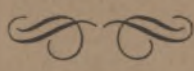


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Bantu Men's
Social Centre

ANNUAL
REPORT

1932



Printed by
Radford, Adlington, Ltd., Rissik and Marshall Streets,
Johannesburg.
1933.

Social Centre.

Institutions (Control) Ordinance, 1926."

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1932.

Cr.

By Membership Fees	£83	5 9
„ Subscriptions and Donations	611	7 4
„ Native Recruiting Corporation, Ltd.	300	0 0
„ Board of Control, Deferred Pay Interest Fund ...	195	6 6
£1 for £1 on Revenue from Native Sources	£145	6 6
<i>Plus</i> —Special Grant	50	0 0
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Hire of Hall	£44	13 0
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„ Profit on Kitchen Account	15	0 6
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	£1,265	2 7

31st DECEMBER, 1932.

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<i>Add</i> —Additions during the year	73	2 0
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„ Cash	623	9 5
At Bank	£522	14 6
On Hand	0	14 11
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Certified correct.

HOWARD PIM,

Hon. Treasurer.

Bantu Men's Social Centre.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1932

Appointment of Secretary.—The Annual Report for 1932 may appropriately begin, like the report for 1931, on a note of optimism with regard to the work of the Centre. During the year the Executive Committee had to face once again the difficult task of finding a suitable candidate for the Secretaryship, subsequent upon the resignation of Mr. J. Collingwood. It had always been a recognised principle of the Executive Committee that a Bantu Secretary should be appointed to the position as soon as a suitable man could be found and the general conditions justified such a step. The Bantu members of the Committee strongly urged that the time had now come, and that well-qualified candidates could be found. After deliberations extending over nearly three months, and the examination of a large number of applications both from Europeans and from Bantu, the choice of the Committee unanimously fell upon Mr. J. R. Rathebe.

The position of Secretary of the Centre is one which demands exceptional qualities in its holder. On the tact, good judgment and initiative of the Secretary depends, to a very large extent, the success of the Centre and the contentment of its members. Mr. J. R. Rathebe came to the Centre with an experience of seventeen years as a school teacher, including five years as head master. In addition, he had been a foundation member of the Centre and one of its most loyal supporters from the beginning. Prior to his appointment, some fears were expressed that inter-racial, or tribal, rivalries might cause difficulties. The Committee is glad to be able to record here that these fears have proved to be entirely unfounded. Mr. J. R. Rathebe has gained the hearty goodwill and co-operation of the vast majority of the members, and it is largely due to him that there is new life and spirit in all the activities of the Centre. He has shown himself enthusiastic and efficient in promoting the welfare of the Centre in every respect, as is shown in detail by the account given below of the activi-

ties of the Centre. The Committee has every confidence that the Centre will continue to flourish under Mr. J. R. Rathebe's management. His success as Secretary shows that Bantu men are able to manage their own Institutions, and it is to be hoped that increasing numbers will join the Centre to spend their leisure hours there in a pleasant and educative environment.

Membership.—During 1932 there have been 385 names on the list of membership, of whom, however, only 245 (205 seniors, 40 juniors and 10 monthly) can be considered as active members, the rest (107 seniors and 23 juniors) having failed to pay their subscriptions. This we attribute very largely to the depression. It is a matter for gratification that, since Mr. Rathebe's appointment, 57 lapsed and new members have been added to the membership, among them some foundation members who had drifted away. Again, we have to ask members to notify the office of changes of address.

Death.—During the year the Institution suffered the loss by death of one who was both a foundation member and a Trustee, in the person of Mr. H. M. Taberer. The late Mr. Taberer was born in the heart of the Eastern Cape Colony, and, consequently, knew Sixosa as well as any Mxosa. He was a father to the native people, and was fondly known among them as "Teba." No European surname is more familiar in Bantu circles. The Social Centre extends to his family its sincerest sympathy.

