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Russians Capture Port Of Nikolayev

GERMANS RETREATING IN CONFUSION TOWARDS THE CARPATHIANS

The Germans in Southern Russia are facing a more critical phase than any they have yet faced. They are being hustled ignominiously westward along the pre-war Polish-Rumanian frontier. The Russians are almost on top of the Germans' main supply route, and the battle line is steadily drawing near the massive Carpathians against which the German tide must divide.

Further south, the Russians have captured Nikolayev, the great naval base in the estuary of the Bug River. The capture brings the Russians within 75 miles of Odessa, the last of the Germans' coastal bastions before Bessarabia.

NAZIS FACE CRITICAL PHASE

"The town of Nikolayev is one of the largest ports on the Black Sea and an important German strong-point at the mouth of the southern Bug."

The Russians are moving in the plains north of Odessa and have moved down along a 40 to 50 mile front to the River Kodima, which runs from east to west 100 miles above Odessa and flows through Pervomaisk.

Between the Dniester and the Pruth mixed German, Hungarian and Rumanian forces, retreating hurriedly and in confusion, are being driven into the high Carpathian Mountains or into the Pruth.

The unity of command of the Germans in the south has been totally smashed. A dozen German divisional generals are wandering about, having lost their staffs and all control of the units under their command.

The storming of Nikolayev means that the Russians have cracked one of the corner bastions of the great triangle in which 100,000 Germans are concentrated to hold back the Soviet wave from engulfing the rest of the Ukraine. This triangle, which is based on Nikolayev and Odessa, is also being hammered at its apex by the left wing of Marshal Koniev's army.

STATE TO HELP MINES TO BEAR HEAVIER WAGE BURDEN

In a special statement in the House of Assembly on Friday, March 24, the Prime Minister revealed the Government's proposals to meet the recommendations of the Witwatersrand Mine Native Wages Commission, a summary of whose report is on Page 4.

The commission recommended increased pay, a higher rate of overtime, cost of living allowances and boot allowances estimated (on the basis of the present labour force) to cost the mines £2,642,000 a year. The Government's decision will bring about improvements estimated to cost the mines £1,850,000.

The State will help to meet this increased cost by surrendering the Gold Realisation Charges, which will be collected as hitherto but will be returned to the mines pro rata.

DANGERS TO BE AVOIDED

General Smuts's statement was as follows:-

The Mine Native Wages Commission was appointed by the Government early in 1943, and its report has now been laid on the Table of the House.

After careful consideration of the commission's recommendation, and consultation with representatives of the Gold Producers' Committee of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, the Government has decided that as from April 1, 1944, the following improvements will be instituted in respect of the conditions of employment of Native labourers on the gold mines:

(1) That, as recommended by the commission, Native workers when employed on overtime or Sunday work will receive pay at time-and-a-half rates, as in the case of European miners.

(2) That in lieu of the other recommendations of the commission the wage of all Native surface workers will be increased by 4d. a shift and of all Native underground workers by 5d. a shift.

The present annual cost of giving effect to these improvements is estimated at £1,850,000.

SERIOUS DANGER

The Government recognises that in present circumstances the imposition of such a burden on the industry, involving as it does an increase in working costs of more than 7d. a ton milled, would have very serious consequences both for the industry and for the country.

It would make it impossible for certain low-grades mines to continue in opera-

tion, and it would at the same time, because of the increase of costs, place the mining of a great deal of low-grade ore from the mines generally beyond the limits of payability. In view of the part played by the gold mining industry in the national economy; its contribution to State finance, its support and stimulation of industrial development and of employment all round, it is important that nothing should be done which would have the effect of curtailing it or shortening its life unduly.

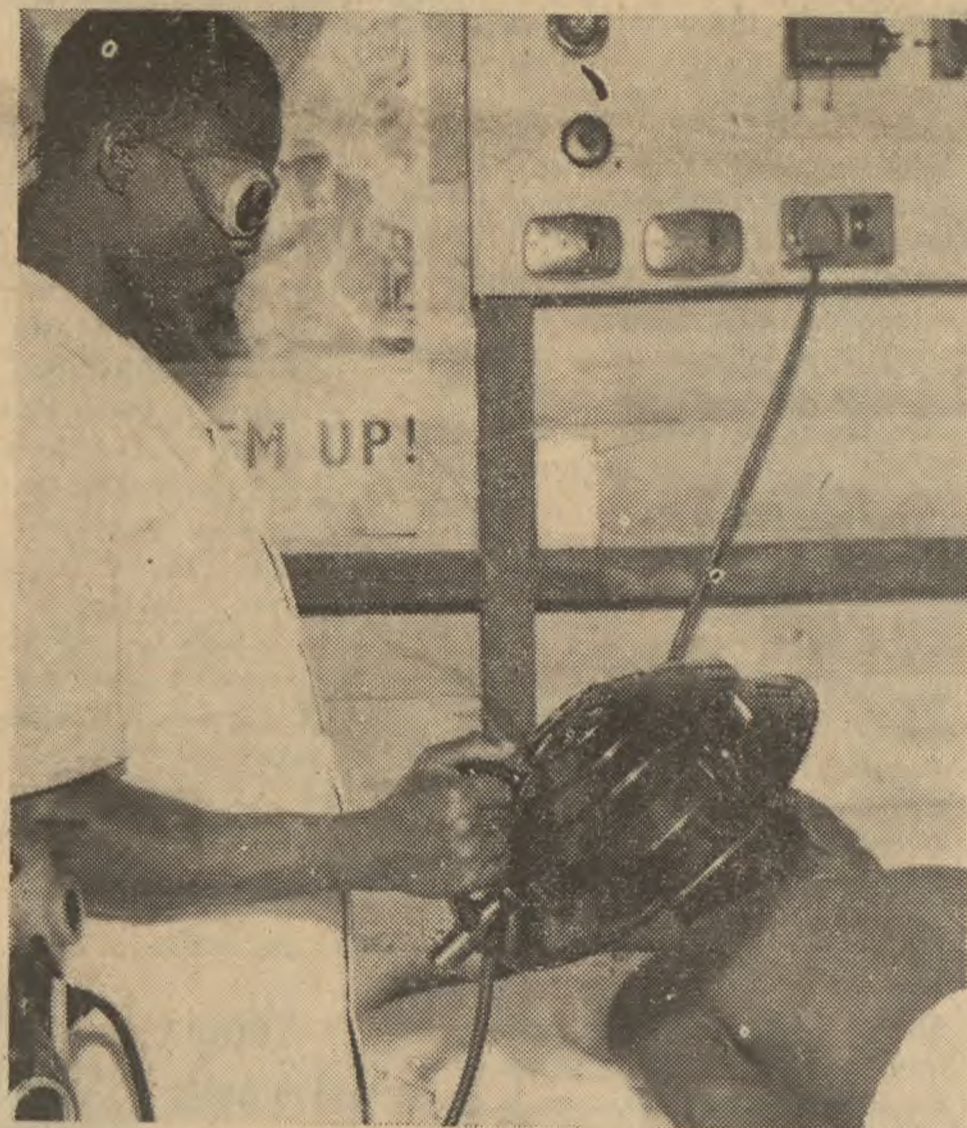
TAX SURRENDERED

The Government, therefore, considers it to be appropriate that the Gold Realisation Charges which have since 1940 been collected for the benefit of the Loan Account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and which represent a levy on the whole of the product of the gold mines, should be made available to meet this situation.

It, therefore, proposes in respect of the financial year 1944-45 to pay over an amount not exceeding the amount to be collected by way of the Gold Realisation Charges into a fund out of which payments will be made into the various mines on the basis of what they will require in order to put the above-mentioned improvements into operation.

It is probable that the amount in the fund will be sufficient to meet such requirements in full; should it not be, each mine will receive a share proportionate to the cost to it of these improvements.

(Continued on page 4)



An African soldier being given a special healing ray treatment at a military hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. The medical attendants are Africans trained in this type of highly specialized work.

Africans Should Build Their Own Houses Says Trade Unionist

A suggestion that houses for Africans should be built by the Africans themselves was made by Mr. T. C. Rutherford at a meeting of the Pretoria Joint Council of Europeans and Africans and the Pretoria branch of Social Services of South Africa last week.

Mr. Rutherford, who is a leading Pretoria trade unionist, said that if the Government wished to do its duty it would be possible to create employment for all the African returned soldiers.

He estimated that at least 350,000 houses for Africans required to be built, and there was no reason why these should not be built by the Africans themselves. The skilled artisan earned 4s. 1d. an hour, and it was ridiculous to expect an African to pay for a house built by these artisans when an African earned about that amount a day.

The trade unions would require safeguards so that African semi-skilled workers would not be exploited and employed to undermine the standard of living of the European workman.

African artisans should be confined to African localities, and should be employed only by the Government or local authorities. He suggested that returned soldiers could be given intensive training at vocational training centres run by the Army on the basis of the scheme of the Central Organisation for Technical Training.

CRITICISM OF PROCEDURE

Dr. Ellen Hellman said that the demobilisation of African soldiers was left entirely to the Native Affairs Department, which was already overworked. When African soldiers left the army they were asked whether they wanted to go home or whether they wanted work. As not one of them had seen his family since the time he joined the army, most of them said they wished to go home. The Department then issued railway warrants to the stations nearest the homes of the soldiers, and considered its obligations discharged.

In some cases Africans had been issued warrants to Pietersburg when their homes were, in fact, 100 miles from Pietersburg.

Those who wished to find work were referred to the Native commissioner nearest their homes. While there were some commissioners who did their best to discharge their duty

Homeless Africans Build Shanty Town In Orlando

The Minister of Native Affairs, Major Piet van der Byl, has received an appeal from the Johannesburg Municipal authorities for a ruling in connection with the exodus from Orlando of Africans who, unable to find accommodation in the township, are setting up their own "shanty town," states the "Rand Daily Mail's" political correspondent.

The Secretary for Native Affairs, Mr. D. L. Smit, told me that the matter was very serious, and was now being investigated by his department. Something would have to be done quickly, he said, but until the investigation had been completed he could not say what course would be adopted.

