

# WORKERS' CONFERENCES ON FEBRUARY 28

FEB 19 1960



Q.W.  
J.N.

## NEW AGE

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**JOHANNESBURG.** WORKERS' conferences to be held in all provinces on Sunday, February 28, are part of the Congress movement's second phase of the Anti-Pass campaign, which will

culminate on Freedom Day, June 26, this year.

On Sunday, February 28, workers' conferences will be held in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. The Congress movement has issued a call for every worker to go to these

higher wages and unemployment pay and AGAINST job reservation and the colour bar in jobs.

The JOHANNESBURG conference will be held at the Trades Hall, 30, Kerk Street. It will last all day.

Reports reaching SACTU (The S.A. Congress of Trade Unions) tell

## Victory At Hammersdale

Factory Reopens, Workers Get Wage Increase

**DURBAN.**

THE African workers who were out on strike at the Hammersdale factory in the reserve scored a resounding victory when they won their demands for recognition of their trade union and a guarantee of increased wages as from April 1.

Last week New Age reported that this factory was closed down as a result of the strike, but subsequently, after protracted negotiations, the employers re-opened the factory on terms acceptable to the African Clothing Workers' Union.

Negotiations almost broke down when the employer refused to take back the chairman of the union, Mr. Johannes Hlongwane.

After several meetings with the workers the union officials agreed to accept this condition provided the employer paid full wages to Mr. Hlongwane up to the end of March.

Immediately after the agreement had been concluded, the workers at a general meeting held in the factory's cloakroom unanimously appointed Mr. Hlongwane full-time organiser of the union.

### OFFICIALS

Negotiations for the workers were conducted by, amongst others, Mrs.

Viola Hashe, general secretary of the S.A. Clothing Workers' Union, and a representative of the Garment Workers' Union of African Women.

The factory has now agreed that the starting wage should be £1 14s. a week rising to £4 7s. 6d. Most of the workers will earn about £2 a week and will have an increase of 10s. a week.

The agreement reached at Hammersdale is a slap in the face for Mr. J. C. Bolton, secretary of the Natal Garment Workers' Union. The employer had originally insisted that there must be a new election by a ballot to be conducted by Mr. Bolton and that he would only discuss the grievances of the workers with Mr. Bolton and his Industrial Council. He was forced, however, to negotiate a settlement with the elected members of the Clothing Workers' Union and its Secretary, Mr. Billy Nair.

### IN COURT

In the meantime over 200 workers will appear in the Camperdown Magistrate's Court next Monday on an allegation of participating in a strike. Twenty-two members of the Clothing Workers' Committee, including Mr. Nair, will also appear on the same day on a charge of incitement.

Now that the strike has been settled representations are being made for the withdrawal of these charges.

## BOYCOTT RALLY IN LONDON

LABOUR leader Hugh Gaitskell, Lord Altrincham, Liberal M.P. Jeremy Thorpe and Mr. Tennyson Makiwane, of the African National Congress, will be among the speakers at a London rally on Sunday, February 28, to back the boycott of South African goods.

The Boycott Movement has called on everyone backing the protest to assemble at 1.45 p.m. at the Marble Arch for a march to Trafalgar Square with posters against apartheid.

The rally, chaired by Father Huddleston, will begin at 3 p.m. The recorded voice of Chief Lutuli, President-General of the African National Congress, will be heard during the rally.

of Congress organisers in Natal, the Eastern Cape and the Transvaal touring factories and holding workers' meetings to elect delegates for all-in workers' conferences.

### CONGRESS TEAM WORK

A special feature of the campaign for the convening of workers' conferences is the high level of team work between SACTU and the ANC. SACTU and ANC personnel

(Continued on page 8)



Tired but determined, a group of demonstrators squat outside the Bantu Administration Department offices waiting for Durban's Bantu Affairs manager, Mr. Bourquin, to hear their protests against the forced removals at Cato Manor. (See page 3.)

