

FEB 1947 - FEB 1948

## WORKERS MAY STRIKE

JOHANNESBURG.—Over half of Johannesburg's 2,000 tin workers may come out on strike on February 8 unless one of the two employers' associations abides by the gentleman's agreement for higher wages concluded last year. The agreement provides for increased wages.

6/2/47

ALL INFORMATION SOCIETY

# THIRD WEEK OF MINE STRIKE

13/2/47

## Nationalists "Cashing In"

JOHANNESBURG.—The strike of European mine-workers on the Witwatersrand now nearing the beginning of its third week continues unabated. The number of men on strike—some, 6,500 odd—remains more or less the same, there being a constant ebb and flow to and from work.

At the last moment the appearance of Mr. Oswald Pirow, K.C., and Dr. Theo Wassenaar at a mass meeting organised in Pretoria in support of the strikers was cancelled. It was feared their presence might "give a political atmosphere to the proceedings." Few have been bluffed, however, as to the political forces behind the strike, which is now getting openly fascist support—moral and financial.

Donations have been received by the strikers from the Dutch Reformed Church Congregation in Brakpan, the Nationalist Party at Paarl, Roux, the S.A.R. and H. Branch of the Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuur Vereniging, and the Spoorbond.

### GENUINE GRIEVANCES

There is little doubt that the miners have certain genuine grievances. There is widespread dissatisfaction with the present officials of the union, whom many accuse of bearing some responsibility for the recent maladministration of the Union's affairs.

It is on this situation that rabid Nationalist elements have cashed in. The present strike is no way to settle the grievances of the miners, and it is significant that the strike is not supported by any section of the genuine trade union movement.

This strike may give Mr. Albert Hertzog the whip hand in Witwatersrand Nationalist politics, but to the Trade Union movement it is doing infinite harm in attempting to over-ride vital democratic trade union principles.

### HIGH COST

The Gold Producers' Committee, taken aback at the failure of the overwhelming majority of the strikers to return to work after the expiry of their 48-hour ultimatum, is busy bemoaning the fate of the gold mining industry. The stop-

page has already cost the industry two million pounds, it is claimed.

Despite this, there is a marked difference in the tone of the statements of the Gold Producers' Committee and the daily Press in the present strike, as compared with the strike of the African miners a few months' ago.

Little of the previous panic for the public safety has been generated. But then the African miners were striking for an increase in their daily wage, and not against Trade Union principles, as is the case in this strike.

## Radio Director Apologises

JOHANNESBURG. — The Friends of the Soviet Union have drawn the attention of the S.A.B.C. to a broadcast by Mr. G. Ward Price on the British Government's proposals for a commission of enquiry into the Press, in which he spoke of the organs of the British Labour Party relaying the "filthy spittle that drops from the mouths of Pravda and Izvestia."

The F.S.U. points out in its letter to the S.A.B.C. that both Pravda and Izvestia are Soviet organs of high repute quoted by the Press all over the world, and it takes strong exception to this blatant anti-Soviet slander.

The Director of the S.A.B.C. Mr. R. Caprara, informs the Guardian that the sentence in the broadcast of Mr. Ward Price referring to the Soviet Press, was an error, and he has apologised to the Consul-General for the U.S.S.R.



## Boycott of Indian Traders

JOHANNESBURG.—A statement issued by the Council for Asiatic Rights on the boycott of Indian traders in certain Transvaal towns discloses that at Schweizer Reinecke where a joint United Party—Nationalist Party boycott committee has been set up, the Secretary of the committee is the local Food Control Officer.

Since rationed foodstuffs are to be supplied to traders in proportion to the number of customers registered at their shops, and the regular customers of many Indian traders are forcibly and illegally being prevented from registering with them, the suspicion that this boycott campaign is a move on the part of European traders to oust their competitors, and has little to do with political theories of white supremacy is fully justified.

The Rev. Michael Scott who made an on-the-spot investigation of the position in the Eastern Transvaal claims that a number of citizens of these towns are opposed to the boycott as unchristian and clearly a move to improve the position of the European trader at the expense of the Indian trader.

### COUNCIL'S STATEMENT

The Council's statement points out that poorer citizens are being deluded into supporting a move against their own interests, as there is evidence that the Indian traders have never taken advantage of their customers, and are often the only channel through which certain goods in short supply can be obtained.

It is reported that some of the leaders of the boycott move hought goods from Indian traders in large quantities the day before the boycott, hoarding these for later supply to their own customers. Some are continuing to buy goods from Indians — in nearby towns.

Africans accustomed to buying from Indian traders where goods are cheaper, are being warned off and threatened with flogging and other retaliatory measures.

The statement concludes by pointing out that boycott methods

only exaggerate racial feeling, and are a dangerous two-edged weapon, for if non-white people decided to boycott European businesses the country's commercial and political life would be in chaos overnight.

The Council for Asiatic Rights is making energetic representations to Dr. Van Ek to intervene in this boycott campaign. Latest towns to be affected by the boycott are Vereeniging and Pietersburg.

## "Advisory Board Discredited" —

SAYS Dr. DADOO

JOHANNESBURG.—"How General Smuts and his advisers can expect the Indian people to accept the newly announced Indian Advisory Board after the exposure of the dummy Native Representative Council and the emphatic rejection by the Coloured people of the C.A.C. is beyond one." Dr. Y. M. Dadoo said to a representative of The Guardian in an interview this week.

"These fake councils are discredited institutions. No member of the Indian community should dare accept a post on the Board. Any traitor who does will help to effect the further segregation of our people."

Dr. Dadoo warned that the establishment of this Advisory Board must not be viewed in isolation. It is part of a general scheme to threaten or intimidate, coax or bribe the Indian people into abandoning their struggle for full democratic rights.

The refusal of passports to Drs. Dadoo and Naicker, thus preventing them from proceeding to India to confer with the Indian Government, and representing South Africans at the Pan-Asian Conference; the proposals for communal franchise; the mooted £1,000,000 Indian welfare scheme in Durban; even the lack of Government action against the boycott of Transvaal Indian traders are all part of this scheme.

### NEXT SIX MONTHS

Dr. Dadoo said that the next six months will be crucial in the history of the Indian community. "They will be the test of our unity and strength. I issue a note of warning to the Indian people to ignore these red herrings of the Government and attempts to intimidate us, and to continue with the struggle for the full implementation of the UNO decisions."

## Council Meeting Representing 81,000,000 Women

JOHANNESBURG.—It is possible that Miss Josie Palmer or Councillor Hilda Watts will attend the council meeting of the Women's International Democratic Federation to be held in Prague at the end of this month.

Upon her application for a passport to leave the country Miss Palmer was summoned for an interview with the police authorities. She has been informed that she will be notified by the authorities in Pretoria if her passport is to be granted.

This forthcoming Council meeting of the Women's International Federation gives prominence on its agenda to discussions on the position of women in colonial and semi-colonial countries and among racial minorities.

Among the world famous women to attend this February Council Meeting will be Dolores Ibarruri (Passionaria) General Secretary of the Communist Party of Spain; Mrs. Elizabeth G. Flynn and Mrs.

Frederick Maech of the United States; Marie-Claude Vallian, Couturier of France; Mme. Nina Popova, the Secretary of the Central Council of Trade Unions in the U.S.S.R., and Mrs. Jai Kishori Handoo, representing the All India Women's Conference.

The Women's International Federation, formed on November 26, 1945 on a resolution of the first international congress of women after the war, represents over 81 million women in the forty-nation countries affiliated to the Federation. Among recent affiliations are the Pan-Indonesian Women's Conference, and women's organisations in San Domingo, Mexico, the Lebanon and Tunisia.

The Federation proposes to send commissions of investigation composed of representatives of the U.S.S.R., Britain, France, China, Algeria and other countries to African colonies, and also the colonial countries of the Pacific.

## British Students On Royal Visit

JOHANNESBURG.—The Student Labour Federation of Great Britain has initiated a student petition on South Africa in order to draw attention to the conditions of racial discrimination and injustice in this country. The object of the petition is to King that he should publicly proclaim, on the occasion of his visit to South Africa, that the discrimination here is not in accordance with his desire for freedom and equal rights for all his subjects, white and black alike.

When the signing of the petition has been completed, the totals will be cabled to South Africa so that the actual presentation can take place here.

The Student Labour Federation has also issued a well documented and produced leaflet—"The Black Side of South Africa"—pointing out the conditions of the non-European people of this country.

## Builders' Strike Ballot

JOHANNESBURG.—The joint executive of the six building unions of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria has recommended a strike ballot among the unions' 14,000 building artisans, following the failure of negotiations between the unions and the Master Builders' Association.

The negotiations broke down on the unions' demands for higher rates than the employers were prepared to pay and for additional paid holidays and a 40-hour week instead of the present 43-hour week.

It is likely that the proposed strike ballot will occupy the building unions for several weeks.

## Union Organisers Intimidated

JOHANNESBURG.—The African Mineworkers' Union reports increasing attempts by mine authorities, especially on the East Rand, to intimidate their organisers and prevent them from collecting subscriptions and establishing contact with members of their Union.

Mr. J. B. Marks, President of the A.M.W.U., points out that two test cases have already established the presence of Union organisers on mine property (other than inside the compounds) does not constitute trespass. The ignorance of the law on the part of the majority of mine detectives results in the frequent detention of union organisers engaged on legitimate union work.

Attempts are also being made on certain mines to estrange the workers from their union. Last week a group of workers were investigated by the compound manager and induna to attack two union organisers, who would have been driven off the mine property if not for the protection afforded them by the rest of the workers.



13-2-47.

## Basner Proposes Convention

JOHANNESBURG.—At what was probably the largest meeting ever held of the representatives of the African people of the Transvaal and O.F.S. Senator H. M. Basner announced his intention of convening the national convention of all races he had proposed in the Senate.

The Convention would serve as the nucleus of a new political party of all races, and would draft a document to be submitted to UNO for the revision of the South African constitution. He advocated a £80,000 fund to be devoted to the dissemination of information about South African conditions to the outside world.

was attended by chiefs and headmen and members of electoral committees and advisory boards from both provinces; members of the adjourned N.R.C.; Trade Unionists and leaders of African political groupings, squatters, leaders from the little independent shanty townships surrounding Johannesburg, and hundreds of members of the general African public.

The meeting was convened to enable Senator Basner to report to his constituency on his efforts on behalf of the African people during his visit abroad, and to convey to them the UNO decisions. A vote of full confidence in Senator Basner's actions overseas was passed by the meeting.

### REPORT ON W.F.T.U.

In addition to his work connected with the UNO session, Senator Basner reported on his approaches to the World Federation of Trade Unions, which had promised to devote attention to the problems of workers in the gold mines and industries of South Africa, and to send a commission of investigation to this country to collect first-hand information on the conditions of South African workers.

Speaking for over two hours, Senator Basner appealed to African political leaders to merge their differences, and expressed the opinion that the time was ripe for a great national convention—similar to the 1936 African convention—but including the Indian and Coloured people and democratic Europeans.

The convention might form the nucleus of this new non-colour bar political party in which Trade Unionists and leading members of the African National Congress would take the leadership. Senator Basner said he intended placing this proposal for the National

Convention before the Indian and Coloured people shortly.

Referring to the Communist Party, Senator Basner said although members of this Party believe only in those organisations over which they have control, and should be told to drop that attitude, they should not be excluded from the Convention for that would create division and confusion; and the Communist Party had carried on a great fight for freedom in this country. This last statement was greeted with applause.

No details of the aims and objects of this new political party were given by Senator Basner, and there was no discussion on the proposal. The chiefs and headmen and other representatives of the African people of the Transvaal and O.F.S. were asked to refer these suggestions to the people in their electoral wards.



## Smallpox in Shanty Towns

JOHANNESBURG.—A serious outbreak of smallpox has occurred in the Tobruk Shantytown at Orlando. By the end of the second day of the outbreak (so far unreported in the daily press) 20 cases had already been notified and isolated. One case has also been reported from a camp nearby Tobruk in West Orlando.

The squatters' leaders approached the Johannesburg City Council Health Department with appeals for prompt action and offered to co-operate fully in controlling the outbreak. Mass vaccination drives are in operation in the squatters' camps.

This outbreak of smallpox and the large number of cases of typhoid that have occurred in several of the camps follow months of inaction and delay on the part of the municipal and Government authorities in dealing effectively with the squatting and general housing and land problem.

Rev. Michael Scott, who is at present living in the Tobruk camp, points to the pressing need for the provision of better health and sanitary measures—a regular rubbish removal service; the provision of latrines and disinfectants.

There is serious concern among the squatters about one of the

schemes said to be mooted by Council officials.

Features of this "scheme" are: Concentration camps to be established to which squatters would be removed. The camps would be surrounded with barbed wire, and workers checked as they went out to work in the mornings and returned at night. Families of workers who have been in Johannesburg less than two years to be deported.

All locations to be rigorously guarded and no visitors allowed in.

It is not known yet whether this shocking plan has been accepted. In a statement issued this week the Shantytown Co-ordinating Committee expresses its deep disappointment and resentment that in the discussions between the Johannesburg City Council and Cabinet Ministers concerning the Shantytowns, no representatives of the squatters themselves have been included.

The statement concludes by saying that the people living in the Shantytowns are responsible working men with families, forced into this position by undemocratic laws and the neglect of the authorities to provide housing.

## PASSPORT REFUSAL CAMPAIGN

JOHANNESBURG.—The Transvaal Indian Congress has launched a widespread campaign protesting against the refusal of passports to Drs Dadoo and Nalaker, and the withdrawal of Dr. Dadoo's certificate of identity, and cables of protest have been sent to Mr. Trygve Lie, Nehru, Jinnah, Gandhi, the Council on African Affairs in the United States, the India League of America, and numerous other individuals and bodies.

All branches of the Transvaal Indian Congress have been circulated to join in the protest, and trade unions, members of Parliament and other prominent individuals.

A deputation of leading individuals to the Minister of Interior is being contemplated. A series of mass meetings will be held in all large centres, the campaign to culminate in Johannesburg with a meeting at the Gandhi Hall.

## Rev. M. Scott Charged Again

JOHANNESBURG.—The Rev. Michael Scott, who has been living in the Tobruk Squatter's camp at Orlando, as temporary chairman of the squatter's committee, appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on February 13, charged with having contravened regulations which forbid a European from residing in a location or native village without the permission of the Minister of Native Affairs and the concurrence of the Johannesburg City Council.

The hearing was adjourned until March 3, on the Rev. Scott's request, as smallpox had broken out in the camp the day before, and he was needed to help to deal with the situation.

## TRANSKEI ROYAL BOYCOTT

JOHANNESBURG.—A meeting of 200 people at Mosheshwe Location, in the district of Matatide in the Transkei, decided to boycott the Royal visit preparations at Umtata, only one man being willing to travel to the capital of the Transkei to take part in the celebrations.

People from all over the Transkei have been informed that they are expected to travel to Umtata to greet the Royal Family. To some this will mean a two-day journey, said Mr. D. W. Bopape, who has just returned from a visit to the Transkei.

The general feeling at the Mosheshwe tribal meeting was that the celebrations were a waste of money, and should be boycotted.

## Jabavu Advisory Board to be Boycotted

JOHANNESBURG.—Elections for the Advisory Board in Jabavu, which will take place on March 2, are to be boycotted by the Communist Party, the Pimville sub-tenants' association, and, very likely, other tenants' leagues representing the vast majority of the people living in Jabavu.

Tuesday, 18th February, is nomination day and there is to be a large demonstration of the inhabitants of Jabavu to express their determination to abstain from the elections to a Board the ineffectiveness of which has long been demonstrated.

This will be one of the first blows struck in the campaign inaugurated by the Bloemfontein Conference of the African National Congress, to boycott dummy representative assemblies.

## Tin Workers' Strike Continues

JOHANNESBURG.—The strike of 600 tin workers in Johannesburg continues. Workers are striking against the refusal of some employers in the industry to pay the wages agreed upon by a Wage Determination concluded last year in the Natal and Cape, and which the Transvaal employers agreed to abide by. The Department of Labour is making attempts to call a meeting of the employers to settle the dispute.



## MINE STRIKE LEADER DENIES POLITICAL INFLUENCE 27/2/47.

JOHANNESBURG.—The claim that the strike of European miners was forced upon them because of Government interference in the affairs of the Union by the passing of war emergency measures relating to the Union's elections; and the serious maladministration of the Union by the Broderick clique, which had been substantiated by Government Commissions of Inquiry, was made by Mr. D. E. Ellis, Secretary of the United Mineworkers' Committee, in an interview with the Guardian representative.

Mr. Ellis claimed that the reason for the non-support of the strike by the Mining Union's Joint Committee was that several of these unions were themselves in a "rotten condition," and they feared Government intervention

would act as a boomerang to expose their own positions.

Asked what his attitude was to the Trades and Labour Council, Mr. Ellis said he would be the last to interview the Council, because it had adopted a hostile, instead of a sympathetic attitude to the striking miners.

There was no truth at all in the rumour that the forces behind the mine strike were also involved in the boycott of Indian traders. He denied also that the United Mineworkers' Committee was impelled by political motives. His committee had a mandate to attempt to have the miners' grievances met; their mandate had nothing to do with political manoeuvres. He was not interested in talks of "toenadering" between the United and Nationalist Parties.

## INDIAN BOYCOTT A FAILURE 27/2/47

### Vereeniging Racialists Not Succeeding

JOHANNESBURG.—The boycott of Indian traders in Vereeniging is proving a failure in spite of efforts to picket Indian shops; the circulation of a public petition; plans for the wearing of rosettes by boycott supporters.

A boycott committee is composed of Nationalist and United Party members, prominent City Councillors, including the Deputy Mayor, two local predikants and a leading member of the Christelike Vroue Federasie. However, Die Transvaler says, "the boycott is spreading like a veld fire."

A provincial congress of boycott committees, individuals and organisations is to be held in Vereeniging on March 12, and sponsors of the movement have formed a European Consumers' Association to "encourage people to be pro-European and to shop at European shops."

A member of the committee, a local City Councillor, said his committee is attempting to put pressure on the Government to increase food supply quotas to European traders and decrease those to Indian traders to make the boycott more effective. The authorities have given no indication they are prepared to do this.

Indian traders report no falling-off in trade.

The secretary of the committee, Mr. Loock, told The Guardian reporter to tell readers that "the boycott campaign will be more successful than any ever organised by the Communists!"

#### BOYCOTT COMMITTEE

Represented on the boycott committee are several prominent United Party members, although

Colonel K. Rood (M.P. for Vereeniging) advised in the local paper: "Since U.N.O. has not yet made a final decision on the controversy between the Governments of the Union and India it would be unwise for Europeans in South Africa to do or say anything in conflict with the Prime Minister's statement to U.N.O.; otherwise it may only afford proof that the fate of Indians in our hands is in danger."

Colonel Rood adds the rather ambiguous statement: "Let the boycott be confined to those Indians who are and remain responsible for India's boycott of South Africa. Do not let us apply a boycott to Indians as a race or class, but to the individual Indians who are responsible for India's sanctions against the Union."

Neither the local Chamber of Commerce, the branch of the Labour Party, the Springbok Legion nor the majority of Vereeniging consumers are supporting the boycott.



# Garment Workers Criticised

## Disaffiliating from T.L.C.

JOHANNESBURG.—The Garment Workers' Union has given three months' notice as from February 1, 1947, of its intention to disaffiliate from the S.A. Trades and Labour Council. This is the third time the Garment Workers' Union has resigned from the T. and L.C.

In a letter to the N.E.C. of the T. and L.C. Mr. E. S. Sachs, general secretary, gives the reasons for this decision. The letter alleges the Trades and Labour Council has ceased to function as a national trade union centre, and has become an appendage of the Labour Department, the United Party, the Government. It has failed, alleges the Garment Workers' Union, to give an energetic and clear lead to the mineworkers, the building workers and all other workers of S.A., and has instead devoted its time and energy to trivialities, pursuing in the present grave crisis a policy of helplessness and hopelessness.

The attitude of the majority of the N.E.C. in the recent strike of African mineworkers, the letter continues, "is an outrage against all principles of Trade Unionism, and will be condemned as such by the world trade union movement and all genuine trade unionists."

The Guardian approached several leading trade unionists to give their views on this decision of the Garment Workers' Union.

Mr. Rehm of the Motor Industry Employees' Union, member of the N.E.C., I find it regrettable that any Union has to take this step.

Another prominent member of the N.E.C.: Naturally I regret seeing anybody pull out of any trade union organisation. It seems to me that it has done the workers of America very little good to have two parallel trade union movements—often with conflicting interests. Divided efforts of the workers can't possibly be as successful as united ones.

Katie Kagan, National Secretary of the N.I.D.W.: Our Union is in full sympathy with the Garment workers in their condemnation and criticism of the actions of the present N.E.C. of the Trades and Labour Council. . . It is not the slims and objects of the Council that are at fault, but the leadership of the present N.E.C. which must be changed at all costs. . . My union hopes that the results of the forthcoming conference will encourage the withdrawal of the notice of disaffiliation by the Garment Workers' Union.

### IN THE CAPE

Prominent Cape Town trade unionists also disapprove of the

step taken by the Garment Workers' Union. In a statement to The Guardian, Miss Ray Alexander, Mr. John Gomas, Miss Pauline Podbrey and Mr. Lucas Phillips, say their unions are critical of the policy of the N.E.C. regarding the African mine workers strike, the training of Africans as building artisans, and regret the failure of the N.E.C. to carry out resolutions on food and rationing and for the amendment of the Industrial Conciliation Act to include Africans in the term employee, passed at the last annual conference.

"This policy is detrimental to the interests of the majority of the affiliated bodies of the T.L.C. and has brought about great dissatisfaction among trade unionists. This dissatisfaction, however, must be canalised for the forthcoming T.L.C. annual conference with a view to changing the personnel of the N.E.C. For these reasons we regret we are losing the Garment Workers' Union, which is weakening the progressive section of the trade union movement."

## Benoni Council Action Condemned

JOHANNESBURG.—Strong protests have been expressed at the action of the Benoni City Council in issuing eviction notices, under the Slums Act, to Coloured and Indian residents of Benoni Town, at a time when housing constitutes a national problem, and no alternative accommodation is available. They are to leave their houses on March 1.

At a mass meeting held under the auspices of the African Peoples' Organisation Action Committee (Transvaal), resolutions were passed instructing the Action Com. in Benoni to prepare plans to resist the Council's attempt to eject the people, and advising that organisations throughout the country be informed, their support enlisted, and a demonstration organised.

Further meetings were held by the A.P.O. in Pretoria, Fortsberg, Coronationville and Alexandra Township.

The meetings congratulated the Indian people on their determined stand against the "Ghetto Act," and pledged wholehearted support for the Indian people. The action of Mr. George M. Carr, who joined the Passive Resistance Movement, was heartily endorsed.



There are seven tin shanties like these in the backyard of a house in Sophiatown. They were erected last year to help meet the housing shortage. Each is 6 feet square and accommodates one family. Adjoining one row of tin huts is a stable housing four horses, a coal shed and rubbish dump. Photographs show the exterior and interior of one of these "houses."

## Laundry Workers' Achievement

JOHANNESBURG.—The National Union of Laundry, Cleaning and Dyeing Workers reports a significant achievement in the affiliation of 2,000 African workers in their union. These African workers are no longer members of a separate trade union.

## Mr. J. S. Mpanza Threatened Again

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. James S. Mpanza, leader of the first Johannesburg shantytown, has been notified by the Johannesburg Native Commissioner that his certificate of exemption issued by the Governor of Natal in 1908 is to be cancelled by order of the Governor-General. Notice to this effect has already appeared in the Government Gazette.

Mr. Mpanza told the Guardian he was informed by letter from the Native Commissioner on September 9, of the Government's intention to cancel his exemption certificate. The grounds for its cancellation are, among others, that he created a state of lawlessness among the natives of Orlando, and has taken a leading part in organising natives to take unlawful possession of certain vacant houses in Orlando.

In his reply to the Native Commissioner, Mr. Mpanza points out that it is not true that his Sofasonke Party took possession of these Orlando houses; that as a member of the Orlando Advisory Board he is an elected representative of the people of Orlando and has always acted on their behalf, and that if he is to be accused of lawlessness he invites the Commissioner to appoint a Commission to investigate whether this is really so. He further points out that the grounds for the cancellation of his exemption certificate are identical with those for the previous unsuccessful deportation order, with the exception of the first point—the conviction for murder.

Referring to this, Mr. Mpanza says the Governor-General did not think fit to withdraw his exemption certificate in 1915 when the

murder was committed, so 32 years after the event it is doubtful whether this can be a true reason for the present action.

## M.P. OBJECTS TO C.I.D. TAKING NOTES

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. Alec Wanless, M.P., protested vigorously against the presence at a meeting organised by the Council for Asiatic Rights at which Senator Basner reported on U.M.O. of a member of the C.I.D. taking notes. He said he intended raising in Parliament the fact that it was a flagrant breach of democratic procedure to send C.I.D. men to take notes of meetings addressed by the people's elected representatives. The protest was endorsed by the chairman, Dr. J. B. Robertson, Senator Basner, and the large audience composed mainly of Europeans.



MARCH 6, 1947.

## Emergency Measures for the "Squatting Menace"?

6/3/47.

JOHANNESBURG.—New emergency measures for dealing with the "squatting menace" publicised this week after negotiations between the Government and Johannesburg City Council officials, are being viewed with great alarm by leaders of Johannesburg's Shantytowns.

It is reported the Minister of Health has notified the Council that the Government has agreed in principle to the emergency measures, although the financial aspects are to be discussed in more detail.

The plans involve the establishment of a well-controlled camp to house a maximum of 100,000 Africans, the provision of temporary ten-year houses so that the bulk of the present squatters and others awaiting houses will be absorbed, making it possible to do away with the camp in time.

It has been suggested that emergency legislation be drafted to make squatting illegal for both Europeans and Non-Europeans, with heavy penalties for those leading squatter movements or taking money from squatters.

It is proposed that before the Natives enter the new municipal camp a census should be taken. Those who have no right to be in Johannesburg will be placed in a Government emergency camp, and if work cannot be found for them they will have to leave the city. The scheme envisages that as the squatters are absorbed in the temporary housing their shacks erected by themselves in the municipal camp will be destroyed, the camp declared a slum and eventually destroyed completely. In the municipal camp the squatters are to be allowed to erect their own homes with whatever materials they can obtain. Health and sanitary materials are to be provided by the Council at its own cost. The Africans will be charged 10s a month for a stand in the camp.

Further regulations will prevent "idle Natives" from entering the city, and superintendents of locations will have the right to enter homes and have these Africans removed. They will be removed to a Government emergency depot and have to leave the city if work is not found for them.

The squatters' leaders have on several occasions made it known they are ready and anxious to meet the authorities and co-operate with them in any measures designed to benefit the squatters, but they have emphasised they resent not being consulted in discussions concerning the future of the squatters and that measures of an arbitrary character taken over their heads can only cause bitterness, perhaps leading to serious consequences.

Statements by the leaders of the Alexandra Shantytown, and Rev. M. Scott from the Tobruk camp at Orlando point out the health conditions of the thousands of inhabitants of the hessian and tin shacks is deteriorating daily. The number of cases of smallpox at Tobruk has

increased to 35. In the Alexandra camp one or two babies die every day.

The residents of the Shantytowns have still—despite repeated requests to the City Council authorities for assistance—to organise their sanitary, water and rubbish removal services themselves.

Sanitary pits for the camp are inadequately supervised and hopelessly insufficient for the needs. A nauseating stench hangs over the camp.

The camp is so overcrowded that not only have the public squares been exhausted, but also the road running between two squares, so that there is hardly room for the Alexandra bus to go past.

In the meantime, yet another deputation from the City Council has left for consultations with the Government in Cape Town, but no squatters' representatives are taking part.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASES

6/3/47

JOHANNESBURG.—Employment openings for African ex-servicemen have shrunk considerably of late, according to the Public Relations Officer of the Non-European Branch of the Springbok Legion. The Bantu Ex-Volunteers' Employment Bureau, and the D.S.D.C. Bureau for Africans are experiencing the same difficulty in finding employment for hundreds of African ex-servicemen queuing up each month in search of work.

Trade unionists and secretaries of Industrial Councils report that employment openings in most secondary industries these days are few and far between.

In November of last year there were 101 applicants for jobs in the Springbok Legion Non-European

branch, when 35 men were placed, and 39 probably placed. In January there were 176 applicants, when 20 were placed. At one time the Legion was contacted daily by employers offering positions. During February there were hardly any such requests.

This "tightening up" in employment does not appear to have developed gradually, but to have been a fairly sudden occurrence over the past two months.



6/3/47

## T.L.C. Attitude To African Mine Strike Condemned

JOHANNESBURG.—A memorandum dealing with the August strike of African miners and the subsequent role of the National Executive Committee of the Trades and Labour Council, signed by Johanna Cornelius, Bettie du Toit, E. S. Sachs, and I. Wolfson—all members of the N.E.C.—has just been issued.

The document includes the history of the notorious cable sent to the World Federation of Trade Unions, which alleged, among other things, that drastic police action in the strike was quite warranted. All trade unions are urged to send protests to the T. and L.C.

The document is to be circulated to trade unions in South Africa and overseas.

### NO SUPPORT

It is pointed out that despite the declared principles and objects of the T. and L.C. the N.E.C. of the Council failed to give the African mine workers any support.

The cable sent to the W.F.T.U. was repudiated by numerous trade unions, some of whom cabled direct to the World Federation. And yet during the discussion on the cable on the sub-committee of enquiry into the strike appointed by the N.E.C., Mr. de Vries, Secretary of the Council, said openly: "As a member of the sub-committee, I am very proud to have sent the cablegram to the W.F.T.U."

The President of the Council, Mr. A. J. Downes, followed suit and stated very dramatically that "if he would have been on the Reef at the time of the strike he would have applauded the action of the police."

The African Mine Workers' Union, feeling indignant and outraged at the cablegram sent by a small group of people who were now sitting as "impartial judges" to enquire into the conduct of the strike, refused to give evidence before the committee of enquiry.

### EXCUSE

This was later used as a reason for dissolving the committee. The memorandum asserts that instead of being frank and admitting they were not willing to issue a report favourable to the workers, the majority of the members of the committee sought without any justification to place the blame on the African Mine Workers' Union, and to hide themselves behind untenable excuses.

The memorandum concludes: "The trade union movement of South Africa cannot possibly allow this outrageous act of a handful of people against the elementary principles of trade unionism and justice. The issue is not even one

between the conservative trade unionists and militants, for even conservative trade unionists do not applaud violence against workers. The mouthpiece of organised labour, the South African Trades and Labour Council, must not be allowed to support the cheap labour policy of the Chamber of Mines. We call upon every trade union in South Africa to dissociate itself from the action of these so-called trade union leaders."

6/3/47

## Attempt to Unseat E. S. Sachs Fails

JOHANNESBURG.—At the annual general meeting of the Garment Workers' Union held in Johannesburg's City Hall and attended by 2,000 workers, Mr. E. S. Sachs was re-elected general secretary of the union.

Some days before the meeting, reports were received by the union office that the Blankewerkers Deskeringsbond was organising strong opposition to Mr. Sachs and was prepared to nominate another secretary. At the meeting, when nominations for the post were being called for, a Miss Anna Knoetze, a member of the union, who claims to work for the Bond, nominated a Mr. Voster.

When asked to tell the meeting who he was, and of his associations with and knowledge of the trade union movement, she replied: "I do not know him. I was told to nominate him, and that is why I am nominating him."

There was no seconder to the nomination of Mr. Voster.

From information later received by officials of the union it would appear that Miss Knoetze got her names mixed. The gentleman she was told to nominate was not Mr. Voster but Mr. Vosloo, a leading member of the United Mine Workers' Committee.



The interior of one of the "rooms" on a mine compound. This room accommodates 40 men. Each has one concrete bunk. There are no facilities for hanging clothes or storing the miner's possessions. These miners have just drawn their afternoon ration and are settling down to eat after their work shift. Another compound picture on Page Two.

6/3/47

## SCENE ON PAY-DAY IN THE MINE COMPOUND



On the left the miners receive pay for their 30-day shift. The wages of an underground miner ranges from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d. a day. On the right Government tax collectors examine each man's tax receipts as he receives his pay. If he cannot produce a receipt, he must pay his 2s. poll tax on the spot.



6/3/47

## Threat to Vereeniging Indians

JOHANNESBURG.—The Indians want to remain where they have lived and traded since 1904, they refuse to abandon their existing trading and residential rights, said Mr. Y. Cachalia, joint secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, representing Vereeniging Indians at a meeting of the special committee of the Vereeniging Townships Board called to hear objections to the layout of a Duncanville township.

Duncanville is at present inhabited by Africans and Indians, and it is planned to remove these people to the new Sharpeville Township, and use the land on which Duncanville is situated for a new European township.

Mr. Cachalia pointed out Vereeniging Indians had no objection to the establishment of any township, but objected to the expropriation by the Council of the present Asiatic Bazaar and encroachment on existing Indian rights. He said that Indians had invested money in the area during their 43 years' occupancy, and the Town Council could not "just throw them out."

### NOT WILLING.

The Town Clerk, Mr. MacPherson, said the Town Council would not willingly accept this application. "We have been in communication with the Indian Advisory Board, and there has been until now no objection to a new site as close as possible to the new location, on my request to leave the present Asiatic Bazaar where it is."

The Mayor of Vereeniging said that the Council was prepared to negotiate with local Indians and consider their case.

6/3/47

## MORE POLICE RAIDS IN JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG.—With the news of the Royal visit amnesty and the release of several hundred European and Non-European prisoners, came a series of greatly intensified police raids throughout Johannesburg and smaller Reef towns, and a thorough combing of the city by special police squads to examine the passes of Africans coming into town every morning to work.

Many Africans residing in different locations around Johannesburg, have reported to The Guardian office that it is a regular experience of African workers to be intercepted by police every morning at Park station, or the Alexandra bus-rank or Diagonal street tram stop.

It is reported that beer-raids in the locations have also been intensified over the past fortnight.

6/3/47

## Michael Scott's Case Remanded

JOHANNESBURG.—The Reverend Michael Scott, appeared in the Magistrate's Court on Monday on a charge of residing in a Native area, without permission from the Minister or the concurrence of the City Council. He pleaded not guilty.

Under questioning, Nichols, Orlando location superintendent, admitted that nobody official was assuming any responsibility for Tobruk's 17,000 squatters. The appalling conditions were a danger to health and smallpox was rampant. He admitted Scott's presence was helping to alleviate a critical situation and exercising a restraining influence on the opposing camp factions.

The case was remanded to 17th March.

6/3/47

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

JOHANNESBURG.—Equal pay for equal work, the franchise for all women irrespective of race, colour or creed, creches in all industrial areas, adequate confinement allowances, sufficient prenatal clinics and maternity hospitals for all, protection of children and more and better schools, the abolition of legal discrimination, decent houses for all, a fair distribution of food and the smashing of the black market, are some of the slogans which form the basis of women's demands in South Africa.

On March 8 women of all races will gather at No. 2 and 3, Trades Hall, Johannesburg, to celebrate International Women's Day. Mrs. Jessie McPherson will preside at the meeting, which will be addressed by Mrs. Surtakias Patel, Miss Hetty du Preez and Miss Josie Palmer.

6/3/47

## How Many Governments?

JOHANNESBURG.—The Johannesburg Legion has received a letter from an African ex-serviceman appealing for 15s. to convert his army driving licence into a provincial one, and for corrugated iron to build a house.

He writes: "Those people who helped the Government to defend the country get no assistance to-day. The only assistance is the pick-up van. To-day good soldiers are the enemies of the same man who mobilised them to fight against fascism. . . Why do we have to suffer like animals? . . . When there was a war we were all friends. When the war is over is the friendship also over? Soldiers are trying to-day to unite and build this country as a friends' country. But still many Fascist and Nazi organisations exist. There is no opposition from the Government. How many governments are there in this country?"

"I speak these words because I am really starving from hunger. To-day I am a woman. My wife is a husband. She pays our £1 15s. a month for rent. There is nothing to eat."

6/3/47

## WOMEN PROTEST

JOHANNESBURG.—A mass meeting, under the auspices of the Transvaal Indian Women's Volunteer Corps, passed a resolution strongly protesting against the Union Government's refusal to grant passports to Drs. Dadoo and Nalaker, recently.

Miss Zainab Aavat presided, and speakers included Mrs. P. K. Naidoo and Misses Ruth First, Minnie Ramusar, L. Ranchood, Maniben Sita, D. Moodley and Lillian Naidoo.

6/3/47

## ELECTION BOYCOTT

JOHANNESBURG.—The first blow in the campaign to boycott the dummy political representation of the African people was successful Sunday. Three-quarters of the registered inhabitants in the townships refused to participate in the elections.

Under the slogan "Houses not Advisory Boards", the Pimville Sub-Tenants' Association leader Ntoli and the Jabavu group of the Communist Party had conducted several weeks of intensive campaigning.

6/3/47

## Boycott Secretary Is Food Controller

JOHANNESBURG.—The Council for Asiatic Rights has brought to the notice of Dr. Van Ek the fact that a certain Mr. Woolman, who is secretary of the Boycott Committee against the Indian traders of Schweizer Reinecke, has also been appointed Food Control Officer of that area.

The Council has received a letter from the Regional Food Officer of the Witwatersrand stating "a change is being made at that centre in the immediate future".

6/3/47

## Indian Girls Refused As Nurses

JOHANNESBURG.—The story has been told recently that the shortage of Indian nurses is no fault of the authorities—it is the Indian girls who do not want to train as nurses, because they do not want to deal with male patients.

Four Indian girls applied to the Pretoria Hospital, to be trained as nurses, enclosing their testimonials. In reply they received a letter from the Matron: "I regret to inform you we have no facilities for the training of Indian girls. I herewith return your testimonials."

6/3/47

CAPE TOWN.—The Chemical Workers' Union of Johannesburg in a recent letter to the Minister of Labour, Dr. Colin Steyn, reaffirmed the resolution passed at the 1946 conference of the S.A.T.L.C. that there should be no separate recognition for African trade unions, but that the Industrial Conciliation Act should be amended to include Africans in the term "employee." The National Union of Laundry, Cleaning and Dyeing Workers and the Johannesburg Food and Canning Workers' Union, have sent similar letters to Dr. Steyn.

6/3/47

## CHEMICAL WORKERS.

The Chemical Workers' Union of Johannesburg reports the formation of new branches at Pretoria and Port Elizabeth. They hope to form a national union for the chemical industry.

6/3/47

## GARMENT WORKERS' DISAFFILIATION.

We have received a statement from yet another union regretting the decision of the Garment Workers' Union to disaffiliate from the S.A.T.L.C. The National Union of Commercial Travellers feels that progressive forces should co-operate to change the present policy of the N.E.C., and considers the gar-

ment workers action ill-advised and not in the best interests of the trade union movement of South Africa.

To date all trade unionists we have contacted and who have written to us, disapproved of the step taken by the Garment Workers' Union. We would like the views of all trade unionists on this matter, and are particularly anxious to hear from those who endorse Mr. Sachs' decision, so that we can present to our readers a general survey of workers' opinions. How about it?

UNITA.



(3/3/47)  
**C.I.D. Warns  
Indians**

JOHANNESBURG.—Representatives of the C.I.D. visited the offices of the Transvaal Indian Congress and Passive Resistance Council a few days ago to warn Congress officials that no disturbances should be created during the Royal visit to Johannesburg, especially when the Royal procession passes down Market Street, over which the Congress offices look. The Congress was warned that no banners should be hung up, or slogans shouted.

(3/3/47)  
**Dr. Dadoo's Message**

JOHANNESBURG.—Dr. Y. M. Dadoo sends the following message to the people of South Africa before leaving for India to attend the Pan-Asian Conference.

"We are leaving South Africa at a time when she faces a most critical situation. She will have to report to U.N.O. in September on the steps she has taken to implement U.N.O.'s decisions on the S.-W.A. and Indian questions. The world is waiting for an utterance by General Smuts and his government. None has come so far. The government of India has expressed its willingness to confer with South Africa. No approaches have yet been made to her.

"In South Africa, the position is growing from bad to worse. The appalling and unbelievable housing shortage shows no sign of solution. Thousands of homes people are forced to live in squalid and hellish shanties, ignored by local and government authorities. Such a situation in any other country would have brought the downfall of the government.

"The food muddle caused by incompetent government departments is playing havoc with the health of the people. The racial discrimination and colour-bar policies of the country have reached a stage where the patience of the Non-European people has been exhausted.

"South Africa is at the crossroads, but the real issues are being clouded by the pomp and ceremony and lavish extravagance of the Royal visit—an astute political manoeuvre by General Smuts to divert the attention of the people and the world from the oppression and suffering of the masses of humanity.

"The important task is to pursue with greater intensity and vigour the campaign against racial laws and for land and political rights and full democracy for all, and to compel the Government to implement the U.N.O. decisions.

(3/3/47)  
**ABOLITION OF WAR  
MEASURE 1425  
URGED**

JOHANNESBURG.—The withdrawal of War Measure 1425, which prohibits a gathering of more than 20 persons on proclaimed land, and has restricted most severely the legitimate activities of the African Mine Workers' Union, was strongly urged by a deputation of the African Mine Workers' Union Organising Fund Committee, giving evidence to the Fagan Native Laws Commission, now sitting in Johannesburg.

The deputation consisted of Adv. F. Boshoff, Mrs. Rona O'Meara and the Rev. D. C. Thompson.

It was argued that the war measure passed in August 1944 was never applied against elements admittedly anti-war at that time. It is not being used today against striking European miners.

It has been used to stop Anti-Pass meetings of the African National Congress at Brakpan and all along the Reef; to prevent meetings of residents protesting against such local grievances as the position of the bus terminus in Brakpan, and the lodger's permit in Germiston.

Adv. Boshoff pointed out that the Minister of Justice had told a deputation that the withdrawal of war measures such as this was under the immediate consideration of the Government. That was 15 months ago.

The proclamation has been condemned by several national conferences of the South African Trades and Labour Council. The Commission was urged to recommend its immediate withdrawal, as "a vital principle of freedom of speech was at stake."

(3/3/47)  
**INTER ASIAN  
CONFERENCE**

JOHANNESBURG.—The Inter-Asian Conference to be attended by Drs. Dadoo and Naicker in New Delhi this month is organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs. It will discuss not the internal politics of India or any other country, but cultural, welfare and labour problems, the status of women and women's movements in Asia, and the transition from a colonial to a national economy, dictated primarily by national interests, but with due regard to international co-operation.

(3/3/47)  
**Ghetto Act  
Inspectors  
Busy**

JOHANNESBURG.—During the last fortnight inspectors appointed in terms of the Indian Representation and Land Tenure Act have been visiting Indian shopkeepers and occupiers and owners of property to solicit from them information about their occupation and ownership of property. The inspectors are alleged to be members of the C.I.D.

The penalty for withholding information to these inspectors is a £100 fine.

Some time ago the Transvaal Indian Congress placed on record its vehement protest against the operation of this measure of the Act.



# RACIALISTS AT VEREINIGING

20/1/47

JOHANNESBURG. — Resolutions passed by the Indian trader in all the Transvaal towns characterised the Transvaal Indian trader as a threat to European civilization, and about white supremacy and the future of the Transvaal. There were many declarations of boycott Committees throughout the Province. The Transvaal Agricultural Union, chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr. F. Lombard, chairman of the conference was presided over by Mr. F. Lombard, chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, claims to have started the boycott movement in Schweller Helnecke, Reddingdahlhorndahl at the head office of the Transvaal Agricultural Union. Among the 350 odd delegates was a good sprinkling of predikants and church elders, members of the Transvaal Federation and Afrikaners cultural organizations. A deputa-tion was elected to place before all Transvaal members of Parliament a resolution urging the revision of the present quota system. Other resolutions called on the Transvaal Government to cancel the trade embargo on South African farmers who need 30,000,000 grain bags. But it is openly admitted that India's trade embargo is having serious effects on South African farmers. It was stated at the Vereininging conference that the boycott of Indians is only one of the aims of the European trader farmer. The European trader farmer's aim is the "protection of the Transvaal Agricultural Union." On the Action Committee of five members of the Vereininging Committee is composed of two professors, two businessmen, and a number of the Vereininging members. The two professors, Labuschagne and Professor Cronje, professor of Economics at the Pretoria University and author of "Suid Afrika sonder die Asiat." A further Congress is to be held in Pretoria in May.



20-3-47

.. Co-operation is imperative for working out a practical basis of operation between Non-European national organizations," says a statement signed by Dr. M. B. Xuma, president-general of the African National Congress, Dr. Y. M. M. Dadoo, president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, and Dr. M. Naidoo, president of the Natal Indian Congress, Johannesburg recently. Full franchise rights for all, equal opportunities and recognition of economic and industrial rights and Industrial Commissions in terms of the removal of land restrictions and provision of adequate housing facilities, the abolition of the pass laws and prohibition of labour to work for jointly those national Non-European organizations. Above are Dr. Naidoo, Dr. Xuma, and Dr. Dadoo signing the document pledging the fullest co-operation on above lines.

20-3-47

JOHANNESBURG. — The South African Trades and Labour Council has decided on representations from allied unions to write to the Minister of Justice with a view to having the section of the central charge against the Communist Party withdrawn. It is understood that many leading trade unionists are perturbed at the fact that the case hinges on the question of individualism and movements to assist in a strike, and from that point of view the trade union movement.

## Next Resistance Batch

JOHANNESBURG. — The next batch of passive resisters from the Transvaal will be led by Manly Cachalia, who is a member of the Transvaal Indian Congress executive and the Passive Resistance Council.

## SABOTAGE?

JOHANNESBURG. — When Dr. Dadoo and Dr. Naidoo reached Cairo they were shown a cable which the Arab League had received from Johannesburg. Signed by Dr. Mohamed Manshi and Mr. Ibrahim Badshah as president and secretary of the "South African Muslim League," the cable read, "The Zionist demands for a Jewish State of Palestine, they are personally we have nothing against the Arab League. Please beware of them. They are not our friends, but Muslim League demand we should cut them out." The cable was disregarded by the Arab League. The Guardian understands there is no such organization as the South African Muslim League.



# Wide Support for Proposed National Convention

20-3-47

JOHANNESBURG.—The convening of a National Convention suggested by Senator Basner in the Senate, and advocated by him at the recent report-back meeting to members of his constituency, is being widely discussed in Johannesburg.

The Guardian has interviewed certain prominent members of the African National Congress, African Trade Unions, Transvaal Indian Congress and Communist Party for their views on this convention. There are differences among them as to the aims of such a convention, and by whom it should be convened. There is general agreement, however, that the formation of a new political party should not be one of its aims.

DR. XUMA, President-General of the African National Congress.—It is always useful for the organisations of the three Non-European groups to meet together in consultation. Discussions on this question are proceeding at the present time. A resolution of the last Conference of the African National Congress declares itself in favour of unity and co-operation. How far co-operation will go must be determined by the results of the contact between the bodies.

EDWIN MOPUTSANYANA, of the Communist Party.—The National Convention should not be convened by an individual, but by the African National Congress, Indian Congress, A.P.O. and Council of N.E. Trade Unions meeting beforehand to discuss and clearly lay down its scope and aim. In my view the convention should discuss not only the minimum demands of the Non-Europeans—the struggle for land, the vote and full citizenship—but it should go further, and discuss methods of struggle to carry these demands out. A small committee of leading members of the large existing organisations might be set up to ensure co-ordination of the work after the convention. It would be unwise to form a new political party. The existing organisation of the Non-European people is adequate.

Mr. Y. CACHALIA, Joint Secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress.—I would welcome a national convention of all sections. It is very important that all progressives in South Africa should put their heads together to work for the betterment of the country. The convention should discuss discriminatory legislation operating against all sections, and put forward minimum

demands. But the major thrust for the achievement of these demands will continue to fall on the major national organisations, which must themselves intensify the struggle for a genuine democracy.

Mr. D. TLOOME, Vice-President of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions.—A national convention of the national organisations and progressives to determine future policy would be a fine step. The policy laid down by the convention should be placed before the Government and U.N.O. The policy must not be confined to specific issues only, but must deal with the problems of full citizenship for all in general in South Africa. Such conventions might be called from time to time, when necessary.

Mr. A. M. LEMBEDE, of the African National Youth Congress.—A national convention will do a lot of good to the cause of the African people. My fear is that it may crystallise into a new political body which will tend to eclipse organisations such as the African National Congress. The All-African Convention is an example of this. It was called together as an ad-hoc body to consider the 1938 Hertzog Bills, but was later made permanent, and the Congress suffered a severe blow as a result. The convention itself should be convened by Dr. Xuma in his capacity as President-General of the African National Congress. Colour discrimination in all spheres should be discussed. Concerted action should be undertaken where possible.

Mr. D. W. BOPAPE, Secretary, Transvaal Branch African National Congress.—I am in favour of a national convention as long as it does not become the nucleus of a new political party. We don't want a multiplicity of organisations. The convention should hammer out a policy for submission to U.N.O. This basic programme should be campaigned upon by all the organisations participating in the convention. They must all pledge themselves to abide by it and work continuously for it. Once they have helped to frame it, they must be committed to this policy.

## AFRICAN MINERS' FUND

### CHALLENGE TO CHAMBER

JOHANNESBURG.—The Rev. D. C. Thompson, who presided at the annual meeting of the donors and friends of the African Mine Workers' Union Organising Fund Committee held in the Johannesburg Public Library last week, said that all workers must be allowed to organise, and that the African Mine Workers' Union was in the interests of all the people.

"The union," he said, "was progressing normally until the promulgation of War Measure 1425, which prohibits meetings of more than 20 persons on gold proclaimed land, and prevents the union from collecting subscriptions."

The Committee's financial statement and report were presented by Rev. A. W. Blaxall and Mr. H. E. Seargy.

Senat. H. M. Basner, guest speaker, in a searching analysis of conditions on the gold mines said the people who live as a result of the prosperity of this industry are not aware of the conditions under which the African miner lives. The African miner is virtually a prisoner of the mining industry, and, like a prisoner can never say he is tired of the prison and prison food.

CHALLENGE TO CHAMBER  
Senator Basner challenged the Chamber of Mines to allow him to

organise a tour of the mines by research workers. He pointed out that the fight for trade unionism by the African miners is similar to the fight of the English workers 100 years ago.

#### RESOLUTION

A resolution adopted unanimously supported the recognition of the African Mine Workers' Union and its right to carry on union activities without restriction in the interests of industrial peace. It urged the immediate withdrawal of War Measure 1425.

The Committee, whose members are Dr. J. Liebman, Dr. J. B. Robertson, Rev. Michael Scott, Rev. A. W. Blaxall, Mrs. Rona O'Meara, Mr. L. C. Joffe, Miss A. Hayman, Messrs. Stakesby Lewis and A. P. O'Dowd was re-elected with the addition of Mrs. W. Taylor.

## Subsidy Granted to "Shanty Town" School

20/3/47

JOHANNESBURG.—Following a deputation of teachers and organisers of the Iterele Orlando School, started by parents of school-less Orlando children in April 1945, the Chief Inspector of Native Education of the Transvaal has agreed that a subsidy be granted the school from April 1. The school will also be assisted by the provision of teaching personnel.

Iterele School, known for some time as a shantytown school, was one of the first started by parents to cater for children for whom there was no accommodation in mission and the few existing government schools. Parents contributed towards the upkeep of the schools and salaries of the teachers. Their patient and persevering hard work has at last borne fruit with the Province assuming part responsibility for the running of the school.



A view of the speakers at the celebration of International Women's Day in Johannesburg. From left to right are: Mrs. Ramabho, Miss Maria Makotodi, Mrs. Thumbrum, Mrs. Rona O'Meara, Mrs. Ling, Miss Joela Palmer, Mrs. Mpanza and Miss Elin Mgeulu. Mrs. Jessie McPherson, as chairman of the movement, should have presided, but she left the meeting, Mrs. O'Meara taking her place.

## NEWS FROM POLAND

JOHANNESBURG.—The South African Association to support Free Poland has received news of a declaration by the newly-elected Polish Parliament guaranteeing the liberties and freedom of the individual and also an appeal to all Poles abroad to return home and help to rebuild and restore Poland to her former glory.

The declaration of human rights and justice includes equality for all, regardless of race, sex, creed, social position and education, in the laws of the country; complete freedom of thought and worship, research, artistic creation, the press and public gatherings.

The Government guarantees the right to work and leisure, the right to all social security benefits, the care of the mother and child and family, and full protection of the health and work capacity of the country's citizens.

20-3-47

20-3-47



20-3-47

## W.F.T.U. Secretary Interviewed



JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. Jean C. Laurain, secretary of the Colonial Department of World Federation of Trade Unions, expressed great concern at a recent press conference that in a democratic country like South Africa the three delegates elected by the Council of Non-European Trade Unions to the Dakar Conference might have difficulty in obtaining passports to proceed to Dakar.

The three delegates elected are Mr. J. B. Marks, Mr. Gana Makabeni and Mr. D. Tloome, and also

though they applied for their passports over three weeks ago, no reply has come from the Minister. Mr. Laurain points out that delegates from other parts of Africa are being given Government assistance—in some cases even free air transport to proceed to Dakar. The Dakar Conference is the first major activity of the Colonial Dept. of the W.F.T.U. pledged to "assist workers and trade unions in colonial countries and mandated territories."

Delegates representing over 2,000,000 organised workers, European and Non-European on the African continent, will be present. Mr. Louis Sallant, General Secretary of the Federation, and representatives of the British T.U.C., American C.I.O. and the Soviet Trade Union Council will also attend.

Mr. Laurain said he hopes the Dakar Conference will be the first of many on the African continent to break down the isolation of organised workers in the African territories between themselves and the outside world.

On the question of the August strike of African miners, Mr. Laurain said this strike was one of the most legitimate and important in the history of South Africa. The W.F.T.U. would not forget the workers killed and injured during the strike.

The only way to success in South Africa—of whose future he was very optimistic—was for all trade unions to belong to one trade union centre.

20/3/47

## Provincial Council Discussions

JOHANNESBURG.—At the new session of the Transvaal Provincial Council which opened recently, Mr. Alex Hepple will move that the Executive Council implement the unanimous decision of the Council in May, 1946, that married women teachers be placed on the same salary scales and under the same conditions of service as other women teachers.

Other resolutions deal with amendments to the Entertainments Tax Amendment Ordinance; arrangements for the immediate holding of public elections for members to Health Committees in peri-urban areas, instead of the nomination of members as at present; and the need for the Johannesburg Hospital Board to prepare in regard to medical and nursing staffs and equipment, for the taking over of the Baragwanath Military Hospital during July, and its transformation into a General and Maternity Hospital for Non-Europeans.

Members will also ask questions about the number of Native schools in the Transvaal with state-owned buildings, and the amount spent during the past two years on the erection of Native school buildings in the Province.

20/3/47

## FROM INKULULEKO

JOHANNESBURG.—In an editorial, "Inkululeko's" latest issue congratulates The Guardian on the attainment of its tenth birthday. "We of Inkululeko know all too well the difficulties of producing a people's paper in South Africa. We congratulate the Editor and the others who are responsible for the steady progress of The Guardian. We hope and believe that our two papers will grow and advance, side by side, in the future; playing a worthy part in the great struggle against colour-bargy for equal rights and opportunities for all in a democratic South Africa; for the advance towards Socialism in our country."

20-3-47

## Distinguished Graduates

JOHANNESBURG.—Among the 400 students who graduated at the summer ceremony of the University of the Witwatersrand was Mr. L. L. M. Majombozi, who won the prize presented by Professor Craib for the most distinguished Non-European final year medical student.

Mr. S. M. Mafokeng and Mr. C. L. S. Nyenbezi received first class passes in their B.A. Honours degrees in Bantu languages.

Mr. Yusuf Suije graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. A number of Non-European students received arts and medical degrees.

20-3-47

## CHEMICAL WORKERS INCREASE

The employers in the chemical industry, at a meeting with members of the trade union and the Johannesburg local committee of the S.A.T.I.C., agreed to pay workers an extra 6s. on their present basic wage of 24s. a week. Other demands of the workers will be put forward when an Industrial Council is formed for the industry.

20-3-47

## GREEK APPEAL TO TRUMAN

JOHANNESBURG.—The Greek Southern Africa Unity Committee has cabled an earnest appeal to President Truman not to follow in the footsteps of official British policy in Greece and interfere with the country's internal affairs, as this would be fatal to Balkan and world peace.

The cable reads: "Southern Africa Greek democrats, from the Congo against the prolonged occupation of Greece by British troops and domination there. We entertain deep feelings of friendship and gratitude towards the American people, but respectfully submit that her desire for no interference in her internal affairs. It is against the principles of truth and morality to talk about the existence of a 'Greek state in Greece to-day and for the future.' The Greek democratic forces are in a 'Minority'. For the sake of American-Greek friendship, please avoid the tragic mistake of official British policy in Greece. It is fatal to Balkan and world peace."

20/3/47

## Pass Law Abolition Urged

JOHANNESBURG.—At a recent meeting of the Penal Reform Association of South Africa at which a local committee was elected to further the aims and objects of the movement, Mr. J. Wertheim, a leading member of the side-bar, who presided, said one of the first questions the league should tackle is the abolition of the pass laws.

These laws were responsible for an enormous number of statutory offences and petty crime. He saw no reason why these iniquitous laws should be retained, but was in favour of a system of identity certificates to be carried by all, regardless of colour. Among those present at the meeting was the Hon. Justice F. E. T. Krause, one of the keenest exponents of penal reform in South Africa.



# ANTI-INDIAN BOYCOTT DANGERS

27/3/47

## Action Wanted

JOHANNESBURG.—The Riotous Assemblies Act should be enforced against organisers of the anti-Indian boycott, which is stirring up bitter race hatred. This appeal to the Government to take action is made in statements issued by the Council for Asiatic Rights and the Transvaal Indian Congress.

The Council points out that the boycott has been taken out of European farmers' hands and is being exploited by certain trade interests, and that boycotters have openly admitted their intention is to capture trade from their Indian competitors and to drive them out of business. It is also being fostered by political interests for election purposes. The statement adds that the boycott will not help the farmers to obtain grain bags, which is a matter for negotiation between the Governments of South Africa and India.

The statement is signed by Mr. V. C. Berrange, Dr. John B. Robertson, Edgar Bernstein, the Rev. Michael Scott, Dr. Wolf Sachs, Th. Pienaar, Adv. E. Lubinsky, E. J. Burford, Leonard Berman, C. Maeyer, David Couzyn, Adv. L. Pinchus, Adv. A. Fischer, and B. Sischy.

The statement issued by Mr. Y. Cachalla on behalf of the Transvaal Indian Congress, points out that Indian traders have, during the past 60 years, made a notable contribution to the country's prosperity and have shown enterprise in carrying trade to distant and lonely outposts. Their record for business standards and fair dealing compares favourably with that of any business community in the world.

Condemning the boycott campaign as a racial one, Mr. Cachalla adds that it is a "flagrant violation of the Riotous Assemblies Act, which was passed, we are told, to deal with people who engender race hatred.

"It is the task of every fair-minded South African to oppose this racial move. We are living in a multi-racial society, and it is difficult to see where such a move will end in South Africa."

The statement concludes by saying that the decision of the United Nations has placed a duty on all South Africans to work out the solution of race relations in the interests of the Union. Moves such as the boycott movement can only bring discredit to the Union in the eyes of the world.

# ANTI-INDIAN BOYCOTT CALLS FOR VIOLENCE

27/3/47

JOHANNESBURG.—Racial incitement and the propagation of anti-Asiatic feeling are reaching a peak in the movement to boycott Indian traders in many small Transvaal towns. Nationalist and United Party supporters continue to co-operate cordially on boycott committees.

A leaflet issued in Vereeniging by the European Consumers' Association proclaims: "The coolie's neck must and will be broken." The leaflet alleges that false rumours have been spread in Vereeniging to the effect that even after the large boycott meetings in the Town Hall Indian traders were so busy that some of their customers had to be asked to go and shop elsewhere, otherwise all the European clients could not have been served.

The Consumers' Association stresses that not all the Europeans

who enter Indian shops are clients. Many of them are appointed as observers for the European Consumers' Association to keep under observation those shops where Europeans still trade with Indians. The Consumers' Association apparently has need of a good many observers.

The leaflet further announces that the association is doing everything in its power to have the quotas of Indian traders cut and those of the Europeans increased. But "Die Vaderland" carried a statement by the Food Controller a short while ago in which he pointed out that a decrease in the quota of goods can only be made with the agreement of the dealer concerned.



2/13/47  
**Rev. Scott Found Guilty**

**JOHANNESBURG.**—The Rev. Michael Scott was this week found guilty in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court of residing in the Native village of Orlando without the approval of the Minister of Native Affairs and the concurrence of the City Council, in terms of the Urban Areas Act. He was sentenced to £5 fine or 14 days' hard labour, suspended for twelve months on condition he committed no similar offence.

Rev. Scott gave evidence in court of "deplorable conditions" in Tobruk shantytown. He had been invited to reside there by the camp residents to help deal with the confused situation caused by opposing camp factions, a smallpox outbreak and ineffective camp administration. He told the court of repeated approaches to the authorities to intervene. Till recently it was impossible to ascertain whose responsibility the squatters were.

2/13/47  
**Needs of Youth in Industry**

**JOHANNESBURG.**—A resolution condemning discrimination on the basis of age in industrial agreements and awards, and urging the trade union movement to pay more attention to the organisation and problems of young learners, apprentices and all young workers in industry, was passed at the well-attended annual general meeting of the Johannesburg Young Communist League.

The resolution called on the Trades and Labour Council to convene a special conference to draw up a fighting programme for the improvement of the wages and working conditions of young people in industry. A further resolution called on the Johannesburg City Council to establish youth clubs for young people in all parts of the city.

2/13/47  
**New Homes for Squatters**

**JOHANNESBURG.**—Within the next two or three weeks the first batch of 50,000 squatters from those living in the Johannesburg shantytowns are to be moved into the emergency township provided for in the agreement between the Johannesburg City Council and the Government, according to information given the Guardian in interviews with Councillor A. E. P. Robinson (U.P.) and Councillor Colin Legum (L.P.).

The land for the new "township," on which sites of 400 square feet are being laid out, is in the Klipspruit area between Orlando and Pimville.

The emergency township, when all the existing squatters have been absorbed by it, will be as large as Port Elizabeth. Waterpiping is shortly to be laid on in preparation

for the removal of the squatters to their new homes.

Councillor Legum told The Guardian that the rent of 15s. for each family will include a charge for the land site, the provision of water and sanitation, and health and social services. A number of clinics and hygiene centres will be built. No transport to the Nancefield or Klipspruit stations will be provided by the Council. The squatters will have to build their own shacks with material provided by themselves.

The squatters have not been consulted about the details of the plan, but meetings with their leaders are to be called soon.

**TO SUPERVISE**

An advisory board of three representatives of the Council and three from the Government has been set up to supervise the scheme. (Continued on page 5)

2/13/47  
**Truman's Role**

**JOHANNESBURG.**—At a meeting of the Friends of the Soviet Union to discuss the Moscow Conference, Senator H. M. Basner alleged that President Truman's recent statement was carefully calculated to undermine the Moscow Conference. In the same way a few days before the opening of the last session of U.N.O. he had declared that the United States was going to stick to its Pacific bases.

"Those elements which used Hitler to try and destroy the Soviet Union have not let go of their objective because their tool let them down. It is obviously their intention to have another shot at destroying the U.S.S.R. It is the duty of every democrat to make the power of the Soviet Union for peace so great will have to fight the next war themselves.

"It is no longer a matter of protecting the Soviet Union only, but race."

The protected American loan to Greece and Turkey was described by Mr. J. Wolfson as wasting money to bolster up governments which obviously did not have the confidence of their peoples.

2/13/47  
**NEW HOUSES FOR SQUATTERS**

(Continued from page 1.)  
 Within the emergency township, Councillor Legum said, provision will be made for the election of an advisory board as in other townships. The difference will be that instead of the European superintendent of the township automatically becoming chairman of the Board, a panel of twelve names drawn up by the Council and Government will be submitted to the Board for them to select their own chairman from this panel.

Under Government regulations published last week squatting has become illegal, so the residents of the Shantytowns have no option but to take up residence in the new Klipspruit emergency camp.

Councillor Legum expressed the opinion that the emergency scheme, which is to last for five years until temporary and finally permanent housing can be provided, is really an appalling one.

"If the Government had acted a year ago when first approached by the Johannesburg Council the problem could have been dealt with on a far more reasonable basis," said Mr. Legum.

Councillor Robinson said that the Johannesburg Council was assuming complete responsibility for the health services of the emergency township. The Council is to conduct a "screening" of the inhabitants of the Shantytowns before they remove to the new camp, to ensure it is reserved for those "legitimately entitled to be in Johannesburg" and "undesirables" are eliminated.

The Secretary of the Shantytown Co-ordinating Committee, Mr. Edwin Mofutsanyana, expressed the opinion that it was a good step forward that the Government and local authority were at last accepting responsibility for the squatters. He added that the plan was by no means a good one, and could have been avoided if not for the authorities' criminal neglect of the people's housing needs.

**HAVE BEEN CONSULTED**  
 The squatters should have been consulted earlier, even about the operation of the emergency township and the regulations to be framed for the "control" of the camp.

Previous hints of stringent control of residents and visitors entering and leaving the camp will be greatly resented if enforced.

Conditions in the existing shantytowns are now so bad that the squatters regard a solution—however limited—as a great relief. "But the rent of 15s. is too high, even though it includes payment for the land site, and sanitation, water and health services. A two-roomed house in Orlando costs only



Mr. Colin Legum

17s. 4d. a month. In Jabavu the people pay no rent at all. In the Orlando Shelters, where the shacks were built by the Council, the residents pay only 5s. a month for water and sanitary services. Seen in this light the rent of 15s. is quite unreasonable," said Mr. Mofutsanyana.

"As for the change in the chairman of the proposed Advisory Board, it makes little difference. The people will still have to choose a Government nominee, added to which there are all the other limitations of the Advisory Board."

2/13/47  
**LETTER TO MINISTER**

**JOHANNESBURG.**—Prominent trade unionists, Senators, Churchmen, members of the Labour Party and Springbok Legion, and Mr. Jean Laurain, representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions, have sent a letter to the Minister of Labour strongly urging him, during the current parliamentary session, to amend the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act by extending the definition of "employee" to include all African workers.

Amongst those who signed the letter are trade unionists D. Tloome, J. B. Marks, Katie Kagan, E. S. Sachs, I. Wolfson, J. J. Venter, C. Rehm and J. L. P. Botha; the Bishop of Johannesburg, the Right Rev. G. H. Clayton, the Bishop of Pretoria, Archbishop Uquhart and Archbishop Rouse, Senator Edgar Brookes, Senator Malcomness, Mr. Donald Molteno and Prof. Z. K. Mathews; Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, Dr. E. R. Roux and Councillor Hilda Watts.

2/13/47  
**CHURCHMEN CONDEMN PASSES**

**JOHANNESBURG.**—Giving evidence to the Pagan Native Laws Commission, the Christian Council of South Africa, an organisation embracing all the major churches and missionary societies, with the exception of the Dutch Reformed Church and Roman Catholic Church, stated that race should not be a determining factor in the admission to the rights of citizenship.

On the question of passes the Council stated: "We are united in the conviction that there is only one thing for passes—total abolition. They are wasteful in every way and a continual source of friction. We are also of the opinion that Africans should not be required to carry tax receipts any more than members of other racial groups are required to do so."

The deputation was led by the Rev. A. W. Blaxall, Convener of the Social Welfare section of the Council, and composed of the Rev. S. Pitts, general secretary, the Revs. H. F. Junod, E. Hallerdorff, E. E. Mababane, H. W. Nawa, and H. M. Malmaine.

Justice Fagan asked the deputation for definite proposals as how elections could be conducted in urban areas, and the Africans encouraged to take an interest in their Advisory Boards. In unmistakable terms the African ministers told the Commission that all that is required is the treatment of the African people as responsible members of society, instead of insulting them by creating machinery which is quite ineffective.

2/13/47  
**Increase in University Fees?**

**JOHANNESBURG.**—A circular sent to all students of the University of the Witwatersrand together with their 1947 accounts warns of a possible increase in fees.

The circular states that an increase has been under consideration for some time; it is realised it will hit many students hard, but it is necessary to provide the best possible tuition.

The last increase in fees at the University was in 1943, when they rocketed up 20 per cent.

2/13/47  
**UNITY MEETING**

**JOHANNESBURG.**—A second meeting has taken place between the representatives of the National Executive of the African National Congress and members of the Natal Indian Congress and the Transvaal methods of co-operation were discussed.



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## DADOO AND NAICKER IN INDIA

ATTENDING the 31-nation Inter-Asian Conference in Delhi, India, are the South African leaders Dr. Dadoo and Naicker. The conference is attended by delegations from Burma, Indonesia, Ceylon and Vietnam, the Soviet Republics of Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Tadzhikistan and other countries.

On their arrival in India the two leaders were met by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, India's great poetess and national leader. They were later received by Nehru, head of the Indian Interim Government, Mahatma Gandhi, with whom they toured the riot areas of Bihar, and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, leader of the Indian delegation to UNO. They have been enthusiastically welcomed by Hindus and Moslems alike throughout India.

Dr. Dadoo and Naicker have addressed meetings of students

and trade unionists, attended sessions of the provincial and legislative assemblies. From the Mayor of Karachi they received a message hoping that the Indians in South Africa should unite with the Africans in common struggle.

On their way to India, the leaders were given a welcome reception by the East African Indian Congress at Nairobi where they addressed the largest meeting ever held there. In Egypt they were received by the secretary of the League of Arab States, and the news of their arrival was splashed in the Egyptian press.

Dr. Xuma, who had to decline the invitation extended to him to attend the Inter-Asian Conference, has sent a message of warm greeting and solidarity to the nations of the East assembled in Delhi.

## T.L.C. DELEGATES TO DAKAR

The S.A. Trades and Labour Council has elected two delegates to the All-Africa Trade Union Conference at Dakar on April 10. They are Messrs. S. Mann and K. Hancock. An African, Mr. L. S. Phillips, was elected as alternate, in case one of them is unable to go.

## 177 YEARS' JAIL

1671 Passive Resisters, including 268 women, have now been sentenced to terms of imprisonment in the struggle against the Ghetto Act. Their sentences total 177 years 1 month and 3 weeks imprisonment.

## PRETORIA BUS BOYCOTT

The bus boycott of the 3,000 people of Ateridgeville, Pretoria, who are prepared to walk 16 miles a day to and from work rather than pay the increased fare, now enters its fourth week. The bus company still refuses to reduce the fares, and the municipality to continue subsidising



MR. MIKE MULLER

the service. The secretary of the Pretoria Communist Party, Mike Muller, says the Council should either subsidise the service, as it did in the past, or take it over altogether.

Transport to help the boycotters get to work has been well organised. Volunteers with cars and lorries, mostly Africans and Indians, take the workers to and from Pretoria, and have helped to maintain the hundred per cent. boycott.

## BASUTOS ADDRESS THE KING

When the Royal Family visited Basutoland, the People's Organisation, Lekhotla la Bafo, presented to the King an address outlining the history of British misrule in the protectorate, and calling on him to renounce all measures which to-day deprive the Basuto people of their land and other rights.

The document tells how the British Government did not honour its treaties with the Basuto people; how the chiefs have become tools in the hands of the government and no longer represent the wishes and interests of their people; how Basutoland has become a colony of Britain, instead of a protectorate; and by Proclamation 65 of 1922 the Basuto people have been deprived of their land, and live in the country of their birth as "squatters".



## BRITISH EMPIRE COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

(From Our London Correspondent)

**A**N emergency resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of the sedition charge against members of the Central Executive Committee of the South African Communist Party was passed at the Conference of British Empire Communist Parties, held in London towards the end of February. "We salute the C.P.S.A. as the only political organisation in that country that fearlessly fights for the rights of the working people of all races", read the resolution.

South Africa's representatives at the conference were Danie du Plessis and H. A. Naidoo.

Dr. Adhikari, leader of the Indian delegation and editor of 'People's Age', who was a victim of the recent mass arrests in India and faces trial on his return home, said "Imperialism never dies until it is physically destroyed by the strength and unity of the working people of the whole world". Dr. Adhikari told how Indian Communists risked their

Conference called for united struggle between Arabs and Jews to win a free, independent and democratic state with equal rights for Arabs and Jews. Immigration into Palestine, it said, was a question to be determined only by the people of an independent and democratic Palestine.

Danie du Plessis said it was a farce for Smuts to say he had consulted the non-European people about the proposal to annex South-West Africa.

Other delegates were Desmond Buckle from West Africa, Tim Buck from Canada, Wu Tian Wong from Malaya, and leaders of the Communist Parties of Britain, N. Ireland, Australia, Cyprus, Syria, Canada and other countries.



MR. H. A. NAIDOO

lives to urge unity when the Hindu Moslem riots were at their height. It was wrong to picture India in August and September of last year as a land of riots, for even during them joint working class struggles were being conducted, for example the strike of 40,000 railway workers in Bombay when Hindus, Moslems and untouchables stood united.

### PALESTINE

Mikunis, secretary of the Jewish Communist Party in Palestine said there is today in Palestine one policeman for every 28 people, compared with one to every 278 five years ago. The



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## "Very Poor Employers"

### WHY RAILWAY ARTISANS GO SLOW

JOHANNESBURG. — Asked by The Guardian whether he agreed with Minister Sturrock's recent boast that the Railway administration was a "model employer" Mr. Basson, secretary of the Artisan Staff Association, retorted that it certainly was not, but his association had always maintained it should be.

The railway artisans' go-slow strike is in full swing. Deferment notices that reached certain centres have been countermanded. Thirteen thousand artisans are affected, 12,500 being members of the Artisan Staff Association, and 500 of the A.E.U. and Ironworkers who are supporting the strike. Airports, especially Palmietfontein and Germiston are also affected.

The judicial commission set up by the Minister meets in Johannesburg from April 2.

Men employed in about thirty different trades are included in the Artisan Association — blacksmiths and boiler-makers, fitters, moulders, plasterers, plumbers, printers, sheetmetal workers and others. All artisans earn 3s. 6d. an hour and work on a bonus basis. The vast majority must provide their own quarters, the Railway cottages being for running staff, such as drivers, firemen, guardsmen and signallers.

#### SIX STAFF UNIONS

The Artisan Staff Association is one of the six recognised staff unions on the Railways, the others being the associations for salaried grades (Salstaff), locomotive drivers and others (Lemas), the running staff (guards and shunters), the railway workers (unskilled workers) and the Employees' Union (for other workers).

Throughout the union the go-slow strike will have a far-reaching effect on the output and efficient running of the railway.

Mr. S. Q. (who asked The Guardian to withhold his name in case of possible victimisation) is a ticket printer in the Johannesburg workshop. He told The Guardian that previously the men in his shop worked two Sundays a month and two hours every night for two weeks a month overtime. Several million tickets were turned out every week. He doubts whether this week they will turn out half a million.

#### THE WORKERS STAND UNITED

The men are solidly behind their union, although not working overtime or for bonuses results in a drastic cut in their earnings. The average ticket printer earns about 5s a month. During the go-slow strike it will be 30 per cent less.

Mr. S. Q. also spoke of the railways as "very poor employers." Workshops are overcrowded, poorly lit and ventilated; there are too few wash and change rooms. Decent tools and equipment are scanty. The men work a 46 hour week.

One of the major grievances of the artisans is that they can not take their annual leave for lack of money. Representations have been made for a number of years for a holiday bonus, but without success.

The dispute, say the artisans, would never have arisen had Mr. Sturrock been prepared to propose some acceptable compromise. At this stage the Artisan Staff Association is not prepared to reduce its demands.

## Boycott of Indian Traders More Serious Spreading Even to Schools

JOHANNESBURG.—The boycott of Indian traders is assuming serious proportions in many Transvaal towns, with intensified threats to ostracise those individuals who continue to trade with Indians, cases of assault and victimisation of Africans and the picketing of Indian shops in Potchefstroom by students of the University College. There has as yet been no indication of the Government's intention to take action in this matter.

#### POTCHEFSTROOM

From Potchefstroom it is reported that for the second time this month students from the college picketed Indian shops during Saturday morning. A number of scuffles occurred between the students and Europeans trying to make purchases from their regular dealers. The District Police Commandant was repeatedly phoned by the Indian Congress to intervene, and ignored the requests. Telegrams of protest have been sent to the Prime Minister, Potchefstroom Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor, the Magistrate, and the principal of the University College.

#### LICHTENBURG

In Lichtenburg leaders of the boycott movement organised in the "Farmers' Association" have been travelling from farm to farm threatening that the photos of those farmers who continue to trade with Indians will be published in the local press, that they will be excluded from social gatherings and not attended to by the town's doctors or chemists.

A number of lawyers have been refusing work from Indians, including the collection of their debts from residents in Lichtenburg.

It is reported that school teachers in the town have taken it upon themselves to give daily anti-Indian lessons to their classes. As the Guardian informant put it, "The children are being taught to hate the Indians, as the Nazis were taught to hate the Jews in Germany."

On all roads leading to Lichtenburg boards recently appeared bearing the words: "South African Europeans do not patronise the Coolies." The matter was brought to the notice of the Town Council, and the boards were removed. Two days later they re-appeared.

#### ZWARTRUGGENS

In Zwarttruggens a boycott meeting was addressed by Professor Cronje, who took a prominent part at the Vereeniging provincial boycott conference. The meeting was opened by a prayer, to which the Rev. Michael Scott, who was present, took objection. He was told if he wanted to speak he could organise his own meeting. "This one is to support the boycott."

The Motor Traders' Association appears to have joined the boycott movement in this town. A number of petrol pumps have recently been removed from Indian stores.

Africans are being intimidated, victimised and physically assaulted and robbed for having dealings with Indian stores.

The Rev. Michael Scott took statements from a number of Africans working on a stone quarry near the town. They stated that they preferred to walk 12 to 14 miles to the nearest Indian store because the prices were much cheaper. But several Africans had been assaulted and robbed of goods worth £2 10s. for disobeying their employer's orders to buy from a store he had set up near the quarry.

The statements of these Africans, two of whom have been dismissed by their employer, have been sent to the Minister of Justice.

#### COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT

The Johannesburg District of the Communist Party has issued a public statement emphatically condemning the boycott campaign, calling on the government to take effective measures against "these inciters to trade boycotts and racial hatred under the appropriate laws."

## RIOT AT WOLHUTER

JOHANNESBURG. — A riot at Wolhuter municipal hostel, described by the newspapers as the worst riot in Johannesburg for several months, was quelled by a police squad and the Fire Brigade early on Saturday morning. Police from Jeppe Station invaded the hostel for a round-up of "loafers, dice-players and unauthorised Natives." Twenty-nine were arrested by the pick-up van or marched to the nearest police station.