"The Four-Square Plan."—One of the previous Secretaries, Rev. A. C. Adams, liked to say that the activities of the Social Centre were arranged on a "Four-square plan," the four corners of the square being Body, Mind, Spirit or Soul, and Character. The account of the Centre's activities which follows is roughly based on these four aspects.

Out-door Games.—Members during the year were engaged in quite a number of out-door activities, e.g., football, tennis and cricket. In football, the B.M.S.C. (Reds) F.C. did tolerably well, but could have done better. Other teams, not playing under the banner of the Social Centre, but in which there are quite a number of the members of

the Centre, did very well. We refer to the "Highlanders F.C." and the "Pure Vuur F.C."; these finished second and third on the log. The B.M.S.C. tennis teams continue to be the most popular on the Reef. We played a number of important matches and in most cases came away the victors. We would like at this stage to congratulate Messrs. P. W. Rezant and P. Sauls on winning the "B" Division (Doubles) Tennis Trophy, and also Messrs. I. Moikangoa and A. J. Mokhothu on winning the "C" Division Tennis Trophy. This year baseball has been tried; at first, it seemed as if we had at last found the summer game so much needed among the Bantu, but this proved not to be the case. We hope, however, to start the game among the senior boys and so build it up gradually. This year cricket has come forward by leaps and bounds: at the beginning of the cricket season 24 signed up, necessitating the formation of two teams, "A" and "B." The "A" team is captained by Mr. D. M. Denalane and the "B" team by Mr. M. Wessels. The "A" team promises to be one of the leading teams in the Saturday League.

In-door Games.—Throughout the year, in-door games have been played, among these billiards. Billiards is the most popular of the in-door games at the present time. We have men playing this game from the time the club opens at 7 a.m. until the club closes at 10.30 p.m. One of the members, Mr. F. J. Modibedi, presented this section with a nice cup which is competed for monthly. The first man to win this cup was Mr. E. J. Motsimme and the second Mr. Godfrey Nchee. During the year we have had several experts in, to come and exhibit. The last of these champions to visit the Centre were Messrs. H. Burt (South African billiards champion) and Mr. J. Watton (Rhodesian billiards champion). The demonstrations were good, showing to the members some of the possible scoring strokes. Basketball, baseball, ping-pong, draughts, chess and other games have been played. The Rev. and Mrs. Ray E. Phillips both gave trophies for the basketball section. Boxing continues to be popular among the members. At the Transvaal Non-European Amateur Boxing Championships, held here on September 10th, three members of the B.M.S.C. Amateur Boxing Association won titles. They were Mr. P. Kaba, "fly-weight"; Mr. J. Kaba, "feather-

weight"; and Mr. M. Oliphant, "bantam-weight." At Christmas time, the Transvaal Non-European Amateur Boxing Association gave a Charity Tournament, and subsequently gave a treat to some seventy native and coloured children. The Association hopes next year to make an earlier start and give the treat on a larger scale. At the last boxing tournament, held on the 10th December, such notables in the boxing world as Messrs. Don MacCorkindale (South African heavyweight champion), Ted Broadribb (famous English promoter), B. C. Sims (chairman, Boxing Referees Association), T. St. John Dean (secretary, Transvaal National Sporting Club) attended: these men not only gave encouragement by attending but refereed some of the bouts and spoke.

Athletics.—At the Annual South African Bantu Athletic Championships, held on the 16th December, several of our men won places, among them Messrs. F. J. Modibedi, L. Koza and J. Chiloane.

Night School.—Night school has been held during the year under the supervision of Mr. S. D. Kekane (Principal) and Rev. C. E. Wilkinson (Superintendent), assisted by a staff of qualified teachers. The students are keen and show an aptitude for learning. The classes are conducted in conjunction with the Methodist African Men's Institute. The Social Centre takes the senior classes, e.g., Standards IV, V and VI; the other classes are taken at the Institute. At the Centre, the number of students in attendance averages thirty. Before a student becomes a member of these classes he must first of all pay the B.M.S.C. membership fee. This, it appears, is not understood by those attending the classes. We hope that this year will be begun aright by every member of the classes fulfilling this primary requirement. An attempt was made during the year to establish J.C. and Matriculation classes for the more advanced members of the Club, but owing to lack of funds this matter was postponed to the new year, when we hope the classes will eventually become a reality, as there is a demand for them.