# COLOURED PEOPLE UNITE TO FIGHT THE FESTIVAL

**CAPE TOWN.**

PREPARATIONS for a boycott of the Union Festival and the staging of counter demonstrations are under way in the Cape Peninsula, and a conference to discuss detailed plans will be held in the Library, City Hall, at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 1960.

The conference has been called by a representative committee of well-known people in the Peninsula, and a special appeal has been directed to the Coloured community to withhold their support from any-

thing connected with the Festival.

The committee includes Mr. J. A. La Guma, president of the Coloured People's Congress, Councillor Mrs. Z. Gool, Messrs. J. C. A. Daniels, B. Desai, Gierdien, G. Deane and several others.

### DESTRUCTION OF RIGHTS

Appealing to the people of the Peninsula, the committee says: "To the Non-White peoples of South Africa, Union has meant nothing but the destruction of their rights. The blot of racial discrimination and oppression lies over South Africa, and the exploitation and humiliation which accompanies it darkens every aspect of our lives.

"As far as the Coloured people are concerned, we are no better off than our other Non-White brothers. Under the Act of Union and subsequent laws passed by successive governments our rights and dignity have been callously destroyed.

"Many crimes against our people can be mentioned, but in short our life is one of insult, humiliation,

(Continued on page 8)

## Suffer Little Children...

When Congress leader Ben Baartman left Worcester recently to return to exile, his children were passed over the heads of the crowd to say goodbye to him at the station.

(See story on page 3.)



NEW AGE  
**LETTER BOX**

**O.F.S. Women Demonstrate On Macmillan's Arrival**

When Mr. Macmillan, the British Prime Minister, arrived in Bloemfontein on Monday 1st February, the women were unable to meet him at the J. B. M. Hertzog Airport as they were unable to get transport. However, they placed themselves in position in town on the route where Mr. Macmillan was going to pass.

The first batch of women was in St. George's Street, the second batch in Maitland Street, and the others in President Brand and Ali-

wal Streets. They carried placards reading: "Life is hell under the Nats," "We have never had it so bad," "Meet our leaders and hear our side too," "Free our banished leaders" and "We want freedom not serfdom."

Two women, Mrs. Marta Seepile and Mrs. Elizabeth Modise, had interference from the police and traffic cops who tried by all means to stop them from showing their placards. The others met with no interference, and their placards were seen by Mr. Macmillan, who waved to them.

The women waited until 11.30 a.m. for Mr. Macmillan, but unfortunately he had been taken by another route back to the airport on his way to Basutoland.

MRS. M. NYEZI  
Chairman,  
Women's League.

**PEKING RADIO**

Democrats in South Africa will be pleased to learn that Peking Radio is now beaming special broadcasts in English to South and East Africa on the 19 and 25 metre bands every Sunday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. South African time.

The programme consists of world and local news, followed by Chinese liberation songs and ballet; editorial from the Peking's People's Daily, as well as a talk on some topical event.

There is also a programme called the "Listeners' Letterbox," where listeners are requested to ask any questions concerning the People's Republic of China and its programme of socialist reconstruction, including sports, education, workers, communes—in fact EVERY topic and aspect of life in China.

All questions by listeners should be addressed to:

Listeners' Letterbox,  
Radio Peking,  
Peking,  
People's Republic of China.  
MALEK RASOOL  
Kinross.

**Hardship in S.W.A.**

I'm from Tanganyika, and the authorities want to send me to Angola where I'm a total stranger. I want the Secretary of the ANC in Tanganyika to see this and do his utmost to get me a passport so that I can return home because I am suffering a lot in this place.

The Non-Whites are so depressed, and even their business licences are taken away so that they cannot do business in order to live. Life is not worth living in South West Africa. If you refuse to move to the new township Katutura, you won't get a business licence. In other words the Government is forcing us to move. Politically all Non-Whites seem to be in the same boat, for even though you work for an employer for several years he kicks you out of the job if you refuse to move. Lots of Africans are out of jobs already.

