

The Problem Of South Africa

The political, economic and national life of South Africa as it stands today is very difficult, complicated, and unsatisfactory.

Apart from international affairs, our own affairs vis-a-vis our heterogeneous population looms very darkly on our horizon. As they are being handled now, there is very little hope of bringing about a reconciliation of the various contentious points of view. The Bantu for the past fifty years has been looked upon as the labourer of South Africa. Through his efforts the industrial structure of South Africa has been built up to a very high standard and because of the cheapness of it vast profits have been made and industries came into being through that cheapness which could not have been attempted otherwise.

The Industrialists have grown to look on available cheap labour as an automatic factor in the economic structure of the country. The main industry of the Union, the Mines, depend on cheap labour for their maintenance and very existence.

The farmer also must have labour and the rates paid by them cannot be compared with those paid by the various industries, hence because of this he cannot produce as much as he might had he a big cheap labour market.

The Bantu has been taught now the value of his labour. If he wants to live he has to buy every thing at the same rate as his employer yet his earnings are nothing like that of the European.

He finds he cannot live let alone bring up his family. He cannot under these circumstances be a contented citizen, and because of them he has had to become nationally conscious. Unfortunately, this nationalism has been born of want and hatred! It is extremely narrow and its purpose is to combine the Bantu Worker into an homogeneous whole against this common exploiter be he European or Asiatic .

Dire necessity has achieved what was considered impossible, nationalism amongst the various tribes of the Bantu people eliminating tribal destruction, and making them into one people, the African.

This emancipation is not only dangerous to the European and to South Africa but is also very dangerous to the Bantu.

His cry is we are willing to work, we want work, harness our labour but we demand a fair share of the result of our endeavour and cooperation. We desire to live, we have no intention of allowing ourselves to be exterminated as a people through malnutrition bad housing, no recreation. The day of our exploitation is at an end. We intend to implement this drive for our welfare and wellbeing, we look to you for suggestions along these lines for our consideration. " With these two rigid view points controlling the labourmarket what is going to happen."

More restrictions on the Bantu that through starvation he will be forced to work, or a wise readjustment of our economic structure to bring it on a par with other

countries. The one will bring obvious clashes between this evil restricted black-nationalism and the equally evil outlook of might being right! the other will help us in the greater development of our country bringing about permanent prosperity, and distributing wealth in more numerous channels, that alone will bring down the cost of living.

In a young growing country, nationalism based on racial sectionalism means strife and the retarding of growth.

After fifty years of contact with the European the outstanding feature with the Bantu race is that he has become a nationally conscious section amongst the other sections of the population of South Africa. The motivating thought is self preservation in the fight for existence!

Within that same span of years another group of the embryo South African nation has taken refuge in the same racial sectional nationalism in the struggle for their survival and the retention of their religion and traditions, that is the Afrikaans-speaking group.

The next group to do that will be the coloured section of the South African community. We shall then have three groups within the South African nation striving for their personal identity and existence! We are not yet finished with the isolationism of the various components of our embryonic nation.

There are the English Speaking section and the Asiatic section yet to be accounted for!

These two races have a living vital link of very recent origin!

with two great countries " of South Africa" With exceptions of course it is natural to believe that their nationalism is still more directed towards the overseas fatherland with its traditions than to the new country of adoption.

A common denominator must be found to blend these various interests.

That is readily found, " South Africa" is the answer. South Africa the country, and national unity of the various sections, and unswerving loyalty to South Africa by them in a common endeavour and effort to establish a new nation in a new independent country. a ne

The Bantu must learn this national loyalty and uphold it towards his country South Africa and all the other sections must also forget their personal differences and learn and live, this national unity for their country South Africa, while retaining their separate racial identity.

Each will then logically cooperate with the other to maintain the common national effort and ideal through mutual understanding of the fact that their interests are closely interwoven and interdependent ^{hence will not} to allow their racial differences to interfere. South Africa must go forward and grow from strength to strength all sections pulling the same way, the end of the trek being a prosperous South Africa.

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