

THE A.N.C. HAS BROUGHT NEW HOPE

IN THE VALLEY WHERE DEATH STALKS

By GOVAN MBEKI

THE Sundays River Valley which stretches from Addo is a land of orange orchards. The slow-running Sundays River is, to its area's farming activities, what the Nile is to the Sudanese and the Egyptians. Running along the orchards is an irrigation furrow. At the time of my visit the furrows looked like turbulent rivulets after a storm. The dirty water was careering madly down to the lands that supply South Africa and overseas with some of the world's best citrus fruit. On the orchards thousands of African workers were picking oranges from neatly planted rows of orange trees. Here and there along the rows are piled up the cases in which the succulent fruit is conveyed to the packing houses that supply local and foreign markets.

Kirkwood, the nerve centre of the Valley where stalks death from typhoid, sprawls at the foot of a high mountain range, whose summit forms the horizon beyond which the people do not see and are not seen by the rest of the world. Along its main street, the only signs of urgency and hurry are the lorries and tractors that draw trailers laden with cases of oranges. Otherwise there is an atmosphere of quiet as farmers step out of their big American cars. These aristocrats stand in groups on the pavement as though time were limitless; they lounge contentedly in restaurants. On the stoeps of the shops in which the salesmen speak no other language but Afrikaans squat Coloureds in whose hearts the sustaining fire of hope seems to have been quenched by years of hardship.

How many people, and how often, have ever even for a moment given thought to the conditions under which those who work on these farms live?

Typhoid Outbreak

An outbreak of typhoid among Africans in the Sundays River Valley! screamed the daily press! The entire African population in the area was immediately immunised, after scores of cases had been diagnosed. An accusatory finger was pointed at the irrigation furrows as the source of the infection. People were instructed to boil the water before drinking it, but where is the fuel to boil the water for the whole family?

The main sources of water supply are the Sundays River and the irrigation furrows, which have water for two weeks in about two months. So far are these from the homes of the workers, that they buy it from the water sellers at the rate of 3/- per 44-gallon drum of dirty river water. If the farmer has enough in his cistern, water may be had at the rate of 1d. per four-gallon paraffin tin. Firewood is sold at 2/- per bag. And they advise the people to boil the water for the whole family! The workers at the orange orchards are paid at the rate of 3/6 per day.

Around the town of Kirkwood are a few small Municipal Locations whose inhabitants also work in the orange orchards. Each family has to build its own house at its own expense. The rental for the site is 2/6 per month and 1/- lodger's fee per month for every son or daughter who has attained the age of 18 years. On departure or death of the original occupant, the local authority sells the house to the next occupant, be he the son of the original occupant. Those who keep any livestock have to

"TYPHOID OUTBREAK HITS EASTERN CAPE—FEVER HOSPITALS FULL" REPORTED THE DAILY PRESS RECENTLY. "ORANGE PICKERS IN SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY CHIEF VICTIMS. SUNDAYS RIVER SAID TO BE CONTAMINATED."

LAST WEEK NEW AGE'S PORT ELIZABETH REPRESENTATIVE WENT TO THE SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY TO INVESTIGATE THE POSITION. HERE IS THE STORY.

pay rates of 3d., 1/-, 2/- per head per month for goats, cattle and horses respectively.

Women Win Battle of Goats

For some time the Council has been discouraging the possession of livestock, but as the people would not yield, police were sent along to seize all the livestock. On their arrival they were met by angry African women, who stood solidly to defend what represented the meagre savings of their husbands' hard earnings. The women won the battle of goats and, since then, the Council has constructed a dam near the Rooidraai Location to water the stock.

Ejection and Dispossession

A number of families who have been squatters on these farms have

been served with ejection orders. These people say that the reason for this is that the farmers want to dispossess them of their stock. They have neglected the order because they have nowhere to go. If they sell their stock to the farmer, he buys it for a song but allows them to live on the farm as labourers on his terms. If they refuse, their home, together with their stock, is the road; the road that leads to nowhere, because they know no other home; because the pass laws of the country prevent their entry into the towns.

