

"The Star" "Solving the Pimville Problem - Location whose Native will not move.

7th January, 1939.

Contrast with Orlando, The Model Township.

*Star 7/1/39*

## **SOLVING THE PIMVILLE PROBLEM**

### **LOCATION WHOSE NATIVES WILL NOT MOVE**

### **CONTRAST WITH ORLANDO, THE MODEL TOWNSHIP**

A scheme to convert Pimville from a slum-like native location into a native township more nearly approaching the Orlando ideal has been submitted to the Johannesburg City Council by the manager of the Native Affairs Department, Mr. G. Ballenden.

The proposal is to acquire additional land adjoining the location for extension and improvement, thus overcoming the reluctance of the natives to move from Pimville.

In this way a solution may be found of a problem which is nearly a quarter of a century old.

## **ORIGIN IN PLAGUE OUTBREAK**

While severe criticism is often directed against the Johannesburg City Council because of the conditions that prevail at Pimville Location in contrast to the more modern design and planning of Orlando Township, it must not be forgotten that Pimville was the first attempt by the Council to establish a location for the urban native.

Its establishment arose as a result of the outbreak of pneumonic plague in Johannesburg in 1904, when a large number of natives were living in hovels and shacks in an old brickyard in Newtown. From there the natives were taken out to Pimville and placed in temporary shelters.

Pimville was then laid out as a native village, and the residents were given the opportunity of renting stands and erecting their own houses. In those days no particular attention was paid by the authorities to the way the natives built their houses or how they themselves developed. As long as they put up some sort of a residence the proposed structures were passed.

The properties were allowed to rise up in disarray, and formed a jumble of unsightly dwellings, which, developing on undesirable lines, finally resolved themselves into the unattractive Pimville of to-day. It is generally conceded that the location is far from satisfactory, and this view is shared without any reservations by the municipality itself.

Pimville has proved to be a striking example of what would happen in other areas if the native were allowed to proceed along his own lines without the imposition of strict rules and regulations governing the erection of the buildings in which he lives.

### **REFUSED TO MOVE**

Some years ago the department of native affairs reported on the location's condition, and one of the suggestions put forward was that it should be razed to the ground and the inhabitants transferred elsewhere to a new township to be laid out on modern lines and where, after being compensated for the destruction of their existing shacks and huts, they would be enabled to rehabilitate themselves in more hygienic and satisfactory surroundings.

Unexpected opposition from the natives themselves, however, greeted that proposal, and they strongly objected to such a procedure. Their antagonism to the projected solution was fear of the unknown, anxiety that they might lose something in the exchange, and their attachment to the dilapidated habitations with which for many years they had associated all that for them spelt home.

The opposition to transference was based primarily on sentimental grounds and as such proved to be insusceptible to reason.

Even the argument of the presence of an unpleasant-smelling sewage farm in close proximity to the location failed to prove persuasive and they persisted in the desire to be left undisturbed.

A new scheme has now been submitted to the Council by Mr. G. Ballenden, manager of the non-European and native affairs department, that additional land adjoining the location be acquired and laid out on more modern lines, with larger stands and better amenities to meet the requirements of the Pimville natives. The natives favour the proposal in principle.

The change, it is felt by the authorities, should be effected gradually in view of the large native population, which numbers some 18,000. The policy of the municipality is guided by the wish not to upset the natives unduly, but progressively to improve their conditions.

The sewage farm will be altered appreciably in order to make it less objectionable, although the fumes are not detrimental to health.

The City Council, it was authoritatively stated, is by no means happy about the present condition of Pimville and the lot of the natives there, but it is fully alive to the state of affairs prevailing and realises that the necessary changes can only be brought about gradually and through consultation with the natives themselves. An assurance that this would be done was unequivocally given.

### **ORLANDO EXAMPLE**

The example of Orlando Township was cited as proof of the City Council's resolve to establish for the natives under its jurisdiction living conditions compatible with the best interests of the natives' own health, happiness and welfare.

Orlando is universally acknowledged to be the finest native township in the Union, and here the Council has undertaken with marked success to give the native the best possible regardless of cost. Six short years ago Orlando was but a patch of bare veld; to-day it is the seventh largest town in the country, with a population of 35,000 natives. It covers an area of 3,000 acres, compared with the 200 acres on which Pimville stands. When completed, Orlando Township will have cost £2,000,000, and already it is equipped with electrical street lighting, shops, churches, schools, public halls and additional communal amenities.



4/2/39  
22 star

## MODEL HOMES FOR 8,000

### CITY COUNCIL'S NEW SCHEME

## SLUM CLEARANCE

Model homes with pretty gardens for 8,000 people at present living in the dingier back areas of the city in rooms round dirty yards will be built at a total cost of £1,400,000 if recommendations in a report of the M.O.H., Dr. Milne, are accepted by the Johannesburg City Council.

The report follows a new development in the negotiations between the Government and the Johannesburg City Council for the exchange of big areas in and near the centre of the city to improve the lay-out of the city, provide new traffic outlets and help solve the traffic and parking problem. The Government, it is understood, wanted ground owned by the Council at Klipriviersberg to house railway artisans who would be employed at the new goods and marshalling yards on the site of the former black spot, Prospect Township.

#### KLIPRIVIERSBERG

In the circumstances the Council considered abandoning its scheme to use the ground for European housing schemes and to use a sum of about £1,250,000 for a European housing scheme at Albertsville and non-European housing schemes at Claremont and Coronation township.

It is now understood on reliable authority that the Government will most likely abandon its request for the ground at Klipriviersberg. In that case the M.O.H. has recommended that the Council should spend a housing loan of about £1,400,000 on putting up 2,000 model homes in a sub-economic scheme at Klipriviersberg to house about 8,000 people now living in what are regarded as slum areas.