In all the four corners of the world there are people who suffer but the way we suffer is more than necessary.

Sometimes I think that the intentions of the whites in SWA is only to oppress and kill us. I believe they think something of a dead dog but nothing of a dead African. That is the reason I want the Tanganyika Government to please do its best to let me have my passport as soon as possible so I can return home where I can rest my mind, body and soul in peace.

We are still waiting for our appeal against deportation to Angola to be heard this month.

JOHN B. SHIBAMA  
Windhoek, S.W.A.

**Treason Trialists Mourn Coalbrook Dead**

There was a sudden dead silence, except for the sound of the bus carrying the Treason Trialists from Pretoria on Monday 1st February 1960, as everyone of us glanced at the front-page headlines of the Star—ALL 435 AT COALBROOK ARE DEAD. Dead silence! All of us were reading the sad news.

Those who had no tickets to give to Wilton Mkwai, who volunteered since the beginning of the trial to jump off the bus in town and get the morning and afternoon papers for the accused, could not help but steal the sad news over the shoulders of those who had papers.

The noise made by the old 4th Class "Natives" bus sounded like falling rocks and running water 522 feet underground. There was no human sound. After about 15 minutes one of the accused sadly pronounced, "They are all dead." And another replied sorrowfully, "We mourn."

A battle of eleven tiring days and nights spent in attempts to bring the 435 back from the grave had ended in failure.

522 feet down below the surface the men were buried.

Until the eleventh day the eyes of the whole world were focussed on Coalbrook with hopes for a successful rescue operation. But no one knows how long it took the entombed men to die. No one knows what efforts the men made to fight death. Some may have been casualties for days before they died. Some may have starved or suffocated to death, and others may have died instantly under the rockfall. Nobody knows what form the battle against death took.

We pay our last tribute to these men, black and white, to whom we are so greatly indebted for the fuel they were digging under ground for use by the public. We pray and hope that the colour-bar will be suspended so that there will be no inequality in compensation for the dependants of these miners who suffered equally in the disaster.

Together with the family and relatives of these men, we mourn.

TAMSANQA T. TSHUME  
Pretoria.

**Congressmen,  
Wake Up!**

IF we exclude the donation from our London friends (sincere thanks for this fine effort!), our donations this week are very poor. In fact, at this rate, our future looks most uncertain.

A few weeks ago we suggested a solution to part of our financial problem—an increase in our circulation. Only the Congress movement can help us with this, for New Age is a political paper and it needs politically conscious sellers.

It seemed so little to ask of active Congressites that each should sell twelve copies of the paper weekly. But the response has been remarkably poor. There has been no increase in the order from our branch offices. At Cape Town, where a special letter was sent to all active Congressites, only two people replied!

We can't believe that New Age is held in such low regard by the Congress movement. Indeed we know that the opposite is true. But it is by deeds, not words, that the paper will be enabled to survive.

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ITS SURVIVAL!

SELL NEW AGE REGULARLY. COLLECT MONEY REGULARLY!

MAKE NEW AGE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

**Last Week's Donations:**

**Johannesburg:**  
J. £15, Mr. Mopalami 9s., Playboy £3, Ivan, Lesley, Jill and Peter, in memory of the Coalbrook miners £5.5, Casual £5, Orange Grove £1.

**Cape Town:**  
E.A.L. 1.6d., London Committee £50, Mrs. T. £1, H.R. 15s., Egg £1, HRM £1, A. and G. £2, C.R. 10s., Ally sisters £1, Harry £1, Band £1.1, J.Z. £1.1, Dennise £1, A. 10s.

TOTAL: £91 12s. 6d.

**Days of Resolutions Are Gone**

For the past eleven years we have seen the disastrous course pursued by the Nationalist Government. Its apartheid policy and racial discrimination have culminated in strained relationship and racial animosity amongst the inhabitants of this beloved country of ours.