Those who still squat on these farms are granted the privilege on condition that one son is put at the disposal of the farmer at no pay whatsoever, and in addition pay a rental of £7 to £12 per six months.

That is the version of 20th century serfdom in South Africa. Pointing at a man past his forties,

one man feelingly said, "Here is one of the slaves who has worked for 33 years without pay."

Silver Lining

In this valley of despair, there are six A.N.C. branches which form a silver lining to a background of dark clouds. Here were people who had lost hope but when the message of the struggle for "Freedom in our Lifetime" reached them, they seized upon it with a faith that borders on religion. The fight for freedom has revitalised an otherwise broken society. It has filled them with such zeal that women have set aside every Wednesday as a day of prayer for Freedom. In their evening prayers they never omit to pray for their leaders

and National Liberation.

The Council has ejected some of the A.N.C. adherents from the Location, but the Council's action in rendering these families homeless has urged them to more intensive organisation.

Where there is hope there is a way.

BENONI TEXTILE WORKER, Mr. Abraham Moluko who was arrested during a workers' protest at the Amaton Textile Mills in Benoni some months ago was acquitted when he appeared in court last week charged with incitement under the Riotous Assemblies Act.

ASSEMBLY FOR PEACE will be held in Johannesburg on Sunday, 14th August at 2 p.m. The call to the Assembly says: "The tremendous force of public opinion throughout the world has brought world peace within reach." Plans for war can and must be defeated, and atomic power put to peaceful and not warlike use. "Co-operate to Live."

The Assembly will be held at the Trades Hall, 30 Kerk Street, Johannesburg.

"I SHALL NEVER SUBMIT"

MRS. SILINGA FIGHTS DEPORTATION THREAT

CAPE TOWN.

HARDLY had Mrs. Annie Silinga, African National Congress women's leader from Langa, been convicted under Section 10 of the Urban Areas Act of residing in Cape Town illegally, when the Native Commissioner ordered her deportation from the area, and she was taken into custody.



Mrs. Silinga and baby Laetitia, Eslina (back) and Amos (left) give the "Afrika" salute.

Mrs. Silinga has her home, a husband and three young children in Langa, but the authorities wanted to pack her off immediately to her former home at Ngamakwe in the Butterworth district. An appeal against both the conviction and the deportation order was lodged immediately, however, and Mrs. Silinga is now out on £15 bail.

During the closing stages of her trial last week, Mr. W. F. Dennett (of S. Kahn & Co.), who appeared

for Mrs. Silinga, submitted that she had shown on the balance of probabilities that she had been in Cape Town since 1937 and that the Court should hold that the crown had not disproved this defence.

Giving judgment, the Native Commissioner said that he found on the merits that the Crown had established that the accused had only arrived in the Cape area in 1943.

Mrs. Silinga was found guilty of residing in the Cape without a per-

mit and fined £3 (or 15 days) and the very same afternoon a deportation order was issued against her.

FOREMOST LEADER

Mrs. Silinga is one of the foremost women fighters for freedom in Langa and a much-loved and respected leader of the people. A Defiance Volunteer in 1952, Mrs. Silinga was also a leader in the people's successful campaigns against the establishment of a beer hall at Langa and against the rent increases. She is also a leading figure in the Women's Anti-Pass campaign, in the Congress of the People, against Bantu Education and on all local issues.

The deportation threat is not only a blow against Mrs. Silinga's public activities, but strikes at a very happy home. The Silingas have great plans for their eldest daughter, 13-year-old Eslina, who is now in Standard VI, and who wants one day to become a doctor. Then there is 7-year-old Amos Silinga, just started school, and baby Laetitia, not yet four years old.

If Mrs. Silinga is sent away the children will have to grow up without a father, because Mathew Silinga has to stay behind to earn a living. And what will Mrs. Silinga do in Ngamakwe? Where will she stay?