Dr. Milne states that in view of the new development there is no reason why the Council should not start putting up houses at Klipriviersberg and every reason why it should, to provide accommodation for families displaced by action taken or about to be taken in condemning slum properties in the city's back areas.

#### LAST YEAR'S SURVEY

Dr. Milne reports that a survey taken last year shows there are 6,735 European families living in slum properties in Johannesburg, 5,497 native families, 2,747 coloured families and 874 Asiatic families. This makes a total of 15,853 families or about 60,000 people out of a total population of 516,000. This means that one person in eight in Johannesburg lives in a slum.

The Council has already taken action in condemning 615 insanitary properties, occupied by a total of 488 European families, 731 coloured, 114 Asiatic and 1,939 native families, and will continue in its big drive to clear the city of insanitary and slum dwellings and providing its less fortunate citizens with model homes, in flats and cottages at rentals well within the pocket of even the poorer families.

Dr. Milne recommends that the Council should immediately authorise the calling of tenders for 1,000 houses to be put up at Klipriviersberg as soon as possible, the other 1,000 to be put up as the campaign to clear the slums makes them necessary.

This scheme will be considered by the Public Health Committee at a meeting on Tuesday.



for this the Council will acquire almost 15 acres of valuable ground, which can be laid out into blocks of stands. It is hoped that the sale of the stands will reimburse the Council but, apart from that, Johannesburg will have secured two additional roads across the railway, providing essential relief to the congestion in Harrison Street.

"It is understood to be the Administration's intention," says Dr. Hamlin, "to abolish some of the sidings west of the ground which the Council is acquiring, and to convert the ground so released into commercial blocks of stands, so it is probable that additional means of access will be available at a later date. The improvements to be effected will mean the eventual removal of the coal sidings and the abattoir and livestock market, but no new site has as yet been decided upon."

#### FIVE NEW TOWNSHIPS

Five new townships established during the year, Crosby, Cyrildene, Melrose North, Stafford, and Fairmont, brought the total number of townships to 144, and added 23.84 miles of roadway, making the total length of roadway in the municipal area 887,781 miles.

Dr. Hamlin points out that due largely to the absorption of the cleaning department, the number of natives controlled by the department has greatly increased, and in consequence the problem of housing them within reasonable walking distance of their work is becoming increasingly difficult. A suitable site to serve the north-western area has been acquired on the farm Waterval No. 10, where it is anticipated it will be necessary to make provision, in the first instance, for housing about 3,000 natives and stabling 400 animals as well as for workshops, stores, and depot offices.

#### "HOPELESSLY INADEQUATE"

"There remains the necessity," adds the report, "for establishing a similar organisation to serve the north-eastern districts, where the existing accommodation is hopelessly inadequate. More-

was issued on Saturday. Excellently arranged and containing many good photographs, as well as useful graphs, it gives a comprehensive review of the rapidly developing services of the City Engineer's Department.

Commenting on the growth of the department's staff, Dr. Hamlin says that the shortage of technical officials throughout the country is still proving a severe handicap, and great difficulty is being experienced in obtaining suitable qualified men for engineering, architectural and surveying work.

Notwithstanding improved conditions offered by the City Council, it has been increasingly difficult to attract and retain men "of the right calibre," and it has been necessary to send out departmental work to land and quantity surveyors in private practice, at increased cost to the Council. The Council has agreed to temporary increases in the salaries of many of the senior technical officials, and it is hoped in this way to arrest the growing tendency for such men to be attracted away from the Council's service.

At the date of the report there were 2,265 Europeans employed by the department, compared with 628 in 1927 and 1,895 in 1935. The increase in the native staff is even more remarkable. There were 1,656 in 1927, 5,399 in 1935, and last year 9,624. The total of the department's employees is now 11,889.

The Council has decided to establish a separate section of the department to co-ordinate all town-planning work under a town-planning officer.

Among the major schemes dealt with during the year were the removal of a part of Kazerne, housing schemes at Bertrams, Jan Hofmeyr, Glenesk, Klipriviersberg Estate, and Coronation, the re-layout of the north-western suburbs, lowering of the railway line and elimination of level crossings, and the demolition of Prospect Township.

#### PROSPECT TOWNSHIP PLAN

Prospect Township was expropriated by the Council under the Slums Act, and has been handed over to the Railway Administration, from whom the Council is acquiring the eastern portion of Kazerne, the total cost of the arrangement to the Council being £450,000. In return

over, it is in these areas that the greatest objection is being raised to the continuance of the two small compounds, Norwood and Bezuidenhout Valley, and they will have to be abolished in the near future. Unless some adequate provision is made for the housing of the large number of natives required for work in this area the Council will very soon be faced with the necessity of transporting all the men concerned, which would be most inconvenient and uneconomic."

First-aid training, says Dr. Hamlin, is being enthusiastically taken up by many of the natives, the Council having decided to bear the cost of the necessary class fees and equipment, and to grant small increases in wages to those men who pass the examination.

#### BIG WATER SUPPLY

During the year reviewed by Dr. Hamlin, Johannesburg bought 4,979,526,500 gallons of water from the Rand Water Board, and sold 4,550,144,900 gallons. The daily consumption varied between 19,317,000 and 9,765,000 gallons, and the daily average was 13,652,000 gallons. The reticulation system comprises more than 718 miles of mains and serves 55,006 consumers, but although a record quantity was bought and sold, there was a reduction of 1,075 in new leadings as compared with the previous year.

## CITY ENGINEERING

available yearly for road construction has risen from £65,000 in 1927. The first introduced, to one of many points of information of the city mentioned by the Council, in his annual report.