If the Nationalists are allowed to pursue their fascist schemes they are going to bring untold miseries to both the Whites and Non-Whites of this country. The days of passing resolutions, submitting and making pleas for relief have passed and gone. What is necessary is a firm determination on the part of every democrat and especially the Youth League to fight vigorously and relentlessly until the Nats and their vicious policy of apartheid are removed from the face of this beloved country of ours. Our weapons are TRUTH, NON-VIOLENCE and DETERMINATION.

The Youth League as the vanguard of the Liberation Movement vehemently condemns the unjustifiable conduct of the so-called Minister of Justice (it should be Injustice) Mr. Erasmus who in a short space of three weeks has banned more than eight leading personalities of the Liberation Movement, the most recent being the Secretary General of the Youth League, Mr. Peter Nthithe.

D. N. NANGU  
A.N.C.Y.L. Eastern Cape  
Port Elizabeth

**FRANCE MUST BE DRIVEN OUT OF AFRICA**

FRANCE'S explosion of an atom bomb in the Sahara has done nothing to increase her prestige among the nations of the world. It has been a harmful, reckless demonstration of chauvinistic arrogance.

It has cost her millions to develop the bomb, and now she is committed to the expenditure of millions more, because it is no use having the bomb unless you also have the means to deliver it. If one adds to the fantastic cost of the atom bomb programme the even more fantastic cost of the Algerian war, one gets some idea of the extent to which the French people are being impoverished by the lunatic policies of imperialism.

But if France harmed only herself by this extravagance, the rest of the world might pity, but would have no legal right to restrain her. **The fact is, however, that the explosion of the bomb is tantamount to an act of aggression and calls for international intervention.**

● France did not explode the bomb in her own territory but in Africa, parts of which she occupies as an imperialist invader. The African peoples as a whole made it clear they were strongly opposed to the proposed explosion, for it was they, and not the French, who would suffer if anything went wrong.

● Even if the explosion went off according to plan and there were no immediate danger from radio-active fall-out, the explosion has added its quota to the amount of radio-active material in our atmosphere and in due course will take its toll. The atomic scientist Linus Pauling has estimated that for each nuclear explosion in the future between 15,000 and 30,000 persons will die.

● The bomb has been exploded in direct defiance of the United Nations which passed a resolution against it at its last session.

Furthermore, of what possible benefit is the explosion to mankind as a whole? It is unlikely that the explosion added more to the world's scientific knowledge than the total number of U.S., Russian and British explosions to date. Nor can it be said that France's wretched bomb adds materially to the strength of the West in the cold war.

At a time when the Big Three are at last within sight of an agreement on the outlawing of atomic tests and atomic weapons as a whole, it is even doubtful if France's bomb will ever be exploded in anger.

The sole purpose of the explosion, then, was to give France the illusion of big power status which the remainder of her resources, both human and material, cannot in any way sustain; and to intimidate the colonial peoples of Africa, fighting in all corners of the continent for their freedom.

**In this, however, France has miscalculated. The world will condemn this senseless outrage against common sense, and the people of Africa will redouble their efforts to push out of the continent a power which has shown such callous contempt for their interests, and demonstrated its unfitness to have the destinies of other peoples in its hands.**



... and I give the Algerian people a free choice so long as they choose a French solution.

Vicky in the New Statesman

**Cato Manor**

# FORCED REMOVALS ROUSE PEOPLE'S ANGER

From M. P. Naicker

DURBAN.

**D**AY after day, at dawn, Council officials and armed police, backed by two Saracens and bulldozers, move into Cato Manor, tear down homes and forcibly load the belongings of the people and transport them to Kwa Mashu over 15 miles away.

The little contact and sympathy, if any, that existed between the people and those in authority is being finally and irrevocably broken by this shortsighted and ruthless action.