35,000 Africans In Transkei Immunised Against Typhus

Medical officers in the Transkei are working at full pressure to check the typhus epidemic, and 35,000 Africans were immunised last week.

It is difficult to assess the exact number of Africans who have so far succumbed to the disease, but according to the Chief Medical Officer 1,692 deaths from typhus were recorded in January.

The Institute of Medical Research in Johannesburg is hard pressed to provide sufficient supplies of vaccine. During the past four days 18,000 cubic centimetres of vaccine have been distributed to various parts of the Transkei.

Fresh outbreaks were reported by the chief medical officer, Dr. Ryno Smit, in the following areas: Butterworth, Cala, Elliotdale, Lusikisiki, Libode, Mqanduli, Ngqamakwe, Ngqeleni, Mount Ayliff, Tsolo and Tabankulu.

In the Ciskei area fresh outbreaks have occurred in the districts of Bedford, Adelaide and Alice. Medical officers are hurrying to these places.

"THANK YOU
JACK —
I can always
do with a
FLAG"



Umteto Owenzelwa Abansundu Ubangulwa Kabi

Lapo kufundwa okwesibili ePalamende umteto owenziwa ngu-Minister of Native Affairs, amalungu ePalamende atile akipe amazwi akalipile ewusola lomteto ngenxa yokuba upambene nezinhloso okuyizona zwilwelwayo kulempi. Kute abanye bewuvuna, abanye babewubangula kabi.

Lapo esepandela uMntsi weZindaba uMajor Piet van der Byl wati emizini etengwe ikakulu ngabansundu njengase Lady Selborne nase Alexandra, abansundu babekobhliwa ngabangesibo abansundu abehlekisa imali ngendlela eshaqisa umzimba inzalo yayo. Umteto wawubhose ukutiya loku, ngokuba kuti abangesibo abansundu batole imvume ka-Minister uma bezokwebhekisa ngemali kwabansundu.

Exigabeni esi 37 e Alexandra inzalo yayiakulu ingango 10 per cent, ingeko engapansi kuka 6 per cent. Lenzalo inkulu kakulu ngoba izwe lokulambisa lisuke likona, futhi litengwa ubutapatapu. Kwesinye isikati inzalo ikokwe ngeminyaka emihlanu nakuba isikweleto seingqubo; kokunye ikokwe ngonyaka, kepa ingehli nakuba imali ingxenywe yayo isikokwe. Okunye okushayisa umzimba okanjengemali yokutola isikweleto ezimba kuyenziwa. Abalungu abazama ukugqogqaza abansundu ukuba balwe malomteto nabo kabawufuni, abansundu bati kutikanyeswa amalungelo abo yilo-Mnyango. Wati njengoba esevuze loku wetemba ukuti kakuzekubakona mipikiswano nomteto.

Wati abanye abapete amadolobha bayeqaba ukuvumela abansundu ukuba balenzezile lapa, esinye isizatu kutiwa lelikangelo abansundu badlala ngalo ngokuba onsundu isitolo sibirwe ngaye, kanti ufakamele u mhungu. Lomteto ubopa abapete amadolobha lenze imiteto yokutiya loku.

U Nkosk. Ballinger ute nakuba unoluto olutile oluhle kuwona, kodwa ngumteto wokupindisela abantu emuva kabi ngoba wepuca abansundu amalungelo abanawo namuhla, noma abanganawo ngomuso, bangatutukeli enhlalweni engcono, uba wona ubabekele u-gange abangeke balweqe.

Wati kufuneka umteto owodwa wokwakela izindlu abampofana bazo zonke izinhlobo; kuti amabanga ngamabanga abakulelizwe akelwe imiteto efanayo, kungakethe bala. Lomteto ngaxanye unika opete izindaba zabansundu igunya lokuba inhlahlo yabansundu asebeke tutu ayipate yena kulemiteto ekona emalokishini. Wati wonke umteto opete abansundu emadolobheni mawuhlelwe kabusha. Ukuba abansundu bahlale be-xuxuma wati kulimaza abasetshenzelwayo nabansundu uqobo; kanti loku kuyohlala kuhlale kufike lapa kungeko ongabe esakutiya.

U Mn. Kentridge we United Party eTroyville wati loHulumeni uneso ebbheke pambili kodwa kuhlala kuhlale abenemikuba emibi. EPalamende kuhlale kufike imiteto emibi etinta abangesibo abelungu; imiteto okuti noma inobuhle iqaqelwe ngamapuzu amabi, umuntu onomqondo obanzi angeke ayipasa. Wati kufanele ukuba u-Minister abeke pambi kwePalamende umbiko weBanda laBakulumeli ePitoli ngalomteto owenzelwa abansundu.

Ama Advisory Council afunwa yilomteto wati uMn. Kentridge kawanamsebenzi. Wati abansundu kufanele ukuba banikwe abakulumeli emabandla apete izindaba zezwe njengoba uMpati wezangapakati ete kufanele amaNdiya abenabakulumeli kulamabandla. Lomteto wati abansundu uzoba yisityo kubona ukuba bafike endaweni ebanefanele emisebenzini yezwe.

Kwasukuma uMn. Naude wehele likaDr. Malan wati kungeke kwenziwe luto ekumbeni igoli nakweminye imisebenzi ngapandle konsundu. Wati ake lupenywe loludaba. Wati okubaxakayo ngokuba bangeke basho bona ukuti ukuze imisebenzi yaleli itutuke onsundu makahlale emadolobheni njalo. Uma abansundu bevuvelwa ukutenga izwe emadolobheni, inhloso kaHulumeni yobandlululo ingebe isasebenza ngoba abansundu bangeke besapindela emakubo.

Wati lowo nalowo Masipalati

kufanele ukuba aboshwe ukubakela abamsebenzelayo, bati bangaqeda bapindele emakubo. Isikalo esikulu esinye sabansundu emadolobheni ngesotshwala. Imali eyinzuzo lapa ishaqisa umzimba. Wakuncoma ukuba umteto usuti abansundu bazozigayela emakaya. Akavuma ukuti ukugaya emakaya kuzokwenza okutengiswa ngabamapuzi kungatengwa kakulu. Wati ufuna ukuba abansundu abangena noma bepuma edolobheni babhalwe pansi, onsundu angalokoti angene edolobheni ngapandle kokuba eselindwe ngumsebenzi.

U Mn. Barlow weUnited Party, eHospital, wati yena angeke awovotele lomteto osungulwayo. Wati ungenye yezinto ezimbi kabi esazake zabekwa pambi kwePalamende. Wati uvumelana nombiko weBanda lasePitoli oti lomteto osungulwayo upikisana nako konke loku okungamalungelo okuqala pezu kwawo okungakelwa inhlahlo enhle. U Minister of Native Affairs wabe ekelelewa ngaboMnyango wake, wenza umteto ongqubuzana naloko okufunwa ngabansundu baleli. Kakuzange kwenzekwe ukuba umteto kufiwe uzovikela abantu kepa labobantu bawupike njengalona.

U Mn. Hemming okulumela abansundu eTranskei wati lomteto ngowokuvusa amapapu kubantu, wakelwe elwazini olungapelele ukupata abansundu okutiwa beva esibalweni esifanele emadolobheni. Kwase kudalulekile ukuti abansundu emadolobheni kababaningi ngokweqile, nokuti babefunwa emisebenzini. Ukuti baningi kwakubonakaliswa ngokungeyiko, ngokuba abansundu behlala endaweni ekude nalapo besebenza kona, ngendlela yokwepula umteto.

Walwa kakulu nokuba abansundu kutiwe kabasuke eKipi baye eGoli. Wati abansundu bazimisele ukuba bangasebenzi ezi-Mayini uma loku benokukwenza. Ukungenisa abansundu abangesibo beNyunyana kuleli kwakuyindlela yokuhlalisa pansi amaholo abansundu bakuleli. Loku makungavunyelwa.

Abansundu Balwa Nokucinana E Orlando

NgoMgqibelo imisi- engama 433 yabansundu, inabantu ababizwa ukuti bayizi 2,000 imise amanuzuma kudleluduze neOrlando uba beti eOrlando bacinapa kakulu, indawo yokuhlala kabonayo.

Lapo likhala loku isepandela lalengula i"Rand Daily Mail," liti bati ngokuba lupama elokishini bayomisa amanuzuma okuzungu bakombisa ukuti bayimise nokucinana eOrlando, nokuba uMasipalati angaboniki izindlu.

Laba asebepona elokishini bazakuba zwayo amadolobha bangabehle lika Mna. Sofasonke. Bati nebenkice banting, kwabapete, baya nakuMinister of Native Affairs beti abapete uMasipalati ukuba abakule izindlu, kepa konke loku kakubona naluzisa. Ngokuba abehle lika Sofasonke babona indlela, bazobuka elokishini.

NgeSonto kushilwa lalwemibhangano kubo okukulume uMn. James Mpanza no P. R. Mosaka, uMkulumedi ePitoli, laba beti isenzo sabantu baseOrlando silangwe yinhlahlo elukuni abapansi kwayo.

NATAL PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Vacancies For Native Nurses

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NATIVE BILL SEVERELY CRITICISED

OBJECTIONS TO SEVERAL NEW PROVISIONS

The Minister of Native Affairs (Major van der Byl) resuming the debate on the second reading of the Native Laws Amendment Bill, said that in certain predominantly African areas, such as Lady Selborne and Alexandra, Africans who bought land had been tricked by non-Natives who lent money for mortgages at scandalous rates. The Bill was designed to prevent such occurrences by requiring non-natives to obtain the approval of the Minister for such transactions.

In 37 transactions at Alexandra the rate of interest was as high as 10 per cent., and never lower than 6 per cent. This was much too high, especially since there was security for the lenders in the good demand for land in the township. In some cases it was stipulated that the interest was payable for five years even if the mortgage were paid off within that period. In other cases the interest was fixed annually, and even if the capital was reduced by a payment during the year interest on the full amount was payable until the end of the year. Many other scandalous charges such as high raising costs were imposed.

There had been protests against this provision of the Bill by Europeans who were attempting to stir up the Africans against what was termed a breach of their rights by the department. In view of these disclosures he hoped these protests would cease.