Carnegie Lending Library.—During the year a library was introduced by the kindness of the Carnegie Trust Committee. At first there was the difficulty of finding the sum

of £100 for circulating the library. This, when eventually found, made it possible for the Germiston Library to undertake to circulate the library. The B.M.S.C., as a result, has a fine collection which can be used by members for the small deposit of 2s. 6d. The books are kept in the lounge of the Centre in a specially constructed bookcase and can be viewed daily. Up to the present, the library has been very poorly used. We hope the library will be better used in 1933.

Dramatic Society.—About the middle of the year some of the members started a Dramatic Society and have held their practices at the Social Centre every Sunday night. The play the Society is at present concentrating upon is "She Stoops to Conquer," by Goldsmith. We wish them every success.

Classes in Journalism.—During the year, some of our members took classes in journalism under the leadership of Mr. Arthur Wilson, of the editorial staff of the "Star." At the end of the series, the men were taken to the "Star" Office, where they were shown many phases of newspaper work. They were taken to such places as the Linotype department, the library, the filing department, the reporters' offices, the sub-editor's office, and finally to the Teletype department, where a demonstration was given between Johannesburg and Pretoria: this was so wonderful that one of the men remarked that it seemed like witchcraft. A few of the men have since been putting into practice what they have learnt by contributing articles to the now rapidly growing number of Bantu newspapers.

Tuesday Club.—The Tuesday Club, under the leadership of Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones, was re-started during the year, but owing to the poor attendance the meetings had to be postponed to the new year, when we hope members will take advantage of the excellent facility for learning more about some of the problems confronting us in this country.

Gamma-Sigma Club.—This section of the Social Centre's activities has been carried on with marked success, a good attendance being registered at the weekly Friday meetings. Among the speakers we had during the year were the following: Mr. J. W. Mitchell (late magistrate of Johannesburg, Transkei and Zululand), subject: "What work can be done

by the Europeans for the Africans?"; (2) Mr. B. C. Vickers (Deputy Mayor); (3) Dr. Hamblin (City Engineer), subject: "How best can the African adapt himself to town life?"; (4) The Bishop of Johannesburg (Dr. A. B. L. Karney); (5) Mr. H. Besner, subject: "The five-year plan of Soviet Russia"; (6) Mr. John Maud (England); (7) Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones, subject: "Practical problems in race relations"; (8) Rev. Canon Anson Phelps-Stokes, subject: "The development of the African in America"; (9) the University Debating Society, subject: "Resolved that it is in the best interest of the Bantu to be sent back to the Reserves"; (10) Mr. A. L. Barrett (Director of Native Labour), subject: "The effects of the depression on the natives in Johannesburg"; (11) Miss H. E. Higson, subject: "Sex education"; (12) members of the Wesley Guild (European), subject: "Resolved that European influence upon the Bantu has on the whole been beneficial"; (13) Dr. Chas. W. Coulter (of the International Missionary Conference, Geneva), subject: "To explore the Bantu mind"; (14) the Rev. Ray E. Phillips showed the film he took in Rhodesia and the Congo and spoke on same; (15) the Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh (Agent General for the Government of India in the Union), subject: "The life of the Saint of India, Mahatma Ghandi" (with the Kunwar were the Kunwarani, their son, and Dr. Mayawath Mayadas, M.D., sister of the Kunwarani); (16) Mr. T. J. Farrel (magistrate) and Mr. Edgar Bernstein, subject: "The development of art." Impromptu speaking was practised periodically in the form of "Hat Nights." The most outstanding lecture of the year was that delivered by Rev. Canon Anson Phelps-Stokes on "The development of the African in America." The lecture was attended by some 500 members and their friends, which shows the interest taken by the Bantu in the development of the Negro in America.