The case of Mrs. Dunazile Mkize, a widow with seven children is but one of several which show the callous disregard of officialdom for the rights of the people.

Mrs. Mkize lived in a four-roomed shack built at her own cost on land leased from an In-

dian owner. She maintained her family by renting two rooms of her shack and by taking in washing each week.

**DOOR SMASHED DOWN**

In her own words, this is what happened when they demolished her shack:

"I was asleep when I heard a loud knock on my door at about 5.30 a.m. Before I could get dressed and open my door, the door was smashed down and I was asked to hurry up and get dressed as I was being moved to Kwa Mashu. I protested saying that I could not afford to go to Kwa Mashu.

"They paid no attention to my protests and forcibly moved me and my children, with our belongings, to this new area.

"I don't even know what rent I have to pay, but I do know that I would have to pay at least ten shillings a week for transport to and from the City where I have to go every day to collect and deliver washing.

"My children cannot help me to earn more as the oldest is only 14," she said.

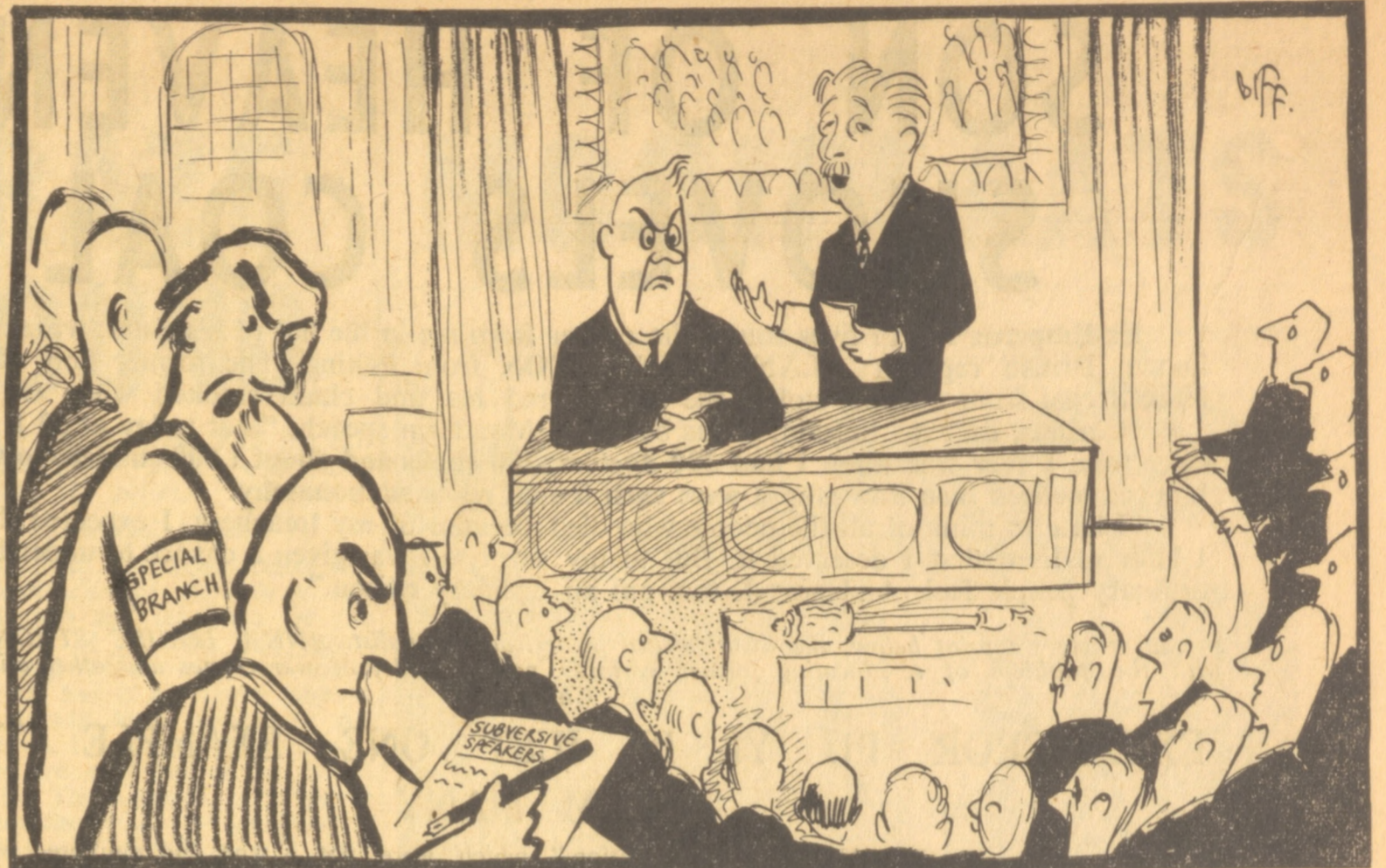
**ANGRY PROTESTS**

Last week angry women marched to the City Hall and squatted outside until the Mayor met their leaders and heard their protest against these removals. This was followed by another demonstration of both men and women outside the Council's Native Affairs offices.

A letter of protest to the Mayor of Durban from the African National Congress describes the decision of the Council to demolish shacks at Cato Manor so soon after the recent disturbances in which nine policemen lost their lives as "mere vindictiveness".

The letter adds: "We have received authentic reports of the police beating our people to effect this forcible removal."

Condemning what the Congress terms "this vindictive and punitive" action, the letter states that such actions as these "will bequeath a legacy of bitterness, hatred and ill feeling".



Not him, you fool! That's Macmillan!

**Will Bereng Plump For The Chiefs?**

MASERU

