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"Bear ye one another's burdens."

"The best is yet to be."

SOUTH AFRICAN BANTU BROTHERHOODS COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Sir RICHARD WINFREY, M.P.,
Castor House, Peterborough.

Vice-Chairman :

Mr. W. B. DIXON,
President Bedfordshire Federation,
White Friars, Leighton Buzzard.

Treasurer :

Mr. W. C. CROSS,
Southall Brotherhood,
69 Shakespeare Road, Hanwell, W.

Hon. Secretary :

Miss IRMA COLENZO,
"Elangeni," Amersham, Bucks.

Missioner in South Africa :

Mr. SOL T. PLAATJE,
Box 143, Kimberley, South Africa.

The above is a Committee formed in June, 1920, to establish and develop Brotherhood work among the South African natives by helping to erect, furnish and maintain meeting halls in some South African centres where regular Brotherhood and Sisterhood work could be conducted. It will come as a surprise to many to hear that the hundreds of thousands of native workers in South Africa have not a single institute that they could resort to for mutual benefit after working hours ; but thanks to the generosity of De Beers Diamond Mining Company a beginning has already been made in Kimberley, and Brotherhood services have been held there since the first Sunday in 1919. Other centres are anxious to share in this advantage but native wages are so low that the financing of such an organisation is beyond their means. It is the task of this Committee to endeavour to ease this difficulty. The average wages of native labourers are 1s. 3d. per day, and their war widows and orphans, unlike the dependants of white soldiers in the same country, are not the concern of the State. It is proposed to promote Brotherhood amongst the tribes by the printing and circulation of suitable literature in English and in the vernacular. The immensity of this task will be appreciated when it is pointed out that to print a translation of the Fellowship Hymn Book in only one native language costs £950.

The Committee is greatly in need of assistance in the shape of money and books and second hand clothes. Articles of clothing that are serviceable could be shipped out and distributed to deserving cases; and such as are unsuitable for native wear will be sold and the money used in the erection and furnishing of Brotherhood and Sisterhood Halls. Thus, any gift, in the shape of a canvas shirt or dress suit, a tweed skirt or an opera cloak, will be a welcome contribution towards the South African Bantu Brotherhoods Funds. A piano or an organ will be very welcome to lead the singing of the drum voices of the Natives, who, unlike their more favoured neighbours of another race and colour in the same country, cannot from their scant earnings hope to purchase the musical instruments they need so badly.

Most important of all will be gifts of chairs, corrugated iron, and timber (including ceiling and flooring boards). If building materials can be obtained, municipalities will readily grant sites for such purposes as a Brotherhood Hall which could also be used for educational purposes.

Any friends in sympathy with the efforts towards a better understanding between white and black and who would kindly consider the plea of their black brothers and sisters cannot do better than communicate with any of the office bearers.

Our Missioners in South Africa are Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Plaatje, the well-known Native author and lecturer and his wife, who started the movement at Kimberley by the help of the De Beers Company.

IRMA COLENZO.

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