According to reports given to The Guardian the inhabitants of the hostel strongly resented being rudely awakened by police and the way in which arrests were made. They set fire to the compound office and erected a barrier across the entrance. The police, of whom there were two truckloads, forced an entry by turning firehoses on the men.

Marshall Square, when phoned, denied all knowledge of the riot, in spite of being confronted by a newspaper report.

It is understood that the Council's Non-European Affairs Department has established a commission of enquiry into the causes of the riot and the manner of the arrests.

## They Are Dissatisfied

#### JOHANNESBURG. — The Council of the Amalgamated Engineering Union has instructed the Secretary to give three months' notice of disaffiliation to the S.A. Trades and Labour Council. This decision was taken at a meeting held last Saturday, and was a compromise on the Council's previous decision to send no representatives to the Trades and Labour Council's annual conference which opens at Port Elizabeth on Easter Monday.

It is understood there is great dissatisfaction in the A.E.U. with the present leadership of the Trades and Labour Council. A.E.U. delegates, representing 10,000 members, will discuss the Council's proposal to disaffiliate when they meet at Port Elizabeth.

## "THE BOYCOTT IS FASCIST"

JOHANNESBURG.—"The boycott of African traders establishes a dangerous precedent which might upset ordinary and established commercial relations and free competition in a system of private enterprise which works to the benefit of consumers to the detriment of producers by the Johannesburg branch of the National Union of Commercial Travellers, deploring the fact that the Government was taking no steps to stop this illegal attempt to discriminate between sections of traders. The resolution concludes: 'The boycott is Fascist in concept and undemocratic in principle.'



## QUEER COINCIDENCE?

### Alexandra Camp Leaders Arrested

JOHANNESBURG.—Three leaders of the shantytown at Alexandra have been arrested: Shreiner Bhadua, leader of the camp; Lucas Bokaba, second-in-command; Abner Kunene, chief of the camp police. The charge of "extorting cash" was made against them when they appeared in the Magistrate's Court. No evidence was led and the case was remanded to April 9. Bail was refused.

Police investigations are said to be proceeding, and contingents of police patrolled the camp for several hours after the arrest of the leaders.

According to Press reports, the arrests were made because the accused are alleged to have conducted illegal cases in the improvised Shantytown court and to have imposed small fines on offenders.

Such courts are a feature of all the well-conducted Shantytowns, and the other members of the Alexandra Committee point out

that on more than one occasion when infringements of the law had been brought to the notice of the police they had been told to handle the cases themselves.

What disquiets the Shantytown people is that the three leaders have been removed two weeks before the first batch of squatters are due to be sent to the emergency camp site at Kilispuit. It is known that the Alexandra squatters are to be the first to be moved.

In no other camp have arrests been made for "extorting money," although there has actually been an unofficial commission of enquiry into the administration of Tokbruk Township instituted by Mr. Venables, manager of the Council's Non-European Affairs Committee and supported by the District Commandant and Native Commissioner, the Superintendent of the Orlando Location and various groups of squatters. This commission has published a verbatim report of its proceedings, which include allegations of misappropriation of funds, ill-treatment of campers, the holding of private courts and floggings. The commission completed its findings several weeks ago, but no action has been taken.

The Rev. Michael Scott, who lived in the Tokbruk Camp for two months, said that the people and he had made repeated efforts to get the authorities to intervene. Charges laid at the police station had been ignored. He added: "I am surprised at this sudden decision to arrest the Alexandra camp leaders, when serious allegations of extortion have been ignored in other camps."

### Club for Squatters

JOHANNESBURG.—The Young Communist League and Alexandra Branch of the Communist Party are to start a recreation and culture club for the 8,000 families in the Alexandra Shantytown for whom there are at present no leisure-time facilities whatsoever. The organizers are appealing for funds for this project. Donations should be sent to P.O. Box 5488, Johannesburg.

## LODGERS' DEMANDS

GERMISTON.—The Germiston Lodgers' Association has notified the Town Council that it is unable to provide housing for the surplus population in the overcrowded Germiston Location, the people should be given the right to build their own houses on land at Natalispruit, promised them early in 1946.

The Association says they presented a petition for houses to be built at Natalispruit to the Council on its own suggestion. They have heard nothing since Letters written to the Native Commissioner and Minister of Native Affairs have received no reply.

They were promised that the Germiston Council was embarking on a scheme to build 3,000 houses by the end of 1946. The housing situation is as acute now as it was before the promise was made.

## DELEGATES FOR DAKAR

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. J. B. Makiel, President of the African Mineworkers' Union, and the Non-European Trade Union Council, who was elected by the Council as one of its three representatives to the Dakar Conference, has been granted a passport.

The other two delegates, Gana Makiel and Dan Tloome, Vice-President of the Council, have also received theirs.

The Dakar Conference, organized by the World Federation of Trade Unions, and to which representatives of 2,000,000 organized workers European—will come, will be held in Dakar from April 14.

## Asian Conference

JOHANNESBURG.—Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and Dr. M. Naicker, in India to attend the Inter-Asian Conference, have been received by Pandit Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Vijaylaksmi Pandit.

On their arrival at the Delhi airport they were met by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, and shortly after they visited the riot affected areas in Bihar with Gandhi.

They had discussions with the Burmese, Chinese, Ceylonese and Vietnamese delegations before the representatives of 31 countries, Conference, now being attended

including the Soviet Republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Tadzhikistan.

Dr. A. B. Xuma, president-general of the African National Congress, has sent a cable to the Conference, regretting his inability to attend as a fraternal visitor, and sending greetings from the African people.



Dr. M. Naicker

## INDIA WELCOMES S. A. INDIAN LEADERS

### Messages for Resisters

JOHANNESBURG.—Dr. M. Naicker and Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, who are at present in India, have cabled the Transvaal Indian Congress describing their activities.

Hundreds failed to get admittance to a public civic reception held in the Khalkidina Hall, Karachi, where the Mayor, Mr. Vishramdas Dewanmal, presided. He paid glowing tributes to the South African passive resisters, saying:

"We in India will never allow compatriots in South Africa to suffer from racial discrimination. I hope Indians in the Union will unite with the Africans in their common struggle, for therein lies their mutual salvation."

A resolution was passed that the citizens of Karachi welcomed the Indian leaders from South Africa and condemned the racial policy of the Union. It called upon the Union to implement the U.N.O. decision, and pledged full support to the resistance struggle.

Dr. Naicker and Dadoo also addressed the students of the National College, where the ex-Mayor and maker of modern Karachi, Shri Jamsheer Mehta, presided, and later attended by invitation an important session of the Sind Legislative Assembly.

#### SIND PREMIER'S MESSAGE

The following day they addressed trade unionists and were invited by the Congress District Committee to address Congress workers. Dr. Coitram, president of the Sind Provincial Congress, presided at the latter meeting.

The Honourable Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, Prime Minister of the Sind League Ministry at the Legislative Assembly, gave the following message to the leaders: "My sympathies are with the South African people in their struggle. I hope they will realise their aspirations and soon and wish them to be ever successful in their struggle to reach their desired goal. In my

opinion all non-Whites should stand together and co-operate to fight racial discrimination."

The Speaker of the Sind Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Syed Miranhan, gave the following message: "For a long time I have been studying the situation in South Africa, so far as it concerns the Indians living there, with keen interest, and have always felt the pinch of injustice done to our Indian brethren. It really surpasses one's imagination how in these modern times South African whites still consider Indians as inferiors, knowing that India is shortly going to be a fully fledged member of the British Commonwealth."

"I have not only sympathy with the South African Indians in their struggle for freedom, but exhort all those at the helm of affairs in India to throw their weight on their side and make the Union of South Africa feel the enormity of the inhuman treatment they are giving to Indians there. I am sure the struggle will culminate eventually in the victory for our brethren in South Africa."

#### THE HARBINGER

Dr. Naicker and Dadoo also addressed an open-air evening meeting at Rachodpur, attended by many thousands. Durga Bhakker, general secretary of the District Congress, presided, and a resolution was passed supporting passive resistance, welcoming the leaders, and protesting against discriminatory laws in South Africa.

Professor Ghanashyam, leader of the Congress Party in the Sind Assembly, sends a message wishing the resistance struggle every success, saying: "Your success will be the harbinger of race equality all over the world."

## AN APPEAL TO THE KING

One of the addresses the King received on his visit to Basutoland was from Lekhotla la Balo, a people's organisation. This address was not in the same strain as other addresses presented to the Royal Family, for it traced the history of the British rule in the Protectorate. It pointed out that the power of the Chiefs had been broken, that they were no longer representative of the people but of the Government.

It appealed to the King that "as all measures for the dis- possession of our rights as a nation are carried out in your name Your Majesty should renounce all measures depriving the people of their rights."



## “DISAPPOINTING DOCUMENT”

### S.A.T.L.C. Annual Report

JOHANNESBURG.—The view that the annual report of the Trades and Labour Council, recently published in preparation for the Port Elizabeth Conference, is an extremely disappointing document, was expressed by Mr. I. Wolfson in

an interview with the Guardian. Mr. Wolfson is a member of the N.E.C. of the Trades and Labour Council, representing the Johannesburg Local Committee of the Council, and is secretary of the Tailoring Workers' Union.

He continued: “The report does not reflect the mounting dissatisfaction felt with the failure of the T.L.C. to mobilise the trade union movement for the implementation of the Workers' Charter, and the solution of the many problems now becoming acute in the life of workers—the high cost of living, the housing problem, low wages, especially of the African workers, and also the contemptuous manner in which the government dealt with representations for the recognition of African trade unions under the Industrial Conciliation Act.

“The report attempts to throw the blame for the non-implementation of the Workers' Charter on to the shoulders of the trade unions. But the fact is that many of the trade union leaders expected to provide leadership in matters like these are so busy attending government board meetings that they have very little time to organise the trade union movement for the achievement of its avowed principles.

“In fact a very large portion of the report is merely a recital of what this member or that has done on this or that Board.

“Nevertheless the Trades and Labour Council, with its 115 unions representing 170,000 workers of all races in South Africa is an important organisation, and given correct leadership, the Council would be strengthened by the acquisition of many new members, especially from the African unions; the reactionary enemies of the trade union movement, who have succeeded in penetrating certain unions would receive severe rebuff; and the Government would pay far more attention to the demands of the workers.

“I appeal to all unions to fight in the Trades and Labour Council for a more progressive policy, and to see that all sections of the workers are represented on the new national executive that will lead the trade union movement in one of the most difficult periods that South Africa will face,” concluded Mr. Wolfson.

### GREETINGS FROM POLAND

JOHANNESBURG.—A late message to The Guardian on its tenth birthday from the Polish Workers' Party conveys congratulations to The Guardian and expresses solidarity in the fight of the paper against local Fascism and for democracy. The message was brought by Miss Hilda Watts from Warsaw.

## Royal Visit Expense Criticised

### Johannesburg Council Meeting

JOHANNESBURG.—Addressing the City Council, at its last meeting, on the Royal visit Councillor Hilda Watts said the Council scrupulously queried every item for expenditure on social services, but thousands of pounds were being squandered on decorations and other preparations for the one-day Royal visit to Johannesburg.

In England the man in the street was very sour about this lavish expenditure on a tour that had developed from an “austerity holiday visit” to a super-luxury tour. Miss Watts voted against an item for further decorations.

Councillor A. E. P. Robinson, leader of the United Party group in the Council referred to Councillor Watts' speech as “cheap Communist propaganda,” and the Communist Party as a “peculiar foreign party.” He said “the sooner the Communists are prepared to leave the country, and leave us to our own ways the better.”

#### SQUATTER CAMP REGULATIONS

Thirty pages of regulations for the new emergency squatter camp were placed before the Council for approval.

Councillor Watts and the Labour group moved several amendments to these regulations. They protested at the rigorous permit system for entering and leaving the camp; restrictions on the holding of public meetings within the camp and the taking of collections; penalties to be inflicted for the non-payment of rent.

Councillor Watts moved that the inclusive charge for the land site and sanitary and other amenities be reduced from 15s. to 5s. She moved that all residents of the camp over 21 men and women, should have the vote.



This is a common sight outside Johannesburg's pass offices, where Africans have to waste valuable time—sometimes up to two days—before getting the service contracts without which they are not allowed in the city.



PASSAGE

REGISTER

PRICE 4/1947

## DAKAR T.U. CONFERENCE

### SOUTH AFRICAN NON-EUROPEANS TO BE PRESENT

TWO million organised workers, European and non-European, from the continent of Africa will be represented at the Dakar Trade Union Conference organised by the World Federation of Trade Unions. The Conference opens on April 14.

Delegates from South Africa have been elected by both the Transvaal Council for Non-European Trade Unions, and the South African Trades and Labour Council. From the Council of N.E. Unions will go Mr. J. B. Marks, its President and Mr. Gana Makabeni and Mr. Dan Tloome. The S.A.T.L.C. conducted a ballot throughout its 115 affiliated unions. Mr. S. Mann of the Amalgamated Engineering Union was elected, with Mr. K. Hancock of the Typographical Union as second preference, and Mr. Lucas Phillips, prominent African trade unionist from Cape Town, as alternate delegate. It is not yet known how many delegates the S.A.T.L.C. will send.

#### COLONIAL WORKERS

The Dakar Conference is the first major activity of the Colonial department of the World Federation of Trade Unions, pledged to assist workers and trade unions in colonial countries and mandated Territories.

#### MOST OF AFRICA WILL BE REPRESENTED

Most territories in Africa will be represented at the Conference, including the Rhodesias, Kenya, the Belgian Congo, British West Africa and the French possessions. Delegates from French Africa are being given free air transport and every facility to attend the Conference — this in strong contrast to the difficulty experienced by the South African non-Eu-



MR. J. B. MARKS, who has been granted a passport to proceed to Dakar.

ropean delegates in getting their passports in time.

#### OTHER DELEGATES

Also attending the conference will be Mr. Louis Saillant, general secretary of the W.F.T.U., and representatives of the British Trade Union Congress, the Soviet Trade Union Council, and the American Congress of Industrial Organizations.

The Dakar Conference, which it is hoped will be the first of many on the African Continent, will do much to break down the isolation of organised workers in the African territories between themselves and the outside world.

## Springbok Legion and Politics

### WEEK-END CONFERENCE

JOHANNESBURG.—The fourth national conference of the Springbok Legion, held in Johannesburg over the last week-end and attended by 64 delegates, placed on record its recognition that the aims and objects of the Legion as set out in its constitution can be achieved only by full and active participation in the social, economic and political life of the country.

Four delegates from the Krugersdorp and Randfontein branches walked out of the conference after a heated discussion on the open letter sent to the Prime Minister by the national executive of the Legion, on the original refusal of passports to Drs. Dadoo and Naicker.

The spokesman of these delegates, Colonel Hood, of Krugersdorp, claimed that the colour bar was a 'sacred principle of life' to him. Apart from protesting against the action of the N.E.C. on the passport matter, members of the Krugersdorp branch had even contemplated taking an active part in the movement to boycott Indian traders.

Resolutions affirming full confidence in the national executive of the Legion on the passport issue were passed by an overwhelming majority. It was at this stage that the four delegates from the West Rand walked out.

#### RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted condemned the economic boycott of Indian traders; called on the incoming executive to combat vigorously the influence in trade unions of such bodies as the Federasie van Blanke Werkers, the Marais Trust and the Reform Bond; urged the Government to take renewed and thorough measures to clear Nazis out of South-West Africa; and to outlaw and dissolve Fascist organisations in South Africa such as the Grey-shirts, the Oeswa-Brandwag and the New Order Group. The Union Government is urged also to implement the T.N.O. decisions concerning South Africa.

The national executive of the Legion was instructed to call a National Conference to decide on the policy of the Legion in the next general election.

The conference was opened by Major-General H. S. Wakefield, C.B., O.B.E. Fraternal greetings were sent by the Prime Minister, Dr. Colin Steyn, the Mayor of Johannesburg, the United Party, Labour and Communist Parties,

members of Parliament and trade unions and the American Veterans' Association in New York.

## SHAKESPEARE BANNED!

### JOHANNESBURG.

Students at the University of the Witwatersrand have been told that a contemplated production by the English Department of Shakespeare's "Othello" has been banned by the University Council because the central character in the play is a Non-European.

## AFRICANS CHASED AWAY ON ROYAL ROUTE

JOHANNESBURG.—Attacks on Africans by individual policemen during the Royal Visit to Johannesburg have been reported to the Guardian by eye-witnesses.

Near the City Hall Africans standing among the crowd waiting for the Royal Family to arrive were scattered by the police who chased them from the City Hall and ordered them to stay away.

On more than one occasion Africans who attempted to cross the street along the procession route, long before the procession arrived and although Europeans were crossing continually, were brutally attacked by the policemen on duty.

GUARDIAN.

APRIL 10 '47



# ACTION AGAINST INDIAN BOYCOTT?

## Traders Suffering

JOHANNESBURG.—The legal advisers of the Transvaal Indian Congress are considering instituting private criminal proceedings against the leaders of the movement to boycott Indian traders in Transvaal towns. Indian merchants in certain areas are contemplating taking civil action for damages for losses suffered as a result of the boycott.

A special sub-committee of the Congress to deal with the boycott movement is being set up.

A Chamber of South African Indian Merchants, membership of which is open to all wholesale and retail Indian traders throughout the Union has been formed, with headquarters in Johannesburg. The immediate task of the Chamber will be to assist the Indian retailer obtain a greater supply of commodities, and it will undertake to assist its members financially.

### HOLDS NO WATER

Commenting on an editorial in the Rand Daily Mail which stated that India herself started the boycott movement by imposing economic sanctions on South Africa, and that the practical way out is for India to withdraw these sanctions, Mr. G. H. I. Pahad, a member of the executive of the Transvaal Indian Congress said that this argument holds no water at all.

"The reasons behind the boycott are very obviously economic reasons."

"The government, by being a tacit party to the illegal activities

of the boycotters, is encouraging racialism."

"The new organisation, called 'The South African Protection Movement,' has as its first aim the removal of Indians from South Africa's economic life. This is the aim of the Ghetto Act itself by its restrictions on land ownership by Indians and the existing administrative restrictions with regard to the issue of licenses."

He pointed out that a boycott movement was organised in the Transvaal in the early twenties, when there was no question of any economic sanctions against South Africa by India.

## Spanish Youth Tortured

JOHANNESBURG.—The Military Tribunal of Madrid has sentenced to death nine young people under the age of 21. These sentences follow the trial in Madrid of 20 young people between the ages of 15, and 18, among them two girls.

The United Socialist Youth of Spain writes to the Progressive Youth Council: "These young people were savagely tortured by Franco's hangmen, who tried to force them to denounce their underground organisation. They were not successful. The methods used on them were such that sixteen-year-old Isabelita Torraiba went mad."

"The news of this new crime of Franco's regime has roused a wave of protest throughout Spain. The Henares in Madrid organised a hunger strike as a protest against the continued torture of these young people."

The United Socialist Youth of Spain appeals to youth and other organisations throughout the world to exert what pressure they can to prevent the execution of these nine young Spaniards.

The International Youth Council of Great Britain has approached the British Government to intervene.

## Sibasa Case To Be Resumed

JOHANNESBURG.—The case of Frans Ratshimpi Sibasa, who was deposed as Chief of the Venda people last October will be resumed in Pretoria on May 2. The case was first opened in the Sibasa District on January 27, when Ratshimpi Sibasa instituted legal proceedings against Lucas Ratshalingwa and those who helped Lucas to be installed as present chief of the Venda people.

Sibasa is asking the court to decide whether he was lawfully deposed, and whether his successor had any right to deprive him of livestock and other property which he maintains he inherited from his late father, according to Venda custom.

The Zoutspansberg Balemi Association appeals for financial assistance to help meet the costs of the case. Donations should be sent to P.O. Box 4179, Johannesburg.

## JOINT MEETING

JOHANNESBURG.—A mass meeting of Non-Europeans will be held in Johannesburg on Sunday, April 20, called jointly by the African National Congress, the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses, and the Transvaal Branch of the African Peoples' Organisation.

Progressive South Africans who were present at the last session of the United Nations will be among the speakers.

## POSSIBLE BOYCOTT "DANGERS"

JOHANNESBURG.—An article appeared recently in "Die Transvaaler," official organ of the Nationalist party in the Transvaal, warning readers of the "possible dangers" of the movement to boycott Indian traders.

Written under the pseudonym "Balle," presumably one of the papers' legal advisers, the article made it clear that its aim "was not to throw cold water on the movement, but to sound a word of warning—there must be no collision with the law. Under certain circumstances damages may be claimed against those responsible for the boycott movement."



## Leather Slump Throws Hundreds Out of Work



JOHANNESBURG.—The leather industry is facing an acute position of short-time work and unemployment. Twenty out of 27 establishments on the Witwatersrand have retrenched; about 500 workers have been dismissed over the past few months and are experiencing great difficulty in finding work in other industries.

These workers still in the leather industry are working short-time, their wages having been reduced by from 20 per cent. to 60 per cent.

These facts were given to the Guardian by Mr. W. Kalk, secretary of the Leather Workers' Union.

Mr. Kalk said the immediate cause of the slackness is over-production—not in relation to the needs of the people, but to their buying power.

"During the war we were told there was a marvellous future for the expansion of South African industries. Output in the leather industry was doubled. We produced 18 million pairs of boots and shoes a year, compared with 9 million before the war. When war contracts ceased, purchasing power decreased. Foreign competition began to be felt, and these facts have led to the over-production in the industry.

"Expansion in the industry cannot be maintained unless the internal market is considerably expanded."

### QUEUING UP

The Guardian reporter interviewed a number of young workers standing in the queue at the Unemployment Exchange. They report to the Exchange three times a week, and remain in the queues for anything up to four or five hours.

John S. had been working in the industry for five years. He had started work at the age of 15, after completing Standard VI at school. He has now been unemployed for four months.

### SAME STORY

The stories of all these youngsters standing in the unemployment queue are very similar—they left school at the school-leaving age or standard; began a "career" of semi-skilled work in the leather industry; and now are jobless and experiencing very great difficulty in finding work in new industries.

Douglas has been told to report to an electrician for work. He has done so on four Monday mornings in succession, without any success.

Previously he and his sister supported their mother. To-day his mother has been forced to go out and work.

Adam, who as a learner earned £1 5s. a week has been unemployed for four months. His mother has begun to take in washing.

Harry B. passed Standard VIII at school, and worked in the industry for two months. He has now been unemployed for two months. He comes from a family of nine.

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## U.P.—LABOUR PACT MOOTED

JOHANNESBURG.—Alarmed by the decline in the fortunes of the Labour Party, which it blames on the political immaturity of the people, the weekly "Forward," in an editorial in a recent issue, is driven to suggest that the pact between the United Party and Labour should be renewed.

The paper fears that the Havenga-Malan pact may well bring about the defeat of the Government, and that the country would then be submitted to a racial domination by a purely sectional Nationalist government. The Labour Party must answer this threat by supporting the United Party, which apparently, at any rate in "Forward's" view, guarantees the "racial unity and co-operation of the people of South Africa."

A relevant point, not discussed by "Forward," is whether General Smuts, who already finds Mr. Hofmeyr an ideological burden, would not find an alliance with Mrs. McPherson too much for the Nationalists to swallow.

## Squatters' Trial

JOHANNESBURG.—Schreiner, Baduza, Abner Kunene and Lucas Bokhabe, three leaders of the Alexandra Squatters camp, appeared in the Magistrate's Court for summary trial on Monday.

They are charged on 15 counts—nine alleged extortions involving unlawful imposition of fines, with the alternatives of either assault or "meddling with Native affairs," an offence based on a Transvaal Volksraad proclamation of 1895.

The accused pleaded not guilty. Advocate G. Lowen, instructed by Messrs. Hoffman and Levitan, appeared for the defence.

Several hundred Alexandra squatters marched through town and, overflowing the courtroom, sat on the floor in tightly packed rows in the corridor outside.

Under cross-examination several Crown witnesses contradicted statements made at the charge office of the Wynberg police station.

One witness maintained he was continually afraid when giving a statement to the police sergeant. Answering one question, he said: "I said yes, because I was afraid of being locked up if I said no."

The case is proceeding.



## ASIA DETERMINED TO BE FREE

JOHANNESBURG.—The Inter-Asian Conference has helped to open new vistas of understanding between Soviet Asia, indeed the U.S.S.R. as a whole, and all Asian people, cable Drs. Dadoo and Nalcker from India.

"The presence of highly advanced Soviet Asiatic Republics at the Conference proved of great benefit in learning of their achievements, and helped to break down the iron curtain of suspicion deliberately lowered over them by the Imperialist powers.

"Although the Conference was of a cultural and non-political character, it reflected the determination of the peoples of Asia to be completely free from Imperialist strangleholds. The new Asia will add tremendous strength and stability to the United Nations for the maintenance of a democratic peace, and the outlawing of war."

### TO MEET JINNAH

Drs. Dadoo and Nalcker are shortly to meet Mr. Jinnah. They have already been interviewed by Maulana Azad, Member for Education in the Interim Government, and the members for Defence, Labour and Food. They had a 40 minute conversation about the next session of the United Nations with Sir Maharaaj Singh.

They reported that even in the far distant central Indian states people are well informed about South Africa and are following the struggle of the Indian people with deep admiration and sympathy. In India wide publicity is being given to the news of the boycott of Indian traders in the Transvaal.

## SATURDAY CLOSING FOR RAND SHOPS

JOHANNESBURG.—The struggle for Saturday afternoon closing of stores in the Transvaal, which has been carried on by the National Union of Distributive Workers for some considerable time, has at last resulted in victory.

The majority of employees have been clamouring for it for years, and it has been an outstanding success in the other three provinces.

At a recent meeting of employers from the largest stores in Johannesburg, and their branches on the Reef, it was agreed that their stores will remain open on Wednesday afternoons, thus

granting the workers a half day on Saturdays.

This follows years of activity by the N.U.D.W. to change the clause in the provincial ordinances which makes closing on Wednesdays optional. The United Saturday caucus was usually swayed by the arguments of the employers, although the Labour group supported the case of the N.U.D.W. The present arrangement, however, does not necessitate a change in the ordinance, as it is a voluntary agreement among the big employers.

## Nat. English Paper Ceases Publication

JOHANNESBURG. — "New Era" English organ of the Nationalist Party is to cease publication from this month.

As reasons the editorial in the last issue gives "editorial dislocation" (its former editor, Dr. E. G. Jansen, has just been elected to Parliament as member for Wolmaranstad); and a "definite boycott of the journal as far as advertisements and distribution channels are concerned."

Ironically, the editorial claims the paper has "in some small way contributed toward the creation of a better feeling between races!"

"New Era" was launched as a weekly just over two years ago.

## Wits. Students Condemn Anti-Indian Boycott

JOHANNESBURG.—By an overwhelming majority the Students' Representative Council of the University of the Witwatersrand passed at its last meeting a resolution condemning the boycott of Indian traders.

The resolution states that the S.R.C., as a constituent body of the Assembly of the National Union of South African Students, considers that the boycott of Indian traders further undermines race relations in South Africa, and is in conflict with the United Nations Charter and the decision of the last General Assembly of the U.N., thereby undermining the foundations of world peace.

Only three members of the Council voted against the resolution.

## CAUSES OF WOLHUTER RIOT

JOHANNESBURG.—The commission of inquiry into the riot at the Wolhuter Hostel for African Men on March 28, has found the "bastard superintendent" guilty of "neglect of duty" in that although he was told of the intended police raid that night, he failed to be present when it took place, and did not make his whereabouts known to his assistants.

The riot followed a raid on the hostel by a detachment of 29 station police, and the arrest of 29 Africans. Annoyed at the manner in which the arrests were handled, 300 Africans stormed the administrative block and attempted to burn it down.

The commission makes several recommendations for the repair of the material damage, but no attempt has apparently been made by the Commission to discover the real causes.

## Egyptian Women Greet South Africa

JOHANNESBURG.—Egyptian women, who are taking a prominent part in the struggle to get British troops to quit Egypt, send their warmest greetings to the Indian women of South Africa. This message was handed to Drs. Dadoo and Nalcker by the Egyptian women's leaders attending the Inter-Asian Conference in New Delhi.

## Boycott Protest

JOHANNESBURG.—The Executive Council of the Jewish Board of Deputies has placed on record that it is unequivocally opposed to Jews participating in the boycott of Indian traders and similar movements. The boycott is viewed as an infringement of the rights of individuals under a democratic society.

## Jabavu Squatters to Pay Rent

JOHANNESBURG.—It is reported that the City Council is shortly to charge the residents of Jabavu Township, the "controlled" squatters camp for which the Council first assumed responsibility, rent of 15s. a month.

Jabavu inhabitants do not pay any rent at present.

As the rent and social services charge in the new emergency township to accommodate not more than 100,000 squatters is to be 15s. a month, the regulation is to be extended to Jabavu. It is said to bring all regulations concerning squatters into conformity, and discourage squatting.

## AFRICANS DON'T OWN RADIOS

JOHANNESBURG.—A memorandum prepared by the Non-European Affairs Committee of the Johannesburg City Council for submission to the Commission of Inquiry into Broadcasting Services, points out that it is extremely rare to find radios in the homes of Non-European families.

The most obvious reason is that most Non-Europeans live in townships where houses do not have electric current. In Johannesburg, of 16,812 houses in Non-European townships, housing a population of 168,967, only 27 have electric current.

A further reason is that it is not possible for the average Non-European to pay £10 to £12 for a radio set. The payment of 35/- yearly for a licence, and the purchase of batteries for battery-operated sets further put the purchase of radio sets out of the reach of the average wage-earner.

The memorandum points out that the times chosen for broadcasting the present programmes in Zulu and Sesuto are quite unsuitable for the majority of African listeners. The programmes are also not attractive.

## S.A. Leaders Meet Nehru

JOHANNESBURG.—Drs. Dadoo and Nalcker had detailed discussions lasting one hour with Pandit Nehru on the next session of I.L.N.O. Satisfactory conclusions were reached and a further meeting is being arranged.

## Students Reject S.W.A. Incorporation

JOHANNESBURG.—By 40 votes to 21 the Students' Parliament of the University of the Witwatersrand rejected a motion "that this house demand the incorporation of South-West Africa into the Union."

The motion was proposed by Mr. Bjaar Cotteze M.P.C. (United Party), and seconded by Mr. H. Schwartz. It was opposed by Dr. A. B. Xuma, seconded by Mr. I. C. Meer.

## U.N.O. RALLY POSTPONED

JOHANNESBURG.—The U.N.O. Rally organised jointly by the Transvaal Indian Congress, African National Congress, and African Peoples' Organisation, has been postponed from April 20 to May 4.

The meeting will take place at the Market Square.

## COUNCIL FOR ASIATIC RIGHTS

JOHANNESBURG.—It has been reported that two Europeans have been soliciting money from Indian traders, stating that they represent the Council for Asiatic Rights, and using the name of the Rev. Michael Scott.

The Council for Asiatic Rights and the Rev. Michael Scott wish it to be known they have authorised no one to collect money in their name from Indian citizens for the Council of Asiatic Rights.



PASSIVE REGISTER  
18/4/47.

## ATTEMPT TO TAKE INDIAN PROPERTY AWAY

About 25 stands in Denver owned by Indians in the exempted area under the Feetham's recommendations are to be expropriated by the Johannesburg City Council according to reliable information. Notices for compulsory purchase of stands has been served on the owners.

It is contended that the land is needed for the extension of the Denver African Hostel, which is to build recreation rooms, a beer-hall and milkbar and sports equipment rooms for the hostel residents.

### NO ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

The extension of the hostel along these lines is welcomed, but the owners of the property to be expropriated rightly point out that although they will be paid the value of their property, no alternative accommodation or property which they can purchase will be found for them.

### RESTRICTIONS

Under the Ghetto Act and the Gold Law, these people will suffer a tremendous hardship, for these two Acts have virtually made it impossible for the Transvaal Indian community to own or occupy landed property. In the "Gold Law areas" a large number of stands originally exempted for Indian occupation have now changed hands and are no more available to the Indian people. For instance in Ferrisrastown the entire area covered by the New Magistrates Court is an exempted area completely lost to the Indian community.

### INSTRUCTED LAWYERS

The owners of the Denver stands have instructed their lawyers to point out that they are less concerned with the matter of compensation than the loss of their stands. The attitude of the Council is that they are prepared to negotiate with the owners for the purchase of the stands; but if the owners refuse to negotiate they will expropriate them.

# SQUATTERS ON TRIAL

## Contradictory Statements

JOHANNESBURG.—Watched by several hundred squatters from the Alexandra Shantytown, who march to the court in procession every morning—although the majority of them cannot be accommodated in the courtroom and have to remain seated in the corridor—the trial of Shreiner Baduza, Abner Kunene and Lucas Bokabe, the three camp leaders, is continuing in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court.

The three leaders are charged on 15 counts. These involve allegations of extortion and "meddling in native affairs," with alternatives of assault with intent and malicious injury to property.

Cross-examination of the Crown witnesses by Dr. G. Lowen, appearing for the defence, has revealed marked contradictions between the statements made by the Crown witnesses when laying charges before the police and their statements in court under cross-examination.

Allegations of drastic measures taken against them by the leaders of the camp are made by the Crown witnesses.

The first witness, Zachariah, was said to have been unlawfully arrested and later fined by the camp police for flashing a torch into the eyes of one of the camp police. He told the court that on the night of the incident he had had no torch.

### HAD BEEN AFRAID

Another witness said he had been called to the police station to make a statement because he was alleged to have broken someone's leg. He told the court he had seen no one with a broken leg at the charge office, but had been questioned about an incident in the camp. He had been afraid to ask the sergeant about the broken leg allegation because he was a white man. He was afraid all the time he was answering questions and giving a statement because he feared he would be "locked up."

Asked why he had told the policeman in the charge office and then denied in court that he had seen a man taken before Bokabe as camp magistrate, he said he had told the police this because he was afraid.

### FORMED OWN COMMITTEE

Calphas Nkhumbi, cross-examined by Dr. Lowen for a whole day, said he had been a member of the camp committee but had later formed his own committee in opposition. He alleged he had been arrested on March 4 when holding a meeting of his committee in a shack, taken before a squatters' meeting, then guarded by the camp police all night. Three days later his shack was demolished and he was again arrested and ordered to leave the camp.

Cross-examined, Nkhumbi said that the squatters' committee had been elected by the people and had their confidence. Its job was to keep order in the camp. There was no other authority to do so.

Dr. Lowen.—Why were you dismissed from the committee?—Baduza and Bokabe told me I was neglecting my duty as a committee member.

Were you annoyed with them for dismissing you?—Yes. Is that why you started your rival movement?—No.

Why did you?—I thought the form of government exercised by the committee was not orderly. Calphas admitted he was later removed from his position as clerk to the doctor in the camp.

### DEFENCE ALLEGES

At a meeting of his committee of four they had discussed the funds of the camp. They had decided when their committee was strong enough to go to Baduza to ask him about the camp funds.

Dr. Lowen.—Did you say at the meeting "we must organise a new camp management"?—Yes. But in co-operation with the camp committee.

Did anyone say "we should not talk about these things at the meeting, but organise our underground movement"?—I do not remember.

Dr. Lowen said the defence alleged this witness, Calphas Nkhumbi, was the man at the back of all the trouble. He was rightfully dismissed from his paid job because he neglected it; had then started a rival movement within the camp; and gone to police about all the charges laid against the three accused. If it had not been for him there would have been no prosecution.

### CASE REMANDED

Nkhumbi denied he had done his best to undermine the activities of the committee, incited the people not to obey the camp rules, and spread rumours about Baduza.

He admitted later that when the people were told of his activities they became very angry, and Baduza had protected him from the angry crowds by having a cordon of camp police thrown round him. He denied that he had once been accused by the committee members of the Bantu Tenants' Association of having misappropriated the funds of that organisation.

Dr. Lowen.—Do you earnestly suggest that Baduza misappropriated the funds of the squatters' camp?

If they have been misappropriated Baduza is responsible.

Have they been misappropriated?

If they had not been Baduza should have shown me the camp books.

Despite repeated requests by Dr. Lowen and the magistrate, he refused to give a direct answer to the question of whether he thought Baduza had misappropriated camp funds.

The case was remanded till April

Guardian

24-4-47



# DR. LOCK ON BOYCOTT'S AIM

## Racialist Meeting at Krugersdorp

JOHANNESBURG.—From Dr. J. Lock himself, organizer of the Transvaal provincial boycott movement, it is not a boycott movement. It is a movement with positive aims—to mobilize European capital for European business.

Dr. Lock made this statement at a meeting of about 450 people in the Krugersdorp Town Hall.

The Rev. Michael Scott and supporters of the Council for the Boycott of the Transvaal were present at the meeting and attempted to ask questions were repeatedly interrupted by the chairman and Dr. Lock wanted the audience to speak.

A young Afrikaner from Krugersdorp was loudly thrown out of the meeting.

The two main speakers were Dr. J. Lock and Mr. M. J. van den Berg, M.P. for the Transvaal.

Both Labour Party now Nat. English press who as Mr van den Berg put it: Are too genuine the boycott of Indian traders but are Dr. Lock referred to the legal action contemplated by the Transvaal Indian Congress against leaders of the boycott.

He made a special appeal to Afrikaner speaking people to support Afrikaner business under-

in a bitterly recalled speech Mr van den Berg maintained the Government had made concessions to the Indian people.

These lines is welcomed, but the owners of the property point out that although they will be compensated for the value of their portion or land which they can purchase will be made available to them. Whatever compensation they receive they will suffer considerable hardship.

## Indian Land to Be Expropriated

JOHANNESBURG.—About 25 stands in DENVER owned by Indians and expropriated from the customary restrictions against white occupation, are to be expropriated by the Johannesburg City Council. Notice for compulsory purchase of the stands is to be served on the owners.

The land is to be used for the extension of the Denver African night school and sports equipment for the hostel residents.

Government has made concessions to the Indian people.

These lines is welcomed, but the owners of the property point out that although they will be compensated for the value of their portion or land which they can purchase will be made available to them. Whatever compensation they receive they will suffer considerable hardship.

# RELIEF TO WORK A NORMAL DAY

## —Say Railway Artisans

JOHANNESBURG.—The average earnings of a railway artisan do not correspond with those of an outside artisan, states the Artisan Staff Association in reply to a statement.

The Minister of Transport.

The Railway Administration's talk of high wages is based on bonus work payments, not on basic rates, says the Association, and adds that only half the men have been doing bonus work.

The Guardian interviewed a group of electricians, fitters and mechanical coming off work at the Bantshof railway Workshops.

Three men agreed that it was a relief to work a normal 8 or 9 hour day after years of overtime every week, and after the last pace of bonus work.

Like Mr S. Q. the ticket printer interviewed a few weeks ago, these men agreed the railway was no longer a "rotten" employer.

Another said, "Not rotten, but certainly not good."

Wash and change rooms and lockers at the Bantshofen work-shops are quite inadequate. A good number of the men cannot get into the wash and change rooms, but wash in a bucket in the yard, and change in the work-shop.

There was general agreement that men working for the S.A.R. are induced to do too much specialised work. They are not given a variety of jobs to do and these men hope improvements in such dissatisfaction.

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Appeals for financial assistance will be arranged.

According to the provisional constitution the Committee will work in co-operation with the Council of Non-European Trade Unions and will in no way interfere with trade union policy.

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## S.A.I.C. IGNORES NEW COUNCILLORS

JOHANNESBURG.—The secretary of the South African Indian Congress, Z. Mankany, has invited members of the S.A.I.C. to attend the annual conference of the S.A.I.C. in Cape Town on May 4. The new S.A.I.C. Councillors elected by the Transvaal Indian Congress are taking action in the Supreme Court against the S.A.I.C. to compel it to recognise the validity of the Transvaal elections.

## To Help Build African Unions

JOHANNESBURG.—A scheme to help organize African Trade Unions has been launched with technical and organizational assistance by the British Trade Union Congress, the American A.F.L., the C.I.O. and National Trade Unions in Britain, the U.S.A., the Dominions and India.

A sub-committee will draft a constitution to be discussed by a meeting at the end of April.

Among the 24 members of the provisional committee elected are Dr. E. Heilmann, Councilor P. Mossaka, Senator Basner, Dr. A. B. Xuma, Mr. G. Carr, Mrs. R. Cachalia, Mr. G. F. Boshoff, Mr. S. Sachs was elected Secretary of the Committee.



## Trades Union Officials Give Their Views

JOHANNESBURG.—A number of trades unionists have given The Guardian their views on the S.A. Trades and Labour Council conference, including their opinion of the "split," so widely advertised in the capitalist Press although affecting only a very small minority of workers affiliated to the Council.



Miss Anna Scheefers (Garment Workers' Union);

If the truth were told about the debates at the Trades' Council Conference, there would be no split.

Those unions that broke away will no doubt form an Afrikaans Christelike Nasionale trade union centre.

We must note that the fascists never organise and build trade unions. Their tactics are to infiltrate and take over existing unions. There is a danger that the railway unions and sections of the miners will join an Afrikaans centre.

During the coming year the N.E.C. must do everything possible to get the Government to avert large scale unemployment, such as we have at present in the

leather industry. South African industries will have to be protected so that they can export goods, and so keep our workers in full employment.

The food position must be tackled.

But the most important task of all will be to get the Government to carry out the Workers' Charter, and make it clear we are not satisfied with mere promises.

If the Government wants industrial peace, it must adopt our recommendations for a new Labour Code.

Mr. Alf Merkel (Furniture Workers' Industrial Union) says:

The split in the trade union movement is not as serious as it is being made out. I am not at all panicky about the position. We must face it squarely and fearlessly. The new National Executive is, in my opinion, an able and balanced one, and will be in a position to cope with the difficulties ahead of it.

There may be a few breakaways. But this division in the trade union movement is an inevitable development, taking into account the change in methods of production and our social and economic situation.

Mr. D. Gosani (Secretary of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions) was not present at Conference, but he has informed The Guardian:

I have always been in favour of one trade union centre. Divi-

(Cont. in next column)

## MESSAGE TO ROBESON

JOHANNESBURG.—On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Council on African Affairs, the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council has sent a message of greeting to Paul Robeson.

It reads: "The Indian people are now engaged in a struggle against race discrimination. We deeply appreciate your great contribution towards African freedom and world peace. The Indian people of the Transvaal hope the coming year will see your endeavours being by the people of Africa towards the attainment of our mutual objectives." A message of greeting has also been sent by Senator Basner.

The Council's tenth anniversary is being celebrated this week in New York at a mass meeting, whose star speaker will be Paul Robeson.

(Cont. from previous Column.)

sion means the doom of the workers, and a gain for the employers. This Conference has shown the truth of this as never before. Had African unions been strongly affiliated to the Conference, and their delegates present in greater numbers the Conference would have been able to overcome many difficulties, and would have represented the demands of all sections of the workers even more effectively than it did.

## INDIAN PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

JOHANNESBURG.—The executive of the Transvaal Indian Congress has decided to call a provincial conference in Johannesburg on Sunday, May 11. The conference will discuss important political developments concerning the Transvaal Indian people. There will be a full discussion on the boycott.

(Cont. in next column)

## DADOO AND NAICKER IN BOMBAY

JOHANNESBURG.—On their arrival in Bombay Drs. Dadoo and Naicker were received by many Indian leaders, including F. C. Joshi, general secretary of the Communist Party of India.

Together with the Soviet delegation to the Inter-Asian Conference, they were guests at a reception given by the Bombay Provincial Congress

## FRATERNAL DELEGATES AT Communist Party Conference

JOHANNESBURG.—Welcoming the fraternal delegates to the 1947 Conference of the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party, Bram Fischer, chairman of the opening session, remarked that by the large number of greetings from the many fraternal delegates present, the Communist Party had received the support of the overwhelming majority of the people of the Transvaal.

Among the organisations that sent greetings were the African National Congress, the Council of Non-European Trade Unions, the Transvaal Indian Congress, the Zionist Socialist Party, the Young Communist League, the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council, the S. Transvaal and Witwatersrand Committee of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council, and the

Johannesburg Branch of the Springbok Legion.

"GHASTLY PRISON"

The Council and Government scheme to deal with the squatter problem re-

ceived wholesale condemnation from delegates.

"The camp for 100,000 squatters will be one vast concentration camp; the most ghastly prison in Johannesburg, if not the whole world," said Michael Harnel.

One delegate remarked that the size of the plot for each family will be no larger than three graves.

Conference protested against the joint policy of the United and Nationalist Parties of further restricting the rights of the Non-European peoples; of persecuting progressive leaders of the people; and in particular for instituting legal proceedings against the members of the Central Executive of the Communist Party. It demanded that the Government withdraw the charges against these Communist leaders.

Further resolutions condemned the boycott of Indian traders as a savage racial campaign instigated by Fascist and commercial elements seeking to supplant Indian trade; welcomed the declaration issued jointly by the African National Congress and Passive Resistance Councils of the Transvaal and Natal, and supported by the Transvaal African People's Organisation; and urged the importance of campaigns for the recognition of African trade unions.

RURAL DELEGATES

The Conference was attended, for the first time, by a large number of delegates from the rural areas. Led by outspoken Alpheus Maliba, of Louis Trichardt; delegates from Midleton, Lichtenburg, Wolmaransstad, Winberg and Makapanstad met in a special commission to discuss rural problems.

Other commissions dealt with elections and the fight for direct representation, conditions in industry and on the mines, finance and organisation, and Press propaganda and education.

The majority of delegates were Africans. A greater proportion of women delegates were present than in any previous year.

The final sessions of the Conference will take place on Sunday, April 27.

## A.P.O. HOUSING DEPUTATION

JOHANNESBURG.—A deputation of the African Peoples' Organisation, led by George L. Carr, has met officials of the Johannesburg Non-European Affairs Department to place before them the housing needs and complaints of the Coloured and Malay population. They obtained satisfactory replies to a number of their demands.

It has been agreed that where possible contractors on coloured housing schemes should employ Coloured artisans. The Council is to proceed immediately with the erection of 100 new houses, and a communal hall. Trading sites are to be allocated to members of the Coloured community; and 55 houses thrown open to them for economic tenure.

The Department agreed the most deserving cases should receive first consideration for the occupation of houses, and that the A.P.O. should be furnished with a copy of the present waiting list for houses.

The revised rent scales for new houses, based on a percentage of the cost, will also be furnished soon.

The Department agreed that complaints of disregard of Malay marriage and other customs in the building of their houses by the Council were justified, and promised to investigate.

The Malay community was promised 20 houses to be set aside for their use.

## Jo'burg Council Debates Flood Relief

JOHANNESBURG.—A special meeting of the City Council decided to donate £21,000 to the British Floods Relief Fund, recently opened by the Mayor of Johannesburg to raise money for the relief of distress resulting from the floods in Britain.

The campaign is operating for three weeks.

Councillor D. Epstein (Lab.) was distressed by the amount the Council proposed to donate. He thought the amount should be £10,000.

Councillor G. E. N. Ross (Nat.) said: "Charity begins at home." He thought the Council had no right to spend the taxpayers' money on matters not affecting Johannesburg. He said there was great suffering in South Africa from the drought. He was supported by the other Nationalist members.

Councillor Hilda Watts (Communist) said she would be pleased to see the Council as a body, and the Councillors and their wives, devoting the same amount of time, energy and interest as they had devoted to this appeal, to campaigns to benefit the people of South Africa. The Council's generosity towards this fund should be remembered when social services for the city of Johannesburg were being discussed.

## To Help Build African Unions

JOHANNESBURG.—A scheme to help organise African Trade Unions by assisting them of financial, technical and organisational assistance has been launched with the formation of the African Trade Unions' Technical Advisory Committee.

According to the provisional constitution the Committee will work in co-operation with the Council of Non-European Trade Unions, and will in no way interfere with trade union policy.

Educational lectures and classes will also be arranged.

Appeals for financial assistance will be sent to all trade unions in South Africa and individual sympathisers, also to the British Trade Union Congress, the American A.F.L., the C.I.O., and National Trade Unions in Britain, the U.S.A., the Dominions and India.

A sub-committee will draft a constitution to be discussed by a meeting at the end of April.

Among the 24 members of the provisional committee elected are V. O. Berrange, I. Wolfson, R. Fleet, Dr. E. Hellman, Councillor P. Mosaka, Senator Basner, Dr. A. B. Xuma, Mr. G. Thomas, Mr. Y. Gachalla, Mr. G. Carr, Mrs. R. Saffery, and Adv. F. Boshoff. Mr. E. S. Sachs was elected Secretary of the Committee.



## STRIKES IN LISBON

JOHANNESBURG. — A go-slow strike of shipyard workers followed by a 100 per cent strike and a sympathy strike of all the dock workers of Lisbon on April 9, has resulted in the almost complete paralysis of the port.

The departure of many ships to East and West Africa was delayed by the strike.

The demands of the workers are for salary increases, double pay for overtime work, increased food rations, and the abolition of the Government-sponsored organisations for "economic co-ordination" which are strangling the whole economic life of the nation, and are dominated by a small band of monopolists.

The initiative in this strike was taken by the Portuguese Communist Party (P.C.P.) when the Salazar government passed a law on the request of shipyard owners making overtime compulsory.

The Salazar government claimed in its press that the strike had been ordered by a foreign power (the Soviet Union). "The striking shipyard workers are the best paid workers in Europe," claimed the Government's official organ, "and the strike has been provoked by the Portuguese Communists who are determined to apply the lash to the Portuguese people, as

Russia has done to the peoples of Eastern Europe."

The Government attempted to introduce emergency measures to ensure the continuation of work in the shipyards. As yet they have been unsuccessful.

## Danie du Plessis Home Again

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. Danie du Plessis, S.A. Communist Party delegate to the British Empire Communist Conference, was interviewed by The Guardian on his return to Johannesburg last Sunday.

He spoke of the terrible poverty in Portugal, where he had spent three days. He saw attempts by the Government to break the strike of shipyard workers with brute force. Police were everywhere in their dead-grey uniform, armed with revolvers, bayonets and clubs, patrolling the streets in threes and fours, or on open police lorries.

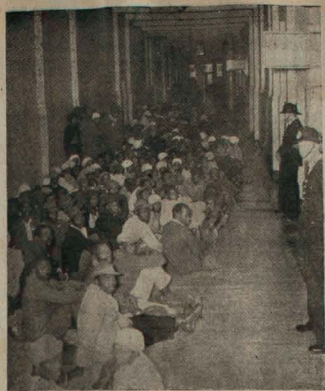
At the docks Mr. du Plessis saw many workers with bandaged heads or dried blood on their faces. A Government official said attempts were being made to get the workers back to work because the strike "inconvenienced tourists."

After the Empire conference, Mr. du Plessis spent several weeks on a lecture tour of England and Wales.

When Mr. du Plessis unexpectedly walked into the annual conference of the Johannesburg District Committee of the Communist Party last Sunday, he was cheered by delegates and visitors. He will report on the British Empire Conference at Johannesburg District's adjourned conference on April 27.

## Successful Social

JOHANNESBURG.—A very successful social for residents of the area was recently organised by the Johannesburg East branch of the Communist Party. This was the first of a number of such socials to publicise the Party and The Guardian.



## SQUATTERS' LEADERS ON TRIAL

The trial of the three leaders of the Alexandra Shanty Town — Schreiner Bhadua, Abner Kunene and Lucas Bokaba — has been continuing at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court for the last two weeks, watched by hundreds of squatters from the Alexandra camp who sit patiently in the corridor outside the overcrowded courtroom all day while the trial is proceeding.

The prosecution dropped four counts of extortion with alternatives of meddling in native affairs, and assault. Eleven counts remain.

During one session the court adjourned to the Alexandra camp to make an inspection of it.

Numerous crown witnesses have given evidence of alleged ill treatment in the camp by the camp police.

Under cross examination by Dr. G. Lowen, appearing for the defence, many of these crown witnesses have made statements in direct contradiction to statements made to the police at the charge office.

The first witness, Zachariah, was said to have been unlawfully arrested by the camp police for flashing a torch into the eyes of one of the camp police. He told the court that on the night of the incident he had had no torch.

Ambrose Lerata said he had never accused anyone, least of all striking him in the face. He did not know how these charges appeared on the charge sheet.

One witness told how he had been called to the Wynberg police station to make a statement because he was reported to have broken someone's leg. He had been afraid all the time he was being questioned that he himself

would be arrested. He had therefore told the police sergeant things he later denied in court.

### RIVAL MOVEMENT

Caiphas Nkhumbi gave evidence that he had once been a member of the camp committee but had later formed his own committee in opposition. The defence told the court that it considered Caiphas Nkhumbi was at the bottom of all the trouble and but for him there would have been no prosecution of the three leaders. He was rightfully dismissed from the job because he had neglected it; had then started a rival movement within the camp and had gone to the police with all the charges against the three accused men.

Sergeant P. J. Badenhorst, in charge of the Wynberg Police Station, said he had had many dealings with Bhadua, Kunene and Bokaba and had always found them helpful. He agreed the presence of camp police, as watchmen was necessary.

Caiphas Nkhumbi admitted too that the camp committee had the confidence of the people. The case is continuing.

## TERROR IN TOBRUK

Numerous reports have appeared of the reign of terror which the camp dictator Koma is said to be conducting against the squatters in the Tobruk camp. Visiting newspapermen have been assaulted by the camp police. Months ago residents laid complaints with the police that Koma was misusing their money. The police have raided Tobruk in force and are now in control.

## RURAL COMMUNISTS JOHANNESBURG DISTRICT CONFERENCE

A LARGE number of delegates from rural areas attended the 1947 Conference of the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party. They came from Louis Trichardt, Middleton, Lichtenburg, Wolmaransstad, Winburg and Makapanstad, and met in a special commission on work in the countryside to discuss the problems of peasants, and how to work among them.

The Conference strongly condemned the council and government scheme to deal with the squatter problem. Speakers said the camp for 100,000 squatters would be one vast prison or concentration camp. One speaker pointed out that the size of the plot for each family is no larger than three graves.

The conference protested against the joint policy of the United and Nationalist Parties of further limiting the rights of the non-European people, and persecuting progressive leaders of the people. It demanded that the government withdraw the charge of sedition against the central executive members of the Communist Party.

The declaration of co-operation between the African and Transvaal Indian Congresses, supported by the Transvaal African People's Organisation, was welcomed. The boycott of Indian traders was condemned as a savage racial campaign instigated by fascists and commercial elements seeking to replace Indian trade.

The majority of delegates were Africans. There were more women delegates than for many years. Comrades Yusuf Dadoo and Danie du Plessis were unanimously re-elected chairman and secretary of the district respectively for the coming year.

Other members elected to the new District Committee are: Wolfson, Hilda Watts, J. Slo, Bill Roberts, S. Mogomotsi, Joe Palmer, E. T. Mofutsanyana, Harmel, L. Bernstein, Ruth F.

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MAY 1



GUARDIAN  
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# GUARDIAN

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## SQUATTERS OPPOSE "SCREEN"

### GOVT. AND COUNCIL CAUSE DEADLOCK AT ALEXANDRATOWN

JOHANNESBURG: All attempts by police and City officials to move the Alexandra squatters having failed, it is believed the authorities are now ready to climb down and consult the squatters' leaders about conditions in the new shanty-town at Klipspruit.

The squatters don't like the restrictions they will have to live under at Klipspruit, and have appealed several times for a chance to express their point of view to the Government and the Council. Up till now negotiations have been re-

time the conditions under which the Africans would be expected to live at the new camp.

Afterwards the Africans' leaders, including Councillor Mosaka and Mr. Ramohane, Transvaal President of the African National Congress, spoke. They pointed out they had never been consulted and said the regulations were unacceptable. They were also opposed to screening. Nevertheless all the squatters who wished to move were free to do so.

Only five volunteers could be found, and as fast as the officials loaded their belongings on to the trucks, so fast did a crowd of indignant women pull them off on the other side. In the end the Council officials and police were forced to withdraw. It is a press statement Mr. Schreiner Baduza, squatters' chairman,

### MAY DAY GREETINGS:

IN PAGES TWO AND THREE

"Vigilator"  
ON

### PALESTINE AND U.N.O.

(PAGE SIX)

#### "Screening"

The Minister of Native Affairs, Major Piet van der Byl, is indebted to the Nazis for the word he is so fond of using at the moment, "screening". Read what Senator Basner has to say about it in Page Five.

fused by the authorities, who have attempted to remove the squatters against their will.

Last Monday morning 40 municipal lorries descended on the camp to move the squatters who had been "screened" by the Council and signed a formal application to be transferred to the new camp.

The squatters' committee called a mass meeting, which was addressed by Sir George Albu, City Councillor, and Mr. Venables, Manager of the City Council Native Affairs Department. They outlined for the first

said: "It is not true that we refuse to co-operate with the Council in any plan. But a pre-requisite of any genuine co-operation is mutual confidence and consultation. . . . The squatters cannot accept the Nazi plan which has been hatched by the Council." A cable and memorandum have also been dispatched by the squatters to the Prime Minister, setting out the squatters' case.





South Africa is plagued by a number of fascist organisations which preach the filthy creed of the Nazis. The picture shows Dr. van Burenburg, fushrer of the O.B., giving the O.B. salute at a Reef meeting a year or so ago. To-day the O.B. is not the force it used to be, and no pictures like this have appeared in the O.B. newspaper for some time. Nevertheless all is not quiet on the fascist front. Greyshirt leader Weichardt's attempts to start a new fascist party are described in an article on this page.



## "S.A. White Workers' Party" Gets Little Support WEICHARDT'S NEW EFFORT

JOHANNESBURG.—Louis T. Weichardt's Greyshirt movement has become the S.A. White Workers' Party. This decision was announced at the first congress of the Greyshirts held since 1939 in the Pretoria City Hall this month.

To launch the new party meetings were held in Mayfair, Johannesburg, Springs, Brakpan and other Reef towns. At all of them Weichardt was billed to speak on the "Native, Indian, trade union and Labour Party" questions.

The first meeting, held in a Mayfair church hall, was none too successful. The organisers, seeing that the majority of the audience was not well disposed to them, hastily withdrew the meeting to a private house on the pretext that the church hall was needed for other purposes. The hall remained vacant for the rest of the evening, and individuals who attempted to attend the meeting in the private house were told admission was "reserved."

Reports indicate that the new party is receiving very little support.

## Squatters



## Trial Scenes in Jo'burg



The residents of Alexandra Township march in procession through the streets of Johannesburg while their leaders are on trial. Entering the Magistrate's Court, they overflow into the corridors, where they can be seen top, inset) sitting quietly throughout the proceedings.

## The Workers of To-Morrow



Too many of our children in South Africa receive no schooling whatsoever. Others again have small, broken-down, ill-equipped, filthy buildings as schoolrooms. One of these is the Denver Coloured School, Johannesburg, where 34 children struggle to learn in a building that was condemned as a stable for cows two years ago. It is one of the tasks of the workers of to-day to see that the workers of to-morrow have the chance to go to school.

## Report From Dakar

DAKAR.—The report of the South African delegates to the conference of the World Federation of Trade Unions here was received with great acclamation by the delegates.

About 80 delegates from all parts of Africa, including Madagascar, Gambia, Senegal, the Belgian Congo and Morocco, attended the conference, which passed a resolution outlawing colour discrimination, colonial oppression and exploitation.

The conference was presided over by the Assistant General Secretary of the W.F.T.U. The South African delegates were Messrs. J. B. Marks and Tloome.



# BASUTO PEOPLE TO APPEAL TO U.N. Conference at Mapoteng

JOHANNESBURG.—The Basuto people are to send a delegation to the September session of the United Nations to appeal against the gradual whittling away of Basutoland's independence by the British Government, which has violated all agreements for the protection of Basutoland entered into between Moshesh and Queen Victoria and since then.

This decision was unanimously agreed upon by peoples and chiefs representatives from all parts of Basutoland who gathered on a large open square at Mapoteng at a conference called by Lekhotla le Bafo early this month.

The deputation to the U.N. session is to be led by one of the Basuto chiefs recently deprived of his rights.

## RULING CHALLENGED

Despite a recent ruling by the Paramount Chief of Basutoland disallowing collections, the Conference decided to challenge this decision legally, and to begin immediately to collect money for the delegation to the U.N.

In a three and half hour address Josiel Lefela, one of the most respected leaders of Lekhotla le Bafo and a member of the Basutoland General Council, traced the history of the protectorate and the actions of the British government which are paving the way for the incorporation of Basutoland into the Union.

In Basutoland the number of chiefs is declining each year. Chieftainship no longer has any value. The control of land has been taken from them.

## COMMUNIST DELEGATE

Edwin Mofutsunyana delegate of the Central Committee of the S.A. Communist Party to this conference, describes it as the most impressive he has ever attended.

Highest applause was given the speaker who spoke of the need for the Basuto people to unite with all other peoples struggling for their freedom, in particular the Indian people of the Union. Lekhotla le Bafo has made tremendous strides forward and is today a powerful force.

This peoples' organisation has grown in spite of its suppression during the war and the intervention of its leaders because they called for the arming of the Basuto people and their training for participation in the war.

This demand was labelled as "subversive propaganda" by the British government and used as a pretext for banning the organisation.

# Protest Against Greek Ban

JOHANNESBURG.—The Garment Workers' Union has written to the Supreme Court of Athens and to General Smuts, protesting against the intention of the Greek Government to dissolve the "National Solidarity of Greece," a relief organisation. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt is the chairman of its United States committee.

The National Solidarity of Greece, established in 1941, saved the lives of many English and New Zealand soldiers, organised food and clothes services and provided protection against the Nazis.

Recent accusations against the chairman of this organisation, who was exiled, were proved to be quite unfounded. The National Solidarity of Greece has all its documents prepared to have all its documents examined, but protests against this summary banning of its activities.

# ONLY WAY OUT FOR UNION GOVT.

## Indians Answer Mr. Heaton Nicholls

JOHANNESBURG.—"If, as Mr. Heaton Nicholls says, South Africa's policy is based on the fullest support of the United Nations Charter, the only way the Union Government can demonstrate this fact is to remove all racially discriminating statements issued by Messrs. A. J. Meer and Y. A. Cachalia, on behalf of the Natal and Transvaal Indian Congresses, in reply to Mr. Heaton Nicholls' Press interview in London.

Mr. Nicholls has expressed the hope that by the time South Africa reports back to the General Assembly of the United Nations in September, political representation of the Indians provided for in the new Union legislation will be in force.

The statement of the Congresses calls this "wishful thinking." The representation referred to by Mr. Nicholls includes two Indians to represent 22,119 Indians in the Natal Provincial Council; Indians to elect three Europeans to represent them in the House of Assembly of 156 members; and two European senators, one elected by the Indians, and the second appointed by the Government. The elections are in all cases to be on a communal basis, separate from the European voters roll. Indian women are disqualified as voters, 37,505 Indians in the Transvaal will have no representation on Municipal Councils or the Provincial Council.

## WHAT DEMOCRACY MEANS

"We shall never be satisfied with anything less than true democratic rights, which means the granting of the franchise to us on the same basis and with the same qualifications as applies to Europeans," says the statement.

The statement says it is high time Mr. Nicholls and other Government spokesmen, including General Smuts, ceased using the mythical cry of "preserving Western Civilisation in South Africa."

"By being denied opportunities in the labour market, in the civil service, in trade and agriculture, and by being denied opportunities in the field of education the

Non-European peoples are deliberately being kept backward. Then they are told they cannot conform to a particular standard of living and do not deserve the franchise.

"The question has nothing to do with different standards of civilisation, and is an economic matter, with race prejudice being exploited to the full by the rulers of their land to achieve their purpose."

# Report From Wolmaransstad

JOHANNESBURG. — In Wolmaransstad location, established 70 years ago and controlled to-day by a "Nationalist" Municipality, the Advisory Board has not worked for 7 years. The people began to boycott it when they found their complaints ignored. At present the Board has only two members, both nominated and both ministers of the church.

In the entire location, inhabited by over 250 families, there is only one tap. The water supply is so limited that it is often exhausted before the end of the queue is reached.

The location is two and a half miles from town, but no transport is provided. The permit system is operated in such a way that no person can obtain a permit to visit friends or relatives in the location after noon on Fridays, so that visitors to the location over the weekend are "illegal" and liable to be arrested. Visitors who remain in the location for 6 days have to pay 1d. a day. Children born in the location who are 17 years of age have to pay 2s. for a monthly lodger's permit.

## LOW WAGES

In the town (low wages are scandalously low. Domestic servants are paid from 5s. to 10s. a month; shop assistants £1 10s., and garage workers, the highest paid in the town, £2 10s. a month.

The local mission school was boycotted by dissatisfied parents two years ago. They built their own private school which they subsidise themselves. Over 200 children attend this school, compared with 70 at the original mission-controlled school.



DR. YUSUF DADOO, now touring India with Dr. M. Nalcker, has been re-elected chairman of the Johannesburg District Committee of the S.A. Communist Party.

# Jo'burg Communists' New Committee

JOHANNESBURG. — The final session of the conference of the Johannesburg district of the Communist Party passed a resolution supporting the calling of a mass national assembly of delegates (from town and country. "The assembly," says the resolution, "should be convened by the national organisations of the non-European people, which will represent the masses of people of all races, and will submit the minimum demands of the South African people to the Union Government and the United Nations."

The following were elected to the incoming district committee: Y. Dadoo (chairman), D. du Plessis (secretary), M. Harmel, R. Bernstein, S. Mogomoti, E. Mofutsunyana, J. Palmer, I. Wolfson, H. Watts, J. B. Marks, W. Roberts, R. First and J. Slovo.



# Boycott Movement Collapsing

## REPORT FROM TRANSWAAL TOWNS

JOHANNESBURG.—The movement to boycott Indian traders in the Transvaal, despite extravagant claims for its success made by the Nationalist Press, notably "Die Transvaler," is slowly breaking in most Transvaal towns.

It seems very likely that the fiasco of Leslie Blackwell's boycott of Indian traders in the early 'twenties is to be repeated all over again.

Commercial travellers are daily bringing reports to their Union offices of the decline of the boycott in towns where Indian traders were at one time most apprehensive of its effects.

The "Sunday Express" reporter said, after a visit to Klerksdorp, that in the town and surrounding district the "boycott movement seems to be fizzling out like a damp squib."

Reports from the Northern Transvaal indicate that although a very racialist boycott meeting was held in Pietersburg some weeks ago there are to-day few signs of an effective boycott in the Pietersburg-Tzaneen-Louis Trichardt district. From Schweizer Reinecke, one of the first places where the boycott was started, come similar reports. Krugersdorp, only Reef town where a boycott meeting was held, is so far not affected at all.

In Potchefstroom the picketing of Indian shops by University students had ceased. In Ermelo, apart from a few wealthy farmers in the district, few people are actively supporting the boycott.

### MR. DINATH'S TOUR

Mr. M. A. Dinath, acting chairman of the S.A. Chamber of Indian Merchants, recently, toured the Western Transvaal. He visited Ventersdorp, Coligny, Groot Marico, Rustenberg, Zeerust, Zwartkrans and other towns. He reports that although certain Europeans have ceased buying from Indian stores themselves, they have no qualms about sending their African servants to do for them.

### AFRICANS BENEFIT

Apart from the effects of the general trade recession this year, Indian traders are not experiencing a marked falling-off in trade, as Africans are to-day only too keen to buy those commodities in short supply previously reserved for regular customers, who were for the most part Europeans.

Farmers in the area recall that they were treated well by the Indian traders in drought and depression periods, and are hesitant to support the boycott of traders who offered them extended credit over many years.

## UNO RALLY

JOHANNESBURG.—The India League of Great Britain has sent a message of greetings to the organisers of the mass U.N.O. Rally to take place at the Johannesburg Market Square on Sunday, May 4, at 2.30 p.m.

The message reads: "We watch with admiration your fight against racial intolerance and for the fundamental human rights proclaimed by the Charter of the United Nations. Your struggle is part of the struggle of oppressed humanity all over the world for elementary decency and human dignity."

Among the speakers at the U.N.O. Rally will be Councillor Mrs. Z. Gool from Cape Town.

## ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

JOHANNESBURG.—The winners in the Coloured section of the Non-European literary competition organised by the Johannesburg Road Safety and Courtesy Campaign are:

L. M. Edwards of 61 Kimberley Road, Ophirton—first prize of £5; A. K. Isaac of 121 Jeppe Street—second prize of £3; K. Bloem of 72 Beacons Road, Klipfontein—third prize of £2.

GUARDIAN

MAY 8

# TIME FOR UNITY

## Great U.N.O. Rally At Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG.—THE U.N.O. RALLY ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, TRANSWAAL INDIAN CONGRESS AND TRANSWAAL BRANCH OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLES' ORGANISATION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION OF THE NON-EUROPEAN PEOPLE EVER SEEN.

Johannesburg's Newton Market Square—which had seen the large anti-pass demonstrations of the last few years and the tremendous VE Day meeting and procession—was crowded as never before. Buses and lorries crowded with Africans, Indians and Coloureds from their townships converged on the square for fully an hour before the meeting began.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. A. B. Xuma, President-General of the African National Congress, who described the Unity Rally as a historic occasion. He considered it was more than ever necessary for the Non-European people to unite to defend their rights and save South Africa from self-destruction; as since the U.N.O. session all political parties had united to try and undermine the United Nations.

The meeting unanimously confirmed, by a great show of hands, the term of the unity declaration entered into by Dr. Xuma, Dadoo and Naicker on behalf of the African National Congress, Transvaal Indian Congress and Natal Indian Congress respectively.

The co-operation between the Government and Nationalist Party is closer than ever before, said Senator Basner, predicting that "within the next two years we will have a pact between Smuts and Malan directed against the United Nations and the Non-European people of this country."

### TIME FOR UNITY

"The decision of the Non-European people to unite is extremely important, for if the exploiters and oppressors find it necessary to unite, this must surely be the time for the unity of all the Non-Europeans."

The same people who planned the last war, he said, are trying to plan a new war.

He concluded: "The times are so critical that the fight for unity of the Non-Europeans is part of the fight of the exploited all over the world."

"This great meeting is the first fruit of Non-European unity. It is good to look upon."

### INDIAN CAUSE IS SAFE

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee said that if General Smuts did not learn last September that world opinion was against the policy of the South African Government, he would learn it at the forthcoming session.

"During the last week there have been press reports about certain negotiations that may be conducted between the governments of India and South Africa. I want to assure my countrymen that regardless of

what 'moderate' leaders in Natal are saying the case of the Indians, even all the Non-Europeans, is absolutely safe in the hands of the present Indian Government."

The case of the South African Indians at U.N.O. paved the way for all cases of violations of the Human Rights Charter to be brought to U.N.O. said Mr. H. A. Naidoo, Indian or any other country, could even sponsor the cause of the African peoples.

Councillor Mrs. Z. Gool and Mr. George L. Carr, of the Transvaal Branch of the African Peoples' Organisation, also spoke.

### RESOLUTIONS

The main resolution placed on record the meeting's whole-hearted support of the United Nations. It asked that "South Africa be refused permission to annex the mandatory territory of South-West Africa; but that she submit a draft trusteeship agreement to bring this territory under the jurisdiction of the United Nations."

On the South African Indian question the resolution asked that "the Governments of India and South Africa be asked to report at the next U.N. session on the measures taken to bring the treatment of South African Indians into conformity with the United Nations Charter, and agreements concluded between the two countries."

### RESPONSIBLE FOR SHANTYTOWNS

Another resolution stated that the meeting was convinced that the restriction of land ownership by the 1913 Land Act, and the Government's negligence and lack of an intelligent and equitable housing policy are responsible for the existence of Johannesburg Shantytowns. The resolution demanded a meeting be called of Government and Council officials on the one hand, and African leaders, including the squatters' leaders on the other, to reconsider the regulations for the control of squatting and the new emergency municipal camp.

Messages of greeting were read from Paul Robeson, of the New York Council on African Affairs, and the African Affairs Department of the India League of Great Britain.



## POLICE RAID "TOBRUK"



There have been big moves in the world of the Johannesburg squatters recently. Police have "cleaned up" the gangster elements in Tobruk camp. The picture above shows one family's hut demolished on the instructions of the camp leader because they could not pay an additional rent levy. The picture on the left shows a municipal official beginning to demolish one of the shacks in the Alexandra camp, and below, a squatters' family and belongings piled on a lorry ready for transportation to the Council's emergency camp at Klipspruit.

## SQUATTERS VOICE THEIR DEMANDS

JOHANNESBURG.—The leader of the No. 1 West Orlando Squatters' Camp, Mr. Oriel Monongoa, has expressed his strong opposition to the Council plans for the emergency Klipspruit camp, now to be known as Moroka Township.

In a memorandum of their demands these Orlando squatters demand stands of 30 by 50 square yards (in contrast to the Council plans for stands twenty feet square). They suggest also that the monthly rental for these stands should be 7s. 6d.—2s. 6d. for water supply, 2s. 6d. for sanitary charges, and 2s. 6d. for the lodgers' permit.

The memorandum says: "We want to say in unmistakable terms that we will under no circumstances abide by or tolerate emergency regulations; and would in preference have municipal regulations obtaining in the Urban Areas Act."

An important demand is for a land lease of about ninety-nine, or at least fifty years. The squatters are opposed to a five-year plan, which will be a purely temporary plan.

The squatters request the building in the new camp of 240 trading stalls.

Mr. Monongoa told The Guardian he joined with all the squatters' leaders in demanding immediate negotiations with the authorities and an end to one-sided action on the Shantytown question.

## Squatters' Trial Ends

### JUDGMENT RESERVED

JOHANNESBURG.—In the trial in the Magistrate's Court of Schreiner Baduza, Abner Kunene and Lucas Bokaba, leaders of the Alexandra Squatters' Camp, the magistrate Mr. J. G. Greyling reserved judgment in an application for the discharge of the three men.

Of the fifteen original counts six have been withdrawn in the course of the proceedings.

Arguing for the immediate discharge of the three accused, Adv. G. Lowen, for the defence, said the law under which the three were charged does not apply to the facts proved by the Crown. The law is one passed in 1895 by the Transvaal Volksraad, referring to "meddling in native affairs." Secondly any facts proved by the Crown have not been proved to have been instigated by the accused. Finally, said Dr. Lowen, where one or other of the accused is implicated, the crown evidence is so utterly untrustworthy and unreliable that no reasonable man could properly convict the accused.

Dr. Lowen then proceeded to deal with each of the nine remaining counts in turn.

The public prosecutor, Mr. D. Wille, suggested that an illegally constituted state had been created in the camp, and that Baduza, Kunene and Bokaba, who ran the camp, were responsible for the acts of their agents, including the "camp police."

Dr. Lowen replied that there is no law to prevent people from electing leaders and establishing machinery to maintain order where no such machinery exists.

The court granted an application for the reduction of bail from £50 to £25 in each case.

Judgment was reserved until May 8.

## Tobruk Leader Arrested

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. Samuel Saul Koma, leader of the Tobruk squatters, was arrested several days after the police took control of the Tobruk camp and established a police post just outside the camp.

Koma was charged under the recently promulgated Emergency Regulations with collecting money from the squatters. There were also two counts of assault and other charges in conjunction with 26 squatters who appeared in court a few days previously. Bail was refused.

The case was remanded till May 8.

## "A BITTER CRY" FROM THE CISKEI

JOHANNESBURG.—In an outspoken speech made recently to the local council in the Herschel district of the Ciskei, Councillor H. L. Phooke drew the attention of the Council and the Native Affairs Department to the grievances of the 35,000 people of the district.

He said: "There is a bitter cry of the people throughout the district. They say the Bunga is the shield of the Department's policy to save it from attack from outside. They are losing confidence in their elected councillors."

"We pass resolutions here in a legally constituted council. They are sent to the Department of Native Affairs which looks upon them as the ramblings of fools. The matter is becoming serious. The Department must realise it is dealing with people and not a collection of dead mules."

As examples of the people's unrest Councillor Phooke spoke of the

Krommespruit and Palmietfontein localities, whose people forcibly took possession of grazing lands denied to them, and were subsequently prosecuted.

They are annoyed also because of the resignation of Mr. Bokwe, popular Work Supervisor, whose application for a higher salary was refused, and the long delay in appointing a successor to him. This meant that since last year there has been no work supervisor. The Council's public works are suffering, the roads being washed away by rain.

The severe measures to prevent overstocking cause hardship and are deeply resented. Stock that dies can not be replaced. Farm labourers from Herschel who work for many years on farms and eventually earn a few cattle as payment, have to sell them, often for a few shillings, before they return home as the stock would be prevented from entering their home district.

Councillor Phooke warned that the people will take the law into their own hands if their grievances receive no hearing and consideration by the council and the Native Affairs Department.

## Threat to Johannesburg Food Vans

JOHANNESBURG.—The city's Social Welfare Department runs ten food depots and a number of mobile vans, which serve European and Non-European working-class suburbs. These provide supplies of foodstuffs in short supply at controlled prices for Johannesburg's lower-paid workers.

This service is threatened by the Government's decision to end its control of allocations, as supplies of short-supply foodstuffs, have mostly been obtained from the Food Controller. The Department will now have to obtain supplies from private dealers and it is doubtful whether it will be possible to carry on.

## TRANSVAAL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

JOHANNESBURG.—At the recent annual conference of the Transvaal Indian and Coloured Teachers' Association, Mr. George Carr, president, pointed out that although the Education Department had previously agreed that the salaries of Indian and Coloured teachers should not be less than 80 per cent. of the salaries of European teachers, the percentage has now dropped to 65 per cent.

The Conference stressed the need for T.I.C.T.A. to co-operate with parents of Indian and Coloured school children, and other teachers' organisations and the trade union movement generally.

## NO SHOES IN PORTUGAL

JOHANNESBURG.—Travelers returning from Portugal report extreme poverty among the people. Women are seen walking bare foot through the streets of Lisbon.

Yet a shop in Johannesburg is displaying smart, gaily coloured cork heeled shoes, made in Portugal. They are priced from three to seven guineas a pair.



## IMPRESSIONS OF DAKAR CONFERENCE

### S. A. Delegates Return

JOHANNESBURG: "If South Africans will, they can learn much from the Dakar Pan-African Conference," was the terse comment of Mr. K. Hancox, delegate of the South African Trades and Labour Council to the Dakar Conference.

Discussing the Conference with the oldest trade union is two years old. Workers and their organisations in the coastal areas are better organised than those further towards the interior, where, in any case, there are few industries and the population and economy are largely peasant.

The Conference was intended as an information conference and the resolutions passed are to be considered by the executive of the World Federation of Trade Unions and will, in all likelihood, be discussed at the W.F.T.U. Prague Conference in July.

