

1) Mr. Necht I have sent a copy to Mr. Evelyn I APR 1953
 2) February have asked for his comments
 NWS 28/5/53

1) Dr. Kuescher
 2) Mr. Necht
 3) R. P. M.

Mr. Jan Dyk

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Advance

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PRICE 3d.

Here is the inside story of what happens on the Bethal farms, as told to Advance reporter RUTH FIRST by an African labourer who spent five years there.

HE ESCAPED FROM SLAVERY



This is M—— who served five years on a Bethal farm.

JOHANNESBURG.

EVERY now and then happenings at the Black Spot of Bethal push their way into the headlines and people's consciences, create a stir, and then are allowed to sink back again into the usual course of the South African way of life.

There have been successive exposures of the semi-slave conditions on the Bethal farms from the 1920's, culminating in the visit to Bethal of the Reverend Michael Scott and the correspondent of The Guardian in 1948 and the most recent investigation conducted by the Drum last year.

LAST MONTH THE RETURN OF M—— FROM A BETHAL FARM FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THIS SPOT ONCE MORE.

HORROR CONDITIONS ON BETHAL FARM

It can't be very unusual for Africans to return from Bethal. So many are sent there . . . some must be returning all the time.

The difference is that M—— went there for a period of what he understood would be 9 months following his arrest under the pass laws, but when he returned last month he had completed a period of exactly five long years on the farm.

Interviewed by ADVANCE, he was wearing shoes again for the first time in five years and he took them off to show the soles of his feet in which the rich black soil of Bethal was ingrained, the callouses and torn skin a reminder of what he had been through. His calloused hands, too, served as witnesses to his peonage on the farms for five years.

YOUNG MAN

He was a young man of 21 when he went to Bethal. He is 26 this year. His friends who knew him before say he looks "too old".

Best let M—— tell in his own way what happened, and how the nine months became five years.

M—— was born in Kroonstad but his family brought him to Johannesburg in 1934 when he was a young boy. On a visit to Kroonstad during the war he joined the army and served in the N.M.C. for three years. On his discharge from the army he returned to his home in Sophiatown and then worked in Johannesburg for building contractors.

But from the end of his army service he repeatedly fell ill, so worked intermittently until in 1948 he left his employment and reported twice a week for treatment for a kidney complaint at the Coronation Hospital.

ARRESTED

One morning on his way to the hospital, as he was passing the Reno cinema in Newclare, he was stopped by a police flying squad

car. Two European policemen were in the car and they asked to see his passes. He explained he was not well, was not working at the time and he showed his hospital card and an old pass.

M—— says that before his eyes his old pass and hospital card were torn up and thrown to the ground. The door of the police car was opened and he was told to get in.

Then he was driven to the Police Station.

There, in the company of others arrested under the pass laws and for other offences, M—— spent the night.

The following morning he and about 20 others were taken in a military truck to the court of the Native Commissioner in Fordsburg.

SENT TO WORK

He says he was fingerprinted and then an official told him to make a cross on a paper. He was next told that there was work for him in Springs and he would be taken there.

M——'s account of what happened at the court that morning is confused and he can't clearly recount which officials spoke to him, but his impression was that he was being sent out of Johannesburg for nine months.

(Readers will recall that on June 2 1949 The GUARDIAN described the Fordsburg Native Commissioner's Court as 'JOBURG'S SLAVE MARKET', and exposed the practice whereby men arrested under the pass laws are offered, before they go into court, the alternative of having the charges against them dropped if they will agree to accept work on a farm. Perhaps this was the experience of M—— in 1948?)

A European drove up in a truck and a group of about 30 Africans, some among them M——'s cell mates from the previous night in

the police station, were told to climb in. The truck left Fordsburg at about 2 p.m. that day.

(It was on April 6 1948, says M——'s mother—and she knows that because her son disappeared on April 5, was given up for dead, and then miraculously came to the door of her house less than a month ago.)

DESTINATION UNKNOWN

Before sunset the truck reached Leslie where the Africans were transferred to a lorry that they found waiting for them. It was driven by Africans. The Africans were given a canvas with which to cover themselves and the lorry drove on through the night. None knew where they were going.

Finally the lorry stopped and the men were taken into what M—— describes as a fenced-in place. They were told to undress and hand over their clothes. Sacks with holes for

(Continued on page 8)

KENYATA ANSWERS HIS JUDGES

British Policy in Kenya Has Backfired

LONDON.

"SO far the attempts to destroy the Mau Mau by repressive measures have had the opposite effect from that intended. The militant forces of Mau Mau are more active, stronger and better organised than when the emergency began five months ago."

In these words the London Observer, one of the best informed British papers on African affairs, sums up the situation in Kenya at a time when the local Government has committed the judicial travesty of sentencing Jomo Kenyata and other leaders of the Kenya African Union to seven years.

The Kenyata trial is an ugly landmark in the history of British justice. During the course of his brilliant defence, Mr. D. N. Pritt, Q.C. had characterised the proceedings in several pungent phrases. He said the case "amounted to a denial of justice". He described the Magistrate Mr. Ransley Thacker, as a man who had been "specially picked by the Government".

CHILDISHLY WEAK CASE

The prosecution's case, he said, was "the most childish weak case ever against any man in the history

of the British Empire".

As soon as he had brought in his verdict and sentence, Mr. Thacker promptly fled the country. But he had done what he was picked for. He gave all the six men on trial the maximum sentences, remarking they were "hopelessly inadequate". He added he would recommend to the Governor that all the accused be restricted in residence, which means that whether their appeal succeeds or not they will be exiled to the desert Northern Frontier for the rest of their lives or until such an order is rescinded.

After sentence had been pronounced Kenyata rose and said: "We do not accept your findings."

"We do not feel that we have received justice or the hearing that we would have liked," he declared.

(Continued on page 7)

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DEATH OF MR. JOHN CHRISTIE

Advance regrets to announce the death of Mr. John Christie, the leader of the Labour Party.

Mr. Christie, who represented Johannesburg City in the last Parliament, was a staunch fighter for Labour interests throughout his political life. Always ready to support a just cause, he was prepared to run counter to prevailing political fashions where he thought a matter of principle was involved.

During the last session of Parliament, he led the Labour Party attack against the notorious Public Safety and Criminal Law Amendment Bills, and kept the Labour Party free from the contempt of the public which followed the acceptance of the two Bills by the other member of the Democratic Front, the United Party.

Parliament will be the poorer for his passing, which has deprived the Labour Party of a courageous and honest leader.

Mr. Christie was a candidate in the general election for Johannesburg City. His death means that there will have to be a by-election to fill the vacancy.

STORM DAMAGE IN EAST LONDON

EAST LONDON.

Once again Africans housed in shocking conditions in wood and iron buildings in the location were the worst sufferers when a hurricane raged through East London on Sunday.

The storm struck soon after 4.30 p.m. and passed through the city in a few moments, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake.

On Sunday night about 32 Africans were treated at the Frere Hospital. It is believed that many more were injured but were not taken to the hospital. Three Europeans were treated at the hospital.

About a score of houses in the location were completely flattened, more than 100 extensively damaged, and hundreds more slightly damaged. About 1,200 people were rendered homeless.

With the air full of flying pieces of galvanised iron and timber, many had lucky escapes.

GREAT PEACE BREAK-THROUGH

Suddenly, in a matter of two short weeks, the peoples' offensive for peace has broken through the barriers. The World Peace Movement's rallying and uniting of men and women of every race, nationality and political belief begins to bear its first fruits. Korean peace talks are once again under way after several months of silence caused by U.S. Admiral Joy's curt demand that the North Koreans "... accept our terms. Or else ...". Everywhere talk of peace is in the air.

Everywhere. Including the stock exchanges. The heady boom of the Korean war years burst suddenly when Premier Chou En Lai of China proposed the repatriation of all P.O.W.'s to their homeland, or to a neutral state, immediately an armistice is agreed. Overnight, panic gripped the speculators, the manufacturers and the financiers at the grim prospect of fabulous wartime profits doomed by peace. Share prices dropped catastrophically on all the stock markets; metal prices slumped; it became clear that peace was not a welcome intruder in every home.

To The Last Ditch

Those in America, and their hangers-on in other lands, who have turned to war as the last profitable venture they can find, may panic. But they will not give up easily without bitter battle. Korea is failing to bolster up the American economy; it is failing even more certainly to bolster up the American military prestige on which the whole anti-Soviet "cold war" policy is based. The dreams of a world crusade against socialism are falling on desperate days. And desperate times need desperate measures.