The year ended June 30 last,

Mail 27/2/39



"THE RAND DAILY MAIL""Housing Needs Of Non-Europeans" 28th February, 1939.

## HOUSING NEEDS OF NON-EUROPEANS

The Johannesburg City Council will be asked at its meeting to-night to apply for a loan of £401,000 to finance a new coloured township adjoining Orlando. This is a clear indication of what the Council is doing in its determined campaign to rid the city of slums; it is also a reminder that the housing needs of the native and coloured communities are still very far from being fulfilled.

In recent years, Johannesburg has invested vast sums of money to meet those needs. For the housing of 83,775 natives alone it has provided something over £3,000,000, and its township at Orlando is recognised throughout South Africa as a model of its kind. Yet even this generous expenditure has not kept pace with the phenomenal growth of the native and coloured populations. Between 1921 and 1936 the non-European population of the Rand actually doubled itself, and in Johannesburg, according to the census taken in the latter year, there were more non-Europeans than Europeans. This position, of course, is paralleled in the urban areas of the Union generally, and between the years 1921 and 1936, the number of non-Europeans living in the towns rose from 888,287 to 1,702,145.

There are many people to-day who deprecate this tendency, and many efforts have been made to bring about a reduction in the number of urban natives. But it is doubtful whether the tendency can now be reversed. The natives and coloured people who live in the towns to-day have come in response to the white man's needs. They have come to stay, and, a vital part of the new industrial order, they have an unanswerable claim upon the community they serve; the European, in his own interests if from no higher motives, cannot afford to forget them.

Yet, according to the City Engineer of Johannesburg, accommodation for native employees of the Council in the north-eastern districts is still "hopelessly inadequate"; while the Medical Officer of Health, in a recent report, stated that there were 5,497 native families, 2,747 coloured families and 874 Asiatic families living in city slums. These are disturbing figures; they are a challenge to the civic conscience of Johannesburg.



MARCH 10, 1939.

## Y NEW SLUMS DANGER ASIATIC HOUSING IN CITY "LOCAL OPTION" OPPOSED

A deputation of five city councillors will leave Johannesburg for Cape Town to-morrow to interview the Minister of the Interior, Mr. R. Stuttaford, and the Minister of Native Affairs, Mr. H. A. Fagan, on special problems concerning Asiatic and coloured occupation in Johannesburg, in the light of the recent "local option" segregation proposals.

They will represent that the principle of "local option" should not apply in Johannesburg and that all coloured and Asiatic housing in Johannesburg should be under the strict control of the Johannesburg City Council, in the interests of public health and to avoid the growth of new slums in the city.

The deputation will consist of Mr. T. P. Gray, M.P.C., chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the Johannesburg City Council, Mr. Lionel Leveson, chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. A. Immink, chairman of the Native Affairs Committee, Mr. C. Beckett, chairman of the Town Planning Committee, and Mr. S. F. du Toit, councillor of the western areas, chiefly affected by the proposals.

Outlining the purpose of the deputation, Mr. Leveson said that if the Government were to adopt as law the principle that the inhabitants of any area might by a specified majority decide whether Asiatic and coloured occupation should be allowed in their area, the future of the north-western suburbs as a European residential area would be doomed.

By pressure of numbers it would be generally opened to Asiatic and coloured occupation, even where the suburbs to-day were "white."

### ALEXANDRA TOWNSHIP

It would also become impossible to move the non-European population from Alexandra Township, even on the policy of compensating them with properties elsewhere.

A further important aspect was that of housing. Experience showed that many areas in the city where coloured and Asiatic occupation existed had rapidly deteriorated into slums. In present circumstances it was essential that coloured and Asiatic townships should not be uncontrolled. Such housing should be under the strict control of the Johannesburg municipality to ensure proper homes and hygienic conditions for the inhabitants.

"We hope to impress on the Ministers the importance of taking these aspects into serious consideration before introducing legislation on the lines suggested."

The deputation will also discuss the Feetham Report on Asiatic Land Tenure and its implications.

STORY OF MARRIAGE



"THE STAR"

A Coloured Township - Situated At Orlando. March 11th., 1939.  
Native Training Farm Planned for Orlando.

SAT. SATURDAY, MAR

# A COLOURED TOWNSHIP SITUATED AT ORLANDO PLAN PASSED BY COUNCIL CRITICISM OF SCHEME

Speaking at the special meeting of the Johannesburg City Council yesterday to a recommendation to buy 61 acres in Booysens Estate for £32,000 to put up a native hostel and brewery in the south-central suburbs, Mr. E. Boylan, M.P.C., said he hoped the Council would issue instructions that the buildings should not be too near the main road to the southern suburbs and in harmony with the surroundings. The item was passed.

Mr. J. J. O'Connor proposed the adjournment of the Council to draw attention to the "wasteful work of native gangs on footpaths." In Malvern a gang had been weeding and cleaning a footpath for about 100 yards for more than a day and had done only half so far. They picked a few bunches of khaki weed and then squatted down to talk with one another or to passing native women. If white labourers were employed they would work faster and better and so be far more economical.

"I must protest against the scandalous waste of ratepayers' money by present methods," he said.

Mr. O'Connor withdrew his motion for adjournment.

## COLOURED TOWNSHIP

Speaking to the recommendation for a sub-economic township for coloureds next to Orlando, Messrs S. J. Tigby and A. R. Bloch asked why some coloured people should be settled next to Orlando and others next to Claremont. The western suburbs should be cleared of non-Europeans, who should be settled in townships round Orlando, where they could develop along their own lines.