#### TO TOUR SOUTH AFRICA

One of the recommendations is that a W.F.T.U. commission should tour the principal African territories to examine and report on trade union organisations and workers' rights and positions in these territories.

Mr. Hancox commented that there was no lack of enthusiasm on the part of delegates attending the Conference, but, he said, "the problems of Africa won't be solved in a matter of a year or two."

In some of the African territories

Delegates were asked to report on the following aspects of trade unionism and workers' conditions: the history of trade unionism; the number of organised workers in the main centres; industrial legislation; and the standard of living and industrial development of the country.

The reports of the South African delegates awakened much interest; and the delegates received a great ovation at the general Conference sessions.

#### WANT INDEPENDENCE

Mr. Tloome said delegates made it quite clear they were tired of colonial rule and demanded full and complete independence for their people.

Mr. Hancox was impressed by the skilled work he saw being performed by African workers in the northern territories of Africa.

He commented on the all-African staff of Accra's daily newspaper; and on the Africans doing drilling, working lathes and doing other branches of skilled work in the Railway Workshops.

#### PORTUGAL UNREPRESENTED

Asked whether all territories in Africa were represented, Mr. Hancox pointed out that workers leaders from the Portuguese territories were notably absent.

Mr. Tloome told the Guardian that the 60 delegates at the Conference represented 25 different trade union centres.

## In Memory Of Dr. J. Robertson

JOHANNESBURG. — Many Johannesburg citizens and co-workers with him in the many organisations in which he was interested, gathered at the Darraagh Hall on Friday, May 2, at a memorial meeting in honour of the late Dr. J. B. Robertson.

Among the speakers were Professor Haarhoff (University of the Witwatersrand); Mr. Y. Cachalia (Transvaal Indian Congress and the Passive Resistance Council); Dr. R. D. Hall (United Nations Association); Association for the Advancement of Science; and the S.A. Chemical Institute; Mr. P. Vundhla (African Mineworkers' Union); the Reverend Michael Scott (African Mineworkers' Union Fund Committee); Mr. Edgar Bernstein (the Left Club and Council for Astatic Rights); Mr. M. Harne (Communist Party); and Mr. A. O. Dowd (Federation of Progressive Students).

Mr. E. J. Burford was in the chair. Other organisations which sent representatives to the Memorial Meeting included the Society of Jews and Christians; the Zoo Lake Bowling Club; the China Bolew Fund; the Maybuiye Night School; the S.A. Labour Party; and the Jewish Workers' Club.

A Robertson Memorial Fund to establish a scholarship or bursary for a Non-European student at the University of the Witwatersrand has been started. The trustees are Mr. I. Glyn Thomas; Mr. E. J. Burford; Dr. Nihapo of the Wilberforce Institute; and Mr. Y. Cachalia.

£200 was collected at the memorial evening towards this Fund.

## PRESIDENT CALDER ON T.L.C. RESIGNATIONS

### Appeal to Trades Unionists

JOHANNESBURG. — Following the withdrawal of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and five Pretoria unions from the South African Trades and Labour Council; and then the notice of disaffiliation of the Mineworkers' Union (membership 20,000; affiliation fees £1,000) Mr. Jerry Calder, newly elected president of the Council, issued a statement

asking those talking to-day of resigning "really to consider the whole position, and place the cause before themselves."

Mr. Calder told the Guardian: "Without at any stage going into the rights and wrongs of the views held by the organisations which propose disaffiliation from the Trades and Labour Council, I think it is extremely regrettable that the movement should be divided into various groups."

"South Africa faces great industrial expansion, and with the Government's immigration policy, more and more people will be coming to South Africa to be absorbed in our manufacturing and engineering industries. Every step must be taken at this stage to strengthen and build the trade union movement into one composite organisation."

"As far as I personally am concerned," continued Mr. Calder, "I will do everything I can to achieve this, and if the trade union movement is to be divided it will not be — use many of us so intimately connected with it to-day have not striven to prevent this division."

"I am of the opinion that anyone who disagrees with the policy of the Council should stay within it, and endeavour to persuade others to his way of thinking."

"The call for a real active leadership in South Africa has never been greater and unless a progressive lead is given to-day by the organised trade union movement the workers face a very dim future."

## Mr. De Vries has a New Job

JOHANNESBURG. — On Tuesday April 29, at the first meeting of the newly elected N.E.C. of the South African Trades and Labour Council, Mr. W. J. de Vries, secretary of the Council for the last ten years, resigned.

It is reported that he began his job as head of the Social Welfare section of the African Chemical Corporation (with a salary of £2,000 a year, and a ten year guarantee) the next day.

## NEHRU AND SMUTS

JOHANNESBURG. — Tremendous interest has been aroused by the statement that Pandit Nehru has contacted General Smuts, and by Councillor A. Ismail's attempt to take credit for this action, which he claims is due to the South African Indian Congress. Actually, calling a round-table conference has been one of the chief demands of the Passive Resistance movement since its inception.

The Guardian correspondent approached Congress officials who are not prepared to commit themselves by a statement. It is known that Drs. Dadoo and Nalcker, had full discussions on the Indian question. Whatever action Nehru takes, he will be guided by these discussions with South African Indian leaders in India.

At the next U.N.O. session, the two countries will have to report. Nehru has already stated India would not stand on its prestige and, although one would expect South Africa to take the initiative, if Nehru does, it will further strengthen India's case at Lake Success.

## Jewish Board of Deputies and Mr. Nossel

JOHANNESBURG. — The Jewish Board of Deputies has made it quite clear that it is in no way associated with the efforts being made by the Councillor I. Frank or Mr. J. Nossel of Cape Town in their attempts to have discussions with Dr. Malan on the attitude of the Nationalist Party to Jews.

The Board deprecates any attempt to give the impression that these two individuals represent any members of the Jewish community beyond themselves.

In Johannesburg the Board discussed this question some time ago, and the Cape Town Board, it is understood, has already issued a disclaimer making it clear that it has nothing to do with Mr. Nossel's approaches to the Nationalist Party.

#### JOHANNESBURG

In Johannesburg May Day celebrations organised by the United May Day Committee included a demonstration in front of the City Hall steps, and a meeting at the Bantu Sports Ground in the late afternoon.

Speakers at the City Hall steps included Mr. M. Barnard, on behalf of the Furniture Workers' Union; Miss Beula Page (N.U.D.W.); Mr. W. Kalk (Leather Workers' Union); Mr. M. Berman (Springbok Legion); Mr. J. Scheepers (Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council); Mr. Danie du Plessis and Mr. Edwin Mofutsanyana (Communist Party). The Reverend Michael Scott presided.

The Bantu Sports Ground meeting was addressed by Mr. D. W. Bopape, on behalf of the African National Congress and S. Mofomoti.

The annual conference of the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party was notable for the fact that there were more African delegates than ever before in the party's history, many coming from rural districts. The picture shows, on the platform from left to right, Miss Patsy Gilbert, Mr. A. Fischer, Mr. Joe Slovo and Mr. L. Bernstein.





# 70,000 SQUATTERS



TREATED LIKE CATTLE!

## Police Action — Council Inaction

AFRICANS TREATED AS "WORK CATTLE"

JOHANNESBURG.—Dissatisfaction with the way the City Council and Government are dealing with the squatters' problem has come to a head among the 70,000 squatters in Johannesburg's five Shanty Towns.

The squatters' leaders have made yet another attempt to approach the City Council for joint discussions between representatives of the squatters and the authorities.

The people of Jabavu Township, right next door to the new Moroka camp, have decided to boycott the newly instituted rent payment of 15s. a month. Previously they paid no rent at all.

The new move is to bring their position into line with that of the inhabitants of the Moroka camp, required to pay 15s. a month for occupation of a plot 20 feet by 20 feet.

Another squatters' leader has been arrested.

This is Orjel Monongoaha, whose camp in Orlando, just below the Tobruk camp, is strenuously opposing the new squatter regulations and method of moving the squatters to the emergency camp.

The Shantytowns Co-ordinating Committee has submitted a lengthy memorandum to the City Council. It criticises the stands as ridiculously small, less than the size of an ordinary living room. The rent of 15s. payable in advance, is described as exorbitant.

The statement points out that with this rental per stand and a government subsidy of 10s. per

site, the Council will be receiving the fantastic ground rent of £1,650 per acre per annum, a sum far in excess of any rental amount received for the most expensive ground in Johannesburg.

### "WORK CATTLE"

Once more, the memorandum protests against the "screening" for admission to the camp. "We Afri-

can people are regarded as 'work cattle' who are to be housed only as long as we are serving some useful purpose to employers. Restrictions on residents are unheard of in any democratic country or with respect to any other section of the people."

The squatters propose they be given adequate land, freehold, technical assistance, and help with building materials to put up their own permanent dwellings.

They ask further that the township be democratically administered by a Township committee democratically elected without any Council appointees, and enjoying the right to make all rules and regulations governing its administration. The present regulations must be immediately scrapped.

The daily press has been conducting a vicious campaign to try and tell the public the squatters are eager to move to the new camp, and it is only "agitators" and "leaders keen to keep their power" who are stirring them up. The latest attempt has been to claim that a European organisation has been working behind the scenes in the camps.

In actual fact there is widespread resentment against the new camp regulations. Even among the people

(Continued in back page)



## 70,000 SQUATTERS

(Continued from page 1).

who have already moved into Moroka Township the majority resent strongly many of the features of the camp.

Only in Tobruk camp has the Council had any measure of success in persuading the people to move. Here the removal has been so inefficiently carried out that many families who pulled down their shacks in preparation to be transported to the new camp, could not be moved in time, and their families have had to sleep in the open for several cold nights.

The people of Oriel Monongoaha's camp decided to come out in a mass demonstration against the screening process for admission to the new township. Several hundreds—men and women carrying their household utensils, many women with babies on their backs—started on a silent march across the veld one evening, to squat in the new township so as to demonstrate their opposition to the scheme.

They were met at the entrance of the Moroka Township by police lying hidden in the grass, who stormed the men and women, and beat them back with their batons. People were forced to rush headlong down a narrow passage bordered by fences at the approach to Moroka Township. Many were beaten on the back and shoulders and legs by police batons. Women lost their children and men their blankets and clothes.

An eyewitness of the incident reported to the Guardian that the veld was strewn with discarded

shoes and clothing, even a bicycle, after the police charge; and the people were forced to limp back to their homes in the original camp.

In its first report the Daily Mail spoke of the "squatters attacking a police cordon." It was after this incident that Oriel was arrested. Twelve troop carriers loaded with police were used to cordon off Moroka Township on this night.

Since the moving operation began, in fact, both camps in Orlando have been well surrounded by police—African and European. Any demonstration within the camps by the people protesting against the scheme has been labelled as caused by "agitators."

And the Council continues to go its own sweet way, antagonising the people, encountering the wholesale opposition of several camps; but turning a deaf ear to requests by the squatters' leaders to end the deadlock and negotiate with them for a satisfactory solution.

### Dr. Moroka Not Consulted

JOHANNESBURG.—Dr. Moroka, member of the Native Representative Council from the Orange Free State, has told the Guardian he was never consulted about the use of his name for the new Council emergency camp, described by the squatters' leaders as a "vast prison camp."

## NATIVE BILL IS "AN OUTRAGE"

CAPE TOWN.—All sections of the trade union movement are united in opposition to the Native Industrial Bill. It has been a demand voiced annually by the Trades and Labour Council conference for many years that there should be no separate recognition of African trade unions but that the definition of "employee" in the Industrial Conciliation Act should be amended to cover Africans.

In an interview with the Guardian, Mr. J. J. Venter, Vice-President of the Trades and Labour Council, said: "I stand by the decision of past T.L.C. conferences. African unions must be fully recognised under the I.C. Act."

Mr. E. S. Sachs, secretary of the Garment Workers' Union, told the Guardian: "The Bill is fascist trash. It means that the African worker is completely under the control of

the Native Affairs Department, with no say at all. The Bill is an outrage, giving no freedom of organisation and workers' action. It is a terrible piece of legislation equalled only by the labour laws of fascist Italy and Germany." Mr. Sachs urges an immediate campaign to expose the Bill.

(Continued in Page 4)

Mr. S. Mann, of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, is also in complete disagreement with the Bill. He says the A.E.U. wants African unions recognised on the same basis as other trade unions.

## IRON CURTAIN OVER ORLANDO Guardian Reporter's Permit Torn Up

JOHANNESBURG.—The Guardian's Johannesburg reporter has been refused permission to enter Orlando, including the Tobruk Shanty Town, Jabavu and the new emergency Council township of Moroka. A permit granted her by an official of the Municipal Non-European Affairs Department at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning May 7 was torn up by Mr. Venables, Manager of the Non-European Affairs Department, in the main street of the Tobruk camp at 5 p.m. the same day on the grounds that the reporter is an "undesirable person" to enter these municipal townships.

The Guardian reporter, together with the representatives of the dailies—the Star, Rand Daily Mail, Vaderland, and Transvaler—has been visiting the Tobruk camp and other shantytowns regularly since the Council put into operation its scheme to move squatters to the new Council-controlled camp.

Of all the press representatives the Guardian reporter alone has been continually accosted by municipal officials, police, and plain clothes detectives asking her authority to enter Orlando.

The reporter applied for a permit from the Non-European Affairs Department, it entitled her and party to enter Orlando, Jabavu and Moroka every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The permit was made valid until June 30 this year.

On Wednesday afternoon the Guardian reporter and photographer went to Moroka Township and the Tobruk camp to take photographs of the conditions in the camps. The permit acted as an "open sesame" to the new Moroka Township, and, at first, to the Tobruk camp.

### "UNDESIRABLE PERSON"

After having been in the camp for some time, and as they were making their way out towards their car, the reporter and photographer were stopped by Mr. Venables, a police lieutenant and a department official. Mr. Venables asked to see the permit. He declared it was not valid; that the reporter was an undesirable person to enter Orlando; and he tore the permit up and put the scraps of paper into the pocket of his overcoat. He declined to say what he meant by an "undesirable person."

The official in the Records section of the Non-European Affairs De-

partment who issued the permit said she had not been required to do so for other press representatives.

This restriction to enter Orlando and other locations has been applied against the Guardian reporter only.

The reporter and photographer of "Die Vaderland" can be seen daily riding around Orlando and the Tobruk camp in a C.I.D. car.

## U.N.O. RALLY



Part of the huge crowd which attended Johannesburg U.N.O. Rally and passed resolutions asking U.N.O. to refuse permission to the Union to annex South-West Africa.



## TRADE UNION EXECUTIVE TO SEE STEYN

JOHANNESBURG.—A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the S.A.T.L.C. on Tuesday afternoon strongly opposed the suspension of the Unemployment Insurance Act. A deputation of four—Mr. J. Calder, president, and the T.L.C. representatives on the National Unemployment Board—are coming to Cape Town to interview the Minister of Labour.

The N.E.C. decided to send instructions to local committees to prepare for the calling of a provincial conference. Any further action will be decided when the deputation returns and reports.

On Monday night the Southern Transvaal local committee passed a resolution recommending that the N.E.C. call a one-day national protest strike against the suspension of the Act.

The same deputation that is interviewing the Minister of Labour on the Unemployment Insurance Act will interview the Prime Minister on the National Industrial Bill and will express dissatisfaction of the T.L.C. at having received no copy of the Bill. They will ask for copies and will circulate them to all local committees.

The general opinion of the meeting was that members were very much opposed to the Bill.

"While the Labour Party is fully conscious of the administration and technical difficulties encountered in the handling of the recent rush of unemployed workers, the solution lies in increasing the efficiency of the working of this Bill and not in the abrogation of a solemn Act of Parliament," reads a statement by the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party issued after an emergency meeting to discuss the suspension of the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Demanding the immediate re-emption of the Act, the Labour Party states: "It does not matter in the least whether the unemployed are white or black—their needs are relatively just as great."

## DINATH'S CHALLENGE

JOHANNESBURG.—In opening the provincial conference of the Transvaal Indian Congress, Mr. M. A. Dinath, who presided, threw out a challenge to the so-called moderates who have suggested the formation of a new Indian organisation.

"There is a lost cause, and they know it. Yet, I invite them, if they are courageous enough, to put their views to the masses at the pending elections of both the Natal Indian Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress, and so obtain the verdict

of the people."  
Attended by many delegates from country towns, the conference was viewed to the masses at the pending elections of both the Natal Indian Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress. It was opened by the Rev. Michael Scott.

## KAJEE'S MISSION TO THE TRANSVAAL

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. A. I. Kaje and a few reactionaries from the Transvaal met in Johannesburg last week to consider the formation of a new organisation. They met in a private house, typically anxious to avoid the Indian masses.

The Star reported that the meeting was held in the City Hall, and later admitted it meant "in the city," but refused to publish a correction despite a request from the Transvaal Indian Congress that it should do so.

Kaje's sitting-room meeting decided to try to "call a provincial conference of representatives of all sections of the Indian community in the Transvaal to consider the political situation." A committee was appointed to organise the conference.

The Transvaal Passive Resistance Council, in a statement issued after Kaje's mission to the Transvaal, labels his move as that of a "few reactionaries conspiring with Kaje to help Smuts." It urges they be exposed, and points out that the present Congress officials under the leadership of Dr. Dadoo were elected by the unanimous vote of 12,000 Congress voters at the last election.

## INDIAN GOVT. IS ANTI-KAJEE

JOHANNESBURG.—The latest cable from Drs. Dadoo and Naicker, now touring India, refers to Mr. A. I. Kaje's efforts to claim for himself and the S.A. Indian Congress all credit for any approaches that may be made to the South African Government by Pandit Nehru and the Indian Government.

The cable states: "India strongly condemns Kaje's actions as disastrous and catastrophic. We assure the Indian community we are in close touch with the Indian Government, which is doing everything in consonance with the interests of the Indian people of South Africa. We appeal to the Indian people to stand solidly behind the Natal and Transvaal Indian Congresses, which the people and the Government of India fully support."

## Appeal to Alberton Town Council

JOHANNESBURG.—The abolition of lodger's permits is asked for in a memorandum submitted to Alberton's Town Council by the African National Congress. It also recommends that permit raids be stopped, that no African be moved from the location because he is not locally employed, and that more houses be built by the Town Council and that land be made available for occupation by Africans—either freehold or leasehold.

At Alberton location raids for permits and arrests are continuous. Many pay fines and sign admissions of guilt, only to re-arrested a few days later. Fines range from £1 to £5.

The memorandum points out that permits are granted only to people employed at Alberton, but that this is not an industrial area and most Africans living in it work in Johannesburg or at Germiston. Owing to the acute housing shortage they cannot find accommodation nearer their work.

The memorandum points out that where the permit is rightly applied there is unnecessary trouble. Johannesburg City Council has given a lead by allowing the permit system to fall into disuse in many locations, but at Alberton the system is rigidly and badly administered.

## BROTHERS KOMA SENTENCED

JOHANNESBURG.—Samuel Saul Koma, previously leader of the Tobruk squatters' camp, and his brother, John Koma, were found guilty of receiving payment illegally and with interference with occupants of Tobruk camp.

They were fined £25 each, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment with hard labour, suspended for three years on condition they were not convicted of a similar offence during that period.

They were charged under a proclamation dated April 2. The two accused changed their original plea of not guilty to one of guilty.

Mr. George McCormick, secretary of the S.A. Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association and a member of the National Unemployment Insurance Board, said he was greatly shocked by the sudden suspension. He had known nothing of the intended move.

"With the exception of the Typographical Union which asked for exemption, I know of no other trade union which had asked for exemption from the general suspension of the Act," he added. "The Government does not give any information about what it intends to do next."

The Mining Unions had offered one and a half million pounds to the Unemployment Insurance Fund and are deeply concerned about the Government's decision.

LABOUR DEPT. NOT TOLD  
Several trade unionists told the Guardian's Johannesburg representative of a meeting called by the Divisional Inspector of Labour only last Friday where officials and trade unionists came to a working agreement for the improved administration of the Act. Mr. McCormick points out that even the Inspector of Labour could therefore not have known of the contemplated suspension.

"It is disastrous to suspend the Act unless something is put in its place. Thousands are unemployed to-day. Tragedy faces them," is the opinion of Mr. A. Merkel, secretary of the Furniture Workers' Union, while Mr. H. Terhart, secretary of Cape Furniture Workers' Union and of the Co-ordinating Council of Furniture Trade Unions of South Africa, emphatically agreed that investigations into the Act could have been carried on without suspension.

"The only means of security provided for the workers will now be withdrawn," he said. "This will strengthen the hand of the capitalists, because the unemployed will have to take jobs at any price."

Mr. B. Weinreb, secretary of the Concession Store Employees' Union, says: "Unemployment provision is absolutely imperative. There are faults in the present Act but some adequate machinery is essential."

Mr. H. P. Tyler of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers told the Guardian his union was definitely against suspension. So did Mr. I. Wolfson of the Tailoring Workers' Union, Mrs. R. O'Meara of the Jewellers' and Goldsmiths', Mr. E. S. Sachs of the Garment Workers and Miss J. Cornelius of the Tobacco and Glass Workers' Unions.

## Alexandra Squatters' Leaders Acquitted

JOHANNESBURG.—Schreiner Badura, Abner Kunene and Lucas Bokaba, leaders of the Alexandra Shantytown were acquitted in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court of 15 counts, including extortion, assault and meddling in native affairs. Six counts had previously been withdrawn by the crown.

The Magistrate, Mr. J. G. Greyling, said: "I have considered the application for the discharge of the three accused at this stage, and in spite of the prima facie allegations of autocratic rule having prevailed in the squatters' camp at Alexandra, I have come to the conclusion that the three accused are entitled to an acquittal on legal grounds on all counts."





A part of the great crowd of over 15,000 Africans, Indians, Coloureds and Europeans who attended the great UNO Rally in Johannesburg.

## 15,000 AT UNITY RALLY

The meeting unanimously approved a great show of hands, which was followed by a declaration signed by Mrs. Xuma, Dadoo and Ullrich. The Johannesburg meeting met at the Newtown Market Square for the UNO rally organised jointly by the African National Congress, the Transvaal Indian Congress, and the Transvaal Branch of the African Peoples Organisation. The largest crowd ever seen at Johannesburg meeting met at the Newtown Market Square for the UNO rally organised jointly by the African National Congress, the Transvaal Indian Congress, and the Transvaal Branch of the African Peoples Organisation. Squealers from the Shantytowns surrounding Johannesburg were there; carrying banners, gave them to build Our Honours; members of African trade unions; African women sitting together in a section of the vast crowd; Africans, Indians and Coloureds from all of Johannesburg's townships and locations. Dr. A. B. Xuma who presided, described the rally as an historic occasion.

Mr. H. A. Naidoo said the case of the South African Indians at UNO paved the way for all cases of violations of the Human Rights Charter, and India, or any other country could even sponsor the cause of the African people by raising discrimination against them at UNO. Comrade Mrs. Z. Gooli appealed for strong and lasting unity among the non-European people. She mentioned that they were not alone in their struggle for rights. Among the organisations willing to help and lead them was the Communist Party. L. Carr of the APO also spoke.

Mr. S. Rajabie, Rustenburg said that if General Smuts did not open his eyes against the policy of the South African government, he would learn it at the next session of the United Nations. Mr. H. A. Naidoo said the case of the South African Indians at UNO paved the way for all cases of violations of the Human Rights Charter, and India, or any other country could even sponsor the cause of the African people by raising discrimination against them at UNO. Comrade Mrs. Z. Gooli appealed for strong and lasting unity among the non-European people. She mentioned that they were not alone in their struggle for rights. Among the organisations willing to help and lead them was the Communist Party. L. Carr of the APO also spoke.

Revolutions passed placed on record the meetings which heralded support of the UN decisions on South West Africa and South African Indians. Another resolution dealt with the squatters' problem, and demanded immediate negotiations with the squatters' leaders. The mass training of Africans in the building industry, and the repeal of the 1917 Land Act, messages of greetings were read from Paul Robeson and the African section of the India League of Great Britain.



## A.N.C. DEMANDS FULL REPRESENTATION

### CONDEMNNS T. U. BILL

"WE do not accept any proposal that does not provide direct representation of all sections of the community in all legislative bodies," declares a statement of the Working Committee of the African National Congress issued by the President, Dr. A. B. Muma last week. The statement condemns the Native Trade Union Bill before Parliament as maintaining the principle of racial and colour discrimination.

"The Prime Minister seems to have side-stepped the main cause of the deadlock — the demand of the Native Representative Council for the repeal of the discriminatory colour legislation against Africans and the Council's consequent resolution to adjourn indefinitely until such demand have been complied with," says the statement.

"The Prime Minister's reported proposals might appear to be generous and an improvement on the present political status of the African, but in fact they are retrogressive steps in that as long as present discriminatory legislation remains on the statute book the Africans are in effect asked by the Prime Minister to administer their own oppression, discrimination and participation in the administration of their own affairs."

"In fact there can be no truly representative democratic Government or Parliament within any state in which all members of the state are not directly represented. In other words, we do not accept any proposal that does not provide for direct representation of all sections of the community in all legislative bodies.

#### TRADE UNION BILL

"The proposed Bill dealing with the so-called recognition of African trade unions is unacceptable because it maintains the principle of racial and colour discrimination and domination and excludes the African mineworkers — the largest working group of Africans.

"The proposed Bill gives the workers or their trade unions no active part in the settlement of industrial disputes in which they are concerned, and denies them the fundamental right of workers — collective bargaining and the

enforcement of the workers' demands by means of the strike weapon.

"The Congress Working Committee supports the Native Representative Council's resolution to adjourn indefinitely until their demands have been complied with and submits the following demands:

**The removal of the political colour bar in the South Africa Act and direct representation of Africans in all legislative bodies — national, provincial and municipal. Abolition of the Pass Laws.**

**Removal of land restrictions against Africans in urban and rural areas.**

**Recognition of African trade unions under the Industrial Conciliation Act and adequate wages for African workers including African mineworkers.**

**Adequate housing for Africans and adequate mass training facilities for Africans as builders and in other trades, with outlets for employment as skilled workers.**

**Extension of free compulsory education to all African children of school-going age.**

**The re-establishment of the status of African chiefs in national affairs.**

## CISKEI PEOPLE'S GRIEVANCES

The 55,000 people of the Herschel District in the Ciskei have many deep grievances which they have tried in vain to bring to the notice of the government through their local councils.

The severe measures to prevent overstocking are causing hardships and deep resentment among the people. Young men can buy no new stock at all; stock that dies can not be replaced. The gates for the stock to enter the District have been completely closed for some time. This means that farm labourers from Herschel who work on farms and eventually earn a few cattle as payment, have to sell this stock along the road on the way home, often for only a few shillings; as they would not be allowed to enter the district with it. Many people in Herschel are without land.

In a strong speech to his local council, Councillor H. L. Phoko drew the attention of the District Magistrate and the council to the wrongs done to the people. He said: "There is a bitter cry of the people throughout the District. They are the Bunra is the shield of the department's policy to save it from attack from outside. They

are losing confidence in their Councillors. We make resolutions here in a legally constituted council; they are sent to the Department of Native Affairs which looks upon them as the ramblings of fools. The matter is becoming serious. The Department must realise it is dealing with people, not a collection of dead moles."

As examples of the people's unrest Councillor Phoko spoke of the people of Krommespruit Location and Palmietfontein who grazed on certain land without permission and were then prosecuted. The people are annoyed also because of the resignation of the work supervisor, Mr. Bokwe, whose application for a higher salary was refused; the long delay in appointing a successor; with the result that since last year there has been no council workers at all, and the council workers are suffering and the roads being washed away by rain.

Councillor Phoko warned that the people will continue to take the law into their own hands if their grievances receive no hearing and consideration by the Council and the Native Affairs Department.

## Victory for the People of Jabavu



MR. VENABLES

**JOHANNESBURG**—The people of Jabavu, determined not to pay the monthly rental of 15s. demanded from them by the City Council since the establishment of Moroka Township, have scored their first victory.

Following the report of the Manager of the Non-European Affairs Department's failure to come to any agreement with the people, the Council has decided temporarily to drop this issue.

A week ago the people were notified by the police that their rent had to be paid for the first time by Monday, May 10. They sent a deputation to the superintendent to inform him they demanded a meeting with Mr. Venables and other officials of the municipal Non-European Affairs Department, and a full explanation of their position. Two meetings addressed by municipal officials took place, and the people were informed for the first time that not only were they required to pay the 15s. rent, but the regulations governing occupation in Moroka were also to be applied to Jabavu.

The people rejected the scheme outright. Mr. Venables and his officials were given an extremely hostile reception in Jabavu Township; and this no doubt helped to account for the Council decision to

## RENT SCHEME DROPPED FOR THE PRESENT

cease its attempts to collect the rent.

It has been decided, however, that the Advisory Board elections in Jabavu, held only a few months back, will be declared invalid, and new elections held. Inhabitants of Jabavu have no doubt this manoeuvre will be an attempt to divert their attention from the struggle against the rent and other regulations.

Advisory Board elections are also to be held in Moroka Township almost immediately. Although only a fraction of the squatters have been moved to Moroka, the division of the camp into wards is being begun, in preparation for the elections.

In Moroka, too, only one in four people have thus far paid rent. Extreme dissatisfaction with the conditions of occupation of the camp continues.

## ANTI-NAZI MURDERED

### Found Outside Internec Camp

**JOHANNESBURG**—HERMANN JOHANTOBERNS, THE ONLY ANTI-NAZI AMONG 100 GERMAN INTERNEES ABOUT TO BE REPATRIATED TO GERMANY, WAS FOUND MURDERED OUTSIDE THE PIETER-MARITZBURG P.O.W. CAMP ON THE DURBAN ROAD JUST OVER ONE WEEK AGO.

The C.I.D. the police and the camp commandant are at present investigating the causes of the murder. A number of the internees due to be repatriated to the British zone of Germany have had their departure delayed while the investigation is conducted.

Johantobers, fireman on the ship "Karl Pritzer" was captured on the high seas just after the outbreak of war. On being interned in South Africa, he and several other German anti-Nazis immediately demanded they be separated from the Nazi internees, by whom he was continually threatened. Eventually the "Anti-Nazi Camp" was established, when the position of the anti-fascist internees was brought to the notice of the camp commandant.

Herman Johantobers came from a working class family in Essen. In Germany before Hitler's rise to

## Michael Scott Refused Entry to Moroka

**JOHANNESBURG**—The Rev. Michael Scott has been refused a permit to enter Moroka Township. Johannesburg Council's controlled camp for squatters and sub-tenants.

A party of the Rev. Scott, a member of the British Council, a geologist shortly leaving for England, and a school teacher, was refused permission to enter the township on a visit of inspection.

The refusal of Rev. Scott's permit follows the tearing-up by Mr. Venables, manager of the Non-European Affairs Department, of the permit granted to Ruth First, The Guardian's Johannesburg reporter.

power he was a member of the "Red Fighting Front"; participating in many Communist Party demonstrations in Essen, Hamburg and Berlin addressed by Ernst Thaelmann.

He had asked to be repatriated to Germany so that he might make his contribution as an active anti-fascist, rebuilding his country.

Guardian

May 23, 1947



## AFRICAN LEADERS WANT MORE THAN "A BONE TO CHEW"

JOHANNESBURG.—Smuts' new plan to entice the Native Representative Council to resume its sessions, his attempt—in his own words—to give the Council a bone over which to "chew" has not bluffed African leaders.

Dr. Moroka, Free State member of the Council, told the Guardian in a telephone conversation from his home in Thaba Nchu that Smuts' plan will not work as the African people are not prepared to accept half measures.

Dr. Moroka said: "We Africans don't believe in the N.R.C. The 1936 Representation Act, and anything arising from it, are totally unacceptable to the African people. We demand full and adequate representation in Parliament.

"As for Smuts' plan to give N.R.C. members a share in administering the Reserves, I don't hold with the reserve system at all, by having the African people are confined to 13 per cent. of the land, on which they cannot make a living. They should be able to buy and occupy land throughout all parts of the country.

Mr. C. Ramabano, Transvaal President of the African National Congress, described the whole scheme as a "bluff". "Increasing the number of members on the Council will achieve nothing as long as the African people have no policy, and the Government maintains its present policy. As long as Parliament, in which the Africans are hardly represented at all, remains the legislative body of the country, it does not matter a

scrap what new powers the N.R.C. is given. General Smuts' statement on the so-called recognition of African trade unions gives the African miner no hope whatsoever. The description of the N.R.C. as a debating club and talking shop is quite accurate.

Mr. J. B. Marks, a member of the national executive of the African National Congress, commented: "The Prime Minister shows he is in a predicament. He is obviously trying to prepare a case for U.N.O. But he is merely sidestepping the immediate demands of the African people. He says nothing about abolishing the pass laws, giving the African people land, recognising African trade unions in terms of the Industrial Conciliation Act.

"As long as the Reserves are reservoirs of cheap labour nothing can be made of them. The N.R.C. by having a share in their control would merely become the scape goat of the Government's failure to solve this problem.

"I must explore the fact that Smuts singled out only certain members of the N.R.C. for this consultation.

"The exclusion of African miners from the plan to recognise African unions shows that General Smuts will not make any fundamental changes but will perpetuate the policy of cheap native labour on which the mining industry is based. The suggested control of African trade unions by the Department of Native Affairs is to be thoroughly deplored."

## A MENACE TO ALL WORKERS

JOHANNESBURG.—The Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions views the Bill to "recognise" African Trade Unions as a serious violation of the principles of trade unionism, in that it denies African workers elementary rights of collective bargaining, and bans strike action—ultimate weapon of the world over.

The Council points out that since the establishment of African trade unions, their demand has been, and still is, recognition under the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act, as applied to European, Indian and Coloured workers.

This demand has been supported by the South African Trades and Labour Council at a recent conference, the Federal Chamber of Commerce, the

Chamber of Industries, numerous other bodies.

The Council says: "The recent reports in the Press giving an outline of the Bill have been received with profound disappointment by the Non-European trade union movement, particularly at a time when the entire civilised world expects all democratic governments to introduce industrial legislation designed to improve the social and economic conditions of the working people."

"The suggestion to exclude the African miners and farm workers who are the lowest paid sections of the workers is a clear indication that the Government is determined to perpetuate its present policy of cheap native labour."

## 300 POLICE RAID HOSTEL

JOHANNESBURG.—750 Africans were arrested and taken to the Jeppe police station after a three hour raid of the Wolhuter Municipal hostel for African men by a force of 300 policemen on May 16. This is the second raid for "undesirables" in the last six weeks.

The raid is described by the police as part of their policy to "clear Johannesburg of native vagrants." The method of the last police raid at the hostel provoked a riot by the residents, and the smashing of the administrative offices.

### \* Moroka Township

## NO MONEY FOR SCHOOLS OR CLINICS — SAYS JO'BURG COUNCIL

JOHANNESBURG.— Forced at last to accept responsibility for the thousands of squatters in Johannesburg, and subsidiaries in its own municipal locations, the City Council is to-day ruefully surveying the figures for the bare

minimum of expenditure in Moroka Township; and announcing it will have to bear a loss of 6s. 8d. per month per standholder.

According to the Council figures the overall cost for a stand, including prospective social services, is £1 11s. 8d. per month. The Government subsidies to the extent of 10s. On the 2,000 stands in the camp the Council estimates its losses will be £236,000 a year, or £5 from each Johannesburg ratepayer.

Discussing these figures, the Rev. Michael Scott, points out that as the Council has undertaken the responsibility of these 100,000 people lawfully employed and living in Johannesburg, £236,000 is not an inordinately large deficit compared with the deficit to be expected on, for example, an ordinary sub-economic housing scheme.

While approving in principle its own Non-European Affairs Department plans for social services the City Council has actually rejected its application for an immediate grant of £1,500 for schooling facilities and medical attention for the many thousands of school children among the squatters.

## F.S.U. General Meeting

JOHANNESBURG.—The annual general meeting of the Friends of the Soviet Union, to be held at the Darragh Hall on May 28, will be opened by the Consul-General for the U.S.S.R., Mr. P. S. Atroschenkov.

As the meeting takes place at a time when anti-Soviet forces are again trying to discredit the role of the Soviet Union in world affairs, every member of the F.S.U. is urged to be present at the general meeting.

### Sir George Wants

## Inter-Union Strikes Banned

JOHANNESBURG.—Sir George Albu, Bart., chairman of the West Rand Consolidated Ltd. told the 42nd annual meeting of his shareholders that "the disturbed conditions in the industry" had caused the influx of Native labour from the Union and adjoining territories to fall considerably over the last months.

He thought, also, that strikes caused by inter-union disputes, should in future not be permitted by law. He estimated that as a result of the strike of European seven weeks' strike from January 27 this year, the profits of the mine were reduced by £335,000, while loss to the government in taxation was estimated at £197,000.

According to Sir George's figures the profit of West Rand Consolidated dropped from £436,774 in 1946 to £137,511 in 1947.

## Unemployed Protest at Act's Suspension

JOHANNESBURG.—A meeting of the unemployed workers of Johannesburg held outside the New Magistrate's Court protested against the suspension of the Unemployment Insurance Act, announced by Minister Steyn.

The meeting passed a resolution saying that the unemployed were deeply concerned about this suspension, and the retraction of the pledge made to workers during the war. The meeting asked that benefits due to workers who had qualified for them should not be suspended.

A deputation of Mr. W. Kalk (Leather Workers' Union), Mr. J. Sloan (Boilermakers' Union), Mr. G. Preston (A.E.U.), Mr. J. A. Celliers (Mineworkers' Union), Mr. J. Tomlinson (Furniture Workers' Union), Mr. J. Myburgh and Mr. L. C. Scheepers (Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council) was elected to interview the Minister of Labour on behalf of the unemployed.

## Lisbon Strike Carries On

LISBON.—Neither hunger, nor organised fascist terror has until now succeeded in breaking the strike of the shipyard workers of Lisbon, who have been on strike since April 7 for salary increases; better rations; and the stabilisation of prices.

The people of the city and throughout the country are actively assisting the strikers. They have formed local committees for the collection of money, food, medicine and clothing for the strikers and their families. The women of Lisbon are caring for the children of imprisoned strikers.

Shops and business premises in Lisbon and other principal towns closed their doors for 24 hours in protest against the deportations of workers to the concentration camps of Tarrafal, in the islands of Cape Verde, off the West Coast of Africa.

The police guard all entrances to factories and workshops in the capital. Yet they have been unable to smash the workers' strike committees.

In its campaign against the strikers the government has mobilised all its agents, from the politi-

cal police to the fascist press. For example Jose Pereira da Rosa, director of the journal "O Seculo" is a large shareholder in the railways; Dr. Manuel Murias, director of the paper "O Diario da Manha," the official organ of the government, is a prominent figure in the corporative system; Dr. Jose Concalves who belongs to the National Publicity Company has large interests in the "Companhia Nacional de Navegacao."

The government continues to claim the strike is inspired from Moscow, and to refuse to reveal the number of workers out on strike in the shipyard and other industries.

Recently, in a demonstration of force, and to intimidate the people, 50 military planes, the most recent purchases from England and America, flew over Lisbon.

## Dadoo and Naicker Leaving for S.A.

JOHANNESBURG.—Drs. Dadoo and Naicker have called the Transvaal Indian Congress that the provisional booking to leave for south Africa is Thursday, May 22. They will sail from Karachi.



# KURT RATH IS ON NAZI DEPORTEE LIST

## ANTI-FASCISTS ON THE DEPORTATION LIST

JOHANNESBURG. — Latest scandal of the political muddle and intrigue connected with the deportation of German former Nazi internee in South Africa is the fact that the name of Kurt Rath, anti-fascist refugee in the Union since 1936, is included on the list of just over fifty Germans in the Union recommended for deportation.

Kurt Rath was a member of anti-fascist bodies in Germany from 1929 onwards. He came to South Africa as a refugee from Hitler's terror. Before the Nazi attack on Poland he distributed leaflets to sailors on German boats stopping at Durban, calling for a united front against Hitler. Fascism and aggression against Poland.

He was interned during the war, but in the camp set aside for anti-Nazis at Koffertfontein near Kimberley.

Kurt Rath was among the last of these internees to be released. In the words of the Sunday Express in January, 1946: "A few anti-Nazis especially Communists whose activities are regarded as dangerous by the Union authorities are still interned. There has never been the slightest doubt about the anti-fascist character of Kurt Rath's convictions."

In June, 1945, immediately on the end of the war, he addressed a letter to the Chief Control Officer, asking that he be repatriated to Germany in order to take his place again in the ranks of the anti-Fascists.

His letter received a formal acknowledgement.

The next that Kurt Rath heard about his fate was the list in the "Star" in which his name was included among the Germans recommended for deportation.

Kurt Rath is still anxious to return to Germany to continue his anti-fascist activity in his own



country. But repatriation, and deportation as a Nazi are two different things.

It is well-known that there are many members of South Africa's German community known to be confirmed Nazi sympathisers who are not on the deportation list.

## COLOUR BAR AND CORPSES

JOHANNESBURG. — Third-year Non-European medical students at the University of the Witwatersrand are not allowed to attend post-mortems on European bodies.

They have made it quite clear that they are only concerned with the abnormalities of the diseased organs, and not with the pigmentation of the skin of the cadaver. But the position has remained unchanged since 1942, in spite of representations by both the Students' Representative Council and the Students' Medical Council.

The effect of this university regulation is that the Non-European third years, of whom there are 26 in a class of 300 this year, usually only see about one post-mortem a week, while European students often see one a day.

The students are taking the matter up again this year, with the hope of ending the colour bar in the post-mortem room.

# NAZIS MUST BE DEPORTED

### —SAY EX-SERVICEMEN

JOHANNESBURG. — A nation-wide campaign to ensure that all German Nazis are deported from South Africa has been launched by the National Joint Ex-Services Committee.

A deputation from the Committee is to see the Prime Minister. Public meetings will be organised in all large centres in the Union, and a memorandum has been circulated to all M.P.'s, Senators and M.P.C.'s and the City Councillors in the nine largest towns.

#### POTENTIAL FIFTH COLUMN

The Joint Ex-Services Committee considers that the retention of Nazis in the country shows a cynical contempt for the feelings of ex-soldiers. "These people," says the memorandum, "while resident in South-West Africa or the Union formed an actual or potential Fifth Column inside the country while we were at war. We deny absolutely that such people can ever be good citizens of our country, and we urge that every single German who is guilty of these charges shall, without any exception, be deported."

The terms of reference to the De Villiers Commission should state quite clearly that those guilty of Nazi activity should be deported. Every ex-internee should have been given a proper trial to decide, fairly and justly, which were guilty of Nazi activity, if, during the war, the Government considered it necessary to intern over 5,000 Germans suspected of Nazi activity, it is a logical inference that to-day a greater proportion than 5 per cent, remain a danger and should be deported."

#### NOT EVEN CERTAIN

According to Press reports, it is not even certain that the 254 Nazis recommended by the Deportation

Commission will actually be repatriated. Among the difficulties mentioned is the possibility that some of the Allied Control Powers in Germany may not be willing to receive the deportees into their zones. This, the memorandum points out, seems to have been overcome by the Tanganyika authorities.

"The S.A. Government has agreed to receive 110 active Nazis from the 926 to be deported from Tanganyika's German population of 7,646. A South African German Relief Organisation is rushing to England formed an actual or potential Fifth Column inside the country while we were at war. We deny absolutely that such people can ever be good citizens of our country, and we urge that every single German who is guilty of these charges shall, without any exception, be deported."

And considerable numbers of would-be immigrants from England are unable to secure passages."

#### RESENTMENT INTENSIFIED

The ex-servicemen state that their resentment has been intensified, because to judge from the press reports, all the pressure necessary on the Government has come from groups who have made representations on behalf of the Nazis.

Transkei Election

REV.

SCOTT'S VIEW



JOHANNESBURG. — "I consider the time is now ripe for the direct representation of the African people," said the Rev. Michael Scott when asked by The Guardian whether there was any likelihood of his contesting the Transkei parliamentary seat. The suggestion that the Rev. Scott might be a prospective candidate was made by a reader of "Inkundla ya Bantu."

There are plenty of Africans capable—and more qualified than I—to represent their people and express the African point of view in Parliament. The present native representatives have been fighting an heroic rearguard action, but the African people have shown they are no longer satisfied with seven parliamentary representatives indirectly elected to a House of 197 members. If the confidence of the African people is to be restored and their interests fully expressed some form of direct representation will have to be accorded them.

"If I were approached by the African National Congress to stand for the seat on a boycott ticket on the clear understanding that the issue of direct political representation is thus brought to the fore I might consider this."

## Where is the Riotous Assemblies Act?

JOHANNESBURG. — Discussing the recent May Day celebrations in Johannesburg and the University Students' Rag, in which both Europeans and Non-Europeans took part, Pirow's Nuwe Order says these things are the work of a "group of stupid dreamers in the country aiming at complete equality with the Non-European."

"It is now time," says Pirow's organ, "that powerful action should come from the nation itself. That action is physical violence. Although it is a crime to incite people to violence, we offer this advice. If Non-Europeans intrude themselves among Europeans, throw them out on their necks. If Europeans invite them to intrude, and combine with them, throw these rascals out too."

"We know this is no solution to the problem. But it will make the problem so urgent and spotlight it so clearly that the tackling of a fundamental solution cannot then be longer delayed."



## GREAT WELCOME FOR DADOO AND NAICKER

JOHANNESBURG.—Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and Dr. G. M. Naicker arrived back in South Africa from their tour of India on Tuesday, May 27. They were greeted at Palmietfontein Aerodrome by hundreds of members of the Transvaal Indian Congress.

The welcome meeting organised for them at the Gandhi Hall was the largest ever held in the hall, half the audience remaining standing throughout the meeting. They were greeted with tremendous applause.

Both Drs. Dadoo and Naicker made it abundantly clear that the Indian Interim Government wants negotiations with the South African Government, but on the basis of the U.N.O. resolutions. There can be no question of India sending back her High Commissioner at the present stage.

Dr. Naicker described their mission to India as an unqualified success.

"All groups and parties in India," he said, "stand united in their championship of our cause."

Dr. Dadoo said that India expects South African Indians to make common cause with all the oppressed people of South Africa.

Speaking of the New East, he said: "The people of Asia are no fighting a racial war. They want to see the end of imperialistic manoeuvres and domination at the beginning of a new era when there will be complete freedom and democracy for all."

Referring to the statement made by General Smuts in the Senate,

"Time alone will show whether the Natal Indian Congress or the Natal Indian Organisation has the support of the Indian people of Natal," Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee said it was untrue that General Smuts did not know for which policy the Indian people stood. He challenged General Smuts to come with him to Natal, where he would prove the support of the people for the N.I.C.

Speakers at the Gandhi Hall meeting included Mr. Danie du Plessis (Communist Party), Dr. A. B. Xuma (African National Congress), Mr. George Carr, Mr. Nana Sita, Miss Zainab Asvat and Mr. E. J. Burford, Mr. M. Dinath presided.

### INDIA'S ACTION ENDORSED

A resolution, passed unanimously, fully endorsed India's refusal to send back her High Commissioner and condemned the action of a few individuals who have made this request, to India against the wishes of the South African Indian community.

Dr. Dadoo will address a meeting at Pretoria on Friday and will tour the Eastern Transvaal on Saturday and Sunday, speaking at meetings at Middelburg, Carolina, Ermelo, Volksrust, Standerton and Heidelberg.

## Two Big Conferences

### AFRICANS TO DISCUSS SMUTS' PROPOSALS

JOHANNESBURG.—At two big conferences to be held here during the coming fortnight, African opinion will express its opinion of General Smuts' "proposals" to the members of the Native Representative Council whom he met recently in Cape Town and of the harsh and repressive terms of the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill.

The first meeting is a mass emergency conference called by the Council of Non-European Trades Unions, to be held on Sunday, June 1, at 9.30 a.m. at the Bantu Men's Social Centre. Plans for launching a campaign in opposition to the proposed legislation for African trades unions will be discussed, and for the amendment of the I.C. Act to include Africans as employees.

A week later, on June 8, the Transvaal African Congress will hold a conference, also at the Bantu Men's Social Centre. Representatives from all Congress branches, trades unions, Advisory Boards, electoral colleges, religious and other African organisations will attend.

Dr. A. B. Xuma will open the Conference. Members of the Native Representative Council, Dr. Moroka, Mr. S. Thema, Chief Maserumula of Sekukuniland and others are expected to be present. Chiefs from all parts of the Transvaal have been invited.

The Congress reminds the African people, in a special statement issued to call this Conference, that at the annual national conference of the Congress held in Bloemfontein last December, it was decided all elections under the Native Representation Act of 1936 should be boycotted. The emergency conference is to hammer out a practical programme.

The Conference will consider the advisability of calling on all location Advisory Boards to adjourn in support of the Native Representative Council and the struggle of the African people for franchise rights and direct representation on all legislative bodies, national, provincial, and municipal.

## U.P., SMUTS AND LABOUR IN UNITED FRONT Indian Boycott Reaches Smuts' Constituency

JOHANNESBURG.—The latest area where attempts, thus far abortive, have been made to start the movement to boycott Indian traders is Standerton—the Prime Minister's constituency.

The boycott meeting held in the town a week ago was supported by prominent United Party members. The secretary of the local branch of the United Party, Mr. Danie du Preez, said the majority of his executive was in favour of the boycott.

"In Standerton, for example, there were many looking for a lead. From the political parties they have heard nothing but racialism, and the anti-Indian propaganda is in no way different from the racial doctrines of Nazism. "The Churches have not yet made their influence felt in countering these doctrines, and until they do the cause of Christ and His Truth will continue to suffer."

An editorial in both English and Afrikaans—"The Polly of the Indian Boycott"—appeared in the Standerton "Advertiser" just before the boycott meeting. Written by the paper's editor it said: "There seems to be madness sweeping the country, and a sort of mass hatred similar to that which swept Germany in 1933 when the persecution of the Jews began. How can the people of this country who are known to be God-fearing, even consider taking part in a movement like this?"

The editor of the paper has since been notified that she is to be transferred to Vereeniging, where she will be in charge of the social and personal column of the local weekly.

The boycott movement was quite ineffective in Standerton on the day following the meeting.

A number of local Europeans including the ministers of the Anglican and Wesleyan Churches signed a strong declaration against the boycott movement.

Observers report that the grain bag position in the Standerton District is becoming critical, and that, so far from the Indians being blamed, General Smuts' reputation is on the decline. The boycott movement is bringing the farmers no gunny bags, and has been abandoned in many Transvaal towns.

In Standerton itself there is talk in United Party circles that Mr. N. C. Havenga will oppose General Smuts in the general election, and some are already beginning to doubt the outcome of this contest.

### THE CHURCH MUST SPEAK UP

Reporting on the boycott situation to The Guardian, the Rev. Michael Scott said: "There is clearly a need for the official representatives of the Christian churches to make known their attitude not only towards the Anti-Indian Boycott, but also towards the whole trend of events and policies in South Africa."

## Kajee Has No Popular Support

JOHANNESBURG.—"The Natal Indian Organisation cannot speak on a question which affects the Indian people of South Africa," says a statement issued by the Transvaal Indian Congress. "Mr. Kajee enjoys no popular support in Natal, where the people are fully behind the present leaders of the Natal Indian Congress. The Transvaal Indian Congress, representing over 35,000 Indians in the province, wishes to make it clear that the Natal Indian Organisation has no mandate from the Transvaal Indian community to represent them in the discussions with General Smuts in Cape Town."

"Both the Natal and the Transvaal Indian Congresses would welcome a round table conference between India and South Africa based on the resolution passed at U.N.O. But the Indian people cannot be a party to the negotiations which Mr. Kajee in his Pietermaritzburg Rotary Club speech said should be conducted with a view to obviating further reference of the matter to the United Nations Organisation."

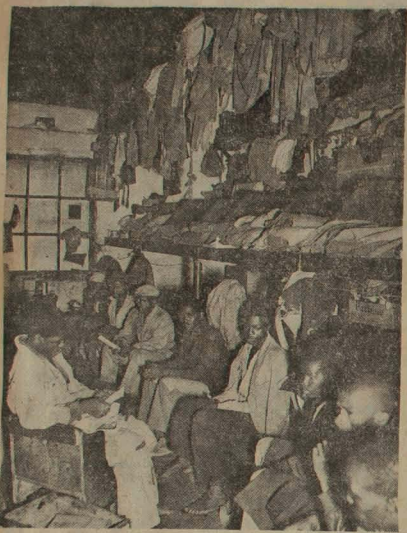
Similar views have been expressed by the Natal Indian Congress and by the Joint Passive Resistance Council.

Mr. Sandra Pillay, chairman of the Cape Passive Resistance Council, cabled in similar terms to Fandi Nehru, head of India's Interim Government, adding: "Mr. Ahmed Ismail has no authority from the South African Indian Congress or a mandate from the Indian people of the Cape, Natal and Transvaal to advise the Indian Government on their behalf. Mr. A. I. Kajee has no political standing among the people he claims to represent. The overwhelming majority of the Indian people support the advice tendered to you by Dr. Dadoo and Dr. Naicker."

"You may safely ignore the criticism of the European Press. These newspapers are the mouthpiece of European interests and upholders of white supremacy."



## MUNICIPAL "HOSTEL"



Although this photograph was taken on a sunny morning, a flashlight had to be used, because the room was so dark. Forty Africans live in this room. They work on shifts, so it is occupied day and night. There are no shelves or lockers. Altogether over 2,000 Africans live in this compound, which is typical of municipal compounds in Johannesburg. During the past six weeks there have been a number of police raids on such hostels to "screen" their occupants for passes, poll tax receipts, etc. Such raids have led to serious rioting.

## Kliptown Women Want Rationing

JOHANNESBURG.—The housewives and working people of Kliptown last week elected a deputation to place before the City Council Social Welfare Department their grievances about the Council's food vans; and their demand for rationing.

In their memorandum to the Department the Kliptown housewives point out that the food vans sent by the Council practise conditional selling. African families wishing to buy small quantities of sugar, mealie meal, rice or tea cannot do so unless they also purchase tinned foods and vegetables, for which their families really have no use.

The attention of the City Council is drawn to the hardships imposed on poor people by the abandonment of the rationing scheme and the lifting of price control on many articles. "For years we have been forced to buy on the Black Market," says the memorandum. "Now we are afraid that the withdrawal of the rationing scheme may also mean the Council will discontinue its vans, which provide us with some necessities. We want the vans extended, not discontinued." The deputation was composed of Helen Palm, Doris Morris, Rebecca Sekodo, Edith Adams, Jane Johnson, Selina Mtimkulu, Josie Palmer and Hetty du Preez.

## KLIPTOWN WOMEN DEMAND RATIONING

The women of Kliptown last week elected a deputation to place before the City Council Social Welfare Department their grievances about the Council's food vans and their demand for rationing. In their memorandum to the department the Kliptown housewives point out that their first complaint is that the food vans practise conditional selling. African families wishing to buy small quantities of sugar, mealie meal, rice or tea, cannot do so unless they also buy tinned food and vegetables.

The memorandum brought to the attention of the City Council the great hardships imposed on poor people by their abandonment of the rationing scheme and the lifting of price control on many articles. "For years we have been forced to buy on the black market," said the memorandum. "Now we are afraid that with the withdrawal of the rationing scheme the Council will discontinue its vans which supply us with some necessities. We want the vans extended, not discontinued."

The deputation representing the housewives and working people of Kliptown consisted of Helen Palm, Dora Morris, Rebecca Sedodo, Edith Adams, Jane Johnson, Selina Mtimkulu, Josie Palmer and Hettie Du Preez.

## ALEX. NURSES ON STRIKE

Fifteen African nurses, employed at the Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic, came out on strike against grievances about their training and employment, and because they said they could not get the Clinic authorities to listen to their grievances and accept their suggestions for improvement.

The nurses complain that their salary and uniform grants do not comply with those laid down in their conditions of service. They complain of insulting treatment by senior nurses and officials at the Clinic. After many months of trying to place their case before the Clinic authorities, a deadlock was reached, and the nurses then refused to work any longer. They came out on an attempted strike, and were dismissed.

The Alexandra Health Committee is at present meeting the nurses to discuss the position with them.

## SIBASA CASE BEGINS

The Supreme Court case in which Frans Rasimphi Sibasa, known as Sibasa the Fifth, and previously Chief of the Bavenda people in the Zoutpansberg District, is applying for the right to keep tribal lands, and other property, has started in Pretoria.

Chief Sibasa was recently deposed by the Governor-General, and Lucas Ratsalingwa put in his place as head of the tribe.

At the next session of the case in Pretoria on July 16 each side will bring witnesses to give evidence on tribal custom among the Bavenda on these matters.

## SHANTY SCHOOL TO BE STARTED

JOHANNESBURG.—A school for the children of the Alexandra Township Shanty Town has been started by the Squatters' Committee. In a large hessian shack built specially for the purpose. The Committee earnestly appeals to Guardian readers for donations of school benches, a blackboard and equipment, text books, and writing materials, or donations of money. These can be forwarded to The Alexandra Shanty Town School, care of the Guardian, 420, Empire Buildings, Market Street, Johannesburg.

## THE LEFT CLUB

JOHANNESBURG.—The Annual General Meeting of the Left Club, held at the Darragh Hall on Monday, May 19, decided to suspend temporarily the activities of the Club until public interest in its activities revives.

Mr. E. J. Burford was in the chair.

A donation of £50 was handed to the John B. Robertson Memorial Fund.

## THE LABCUR PARTY

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. John Duthie, M.C., speaking at the Provincial Conference of the Labour Party in the Transvaal described recent events in the South African Labour Party as "a gentle falling away of dead leaves."

Inkholweko.  
1st June issue.



# Boycott Conference a Failure

June 6  
(1947)

POOR ATTENDANCE DESPITE MUCH PLANNING

JOHANNESBURG.

THAT the movement to boycott Indian traders is declining very fast was quite evident at the Conference of the South African Protection Movement held in Pretoria at the end of May. This was to be the bumper conference of the movement. Yet the attendance barely exceeded 125 delegates, compared to the 400 of the first conference at Vereeniging.

### NO UNANIMITY

Any spirit of action or unanimity that might have existed at the formation of the organisation was gone. Spokesmen for the platteland farmers, the shopkeepers, the professors and other intellectuals engaged in continual bickering — about the statutes to be adopted, and the practical steps to be taken. The farmers reminded the Conference continually that they were not really concerned with the enunciation of principles. They had practical problems on the platteland. The shortage of gunny bags is becoming more acute daily.

### TRUE NATURE

Once again, the true nature of the movement emerged. The Conference passed a resolution declaring its unqualified and firm policy to continue with the struggle against the Indians, even if the dispute between the Indian and Union Governments is settled, and India's trade embargo on South Africa is lifted.

### NATS AND SAPS ENGAGEMENT

Even Nat and Saps supporters, who worked so amicably together on boycott committees at various centres, exchanged hard and bitter words on more than one occasion at the Pretoria Conference. Dr. J. Looock proposed the Conference send a telegram to the Prime Minister asking that the terms of any settlement to be reached between the Indian and Union Governments be placed first before the boycott movement for consideration and approval.

### TELEGRAM NOT TO BE SENT

United Party supporters felt it was more than the boycott movement could do to intrude in this matter. The telegram will not be sent.

### "A VELD FIRE"

The Mayor of Pretoria, Mr. D. P. Van Heerden, gave the conference and the boycott movement his blessing, albeit in a very mixed metaphor: "I hope the seeds we spread will bear good fruit, like a veld fire from the Cape to the Zambesi."

The Rev. H. F. V. Krieger opened the Conference with a prayer: "We thank God for calling us to this struggle in honour of his name."

### THE JEWS NEXT?

Mr. P. Hugo said with reference to the name of the boycott movement that he was not prepared to protect all Europeans.

"I do not mind protecting the Afrikaner, and as Afrikaner I include the English. But I am not prepared to join in or protect other strange European elements." The Jewish community was not directly mentioned.

### FIVE COMMISSIONS

#### FORMED

On the suggestion of Professor F. J. Labuschagne the movement formed five commissions. The Trading Commission will attempt to get wholesalers to alter their quotas in favour of European traders, stop travellers selling to Indians, and "oppose the Indian trader" in all possible ways. The Youth Commission will, no doubt, follow the Ermelo decision to get parents to instil an anti-Asiatic sentiment in their children.

The Judicial Commission will fight cases against Indians and advise the movement on matters of law. There will be also a trading and a propaganda commission, the latter to work out serious and "reasonable" anti-Indian propaganda. "These wild statements must stop," said Prof. Labuschagne. And soon after he demanded to know from the Conference whether "treason such as that committed by Drs. Dadoo and Naisker against South Africa in a strange country, India, could be allowed." "I only ask," he said, "whether we can allow them to remain here." And the audience yelled back "Never!"

Passive Resister.

June 6.  
1947.

Guardian

June 5, 1947

# Native Bill's Threat

## ENDANGERS ALL WORKERS

—Says I. Wolfson

JOHANNESBURG.—"Trade unionism is indivisible. As surely as the Government has attacked African Trade Unions by means of the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill, so will the attack be switched against the White, Coloured and Indian workers of South Africa when it suits the employing class."

This is the warning in the statement issued by Mr. I. Wolfson, a member of the National Executive of the South African Trades and Labour Council, on the proposed bill to "regulate and control" African trade unions.

Mr. Wolfson says in his opinion the mere fact the Government has published the Bill is a clear sign of its intention to proceed with the most outrageous piece of legislation ever suggested in South Africa.

"I say this advisedly, based on the experience of the trade unions in the past when industrial legislation was to be enacted.

"Often the Government ignored the views of the trade union movement, particularly when rules and regulations aimed to crib and confine the trade unions and to curb their activities were to be put on the statute book.

"Freedom to organise is every day being whittled down and filched away, against all principles of democracy."

By publishing this Bill, says Mr. Wolfson, the Government is making known its intentions to prevent African trade unions from being formed. Its intention is to maintain the cheap low-paid African labour policy of the gold mines and farming interests, and to obstruct the growing unity and co-operation of the workers shown in the strong fight for the rights of African workers put up by the trade union movement of South Africa.

"In such a situation, the Government, well versed in the politics of

divide and rule, will cleverly try to play off one section of workers against another, to seek support in trade union ranks for its anti-working class policy. It will look for "moderate" and "responsible" leaders who will give the green light to more legislation against the African Trade Union Movement.

"The Bill threatens not only African trade unions, but is a direct threat to the members of registered unions, whose leaders may toy with the idea that their unions are safe because their members have a different skin colour to the African workers."

"The restrictions imposed against African workers and their



I. WOLFSON.

unions under this Bill will eventually be imposed on all workers.

"I appeal to every trade unionist in South Africa who values his democratic rights, to oppose the Native Conciliation Bill, which is against the principles of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council Workers' Charter.

"THE BILL SHOULD BE AN EXHIBIT IN A MUSEUM WITH HITLER'S LABOUR FRONT LAWS AND MUSSOLINI'S LABOUR COOPERATION LAWS, TO SHOW THE CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE THREE."



# "BURY THE BILL"

JOHANNESBURG.—"Conference calls on the Government to withdraw the proposed Bill to regulate African trade unions and to amend the Industrial Conciliation Act (1937) so as to include all workers without exception" reads the resolution passed unanimously at the emergency conference called by the Council for Non-European Trade Unions last Sunday.

Attending the conference were several hundred African trade union officials and workers' representatives from Johannesburg, and

as far afield as Heidelberg, Witbank, Springs and Randfontein. A number of European trade unionists attended to bring the support of their trade union members for the fight against the bill.

African miners in blankets made their first appearance in the Trades Hall since their meeting in the same hall just before August last year, when their historic strike decision was taken. Mr. Dan Floome, Vice-President of the Council, and one of its delegates to the Dakar Pan-African Conference, opened the discussion. Here is what some of the speakers said:

A. Wolfson, from the Transport Workers' Industrial Union:

"This Bill is one to handcuff the African workers. The workers must tell Smuts to go and bury the Bill six feet under the ground."

A delegate from the African Milling Workers' Union:

"Hitler, Mussolini, Goebbels, Goering, Von Ribbentrop and their friends have risen from the dead. It is rubbish to talk about the Bill, and not act. We must levy ourselves to carry on the fight."

To the tremendous applause of the meeting, this worker then placed a donation of £1 on the table—the first donation towards the campaign of the Council against the Bill.

Others who spoke included the Reverend Michael Scott, Mr. G. Routh from the Springbok Legion, Martha Xaba from the No. 2 Branch of the Garment Workers' Union, and Mr. Gilbert Ooka. Messages of support were read from the Transvaal All Women's Union and the Reverend D. C. Thompson.

## 400 Jo'burg Unemployed Garment Workers

JOHANNESBURG.—Latest industry to be affected by growing unemployment is the clothing industry. Four hundred workers are now jobless, and further unemployment is feared in the next few weeks.

The conference of shop stewards of the Garment Workers' Union requested the Government to take immediate measures against the dumping of goods in South Africa; to grant protection to the section of the industry making women's clothes.

An embargo is asked for on importation by private persons of all classes of army clothing, unemployment in the industry being due—say the workers—in large measure, to the dumping of clothes, including army clothing, on the South African market by overseas countries.

The shop stewards recorded their deep dissatisfaction with the stupidity with which the Government is dealing with the serious problem of unemployment.

The Government is requested to introduce an Unemployment Insurance Act based on the memorandum presented by the South African Trades and Labour Council and supported by representatives of employers' organisations.

## 1,000 New Members for Labour Party

### GARMENT WORKERS AFFILIATE

JOHANNESBURG.—A conference of Shop Stewards of the Garment Workers' Union held in Johannesburg recently, decided, with one dissident, that the Garment Workers' Union should affiliate to the Labour Party.

Coloured shop stewards of the "B" Branch of the union were not present at the meeting.

In a letter to the Labour Party, the Central Executive Committee of the Union resolves to "establish the closest co-operation between our Union and the S.A. Labour Party." The Union will affiliate on the basis of 1,000 members.

A campaign is to be started among members of the Union urging them to become members of the Labour Party; they will be asked to join the branches of the Party in the areas where they reside; to form branches if none exist in their areas; and where this is not possible, branches of the Party will be formed on a factory basis.

#### PRACTICAL PROPOSAL

It is suggested that the Labour Party convene a representative meeting of shop stewards, trade union executive members, and rank and file trade unionists and workers generally, to recruit members and obtain support for the Labour Party "among the broad masses of workers in the mines, railways, transport and factories." The Garment Workers' Union is prepared to donate £100 towards such a conference.

The letter also states:

"Our union is extremely disappointed at the statements issued from time to time by certain leaders of the Party indicating support for reactionary anti-labour policies of racial intolerance."

A joint meeting between representatives of the Labour Party and the Garment Workers' Union, to discuss a plan of work in greater detail, is also suggested.

#### LABOUR PARTY CAMPAIGN

This decision of the Garment Workers' Union to affiliate to the Labour Party follows an intensive campaign by members of the Party's Council of Action among

the trade unions. A cyclostyled letter was sent out in March asking trade union executives to receive representatives of the Labour Party to discuss a "matter of great importance." Some unions, including the Chemical Workers' Union, consisting of many African workers, replied they thought "nothing could be gained by such a discussion."

About four unions, including the Motor Transport Workers' Union and the Liquor and Catering Workers' Union, have been affiliated to the Labour Party for some time.

From all accounts the Labour Party is going all-out to get unions affiliated to it as part of the pre-general election fever that has attacked all parties on the Witwatersrand.

## Nazi Seamen Allowed to Settle

JOHANNESBURG.—Among the German seamen who were prisoners of war in South Africa and were later given permission by the Government to settle in this country are many who were formerly leading Nazi followers and sympathisers.

There is Second Officer Hans Warnke, who, it is alleged, was Gestapo Chief on the ship "Karl Fritzen." Warnke became one of the ringleaders in the camp in which he was interned. A close associate of his was Captain Hamann, who gave evidence at the inquest of Hermann Johannobers, the anti-Fascist murdered at the Pietermaritzburg camp, of Nazi court martials that tried and sentenced anti-Nazis.

Captain Hamann tried to deny the existence of these court martials, which were disallowed by the Government, after they had been conducted for some time during the war.

To-day Warnke lives in Louis Trichardt, in the Northern Transvaal.

## HOW TO END DEADLOCK

JOHANNESBURG.—At a Press conference given by Dr. Y. M. Dadoo on his return from India, he suggested the next step in the negotiations between the Governments of the Union and India could be that General Smuts send a highly placed Government delegation to India or, alternatively, ask the Indian Government to send one to South Africa.

Dr. Dadoo said the Government of India is preparing their report on the Indian question, which will be presented to the September session of the United Nations, but before making the report, India is willing to go to the furthest extent in helping the South African Government to implement the U.N.O. resolution.



## COUNCIL LOADS THE ACCOUNTS

### Costs of Moroka Township

JOHANNESBURG.—A resolution moved by Councillor Hilda Watts in the City Council that the Council immediately open negotiations with representatives of the squatters so as to reach an amicable agreement on the payment of rents and the regulations in Moroka and Jabavu found no scounders among the 35-odd Councillors in the Council Chamber.

"South Africa is drifting on to the rocks," said Councillor G. E. N. Ross (Nat.).

"Of 3,868 families in Moroka only 1,350 have paid their rent. Of the 1,300 in Jabavu only two have paid." His suggestion was that until the squatters agree to pay the rent of 15s. the Council should refuse to move any more squatters, and should cut off the services provided to them.

Councillor Light (Labour) started the Council and fellow members of the Labour Party by saying that 15s. is an outrageous charge for a piece of ground 20 feet by 20 feet, with the barest services.

He said he would do the same as the Jabavu and Moroka residents if asked to pay that amount.

"If you are going to provide amenities for the people," he said, "provide them first, and then charge the people for them."

#### HOPELESSLY INFLATED

Councillor Hilda Watts subjected the expenditure figures for Moroka Township to a searching analysis, and claimed they were hopelessly inflated. The figure of 15s. was fixed with one consideration only—that it be high enough to discourage squatting, but not too high to prevent the squatters from coming to the Moroka camp. In discussions on Moroka between Council and Government representatives, Minister Gluckman had emphasised that the Township is not to be regarded as a housing scheme, but an emergency measure, like a fire or flood, and it did not relieve the Council of its obligation to provide the African people with homes.

The capital cost of Moroka Township is £770,750. Of this £527,750 is for communal services. But the communal services consist of £35,000 for administrative blocks; £65,7750 for storerooms; £20,000 for houses for 10 superintendents; and £343,000 for trading stalls and food depots.

(Continued in page 4).

## COUNCIL LOADS THE ACCOUNTS

(Continued from Page 1)

"There is an amount of £20,000 for sports fields, but no Council department can supply details of what the field is to be laid out."

#### COST OF A CEMETERY

The remaining items are for latrines and showers and £10,000 for a cemetery, which, Councillor Watts said, should not in any case be charged against the residents of the township.

Figures for the maintenance of the township are even more deceptive and unreal. £356,251 is needed for the annual maintenance of the township. Of this £300,000 is for "sundry charges"; and of the latter amount £252,000 is for administrative expenses. But this figure is said to be based on existing services at the Jabavu camp.

What the Council figures do not admit is that this figure for the Jabavu camp includes amounts for water supply, burial charges, sanitary services, road maintenance and other items that are included as separate items in the Moroka estimates under various sundry charges; and so, by this method of computing costs, appear twice in the Moroka estimates.

"But," said Councillor Watts, "I am not really trying to show that the Council will make a profit from Moroka Township."

#### "FOR YEARS TO COME"

"Whatever the real figures, the cost of Moroka is so high it cannot be measured in figures."

"Moroka will be a charge to the people of Johannesburg for years to come—in crime, in degeneration of the tens of thousands of people forced to live under these conditions."

"The root of the trouble lies in the laws of the country—the Land Acts preventing the people from buying land and building their own houses, forcing them into reserves and slums. Till these laws are tackled the problem will not be solved."

## Bickering at Boycott Conference

### DELEGATES FALL FROM 400 TO 125

PRETORIA.—The movement to boycott Indian traders is declining fast, to judge from the conference of the South African Protection Movement held at Pretoria at the end of May. This was to be a bumper conference, but there were only about 125 delegates. (There were 400 at the first conference at Vereeniging.)

Any spirit of action or unanimity that might have existed at the formation of the organisation was gone. Spokesmen for the plateau farmers, the shopkeepers, the professors and other intellectuals bickered with each other about the statutes to be adopted, and the practical steps to be taken.

The farmers continually reminded the Conference they were not really concerned with the emancipation of principles. They had practical problems on the plateaus. The shortage of gunny bags is becoming more acute daily.

Once again, the true nature of the movement emerged. The Conference passed a resolution declaring its unqualified and firm policy to continue with the struggle against the Indians, even if the dispute between the Indian and Union governments is settled, and India's trade embargo on South Africa is lifted.

Even Nat. and U.P. supporters, who worked so amicably together on boycott committees at various centres, exchanged hard and bitter words on more than one occasion. Dr. J. Louw proposed the Conference send a telegram to the Prime Minister asking that the terms of any settlement to be reached between the Indian and Union Governments be placed first before the boycott movement for consideration and approval.

United Party supporters felt it was more than the boycott movement could do to intrude in this matter. The telegram will not be sent.

The Mayor of Pretoria, Mr. D. P. van Heerden, gave the conference and the boycott movement his blessing, albeit in a very mixed metaphor. "I hope the seeds we spread will bear good fruit, like a veld fire from the Cape to the Zambesi."

The Rev. H. F. V. Krige opened the conference with a prayer: "We thank God for calling us to this struggle in honour of His name."

Mr. P. Hugo, referring to the name of the boycott movement, said he was not prepared to protect all Europeans. "I do not mind protecting the Afrikaner, and as Afrikaner I include the English. But I am not prepared to join in or protect other strange European elements." The Jewish community was not directly mentioned.

On the suggestion of Professor F. J. Labuschagne the movement formed five commissions. The Trading Commission will attempt to get wholesalers to alter their quotas in favour of European traders; stop

travellers selling to Indians; and "oppose the Indian trader" in all possible ways. The Youth Committee will get parents to instil decision to get parents to instil anti-Asiatic sentiment in their children. The Judicial Commission will fight cases against Indians and advise the movement on matters of law. There will be also a Trading and a Propaganda Commission, the latter to work out serious and "reasoned" anti-Indian propaganda. These wild statements must stop," said Professor Labuschagne. Later he demanded to know from the Conference whether "treason such as that committed by Drs. Dadoo and Naicker against South Africa in a strange country, India, can be allowed."

"I only ask," he said, "whether we can allow them to remain here." And the audience yelled back: "Never!"

Professor Cronje, one of the original leading lights of the movement, was not present. He had been forced also to resign from the Action Committee. Pressed for a reason for this by the conference, Dr. Louw explained it was because the Professor had tried to "use the boycott movement to build certain other organisations."

Potchefstroom residents who attended a boycott meeting at Potchefstroom remember having heard a good deal about the Ossewabrandwag, but little about the boycott.

As a movement to boycott Indian traders, the South African Protection Movement seems to be on its last legs. As yet another body spreading poisonous racial propaganda in the Union it will probably continue, together with other bodies with similar aims, for quite some time.

## NATS WANT THEM TO BE SOUTH AFRICANS

JOHANNESBURG. Apart from Hilsenkorn, leader of the Nazi Party in South-West Africa, few of the Nazis recommended for deportation are known to the man in the street.

These are a few of the Germans on the deportation list whom the Nationalist Party and Dutch Reformed Church are trying so desperately to keep in South Africa: **Gulknacht**—Camp leader at the Andalusia Internment Camp. He was responsible for many acts of terrorism against fellow internees, especially anti-Fascists.

**Hoernisch**—former member of the Austrian Legion, and of the S.S. detachment that guarded the Dachau Concentration Camp.

**Breitung**—Adjutant of the Andalusia camp leader. Played a leading part in the "court" in the Andalusia camp that "tried" and sentenced fellow internees for alleged "Nazi sympathies."

**Buetow and Gauerke**—members of the Andalusia Camp S.S.

**Dr. Hertz**—connected with the South-West Africa Nazi newspaper, *Spaeth-Arbelt*—Front leader, Windhoek.

## U.P. YOUTH GO RED-BAITING

JOHANNESBURG.—Among resolutions passed at the joint Natal and Transvaal Conference of the Union Youth Front of the United Party (which decided to change its name to Junior United Party) was one making it an important duty to support the "United Party in its fight against Communism in South Africa."



# VIEWS ON BOYCOTT

## Majority Support at Emergency Conference

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. William Ballinger told the emergency conference of the Transvaal African National Congress held in Johannesburg last week-end that he was still not certain whether he would stand as a candidate in the Transkei by-election.

The Conference passed a resolution calling on all native urban and other advisory boards to adjourn indefinitely in support of the adjournment of the Native Representative Council.

During a stormy session of the conference, a small group of delegates led by Councillor P. Mosaka, and supported by Senator Basner, Mrs. Ballinger, M.P., and Mr. Ballinger, spoke against the Congress decision to boycott elections under the 1936 Native Representation Act.

A motion calling for a national conference to rescind this decision was defeated by 42 votes to 14.

**CONFERENCE DECISIONS**  
The Conference decided the Smuts proposals to members of the N.R.C. should be completely rejected; a campaign for full franchise and citizenship for the African people be embarked upon; the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill uncompromisingly opposed; and the Congress decision to boycott elections under the 1936 Act immediately implemented by a country-wide campaign.

Opening the conference, the Transvaal president, Mr. C. Ramahano, spoke of the deadlock between the Government and the Native Representative Council. "One section of the representatives of the African people are on strike," he said, "but the other section continues as if nothing has happened. Mr. Ballinger is the very man we are glad to see at this conference. The people of the Transkei have decided to boycott the by-election but in spite of this Mr. Ballinger says he will continue to contest the seat."

**XUMA SPEAKS OUT**  
Dr. A. B. Xuma made a strong attack against the executive committee of the Bantu Men's Social Centre which had refused the use of the centre hall to the Congress. (Continued in page five.)

### VIEWS ON BOYCOTT

(Continued from Page 1)

the Council of Non-European Trade Unions, and the African Democratic Party. "It is to be the policy of the centre we must pray to be saved from our friends."

Mrs. Ballinger told the conference she had taken every opportunity to tell the Minister that the Government is allowing a dangerous and unhealthy situation to develop. She had told him it was no use saying the country's policy was working well. "Since Smuts' Government came into power there has been a conspicuous narrowing of the liberties of the African people," she said.

#### "IMPRACTICABLE"

During the afternoon Councillor Mosaka bitterly criticised Congress leadership. When it was suggested he was not talking to the point Mr. Mosaka retorted: "I adjourned the N.R.C. Listen to the man who adjourns the Council."