Desperate measures there will be, in plenty, from the ruling circles of the United States. Already there are the first signs that every obstacle will be put in the way of a final settlement in Korea. There has been President Eisenhower's declaration that, peace treaty or not, U.S. troops are in South Korea to stay for a long, long time. There is the news from China that during the whole of this period of world optimism, germ-war attacks against China and North Korea have been intensified. And before the negotiations on the P.O.W. issue proper get going, there has been the in-

sistent suggestion from semi-official American sources that a last-ditch stand is to be made at Pan Mun Jom on a new twist to the old quibble: "who is to decide what state is 'neutral', and what is such a neutral state to do with P.O.W.'s handed over to her?"

Pastures New

But life asserts itself. This even the American rulers begin to understand. The spirit of the peoples for peace may yet force the issue to the stage where there can be no turning back from the signing of a peace treaty in Korea. New fields for the outlet of American armaments manufacturing and for the exercise of the American crusade for world domination must be found. And new cannon-fodder to do the dirty work.

It is with an eye to the future that President Eisenhower bluntly announces that America will form an army "... of Asians to fight in Asia". The wheels of the American State Department are turning to recruit some millions of Japanese, South Koreans and Formosans to carry on the bloodshed and devastation of democratic Asia under the Stars and Stripes. Where?

High on the list of priority for this twentieth-century army of mercenaries is Indo-China. Since

brought into line in the hope that he will keep the profits rolling in.

The People, Yes

But the iron curtain behind which these plans are hatched begins to crumble. The Korean peace talks are only the beginning. Their background is not only the political success chalked up by the peoples who organised for peace. It is also the military defeat which has been meted out by the Korean people and the Chinese People's Volunteers who fought with them. "It is now impossible for U.N. forces to win the Korean war" Lieutenant General Bridgeford, former Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in Korea, commented bitterly last month.

General Bradley, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff speaks with equal despair. Reviewing all the possibilities of future American progress in Korea, including "the use of atomic weapons, provided a practical opportunity presented itself", he concludes gloomily: "Many of these measures were not taken—and are not taken now—because a military advantage does not accrue." The peace offensive coupled with the steadfast military defence of the peoples against aggression has, with harsh reality broken through the plans and dreams of yesterday.

And Yet Tomorrow

But the break through is not the end, as MacArthur discovered in his break-through to the Yalu River. The decisive battles for peace have still to be fought out. They are under way now in the truce tent at Pan Mun Jom, in the struggles in France against German militarisation in the so-called "European Defence Community", in the jungles of Malaya

and Indo-China for an end to foreign aggression, in the worldwide campaigns of the World Peace Movement. There is something inspiring about the early successes which have been scored. And the tang of victory is spurring people on everywhere.

Arrested

JOHANNESBURG.

Following an African National Congress meeting in Mafeking, two Congressmen were arrested and charged under Proclamation 276 of 1952.

Acquitted

JOHANNESBURG.

Miss Hilda Watts and Mr. Alan Lipman, of the Transvaal Peace Council, were acquitted in a Pretoria court when they appeared on a charge of having entered a location without a permit. They were arrested after having addressed a meeting in the Asiatic Bazaar on the theme "No War with China."

Sibanda Wins Appeal

JOHANNESBURG.

Mr. G. T. Sibande, who was sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment for being found in the Bethal area in contravention of a notice under the Riotous Assemblies Act banning him from the area, has won his appeal.

The Supreme Court held that the Crown had not proved that Sibande was in fact found in the Bethal area. At the time of his arrest he was travelling from Ermelo to Middelburg. He had already left his home in the Bethal Location as a result of the banning order.

By

SPECTATOR

French Prime Minister Rene Mayer's visit last month to Washington has gone off so successfully—paid for by widespread arrests of French Communists on the eve of his departure for Washington, and by support for the admission of Germany into the European army on his return—Indo-China is no doubt about to receive the best exports the American Government has to offer—napalm and germ bombs to fight the Viet Minh Liberation Army. The flow will speed up if Korean stockpiles become "surplus".

Ein Reich!

Close on Rene Mayer's heels in this 1952 pilgrimage to the war-maker's Mecca came West Germany's Chancellor, Dr. Adenauer. According to the official handout, the U.S. and West German Governments announced "... far-reaching agreement in the diplomatic, trade, strategic and cultural fields". Despite President Eisenhower's recent denunciation of "secret treaties", the terms of the agreement remain secret. All that is known is that the U.S. Government will supply military equipment to arm the German contingent of the "European Defence Community". It will also "consider how best to improve the economic conditions in Berlin through investment ...". Tanks, bombs, napalm and dollars—the programme of the stock-brokers and armaments kings. Not surprisingly the agreement promises to hand over to German courts the right to "review" sentences on war criminals in U.S. custody. Asians to fight for Asia; Nazis to fight for Europe.

Not without reason the 'Star's' Special Correspondent in Washington writes: "The United States has drawn more heavily on Germany for its cultural inheritance than on any other Continental country ...". Where Syngman Rhee and his "gooks" have failed the moguls of the New York stock exchange, Adenauer is being

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Clarion Call

In the closing stages of the election campaign, both major parties used every weapon they knew how to rouse the voters to their support. But seldom has the country seen such a flood of lies, prejudice and distortion as emanated from the Nationalist propagandists. Nothing was too low for them.

They kept harping on the so-called Communist menace. Their press, running out of material towards the end, started quoting statements made by Communists in the 1948 election, calling upon the electorate to defeat the Nats. Kahn, Carneson and Dadoo were hauled out of banishment to serve as bogeys. Solly Sachs and Basner were thrown in for good measure.

Every crime of violence involving Non-Europeans was prominently featured in their columns. Towards the end, there seemed to be a rush of offences against European women.

The Minister of Labour, Mr. Ben Schoeman, went in for a bit of war-mongering. "War between East and West was inevitable," he said, "in spite of the attempt by the new Russian leader to create a peace-loving impression. As Africa would be of the utmost importance in such a war, the communists were concentrating especially on the Natives in Africa".

As its final incitement to its readers, Die Burger published a picture of what it described as a "luxury boarding-house for Natives" at Prospect built at a cost of £280,000 by the U.P. Government (actually an immense compound). Side by side was a picture of some tents in which European railway workers in Windhoek were said to have been housed by the U.P. Administration in 1948.

"So builds the U.P.—for Natives," said the caption. Those who want to stop such building for Natives must obviously vote Nat.

Anything—absolutely anything—for a vote. Especially anything anti-Non-European.

Living in Hopes

Quite the funniest piece of news I saw last week was the item about the Russian bonds.

In the days of Czarist Russia, millions of pounds worth of shares in Russian companies, and bonds issued by the Russian Government, were held by foreign stockholders. Year by year millions of pounds of profits flowed from Russia to foreign countries.

The 1917 Revolution put an end to all that. All foreign commitments of the Czarist Government were cancelled, and the industrial property of foreign concerns and individuals was expropriated and nationalised.

Nevertheless, the foreign shareholders never gave up hope. They clung on to their share certificates and their bonds, waiting for the day when capitalism was restored in Russia and they could start drawing their unearned dividends again. However, as year by year it seemed the socialist system was becoming more and more firmly established in Russia, many finally lost heart. They used their bonds, often beautifully printed on parchment, to cover lampshades. The value of Russian bonds and shares on the stock exchanges of the capitalist world steadily slumped.

Now, however, with Stalin's death and the attempt by the Western press to show Malenkov as a man of peace who is bringing about a "silent revolution" in the U.S.S.R., the value of Russian bonds on the stock exchanges has suddenly soared. In other words, some hopeful capitalists (or ex-capitalists) still think there is a chance of capitalism being restored in Russia in the near future. Their long wait of 36 years to draw a profit from the labour of others seems to them to be coming to an end!

The value of Russian bonds now stands at about one third of their original value. If any of my readers, however, are thinking of investing in them in the hope of realising the remaining two-thirds, I would strongly advise them to consult the nearest psychiatrist.

Freedom from Freedom

Another funny news item last week was the article printed in the Cape Argus last Wednesday under the heading "Natives Like Their Registration Books"—you know, Verwoerd's new pass books.