TRADE IN LOCATIONS

Some local authorities refused to allow Africans to trade in locations, one of the reasons being that this was open to abuse. Such a trading station, for example, might be held by an African nominee for a European. The Bill compelled local authorities to issue effective regulations to overcome such difficulties.

Mrs. Ballinger (N.R., Cape Eastern) said the Bill was, in effect, an extremely reactionary measure. It had certain virtues, but this by no means compensated for the additional provisions which would take from the urban Native rights that he now enjoyed, or might enjoy in the future. The Bill would shut the door to further progress by the rising middle-class Native population; it would close the one avenue by which the Native population could escape from the fence placed around them by the rest of the Act.

The housing and social needs of the poorer classes of the population needed common legislation. All sections of the population with a similar social grade and similar needs should be legislated for together. One section of the Bill gave the Minister power to control the whole life of the Native middle classes under existing location laws.

The whole Urban Areas Act should be revised. Commerce and industry as well as the Natives were losing as a result of the lack of a stabilised urban Native population. If the Native population continued to be pushed around the country on the demands of vested interests it probably would get completely beyond control.

Mr. Kentridge (U.P., Troyeville) said the Government were essentially progressive, but every now and then, especially when dealing with non-European legislation, they fell into bad habits. The House was continually faced with such measures, which had some good provisions, but were cluttered up with other provisions which, from an ordinary liberal viewpoint, it was impossible to support. The Minister should table the report of the Natives' Representative Council on the Bill.

The advisory councils it was proposed to set up would not be effective. Representation on local public bodies, as recommended by the Minister of the Interior for Indians, would be more effective. The Bill would make it very difficult for Natives to take their place in industry. There were three methods of ensuring the country's industrial future: development of its natural resources, including its human resources, to the fullest possible extent; industrial development; and the use of the country's labour force to the fullest extent in conjunction with the raising of its standard of living.

Mr. Barlow (U.P., Hospital) said he would not vote for the Bill. It was one of the worst measures ever placed before the House. He agreed with a report of a select committee of the Natives' Representative Council which

declared that the Bill was a negation of the elementary human rights on which any system of social security should be based. Backed by his department, the Minister had brought before the House a Bill that was in conflict with what the Africans of the country had asked for. Never had legislation brought into the House to protect a section of the population been damned more strongly by that section.

PANIC MEASURE

Mr. Hepming (N.R., Transkei) said the Bill was a panic measure, based on insufficient information, to control "redundant" Africans in the towns. The only investigation made recently showed that the Africans in the towns were not redundant and were needed in industry. The view that they were redundant had arisen because many African workers were compelled, under the Urban Areas Act, to sleep outside the municipal area in illegal conditions.

They objected strongly to any attempt to compel Africans to leave Cape Town and go to the Rand. Africans were serious in their intention not to support the mines with their labour if they could avoid doing so. The large number of extra-Union Africans brought to the mines, represented a deliberate attempt to keep down African wages. The practice should not be allowed.

AFRICAN SOLDIERS' AFFAIRS DISCUSSED

In the House of Assembly last week Mr. D. B. Molteno asked whether the Defence Department had issued a circular recommending the weeding out of non-European soldiers. There was cause for grave dissatisfaction at the method of discharging Africans, honourably or otherwise. The men appeared to be simply discharged and the Department of Native Affairs was saddled with the task of finding work for them. The department had been quite unable to cope with that new duty.

In reply the Prime Minister said that Mr. Molteno (Native Rep., Cape Western) had raised the matter of Natives who were dishonourably discharged from the Army. There had been a great deal of argument about dishonourable discharges generally in the House and, he understood, outside the House and in the Army itself. It had been said that a dishonourable discharge was not fair and did not do justice to men who, though their record in other ways might not be very good, had done good service in the Army itself.

The Department of Demobilisation was investigating, to see that no stigma was laid on men who did not really deserve it. He hoped a thoroughly satisfactory way of dealing with these cases would be found without the stigma of a dishonourable discharge. It had been alleged that there was differential treatment of Natives on discharge. South Africa's Native volunteers did not deserve any stigma. They had done good service wherever they had been with the South African Army, in the Union or in the north or with the British Army, and had earned praise for their good work on the whole.

"I should not like it to be thought that anything done by my department would cause a stigma to be laid on these men."

They must avoid any appearance even of a slur or of ungenerous treatment of troops who did not deserve it. Where it was felt that an injustice had been done, the case could always be reconsidered when representations were made by a responsible body such as the Institute of Race Relations. The Defence Department had no desire whatever to inflict unnecessary hardship.

The use of the terms "honourable discharge" and "dishonourable discharge" had been discontinued, and the distinction was now made by using the terms "with benefits" and "without benefits." On percentage, the number of non-Europeans discharged without benefits to-day was about the same as the number of Europeans so discharged.

Each case was considered on its merits, and discharge without benefits was not given lightly. A commanding officer of a non-European unit was required to give proper reasons if an

application for discharge without benefits were made. Every care was taken in an attempt to avoid injustice. Drunkenness and loss of kit would normally not militate against a discharge with benefits, except in extremely bad cases.

If a man had been in the Army since its inception he would get a discharge with benefits unless he had committed some very serious offence. The pre-enlistment record of a volunteer was not taken into account on discharge, particularly if the volunteer had any length of service, unless his pre-enlistment convictions led to the belief that he would unfavourably influence his comrades.—SAPA.

YUSA INYONGO YESI-BINDI SAKO—

ngapandhle kwe Calomel—
wovuka unesivini—
somhlandhla.

Inyongo yakokuswe leke ide igobhoza izilinganis ezimbili ipuma esibindini sako iteleke ezibini nsuku zonke. Uma lenyongo ingateleki kahle ukudhla kwako kungeze kwagayeka. Kuyobolela ematunjini. Isisu sako sigwale umoya omubi. Usonge leke. Umzimba wonke wako ungcolle uzizwe uqiyezile empilweni yako ungangatandi luto.

Ukunyakaza kupela kwesisu kakwe lapi. Okwelapayo yizo izinhlamvana zika Carter's zesiBindi ezenza inyongo leyo iteleke emzimbeni wonke, uzizwe unguwe uqobo. Kawunangozi, usebenza kahle ngamandhla inyongo igobhoze. Bhaka igama eliti Carter's Little Liver Pills emapaketeni abomvu. Ungawavumi amanye. Inani: 1/3.

BARGAINS

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ISITOLE SAKWA SHUTER AND SHOOTER sezincwadi nokokuloba —eMaritzburg sipete njalo ezona ncwadi ezitandwa abantu.

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Now packed in RED-TOPPED tins as a WAR-TIME Measure



THE BANTU WORLD

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1944

The Problem of Segregation

When Parliament passed General Hertzog's segregation Bills in 1936 and 1938 in the face of strong African opposition, we were told that the so-called "Native problem" had been solved once and for all and that both Europeans and Africans would be able to develop their lives along lines of their race genius in their own territories. But it is now nearly eight years since the enactment of these laws, and yet the so-called "Native problem" is still crying out for solution. It is still giving our legislators sleepless nights, because General Hertzog's segregation policy has failed to separate the races, and to provide more and adequate land for African occupation.

To-day the Minister of Native Affairs is piloting through the House of Assembly a Bill which he says will enable the authorities to deal with the influx of Africans to urban areas. The purpose of this legislation is to prevent Africans from leaving the so-called Native territories for urban areas unless their labour is required by Europeans. "The Bill," says the Minister of Native Affairs, "will see that no more Natives come into urban areas than industry can absorb, and will thus preserve them from starvation and exploitation."

We must confess that we are unable to see how this Bill "will preserve" Africans "from starvation and exploitation." As far as we know it is starvation caused by exploitation which is driving hundreds of Africans out of the so-called reserves to the towns. The reserves, which are mostly unsuitable for cultivation are congested and cannot, therefore, maintain their populations.

To stop the influx of Africans to urban areas, the Government should provide more land sufficient to enable them to become self-supporting and economically independent. But it is a well known fact that, under existing conditions, even if all the land set aside were bought, the reserves would not be sufficient for the economic development of the African.

It is said that this Bill will enable local authorities to control Africans under their jurisdictions, and to provide them with better housing. But while these matters are being debated in Parliament, an ugly situation has been created in Orlando where, on account of overcrowding, hundreds of Africans have illegally occupied municipal ground and have established a "shanty town" of their own. They have taken this action because the City Council of Johannesburg has failed to provide them with houses under the Urban Areas Act. According to a councillor who was interviewed by a representative of the Rand Daily Mail, "the Council has been chasing the Government for years to try and convince it of the seriousness of the position and of the inability of the Council to remedy it without financial aid, but the results have been entirely negative."

The Government, it would appear, having failed to give financial assistance to local authorities is now trying to solve the problem of housing Africans by making it difficult for Africans to enter the towns. This action, in our opinion, will not improve matters. It must be remembered that most of the urbanised Africans have outgrown tribal conditions and have, therefore, no home in the reserves. To drive them back into the conditions of the past will be a violation of the laws of justice.

There are people in Parliament who speak as though Africans have a country of their own. For

instance Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Booysen, a Nationalist member for Namaqualand is reported to have said: "Trade in the Native territories should be in the hands of the Natives. Natives should have their own doctors, lawyers, magistrates and courts. The postal and similar services in these areas should also be in the hands of the Natives." Apparently when Lieut.-Colonel Booysen made this very interesting statement he was thinking of the Transkei where the majority of the farming community in the Union have no vested interests. He conveniently forgot that with the exception of the Transkei, the rest of the Native areas are dotted all over the country, and cannot, therefore, be treated like the Transkei. The truth is, General Hertzog's segregation policy has failed to give the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and Natal, Native areas of the type of the Transkei, because Europeans would not part with their farms. That is the problem of the policy of segregation—a policy which General Smuts has rightly said: "It has fallen on evil days."

fund for the present would be in the best interests of the Africans, but the board's accounts, with a complete statement of grants made during the year, should annually be placed on the tables of the Natives' Representative Council, the United Transvaal Territories General Council and the Ciskei General Council. The commission has complete confidence that the board will continue to administer the fund skillfully and for the benefit of the Africans, from whose money the fund is derived.