Religious Activities.—The place in "the four-square plan" which should have been filled by religious services, or "fireside talks" on Sundays, was unfortunately left empty during 1932, but an attempt is to be made during 1933 to re-start religious activities which have been in the past, and should continue in the future to be, one of the most important attractions of the Centre.

Bridgman Memorial Day.—On the 26th October we commemorated, for the first time in the history of the Institution, the life of the great Missionary statesman, the late Dr. F. B. Bridgman, D.D., with whom the plan of the Bantu Men's Social Centre originated. The commemoration took the form of speeches and demonstrations of the work done for the Bantu population of Johannesburg. The principal speakers were Prof. E. H. Brookes, of the Pretoria University, Mr. R. V. Selope Thema—a foundation member of the Executive Committee—Mr. Walter Webber, ex-Chairman, and the present Chairman, Prof. R. F. A. Hoernlé. Exhibitions by the "Bridgman Memorial Hospital," "The Princess Alice Nursing Home," "The House of Bethany," and the "American Board Clinic," Doornfontein, were on view. The Native Affairs Department sent a representative who, however, owing to a regrettable misunderstanding, for which he was not responsible, missed the meeting.

Visit of H.E. the Governor General.—His Excellency the Governor General had given, soon after his arrival in South Africa, a promise to visit the Centre. Unfortunately, other duties prevented him from accepting an invitation to be present on "Bridgman Memorial Day," but his offer to pay a special visit on the afternoon of November 19th was gratefully accepted by the Committee. In spite of the threatening weather, a large and enthusiastic audience filled the big Hall and received His Excellency with resounding cheers. His Excellency's speech, in reply to the welcome extended to him on behalf of the Centre by the Chairman, fortunately escaped being spoilt by the clatter of the rain on the roof, which almost completely drowned the efforts of all subsequent speakers and performers. It was a special pity that the speech of Dr. Xuma (Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee), in proposing a vote of thanks to His Excellency on behalf of the members of the Centre, was almost inaudible owing to the din made by the rain. His Excellency expressed his profound interest in the Natives and his wholehearted sympathy with all efforts to make accessible to them the advantages of European civilisation, whilst preserving the best elements in their own civilisation. Above all, he exhorted them to remember that the only way to develop a healthy mind in a healthy

body is by exercising them both, and therefore appealed to the members to make the fullest use of the opportunities offered them by the Centre. His Excellency was entertained by demonstrations, recitals, songs, and the meeting concluded with the singing of "Nkosi sekelele i-Afrika" and "God Save the King." His Excellency was then conducted round the Club.

Lady Clarendon's Visit.—On the 26th November, 1932, the Social Centre was honoured by a visit from Lady Clarendon, who attended a Concert, from 2 to 5 p.m., arranged by the Wayfarers' Association. The Concert was held in aid of the funds of the "Bridgman Memorial Hospital." This shows the interest Their Excellencies take in Native affairs. We hope the kindly attitude adopted by Their Excellencies will help to bring about a better feeling between the Bantu and the other races in this country.

Children's Work.—This part of the work continues to grow. Five schools in the locality take part weekly in a Basketball League organised by the Social Centre. The contests are very keenly fought out, and we are pleased to announce that the D.R.C. School, Ferreira, won both the boys' and girls' trophies last term. We hope to start a Baseball Tournament as soon as the new term begins. The Friday Kiddies Bioscope continues to be as popular as ever, and the Rev. Ray E. Phillips is to be congratulated on the success of this part of his work. Every Friday nearly 300 kiddies gather and generally show their appreciation of what they are getting in an unmistakable way. The Wednesday Bioscopes for members have been disappointingly poorly attended. There is a movement on foot just now to throw the doors of the Centre open to non-members on Wednesdays so as to make it more worth while for those who have to organise the shows. The details of the new scheme will be published shortly.

Junior Room.—A room on the first floor of the Club has especially been set apart for the use of junior members, so that they do not mix up with the men. The plan is one worth pursuing. The boys are keen and attend fairly well. This attendance could be doubled if the rooms were made a little more attractive. At present there are only a few

pictures on the walls, a ping-pong table and a few forms. We should appreciate the gift of pictures, toys, games, and good reading books for boys.