"The chief reason," according to the Native Commissioner in Pretoria, "why the new book was so popular among the Natives was that it freed them from so many document restrictions".

Now read the very next sentence: "They could now move freely about the country, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS, and the various papers which they formerly had to carry were all condensed in the one book."

"Freedom" a la Verwoerd! What a cheek they've got.

Who Makes The Laws?

A reader of the Cape Times, one Captain S. C. Halls, of Somerset West, wrote a letter to the paper last week pointing out that the Nationalist attitude to the law courts was the same as that of the leaders of Soviet Russia.

He quoted Mr. Vishinsky as saying: "Law is an instrument of politics and the reverse theory is untrue." He also quoted Mr. Krylenko, Mr. Vishinsky's predecessor, as having stated in his book "The Court Structure of the U.S.S.R.":

"Every court has the task of defending the interests of a given governing class and is distinguished from other means of defence only by its specific form and nothing more."

Captain Halls ends his letter: "It is astonishing how true to type the totalitarian mind runs—whether it is in the Politburo in the Kremlin or in the Broederbond in the Union."

Captain Hall sounds like one of those expatriate Englishmen who believes the only people who know the meaning of impartial justice are his own.

I wonder whether Captain Halls thought about the sentencing of Jomo Kenyatta, leader of the Kenya African Union, to seven years imprisonment by British magistrate Mr. Ransley Thacker last week. It seems to me the whole case, taken in conjunction with the whole situation in Kenya, is a clear illustration of the theory of Messrs. Vishinsky and Krylenko.

Seldom has it been so obvious that the British courts in Kenya are merely an instrument of imperialism. And it is queer that Mr. Thacker, the dispenser of "impartial" justice, has had to fly the country. Obviously the judgment is not accepted as "impartial" by the bulk of the people.

CHANTICLEER

Africans Will Force British To Leave Nigeria

Dramatic Crisis in Empire's Largest Colony

LAGOS, NIGERIA.

"If the British refuse to leave this country, we must force them to leave, though we have no atomic bombs, aeroplanes or guns," declared Mr. Obafemi Awolowo, leader of the powerful Nigerian Action Group, following the crisis over the demand for "self-government in 1956" which has broken down the working of the new Constitution after less than a year of operation.

The crisis brings Britain's largest colony and the keystone of imperialism in Central Africa into the forefront of the liberation struggle. An immediate sequel has been a rapid move for a united front of all Nigerian parties and groups supporting independence. Leaders of the two most important Parties, Mr. Awolowo of the Action Group and Dr. Azikiwe of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons, have already agreed on unity in the fight for independence by 1956. Other parties in favour of this policy are being brought into the united front. They are the Northern Elements Progressive Union representing the Peasants and Youth of the North, the Nigerian Convention People's Party and the Askaniist Movement.

All members of these parties walked out of the central House of Representatives and their representatives in the Cabinet have resigned, leaving the government in the hands of the British Governor and official element and a reactionary group of representatives from the North.

The crisis arose over the motion by the Action Group introduced in the Budget session of the House asking the House to accept "as a primary political objective the attainment of self-government for Nigeria in 1956".

UNDEMOCRATIC

Under the reactionary constitution, the Northern region was given 50 per cent. of representatives in the House. In this region there is no democratic system of voting but an Electoral College which enables the feudal Emirs to send their favourites to Parliament. The Emirs who control the Northern Bloc have an interest in maintaining British rule to uphold their position

HARD TIMES FOR BRITAIN

LONDON.

The staggering rate at which the British people are being impoverished by Tory Government rule and the arms race is brought out in the "Economic Survey for 1953" which has just appeared and which offers the people a future of still harder times.

In 1952 the British public spent £525 million more than in 1951 to buy 1 per cent. less food and goods for personal use.

The survey shows that while the standard of living went down, arms expenditure went up by £384 millions.

For the future, the Government has plans to increase the export drive against increasingly intense competition from all her competitors, including the United States.

To achieve this export aim the Tory Government has only greater hardships to offer—less food, fewer consumption goods for personal use and harder work (productivity) for the same pay or even less.

U.S. Greatest Danger to Peace

JOHANNESBURG.

Mr. V. C. Berrange addressed a meeting of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress last Friday on his recent visit to the Soviet Union.

The meeting passed a resolution that the United States was the greatest danger to the peace of mankind, and expressed the conviction that the Non-white peoples of South Africa would not allow themselves to be drawn into an imperialist war and would not take arms against the Soviet peoples, who "are at the head of the peace-loving forces of the world."

A second resolution protested at the sentence passed on Jomo Kenyatta and the methods used by British Imperialism to crush the independence movement of the people of Kenya.

Tuli's Titles

CAPE TOWN.

David Gogotya beat Shaik Osman in Durban and has become the challenger for Tuli's national titles.

The Board of Control are of the opinion that Tuli should be relieved of these crowns, pending his return home in order that his challengers may compete for them.



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ZIONIST SLANDERS AGAINST SOVIET FIZZLE OUT

JEWISH PEOPLE SEE THROUGH FRAUD

Farm Wages Too Little, Says Judge

CAPE TOWN.

Farmers in the Upington district paid their labourers too little, said Mr. Justice Herbstein, after Jan Bobeje had been found guilty of culpable homicide at the Circuit Court at Upington last week.

Before sentence was passed, Bobeje's employer, Mr. D. J. van Skalkwyk, appeared in the witness box to inform the court that he was his best farm hand and he needed his services. Mr. van Skalkwyk was prepared to pay the fine and take 5s. to 10s. a week off Bobeje's wages as repayment.

Judge Herbstein asked what wages Bobeje was paid and van Skalkwyk replied that he was paid £1 13s. a week, but some farmers paid their labourers even less. Judge Herbstein said it was scandalous and that it would be impossible for Bobeje, who had a wife and four children, to live on £1 3s. a week.

Mr. van Skalkwyk told the Judge that Bobeje was supplied by him with vegetables and had only to buy meat, bread, sugar and tobacco. "It is not enough," said the Judge, "no wonder labourers stoop to stock theft and other crimes."

Bobeje, who was found guilty of stabbing another man, was given a sentence of two years, suspended for three years, and ordered to receive six cuts. He had no previous conviction.

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LONDON. "That was anti-Semitism," he said. "Where can anything like that be seen today in the Soviet Union, where Jews have complete equality with all the other citizens of the country?"

He went on to express his opinion that Stalin had been the greatest friend the Jews ever had and invited the audience to stand in a minute's silence of tribute to Stalin's memory. Every single member of the audience responded.

Details have come to light showing that the plan to raise the charge of anti-Semitism against the Socialist countries originated in the Washington offices responsible for the general cold war propaganda. In Britain this has produced considerable resentment among the Jewish community. For the first time in months members of the Jewish Board of Deputies have openly criticised the stand they were rushed into and demanded that Jews should not allow themselves to be used as pawns in the cold war.

The most significant climb-down has been the decision to call off the International Conference of Jews which was to have been held in Zurich to discuss alleged anti-Semitism in the Eastern countries. It is said to have been "postponed indefinitely" but the Zionist leaders would like to feel they had never called it. Not only have they failed to produce one shred of evidence that Jews are persecuted or discriminated against, but all their predictions of pogroms and other acts have turned out to be completely false.

The organisers of the Zurich Conference, particularly Dr. Nahum Goldmann, a joint chairman of the Jewish Agency who spends most of his time in America and has contacts with the State Department, received warnings for several weeks that important organisations would decline invitations. This decided them to run away from the issue. Pressure from the rank and file had had time to bring pressure.

One man described how prior to 1917 the only way a Jewish girl could live in Moscow to study was to be in possession of a yellow prostitute's police pass.

STALIN FRIEND OF JEWS

HYSTERIA WORN OFF

At the United Nations another rapid retreat was staged by the Israeli delegate, Mrs. Golda Myerson, who announced that she is "postponing" the bringing of charges against the East European countries. It had become only too clear that there was nothing on which to base charges except emotion and prejudice.

Using the case of the Soviet doctors as a pretext, the Israeli Government has called for a resumption of diplomatic relations. Although the Russians never mentioned the race origin of the doctors, some were assumed from their names to be Jewish and a crazy outcry was raised that this was the start of a pogrom. With the release of the doctors and the prosecution of those who brought wrongful charges against them, it is said there has been a complete reversal of policy.