The report says that "the conclusion has very definitely been forced on the commission" that the vast body of Native labourers on the gold mines "have not yet reached the stage of development which would enable them safely and usefully to employ trade unionism as a means of promoting their advancement." When the time for a trade union organisation comes, the movement must "be constituted and managed by the labourers themselves and under the guidance, instruction and influence of the Departments of Labour and Native Affairs."

Delegation of the power of constituting unions for the labourers to bodies whose representatives the commission has met, would not be in the public interest, the report states.

WELFARE OFFICERS

In the meantime, the commission suggests that welfare officers should be appointed to move about regularly among the mine labourers, and to present to the Department of Native Affairs and to the mine managements any matters that were agitating the minds of the men. Regular councils of mine labourers are something to be aimed at, the commission thinks, and if such unofficial councils were formed and worked satisfactorily, they could later be granted official recognition and a larger scope of action.

The Natives employed by the Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Company come under the cost of living regulations, but have hitherto been excluded from the benefits conferred on unskilled workers by a wage determination made in November, 1942. The commission states that if their pay were governed by the determination rates, then their basic wage rate would be increased by 13s. from 12s. to 25s. a week—and, in addition, the cost of living allowance which they now get, based on their present wages, would be increased in the case of the vast majority from 4s. to 5s. a week.

The commission rejects the contention that these Natives should be kept on the same scale or pay as gold mine labourers, and recommends that the rates laid down by the wage determination for areas other than the municipal area of Kempton Park and the district of Johannesburg should be made applicable to all Native labourers of the company.

The Natives will also get two weeks' leave a year if they come under the determination.

The commission believes that a trade union for the company's Native labourers could be developed under certain conditions. The administration and control of the union's affairs must be by men selected from the workers themselves, and the Departments of Native Affairs and Labour should be kept in close touch with the union through an officer, or officers, of the Union Government.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY MINE WAGES COMMISSION

INCREASED PAY INVOLVING £2,642,000 A YEAR PROPOSED

THE main recommendation in the Report of the Mine Native Wages Commission, published on Friday, March 24, is an increase in wages which, computed on the present Native labour force, would raise the mines' wages bill by £2,642,000.

The recommendations include an increase in basic wage-rates to a minimum of 2s. 2d. a shift for surface workers, and of 2s. 5d. a shift for underground workers, a cost of living allowance of 3d. a shift, overtime to be paid for at time-and-a-half, and a boot allowance of 3s. per 30 shifts to labourers requiring boots for protective purposes.

Separate proposals for permanent workers include a cost of living allowance and two weeks' leave a year on full pay.

The proposed minimum wage of 2s. 2d. a shift for surface workers and 2s. 5d. a shift for underground workers would mean an additional amount of 26 7s. 6d. a year for the Africans drawing minimum pay. In addition, the report suggests a flat rate cost of living allowance of 3d. a shift to every labourer, irrespective of his rate of pay, which would give each man a further £3 16s. 6d. a year. These two increases would represent therefore, £10 4s. 6d. more a year to the African drawing minimum pay.

The report says that the Reserve Native labourer's cash requirements have increased by more than 27 per cent. since 1939. Demands made on the Native labourer for overtime or Sunday work are not great, but the commission sees no reason why the rates given to Europeans in this respect—time-and-a-half—should not be extended to the Africans.

INCREASE IN EARNINGS

If these recommendations were adopted, the total earnings of the lowest paid surface workers would be increased from £26 15s. 6d. to £36 19s. 6d. a year, and of underground workers from £30 12s. 6d. to £42 6s. 7d.—an increase of 38.1 per cent. for surface workers and 38.9 per cent. for underground workers.

The commission states that at present the excess of the labourer's expenditure over income for the year during which he is at work on the mines is £10 4s. 4d. in the case of the surface worker and £9 4s. 16d. in the case of the underground worker. The adoption of the recommendations would reduce this deficit to 4d. in the case of the surface worker, and convert it into an excess of income over expenditure of £2 9s. 9d. in the case of the underground worker.

The recommendations apply to the non-Chamber mines as well as the Chamber mines, with the necessary modifications adapted to meet any different conditions of remuneration.

For native clerks, described as "permanent employees settled on the mines with their families," the commission recommends a cost of living allowance at a flat rate of 6d. a shift, adoption of the Chamber's own recommended minimum scales of pay, an increase in the minimum rate for probationer clerks, new grades for second and third-class mabalans (clerks), and allowance for clerks who do not get free rations and quarters.

ANNUAL LEAVE

The commission also proposes that after two years' service these permanent employees should get two weeks' leave a year on full pay.

All these recommendations apply equally to indunas, policemen and other workers whose status and terms of service are similar to those of clerks.

The report makes it quite clear that the enormous cost of these proposals would mean that four mines would probably have to close down and the lives of others would be shortened. The African people must understand that these measures would not be made in a spirit of retaliation but would be the only way in which the mines could shoulder the extra burden.

Amelioration of the conditions in the Reserves is demanded in the interests of the gold mining industry itself. The commission "is under no illusion" that an increase of wages of the Witwatersrand mine labourers will of itself effect a cure of those conditions, but the economic position of the people concerned demands that immediate measure of cash assistance which the commission's recommendations are designed to provide.

"The migratory system of peasant labour must continue. Any other policy would bring about catastrophic dislocation of the gold mining industry. But

the combined income of the labourers from wages and their Reserve production should provide them and their families with a proper livelihood."

AVERAGE STAY AT HOME

Ninety-nine per cent. of the native workers on the gold mines are tribal Natives, who leave their lands and stock in charge of their families while they are away on the mines. The commission does not accept the statement that the average stay of a Native labourer at his home between spells of work on the mines is about 12 months. It believes it to be nearer eight months.

Nor does the commission believe that the Native labourer was able, in 1939, to save enough money while working on the mines to provide for his stay at home; and he is less able to-day, with the higher cost of living. The labourer has therefore had to be satisfied with a scale of living below reasonable requirements, and the commission believes that the necessary improvement should be made partly by raising the amount of his Reserve subsistence and partly by an increase in his cash wages.

After elaborate calculations and the framing of a minimum budget, the commission comes to the conclusion that at the present day, with the higher cost of living due to the war, the surface workers' annual income falls short of this budget by £10 4s. 4d., and the underground worker's annual income falls short of it by £9 4s. 16d.

The Native in the Reserves, says the report, is forced by economic pressure to seek employment. A long description of conditions in the Reserves is contained in the report, which says: "The commission is satisfied that the allegation about the unsatisfactory state of health of the rural Natives and the existence of malnutrition in the Reserve generally is no 'parrot cry,' but, on the contrary, that the conditions give cause for grave concern."

OBLIGATION ON STATE

Because of the huge sums which the Government receives from the mining industry, the commission believes that "an obligation lies on the Government, both in the direction of maintaining the interests of the industry and promoting the welfare of the Reserves, in order that the system of unskilled labour may be continued which is the basis of the industry's economic position."

The report defends the Native Recruiting Corporation and trader-recruiters in the Reserves against allegations of having a monopoly of recruiting and bringing pressure to bear on the Africans, respectively, and says the abolition of the recruiting system would result in confusion and in hardship to the Africans themselves, but it suggests that the terms of the contract might be abbreviated and simplified.

Turning to the conditions of the mine labourers, as apart from wages, the report makes minor recommendations regarding rations, defends the compound system, and finds that a proposed "visiting wives scheme" is not practicable. It makes suggestions for improving the type of bed provided, but points out that under present war conditions it is not possible to obtain the material. The segregation of tribes is upheld. The commission praises the mine hospitals and the provision made for recreation and instruction.

Every effort should be made to encourage a system of remittances and deferment of pay to ensure that the mine labourers make adequate provision for the support of their families, but the commission feels that compulsory allotment or deferment would not be warranted.

The commission believes that the continuance of the deferred pay interest

(Continued column 2)

MINES WAGE BURDEN

(Continued from page 1)

V.F.P. LABOURERS

The commission also had remitted to it for examination the claim for increased wages put forward by Native workers on the Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Company's undertakings. After careful examination of its recommendation, the decision has been come to that these Native workers should receive the same flat rate increase in their wage of 4d. a shift as it is proposed to pay to surface labourers on the mines.

At the present moment the V.F.P. Natives receive broadly the same basic wage as mine surface workers, except for the fact that they are paid the present temporary cost of living allowance, which they will continue to receive while such allowances are payable.

In view, however, of all the circumstances, including the composition and method of recruitment of mine and V.F.P. Natives respectively, and the nature of the work done by them in each case, it is not considered that there should be any differentiation of a permanent character between them.

In view of the assurances given by the company, the increase in the wage to V.F.P. Natives will be made retrospective to January, 1944.—SAPA.



MY WIFE WAS ANGRY WHEN I TOLD HER THAT THE FOOD SHE COOKED DID NOT TASTE GOOD



THE NEXT DAY SHE BROUGHT HOME A BOTTLE OF BROOKE'S WORCESTER SAUCE



NOW WE ARE HAPPY, BECAUSE BROOKE'S WORCESTER SAUCE MAKES OUR FOOD TASTE BETTER



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New Wing of Orlando High School Opened

If the present dual responsibility for native education, between the Education Department and the Native Affairs Department, is to continue, the only satisfactory arrangement is for the Native Affairs Department to give the Education Department a grant according to the number of pupils; said Mr. H. H. G. Kreft, Director of Education, when he opened the new wing of the Orlando High School recently.

This is the basis of European and coloured school education, he said, and it would give the Education Department a definite basis on which to plan its educational policy. It would also give the assurance that as the work increased funds would also increase.

Both departments were most sympathetic to the claims of African teachers to reasonable emoluments. In the past few years some salaries had been more than doubled.

MATRICULATION CLASS

This year the Orlando High School would have its first matriculation class. It was the first school with an African staff to offer a full matriculation class in the province. The principal and staff were doing excellent work.

For a long time missionaries had borne the whole weight of Native education and had done fine work, said Mr. Kreft, but the Transvaal had now more than 1,000 Native schools and more than 175,000 scholars. This showed that the work of superintending schools had grown beyond the powers of voluntary workers, no matter how capable and devoted. He did not wish it to be understood that the department was in any way proposing to encourage a movement away from the missions.