Mr. Mosaka then said the boycott is impracticable. "If the anti-C.A.D. people had stood for the C.A.C. it would have embarrassed the Government as completely as the adjournment of the N.R.C. has today. . . We have a choice of killing the N.R.C. from within or without. We should choose our men and kill this animal from within. . . I want a clear lead."

Senator Basner said he thought the boycott resolution so silly that he did not think grown men would waste a whole day talking about it. He gave his assurance that if the boycott were carried through he would not stand for re-election. "But before you carry it out you will have the fight of your lives from me and from others."

Mr. Edwin Mofutsanyana pointed out that the conference was not competent to discuss the boycott except to discuss the resolution on it had as though a resolution on it had never been taken by the Congress. "We need discussion on the practical ways of carrying out the decision. The people of Jabavu and Morija are facing an advisory board election. We must tell them to boycott these elections."

Miss Josie Palmer said: "Give the people a lead and they will act." Mr. A. M. Lembede said his advice to Senator Basner and Mr. and Mrs. Ballinger was that they should not stand for any further elections under the 1936 Act.

Large numbers of delegates from Congress branches and other organisations attended this all-day conference.

# "MODERATES" ARE VERY QUIET

## Not Contesting Indian Congress Elections

JOHANNESBURG.—On the eve of the biennial elections of the Transvaal Indian Congress—to be held at the Indian Sports Ground on June 15—the small group of reactionaries in the Transvaal reported to be considering the formation of a new Indian organisation has still not come forward to contest the elections, and place its policy before the Indian people of the province.

Interviewed by The Guardian, Dr. Yusuf Dadoo said the opposition was afraid to come forward because of the overwhelming majority of the

Potchefstroom, Middleburg, Ermelo and Standerton. They report that even after the launching of the economic boycott there is no sup-



Indian people fully agreed with the present policy of the Transvaal Indian Congress, and have confidence in the present leadership.

"The handful of individuals who work hand in glove with the already discredited Natal Indian Organisation," he said "cannot come out into the open, but prefer to meet behind closed doors. They have no following."

#### DADOO'S REQUEST

Dr. Dadoo appealed to the Indian community to attend the election meeting in large numbers, even though no opposition group is to contest the elections.

"The press and General Smuts," he said, "will judge the support and following of the present leadership by the attendance at the election meeting. Every Indian must consider it a duty to attend."

He explained this election is being held this month, although the last elections were in October, because of the clause in the constitution now requiring biennial elections in the Congress. "The plan for re-organising Congress has been held up by the South African Indian Congress contesting the validity of the last elections in the Transvaal. Judgment has now been reserved in this case, and we expect the position to be clarified in a few days' time."

#### TRANSVAAL TOUR

Dr. Dadoo and other members of the Congress Working Committee have just completed a tour of the Eastern and Western Transvaal. Among the towns they visited are Bloemhof, Lichtenburg, Klerksdorp,

Dr. Shariar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, and Mrs. Shariar. They met again at the Asian Conference after being separated for 15 years. The Dutch Government had refused to give Mrs. Shariar a passport to enable her to live with her husband in Indonesia.

port for the suggestion that the High Commissioner should return or that India should lift the economic embargo.

Dr. Dadoo said he observed that European farmers were suffering severely as a result of the gunny bag shortage. "Whether they get bags or not," he said, "depends on whether they prevail on Smuts to remove discrimination against the Indian people, and to negotiate with India on the basis of the Nehru offer."



## African Sports Ground Threatened

JOHANNESBURG.—African sportsmen are disturbed by the news that the City Council Traffic Department has its eye on the Wemmer municipal sports ground, which it would like to convert into a surface parking ground, and for an extension of Rissik Street as a main artery to the south.

There is some scepticism about assurances given by City Councillors that the ground will not be swallowed up by the traffic department until an alternative sports ground has been provided.

The threat to the Wemmer ground has focussed public attention on the meagre, almost non-existent, recreation facilities for Johannesburg's African population of 371,000.

Elaborate "confidential" blueprints for new sports grounds and stadiums for Non-Europeans have been discussed by council committees for over ten years. Grandiose schemes for the centre and residential areas of Johannesburg have been promised.

Existing facilities consist of the Wemmer and Bantu sports grounds; six tennis courts on trust property; one war dance

arena; and a few open "playing fields" on mine property.

### BANTU SPORTS GROUND.

An African connected with the administration of the Bantu Sports Ground tells The Guardian that some time ago a commercial firm made an offer to purchase the grounds. The trustees of the sports ground, who include representatives of the Chamber of Mines, Stewart and Lloyds, the Race Relations Institute, and the Native Commissioner, had in turn offered to sell the ground to the City Council, at a third of its worth, on condition that the Non-European Affairs Department managed it in perpetuity for the sports and recreational needs of the African population of the city.

This offer was made two months ago, but nothing has been heard since from the Council.

The African Management Committee does not favour the Council taking over the Bantu Sports Ground. The committee of African members was not consulted about this proposed transaction. The members feel municipal control would mean the end of African responsibility in the administration of the club. "It would mean," said one member, "policemen at the gate, European officials where Africans could do the job very well; and far too many regulations."

Although the Wemmer grounds is under municipal control there are many complaints from the members about lack of seating accommodation, committee and change rooms and other facilities.

## Mr. Nana Sita Defies Ghetto Inspection

JOHANNESBURG.—When a Pretoria inspector appointed under the Ghetto Act to collect information for the compilation of the register of properties occupied by Asiatics wanted to examine Mr. Nana Sita's registration certificate and get information on the occupation of his property, Mr. Nana Sita refused to give the information. He informed the Ghetto Act inspector he was a passive resister and was not going to be a party to making the Act work.

The Act lays down a penalty of £100 or one year's imprisonment or both for refusing to give the information. In addition a fine of £5 a day for each day of continuing offence is provided for by the Act. Mr. Nana Sita was warned his refusal may lead to prosecution against him.

Mr. Nana Sita is a well known passive resistance leader in the Transvaal, and served as acting chairman of the Council in the absence of Dr. Dadoo.

## TENANTS EVICTED AT BENONI

JOHANNESBURG.—A number of Coloured and African families were evicted from a double storey building in Amphill Avenue, Benoni as the premises were being demolished.

The tenants had been warned to leave, but because they had nowhere to go, they remained in the building until the demolition squad arrived.

Before the roof could be removed furniture on the second floor had to be deposited on the pavement, where the owners huddled about it for the rest of the day and night.

## Student Victims of Portuguese Fascism

JOHANNESBURG.—Portuguese youth and students are to-day the chief victims of Portuguese fascism. Ever since the Juvenile Democratic Unity movement was formed, its leaders have been victimised by the Salazar Government.

Recently more than 50 young people were arrested and imprisoned without trial. One of them tried to use the law of "habes corpus" granted by Salazar at the time of the elections for the national assembly in 1945. His plea was denied by the Supreme Court on grounds it was incompetent to interfere with the political police.

On April 29, medical students of Lisbon University were holding a meeting in the medical school. The presence of the Director, when the political police attacked the faculty. The Director was beaten up as he attempted to prevent their entry. The police assaulted everyone indiscriminately with their batons. A student was killed, and one girl had to have a breast amputated.

In a technical institute in Lisbon the Director, a large landowner, summons the police whenever he suspects students are holding a meeting. On one occasion 40 police in civilian clothes appeared in the Institute, while an armoured car filled with armed police stood guard at the back entrance, ready for action.

The youth and student movement have continued to organise in the face of their difficulties. A student manifesto issued to explain the horrible massacre of April 29 maintained the Salazar Government is attempting to convince the people of Portugal that the youth movement is connected with the recent Lisbon strikes.

## LABOUR CANDIDATE FOR BENONI

JOHANNESBURG.—The Benoni branch of the Labour Party has put forward the name of Dr. T. W. B. Osborn as Labour candidate in the Benoni by-election.

## XUMA ON SQUATTERS

JOHANNESBURG.—At the emergency conference of the African National Congress held in Johannesburg Dr. Xuma, Congress President-General, called on the squatters in Moroka and Jabavu to pay the rent of 15s. demanded from them by the City Council.

"The whole scheme," he said, "is a disgrace—inhuman and un-Christian. I, and the Congress, call on the people to resist paying this amount. They should not be so exploited."

Conference greeted this statement with cheers.

## Garment Workers Protest

JOHANNESBURG.—An emphatic protest against the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill is voiced by members of branch committees and shop stewards of the S.A. Garment Workers' Union in a resolution which was passed unanimously.

"The provisions of the Bill completely ignore the interests of the Non-European workers, European workers and industry as a whole, and is a creation of persons whose minds have become perverted by Nazi-Fascist ideas. The Bill is designed to enslave the masses of African workers in South Africa, to weaken the power of European workers; and, if enacted, to inevitably cause endless friction and industrial unrest among all sections of the workers."

The Garment Workers' Union has requested the Government to withdraw the Bill, and appoint a commission composed of representatives of the employers' associations and trade unions to conduct a thorough enquiry into all the labour laws in force, and to submit recommendations for a Charter of Labour based on the needs of the workers and general industrial progress.

### OTHER PROTESTS

The National Executive Committee of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council has urged the Government not to proceed with the Bill until the trade unions have a chance of considering it. A resolution of protest has also been passed by the S.A. Typographical Union, Johannesburg branch.

## Y.C.L. Mail Held Up

JOHANNESBURG.—It appears that the post office is holding up mail posted by the Young Communist League.

Of a large number of letters posted in one batch on the same day several were delivered a few days after posting, but the rest more than three weeks after posting, and only after a letter of complaint was sent to the postmaster-general. The letters of complaint has as yet not been acknowledged.



Inkhololeko.

2nd June issue

# Congress Calls On Advisory Boards to Adjourn

THE emergency conference of the Transvaal African National Congress passed a resolution calling on all urban and other advisory boards to adjourn indefinitely in support of the adjournment of the Native Representative Council.

The conference was held in the Trades Hall on Sunday, June 8.

The Conference decided the Smuts proposals to the N.R.C. should be completely rejected; a campaign for franchise and full citizenship for the African people should be embarked upon; the Industrial Conciliation (Natives)

## NO RENTS

He called upon the squatters of Moroka and Jabavu to refuse to pay the rental of 15/- demanded of them by the Council.

He appealed, also, for an end to personal divisions in the Congress saying, "The cause of Congress is greater than any of us."

Although both Senator Basner and Mrs. Ballinger spoke of the boycott as impractical they gave their assurance that they would not stand as candidates in the elections if the Congress decided to continue with its boycott. "But," said Senator Basner, "before you carry out the boycott decision you will have the right of your life from me and from others."

Mr. E. Mofutsanyana pointed out that the boycott decision had already been taken by a national conference of Congress. This emergency conference was not to re-discuss the principle, but to dis-

## TRANSKEI ELECTIONS

Mr. William Ballinger told the provincial conference of the African National Congress he was still not certain whether he would stand as a candidate in the Transkei by-election.

Bill is uncompromisingly opposed and the Congress decision to boycott elections under the 1936 Native Representation Act immediately implemented by a country-wide campaign.

A resolution to call a national conference to rescind this boycott decision was defeated by 442 votes to 14, although Mr. P. Mosaka, Senator Basner and Mr. and Mrs. Ballinger spoke against the boycott.

Mr. Ramolano said "One section of the representatives of the African people is on strike; but the other section continues as though nothing has happened. Mr. Ballinger is the very man we would like to see at this Conference. The people of the Transkei have decided to boycott the by-election, but Mr. Ballinger decides to contest the seat."

Dr. A. B. Xuma strongly attacked the executive committee of the Bantu Men's Social Centre for refusing the use of their hall to the Congress, the Council of non-European Trade Unions, and the African Democratic Party.

practical ways of carrying out this decision. "The people of Jabavu and Moroka," he said, "face an advisory Board election. It is for this conference to tell them to boycott it!"

The overwhelming majority of speakers from the floor supported the boycott decision.

## ORLANDO BOARD ADJOURNS

The Advisory Board of Orlando, largest African township in South Africa, decided at its meeting last Wednesday night to adjourn indefinitely. It demands the Johannesburg City Council define the Board's functions.

## PRAGUE YOUTH FESTIVAL

Several young South Africans are to take part in the International Youth Festival organised by the World Federation of Democratic Youth in Prague, Czechoslovakia from July 20 to August 17 this year. Among them will be Ahmed Kadirado, 18 year old Passive Resister; and a number of Indian, African and European students at present studying at Universities in Great Britain.

Some of the South Africans will later join reconstruction brigades in Hungary and Yugoslavia.

Thousands of young people from almost every country in the world, including the most distant, will meet at the Festival. The programme will include sports competitions; choir, folk dance and theatre performances, exhibitions of the life of the youth in different countries; camp fires; visits to factories and Czech mines and youth meetings and discussions.

## DEPORT NAZIS FROM S.A.

As a result of strong pressure on the government from the National Joint Ex-services Committee, which includes the Springbok Legion, General Smuts announced recently in Parliament that the government has decided to deport 254 Nazis in South Africa, who were recommended for deportation by the Deportation Commission.

This Commission was appointed in March 1946. It had to recommend for deportation any enemy alien who was a leader of or took an active part in Nazi activity in South Africa.

Among the Nazis on the deportation list of 274 Germans from South Africa and South West Africa are people such as Hirsckorn, leader of the Nazi party in South West; Hoernisch, known as a member of the S.S. detachment that guarded the Duijns concentration camp; and many members of Nazi underground organisations in South African internment camps.

### ANTI-FASCIST INCLUDED

Scandal of the deportation of Nazis is the fact that the name of Kurt Rath — anti-fascist since 1920 — has been included in the list of Germans to be deported.

Kurt Rath came to South Africa as a refugee from Hitler's terror in 1936, and has worked in the anti-fascist movement ever since.

Representations are being made to the Minister on his behalf by South African democrats.

## EAST AFRICAN STUDENTS TO STUDY IN INDIA

At the request of African leaders in East Africa the government of India has offered bursaries to five students from East Africa to enable them to study for degrees or diplomas in India. These students will leave for India shortly. The bursaries consist of 200 rupees (£16) a month.







# THE WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH

By RUTH FIRST

(A delegate from South Africa to the World Youth last year.)

To the International Youth Festival to be held in Prague during July and August this year will come thousands of participants and visitors from every corner of the globe . . . from Mongolia to Mexico, from Trinidad to even our own country, South Africa. The best of world youths' sport and culture will meet in this beautiful ancient city in the heart of Europe, the capital of the new Republic of Czechoslovakia, to place on record once again their determination that the youth of the world shall co-operate and work together for a bright future and a lasting peace.

The Festival has been organised by the World Federation of Democratic Youth, formed in the months immediately following the end of the war at the World Youth Conference held in London. This was not the first youth international to be formed; there had been others before the war, both youth and student, but with the invasion of Europe and mobilisation for war their decline could not be prevented, and contact between young people of different countries was inevitably severed.

At times, in the history of previous youth and student internationals there had been confusion and mistakes. The rise of Fascism in Italy and Germany;

alimination of all forms of racialism and the spirit of militarism.

Believing that the solving of youth problems will ensure not only a free and full life to the rising generation, but will also pace the way for peace, the conference studied carefully and stated the needs of young people for full employment, democratic rights, freedom of worship and conscience; education; health and culture.

## COLONIAL YOUTH

On the needs of young people in colonial countries the Federation has been very explicit: "The first need of youth in the colonial countries is to be free and inde-



From left to right: Mr. A. Klopper, Miss Ruth First, Mr. Cassim Jadwat, and Mr. Harold Wolpe, who represented S.A. last year at the conference of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

pendent. The right of freedom for the colonial countries must be fully recognised by the United Nations Organisation, and specific guarantees should be given as to when and how this will be attained by each colonial country.

"Countries having colonial or semi-colonial territories should honour treaties made with their dependencies, and must honour their democratic and cultural rights.

"There is an urgent need for full franchise, civil liberties, speedy industrialisation, land reform, social legislation, housing, labour regulation and a really big expansion of services of youth. Education of a university standard must be available in the colonial countries themselves and schooling must be available to all colonial inhabitants.

"Youth in all countries must support the movement of colonial youth for their rights."

At the last session of the World Youth Conference, Guy de Boysson, young deputy in France's Constituent Assembly, was unanimously elected president of the newly formed Federation. Each country in which the youth movement is affiliated to the Federation has at least one seat on the Council, governing body between conferences, some such as the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France and China, have as many as six or eight representatives, depending on the size of their youth organisations. The headquarters of the Federation were then set up in Paris.

## FULFILLED PROMISE

Since November, 1945, the Federation has assumed the responsibilities handed over to it, and fulfilled its early promise of success.

It has given a great impetus to youth work and unity in many countries. To-day more than 45 million young people are affiliated—youth peasants, trade unionists, students, Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims, Conservatives, Liberals, Socialists, Communists

and non-Party youth; cultural and sporting organisations, scouting and girls' movements; temperance organisations, young Co-operators and young hostellers. A motley crowd, one may think; but all have found it possible—and necessary—to agree with the basic programme of the Federation for the rights of the young generation and all efforts for international friendship to preserve peace.

The Federation has applied for consultative representation at the United Nations, through representation on the Social and Economic Council. A World Conference of Aid to Spanish Youth has been held and support mobilised throughout the world to save the lives of young Spanish anti-fascists condemned to death by Franco's Government. A Commission visited Greece to observe and make known the terrorist activities of the present Greek Government, backed by American loans.

Youth brigades have gone to Yugoslavia to build the Youth Railway; and to other countries to help reconstruct towns and villages destroyed by the Nazis.

## JOINT DELEGATION

A joint delegation from the Federation and the International Union of Students has toured India at the invitation of the All-Indian Student Federation. Arrangements are at present being made for a Far-Eastern Regional Youth Conference to be held in Indonesia this December.

Strong resolutions condemning South Africa's system of pass laws; and congratulating the Indian youth for their struggle against the Ghetto Act have been passed.

Youth bodies have continued to celebrate World Youth Week from March 21 to 28. Youth clubs in countries such as Canada and Australia have adopted clubs in Europe; sent them food and materials for rebuilding. Many delegations have gone on friendship missions to the Soviet Union, the Balkan countries and the new Europe.

The Federation is a sign of the strength of young people in the affairs of the world to-day. In countries such as Yugoslavia two million out of the population of fourteen million are organised in the People's Youth of Yugoslavia. Czech youth has dozens of youth deputies helping to make the laws of their country. In Indonesia youth has won the vote at the age of 18, and half the members of the newly elected Legislature are under the age of 30.

To the young people of South Africa where the youth movement is young and ill-developed, the Federation serves as an inspiration. Together with the United Nations, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Federation of Democratic Women, and the International Union of Students, it symbolises the desire and work of common people for united effort to prevent another war and build a creative life.



# DADO ON THE BOYCOTT "Time For Action"

CAPE TOWN: "No one in his right senses can quarrel with Betty Radford's contention that the Malanazis present a live and real danger to South Africa", writes Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, chairman of the Johannesburg District Committee of the Communist Party to The Guardian. (His letter refers to a paragraph in last week's "Topical", which was quoted out of context by the daily Press and misinterpreted as indicating that the Communist Party had changed its National Conference decision to support the African boycott of elections under the Native Representation Act.)

"I do not think there are many Non-Europeans who underestimate the Fascist danger. But I do object most strongly to Betty Radford's approach to the coming general election, which is not only misleading but which bristles with the very same danger she tries to avoid."

"Why is South Africa so fertile a breeding ground for Fascism? Precisely because democratic rights are denied to four-fifths of the South African population. A narrow structure of democracy can only lead to Fascist practices in order to bolster it up."

"The United Party and the Smuts Government are responsible by their policy of oppression and discrimination against the Non-European people for aiding and abetting the Fascist movement. A vote for the United Party is not a vote against Fascism."

"The call for the boycott and generally the resentment against

be a blow not only to the struggle of the Non-European people but to the United Nations and democracy-loving peoples everywhere."

## SEE COMMENT IN "TOPICAL" ON PAGE FOUR.

co-operation with the existing machinery, which has only helped to oppress them, is an indication of the Non-Europeans' reaction to the present deplorable situation in South Africa.

"The question before the progressive sections of the European people who desire to prevent Fascism is not to panic, and to cast in their lot hollis-bollis with the United Party. That is not the way to offset the Fascist danger. This approach can only lead to one inevitable conclusion—disunity among the Non-European people, discouraging them from boycotting the election and from the path of non-co-operation."

"Such a step would be suicidal. It would help to weaken the anti-Fascist forces inherent in the Non-European masses."

"It is the clear duty of all progressive Europeans to throw in their lot with the Non-European people in the struggle for democratic rights."

"There may be defects in the boycott plan, but that is no reason why it should be abandoned. Let all of us who recognise the Fascist danger co-operate wholeheartedly and without reserve to make the boycott plan a huge success and so make everyone in South Africa realise democracy for all can save South Africa from conflicts, chaos and fascism."

"The time for action is now," concluded Dr. Dadoo. "World democratic forces are with us. Appearance of Smuts' imperialism would

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## IMMIGRATION

# Skilled Workers Easily Absorbed Say Unions

JOHANNESBURG.—"Are immigrants from Britain taking jobs from South Africans?" was the question put to a number of trade unionists by The Guardian last week. In most cases the answer was "No." There is still a shortage of skilled labour in South Africa, and those immigrants who held trade union certificates have been easily absorbed.

The national executive of the South African Trades and Labour Council has recently been discussing the question of immigration. Trade union representatives are serving on the Immigration Council, and arrangements are being made for a representative to sit on the London selection committee. (Continued on Page 5)

## IMMIGRATION

(Continued from Page 1)

A recent meeting of the N.E.C. agreed that a circular be addressed to all affiliated unions asking how immigration was affecting their trades; and that representations then be made to the Government and the World Federation of Trade Unions on information received.

AN ASSET  
Among the trade union secretaries interviewed by the Guardian were:

Mr. E. S. Sachs, secretary of the Garment Workers' Union, said there had been no displacement in his trade due to immigration. Those immigrants coming to the garment and millinery industries were highly skilled craftsmen and an asset to the industry.

Mr. Cooke, of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said about 250 immigrants had come into the engineering industry since January this year. The majority of them had found work in Johannesburg. The acute shortage of engineering artisans experienced during the war had not yet been satisfied, and there was no great difficulty in placing immigrants in employment.

### WORKER'S PARADISE?

The majority of the artisans who came from overseas, apart from the moulders and bolters, were already members of the A.E.U., and there was no difficulty in absorbing them into the union.

He had been surprised to find that one of the difficulties had been to get immigrants to accept jobs at the wages offered. Many of them held out for more money than the average South African would expect to get for the job. They had evidently had painted to them in Britain a highly coloured picture of South Africa as a worker's paradise.

Many were concerned with the high rents they had to pay in South Africa; some paying in one month what they would in three for a house overseas.

among painters and plasterers in his trade, this would probably be the only section affected by an influx of imported labour.

Mr. C. Rehm, of the Motor Industry Employees' Union, said there was a great shortage of workers in his trade and all the immigrants had been placed.

The employers, through the Motor Trade Association, were sending a representative to England to serve on the selection committee; and this would probably ensure that the type of artisan needed in the industry would be selected.

Mr. C. H. Crompton, of the Iron-moulders' Society, said that not many immigrants were seeking employment in his trade. More artisan moulders were needed; but jobs as production moulders in the operative class were sought after by South Africans who had no opportunity to serve periods of apprenticeship. There was sufficient operative labour without bringing people from overseas.

Mr. W. Blake, of the Building Workers' Industrial Union, said as there was unemployment only



## Orlando Advisory Board Adjourns

### WANTS TO KNOW WHERE IT STANDS

JOHANNESBURG. — The Orlando Advisory Board decided at its last monthly meeting to adjourn indefinitely until the Johannesburg Local Authority defines the functions and duties of the Board, as provided by the Act.

The Board resolved that although members of an advisory board are the actual representatives of the people and the people's grievances are placed before them, and although the Act provides that local authorities should define the duties and functions of a board, the local authorities of Johannesburg have not defined such duties and functions in more than fifteen years.

It is understood that draft copies of suggested regulations for locations were circulated to the four advisory boards in Johannesburg—Orlando, Pinville, Western Native Township and Eastern Native Township—in May, 1945. The Boards and other organisations were called to a conference to consider the draft regulations in September, 1945, but the matter was shelved pending the findings of the Fagan Native Laws Commission.

#### MORE POWERS

Mr. W. S. Pella, a member of the Orlando Board, said in his opinion not only must the powers of the advisory boards be defined, they must also be widened. The boards must have executive powers within the sphere of their jurisdiction; they must be able to legislate, and must not have their decisions subject to veto by the superintendent and City Council.

At present board members who do not attend three consecutive meetings of the Board are disqualified as members. The people of Orlando are waiting to see whether the Council will use this provision to get a new Board functioning in this instance. A meeting of over 1,000 people, held in Orlando two days after the adjournment decision, fully approved this action of the Board.

## "NO ROOM TO SLEEP"

### Moroka Resident Will Not Pay His Rent

The Guardian has received the following letter from a resident of Moroka Township, Johannesburg's "solution" to the shanty-town problem:—

I live in Moroka Township but do not intend to pay the 15s. rent every month. Why must I pay so much for an empty piece of ground where I have nowhere to sleep? The stand is very small. I measured it and it really is 20 feet by 20 feet. I wanted to make a garden in front of my house, but then there would be only 11 feet by fourteen feet for my house.

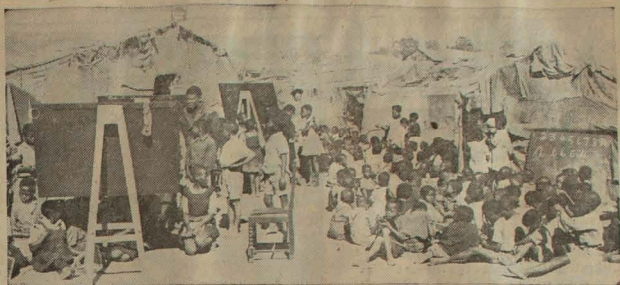
I believe we will live in Moroka for ten years, not five. The people of Pinville are still living in those tanks.

I am trying to buy corrugated iron for my house. You can't get sacks any more and they are no good for a house to last ten years. But ten pieces of second-hand

corrugated iron, 6 feet by 1 foot cost £8.

Even if the Council puts us in jail or drives us off the land so we must start a new shanty town I will not pay the 15s. rent.

I am an ex-serviceman. I knew the things they told us we fought the war for would not come without a long fight.



A view of a school of squatters' children being run by the Alexandra Squatters' Committee.

Three hundred and fifty children, beginners to boys and girls in standard six, attend classes every day, the majority of them sitting on the ground in the open air.

Three blackboards, ten benches, a few old books from sympathisers and a hessian shack dotted with big holes through which the winter winds sweep . . . this is the only equipment of the school.

An appeal issued by Mr. S. Baduza, chairman of the Squatters' Committee says: "The school is greatly in need of practical support and assistance. Our teachers must be paid. We need more equipment, and in this cold weather it would be a great thing to be able to feed the children at lunchtime. We make an earnest appeal through your columns for aid from your readers."

## A.P.O. Conference in Transvaal

JOHANNESBURG.—The annual provincial conference of the African Peoples' Organisation will be held on Saturday and Sunday June 23 and 24 at the Garment Workers' Union Hall, 13 Progress Buildings.

The Conference will be opened by Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, and Senator H. M. Basner will deliver an address at the commencement of the second session on Sunday morning.

Branches of the A.P.O. are urged to send four delegates to the conference; and progressive organisations to send fraternal delegates

## INDIAN TRADERS SUMMONSED

JOHANNESBURG.—A number of Indians charged with contravening the Licensing Ordinance of 1931 by trading in gold-proclaimed areas without licences appeared in the Magistrate's court last week. Their cases were adjourned for about a fortnight.

Twenty-five traders have been served with summonses on this charge.

Mr. Y. Cachalia, secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, told the Guardian the matter is being taken up with the Minister of the Interior and the Transvaal Administrator. It will also be fully discussed at a joint meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Passive Resistance Council.

## INDIAN WOMEN WELCOME DADOO

JOHANNESBURG.—A large meeting of Indian women at the Gandhi Hall welcomed Dr. Dadoo back to South Africa after his tour of India.

Speakers included Miss Zainab Asvat, Mrs. S. Patel, Mrs. Z. Bhyat, Mrs. A. Timol, and Mrs. P. K. Naidoo.

Dr. Dadoo spoke of the great admiration of the people of India and delegates at the Inter-Asian conference for the struggle of Indian women in South Africa against the Ghetto Act.



## JO'BURG'S BUDGET "A SERIES OF FOREBODINGS"

JOHANNESBURG.—Presenting Johannesburg's budget for the financial year on July 1, 1947, Mr. G. B. Gordon, chairman of the Finance Committee, pointed out that for the first time in the city's history total expenditure is approaching the £20,000,000 mark—the actual figure being £19,402,852.

Ordinary expenditure on revenue account has risen from £5,217,203 in 1940 to £10,326,891 in 1947-48. Mr. Gordon said the implications were clear—if the public continued to demand services on the same scale as at present, it must be prepared to pay for them, either by higher fees for services or by increasing the rate burden.

The continuous growth in public health expenditure borne by local authorities pointed to an urgent need for the State to make up its mind in regard to the nationalisation of health services.

### SERVICES FOR NATIVES

Expenditure on Native townships and hostels; the provision of social and medical services; grants-in-aid to charitable institutions undertaking welfare work among the Natives; and the cost of administering the Non-European Affairs Department showed an analysis that a deficit on the account of £151,784 had to be met from the rates.

The disquieting fact, however, was that there was a shortage of over 40,000 houses for the Non-European population and the Council's loss on housing schemes would continue to increase. Mr. Gordon suggested the burden be shifted, partly or wholly, to the employers of labour.

Councillor D. H. Epstein (Labour) said the budget was a series of forebodings—a warning to the city that tram fares might be increased, that the rates might go up. The budget, did not compare at all favourably with the one introduced a year ago by the Labour Council, he said. "Where is the election promise of the United Party to reduce rates? No progress has been made in this direction at all."

### EXTRAVAGANT

Councillor Legum (Labour) said the allegation against the Labour Party had been that it was extravagant, and wasted the money of the ratepayers. But within the first 12 months of the life of the United Party expenditure had not been decreased, but increased by over £2 million. If the Labour Party had been extravagant, the present regime was doubly so.

## "JEWS CAN RELY ON RUSSIA"

—Dr. Weiler

JOHANNESBURG.—"Gromyko's statement on Palestine at the United Nations is one of the weightiest on this subject in recent years," said Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler at a public meeting on "Russia and Palestine" organised by the Friends of the Soviet Union last week. The Coronation Hall was crowded with members of the Jewish community who had come to listen to the views of speakers from the Zionist Socialist Party, the Hashomer Hatzair and the Jewish Workers' Club.

Rabbi Weiler said Gromyko's speech had been hailed in Palestine as something quite exceptional. It was obvious that in future world Jewry could rely on the Soviet Union to treat the problem on the basis of justice and the inalienable rights of the people. He hoped progressives would press along these same lines for a solution of the problem.

Mr. K. Friedstein (Hashomer Hatzair) dealt with the emphasis placed by Gromyko on the establishment of a bi-national state in Palestine, and pointed out that this was the policy of his organisation.

Mr. E. Bernstein, who presided, pointed out that America and Britain had referred the Palestine issue to the United Nations in a spirit of delay. The problem was not yet solved, but would be fought out at the next United Nations' session.

Messrs. S. Butski, Leslie Cooper and J. Borwein also spoke. A collection raised £100.

## Commercial Travellers' Conference

JOHANNESBURG.—The tenth annual conference of the National Union of Commercial Travellers will be opened by the Mayor on Tuesday, June 24, at 10 a.m. at the Board Room of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, His Majesty's Buildings.

Resolutions to be considered by the conference request the Minister of Labour to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act so as to increase the benefits and cover all workers, including those whose earnings are on a commission basis; and urge the Government to increase the present cost of living allowances, extend them to cover all workers, and raise the minimum income group to whom they are payable.

A resolution proposed by the Johannesburg Branch supports the S.A. Trades and Labour Council in its demand for the fullest recognition of African Trade Unions under the Industrial Conciliation Act. Another strongly condemns the boycott movement at present organised against Asiatic traders. The conference will last four days. Delegates will be entertained at a Mayoral Luncheon, and a tenth anniversary celebration organised by the Johannesburg branch of the union will be held at the Selborne Hall on Tuesday, June 26 at 7.30 p.m.

### 309 CERTIFICATES

The first anniversary of the Passive Resistance movement was celebrated at Johannesburg's Gandhi Hall on Friday, June 13. Certificates of honour were presented to 309 resisters from the Transvaal who served prison sentences.

First to receive their certificates were Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and the Reverend Michael Scott. Four African resisters who served terms of imprisonment some time ago were received with tremendous acclamation by the crowd.

Speakers included Advocate A. Fischer, from the Council of Asiatic Rights; Mr. G. L. Carr, from the African Peoples' Organisation; Mr. Danie du Plessis, from the Communist Party; Dr. V. Patel, from the Transvaal Indian Congress; and Miss Z. Aavat, representing the resisters.



EMPIRE DAY  
MAY 24th

### SHAKESPEARE BANNED!

JOHANNESBURG.—Smuts at the University of the Witwatersrand have been told that a contemplated production by the English Department of Shakespeare's "Othello" has been banned by the University Council because the central character in the play is a non-European.  
*Cape Guardian, April 10.*

CHALLENGE

## THIS IS THE EMPIRE



### DID H.R.H. FEEL AT HOME HERE, TOO?

"Everywhere I have travelled in those lovely lands of South Africa and Rhodesia, my parents, my sister and I have been taken to the heart of their people and made to feel that we are just as much at home here as if we had lived among them all our lives."—(Princess Elizabeth's 21st birthday speech.)  
We wonder if the Princess saw this shanty in Orlando, near Johannesburg?

CHALLENGE

We

# Empire of Prisons and Shanty Towns

by a South African

"In our time we may say that the British Empire has saved the world first, and has now to save itself after the battle is won. . . ."  
(Princess Elizabeth's 21st birthday speech in South Africa.)

Let's look a little more closely at a corner of this Empire about which the heir-presumptive to the throne is so concerned on her twenty-first birthday.

This corner is a strange country called South Africa.

Here a South African found guilty of high treason was fined £75 with the alternative of nine months' hard labour. He had joined the British Free Corps, a Nazi organisation, to fight the Red Army on the Soviet Front. The presiding judge said, in summing up: "We accept your evidence that you had no feeling of enmity or hostility towards the Union or its Allies. . . ."

Here a book extolling the anti-war activities and sabotage of a certain group is openly published and sold on bookstalls with no government interference.

Here a leader of the Greyshirt National-Socialist movement, founded shortly after Hitler's assumption of power in Germany, moves freely about the country calling for "an organic state for the folk (people), a national-socialist republic in form and content, in place of the democratic, liberal, British-Jew parliamentary state. . . . the restriction of citizenship to Europeans of Aryan race. . . ."

But when 100,000 African miners come out on a strike for a minimum wage, and call for the recognition of their trade union, truckloads of police are hurried to the compounds and mine shafts to baton and bludgeon the miners back to work. Nine people were killed and over one thousand injured in this strike some nine months ago.

OFFICES of trade unions and ex-servicemen's organisations, political parties and homes of private individuals are raided; documents seized; and officials of trade unions put on trial—culminating in the trial on a charge of sedition of the Central Executive of the South African Communist Party.

Ministers and members of Parliament threaten legal action against the Communist Party, while organisers of the present boycott of Indian traders (with one of their slogans—"parents must deem it their duty to instil anti-Asiatic sentiments in their children")

May 24, 1947

May 24, 1947

print three eye-witness accounts of life in British Africa

are allowed to flout the country's laws and stir up racialism with impunity.

The reason for this curious set-up is that for all Smuts' help in drafting the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, and his reputation as a world statesman, spokesman of democracy, and liberal philosopher, his outlook and that of his Cabinet Ministers and party followers is really not very different from that of the fascists.

They all stand firm by the set-up of "White Supremacy"—a theory similar to the Nazi Aryan theory of the Herrenvolk.

In South Africa, "White Supremacy" means the vote for whites only. It means in effect that non-whites are excluded from skilled trades.

Africans can own only 13 per cent of the land in the country. They can live only in specified areas in the towns under municipal supervision.

Africans must carry a number of documents (called passes) and produce these on the demand of any policeman at any time.

Indians may not live in any of the four provinces of the Union other than the one in which they are born.

Africans cannot move freely from the countryside into the towns, but must obtain the permission beforehand of their employer, or a "native commissioner" . . . or be accepted by a recruiting agent as labour for the gold mines.

African trade unions are not recognised.

In certain areas meetings of more than twenty people may not be held.

LOOK more closely at the question of political representation in South Africa. In a Parliament of 97 members—all of whom must be white according to South Africa's constitution—seven, elected by indirect representation, plus four government nominees, represent the African people. Certain coloured voters in the Cape take part in the ordinary elections. Indians have been offered a very limited form of communal representation under the infamous Ghetto Act. They are at present rejecting it.

Africans have no voice on town or provincial Councils.

South Africa has a population consisting of 2,333,460 Europeans, 7,735,809 Africans, 905,050 coloureds, and 282,539 Asiatics (mostly Indians). Now work out for yourself what "democracy" means in South Africa.

ALTHOUGH South Africa felt none of the effects of bombing

during the war, apart from the blowing up by saboteurs of a few post offices, railway lines and synagogues, yet for many sections of the people the housing situation in South Africa is hardly less acute than in many centres in Europe.

In Johannesburg, a city of three-quarters of a million people, 70,000 Africans have "squatted" on open plots of ground in shanty towns of sack and hessian shacks to bring the acute housing position to the notice of the authorities. Their demands are expressed in their slogan: "Give us Land to Build our Homes."

The "solution" put forward by the Johannesburg City Council recently, has been to offer each family a piece of ground 20 feet square, on which they are to erect their own homes which must not be permanent, as this "emergency plan" is to last only for the next five years. The rental for the use of this plot is to be 15/- a month.

And the housing situation is critical for many more than these 70,000 squatters. Several families sharing a house, or even a room, is common in all the Council townships. In one of these townships in Johannesburg, called Pimville, people evacuated from a smallpox area in 1904 still occupy the same "temporary" tin structures erected some thirty-odd years ago.

A YOUNG non-European growing up in Smuts's South Africa, faces a future of dead-end jobs; scanty chances of education; shocking housing conditions; few opportunities for recreation and sport.

The number of swimming baths for non-Europeans throughout the country could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Compare this with twelve public baths for Europeans in Johannesburg alone. Almost all public libraries, museums, art galleries, theatres and sports fields are for whites only.

THE problems of keeping Princess Elizabeth's Empire together are of little concern to the vast majority of the people of South Africa.

They are concerned with winning elementary democratic rights; homes and a decent distribution of food; education and jobs with a future at a living wage; leisure-time facilities . . . and in general, all the things which 80 to make up a decent life.

And—for all General Smuts' attempts to stop them, the South African people will continue their struggle towards this goal.



# BIG PROFITS CAUSE RISE IN PRICES

## T.L.C. Says Govt. Must Take Action

JOHANNESBURG.—The rising cost of living; a Ministry of Food; the black market; and the problem of low wages were among the subjects discussed with the Prime Minister by members of the national executive of the Trades and Labour Council when a deputation, led by Mr. J. Calder, their president, met General Smuts at the Union Buildings, Pretoria, last week.

The deputation pointed out that the retail price index of the Department of Census and Statistics shows a rise of 39 per cent. in the cost of living since 1938; but this is not a true reflection of the rise in the cost of living. In the opinion of the Council the increase is far greater, and it asks therefore that the whole price index be revised.

The cost of living allowance payable under War Measure 43 of 1945 should be immediately increased, said the deputation, as the majority of lower paid workers have not received an increase in their cost of living allowance since October 1945.

The retail price index shows that the cost of living has actually risen since then by 6.9 per cent. In reality the rise in cost of living is even greater than this, as lower paid workers are compelled to buy small quantities of goods, and generally on the black market.

### PRICE CONTROL

Dealing with efforts to check the rise in cost of living, the deputation proposed the maintenance and extension of price control. It favoured a fixed price policy (that is commodities should be sold at a fixed price instead of on a percentage profit basis); and proposed a strict investigation into profits as far as possible, believing that this is one of the main causes for a rising cost of living.

The deputation suggested to the Prime Minister an immediate investigation into the possibility of introducing in South Africa a policy of rolling back prices.

(Continued on Page 5)

## PROFITS CAUSE HIGH PRICES

(Continued from Page 1)

### BLACK MARKET

Strong action against the black market was suggested. At present most prosecutions for black market offences are against small shopkeepers, said the deputation, but it was advised that behind the black market are really big business operators who blackmail small shopkeepers into black market activity.

Notwithstanding the refusal of the Government to ration food, the Trades and Labour Council reiterated its demand that essential foods be rationed. It proposed the extension of subsidies on foodstuffs so that prices can be lowered. The Government was once again urged to establish a Ministry of Food.

The deputation pointed out that attempts are being made to place the responsibility for the increased cost of living on the workers, and a cry was being made for the reduction of wages. The danger of such a policy was quite clear. South Africa is in reality a low wage country and the majority of workers earn very low wages. This led in turn to their low consuming power which could lead, and was leading to a serious depression.

The Prime Minister indicated that he would be prepared to apprise the Cabinet committee on cost of living on all these points; and a meeting between representatives of the Cabinet committee and the Trades and Labour Council would be arranged at some future date.

# Unemployed Queue Up In Thousands

## CLAIMS OFFICERS UNSYMPATHETIC

JOHANNESBURG.—Opposite the Municipal licensing offices, at the bottom end of Market Street, stands the daily queue of unemployed African workers, five or six deep, with its tail disappearing round the corner of Alexander Street in Ferreirastraat. The queue grows bigger and more unwieldy as unemployment figures mount steadily in Johannesburg.

Thousands of workers spend many hours in the queue awaiting their turn to reach the counter. More than 5,000 claims from African unemployed were dealt with in one week alone.

And no wonder, for by now 75 per cent. of canning workers are unemployed; 75 per cent. of soap and candle workers; 800 clothing workers (and another 800 are on short time) and over 600 leather workers (1,400 on short time).

All the unemployed workers in the queue — African and Coloured alike — have one major complaint. They spend the better part of every day in the queue to sign the unemployment register. African workers arrive at 10 o'clock in the morning and are still waiting their turn at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

### CONFUSING

To the majority of African workers the whole procedure is confusing. They do not know what benefits they are entitled to receive under the Act, or what their rights are, and it is clear they should be assisted far more than they are at present by departmental officials.

Workers and trade union secretaries complain that the claims officers adopt a most unsympathetic attitude towards unemployed Non-Europeans.

### HERE ARE EXAMPLES

In some cases African workers are paid benefits fortnightly instead of weekly.

Some workers have been registered for six weeks and have not received any benefits at all.

A number of workers have received less benefits than they are entitled to under the Act.

African workers have been disqualified from all benefits by the dictatorial attitude of Unemployment claims officers because the worker's unemployment card did not state the reason for his dismissal from work.

An African industrial worker out of work for four weeks was offered employment as a domestic servant at a salary of £2 15s., whereas section 40 (2) of the Act states that for the first 13 weeks of unemployment "suitable work" must be supplied—"suitable work" meaning work of a similar class and in the same group as the unemployed worker ordinarily performs.



## ANOTHER POLICE RAID

JOHANNESBURG.—Yet another police raid on the Wolhuter African Men's Municipal Hostel has taken place.

A hostel resident told the Guardian that large numbers of police arrived at 2 o'clock in the morning, kicked on the doors of the rooms to wake the men, ordered them to bring their passes and rent receipts with them and queue up in the open square. After their documents had been examined they were told to leave the hostel.

The majority of the men, many of them half-dressed as they had had no time to gather up their clothes, squatted on the pavements outside the hostel trying to warm themselves at braziers until they were allowed at six o'clock to re-enter the hostel to get the rest of their clothes, and fetch bicycles to go to work.

The Guardian informant said he locked the door of his room as he left. When he returned later he found the lock had been broken and his savings, £15 5s. kept in a money box, had disappeared. He is convinced no worker in the hostel could have stolen the money as they were all herded out of their rooms together, and he had taken care to lock his room.

A long queue of people with complaints of thefts of their savings and possessions stood outside the office of the superintendent the morning after the raid. The raid was carried out as part of the police "combing" operation for criminals and members of "chopper gangs." But resentment at the manner in which the raids are conducted and the handling of innocent hostel residents is mounting rapidly.

## £50 FOR A PASSPORT

JOHANNESBURG. — When they applied for passports to proceed to Dakar for the Pan-African Trade Union Conference, both Mr. Dan Tloome and Mr. Gana Makabeni had to place with the immigration authorities an amount of £50 as security.

On Mr. Tloome's return from Dakar they applied for the refund of this amount. They have been notified that the amount of £50 each will be refunded to them only if they surrender their passports, still valid until 1952.

## FIRST AFRICAN WOMAN DOCTOR

JOHANNESBURG.—The first African woman doctor to qualify at a South African university is Miss Mary Malahle, who has just passed her final medical examination at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Other Non-European medical graduates at this university are Messrs. Dewet S. H. Maqande; A. I. Kojee; E. R. Naidoo; A. K. P. Maiker; A. Baboolal; and T. W. Hoplon.

## No Confidence In Govt's Food Policy

JOHANNESBURG.—The all-day meeting to protest against the rising cost of living and the food situation, which was organised by the Mayor in the Selborne Hall in response to a petition of 100 voters initiated by the National Council of Women, was attended by a disappointingly small number of women.

Miss Eleanor Hawarden proposed a resolution asking the Government to "establish a Ministry of Food which will proceed to adopt a food policy to prevent malnutrition and bring the cost of living down to a reasonable level."

The resolution was defeated by 45 votes to 32, the majority of the speakers against the resolution expressing little confidence in any Government and expressing itself in favour of the meeting discussing "short-term and immediate measures to relieve the present food situation."

The meeting then proceeded for the rest of the day to discuss separately the position relating to questions regarding their price and supply to be handed over to the Mayor of Johannesburg for dispatch to the departments concerned.

The chairman, Mrs. Thornton Archer, said if satisfactory answers not received a further meeting will be called where more specific action will be taken.

## Buchanan Asked To Stand Down

JOHANNESBURG.—"We appeal to Mr. D. Buchanan, who has announced his intention of contesting the Transkei by-election, to stand down, even at this late stage, and so respect the expressed wishes of the African people on this question," said Mr. A. M. Lembede, president of the African National Congress Youth League, when interviewed by The Guardian.

Mr. Lembede made a special appeal to young Africans to stand by the resolution of the African National Congress to boycott all elections under the 1936 Native Representation Act.

"The decision has now been taken," he said, "and we cannot retreat from it. Congress must go all out to make the resolution effective."

A retreat now will deal a shattering blow to the African National Congress in the eyes of the people. If it is to remain their national liberatory movement Congress cannot now let the people down.

"In the past resolutions passed by Congress were not implemented; they were even ignored by Congress leaders. This time it is the whole people who are pushing the leaders ahead.

"They are moving, as witness the decision of the overwhelming majority of Transkei voters to boycott the by-election. Even Mr. Ballinger has admitted that the African youth of the Transkei are foremost in this boycott movement. We congratulate the African youth of the Transkei and call on others to follow their example."

## NEHRU'S MESSAGE TO AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG.—Pandit Nehru has sent a message to Non-Europeans in Africa through an observer representing Kenya Africans who attended the Inter-Asian conference.

It reads: "The world has witnessed suffering and misery in every part, but perhaps the people of Africa have suffered and been exploited more than any other people.

"They deserve not only the goodwill but the active help of others so they may raise themselves and have the full benefit of freedom and progress. In this task it will be the privilege of India to help to the best of her ability."

Referring to the Indians living in Africa, Nehru said they must always remember they are the guests of Africans and they must not do

anything which might interfere with the progress of the Africans towards freedom.

"We do not want Indians to go abroad and exploit the people of any other country. We have suffered enough exploitation in our own country and we want to be rid of it not only here but everywhere.

"I send my good wishes to the people of Africa and my fellow-countrymen in Africa and I hope that in the difficult days to come they will co-operate together to realise the great ideals we have before us."

## SOME AFRICAN "MODERATES"

JOHANNESBURG.—The daily press published last week a statement issued by a body calling itself the "Transvaal African Congress" which announced that it has decided not to adhere to the decision of the African National Congress to boycott the election of members of the Native Representative Council, and to adjourn the urban area advisory boards.

In a statement to the Guardian and the daily press, but not published by the latter, the Transvaal Branch of the African National Congress points out it is the body which decided to boycott the elections under the 1936 Act; and the "Transvaal African Congress," which issued the original statement, represents nobody.

"It has no branches, executive committee, or followers. This congress is hardly known at all as it never holds meetings or annual conferences. It can speak only for a few individuals in Marabastad, Pretoria. The main aim is to form a tribal congress of the Bapedi, but it has not even a following among the Bapedi tribe. This body, in fact, hardly exists at all."

Mr. D. W. Soppa, secretary of the Transvaal Branch of the A.N.C., points out that his body abides by the resolution of the national body, and considers any other decision on this matter as betraying the cause of African freedom.



## PRAGUE YOUTH FESTIVAL

### South Africans Will Be There

JOHANNESBURG.—A number of South Africans will be delegates to the International Youth Festival organised by the World Federation of Democratic Youth in Prague from July 20 to August 17 this year. Among them will be Ahmed Kathrada, young passive resister who served his prison term several months ago and who will shortly leave for Prague by air, and a contingent of at least 20 South African students at present studying in Britain. Ten of these students will also take part in youth reconstruction camps in Yugoslavia, Poland and Hungary. Young people from almost every country in the world will participate in this international festival. Some countries, such as Italy, the Soviet Union and Britain will send more than 1,000 members of youth clubs to Prague during the four week festival.

The festival will consist of sports demonstrations and competitions; performances by choirs and dancing groups, theatre and ballet festivals; camp fires and sing-songs; and exhibitions of life in countries throughout the world. Many of the young people will join the reconstruction brigades to rebuild Lidice and other Czech villages destroyed by the Nazis.

Among the sponsors of the festival who will visit it in Prague will be Paul Robeson and Ingrid Bergman.

Organisations and individuals interested in the festival should contact the Progressive Youth Council, P.O. Box 5468, Johannesburg.

## POLICE BLITZ ON SQUATTERS

JOHANNESBURG.—"Operation Alexandra" started on Monday morning at 8 o'clock when more than 550 police, including 100 detectives from Johannesburg and the East Rand, descended on the Alexandra squatters' camp in troop carriers.

A strong police cordon was thrown round the camp and a shack-to-shack combing operation began and continued for several hours. More than 400 were arrested.

The police action was a preliminary to the removal to Moroka, as was the case with the Tobaruk camp last month. A strong police patrol remained in the camp. It is estimated that there are now 30,000 people in this camp. The approaches of the squatters' leaders to the police command to

"U.S. Plot in Hungary Exposed" — page five, and "Vigilator" on "U.S. Aims in Europe," page three.

permit children to cross from one side of the camp to the shantytown school were completely ignored.

On Tuesday afternoon, however, Sir George Albu admitted at a Council meeting that only thirteen families had been moved to Moroka Township from the entire Alexandra shantytown.

## Mine Officials Want Higher Salaries

JOHANNESBURG.—In the last week or so the Mine Surface Officials' Association has made representations to the Gold Producers' Committee for an improvement in the present salaries of surface officials. The association, which represents surface officials on gold and coal mines, was given the assurance their representations would receive consideration.

This brings to mind the sharp contrast between the reception of these workers by the Gold Producers, and their policy of completely ignoring the representations for higher wages and better conditions of African miners.

Even the Anglican Diocesan Synod which asked General Smuts, just after the African miners' strike last August, to receive a deputation to discuss the grievances of the African miners, received from the Prime Minister the curt reply that he was too busy to receive them.

## WELCOME FOR CAPE RESISTERS

JOHANNESBURG.—A welcome reception in honour of the third batch of passive resisters from the Cape was given by the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council at the Gandhi Hall last week. The batch, which was welcomed by Dr. Dadoo, was led by Mr. Sandra Pillay, who said: "We are solidly with you in fighting the Ghetto Act."

## Bethal Advisory Board Adjourns

BETHAL.—The Advisory Board in the location of Bethal has adjourned indefinitely in sympathy with the adjournment of the Native Representative Council.

The Board adjourned a few days after the emergency conference of the Transvaal African National Congress which met to discuss practical ways of carrying out the Congress boycott decision, and urged advisory boards throughout the Transvaal to adjourn. A delegate from the Bethal branch of the Congress was present at the emergency conference.

## MORE TRANSSVAAL INDIANS SUMMONSED

JOHANNESBURG.—Six Indians in the Heidelberg area have received summons for alleged contravention of the Ghetto Act in that they occupied land which they are not entitled to occupy under the Ghetto Act. The matter is being taken up by the Transvaal Indian Congress.

## New Congress Branch at Zeerust

JOHANNESBURG.—A mass meeting at the Zeerust location square on June 15 unanimously decided to support the resolution of the African National Congress to boycott elections under the 1936 Native Representation Act. The meeting was addressed by Mr. D. W. Bopape, provincial secretary, and was attended by over 600 people from Groot Marico, Zwartdrags and the surrounding reserves. A branch of Congress was formed.

Speakers from among the crowd dwell on the many grievances of the people, among them the limitation of stock in the reserves, and very low wages at Zeerust. The average wage is 10s. a week. The municipality at present controls the registration of passes.



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## THERE ARE MORE BETHALS

—says REV. SCOTT

JOHANNESBURG.—Exposures of the conditions of the Bethal contract farm labourers have created a sensation here, and throughout the country.

Statements issued by the Prime Minister's office, from Major van der Byl's bedside conference, have promised Cabinet and Native Affairs Department consideration. Newspapers' banner headlines indicate anxiety as to possible L.L.O. and U.N.O. repercussions.

The Rev. Michael Scott, interviewed by The Guardian this week, drew attention to certain disturbing features of the Bethal affair as taken up so vigorously by Johannesburg's daily and Sunday papers. "We must not be deluded into believing it is only in the Bethal area that near-slave conditions obtain. I have requests from many parts of the country to investigate the conditions of farm labourers.

"It must be remembered that the State has all along continued to subsidise agriculture and its consequent abuse and the exploitation of farm labourers.

"The Native Affairs Department has acquiesced in these conditions for over fifteen years. Through fear of losing the goodwill of the farmers it has even gone to the extent of appointing them on to committees to handle the distribution of the thousands of Africans arrested for offences under the pass and immigration laws.

"The Government has connived at the immigration of labourers from Nyasaland by issuing them temporary permits and then arresting these 'offenders' who, at the expiry of their contracts, do not succeed in finding work or in finding their way back to their homes. They are then deposited across the border and have to walk hundreds of miles back to their villages.

"THIS THE GOVERNMENT HAS KNOWN ALL ALONG."

The Rev. Scott emphasises that these conditions are in many respects worse than slavery. "In this century, after the Declaration of Rights has been signed, there are still human beings who are obliged to submit to such conditions in order to maintain themselves and their families.

"Let it be noted that there are no labour laws applying to agricultural workers and no trade unions to take up their cause."

## Our Reporter Investigates

Last week The Guardian's Johannesburg reporter went to the Bethal district accompanied by the Reverend Michael Scott, to investigate conditions of farm workers and to follow up reports of ill-treatment amounting to slavery.

The Reverend Scott subsequently gave an interview to the Johannesburg daily press, and it has now been announced that General Smuts is personally taking charge of an investigation into the allegations of ill-treatment. Government interest is explained naively by the Cape Times in its front-page report on Monday: "The Government regards the matter as of the utmost significance, seeing that Native living conditions in the Union will be discussed at the September meeting of the U.N.O. General Assembly."

Below we give The Guardian reporter's description of what she found on her visit to the Bethal district.

It is not every day that the Johannesburg reporter of The Guardian meets an African farm labourer who, when asked to describe conditions on the farm on which he works, silently takes off his shirt to show large weals and scars and arms. He explains he was sears whipped on his back, shoulders and arms by foremen, and whipped with a sjambok. He cannot really explain why. He knows that after the whipping he came in to the town to buy a charge with the magistrate; was then handed 1s. 4d. by his employer (pay for several weeks' work) and told he was discharged. This is the story of "Work Nyellante", 15-year-old (note his age) contracted labourer from Nyasaland.

We met him in Bethal about a mile from the centre of the town as he was returning from a day's set work in a good gang, or even on a coal or gold mine, or in domestic service, or in industries in larger towns.

IT BEGINS  
Farmers in the Bethal district go in for intensive farming. For the last seven or eight years the potato and maize crops have been very good. As sufficient labour was not forthcoming from the surrounding area the farmers have organised their "Boere Arbeidsvereniging" which is mainly a recruiting organisation.

Recruiting officers are sent to the district of Messina where Africans from Nyasaland and Rhodesia cross the border into the Union illegally at Beit Bridge to look for work. The illegal immigrants are presented with an alternative: they may return to their homes . . . or sign a contract to work for at least six months on a farm chosen for them.

### JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

There are 40,000 foreign contracted labourers in the Bethal district alone. They have probably all signed contracts. But whether or not their employers have abided by the terms of their contracts, judge for yourself by this notice published in several successive issues of the weekly "Bethal Echo."

"Any member of the Boere Arbeidsvereniging who has assaulted, looked up or in any other manner whatever ill-treated any Native labourer recruited by the Vereeniging, or in any respect failed to carry out the conditions of the labour contract entered into between him and such labourer will have his membership of the Vereeniging cancelled and no further Native labour will be supplied to such expelled member."

Many of the contracted labourers try to escape. Quite a number succeed. To the farmer who pays £5 head to bring a contracted labourer from the north this is a severe blow. So, too, is the fact that at the termination of their six-monthly contract, few labourers wish to renew their contracts.

### "ROUNDED UP"

This ever-recurring shortage of labour is one of the reasons for a meeting in Pretoria barely a fortnight ago of farmers' representatives and members of the Native Affairs Department. It ties up also with the recent Government notice that foreign Native labour is to be "rounded up" in the towns and given the familiar alternative of returning to the poverty-stricken territories from which they came, or work on the farms.

set over them . . . In case they should try to escape.

Most South Africans know there is a permanent shortage of African farm labour in almost every part of the country. Low wages, long hours of work, harsh treatment by foremen are no inducement to Africans to stay on farms if they can

(Continued in Page Six.)

## At BETHAL

(Continued from Page 1)

get work in a good gang, or even on a coal or gold mine, or in domestic service, or in industries in larger towns.

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In future labourers who complete their contracts are to be interviewed by a board of eight people representing Bethal farmers and local coal mines and rural industries, and given this same choice. At the same time illegal immigrant labourers who have managed to slip away to the towns will be recruited to the farms again. And for a temporary period the shortage of farm labour will be met, the farmers and the Government hope.

### THEIR CONDITIONS

What are the conditions of these contracted farm labourers? They were eager to tell us.

They sign on for a six month contract under which the most handsome remuneration is £2 for 30 working days. The contract spins out to eight or nine months in most cases as Sundays and rainy days are not working days. At the end of this contract the labourer has £12. From this is deducted £3 1s. to repay the farmer for his journey to Bethal from the border of the Transvaal.

They are housed in barn-like buildings with concrete floors, often no windows, and no chimney or hole in the roof for smoke from the braziers or open flames in tins suspended from the roof with wire, which serve as lights. We saw not a single blanket in any of these compounds. The labourers sleep on sacks.

### WORKING HOURS

Working hours are long, especially at the height of the season. Some labourers get up at three o'clock in the morning and work till after sunset. On moonlight nights during the season work in the field continues till midnight.

Those workers who fall ill in the late afternoon — perhaps only an hour before knocking off — are not paid for the portion of the day they have worked. Those who fall ill for



several days receive no compensation at all.

More than one farm labourer summed up the conditions on the farms with the phrase: "There is nothing good."

Asked what improvements in their conditions they would like the replies came fast from all sides: "More money," "Better food, a better place to live in," "An end to foremen swearing at us," "Not to be whipped."

Informants told us there are better and worse periods in the lives of farm workers. During November and December, the peak farming periods, occur most cases of labourers being locked in at night guarded by "boss-boys" and dogs because it is at this time of the year the farmer can least afford to have his labourers deserting. Some of the most severe cases of ill-treatment of Africans have occurred as labourers were caught trying to escape from their compounds.

#### CASES OF ASSAULT

Even in Bethal the position has not gone unnoted. Towards the end of May this year Balhasara Johannes Brenkman, a foreman on the farm Kalabastontein, appeared in the Bethal Magistrate's Court on two charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

In one case there were five separate counts, in the second one the complainants were all African labourers employed on the farm.

One described to the court how he had been assaulted repeatedly with a sjambok, and had been bitten at the back of the knee by the dog set upon him. Another said he and another African had deserted the farm, were overtaken on the road twelve miles away, knocked to the ground, kicked above and below the eye as they lay there. None of these complainants wanted to return to the farm. All asked that their contracts be cancelled.

A third African said he and another labourer had asked whether they might not be allowed to stop work earlier as they worked till after sunset. He was beaten with a sjambok, taken to a storeroom, ordered to undress and beaten again, and then chained with some donkey chains, to another African and chased naked back to the compound, where the two Africans slept, still chained together.

#### DISTRICT SURGEON'S REPORT

The district surgeon, in his report on his medical examination of this complainant, said he found three lacerations twenty inches long across the back, a laceration over the shoulder blades another on the right thigh, wounds over the eye and one below the knee joint.

"The conditions disclosed in this case are tantamount to slave driving," said the Magistrate. "On a farm of 400 morgen 25 native labourers are employed and driven to work by means of the sjambok."

He endorsed the remark of the prosecutor that the number of such assaults in the district had been prolific. The foreman was sentenced to a fine of £25 or one month's imprisonment, and on the second charge, to a fine of £50 or three months' imprisonment.

A week later the same magistrate heard the case of an African assaulted by another farm foreman

#### WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE

These assault cases are nothing new, and have been even more serious in the past.

In 1944 there were two cases of homicide: Philip Lebowa and Frans Masai, both beaten to death while trying to escape.

A Government inspector has recently been appointed to supervise conditions on the farms in the Bethal district.

The Arbeidersvereniging is obviously alarmed that the frequency of assault cases will by no means help to overcome their labour shortage. But if a thorough inspection into labour conditions and legally imposed standards for employment of all farm labourers is necessary anywhere it is on these farms near Bethal.

Meanwhile the feudal farmer-tyrant continues to reign supreme on his own land. Nationalist and United Party caucuses listen to his voice from the platieland, and his vote will be eagerly solicited by both parties in the coming election.

# What Happened at Alexandra SQUATTERS' LEADER WAS TRICKED Council Breaks Faith

JOHANNESBURG.—Schreiner Baduza, leader of the Alexandra Shanty Town, told the Guardian this week how he was tricked into acceptance of the plan to move the Alexandra squatters to the Moroka camp; and how he and his family were taken to Hamaanskraal, Government settlement about 29 miles north of Pretoria, without any prior notice or written order from a magistrate or Native Commissioner.

## WHY FIVE PEOPLE DIED

The daily press has carried three separate accounts of what happened. But the true story of police action in the Shanty Town has still not been told.

On Monday morning of last week, when a large police force and municipal officials descended on the squatters' camp, the people refused to allow Mr. Venables, Manager of the Council's Non-European Affairs Department, to address them. They demanded that the whole camp be removed to Moroka; that their leaders be moved with them, and that no attempt be made to "screen" them. The Native Commissioner agreed that the camp leaders be moved to Moroka.

#### WHAT VENABLES SAID

He and a group of police came to Baduza's shack first thing on Tuesday morning, and asked him to enrol for Moroka. He did so. His shack was demolished and his belongings piled on to a municipal lorry. He and his family and a group of followers got on to a private lorry and set out in the direction of Moroka Township. When he arrived there he was met by Mr. Venables standing at the entrance who told him the lorry with his belongings had not yet arrived, and he had best go back along the same route to look for it.

At this stage Mr. Baduza was told for the first time that his application form for Moroka Township had not been accepted.

On his way back to Alexandra Township his lorry was intercepted before the entrance to the Township by the Native Commissioner and a group of police officials who ordered him to go to Hamaanskraal. He was escorted there by 5 policemen.

#### BARBED WIRE FENCE

A barbed wire fence surrounds Hamaanskraal, one-time trust farms, but now converted into a Government settlement to which 1000 Alberton squatters' families were taken three years ago when the police swooped down on them in the middle of the night to remove them in lorries to Hamaanskraal.

Prominent at the entrance is a notice in three languages prohibiting unauthorised entrance, and declaring that trespassers will be prosecuted.

The camp is over two miles from the nearest station. Baduza and his family have been given a tiny bell tent in which to live, although

there are a number of vacant two and three-roomed houses in the settlement.

#### MANY ARRESTS

Meanwhile in the squatters' camp, after the surprise removal of Baduza, there was much unrest. The arrival of the police last Monday heralded a fine combing operation to arrest men for every conceivable offence.

All the camp guards were taken into custody. A number of squatters were taken over the river in Alexandra to the transit camp in Lombardy Estates. One or two others were offered houses in Orlando.

On their rounds through the camp a group of police came upon an African teacher teaching the standard five and six class in the Shanty Town school. In front of the children they arrested him for a pass offence and took him away to a pick-up van.

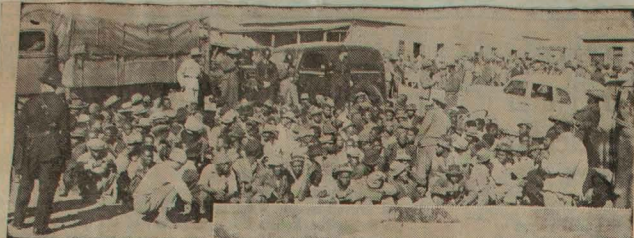
#### FIVE DEAD

Six people have died in the Shanty Town during this first week, five of them because they received no medical attention. The authorities disregarded an appeal that the clinic nurses be sent for by the camp guards.

Among the five deaths were children, three of them newly-born babies, whose mothers received no maternity attention.

The authorities have refused to move to Moroka the newly established Shanty Town school.





Alexandra Township was plunged into turmoil once again last week when police rounded up thousands of squatters for transportation to Moroka Township. Strong cordons were thrown round Alexandra's shanty-town and a shack-to-shack combing operation began and continued for several hours, but only 13 families were eventually moved to Moroka.

(Full story on Page 5)



## Dr. Dadoo Appeals To Smuts

JOHANNESBURG. — "I appeal to General Smuts to clear the name of South Africa and bring his government's policy in line with the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter," says Dr. Y. M. Dadoo in a UNO anniversary message. "Many months have elapsed since the United Nations Assembly, by a two-thirds majority, called on South Africa to conform to the principles of its Charter in the treatment of its Indian community," said Dr. Dadoo. "But the Union Government has stubbornly refused to carry these out and no practical step has been taken—despite Pandit Nehru's offer—to resolve the dispute with India.

"This is a serious state of affairs, which, if allowed to continue, will not only jeopardise the position of South Africa internationally, but is capable of causing racial conflict on a global scale.

"In the interest of South Africa, I call on all South Africans who love this country to join in a united demand to prevail upon our Government to put the principles of the Charter into practice, and thereby make General Smuts' signature on this solemn document a living reality."

## Cllr. Watts Stopped by Moroka Police

JOHANNESBURG.—When councillor Hilda Watts attempted to drive through Moroka and Jabavu Shanty towns on Monday afternoon, she was hindered by a number of African policemen who told Mr. Venables, City Council Non-European Affairs Department manager, had given orders that no non-resident was allowed to enter the camps. Miss Watts was accompanied by two American visitors.

One policeman said they had instructions to accompany Miss Watts to the superintendent's office. He jumped on to the running board and blew his whistle furiously, while the others waved hand-cuffs and tried to seize the steering wheel.

Eventually Miss Watts had to report to the superintendent's office. The Moroka regulations say no person shall enter the camp without the superintendent's permission, but members, officials and employees of the Council are excluded from this provision.

# Terrorism On The Mines

## Union Organisers Allege Assaults

JOHANNESBURG.—Terrorism of union organisers on the mines has reached a new peak, coinciding with the preparations by the African Mineworkers' Union for its general meeting, to acquaint workers with the terms of the proposed bill to "recognise" African Trade Unions.

A union organiser who went to Mines to distribute leaflets alleges he was assaulted by compound police disguised in blankets.

When he ran to the office of the compound manager he was badly assaulted, for the second time, in full view of the compound manager who said: "It serves you right. They should have killed you. You b . . . Communists."

When the organiser was taken to the mine hospital for treatment, he says he received an almost identical reception by the doctor who attended him.

The organiser was then escorted to the police charge office by two constables, when the compound manager denied all knowledge of the assault. The man had been badly hit on the head, arms and body.

Union organisers who go to mines on the West Rand are mathandled and have their leaflets confiscated.

Leaflets handed out at West Springs Mine have been torn up by compound police. Leaflets have been confiscated at Brakpan. At Simmer and Jack, union organisers were recently taken to the charge office, to be interrogated after the police had intervened during the leaflet distribution.

**AT MARSHALL SQUARE**  
When representatives of the Union went to Marshall Square to protest against this interference by the police they state they were told: "The police still remember the happenings of last August."

Assaults, interception by the police and mine spies are becoming part of the daily routine of the organisers and officials of the African Mineworkers' Union.

## Boycott of Advisory Boards

JOHANNESBURG. — In a statement issued recently the Johannesburg District Committee of the Communist Party records its full support for the resolution passed by the recent emergency conference of the African National Congress (Transvaal) calling on all urban advisory boards to adjourn in support of the adjournment of the Native Representative Council, and demanding franchise and full citizenship rights for the African people.

The statement continues: "The committee welcomes the action of those advisory boards which have adjourned in support of this resolution and calls upon all members of advisory boards to seriously consider similar steps, in the interests of the struggle for democratic rights for all South Africans irrespective of race."



## CITY COUNCILS

### Nat. Curfew Motion Defeated

JOHANNESBURG.—In the City Council debate on the crime wave Nationalist Councillor Dr. G. E. N. Ross proposed a nightly curfew from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.; the death penalty for all cases of rape; and the intensification of the pass laws in order to control the influx of Africans into towns and their movement within these areas. His motion received only three votes.

The Council adopted a resolution put by Cllr. Robinson, leader of the United Party group, drawing the attention of the Government to the "wave of lawlessness" in Johannesburg, asking that more European and Non-European police be provided, and that the traffic police be granted powers of arrest.

Cllr. Bennett (Labour) said the vast majority of Non-Europeans were law-abiding citizens. Harsh repressive measures were to be decried. The formation of civilians' protection corps was likely to stimulate racialism.

Cllr. P. E. Roussouw (Nat.) said one of the causes of crime was that "the Natives have too many rights and too much freedom." He thought all citizens should carry identification cards.

### "RAY OF SUNSHINE."

Cllr. J. J. O'Conner (Indep.), referred to by Cllr. Legum as the "Joker of the Council," gave as one of the sociological causes of crime "the agitation propaganda of a certain political party." He said the Council with its Moroka Township scheme was trying to bring "a little ray of sunshine into the lives of the Native people." (Laughter from all sides.)

Cllr. Hilda Watts said for every new arrest and repressive measure new criminals were being created because the causes of crime were not being tackled at their roots.

The power of arrest in the hands of irresponsible individuals would



Councillor R. Bennett.

cause more trouble. Hysterical racialism was being whipped up during the so-called crime wave.

The debate on the crime wave lasted over three hours.

## Training for Non-European Chemists

JOHANNESBURG.—The Witwatersrand Technical College has indicated its willingness to consider providing a course for the training of non-European chemists, if sufficient students enrol.

The Institute of Race Relations has sent letters to Johannesburg chemists asking whether they would be prepared to take Non-European apprentices from the beginning of next year.

An official of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa said that under the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act and under the Pharmacy Board Regulations, Non-Europeans were not debarred or restricted from becoming apprentices and taking a course. The difficulty so far had been that no courses had been provided by the technical colleges. While several Universities provided part of the course, there was only one that gave the full course and there was no guarantee this university would accept Non-Europeans.

A number of chemists in Non-European areas have expressed their willingness to take Non-European apprentices.

## Money For Roads

JOHANNESBURG.—The Johannesburg City Council has made £350,000 available for road construction during the coming year. This includes amounts for laying footpaths in suburbs such as Parkhurst, Forest Hill and Houghton; macadamising sanitary lanes in eleven outlying suburbs; and making roads generally at the request of ratepayers, in places like Kilpriviersberg Estate, Greymont, and other areas at the furthest borders of Johannesburg.

The amount to be spent on road construction in Non-European areas, where the need is far greater, is £25,000. This will now for exactly two short roads in areas to be macadamised.

## COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS CONDEMN NATIVE T.U. BILL

JOHANNESBURG.—Opening the four-day meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the National Union of Commercial Travellers, which coincides with the tenth anniversary of the Union, Mr. Robert Howie, president of the Union, delivered a most outspoken address on, among other subjects, the Unemployment Benefit Act and the recognition of African trades unions.

Over 1,980 members were represented at this conference. Greetings were sent by the Prime Minister, and fraternal greetings were brought by Mr. J. Calder, president of the South African Trades and Labour Council; Miss B. Page, of the National Union of Distributive Workers; and Mr. John Corroll, U.S.A. Labour Attache in South Africa.

Referring to the proposed suspension of the Unemployment Benefit Act, Mr. Howie said he ventured to suggest the real reasons for the threatened suspension of the Act had nothing to do with complaints from trade unions. It was to the credit of the Trades and Labour Council that the Minister was persuaded not to proceed with the proposed suspension. One of the criticisms of the Act is that it does not cover all workers who are most in need of the social protection of insurance against unemployment.

"MOST SERIOUS" On the proposed bill to recognise African Trade Unions, Mr. Howie said: "The main objection to the Bill is that it completely ignores the persistent representations of the Trade Union movement that African workers' organisations be covered under the present Industrial Conciliation Act. "Most serious is the fact that for the first time in South African history a law is being introduced which actually prohibits the formation of trade unions for certain groups of workers."

"The whole world is unanimous in its condemnation of the anti-combination acts which were introduced against the unionism in its early history in Great Britain. There can be no defence for similar legislation in our modern times."

OFFICE-BEARERS. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: President, G. Tucker; vice-president, M. Seligson; chairman, J. Myerson;



Mr. Arthur Gelb, N.U.C.T. national secretary.

vice-chairman, L. J. Cooper; national secretary, A. Gelb; national treasurer, I. Kahn. Secretariat representatives are: L. Blecher (O.F.S.), W. S. Davison (Natal), A. Anderson (Johannesburg), G. Berman (Pretoria), T. Wilmot (Eastern Province), and M. Kaplan (Western Province).

## TICTA CELEBRITY NIGHT

JOHANNESBURG.—The second annual Celebrity Honours Night of the Transvaal Indian and Coloured Teachers' Association will be held on July 10 in the City Hall.

## TRANSVAAL INDIAN CONGRESS ELECTIONS

JOHANNESBURG.—The last meeting of the working committee of the Transvaal Indian Congress decided that Congress elections will be held on August 24 this year.

## OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

JOHANNESBURG.—The Executive of the South African Trades and Labour Council has asked all affiliated unions to forward to it details of any occupational diseases contracted by their members in the performance of their work. This information is to be collated by the head office, and representations made for the inclusion of such diseases in the schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

## LOWER RENTS FOR SQUATTERS DEMANDED

JOHANNESBURG.—The Yeoville Branch of the Communist Party has sent letters to the three councillors representing the Yeoville ward — Councillors Colin Legum, A. S. Holland, and L. Spitz — urging the City Council to discuss with the squatters' leaders the whole squatter problem.

The Branch points out that the problem concerns not only the squatters and other location residents, but also the European population of Johannesburg. "We come into daily contact with the Africans in our homes and at our places of work," says the letter, "and unless he lives under reasonable health conditions the health of the whole community is endangered."

The letter suggests further that the harsh regulations for the emergency camp be immediately withdrawn, and that the rentals for the vacant plots of ground be made commensurate with wages earned.

## East Africans to Study in India

JOHANNESBURG.—In response to a request from African leaders in East Africa, the Indian Government has decided this year to award five scholarships to African students from East Africa to enable them to study in India.

The value of the scholarships will be about 200 rupees a month (£16 to £17), and they will be tenable for a period long enough to enable the students to acquire the necessary degree or diploma.



## "Goldings and Kajees Must Be Exposed"

A.P.O. Transvaal Conference

JOHANNESBURG.—"The voice of Golding is not the voice of the Coloured man—it is the voice of the White Herrenvolk. It is high time Golding walked off the stage—the tragedy is played out," said Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, opening the annual provincial conference of the African Peoples' Organisation.

The conference, presided over by Mr. George L. Carr, resolved to call on the coming executive actively to participate in the joint committee of the A.P.O. and with the African and Indian congresses. Dr. Dadoo said the Coloured people are to-day called upon to come out with positive demands; the call for the franchise and opportunity in all walks of life. The struggle of the coloured people must converge with the struggle of the Africans and Indians for basic human rights.

### MUST BE EXPOSED

The Goldings and Kajees must be exposed not only by attacking them but by a positive policy for struggle put forward by the people. "There are Kajees and Goldings among the African people," said Dr. Dadoo. "People like Mr. Seloape Thema who are trying to play down the boycott decision must be exposed by the national organisation carrying out an active boycott campaign to prove the concept of Non-European unity, saying, 'No Non-European unity can be possible outside the realm of the existing national movements. The basis of co-operation is possible only by joint action of the A.P.O. and the Indian and African Congresses. The time has come when the joint committee of these organisations should consider convening a mass national convention in South Africa.'"

Senator H. M. Basner addressed the conference. Fraternal greetings were brought by representatives of the Trade Council for Non-European Unity.

### FRATERNAL GREETINGS

Fraternal greetings were brought by representatives of the Trade Council for Non-European Unity.

Unions, the Transvaal African National Congress, the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party, the Transvaal Indian Congress, the Passive Resistance Council, the Kliptown Bus Committee, the Tobacco Workers' Union, the S.A. Clothing Workers' Union, the Springbok Legion and others.

## PASS LAWS CONDEMNED

JOHANNESBURG.—Colour discrimination in South Africa was strongly condemned by the International Conference on Human Rights called by the National Council for Civil Liberties of Great Britain. The conference was attended by representatives of 15 countries, and concluded on June 16.

The India League of Great Britain presented the conference with a memorandum on Indians in South Africa.

The commission on discrimination on grounds of race, religion, language or nationality recommended that the United Nations Organisation prepare an International Bill of Rights, and that the Human Rights Commission should prepare ways and means of putting these principles into practice. The report of the commission commented: "There should be no laws which discriminate against any section whether directly or indirectly, because of race. Examples of such laws include the pass laws of South Africa, Kenya, Rhodesia and laws which prevent Indians in South Africa from moving freely from one area to another, laws which enforce segregation in any form; immigration laws which discriminate against particular groups on grounds of race or nation."