Mr. L. Leveson said the attitude of Mr. Tigby that all coloured people should be removed, irrespective of their claims to areas where they had lived for many years. Was he blind to all sense of justice and common humanity on this question?

The fact was that coloured people ranged from "practically Europeans" to "practically natives." There was that

made for  
type

Breyer, of Harrington  
petown.

# Native Training Farm Planned for Orlando

THE intention of the Johannesburg City Council to establish what might be termed an agricultural farm near Orlando Native Township was referred to by the Mayor, Mr. J. J. Page, at the opening of the St. Thomas Training School for natives yesterday afternoon.

The Mayor was welcomed by the Right Rev. Bishop D. O'Leary, who expressed his appreciation of the Mayor's interest in the Catholic community.

Referring to the proposed agricultural farm, Mr. Page said: "The purpose of this scheme is to provide suitable training for as many young natives as possible, who may otherwise be thrown on the streets and become young delinquents."

The Chief Inspector of Native Education, Dr. W. Eiselen, also spoke. The school is under the control of the Dominican Sisters, with Father L. Muldoon as Priest in charge.



practically natives. The range and provision should be all types, for the more well-to-do in Coronation township in an economic housing scheme and for the poorer section in a sub-economic housing scheme. It had been asked whether the coloured people would go to live in the new townships. Past experience in Coronation township had shown that they would.

Mr. M. J. Green, M.P.C., said the ruling party's policy seemed to be to foist every possible non-European township on the western suburbs.

The Deputy-Mayor, Mr. T. A. M. Huddle: That is not correct.

### **"CONTAMINATION"**

Mr. Green said proximity with non-European townships was "contaminating" Europeans living in the western suburbs. The only solution was to remove all non-Europeans from these areas and concentrate them in townships to the south-west, where they could develop on their own lines, while the European workers in the western suburbs could also have room to develop without interference.

The Deputy-Mayor, Mr. Huddle, said Mr. Green should know that native hostels would be established in Wards 9 and 10. Non-European townships could not be established in the north. The title was against that and European Johannesburg could only expand north and north-west.

"We are trying to reclaim the north-western areas to safeguard the interests of the white people there."

They were doing their best with regard to the Malay Location and Albertsville.

### **"ILLOGICAL PEOPLE"**

Mr. S. J. Fotheringham said on the one side the opposition urged the removal of non-Europeans from the western suburbs, and on the other they raised a cry at the proposal to establish a coloured township near Orlando in the south. They were the "most illogical persons alive."

Mr. J. J. O'Connor said it was obvious that practical aspects prevented the development of non-European townships in the east and north. "Land values are so high there for one thing, that the cost of establishing townships alone would be prohibitive for non-Europeans."

Mr. C. T. Beckett said the western representatives were shedding "crocodile tears." Under the policy of slum clearance the homes of the coloured people, who could not afford decent houses, were being condemned over their heads. In common justice and humanity the Council should provide them with decent homes at rents within their means. The scheme for a township next to Orlando should be passed unanimously.

The item was passed.



Durban yesterday. Others in the picture are, Grieverson, Rowan

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FROM OUR LOBBY CORRESPONDENT.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Tuesday.

A deputation from the Johannesburg City Council met the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Stuttaford, last night, and placed before him its four-point scheme for coloured and Asiatic occupation in Johannesburg. Its proposals were:—

1. The adoption of the Feetham Report resolution, with certain modifications.
2. Freehold title for Asiatics in the Malay location.
3. Claremont as an Asiatic township.
4. Power to restrict occupation and trading in the western areas (Martindale, Sophiatown and Newclare) to owner occupants.

This is the first time a concrete scheme for the settlement of these areas has been placed before the Government, and it was well received. The deputation came away with the impression that there was every likelihood of its proposals being adopted.

As regards the Feetham resolution, however, the Minister indicated that he was disinclined to agree to modifications which might have the effect of throwing the whole matter into the melting pot again. He proposed to put the resolution through Parliament unchanged, and the deputation agreed that this should be done rather than imperil the whole scheme.

The principal modification proposed was the excision of the magistrate's court area in Ferrelstown from the Feetham areas. It was pointed out, however, that the conversion of this part of the town into an important business district would automatically solve the problem of Asiatic occupation, so that little harm would be done by adopting the resolution as it stands.

No objection was raised to the Claremont scheme, but it was emphasised that a buffer strip must be provided around the township. This the deputation undertook to do. The Malay location may, however, present some difficulties.

### WEST RAND OBJECTION

The Roodepoort-Maralsburg municipality has raised objection to the proximity of Claremont to its borders. To meet this objection the Johannesburg Council is prepared to purchase the strip of land south-west of Claremont from Roodepoort, and to keep it as an open space, not to be used for playing fields. This land will not be made part of the Asiatic township.

Although the Minister was insistent that the location be cleared up from a public health point of view, he was not prepared to promise that the Council's proposals would be adopted. The deputation urged that its plan depended upon the acceptance of all four points, and the Minister promised to consider the matter from that point of view.

In spite of the Minister's insistence upon the adoption of the Feetham resolution without modification, it is learned that the matter is still the subject of discussion within the party, and the fate of the resolution is by no means settled.

(News by J W Patten,\* 122, St. George's Street, Capetown.)

## SEGREGATION OF ASIATICS

## POTGIETERSRUST PROPOSAL

The Potgietersrust Town Council has asked the Pretoria City Council to follow its example and ask its members of Parliament to vote against any legislation designed to perpetuate the existing rights of Asiatics and to support legislation authorising local authorities to define separate residential and business areas for Asiatics.

The General Purposes Committee of the Council will discuss the request this afternoon.



"THE STAR" Readers' Views.