Already in 160 schools the department had been forced to put laymen in charge. In the long run such schools tended to become the responsibility of the inspector, somewhat to the detriment of his other duties. The time had come to make proper provision for superintendents of schools not under missionary control. It was proposed to consult the advisory council for Native education on this point. The council met in Pretoria.

SUPERINTENDENTS

"I have reason to believe the executive committee of the Transvaal will agree to appoint a number of departmental officials as superintendents of these schools which are now controlled by inspectors, Native commissioners and other persons acting at the request of the department. These officials would also be able to take a hand in organising the feeding of Native school children."

The Department of Education had recently been criticised on matters relating to Native schools. It was impossible for the Department, owing to lack of funds, to meet all demands, but wherever possible demands were met and the department did not hesitate when necessary to depart from ordinary routine.

Declaring the new wing open, Mr. Kreft presented the principal of the school, Mr. G. Nakene, with a South African flag, to be flown at the school on festive occasions.

RISE IN SALARIES

Other speakers were Mr. R. V. Seloape-Thema, who urged the need for education for Africans on the same basis as it was now provided for European, Indian and coloured children. Dr. Eilsen, chief inspector of Native schools, who pointed out that the average salary of a married African teacher had risen from £6 in 1911 to £12 to-day; Mr. D. Hennessy, representing the Municipal Non-European Affairs Department, and Mr. Nakene, principal of the school.

The new wing, which contains four classrooms, a science laboratory and a domestic science department, cost £3,625, and its equipment £1,250. The old part of the building, erected about five years ago cost about £2,000 and comprised four classrooms and school offices. The money for the building and equipment was provided by special grants from the Native Affairs Department.

The school has a staff of 12

The Brazzaville Conference

Brazzaville, in French Equatorial Africa, has just been the scene of a conference of great interest to all African peoples. France has been occupied by the Germans since they marched into Paris in June, 1942, and the French Government has been reduced to something like a figurehead representing little more than an enemy mouthpiece. Meanwhile many Frenchmen escaped from their mother country and carried on the war, side by side with the Allies. The leader of this Free French movement is General de Gaulle, and he has received tremendous support from the colonies, which have, by now, all joined in this movement and are fighting and working in every possible way to deliver France herself from the enemy. French Equatorial Africa was actually the first of the French colonies to recover from the shock of the French Armistice with Germany in 1940, and their loyalty was a great help to the Allies, opening the way, as it did, for rapid communications from the Atlantic Ocean to Egypt at a time when the Mediterranean route was extremely difficult.

The Free French are fully conscious of the value of this loyalty on the part of their colonies, and with the terms of the Atlantic Charter in mind they have already set about making plans for the betterment of conditions for their African people. These plans and investigations have been the business of the Brazzaville Conference, but the new spirit of colonial policy had already been defined by M. Felix Eboué, the Governor-General of the French African Empire, himself a Negro from the French West Indies. He says, "To try to reconstruct a new society in the European image is to fail entirely. The Native has his own code of behaviour, his own laws and traditions which are not ours. We shall not be doing him any kindness by imposing upon him our customs or giving him our officials who may think for him, but certainly not with him. On the other hand we shall be assuring his welfare if we treat him as what he is: a human being, with his own background, a member of a family, a tribe and a nation, capable of progress within his environment but completely lost/ outside it. We must strive to develop his own self-respect, his moral progress and his material benefit, but we must do so within a framework of his own Native institutions, and we must keep these institutions as nearly as possible according to tradition, changing them, if we must change them at all, only where it is necessary, keeping the form and framework as close to the original as possible."

At the Brazzaville Conference, Governors from all the different French colonies gathered together to discuss steps towards the greater welfare of the Native peoples. The president of this Conference was M. René Pleven, who is the Minister for the Colonies in the Committee which is acting outside France as a sort of temporary government, until the day when France shall be free again. The presence of M. Pleven gives the conference the weight of authority and the stamp of approval.

The questions discussed fall under three headings: Native policy, Economic policy and Political and Administrative organisation. Under Native policy were such general questions as Health matters and Education and social conditions. Plans have already been passed for a great increase in the scope of Native education, and by 1951, French Equatorial Africa hopes to have doubled the present number of schools and training institutions. Under Economics, they studied the development of agriculture, public works and communications. They also went carefully into the question of establishing certain local industries. Under Administration one of the most important steps to be taken was the modification of certain out-of-date laws framed long ago in the very early days, and also the framing of a new system of representation in the French Parliament. As regards local administration it was recommended that well-trained and suitably educated Natives should be encouraged to take a share in the management of their own affairs, under the general guidance of French officials.

The Brazzaville Conference could not, naturally, pass laws, nor, in the space of a short session, could it make detailed investigations, but its expressed opinions, its definitions of policy and its recommendations will be passed on to higher authorities, and it is certain that the French Empire is facing a new and interesting future career.

African teachers, nine of whom are full graduates. It has an enrolment of 348 pupils and the extra accommodation in the new wing is already almost completely filled.

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"UNLESS WE GET HELP, THE FIRE WILL BURN THE HOUSE!"

"THE MEN ARE VERY TIRED. I WILL GET SOME TEA."

"THIS TEA WILL MAKE THEM STRONG TO FIGHT THE FIRE."

"AH, TEA! JUST WHAT WE NEED TO REFRESH US!"

"GOOD BOY, JOHN! YOUR TEA GAVE US ENERGY TO PUT OUT THE FIRE."

Tea is easy to make and costs very little. When we are tired, a cup of Tea soon makes us fresh and strong again. Everyone likes Tea, it tastes so good. Both children and older people should have Tea with every meal and when they are tired and thirsty too.

IT IS VERY EASY TO MAKE TEA

Buy your Tea in 1/2 lb. packets or larger. You get better value that way. Use a teaspoonful of Tea for every cup you want to make. Always make your Tea with boiling water and allow it to stand for five minutes before pouring it out.

The happy TEA DRINKER family always drinks TEA

They say:

TEA is good for us!

THE BANTU WORLD

NGOMQIBELO, APRIL 1, 1944

Imo Yelizwe

Kuwo onke amahlelo emfazwe imikhosi yamaRashiya...

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Akabananga Ukhala

Kwenzeka into apha kwaThulandivile kwitshoni ezimbini...

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KwaLanga EKapa

Wonganyelwe nguMn. Ngoni wase-Kapa...

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Wonganyelwe nguMn. Ngoni wase-Kapa...

Isimilo Sabantwana

Mhleli, Ndivumele ndenze ambalwa ephapheni...

Mhleli, Ndivumele ndenze ambalwa ephapheni...

Mhleli, Ndivumele ndenze ambalwa ephapheni...

Mhleli, Ndivumele ndenze ambalwa ephapheni...

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UNION COLLEGE

LETTER TO AFRICAN WOMANHOOD

AFRICAN'S ABILITY TO ENDURE

Not long ago the daily Press published the story of an African who had walked a mile and a half with a broken neck to the Swedish Hospital in Dundee. The incident was a very rare case of unusual endurance.

It was interesting because it was one of those instances where the African showed he had reserves of strength which needed to be more fully exploited to enable him to lead a better life.

It would appear that the African himself sees so many cases of endurance that he rarely pauses to think how he

can direct it along channels profitable to him. Yet there is something quite out of the ordinary in the fact that an African will walk a long distance with a sheath knife just below his eye and a few weeks later be well enough to give evidence before a Magistrate. This is equalled by the endurance of an African family that will live on mealie meal, a little bread, tea without milk and a little sugar at intervals for long periods, under housing conditions which are far from ideal.

One historian confessed some time ago that he had always been surprised at the way in which the African people did not perish before the march of Civilisation, with the harsh conditions of living it imposed on them. He had been to New Zealand where the Maoris had, for some time after contact with the West, shown an inability to survive Civilisation which had brought them near extinction. In spite of better living conditions and British assistance the Maori's reaction to Civilisation had not been the most desirable. The Red Indians and the Australian Black Fellow had almost vanished from the face of the earth, while the African was actually increasing in numbers.

Throughout history we find the African people often surviving bad con-

WOMEN'S PAGE

Lets Talk It Over

JOYCE SPEAKS OUT

By W. M. B. Nhlapo

Recently, Joshua, my heart's greatest bliss, whose unstable heart had gone crazy after Nurse Jane Maplank of Mkhumbane Township, called on me at Jericho Township. After all, ou lief rusnie. I so swept Joshua off his feet with my love that he asked me to accompany him to Club de Africa, where he was a guest of honour at an illegal cocktail party held in the secretary's room. Besides Joshua and Joyce, there were a dozen other men, who were introduced to me as the cream of the city. Though I was the only girl in the "reception," I instinctively felt at home. The boys were in like mood.

I heard much that would have brought enough tears to have made the Mfolozi River overflow its banks; learned much that would suffice for a thesis; heard everything black from black-hearted men, and I can assure you that by the time you have read this you will be in possession of vital information on how some men live and waste their few, precious hours.

Here I met men "building" what they regarded as honour and fame by backbiting others. Gossiping like women and wagging tongues, dishonouring others was, as I learned afterwards, the favourite pastime of this club. Here you were great if you could say something ill about somebody or announce some ill motives you had to "do someone down," even if it cost him his name or brought about the loss of means by which he lived. Here I met the cream of Johannesburg and they were scandal-mongers. They criticised all art and lacerated by unwholesome slander the names of leaders, teachers, doctors,

ditions. This has not been merely a case of strong physical resistance alone; it has been a matter of faith in life. The African believes that present conditions will not last to the end of time; that somewhere in the future he will rise to a life of greater usefulness to humanity. He believes that in the final reckoning, Good will triumph over Evil. With this in mind he goes about with an eye more on the future than the unhappy present, all the time building for eternity; generating within himself that inward strength which will be his surest guarantee of victory over Evil.

He will sing as he marches along the ten-mile road to Alexandra, through rain and cold because experience has taught him that he can live and fulfil his mission in life only through cultivating a steady, balanced and stoical attitude. In other words he has not allowed his will to live to be weakened by prevailing conditions.