Other commissions dealt with anti-Semitism, sex discrimination and the freedom of the press. Copies of the resolutions of the United Nations, Unesco and the governments concerned.

Series of lectures on South Africa were successfully organised in London and the provinces by the India League of Great Britain.

## A PLAN NEEDED Trades Council Cure for High Living Costs

JOHANNESBURG.—"A nation-wide effort to increase production, combined with strict supervision of prices of South African manufactured goods and South African grown produce will be the most effective way to combat further rises in the cost of living," says the South African Trades and Labour Council in a detailed memorandum on the cost of living, rationing and food control.

The Council warns: "Failure on the part of the government to give recognition to these facts and to carry out the suggested policy in this memorandum is fraught with grave consequences. The N.E.C. of the South African Trades and Labour Council issues a warning to the government that unless effective steps are taken immediately to combat inflationary tendencies, South Africa will be faced with serious industrial upheavals."

"Although South Africa has emerged from World War II in better shape than many of her allies, there are unmistakable signs of growing inflationary tendencies of the worst kind, namely, in the people's food.

"The Council believes the authorities are not making the best possible use of the strongest weapons at our disposal to counteract such inflationary conditions.

"The antidote to inflation is the immediate introduction of a vigorous nation-wide drive to increase production, particularly of staple foods.

"There is no limit to such production for many years to come, provided we are prepared to acknowledge the urgent necessity to improve standards of living, standards of health and making available to all and sundry, an adequate share of the essentials of life.

### AGRICULTURE

The Council suggests the marked underproduction of milk, fruit, vegetables and meat can be eliminated by assuring farmers a guaranteed market for their produce at predetermined fixed prices, and the introduction of a State-aided amelioration scheme whereby small farmers particularly will receive advice and assistance on the expansion of present production. A total change in the present production and price policy of wheat and maize is proposed, aimed at drastically reducing the price of these commodities.

The Government should also sponsor and support the manufacture of processed foods such as margarine and food yeast.

### INDUSTRY

Linked with the desired expansion in agriculture, planned industrial development, so successfully carried out during the war, must be continued. "We stand for planned and increased production, we urge the Government to support all possible industrial development, and we reiterate that all attempts by interested groups and monopolies to pursue a 'restrictive policy of production' must be countered with all means at our disposal to prevent high prices and limited markets.

### DISTRIBUTION

"New methods of marketing agricultural produce are required to eliminate agencies largely responsible for the disparity in prices paid to the producer and those paid by the consumer. Food depots, food



Miss Anna Scheepers, a member of the N.E.C. of the Trades and Labour Council.

vans and feeding centres should be maintained and extended.

"City or Town councils, or public utility corporations, should take over the function of supplying the population falling under their jurisdiction with fruit, vegetables and dairy produce.

### THE RAILWAYS

"This Council is of the opinion that the present Railway policy is in no small way responsible for the rise in the cost of living.

"This State-controlled service has for many years set aside large sums for reserves, is paying high rates of interest to bondholders and is building capital works out of its own revenue, all of which is not justified.

"The Council urges the government to explore all possible means to reduce charges on freight and fares until prices are under control and the general upward spiral of living costs has been checked.

### PRICE CONTROL

"The Council is aware that the effectiveness of price control is being greatly hampered by the multiplicity of controls and the strong influence exerted on it by big business men who are members of advisory boards and committees and from whose ranks price controllers are selected from time to time. The Council suggests an independent economist be appointed to advise on price control matters; there be greater consumer representation on advisory boards and committees; the extension of the fixed price policy; the price controller be given greater powers to deal with black marketing, hoarding and overcharging."

This memorandum of the Trades and Labour Council is being sent to all unions and local committees, and to the chairman of the Cabinet Committee on cost of living, in preparation for a deputation to this Committee.

The Council asks all unions to hold special meetings on this subject, to explore the possibility of regional conferences in support of the proposals, and in all other ways to publicise them as widely as possible.

Guascha

July 10

1947



# WOMEN'S PLATFORM

## National Women's Conference Planned Transvaal Movement Grows

JOHANNESBURG. — The Transvaal All-Women's Union, the only existing non-colour bar women's organisation, which was formed after the recent International Women's Day celebrations, is making arrangements for a mass national women's conference to be held in Johannesburg in the near future. One of the purposes of this national conference will be to set up a national co-ordinating committee of women's organisations which can affiliate to the Women's International Democratic Federation.

Miss Joste Palmer, the union's energetic secretary, tells the Guardian that the new women's organisation has been enthusiastically received at women's meetings along the Reef, and in Orlando, Jabavu and Albertsville. In one area alone over 500 women applied to join.

Members of food committees in Reef towns are joining in large numbers. The union is at present discussing the possibility of establishing consumer's food co-operatives in African locations and townships.

It is also making representations to the Town Council of Benoni about the shocking housing conditions of the Benoni squatters' camps, where families are living in tattered remnants of tents.

In response to the decisions of the recent Council meeting of the Women's International Democratic Federation, the All-Women's Union has set up special departments to deal with and keep the Federation informed on the care and protection of the child; women's rights; and women in colonial countries.

Articles of South African handicraft for the International lottery of the Federation to raise funds are now being collected. An appeal is made to Guardian readers for donations of beadwork, basket work, sculpture and other gifts of national



RONA O'MEARA.

interest to be sent to the All Women's Union, care of 99 Shakespeare House, Johannesburg.

The Transvaal All-Women's Union was represented at the International Conference on Civil Liberties by Miss M. Jaspán.

Committee members of the organisation include Mrs. J. Mpanza (chairman), Mrs. Rona O'Meara (vice-chairman) and Miss Hilda Watts.

# Workers' Rights

## TRADES COUNCIL CONDEMNS SMUTS' SLAVE BILL

JOHANNESBURG.—The South African Trades and Labour Council has declared that the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill, 1947 is not in accordance with the Workers' Charter of the Council, or the Philadelphia Charter of the International Labour Organisation. It is contrary to the resolution of the S.A. Trades and Labour Conference, which called for the amendment of the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1937 to cover all workers. The Bill restricts the right of African workers to organise.

These are the conclusions of the committee appointed by the Council's national executive to examine the proposals of the Bill. Committee members were Messrs. J. Calder (President), I. Wolfson, G. McCormick, A. Merkel, C. Richards and J. D. F. Briggs.

The memorandum prepared by the committee is being sent to all local committees and affiliated unions in preparation for representations by the Council to the Minister.

The committee reports that it examined the Bill in the light of the Workers' Charter and the Philadelphia Declaration, as these two documents have a vital bearing on the trade union movement.

### WORKERS' CHARTER DEMANDS

The Worker's Charter demands a new labour code in South Africa to guarantee the right of all workers to be organised in trade unions, the right to strike and picket, and the prohibition of 'company unions' and all bodies engaged in anti-trade union activities and unfair labour practices.

The Charter demanded also the establishment of an industrial court to settle all disputes referred to it. The court should fix minimum wages and conditions, based on decent standards, without delay and free from legal technicalities. It should consist of a judge or barrister of the Supreme Court and an equal number of representatives of employees and employers. It should have jurisdiction over all employers and employees.

### PHILADELPHIA DECLARATION

The Declaration of Philadelphia adopted unanimously at the 26th session of the International Labour Organisation in May, 1944, at which the South African Trades and Labour Council was represented by Mr. W. de Vries, contains similar principles. It declares that freedom of expression and association are essential to sustained progress; the right to collective bargaining should be effectively recognised.

The Committee of the Council has carefully examined all clauses of the proposed Bill in the light of these principles. It finds the provisions of the Bill totally in conflict with them.

## Support for Boycott

VEREENIGING.—A large mass meeting of Africans from the Sharpville and Top Locations in Vereeniging unanimously resolved to support the African National Congress decision to boycott all elections under the 1936 Native Representation Act, as well as the election of advisory boards.

The meeting called upon the Vereeniging Advisory Boards to adjourn in sympathy with the Native Representative Council and in pursuance of this Congress decision.

The meeting, organised by the African National Congress, was addressed by Messrs. C. S. Ramahane, President of the Transvaal Congress), A. M. Lembede (President of the Congress Youth League), and A. F. Mda.

## Youth Festival

JOHANNESBURG. — Thirty-five South African students at present studying at Universities in Britain, including African, Coloured, Indian and European students, will go to the Prague Youth Festival beginning this month, according to information received by the Progressive Youth Council.

Attempts are being made to send to the Festival Mr. Victor Mboba, African law graduate from Johannesburg and vice-chairman of the African National Congress Youth League for the last three years. Mr. Ahmed Kathrada, representative of the Transvaal Indian Youth Volunteer Corps has already received his passport.



## UNDERPAID WORKERS

### DIRECTOR FINED

JOHANNESBURG. — The case against a director of Kossy Products (Pty.) Ltd., charged with contravening the Wage Act, recently concluded in the Magistrate's Court. The magistrate held that the firm had allowed employees to work 20 to 30 hours overtime a week, instead of the statutory 10 hours. The director of the firm, Mr. R. Levison, was convicted on 12 charges altogether, and ordered by the Court to pay to the Inspector of Labour £88 representing underpayment of wages, cost of living allowance and overtime.

On two counts of excessive overtime which were taken together, Levison was fined £40 or four weeks' hard labour. On nine counts he was fined a total of £75 or 52 days' hard labour and on one count he was reprimanded.

Mr. I. Mendelow who appeared for Levison said the whole tea and coffee industry was interested in the case, and an appeal is to be lodged.

## The Case of Moses Mafele

JOHANNESBURG.—Moses Mafele was walking along a street in Fordsburg on a Wednesday morning at half-past nine when a policeman stopped him and asked to see his pass. He had forgotten it in the pocket of another jacket at home. He told the policeman this. His excuse was abruptly turned down: "Jy jok; jy is een van die mense wat loop en steel in die nag." He was taken to the charge office and charged under section 29 of the Urban Areas Act as a vagrant. He appeared in court on Thursday morning in a large batch of "vagrants." He had no chance to give an explanation. His case was remanded till July 8, and he was taken to the Newlands police station to await his trial where he spent several days building a tennis court, in spite of the regulation that people awaiting trial cannot be forced to work.

Attempts by friends and relatives to produce his passes or bail money at the police station were of no avail. Then a lawyer stepped in. He managed to convince the police that Moses Mafele had the required passes, was employed, could not be a "vagrant" and had therefore been quite wrongfully arrested. So Moses Mafele was released—after spending almost a week at charge offices, in police cells, in the magistrate's court, trying to tell everybody that his so-called-vagrancy pass was really quite safe at his home. But no one seemed really interested.

And Moses Mafele's case is just one of hundreds and thousands.

"Guardian".

July 17.  
1949.

## "Deport Him" — Shouted Bethal Farmers

JOHANNESBURG.—Bethal, the small town in the Eastern Transvaal, which has had a spotlight turned on it by the revelations of the treatment of farm labourers in the district, could probably compare well with any small town in the Southern States of America just before, or after, a lynching.

JOHANNESBURG. — Racism, hysteria and hate among certain groups of Bethal farmers has reached a new peak. The Rev. Michael Scott was last week invited to Bethal specially to place his case before the farmers. He could read no more than a few paragraphs of his speech.

"Far and feather him" yelled a few members of the audience. "He is an Uitlander. Deport him," shouted others.

These were people with a bad conscience. They did not want to hear what others thought of their treatment of their labourers; they did not, above all, want to have to do anything about it.

### MICHAEL SCOTT REFUSED

The farmers of Bethal have demanded that Mr. Scott publicly withdraw his "unfounded allegations" against them. He has refused to do so. But he was given no chance to substantiate his allegations at their meeting, attended by about 1,500 people inside the hall and outside, listening-in to loud-speakers.

On the same day as the farmers' meeting, the African people held their own meeting\* at Bethal location.

They collected £17 to send six representatives to Johannesburg to state their case and views to the press.

They have demanded that they be directly represented on the Commission of Enquiry to be set up in the district. They asked that African witnesses in assault cases to be heard in Bethal within the next few days should not be released and sent back to the farms, as they are certain to be intimidated and their evidence interfered with.

### WHAT THE AFRICANS ASK

The African people, said their representatives when interviewed by The Guardian, are highly incensed by the insulting way in which they were referred to by the Bethal farmers. They make it clear they do not hate the farmers, but would co-operate with them if they were treated humanly. They take exception to statements such as: "The white man's word must be taken before the Kaffirs." "Why must our fingerprints be taken as though we were Kaffirs?" They consider that Michael Scott, far from exaggerating the bad con-

dition of farm labourers, has not told the worst aspects of the story.

### DOG SET ON HIM

On the very day of the meeting in Bethal, these representatives saw an African farm worker, his clothes in tatters, stumbling to the charge office to report that a farmer had set his dog on him. A number of assault cases are still in the Bethal hospital.

The nicknames given the farmers by the Africans are an indication to all of their reputations: Mabuila, the Killer or the Murderer; Mbaula, the Scorching Fire; Nkomyahlaba, the Charring Bull.

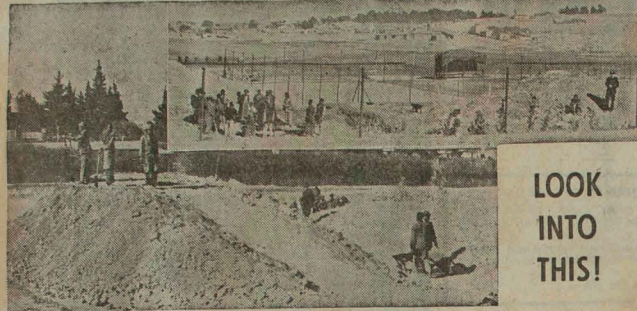
Although tension is running high in Bethal and the farmers' tempers mount steadily, the Africans, farm labourers and others place great hopes in the results of an investigation.

A letter has been sent to the Prime Minister on their behalf by the African National Congress, asking that they be represented on the Commission of Enquiry.



July 17 1947

## SCANDAL AT NEWLANDS POLICE STATION



LOOK INTO THIS!

JOHANNESBURG.—Unknown to all but few people in Johannesburg, and perhaps overlooked, or silently consented to by the police authorities at Marshall Square and the Department of Justice, numbers of Africans awaiting trial at the Newlands Police Station are being forced to do hard labour as they wait their turn to appear before magistrates on alleged contraventions of the law.

The story is told in these pictures of Africans building a police sports ground next to the police station, situated on the main road running through Sophiatown. These are not convicts. They are not dressed in prison clothes. They have not yet been found guilty, or sentenced. Many have been unable to pay bail, or released it; and they have been sent to the cells at Newlands for a week or so before being brought to court.

In the meantime the police station has found a nice sheep yard of building a tennis court and soccer ground. One policeman is paid to keep an eye on the Africans who labour day after day, in their own clothes (which are soon ruined by the dust and strenuous work), and without pay.

The whole arrangement is quite illegal. No man awaiting trial can be made to work if he does not want to. But this does not seem to bother the Newlands station.

It should bother the Department of Justice. We hope the matter is taken up.

## Ghetto Act in Transvaal Dadoo issues Statement

JOHANNESBURG.—Dealing with the conviction of an Indian under the provisions of the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act of 1946 and with numerous summonses issued against Indians in Heidelberg, Pretoria, Rustenburg, and elsewhere in the Transvaal for the alleged contravention of the same Act, Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, the chairman of the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council has issued the following statement:—

"It appears that the Union Government is bent upon implementing the notorious Ghetto Act despite the opposition of the Indian community. The present policy of the authorities in charging Indians under the 1946 Act is in direct defiance of the United Nations' resolution. The Government has thrown down the gauntlet and the Indian people have been left with no alternative but to take up the challenge. We cannot see our way clear to allow the Government to pursue its policy of racial discrimination with impunity.

"Unless the Government reverses its present policy there is a strong likelihood that the Joint Council will have to devise ways and means of starting Passive Resistance in the Transvaal."

## MRS. PANDIT CONGRATULATED

JOHANNESBURG.—The Joint Passive Resistance Council has sent a message to Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit congratulating her on her appointment as India's first ambassador to the Soviet Union. It expresses its confidence that the task of bringing about co-operation between India and Russia is in safe and able hands, and hopes it may still be possible for Mrs. Pandit to attend the next U.N.O. session to bring to a successful conclusion India's case against South Africa's racial discrimination.

## Threat To 979 Pietersburg People EJECTMENT ORDER

JOHANNESBURG.—Disaster faces one hundred and fifty African families squatting on a farm, Palmietfontein, in the Pietersburg district.

These people have occupied the farm for over a hundred years at an annual rental of £2 a family. The settlement runs two schools for about five hundred children, six churches, dipping tanks, and has effected many improvements on the farm such as the planting of trees and manuring of fields. These 979 people have now been notified they must vacate the farm within three months.

Negotiations with the farm-owner having failed, the people have handed their case over to the Transvaal African National Congress. The Congress points out that three months is quite insufficient time to enable the families to remove their settlement to an alternative place. In any case, they have nowhere to go.

The Congress demands these families be given notice of at least two years; that the Government provide sufficient land on a free-hold basis for those who can afford to buy such land; and on a quitrent basis for those who cannot afford to buy in free-hold ownership; that free transport from Palmietfontein to the new site be provided; and the residents be compensated for improvements they have made at Palmietfontein.

The statement says: "The Congress feels the Government must give this matter the serious consideration it deserves. Unless something is done to help these people, this incident might lead to unpleasant repercussions, and aggravate the feeling of frustration and dependency in the African community, as well as foment racial animosity.

"The Congress has been advised that the African and European Company Ltd. has given an option to the Government to purchase a number of farms for occupation by Africans, including the farm Blydrift. The Congress strongly urges the Government to exercise this option and purchase Blydrift or any other farm for the residents of Palmietfontein."

## Vereeniging Advisory Board Adjourns

JOHANNESBURG.—The advisory board of the Vereeniging Top Local Board of the Vereeniging Top Local Board has decided a week ago to adjourn indefinitely and boycott all future elections of the Board. This decision follows the holding of meetings in Vereeniging by the African National Congress (Transvaal Branch).

## Trade Council's Acting Secretary

JOHANNESBURG.—Captain S. Kemp has been appointed acting secretary of the South African Trades and Labour Council.

## MOROKA RENT STRIKE GROWS

JOHANNESBURG.—Reports that the next blow to be struck by the Council in its long-standing dispute with the squatters will be the arrest of foremost African leaders in Moroka and Jabavu are current in these two large Council-controlled hessian shack camps.

Municipal police are said to have warned Mr. Mtoi, the leader of the Pimville Sub-tenants' Association, he will be arrested if he continues to organise the people not to pay the 15s. monthly rental.

Meanwhile this rent strike, the biggest in the Union's history, grows apace. As hundreds of new squatter families are brought to Moroka in trucks from the Alexandra camp, they swell the ranks of those thousands of families steadfastly refusing to pay their rent and help enforce the Council's restrictive regulations. The Council complains fretfully that there is clear evidence the boycott of rentals is organised.

## PAID NO RENT

Among the rent strikers are large numbers who have paid no rent at all. Some families had to pay their 15s. for the first month of their occupation of Moroka because the Council refused to allow them to load their belongings on to municipal lorries or move into the camp if they did not pay. But now these families have refused to pay any further rental.

The Council, slow-moving and unwilling to consider the viewpoint of the squatters, is said still to be considering the finances of Moroka, and whether or not it will be possible to reduce the rental.

The leaders of the Alexandra Shanty Town were refused permission to enter Moroka although the Council had promised they would be admitted. Mr. Lucas Bokaba was taken to Hamanskraal. Messrs. Abner Kunene and Marks Ramutloa were given new houses in Orlando township, despite the long waiting list for houses. Mr. Kunene states he had demanded to be allowed to go to Moroka with his fellow squatters. He said the offer of an Orlando house was "intended as a bribe. I wish to make it clear it will not be bribed. I shall continue to struggle for decent and enough houses for all the African workers of Johannesburg."

## CZECHS. TO TRADE WITH UNION

JOHANNESBURG.—At the Geneva Trade Conference held on June 10, a commercial agreement was concluded between the Union of South Africa and the Czech Republic.

Seventeen states were represented at this trade conference.







# HE TALKS LIKE BEVIN

## Mr. Bottomley On Western Civilisation

JOHANNESBURG: "It will be a pity if Western Civilisation, as we know it, is weakened or pushed aside. Western Civilisation is to-day threatened by a certain ideology causing trouble in the East which, if it is ever able to rally the oppressed classes of the East, means we are in for a severe struggle."

"There is an urgent need for the countries that upon western civilisation to work together to maintain it. More than ever members of the British Commonwealth must hold together and consolidate good relations between all nations of the British Commonwealth."

These are the words not of a 'pukka sahib' in India; not even of Foreign Minister Ernie Bevin—but of his ambassador to South Africa for a month: Mr. A. G. Bottomley, British Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations.

These are some of the answers to questions Mr. Bottomley gave at a press conference held in Johannesburg a day after his arrival.

### NO STRINGS

Do you think there will be political strings to the Marshall Plan?—No, otherwise we would not be taking such a leading part in it.

Could the suggested proposals for the representation of South-West Africa in the Union Parliament be seen as an act of defiance of the U.N.O. decision on South-West Africa?—No. The Union government was only invited by the U.N.O. resolution to submit a trusteeship agreement on South-West Africa. Why did the United States take a stand against Britain and South Africa at the United Nations?—Political expediency. It is a good thing when you have trouble in your own country to look for trouble in another. I sat at the Assembly with the United States delegates. It was interesting to watch their manoeuvres.

Is the incorporation of the British protectorates into the Union a dead issue at the moment?—As far as I know there is no question of the matter being re-opened at the present time.

### DOMINION CONFLICT

What is likely to be Britain's position in the conflict between two Dominions—India and South Africa on the South African Indian question?—Britain's policy is to leave it to the Dominions. It will not be fair for her to side with one or the other. That is why Britain wanted the matter referred to the International Court.

Is the information service of South Africa House as bad as it is reported? It is good; only suspect because it is an official source of information.

Mr. Bottomley said his visit was not concerned with immigration. While in South Africa he will study state enterprise and South African industry. He will also visit Orlando Location, African Reserves and later

Bechuanaland and South-West Africa

His visit was not connected with 'strengthening strategic bonds between the commonwealth'; but was just a visit to find out at first-hand about a country that comes within the purview of his state office.

This is Mr. Bottomley's first visit to Africa.

July 24/47

# T.L.C. WANTS FARM LABOUR COMMISSION

JOHANNESBURG: The South African Trades and Labour Council will ask the Minister of Justice to set up a commission of enquiry into the conditions of African farm labour. This decision was reached after the Council had considered a report by the Reverend Michael Scott on conditions in the Bethal district. The Council will ask for representation on this commission.

It is felt by many trade unionists and also the Council, that investigation should not be confined only to the Bethal district, but should extend to agricultural conditions generally.

Support for the idea of a commission to investigate conditions is spreading rapidly. Mr. Morris Kentridge, United Party member for Troyville, said he was in favour of such a commission when he spoke recently to a branch of the Junior United Party.

Mr. Kentridge told The Guardian he was sure Mr. Lawrence would look upon this suggestion of a commission favourably.

### A PROBLEM

"The present shortage of farm labour is a problem. It is the duty of the government to try and secure for the farmer a reasonable return for his capital, in the same way as the government sees it as a duty to get a reasonable wage for the worker, and to protect the consumer . . ."

Asked whether he was in favour of farm workers being allowed to organise themselves, Mr. Kentridge said he was not prepared to say so. "The government has been obliged, under present conditions, to exclude farm labour from its industrial legislation."

Mr. Kentridge was not sure whether the farm workers should have a representative on the commission. "There should be some sort of enquiry . . . they should have the fullest opportunity to give evidence

. . . they should have some method of representation . . . But have even the Bethal workers asked for such representation as a body? Is it not just an idea put into their heads by some people from Johannesburg? . . ."

The idea of a commission, just a commission—and certainly no agricultural workers' unions—will probably delight Mr. Lawrence,

# 9,000 FAMILIES HOMELESS Legion Move To End Housing Muddle

JOHANNESBURG: Red tape, lack of imagination by the departments concerned and, above all, lack of the will to act, have been preventing Government authorities from cleaning up the most obvious and easily remedied housing and letting muddles. There are in Johannesburg over 200 empty houses . . . and over 9,000 homeless European families.

After months of campaigning the Springbok Legion last week managed to meet Ministers Gluckman and Musshet, Controller of Letting Ivan Walker, and Major J. C. Collings, Director of Housing. The meeting lasted over three hours.

Ivan Walker has now announced that he has issued notices for the seizure of 130 empty houses. Owners of and agents for empty houses have been informed that tenancy will be placed in the houses. If there is any objection, Mr. Walker will use his powers under the regulations to compel them to admit the tenants.

At a meeting of ex-servicemen on Monday night, Minister Musshet announced he would try to enable the scheme for 2,000 houses in Booyens to be completed as soon as possible. He also said he would grant permits for the construction of flats to house 1,200 to 1,500 families at a cost of £2,500,000.

He added that the policy of commandeering houses applies to the whole Union, and is no "flash in the pan," but will continue.

The Legion's national secretary, Mr. Jack Hodgson, pointed out to

ease the bottle-neck. The position remained much the same.

### CHALLENGE ISSUED

The Legion then issued a challenge to Mr. Musshet and Mr. Ivan Walker to explain the building and letting control muddle to a meeting of ex-servicemen in Johannesburg. This seems to have helped precipitate the meeting of Legion officials with the Ministers; and the decision of the Controller of Letting to commandeer empty houses.

Legion organiser Cecil Williams told The Guardian he was sure action was being taken by the government in response to the very vigorous protests at the housing situation made by the Legion over many months. The Legion had been prepared to give a very strong lead on the critical housing situation; even, if the situation did not improve, to the extent of squatting or commandeering houses itself. The Legion is watching the house-commandeering operation very closely.



## DAKAR CONFERENCE MYSTERY

WHERE IS BANTU  
WORLD'S REPORT?

JOHANNESBURG.—“There was little to choose from the atmosphere of the Johannesburg City Hall steps when the Communist Party of South Africa holds one of those Sunday night meetings, and the atmosphere at the Dakar Town Hall during April 10 to April 14. The voice of the Kremlin was unmistakable at that Conference and the servants merely echoed the voice of their master in the U.S.S.R. Great attention and adoration was paid to the Soviet visitor.”

This is a paragraph from a report of the Dakar conference held recently under the auspices of the World Federation of Trades Unions. It was written by the reporter of the Bantu World sent to Dakar to cover the conference.

The whole affair has been rather puzzling.

It was announced that a Bantu World reporter would go to Dakar just after it became clear that passports had been granted to the two delegates of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions—J. B. Marks and Dan Tloome. The Bantu World boasted it would be the first African newspaper to send a reporter so many thousand miles for first-hand reports.

But the most puzzling thing of all is that although the Bantu World went to all this trouble to cover the Dakar Conference, no report of the conference has yet appeared in that paper.

And the Dakar Conference was held at the beginning of April. The Bantu World reporter, The Guardian is told, seemed to be very interested in the speeches and movements of the South African delegates; but hardly concerned about the deliberations of the conference as a whole. He attended very few sessions.

The mystery of this reporter's suppressed report—an extract of which is printed above—has still to be solved. Is the Bantu World waiting for the day when it will have the space to publish the document in full for the edification of its readers? Has the Bantu World handed the report to the Non-European Affairs Department as a friendly gesture towards helping the department to keep its finger on the doings of African trade unionists? Is the report perhaps waiting for the attention of the Prime Minister?

Here is a problem for a South African Sherlock Holmes—the mystery of the suppressed Bantu World report on the Dakar conference.

## DR. XUMA ON BOYCOTT

JOHANNESBURG: Dr. A. B. Xuma, President-General of the African National Congress, has issued a statement calling on all provincial and local Congress branches to intensify the boycott campaign.

“They must mobilise, organise and ascertain the views of the voters in the Cape, electoral committees and units, location advisory boards and the masses of followers all over the country. We want common citizenship; racial goodwill and co-operation.”

Dr. Xuma points out that the 1936 Acts, the 1913 Land Act, the Native Administration Act and the Urban Areas Act freed Parliament from the influence of African voters, and European parliamentarians have since considered themselves defenders of white interests as against parliamentary representatives who represent Africans indirectly.

“These Acts have created two hostile political camps, of white representatives on the one hand, and black representatives on the other.

“The boycott decision is a demand for common citizenship with the abolition of the pass laws; recognition of African Trade Unions under the Industrial Conciliation Act; an end to land restrictions; adequate housing and education facilities for the African people.”



# the *Passive* RESISTER

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## TRADE BOYCOTT WILL BE MAINTAINED Dr. Dadoo Repudiates Press Statements

JOHANNESBURG.

Under banner headlines such as "Indian Trade Boycott of the Union May Break Down," the daily press has been giving wide publicity to a news item suggesting that from August 15, the date for the division of India into Pakistan, the Union of India and Independent States, firms in India will once again be able to supply South African firms with coffee, tea, coir, copra and copra oil through independent states which might not abide by the resolutions on economic sanctions against South Africa, taken by the previous interim government.

It is reported that a Durban firm has already received a copy of a trade index through which Bombay agents suggest goods can once again be made available to the Union market. The independent states suggested by the daily Press are Hyderabad, because of its proximity to Bombay, and Travancore, which has its own outlet to the sea.

Interviewed by our reporter, Dr. Y. M. Dadoo said this report

was probably just the thing the Press would pounce upon in the hope it might help to bring to an end the rigid 14-month boycott of the Union. "The Passive Resistance Councils," he said, "are in communication with the States of Hyderabad and Travancore as well as the Dominions of Pakistan and Hindustan. It does not seem at all probable, in spite of constitutional changes, that independent states will in any way jeopardise the cause of South African Indians."

Dr. Dadoo pointed out that Hyderabad had been represented in the Indian delegation to the United Nations by Nawab Ali Yavaro Jung, and that both the peoples and princes of the States had wholeheartedly supported the struggle of South African Indians for democratic rights.

"We have no doubt," continued Dr. Dadoo, "that the States will take all possible steps to see no commodity of any kind is exported to South Africa even after August 15. We are certain the two Dominions will use their good

offices with these States to see the trade embargo on the Union is maintained as long as the Union refuses to implement the United Nations Charter."

The facts of this suggested "weak link" in the trade boycott have already been cabled to Hyderabad, pointing out that South African Indians deeply appreciate the support of this State for their Resistance struggle, and are confident Hyderabad will not take any step which might adversely affect their struggle.

Mr. M. A. Dinath, acting president of the South African Indian Chamber of Commerce and vice-president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, substantiated the view of Dr. Dadoo that the States would do nothing to prejudice the struggle of South African Indians against the Gheto Act.

It is understood that a large Johannesburg wholesaler only recently received information from a Bombay firm to the effect that jute bags are available for export to the Rhodesias, Nigeria and other African territories, but not to the Union.

## 55,000 AFRICANS RESIST Rent Boycott In Moroka and Jabavu

JOHANNESBURG.

The biggest rent boycott in the history of the Union is at present being conducted in the Moroka and Jabavu municipal controlled squatters' camps.

The vast majority of the 55,000 inhabitants of these camps are steadfastly refusing to pay the 15/- Council rent for a bare piece of ground 20 feet by 20 feet on which they have to erect their own hessian and cardboard shacks.

Medical and social services, payment for which is supposed to be included in the monthly amount of 15/- are thus far almost non-existent.

The boycott movement is aimed also at non-compliance with the severe camp regulations, ten thousand copies of which have just been issued to the stand holders.

The City Council has announced that elections for the Moroka Advisory Board will take place within the next three weeks. The squatters refused to attend the meeting organised by the Non-European Affairs Department to announce these elections.

Thus far the inhabitants of three out of the four largest Shanty Towns have been moved to Moroka, the squatters of the Albertsville camp being the only ones still in their original site.

## FOR PARIS



Mr. Gerard Sekoto photographed beside one of his striking paintings at his present exhibition.

## GERARD SEKOTO

— African Painter

JOHANNESBURG.

GERARD SEKOTO, the African painter who as a boy of eleven sketched visitors to his father's house with a stub of a pencil, has just opened his third public exhibition in Johannesburg's Gainsborough Galleries.

After years of hard struggle, Sekoto's work is acclaimed by art critics for his "pure, singing colour"; "figures that live and more."

His work is not always technically correct; his knowledge of anatomy is often faulty; he is still groping towards form.

But Gerard Sekoto has never received any art training at all. He studied to be a teacher, and taught for four years at a school in Pietersburg. Although he retained his childhood interest in drawing, and painted water colours throughout these years, he first learned to use oils as late as 1940. His first exhibition was opened in Cape Town four years later.

Sekoto the man has been faced with all the obstacles to a full cultural life that must be so essential a part of the people's need. He needs his people. Concerts, libraries, art galleries have been closed to him. As an artist he has felt these handicaps all the more keenly.

His achievements are all the more remarkable under these circumstances. His "Street Scene in Eastwood," "Prayer in Church," "Dibyanza," and "Donkey Cart," exhibited today in the Gainsborough Galleries, are an inestimable advance from the day when as a school boy he designed a prize-winning badge for his school, and received as reward a Bible and two half-crowns.

Sekoto is above all else a painter alive to the problems and lives of his people. He feels and can portray the rhythm and pulsation of their music; in colours sombre or bright he paints the sadness or gaiety of their lives.

This year, when he goes to Paris to study, Sekoto will have his first real chance to study constantly; learn from and measure himself against greater artists. He will perfect his technique; work in encouraging cultural surroundings; his creative abilities will come into their own.

Sekoto says he will return to South Africa after his period of study. We hope he will, for his people need him. He needs his people if his work is to continue to reflect his own real personality, and sensitivity and sympathy with the lives and personalities of his people.



## WILL HE SEE BOTH SIDES?

JOHANNESBURG.

Britain's Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Mr. A. G. Bottomley, O.B.E., who is on a visit to the Union has on two occasions told the press he wishes to hear all sides of opinion on South African affairs. Yet when Dr. Y. M. Dadoo telephoned Mr. Bottomley for an appointment to discuss with him certain aspects of the South African Indian question, he was informed politely that Mr. Bottomley was too busy to spare the time for an interview, however short.

Mr. Bottomley was a member of the British delegation to the last session of the United Nations. He is reported to have supported strongly South Africa's case for the incorporation of South West Africa. He told press reporters at a press conference in Johannesburg, that Britain considers the dispute between India and South Africa on the Indian question should be settled by these two Dominions themselves, and it would not be fair for Britain to side with one Dominion or another. This was the reason for Britain's insistence that the dispute be referred to the International Court. Mr. Bottomley said he hoped that agreement would be reached on the question, and it would not be necessary for it to be referred to the United Nations again.

Mr. Bottomley was invited to visit South Africa by General Smuts so he could "see conditions for himself." It is understood Mr. Bottomley's plans, during his stay in the Union, include government sponsored visits to certain African Reserves and locations, sugar estates in Natal, Lovedale, Fort Hare and Fort Coe. Up to the present he is not known to have made arrangements to meet representatives of the trade union or national liberatory movements of the Non-European people.

## MBOBO ON WAY TO PRAGUE

JOHANNESBURG.

Mr. Victor Mboobo, delegate of the African National Congress Youth to the Prague International Youth Festival, left for Prague from London on July 21.

He has cabled the Passive Resister that he was given a warm reception in London by the India League of Great Britain and Indian and South African students. Mr. Cassim Jadwat, leader of the



Victor Mboobo

South African delegation to the Festival, is already in Paris for advance preparations for the Festival, to which some 20,000 young people from all parts of the world are expected.

Mr. Mboobo was welcomed by the Indian community of Nairobi during his short stay there on his journey to London.

NORTHERN EDITION

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## THOUSANDS WORKLESS

### Rand Unemployed Queues Grow

JOHANNESBURG. The critical unemployment position on the Witwatersrand was discussed on Monday evening at a meeting of the Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council.

It was unanimously agreed that immediate and strong representations must be made to the Minister of Labour, Dr. Colin Steyn, and to the National Committee of the Unemployment Benefit Insurance Act demanding that trade unions or industrial councils willing to take over registration of unemployed, and the payment of benefits in terms of the Act be allowed to do so.

The meeting urged an immediate conference of all union representatives with the Minister of Labour and officials administering the Act. Such a conference should discuss the unemployment position generally, the deficiencies of the present fund, and the introduction of an improved fund in accordance with the Workers' Charter.

The National Executive of the Trades and Labour Council has been urged to take the matter up and to press for the decentralisation of funds.

Delegate after delegate at the

first week of unemployment, and their resentment is mounting.

The Local Committee also protested against African unemployed being dealt with by the Native Affairs Department and not as they should be, by the Labour Department along with all other workers.

Local Committee meeting cited cases in their industry of bad administration of the Act, and the raw deal given to workers queuing daily to receive benefits.

The queues are getting longer every week. Many workers are not receiving benefits from the



## TRADE UNIONS SOLID BEHIND BUILDING WORKERS

JOHANNESBURG: The Executive of the building trade unions has issued a statement calling on all building workers in Pretoria and Johannesburg to stop work from 5 p.m., Friday, August 1.

The S. Transvaal Local Committee of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council has unanimously offered full and active moral and financial support to the builders in their industrial dispute. A special meeting was held on Wednesday, July 30, to meet a deputation of builders to discuss what steps to take to ensure practical assistance.

In the statement, Mr. Piet Huyser, chairman of the Joint Executive of the building trade unions, points out that long before the Botja Award expired at the end of last year, building unions made determined efforts to reach an amicable settlement with the employers. They exhausted every channel to settle the dispute peacefully, the unions' only course was to strike, to gain their original demands.

The statement emphasises the disabilities under which building workers suffer and their demand for increased wages and better working conditions.

"The only incentives to best and quickest building lie in ensuring builders good wages and working conditions befitting human beings who render great service to the nation," the statement concludes.

Builders are asking for a basic rate of 5s. 8d. an hour, cost of living allowance on a sliding scale, 40-hour week, 27 days' paid holiday, 6d. an hour holiday allowance, and the closed shop. At present they work a 43-hour week, earning 3s.

## Higher Fees at Wits

JOHANNESBURG. — Mr. H. R. Raikes, principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, has announced to the press that fees will be increased from £72 to £84 a year from 1948. The increase will only effect first year students next year, and, of course, all students who join the University in subsequent years.

Students were sent a letter warning them of a possible increase in fees at the beginning of this year. When the matter was raised with Mr. Raikes by the Students' Representative Council, the Council was told it would be informed as soon as definite arrangements were made. The press notice is the first students have heard of the fee increase in detail.

This increase will make fees at

## £20,000,000 BUDGET— Can't Spare £250

JOHANNESBURG. — Councillor Hilda Watts has given notice of motion in the City Council strongly urging the Council Finance Committee to reconsider its refusal to grant £250 towards a school for African children in Jabavu Township.

The school is one started by Jabavu residents, who applied to the Council for a suitable site, technical assistance from Council officers, and breeze blocks, lying unused in the camp, to the value of £250.

The Non-European Affairs Committee of the Council recommended the granting of this application for assistance. The Finance Committee turned it down, largely, it appears, on the argument of Nationalist Councillor G. E. N. Ross that the people of Jabavu were boycotting payment of their rent.

The Council budgeted this year for just under £20,000,000—but can't spare £250 for a badly-needed school in one of its own townships. Councillor Watts hopes, by her notice of motion, to get this decision reversed.

## "I SAW AMERICA"

### A Haven For Fascists, Says Mrs. Clara Urquhart

JOHANNESBURG: "A Fascist wave is to-day overtaking America. Where once Roosevelt's America was a haven for progressives fleeing from Fascism, it is to-day a haven for Fascists fleeing from progress in Europe. Peron and the Grand Mufti are portrayed as the bringers of order into the world."

These are the outspoken impressions of the United States to-day of Mrs. Clara Urquhart, who has just returned from the U.S.A. after a year's stay there.

Mrs. Urquhart went to America to attend the International Assembly of Women held last October, and subsequently undertook a lecture tour on conditions in Europe, particularly those of refugee children. During the war she was in charge of the South African Red Cross War Relief Section. Mrs. Urquhart left South Africa for Italy in 1944 and was in Rome for some time as Controller of Enemy War Prisoners. She was a probation officer and one of the founders of Italy's first democratically-run Boys' Town. Mrs. Urquhart has just completed a book, "Fascism, Nazism and Americanism," now being published in the United States.

"There is a terrible feeling of uneasiness in America," she said. "The Truman doctrine is launching a world civil war. What Americans fail to realise is that Europe is not for sale, though certain individuals there might be. Some American senators are behaving toward the spoilt children with tantrums—and atom bombs in their pockets."

"On the face of it, Americans are doing everything possible to publicise the United Nations. Yet behind the facade millions have been voted to the Greek government. One American's naive and superficial comment to me about the United Nations was: 'The United Nations will be even bigger than the World's Fair.'"

"Large numbers of people are victims of the wave of anti-Soviet propaganda. As America's sales mechanism sells Coca-Cola she tries to sell anti-Soviet propaganda."

At one time during Mrs. Urquhart's visit, 280 radio stations were each devoting 15 minutes a week to describing their own versions of what happens inside the U.S.S.R. "The American administration has sold to the American people the idea that they are free, that freedom, democracy and free enterprise are one and the same thing, that anybody—a Republican or Democrat—is a Red Beast. The Committee for Un-American Activities, which has the blessing of the State Department, is aimed against all liberals and progressive thinkers, but never touches the Klu Klux Klan or the Columbians."

Mrs. Urquhart noted growing anti-Semitism among the middle and professional classes, and was continually reminded of conditions in Germany in 1932 just before Hitler's rise to power. "As a matter of fact," she added, "mass unemployment is almost all that is needed to make complete the comparison of the United States to-day with pre-Hitler Germany."

Mrs. Urquhart commented that in all her travels through war-devastated Europe she had not seen anything as terrible as Johannesburg's Moroka Township.

## ALLEGED POLICE STATION ASSAULT

JOHANNESBURG.—On July 12 three African employees of Levy's Bakery who had gone to the yard next-door to the bakery for a while were arrested for trespass. All three were taken to the Doornfontein police station, not far away.

The Guardian is told that one of them, Samson Kanyile, asked to be allowed to go to the lavatory. He was blessed from the nose and policeman. Ten minutes later when seen by his two companions he was shouting and was unable to stand up or walk. Asked what the matter was a Serber said he was drunk.

When the employer of the Africans arrived at the police station he could bail out only two of his employees. The third was a hospital case.

He was admitted to the Non-European Hospital and died a week later of a ruptured bowel.

These are the facts of the case as told to the Guardian this week.

## WANTED: A POLICE INVESTIGATION

JOHANNESBURG: This is an extract from the evidence given in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court in the case of Rex v. Cassim Moolia and others, by Moses Dhlamini, under cross-examination by Mr. V. C. Berrange. The witness, who appeared for the Crown, was discharged from all liability for prosecution.

"I was arrested on March 26, 1947, and taken to the Doornfontein Police Station. After five days I made a statement to the police, which was taken down in writing and on which I put my thumbprint. After I was arrested I was assaulted and after I was arrested on my neck and face which strangled me so I could not breathe. At the same time I was handcuffed with my hands behind my back. I only saw this thing when they came up to me with it. After they had finished me with it I was dazed and could not see plainly."

"The thing they put over my face had a tube in front about two feet long and two inches in diameter. When the persons came to me with this thing they told me to speak and tell them where the lost articles were and what part I had taken in the matter. This thing frightened me as when it kills one it takes away one's breath. I was also hit with fists on my ribs."

"Each day I was at Jeppe police station they used to come to me and question and assault me. This thing was put on me several times at Cleveland. As soon as I was about to lose consciousness they used to loosen the thing and allow me to get air. All the time they were using this they were calling on me to speak."

"The persons who assaulted me at Jeppe police station were Europeans. The person who used this thing to strangle me at Cleveland was a European. He put the thing on me while two Non-Europeans held my arms. Other Europeans were present looking on. The European and Non-Europeans who were using this thing on me and the other persons who hit me with their fists were detectives as far as I could gather."



# "JOBURG'S SHAME"

## Terrible Conditions at Moroka Township

JOHANNESBURG: "The African people will remain the playthings of political forces in this country until they have political rights," said Dr. Moroka, amid applause, at a huge gathering of Jabavu and Moroka squatters in Moroka Township last week-end.

The meeting was called by Senator H. M. Basner to enable the people of these two large hessian-shack townships to place their grievances before their representatives and members of the Johannesburg City Council. Invitations had been sent to all members of Parliament and the Johannesburg Council. No members of Parliament besides Senator Basner and Mrs. M. Ballinger attended. Only two City Councillors were present: Hilda Watts and Sir George Albu, Chairman

### It's Old News!

WHY WASN'T THIS IMPORTANT REPORT PUBLISHED IN LAST WEEK'S 'GUARDIAN'?

See Page Four.

of the Council Non-European Affairs Committee. The Mayor, the Non-European Affairs Department, Mr. L. Mankie, was present, together with one of his staff shorthand writers who took down religiously every word uttered by the speakers.

A Jabavu resident who spoke on the people's grievances dramatically threw a copy of the Government Gazette up under the camp regulations into the air to show the people's disapproval of these regulations. He said: "We want to make direct representations to those in authority about our grievances. Instead the Council sends its police here every day to intimidate the people and make life miserable and intolerable."

Two speakers from Moroka, one an African woman, reiterated the opposition of the people to the rent of 15/- a month for a tiny piece of ground on which they have to build their own shacks.

### TERRIBLE SLUMS

Dr. Moroka said nowhere throughout the country had he seen such squalid conditions as exist at Moroka. The plight of these people was symptomatic of the general oppression of the African people. He would not shrink the hardships of prison life in the interest of the African people.

Dr. Moroka said he had never been consulted about the use of his family name for the township. Mrs. Ballinger suggested a more appropriate name for the township would be Johannesburg's Shame. This suggestion was received with great applause.

Dr. A. B. Xuma said the authorities would never solve problems such as these until they learn to consult and work with the African people. Medical officers should accompany Moroka as a place unit for human betterment.

Mrs. Ballinger said the Johannesburg Council could have housed the African people properly if it had wanted to and had been prepared to spend the necessary money. The present policy of municipal authorities was to save the money of the people who put them in

their jobs, at the expense of the lives of the people of Moroka and Jabavu. Miss Hilda Watts said: "As long as you have no political voice you will be hidden away in Morokas. If Moroka Township consisted of Europeans I think they would do what you are doing. I am not here to tell you what you must do. It is not true that white agitators tell the African people what to do."

"THE AGITATORS ARE THE SHACKS IN MOROKA TOWNSHIP; THE BABIES WHO DIE SO SOON AFTER BEING BORN, IT IS ON RECORD THAT THE RENT OF 15/- WAS FIXED BY THE COUNCIL NOT AS A RENT CHANGE, BUT TO PREVENT MORE SQUATTING."

Mr. Paul Mosaka also spoke.

## SUPPORT FOR BOYCOTT

RANDFONTEIN. — A meeting of Africans held in Randfontein recently called on members of the Randfontein Advisory Board to adjourn indefinitely in support of the African National Congress campaign to boycott the bogus political representation machinery given the Africans by the Smuts government. The resolution calling for the adjournment of the Board was passed unanimously.

The meeting was organised under the auspices of the Transvaal African National Congress. Speakers were Messrs. A. M. Lembede, A. P. Mda, C. S. Ramahane and Thambo.

## WITS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

JOHANNESBURG.—The "banned ticket" of non-political candidates has scored a victory in the elections for the Witwatersrand Central School Board. The candidates elected are the Reverend J. B. Webb; Mr. J. Duthie, M.E.C.; Mr. H. A. Jack; Miss K. N. Ramsbottom; Mr. I. H. Harris; Mrs. H. M. McKay; the Reverend G. R. Wessels, and Mrs. E. J. McKeechlin.

There was a 42 per cent poll in these elections, compared with 18 per cent in the last.

The candidates defeated included a ticket sponsored by the "Skakel-komitee" of Afrikaans cultural organisations and churches; and a ticket sponsored by the Catholic newspaper.

Throughout the Transvaal, with the exception of the Witwatersrand Central area, the Nationalists have captured the school boards; for example at Pretoria, the West and East Rand, Potchefstroom, Heidelberg, Barberton and Rustenburg.

The Witwatersrand Central School Board is composed of twelve members, four of whom are appointed by the Administrator.

## REITER AND RUSSIA

### Mr. CHANCELLOR ANSWERED

JOHANNESBURG.—Reuters always most strenuously deny being anti-Soviet and pride themselves on their democratic objectivity, but their general manager, Mr. Chancellor, now visiting South Africa, seems to belie that claim," said Mr. E. J. Burford, secretary of the Johannesburg Friends of the Soviet Union, in an interview with The Guardian.

"Mr. Chancellor's interview with the 'Star' last week is a farrago of nonsense and a re-hash of every hoary old anti-Soviet slander he could think of on the spot.

"This sort of interview does not contribute to international peace or understanding. Melodramatic references to spies, 'luxurious' compounds like the Metropole Hotel, shadowing, threats of arrests and even execution are scarcely indicative of a serious approach to the business of newswriting."

"Incidentally, despite much provocation in the past thirty years from some of its not too well behaved newspapermen guests, the Soviet government has not yet arrested or executed anyone.

"In his now famous interview with Stassen, Mr. Stalin commented on the untruthfulness of the news sent by too many correspondents, and this was not denied by Stassen. Stalin said each time the Soviet government had lifted the censorship at the request of one or other friendly statesman, their action had been misconstrued and their leniency abused.

"However, there are still many reputable correspondents in Moscow and, contrary to Mr. Chancellor's mental flights of fancy, they have complete freedom of speech and move without hindrance.

"Mr. Chancellor fails to explain the contradiction that many of the most vicious critics of the U.S.S.R. claim to have gone everywhere and seen everything, while simultaneously performing the incredible feat of being confined to their hotel bedroom under surveillance and being stopped from seeing anything," said Mr. Burford, adding that Mr. Chancellor and his reporters ought to make up their minds beforehand which story they want us to believe.

"Mr. Chancellor complains that correspondents do not have access to Stalin and Molotov, but even in Western countries reporters cannot see busy Ministers and officials with facility. Highly reputable men like Werth, Steel, Stassen and others have been granted very important interviews — but anti-Sovietisers of the calibre of Ewer of the Daily Herald, or Ashby of the Daily Telegraph, or the inflexible Clifford of the Daily Mail can hardly be surprised if their articles are regarded with distaste by the Soviet authorities."

Mr. Burford concluded: "Mr.

Chancellor states his hardboiled men can stick it only for a year and become slightly unbalanced.

"Possibly they were unbalanced before they got to the U.S.S.R. or had their instructions how to report beforehand.

"On the other hand an objective conservative like Griffiths of the 'Observer', who was a correspondent in Moscow for many years, offered one of the London dailies a series of articles, which were returned to him with the intimation that no paper with a circulation of millions could print articles which did not present the U.S.S.R. in an unfavourable light.

"Mr. Chancellor will find a reader market for his sensation-mongering in the United States. He should not try and foist his showman tales on South Africa."

## S.A. EDITION OF READERS' DIGEST

JOHANNESBURG.—A South African edition of the Readers' Digest is soon to be published from Great Britain. This will bring the number of international editions of the Digest to twelve. A circulation of 75,000 in South Africa, Rhodesia, Kenya and Tanganyika is being guaranteed. The first issue will appear in February 1946.

## NEWSPAPER WORKERS CLAIM WAGES

JOHANNESBURG.—Newspaper workers on the Witwatersrand organised in the Publishers' and Newspaper Distributors' African Workers' Union, are demanding an arbitration board — having served their demand for higher wages and improved service conditions on their employers. This was told the Guardian by Mr. H. M. Butshing, secretary of the Union.

There are about one thousand newspaper workers on the Witwatersrand. Some employers, but not all, adhere to Wage Determination 70 of the Commercial and Distributive Trade; but there is no determination for the industry as such.

The workers' demands include the discontinuance of payment on a commission basis; no employment of minors under the age of 14 years; three weeks' annual leave; a 46 hour week (6-day week); time and a half overtime pay; double time on Sundays; and waterproofs and overalls.

The wages demanded are £2 10s. a week for assistant despatch clerks; £2 15s. for checkers and sorters; £3 10s. for drivers; £2 10s. for delivery round workers; £2 for labourers; and £2 15s for nightwatchmen.

At present, many newspaper workers are receiving only £1 15s. a week, and are working extremely long hours.

## GARMENT WORKERS' MEETING

JOHANNESBURG.—At a general meeting of the No. 1 Branch of the Garment Workers' Union at which Councillor Colin Legum, and Mr. A. Payne, M.P., spoke, the union decided to affiliate to the Labour Party.

Resolutions were passed protesting against the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act and asking the Minister to reorganise the system of registration and payment of unemployment benefits on a more efficient basis by allowing trade unions and industrial Councils to handle these matters.

The meeting resolved to request the Government in the interests of the 30,000 workers employed in the clothing industry, and of the future industrial development of South Africa, to introduce immediate measures to prevent the 'dumping' of goods in South Africa.



# GUARDIAN

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## 8,000 ON STRIKE

### FOURTEEN YEARS WITHOUT A RISE IN BASIC WAGE Building Workers' Case

JOHANNESBURG: The Johannesburg Trades Hall was too small to hold the hundreds of building workers who attended the mass meeting on the morning of Saturday, August 2. The overflow spread into the streets outside, where they listened to the meeting through loudspeakers. It is the opinion of the strikers that this is the greatest demonstration of solidarity among building workers since their successful general strike of 1919, when they were out for three months, fighting for the 44-hour week.

For the past week the four unions concerned have been busy organising. Transport, Action, Propaganda, Finance and Picket Committees are functioning. All strikers will receive "Strike Pay," whether union members or not. All the womenfolk of the strikers have been called upon to help in the struggle. Strong warnings have been issued to the men not to pay any attention to rumours and reports that do not come from the Strike Committee, as it is expected the bosses will resort to all sorts of tricks to smash the strike.

Each union on strike has FIVE representatives on the Central Strike Committee.

A "mobile" picket has been in action from Monday morning, and building jobs in Johannesburg or Pretoria are practically one hundred per cent. at a standstill.

The Strike Committee has announced that all building workers directly employed by the Municipality, the Public Works Department, Mines and General Hospital reported for work on Monday morning, and will continue to work until further notice. But all other building jobs within the municipal area of Johannesburg, and a twenty-mile radius of Pretoria, are affected by the strike.

"The Strike Committee will review the position from time to time, and it is possible that the whole of East and West Rand will join in the strike in the near future," stated Mr. Piet Huyser, Chairman of the Action Committee and the Joint Executive of the Building Trade Unions.

It is not the intention of the building unions to call on apprentices and COTT trainees to strike, as they are bound by special regulations, but representations are being made to the Department of Labour, to see that these workers are not called upon to perform any building work.

#### 14 YEARS WITHOUT INCREASE

Saturday's meeting was addressed by official representatives of the Building Workers' Industrial Union, the Operative Masterers' Trade Union, the Associated Society of Workers, the Stone Masons Union, and called on their members to show loyalty to the Strike Committee and its decisions.

In a stirring speech, Huyser reminded the strikers there had been no increase in basic wage for the past FOURTEEN YEARS.

"While the workers were getting a 1d. per hour increase of living allowance at the beginning of the war, the bosses were oozing prosperity because of Defence projects!

"We worked 52 hours per week in the interests of the war effort! To-day our reasonable demands have been turned down, and this after ten months of ceaseless talk and efforts to settle peacefully all matters in dispute.

"The time for action is now at hand" continued Huyser. "Our aim now is VICTORY, and we will talk nothing but Victory, and we warn those who try to undermine our fight that we will call out every building worker in the country."

#### GARMENT WORKERS' FINE SUPPORT

One hundred percent support is coming in from the trade union movement. Many unions sent official delegates to the meeting, and others messages of support. The Executive of the Garment Workers' Union has already voted £100 per

week for the duration of the strike. Its offices, organisers and as many of its staff as possible are being placed at the service of the Strike Committee.

"This will help to keep the bosses friend 'STARVATION' from the homes of the building workers," stated the Garment Workers' Union representative.

Considerable interest is being shown in the position of the African building workers. It is estimated that there are between 15,000 and 20,000. These workers are not on strike and legally are entitled to a week's notice on termination of contract. It is believed

(Continued on page 5.)

### African Workers' Statement

JOHANNESBURG.—The position of the African building workers, many of whom have been given provisional notice for Friday, will be discussed by the National Unemployment Benefit Committee. The African Building Workers' Union, in a statement to the Press, says:

"Although the employers are using the present situation as it affects African workers as a lever against the artisans in their strike, we nevertheless support the artisans in their struggle for higher wages and better conditions.

"We will take steps to protect our workers from a lock-out or any other action taken by the employers against African workers."

The Union has appealed to the local committee of the S.A.T.L.C. to help bring about a meeting be-

### Trade Union Solidarity

The South African Trades and Labour Council has decided to give full moral and financial support to the striking building workers.

It will appeal to members of affiliated unions to donate one hour's pay per week to the building workers for the duration of the strike.

The strike is in full swing. Building in Johannesburg has come to a standstill. Eight thousand artisans are believed to be idle. Mobile pickets of the five building unions have been active to make the stoppage complete.

tween African employees, employers and the Department of Labour. The Union says the Master Builders' Association was served with the demands of the African workers on April 15 of this year. These include a minimum wage of 10s a day, or 23 a week for unskilled labourers; hours of work not to exceed 8 a day or 42 a week; 2 weeks sick leave a year on full pay; third class fare travelling expenses and the representation of African workers on Industrial Councils.

Officials of the Union, Messrs. Gana Makabeni, Reuben Masethle and Michael Diphuko, say the Union will continue to press for these demands. There will be a mass meeting of African building workers at the Bantu Sports Ground on Saturday, August 9, at 10 a.m.



# The Crime Wave And 'Foreign Natives'

## Your Attention— Mr. Bottomley

**JOHANNESBURG:** Mr. Bottomley, Britain's semi-official ambassador to the Union this month, is here at an opportune time, if he wishes to see the "real South Africa."

Over the last few weeks 1,853 "foreign natives" have been arrested in Johannesburg by seven special police sections working by motor-car, motor-cycle and on foot to "bring foreign natives to book" in terms of the Government Proclamation of March 1, which announces that "unregistered" foreign-born natives must return to their homes beyond the borders of South Africa or take jobs on farms.

Johannesburg is suffering from one of her periodic crime waves. But the real causes of crime are going unnoticed. The real causes are to be found in the unemployment queues, low wages, the acute housing shortage (in spite of the mythical 11,000 empty houses in Orlando before the war, conjured up for Mr. Bottomley's benefit by some enterprising municipal official, the years of neglect of the recreational needs of the African people in the towns.

As is usual in such a situation a scapegoat is needed — and found. This year it is the presence in the towns of "foreign" Africans, most of them from Rhodesia and Nyasaland. There are estimated to be 35,000 such Africans in the Union at present.

### ARRANGED WITH NYASALAND.

The representative of the Nyasaland government in the Union, Mr. Whitechurch, told The Guardian Chamber of Mines has an agreement with the Nyasaland

government whereby the Chamber may recruit up to 12,000 Nyasaland Africans to work on the mines annually. These recruited workers may remain in the Union for a maximum of 18 months and are then compulsorily repatriated.

There is no talk of these Africans being "foreign." Indeed the main complaint of the Chamber of Mines is that it cannot recruit its full quota of Nyasaland workers every year.

About 20,000 Nyasaland Africans come to South Africa on their own every year. Many walk all the way, taking as long as two months to work through the Rhodesias, to the Limpopo and over the border into the Union.

### NO OBSTACLES

At Messina, even on the banks of the river, no obstacles are put in their way — as long as they are prepared to volunteer to work on the farms. This is their alternative to repatriation.

In the past almost 1. If of them have never reached the towns, to which they are drawn by higher wages. They take jobs on farms, or in platinum mines near Rustenburg, or on brickfields.

They, too, are not "foreign natives" for the Government's immediate purpose.

From all accounts the position to-day will be much the same. As long as "foreign natives" are prepared to work as dictated by the Government they are not foreign. When they come into the towns, they must be chased back to the farms, or repatriated.

### "ABSOLUTE NONSENSE"

Are these Africans the cause of crime in the towns? Mr. Whitechurch, Nyasaland's representative here, emphatically denies this. He has been a District Commissioner in Nyasaland for the last 18 years.

"To say Africans from Nyasaland are the cause of the crime wave is absolute nonsense. They are law-abiding people. The figures disclosed by the police support my contention they are not the cause of crime."

The Rand Daily Mail says "There is nothing to show these Africans are responsible for the crime wave;

all indications are to the contrary."

A Nyasaland worker in Johannesburg said to The Guardian: "Crime does not come from outside. If people in the Union had land, jobs, and money to support themselves there would be no crime waves."

### FARMS' BAD REPUTATION

The underlying reason for the round-up of foreign Africans, causing great hardship to many of them, is obvious by the fact that those arrested by the police are sent to a reception depot where they must decide if they are willing to work on farms.

If they agree — and many do not, because Mr. Lawrence or no Mr. Lawrence Bethal and other agricultural areas have a bad reputation for treatment of farm workers — they are forwarded to a second reception depot in Louis Trichardt, from where they are allotted to farmers by advisory boards in the magisterial areas, consisting of the Magistrate, Native Commissioner and three farmers.

Nobody has proved these people are the cause of crime. Expelling them from urban areas, arming Europeans with fire-arms, instituting nine o'clock curfews (a Councillor O'Connor) bringing in mounted police — none of these things will do away with crime.

### PLEASE NOTE: MR. BOTTOMLEY.

It is of course true that many Nyasaland Africans are in South Africa illegally. This is where you come in, Mr. Bottomley.

They leave Nyasaland every year for the same reason that adult men leave their homes in the Transkei, Basutoland, and Bechuanaland — compelled to do so by the land hunger in their home areas, because they cannot pay their taxes, and support their families in economically backward and undeveloped areas. In Nyasaland the dominant problem for years has been the migration of its workers.

Nyasaland commissions have pointed to the way out — reductions in taxes, the development of industries and encouragement of agriculture; in other words the creation of effective employment openings in Nyasaland itself.

A problem for your attention, Mr. Bottomley!

## Building Workers' Strike

(Continued from page 1.) that the employers will challenge this. Responsible Government authorities also doubt whether the Africans will be able to claim Unemployment Insurance benefits.

### AFRICAN WORKERS IGNORED

Opinion of leading trades unionists is that if employers refuse to pay African workers whom they call upon to report for work daily while Europeans are on strike, those employers will be committing an offence. Firstly, they will be depriving them of wages unlawfully, and secondly if no work is provided the result is a lock-out.

African building workers feel very bitterly, the fact that the European workers have made no attempt to consult them at any time and also that the demands put forward do not include any benefits for African workers.





Moroka Township—Johannesburg City Council's idea of ideal homes for Africans? You will find another picture on Page 6.



This is a scene, not in the shanty towns of Orlando, Tobruk or Jabavu, but Johannesburg's "model township," Moroka, aptly called "Johannesburg's shame" by Mrs. Ballinger, M.P., recently. Africans pay 15s. a month for a small plot on which they have to build their own shacks. Health facilities are non-existent.

#### CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE STATEMENT

JOHANNESBURG.—The African National Congress Youth League has issued a statement condemning the treatment of farm workers throughout South Africa; and protesting against the wholesale deportations of so-called 'foreign Natives' from South Africa. The League associates itself with the statement issued by the Congress Working Committee, rejecting Smuts' proposals to members of the Native Representative Council. It supports the boycott resolution of the Congress and calls upon all African youth to work for its implementation.

#### S.A.T.L.C. Condemns U.S. Anti-Labour Bill

JOHANNESBURG.—The South African Trades and Labour Council has sent a message of solidarity to the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations in their struggle against the new Labour Regulations Act, which has been introduced to undermine the trade union movement and prevent it from carrying on its work.

#### £90,000 ON BIRD AVIARY

JOHANNESBURG.—A bird aviary costing £9,000 is to be built in the Johannesburg Zoo to accommodate a collection of 1,777 birds donated to the city. At the same meeting at which this expenditure was approved it was announced that the Council could at last—after much delay—see its way clear to spending £250 to assist the residents of Jabavu Township to build a school for their children.



A scrapped motor-car, deserted near the roadside, with odd bits of tin and garboard propped against its sides to keep out the cold and wind, is now a "house" for a Coloured man and his wife who have been unable to find proper accommodation in Johannesburg. This "house" is just outside Johannesburg, on the Heidelberg road, with a mine dump and a large factory in the background.

#### Another Silly Regulation

JOHANNESBURG.—Isaac Bougaard, 51-year-old Coloured employee of the Langlaagte Gold Mining Estates, who had worked on the mine for 22 years, was knocked down by a hit-and-run motorist on July 5.

He was picked up by the Langlaagte Police Station and taken to the Coronation Hospital. There it was discovered he was a mine employee and in accordance with the regulation insisted upon by the Chamber of Mines, the hospital telephoned the Langlaagte Estates Mine for a mine ambulance to fetch him. But because Langlaagte Estates Mine is closing down, the hospital has been closed down and an arrangement made with the Randfontein Mine Hospital that Langlaagte Estate employees be admitted there. So Mr. Bougaard was put into an ambulance and taken for an hour's ride to Randfontein, where he was admitted.

He died of a delayed haemorrhage several days later.

That night, of course, have happened in any case. But what worries the Coloured families still living on Langlaagte Estate is that as some of them are no longer working on the half-closed down mine they are not mine employees and therefore not eligible for admission to a mine hospital. On the other hand their address is still on mine property, so it is doubtful whether a general hospital will admit them either.

#### SANCTIONS TO REMAIN

JOHANNESBURG.—It was rumored here that after August 15, the day of independence for the two Dominions of India, economic sanctions against South Africa will be lifted, by independent states permitting goods to be exported to the Union from their territory.

In reply to a cable from the Transvaal Indian Congress on this subject, the Devan of Travancore states: "There is no reason for apprehending that when independence is attained Travancore will pursue any course prejudicial to the cause of South African Indians."

Since receipt of this cable both Travancore and Hyderabad, the other State mentioned as a possible outlet for goods from India, have declared they will join the Indian Union.



## VENTER ATTACKS CHAMBER OF MINES AT I. L. O. CONFERENCE

BEFORE delegates from 40 nations at the Conference of the International Labour Organisation held recently in Geneva, Mr. J. Venter, the South African workers' representative, delivered a powerful attack on the cheap labour policy of the Chamber of Mines and Union Government. Referring to the proposed Native Trade Union Bill which will prohibit Africans in mines and certain other industries from joining trade unions, Mr. Venter said: "If the South African Parliament passes this Bill it will mean that African workers will have no more rights than workers had in Nazi Germany or Fascist Italy."

### CLASH WITH MINEOWNERS

There was an open clash between Mr. Venter and the employers' and Government delegates, Mr. William Gemmill and Mr. A. C. van der Horst, as Mr. Venter accused them of having misled the Conference about the working conditions of Africans in the Union. Mr. Venter said the only people who expressed the views which Mr. Gemmill held on the colour bar and race question were Fascists and Nazis, who were doing their best to smash the trade union movement in South Africa.

Mr. Venter told the Conference the cheap labour policy of the Mines and Government was hampering the industrial expansion of South Africa along progressive lines; and it was the conviction of the trade union movement that this low-wage policy of the Chamber was a direct cause of disease, malnutrition and starvation. For 30 years African mine-

workers have had no increase in wages in spite of the rising cost of living.

### CHEAP LABOUR

"I say here the employing classes in South Africa are keeping a racial and colour division between the workers as a means of getting cheap labour and destroying working conditions already built up," Mr. Venter repudiated the statement of the Government delegate that African mine workers were not interested in trade unionism. It was also not correct to say that African workers had direct access to the trade union movement.

There are millions of workers who cannot organise themselves into free trade unions; they cannot discuss their grievances with their employers; they have no legal status; and are not recognised under the Industrial Conciliation Act."

## MOROKA STANDS BY RENT STRIKE

Thousands of squatters from Moroka and Jabavu gathered on a piece of open veld in Moroka on Sunday morning, July 20, at a huge meeting called by Senator Basner to enable the people to place their grievances before their representatives and members of the Johannesburg City Council. Dr. Moroka who had come to the meeting from his home in the Free State, told the meeting he had never been consulted about the use of his family name for the township. Mrs. Ballinger suggested amid applause that a more suitable name for the Council's Shanty Towns would be "Johannesburg's Shame."

Invitations to attend the meeting had been sent to all members of Parliament and Johannesburg City Councilors. No members of Parliament besides Senator Basner and Mrs. Ballinger attended. From the Council only Miss Hilda Watts and Sir George Aba were present. Dr. Moroka told the meeting: "The Africans will remain the playthings of political forces in this country until they have political rights."

### RENT STRIKE

Moroka and Jabavu residents who spoke declared they would continue their opposition to the payment of 15/- rent a month for a tiny plot of ground 20 feet by 20 feet; and to the camp regulations.

Dr. A. B. Xuma, President-General of the African National Congress, said the authorities would never solve any problems until they learnt to consult and work together with the African people. Medical officers should declare Moroka and Jabavu unfit for human habitation. He and the Congress fully support everything the people of Moroka and Jabavu say about the rent, which they should immediately reduce.

Councillor Hilda Watts said: "It is on record that the rent of 15/- was fixed by the Council to prevent further squatting, and not as a rent charge. I associate myself with what you people are doing. I would like to disassociate myself from the actions of the City Council."

# CAROLIA

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## BOSSSES TO BLAME SAY STRIKERS

JOHANNESBURG.—No settlement of the building workers' dispute appears to be in sight. The workers are solidly behind their 25-strong Strike Committee. They are emphatic that they will accept nothing less than their demands. The master builders have shown no signs of being willing to accede to these demands.

The Transvaal Chamber of Industries has asked the Government to intervene by using its powers under the Housing (Emergency Powers) Act. It expresses alarm at the fact that the African builders are asserting their demands too.

The fate of the African builder who have been dismissed is still being decided. The Department of Labour is going into the question of whether or not they qualify for unemployment benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act, as the act stipulates that workers dismissed as a result of an industrial dispute do not qualify.

In the same doubtful position are lorry drivers and other groups of workers idle as a result of the dispute, although not directly affected, and COTI trainees who cannot continue to work without the supervision of qualified artisans.

CASE OF THE BUILDERS  
The case of the striking building workers was ably presented by the chairman of their strike committee, Piet Huyser, at a huge meeting organised in the City Hall last week to place the facts of the strike before the public.

He said building workers constitute an army of casual workers paid by the hour, many of whom work for as many as fourteen different employers in one year due largely to managerial inefficiency. Bad weather and rain play havoc with their pay envelopes. They travel long distances to work. For 14 years the builders have had no increase in wages. During the war they received 1d. an hour cost of living while other workers received four or five times as much.

"In 1943 the building workers asked for higher wages as the industry was going through a period of prosperity, and the cost of living was soaring. The employers would not accede to the request, war measure 9 was invoked and the dispute referred to arbitration. Mr. van Walker was appointed arbitrator. Because he limited profits the employers immediately applied to the Supreme Court to have the award set aside. Their application was successful.

"In February 1946 the building unions wrote to the employers' associations about starting negotiations for a new agreement. Due to the adamant attitude of the employers, they resulted in a deadlock. A conciliation board was appointed. Although no final agreement was reached, the employers' delegates unanimously agreed to recommend terms of settlement to their associations, which would have formed the basis of an agreement. But the Master Builders of Witwatersrand and Pretoria turned down the recommendations of their own accredited delegates.

"After this there was no course for the workers but to take strike action to enforce their demands.

### STRIKE ATTACKED

"The building workers have been attacked as gangsters and blackmailers who are out to exploit the present housing shortage. It is not the workers but the employers who are responsible for hindering building operations.

The workers are accused of wanting to profiteer. Before the war our wages were 27 4s. a week, by no means excessive. We are now asking for 211 10s. a week, including cost of living allowance. In real wages our demand means no more than 25 5s. a week.

"Yes, there is widespread profiteering of a most vicious nature, but not by the workers—only by the land speculators, landlords, merchants and many building contractors.

(Right): An overflow meeting of strikers listens to Mr. Piet Huyser (right) addressing a huge strike meeting in Johannesburg's Trades Hall. Mr. Huyser is chairman of the Joint Executive of the Building Unions.

### "WHY WE REJECT ARBITRATION"

"The employers maintain that if the building workers have such a good case, why should they refuse to submit the dispute to arbitration?"

"In principle the trade union movement is in favour of voluntary arbitration. It has urged the government to set up a proper industrial court. But without basic principles of a law to provide a decent wage for unskilled workers, and a law in favour of civilised wage standards for skilled artisans there is nothing to guide the arbitrator. Arbitration machinery can function only when it enjoys the confidence of the contesting parties. An examination of the history of arbitration in industrial disputes in S. Africa will clearly show that arbitrators are usually appointed from people whose sympathies consciously or unconsciously are with the employing class and cannot therefore be impartial."

"From the outcome of this struggle every worker in the country will benefit.

"The employers underestimate the temper of the workers. We are prepared to paralyse the industry from Randfontein to Springs, from Verwoerd and Potchefstroom. We building workers will tighten our belts, but we will see this struggle through to the finish."





## WHERE IS OUR BUILDING CONTROL?

JOHANNESBURG. — It is whispered in Saxonwold that a certain Mr. M—, director of one of the largest and most important mining companies, has this year decided to build a summerhouse. That will be nice for the M— family.

But this won't be an ordinary summerhouse. Because the building permit, The Guardian is told, is for 1,500 square feet, and a conservative estimate of its cost is about £1,250.

All of which is more than annoying to those families battling to find—or build—houses in which to live; especially to those who have applied for building permits for 1,400 square feet (the maximum for all except ex-servicemen) or a little over this, and have had their applications rejected.

Is the Building Controller anywhere about?

## CALL TO ALL S.A. JEWS

JOHANNESBURG. — A resolution pledging the support of South African Jewry in the fight against fascism, and calling on the Jewish community to ally itself with progressive forces, was passed at the sixteenth biennial congress of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies held in Johannesburg.

Moved by Mr. M. Saur, the resolution read: "The second year since the cessation of hostilities has abundantly shown that fascism has not as yet been extirpated, and the danger exists in various countries, including South Africa, that reactionary forces will come to power. Congress therefore finds it necessary to record that the fate of the Jewish population is bound up with that of the progressive forces.

"Congress calls on all Jews in South Africa to participate in the struggle against fascism and reaction, and to fight for justice for all people, without distinction of colour or race.

"Congress further urges the newly elected executive to react with dignity to every act of injustice perpetrated against Jews or any other sections of the population."



## MEETING ON INDONESIA

JOHANNESBURG. — A large crowd of citizens of all races gathered at the City Hall steps during a lunch hour last week to protest against the Dutch attack on the Indonesian Republic. With only one man dissenting, the meeting passed a resolution welcoming the intervention of the United Nations' Organisation in the dispute, but demanding that a commission of the United Nations itself, and not of any single nation, should investigate the position and mediate in the dispute. The resolution demanded immediate withdrawal of Dutch troops and supported Indonesia's request that troops of both sides withdraw behind the demarcation lines fixed last October. The meeting was organised jointly by the Transvaal Indian Congress, the African National Congress (Transvaal), the African People's Organisation (Transvaal) and the Johannesburg District Committee of the Communist Party. Speakers were Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, Mr. J. B. Marks, Mr. G. L. Carr, and Mr. I. Wolfson.

## SUPPORT FOR INDONESIA

JOHANNESBURG. — In a cable to Mr. Trygve Lie, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Transvaal Indian Congress expresses grave alarm at the "wanton war of aggression by the Netherlands Government against the Republic of Indonesia."

The cable describes Dutch action as a violation of article 39 of the Charter and expresses the hope that the United Nations will take effective and immediate steps against the Dutch Government, and will protect Indonesia's republican status achieved after much sacrifice.

## KEEP ASIATICS OUT OF SOUTH-WEST —say NATS.

JOHANNESBURG. — The conference of the Nationalist Party of South-West Africa held in Windhoek decided that the entry of Asiatics into South-West Africa should be prohibited by law. At present it is forbidden only by a proclamation that can arbitrarily be withdrawn. The conference decided also that Asiatics already in the territory should be deported.

It was decided to give all possible support to the Union's anti-Indian boycott movement.

## LEGION PROTEST

JOHANNESBURG. — The national executive of the Springbok Legion sent telegrams to the Mayor of Cape Town, the Administrator of the Cape, the Officer-in-Command at the Cape, the Admiral of the Fleet at Simonstown, and the Prime Minister, endorsing the protests of its Cape Town branch and that of the BESL at the official reception given Franco's Spanish naval personnel at the Cape.

The Legion considers such entertainment, says the telegram, as "flagrant disloyalty to the ideals for which we fought, and in contradiction to the measures taken by the United Nations against Fascist Spain, thereby weakening the only international authority interested in the preservation of world peace."



## JO'BURG COUNCIL STALLS AGAIN ON FRANCHISE

JOHANNESBURG—With its eye on the approaching municipal elections, and all future elections, too, the City Council has abruptly waved aside, without even discussing them, representations from the Diocese of the Anglican Church and the Joint Council of Europeans and Africans on the question of the representation of Non-Europeans on the City Council.

The Council's feeble justification is that these are "national questions" and it would be unwise to come to any decision until the findings of the Fagan Native Laws Commission have been published.

The Non-European Affairs Committee had before it last week a long memorandum from the manager of its department, Mr. Venables, who, after an examination of population figures, advises it would be "political suicide to accord the Native the franchise on an equality with Europeans," and who therefore devises an elaborate scheme for an urban Native Council with "defined executive powers" in certain areas.

On the question of the representation of Asiatics and Coloureds whose position must be discussed separately as they are "culturally more akin to the European," Mr. Venables recommends that the Council agree in principle to the extension of the franchise to these groups, on the common roll.

### ALBU'S "DIPLOMACY"

Faced with this proposal, it must have been with a sigh of relief that the Councillors gratefully accepted Sir George Albu's "diplomatic master-stroke" that the Council would be wise to wait for the Fagan Commission's recommendations.

These reports were by no means new to the Council. The question of votes for Coloureds was raised as early as 1943 by the Government's own Coloured Advisory Council. The Anglican Church resolution was passed first in 1945. Its most recent version read quite simply that "the time has come for the direct representation of the Non-European people." The letter from the Joint Council suggesting the representation of Africans on the Council and the reconstitution of advisory boards in order to render them purposive and effective bodies was dated June 1, 1946.