"I have no home there, no land to till. I no longer have people there," she told a 'New Age' reporter. "The Government wants to divorce me from my husband and my family and to destroy what we have built up over the years. BUT OF ONE THING YOU CAN BE SURE—WHEREVER I HAVE TO GO, WITHIN TWO MONTHS YOU'LL FIND A CONGRESS BRANCH THERE!"

No, Mrs. Silinga is not downhearted.

WON'T WEAKEN

"The Government is doing to me what it did to Lengisi, Gwentshe and other people's leaders. It wants to frighten Africans against joining any organisation which is against its

notorious and vicious laws," she said in a special message to 'New Age.'

"But whatever the Government will do, it will not weaken me, and I urge all Africans not to be frightened by the Government's threats against their leaders.

"All this has shown that the people are on the right road and the Government is unjust. The people have chosen me to be their leader, and I shall never submit. I shall die fighting for my people, until we obtain our freedom.

"I wish to appeal to all men and women to join their liberatory organisations and especially to flock in their thousands to the African National Congress, which is the spearhead of our freedom movement. The Government's actions are only increasing and strengthening the people's will to resist."

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Sports Review

By JACKIE DORASAMY

Negro Sprinter Writes of Iron Man—And Woman

EMIL Zatopek's immortal qualities as an athlete make him the subject of warm and enthusiastic praise in a recent issue of 'Reynolds News.' Referring to him as the "Czech Iron Man," the great Negro sprinter, Macdonald Bailey, discusses another outstanding world athlete, Gordon Pirie, and the awe in which he held Zatopek.

He writes about Zatopek being Pirie's "target of so many long and arduous hours of training" and adds: "Defeat of Zatopek had for long been Pirie's Everest. The blond Czech had no more ardent admirer than Pirie. But he had no more determined challenger. Twice he finished behind the Czech in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. Pirie had no false ideas about victory then. He knew he had not matured enough to think of defeating Zatopek."

"So he went to work to be ready for the day when he hoped to tackle him on more equal terms."

Incredible Record

"On his own projector at home he ran off films of Zatopek in action, saw his training methods, studied his technique, and even in that great year of '53 when his tally was an incredible one of 36 records in 31 races—two world, six British Empire, two European, six British all-comers, six British national and 14 English native records—his summing up was still a cautious 'I have a long way to go before I can expect to beat him.'"

Zatopek has another record to his credit. He and his wife, Dana Zatopekova, became the first husband and wife to become Olympic champions together. This happened at Helsinki in 1952. Emil clocked in for the three greatest Olympic trebles; the 5,000 and 10,000 metres and the marathon. Dana won the javelin throw.

She Preferred Handball

Dana also won a European javelin title. But Dana Zatopekova did not always like javelin throwing.

She took to it rather reluctantly, her first love being handball. In this game she captained the side which won the national title twice. Her first venture as a javelin thrower came at the end of a P.T. instructors' course. There was only one entry for the javelin. Dana was persuaded to make it two, and emerged the winner, beating the national record holder, Sona Burianova.

By becoming a javelin thrower Dana Zatopekova not only found her real niche in sport but also met the man she was later to marry. And it is interesting to relate that these two who won Olympic gold medals together, the first husband and wife to do so, were also born on the same day in the same month and year.

Having shocked the experts by beating the record-holder in her first competition, Dana proceeded to win the Czechoslovak title four weeks later! That was in 1946. Two years later she finished seventh in the Olympic javelin at Wembley after scraping into the team by the skin of her teeth, the Czechoslovak qualifying standard for the trip to England being 40 metres (131ft 2½ in.), Dana throwing 40.05 metres (131ft 4½ in.).

Engaged in London

In London, the Games over, Emil and Dana became engaged. They were married in the following year. Then, inspired by the singleness of mind of her husband, Dana began to apply herself in training the Zatopek way, her long-term aim being the 1952 Olympics. Throughout the intervening years her form steadily improved.