- (1) White and non-White - Coronation T'ship. Ratepayer. 22/3/39.  
(2) Native Housing - Question of Coronation Township Logic. 27/3/39.

and all.

SAFETY FIRST

**WHITE AND NON-  
WHITE**

**CORONATION TOWNSHIP**

*To the Editor of The Star*

Sir,—A lot has recently been said and written about the natives in the western areas. All the patchwork of our Town Council will not solve the position. Our worthy Council must once and for all tackle the matter from a national point of view. Giving the natives locations here next to the white suburbs is only laying up a store of trouble for themselves in future.

Here you have a beautiful township next to Crosby and Brixton, which it is now proposed to turn into a suburb for blacks and coloureds. These natives will then be transported either through Auckland Park or Brixton to Johannesburg. The residents of Auckland Park, Rossmore, Brixton, Mayfair West and Hurst Hill strongly object to this location for coloureds on their borders. The Coronation Township could be used for a white economic housing scheme, and the native location placed next to Orlando.

RATEPAYER

**NATIVE HOUSING  
27/3/39  
QUESTION OF  
CORONATION TOWNSHIP**

*To the Editor of The Star*

Sir,—There is no logical reason in Ratepayer's letter of the 22nd inst. His main complaint seems to be levelled against the establishing of Coronation Township for coloured people, and he argues that they will have to be transported through either Auckland Park or Brixton.

May I point out to him that it would be absolutely absurd on the Council's part to transport them through those suburbs, as Coronation Township is situated next to the railway line, and it would be more natural to offer the people rail transport than to take them by a roundabout way through Hurst Hill, Brixton and Auckland Park. The only suburb they will then have to pass through would be Mayfair, but even if the Council should decide to remove Coronation Township to Orlando, the route of transport would still be the same—through Mayfair (by train). No matter where they are put, they will be bound to pass through some European area. I am also surprised to read "Ratepayer" suggesting it should be used for a "white" sub-economic scheme, because if I remember clearly the ratepayers of Brixton and surrounding suburbs objected keenly to the erection of the "Jan Hofmeyr Hospital," which was erected under a similar scheme.

LOGIC



## HOUSING POLICY.

"RAND DAILY MAIL".

Housing Policy Condemned.

Minister Blamed For Stopping Progress. 14th April, 1939.

# HOUSING POLICY CONDEMNED

## Minister Blamed for Stopping Progress

South African Press Association

Bloemfontein, Thursday.

**I**N anticipating the depression, and hence curtailing national expenditure, the Government has pursued a wrong, pig-headed and foolish policy," said Mrs. Harold Jones, of Capetown, in a talk on housing to delegates attending a meeting of the executive of the National Council of Women here.

"South Africa was making splendid progress, spending £2,500,000 on sub-economic housing through the Central Housing Board," continued Mrs. Jones, "but the Government has put on the brake at the wrong moment."

"The Minister of Finance has withdrawn £1,000,000 from the sub-economic housing scheme, and another £1,000,000 from the housing scheme for aged people, economic housing and other loans. This he has done just when the schemes were getting into their stride. If we happen to run into a depression unemployment inevitably results."

### WORST SLUMS

"These housing schemes give employment, so that by withdrawing this sum of £2,000,000 the Government, in fact, has taken that amount of money out of circulation."

"The smaller towns will suffer most, where some of the worst slums in the country are to be found. It is a great pity, as they were getting on well with their schemes. This brake put on by the Government will do much to damp their ardour. I suggest that not only the National Council of Women should agitate that something be done, but also individual members of the body who come into contact with members of Parliament."



GERMISTON'S  
LOCATION  
COMMENTS ON  
NEW PLAN

LABOUR SUPPLY

Although the Germiston Town Council's decision to remove the location to the farm Witkoppie No. 7, at an estimated cost of £588,000, received strong support at last Council meeting, a section of the public seems uncertain as to its advantages.

The new plan is, however, welcomed because finality has been reached on a matter that has been discussed for many years and because the new site is generally considered preferable to the former proposed site of Natal Spruit. It is thought that the new site, being nearer than Natal Spruit, will not affect the native labour supply or lose native trade, and that natives will not be in a residential part of Germiston.

The Council's decision was that, subject to the success of certain negotiations, the location be built on the farm Witkoppie No. 7, abutting on the main Pretoria railway line on the east and the new boundary on the west. The necessary petition has been sent to the Administrator.

HOUSING

It was decided to allocate £88,500 for the housing of coloureds and Asiatics on a site to be decided upon, and to build the native location on a separate area of 1,300 acres in accordance with the Native Affairs Department's policy of establishing different locations for these sections of the community.

The Council also intends to apply later to the Central Housing Board for another £226,500, which would bring the amount spent on non-European housing up to £815,000.

The decision was arrived at after a conference between representatives of the Council, the Union Health Department and the Native Affairs Department, as a result of which the Council was asked to submit within two months an alternative scheme for rebuilding the location. After considering other sites, the Native Affairs Committee decided on March 16 to accept the site to the north of the town, a decision which recorded the Housing Board's full support.

TITLE OF GROUND

The criticism now current that the present location may be claimed as mining ground when it is cleared and that, therefore, the Council's move would not be wise, was refuted yesterday by a municipal official, who said that there was no doubt about the title of the ground on which the present location is situated. On the existing area of 184 acres, he said, 132 acres would be available for industrial development immediately, the activity of the remaining area being dependent on the chances of mining activity in the northern area of the location. On the 132 acres, about 30 acres would be required for roads and railways and about 100 acres would, therefore, be saleable.

Complaints that the new site is too far away are answered by the fact that Elandsfontein station, the station for the proposed site, is about four miles from Germiston station, with the distance by road about 5 miles.