When the Worcester train stopped at Wellington station on Good Friday morning, about 50 Africans, Die Burger reported, surged into the European team room on the station and demanded to be served. They insisted there was no more apartheid and they wanted what was their due.

They blocked up the entrance to the team room, prevented Europeans from using it and made a general nuisance of themselves until the train whistle blew and they had to leave.

An Advance reporter who tried to investigate this incident didn't get very far. The railway system manager's office in Cape Town knew nothing of it. The District Catering Manager, under whose jurisdiction the Wellington station cafe falls, said no report had been made to him about it.

Last Friday night, the United Party candidate for Malmesbury, Mr. J. C. Bosman, said the "incident was surrounded with the most suspicious circumstances and it was suspected that it had been staged".

Two hundred delegates met in the Western Areas, representing between them over 60,000 people. On the East Rand 113 delegates met. In Evaton where a hall for the conference was not available, a public meeting of 4,000 people was held instead.

The resolutions passed by the Western Areas Regional Conference are an indication of the tenor of these gatherings. There the delegates condemned strongly the introduction of the new pass books and tightening of the Pass Laws. Referring to the experience of greatly intensified pass raids in the Western Areas, the conference said these were intended to intimidate people into agreeing to carry the new pass books.

Further evidence revealed that the union's present burial society is costing the union £63,000 over five years at the rate of 2s. 3d. a member, whereas another burial society offered the same facilities at 1s. a member. The society that was accepted by the union at more than double the cost is registered in the name of the Nationalist candidate

On the Magistrate's Court here last Friday Mr. D. E. Ellis, general secretary of the Mineworkers' Union, was found guilty of accepting a bribe and sentenced to 18 months' hard labour.

The case was a private prosecution instituted by a former president of the union, Mr. Paul Visser, and arising out of the purchase by the union of its present premises, Trans Afrika House in Braamfontein.

Evidence was that in the negotiations for the sale of the building, Ellis was given the inducement of a third share in a bottle store.

Congress pledged itself to organise the people to defend their rights of ownership of property and to win the right to buy land as they wish.



Millions of workers in Italy paralysed the country in a 24-hour strike against the new fake electoral law forced through the Senate with the aim of putting back in power the reactionary Christian Democrat Government at the elections next June. Police were called out throughout the country armed with tanks, armoured cars, jeeps and firearms and made over 2,000 arrests. In the past year the Christian Democrats have lost up to 40 per cent. of their supporters in many areas and for this reason the Prime Minister De Gasperi needed the new law by which any group of parties gaining 50 per cent. of the votes in an election will automatically be given two thirds of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Picture shows police in Rome who had attacked railwaymen on strike in an attempt to break up their demonstration.

Verwoerd's Pass Books Condemned

JOHANNESBURG.

Seven regional conferences summoned by the Transvaal African National Congress met simultaneously on Sunday and condemned the introduction of Verwoerd's new pass books and attempts by the Government to push Group Areas through.

All the conferences were remarkably representative. In Kliepfontein, the people of Orlando, Kliptown, Moroka, Jabavu and Pimville areas were represented by three hundred delegates. Sixty-four delegates deliberated for the people of Alexandra Township and 80 delegates assembled at the Central Conference which was opened by a leading African clergyman.

Two hundred delegates met in the Western Areas, representing between them over 60,000 people. On the East Rand 113 delegates met. In Evaton where a hall for the conference was not available, a public meeting of 4,000 people was held instead.

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Mr. H. Bernard (of Frank. Bernard and Joffe) appeared for the defence.

Tuli Wins Again

MANCHESTER.

Jake Tuli, the Empire champion, beat Eric Marsden in the Belle Vue Stadium when the referee stopped their 10 round fight in the 6th round. Last year Marsden was beaten by Terry Allen for the British Flyweight championship vacated by Terry Gardener after he was defeated by Tuli for the Empire title.

ELLIS SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS

Mineworkers' Secretary Accepted Bribe

JOHANNESBURG.

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GARMENT WORKERS DEMAND 10% WAGE RISE

Executive's Compromise Proposal Rejected

CAPE TOWN.

THE offer of a 5 per cent. increase in basic wages and two extra public holidays a year, made by the employers to the Garment Workers' Union, was rejected at a union meeting of about 2,000 members held in the Cape Town City Hall last week. The meeting was a continuation of a meeting, held on March 16 at the Woodstock Town Hall, which was dispersed by the Fire Brigade as the hall was overcrowded.

The demands of the Union were: 1. A 10 per cent. increase in basic wages. 2. A 15 per cent. increase in cost of living allowance. 3. A 40-hour week. 4. All state public holidays as paid holidays. 5. An employees' provident fund. 6. Improvements in annual leave.

At the first meeting of the Cape Clothing Industrial Council, the employers refused all the demands except the contribution to the provident fund of 6d. for every worker earning under £3 a week and ninepence for every worker earning over £3 a week. After the union meeting on March 16 the employers agreed, in addition, to grant a 5 per cent. increase in basic wages and 2 more paid public holidays—bringing the total up to 8 out of the 12 state holidays.

Miss K. Diaz delegate to the Industrial Council, told the union members last week that if they accepted the offer, the agreement would start on April 23. She added that she was convinced that the employers, having already made one concession, were determined not to go any further.

They had, she said, already threatened to give the union 3 months notice, abolish the Industrial Council and return to the Wage Board if the workers continued to press for their demands.

In her opinion the meeting was not representative of the 15,000 members of the Union and if those present decided on a strike the other workers might not agree.

WORKERS DISAGREE

The majority of the workers who spoke from the floor disagreed wholeheartedly with the attitude expressed by the union's officials, and their speeches were greeted with tremendous applause by the meeting.

One worker said that their demands were small in terms of the employers' profits. They were putting up a fight for what was theirs by right and after having come so far they were not going to give up now. If the union agreed to 5 per cent. now it would be several years before they would make another demand. "We want our 10 per cent. and we are going to unite and fight for it."

A few workers tried to convince the meeting that if they did not accept the 5 per cent. they might get no increase at all, but they were cheered so loudly that they were forced to abandon the platform.

Another worker told the meeting: "If the delegates go back to the bosses with the workers' spirit and not with the spirit the officials have shown to us this evening, I am sure that we will get everything we want."

HOUSING LEVY

In addition employers of African labour have to pay 2/6 to the Council for each registered African worker whom they employ. Commenting on this Mr. Boyce Pendla, organiser for the African Food and Canning Workers Union, said: "Our wage determination has no discrimination on the grounds of race, so that the employers will have to pay 2/6 more for an African worker than is laid down in our determination. I am afraid of what is likely to happen to our members when the new season comes."

"ARMS AND THE MAN"

CAPE TOWN.

Shaw's "Arms and the Man" will be presented by the Peninsula Dramatic Society at the Woodstock Town Hall from Monday April 27 to Friday May 1 at 8 p.m.

The play will be produced by Mr. Carter Ebrahim. Seats at 3/6 and 3/- may be booked at Darters. There will be a special performance for students on Saturday, April 25, at 8 p.m. Admission will be 1s. (Tickets from the secretary and principals of schools.)

CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

The second subject on the agenda for the meeting was the question of the formation of a co-ordinating council of the Garment Workers' Unions in the Cape, the Transvaal, Port Elizabeth and Natal. Miss Crawford read the proposed consti-

tution and told the meeting that such a body could serve a useful function by bringing centres now isolated into closer contact. If it was later found that such contact was undesirable it would be quite easy to resign from the Council. It was not, she stressed, a National Union of Garment Workers.

Although a few workers spoke against the proposed council, saying that their union could fight for itself and that they wanted nothing to do with the Transvaal Union which was continually having strikes and being interfered with by the police, a motion accepting the proposed council was carried by a substantial majority.

CHAOS AT P.E. LABOUR BUREAU

PORT ELIZABETH.

Last year the Port Elizabeth City Council decided to take over from the Native Affairs Department the control of the registration of African unemployed. Previously all unemployed Africans had to register at the Native Affairs Department where they were given a permit to seek work. This permit was valid for an unlimited period and employers were warned to employ only Africans in possession of a permit.

Since the introduction by the City Council of the Labour Bureau all unemployed Africans within the Port Elizabeth municipal area have had to re-register there. At first they were all issued with yellow cards which were only valid for three days and then had to be renewed. This gave rise to the situation where, before everyone had registered, for the first time, those who were already registered had returned to have their cards renewed. As a result unemployed Africans were queuing outside the registration office at 5 a.m. in order to gain admission when the office opened at 9.