Then came Olympic year, 1952, and, on a skiing holiday along with Emil, she broke her left collar bone, with the Olympic Games only four months away. Many an athlete would have thrown in the sponge. But with her left shoulder immobilised in plaster, Dana continued to train on with grim determination. Came August and the Olympics. Emil won the 5,000 metres, the most exciting race of

the games, while Dana sat in the dressing room. Five minutes after her husband's win, Dana, with her very first throw, tossed the javelin the winning distance—and made an Olympic record to boot.

Misfortune Dogs Her

Last year Dana Zatopekova added the European title to her Olympic championship. But in between the two, misfortune continued to dog her career. Sky-larking while bathing in a woodland pool, tossed into the water by her husband and a friend, she emerged with a broken ankle. Emil carried her pick-a-back home to their bungalow.

Even this added misfortune did not kill her enthusiasm. She continued to throw, even with the plaster on her leg. But the sum total is a left shoulder that functions none too freely and a groggy ankle that deprives her of so much original speed.

Day in and day out Dana trains two to two and a half hours each day. Her routine includes 50 throws at varying speeds and for rising distances, sprinting, jumping, basketball and an abundance of free gymnastics. In winter she exercises with barbells up to 44 lbs. in weight, throwing the heavy medicine ball, does rope-climbing without the use of the legs, chops wood for hours on end. Of 1956 Olympic prospects she says, modestly: "I'm hopeful."

Tournament

Now that the Natal Inter-high School soccer tournament among the Indians has successfully got under way, it is hoped that the African and Coloured Communities will show similar zeal and organise tournaments of this kind. Too little attention has been given to the development of Non-European football nurseries, and this myopic attitude produced unhealthy results. An awakening will ensure a sound future for Non-European football.

ORLANDO WOMEN are urged to come together to discuss the effect of influx control regulations in a call issued by Mr. S. Baduza last week, in the name of the Orlando Residents Protection Association.

Mr. Baduza, chairman of the association, has convened a special meeting for Sunday, August 14 at 9.30 a.m. where women will discuss this question. Families are experiencing great hardship as a result of the regulations and school-leaving boys and youths are among the hardest hit.

DURBAN RACING

First Race: 1, White Sugar; 2, Liebestraum; 3, Naiad.

Second Race: 1, Bluedotte; 2, Patois; 3, Tiaz.

Third Race: 1, True Love; 2, Neuron; 3, So Good.

Fourth Race: 1, Banana; 2, St. Grey; 3, Nemsis.

Fifth Race: 1, Hurry Up; 2, Tropical Night; 3, Overall.

Sixth Race: 1, Fine Figure; 2, Magnet; 3, Wayfarer.

Seventh Race: 1, Royal Society; 2, Divine; 3, Platter.

Eighth Race: 1, Pat; 2, La Parisienne; 3, Demagogue.

Ninth Race: 1, Forecast; 2, Dark Warrior; 3, Anns Cat.

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Strauss' New Strategy

'New Age' has pleasure in presenting the first of a series of articles

on the scenes behind Parliament by COLIN JAMESON

Mr. Jameson's views do not necessarily express 'New Age' editorial policy.

THE report that the Nationalist leaders are worried about the "undignified scramble" for Senate seats is so much poppycock. That is precisely what they want it to be—undignified.

The more it resembles a diamond digger's rush, the better; the more it disgusts the country, the better.

The Senate Act is not intended only to provide the two-thirds majority necessary to take the Coloured people off the voters' roll. It is intended as an affront to Parliament, as a way of making people feel that perhaps Parliament is not the best method of governing a country after all.

It does not mean that the Nationalists are going to abolish Parliament and set up an open dictatorship. It is a convenient facade and they will keep it on. But they are altering its structure so fundamentally, that what was once an edifice of democracy "for Whites only," is now firmly in the hands of a section of those Whites.

ONE-PARTY RULE

By measures such as the Senate Act, the Nationalists are steadily changing the constitution. Already, citizens are getting accustomed to the idea of one-party rule, as opposed to two-party government. The republic is virtually here in all but name!