His endurance can be usefully employed in the process of changing from the old order to the new. Amidst the rush and speed of the present Civilisation, we do need steadiness, patience and the ability to endure, if we are not to go under. African endurance will give us time to adapt ourselves to changed conditions with the best of results to all concerned.

—Editress.

pastors, nurses, scholars and of kids still begowned in gym dresses, without mercy. Their tongues wagged incessantly as they talked on and on and on without pausing to weigh what they said. They thanked their devil for the downfall of some person, cried aloud and shouted when someone got into trouble and even rejoiced at the death of someone. That's the human heart I came across. These men could talk ill of others and their endeavours but not one of them could table tangible results and say: 'this have I done.' Beware of these men; they may sweep you into the ways of the ungodly, the seat of the scornful.

Club de Africa, an institution open to all Bantu people of both sexes, should have been one place under the sun fostering unity. But it did the contrary; it was a hotbed of extreme racialism. Races were divided into cliques. Some races, imbued with Nazi prejudices considered themselves superior to others and as God's chosen people—the herrenvolk. They tried to be experts and dictators. They wanted to dictate other people's love affairs, mode of living and even the form of their family life. The institution is sliding down to deplorable degeneration.

Some of the members of this club have scared many away from the club by their irresponsible acts and back-biting tongues. Their talk reaches the outside world, which is not as foolish as they think.

Have you ever noticed how our trains are paneless? At times they are broken by people thrashing scandal-

mongers and giving them a lesson in etiquette. Shocking scandals are continually wrecking our souls.

To those men who waste their tongues back-biting other men, speaking ill of women, framing disastrous evil motives, we can say to them that backbiting is the work of debased emotions, the work of fools, the work of cowards.

"A gentleman calls attention to the good points in others; he does not call attention to their defects. The small fry does just the reverse of this"—Confucius.

General Nursing Successes

The following have passed the General Nursing Examination of the South African Medical Council: Nurses Martha Bosaletse, Albertina Thethiwe, Olga Silwana, Winnie Cebindevu, Harriet Kubheka and Enid Mokgosi. All of them were trained at the General Hospital, Johannesburg.



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absolutely safe—it cannot harm your baby. All you do is place it on his tongue. Under six months half a powder is sufficient.

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Palmolive soap

In The Political Arena Moshoeshoe's Day On The Reef

(By Kgomo)

TRANSVAAL ELECTONS

Next Monday the Transvaal section of the African National Congress will elect its President. The President's seat has been vacant now for some years—having never been occupied after the death of the celebrated Mr. S. P. Matseke.

In spite of handicaps and difficulties Congress in this Province has been steadily growing. It has established new branches in various parts of the Transvaal and has improved and set on a sounder footing, its finances.

Six months ago Transvaal Congressmen agreed not to elect their President, but to maintain a united front against forces which were at that time considered inimical to Congress. They have up to now loyally closed their ranks and are ready to elect their leader. Only accredited delegates will vote for the President at the coming conference.

CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE

Plans have now been completed to launch the Congress Youth League and an inaugural meeting has been called for Easter Sunday, at the Bantu Social Centre, where the movement will be presented before the public.

Contrary to earlier reports, there has been no difference of opinion between the League's leaders and Congress's. When the League discussed its Manifesto with the President-General for the first time certain points arose which the President-General thought were not in keeping with the spirit of the Bloufontein resolution urging the formation of the League. The deputation which had waited on him with the Manifesto returned with it and after discussion with the Provisional Committee of this proposed body, another interview with the President-General was sought and granted, where complete agreement was reached on the document.

The League has convened its meeting for ten o'clock in the morning on the Sunday just before elections take place and it is hoped that African young men and women will take advantage of the fact that after attending the Youth League meeting, they will, the following day, be present at the Congress conference.

N.R.C. Scores A Point

The Native Laws Amendment Bill, which the Minister of Native Affairs is piloting through Parliament contains provisions which the African people have opposed strongly through their Native Representative Council and through their representatives in Parliament.

Apart from a few concessions to Africans in urban areas, the Bill is an attempt to impose more control on the African people. Originally it sought to control more closely, Africans in freehold villages and those in locations or villages where buildings were erected by or improved by Africans occupying them.

It next sought to empower Magistrates to banish Africans from locations after they had been convicted twice of selling liquor other than kaffer beer. It also made provision for permits to be obtained for the housing of Africans employed in flats. Another objectionable clause freed the Department of Native Affairs from the responsibility of housing Africans it had driven off Private Locations.

The Natives Representative Council put up a stiff fight against all forms of control contained in the Bill on the score that the African people wanted less control and more of the opportunity to "develop along lines of their own choosing."

The Government now seems determined to bring freehold villages under municipal control of some sort and our representatives in Parliament continue to fight against this. The Representative Council, however, secured a point when it got the Government to drop the "control" clauses affecting Africans even in locations or villages where they built or improved their houses. Dropped also, was the clause demanding permits for housing Africans employed in flats.

Continuing the fight, the Representatives of Africans in Parliament have been instrumental in making the Minister not empower Magistrates to banish Africans from locations after two convictions of the sale of liquor other than kaffer beer.

Freehold African villages are still in danger, however.

St. Matthew's School Appeal

Sir,

On the 25th August, 1943, the long established Mission School of St. Matthews was razed to the ground by fire. This resulted in the destruction of three classrooms to which were attached the Principal's office and the storeroom. The furniture, equipment and records dating back many years together with the much-coveted singing competition shield won by the school in 1942 were totally destroyed.

In my capacity as President of the North-western District Teachers' Union I make a special appeal to Principals of African Schools in the Kimberley area—particularly ex-Gore-Brownians, many of whose pupils are prepared in this school before going to the Training and Secondary Schools—for donations to cover building expenses. Such donations could be sent to the Director of the Mission, The Revd. E. J. Crosby, 127, Barkly Road, Kimberley.

For over fifty years, St. Matthews Mission School has been a shining light in Kimberley and the North-west area to thousands of Africans, rendering yeoman service in education and religion to African boys and girls who went through it and are now leaders in many parts of the country.

In 1936, after the erection of the (Continued in column 3)

Support For Day of Prayer

(Contributed)

Moshoeshoe's Day was observed in many parts of the Reef this year—but the most outstanding celebrations were at Orlando and Nigel, on March 10 and 11.

At Orlando, all sections of the community, Zulus, Xosas, and Shangaans, all came to honour the great Leader of the Basuto.

In the evening of March 10, Orlando Africans met in the Communal Hall where a competition concert was held. Choirs from various locations performed and Germiston's won the cup competed for and which had been donated by the High Commissioner's representative.

The following day, Africans assembled in the Hall, this time to listen to addresses by distinguished visitors from Basutoland. These included the representative of the High Commissioner, the Superintendent of Orlando, two members of the Paris Evangelical Society and a number of Europeans.

Before the addresses were delivered a short service was held, conducted by an Evangelist of the Basutoland church. In their remarks, some of the speakers paid tribute to the way in which the Basuto were fighting in this war.

An outstanding feature of this meeting was the arrival of Zulu War dancers who honoured the occasion with their presence. Their performance was widely applauded.

AT NIGEL

Nigel held its celebration of Moshoeshoe say for the first time this year. The various mines in the district co-operated and made the event a great success.

School choirs sang, speeches were made. Various members of the Basuto Royal Family were present.

Mr. Johnson, Manager of Native Affairs Nigel, in memorable address, urged Africans not to allow disturbances to colour the in which they had met to honour a great Basuto Chief and loyal servant of the Empire. He stated that celebrations like Moshoeshoe's Day were of great importance to both Black and White.

Mr. S. Lelshoff of Chertson Township read a letter from the Township's Advisory Board in which it was announced that it had been decided that the main street in the Location should be known as Moshoeshoe Avenue.

Chief Elijah Moshoeshoe, closing the celebrations, thanked all those who had, by their presence, remarks or contributions, made the event the success that it had been.

Brakpan Raises £20 For Congress

(R. L. Bantla)

At a well-attended meeting of the Brakpan Branch of the African National Congress, held in the Community hall on Saturday, February 5, Mr. D. W. Bopape, the local chairman, announced that the branch already had over 300 members. He made a strong appeal to the people to join Congress for freedom. Congress, he said, was faced with the task of strengthening the hand of the trade unions in their fight against the Government's failure to recognise them and Africans could help by joining the trade union movement.

Even Social Security, said Mr. Bopape, could not prove effective as long as the oppressive laws remained.

Speaking in support of the Chairman the local secretary, (Mr. R. L. Bantla) said that the committee did its work enthusiastically. It convened meetings regularly and had often invited speakers from as far away as Johannesburg to come and address the branch. Besides this, it had drawn up a memorandum, in which a plea had been made for humane conditions of living, and had submitted it to the Town Council. The response of the people had been most encouraging. They attended meetings regularly and often in large numbers.

Referring to the Anti-Pass campaign, the Secretary said that Passes were a badge of slavery and were for the humiliation of the African people; they must be abolished as speedily as possible.

The Treasurer, Mr. E. Moleko, presented the financial statement.

Elections

The following were elected officials for the current year: Chairman, Mr. D. W. Bopape; vice-Chairman, Mr. D. D. Magudulela; Secretary, Mr. E. Mafalaho; vice-Secretary, Mr. R. L. Bantla; Treasurer, Mrs. J. Rasekoala; vice-Treasurer, Mr. E. Moleko.

This meeting was closed with the singing of the African National Anthem.

£20 Raised
At a dance organised by the branch and held in the community hall on Saturday, February 19, the sum of £20 was raised for the Congress funds.

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Congress E Sebeditseng?

Bekeng e fetileng re lekile kamoo re ka kgonang go hlalosa mesebetsi ea lekgotla la Congress, gomme re kgolola go...

Tsuloelopele eohle eo re e bonang kajeno gare ga sechaba sa Ba-Afrika e theiloe godimo ga lekgotla la African National Congress...

Ba-Afrika tsena tsahlile re di bonang ga dia hlaga jualeka manna, di loantsoe ke banna le basadi ba ileng ba tela bophelo...

Re setse re boletse ra re lekgotla la African National Congress le rutile Ba-Afrika go kopana, go ratana le go thutana...