~~XXXXXXXX~~  
"THE STAR"

GERMISTON LOCATION.

18th April, 1939.

18/4/39  
**GERMISTON  
 LOCATION**

**ELANDSFONTEIN  
 PROTESTS**

**VIGILANCE BODY  
 FORMED**

A public meeting to protest against the establishment of a location abutting on Elandsfontein and Kempton Park was held at Elandsfontein last night. The question of secession from the Germiston municipality was fully discussed and a vigilance association was formed.

The meeting resolved that such a move on the part of the Germiston Town Council was undesirable, because the area was essentially residential and, not being built up, the presence of the location would depreciate the value of property. Other reasons given were that there was only one main road to Germiston—the national road linking Germiston to Pretoria—which would become congested with native traffic.

A dynamite factory and an explosives concern used the road a great deal and the addition of heavy native traffic might lead to serious accidents.

The presence of a location would increase the illicit liquor traffic and the area was inadequately policed, especially in view of all the brick-yards in the neighbourhood.

Mr. H. B. Liebenberg was in the chair.

The following were elected to the committee of the vigilance association: Mr. H. B. Liebenberg (chairman), Mr. C. H. B. Venn, secretary and treasurer, Mr. P. J. Zietsman, Mr. E. A. Bezuidenhout, Dr. E. A. Bezuidenhout, Mr. H. Walton, Mr. R. T. Monk, Mr. J. R. Nel, Dr. H. F. Bezuidenhout and Mr. H. Marshall.



**"SUBURBAN SLUMS"**

Great as are the efforts of Johannesburg and some other urban authorities for the rehousing of natives living in slum conditions within the municipal areas, these efforts do not solve the allied problem of certain native suburbs which have come into existence outside, and often only a short distance from, the municipal boundary. The extent of these straggling, extra-urban townships is astonishing, for within a small area may be found a population of several thousand people, of whose lives there is no more official recognition than there is of their unrecorded births and deaths. No authority whatever has knowledge of the miserable shacks in which these people live or die; patchwork contraptions of wood, tin and straw, with no sanitation, either near or distant, and no water supply, other than may be brought in a tin can from the nearest stagnant pool, occasionally running stream or tank or well. How many persons live in each hovel is unknown even to the mission workers who get frequent urgent requests for medical aid, or to the hard-worked district surgeon in whose area these localities may fall.

Police supervision appears effective enough to keep down serious crime, but the task is rendered more difficult by the obvious week-end attractions of such places for town-working natives, and the pick-up vans have to dash out in certain emergencies; indeed, the "extra-urban" suburb lowers the moral standard of the town in ways that hardly need indicating. A large proportion of men and women living in these unofficial townships travel some distance daily to work, leaving behind them a surprising number of children to look after each other and an assortment of half-starved animals until nightfall. As the police have cause to know, the population of these irregular townships is a floating one, and it often happens that one or both parents of a family will have disappeared, leaving their children to the charity of neighbours.

Yet in legal theory the heads of native families living on private land are supposed to work for the landowner. Whatever the exact causes, this growth of parasitic communities within a few miles of so many of our towns is a danger to the public health and in many respects a social disgrace. In great part the creation of new slums outside our cities is due to the hardships falling upon the non-European worker, who, in so many instances, cannot bear the cost of better accommodation, even when it is made available.

AL. FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1939

**NEWS**

**AT GERMISTON**

**LOCATION SCHEME  
BEING OPPOSED**

To the Editor of The Star

Sir,—The latest plans for rebuilding the Germiston location seem to be following the well-worn course. The portion of the public that is interested in the matter has seen one "final" scheme after another produced during the past few years. In spite of acceptance by the local authorities after the fullest possible debates, and in spite of approval by the Government Departments concerned and their readiness to advance their share of the necessary costs, scheme after scheme has been rescinded, shelved, or left in abeyance.

The most recent plan, with all the appearance of a settled solution, was made public only a few weeks ago. It was a comprehensive plan of building a new location in the Elandsfontein area, on Witkoppies No. 7. A sum of £500,000 was to be expended on native housing, and £200,000 on a section for coloured and Asiatics. The present grossly overcrowded location at Germiston was to be cleared, and the ground disposed of to industrial interests at an estimated profit of £100,000—this sum to provide the prime cost of the new scheme.

Those who know the urgency of the situation were delighted that a definite move was at last being made. But already the familiar process of undermining the plan is in evidence. Under the guise of a plea that the new area would be too far from the natives' work (actually it is a few miles on the new electrified line), retail trading interests at the old site claim that the removal of the location would not be to the advantage of the European population of Germiston. And now we read of the formation of a vigilance society in the Elandsfontein district, which is pledged to block the scheme. The argument advanced that it would be dangerous for natives to travel along a road used by dynamite traffic betrays an unwonted solicitude on their behalf.

Those who have the social welfare of the non-European at heart would ask those who are gathering opposition to this long-overdue reform to bear in mind three pertinent considerations. First, that whatever minor inconveniences well-housed Europeans may suffer in the transition period, the ultimate matter of paramount importance is that the native and coloured residents in the Germiston area should be adequately and permanently housed. Secondly, that to compel them to go on living under present conditions one day longer than necessary is public cruelty. And thirdly, that any motive arising from the possible loss of rents from non-European by-owners, when all such are compelled to live in a prescribed municipal area, should not be allowed to confuse a plain issue.

H. R. HIGGS.

East Rand Coloured Mission.



"STAR"

The Non-European Question. Mr. L/Leveson's Talk to Ratepayers.

27/4/39.