### JOINT COUNCIL VIEW

Interviewed by The Guardian Dr. Ellen Hellman, chairman of the Johannesburg Joint Council of Europeans and Africans, said: "One regrets extremely that the Non-European Affairs Committee of the Council took the path of least resistance by evading the whole issue. I wish to reiterate that Johannesburg cannot hope to come to terms with its African population until it has granted them at least some form of representation on the City Council.

"You cannot expect people to accept responsibility as long as they are given no corresponding rights.

"Johannesburg has far and away the largest urban African population in the whole country. She must accept the responsibility of giving a lead to the country. To say it is part and parcel of national policy certainly does not exonerate Johannesburg from giving this lead."

The Rev. Huddleston, who moved the resolution on representation for Non-Europeans on the Council in the Synod, said the Council had taken two years to discuss the resolution, and the way it had eventually dealt with it was to use the old technique of passing the buck.

"I don't intend letting the matter lie there," he said. "I will move another resolution on the question in our Synod this year. One can't talk about housing or any other problem to-day without coming down to this basic question of political representation.

"The time is long past when the African people will continue to accept what amounts to dictatorship.

"In a place like Sophiatown the Africans are actually ratepayers and have no representation at all. The matter certainly can't be left where it is to-day."

## Threat to Unskilled Workers

JOHANNESBURG.—The Minister of Labour indicated recently in a statement to the Press that his department is considering the suspension of "Unskilled Determination 105," which lays down a minimum wage of £1 7s. 8d. a week for unskilled African workers in approximately 25 industries not covered by other determinations.

Interviewed by The Guardian, Mr. R. H. Fleet, secretary of the Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council, and a member of the national executive of the Council, said suspension of the determination would provoke a serious crisis among the thousands of African workers at present covered by the determination. Unskilled determination 105, though far from fixing what might be a satisfactory wage, was apparently the answer of the Government to the recommendations for a minimum wage for Africans of the Smit 1942 report. "To suspend this determination without replacing it by any determination to protect the wages of the Witwatersrand unskilled worker will precipitate large-scale strikes and unrest in industry. The Government must make it clear to the trade union movement that the determination will not be suspended until something satisfactory can replace it."



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## FORGOTTEN MEN OF THE STRIKE?

### African Building Workers Are Jobless.. Payless..

JOHANNESBURG: As negotiations between the striking European building workers and the master builders loomed in sight this week, the African builders met to urge that their demands be included in the discussions. They made it clear that if an agreement were reached without the inclusion of the demands of these 18,000 workers there would be serious repercussions in the building industry.

Meanwhile, thousands of African workers have become unemployed as a result of the strike.

#### RELIEF FUND FOR AFRICAN BUILDERS

An appeal is made by the Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council for donations in cash or kind to the relief fund for African building workers, thousands of whom are to-day unemployed as a result of the building strike in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Donations should be sent to Miss H. Le Roux, honorary secretary of the African Building Workers' Relief Fund, 13 National Mutual Building, Rissik Street, Johannesburg.



These African workers are among the fortunate few still left at their jobs during the present building strike. They continue their work under the supervision of managers or foremen of big building contractors.



The farce of the Unemployment Benefit Insurance Act becomes daily more embarrassing to the much vaunted social security schemes of the Government. Act one of the farce was presented as the Government suggested suspending the Act, and then hastily withdrew this suggestion as opposition to it became apparent. Act two is being played out now in Pretoria.

While Minister Steyn and his legal advisers dilly-dally with their interpretation of its clauses, African building workers—thrown out of their jobs through no fault of their own, but as a consequence of the strike of the five European building unions—swell the queues of the unemployed in Johannesburg and Pretoria, but draw no unemployment benefit.

Telephone the offices of the Department of Labour, the Unemployment Commissioner, or any other Government department you can think of, and you will be told the "matric" is receiving attention."

#### THE DEMAND IS CLEAR

The demand of trade unionists is quite clear: Grant the unemployed African workers unemployment benefits. The Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council has already sent one deputation to Minister Colin Steyn to press for this. It has set up a special sub-committee including a representative of the Council for Non-European Trade Unions to deal with the question.

A statement issued by the Local Committee states that all efforts are being made to establish the right of the workers to unemployment benefit, but as it is felt this relief may not be given in time to prevent great hardship among the workers, the Local Committee has set up a special fund for the relief of African builders.

The Trades Hall on a Friday buzzes with activity as long queues of European strikers drawing strike pay, wind along the corridors and in and out of union offices. In the midst of all this confusion Mr. Sutherland, of the Masons' Union, had time to stop to chat for a while to the Guardian reporter, to whom he gave his views on the fate of the unemployed African building workers. He was emphatic that they should be eligible for unemployment benefit:

"These workers are on the streets through no fault of their own. The Government MUST pay them unemployment benefit. The man is not born in this country who dare tamper with this universal principle of unemployment pay. I do believe the Government cannot even interpret its own Act, witness the Commission set up only a few days ago to deal with it..."

Mr. Jan Venter, vice-president of the Trades and Labour Council, recently returned Council delegate to the Geneva I.L.O. conference, was equally emphatic that these workers must be paid unemployment benefit.

#### TEST CASE?

It is argued here among trade unionists that section 40 (1) (c) of the Act, which provides that benefits are not receivable where unemployment arises by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute, is intended to apply only to workers directly or indirectly responsible for the stoppage of work.

The Local Committee of the S.A.T.L.C. is prepared to take a test case to Court to argue this point.

This question of unemployment benefit is the one big problem

(Continued on Page 4)

## Forgotten Men of the Strike?

(Continued from Front Page.)  
facing trade union circles this week. The other is the question of the demands of the African builders themselves. Their Union, at the outset of the strike, declared their support for it but at the same time re-asserted the demands of African workers. Their own low wage rates and rotten conditions must not be forgotten.

#### THEIR STORIES

Let Albert Dhlamini, one of the African building workers who attended his Union meeting at the Bantu Sports Ground last week tell his own story:

"I had been in the industry since 1940, working for the same firm till the end of 1946, and then for four months again this year. I do shopfitting, semi-skilled work, and my wages are only £1 18s. a week. I am over 50 years old, and have a wife and three children to support. Our rent in Sophiatown comes to £1 18s. a month. It was difficult enough to manage before. The only thing I can do to-day since I have lost my job is to borrow money to keep going. But that cannot last for ever.

Lucas B—, a concrete mixer for the last five years, came up to tell his story. His work is also semi-skilled. Since the Walker award he has been earning £2 3s. a week. He was in hospital when the strike broke out. When he came out of hospital he found he was unemployed. He has been reporting at the unemployment offices twice a week, but has drawn no unemployment benefit yet.

#### AFRICAN'S DEMANDS

Until the introduction of Unskilled Determination 10s wage rates for African workers in the building industry were quite hazardous. The determination laid down a minimum wage of £1 5s. a week. The Walker award laid down a rate of 8d. an hour for African building workers, and 10d. an hour for concrete mixers. It provided also for one week's notice for all workers, holiday payments at 4d. an hour, a 48 hour week.

The demands of the Union are for a minimum wage of 10s. a day, or £3 a week; a 42 hour week; two weeks' sick pay leave a year on full pay, third class travelling fare expenses, and the representation of the African workers on industrial councils.

It is up to the five building unions, as much as any other section of the trade union movement, to see to it that these 18,000 workers do not become the forgotten men of the strike.

## Building Strike Developments

JOHANNESBURG.—Both sides in the building strike, the five striking unions and the Master Builders' association have agreed, on the suggestion of the Department of Labour, to meet and negotiate. In a letter to the Secretary for Labour the workers make it clear they have always been willing to negotiate, but they still maintain their opposition to the principle of arbitration.

The stoppage of work, say the unions, will continue until a settlement is reached, and the start of negotiations do not mean the end of the strike.

The 8,000 strikers drew their £3 a week strike pay for the second time this week. Meetings organised jointly by the strike committee and local committee of the S.A.T.L.C. are being held regularly, sometimes twice a day, on the City Hall Steps.

Several collection tins were seized by the police and the Department of Social Welfare announced that no collections could be organised without its approval.

In a letter to the Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg the secretary of the Local Committee points out that trade unions are not charitable organisations and do not fall under regulations for the control of street collections.

It is pointed out, too, that in the debate in Parliament last year on the Social Welfare Bill the Minister of Social Welfare gave an assurance there would be no interference with trade unions in the control of collections.

#### COLOURED STRIKERS

About 300 Coloured building workers are also involved in the strike, and draw their £3 a week strike pay. The Garment Workers' Union, number 2, branch, is giving considerable assistance in raising funds for the strike fund of the Coloured builders.

Members of the number 2 branch are donating one hour's pay a week to the fund, and the Union itself is donating £5 a week to it.

## COMMUNISTS ON BUILDING STRIKE

JOHANNESBURG.—The Johannesburg District Committee of the Communist Party has expressed full support for the building workers who are striking for improved wages and working conditions.

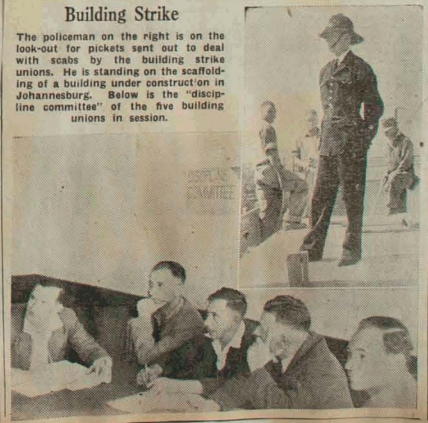
"Attempts being made to blame the workers for the high cost of housing are attempts to shield from public anger the speculators and profiteers who have recklessly pushed up the prices of land and materials for the past six years, reaping heavier profits than ever before," says the statement.

"The strike is primarily the responsibility of the master builders who have been ready to draw higher profits while stubbornly refusing the just demands of the workers for a living wage and decent conditions of work."

"We call on the strikers to keep the ranks of the workers united by supporting the demands of the African building workers for improved pay and conditions, and by seeing that their demands too are written into the new agreement for the industry when the strike is won."

## Building Strike

The policeman on the right is on the look-out for pickets sent out to deal with scabs by the building strike unions. He is standing on the scaffolding of a building under construction in Johannesburg. Below is the "discipline committee" of the five building unions in session.





# Cushy Jobs For Africans?

## The Chamber of Mines Defends its Policy

JOHANNESBURG: A thoroughly amusing and fanciful piece of writing is the only apt description for a booklet in which the Chamber of Mines seeks to justify its cheap labour policy and the migratory labour system. Obviously for overseas consumption, the booklet is brimful of arguments too absurd for South Africans to swallow.

This is what the Chamber has to say:

"Some antagonists of the compound system allege it leads to immorality. This is the result of regarding the problem through European eyes. The fact is that fundamentally the sex life of a tribal Native is governed by a very strict code. It should be recognised that in a number of Native tribes from the time it is established that a woman is pregnant, until her baby is weaned, sex relations between man and wife cease.

"All credit is due to the Native male for the traditional manner in which he accustoms himself to practise continence during such periods, and frequently he spends these periods at work on gold mines. It should also be borne in mind that no less than 45 per cent. of the Native mine-workers are unmarried men."

"Most Native labourers are housed in brick buildings set among well laid out gardens, lawns and playing fields known as compounds."

"The great value to the Native of employment in the gold mining industry lies in the fact that during his periods of living on the mines his tribal pattern of life is preserved as far as possible. The compound tempers the impact of what is to him a strange, bewildering world."

"These (war) dances are organised at regular intervals by the compound staff and competition between the tribes is encouraged. The dances are popular not only with the Natives but also with the Europeans who come in large numbers to watch them. They serve a useful purpose in helping the Europeans of South Africa to realise the state of development and the nature of the Natives over whom they have accepted the responsibilities of trusteeship."

"The ordinary married tribal Native is opposed to bringing his wife or wives and family to Johannesburg. He realises this would lead to the demoralisation of his family and the complete destruction of his traditional mode of life."

"Tuberculosis is endemic among the Natives of South Africa. . . . It would appear that the settlement of large numbers of primitive people — highly susceptible and

highly sensitive to tubercular infection — in close contact with European communities, under industrial conditions, would lead to a great increase in the incidence of acute tuberculosis among them."

"...the Natives themselves, from whatever territory they may come, are satisfied with their treatment at the hands of the gold mining industry which can justly claim to be the leader of employer organisations in the treatment of workers on the African continent."

This apology for the Chamber of Mines is dotted with awkwardly posed photographs of abnormally tidy compound rooms, beaming mine workers, brass bands, a church with the caption "freedom of worship," mine hospitals and operating theatres, and war dancers. Truly an interesting life to be an African miner!

### VERY POPULAR

The pamphlet goes on to speak of the tribal Natives of Southern Africa who "voluntarily make their way from all the surrounding territories as far North as Angola and Tanganyika" because the employment offered on the mines is so popular. Isn't the Chamber of Mines forgetting little things like the poverty and landlessness in these territories, the all-round increase in the cost of living, the poll, dog and other taxes which force the peasants off the land?

As an exercise in ingenuity, this booklet could hardly be bettered. The Chamber obviously feels the need to try to whitewash its policy. This pamphlet does not do so. No pamphlet could. The facts are against the Chamber.

## Little to Choose Between Botha and Gemmill — Says Mr. J. J. Venter

JOHANNESBURG: "I would strongly recommend to Mr. Botha that he try to introduce some order and democracy into the Mine Workers' Union instead of trying to introduce a cleavage in the South African Trades and Labour Council." This is the reply of Mr. J. J. Venter, vice-president of the Trades Council and its delegate to the Geneva I.L.O. Conference, to Mr. J. L. P. Botha, acting general secretary of the Mine Workers' Union, who announced that his executive has decided to apply for re-affiliation to the Council because "it is felt if we leave it now we are strengthening the hands of the left-wing extremists."

Mr. Botha in his statement to the press said his executive has considered the matter several times and, the speech by Mr. Venter at the I.L.O. conference was a deciding factor. "Mr. Venter was supposed to be representing the whole South African Trades and Labour Council but his speech dealt exclusively with the conditions of Native labourers in the mines. . . . Surprisingly, said Mr. Botha, were not isolated or accidental. Previous left-wing delegates sent abroad by the Trades Council had also concentrated purely on Native questions. . . . My executive decided that its duty to its members lies in its staying in the Trades Council to combat these influences and make the Council into an organisation genuinely looking after the European miners and artisans, not only the native."

### UN WARRANTED AND IMPERTINENT

Mr. Venter told The Guardian he considers these remarks both unwarranted and impertinent. He pointed out that his views on trade union and labour questions are well known. He was elected to represent the South African Trades and Labour Council by 37,599 votes. Mr. Botha polled 1,050 votes.

Mr. Venter added, "The policy I proposed at the Geneva conference was based on the Workers' Charter of our Council. It is quite obvious Mr. Botha knows nothing about the Inter-work and purpose of the International Labour Office. The conference I attended was to discuss social and economic standards of dependent peoples. The European miners and artisans in South Africa are not dependent peoples. The Africans are."

"In any case I spoke not for one section of workers alone, but for all in South Africa. No country can develop on a low wage policy."

"Such a policy restricts industrial development, drags down already hard-won standards, and ultimately prevents all workers from attaining decent living standards. These are economic facts, about which Mr. Botha knows nothing."

"In their attempts to tar and feather the South African Trades and Labour Council there is little to choose between Mr. Botha and Mr. Gemmill of the Chamber of Mines."

"I assure Mr. Botha I will continue to fight all low wage policies."

"I love my country and realise such policies will eventually ruin it and its peoples."

"Mr. Botha, in spite of all his talk, has done nothing to improve the lot of the European miner, whose conditions to-day are as bad as they have been for many years. Mr. Botha and his executive cannot really face their rank and file union members with the policy they pursued during the war. It was this policy that was largely responsible for the six-week strike of 16,000 miners this year."

"I, on the other hand, enjoy the full confidence of my union membership."

"I will place before transport workers and the whole of the trade union movement the views I expressed at Geneva as those of the Workers' Charter."

"These are the views supported not only by the workers' delegates at Geneva, but by Government and even employers' representatives."

"These are the views of the labour movement to-day."

"And I" concluded Mr. Venter, "was elected to my position by a democratic vote in the trade union movement, which is more than Mr. Botha can say about himself."

## DAIRY BOARD AND TREASURY

JOHANNESBURG — The two-year award which came into operation in the Witwatersrand milk trade after a dispute in 1945 expired recently. The arbitrator appointed in 1945, Dr. Botha, made the award conditional on the establishment of a management board in the industry composed of workers' and employers' representatives, both of whom had to contribute to a management board fund.

By the expiry of the two-year award the board had accumulated £3,000 in its fund. To avoid another dispute breaking out, another management board, operating on the same principles, was set up.

The industry has now received a letter from the Treasury demanding the £3,000 on the grounds no industrial council was established while the award was in operation.

Of this £3,000 48 per cent. was contributed by the African workers, 20 per cent. by the European workers and 32 per cent. by the employers.

The Dairy Management Board, with the support of certain members of Parliament, is pressing for a meeting with the Ministers of Labour and Finance to discuss the position.

## Victor Mboobo To Tour in Europe

JOHANNESBURG — Mr. Victor Mboobo, delegate of the Transvaal African National Congress Youth League to the Prague Youth Festival has been invited to tour Hungary, Yugoslavia, Austria, Poland, Bulgaria, and possibly Italy and France together with the delegate of the Indonesian Republic. The tour will be sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Mr. Mboobo has been elected leader of the South African group to the Festival which consists of eight Europeans and ten Indians. He has also been asked to attend the Council meeting of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and to work for a month at the Paris headquarters of the Federation.

Mr. Mboobo writes that for the past week he has been giving about three interviews a day to leading continental newspapers. He has broadcast a number of times to Czechoslovakia's Great Britain and other countries.

Great interest is being shown in the conditions of South African youth. The festival will continue until August 27.



## TRANSVAAL CONGRESS ELECTIONS

### DR. Y. M. DADOO'S STATEMENT

JOHANNESBURG: Hardly were the celebrations for August 15—the day of the inauguration of the Dominions of India and Pakistan—over, when the Transvaal Indian Congress launched a Transvaal-wide campaign in preparation for its biennial elections on August 24.

Dr. Dadoo is at present touring towns in the Western Transvaal to address meetings of the Indian community. Dr. Nalcker, too, is expected to arrive in the Transvaal to take part in this election campaign.

In a statement to the Press Dr. Dadoo says: "The main issue facing the Indian people of the Transvaal, together with the Indian community in other parts of the Union, is their struggle for democratic rights, and, in particular, the Passive Resistance campaign launched to attain these rights."

"The present progressive leadership of the Congress made possible the great resistance struggle, which has been acclaimed by the oppressed peoples throughout the world, and especially by the leaders of the Dominions of India and Pakistan."

"It is the task of the Indian community to continue with this great struggle and thereby make a significant victory at the United Nations assembly possible,

where our cause will be championed by both India and Pakistan.

#### "STRONG APPEAL"

"I want to make a strong appeal to every Indian in the Transvaal not to pay any heed to a handful of disrupters who may, for their own personal reasons, try to mislead the Indian community and thereby bring disgrace not only to ourselves, but to the two new Dominions of India."

"On August 24 the Indian people of the Transvaal will exercise their democratic right under the constitution of the Congress to decide who should be at the helm of Indian affairs in the province."

"Let us make a solemn pledge to carry on the struggle for human rights and the upholding of the national honour of India and Pakistan, and let us put into effect people who will be able to give effect to that solemn pledge."

## MURDERED FOR WEARING GLOVES

JOHANNESBURG.— Reporting a brutal assault on an African in a Johannesburg suburb this week, the Rand Daily Mail headlines the story: "EUROPEANS BEAT HIM UP BECAUSE HE WORE GLOVES, SAYS DYING NATIVE."

The story is that because he wore gloves and was "too well dressed" an African head waiter is alleged to have been beaten to death by two unidentified Europeans, while he was waiting at a tram stop in Parktown on his evening out last week. He died in hospital a few days later after having regained consciousness only once since he was attacked.

The African's employer told S.A.P.A. she visited the African in hospital, and in his one brief period of consciousness, he told her that while he was pulling on his gloves at a tram stop, two Europeans approached him. One referred to his gloves and said he was too well dressed. They then attacked him and threw him to the ground.

One of the men, he said, picked up a large stone from the tram track and beat him on the head with it until he lost consciousness.

His cries attracted the attention of residents in the block of flats where he was employed. His two assailants had by then disappeared, and the African was taken to hospital.

## MOROKA - JABAVU ELECTION FARCE

JOHANNESBURG: The much-publicised advisory board elections in Moroka and Jabavu, advertised to take place "on European lines" with "proper control, secret ballot, a voters' roll and a ward system of representatives" appear to have developed into a very damp squib.

The board was to have been the biggest in the country. There are 23 wards in the two camps. Altogether nominations have been received for only seven in these wards. Originally there were ten nominations, but three of the nominees withdrew later.

This means that in 16 out of 23 wards the people have completely boycotted the election. Although the wards comprise 500 families each—a nominee need have only ten signatures of residents on his nomination paper.

Although nominations were received fully a week ago, the names do not appear to have been posted up anywhere in the two camps; and the unopposed candidates have not yet been declared elected. The Council must be aware that these seven members, returned unopposed by an electorate that has demonstrated convincingly it is not interested in dummy advisory boards, do not make a quorum.

The advisory boards can therefore not even begin to meet, let alone function, in the two large camps which now house 60,000 people.

These are the people who have been nominated for the seven wards:—

Block 4, E. P. Mtholo; Block 5, Petrus Tsehlai; Block 6, L. Newana; Block 12, John Mabuza; Block 14, James Masilo; Block 15, Isaac Mokoane; Block 18, Solomon Tsoane.

RENT BOYCOTT CONTINUES  
The rent boycott in the two camps still continues, despite all the efforts of the Council to break it.

One of the methods appears to be for the Council to refuse the burial of any corpse unless the family concerned can produce receipts to show the rent is fully paid up.

A Moroka resident told The

Guardian that when his sick child died he had not only to bear the expenses of the funeral, but had to pay £3 back rent in addition. He is a staunch supporter of the boycott, and had not paid since May when he moved into the camp. In this way people who support the rent boycott move are being coerced into paying their rent.

Another method appears to be for the Council to cut off the water supply to certain sections of the camp when the rent boycotters are strongly organised. In certain parts of Moroka the water is now cut off from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

## SMUTS SEES NO REASON TO ACT

JOHANNESBURG.— The Johannesburg District Committee passed a resolution strongly condemning the attack of the Netherlands Government against the Indonesian Republic, and asking South Africa to raise the matter before the United Nations Organisation as an action endangering peace and violating the Charter.

The private secretary to the Prime Minister acknowledged the letter formally, and then added a sentence thus: "I am directed by General Smuts to say he sees no reason to act as requested in the resolution."

## IF . . . !

"If the 254 Nazis recommended for deportation had, instead of being dangerous Nazis, been respectable foreign natives working in South African households without the necessary brandings on their hides, they'd have been kicked out of this country long ago."—A thought for the week, Arthur Barlow's Weekly.



## INDIA'S NEW STATUS COMMEMORATED

### S.A. INDIANS CELEBRATE

August 15—the day when Pakistan and India were officially declared Dominions within the British Commonwealth—was marked by picturesque celebrations by Indians throughout the country.

Scores of meetings were held, songs were sung and prayers were offered in commemoration of India's rise to dominion status.

In Natal many teachers were faced with empty classes despite the Education Department's refusal to close Indian schools. Thousands of Indian workers stayed away from work with and without permission from their employers.

The new flags of Pakistan and India were prominently displayed everywhere.

In the Transvaal meetings were held during the day by the Transvaal Indian Congress, the Hindu Seva Samaj and the Transvaal Muslim League, all three of which were addressed by Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, president of the Transvaal Congress.

#### INDIA'S WORTHY ROLE

The culminating point of the day's celebration in Johannesburg was a monster procession in which all sections of the Indian community took part. The procession started in Fordsburg and proceeded to the City Hall steps where Dr. Dadoo addressed a huge and enthusiastic crowd. "India," he said, "has played a leading role in the struggle for the liberation of oppressed peoples everywhere. To-day, even more than in the past, the new status of the two dominions will enable the masses of this vast continent to play an even more important and worthy role in the destruction of imperialism and the building of a new world based on the rights of self-determination for all peoples." A resolution, passed unanimously, urged that in accepting the new status of the two dominions, the South African Government should, in the interests of amicable commonwealth relations, remove all racial discrimination against Indians in South Africa.

#### CHALLENGE TO SOUTH AFRICA

Speaking before a crowded meeting held by the Natal Indian Congress at the Albert Park, Durban, Mr. A. I. Meer, the Congress Secretary, declared it would be incumbent on South Africa to accept India and Pakistan as members of the Commonwealth and yet tolerate the practice of discrimination against Indians in South Africa.

"It is hoped," he added, "that South African statesmanship will retrace its steps and devise a policy which will be in keeping with the high ideals of the Commonwealth, to which the two new dominions of India have been admitted as equal members."

Dr. G. M. Nalcker, president of the Natal Indian Congress, said that India's rise to the new status meant that nine-tenths of Britain's colonial population are now free. "To-day," he continued, "the progressive peoples of the world can

be happy because the crushing weight of imperialism in India has been weakened. There can be no lasting peace until imperialism is wiped off the face of the earth."

#### CAPE TOWN MAYOR DEPLORES POLITICS

Invited to bring a message from the citizens of Cape Town, the Mayor, Mr. A. Bloomberg, M.P.C., told a Cape Town audience on the 15th August that he regretted the intrusion of politics on such an occasion.

The meeting was called by the Cape Passive Resistance Council, the India League, and the Indian Traders' Association at the Salt River Railway Institute.

After expressing the goodwill of the citizens of Cape Town, Mr. Bloomberg said such an occasion "should transcend all political issues."

The Mayor's remarks were directed at the chairman of the meeting, Mr. A. E. Parker, who said that India's attainment of Dominion status did not end the imperialist connection with Britain.

Mr. Parker said India's "struggle cannot be said to have ended until the attainment of complete independence, free from any form of economic or political subservience to any foreign power. The proposals put forward by the British Government," he said, "only go as far as placing India on a similar basis to that of South Africa."

Mr. Parker regretted that the transfer of power to India had taken the form of a divided India, but this, he added, was not of India's own making but the result of the policy of divide and rule imposed by Britain.

The meeting adopted a resolution calling for close co-operation and goodwill between Pakistan and India and thanking the British Labour Government for its proposals to India "in the teeth of fierce Tory opposition."

## BUILDING STRIKE SABOTAGED

### Fascists Stab Workers in the Back

JOHANNESBURG: Fascist elements in the building trade unions have done their level best to sabotage the building strike this week. They have issued an unsigned red bogey leaflet in which they try to pin the blame for the strike on the Communists, but which has the effect only of trying to persuade the workers to end the strike and return to their jobs. And this, of course, is exactly what the Master Builders would like!

Not content with their efforts to persuade the Pretoria strikers to return to work, fascist elements from the Pretoria unions invaded Johannesburg on Thursday and

Friday and distributed cyclostyled leaflets among the builders queuing up to receive their strike pay.

This is what the leaflet says: "Do you know that you are now being exploited for political capital by the Communists?" (and the Afrikaans version on the other side adds... "en Uitlandse Jode...") "By dirty, vile and despicable methods the building workers were intimidated and threatened by irresponsible agitators of the meanest type, to vote for the continuance of the strike. There is no question of a free vote, and the decision of the meeting is illegal and must be regarded as null and void... Building workers: wake up and discard the Communist fetters." Nowhere is it stated on the leaflet by whom it is issued.

#### ANGRY WORKERS

Angry building workers surged round the twelve Pretoria men who were handing out the leaflets and only the intervention of Piet Huyser, the chairman of the strike committee, prevented them from being beaten up. The police then intervened to protect the Pretoria men.

One Beetge, a member of the Pretoria executive of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, is alleged to be one of those behind the issue of the red bogey leaflets. He spoke at a meeting of the Johannesburg builders during the

(Continued on Page 6)

#### TEST CASE FOR AFRICAN WORKERS

JOHANNESBURG.—In order to create a test case in the matter of the African building workers unemployed as a result of the strike and yet not receiving unemployment benefits, the Southern Transvaal local committee of the Trades and Labour Council has written to the national central committee administering the Unemployment Insurance Act, giving the names and particulars of three unemployed African building workers.

The committee is asked to reconsider their applications and grant them benefits, which, we are convinced, you have powers to do, under the Act.

Guasda  
August 28  
1947



## BUILDING STRIKE SABOTAGED

(Continued from Page 1)

week when they met to decide whether or not to remain out on strike, and he advised them to return to work. His advice was not taken, only 18 builders voting against the continuance of the strike.

This same Beetge represented the Matchworkers' Union at this year's conference of the South African Trades and Labour Council, and was one of five delegates who staged the walk-out during the discussion on Non-European workers and their trade unions. He left with the words: "You'll hear from me again, and it will be through a different channel."

Beetge, again, was one of D. E. Ellis' right hand men in the strike of European miners against their union this year.

### NO COMPROMISE

Rank and file building workers make quite clear their attitude to this fascist manoeuvre, and to the suggestion they should now return to work. At their City Hall steps meetings and in the strike pay queues at the Trade Hall this matter is being discussed.

There is no question of the workers wishing to accept the offer of the Master Builders for an increase in their cost of living allowance only. Their demand for an increase in their basic wage has been refused up to the present, and demands for a 40-hour week, closed shop and holiday fund ignored.

"We can all see why the master builders don't mind offering us a cost of living allowance increase," said one striker; "they are just hoping that the Government will repeal its war emergency regulations in a few months' time, cost of living allowances will be suspended, and eventually the building workers will be getting even less than they were earning before the strike."

Another striker was just as emphatic. "What? Return to work after a three weeks' strike for a 3d. increase in cost of living? Never!"

### POLICE BUSY

The police continue to try to prevent collections by the strikers.

Miss Dulele Hartwell, of the Garment Workers' Union, who refused to surrender her collection box to a policeman without a receipt, was taken along to Marshall Square. But the police are still looking for a law under which she can be charged.

The Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council has wired the Minister of Justice expressing dismay at the seizure of collection boxes and interference with collectors by the police. It says it is convinced the collectors are conducting legitimate trade union activities, and strongly urges the withdrawal of police interference in the building strike.

The Garment Workers' Union has increased its weekly donation to the strikers from £100 to £1000.

## Misleading Rumours About Builders' Strike

JOHANNESBURG.—There is a strong possibility that the building workers' strike will be extended to the East Rand if no agreement is reached shortly. Talk of the Johannesburg strikers drifting back to work is quite misleading and unfounded. No strikers are returning to work; they are as solid as ever.

In fact the building workers in Pretoria are very uneasy about the so-called gentleman's agreement with the master builders. The latter are talking of not paying the increased cost of living allowance until it is axed, as only then could this item be included in their cost structure. The possibility is by no means remote that the Pretoria workers will come out on strike again.

## 7,000 INDIANS RE-ELECT DADOO

### Transvaal Congress Elections

JOHANNESBURG: Over seven thousand Indian men and women gathered at the Coloured Sports Ground last Sunday to declare their confidence in the present leadership of the Transvaal Indian Congress and to vote back into office Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and his committee. Not a single member of the so-called "opposition" was anywhere to be seen.

Opening the biennial general meeting, Dr. Dadoo said the huge representative gathering of all sections and walks of life was a clear answer to the false assertion of General Smuts that groups of responsible Indians agree with the present policy. "General Smuts may be desirous of wrecking U.N.O. but the democracy loving peoples of the world who desire peace will not allow this."

Dr. Dadoo said the struggle will be conducted on an even more vigorous basis than before. "We have decided to implement the decision of the joint committee of the



DR. DADOO.

Indian Congress, the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses and the African Peoples' Organisation to convene a countrywide conference of all progressive organisations to draw up a charter for democracy for all in South Africa. It may be a prelude to a national convention truly representative of the South African people irrespective of race or colour.

This national convention will, I hope, become a peoples' parliament to bring about radical changes in the body politic of South Africa in order to remove all causes which are leading this country to ruin and to win democracy for all."

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Presenting the Congress secretarial report, Mr. Y. A. Cachalia, joint honorary secretary, dealt with the achievements of the Congress during the past six months. "In the face of stern opposition from the Transvaal Indian Congress and

of Indian traders for carrying on small businesses in proclaimed areas without licenses; the attempts by various local authorities to create new ghettos for the Indian Community. First steps in the co-operation movement of all the Non-European liberation movements were also taken.

Mr. Cachalia added that during the coming period resistance must remain priority number one.

UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED

Amid cheers, Dr. Dadoo was unanimously re-elected president of the Congress. The nine vice-presidents are Messrs. M. A. Dinah, J. V. Gokal, E. E. Laher, T. N. Naidoo, R. G. Patel, Dr. V. G. Patel, Sorabjee Rustonjee, Maulvi I. M. Saloojee, and Mrs. P. K. Naidoo. The joint secretaries are Y. A. Cachalia and D. H. Mistry, and the joint treasurers G. H. I. Pahad and J. G. Vandeyar. Sixty-six members were elected to the working committee.

## DADOO CABLES ATTLEE

JOHANNESBURG.—In a cable to the Prime Minister of Great Britain Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, regrets that Mr. Bottomley, Britain's Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Relations, did not find time to meet representatives of the Transvaal Indian Congress.

Dr. Dadoo says that Congress was anxious to convey to the British Government, through Mr. Bottomley, the effects of racial discrimination by the South African Government against Indians and other Non-European people in South Africa. "We believe it most essential that the British Government be fully conversant with the facts and opinions of all sections of the South African people."

The cable adds that it hopes the failure of Mr. Bottomley to obtain a first-hand account of the Indian case will not deter the British Government from supporting India's case against South Africa at the next session of the United Nations Assembly.

"The British Labour movement has always condemned discrimination on the basis of race or colour and has always stood for justice, fair play and democratic rights for all; and it is hoped these principles will find expression through the British Labour government."

the Natal Congress no Indian was nominated to the advisory board created under the Asiatic Act, and the attempt of the Prime Minister to set up the Indian Advisory Council was frustrated.

"With the boycott movement of Indian traders went one of the bitterest racial campaigns in the history of the Union. Officials of the Congress toured town after town in the Transvaal to combat the boycott. It has now died down. We must pay tribute to the Indian merchants throughout the province who have so courageously faced this government-inspired intimidation."

Other campaigns in the period under review included those against the refusal of passports to Drs. Dadoo and Naleker, the prosecution



# FIGHTING FOR KNOWLEDGE

## The Story of an African School

**JOHANNESBURG:** On a cold and wintry morning The Guardian reporter was called out to the secondary school in Johannesburg's oldest location, Western Native Township. Three hundred African boys and girls from Form 1 were huddled together at their desks in the open school playground, swept by wind and dust.

They had, by an error, been locked out of the communal hall and Advisory Board room which they had been using for the last few weeks as class rooms, as the school itself is too overcrowded to accommodate them.

Father Huddleston, of the Sophiatown Anglican Mission, told The Guardian the story. The school was built five or six years ago, on the initiative of the mission. It is a semi-Government school, the Departments of Education and Native Affairs and also various missions being represented on the committee. For the last three years the committee has been struggling to enlarge the school, which to-day has only six classrooms for nearly 700 children.

Long drawn out negotiations with the Council and Government were started. A site was found for the school near the Nkophila Hospital in Western Native Township. The Council agreed to build the school, granted a 99-year lease, and arrangements were made for a Government subsidy from the Education Department. When the new school was built the plan was to convert the present secondary school into a primary school.

Four months ago the Education

Department announced it had changed its mind. The Council should not build the school, as the Education Department would do so itself. Endless deputations went to Pretoria, and innumerable interviews were arranged with the Inspector for Native Education and other officials. The principal of the school was promised the first sod would be dug before the beginning of the present new school term.

But nothing has happened. The children and the teachers are still waiting for their new school.

### SERVES THE REEF

Father Huddleston emphasised that the school serves not only children from the township, but many towns along the Reef, as far as Randfontein, where there are no secondary schools at all. Many of these children get up very early in the morning to arrive at school in time.

There is evidence of serious malnutrition among them. But the Government has refused to extend the school-feeding scheme to African secondary schools.

There is no hostel accommodation whatsoever for secondary school pupils, who study and do their homework under the most appalling conditions. Despite all this their examination results compare favourably with those of many schools in far better conditions. Junior Certificate pupils at the township school last year gained 18 first class passes, and 30 second class passes. Only two children failed the examination.

Many of the best African teachers are leaving the profession because salaries and service conditions are so unattractive.

## MOROKA TOWNSHIP

### TRADES UNIONISTS TO MEET COUNCILLORS

**JOHANNESBURG:**—A deputation of the local committee of the Trades and Labour Council will meet the City Council Non-European Affairs Committee to oppose the regulations and rent charge in Moroka and Jabavu Townships. The deputation from the local committee will be composed of Messrs. H. Le Roux, and Messrs. I. Wilson and L. C. Scheepers.

### PIROW CHARGED WITH INCITEMENT

**JOHANNESBURG.**—Mr. Oswald Pirow, leader of the New Order Group and former Union Minister of Defence and Justice, charged under the Riotous Assembly Act, has been remanded to September 15.

It is alleged that Mr. Pirow "instigated, incited, commanded or procured" other people to commit a crime or offence by means of an editorial article in "Die Nieuw Orde." The article appeared in an issue of May 9 and was entitled: "Take the law into your own hands."

# HE CHOSE TO SELL OUT

## Kravchenko Exposed

**JOHANNESBURG:** "A number of people are worried about the so-called disclosures made by the renegade Kravchenko in his book 'I Chose Freedom'," said Mr. E. J. Burford, secretary of the Johannesburg Friends of the Soviet Union, in an interview with a Guardian reporter this week. "But they need not lose any sleep over it.

"The press is ballyhooing the book to the skies as part of a concerted anti-Soviet campaign, so it is worth while telling a few facts about Kravchenko, much of whose 'prestige' is based on the popular error he was a high-up official in the Soviet Government and of the United States Purchasing Commission.

"Actually Kravchenko was a clerk in the Commission's employ, and his salary was 75 dollars a month, which obviously was not in accord with his ideas of the possibilities of a luxurious life in the United States. He was therefore ripe for the temptation offered by the Hearst press, whose columns he has been filling with lots of remarkable 'exposures.' His book has even been sent free to all British M.P.s by a well-known reactionary industrialist, presumably to warn them of the horrors of doing business with Russia as an alternative to binding Britain to the United States for dollars. It is really open to question whether the book is actually written by Kravchenko.

"The fact that he was a suspect for purging and was not punished, and managed to worm his way into the foreign service, is a tribute to the Soviet Government's leniency with such individuals, when they show signs of contrition. It is clear their magnanimity was misplaced here, for Kravchenko rattled on his country in 1944 at a time when the whole Soviet people was engaged in a death-grip with the Nazi invaders.

"As to the book itself, it is a stale re-hash of the usual anti-Soviet rubbish which has been presented over and over again by professional

anti-Sovieters. It is on a par with the Goebbelsian fantasy perpetrated recently by the 'Readers' Digest' about fourteen million slaves in Russia. These writers have missed their vocation. They should be writing fairy tales a la Grimm, or screen scripts for Frankenstein."

## IRON CURTAIN OVER SOUTH-WEST AFRICA

**JOHANNESBURG.**—It is learnt that Mr. Paul Mosaka, a member of the now adjourned Native Representative Council, has been refused permission to enter South-West Africa.

Mr. Mosaka, together with Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, M.P., was to visit South-West Africa under the auspices of the Bantu Welfare Trust to investigate the social and economic conditions of Africans in the territory, and to find out their attitude towards the proposed incorporation of South-West Africa into the Union.

The refusal of the South-West authorities to grant Mr. Mosaka a permit to enter the area has been referred to the office of the Prime Minister in Pretoria, but there has been no change in the decision.

The South-West authorities are obviously doing everything to prevent any persons other than those chosen by themselves from visiting South-West Africa to investigate conditions there.

## Springbok Legion's Own Commission

### COMMISSION ON DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION

**JOHANNESBURG.**—The Springbok Legion is organising a commission of enquiry into anti-democratic legislation to which all interested organisations and individuals are invited to submit evidence. Chairman of the commission will be Advocate F. A. W. Lucas, K.C.; and members, Mrs. Margaret Jenkins, Advocate C. J. Claassen, Mr. I. Glyn Thomas, and Mr. Leo Marquard.

Memoranda should deal with "provincial or Union legislation which you consider to be against the best interests of democracy, in that its aim is to further the interests of a particular class or section of the community at the expense of the community as a whole, or to rob a section of the community of democratic rights which they as members of a democratic society should be permitted to enjoy."

The commission will hold public sessions in Johannesburg in the evenings from September 22 to 27, when individuals or representatives of organisations will be invited to give verbal evidence and answer questions.

It is hoped to publish a summary of the memoranda and of the evidence and full findings of the commission in a form in which it will be available to organisations and individuals interested in eliminating anti-democratic legislation.



## Indian Leaders Challenge Smuts

JOHANNESBURG.—“We challenge Field Marshal Smuts statement to the government of India that in his obstinacy in refusing to hold discussions on the basis of the United Nations decision, he is backed by a considerable volume of responsible opinion in South Africa.” This is the reply of Drs. Dadoo and Natsker, presidents of the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses respectively, to the letters of General Smuts to Nehru, recently published in the press.

“It is deliberate mis-statement to say that groups representing all classes of Indians were dissatisfied with the conduct of the affairs of the Natal Indian Congress whose leadership was under ideological influences of which they disapproved, and whose approach they considered harmful to Indian interests.”

The facts, says the statement, are that the Natal Indian Congress has a total membership of 35,000 out of a total Indian population of 23,000. Its officials are elected at properly constituted public meetings and enjoy the fullest confidence of the overwhelming mass of the Indian people of Natal. In the Transvaal the leadership of the Transvaal Indian Congress remains unchallenged.

“The groups representing all classes referred to by the Prime Minister are no other than a handful of discredited individuals who style themselves the Natal Indian Organisation. This organisation claiming to represent the views of the Indian people came into being at a secret meeting held a few months ago behind closed doors and guarded by officers of the C.I.D. supplied by General Smuts’ government.”

“This handful of disgruntled individuals danced to the tune of the Prime Minister and indulged in flirtations with him while delicate correspondence affecting the future of South African Indians was going on between the two governments. When questioned in Parliament General Smuts frankly ad-

mitted that he did not know how many Indians this ‘group representing all classes’ represented.”

“In his long career as a South African statesman,” concludes the statement, “General Smuts has stooped on many occasions to methods far from honourable, but his latest action in using the very name of the people concerned in support of his attempt to evade the decision of the world assembly will remain the grossest misrepresentation ever made by the Prime Minister of a country.”

## Support for Boycott in Springs

JOHANNESBURG.—At a mass meeting held in the Springs location on August 14, attended by over 500 people, it was unanimously agreed that the Springs Advisory Board should adourn in sympathy with the Native Representative Council, and that all elections under the 1936 Native Representation Act should be boycotted.

The meeting was attended by members of the advisory board, and presided over by Mr. D. Kumalo, chairman of the Springs branch of the African National Congress. Mr. D. W. Bopape, Transvaal provincial secretary of the Congress, addressed the meeting.

It was stressed at this meeting that the African people have never really supported elections to these dummy councils, believing that the advisory boards are not only ineffective but stand in the way of the direct representation of the African people on town councils.

A further resolution passed by the meeting welcomed India’s attainment of dominion status and congratulated Gandhi and Nehru on the struggle they have carried on in the interests of freedom for the people of India.

## UNEMPLOYMENT ACT COMMISSION

JOHANNESBURG.—The national executive of the South African Trades and Labour Council has protested to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Labour at the non-inclusion of a representative of the Trades and Labour Council on the commission of enquiry to investigate the workings of the Unemployment Insurance Act. It is felt that the make-up of the commission at present will defeat the purpose for which it was appointed. The Government has been asked to meet a deputation of the Council.

## JOHANNESBURG WORKERS “UNDERNOURISHED”

JOHANNESBURG.—In his annual report for the year ending June 1949 the City Engineer, Dr. E. J. Hamlin, records “a very marked decline in the efficiency of Native labour as compared with the pre-war standard. The main cause of this is undoubtedly the fact that the Natives are, in general, undernourished and incapable of sustained effort, which is in turn due to their being required to feed themselves at this time of food shortages.”

Dr. Hamlin reports that endeavours were made to arrange for the provision of balanced meals by the Council to all municipal Natives free of cost. “Unfortunately,” he continues, “this generous offer has been refused by the Natives’ union, who are hoping to obtain instead an increase in wages...”

About 9,000 Africans are employed by the City Engineer’s Department, and housed in the department compounds.

Dr. Hamlin also writes: “Sport and dancing are always matters of considerable importance in the compounds, but dancing has been less active during the year owing to the inability to entertain without rations and kafir beer.”

## WITS. STUDENTS FIGHT FEES INCREASE

JOHANNESBURG.—Launching their campaign against increased fees, students of the University of the Witwatersrand resolved, at their extraordinary general meeting held last week, to instruct the Students’ Representative Council to take all possible steps to prevent the increase. The resolution, adopted unanimously, pointed out that the Witwatersrand University is already the most expensive in the country and even the present scale of fees prevents the majority of people from attending it. It was felt that increased costs

## UNIVERSITY NEWS

to be borne by the University, such as higher salaries for members of the staff, should be met by a proportionately increased Government subsidy.

Although the fee increase will affect only first-year students from 1948 onwards, it was decided to launch this campaign “in the interests of the students of the future.”

## BURSARIES FOR INDIAN STUDENTS

JOHANNESBURG.—The University Indian Students’ Bursary Committee, which is the only body providing assistance to see Indians through the university here, intends to broaden its sphere of activities with a view to raising more funds. A concert and collection drive in Natal and other centres of the Transvaal have already been arranged for the Christmas recess, and the students hope to get sufficient support to enable them to grant a bursary every year.

The committee intends granting a bursary in Social Science and/or Land Surveying this coming year, and in general aims to grant bursaries in those faculties in which Indian students have not as yet enrolled.

The committee makes an urgent appeal to the general public for funds. Further particulars about the bursary may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. G. D. Chetty, 22A Pollack Avenue, Newclare, Johannesburg.

## NUSAS TOUR TO SPRINGFIELD HEALTH CENTRE

JOHANNESBURG.—Medical students from the universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand paid a visit last month to the Springfield Health Centre in Durban. The tour was arranged by the National Union of South African Students and was the second inter-university student tour under the auspices of N.U.S.A.S. since the end of the war.

The students were given a survey of how the health centre functions in the scheme for overall national health services for South Africa, and they discussed the promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services provided by health centres, based on the family as a unit of the community.







#### FLOURISHING COMMUNITY

The people enjoyed a fair measure of security. They were by no means prosperous, but a fairly flourishing peasant community, finding the sparse rainfall difficult at times, but farming carefully, looking after their beasts, training their children in the life of the farmer. Their dwelling houses and cattle byres became established. Every year young men would leave the valley to go to work for a while in the towns, but they would generally come back to their homes.

But in 1943 this period of comparative security ended abruptly. The company's foreman, Martin Nieuwenhuizen, bought the farm as his own property. And he settled down to deal with the African squatters living in his valley. He offered to let them — or some of them — remain on the land if they would work for him a number of months during the year. The people refused. So Nieuwenhuizen took them to court.

#### THEY SIGNED

Then, somehow or other, a number of the families signed an agreement. They thought, they say, they were signing an agreement to pay a few years' back rent of the £1 10s, which they had not paid the farmer in the period when he had bought the land from the company.

But the agreement they signed also placed on record the fact that those families signing would agree to move off the land and go somewhere else. The people are still bewildered about this.

Some of them say quietly that if they had known the land was to be sold they would have tried to get the Native Affairs Department to earmark it for them as trust

land. If only they could buy land freely, they themselves could have bought it up. But that is all past.

This Tuesday morning the sheriff and police have come to eject the families whose names are affixed to that document. Not all of them will have to move to-day, but who knows how long the rest will be able to stay on another man's land?

#### MAJOR TRAGEDY

The families that have to move — 57 in number — will be taken to a piece of land a few miles from the valley. It is a trust farm of the Native Affairs Department. It is true the department went to the trouble in this case of finding them somewhere else to live, but this rocky hillside is poor compensation for being uprooted from land where they are established and beginning to enjoy the fruits of generations of their labour. And this new land on the trust farm is too small, it is infertile. And because it is so small, the people will have to sell their cattle. This in itself is a major tragedy.

For some members of the police force this must have been quite a jaunt. And how fortunate the farmer is to get the assistance of the police in a private dispute between himself and his sub-tenants.

The police camp looks neat and orderly: tent flaps turned up, pos-

sessions neatly laid out. There are army-like queues at meal times. African constables skip hither and thither at the beck and call of their officers.

The farmer is duly grateful. His wife and women relations come down to the police camp at meal times to cook delicious pannekoek for their police force.

#### HALF A MILE AWAY

And while the policemen eat their pannekoek, hardly half a mile around the bend of a hill, African families are packing their belongings on to army lorries and trucks, dragging out their skins and blankets, taking with them as many possessions as they can carry, puzzling about how to transport their stores of grain that must be carefully rationed until the next harvest — but who knows what the next harvest will yield in this new un'nown home of theirs?

Like pioneers they are starting afresh, but with none of the enthusiasm and hope of pioneers, with only the fear that this move is to be the beginning of their lives as land-starved people, even wanderers, in the Transvaal plateau.

### WITS. STUDENTS FIGHT FOR ACADEMIC EQUALITY

JOHANNESBURG. — The Students' Representative Council of the University of the Witwatersrand has been instructed by a meeting of the student body to press the Johannesburg hospital authorities to allow third-year Non-European students access to post-mortem examinations on European subjects.

The resolution, passed by the students at a general meeting with only 28 votes against, stresses that this restriction is depriving Non-European students of valuable instruction; and that permitting them to attend the examinations will be in accord with the policy of academic equality at the university.

### "HOME" FOR 26,000 FAMILIES

JOHANNESBURG. — According to an analysis of Moroka township, 11 miles from Johannesburg, the density of the population will be 220,000 per square mile. The size of the stands, which are rented at 15s. a week each, is 20 ft. by 20 ft., and it is expected to accommodate at least 25,000 families.

Councillor Hilda Watts, who recently published a rounded memorandum on Moroka, says that as yet no provision has been made for a sports field or cemetery. The services provided comprise:

- 1 water tap for every 50 families.
- 1 lavatory seat for each 20 adults and each 40 minor children.
- 1 hot and cold cubicle shower (when they are built) for every 100 adults and 200 minor children.

Street cleaners, rubbish removal, medical and clinical services and pest control.

Moroka is described as a symptom of the breakdown of basic South African laws — laws which prevent Africans from owning land in the towns, which give them inalienable land in the countryside, and which artificially restrict and control free movement.

The Minister of Health, Dr. H. Gluckman, protested to the Johannesburg City Council some months ago about the potentialities of disease in Moroka.

# JO'BURG STRIKERS STAND FAST

## DETERMINED TO WIN THROUGH

JOHANNESBURG: Despite the activities of strike-breakers in Pretoria and on the East Rand, the Johannesburg building workers, in the fifth week of their strike, are solidly determined to win through.

The master builders and the daily press have been delighted with an organisation called the Building Workers' Investigation Committee, which sprang into existence very suspiciously when it became known that the strike was to be extended to the East Rand. It claimed to have the 100 per cent. support of all East Rand builders, who were said to be against the strike. But by the end of the week, when this organisation presented an anti-strike petition to the acting Minister of Justice, Dr. Colin Steyn, it sported just 200 signatures.

Minister Steyn promised the strike-breakers full police protection and co-operation, urged them to co-operate with the police. Special reserves of the force would stand by, he said. Meanwhile Pretoria strike-breakers visited the East Rand just before the sympathy strike was due to start to prevent the East Rand building workers from joining their Johannesburg colleagues. These tactics, as well as the daily articles in the press ridiculing, attacking and threatening them, are, if anything, spurring the Johannesburg strikers on.

#### RANKS SOLID

We are neither scabs, nor gangsters, nor cowards," declared Mr. Piet Huyser, chairman of the strike committee, at a public meeting. "Our ranks to-day are as solid as they were when we first started this struggle for a better life. We are neither intimidated by the threats of the Government nor cowed by the arrogance of the employers."

"If not for the lies and distortion of the capitalist press, there would be no need to explain our case. The press says we are earning more than we demand — £14 a week. Can you see building workers coming out on strike for £11 10s. a week if they earn £14 a week? And if we are earning £14 why are the master builders so adamant in refusing our demand for £11 10s?"

Workers are offering their savings to their strike fund; some return their £3 strike pay to the committee when they draw it on Fridays. One worker offered his life savings of several hundred pounds to the strike committee as a loan, free of interest.

Cases of scabs are few and far between. In one case six building workers were reported to be at work in the interior of a large bakery in Doornfontein. The pickets could not get anywhere near them, so closely were they guarded by the police. The secretary of the Bakers' Union arrived on the scene and went inside with the building pickets. The bakers

### EAST RAND WORKERS ALSO ON STRIKE

JOHANNESBURG.—The large majority of East Rand building workers are out on strike, and the stoppage is expected in a few days to be 100 per cent. effective. The men are in good spirit.

Pretoria workers are expected to re-join the strike on Thursday. They are annoyed with the attitude of the master builders on the closed shop, and also with the elements of their own ranks who rattled on the Johannesburg strikers.

announced they would not tolerate scabs in their bakery and if they did not stop work they themselves would come out on strike in protest. The six scabs left.

One master builder wrote appealing letters to his workers and craftsmen asking them to attend a special meeting. There he promised them adequate police protection if they returned to work. They refused.

#### CASES OF HARDHIP

Holding daily sessions at the Trades Hall, where they hear on the average 50 or 60 cases a day of hardship among the strikers, are the members of the strike investigation committee. To them come applicants for groceries and food parcels, strikers who have large families of six, eight or ten children and cannot exist on the £3 a week strike pay.

A number of strikers have received ejectment orders because they have been unable to pay their rent. Others are being summoned for non-payment of bills. Still others need help in their wives' confinements.

All these cases come before the investigation committee of four. They quote a typical case of need: A striker with a family of 8 has two sons at trades school, and has to pay 30s. a week for their training. He applies for an additional grant as he cannot possibly come out on his strike pay.

One striker, served with an ejectment order and faced with other financial troubles, sold a radiogram and bedroom suite valued at £60 before he approached the investigation committee for a grant.

cont. verpage



The men are experiencing great hardships, but there is no talk of giving in. The strike-pay queues are good-humoured and jolly.

#### THEIR FIRST STRIKE

The majority of the builders are involved in their first building strike. But among them are also veterans of the last strike in the industry in 1919. They talk to the younger chaps of these strike experiences. In 1919 they were out for three months. It was a complete strike, extending right along the Reef and in Pretoria, and effective also in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Their demands were for a 44 hour week. At the time they were working anything from 48 to 52 hours a week.

They got moral but little financial support from the then weak trade union movement. Single men strikers drew no strike pay at all, as was the case with non-union men. Married men with families drew a voucher for food at a co-operative to the value of £1 a week, and 10s. cash. I spoke to a striker who had been a single man in the strike: "How did you manage?" "I starved for three months," he replied, "I lived on mellelep and klein voelgies."

But the men won their demands. They got their 44-hour week right away at the end of the 3-month strike, and a wage of 2/6 an hour shortly after.

Scabs in those strike days received no soft treatment. They were put in large cages and paraded up and down the town. In the bricklayers' union office there hangs a picture of such an event. It was after this strike that the Amalgamated Bricklayers' Trade Union came into existence.

## Hooligans At Communist Meeting

JOHANNESBURG.—The usual Sunday evening meeting of the Communist Party at the Town Hall steps was continually interrupted last week by heckling and cat-calls from a group of fascist hooligans. Despite this, the meeting concluded without incident.

After the meeting, however, as a group of members of the audience were walking peacefully home along Commissioner St., they were brutally attacked by these hooligans. One man was surrounded by a large group armed with knuckledusters and punched in the jaw. He was treated in hospital later for a lacerated lip. Two of the hooligans were also treated and one of them was detained.

The next morning the newspapers carried a distorted version of the incident. Apparently no reporters were present at the meeting, and the newspapers relied on a highly coloured report by one of the hooligans.

## Native Chief Deposed

JOHANNESBURG: Sibasa, the Venetian recently deposed by the Government, has been removed, by an order of the Governor-General under the 1927 Native Administration Act, to Hamaanskraal, the trust farm north of Pretoria which seems to be serving as the Government's unofficial concentration camp for Africans these days.

The Supreme Court in Pretoria decided early this month that Sibasa was entitled to remain living in the chief's head kraal at Makabane. Despite this court decision, and the fact that the appeal against the decision by the present chief and the Native Commissioner of Sibasa is still pending, the Governor-General has served this removal order on Sibasa, describing him as "a native resident at the chief's head kraal at Sibasa." Sibasa is ordered to "remove within three days of the service of the order to a house which will be pointed out to him by the Native Commissioner at Hamaanskraal."

Sibasa is further ordered not to return to, or visit, at any time any place in the Zoutpansberg district, Pietersburg, Potgietersrust or Letaba without the written permission of the Secretary for Native Affairs.

During the last two weeks police have been moving back and forth from Sibasa district. On Thursday 21 at half past four in the morning eight police vans with 40 African police, six European police and the Native Commissioner of the Sibasa district arrived at Sibasa's Kraal, ordered him to pack his suitcase and take with him two of his wives. Sibasa refused to comply with their orders, but was put into a van and driven away.

Sibasa's lawyer, who has on two occasions been refused permission to visit him in the Sibasa district, has been told he may interview his client only in the office of the Native Commissioner or anywhere along the road.

#### STRONG PROTEST

Mr. Alpheus Maliba, president of the Zoutpansberg Balemi (Landworkers') Association, has issued a statement protesting against the deportation.

The statement says: "I wish to protest most emphatically against the use of this most undemocratic administrative action against Ratsimipi Sibasa. The use of such arbitrary and dictatorial powers as are vested in the Government under the obnoxious Native Administration Act, especially when the matter is still before the courts, can only undermine the confidence of the African people in the justice of the law, and indeed the existence of any legal rights for Africans in the Union.

"I appeal to all democrats and lovers of justice to join in the demand that this deportation order be revoked, and the fascist Native Administration Act repealed."

# BUYING SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS FOR JOBS FOR SOUTH AFRICANS

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☆ GUARDIAN

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## BUY SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS



The spider of unemployment can be defeated by the united efforts of all South Africans—if they increase the productivity of their country. This is the message of a prize-winning window display of a Johannesburg shop. In conjunction with the first All-South African Industries Fair, to be held in Durban from September 8 to 13, The Guardian is running a special feature, with the slogan, "Buying South African means jobs for South Africa's workers." You will find details of three of South Africa's major secondary industries—clothing, canning, and footwear—on Page 3, together with interviews with trade unionists and industrialists.



# "QUALITY CLOTHES" INDUSTRIALIST AND TRADE UNIONIST

## INTERVIEWED

JOHANNESBURG: "The standard of goods produced by our local industry can compete with any in the world's markets. Our production methods are not behind the rest of the world. In addition, we have the world's lowest duties." This information was given to The Guardian's Johannesburg representative by Mr. S. Jaff, chairman of the Transvaal Clothing Manufacturers' Association, when asked for details of the South African clothing industry.

"To-day the industry employs 30,000 workers, about one and a half times as many as before the war," Mr. Jaff continued.

"As for prejudice against South African goods, this is found more among the stores than among the public. We can break down this prejudice by good and consistent high standards of production.

"These days our industries are producing many things we had previously to import. To the extent that we produce these goods we are less and less dependent on foreign exchange which the gold mining industry brings us.

"I claim that 1,000 workers in an efficient industry are produc-

ing more national wealth than 1,000 workers in a low-grade gold mine. The government is anxious to have the lowest possible cost of living with the object of making gold mining as profitable as possible, but in this policy lies the clash of industrial interests with which South Africa is faced—a clash between cheap labour required for the mines and the demands of industry for skilled labour."

Mr. Jaff said the clothing industry still needs protection, particularly against the dumping of American goods.

Mr. E. S. Sachs, secretary of the Garment Workers' Union, outlined organised labour's point of view: "We wholeheartedly support every effort which will help South Africa's industrial development," he told The Guardian. "The future of the people of South Africa cannot be based on mining and agriculture but only on the intensive development of industry.

"The mining industry gives employment to only a comparatively small number of people and hundreds and thousands of its



workers are employed under semi-slave conditions. At all events the mining industry is a waning industry and lacks permanent stability.

"As far as agriculture is concerned, from an economic point of view our agrarian economy is perpetually bankrupt. It does not, nor can it, provide a decent livelihood for its workers. The possibility of re-organising it on a modern scientific basis is very remote.

"The only hope of ever developing a better national economy for South Africa is the development of industry, subject of course to certain conditions," Mr. Sacks continued. "All workers irrespective of race or colour must be afforded every opportunity and encouragement to become trained and efficient. They must receive wages which will enable them to live in comfort and decency. Decent wage standards are indispensable to industrial development as they create purchasing power."

# OUR BOOTS AND SHOES

JOHANNESBURG: "South Africans must buy boots and shoes made in this country. This is in the interests of South Africa. It gives more employment to our workers, raises their standard of living, and will mean that South Africa will advance from one of the low wage countries to one which can compare favourably with conditions in more industrialised and advanced countries," said Mr. W. Kalk, secretary of the Leather Workers' Union, commenting on the "Buy South African" campaign.

Leather workers in particular are interested in this campaign as their industry is experiencing perhaps the most severe unemployment at present.

"We are producing good quality footwear at reasonable prices. Our slogan should be 'South Africa can produce the goods.'

"It is true that the South African public is prejudiced against buying South African made goods. It is due partly to the distributor who does not boost South African goods, but attempts even to palm them off as imported products. There is no need to try to bolster up this prejudice. It is time our manufacturers were proud of their goods.

### LIMITED INTERNAL MARKET

"There are, admittedly, a few manufacturers who are more concerned with their own profits than the quality of their products. It is high time they changed their attitude. Poor quality footwear only strengthens the prejudice of the shopper against the local product. The Standards Bureau must also exercise more vigilance in keeping our goods up to the mark.

"The main difficulty of industries in South Africa is the limited internal market," Mr. Kalk continued. "This can only be expanded by extending the purchasing power of the Non-European people, who must also take their place in the productive activity of the country. This limited market due to their low purchasing power is really a serious obstacle to the expansion of our industries."

## VICTORY FOR COTT TRAINEES IN BUILDING STRIKE

JOHANNESBURG.—The position of the C.O.T.T. trainees indirectly involved in the building strike was taken up with the Minister of Labour by the Johannesburg Branch of the Springsbok Legion. As a result of the representations Minister Odlin Steyn agreed to have the legal aspects of the matter cleared up.

The Legion points out that the Master Builders are bound, in terms of their contracts with the C.O.T.T. trainees, to pay them during this strike, on the same grounds that they have these obligations to their apprentices. Minister Steyn and the assistant secretary of the Department of Labour gave the Springsbok Legion deputation the assurance that they would consider this legal aspect of the matter immediately.

It is understood that a number of the Master Builders have agreed to pay their C.O.T.T. trainees.

## AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS MEETINGS

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. D. W. Bopape, provincial secretary of the African National Congress, will visit Sekukunland early next month, on the invitation of the chiefs and Congress members there.

Congress meetings will be held at the Oriando communal hall on September 7 at 10 a.m., and in Benoni at the Nobadula Hall on September 9 at 7.30 p.m. The meetings will be addressed by members of the national executive and the provincial committees.

## MBOBO BROADCASTS TO INDONESIA

JOHANNESBURG.—Among the colonial delegates at the World Youth Festival to broadcast the support of the youth of the world to the Indonesian people in their struggle against Dutch imperialism, was Victor Mboob, leader of the South African delegation to the Prague festival. The other representatives who took part in the broadcast included delegates from India, Viet Nam and the Chinese Republic.



# NEED FOR TRADE UNION UNITY

## JOHANNESBURG CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS

**JOHANNESBURG:** Opening the annual conference of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions in Johannesburg last week-end, Mr. E. S. Sachs spoke of the great strides towards freedom taken by the peoples of many countries of the world. He said the people of the African continent, from Cairo to the Cape, were stirring and looked for a lead to the African people of the Union.

Representatives of 28 affiliated trade unions were present at the conference, but the majority were not in good financial standing with the council.

Delivering a critical report of the Council's weaknesses, Mr. J. B. Marks, its president, said: "Never in the history of the Non-European trade union movement was it in greater danger than it is to-day, when the Smuts Government in its proposed Bill for the recognition of African trade unions, openly signifies its determination to deprive the movement of even the so-called de facto recognition it has hitherto enjoyed."

"The last parliamentary session indicated clearly that the Union Government is not prepared to repeal discriminatory legislation. Domination, discrimination and oppression under the cloak of giving the Non-Europeans responsibility and a part in the administration of their own affairs, is still to be the order of the day."

### COLLABORATION

Dealing with the need for African unions to affiliate to the South African Trades and Labour Council, Mr. Marks said the constitution of the Council is explicit on this point. It states that its aim is "to achieve unity with organised workers of all races by collaborating as closely as possible with all trade union organisations and the South African Trades and Labour Council."

In his secretarial report Mr. D. Gosal dealt, among other matters, with the need for the establishment of general workers' unions in small towns.

Trotskyite Mr. D. Kozs and his group of interjecting supporters held up a good part of the conference sessions bickering over the report of the credentials committee. Eventually, having delivered speeches and giggled among themselves for several hours, this clique staged a walk-out after their demand that representatives of unaffiliated unions be allowed full participation in the conference had been defeated.

Fraternal greetings were brought by the South African Trades and Labour Council and its Southern Transvaal local committee, the Transvaal Indian Congress, Springbok Legion, Johannesburg District of the Communist Party, African National Congress, its Youth League and other bodies.

### ELECTIONS

The elections resulted in the return to office of Mr. J. B. Marks as President and Mr. D. Tlome as vice-president. The secretary is S. Mogyoe, the trustees J. J. Maloro and N. Calvert and committee members Miss H. du Preez, Mrs. Jardine and Messrs. S. Mogomotsi, D. A. Manala, M. Diphuko, C. P. Shabalala, E. Kgombo, O. Isaacs, P. Sorman, A. D. Chocho and E. Kgochene.

A special emergency conference is to be called within two months to consider the resolutions and constitutional amendments to be presented by the Council executive.

# REX REYNOLDS TELLS ONLY HALF THE TRUTH

Attractively got up and liberally sprinkled with well-produced photographs, Rex Reynolds' "SEARCHLIGHT ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIVE POLICY," prepared for the edification of delegates at the United Nations' General Assembly, might appear, at first glance, to be a fairly stout effort at defending South Africa's policy of discrimination against eight of its eleven million people, the Africans.

But this impression ends at the first glance. This is not because Mr. Reynolds (introduced by Minister Piet van der Byl as a journalist of repute) is unable to juggle skillfully with the facts and figures he does select, but because he selects only those that suit his case. He shies from the conclusion all honest students of South African society have to admit if they base their study on all the facts: that discrimination against a majority of three-quarters of the population but the national income and standard of living of the country as a whole. It can therefore not be justified on any grounds.

Mr. Reynolds shows us pictures of Reserve Africans in idyllic surroundings, of rows of eager-faced African students attending a lecture at Fort Hare, of an African using a typewriter in a newspaper office, others qualifying as doctors or driving taxis, and one of a "well-known African painter"—Sekoto.

These pictures cannot lie. But how representative are they of conditions in South Africa?

Most obvious deception of all is a map showing the territories set aside exclusively for native occupation. It is a map of only half the Union—the eastern half at that, in which most of the reserves are, of course. This gives a very deceptive idea of African occupation, compared with the vast areas owned and inhabited exclusively by Europeans. The map shows shaded areas of land released for African occupation and now being purchased for new reserves, but it is a well-known fact that barely over half the land set aside by the 1936 Act has yet been purchased . . . and that altogether the land areas set aside for African occupation are less than 13 per cent. of the total land area of the country. So 66 per cent. of the people, predominantly peasants, are excluded from occupying 87 per cent. of the land.

John Burer in his "Black Man's Burden" tells us that in the reserves the annual income of a family is £20, or 2½d. a day per head of population. A large percentage of the population is permanently in debt. In some areas as much as 80 per cent. of the adult male population is away from the

reserves working on the mines or in urban areas at any one time. Think of the consequent effect on their agriculture, of the break-up of family life,

### False Picture

Rex Reynolds tells us about soil erosion measures, of Government attempts to help African agriculture. Some help is given, yes. But whereas in 1933 £7,000,000 was spent helping European farmers between 1910 and 1935 it is doubtful whether £3,000,000 was spent on African agriculture in the reserves, and even this amount was from

In view of its importance, we have decided to print this article by our critic in lieu of the usual comment in this space.

"Peter Godfrey Says" will however, be back next week.

African taxation! The 1937/8 report of the Native Affairs Commission tell us: "Generally speaking, it is notorious that the existing native locations and reserves are congested, denuded, overcrowded and eroded and for the most part in a deplorable condition"

Turning over the pages, we see a picture of a comfortable-looking room in a Cape Town hostel for Africans in the Langebaan location. But we also know that little more than one half of Africans living and working in Cape Town are satisfactorily housed (Cape Flats Commission). And a survey of 78 Transvaal town locations shows that 20 per cent. of the Africans in these towns are left behind to find their own housing.

Mr. Reynolds' pamphlet is 64 pages long. It would take as many pages to answer his arguments, produce facts and figures to counterbalance his unrepresentative ones, and it would take twice as many pages to deal with those aspects of South Africa's native policy which he has just ignored.

There are, for example, no chapters dealing with the conditions of Africans on the mines or European farms. Are their conditions too damnable to the case of the Union Government? Not a word is said about the notoriously top-sided system of political representation in the country, which denies the Afri-

can people effective political power.

The evil effects of the pass laws are evaded, the story of how the Africans through direct and indirect taxing have to pay for their own development (a principle of the poor paying for the poor rejected by all civilized countries) is forgotten.

### Africans in Industry

And what of the 1936 Colour Bar Act and the workings of the apprenticeship system and lack of technical training facilities,

(Continued on Page 7)

"Passive Resister"  
Cape Standard  
with Joseph  
1937

(See over)



## REX REYNOLDS TELLS ONLY HALF THE TRUTH

(Continued from Page 3)

all of which help to bar skilled jobs from the Africans and make our carpenter earning £9 a week (depicted in another pretty picture) a curiosity rather than average working man.

Our rates for T.B. trachoma, infant mortality are among the highest in the world. So is our prison population, due to the fact that many thousands of Africans are sent to gaol every year for petty offences counted as crime in no other country of the world besides South Africa. These facts, too, are rather embarrassing to the Union Government.

Key sentence in the pamphlet is the last one: "No government has cause to feel complacent while there is hunger, misery

and ignorance within its boundaries. But if it can show a genuine and increasing effort to combat these evils, it can face its critics without flinching." This is exactly what the Union Government cannot show. It has to its discredit an increasing number of repressive laws over the last few years. It has firmly rejected all demands of the African people for more land, democratic political representation, and a living wage.

The order of the day is still the exploitation and increased backwardness of the African people to maintain the profits of big mining, land-owning and farming interests. This is the keynote of South Africa's Native policy, but this is also what Mr. Reynolds does not write.

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## "VICTIMS OF A FOUL SYSTEM"

### Senator Basner On Moroka Riot

JOHANNESBURG: "The three policemen who were killed in Moroka Township and the mob that killed them are equally the victims of a foul system which has bred such conditions as exist in that township," said Senator H. M. Basner in an exclusive interview with *The Guardian*.

"No community of human beings can live in that nerve-shattering and soul-destroying environment of filth and overcrowding without periodic bursts of violence, and no police force can carry out the volume of South Africa's tyrannical colour-bar legislation without becoming brutalised and without incurring the hostility of the victims of that legislation.

"The remarkable feature of Moroka Township, as has been testified by the Minister of Native Affairs, is the patience and law-abiding spirit of that, sorely strained community. The press and the politicians who describe the Moroka squatters as a lawless community lie when they do so to cover up their guilt and bad conscience in the situation.

"No one has the right to forget that out of 60,000 squatters less than 200 took part in the affray in which these policemen were killed.

"When some white hooligans killed an African because he was wearing gloves, this press and these politicians did not think of describing the European section of Johannesburg as a lawless community.

"The blame for the death of these three men belongs to the Government whose Native Land Act and Urban Areas Act have brought about Moroka; to the

City Council of Johannesburg, whose policy of drift and inaction has aggravated the squatting problem; and to those citizens of South Africa who have the vote but are content to use it for the exploitation and degradation of the African section.

"The drift of the African towards the cities, caused by land hunger and the natural process of industrialisation, has brought about problems which are very formidable in their immensity and complexity. But the Government and municipal authorities of the Union who seek

#### JEWISH NEW YEAR

The Editor and staff of *The Guardian* wish their many Jewish readers a Happy New Year and well over the fast.

to solve these problems by arming the police with tommy-guns and tear gas, instead of by building homes and raising wages, are not helping to build a more peaceful South Africa; they are merely ensuring more murders and greater social conflicts in the future."

#### GOVERNMENT'S ACTION

The Government has instructed the Fagan commission to suspend its present investigations and concentrate for the time being on an enquiry into the causes of the stoning to death of three European policemen in Moroka.

Apart from this all other decisions of the Government and police resolve themselves into the more stringent enforcing of the camp regulations, the appointment of more police there, specialised training for police in the use of weapons and even the training of special police in the use of the tommy-gun.

All the Nationalist papers stress that the police should be properly armed and allowed to use their arms "in dealing with Natives." They try also to place the blame for the stonings on the shoulders of agitators, and, more specifically in some cases, on Communist agitators.







## Boksburg Housing Scandal

### Attempt To Evict African Tenants

JOHANNESBURG: The Boksburg Town Council has tumbled to what it considers is a very bright idea. It has been trying for years to move several hundred Africans from rooms and backyards owned by Indian standholders in the old Boksburg location.

But before eviction notices can be served on these people the Council has to provide them with alternative accommodation.

So now it has hit on the plan of issuing summonses to the Indian landlords, some 30 of whom appeared in the local court last month charged with illegally "harbouring natives."

All were found guilty. But the magistrate, wiser than the Council officials and members, suspended sentence for 12 months on the grounds that these people must be given an opportunity to find new homes. The landlords have thus all been forced to give their tenants notice, which will become effective from August next year.

The old Boksburg location is really a horrible slum—one of the worst on the East Rand.

#### NOT FIT FOR HUMANS

The houses are not fit for human habitation. The streets are muddy and strewn with rubbish, and in rainy weather it is impossible to walk along them. The houses are small, tumbledown and dark. A heavy haze of smoke hangs over the whole location. It is a miracle that no serious epidemics break out here every year.

Since 1925 the Indians have been applying for permission to renovate and rebuild their properties. In 1934, for example, one standholder had already rebuilt half his house when he was stopped by the town engineer and prevented from completing it.

But the Town Council says it has other plans. In 1939 it had the Stums Court sitting to consider the fate of the location, and in 1942 the Government Gazette announced it was a sium and under demolition order.

The tenants were suddenly given 30 days' notice to move, with all their belongings. Their case was put to the Minister of the Interior by a special deputation led by Mr. Leslie Blackwell, M.P., and the Minister stayed the whole matter until alternative accommodation was found for these people.

#### NEW SITE

There the position has rested since 1944. The tenants want to begin building and replanning the location at their own expense; the Council talks of other plans which show no sign of coming to fruition.

The solution is obvious. If the standholders were allowed to build on their present sites the problem of the slum in which they are living and the plight of their sub-tenants would be overcome.

## BUILDING STRIKE

# Employers Block Way To Quick Settlement

JOHANNESBURG: In the seventh week of the building strike the master builders are shouting loudest for a quick settlement—"we are keen to put the industry back on the road"—but procrastinating the most and so standing in the way of satisfactory negotiations.

On Friday Mr. H. C. Roberts, organising director of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers, suggested that if strikes are not to be totally prohibited then at least the Industrial Conciliation Act should be amended to make arbitration compulsory where negotiations have extended beyond a given period. But on Saturday, when there was hope of new talks to break the deadlock, Mr. Roberts explained that he needs at least three days in which to notify master builders of a meeting at which they must decide whether or not they can meet the strike committee.

#### STRIKERS STAND FIRM

In Johannesburg and Pretoria, Germiston, Brakpan, Benoni, Springs and Boksburg and all along the East Rand strikers are standing firm. They have an-

nounced that they are willing to negotiate at any time.

Realising that their so-called gentleman's agreement with the master builders in Pretoria brought them nowhere near the achievement of their demands, Pretoria builders are again wholeheartedly participating in the strike. About £150,000 has now been paid out by the union's strike funds.

In Pretoria three thousand African builders who had been re-employed after the strike ended for a while in Pretoria were again dismissed.

The Department of Labour has still made no official pronouncement on their position as regards unemployment benefit and does not seem particularly concerned about them.

#### TEST CASE

The test case of three African builders rendered unemployed as an indirect result of the strike is still being prepared by the local Trades and Labour Council.

The committee has also written to the central strike committee to ascertain exactly what has been done about the demands put forward by the African builders in January of this year and whether they are being incorporated within the framework of the demands of the central strike committee.

Guardian  
September 18

1947.



## HOW FARMERS GET CONVICT LABOUR

JOHANNESBURG.—Patrick Sebekulu is a 17-year-old African who was sentenced recently to a fine of £10 or two months' imprisonment for being in possession of a dangerous weapon. But when his sister presented the £10 at the gaol she was told it was too late: he had been "sold" to a farmer at Koster, and could not be released.

After a habeas corpus application by the Legal Aid Bureau was granted in the Supreme Court, Patrick was eventually released. The Guardian reporter interviewed him at his home in Alexandra Township. He was nursing a finger badly cut while he was working on a tractor on a dark night.

He told the Guardian he was arrested on Tuesday, August 26. The dangerous weapon he is alleged to have carried was an ordinary table knife. He was brought before the magistrate (not in the Juvenile Court) and summarily sentenced.

Two days later, in the Fort, he heard warders referring to him and five others as the members of a road gang. With no further explanation, and having signed no document at all, he was handed over to a farmer who had come to fetch him and five other prisoners, and they were driven on a lorry to the farm in the Koster district. He was emphatic that he had signed no document agreeing to work on the farm for the period of his sentence and did not know where he was being taken.

When he arrived at the farm he found that all the labourers, with the exception of one lorry driver, were prisoners. He spent nine days grinding mealies, tilling the soil and loading manure. On a Saturday morning he was again told to get into the lorry, driven back to Johannesburg and the gaol, paid 6s. 6d. for his labours on the farm, and then released, as he learnt only later, on the order of the Supreme Court.