Moea ona o jetsoe ke baetapele ba Congress gomme kajeno re bona thololana kapa dienyoba tsa ona 'ise kgahlisang...

Ga re tshagetseng lekgotla la Congress re matlafatsa moea ona gore e kgone go susumelatsa sechaba sa rona nthong tse kgolo...

Mohl. G. K. Hemming ebong moemedi oa Ba-Afrika ba Transkei, o nyatsitse taba ea gore Ba-Afrika bontsi ba bona ditropong...

Phalamente Le Masole A Ba-Afrika

Ga a bua Parliamenteng nthong ea Assembly ka masole a Ba-Afrika, Mr Molteno, emong oa baemedi ba Ba-Afrika...

O boletse gore banna bana ba nts'oa kantle go mabaka a utloagalang, mme taba ena e eketsa boima go Lekgotla la tsa ba bats'oa go fumanela batho bana mosebetsi...

Karabong ea gagoo potsong ea Mr. Molteno, Tona-kgolo ebong General Smuts, o boletse ga taba ena e hlabile batho dipelong...

Esita le koa meleng ea ntoa banna bare taba ena e bohloko ea gore ka mor'a tsebetso e ntle batho e be ba ea nts'oa ka mabaka a manyane a kang semelo...

Tona ea tsa tokiso (Demobilisation) e boletse ga e tla bona gore lerumo lena le se ke la hlaba le moo le sa lokelang. O tsoetse pele are tseli di ngata tseo masole a Ba-Afrika a tsoileng (discharge)...

General Smuts o buile are ga a rate gore gothoe Lekgotla la gagoo le ka etsa masole hampe. A bolela gore ba leka gore masole a se ke a tsoaroa hampe...

A tsoelopele are mantsoe a reng hotsoa ka tlotlo (honourable discharges) kapa hontsoa ka tlotlollo (dishonourable discharge)...

Mosebetsi ona o dira ka hlokomelo e kgole ke ofisiri e bonang gore tsothe di etsoa ka tshiamo. Motho ea ntsuag bosoleng kantle ga malokisetsa a chelete ke eo a beng a na le phoso tse kgolo...

Dingongorego di bile teng tse reng Ba-Afrika ba tsoileng bosoleng ga ba hlokomeloe go fumanela mesebetsi joaleka Makgona. Athe go na le tulo koa Modder B moo Ba-Afrika ba ka dulang teng go batleloa tokisetso tsa mesebetsi...

Phalamente Le Metse Ea Ba-Afrika

Vekeng e fetileng go bile le puisano e kgolo phalamenteng godimo ga taba ea theko le thekisano ea mafats'e a Ba-Afrika, 'mogo le kadimisano ea chelete...

Major Piet van der Byl, Hlogo ea Merero ea Ba-Afrika, polelong ea gagoo godim'a taba ena o pakile gore tulong tse kang ba-Lady Selborne, Alexandra Township, joalo-joalo tseo e leng tsa Ba-Afrika...

Major van der Byl a re bo-Masepala ba bang ba gana go dumella Ba-Afrika go bula mavenkele malokeisheng, gobane motha a ka theetsa ba bang a re ke la gagoo. Taba ena gothoe e tla lokisoa joale...

Mrs. Ballinger, eo e leng Moemedi oa Ba-Afrika phalamenteng, a nyatsa ts'inyo eo ea Major van der Byl, polelong ea gagoo, Mrs. Ballinger o itse molao ona ke o mobe, gobane o amoga Ba-Afrika tokelo tsa bona tse ngata...

tsamaiso ke ea bohlokoa. Ts'inyo e ka pele ga phalamente o e fumana e le gabeli: e molemo ka ngeng e 'ngoe, athe gape ka go e 'ngoe ga e molemo. Ntho eo e paka phokolo ea 'muso go ela hloko...

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CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

AND

FAMILY SUPPLEMENT

Serial No. 107

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BANTU WORLD

April 1944

5-CUP Matters



In this issue we publish a very thoughtful article from an old contributor, Mr. M. M. Biko of Queenstown, who has something to say on the subject of our school studies.

The food that we eat is assimilated and becomes a part of our bodies in a short time. Can we say the same about what we learn? What we learn to-day should be a part of our minds to-morrow.

At school we learn various subjects. This learning is intended to build our characters. If we learn only in order to pass examinations, and forget everything soon afterwards, then we are not really educated. Is Hygiene taught at school, only to enable us to pass the examination? No! It is taught so that we can live healthily in our homes after school life. We must know what kind of house to build. We must know about ventilation. We must be clean to prevent all manner of disease. And if we have been taught subjects like Book-keeping, we must be able to run our businesses.

School examinations are only a way of grading our progress at school, and the word progress must be noted. If, a few years later, you can hardly remember what a ledger or a Trial Balance is, and yet you have Book-keeping on your Certificate, then you have slipped back, and your Certificate only shows how far you progressed once, though you are no longer there.

Try to make the subjects you learn a part of yourself. Do not merely study. If you are taking Hygiene, try to live according to Hygiene; let people read your knowledge of it in yourself, and not only on your Certificate. Be able to amuse people in trains when you travel, by telling them historical stories if you took History, or by telling them about far-off countries if you studied Geography. Let them read your Domestic Science in your table and your kitchen, your Agricultural subjects in the state of your lands. Let your Mathematics solve your money problems, and quicken your reckoning. Did you take Afrikaans? Let us see this by your fluent conversation with Afrikaans-speaking people.

In short, let your motto be, "I must myself be the Certificate of the subjects I took at school."

M. M. Biko

This column is at the disposal of our Readers, and we pay for all contributions.

Tickey Tales

THREE GIFTS

A legend from Madagascar

There is a legend in Madagascar, that one of the ancient kings, wishing to test the wisdom of his three sons, sent for them and asked them to choose between three gifts. There were gold and silver and a bucket of earth.

The three boys stood before the king and stared at the three gifts. "Since I am the eldest," said the first one, "I have the right to speak first, and I will choose the gold, because gold is the most precious of all metals, and with gold a man may buy many things. Give me the gold!"

The second boy looked a little sulky. "If my brother takes the gold," he said, "then there is nothing for me but the silver. And silver is a precious metal too, and many things may be bought with silver. Therefore give me the silver."



The king looked at his youngest son, who smiled back. "Gold is indeed a precious metal Sir," he said, "and silver too. Therefore my brothers were right in wishing to have these things for themselves. But there is one thing more precious than either. Men cannot eat gold, nor drink silver, nor can they use them for clothing. But out of the earth come grain and grass and good fruits, and on the earth a man may build himself houses, and set his cattle to graze. And good land worked with skill and industry will bring fortune to anyone. Therefore, my brothers, take your gold and silver, I am content to have earth for myself."

Then the king, who was much pleased with this speech, saw that his youngest son was most worthy to rule over his lands, so he gave the eldest boy all the gold that was in his store, and to the second he gave a small silver mine which was working in the hills, but he gave his whole kingdom to the youngest, who had a true love of land, and under him the country prospered and was rich and happy for many long years.

A FAMILY THAT I KNOW



PARCELS FROM UP NORTH

Post time was always exciting for the nurses at the hospital, and when Ethel came in with parcels in her arms, Mitseli jumped up at once.

"One each" cried Ethel, tearing off the string in her haste. The parcels were certainly from up North, and Mitseli, who was less impatient than her friend, examined the address as she poured out some tea. By this time, several other girls had wandered in and came across to see what the excitement was about. Ethel was almost surrounded by paper by the time she came to the end of the wrappings, "Oh look!" she cried, and everybody crowded round as she held up a pretty bracelet in curiously fashioned silver.

"Try it on" said somebody admiringly. The bracelet fitted perfectly and Mitseli was almost speechless with delight. In the meantime, Mitseli had opened her parcel and drawn out a handsome handbag decorated with bright Egyptian figures. She had never before in her life possessed anything so beautiful, and she opened every inside pocket over and over again. But Ethel had not come to the end of her present yet, she lifted up another layer of tissue paper, and came to a large purse, made after the same style as Mitseli's but differently shaped. Then it was Mitseli's turn again, and she held up a large brooch.

"Fancy making a brooch like a beetle!" said one of the girls, but Ethel was able to tell her that this was a special sort of beetle called a scarab, which the ancient Egyptians had considered sacred, and which is to be seen in much of their handwork today.

It was a long time before everybody had finished examining each of the gifts, and as they were put away, more than one girl was heard to say that she wished her husband was in Egypt. Next Time: N'Gombi And His Tea Car.

AROUND THE WORLD at TEA TIME

THE ISLAND OF MADAGASCAR



Madagascar, lying off the Eastern coast of Africa, is one of the world's largest islands. If you look at your atlas, you will find only three, or possibly four, which are larger.

You probably know that the waters separating Madagascar from the African continent are called the Mozambique Channel, and at certain times of the year they are very dangerous. Nearby are various groups of smaller islands including the Comoros. But although Madagascar is so close to the mainland, it has many different plants and animals, and there seems never to have been any connection between the two. The most striking thing about the animals is that none of them is dangerous. There are no lions, no tigers and no leopards, so that you could walk through their forests without any fear of being attacked. There are snakes, but only harmless ones, nothing like our own black mambas. The most dangerous creature on the island is something smaller than your finger nail: a minute black spider with a red spot, and a bite that will kill a young person, or someone who is not strong.

The people of Madagascar, commonly called the Malgash, are extremely mixed. It is thought that the ancient and aristocratic people known as the Hovas, came from over the seas, as the Polynesians sailed to New Zealand and became the New Zealand Maoris. They are brown skinned and very intelligent, and they were the rulers of the island for many years. There are many other races, however, including descendants of those African tribes who were carried off in years gone by as slaves.

Madagascar was first discovered by the Portuguese in their exploring days in the 16th Century, but the first people to settle there were the French, who established a trading station down in the South called Fort Dauphin: Dauphin was the title given in those days to the eldest son of the French king, so we have, in this place-name, a relic of the days when France was a royalist

country. The little settlement was not as successful as the Dutch ventures at the Cape, or the British enterprise in India, but it remained there for many years, until the French finally took over the whole island about fifty years ago. Today it is a part of the Free French Empire, having been rescued from Vichy rule in the early part of 1942 when the Allies and the Fighting French took it over.