Owing to this confusion a new system was introduced which made it necessary for those registering to produce rent cards to establish that they were bona fide residents of Port Elizabeth. This is the way "influx control" is now operating in Port Elizabeth.

Yours faithfully,

Phyllis Bentley, Violet Bonham Carter, Phyllis Bottome, Lewis Casson, G. D. H. Cole, L. John Collins, Philip Fothergill, Victor Gollancz, Julian S. Huxley, Margaret Storm Jameson, Augustus John, David Low, Rose Macaulay, George F. MacLeod, William Manchester, Hugh Martin, W. R. Matthews, Henry Moore, Elizabeth Pakenham, Pakenham, C. E. Raven, Russell, Donald O. Soper, Stansgate, Sybil Thorndike, S. Maurice Watts, Leslie D. Weatherhead.

Obtainable at Leading Stores throughout Southern Africa

World Protest at Mathlala's Conviction

JOHANNESBURG.

Worldwide interest has been roused in the case of African Congressman, Arthur Mathlala, who is the first victim of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Mathlala was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and 8 strokes for an offence alleged to have been committed before the Criminal Law Amendment Act became law. The law was proclaimed on March 4 of this year and Mathlala was alleged to have broken it on February 26 in Villa Nora, in the Waterberg area.

Mathlala's bail was last week fixed at £100, pending the hearing of his appeal before the Supreme Court.

Last week the following letter was published in the London Times:

Sir,—An African, Mr. Arthur Mathlala, has been sentenced by a court at Nylstroom, near Pretoria, Union of South Africa, to eight strokes of the lash (in addition to one year of imprisonment with hard labour). He was convicted under the recently passed Criminal Law Amendment Act, which introduces whipping up to 10 strokes as a penalty for defiance or incitement to defiance of the South African race laws.

Mr. Mathlala was charged in court with appealing to Africans to subscribe 2s. 6d. to help to fight European oppression. We protest against this in the strongest possible terms.

Yours faithfully,

Phyllis Bentley, Violet Bonham Carter, Phyllis Bottome, Lewis Casson, G. D. H. Cole, L. John Collins, Philip Fothergill, Victor Gollancz, Julian S. Huxley, Margaret Storm Jameson, Augustus John, David Low, Rose Macaulay, George F. MacLeod, William Manchester, Hugh Martin, W. R. Matthews, Henry Moore, Elizabeth Pakenham, Pakenham, C. E. Raven, Russell, Donald O. Soper, Stansgate, Sybil Thorndike, S. Maurice Watts, Leslie D. Weatherhead.

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GOVT. CLAIMS IT IS "HONEST WITH THE COLOURED"

New Pamphlet Boosts Dr. du Plessis' Department

CAPE TOWN.

"THE National Government believes in being fair towards every race. The National Government is honest with the Coloured," states a pamphlet entitled "The Cape Coloured" written and published by Mr. P. W. Botha, Nationalist Party organiser in the Cape.

The pamphlet summarises the achievements of the Division of Coloured Affairs since Dr. I. D. Du Plessis assumed duty as Commissioner for Coloured Affairs on March 5, 1951.

There is evidently nothing very much to summarise. The pamphlet only runs to five and a half pages, and contains far more in the way of promises than of actual achievement.

BIG CLAIMS

On July 5, 1951, Dr. Du Plessis said: "Whenever I make any recommendation to the Government, the only test would be: What steps are required to advance the interests of the Coloured community and to acquire a greater measure of efficiency."

And the pamphlet claims: "The Department of Coloured Affairs has done its best, and is still busy, to enable the Coloured to regain and maintain his position successfully in the labour market, particularly in the Western Province where the Coloured is gradually being ousted by the Natives."

That's the way—rouse one section of the Non-Europeans against another. The pamphlet stresses that it is working in close co-operation with the Department of Native Affairs to control the influx of Africans into the urban areas.

SMALL RESULTS

For all the high-sounding phrases of Dr. Du Plessis and Mr. Botha, the Division of Coloured Affairs has precious little to show for its first two years of operation.

"By way of experiment," the pamphlet says, "approval has been obtained for the appointment . . . of about 20 Coloureds in (railway) ticket offices which serve the Non-European community".

Lest you should be under the illusion that any Coloureds have yet been appointed to these posts,

RHEUMATICURO
Works like a charm

for
**RHEUMATISM
GOUT
LUMBAGO
and SCIATICA**

Liniment, Ointment,
Liver Pills, Mixture



the pamphlet hastens to add: "It is expected that these appointments will soon be made."

In 10 Post Offices at various centres Coloureds are employed as clerks or postmasters. In Cape Town and Kimberley there are 36 posts of postman, grade 1, for Coloureds. Some post offices also have Coloured Assistants.

In addition the Division claims to have made representations to a variety of public bodies about housing, sanitation, the provision of facilities and trading rights for Coloureds "in their own areas" etc. But there is no record of these representations having had any results whatsoever.

VAGUE

Typical of the vague claims made by the pamphlet is the following: "At Uitenhage, Hazendal and Cape Town, for example, the Department of Coloured Affairs was able to assist in speeding up Coloured housing schemes by removing obstacles which subsequently meant that the housing scheme could be proceeded with."

What obstacles? Stones?

The administration of certain settlements, mission stations and reserves in the Cape has been taken over by the Division. In addition, money is made available to the Division by the Department of Education, Arts and Science to assist various bodies like the Eoan Group, the Coloured Boy Scouts' Association, the Athlone Amateur Boxing and Physical Culture Club and so on.

The Division also claims success for its holiday camps for Coloureds at Klaasjagersberg, near Simons-town.

All in all a pretty poor record, by any standards.

DISHONEST RECORD

What about the claim that the Nationalist Government is "honest with the Coloured"? How honest, when the pamphlet does not make a single mention of the Separate Representation of Voters Bill, designed to take the Coloured voters off the common roll and limit their representation to four M.P.s in the House of Assembly?

Did Dr. Du Plessis make no representations to the Government about this Bill, which was introduced in the same year he took office?

And what about the Group Areas Act, also not mentioned in this pamphlet, which more than any other measure of the Nationalist Government threatens the entire Coloured community and has already caused immeasurable distress to them?

If this pamphlet is an example of Nationalist "honesty", it is hardly surprising the Coloured people will have nothing to do with Dr. Du Plessis' Department, which is clearly an instrument of segregation and nothing more.

Real Cost of Korean War

SAN FRANCISCO.

More than 2 million Korean civilians have been killed, 10 million rendered homeless and more than 100,000 children have been orphaned since the Korean war began.

This estimate was made by Mr. Palmer Bevis, director of a United States relief organisation, who has just returned to the United States.

AFRICANS MOVE AGAINST FEDERATION

LONDON.

With the success of the European minority in Southern Rhodesia in getting Central African Federation approved by last week's referendum, there is prospect of the scheme being put into effect by August of this year.

But under the boasts from Salisbury is the clear note of anxiety as to what the African population of Huggins's little Empire are going to do. This anxiety arises from the success of the two days of prayer and protest by Africans in Northern Rhodesia and the determined way the people of Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia are going about their business of organising for resistance to Federation.

The Daily Telegraph's special correspondent in Rhodesia says the success of the two-day protest in Northern Rhodesia, although not complete, shocked white opinion. The settlers had not believed such organisation possible at all and have suddenly awoken to the fact that the Africans are serious.

While Huggins has assured the Europeans that "Federation will always remain under European supervision unless the Europeans themselves decide otherwise," he has sent out a stream of statements trying to minimise the determination of the Africans to resist being forcibly brought under his rule.

He declares, for instance, that the Africans of Nyasaland will be more "sensible fellows" than those who advocate passive resistance. Among those backing the resistance movement in Nyasaland is Rev Michael Scott, whom Huggins attacked as a "religious fanatic".

Seretse Khama Condemns Colonial Policy

Call to British Democrats

LONDON.

A call for democratic and freedom-loving British people to co-operate with Africans for the sake of peace and to abandon out-dated colonial practices is made by Seretse Khama, Chief of the Bamangwato, in an article published in the Left Labour paper, Tribune.