## GANGSTERISM AT CITY HALL STEPS

JOHANNESBURG: One African is in hospital and several others are badly hurt as a result of organised gangsterism by fascists who came to the City Hall steps on Sunday night to disrupt a Communist meeting.

For many weeks there have been attempts by hooligans to break up the meetings. But Sunday night saw lorry loads of fascists, armed with pick handles and other lethal weapons, well trained, organised, and responding to blasts on whistles by their leaders, arrive early on the steps, before the meeting could begin. They immediately brutally assaulted Africans standing nearby.

Miss Betty du Toit, who witnessed the incident, described to The Guardian how an African was knocked to the ground and kicked by at least thirty hooligans grouped around him. Only her interven-

tion saved his life. A young lad of fifteen held back a similar mob who wanted to assault another African prostrate on the ground only a few yards away.

### FASCISTS' MEETING

Having beaten up or chased away all nearby Africans, the fascists began to hold a meeting. Speakers made viciously inflammatory racial speeches, demanding that Jews be sent back to Palestine, Indians to India, Kaffirs kept in their places, and roundly abusing the Communist Party.

Thirty police standing nearby did not intervene at all.

## SHANTY SCHOOL



While the Secretary for Education, Mr. A. A. Roberts, proposes the compulsory extension of part-time education for Europeans up to the age of 18, thousands of African children have to start their education in schools like this one at Newclare, Johannesburg. The majority of African children never get a chance to go to school at all.

JOHANNESBURG.—"Education is not the function of the City Council. It is our policy eventually to move the African people from the western areas." This answer to the needs of thousands of school-less children in Newclare, was made by Mr. Venables, manager of the Non-European Affairs Department when he and officials of the Council, Government and provincial departments toured Newclare last week to see the plight of the Bantu United School.

The classrooms of the Bantu United school are scattered, one a mile apart from the others, in old, dingy broken-down shops. Children in the grades and standard one huddle on backless benches and the dusty ground in a hessian shack with gaping holes in the roof. And yet hundreds of children eager to learn are turned away from the school each month.

Their parents are eager to pay their share for their education; but the Council mumbles something about moving them in time to come to "better areas" and turns away.

## New Constitution Proposed For Trades Council Would Hand Power To Big Unions

JOHANNESBURG: Sinister attempts are being made to foist on the South African Trades and Labour Council a new constitution based on completely undemocratic principles.

This became clear at the last meeting of the National Executive when, it is understood, a new constitution sponsored by the Society of Bank Officials, and strongly supported by ex-president Mr. A. J. Downes and the delegates of the Mine Workers' Union, was brought forward.

An attempt to get the National Executive to call an emergency conference to deal with the constitu-

(Continued in Page 3)



## THREE KILLED IN SCHOOL FIRE

JOHANNESBURG.—A fire at Roma College, Basutoland last week resulted in the tragic death of three young students who dashed into the burning building in an attempt to save their books; and the complete destruction of the main building, the college library and classrooms.

Both the National Union of South African Students and the Transvaal Indian Youth Volunteer Corps have launched appeals for material and financial aid for the college. NUSAS has set up depots at the offices of the Students' Representative Council of the University of the Witwatersrand, and of the Students' Medical Council, Medical School, Essien Street. Financial contributions should be sent direct to the principal, Roma College, Basutoland.

The Transvaal Indian Youth Volunteer Corps has made a token donation of £5 5s. to the college, has issued an appeal to Indian youth to donate towards the re-building of the college library; and appealed to a large number of organisations, including Indian schools throughout the province, for books and donations.

## AFTER MOROKA

### 17 AFRICANS CHARGED

JOHANNESBURG.—Public sittings of the Fagan commission, instructed to investigate the disturbances at Moroka, will be held soon at the Magistrate's Court for the hearing of evidence from interested bodies and individuals.

Seventeen Africans, among them two women, appeared in the Magistrate's Court, five on an allegation of murder, and the remaining twelve on allegations of public violence.

No evidence was led and the examination was remanded to September 22. Mr. S. S. Hoffman, of Messrs. Hoffman and Levitan, appeared for the defence. Ball was refused to all 17 Africans.

Those charged with murder are Herbert Molife, Solomon Masapha, Zachariah Mesebuku, Lawrence Lethoi and Esau Lion. Those charged with public violence are Andrew Motsepe, David Mabani, Julia Nyembe, Rama Radebe, Ramatiso Thaba-Bosina, James Ngobane, Jonas Rabu, P. M. Mosea, John Libille, Ben Matlala, Julie Gardie, and Alfred Lesia.

## Anti-Indian Boycotters Assaulted

JOHANNESBURG.—Latest intimidating tactics tried by farmer supporters of the movement to boycott Indian shops in Schwalzer Rainacke, where the movement originally began, have failed.

At one time as many as 15 farmers armed with cameras came in from the surrounding district and stood in relays outside Indian stores to take photographs of Europeans who entered to make purchases. Intimidated by this, local residents retaliated by throwing stones at the farmer-photographers, and then smashed their cameras. This tactic of the boycott organisers has now been stopped.

A leader of the United Party in the town has received a letter from Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, Minister of Finance, saying he regrets to learn the extent to which the boycott has spread in the district; but he knows of no foundation for any statement that the movement was started "with his blessing." He is also unaware of any justification for the statement that the leaders of the United Party are in favour of it.

## Stooges For Advisory Board

JOHANNESBURG.—Yet another attempt — the third — has been made by the City Council to get nominations for the advisory board for Moroka and Jabavu. It is believed that a sufficient number of names of people willing to serve on the board has now been obtained. In hardly any of the wards was an election necessary, as not more than one Council stooge could be found to contest the seat.

The Council is already drawing up a panel of names of people from whom the board may select its chairman. A number of progressives, both African and European, who are likely to be approached to fill this post, have already indicated that they will not agree to serve on the board.

### RENT REDUCTION

More serious will be a possible attempt by the Council to bluff the people on the question of a rent reduction. The rent boycott is still effective, and there is no doubt that because of this heavy pressure the Council will agree to reduce the rent, probably to 5s. a month.

This reduction they may then try to attribute to the willingness of the completely unrepresentative advisory board to negotiate. Actually it will be a direct result of the refusal of the people of the two large camps to pay the 15s. demanded of them.



## NEW CONSTITUTION FOR TRADES COUNCIL

(Continued from front page)

tion was defeated, but it is understood that the unions sponsoring it will not let the matter rest there. They will probably try to get a requisition signed by at least fifty per cent of the card vote strength of all affiliated unions, which is the next step they can take to have an emergency conference called.

One of the most important proposals of the new constitution is that seats on the National Executive shall be filled by apportionment and not by election at an annual national conference. Of the committee's 25 seats, it is suggested 23 be filled in this way by unions with over 3,400 members; and the remaining two seats only shall be balloted for at conference by the unions with fewer than 3,400 members.

This system of apportionment means that eleven large unions will fill 23 seats on the national executive; and that 109 of the 120 unions affiliated will fill two seats between them.

The eleven large unions are The Mine Workers' Union (5 seats); the Building Workers' Industrial Union (3); The Garment Workers' Union (3); S.A. Typographical Union (2); the Amalgamated Engineering Union (2); National Union of Distributive Workers (2); South African Association of Municipal Employees (2); Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers (1); Motor Industry Employees' Union (1); Electrical Workers' Association (1); S.A. Bank Officials' Association (1).

**GENERAL SECRETARY**  
It is proposed that "the question of the appointment or dismissal of the general secretary shall be the prerogative solely of the national executive."

Unions with less than 250 members shall not be represented at all at any conference. Unions with a membership between 250 and 500 members may not be represented at conferences individually but may combine with one other union (as long as their combined strength is not more than 500) to elect one delegate between them to the conference.

The national executive, it is proposed, shall have the right to expel unions. Unions under notice of expulsion or resignation shall not be permitted to attend conferences, and no union which has resigned may re-apply for admission until at least two years have elapsed from the date of their resignation.

The new constitution, if adopted, could not be altered for two years unless three-quarters of the card vote strength of affiliated unions decided without debate to amend it.

### STRONG OBJECTIONS

Many trade unionists comment strongly against this proposed new constitution. Mr. Jan Venter, vice-president of the Council and president of the Johannesburg Municipal Transport Workers' Union (which would not get a seat on the national executive by the apportionment system), said briefly: "The new constitution will not be acceptable, I am sure, to affiliated

unions. There is no democracy in it at all. Instead of discussing the struggle of the workers to-day and calling a conference of unions to discuss the attitude of the Government and employers to the working class, these people are talking about a constitution."

Mr. L. M. Barnard of the Furniture Workers' Industrial Union said his union would never accept these proposals. "It is not a democratic trade union constitution," he said. "It is clear the reactionaries are now making a new move to get control of the Trades and Labour Council."

"I personally am opposed to the calling of an emergency conference on a constitutional question," said Mr. J. Wolfson, a member of the national executive and secretary of the Tailoring Workers' Industrial Union. "If the sponsors are looking for conference, there is the question of the building workers' strike which some of the big unions are supporting very half-heartedly; the question of the rising cost of living which affects all sections of the working class and other classes too. On these issues support the calling of a special conference."

### SINISTER DOCUMENT

"The constitution presented to the national executive is a sinister document," he went on. "It will turn the Trades and Labour Council from a democratic trade union machine to a joint stock capitalist company ruled by a junta appointed by a few unions with big memberships. It will close the door to the expansion of the Trades and Labour Council and prevent it from really speaking for organised labour in South Africa. It will disfranchise the small unions, many of them small because of the anti-trade union laws that hamper their development."

"It is completely at variance with the principles outlined in the constitution of the World Federation of Trades Unions to which the South African Trades and Labour Council is affiliated. It is a complete negation of the principles of democracy and an attempt on the part of anti-progressives to make the SATLC 'safe' for themselves and the Government."

"The present constitution of the Council is by no means a perfect document and should be amended on democratic lines, giving greater power to the rank and file to control the bureaucracy which has entrenched itself and considers itself to be the trade union movement, and protecting the interest of the smaller growing trade unions which consist largely of workers in secondary industries, both European and Non-European. Such amendments to the present constitution could be dealt with by lengthening the annual conference by two or three days to consider the constitution."

"I call on trade unionists throughout the country to be vigilant and aware of what is being done to stifle the democratic principles of the South African trade union movement."

## NEW UNEMPLOYMENT PLAN URGED BY TRADES COUNCIL

JOHANNESBURG: The appointment of trade unions and industrial councils as agents for the Unemployment Insurance Act, with powers to register unemployed and pay benefits to them, is advocated by the South African Trades and Labour Council.

### CHEMICAL WORKERS EXTEND ORGANISATION

JOHANNESBURG. — The Chemical Workers' Union has been granted an extension of area from the boundaries of the Johannesburg municipality to the whole of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria. The union now also includes three new industries: inks, office pastes, and paints and polishes. Efforts are being made to establish an industrial council for the whole area.

These bodies, it is felt, are in the best position to secure suitable employment for unemployed workers speedily, as they are fully conversant with the capabilities of the workers and the requirements of their particular industry.

It is suggested that unemployed contributors should not have to register three times weekly, but only once a week, and once again on the day on which benefits are paid to them. Arrangements should be made for different groups of workers to be paid at different times, and so relieve congestion at the department's offices.

Benefits, says the Council, should be paid as follows: first payment after nine days of continuous unemployment for one week; the second payment after twelve days for two weeks, and after that at the end of each period of six days. Unemployed contributors who secure employment after a period which entitles them to benefit, but are unable to call at the department for payment, should have the amount due to them posted by cheque.

Claims officers should be instructed to accept reasonable explanations from unemployed contributors for non-compliance with certain regulations. The Fund should also give publicity in simple language to the essential provisions of the Act.

## Ex-Soldiers Support Strikers

JOHANNESBURG. — "Having examined the cases presented by the parties to the dispute, the Springsbok Legion has come to the conclusion that the demands of the strikers are in the main reasonable," says a statement issued by the Springsbok Legion on the building strike. "The Legion calls upon the master builders, in consideration of the national interest, to take immediate steps to enter into an agreement with the unions concerned," it continues.

The statement points out that the Legion is vitally interested in the rapid termination of the stoppage of work in the building industry because thousands of ex-servicemen and their families are suffering as a result of the housing shortage, and also because many of the building workers at present on strike are ex-servicemen. Accordingly, "the Legion offered its services in the re-opening of negotiations between the employers and employees concerned. The disputing parties were finally brought together by the Department of Labour, but no agreement was reached."

"Despite the fact that the Legion considers that the onus for the continuance of the strike must be borne by the master builders, the Legion feels that the unions diminished their claims to public sympathy by their neglect of the interests of thousands of African workers who have been thrown out of employment by the strike and whose claim to improved conditions is no less valid than that of the Europeans."



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## MOB VIOLENCE IN JO'BURG Brutal Attacks By Fascist Thugs

JOHANNESBURG: Scenes reminiscent of the rise of Nazism in Germany and the Mosley group activities in the East End of London are taking place in Johannesburg, where organised Greyshirt and other fascist groups have had meetings inciting to violence, disrupting Communist meetings, and even assaulting bystanders.

Also, in the past week, four young Jewish lads were assaulted in Doornfontein and one knocked unconscious by a group of fascist hoodlums who followed them home. A group of fascists gathered outside the premises of the Zionist Youth Organisation in Yeoville shouting

anti-Semitic slogans, hurling stones and breaking windows.

Only last week three Indians were assaulted at the corner of Market and Sauer Streets by a group of Europeans who said they were taking vengeance for meetings at the City Hall steps. It is now clear that these attacks are aimed not only at disrupting Communist Party meetings, but also against Jews, Non-Europeans and all democrats.

### CALL OF THE BLOOD

Last Sunday night, Horak, the Greyshirt leader, made a reappearance at the City Hall steps after an absence of some months. Two meetings went on simultaneously: the Communist meeting addressed by Messrs. Michael Harnel and I. Wolfson and, a few yards away, Horak urging his crowd of supporters to "respond to the call of your blood, be fanatical about your rights."

He claimed: "The white race save the world everything, from the needle to the atom bomb. The white race alone possesses God-given creative thought. The Semite Jewish worm penetrates everywhere and emulates from within."  
"I too, am a Socialist," Horak went on. "A white Socialist." He referred to Holmeys as Key Mohammed Holmeys, said Britain was to-day in the hands of three Jews, George Isaacs, Emmanuel Shihwell and Key Strachey. He used phrases such as "contamination of blood" and "bastardisation by Semites."

### FASCIST ARMAMENT

When the Communist meeting ended and its supporters dispersed quietly, a group of fascists followed, jeering and shouting. They threw blocks of wood at the Communists and scuffles began. The fascists were armed with batons, knuckle dusters, and knobkerries. A detec-

tive disarmed one man of a bicycle chain two-foot long.

Thirty-year-old Natia Marcus was assaulted by about 40 people who chased him through the streets, shouting "Get the Jews," cornered him with his back to a window and hit him with a baseball bat, kicked him in the body and struck him in the face. He managed to escape in a passing car and was taken to hospital.

Fascists later gathered outside Twentieth-Century cinema where a Zionist Socialist meeting was in progress, but were dispersed by the police.

Discussions have taken place in Pretoria between police officers of the Witwatersrand and the Commissioner of Police, and it is reported that the police are considering banning the Sunday night meetings under the Riotous Assemblies Act.

There is no indication yet of any action to be taken against the fascists for their racial speeches.

## GOVT. DELAYS RAND STRIKE SETTLEMENT Trades Council Allegation

JOHANNESBURG: A conference of executives of all trade unions affiliated to the Southern Transvaal local committee of the Trades and Labour Council is to be called to decide on action by the entire trade union movement in support of the building workers, now entering the eighth week of their strike. A one-day strike of all workers in the Southern Transvaal will be discussed at this conference.

The local committee points out it is in the interests of the workers, the employers and the public that the strike be brought to an end and that an honourable agreement be arrived at without delay. The settlement is being prevented, it is claimed, by the interference of the mine owners and the Cabinet sub-committee who are determined to prevent employers in the industry from granting workers increases in wages, as such increases might induce the mine workers to ask for higher wages.

"This pernicious policy constitutes a grave danger to the standards of all workers in South Africa, skilled and unskilled, and more especially to the standards of the skilled artisans which have been built up as a result of years of hard work and struggle."

The local committee is emphatic that the master builders are enjoying a period of unprecedented prosperity, are making enormous and exorbitant profits and could easily afford to grant the demands of the building workers in full without increasing the cost of building.

The one day strike by Witwatersrand workers would be a protest against the attempt by the Government to keep wages down while at the same time allowing employers and merchants to profiteer to their hearts' content.

### FASCISTS IN THE BUILDING UNIONS

Serious concern is being expressed by trade unionists at the activities of a small group of Pretoria fascists whose activities in the building unions and trade union movement in general are creating

much confusion and seriously endangering the activity of the trade unions. These people constitute only a small group but they attempt to impose their policy by means of intimidation and even violence.

It is this group that persuaded the Pretoria builders to return to work a few weeks ago, in the midst of the general building strike, thus breaking the unity of the workers for a while, and being of great service to the master builders.

When the central strike committee decided to call the workers on the East Rand out on strike, a bunch of fascists did their level best to disrupt the meeting held in the Benoni City Hall. In Johannesburg only a short while ago delegates of the strike committee from Johannesburg and the East Rand were threatened with violence when they expressed opinions that the Pretoria group did not like.

### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Shortly after the meeting of the strike committee a group of Pretoria men beat up an active strike supporter in a bar, Mr. Lucas Barnard, chairman of the Furniture Workers' Union, who has given the building strike much assistance, has been threatened by the same group.

A number of trade unionists have been warned by them not to address strike meetings in Pretoria or on the East Rand.

This group of hoodlums has no following of any size in the building unions, but their tactics, unless vigorously exposed by the trade union movement, will sow confusion and doubt among the workers.

## 20,000 AFRICAN BUILDERS UNEMPLOYED

JOHANNESBURG. — Over 20,000 African building workers are now unemployed as a result of the strike of European building workers. Poverty among the families of these workers in the eighth week of the strike is acute. Relief funds have been set up in Johannesburg, Pretoria and on the East Rand, but only a very small proportion of the workers are covered by the activities of the funds.

A very serious result of the present strike will be the disintegration of the African building force. These workers, not in receipt of unemployment benefit, have been attempting to find other employment, and many have succeeded in doing so, even though this employment may be only of a temporary nature. In Johannesburg itself only about one-tenth of the African workers have registered with the fund for relief, and over the last three weeks a large number of the workers have not registered more than once, so that there is a large turnover of workers with whom contact is being lost. Scarcity of trained African workers will even further retard building when the strike is over, but men in receipt of neither wages nor unemployment benefit may have no alternative but to try to find employment in some other industry.

## NO VISA FOR MICHAEL SCOTT

JOHANNESBURG. — Three weeks ago the Reverend Michael Scott, elected by the Natal Council for Human Rights and the Transvaal Council for Asiatic Rights to represent them at the General Assembly of the United Nations, applied to the American Consulate for a visa to proceed to the United States.

He has still not been granted this visa, although he was due to leave by plane over a fortnight ago.

The American consulate, it appears, is still "waiting to hear from Washington."

Mr. Scott is afraid that, although the reasons for not granting this visa may be purely technical, the effect of the delay may be to prevent representations being made to the United Nations by the two bodies he is to represent. All information, he feels, must be made available to U.N.O. if the decision reached is to be a just one.



# SOIL CONSERVATION SCHEME SABOTAGED

## C. J. J. van Rensburg, Back From U.S. Tour, Victimised

**JOHANNESBURG:** Something very queer indeed is going on in the offices of the Department of Lands and Agriculture in Pretoria's Union Buildings. Like a bolt from the blue came the order recently to close down the soil conservation course at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Shortly after we were told one of the difficulties in the way of effective soil conservation schemes is the shortage of trained personnel. All very puzzling.

And then, how to account for the treatment of C. J. J. van Rensburg, South Africa's pioneer soil conservation propagandist, who has been ousted from his job? Is it just plain bungling by high-ups in the civil service? An attempt to oust a man who is becoming an embarrassment to the Government?

### OPPOSITION PLOT?

Has the Government repented of its million pound vote for soil conservation measures, decided that effective measures to combat soil erosion will make too heavy demands on its coffers and that indiscriminate subsidising of farmers is sufficient?

Is there any truth in the suggestion murmured by growing numbers of people, including United Party supporters, that Opposition party elements are trying to turn the department into one of their strongholds, making appointments among people who share their political reaction, even to the extent of appointing ex-internees to important senior positions? Whatever the reason, the facts bear investigating.

No ordinary civil servant, Van Rensburg is the man who stumped the country for years, showing his self-made film "South Africa in Danger" and speaking untiringly to farmers, schoolchildren, university students, huge public meetings in small towns and large towns, invading the homes of members of Parliament and prominent citizens to tell the danger of soil erosion to South Africa's land and people.

### FOOD ABOVE GOLD

His speeches were simple and moving. He told of springs and fountains and rivers drying up, of duststorms followed not by rain and starving people. "To-day we have seen a mountain that has not been burnt or ruined, a view that of it, a farm that can carry the stock or bear the crops it could 20 years ago."

He warned that human erosion goes hand in hand with soil erosion.

"If we can organise to produce gold which nobody can eat we can organise to save a countryside and provide food for millions," he challenged.

Again and again he repeated to farmers the simple rules of conservation farming. The country was roused to the danger of soil erosion, to the pressing need for a large-scale scheme to save the nation's soil. In May, 1946, Parliament passed the Soil Conservation Bill, guided through

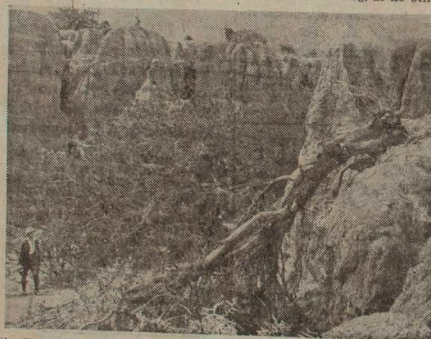
The man who had spoken of harnessing the great Orange River for another TVA was not forgotten. He was to be an important part of our great soil conservation plan.

Beginning as an ordinary labourer in the Department of Lands, to him must go a good deal of the credit for establishing most of South Africa's grass research stations, for selecting and distributing thousands of grasses from every corner of the country to the United States, Australia and other countries.

Just before the war he was in charge of the grass stations of Rietondale and Rustderwerf, the Groote Schuur estate, the Don-gola reserve. His dissertation, "Yield and Soil Reclamation and Utilisation in the Transvaal Bushveld" earned this man, who had stayed at school only long enough to pass Standard Six, his Master of Science degree. (The Joint Matriculation Board and the Council and Senate of the University of the Witwatersrand made it possible for him to submit his thesis and gain an exemption from the passing of the formal matriculation examination.)

### UNTIRING EFFORTS

Of Van Rensburg, Hugh Bennett, famous American soil conservation expert, said during his tour of the Union: "Van Rensburg, as no other

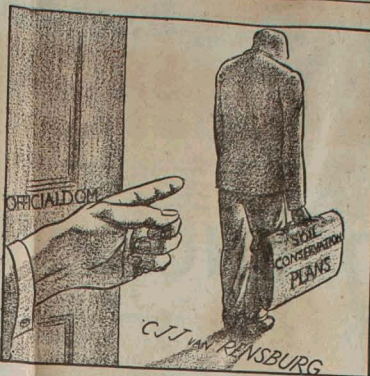


the House by Minister Strauss. Few agricultural measures, few conservation of any kind, met the approval that this Bill met. Speakers of all parties enthusiastically supported it.

Twenty-five per cent. of South Africa's top soil has been washed away by soil erosion like this.

man I have ever met, lives for his country. South Africa needs him more than she knows. To lose his untiring efforts would be to lose a national asset and something that cannot be duplicated in many countries of the world. It would work to be forgotten and overlooked to the country, but the country may not know this."

Reading this to-day, it seems that Bennett, although in the Union for only a very short time, had an inkling of what was still to come.



First Van Rensburg was hampered in his work. His department appeared to be less keen that he should show his now famous films, make his challenging speeches. When he applied for leave to visit the United States he was told his visit would not be sponsored by his department.

So he toured the United States for six months on an intensive investigation into methods of soil conservation in his individual capacity.

### REPLACED DURING ABSENCE

When he was in America the most staggering blow came. The Union's Soil Conservation Department was reorganised and two young men appointed to do his research into grasses and publicity for soil conservation, each at a salary of £850 a year. Previously Van Rensburg had filled both these posts for £800 a year.

In April he returned to the Union, brimful of ideas for energetic campaigns to save the nation's soil. He is still sitting on the Rietondale research station a few miles out of Pretoria, frustrated, ignored.

He has not been invited to tell soil conservationists about his U.S.A. tour, to show his films or exhibit his photographs. The van, in which he previously toured the country has been taken from him. His work is being tackled by other people.

Short of personnel, sorely in need of men with drive, enthusiasm and knowledge, our soil conservation department yet seems to think it can waste what assets we have. Whatever the reason for this policy, it is suicidal.

In the present critical world food situation even our precious gold will not be able to buy the grain we need. Our gold is not acceptable everywhere, as we fondly think. Drought and starvation are not pleasant episodes in the life of a nation.

No one man, no miracle, can hold them back. But sound, really large-scale soil conservation plans using the best personnel South Africa can offer, are part of a country's investment in her food future, and no Government or civil service can afford to blink this fact.

"NO MORE WORK FOR HIM" is the caption for this cartoon by "Heath," which appeared in a recent issue of the "Saturday Post."

## NATS.' POLICY FOR NEXT ELECTION

**JOHANNESBURG:** What exactly does the Nationalist Party mean by segregation? What is its policy for the general election?

Dr. Malan spoke for two hours to the Transvaal Congress of the Nationalist Party last week on these questions, but managed to say very little indeed.

He frightened his audience with the usual bogeys—the black menace, Indian penetration, Hofmeyr's so-called liberalism, the crime wave, Communist agitators, and the interference of the United

Nations in the domestic affairs of the Union.

He said nothing about the country's economic problems, health and education services for the people, the rising cost of living or any other problem vitally affecting the lives of the masses of the people at the present time.

The main theme of his speech was that if the colour question was not "solved" South Africa as a white man's country was finished. Smuts had armed thousands of Non-Europeans during the war and this was responsible for the new spirit among them to-day, and their demands not only for the rights and privileges of Europeans, but for absolute equality with them. If Non-Europeans were granted increased educational facilities and the right to organise in trade unions, that would be placing dynamite under white supremacy.

"You can't separate the Non-European and Communist dangers," proclaimed Dr. Malan. "If you want to solve the colour question the Communists must be fought tooth and nail." According to him, "apartheid" is not only the salvation of white civilisation, but in the best interests of the Non-European.



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## NEW LIGHT ON S.W.A. Michael Scott's Disclosures

**JOHANNESBURG:** Arrogant, and doing his best to be cock-sure, Minister Lawrence, the leader of the Union's delegation at the United Nations, asserts that the people of South-West Africa earnestly desire incorporation into the Union.

And yet, in their own words, the Herero, Ovambo and Nama people of South-West Africa are totally against incorporation of their territory. They believe that the Union's administration of the mandate has proved disastrous for the native peoples of South-West Africa.

They urge that the territory, if not placed under international trusteeship, shall become a British protectorate, or be placed under the protection of the United States as long as it never becomes a fifth province of the Union.

This is disclosed in a petition prepared by the tribes "in submission to the United Nations, which the peoples' delegates" were unable to present themselves as they were refused permission to go to the United Nations, but which the Rev. Michael Scott, just returned from South-West Africa, has now released in both the Union and at the U.N. session in the United States.

### HISTORIC DOCUMENT

The petition is a historic and deeply moving document. It traces the tragic history of the proud and independent Herero people at the hands of the Germans, who in a virtual war of extermination in 1911 reduced the population of the tribe from 85,000 to 15,000. It points out the promises by the Union Government to restore their land have been shamelessly forgotten.

It removes all substance from the claim of the Union Government that the people themselves

desire incorporation, by relating in detail the dishonest and unrepresentative manner in which the referendum was conducted, and it reproduces the appeals continually made by the Herero people to their exiled chief Frederick Maheruru, now in Bechuana-land, that they are totally against incorporation, and desire only the return of their lands and exiled chief.

The Herero petition states: "It is frequently reported in the press of the Union and recently supported by prominent British statesmen that the treatment of the natives of South-West Africa is satisfactory. We only wish they could speak from our own experience as natives of South-West Africa, with regard to indentured, convict and child labour, pass laws, lack of educational and health services, and the wholesale breaking up of family life, leading to the same despair and frustration that exists among many landless peoples without status or opportunity for economic, social or other development.

"It is the native policy of the Union which causes Africans in South-West Africa, the Union and Bechuana-land Protectorate to unite in protest against the annexation of South-West Africa."

### REV. SCOTT LEAVES FOR U.N.O.

**JOHANNESBURG.** The Rev. Michael Scott, who intends to be in New York in time to attend the United Nations' session on behalf of the Council for Asiatic Rights, left for London on Monday.

It is understood that following representations by the Indian Embassy in New York, the U.S. State Department have cabled instructions to the American Consul in Johannesburg to grant him the necessary visa facilities.

### COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

The Nama or Hottentot peoples, and also the Ovambo representatives, appeal for a commission of inquiry to be sent to South-West Africa "to see the conditions under which our people live, before the claims of the Union Government to annex South-West Africa are accepted by the United Nations." They add: "We consider the control of the country should be taken away from the Union Government."

Writing to the secretary for South-West Africa, the headman of the Amulius Reserve says: "The assumption of the mandate by the Union Government did not make the native inhabitants of S.W.A. thereby nationals of the Union, and so we are as a loss to know to whom final appeals can be made for permission to send our representatives overseas to state our case.

"The Union Government refused our application to send delegates last year, and with all due respect we lack the confidence that our case was adequately presented for us by the Union Government's representatives, despite the assurance we were given that this would be done."

The people asked that a commission composed of the nations which won the war — the British, Americans, Russians, French and Chinese should be present when the question of incorporation was discussed. The Administrator replied:



A Paraffin-tin Shack in Windhoek location.

"Those men who have been mentioned will not come into this country; they are prohibited from coming into this country because it belongs to a different government."

So the people asked to be allowed to go to the United Nations' Association themselves. And back came the Administrator's reply: "You have no right to go to the United Nations whilst you have not got your own government. You have got someone to speak for you. You are under the Union Government. The delegate of the Union Government, General Smuts, is there. And there will be other delegates accompanying him. These men will speak for you."

### HOW THE REFERENDUM WAS CONDUCTED

Reports on the manner in which the referendum was conducted are most disquieting. A missionary with nine years' experience in South-West said: "I don't think there is any need to talk about the referendum. It was an absolute farce." To quote the Bishop of Damara-land: "To those who know South-West Africa the significance of the figures (presented by the Union Government) is quite different to what appears on the face of them."

(Continued on page 5.)

### HILDA WATTS TO CONTEST HILLBROW

**JOHANNESBURG.** Communist Councillor Hilda Watts will stand as a candidate in the municipal elections at the end of October in Fer present Ward 10, Hillbrow.

## LIGHT ON S.W.A.

(Continued from Page 1)

"The 30,000 who were against annexation by the Union are the only natives who have any idea of the meaning or significance of the matter at issue. These 30,000 are the Herero and others within the Police Zone who have been in contact with Europeans and live under European law and administration. They practically unanimously expressed themselves as against annexation by the Union."

"The large number that expressed themselves in favour of annexation are living apart from the Europeans on their own tribal lands, under their own chief and headmen, and are only indirectly ruled by the Native Commissioner. These people have little idea of what is meant by trusteeship under the United Nations."

In the words of a leading Ovambo: "The man who conducted the referendum, mainly the Chief Native Commissioner, Major Hahn, who is also a delegate to the United Nations, conducted the referendum in this way. He said the Government had come to ask them who they want from among these people. Do they want an Italian? Do they want a Chinese? A Russian? Portuguese? Or an Englishman? Major Hahn did not mention anything about the incorporation into the Union of South Africa..."

Another Ovambo says: "I have asked some who were in favour of incorporation whether they asked These people from Ovambo-land replied: 'What is the Union? We do not know what you mean by the Union.'"



Another typical "home" for Africans in Windhoek.

Another account runs: "People in Ovambo-land were not consulted in such a way that they could give their right opinions. These people are one of the most backward of the African races and really do not know what good they would derive from the United Nations, with the result that they say: 'We know this boss, we do not know the other boss.'"

"That is the way the consultation took place in Ovambo-land. The people were simply asked whether they wished to remain as they were or whether they wanted some other boss they did not know. They were not told anything about the United Nations Organisation."

Yes, another account concludes: "After the United Nations session last year the Additional Native Commissioner, Mr. Allen, came and held a meeting in Windhoek at which he said that if the United Nations took over the Government of South-West Africa it would mean that the people from these countries, such as India for example, would be able to come to South-West Africa and that the Indians who could live on the smell of oil on a rag—just the smell of oil he said, could make them live—would come to South-West Africa and take away the trade and livelihood of Europeans and Africans."

There is no doubt that many tribes passed formal resolutions favouring incorporation without appreciating the difference between the United Nations trusteeship or the status quo. **EJECTION OF THE PEOPLE FROM THEIR TRIBAL LANDS**

In their petition to the United Nations it is pointed out that the Paramount Chief of the Herero returned from Bechuana-land to South-West Africa to fight against the Germans, and that they were promised their lands would be restored to them when the Germans were defeated. "It is our said duty to inform the United Nations that none of these promises were fulfilled."

When the mandate was established under the aegis of the League of Nations the hopes of the people for the return of their land revived, but in vain. "Now after this second world war and the birth of the United Nations our hopes have once more been revived, and we pray to the United Nations to have compassion on us and after considering our petition to grant us such redress as they in their wisdom deem fit. . . . Should South-West Africa become annexed to the Union of South Africa, the Native policy of the Union Government to keep the African in permanent servitude will never be brought to an end."

### JOHANNESBURG PREPARES FOR ONE-DAY STRIKE

**JOHANNESBURG.** — Johannesburg is preparing for a one-day general strike of all workers against the starvation wage policy of the Government and the employers. On October 9, all workers are expected to join their fellow building workers already on strike.

The strike decision is sponsored by the local committee of the South African Trades & Labour Council and endorsed by a unanimous resolution of 18 delegates from 57 trade unions last Thursday.

The local committee is approaching all unions and their executives and addressing factory meetings in preparation for the strike.



## CROWD ATTACKS FASCIST MEETING IN JO'BURG

JOHANNESBURG: At the City Hall steps last Sunday night a huge gathering of democrats routed a fascist meeting which was being addressed by the Greyshirt leader Horak.

The usual Communist meeting was well attended and conducted in an orderly fashion. Horak was delivering a violently anti-Semitic, anti-Communist, anti-Non-European speech. He was continually interrupted by heckling from the incensed audience, who eventually surged forward to attack the Greyshirt platform. One fascist was knocked down by the crowd, but was rescued by plain-clothes detectives.

At this stage the District Commandant of Police, Major Kriek, in command of a large force of uniformed police, marched on to the steps and ordered the crowd to disperse within 10 minutes. This order was given regardless of the fact that the Communist Party meeting was still proceeding in a most orderly manner. The crowd dispersed and the meeting terminated with a speech by Danie du Plessis a few blocks away.

Two young men, one seventeen-year-old Peter Maeyer, later appeared in court and were cautioned and discharged.

The Communist Party has sent a letter to the Minister of Justice pointing out that by closing down the City Hall steps meetings the police are doing exactly what the fascists want.

## Nursery School Damaged

JOHANNESBURG.—A group of hoodlums last week invaded an old house in Yeoville which served as premises for the Rainbow nursery school, tore the children's drawings from the walls, upset a cupboard full of crockery, and also damaged other rooms in the house where a Zionist youth organisation and a branch of the Young Communist League have their headquarters.

The Rainbow nursery school, established early this year, was open to children of all races. Twenty-eight children, their ages ranging from 20 months to five years, attended.

A short while ago the "Star" publicised this experiment in infant education, but this appears to have been the signal only for a storm of antagonistic letters to the Press, from people who saw the Rainbow nursery school as "a threat to our colour-bar system." This aroused general antagonism towards the school among people in the neighbourhood. Notice for occupation of the old house in Yeoville was given and expired last month.

The Rainbow nursery school will now have to close down, as the difficulty in finding premises under these conditions, has become insurmountable. "Die Transvaler" and "Die Vaderland" have had their way.

## Basuto Mission To U.N.O. Banned

JOHANNESBURG: In April of this year the people of Basutoland decided at a monster conference to send a delegation to the United Nations to complain about the violation by the British Government of treaties entered into with Mosheh, and the violation of the land and other rights of the Basuto people by the British Government.

When they began to collect money and cattle which could be converted into cash to send their elected delegation to the United Nations, they were informed that a Basutoland law prohibited the collecting of funds, and they should not make any attempt to do so.

On May 11 the Basuto people's organisation, Lekhotla la Bafo wrote to the High Commissioner pointing out that even should the High Commissioner refuse them permission, Lekhotla la Bafo would be obliged to collect funds to send their delegates to Lake Success.

The reply of the High Commissioner dated August 23 (four months after the request) was that the High Commissioner "desires that you should be informed that as the United Nations Assembly does not receive oral representatives from private individuals who are not members of one of the delegations representing the governments concerned, the Basutoland Administration cannot undertake to facilitate the sending of delegates."

The delegation was to be led by a Basutoland chief, and to consist of two members of the Lekhotla la Bafo.

### INTIMIDATION

Every attempt is being made by the Basutoland administration to intimidate members of Lekhotla la Bafo. Instances have been reported of accused persons in court being asked, before sentence is passed on them, whether they are members of the organisation.

On one occasion Lekhotla was alleged by the administration to be a Communist body. This the organisation repudiated. They pointed out that at their April conference the chief guest and speaker was Edwin Mofutsanyana, the South African Communist Party, but this did not mean the organisation was Communist. Many people had been invited to attend

the conference, including Chairman Kadalie, who was prevented from arriving only by an accident on the way.

Despite these obstacles, Lekhotla la Bafo is growing rapidly. People from all corners of Basutoland travel many miles to meet its leaders, and plead for meetings and visits from its organisers in their remote districts.

## NATIVE POLICY OF THE POLICE?

JOHANNESBURG.—As the Orange branch of the Communist Party was preparing to hold an open air meeting at the Plantation Square in Orlando a few Sundays ago, a high-ranking police officer who had been waiting for the meeting to begin, approached the organisers and told them the Communist Party and the African people are exploited by the Jews for their own advantage. . . .

"The same thing happened at Muroka," he said. "The best friends of the Africans are the Afrikaners. Long before the Jews came the Afrikaners were always their best friends. . . . They gave them mieliepap, milk and a bit of sjambok. . . ."

The police officer stayed listening for the better part of the meeting, but eventually left, and ordered two lorry loads of police who were waiting at the Orlando police station to do the same.

## DEPUTATION TO COLIN STEYN

JOHANNESBURG.—A deputation from the Springbok Legion last week interviewed Dr. Colin Steyn, the Acting Minister of Justice, in connection with the recent outbreak of violence at political meetings. The deputation proposed that steps should be taken to protect lawful meetings against tactics calculated to interfere with the free expression of opinion.

Dr. Steyn assured the deputation that he would consult with Major-General Palmer, Commissioner of Police, on the steps to be taken. He particularly stressed that severe measures would be enforced against any group organised with the deliberate intention of provoking disturbances.

## UNDEMOCRATIC LAWS COMMISSION HEARS EVIDENCE

JOHANNESBURG: The Springbok Legion's Commission of Enquiry into anti-democratic legislation held nightly sessions last week to hear evidence on anti-democratic legislation affecting Non-Europeans, women and workers in industry.

Chairman of the commission is Mr. Acting Justice F. A. W. Lucas, K.C., and the members Adv. C. J. Claassen, Mrs. Margaret Jenkins, Mr. Leo Marquard and Mr. I. Glynn Thomas.

Here are some of the points made by the witnesses who presented evidence to the Commission:

**The Transvaal Indian Congress:** There are no fewer than 63 laws directly or indirectly affecting the daily lives of Indian citizens. Elementary franchise and civic rights are denied them.

**Mr. E. S. Sachs, National Secretary of the Garment Workers' Union, the Riotous Assemblies Act, insofar as it refers to offences carrying heavy penalties for acts which in truly democratic countries may not even constitute civil wrongs. The Industrial Conciliation Act excludes male African workers and some Indian workers from the rights of collective bargaining. The prohibition of strikes**

is undemocratic. Also anti-democratic are the various masters and servants acts creating criminal offences for breaches of civil contracts, and the Native Labour Regulation Act (1911) and Mines Works and Machinery Act prohibiting large sections of workers from acquiring skill in certain occupations on the grounds of race or colour.

**Communist Party, Johannesburg District:** The South African constitution robs the great majority of the population of the basic democratic rights of franchise and representation. Successive parliaments elected on this basis have, in practically every act of major legislation, tend the privileges of the European community as a whole, and particularly at the expense of the African majority and Coloured and Indian minorities.

## Minister of Justice Sued by Workers

JOHANNESBURG.—The Minister of Justice is being sued by 70 members of the Tobacco Workers' Union who allege they were assaulted by the police in August, 1948, when they were marching through Mayfair to attend a meeting called by the Council of Non-European trade unions to discuss a general strike in support of the African mineworkers' then on strike.

The first worker, Joseph Panamama, is suing the Minister of Justice for £200. He told the court he was in the middle of the procession when it was intercepted by the police. He started to turn back, and was about 200 yards away when the police began to assault them. He did not know that the strike meeting had been banned, and at no time adopted a threatening attitude to the police.

Advocate Frans Boshoff is appearing on behalf of the workers. The case will be continued on October 2.

## COMMUNIST PARTY FETE

JOHANNESBURG.—October 11 is the day of the Communist Party's annual fete. Make a special note of it! See that you visit the Jewish Workers' Club, 15, Upper Ross Street, Doornfontein — all your friends and every thing you want will be there: stalls of hand-knitted goods, books, hardware, novelties, jewellery, softs and hand-made goods, games and a tombola stall. And dancing in the evening to Aubrey Cohen's band.

The fun starts at an o'clock in the morning. Don't miss it!



# More Police Will Not End Shanty-Town Troubles

—CLLR. MOSAKA

JOHANNESBURG: Tommy guns, tear gas, flying squads armed with sten guns, special revolver practice courses, an increased police force and mounted police—this is the answer of the Government to the Moroka incident.

In Moroka a police post to house about 40 policemen has been established. Over the week-ends two lorry loads of police can be seen patrolling the camp.

On the Witwatersrand, it has been announced, the police force has been increased by 1,721 men over the last two years, and an additional force of 200 European constables will be provided within the next three months.

Mr. Paul Mosaka, member of the now adjourned Native Representative Council, is emphatic that these police measures will prove fruitless in removing the causes that lead to riot, and alleviating the very deep and burning grievances of the 60,000 people living in the huge Council camps.

He told the Guardian that Moroka residents have complained to him that they have had no success in their attempt to enter into discussions with the City Council. This indicated that the Council has no intention of meeting any deputation from the people, or revising the camp regulations.

Anything it does decide to do will be carried out through the advisory board, in which the overwhelming majority of the people have no confidence, and towards which many feel animosity because of its unrepresentative character, and the method by which it was set up in the face of popular opposition. The board members are viewed as Council stooges, and were declared elected without having to contest any ward election.

Mrs. A. W. Hoernle, who agreed to stand as chairman of the board and has since been elected, said she was aware that there was opposition to the board, but had agreed to serve as its chairman in an "emergency situation."

Although the advisory board has not yet held an official meeting, certain members have proposed that no "outside person" shall be permitted to address a meeting in the camp unless prior permission has been obtained from the board itself.

## RENT REDUCTION

Mr. Marks Rammitloa, former secretary of the Alexandra Squatters' committee, has issued a statement in which he urges that rents should be reduced to 2s. 6d. a month, stands should be enlarged, trading rights granted only to people living in Moroka, and adequate social and cultural facilities provided.

He points out that all peace-loving Africans deplore the deaths of the three European policemen, but that this was caused by the granting of trading rights to outsiders by the municipality.

The Council has purposely excluded the people's leaders from Moroka, resulting in certain opportunist leaders coming to the fore. "In their former squatting camps riots were unknown, fees for running the camp reasonable and schools run and financed by the committee of the squatters."

"In the municipal-controlled camps these facilities are little known. People complain of inadequate protection. All they know is constant beer-raids. For the past three months people have been voicing their grievances to the authorities with no avail."



Co-operating closely with the Central Strike Committee of the European building workers on the Rand are 200 Coloured building workers. They, too, are striking for higher wages and struggling to exist on the £3 a week strike pay which all strikers receive. Many of them are to-day drawing on their savings, but there is no talk of going back. Coloured builders go on the pickets, march in builders' demonstrations through the streets of Johannesburg, collect for the public for strike funds and help with the distributions of the African Relief Fund for African building workers thrown out of their jobs as a result of the strike.



## FASCISM AT THE CITY HALL STEPS

By RUTH FIRST

It is not considered necessary to write about concentration camps any more. People say they are "tired" of hearing about Auschwitz, Dachau and Buchenwald; visitors to these extermination camps have told "sufficiently" how the deaths of millions of victims of Fascism were carefully planned and fiendishly executed.

If one cares to look back to the beginnings of these things, they have apparently unrelated origins. In the early twenties in Italy, a decade later in Germany, the people of those countries became used to the spectacle of organized fascist groups breaking up the Communist meetings; smashing their offices and newspaper plants; assaulting Communists in the streets. These conflicts were characterised by onlookers and newspaper reporters—even by liberals—as "strife between extremist rival factions."

But the activities of Fascist groups did not end with violence against Communists. Soon it was the turn of Social, Democrat meetings and leaders, of the trade unions, the co-operative societies—and of the liberals who failed to protest against the assault. The Fascist groups were aided, at least indirectly, by the inactivity of the police, who although usually on the scene when buildings were smashed and bystanders attacked, more often than not intervened only to save Fascists from irate opponents, take them into "protective custody" in a police van, and then release them just around the corner.

### FAMILIAR SEQUEL

The rest of the story—the rise of strong Fascist parties which climbed into power over the disunity, confusion and bewilderment of workers and liberals—is well known.

With the coming of the war and the exposure of the activities of Fascist and Nazi groups on a world scale, the man in the street began to recognise more sharply the characteristic features of Fascism—concentration camps, racial oppression, persecution and killing of Socialists, Communists, trade unionists, and then Catholics, Christians and liberals—anyone not completely in accord with the methods and ideas of the fascist parties. With the end of the war, many people felt that fascist ideas and methods were too well known ever to constitute a danger again.

Vain delusion! The Fascists are still with a ready to take advantage of decreased vigilance and to start the whole

murderous business again. Here. In South Africa. . . .

It is a Sunday evening in Johannesburg, past the old post office, pause curiously to glance at some groups of young men sitting on the steps of the City Hall. They are shouting something.

Approach nearer and you will hear what it is: "Come on the filthy Jews! Come on the Communists!"

Wait another few minutes, and someone will begin to address one of the groups: "I, too, am a socialist," he shouts; "a white socialist. Remember that the white race has given the world everything from a needle to an atom bomb. The white race alone has a God-given gift of creative thought. . . ."

"What about the Jews?" shouts one of the young men standing next to him. "I am talking about the white man," retorts the speaker. "The Semitic Jewish germ penetrates everywhere and emanates from within. Britain to-day is in the hands of three Jews: George Isaacs, Emmanuel Shinwell and Ike Strachey." A few references to Hofmeyr as Ike, Mohammed Hofmeyr, to the "bloody liberals," the "dirty Communists," an appeal to his audience as "white men," a discourse on race and blood theories, a final rallying call: "Be fanatical about your rights, respond to the call of your blood!" and the speech is over.

The speaker is Horak, the Greyshirt leader.

Throughout his speech his followers have been milling round in small groups. Walk among them and you will notice one clutching a bicycle chain, another fitting a knuckle-duster to his hand, a third swinging a club. Those without weapons are wrapping large handkerchiefs around their right fists.

Nearby, without racial incitement, calm and reasoned addresses by speakers at a Communist Party meeting.

A force of about thirty police are lined up a block away. They stand in readiness for the "clash between extremist rival factions."

There is a clash. Horak's followers pursue the people who gathered round the meeting of the Communist Party as this meeting finishes, shouting jeering insults, inviting a fight. The police step in after several scuffles and Gordon off the two groups. One man, who becomes isolated from the crowd, is pursued down

Pritchard Street by a group of about thirty of Horak's men, cornered with his back to a shop window, beaten with a baseball bat and kicked and punched in the face and body. Again the shouts by his attackers: "Get the Jew!"

This sort of thing has been going on for several weeks now. The week before a group of men standing near the City Hall were brutally attacked, knocked to the ground and kicked by a mob as they lay there. They were Africans who had dared to approach the vicinity of the meeting of the white Fascists.

None of Horak's supporters have been arrested. The assaults have apparently gone by "unnoticed" by the police. No one has been charged for racial incitement. But this does not mean that the police do not intend to take any action at all. From all accounts they are waiting for the opportunity to ban all future meetings of the Communist Party on the City Hall steps. This is the aim of Horak and his followers. This is the aim of the Nationalists, one of whose members made precisely this proposal at a meeting of the Johannesburg City Council a week ago.

The banning of these meetings which the Communist Party has for years held at the City Hall steps would, of course, be a tremendous victory for these Jew-baiters, these Fascists who talk of white supremacy; these pro-Nazi's who think nothing of assaulting any non-European in the streets. It would mean more than that. Racial attacks against any section of the population mean attacks against democracy itself. They will open the way to persecution of those who believe in free speech and the right of free assembly. Thus the first stage in our battle to prevent Fascism in South Africa and extend democracy to all would be lost. This first stage in the battle must be the concern of every anti-Fascist.

Canada  
October 9,

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## SOME DANGEROUS MEN AMONG 33 ESCAPED NAZIS

JOHANNESBURG.—A former Hitler Gestapo agent in Norway is at large in South Africa. He has been seen in Louis Trichardt and, more recently, in Bezuidenhout Valley, Johannesburg.

He is Hans Warnke, second officer on the German ship "Karl Fritzen," later captured on the high seas; and then "Fuehrer" in the Bavarian Internment camp. He is one of the 33 German ex-internees who broke parole and went into hiding recently rather than be deported in the Carnarvon Castle.

Warnke is a dangerous Nazi. He was trained in a Gestapo school "Burg Vogelsang" and was a member of Nazi terror groups and of the so-called "Nazi courts of honour" which sentenced to death people in opposition to the Hitler regime. His training stood him in good stead in the internment camp, where he organised Sunday night celebrations of Nazi victories, and the camp court martials which sentenced interned anti-fascists.

Now Hans Warnke is at large and roaming freely about South Africa.

### APPLICATION TO COURTS

Following the granting of a rule nisi which serves as a temporary interdict preventing the deportation of ex-internee Spiegel, there has been a stampede of ex-internees to the Cape to obtain similar interdicts which they hope will eventually enable them to escape deportation. They include W. Hoernisch and K. Kock.

Both are dangerous men. Hoernisch is a former member of the ill-famed Austrian Legion and was an SS camp guard at Dachau. He is said to be living on a farm near Johannesburg at present. Kock was the leader of the Hitler Youth in South-West Africa and one of the instigators of terror in the Andalusia camp during the war.

Both are included in the list of 234 recommended for deportation by the De Villiers commission.

Thousands of police are said to be on the look-out for the sailors who broke parole. It seems the Minister of Justice agreed to release these sailors on parole mainly because of a solemn undertaking given by the Deutsch Afrikanischer Hilfsausschuss, described as a "South African German organisation." This body promised that it would find accommodation for the released sailors and proposed that "each man on release must sign a special parole by which he binds himself to be available at any place

designated by the authorities, if and when required for repatriation."

"As an organisation, we shall give an undertaking that the terms of the parole will be complied with."

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

What is the Deutsch Afrikanischer Hilfsausschuss? On the surface an innocently charitable organisation concerned with helping released German internees. Its sponsors are said to be South Africans—perhaps of German descent?

But its secretaries in at least two cases are actually ex-internees. E. G. H. Blohm is the organisation's secretary in Pretoria. Dr. H. E. W. Erbe occupies the Cape Town post.

It is suggested that this type of "helping hand society" is responsible for most of the earnest lobbying and hurried deputations to Cape Town pleading that the ex-internees marked down for deportation should be allowed to stay in the Union.

Many of the ex-internees do not want to be repatriated. No doubt they find South Africa good soil for their Nazi activities, and from all signs they have found friends among sections of South Africa's population.



## Govt. Recommends Rent Reduction At Moroka

JOHANNESBURG.—Both the Government Departments of Native Affairs and Health and the South African Police presented evidence to the Fagan Commission last week, dealing at fair length with the background and causes of the Moroka incident.

The Government memorandum stressed that local authorities must accept the inevitable and realise that if their industrial prosperity is to continue, they must accept the presence of a large married African population.

"The greatest cause for discontent in Moroka at the present moment is the question of rent," states the memorandum. "The rental is high in relation to site rentals elsewhere and to rentals for housing accommodation in Orlando and other municipal locations. . . It should also be remembered that it has not yet been possible to provide most of the services contemplated. In the circumstances a substantial reduction in rent is recommended."

Among the recommendations of this memorandum are ample facilities for trading; the provision of greater opportunities for Africans to provide their own housing under controlled leasehold or freehold conditions; the provision of the various social services and amenities contemplated by the municipality such as recreational facilities, schools, medical services and improved transport.

"In view of the fact that the rules for the administration of the camp were drawn up during an emergency . . . they should now be submitted to the Moroka Advisory Board for consideration and comment."

### SHARP CRITICISM

Sharp criticism of the Council's attitude towards the squatters was expressed in the memorandum of the South African Police. This memorandum states that during the movement of squatters from Orlando to Jabavu it became obvious to the District Commandant that the attitude of some of the Council's officials left much to be desired, and the complex of authority over less privileged people was very clearly displayed.

Underlying the discussions between the Council and the police had been the contention of the municipality that a show of force should be made. Colonel Mickdal said it appeared the Council's only remedy for the situation was for the police to remove the squatters forcibly—an attitude with which the police could not agree.

"It was our considered opinion that there was no law under which we could take action. This was a quasi civil dispute between the municipality and the squatters."

## AFRICAN CONGRESS NEWS

JOHANNESBURG.—The annual provincial conference of the African National Congress (Transvaal) will be held at Krugersdorp on October 25 and 26.

Meetings organised by the Congress have been held recently at Bethal, Pimville, Meyerton, Benoni and Sophiatown. Pimville residents resolved to prepare for a total boycott of the advisory board elections, due to take place in December. The Benoni meeting protested strongly against the plan of the City Council to fence in the new location, and increase rents at the hostel.

### BUILDING STRIKE

## Workers Pleased With Settlement

JOHANNESBURG.—The building strike has at last been settled. A four-year agreement, at the end of which building artisans will receive a basic wage of 3s. 9d. an hour and work a 40-hour week, was signed last week by the union representatives and master builders.

The general strike called by the local committee of the Trades and Labour Council in support of building workers will not take place.

The strikers have accepted the offer of the master builders of an immediate over-all increase of 10d. an hour, which will operate from now until 1948 and will provide for a total hourly wage of 5s. 3½d. for a 40-hour week. The total wage consists of a basic wage of 3s. 6d. an hour, a cost of living allowance of 1s. 5½d. an hour, and a holiday fund allowance of 4d. an hour.

In 1949 there will be a reduction of one hour in the 40-hour week, and an increase of 1d. in the basic rate. There will be a similar improvement in each of the two following years.

The increased cost of living allowance of 1s. 5½d. an hour will be subject to the fluctuations in the official figures published by the Department of Census.

### INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

Arrangements will proceed for the formation of an industrial council in the industry, and the agreement will be legalised as soon as this is done.

Thus ends the hard ten-week strike of the building artisans. General view among them is that, although they did not win all their demands, they won a good many, and the terms of the settlement are satisfactory.

### JO'BURG ELECTION

## HILDA WATTS INDICTS U.P. COUNCILLORS

JOHANNESBURG.—In the municipal elections at the end of this month there will be a straight fight in Ward 10 between Communist candidate Hilda Watts, the retiring Councillor, and the United Party nominee, Mr. Johns.

Hilda Watts told the Guardian she had received numerous requests from people within her ward, and from as far afield as Moroka and Orlando, Pimville and Sophiatown, that she should stand again. "During the past year racial issues have become more and more acute in Johannesburg," she said. "The demand of the African people

forward plans for their sub-committees.

Councillor Watts explained that although the character of her ward had been changed by the inclusion of widespread well-to-do areas, if everyone who voted Communist or Labour in the last election, and everyone who supported progressive policies in city government came forward to vote in the October election, the Ward 10 seat would be won.



for direct representation on the Council is now a very real issue, and cannot be indefinitely postponed. Laws such as the Urban Areas Act and the pass laws have brought about a position in this city that can no longer be tolerated by black or by white.

"In the City Council to-day there sit the representatives of parties which have no solution to these problems. A single Communist in the Council may not radically change the position. But a Communist can draw public attention to them in a very sharp way, constantly drawing attention to what is wrong, can help to show that present repressive methods are intensifying, not solving, the problem."

"The attitude of the Council towards Johannesburg's squatters is as much responsible for the deaths of the five men so far killed in squatter disturbances, as any one factor can be said to be."

### EMPHY PROMISES

"United Party candidates promised all sorts of things to the voters. Now that many of them are in the Council, they seldom speak at Council meetings, leave everything to their Party leaders and the whips, show little interest in the work of the Council and never put

## Guardian Banned To University Employees

JOHANNESBURG.—The superintendent of the compound of the University of the Witwatersrand has prohibited the African employees of the University from attending Communist Party meetings within or outside the compound, and from reading the papers "Inkuluweko" and "Guardian." He has threatened that any worker who infringes these rules is likely to be dismissed.

There is a widespread dissatisfaction among the compound workers. Wages are 2½ a month, plus 2½ 1½d. cost of living and rations. Their sleeping quarters with concrete bunks are akin to those found in the mine compounds. Many of the married workers have to leave their wives and families in Johannesburg locations, unless they have worked for the University for six years, in which case they may sleep outside the compound, and receive an extra amount of 2½ a month. There are about 150 African workers in the University compound.

## Indians Not Opposed To Negotiations

JOHANNESBURG.—"The Passive Resistance movement fully supports any honourable move towards an amicable settlement of the South Africa-India dispute through negotiations," says a statement issued by Dr. Y. M. Dadoo.

"Those in the leadership of the resistance struggle and the Indian people of South Africa have full confidence in the Indian delegation, backed by the delegation of Pakistan, that in any solution of the Indian problem they will be guided by what is just and honourable, and in conformity with the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly."

The statement has been issued to define the attitude of the Passive Resistance movement, in view of certain mis-statements appearing in the daily Press.

"There is not the slightest truth in the statement that at a private meeting held in Durban it was decided to instruct the delegates of the Joint Passive Resistance Council at Lake Success to urge a world-wide boycott of South African goods. No such meeting was held."

"It is true, however, that at public meetings held at various centres in Natal resolutions were passed unanimously which, while fully supporting India's stand at U.N.O., suggested the imposition of



## WHERE'S YOUR PASS, BOY?

JOHANNESBURG.—One Friday morning, while walking in Sophiatown, Richard, an African employed in Johannesburg, was stopped by two African policemen. They asked to see his pass. He handed it to them, and one of them then put it in his own pocket. Without further ado they marched Richard off to the Newlands police station; he had been arrested for being without a pass! He tried to explain the position at the police station, but was told he was lying. He spent the rest of the day and night in the cells.

Next morning he was taken to the pass office, where his fingerprints were taken. Then an official checked up and found Richard was registered, after all. But on closely examining his monthly pass it was found that it had expired a few days ago and had not been re-registered. So this time Richard was escorted to Marshall Square. The policeman in charge told him to return once again to the pass office.

By this time his employer had managed to trace him, and went down to the pass office himself. He explained that he had omitted to renew the pass, but would immediately do so. So Richard was released. . . but not until he had wasted almost two full days in the cells, offering explanations which no one was prepared to listen to.

## POLICE AT F.S.U. MEETING

JOHANNESBURG.—Members of the South African police attend meetings of the Friends of the Soviet Union in their private capacity, according to a letter received by the FSU from the Commissioner of Police in Pretoria.

The FSU complained about the presence of CID officers at their meetings. Mr. E. J. Burford, its secretary, wrote: "You are fully educational, cultural and friendly political party or in any way connected with any subversive movement. It seeks to promote closer allies, the USSR."

"The attendance of CID officers at our meetings is quite unwarranted, useless and contrary to the normal, democratic practices of free assembly and free speech."

The Commissioner of Police replied that a member of the SAP attended an FSU meeting in August in his private capacity, and paid admission fee in the same manner as any other member of

the public, from whom he was indistinguishable. "I do not propose to prohibit the attendance by policemen at public meetings just on the grounds that they are members of the SAP."

Mr. Burford replied: "The two detectives who usually attend our meetings are both well known to us, nor is it any mystery that they are members of your special department or political branch. I must insist that the practice of sending police officers to our meetings in whatever guise or under whatever subterfuge, be discontinued forthwith."

## Registration of Teachers Proposed

JOHANNESBURG.—A bill providing for the establishment of a South African Teachers' Council which will register members of the profession, is to be considered during the next parliamentary session.

Such a Council would enhance the professional standing of teachers, and would be in a position to advise the Minister on all matters affecting teachers.

One or two disquieting features of the Bill are at present being discussed in teachers' circles. The bill covers only "European" teachers and excludes all teachers not of "European parentage or extraction." Also the proposed Teachers' Council will have very wide powers, enabling it to take disciplinary action against teachers guilty of "improper or disgraceful" conduct. The nature of such conduct is not defined, although it may lead to the removal of a teacher's name from the teaching register.

## BLACK MAN'S BURDEN

JOHANNESBURG.—The Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra recently applied to the City Council for a grant of £500 for the coming year.

It was decided to make a grant of £400; but £200 of this amount must come from the Native Revenue Account.

## COMMUNISTS APPEAL FOR FUNDS

JOHANNESBURG.—In an urgent appeal issued this week the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party points out that, although the war against Fascism ended two years ago, recent events at the Johannesburg City Hall steps show that Fascism in South Africa is far from dead. Attacks on Non-Europeans, Jews and other sections of the population show this menace to be a very real one.

To meet this threat the Communist Party in Johannesburg has launched a campaign demanding the dissolution of Fascist organisations and the prohibition of all types of Fascist and racial propaganda.

In addition, the Party is conducting a blitz campaign in support of Hilda Watts, standing for re-election to the City Council in Ward 10 at the end of October.

An urgent appeal is made for financial assistance to ensure the effectiveness of these two campaigns.

## Bloemfontein Strike Settlement

BLOEMFONTEIN.—The strike of garment workers which broke out in one of Bloemfontein's large clothing factories is about to be settled. The employers have agreed to a 42-hour week (in place of 46 hours); three weeks' holiday pay at the end of the year; and have promised that the question of wages will be considered in January, 1946.

The second large factory in Bloemfontein agreed to the workers' demands and the workers did not strike.

## RACIALISM AND FASCISM THRIVING IN S.A. Cameo at Johannesburg City Hall Steps

With the end of the last bloody holocaust, many people felt that Fascist ideas and methods were too well known ever again to constitute a danger. This is a vain delusion, says Ruth First in "The Democrat." Here in South Africa the Fascists are still with us.

It is a Sunday evening in Johannesburg. People walking along Risik Street, past the old post office, pause curiously to glance at some groups of young men sitting on the steps of the City Hall. They are shouting something.

Approach nearer and you will hear what it is: "Come on the filthy Jews! Come on the Communists!"

### WHITE SOCIALISM

Wait another few minutes, and someone will begin to address one of the groups: "I, too, am a socialist," he shouts; "a white socialist. Remember that the white race has given the world atom bomb. The white race alone has the God-given gift of creative thought. . . ." "What about the Jews?" shouts one of the young men standing next to him. "I am talking about the white man," retorts the speaker.

"The Semitic Jewish germ penetrates everywhere and emasculates from within. Britain to-day is in the hands of three Jews: George Isaacs, Emmanuelle Shinnell and Key Strachey." A few references to Hofmeyr as Key Mohammed Hofmeyr, to the "bloody liberals," the "dirty Communists," an appeal to his audience as "white men," a discourse on race and blood theories, a final rallying call: "Be fanatical about your rights, respond to the call of your blood!" and the speech is over.

The speaker is Horak, the Grey-shirt leader.

Throughout his speech his followers have been milling round in small groups. Walk among them and you will notice one clutching a bicycle chain, another fitting a knuckle-duster to his hand, a third swinging a club. Those without weapons are wrapping large handkerchiefs around their right fists.

Nearby, without racial incitement, calm and reasoned addresses by speakers at a Communist Party meeting.

A force of about thirty people are lined up a block away. They stand in readiness for the "clash between extremist rival factions."

There is a clash. Horak's followers pursue the people who

gathered round the meeting of the Communist Party as this meeting finishes, shouting, jeering, insulting, inviting a fight. The police step in after several scuffles and cordon off the two groups. One man, who becomes isolated from the crowd, is pursued down Pritchard Street by a group of about thirty of Horak's men, cornered with his back to a shop window, and beaten with a baseball bat and kicked and punched in the face and body. Again the shouts by his attackers: "Get the Jew!"

This sort of thing has been going on for several weeks now. The week before a group of men standing near the City Hall were brutally attacked, knocked to the ground and kicked by a mob as they lay there. They were Africans who had dared to appear in the vicinity of the meeting of the white Fascists.

None of Horak's supporters has been arrested. The assaults have apparently gone by "unnoticed" by the police. No one has been charged for racial incitement. But that does not mean that the police do not intend to take any action at all. From all accounts they are waiting for the opportunity to bar all future meetings of the Communist Party from the City Hall steps. This is the aim of Horak and his followers. This is the aim of the Nationalists, one of whose members made precisely this proposal at a meeting of the Johannesburg City Council a week ago.

The banning of these meetings which the Communist Party has for years held at the City Hall steps would, of course, be a tremendous victory for these Jew-haters, these Fascists who talk of white supremacy.

These pro-Nazi's who think nothing of assaulting any Non-European in the streets. It would mean more than that. Racial attacks against any section of the population mean attacks against democracy itself.

They will open the way to persecution of those who believe in free speech and the right of free assembly. Thus the first stage in our battle to prevent Fascism in South Africa and extend democracy to all would be lost. This first stage in the battle would be the concern of every anti-Fascist.



## African People Unable To Speak Freely

—SAYS XUMA

JOHANNESBURG. — "The whole procedure smacks of official pressure politics without giving opportunity for frank discussion," says Dr. A. B. Xuma, president-general of the African National Congress, criticising the method of consultation of the peoples of South-West Africa on the question of incorporation into the Union.

Dr. Xuma analyses the methods used in a memorandum: "A Mandate that Failed."

"In the so-called consultation of the Non-Europeans, the approach was neither customary nor traditional. The presence of the Native Commissioner or Magistrate and their participation in the proceedings brought the semblance of authority; and the decisions could be by no stretch of imagination be free expression of the people's views.

"There could not be tribal decision in the true sense. It does not appear that the people were given time for free discussion without the presence of a native commissioner, in the traditional way."

Dr. Xuma considers that the memorials asking for incorporation, said to be signed by the tribes, are, in tone and language, not the composition of the Africans. "These are the words put in their mouths by some European official."

### LEADERS' LETTERS

In his memorandum Dr. Xuma produces a letter from ten leaders of the Hereros, Hottentots, Ovambos and Namas in South-West Africa.

"When the representatives of the Prime Minister approached us in connection with the incorporation of S.W.A. into the Union, we told him that South-West Africa is inhabited by four main Non-European groups. This country was taken away from us by the Germans through faulty means. The Allied nations fought the last war, and their main object was to instal lasting peace and liberation of all nations, irrespective of colour.

"Seeing that this country belonged to the four main Non-European groups, we therefore want our country to be given back to us. We all want it to be placed under trusteeship and not to be incorporated into the Union. The following are our reasons for non-incorporation into the Union.

### NO GOOD

"Since 1915 this country was placed under the care of the Union Government. From 1915 to 1946 is 31 years. During this period of 31 years we have not yet seen any good that the Union Government has done for us. Instead of progressing we are retrogressing in all human ways.

"To-day we have no place of our own. We are being moved from one place to another. We cannot build decent houses, because we have no dwelling or resting place. We are just like a flock of sheep which graze from hill to hill. A nation which is

being treated in this way will never go forward, but backward.

"After the country has been given back to us, then we wish the trusteeship to give us a place which will become our permanent dwelling place, and we wish to be treated as the original owners of the country."

### URBAN AFRICANS

Another letter points out that the Africans in the urban areas were not consulted and only those in the Reserves asked to air their views. "We are also glad to inform you that the Bushmen in the Kalahari are also against incorporation.

"We oppose incorporation for the following reasons," says the informant. "We are voteless; our movements are restricted; we are barred from privileges; our schools are not worthy to be called such; natives' hospitals and reserves are worse than prisons; we have no right to buy land; the reserves are too small; and life in this territory is not worth living as long as one is not white."

Guardia  
October 16.

## Smuts' Offer To NRC Criticised

JOHANNESBURG. — "The latest version of General Smuts' proposals to the Native Representative Council means nothing at all," Dr. Moroka, Free State representative on the Council, told the Africans on Tuesday. "The proposals are no departure from the old, and certainly nothing for the African people to welcome.

"They are a new attempt by the Government to fool the African people. These schemes mean nothing, as the N.R.C. remains an advisory body. The African people want direct representation. We must make the laws under which we live."

Another member of the Council, Mr. Paul Mosaka, told the Guardian that the latest proposals "do not appear to be very tangible, practicable or different from the first set of proposals.

"An increased number of representatives on the N.R.C. without giving them absolute authority over their area makes the N.R.C. a purely advisory body. The political framework in South Africa is such that it will continue to create conflict between white and black.

"I cannot foresee any case where Parliament will grant important rights to the African people on the recommendation of the N.R.C. It will continue to turn down their proposals on all fundamental issues.

"This is yet another attempt to establish a state within a state. In the conflict between the two the Africans will no doubt fare the worst."

## AFRICAN MINERS STILL WANT 10s. A DAY

JOHANNESBURG. — The Native Affairs Department inspectors appointed to supervise the welfare of African miners on the Rand mines are having little success. The African miners have not been bluffed by their appointment, harbour no illusions about their powers and remain insistent in their demands for the recognition of their union, and a minimum wage of 10s. a day.

One of the inspectors who recently visited a mine on the West Rand was invited by the African miners to taste their food. He refused.

An inspector was told by the men he interviewed that they wanted "more money." His reply was: "The money you want will cause many mines to close down."

An Induna on an East Rand mine complained to an inspector that he wanted a house. He was told shortly after that he would not be granted one, to which, he replied that he did not expect the inspector to be able to do anything for him: "After all, the mine owners pay the Government a million pounds."

A few days later the induna was told his services were no longer required.

### HELD MEETINGS

At another mine the men were warned a few days before that the inspector would visit their compound. They held large meetings to

discuss what they were going to tell him when he came.

But while every facility is given these inspectors, every possible obstacle is being placed in the way of the trade union organisers. They are prevented from entering the compounds, are closely watched by the compound managers and their local police. Members of the South African Police are often called out when a union organiser visits a mine.

Chiefs have been brought to the mines from Basutoland, Bechuanaland and the Transkei to discourage the men from joining the union and to tell them at tribal meetings that the chief has placed his men in the hands of the compound manager while they are on the mines.

"On some mines the Africans have been told that J. B. Marks, the union president, will never come again," so that when he did visit the mines he was greeted with: "Oh, we thought we would never see you again."

Part of the prepared speeches delivered by the mine inspectors are a few honeyed phrases telling the African miners they are playing an important part in South Africa's economic life!

## T.L.C. REJECTS AFRICAN TRADE UNION BILL

JOHANNESBURG. — The National Executive of the South African Trades and Labour Council, having considered the replies of affiliated unions on the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill 1947, has decided to reject the Bill in toto, and has called on the Government to amend the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1937 so as to cover Africans as employees.

## Ballot For Trades Council Secretary

JOHANNESBURG. — Trade unions throughout the country are at present balloting for the secretary of the South African Trades and Labour Council.

Six candidates for the post have been nominated. They are Messrs. J. C. Barlow (nominated by the Furniture Workers' Industrial Union, Transvaal), W. J. De Vries (by the Mine Workers' Union), A. G. Forsyth (nominated by the National Union of Distributive Workers, Fort Elizabeth Tram and Bus Workers' Union, Garment Workers' Union, Natal), National Union of Commercial Travellers, Brewery Workers' Union, Hotel, Bar and Catering Trades Employees' (Union), R. V. Griffiths (by the Amalgamated Engineering Union), K. W. Hancock (by the South African Typographical Union), and A. H. Kruger (by the South African Typographical Union).

The ballot closes on November 14.



## HILDA WATTS' FINE RECORD

JOHANNESBURG.—Hilda Watts, the retiring Councillor for Ward 10, has found that her policy for more nursery schools, parks and playgrounds, interest-free municipal building loans and a bold scheme to house the homeless, municipal halls and community centres, Council representation for Non-Europeans, the banning of Fascist organisations and the outlawing of racial incitement and propaganda, is receiving wide support among the voters of her area.

Miss Watts has an impressive record in the Council. During the last three years she raised, together with Mrs. MacPherson and Mrs. Waring, the question of the employment of married women by the Council, and succeeded in having the regulations amended to permit the employment of married women as health visitors, nursery school teachers, etc.

She was a member of the Slums Court in 1946, and of the Public Health and Social Welfare Committee. She has worked for general improvements in nursing homes, and an extension of nursery schools and clinical facilities. She first proposed that trained social workers should supervise children's play in the parks.

### MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

She was the only member of the Council to vote against the increase in tram fares in 1946. She investigated and exposed the dreadful conditions in the municipal compounds, and the conditions and pay of the Council's 15,000 African employees. On many occasions she raised the squatter problem, and was the first to put forward the views and suggestions which are now being widely discussed in Government circles.

More than any other Councillor, she has kept in touch with her constituents by means of regular quarterly report-back meetings and the issue of a Council newsletter.

## Cattle Case in Potchefstroom

JOHANNESBURG.—An African resident in the Potchefstroom location, Harry Tekano, has won an important test case on the right of African residents to keep cattle in the location. He was charged with keeping a cow on his stand, found guilty by the magistrate, and cautioned and discharged.

He took his case to appeal. When it was heard, the two judges were unable to agree on the matter and it was placed before three judges. His appeal was eventually upheld.

The grounds of the appeal were that the keeping of animals is a privilege attaching to the right of occupancy of stands in the location, and a right which has existed for over half a century in Potchefstroom. It was argued further that the municipality did not act in accordance with the spirit of the regulations it was entitled to frame under Act 21 of 1923 (the Urban Areas Act) and no proper accommodation was provided for the keeping of livestock.

## SQUATTERS BLAME CITY COUNCIL

JOHANNESBURG. J.—Submitting evidence to the Moroka Commission of Inquiry, Oriel Monongoa, a squatters' leader, said the City Council had sought to cover up its failures in the past by blaming the

leaders of the squatter movements and stating they had organised Africans from other areas to take up residence in the squatters' camps.

He suggested that in terms of the Urban Areas Act the Council should proclaim a native village in which sites would be given to Africans to build their own homes from plans approved by the Council. Mr. Monongoa's memorandum claimed that squatting is caused through hopeless overcrowding and intolerable living conditions. At Orlando and Pinville locations there are three to four families—up to 20 persons—living in one room of 12 feet by 12 feet.

The cause of overcrowding could be traced back to 1937, when many Africans living in the yards of Europeans who were not their employers, were turned out and started flooding municipal native townships. Other causes included starvation in the African territories, and the realisation of the African people that their economic position would be better in urban areas than elsewhere.

"The residents of the locations and the squatters contend that the City Council has failed to provide adequate accommodation in all locations, and therefore call on the Minister of Native Affairs to take over from the Council and provide alternative or further accommodation."

## "MODERATES" TRY TO CAPTURE MOSLEM LEAGUE

JOHANNESBURG.—Last Sunday in Johannesburg saw the latest bid for power by so-called Natal Indian "moderates" and their Transvaal followers, whose policy has been rejected by the Congresses in the two provinces but who are now trying to further it through a communal organisation.

Three hundred Moslems of Transvaal's 15,000 met in Fordsburg at a meeting purporting to have been called by the Transvaal Moslem League, and passed a vote of no-confidence in Messrs. O. R. Osmany and M. A. Dinath.

The day before the meeting Mr. Dinath, president of the Transvaal Moslem League, issued a circular stating that the Sunday meeting was not authorised and was unconstitutional, and announcing that the official League meeting would take place on November 16.

Mr. Dinath is challenging the proceedings of the Sunday meeting and will apply for an order declaring the proceedings and elections invalid.

### SMALL GATHERING

The small gathering came as a rude shock to organisers who had carried out a province-wide campaign to rally Moslems against Mr. Dinath. Among the organisers were ex-officials of the Transvaal Indian Congress who were forced to resign when Dr. Dadoo and the progressives came into power.

Interviewed by The Guardian, Mr. Dinath said: "Transvaal Moslems will have an opportunity of expressing their views on November 16. They must turn up in their thousands to see that the Moslem League does not fall into the hands of people who wish to make political capital out of it."

## Pakistan Refuses S.A. Coal

JOHANNESBURG.—In a message from Dr. Y. M. Dadoo to Qand-e-Asam Mohammed Ali Jinnah and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, the Governor-General and Prime Minister respectively of the Dominion of Pakistan, the Transvaal Indian Congress says it views the action of the Pakistan Government in not authorising the import of coal from South Africa "with profound satisfaction and gratitude as a great and self-sacrificing act of service to the cause of justice and freedom of South African Indians."

"This act," continues the message, "underlines the urgent necessity for South Africa to negotiate with the Governments of India and Pakistan on the basis of the United Nations' decisions since the two new Dominions are not willing to countenance any inferior status for, or discrimination against, their countrymen in South Africa."



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## SENSATIONAL TURN IN SEDITION CASE

### Crown Withdraws Charge in Jo'burg Trial

JOHANNESBURG.—The charge of sedition against eight members of the Communist Party Central Committee and the secretary of the African Mine Workers' Union Organising Fund Committee was withdrawn in the Johannesburg proceedings last week. The case has already lasted nine months, and the court record comprises over 700 typewritten foolscap pages.