One of Madagascar's chief products is beef, for the island has great herds of cattle, and there are several factories which work during the season, turning the thousands of oxen into cans of beef, piles of hides, and quantities of glue. Curiously enough, in spite of their numbers of cattle, the people there seldom taste milk or butter. Their cows are lean and tough, and they are not good for dairy purposes. It seems odd that a country which thrives on the beef industry should have to import dried milk to feed its babies!



Among the many other commodities to be found there are rice and manioc; and if you have ever eaten tapioca pudding, your tapioca was very likely made from Madagascar manioc. Doubtless, too, you have had chocolate of a vanilla flavour: it would be interesting to ask how many of you could tell the source of vanilla flavouring. It is actually the dried fruit, or bean, of an orchid flower, and the orchid which bears it is also a native of Madagascar. The rice grown in the Northern part of the island ranks with the best in the world, and high prices are paid for it in the European markets. All the usual fruits grow in abundance, but they are not cultivated, as in this country, and the result is that they are smaller, and less finely flavoured than our own. The Malgash, like most people who live near the Equator, are inclined to be lazy and happy-go-lucky; they are content with the fruits they have, and they do not yet realise that Nature can be assisted by man's efforts to produce more bountifully.

Those natives who have gone to France to complete their education have done very well indeed, and now there are medical schools on the island itself which turn out some very good Doctors and help the problem of supplying medical attention to the large population. Standards are improving everywhere, and education is increasing. Gradually Madagascar is becoming more and more completely civilised, and although everything cannot be accomplished at once, they are moving, as are our own people, towards an adult status among nations.

TOMMY TEA AND SPOT



When Tommy Tea woke up and found that the baboons had stolen Daddy's tea can, he was very upset. He knew Daddy would be tired with working in the hot sun, and he would be waiting for his tea.



Spot was barking a long way off, so Tommy began to run after the baboons too. He ran along the bank of the river and up the hill. Thorns scratched him and a sharp stone cut his foot and Tommy began to cry.



Soon Tommy came to a place where he could see the baboons clearly. Spot had gone off, and they had settled down. They were all looking at the blue tea can, and one baboon was licking the sweet tea off his fingers.



Tommy was so cross that he began to shout, but the baboons were at home and they did not run away. Tommy jumped up and down and threw stones. The baboons did the same, and suddenly one of them threw the tea can!



Uncle Arthur's Letter

P.O. Box 792,
Johannesburg.

My dear Friends,

I have often thought that the greatest poverty, speaking culturally, of the Bantu race, was the serious lack of real literature and drama. We have our stories and legends, it is true, and we have our dramatic dances, but these can hardly be compared with, let us say, the traditional plays of Bali, or the rich stores of many other nations. So that when a Zulu legend is turned into play form, written down on paper and actually published, it is really something of importance. I lay stress on this question of publishing because it is only when a story is thus fixed in its final form that it can take its place in the literature of the world. Most traditional stories in all nations started their careers by being passed on from mouth to mouth, from father to son, often gaining but often losing in the process. Such story-telling kept alive the myths and legends of the ancient world, but it is only the ones which were written down by poets that have reached the world of to-day.

All of this is to welcome the appearance of "Chief Above and Chief Below," written by Hugh Tracey and by K. E. Masinga; Hugh Tracey is the Manager of the Durban Broadcasting Studio and K. E. Masinga, former student of Adams College, is the Zulu announcer there.

There are so many points of interest in this publication that I could very easily fill the whole of my space without discussing the play itself at all. I should like to say something about this extraordinary successful collaboration, and to hope that the two authors may be inspired to present more of our old Zulu legends in modern style. I should like to tell you about the open-air theatre which Mr. Tracey has designed for the Dombashawa Government Training School in Rhodesia, and to express the opinion that the open-air stage is probably the ideal medium for our dramatic art, combining as it does, music and dancing with large crowd scenes and spacious themes. I would like to praise the austere simplicity of the English version which seems to me to convey admirably the spirit of the original. And I would like to say how gratifying it is that our culture should find such wide and serious consideration.

But I must confine myself to three main aspects. The first is really a wish: we have, thanks to various organizations, many groups of young people studying drama and anxious to express themselves through this art. Now one of their main handicaps, according to what I have always heard, is the lack of suitable material, and this is very easily understandable. Most published plays, especially of the lighter type, deal with a life that is quite foreign to us. As there are language idioms, so there are idioms of every-day life, and

*Published by Messrs Shuter and Shooter, P.O. Box 109, Pietermaritzburg; price 3/6.

the situations of these plays are often far removed from the idioms of ours, while their problems are different too. Here then, is the answer to the question, "What shall we act?" I am looking forward to seeing the first performance of this play by some of our dramatic groups.

My second point is an exhortation. There must be many boys and girls in our High Schools and Colleges who have the wish and the ability to add to our national literature. To them I would say, Here is the ideal medium to try: see what you can do about it.

And thirdly I would urge you all to get hold of this book and read it for yourselves: you will find it extremely worth while. It is the old story of the princess who goes away from the world of sunshine above, into the darkness below, marries the prince of that dark land, and returns to her people, with her baby, bringing back to them prosperity and fruitfulness. It is a fertility legend symbolising the old ritual of seed planting. You might be interested to compare it with the Greek legend of Proserpine which is to be found in most Senior School readers.

And with this suggestion, I really must come to an end.

Your Uncle Arthur

DID YOU KNOW?

The world is full of curious things, and even those we use in our everyday life sometimes have most interesting histories. Did you know, for example, that knives and forks were comparatively recent additions to our tables? In Elizabeth's reign in England, ordinary people carried their own knives about with them, and held their meat in one hand while they cut off chunks with the other, and that is only four hundred years ago. On the other hand, gunpowder, which Western civilisation has been using only for five or six hundred years, was known in China about three thousand years ago, and what is more the coolies on the Burma Road are still making it by the ancient recipe, for blasting the rocks in their way. The Chinese had printing too, in the distant ages before the time of Christ, although our famous inventors of the printing press lived only in the 16th century.

You may have seen sweets coloured pink, and if you happen to be a cook you may have a small bottle of pink colouring labelled "cochineal." But do you know where the cochineal comes from? Not any plant or mineral, but from the crushed bodies of tiny red insects known in South America as the Cochineal insect!

SOLUTION TO NUMBERS

First row: Two, nine, four. Second row: seven, five, three. Third row: six, one, eight.

INDIAN PROVERB

The ancient wisdom of India warns us against expecting results without working for them: "The goal will not be reached if the right distance be not travelled."

Our Smiles Column.

TEA TIME ACROSTIC 107

1st UPRIGHT: One who does acrobatics. 2nd UPRIGHT: To give sanction to, or sign. CLUES ACROSS: 1. The winning card or airman. 2. Belonging to all. 3. This colour says Danger. 4. Capital of Norway. 5. This drinks ink as you drink tea. 6. This book maps out the world. 7. Tea appeals pleasantly to this sense.

SOLUTION TO ACROSTIC 106

1ST UPRIGHT: Pretoria, 2ND UPRIGHT: Montreal. CLUES ACROSS: 1. Palm. 2. Romeo. 3. Eden. 4. Torrent. 5. Over. 6. Rapture. 7. India. 8. April.

SILLY STORY

Northway Mahlali sends us a good joke. Can you see for yourself why it has been given the title of "Silly Story?"

A man wrote this letter to a newspaper. "Dear Sir, I wish to pay a tribute to your paper as an excellent advertising medium. It is truly marvellous. Yesterday I advertised for a gold watch which I had lost the day before, and such is the advertising value of your esteemed paper, that only ten minutes later, I found my watch in my other waistcoat pocket."

MAGIC WITH NUMBERS

Can you make a number square? The idea is to fill in the spaces so that each row, upwards, sideways or across adds up to 15. If you succeed, try larger squares for yourself; you will find these puzzles fascinating to invent.

A NEW COMPETITION FOR READERS

From time to time we read an animal story among the news items in our papers. Birds in an English village have been bothering the local authorities. They perch upon the hands of the church clock causing it to lose time, so it has been suggested that a glass cover will have to be fixed over the clock face! Another bird story from England concerns a small country bird whose nest was found to be composed entirely of confetti. Needless to say, this bird also lived near to the village church, and must have been a regular visitor at weddings.

Still another church story is about a cat which followed the verges into the church near London and tugged the bell rope with its two front paws. After several weeks of practice, the cat was able to ring the bell by himself.

Have you an animal story? Do you know of any clever cat or dog, or have you observed any interesting action on the part of a wild animal or bird? Can you describe an unusual bird's nest, or any other piece of Nature Study?

The Editor will be pleased to receive such letters and will give prizes for the best ones. Letters should be marked, "Animal Stories," and should be sent to the Editor, Children's Supplement, Box 792, Johannesburg.

Warning: The Editor has read all the animal stories in books, and will not give any prizes for them. Stories must be true!

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

SERVICE FOR SOLDIERS

Throughout the Allied world, wherever the soldiers of freedom are stationed or fighting, the Y.M.C.A. provides for their welfare and recreation. This month we show you some of the wonderful work the South African Y.M.C.A. is doing for African soldiers.



1. In every Native Military Corps camp the Y.M.C.A. has established a building where soldiers gather in their leisure hours for games, recreation and letter writing. These Y.M.C.A. huts have a canteen supplying cigarettes, food and drinks, as well as the many personal things a soldier needs. Classes are organised for soldiers who wish to learn how to read and write. The Y.M.C.A. also arranges free film shows and concerts in these huts.



2. In the Middle East, where Y.M.C.A. works under the name of U.D.F.I., there are special clubs for the N.M.C. This club in Egypt looks after soldiers on leave. Notice the outdoor theatre.



3. A leave camp has been built near Jerusalem where soldiers on holiday can stay and visit the historical places of the Holy Land. Guides show parties around sites mentioned in the Bible.



4. Front line soldiers are not forgotten. Mobile canteens look after their needs. These mobile canteens have given away over three million cups of free tea.



5. Mobile cinemas also accompany the soldiers wherever they go. Over two million men have attended free film shows put on by these cinemas on wheels.

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