Recalling the statement of the 19th Century Prime Minister Disraeli, that there are two nations in Britain—the rich and the poor—he writes:

I have also found two British nations—official Britain and the Britain of common people.

Official Britain (or rather some of it) I have not liked. It treats the African as though he were an inferior.

"We know what is good for you," a member of the Colonial administration once said to me. "Your people are not yet sufficiently educated to know. If they are strongheaded enough to oppose our intentions, well, we have the power to enforce them."

That is an attitude which every African resents. Frankly, it means that if we will not accept what the Colonial Office or the Ministry of Commonwealth Relations thinks is good for us, the power of the police and the army will be used to impose it upon us.

DAY HAS PASSED

The day has passed when official Britain can adopt this attitude.

Indeed, the best men in the service, officials at the Ministries and the more enlightened Governors, do not share it. But others, high in authority, have not yet grown out of out-dated practices.

There is another Britain—the Britain of the man and woman in the street, the ordinary man and woman.

I have gone about the country and met hundreds, perhaps thousands, of them. I have met them literally in the street, or in trains or cafes. I have spoken to large audiences of them and have sensed their response.

They are not only friendly and full of goodwill, they treat me, and Africans in my company, as equals. There is no superiority about them, no sense of the colour bar.

They love liberty and justice and democracy. They want liberty for others as well as for themselves. They want fair play for others. They want democracy for others.

It is this experience of meeting the ordinary folk of Britain which gives me hope.

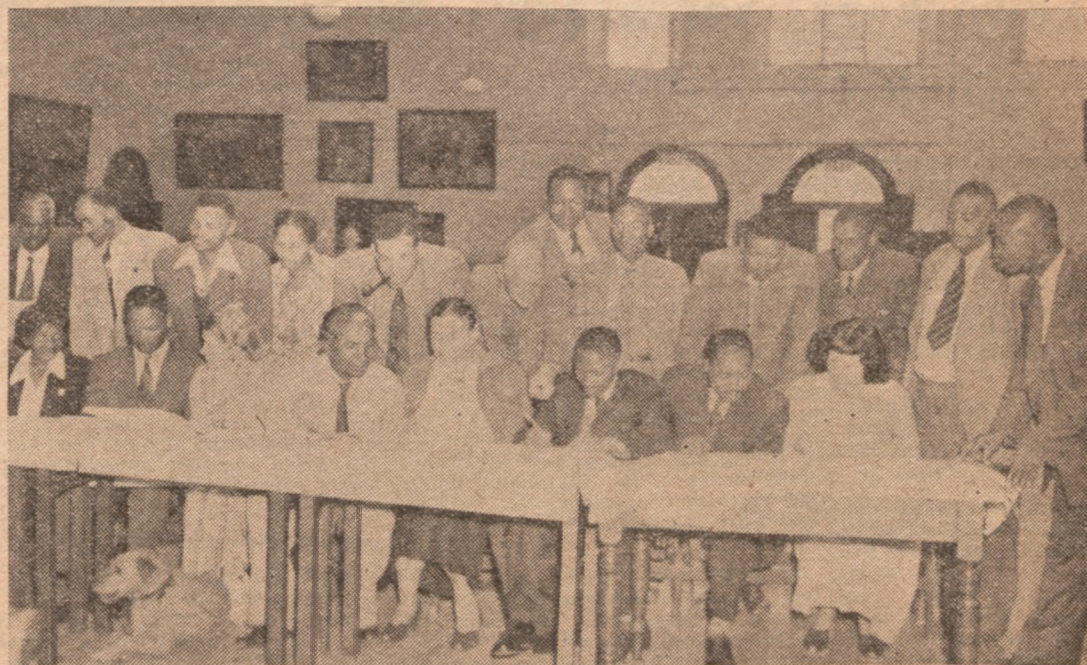
CO-OPERATE FOR PEACE

Africans and Britishers—why should we not co-operate? Indeed, we MUST co-operate. Peoples, whatever their colour (which, after all, is only a physical thing) must co-operate if there is to be peace in the world.

Britain exports to Africa material goods from which we benefit—clothes and bicycles and sewing machines.

Why cannot Britain export to Africa spiritual gifts, her most valuable contribution to the world—liberty and tolerance, justice and democracy?

If the ordinary men and women of Britain could influence official Britain to reflect THEMSELVES, all would be well between our two peoples.



A group of delegates at the recent Trades and Labour Council conference in Port Elizabeth.

KENYATA ANSWERS HIS JUDGES

(Continued from page 1)

"We also feel that this case, from our point of view, has been so arranged as to bring Mau Mau on us as a scapegoat, in order to strangle the Kenya African Union—the only African political organisation which fights for the rights of the African people."

Kenyata said that what he and his fellow accused had done was to try their level best to find ways and means by which the various communities in Kenya could live in harmony.

"But what we have objection to and shall continue to object to is discrimination in the government in this country and we shall not accept that, in jail or out of it."

"The world was made for everyone in it to live happily and equally."

REBUKES MAGISTRATE

Turning towards the magistrate, Kenyata said:

"You being a European, it is only natural that perhaps you do feel more that we have something against Europeans. I feel that you should not have stressed so much that we have been entirely motivated by hatred for Europeans."

"Our activities have been against injustice to the African people and if you think that by asking for African rights we have turned Mau Mau, we are very sorry you have been misled."

"What we have done and shall continue to do is to demand rights for the African people as human beings, that they shall enjoy the same facilities as other people."

"We look forward to the day when peace shall come to this land."

"None of us would condone mutilation of human beings. We are human and have families of our own, and none of us would condone such activities as you think we are guilty of."

"I am not asking for mercy, but we are asking for justice, and that injustices that exist among Africans will be righted," Kenyata concluded.

The five other African leaders are:

Fred Kubai, executive member of the Kenya African Union and prominent figure in the Kenya Transport Workers' Union.

Richard Achieng Oneko, former editor of an African newspaper and African councillor on Nairobi City Council.

Bildad M. Gaggia, former bank clerk, who was in the British Army from 1942 till 1946; secretary of the Nairobi branch of the Kenya African Union.

Kunga Karumba, member of the Kenya African Union executive.

Paul Ngei, Kenya African Union leader among the Wakamba tribe.

Last week, according to the Observer, European political leaders in Kenya headed by Lord Portsmouth asked the Governor for the application of the "Briggs Plan" to Kenya and the appointment of "a Templer" to carry out the repression of the Africans.

They asked for "trials" of suspected Mau Mau in the area of their alleged crimes within a few hours and that those found guilty of capital offences should be publicly hanged within 24 hours.

Here are the words of these bloodthirsty reactionaries who have been frightened by the prospect that their day of exploiting the colonial people is ending:

"We want to cut out the elaborate recording of evidence and we want to see men convicted of foul murders hanged publicly, near the spot where they committed the crime, within a short time."

BOOKS

REVOLT OF THE SLAVES

Spartacus: Howard Fast (published by the author).

It is fortunate that Howard Fast was able to establish his reputation during the war years, when America was still a democracy of sorts. Today he is sufficiently well-known and prosperous to be able to defeat the ban placed on his works by established publishers, by publishing them himself. Had he been born ten years later, and been today a young writer struggling for recognition, America's unofficial capitalist censorship system might well have succeeded in depriving the world of his work.

That would have been a great misfortune, for Howard Fast is by any standard a first class writer. He has the gift of swift, vivid story-telling, the gift of clear description and the gift of solid, sound characterisation. But what distinguishes him from the ordinary run of competent novelists is the love for humanity, life and freedom which appears so vividly in all his works. He has something worth writing about, in addition to the ability to write well.

Spartacus comes well up to the standard which we expect of Howard Fast. It is the story of the slave revolt which took place in the Italian territories of Rome in the first century B.C. The author has constructed his plot skilfully so that it alternates in vivid contrast between the story of the slaves and that of their masters. The slaves' story is one of inhuman degradation and despair, then a burst of flaring hope with the revolt, then defeat. The defeat of the slaves is cruel and tragic, yet the author contrives to leave us with the feeling that their revolt has been worth while—that it has added something, not only to the lives of many individuals but also to the story of mankind as a whole.

In depicting the slave-owners, Mr. Fast has perhaps improved a little on history. He has given us a picture of opulent decadence which would be truer of the Rome of 200 A.D. than of the Rome of Spartacus. Nevertheless he has painted a devastatingly true picture of a caste society and the rot which afflicts its rulers. We in South Africa are particu-

larly well qualified to judge the accuracy of this picture, and there is little fault that one can find with it.

