of the Institution; for instance, I was instructed to see to it that an Assistant Teacher was appointed to the Normal department. This I did; but have had the unpleasant experience of having to pay this teacher and advance money out of my own pocket.

Rev. Tantsi, as the representative of the Church, has never enquired from me as the Chairman of the Teachers' Committee and Treasurer of the school about the state of affairs at the school. I only know that, without calling an official school board meeting he ordered the demolition of a portion of one of the school buildings.

This action, I was told, infuriated the district Inspector when he brought the Chief Inspector, because it had been done without his knowledge and no plans had been submitted for approval of his department, as that is the normal course of events, before the department can pay rent for the use of the School building.

With a little foresight, a little co-operation and less petty politics this unpleasant and disgraceful situation for the Church could have been averted.

To those of us who are well known to the Education department and who have during the interim tried to do everything by making certain promises in order to stay the hand of the department from taking any drastic step, this is a most painful situation.

It is an unfavourable reflection on the ability of our people to manage their Institution up to recognised standards.

When one observes how things are done sometimes, one cannot help but sympathise with the poor but sincere and earnest rank and file who subscribe to the best of their abilities for the successful carrying out of the work but with such poor and disappointing results.

Wishing you a successful quadrium,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) A.B.Xuma.

COPY

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