All Basutoland is agog with speculation about the names of the 14 people to be appointed to the Legislative Council by the new Paramount Chief Bereng C. Seeiso.

A list of candidates has been submitted to Bereng by his cousin Chief Maholi Seeiso Molomo, who says in his covering letter: "You will agree with me that our College of Chiefs is not, politically speaking, a very strong body—therefore it is necessary that the Paramountcy be wise enough to strengthen this body with its other 14 members in the Parliament and 1 member of the Executive."

Chief Molomo's list consists of 18 names, of whom 14 are chiefs. No fewer than nine of the 18 were defeated in the general elections, including Chief Leabua Jonathan, who is described by Chief Molomo as a "Politician. Has ambition for leadership. Hard reader. Personality. Diplomat. Public speaker (Bismarck). Admirable."

Another candidate is Mr. Korea Monare, a former exile in South Africa who escaped to Basutoland. He is described as "Educated, politician, approachable, experience. Can balance a debate if the leading party appears too strong. Eloquent speaker."

Similar character sketches accompany the other names on the list, which are: Chief Sloye Molapo, Mr. Patrick Lehloenya, Chief Reentseng G. Lerotholi, Chief Seeiso Mokhehle, Chief Mopeli Jonathan, Chief Mako Molapo, Chief Sekhonya Maseribane, Chief Kelebone Nkoebe, Mr. Edwin Ntsasa, Chief George Bereng, Chief Lebiha Masupha, Chief Tumane Matela, Chief S. S. Matete (President of the Marema Tlou Party), Chief Metlere Lerotholi, M.B.E., Chief Mabina Lerotholi, Mr. Kenneth Moeletsi.

Commenting on the list, a member of the Basutoland Congress Party told New Age: "With regard to those defeated in the elections, one cannot see how the new Paramount Chief can go against the wishes of the nation and nominate men who do not enjoy the confidence of the people.

"Then there are 14 chiefs on the list and only four commoners. The compiler of the list is himself a Chief, and it is obvious that the intention is to flood the Legislative Council with Chiefs only."

# Families of Banished Men Starve in the Transkei

PORT ELIZABETH.