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## THE NON-EUROPEAN QUESTION

### MR. L. LEVESON'S TALK TO RATEPAYERS

A gloomy view of the non-European question was taken by Mr. L. Leveson, chairman of the Public Health Committee of the Johannesburg City Council, when he spoke at a meeting of the Northern Districts Ratepayers' Association in the Masonic Hall, Parktown North, last night.

Mr. Leveson said that the vagrant natives who congregated in the district caused a small worry compared with the general non-European situation. The Nationalist Party, he said, had done a great disservice to South Africa in its bitter antagonism towards the policy followed by the Government.

He alleged that the Civic Party, formed recently in the city, was a wolf in sheep's clothing—Nationalist Party in disguise.

Referring to Alexandra Township, Mr. Leveson said that the first step towards settling the question had been taken on Tuesday, when the City Council decided to pay half of the expenses of a survey of the township.

#### PROPAGANDA

Mr. A. Immink, who spoke later, said that in many compounds in the city subversive propaganda was being conducted by educated natives who were preaching the communistic doctrine. There was a feeling of unrest among the natives generally.

Mr. G. B. Gordon, chairman of the association, presented his bi-annual report, saying that the "native menace" in the northern suburbs was growing worse.

He also criticised the Town Planning Committee for reversing its decisions and granting rights for the erection of bioscopes in several residential areas in the Northern Suburbs.

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## PROTEST AGAINST SEGREGATION

### NON-EUROPEAN RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN, Thursday.—At the recent conference of the South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union (non-European) a resolution was passed protesting against the Government's segregation policy as "unjust, undemocratic and diabolical." The Government was adopting the tactics of dictator countries, the resolution added. The conference supported "the non-European front" recently established.

The resolution has been forwarded to the Prime Minister, as well as resolutions from Naauwpoort deprecating the proposal to place native trade unions under Government control.

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CITY SEGREGATION AND HOUSING.

"The Star"

Native Hostel and Brewery - Southern Suburbs Protest.

3rd May, 1939.

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**NATIVE HOSTEL  
AND BREWERY**

**SOUTHERN SUBURBS  
PROTEST**

Protests against the proposed establishment of a native hostel and brewery on the site opposite the Commercial Tennis Courts in Turffontein Road, Turffontein, will be considered at a meeting of the Non-European and Native Affairs Committee of the Johannesburg City Council to-morrow afternoon.

The manager of the Native Affairs Department will recommend that the objectors be informed that the committee is obliged by law to establish hostels and so eliminate the harbouring of natives in backyards, and that this duty will be exercised that the proposed hostel and brewery will not be objectionable to the European residents of the district.

The objections are from the Church Council of Holy Trinity Church, Turffontein, the Turffontein Ratepayers' Association, and the Hill Extension Ratepayers' Association. Two similar objections were considered by the committee at its previous meeting.

The manager of the Native Affairs Department states that the ground in question is the most suitable obtainable within a reasonable distance of the city and in view of the fact that the men's hostel is expressly designed to provide for the housing of those natives employed in and resident in the southern suburbs, he considers that no valid objection can be raised.

ORNEY'S THEATRE



"SUNDAY EXPRESS"

"The STAR"

Johannesburg Parks to be "Closed To Natives?" 12/2/39.

Restriction On Natives - Limited entry to  
Cape Town.

6th May, 1939.

**RESTRICTION ON  
NATIVES  
LIMITED ENTRY TO  
CAPE TOWN**

S.A. PRESS ASSOCIATION

CAPE TOWN, Saturday.—The Secretary for Native Affairs has notified the City Council that the Government will request the Governor-General to issue a proclamation restricting the entry of natives into the urban area of Cape Town.

In view of the fact that the City Council already controls the registration of natives arriving in the city, the Government assumes that the Council will accept the conditions under which other municipalities have agreed to enforce the restriction of entry of natives.

If the City Council refuses to control the influx after the proclamation has been issued, the only alternative will be for the Department of Native Affairs to take over the registration, in which case the registration fees will be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The matter was discussed by the Native Affairs Sub-Committee of the City Council yesterday: it will be considered again by the General Purposes Committee on Monday, and the City Council will be asked to pronounce its verdict at a special meeting to be held next Thursday.

It is believed that the Council will continue with the work of registration and will agree to control the influx ordered by the Government.



"RAND DAILY MAIL"

£3,500,000 Wanted For Housing. June 16th., 1939.

"SUNDAY EXPRESS"

Councillor Attacks City "Slum Muddle" 14th May, 1939.

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**£3,500,000  
Wanted for  
Housing  
City Deputation  
to Ministers**

The report of the Central Housing Board is of considerable interest to the City Council of Johannesburg, which is making a further effort to get more money for sub-economic housing schemes.

The board has awarded loans to the city for the year ending March, 1940, which are £1,996,415 short of what the city asked for. In addition, the Council wants £1,500,000 for the Klipriviersberg housing scheme. This total is not far short of £3,500,000.

The Public Health Committee of the Council has agreed to send a deputation to the Ministers of Finance and Public Health, if these Ministers will hear them, to urge the necessity of the Klipriviersberg scheme being financed without delay.

The other schemes not sanctioned are: Orlando, £1,347,340; western areas scheme, £193,000; general native housing, £55,000, and a coloured housing scheme adjoining Orlando, £401,075.

Meantime the Council has a heavy budget to face, and the refusal of the board to sanction these schemes for the next financial year is a blessing in disguise, for the ratepayers would have to find the interest charges.

is being forced to work over almost daily.

**Councillor  
Attacks City  
'Slum Muddle'**

Sunday Express Reporter

THE Johannesburg City Council must put its own house in order and eradicate a terrible slum of its own creation—Pimville Native Location—before turning its attention to Alexandra Township, according to Mr. D. H. Epstein, M.P.C.