• • • • •

Blanket Boy's Moon: Peter Latham and A. S. Mopeli-Paulus (Collins).

This is the story of an African's adventures in Basutoland, Johannesburg, Durban and Lourenco Marques. It is a highly coloured, at times incredible story, packed with more incidents than the authors can properly handle. There are points, especially towards the end, where the story becomes gripping and moving, but for the most part the authors have left themselves no space for the details of character, atmosphere and background which are needed to make their story thoroughly convincing. Incidents follow one another baldly and sketchily, and no coherent picture of the characters or their problems emerges.

Part, but not all, of the book is written in a sort of pseudo-Biblical style which is effective at a few of the high points of the story but irritating elsewhere. The effect of this style on the dialogue is sometimes unfortunate. For instance, an Afrikaans policeman is made to say, "We leave you now, but if one word of what has happened passes your lips—tomorrow, when we return, worse will befall".

The authors introduce their political views into the story in a laboured and unsubtle manner, and their political views include the opinion that the treatment of Africans in Mocambique leaves nothing to be desired.

L.B.

Red-Baiter Sacked

LONDON.

The former United States Ambassador to Moscow, Mr. George F. Kennan, has been dismissed from the United States State Department after 26 years service as a diplomat.

The Soviet Government requested the United States Government last October to recall Mr. Kennan after he had told press correspondents that life in Moscow was worse than living in Berlin under the Nazis.

African Youth Condemn U.S. Imperialism

JOHANNESBURG.

THE conference of the African National Congress Youth League, held here recently, condemned the attempt by the United States and its allies to make Africa a base in a war with the Soviet Union.

Africans will never be drawn into a war against peoples who have never done them any harm but on the contrary will intensify the struggle against all powers having colonies in Africa.

A further resolution expresses solidarity with the people of Rhodesia who, under the leadership of their Congress, are fighting against Federation.

Other resolutions passed by the Youth League conference were that the African people must prepare for renewed attacks on the liberation movement and its leaders; and that the Congress Youth League should form strong links with other progressive movements in Africa and in other parts of the world

where peoples are engaged in a struggle against colonialism and national oppression.

Conference also expressed its deep sympathy with the peoples of the Soviet Union who "have lost a leader and a father through the death of Marshal Stalin."

"Stalin was not only the architect of the Soviet Union but also of world peace and the national liberation of oppressed peoples throughout the world. . . ."

"The youth of South Africa hope these noble ideals have been left by Stalin as a heritage for the U.S.S.R. and the world, and the greatest memorial to him would be to strive so that peace and freedom ultimately dominate the world."

Sentenced Under Proclamation 276

JOHANNESBURG.

A Congress organiser, Mr. R. Mashigo was found guilty at the end of last week, in a Bethlehem Magistrate's Court, of incitement under Swart's Proclamation 276.

He was sentenced to six months' hard labour with the option of a fine of £100, and an additional six months' imprisonment suspended for three years on condition he is not convicted under the Suppression of Communism Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the Riotous Assemblies' Act, the Native Administration Act or for any offence involving incitement.

On a charge of being without a pass he was sentenced to a fine of 10s. or seven days' hard labour.

An enormous crowd of Bethlehem residents followed the three-day long trial.

When the fine was announced the crowd in the courtroom immediately took a collection for the £50 which had to be added to the amount of £50 already paid in for bail. In a matter of minutes ten Africans had come forward and each handed in £5.

Mashigo's case will probably go on appeal.

Transport Workers' Conference

PORT ELIZABETH.

At the annual conference of the South African Council of Transport Workers held in Port Elizabeth last week a resolution was passed demanding that the Durban City Council employ Non-European transport workers at the same rate of pay and under the same conditions of employment as the European workers are employed.

At present the Durban transport services are understaffed and the City Council proposes to employ Non-European workers on the Non-European buses, but at lower wages than the European workers and under less favourable conditions of employment. The transport workers' conference resolved to call a special conference if this proposal is introduced in order to decide on united protest action.

At the conference Mr. J. J. Venter was re-elected as President of the South African Council of Transport Workers.

"ONE OF THE DIRTIEST LOCATIONS"

Shocking Conditions in East London

"WATER is mostly drawn from taps alongside lavatories so that it is not possible to expect clean drinking water. There are no electric lights in the streets. At night the location becomes a dirty city in which the unlawful element of the community can safely resort to their undesirable ways of life with little chance of arrest or detection," writes Mr. G. J. Bobotyana in a letter to the Minister of Native Affairs on March 11, 1953.

He was referring to the East Bank Location in East London which he describes as "one of the dirtiest locations in the Union."

"Sanitary conditions are inadequate and most deplorable. The residents of the location use communal bathrooms and lavatories. There are about 30 lavatories and 26 bathrooms for men and 26 for women. If these could be increased to about 100 in each case the position would improve tremendously although it would not solve the situation in view of the large population of the location, most or almost all of whom are permanent residents employed in the Municipal area."

While appreciating the introduction by the City Council of a scheme of headmen into the location as a result of representations by the people through the Advisory Board, Mr. Bobotyana appealed to the Minister "to give the headmen a chance to supervise the people almost completely and call in the Police only when their services were absolutely necessary". Such a redistribution of powers would, he felt sure, ease the situation and help to restore good relations, as the police are generally unpopular with the people.

As a partial solution to the housing question, Mr. Bobotyana suggests the people should be allowed to rent from the City Council all the vacant sites in the East Bank Location.

"The amenities provided for the residents of the location are inadequate and one wonders whether the 15s. charged per hut site is reasonable and warranted under the circumstances. Apart from the lack of

proper drainage, the streets of the location are more like dongas than streets and to repair them does not seem to enter the mind of the City Council."

In concluding, Mr. Bobotyana writes that "since the Government is gradually taking over the powers of the City Councils, could the Government not bring pressure to bear upon the authorities, as it does in other matters, to remedy the situation?"

Michael Scott in Nyasaland

BLANTYRE.

A decision that all Africans in Nyasaland, including state officials, should cease work if Central African federation were imposed was passed at a mass meeting here last week.

The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Michael Scott, who flew from London to take part in the anti-federation campaign.

Other decisions were that in the event of federation Africans would not continue to work on the farms and would not pay their taxes. Africans would not go to work in Southern Rhodesia, and all Africans already working in the Rhodesias would be recalled.

Africans would take no part in provincial legislative bodies, and would boycott European markets and shops. An appeal would be made to the United Nations.

It was stated at the meeting that the African Congress hopes to arrange for a conference of representatives from Central and Southern Africa to discuss the threat of white domination.

RACING

CLAIRWOOD

Following are Owen Tudor's selections for the Clarewood meeting:

First race: 1, Another One, 2, Saint Diana; 3, Fair Lap.

Second race: 1, Overjoyed; 2, Dolgelly; 3, Idylic.

Third race: 1, Khartoum; 2, Anitra, 3, Stormton.

Fourth race: 1, Blue Mantle, 2, Rompaway, 3, Fair Flyer.

Fifth race: 1, Ace of Clubs, 2, Fire Brick, 3, Balkan Sobrane.

Sixth race: 1, Airphibian, 2, Rebate, 3, Design.

Seventh race: 1, The Rat, 2, Upset 3, Cash Carry.

Eighth race: 1, Airfield, 2, Idealist, 3, Hotstuff, 4, Fire Feast.

Ninth race: 1, Charred, 2, Pucini, 3, Forage Cap.

TURFFONTEIN

Following are Centaur's selections for Turffontein on Saturday:

Maiden Plate, 5 furlongs: 1, Sailor Bird; 2, Gelukfontein, 3, Operatic.

Juvenile Fillies Handicap, 6 furlongs: 1, Esorling, 2, Royal Fusilier, 3, Bengal Tiger.

Dunkeld Handicap Tops, 7 furlongs: 1, Top Level, 2, Shaky Boy, 3, Port Braddon.

Goldfields Handicap 1½ miles: 1, Flower Boy, 2, Oasis, 3, Raupatu.

Dunkeld Handicap Bottoms, 7 furlongs: 1, Harvest Clown, 2, Silver Wedding, 3, Midget.

Dunkeld Handicap Middles, 6 furlongs: 1, Phalanx, 2, Green Song, 3, Check Point.