**R**EPRESENTATIVES of Welfare Committees which have been set up in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth to relieve the hardship of the families of men who have been banished to distant areas in the country have visited seven families recently.

The fact that six of these families are in the Transkei gives the lie to the Nationalist Government's propaganda that the people there are happy about the imposition of the Bantu Authorities and the enforcement of the rehabilitation and stock culling measures. Here are some of the cases:

- Chief Ntlabati Jojo of Mt. Ayliff in the Transkei was banished about eight years ago when he respected the views of his people who opposed the culling of their stock

His wife died in April, 1959, and his youngest daughter, aged 14 years, Nomanuse, lives alone at his home and

has to fend for herself.

Her plight is pathetic. She has no clothing and her only blanket is in tatters. She is very unhappy and cries for her father.

Her uncle is supposed to look after her, but he is himself poor and cannot do much for her.

She spends the night at the home of a neighbour, but during the day she tends the mealies on the lands to raise food for herself in one of the driest areas in the country.

- In another family Shumikazi, a 4-year-old child, has a deformed and paralysed arm. She is receiving no medical attention.

- A third family of five was found in terrible distress. The crop failed last year and they simply have no food to live on.

Even those families whose plight is not as serious as the others have been broken up. The children are

scattered amongst a number of relatives, but although these are rendering a service of mercy they also have very limited means.

The people in their areas are giving a helping hand by ploughing the lands of the banished men and also collecting money to enable the wives to pay occasional visits to their husbands.

**TOUCHING SCENES**

The Welfare Committee representatives report that there were touching scenes when the families were visited. They expressed great joy to know that they had friends all over the country, and more particularly in the cities.

As a result of the visit arrangements were immediately made for the relief of the worst cases by supplying food and clothing. But the important thing is that there should be regular supplies to enable these families to be relieved from anxiety about what the morrow will bring for them.

The Welfare Committees in both Cape Town and Port Elizabeth appeal for new and second hand clothing, as well as food parcels and cash.

The Port Elizabeth address is: Secretary, Box 1294, Port Elizabeth. The temporary Cape Town address is c/o New Age, 6 Barrack Street.

**"Who can stop us from breaking the chains of Slavery?"**

# FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM BEN BAARTMAN

From Keke E. Tollie

WORCESTER.

**EXILED** Congress leader Ben Baartman was given a rousing farewell when he left Worcester by train on his return to Ingwavuma.

More than 100 ANC members and supporters gathered at the Baartman home beforehand, and a stream of cars and lorries accompanied him to the station. His train was due to leave at 1.50 a.m. in the early hours of the morning.

One old man in the procession remarked: "Every man or woman persecuted by this Government for their political activities becomes a hero to us."

On arrival at the station, Baartman was carried shoulder-high by

volunteers and the crowd broke the silence in the "White area" by singing "Sikhoke le Baartman" (Lead us Baartman).

**POLICE IN FORCE**

Heavily armed railway and S.A. police stood near their riot van and an ambulance, whilst the Special Branch mingled with the crowd.

Black and White passengers on the mail train, wakened by the noise, poked their heads through the windows to see Coloureds and Africans with thumbs up singing "Nkosi Sikelele Afrika" just before the train pulled out. Baartman's children and friends gave the salute with tears rolling down their cheeks. Then, in a moment, father and comrade was gone.

In a farewell message sent to New Age, Mr. Baartman says:

"My fellow countrymen and friends, I wish to thank you all through this medium for the role you have played before and after my arrival at Worcester.

"I could not believe that my wife was dead even when I arrived at home.

"Once again people of all races have come to my rescue, and by so doing I have been greatly encouraged.

"There is still work for you to do, and if you can do the same thing, who can stop us from breaking the chains of slavery?"

"There are many more victims throughout South Africa. Do not forget them.

"God bless Afrika, "Mayibuye."

# MARVO OIL

The Miracle Polish

Absorbs Dust, Disinfects, Polishes—

All in One Easy Action

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