General.—As has been the custom in former years, the Bantu Men's Social Centre has been the home and meeting place of many Bantu Associations, e.g., the N.R.C. League, the Transvaal African Teachers' Association, the Transvaal Bantu Cricket Board, the Inter-Denominational Native Ministers' Association, the A.M.E. Laymen's Association, the Joint Council of Europeans and Natives, the Federation of South African Native Teachers' Associations, the Transvaal Bantu Football Association, the Central Pathfinder Officers, the Paladins (Coloured Boy Scouts), the Congress of Advisory Boards of South Africa, etc. The Hall was used for School Concerts, a Pathfinder Concert, Boxing Tournaments, weddings, and a Sunday School gathering. Five Guest Nights have been held, the programme consisting of singing, recitals, bioscopes and dancing. The Guest Nights were well patronised by the members and their friends, drawing in some cases as many as 300 guests. Since August the visitors' book shows 266 signatures, many of the visitors coming from all parts of the Union.

Transvaal Bantu Eisteddfod.—It would be ungrateful of us to conclude this report without saying how indebted the Bantu are to the organisers of the Eisteddfod this year. Mention must especially be made of the Chairman, Dr. A. B. Xuma, and the Organising Secretary, Mr. M. S. Radebe, for their very hard work in making the Eisteddfod the success it has been. There was a large number of entries, including some from Natal and the Cape. The final night Concert was well attended. We hope the Eisteddfod will continue to go from strength to strength.

Conclusion.—Looking to the future, it is becoming clear that the time is rapidly approaching when classes for social workers will have to be organised at the Centre. Owing to the increasing number of Bantu committed permanently to an urban life, the countless problems, hygienic, economic, and social, which characterise urban life everywhere, are beginning to press upon them more severely, and the help of competent, well-trained Social Workers is urgently needed. Hundreds of young Bantu men and boys are just

loitering about the locations and townships with no one to direct their energies into wholesome channels. There is splendid material among members of the Centre out of which to make Social Workers, if only the right instruction could be provided. We are glad to hear that Mr. Max Yergan is busy with a plan for providing Training for Social Workers, and we hope that when his scheme is ready Johannesburg will be the centre where the first attempt at realisation will be made. If so, the Centre will give Mr. Yergan all possible help and facilities, for nothing would do more to save from demoralisation the splendid material to be found among the Bantu in our locations and townships. We would like to inform employers of the fact that there are always a number of really fine men round here seeking employment, and that they should apply to us when in need. Our telephone number is 33-8110, or they may write to the Secretary, P.O. Box 4767, Johannesburg.

R. F. ALFRED HOERNLE, Chairman.

J. RICHARD RATHEBE, Secretary.



Bantu Men's

“ Registered under Charitable

Dr. EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE ACCOUNT

To Salaries and Wages	£390 10 6
„ Municipal Rates and Charges	167 15 9
„ Games	65 15 8
„ Insurance	42 7 3
„ Clerical Assistance	54 17 0
„ Postages, Stationery, Telephones, Bank Charges and Sundry Expenses	292 18 5
„ Disbursements in respect of Night Schools	15 2 0
„ Depreciation of Furniture and Equipment	113 2 0
„ Balance — Excess of Revenue over Expenditure transferred to Accumulated Funds	122 14 0
	<u>£1,265 2 7</u>

Dr.

BALANCE SHEET,

To Creditors	£56 14 3
„ Library Deposits	0 10 0
„ Accumulated Funds	8,115 3 8
Balance at 31st December, 1931	£7,992 9 8
Add—Balance of Revenue and Expenditure Account	122 14 0
	<u>£8,172 7 11</u>

JOHANNESBURG,

19th January, 1933.

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Certified correct.

HOWARD PIM,

Hon. Treasurer.

Collection Number: A1058

Collection Name: Bantu Men's Social Centre, Records, 1923-1975

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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