What will that deformed creature, the 89-member Senate, do once it has voted for the repeal of the entrenched clauses? Play canasta? Their salaries alone will amount to £124,000 a year. All the faithful party hacks will have got their jobs, and South Africa's stomach will turn every time it looks at the "Upper House."

And that is just what the Nationalists want. They want our stomachs to turn. They want us to turn our backs in loathing on Parliament, and not care what is done to it next.

The concentration of power in fewer and fewer hands is advancing rapidly in South Africa. The switch from Malan to Strydom has seen this process taken even a stage further. Now we have the "Big Four"—Strydom, Swart, Louw and Verwoerd. And their word is law.

The United Party, meanwhile, hobbles along behind Strydom like a lame old bywoner. Mr. Strauss' statements on the Coloured vote were the signal that there is going to be no more opposition to the Nationalists on apartheid.

Those statements are important historically. They represent the United Party's formal capitulation to apartheid.

THE NEW STRATEGY

The U.P. leaders have embarked on a new strategy. Happily under the delusion that Strydom's fascism is making Nationalist supporters turn against the government, they are out now to lure these Nationalists into their own ranks. The implications of this strategy are profound. It means that there are not going to be any further attacks on the things these Nationalists hold dear, namely, apartheid, etc.

It is no accident, therefore, that the U.P. leaders have turned on Dr. Bernard Friedman with such fury and determination. Here is an opportunity to prove to the Nationalists that there is no room

in the United Party for persons like Friedman, with their "liberal" views. The flabby, listless U.P. has sprung to life—to burn its witch.

There are other signs. The Saamwerk branch of the U.P. in Standerton wants disfranchisement for Whites convicted under the Immorality Act; it also asks openly for the Nationalists to hurry up and "implement their promises in regard to apartheid."

ARCH-REACTIONARY

Reports in the Press suggest that the United Party has been having difficulty in getting a suitable candidate to oppose Dr. Friedman. But there is more in this than meets the eye. Several candidates who announced that they had declined to stand against Dr. Friedman were, in fact, edged out of the picture. The position was being kept open for that arch-reactionary, Dr. Louis Steenkamp.

Probably, Mr. Hymie Miller was sought by the U.P. leaders, but what about Mr. Nathan Eppel, the M.P.C. for Hillbrow? Did he stand back of his own accord, or was he told to stand back?

The United Party is determined to win Hillbrow, and Dr. Friedman may as well recognise that if he wins the seat it will be by the skin of his teeth. In fact, his chances are not at all rosy. The U.P. machine, such as it is, is going to be moved into Hillbrow at full pressure. And at the head Dr. Steenkamp will stand preaching unity, unity, unity.

But Mr. Strauss has other worries. The Covenanters, for instance. He is keeping a wary eye on them, because he obviously suspects them of having designs on the United Party. The women's movement, too, is attracting more attention than Mr. Strauss thinks is desirable.

These things get out of hand, of course. There is no doubt that the Torch Commando, allied to the Federal Party, is the moving spirit behind the Covenanters. And, significantly, the Women's Defence of the Constitution League has exchanged friendly notes with the Covenanters.

The Covenanters and the Women's Defence of the Constitution League are both dissatisfied with the U.P. It appears that they intend joining forces as the day for the new "national convention" draws nearer. Apparently, they hope to sweep through the country, firing Opposition supporters with new enthusiasm. Watch out, Mr. Strauss.

Finally, there is the after-effect of the Congress of the People on "White" politics. The Congress has set a pattern that some politicians seem to think is worth encouraging: collaboration on certain agreed aims. Within this sphere, the various individuals and organisations will agree to disagree; but there is plenty left on which to co-operate.

The C.O.P.—I hope I am not being too optimistic—has made some politicians and others realise the necessity of breaking down the apartheid barrier between the Congresses and the "White politicians' world." The C.O.P. has made this tremendously important contribution: it has impressed on some Whites (even if there are only a handful of them) that in the fight against the Nationalists there can be no apartheid.

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