Jeppestown Handicap Bottoms 1½ miles: 1, Swank, 2, Bluebird, 3, Royal Tutor.

Jeppestown Handicap Middles 9 furlongs: 1, No Regrets, 2, Dandean, 3, Maharajah.

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No. 2 — APRIL, 1953

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CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (formerly S.A. People's Congress)

PUBLIC MEETING

22nd APRIL, at 8 p.m.

TRADES HALL, KERK ST., JOHANNESBURG

— PROMINENT SPEAKERS —

Future Trends in South Africa in the Light of the Election Result.

Africans Will Resist Federation

From Mr. Y. M. Leonard Chirwa, Moroka, Johannesburg:

The Central African federal proposals are not acceptable since they are not genuine and fair. The framers of the scheme forgot one thing—we, the Africans are determined to be free and independent, in the political, social and economic spheres. We feel that no rule, however it may be enforced, can cause us to accept federation. No Cecil Rhodes vision of a United States of Africa, no plans for federation between units, no Pan-African agreements, can be feasible without one single basic formula: our cooperation and confidence.

The only policy which has any future in Africa is one which devises a pattern of rule for a mixed society agreed to after the fullest consultation with, and consent of our respected African leaders.

African leaders in Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland are now prepared to fight and die for their countries—as their struggle against the federal proposals is one of life and death. Even those who have hitherto been dead to the menace of high-handed rule over free people are being aroused by the continuance of an undemocratic and retrogressive form of government in Central Africa. By the way the federal proposal is being handled people of Central Africa are awakening to the danger that, independent of their will, they may be drawn by successive stages into a general turmoil. The warning which the Nyasaland Chiefs gave in their speeches made in England must be taken seriously, as every word they uttered was carefully chosen to reflect the general feeling of the people.

Chiefs Detained in N. Rhodesia

From Nephas Tembo, Langa:

A friend in the Northern Province of Northern Rhodesia has written to tell me how the people there have rejected the Government's oppressive schemes concerning fishing, forestry and land restrictions.

Several chiefs, he says, have been detained by the police and it is likely that they will be deposed. Congress is seeking legal aid to help the detained chiefs, among whom is Chief Kosoma Bangwelo.

"Congress Branch Chairman and secretaries are persistently being molested by the police and a police reinforcement, heavily armed, is patrolling the area."

OPTICIANS

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ESCAPED FROM BETHAL SLAVERY

(Continued from page 1)

their heads and arms were given to them to wear. "Where did you think you were now?" we asked M—— "I realised I was in a prison," he said. But he didn't know where and in 1948, he said, he had never heard of Bethal.

The men were shown into a large room and told to sleep. They were given neither food nor blankets. They squatted down on the cement floor with only their sacks to cover them. M—— says he could not sleep. It was too cold. He spent the night huddled on his knees on the floor.

The next morning the men were summoned by two indunas. A European on horseback was present. M—— subsequently learnt his name and the name of the farm they were on. But that morning he still did not know where he had been taken.

"WORK FASTER"

The men were taken to a field some distance from the compound and ordered to reap a field of beans. "It was still dark. We felt our way with our hands.

"After sunrise we were told to work faster. The indunas started hitting out at us with sticks. There were three on horseback.

"As we bent to pick the beans the indunas rode behind us, striking at those who dropped behind in the line, or those who tried to straighten their backs . . . When a man felt weak the others were told to go on working and he was beaten . . . I was ill and fell to the ground. I was hit as I lay there. An induna said it didn't matter if I died. I would be used as 'manyolo' (fertiliser) . . .

"We worked on till later in the morning. Then for the first time food was brought. There were potatoes and yellow mealie-meal."

The food was put on sacks spread on the ground, and the men ate with their hands.

Then they were ordered to work again. They were given more food in the afternoon and finally left the fields after sunset.

THEIR STORY

Back in the compound M—— and his companions were for the first time able to talk to one another and to the other men they found in the compound rooms. Then they learnt they were on a Bethal farm.

Among the men in the compound were Nyasas and Rhodesians as well as men from different parts of the Union.

M—— asked the indunas for permission to write home. He was told he could not do this.

So the work in the fields continued. The men were set to work digging potatoes, reaping crops, ploughing, doing every kind of farm work. M—— says it was not the work he minded, but the harsh treatment.

He was still ill. Never once during his 5 year period in Bethal did he see a doctor.

TWO DIED

Others in the compound were much sicker than he.

During his stay he saw two men die in the compound.

In one case he was one of a burial party of four ordered to slip the head and legs of the corpse into two sacks which were sewn together in the middle. The burial party was then ordered to carry the corpse in the sacks to the lands where a deep furrow was dug and the body buried.

One of the two who died had come from Johannesburg; the other M—— did not know.

M—— offers to indicate the spot.

Just before the period of nine months on the farm expired M—— was working in the fields inspanning a team of young oxen for the first time.

He describes the accident which occurred when one of the young oxen reared as the team turned and choked itself in its halter. The farm owner said M—— was to blame for the death of the ox and would have to work on the farm a further period of 12 months.

At the end of that year M—— still did not find himself free to leave the farm. All day they laboured on the lands under the guard of indunas. Every night they were locked into their compound rooms.

ESCAPE ATTEMPTS

There were escape attempts but most of the runaways were recaptured, many by the time they reached Oogies.

They were beaten when they were brought back to the compound as an example to all the men who might have been contemplating escape.

One day M—— did seize his chance. He had been told to fetch some sacks for potatoes and that day he ran from the farm, still dressed in his sacks.

In spurts of rapid walking mostly by night he passed through Middelberg where an old man gave him a coat and pair of ragged trousers, then to Witbank, Oogies and finally back to Johannesburg.

His mother barely recognised him when he came to her door. She had given him up for dead. She told "ADVANCE" she had searched for him at the Johannesburg Fort for three weeks from the

day he disappeared. She could hardly believe her eyes when she saw him again.

Does M——'s story sound like the workings of a lurid imagination? Some details of how he was sent out of town are not easy to get from him, but almost every feature of his story is borne out by previous investigations into Bethal conditions.

New Terror Trial in Spain

LONDON.

News of still another political trial in Spain, aimed at terrorising the growing opposition to the Franco regime, has been brought to Britain by Mr. Gordon Bridger who recently went to Barcelona to attend two mass trials by a military tribunal.

Accused in the new trial are nine men who have been in prison for nearly two years. They are charged with meeting in a farmhouse on May Day 1951 to discuss a strike. For this "crime" they face sentences of from four to 12 years imprisonment.

Mr. Bridger said: "Justice in Spain does not exist. During the course of one week two military trials involving respectively 38 and 25 Communists, Socialists and Anarcho-Syndicalists were completed in eight hours each."

Tissong's Quick Victory

BLACKPOOL.

For the second time in just over two weeks, Alby Tissong disposed of his opponent inside the distance.

At Towers Circus he knocked out Jackie Turpin in the second round.

DO SUCH THINGS HAPPEN AT BETHAL?

For over 30 years Bethal has been notorious for the slave-like treatment of its indentured farm labourers, and more recently for the establishment of the system of farm prisons, the pet project of the Minister of Justice.

In April 1929 there was the conviction of a farmer called Nafte who had tied a labourer by his feet from a tree and had him flogged to death, pouring scalding water into his mouth when he cried for water.

In 1944 there were two cases in the courts of brutal assaults which led to the deaths of farm labourers.

In 1947 there was the case of a farmer assaulting two labourers, setting his dog on them and chaining them together for the night. A week later a farm foreman was found guilty of striking a labourer with a sjambok and setting his dog on to him.

A month later further assault cases were brought to the courts.

From the bench Mr. Justice Maritz in 1944 condemned the compound labour system as cruel and unjust.

In 1944 the Diocesan Synod of the Anglican Church issued a memorandum exposing the evil effects of the compound system.

There have been cases of prosecutions against farmers, their farm managers and boss-boys as recently as two years ago.

The closed compound system, the boss-boys armed with whips, the use of sjamboks, the labourers clad in sacks (not on all farms but on many) the attempted escapes, and the lack of medical treatment, the slave-driving in the fields, and the iniquitous use of indentured labourers who make a token mark on a contract under duress of being turned back over the Union's borders (in the case of 'foreign natives') or endorsed out permanently from the urban areas—all these are as well-known features of Bethal farming as the rich yields of crops on the fertile farming lands there.

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