Mr. Epstein recently carried out a vigorous "clear the slums" campaign in Johannesburg.

Speaking of Alexandra Township, Mr. Epstein said: "The danger to the health of the city from an uncontrolled native location on the municipal boundaries must be realised by everybody, but it would be hardly conceivable that the City Council would be justified in dealing with Alexandra before it has cleared away Pimville.

"Pimville is far worse than Alexandra Township and has been condemned by commissions of inquiry, successive managers of native affairs and medical officers of health, throughout its inglorious history."



"RAND DAILY MAIL" Protest Against Booyens Native Hostel Scheme. 19th May, 1939.

## *Protest Against Booyens Native Hostel Scheme*

**A** STRONG protest against the establishment of a native hostel and brewery in the Southern Suburbs was made at a meeting convened by the executive of the Southern Suburbs Ratepayers' Association on Tuesday, at which all six councillors representing Wards 11 and 12 were present.

Mr. W. H. Harrison, of Rosettenville, protested against the purchase of such a valuable site for the use of natives. The Council, he said, had gone to great expense to improve Eloff Street Extension and make it one of the finest approaches to the suburbs in Johannesburg, and to place a native hostel right at the gateway to the south was wrong.

It was also pointed out that there was a serious danger from a traffic point of view if 3,000 natives were housed at this busy spot. The close proximity of the European Girls' Hostel, only 400 yards away, was also stressed.

The following resolutions were adopted: "That this meeting of residents in the Southern Suburbs protests against the erection of a native hostel and brewery on portion K. L. and M., No. 20, Booyens Estate, and that this resolution be forwarded to the Administrator.

"That a deputation from the Southern Suburbs Ratepayers' Associations (Executive) be appointed, with power to co-opt, to wait on the Municipal Native Affairs Committee to convey to it the feeling of this meeting and to suggest other suitable sites for the erection of a native hostel and brewery; and that, in the event of the deputation not attaining satisfaction, the same deputation endeavours to meet the Administrator."



*28/5/39*  
*Sunday Express*  
**"Colour Bar"  
 Ambulances**

## **At a Price**

Sunday Express Reporter.

**J**OHANNESBURG can have separate ambulances for natives and Europeans . . . . at a price. This is the opinion of Mr. G. E. Jennett, Acting Fire Master of Johannesburg, expressed to me yesterday.

"We can provide separate ambulances, but it will mean partial reconstruction of several of the fire stations in the suburbs to accommodate more ambulances and more men," he declared.

A full report on the matter is being prepared by Mr. Jennett and will be submitted to the Water, Fire Brigade and Gas Committee of the Johannesburg City Council when it meets next month.

In his interview yesterday, the city's Firemaster outlined some of the difficulties which would have to be faced if it was finally decided to have different ambulances for Europeans and non-Europeans.

### **EXCITED PEOPLE**

"Many people," he said, "are so excited when they ring up for an ambulance that they don't know how many are injured, whether the victims are black or white, or exactly where the accident occurred. We are often given the wrong address."

Discussing Mr. Penry Roberts's statement to the Von Brandis Rate-payers' Association last week that a native and a white woman had been taken to hospital in the same ambulance, Mr. Jennett explained that it had been done at the express wish of a companion of the injured woman.

The fire station official had been instructed to pick up a native in Norwood, who was suffering from a broken thigh and shock after he had been knocked down by a car. When the ambulance arrived on the scene, the ambulance men were told that the European woman-driver of the car that had knocked down the native was lying unconscious in a house close by.

The men were asked by a woman who had been in the car at the time of the accident to take the injured woman to hospital in the same ambulance.

"Not only was it done with the companion's full permission, but at her express wish," said Mr. Jennett.



"The Star"

The Pretoria Locations.

29th May, 1939.

*Star*

## THE PRETORIA LOCATIONS

*29/5/39*

For years overcrowding and deterioration in the Bantule and Marabastad native locations at Pretoria have been a disgrace and a source of potential danger to the health of the citizens. The combined churches and other institutions have urged upon the City Council the necessity of providing locations outside the central area, which would not only allow the natives scope for reasonable development in their living conditions, but would be less liable to disease. The Council decided about four years ago to remedy the undesirable conditions by taking advantage of the Government's sub-economic housing scheme. Since that time it has been decided to build a native location on town lands west of the Iron and Steel Works, and to borrow £700,000 from the funds provided by the Government, in order to build houses, which the natives would rent at a sub-economic rate. The rate of interest is very low, half the loss on the scheme being borne by the Government and half by the municipality. The cost to the municipality is estimated authoritatively at £1,500 a year on the initial building programme. Survey and preliminary work has been carried out, and model houses built to ensure that the best conditions obtainable under the scheme could be provided.

Having gone so far in the preliminary work, the Council will meet this evening to consider the tenders for the construction work. But it appears that, even at this late hour, obstruction such as has been offered at various stages in the past will be encountered. Certain councillors who have opposed the sub-economic scheme at every step intend to press the Council to reject it even now, and to substitute for it an economic one, mainly on the strength of figures which conflict with those prepared by the Native and Asiatic Affairs Committee and suggest that the cost to the city will be very heavy. There cannot be any doubt, however, that the Native and Asiatic Affairs Committee went very carefully into the matter of cost, and their estimate that it should be in the neighbourhood of £1,500 a year may be accepted. Even were it considerably more than this, we are certain that the citizens of Pretoria would be prepared to meet the bill rather than allow the reproach to themselves represented by the present locations to persist. When it is recalled that only recently the Council decided to make considerable increases in the salaries of its higher-paid officials, there can hardly be justification for refusing to put through a scheme of such importance on the grounds of expense amounting to about £1,500 a year.



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