There were dramatic scenes in the Johannesburg Supreme Court on Thursday afternoon when the indictment against the accused was withdrawn by the Attorney-General, following the decision of the judges to uphold exceptions to the indictment made by counsel for the defence.

As the eight members of the Central Committee rose from their seats in court, four uniformed constables and a sergeant promptly re-arrested them. A few minutes later, Mr. L. Wolfson, also a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and well-known trade unionist, who was standing in the corridor outside the courtroom, was also arrested on a charge of sedition.

While being detained that afternoon at police headquarters in Marshall Square, 77-year-old W. H. (Bill) Andrews, National Chairman of the Communist Party, was put to some indignity by the constable in charge. Andrews was asked to undo his collar and tie and hand these over to the police, which he did. It seemed that he was to be placed in the cells.

Only the timely arrival of the attorney for the defence, Mr. S. Kahn, prevented this from happening. Mr. Kahn had just brought news that the prosecutor had agreed to bail being granted to all the accused.

Next morning all ten accused assembled in the Magistrate's Court, where it was expected the preparatory examination would be started from the beginning again. Thirty seconds after the court had met, all fled out again. Dr. P. Yutar, appearing for the Crown, had stated: "On instructions just received from the Attorney-General I am withdrawing the case against the accused."

Members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party charged with sedition were—W. H. Andrews, National Chairman of the Communist Party; Moses Kotane (General Secretary); Advocate H. Smitcher; Lucas Phillips, H. A. Naidoo, Dr. H. J. Simons, I. O. Horvitch, and Fred Garmeson. Also charged was L. C. Joffe, of the African Mine Workers' Union Organising Fund Committee.

#### THE INDICTMENT

The indictment alleged that the accused conspired with various bodies, including the Johannesburg District Committee of the Communist Party and the African Mine Workers' Union, to initiate the strike of 50,000 African miners on the Witwatersrand last year, and that they had seditiously resorted to violence against and in defiance of state authority.

The proceedings were held before a specially constituted court consisting of Mr. Justice Van den Heever and Mr. Justice Roper.

Mr. A. F. Williamson, K.C., with him Mr. M. H. S. Festenstein (instructed by Messrs. Berrange and Wasserzug, of Johannesburg, and Smitcher, Kahn and Co., of Cape Town), appeared for Andrews, Kotane, Smitcher, Phillips and Naidoo. Mr. Festenstein appeared also for Garmeson and Horvitch. Dr. J. Lowen (instructed by Hoffman and Levitan) appeared for Joffe. Dr. Simons conducted his own defence.

The Attorney-General Mr. Frank Lutge, K.C., with him Dr. P. Yutar and Mr. W. S. O'Brien, appeared for the prosecution.

#### VALIDITY OF TRIAL CHALLENGED

Dr. G. Lowen, counsel for Mr. Joffe, in a brilliant address, challenged the validity of the preparatory examination proceedings and the jurisdiction of the special court to try the accused.

Dr. Lowen contended that the committal for trial of Joffe had been invalid, because the preparatory examination had been held in Cape Town, while the prosecution was being conducted by the Attorney-General of the Transvaal. He

(Continued on Page 5)

## SEDITION CASE SENSATION

(Continued from page 1)

maintained that the Attorney-General of the Transvaal had no power to prosecute in Cape Town, and the Minister of Justice had no power to authorise him to do so.

He claimed also that, in terms of the Act, a preliminary examination could be started from one magisterial district to another only with the consent of the persons appearing. Joffe's consent had not been obtained. The court in Cape Town, therefore, had no jurisdiction over him.

For these reasons the preparatory examination had been illegal. The committal of Joffe was, therefore, also illegal, and the indictment framed by the Attorney-General of the Transvaal was invalid because he had no power to frame it.

Dr. Lowen outlined the history of the case, which had started in January in Cape Town. Five months after the charges had been framed, he said, the Attorney-General of the Transvaal, who had prosecuted in Cape Town, had reopened the case to join Joffe with the other accused persons.

Mr. Williamson associated himself, on behalf of his clients, with the submissions made by Dr. Lowen, although he pointed out that the other accused persons had consented to the change of venue of the preparatory examination from Johannesburg to Cape Town. He could not, however, consent to an irregularity in the appearance of the Transvaal Attorney-General in a preparatory examination in the Cape.

#### ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S REPLY

Mr. Lutge, Attorney-General, said in reply that the indictment was valid and proper for the court to consider. The question of provincial boundaries was just a matter of convenience. If necessary the Minister of Justice, the supreme authority, could himself have conducted the case. The State's authority applied to the whole of the Union and any overt act calculated to affect the tranquility of the State had ripples all over the Union. Any court in the Union would have jurisdiction to hear a preparatory examination. He submitted that whatever "technical irregularities" there might have been, there could not possibly be any failure of justice.

Dr. Lowen said the Attorney-General had inferred that the whole of the Criminal Procedure Act would be thrown over as being of no consequence. The Act made clear certain rights for the protection of accused persons, and not even the Minister had the right to override them.

After an adjournment the judges announced that they upheld Dr. Lowen's exception to the indictment. The Attorney-General then announced that he would withdraw the indictment against all the defendants and that a new preparatory examination would probably be opened the following morning.

## Mr. de Vries Changes His Mind

JOHANNESBURG.—At the end of April of this year Mr. W. J. De Vries, then secretary of the South African Trades and Labour Council, announced he was resigning his post.

"The position," he said, "is rapidly becoming untenable. The recent annual conference at Fort Elizabeth has shown that the Council is being used as a political machine. For years our policy in the interests of the workers has been to keep the Council above party politics."

Mr. De Vries told newspapermen it was with very deep regret he was resigning, after having been secretary of the Council for ten years. Now, barely six months later, he has apparently changed his mind, and is contesting the post of Council secretary again.

## INCITING RACE HATRED IN IMMIGRANTS

JOHANNESBURG.—A South African who has just returned to the Union from England on an immigrants' ship told the Guardian that the surest way for immigrants to acquire deep-rooted racial prejudices is to attend the daily lectures given by South Africans attached to the Education Department and seconded to lecture to immigrants on conditions in this country.

The lecturer on this ship said that it had been scientifically proved that the African people were inferior to the white races. He said it should be noticed that they have low foreheads—like apes. He personally had met some intelligent Africans, but they were exceptions. He strongly warned immigrants never to invite Non-Europeans to their homes in South Africa, telling them of the terrible consequences likely to follow if they did anything so rash.

Asked by one immigrant why the Africans came in such large numbers to the gold mines, the lecturer replied that they came because they wanted to, and the clothes and other pleasures of a large centre attracted them to the Witwatersrand.

These lectures on South Africa's historical background, jobs and wage policies in the Union, and the "Native Peoples of South Africa" lasted anything from half an hour to two hours each day.



# POLICE DISPERSE FASCIST MEETING

JOHANNESBURG.—Last Sunday night a group of Fascists again attempted to hold meetings on the City Hall steps.

One of the speakers, who engaged in the usual trade against the Communists, was subjected to continual heckling by onlookers. Eventually Major Kriek, District Commandant of Police, gave the crowd ten minutes to disperse.

After the Communist Party meeting had ended peacefully a number of young constables mingled with the crowd in the streets. One young man, Basil Sandier, was arrested and charged with assaulting the police when he tried to intervene in what he thought was a fascist attack on an African.

Several people were involved in scuffles and two were treated in hospital, one being detained with a broken nose and an injured jaw. Earlier in the evening two members of the Hashomer Hatzair were attacked by a group of fascists about 25 strong as they were walking towards the City Hall steps.

## TEN CHARGED

The following morning ten men appeared in the Magistrate's court on charges arising from the steps incidents. R. C. Sasnyan, charged with incitement to public violence, asked that his case be postponed to November 6, as he wished to call Grosvenor leaders Weichardt and Horak as witnesses.

A detective giving evidence said he took notes of Sasnyan's speech: "The Communists are the cause of trouble in this country and the cause of trouble with the Natives. They are the scum of this country—these dirty, filthy Jews in this country," Sasnyan had said.

In the detective's opinion, if Sasnyan had not made this speech, there would have been no trouble.

## PERSONAL INSULT

M. Berman and J. Marcus, both members of the Communist Party and both ex-servicemen, charged with assault, said they took as a personal insult a statement by a speaker that "I would put on a Nazi uniform to fight the Communists." The complainant denied he had made anti-Semitic remarks and said: "My people's best friends are Jews and so are my neighbours."

The two accused were both fined £10 with the alternative of 30 days imprisonment. Three others who were also charged with assault were found not guilty and were discharged.

# C.P. URGES BAN ON FASCISTS

JOHANNESBURG.—The outlawing of all fascist organisations and the prohibition of fascist and racialist propaganda were urged to the Minister of Justice and the Commissioner of Police, Major-General Palmer, by a deputation from the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party last week.

In a memorandum submitted to the Minister, the deputation pointed out that the Communist Party has held regular meetings at the City Hall steps every Sunday evening for over twenty years. During the past months there have been increased attempts on the part of gangs of hooligans to start fights at these meetings.

The memorandum records events at these meetings over the last few weeks and suggests that the attitude of the police towards the meetings is open to grave question.

"Instead of protecting our meetings from organised hooliganism, which has the effect of disrupting the meetings, the actions and conduct of the police have had the effect of aiding the fascist group in their purpose."

The deputation pointed out that the practice of the police has been to stop both the fascist and Communist Party meeting at the steps, even though the Communist meeting has remained orderly. It urged that the charges against six men arrested for taking part in fights against the fascists be withdrawn.

The deputation also asked before the Minister affidavits regarding anti-Semitic statements made by a high-ranking police officer at

a meeting of the Orlando Branch of the Communist Party some weeks ago.

# Higher Wages For African Builders Urged

JOHANNESBURG. — Improved wages and working conditions for Africans in the building industry will be one of the first items to be considered when the proposed industrial council for the industry is established, states the Secretary for Labour, Brigadier F. L. A. Buchanan, in a letter to the African Building and Allied Trades Workers' Union.

The Secretary for Labour states that Africans' wages and conditions were considered at the recent meeting between representatives of the master builders and the trade unions, at which the strike was settled.

The African Building and Allied Trades Workers' Union has stated in reply that whatever agreement is reached with it should be incorporated in the agreement for other workers in the building industry.

The South African Trades and Labour Council has communicated to the Joint Committee of the Building Unions its support for the proposal to improve wages and working conditions of the African labourers in the building industry when the industrial council in the industry is established.

# T.U. Leaders in Kenya Victimised

NAIROBI.—In Kenya a man has just been jailed for attending an "unlawful" meeting. "You seem to hold that you can attend any meeting you like," was the comment of the magistrate as he passed sentence.

Mr. Chege Kibachia, one of the organisers of the Mombasa strike, has been deported to a place within the Colony. His case was held in camera for ten days. The charge: "Conducting himself so as to be dangerous to peace and good order." An African paper, "Mumenyereri," is being prosecuted for reporting a riot at the Uplands Bacon Factory differently from the official statement issued.

The administration is conducting a virtual reign of terror against the workers and their leaders and newspapers expressing their point of view.

## T.U. RECOGNITION

A certain Mr. Patrick was invited to Kenya by the administration to advise on the question of trade unions. A Government spokesman is reported as having told a Press conference: "The Government is anxious that trade unions formed in this country function properly and not as semi-political bodies. It is essential that trade unions confine themselves to trade only. The Government does not want to encourage a state of applications for trade unions before those who are

keen to form them have proper information."

The indications are that civil service employees, if not also other sections of the workers in Kenya, will be denied the right to strike.

# Strong Backing For Hilda Watts

JOHANNESBURG.—Prominent Johannesburg citizens have signed the election manifesto issued by Councillor Hilda Watts, Communist candidate in Ward 10 in the forthcoming municipal elections.

They are Adv. Felix Landau, Archdeacon P. R. Y. Rouse, Yvonne Lejeune, Mr. Norman Hanson, K. C., Mrs. Joyce Marsh, Adv. L. A. Pincus, Dr. Joseph Gillman, Dr. Ellen Hellman, Mr. Cecil Williams, Mr. I. R. Glyn-Thomas, Mr. F. G. Ventress, Father Trevor Huddleston, Mrs. Jenny K. Robertson.

Their statement reads: "Councillor Hilda Watts has shown herself to be an outstanding public representative during her term of office on the City Council. She has been particularly attentive to the needs of the children of this city, and her efforts in this direction have met with some success."

"She has fulfilled a vital public need on innumerable occasions in voicing the interests of the large Non-European community who are without representation and whose needs would otherwise not have been expressed."

"We believe that the citizens of Ward 10 would be rendering a ser-

vice to Johannesburg and to the cause of democratic progress, by once again returning Miss Watts to the City Council."

# INDIAN LEADERS GREET RESISTERS

JOHANNESBURG. — The Joint Passive Resistance Council's delegates to the United Nations, Messrs. A. I. Meer and Ashwin Choudree, have had lengthy discussions with Mrs. Pandit and the delegation from the Union of India, the Pakistan delegation and others at Lake Success.

Mrs. Pandit has sent the following message to Indians in South Africa. "My greetings to Indian friends and particularly my sisters in South Africa. We are with you in spirit. We admire your brave attitude in the face of such tremendous opposition."

"We shall fight the good fight and take our stand on principles of the United Nations Charter. We believe that the new world order which humanity so ardently desires cannot be created except on a basis of justice and fundamental rights. To see that these may be assured to every individual we shall work without ceasing."

Leader of the Pakistan delegation Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, in a message to South African Indians says: "Indians in South Africa have our sympathy and support in their legitimate struggle to obtain complete citizenship rights in South Africa."



## Communist Plan For Moroka

JOHANNESBURG. — "The Moroka emergency camp should be regarded by the authorities as a temporary measure which they have to ask the inhabitants to tolerate and accept for the relatively short period during which adequate housing will be proceeded with.

"In the meantime their position should be made as tolerable as possible."

This is a recommendation made by the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party in its memorandum to the Commission of Enquiry into the Moroka disturbances.

Other recommendations are that no rental be charged in Moroka, that the Advisory Board be immediately disbanded and arrangements made for the democratic election of squatters to negotiate with the authorities concerning the future administration of the camp, including a complete revision of the allocation of trading rights; that the inhabitants of Moroka and all African locations be granted immediate direct representation on the Johannesburg City Council.

"As an urgent priority, a fully adequate housing plan should be embarked upon by the Government in co-operation with local authorities to include the training of men of all races to become skilled artisans in the building industry; the production of more building materials; the provision of large-scale adequate sub-economic housing for workers; and the provision of land,

both freehold and leasehold, together with financial and technical assistance to Africans to enable them to put up their own houses."

### FRUSTRATION AND BITTERNESS

The memorandum stresses, as a factor to be considered by the commission in its investigation of the causes of the Moroka riot, the general background of frustration, bitterness and hostility towards the authorities and the police, which is widely prevalent among the African people.

Mr. S. Baduza, leader of the Alexandra squatters, giving evidence to the Commission, said: "Anything could cause a riot in Moroka, because the leaders of the people had been taken away and they thought everyone was against them."

Describing the manner in which Baduza was taken to Hamanskraal, although he had applied for admission to Moroka, Mr. Venables told the Commission: "If he had qualified for admission to Moroka, he would actually have been given accommodation in Orlando, as his presence in the squatters' camp was deemed to be a potential danger to the peace of the community."

## LAND SHORTAGE IN SEKUKUNILAND

JOHANNESBURG.—No meeting of more than ten people can be held in Sekukuniland without the permission of the Native Commissioner, under the emergency regulations still in force there.

This was told The Guardian by Mr. D. W. Bopape, who has just returned from the territory which he is the African National Congress secretary.

Mr. Bopape said he applied for a general permit to hold meetings at all the kraals he was to visit. This was refused. He was then granted a permit for two meetings with a strict warning that the permit could be cancelled, without reason.

He was warned that he was not allowed to tell the people the Native Commissioner said he did

not know. "He just said I must be very careful!"

Sekukuniland, inhabited by the Bapedi people, is about 65 miles north-west of Lydenburg. Mr. Bopape's first impression was of the small, lean cattle, a result of land shortage.

There is intensive recruiting for the mines in the territory. Passes are not issued to people wishing to work anywhere else, so the majority are forced to accept work on the mines.

### FEW SCHOOLS

In relation to the size of the population there are few schools. Roads are bad and transport from one place to another difficult.

The people complain about the frequent police raids for homemade milk. At the Stoffberg railway station police wait for the buses bringing people from the territory, and insist on examining their passes, often as many as five times.

In Sekukuniland there is a great deal of interest in the African National Congress, and a branch has now been formed there under the leadership of Mr. S. P. Boshego. Mr. Bopape addressed meetings and interviewed chiefs at ten centres in Sekukuniland.

# GUARDIAN

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## DROP SEDITION CASE, SAYS T.L.C.

JOHANNESBURG.—In a resolution adopted unanimously at a meeting of its national executive, the South African Trades and Labour Council has asked the Minister of Justice to drop all proceedings in the sedition case against members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

This is the second time the Trades and Labour Council has asked the Minister to withdraw the proceedings in this case, and coincides with the announcement last Saturday by Dr. Colin Steyn, Minister of Justice, that following the collapse of the Crown case in the recent proceedings, a new preparatory examination would be opened in Johannesburg.

Serious concern exists among trade unionists and others that if proceedings arising from an industrial dispute (the African mine-workers' strike) can be turned into a sedition case, this may be a precedent for similar action in other industries.

The Garment Workers' Union has written to the Minister of Justice protesting against the action of his Department in the sedition trial.

"We feel," says the letter, "that Mr. Andrews and his colleagues are not being prosecuted for breaches of the law, but for their political beliefs and for daring to render assistance to the 60,000 African mine-workers who came out on strike last year."

At a conference in Cape Town of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, 39 delegates, representing 15 branches, passed the following resolution:

"This conference, having considered recent developments in the case against W. H. Andrews and others, charged with sedition, and bearing in mind the charge arose out of a strike of workers, condemns the action of the authorities in deciding to reopen the case as one of political persecution tending to bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

"Therefore it calls upon the Government to withdraw all proceedings, and close the case."

### DEMOCRATIC DUTY

In Johannesburg, Councillor Colin Legum, interviewed by The Guardian, stated: "Despite my views on the Communist Party, which are well known, I feel it is my duty as a democrat to appeal for the withdrawal of the sedition case against W. H. Andrews and others."

The Reverend D. C. Thompson said: "I appeal to the Government to take a wider view of the nature of our present discontent and to see in these champions of emerging and depressed groups in our social structure the friends and not the foes of the world that is to be."

## SEDITION CASE

(Continued from front page)

Alec Hepple, Labour M.P.C., said: "It is difficult to understand what the Government hopes to achieve by the prosecution of these people, unless, of course, they are guilty of something more than has been disclosed."

### RIDICULOUS LIGHT

"I do not think the Government will be so foolish as to place itself in the same ridiculous limelight as that at present being enjoyed by the Committee on Un-American Activities in America."

In his 'explosive' speech before the Empire Parliamentary Association in 1945, General Smuts declared: "Whatever we can do to put our own house in order, to remove the sources of internal friction or of misunderstanding, is a service not only to our own group but to mankind at large."

"However much we may disagree with the accused politically, they were acting on the same belief," Cape Town Councillor Ben Levittas said.

"This is undoubtedly a political case, and savours much of political persecution. It seems one can do no better than quote the leading article in the 'Cape Times' of Monday, October 20: 'If the Government took the case seriously and there was reason for believing the Communists were guilty of the grave crime of sedition, they should have been prosecuted vigorously and efficiently. If the case was not taken seriously, or if the grounds for action were flimsy, the prosecutions should have been abandoned at once, or better still, they should never have been started.'"

Father Savage, of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cape Town, told The Guardian he thought it would be in the best interests of the whole country if the case were dropped.

"I would rejoice if the Government withdrew the charges," he said.



# NEW AFRICAN T.U. CENTRE EXPOSED

JOHANNESBURG.—With a flourish of tin trumpets a new trade union co-ordinating committee, styled the Transvaal Council of African Trade Unions, has come into being.

It claims to represent 23 trade unions. Half of them are non-existent. A good many others have declared their affiliation to the new centre without consulting their union executives or general membership.

The new centre has been eagerly snatched up by the "Bantu World," which has been working up a grand anti-Communist campaign recently, and which features on the front page of its latest issue a picture of the new trade union council secretary, Mr. D. K. Mill, who "wears a smile of contentment" and feels the new organisation whose affairs "helps to steer will weather all storms ahead."

Notice that in explaining the main reason for the split from the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions, its sponsors exploit a charge made very familiar of late in the columns of the Bantu World: "the leaders of the present Council take their orders from Proletarian Building" (where Johannesburg's Communist Party offices are situated).

Here is the new Council of African Trade Unions as described by its own founders. "It will be a thoroughbred black man's council," C. Phofu at its first meeting. "No person belonging to any organisation with a mixed membership may join it—its constitution. "We want no politics in our movement." "H. Butchings." "We must fight the Communist Party to its grave"—Mr. Phofu again. And "opinion on the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill was in favour of acceptance subject to modifications"—the chairman summing up, at the first meeting of the new council.

## SHADOW UNIONS

The new centre claims the support of 23 trade unions—or is it only 19, as the Bantu World gives both figures? But barely half of these unions are in existence at the moment. Most are paper organisations.

Mr. Mill is the secretary of the new council. His own union, The Gas and Power Workers' Union, is non-existent, and is one of the unions the centre admits it will have to re-organise. Among the non-existent unions claimed by the new council are the brick and tile, stone crushers, golf clubs, liquor and catering, hide and skin, cold storage and ice, cement, and meat workers' unions.

The organisers of the new centre are members of a dissident group of trade union secretaries who staged a walk-out at the conference of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions a few months ago, when the conference refused to waive a clause in the constitution and accede to their demand that non-affiliated unions be accorded full representation at the conference.

This is not the first attempt to create a serious split in the Non-European trade union movement. In 1945 there was a similar move by the so-called Johannesburg Progressive Group of trade unionists—

composed of the identical people who have manoeuvred the present break-away.

## THE HIDDEN HAND

What—or who—is behind these manipulations of a group of trade union secretaries? The Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions in a public statement, puts it this way: "It is significant to note that the hidden hand which is attempting to divide the Coloured people in their national organisation, the African Peoples' Organisation, the African people in the African National Congress, and the Indians in the Indian National Congresses, is now being extended to the trade union movement, where it has found ready unprincipled elements."

"We feel sure that every clear-minded trade unionist will join us in denouncing this dangerous state of affairs which, if disregarded, is likely to have its repercussions on the entire trade union movement, and may culminate in creating total confusion among the workers."

Contrary to the declaration of the trade union disrupters, we reaffirm our original stand of total rejection of the proposed Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill and demand full recognition under the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1937."

The Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions is calling a special mass conference of workers for November 9, to discuss this and other developments affecting the trade union movement.

## CAPE TOWN VIEW

Mr. Lucas Phillips, secretary of the Explosive and Fertilizer Workers' Union (Cape), told the Guardian that he did not recognise this split in the Transvaal Non-European trade union movement.

"I would recognise it if it were led by able and serious-minded people," he said. "It has always been the practice of those who are weak and incapable, to break away when they fail to achieve their object."

## EGYPTIAN YOUTH APPEALS FOR MEDICAL AID

JOHANNESBURG.—South African youth organisations have received from the World Federation of Democratic Youth, an appeal by the League of Egyptian Students for help in their fight against the cholera epidemic at present ravaging Egypt.

The Egyptian Students report that they have formed brigades and a commission of young doctors and medical students to fight against the epidemic in the contaminated areas, and to teach the people how to apply preventative measures against cholera.

It appeals for anti-cholera vaccines, antiseptic soaps and other disinfectants, and printed matter in French or English explaining preventative measures against the disease.

## Anti-Communist Campaign at Alexandra

JOHANNESBURG.—A "campaign to get the Communists out of Alexandra Township" has been started by a number of reactionary standholders in the township.

A few Sundays ago two speakers at a meeting of the Alexandra Bantu Tenants' Association were assaulted on the township square by people alleged to be members of the Standholders' Association. Several landlords then marched to the premises shared by the Communist Party and Bantu Tenants' Association, where Mr. R. G. Baloyi, treasurer of the African National Congress, joined them to make a speech about chasing the Communists out of the township. Two policemen were summoned to lay a charge against the Communists, but it is not clear what this charge was to be.

# Transvaal A.N.C. Rejects Smuts' New Proposals

JOHANNESBURG.—Resolutions reaffirming the Bloemfontein decision of the African National Congress to boycott all elections under the Native Representation Act of 1936, and rejecting *in toto* Smuts' latest proposals to the Native Representative Council, were passed by the provincial conference of the Transvaal African National Congress last week-end.

It was also decided to boycott elections of urban advisory boards.

Mr. N. R. Mandela said: "If African leaders do not want the African people to fight for their rights they can say so, but the masses of people all through the country are in favour of the boycott. There is still time before the next elections to organise the boycott."

By 32 votes to 30 the conference rejected a motion calling for the exclusion from official posts within the Congress of "all members of other political parties."

The resolution was obviously intended to exclude members of the Communist Party from Congress committees. There was furious applause from visitors to the conference when the motion was declared lost. Mr. J. B. Marks, a member of the national executive of Congress, described the resolution as "irresponsible, reactionary, and dangerous." Mr. Dan Tloome said the enemies of the African people were not those Congress members who also belonged to other political parties, but reactionary forces working from within and without the Congress.

The resolution was sponsored by a group of land-owners from Alexandra Township. A spokesman for women Congress members from Springs said that if the resolution were passed, the women of Springs would immediately leave the Congress.

## ATTENDANCE

The conference was attended by 76 delegates from 26 of the 80 branches of Congress.

Full support was pledged to the people of Moroka and other areas in their struggle against high rents. Conference demanded that African trade unions be recognised under the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act; and the repeal of the 1913 Land Act and all other laws discriminating against the African people.

The conference also passed a resolution demanding that all Fascist organisations in South Africa be made illegal.

Presidential and secretarial addresses were presented by Messrs. C. S. Ramabano and D. W. Bopape respectively.

Mr. Ramabano was returned unopposed as President of the Transvaal Congress for the coming year.

## DECENT WAGES FOR FARM LABOURERS URGED

JOHANNESBURG.—"The proposal to bring Italian farm labourers to South Africa will not solve our farming problem, and is wrong in principle. The job must be to introduce labour legislation and minimum wage standards for farm labourers." This is the comment of Mr. I. Wolfson, a member of the national executive of the Trades and Labour Council, on the scheme recently announced by General Smuts.

Mr. Wolfson said the refusal to accede to the growing demand for labour legislation, including a minimum wage for farm labourers, "has resulted in farmers' organisations being opposed to such progressive legislation as the Unemployment Insurance Act, wage determinations and industrial laws and improvements in the conditions of African workers in country towns."

"They feel such improvements are immediately made known to African farm labourers and lead to dissatisfaction. Only decent wage and living standards will solve the shortage of farm labour."

Mr. Wolfson drew attention to the further danger that amongst the Italian immigrants will be a number of artisans who, if there is no control over their rates of pay, will threaten the standards achieved by skilled workers in South Africa.

## OFFENSIVE REMARKS

Dr. H. Sonnabend and the Rev. F. M. M. Haythornthwaite, chairman and secretary respectively of the South African Society for Cultural Relations with Italy, in an interview with the Guardian, point out that, as a cultural society, they have no views on the plan as such. "We are interested in fostering closer relations between South Africa and Italy as part of a general scheme for a letter understanding between all nations."

"It is distressing to find that, in the course of public discussion on the subject, many statements were made which can only be considered offensive to the Italian people."

"The Italian people have made a disproportionate contribution to progress in every field of culture. As to the backwardness of the Italian farmer, any soldier who has seen the Italian farmer, especially in Northern Italy, must have noticed that he has learnt to make the maximum use of space. In this respect he could certainly teach any farming group."



## COUNCIL HOSTILE TO SQUATTERS, SAYS HILDA WATTS

JOHANNESBURG.—"The Moroka disturbance was only one of the many signals of warning we have had," says Hilda Watts in her memorandum to the commission investigating the Moroka incident.

Her memorandum draws attention to the "atmosphere which has been bred in this city in which a considerable section of the white population regards the African as something to knock about, and racial frictions are growing to such an extent that a fairly innocent accident or event may lead to violent attacks, on the part of white and black.

"Street assaults on Africans are becoming an every-day occurrence. Most of us are witnesses every day to actions ranging from rudeness and humiliation in lifts and shops, to actual physical assaults."

Brutal treatment of Africans in the hands of the police is to-day so commonplace that in fact every African who is arrested expects to be manhandled. A complete and radical change on the part of the police handling African prisoners is needed.

### STERN HOSTILITY

Miss Watts says that the Council and its officials and committees consistently adopted an attitude of stern, unrelenting hostility to the squatters. At no time did the Council

regard the squatters' problem as primarily one of lack of housing for the African urban worker.

"The Council's unreal persistence with the Advisory Board farce will, I consider, prove one of the immediate causes of new trouble. A township as large and isolated from the main city as Moroka should have a self-elected governing body of Africans with real administrative and legislative powers."

Miss Watts suggests also that the questions of direct representation of Africans on the Johannesburg City Council is no longer a "question for pleasant theoretical debates among 'progressives' but of immediate importance for all people in the city."

### ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Dr. A. B. Xuma, President-General of the African National Congress, said in evidence to the commission that nothing concerning the African would ever be solved by Europeans and Government departments without the active participation of the African.

Dr. E. Hellman and Mr. W. B. Ngakane, on behalf of the Joint Council of Europeans and Africans, stated: "The Joint Council feels that the riot can be interpreted as a protest against authority. It is common knowledge that the patience and restraint of the African people are being severely strained by the increasingly felt pressure of the discriminatory laws to which they are subject."

## AFRICANS ARE NOW PERMANENT CITY DWELLERS

JOHANNESBURG. — "The City Council's administration of the Non-European population has come under heavy fire during the last year," said Councillor Hilda Watts in a speech in the Council, reviewing the work of the past year.

"Almost every memorandum submitted as evidence to the Fagan commission investigating the Moroka disturbances has urged Non-European representation on the Council."

The leader of the United Party group in the Council, Mr. A. E. P. Robinson, started a new precedent when he moved the suspension of standing orders to discuss the year's work. Then followed several hours of tedious debate as Councillors delivered pre-election speeches.

"Those who shout loudest about the crime wave are those who do most to prevent measures to help diminish crime," said Councillor Watts. "Councillors make speeches

objecting to Africans congregating in their wards, and yet do most to prevent recreational centres being built for them.

"The Council must recognise that the Africans are permanent urban dwellers of this city; and must press for radical changes in the Urban Areas Act, which was framed in 1923 and did not recognise this fact."

Red-baiting Councillor J. J. O'Connor (Independent) in a lengthy speech attacking the Labour Party said its members were making "pernicious Communist propaganda." He was later compelled to withdraw this statement.

## Growing Demand to Ban Fascists

JOHANNESBURG.—There is a growing demand here for the banning of Fascist organisations and the outlawing of all forms of racialistic propaganda. Democrats see the activities of Fascist groups on the City Hall steps as only the beginning of their anti-democratic activities on a much larger scale.

Mr. Tom Johnson, the secretary of the Johannesburg Branch of the Springbok Legion, told the Guardian that the Springbok Legion has declared itself very definitely in favour of the banning of fascist organisations, and has constantly urged this to the Government. It conducted a full-scale campaign on these demands last year, and raised the question again recently in an interview with the Acting Minister of Justice, Dr. Colin Steyn, and other prominent United Party M.P.s.

Mr. Johnson said the attitude of many people on this question was often: "We live in a democracy and believe in free speech. That you must not take away from anyone." His reply always was: "An up-to-date version of democracy must be to give free speech to all except those who wish to smash democracy. No group must be allowed to operate within the framework of democracy in order eventually to destroy it."

### "STUPID AND CRIMINAL"

Mr. E. S. Sachs, general secretary of the Garment Workers' Union, said it was "ridiculous, stupid and criminal" to allow Fascists free play. "A war to exterminate the scourge of Nazism has recently ended. Yet on Sunday nights at the City Hall steps Nazis get up and harangue crowds on Nazi doctrines, with police standing by and taking action not against the Nazi criminals but against those who resent the criminal activities of the Nazis. Are we not living through the sordid experience of the Weimar Republic?"

## Brakpan Advisory Board Member Assaulted

BRAKPAN.—Mr. D. W. Bopape, member of the Brakpan Native Advisory Board and secretary of the Transvaal African National Congress, was assaulted by a Native Affairs Department official on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 22.

A special meeting of the Board had been called that afternoon to consider additional expenditure from the Native Revenue Account. After the adoption of a motion by Mr. Bopape that the meeting be adjourned to give members time to study the proposed additional expenditure, this official left the meeting followed by the superintendent and another officer. The chairman then closed the meeting.

Outside the board room the official went up to Mr. Bopape and called him a "verdomde kaffir." When Mr. Bopape protested against this, the official hit him with his fist on his cheek and right temple. The location superintendent and Mr. Pakade, another member of the board, intervened at this stage



# END OF AMATIC CASE

## SEDITION CHARGE WITHDRAWN

**THE** charge of sedition against eight members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the secretary of the Organising Fund Committee of the African Mine Workers' Union was withdrawn at the outset of the Supreme Court proceedings in Johannesburg in the middle of October.

This sensational development followed the decision of the two judges to uphold the exception to the indictment made by the lawyers for the defence who claimed that the Cape Town preparatory examination had been illegal because the Attorney-General of the Transvaal had no power to prosecute in the Cape; the indictment was invalid and the commitment for trial of the accused illegal. The Attorney-General then announced that he would have to withdraw the indictment, but a new preparatory examination would probably begin all over again for the following morning in the Magistrate's Court.

As the members of the central committee stepped down from their seats, four constables and a sergeant surrounded them, and re-arrested them again in the court-room. Mr. I. Wolfson, also a member of the central committee and a well-known trade unionist was arrested on a charge of sedition as he stood in the corridor outside the court room after the proceedings.

The next morning all ten accused assembled in the Magistrate's Court. Bare thirty seconds after the case was over, Dr. P. Yutar, appearing for the Crown announced that he was withdrawing the charge, on the instructions of the Attorney-General.

Members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party charged with sedition were: W. H. Andrews (National Chairman), Moses Kotane (general secretary), Advocate H. Snitcher, Lucas Phillips, H. A. Naidoo, Fred Carneson, I. O. Horwicht, Dr. H. J. Simons. Also charged was L. C. Joffe of the African Mine Workers' Union Organising Fund Committee.

The charge arises out of the strike of 50,000 African mine-workers in August of last year, since then strenuous efforts have been made by the government to pin the blame for this strike on the Communists. Numerous raids on the offices and homes of Communists, trade unionists and progressives were carried out.

The charge of conspiracy to incite to violence against members of the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party and others were dropped last year when the first attempt to find scapegoats for the strike failed. The acting minister for Justice, Dr. Colin

Steyn, said recently in a press statement that despite the collapse of the first attempt of a sedition charge, the allegation of sedition still remains.



Advocate H. Snitcher, one of the eight members of the Communist Party Central Executive Committee, who appeared in the Johannesburg division of the High Court on a charge of sedition.

There have now been about ten arrests arising from incidents on the City Hall Steps. But only one of the arrested people is a fascist supporter. He is R. C. Saayman who, when he appeared in the Magistrate's Court on a charge of inciting to public violence, asked that his case be postponed to enable him to call as witnesses Weichardt and Horak, the Greyshirt leaders. A detective, giving evidence in this case, told the Court that he took notes of a speech Saayman made on the Steps when he said: "The Communists are the cause of the trouble in this country; the trouble with the natives, they are the scum of this country, these dirty filthy Jews."

M. Berman and J. Marcus, both members of the Communist Party, and ex-soldiers, appeared in court on a charge of assaulting R. H. Lahner. Lahner admitted he had formed "I would put on a Nazi uniform to fight the Communists." Berman and Marcus said he had also made many statements on the Steps; and that these remarks of his provoked their action. They were each fined £10, or 21 days' hard labour. Several other cases of anti-fascists charged with assaults on fascists or "inciting to public violence" have still to be heard.

## CITY HALL STEPS

A brand of fascism little different from that seen in Hitler Germany can be met every Sunday evening on the City Hall Steps in Johannesburg. There a group of Greyshirts and their hooligan supporters gather to try to break up the traditional weekly meeting of the Communist Party; curse the Jews, insult the Non-Europeans; spread vicious racist propaganda; organise attacks on Communists and progressives and assault innocent bystanders. This sort of thing has been going on for the past few weeks.

Attempts to break up the meetings of the Communist Party have been unsuccessful. For the last few weeks groups of enraged democrats have heckled the viciously racist speeches of the fascists and prevented them from holding proper meetings. But instances of isolated attacks on members of the Communist Party and their supporters as they go home from the meetings have been increasing.

The police are present, of course — large numbers in plain clothes recently. But as the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party said in its memorandum submitted this deputation to the acting Minister of Justice, and the Commissioner of Police: "the attitude of the police, instead of protecting our meetings from organised hooliganism, has had the effect of aiding the fascist group in their purpose." On more than one occasion the police ordered everybody on the City Hall steps to disperse although the meeting of the Communist Party had continued throughout in an orderly fashion.

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## FAGAN COMMISSION

**THE** Commission of Inquiry into the Moroka riot has heard evidence from all sides — from government departments, the South African Police and squatters' leaders alike — condemning the attitude of the Johannesburg Council towards the thousands of African people who took part in the Shantytown movement. From large numbers of witnesses have come recommendations for the reduction of rent in Moroka and Jabavu and the representation of Africans on the City Council.

These are some of the points made by witnesses to the Commission:

**S. Baduza — Squatter Leader:** "Anything could cause a riot in Moroka. The leaders of the people had been taken away, and the people thought everyone was against them."

**The Government Departments of Native Affairs and Health:** "The greatest cause of discontent in Moroka at the moment is the question of rent. A substantial reduction in rent is recommended."

**The South African Police:** "During the removal of squatters from Orlando to Jabavu it became obvious to the District Commandant that the attitude of some of the Council's officials left much to be desired, and that the complex of authority over lesser privileged people was very clearly displayed."

**Oriel Monongoa, Squatters' Leader:** "The Council has sought to cover up its failures of the past by blaming the leaders of the squatters' movement and stating they had organised Africans from other areas to take up residence in the squatters' camps."

**Senator H. M. Basner:** "The question of African housing cannot be solved by other than emergency measures which will cut through the red tape of departmental caution and financial pigheadedness."

**The Johannesburg District of the Communist Party:** "The disturbance at Moroka is the outcome of profound, far-reaching and justified grievances — among them the general background of frustration, bitterness and hostility towards the authorities and the police; the oppressive and restrictive laws; low wages and living standards. There must be a fully adequate housing plan to include the training of men of all races to become skilled artisans in the building industry. The present advisory board must immediately be disbanded and arrangements made for the democratic election of representatives of the squatters to negotiate with the authorities concerning the future administration of the camp, including the question of trading licences."

**Councillor Hilda Watts:** "At no time did the Council regard the squatter problem as primarily one of lack of housing for the African urban worker. From the very beginning it showed a short-sighted and inhuman attitude to people living under terrible conditions. There must be a radical change of attitude on the part of some Council members and officials and the police towards the Non-European people. The Moroka disturbance is one of the many signs of warning we have had."

The members of the Commission are Mr. Justice Fagan (chairman), Mr. A. L. Barrett, Mr. A. S. Welsh, K.C., and Mr. A. E. von Maltitz.



# Springbok Legion Against Smuts' Farm Labour Scheme

JOHANNESBURG.—The Springbok Legion has written to the Prime Minister protesting against the projected scheme for importing into the Union numbers of Italian and Austrian farm labourers.

The Legion states that if the Government were to initiate, on a far larger scale than at present obtains, a broad scheme for the training of African ex-servicemen in agricultural practices, the country would have at its disposal an agricultural labour force comparable in efficiency, knowledge and initiative with the immigrants from Europe.

It is emphasised that the success of such a scheme for African ex-servicemen, who are crying out for opportunities to live on the land, would depend on the willingness of farmers to pay them the same remuneration as it is proposed to pay the Italian farm labourers.

The Legion sees many national advantages from such a programme, among them the fulfilment in some measure of recurring promises made to Africans that land would be available to them upon demobilisation, and a temporary alleviation of the desperate pressure being maintained by the African people in their quest of land.

It would lead also to the beginnings of a stabilised and economical labour force for the farms; and an increase in the national income with prospects of greater social security.

## W.F.T.U. WARNS AGAINST WARMONGERS

JOHANNESBURG.—"The annihilation of all the remnants of Fascism and the extension of democratic rights for the people are closely linked with the raising of the living standards of workers throughout the world.

"The workers and their trade unions reaffirm this on the occasion of the second anniversary of the establishment of the World Federation of Trade Unions."

This is the message cabled by Louis Salliant, the general secretary of the W.F.T.U., to trade unions throughout the world, including those in South Africa, this week.

The message continues: "The part played by trade unions and workers in support of peace is more timely and necessary than ever before. The duty of the trade unions is to react with energy and continuously against all campaigns aiming to foster the idea of war."

"On this second anniversary affiliated trade union centres and all

workers throughout the world will celebrate by an increase in their efforts to make the work of the world trade union movement even more effective. The unity sealed within the W.F.T.U. between all workers of the world will be strengthened.

### GREAT EXPLOITATION

In some countries the trade unions are struggling against the great exploitation to which workers of both sexes are subjected. On this occasion they are determined, too, to make still greater efforts in the defence of trade union rights.

"Long live international trade union unity and its living representation, the World Federation of Trade Unions."

"Long live peace and liberty for the workers of the world."

## NO MORE POLICE RAIDS IN PRETORIA?

PRETORIA.—There will be no more police raids in the early hours of the morning in Pretoria locations and townships unless there is proved to be a real crime wave in any particular area.

This is the assurance given a deputation of the Pretoria District of the Communist Party by the Commissioner of Police.

The deputation submitted to the acting Minister of Justice, Dr. Colin Steyn, a memorandum on these police raids, asking that the matter receive the Minister's personal attention. They interviewed the Minister and afterwards the Commissioner of Police.

Since this assurance, which was given the deputation a few weeks ago, there have been no further police raids. During one of the last police raids in Lady Selborne 300

police conducted a house-to-house search, and, "carrying only their ordinary equipment," arrested 250 Africans on charges ranging from illegal possession of liquor, to carrying dagga, or being a "foreign" African.

This raid was described as "the biggest incident-free liquor raid in the history of the Lady Selborne Location."

The deputation was composed of Messrs. Mike Muller, Elphas Ditsese, Chris Moetle, and the Reverend Tantsi, of the African National Congress, and a guest member of the deputation.

## Greysht Call For Nat.—U.P. Bloc

JOHANNESBURG.—The Greyshirts again held a meeting on the City Hall steps last Sunday night, during and after the Communist Party meeting. Copies of "Die Blanke Front" bearing an advertisement of Weichardt's book were handed out free to bystanders.

A Greyshirt speaker who claimed to be an ex-member of the Springbok Legion alleged the leading positions in the Legion were occupied by Communists, who form a solid block and exert powerful control. He advised the Legion to clean out the Communists.

He went on to make the novel suggestion that the United Party and Nationalists should get together for the coming elections and fight as one party of white men. Only the best men from each party should be chosen; this would eliminate Hofmeyr.

The Communist Party meeting continued to the end without interruption. It was later reported that the District Commandant of Police arrested a youth alleged to have been one of a mob of 25 who assaulted an African after the Communist Party meeting.



Some of the Transvaal women who went to Durban last week to join in the passive resistance campaign. Sitting, from left, Mrs. R. Sajojoe, Miss Z. Moolia, Miss Z. Salim Saley, Mrs. N. G. Pillay, Mrs. Thandray, Mrs. Bibi Dadoo. Standing, from the left, Mrs. A. Pahad, Miss Fatima Dadoo, Miss Zubeida Dadoo, Mrs. Gourie Dadoo, Miss Zuleika Dadoo, Mrs. Amina Wade, Mrs. Z. Patel, Miss Zohra Byhat, Mrs. K. Bata, Miss L. Ranchod, Mrs. M. Chachalla.

## 34 Passive Resisters From Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG.—A large group of passive resisters—24 women and 10 men—left Johannesburg last week. They occupied Resistance Plot on Monday evening.

Among them were Mr. Nana Sita, a leader of the Transvaal resistance movement who has already served one term of imprisonment, and whose two sons, daughter and brother are also resisters; and Mr. T. N. Naidoo who comes of an old resistance family. His father was one of Gandhi's lieutenants in the first passive resistance struggle in South Africa. His wife has also served a term of imprisonment in the present struggle.

Mr. and Mrs. Salem Saley were both members of the batch, leaving their two small children in the care of friends. Mr. Saley is secretary of the Krugersdorp Branch of the Indian Congress.

Mrs. Amina Pahad, one of the five Transvaal women to cross the border into Natal to form the first resistance batch at the beginning of this struggle, also joined the batch. Another resister was 53-year-old Mrs. M. G. Pillay, whose husband served in the first resistance struggle. He was deported to India, but was eventually brought back when a settlement was reached.

Mrs. M. Chachalla, mother of five children, will also serve a second term of imprisonment, as will Mrs. V. Thandray, wife of the secretary of the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council.

Five members of the Dadoo family joined this batch.

### CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIED

This large batch of Johannesburg resisters, and those from Pretoria and Durban this week, signify an intensification of the whole resistance campaign in accordance with the decision to keep it at a high level of activity during the United Nations session.

The women resisters issued a special message to Mrs. Pandit pledging to carry on the struggle.

## U.P. SWEEPS POLLS IN JO'BURG

JOHANNESBURG.—In the Johannesburg municipal elections the United Party swept the polls, returning candidates in 11 out of the 14 seats that had to be filled this year.

The Nationalist Party returned two candidates, among them Dr. G. E. N. Ross, leader of the Nationalist Group in the Council. Mr. J. O'Connor, Independent, was also returned. The Labour Party did not return any candidates. Eilda Watiss, the Communist candidate, was defeated in her ward by Mr. H. W. Johns (United Party) who polled 3,964 of the 4,973 votes.

The United Party now holds 30 of the 42 seats in the Council; the remaining seats being occupied by 4 Labour Councillors, five from the Nationalist Party, and one Independent.

In Brakpan the United Party wrested control from the Nationalists who have been in power for the past three years. The Ratepayers' Federation, or Nationalist Party group in Pretoria yielded control to the Pretoria Citizens' Union, which holds 9 seats, as compared to the 8 occupied by the Federation. The remaining Councillor is a Labour member.

## Protest At Increase in Petrol Price

JOHANNESBURG.—At the last meeting of the National Committee of the National Union of Commercial Travellers, a resolution was adopted unanimously, strongly objecting to the recent increase in the price of petrol.

The resolution stated: "While it is understood that this increase was caused by factors outside of South Africa, it is rumoured that a further increase in price is contemplated. This union is of the opinion that such an increase is neither warranted nor desirable, and strongly objects to the fact that none of the parties affected, neither the motoring public nor the organised bodies of motorists, were consulted prior to the introduction of the increased prices."



## THOUSANDS VISIT SOVIET EXHIBITION

JOHANNESBURG.—The exhibition "Thirty Years of Soviet Progress," prepared by the Soviet Consulate and at present exhibited in the foyer of the Johannesburg Library, has attracted public attention as no other of its kind.

It has already been visited by thousands of people; and general opinion is that it has served as a real eye-opener to the achievements of the Soviet Union and an antidote to warmongering.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition, the Consul-General for the Soviet Union, Mr. P. S. Atroshchenkov said: "The exhibition shows only a part of the progress made by the Soviet peoples during the last thirty years, in the various phases of their life. I hope it will attract wide attention and contribute towards a better mutual understanding and towards the strengthening of friendship between the peoples of South Africa and the U.S.S.R." The exhibition was opened by the Mayor of Johannesburg.

Among the comments written in the Visitor's Book by visitors to the exhibition were these: "If reality is as good as the pictures, I wish you all success." "The Russians are civilised after all. It is an eye-opener. Carry on." "Now I believe."

## Anna Scheepers In Provincial By-election

JOHANNESBURG.—Miss Anna Scheepers, President of the Garment Workers' Union, will be the official candidate of the Labour Party in the Turfontein provincial by-election. The by-election was occasioned by the death of Mr. A. E. Boylan.

Miss Scheepers was elected president of the Garment Workers' Union in 1937. She is a member of the national executive of the South African Trades and Labour Council, and is a delegate to the industrial councils for the clothing and millinery industries in the Transvaal.

Her election policy will be for "better medical services for all; the lowering and eventual abolition of the personal tax; and full fee education facilities for all children."

## COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS

JOHANNESBURG.—The National Union of Commercial Travellers has issued a statement to correct a rumour that the existing commercial travellers' licences have been abolished and substituted by a restricted fee. This is not so.

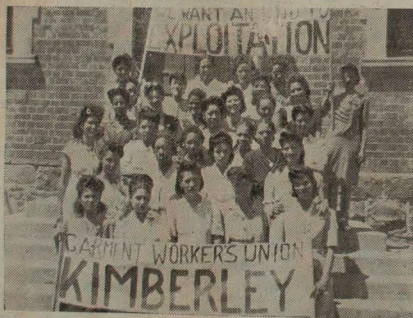
The position still is that wholesale commercial travellers who reside in the province in which their firms' offices are situated have to take out a licence at £10 a year. Retail commercial travellers who represent their firms outside the magisterial area situated, have to take out a licence at £5 a year.

## Mass Rally of Transvaal Workers

JOHANNESBURG.—Prominent Non-European and European trade union leaders will speak at the Monster Worker's Rally, organised by the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions, to take place on Sunday, November 9, at 10 p.m. at the Trades Hall, 30, Kerk street.

The rally will demand, among other things, recognition of African Trade Unions under the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act, a daily wage of '6s.' and will strongly oppose the proposed Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill 1947.

## KIMBERLEY GARMENT WORKERS WIN HISTORIC STRIKE



JOHANNESBURG.—The recent strike of 51 Coloured garment workers in Kimberley—the first strike in that town since 1909—was highly successful.

This Kimberley factory is now the only garment factory in the Union which works only a 42½-hour week. The agreement entered into provides also for a closed shop and no victimisation, a medical aid society, two weeks and two days' paid holiday each year, and half-yearly increases.

All the workers were re-instated. Any future dispute will be referred to arbitration.

The strike lasted three weeks and four days.

The "Diamond Fields Advertiser" described the picket lines, meetings and demonstrations through the streets of Kimberley as "foreign to this town."

Certain Coloured Advisory supporters visited the strikers at their homes and tried to persuade them to return to work. Despite this, the garment workers stood firm—and won their strike.

Union organisers Hetty du Preez, Mrs. S. van Wyk and Mr. H. Ruis helped with the strike in Kimberley.

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## Sedition Case Saved Govt. From Criticism

—SEN. BASNER

## INQUIRY INTO AFRICAN MINERS' STRIKE NEEDED

JOHANNESBURG.—"Last session Parliament was debarred from discussing the African miners' strike because of the criminal proceedings against the Communist Party Central Committee, and to the same extent public men and journalists have been prevented from criticising the Government's strike-breaking activities," Senator H. M. Basner told The Guardian.

"Even in the international field, in the World Federation of Trade Unions, and in the Social and Economic Committees of the United Nations, it has been difficult to discuss a matter which was 'sub-judice'."

"The stifling of discussion about the shocking conduct of the South African Police towards the striking miners has been the Government's greatest gain from the long drawn-out prosecution, and whether accidental or deliberate, it has played into the hands of the mine owners, and prevented the miners from receiving redress from public opinion for the violation of their civic rights."

"With the long lapse of time it becomes increasingly more difficult to arrive at an objective finding of the true causes of the strike, and the Government's behaviour towards the miners."

"The Government, which is so quick to appoint commissions on all sorts of important and unimportant problems and events, has refused to appoint a commission to investigate what is probably one of the most significant events in South African industrial history. It preferred police raids on trade unions and political organisations, and the prosecution of the miners' leaders and others, to a proper investigation by a judicial commission."

An emphatic protest against "the Government's proposal to re-open the case against the members of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party accused of sedition, after the charges had been withdrawn by the Attorney-General," was recorded in a resolution adopted unanimously at a meeting of the Cape District Committee of the Communist Party, held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Russian Revolution last Friday.

"We regard any such step as an act of political persecution," the resolution continues, "and call upon the authorities to drop the proceedings."

Copies of the resolution have been sent to the Minister of Justice, and the Attorney-General of the Cape and the Transvaal.

## NOT TOO LATE

"It is late, but still not too late, to do justice to the African miners by a proper inquiry into the happenings of August, 1946. Let the Government drop its attempts to saddle one party and one group of individuals with the responsibility for a strike which involved 80,000 workers, and let us have an inquiry into the major economic and social factors which led to this great industrial disturbance."

"The Lansdowne Commission made certain recommendations and observations. Let us examine the African miners' strike in the light of the Government's own commission. I believe we will then have no more talk of sedition, but of gross irresponsibility and mismanagement by the country's major industry and by the Government itself."

In Durban, Mr. A. T. Wantless, M.P., referring to the sedition case in which members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party are involved, said: "I think the Government has come off badly in this matter. It would be as well if it withdrew."



# Renewed Fascist Activity in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG.—A poisonous anti-Semitic booklet entitled "The Jewish War of Survival" is being circulated in South Africa at the present time. It is not the only such booklet. Of late a number of tiny, furtive Fascist groups have emerged, some apparently for the sole purpose of distributing Fascist propaganda. Many of them "specialise" on the Jewish question.

If you look hard enough you will probably come across, in this year 1947, copies of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" being distributed free of charge.

Only one month ago there was a debate in the London County Council on the banning of Fascist movements. A Councillor quoted the words of one Arnold Leese, describing the founding of a Fascist periodical in Britain some two years ago: "At that time even the most patriotic journals had been cowed by the enemy. But we knew that the psychological effect of our shouting 'Heilward Jew' would establish the lead to others at least to whisper the dreadful word, although these others would be quite unconscious of having been led to it..."

This same Arnold Leese is the author of the booklet "Jewish War of Survival" being distributed in South Africa. The South African edition is dedicated to the memory of Hitler, Mussert, Mussolini and others. The book attempts to prove that the Jews caused the last war.

## SERVING GAOL SENTENCE

Who is Arnold Leese? A noted British anti-Semite. He has been involved in two notorious court cases in Britain. He is at present serving a sentence of twelve months imprisonment for aiding escaped German prisoners of war. He was involved also in the infamous blood libel case of 1936, when he was the proprietor of the journal "The Fascist," which printed libellous and scandalous statements about the Jews.

The agent for the distribution of this booklet and other anti-Semitic material is R. K. Rudman, Greyshirt leader for Natal in 1934 to 1936, more recently leader of the Boerenasie, which in 1944 became a sister movement to Pirov's New Order.

## CONFUSED HOTCH-POTCH

Joining the circle of hate-groups is "The People's Movement," which has just released its "Second and Final Manifesto." Published by H. S. Terrell and others, it is a hotch-potch of confused ideas about control boards, gambling, the middle class and home life, and a series of paragraphs against the Indians, Jews and Communists.

The manifesto wants the repatriation of Moslems but graciously concedes that Hindus may remain "as they could become an asset." Natives and Coloureds and illiterate Europeans are warned to "guard against the Communist agitation to oust the white man. You are being used by unscrupulous aliens for their own ends. That is for Jewish world domination."

Not least of all among this racialist literature is "Die Blanke Front," organ of the Greyshirts. This jour-

# UNITED PARTY WHITEWASH

JOHANNESBURG.—In the latest issue of the United Party newsletter—described as a commentary on political questions of the day—the party explains its food, housing, cost of living and social security policies.

Here they are: "Food shortage is a comparative term, and so far as South Africa is concerned it has to be considered as such. There may be seasonal shortages of particular commodities, but there is always an adequate supply of food."

"The rise in the cost of living is less in South Africa than in most countries. It is not anywhere as high as the rise in the United States."

"In regard to social security, that will come when the people of South Africa are in a position to pay for it."

"In regard to housing, it can safely be said that difficulties are being overcome, and the Controller of Building, Mr. J. W. Musket, has done an excellent job of work."

# BRODERICK SUES MINERS' UNION FOR £3,816

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. B. B. Broderick, former general secretary of the Mineworkers' Union, is claiming from the Union £3,816, being three years' salary in lieu of notice, and certain other sums arising from the termination of his employment in May, 1946.

The case is being heard by Mr. Justice Roper in the Supreme Court.

The plea of the defence alleges that Mr. Broderick was dismissed by the general council of the union on competent legal grounds. It further alleges that Mr. Broderick caused two people to be appointed as paid officials of the union, not in the union's interests, but to act as his personal bodyguard.

Under threats of physical violence made either by himself or these people, Mr. Broderick is alleged to have intimidated the members of the executive committee and the paid officials into voting in accordance with his wishes and not in the interests of the union, more particularly in relation to the purchase of farms at excessive prices, false alterations of the minutes of the executive committee, and generally in connection with all the union's affairs.

Direct threats of violence are alleged to have been made to certain members of the executive committee, with the result that the remaining members of the executive were cowed into submission.

Giving evidence, Mr. Broderick denied all the allegations against him.

The case is proceeding.

# Trades Council Constitution

JOHANNESBURG.—A special committee of the South African Trades and Labour Council is studying the proposed new constitution for the Council, brought forward by the delegates of the Society of Bank Officials.

It is understood that a special conference to consider this constitution will not be called, but the first days of the Council's annual conference will be devoted to discussion on the constitution.

# African Trade Union Splitters Exposed

JOHANNESBURG.—Many African workers of Johannesburg demonstrated on Sunday against the attempt to split the Non-European Trade Union Movement by a group of dissident trade union secretaries who had manoeuvred to establish a new council of African unions.

A large and lively meeting of the workers unanimously passed a resolution "irrevocably and absolutely condemning the action of some so-called trade unionists who, for self-aggrandisement and personal gain, have sacrificed the interests and solidarity of the Non-European workers by the formation of an African Council in opposition to the Non-European Council of Trade Unions."

## FULL CONFIDENCE

A motion of full confidence in the Council of Non-European trade unions was passed.

The meeting totally rejected the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill and deplored any attempts calculated to accept it. The meeting demanded the full recognition of all trade unions under the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act.

Hundreds of workers attended this meeting in the Trades Hall, and donated enthusiastically to the Council funds. An amount of £13 was collected.

Presiding over the meeting, Mr. J. B. Marks said that unity among the workers was now more necessary than ever in view of the Government's offensive against the workers' rights.

## RICH BACKER

Mr. Edwin Mofutsanyana gave the history of those who had started the new council. He said that not so long ago many of these same individuals were financed by a rich Johannesburg man in an attempt to capture the Non-European Council of Trade Unions. They failed and their rich sponsor deserted them.

Mr. Gana Makabeni said that these splitters were now trying to destroy the good work achieved in the trade unions over many years.

Other speakers included Senator H. M. Basner, Mr. James Phillips, Mr. I. Wolston, and Mr. D. W. Bopape.

# SQUATTERS IN ARREARS NOT ALLOWED TO BURY THEIR DEAD

—Allegation to Moroka Commission.

JOHANNESBURG.—A squatter giving evidence before the commission of inquiry into the Moroka disturbance said that if the squatters did not pay rent for their stands they were not given facilities by the municipal authorities to bury their dead.

The chairman of the commission asked that any squatter with such a complaint be brought before the commission.

A Jaburu trader complained to the commission that he was not receiving his quota of sugar from the municipal authorities. Mr. Venables, member of the Council's Non-European Affairs Department, said that he had given instructions that traders who were not paying house rentals in Jaburu should not be allowed to participate in the distribution of sugar, since it was merely a favour to the traders in the camp and not a right.

Former members of Advisory Boards submitted a memorandum to the Commission urging the abolition of the municipal Non-European Affairs Department, and the extension of the municipal franchise to Africans.

# POLICE WARNED NOT TO ASSAULT PRISONERS

JOHANNESBURG.—Major-General R. J. Palmer, Commissioner of the South African Police, has announced that "it is the policy of the police to deal drastically with members of the Force who commit unprovoked assaults on any members of the community, irrespective of colour, race, or creed. In the past, apart from prosecution before the courts, dismissal from the Force has followed."

This statement follows many reports in the daily Press here recently of cases of assault, generally on Africans, by members of the police.

The provisions of Police Standing Order No. 239 reads: "It is the policy of the police to deal with any member of the Force who, in any case only such force as is absolutely necessary to overcome resistance of a prisoner should be used. There is no excuse for any policeman beating, kicking, or otherwise ill-treating any person in custody, and any policeman found guilty of such conduct may expect to be severely dealt with."

# DR. A. H. SADER

JOHANNESBURG.—Dr. A. H. Sader, the first Ladysmith-born Indian to qualify in medicine at an overseas university, returned to South Africa recently, after having been overseas for the past nine years. He recently graduated at the medical school, Birmingham University.

Dr. Sader was secretary of the Federation of Indian Students' Societies in the British Isles and Europe from April, 1945-1947. He was a delegate to the World Youth Conference in London 1945, and a member of the Council of the World Federation of Democratic Youth for a year. He was also a member of the International Students' Preparatory Committee which paved the way for the International Union of Students. On this committee of 12 countries which met in Prague to prepare for the formation of the I.U.S. Dr. Sader represented the All-India Students' Federation.

In the course of his youth and student work Dr. Sader travelled in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Albania, Austria, Switzerland, France, Denmark and the American and French zones of Germany.

While in Albania he witnessed the declaration of the Republic of Albania. Students from 50 countries are members of the International Union of Students, which has a total membership of over three million. The membership of the World Federation of Democratic Youth is over 40 million.



# African School Threatened With Expropriation

JOHANNESBURG.—Just before the municipal elections Labour Councillor Riley presented to a Council meeting one afternoon a petition signed by 2,500 residents of his ward, Rosettenville, urging the expropriation of St. Peter's Priory, situated at the border of Rosettenville and The Hill.

Councillor Riley talked about the "infiltration by Non-Europeans into this area." He said it was difficult to sleep comfortably at night due to "this eye-sore in the area." It had been built at the beginning of the century on what was then open veld. To-day it was causing £100,000 worth of property to deteriorate in value because of its existence as a sore spot in the ward.

This was Councillor's Riley's version. There is another.

This Priory-to-day shelters a secondary school for African children, a hostel, a theological training college, a night school for domestic servants working in the area, a church and a retreat for Europeans.

It started in a stable and farm outhouse in 1898 when the first stands in Rosettenville were bought by the Priory, then situated in Doornfontein. It esters to-day for over 500 African children who come from as far as the Northern Transvaal, so eager are they for education. Secondary schools for Africans are few and far between in Johannesburg. This is one of the very few.

## BUFFER STANDS

The Priory owns a number of stands in Rosettenville, immediately surrounding the school, several of which serve as a buffer between the school and surrounding houses. Just after the end of the war the Priory began to think of making use of some of these vacant stands. It decided to try to help the municipality to carry out its much publicised plan to provide recreation centres for Africans working in European residential areas.

Plans have previously failed in other areas because of the great difficulty in acquiring sites for these recreation centres. Here was a site readily available. Or it could be built a club house for indoor games and refreshments, night school accommodation, and also possibly a few tennis courts.

The Council considered this plan on various committees, came out to measure the ground; it seemed the plan might get under way.

## PETTY GRIEVANCES

And yet somehow or other, before anything was definitely finalised, these plans got to the ears of certain residents in the neighbourhood. This was the signal for all their petty grievances against the Priory to bubble over: the blue-gun trees surrounding the Priory sheltered "seems" who rushed into the Priory to evade the police; a fence surrounding the area should be built; and so on.

These grievances broadened out into a demand for the expropriation

of the Priory. Then the petition was circulated, and the suggestion made that it be moved among the mine dumps.

This is the second attempt to have the Priory expropriated. The first was in 1938, also initiated by a City Councillor. It won't be easy to effect this expropriation. The compensation to be paid the Priory for its established buildings will be heavy enough to daunt the most ardent petition-signer.

But more than that. This is a test of the Council's sincerity in its plans for Non-European recreation centres. They are an acknowledged antidote for crime. But Johannesburg is steadily getting to the position where almost each suburb in turn rejects the idea of having such a centre in its area.

Where is this first recreation centre to be built? The Council has, in Rosettenville, an opportunity to translate its resolution into reality.

# Unemployment Act Should Cover African Miners

JOHANNESBURG.—The commission appointed to inquire into the Unemployment Insurance Act has been asked by the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions and the Society of the Friends of Africa to include in the provisions of the Act Africans employed on coal and gold mines.

Dealing with the case of African building employees who became unemployed when the European workers went on strike, the memorandum suggests that a precedent was established during the general strike in Britain in 1926, when workers involved through no fault of their own were paid unemployment benefit.

Members of several other deputations argued that unemployment benefits were unnecessary among unskilled Africans as there was a shortage of this type of labour throughout the Union and no African need be unemployed!

The commission was told that African workers objected to the deductions made from their pay under the Act, and that they could not appreciate the benefits they might derive from it. Employers, rather than let discontent spread among these employees, had paid the contributions of all employees to the fund.

## CHAMBER OF MINES CLAIM

The Chamber of Mines deputation said that the inclusion of African employees of the gold and coal mines in the provisions of the Act would place additional costs on the gold mining industry which could not be met by increasing the price of gold, which was fixed by international agreement.

The memorandum submitted by the Garment Workers' Union suggested that schemes for the payment of unemployment benefit or allow-

ances should cover not only persons wholly unemployed, but also persons who are partially unemployed.

The question of payments to childless and other dependents of an unemployed breadwinner should be seriously considered. The Act should also make provision for the establishment of appeal tribunals to hear appeals from unemployed workers whose claims for benefit have been rejected.



# African Miners' Union Fights War Measure 1425

JOHANNESBURG.—As effective as any method of crippling a workers' trade union is War Measure 1,425. Passed in 1944, it prohibits the gathering on any gold-proclaimed area of more than twenty persons.

It has never, even during the peak period of the war, been used to stop fascist meetings. But it is used daily on the gold mines of the Witwatersrand to shatter the effectiveness of the African Mine-Workers' Union, and prevent union organisers from establishing contact with their members and the miners living a closed life within their concrete-walled compounds.

The Guardian reporter and photographer went along to a mine near Maraisburg one afternoon, together with the union president, J. B. Marks, and another union organiser, to watch the operations of this war measure.

Before the war measure was passed this mine was one of the strongholds of the union. Conditions were bad enough, it was said, to warrant miners coming out on strike every Sunday. The food was alleged to be deplorable. The union had strong support among the miners.

This became evident, as on all mines, during the August strike last year. The most advanced workers on many mines have since been dismissed, and daily attempts are made to frighten the workers away from their union.

Union organisers cannot, of course, enter the compounds. They rely on meeting the workers as they come off shift after they have eaten in their rooms, and later drift on to the veld to spend the few remaining hours of daylight in the sun.

**DETECTIVES ON THE JOB**  
But barely have the organisers arrived in the district, than the

African mine workers, eager to read the leaflets issued by their union, cluster in large numbers round the African Mine Workers' Union president, Mr. J. B. Marks, who is not allowed to enter their compound. On the right is a European detective who, together with two African detectives, follows the union men around wherever they go, listening to all their discussions with the workers.

mine detectives know they are there. It is, of course, their special job to keep track of "agitators." The organisers station themselves opposite the fence, holding their leaflets under the large sign "Transpassers will be Prosecuted." They see the detectives run to close the large gate, so the workers have to come out in twos and threes through the turnstile.

And the presence of these detectives has its purpose: it serves as a method of silent intimidation, warning the workers that their every move towards the union organisers is being watched. They are afraid, and come out slowly.

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## AFRICAN MINERS FIGHT WAR MEASURE 1425

(Continued from page 1)

But later larger numbers of workers begin to emerge. Some of them are surprised to see J. B. Marks. They have been told, after the great mine strike, that he and the union will never come back again. They come eagerly to fetch a leaflet and exchange a few words of greeting.

### THE NEWS SPREADS

The news spreads: "The union people are here." There is a larger rush of workers and J. B. Marks is surrounded as he hands out leaflets as fast as he can.

The detectives move closer. As Marks says a few odd things to groups of workers, one of them says to a worker: "Don't believe we don't know what he says. We understand all."

For the moment it has no effect. The workers continue to stretch eagerly for the leaflets. Some, still carrying or wearing their boots and tin helmets, or carrying a lamp, have just come off shift. Others are wearing their blankets.

The union organisers must be careful. They must see to it they give the detectives no excuse to arrest them under the war measure by holding a meeting of a group that develops quickly into a gathering of over 20. To hold such a meeting is a sure way of getting

the union involved in yet another prosecution.

### POLICE ARRIVE

As the leaflets disappear among the miners the union organisers prepare to leave. Several groups of mineworkers are ranged along the roadside reading the leaflets and exchanging comments with the organisers. And at that very moment two detectives in a police side-car drive up, apparently called by the mine detectives. This time there is no question of invoking the war measure. There is no real meeting being conducted.

One of these detectives walks over to J. B. Marks: "You aren't preparing for another strike, are you?" he asks.

Their work now over, the organisers leave the mine. But the work of the mine detectives is not yet over. They must see them safely out of sight, even to the extent of escorting them right into the train at the station. Then only can they be sure the union is out of the way, for yet another day.

How complete the spy system on the mines is, one can only guess. There are many ways of frightening large masses of workers living in compounds and separated from their trade union. War Measure 1425 is one.

## SETTLEMENT IN DEFAMATION CASE

JOHANNESBURG.—A settlement was noted in an action brought in the Supreme Court by Mr. Ahmad Ismail, president of the South African Indian Congress, against Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, for £5,000 as damages for alleged defamation.

Mr. Ismail alleged that Dr. Dadoo called him a "Quisling" and a "Fascist" at a meeting on Durban's Red Square on September 23, 1945. When the case was called it was settled, and this settlement was then made an order of Court.

Dr. Dadoo undertook to place an apology in specified newspapers, to pay to the Non-European Hospital, Cape Town, the sum of £100, and to pay the costs of the plaintiff.

Mr. O. Pirow, K.C. and Mr. C. Isaacson, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Groenowald and Oscar Getz), appeared for Councillor Ismail; and Mr. F. Boshoff (instructed by Messrs. Edvard Nathan, Friedland and Mansell), for Dr. Dadoo.

## Country Workers Want More Pay

JOHANNESBURG.—The Minister of Labour is to be asked to institute a Wage Board investigation into the conditions of employment of unskilled workers in small towns in the Western Transvaal, among the Western Transvaal, among Magwass, Migdol, Otsoad, Coligny, Schweizer-Reneke and Vermaas.

This is one of the resolutions passed at a large meeting of African residents of these towns, held in Wolmaranstad recently. Another resolution condemned the Native Affairs Department for its unsympathetic attitude towards Africans who have to claim benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act. The residents complained of the vicious raids by the police for lodgers' permits, and generally of the behaviour of the police towards the people.

The terms of the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill were strongly condemned. The meeting demanded the right of the African people to vote and have direct parliamentary representation.

Other resolutions drew attention to the insufficient water supply in these small town locations, and the abuse of the travelling pass system.

## HARRY LAWRENCE APOLOGISES

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. Lawrence, South Africa's chief representative at the United Nations, was one of the first speakers in the political committee debate on cables Mr. A. I. Meer, representative of the Joint Passive Resistance Councils at U.N.O.

Trying to give force to his argument that there cannot be equality in every respect, Mr. Lawrence remarked that in South Africa Moslems are permitted to marry more than one wife. "They said 'if there were complete equality they would not be allowed to do this.'"

The Egyptian delegate indignantly asserted he took strong exception to Mr. Lawrence's remarks which were not only "an insult to Islam, but also incorrect." Mr. Lawrence, in a very awkward tone, apologised and withdrew his remarks.

## GOVT. REPORT TO U.N.O. CONTRADICTED

JOHANNESBURG.—In the report of the Union Government to the United Nations, paragraph 16 explains the Union's land segregation policy.

"The effect of the abolition of all distinctions would be, amongst others, to throw open to European and Indian penetration, all Native reserves in the Union and South-West Africa where economically less powerful racial groups are today protected against acquisition by Europeans and Indians of the land without which these groups would be lost in a heterogeneous mass of landless paupers."

The Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions has cabled the following comment on this paragraph: "This Council strongly repudiates paragraph 16. The present land policy is designed to pauperise the African masses and perpetuates the notorious policy of cheap Native labour. Africans demand fundamental human rights. The Native reserves are reservoirs of cheap Native labour for the gold mines."

## Moroka Rents To Be Reduced

JOHANNESBURG.—The commission investigating the Moroka disturbance has been asked to issue an interim report on proposals for the reduction of the rents at Moroka.

Sir George Albu, chairman of the City Council Non-European Affairs Committee, said he would take it on himself to say that the rents of stands would be reduced from 15s. to 10s. Mrs. A. W. Bosenie, chairman of the Moroka Advisory Board, which also gave evidence to the commission last week, said the Board had agreed to support the Council in this recommendation. And yet in the memorandum submitted by the Board a rent reduction to 7s. 6d. and not 10s. was urged.

Sir George Albu said that any rent reduction would be retrospective, and those tenants who have been paying 15s. a month would be credited with the difference.

### BADUZA COMPLAINS

Mr. S. Bacinas, a former squatters' leader, complained to the commission about the treatment he received when visiting Moroka. Mr. D. M. Cadee, superintendent at the camp, said that Baduza and some other former squatter leaders were required to report to his office when they entered Moroka. The municipal African police had been instructed that if they saw Baduza in the camp they were to ascertain if it was in order for him to be there, and to detain him, while making enquiries.

## UNEQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

JOHANNESBURG.—The Transvaal Indian and Coloured Teachers' Association has for some time been requesting the Education Department to observe this principle: "Equal pay for equal work" in the payment of teachers' salaries.

Mr. Gerald van der Haar, spokesman of the Principals' Association, has written to TICA suggesting that joint representations by the two organisations be continued. But on the subject of equal pay for equal work, he says: "The present political sentiments of the country make the acceptance of this just principle an impossibility in Government employ. Bearing Government employ, bearing this iniquitous position in mind, we suggest that the new scales be drawn up in a manner that would respect the sentiments of the ruling races."

## HAWKERS AND PEDLARS REFUSED LICENCES

JOHANNESBURG.—A large number of African traders, hawkers and pedlars this year have either had their applications for licences cancelled, or their existing licences cancelled. A meeting of all these traders is being called to consider their grievances.

## BETHAL FARM LABOUR CONDITIONS

JOHANNESBURG.—Native Labour Inspectors are to be withdrawn from Bethal, as the conditions of farm labour have improved. This was told to the United Party Conference held in Bethal recently by the Acting Minister of Native Affairs, Mr. J. G. N. Strauss.

## DE VRIES RE-ELECTED

JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. W. J. de Vries has been elected secretary of the South African Trades and Labour Council.

Mr. de Vries resigned from his post last April, "because the trade union movement was being used as a political machine."

Mr. de Vries' appointment is to take effect from January 1, 1948. His election is the result of a ballot conducted on the principle of single transferable votes. On this proportional representation system Mr. de Vries received 83,958 votes. Mr. A. G. Forsyth 80,318, Mr. R. V. Griffiths came third.

Miss Anna Scheepers, of the Garment Workers' Union, has indicated that the results may be challenged by a court action on the grounds of (1) a query of the 20,000 voting strength of the Mine Workers' Union (2) the conduct of the ballot and (3) the position of 20 unions disfranchised in this ballot.

## "CONDITIONS OF SLAVERY"

JOHANNESBURG.—The delegates of Poland and White Russia took a prominent part in the United Nations debate on the South African-Indian dispute. Their delegates arrived at the session armed with folders filled with cuttings from the South African English and Afrikaans press, listing numerous cases of what the delegates referred to as the slave conditions of the Non-European people.

The White Russian delegate ended his speech with the furious question: "Why is marriage forbidden between White and Coloured in South Africa? Why don't Non-Europeans have the right to walk on herbs, ride in buses of white people, sit on benches reserved for Europeans, enter hotels and go into barbershops?"

Then he answered his own question: "A few dozen Europeans who sit in Parliament want hundreds and thousands of Non-European people to live in conditions of slavery."



# S.A.'s CLOTHING INDUSTRY

## FORGES AHEAD Phenomenal Growth During War Years

The South African clothing industry has experienced phenomenal growth over the last six years. 1946 marked the culmination of this development.

One of the most impressive changes has been in the quality of goods manufactured. Skill acquired during generations of activity in the clothing industry, has been brought by craftsmen from overseas. Ideas have been imported and developed, and a highly skilled working population has been built up locally, capable of producing clothing of high quality to satisfy the taste and temperament of South Africans.

In factory organisation this country has also not lagged behind, and travellers from overseas have been impressed by the fact that in many cases South African organisation appears to be superior to that of London or New York.

These are a few of the developments in the clothing industry over the last few years, placed on record in the annual report of the secretary of the Industrial Council for the Clothing Industry (Transvaal).

### EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

By October, 1946 the industry gave employment to 26,112 workers in 477 factories throughout South Africa. This figure excluded African male workers who number approximately 2,000. The vast majority of these workers are in the Transvaal (just over 12,000) and the Western Cape (9,500).

Within the Transvaal, which has 319 of the 477 factories, the bulk of factories and workers are concentrated in Johannesburg with a substantial sub-section in Germiston. This is due to the importance and industrial centre of the Rand, on which is concentrated the bulk of South Africa's industrial installations.

Factory girls eating lunch in the canteen of "Underwear Manufacturers," in Johannesburg.

The number of factories and workers in the industry, compared with the 1939 figure, has almost doubled. This rapid expansion over the last year continued to take large quantities of clothing from abroad.

### CAN COMPETE

It has been clearly established that the industry is now in a position to compete successfully with overseas, both in price and quality. American dresses imported have been often of low quality and British costumes of high price.

At the same time, no industry can be expected to remain un-

affected by the dumping of end-of-season goods, a stratagem that finds favour with American commerce. With a market as vast as theirs, the entire South African market can be swamped by their end-of-season left-overs, which they can afford to sell at any price.

The greatest increase over recent years in the number of workers employed in the industry has been of Non-European women.

### LITTLE RACIAL FRICTION

The report of the Industrial Council secretary comments that generally speaking, the industry is remarkably free from racial dissension, workers of the different races respecting one another and not trying to intrude on one another. Yet certain factories have taken degree of refinement than usual, and only employ Coloured women, while others have to get along with a dark-skinned, curly-haired labour force.

"However in the long run, good sense and economic considerations can be relied upon to prevail over esoteric racial fables. And no manufacturer has so far been enterprising enough to mark his garments 'Produced by light-skinned, straight-haired labour.'"

In 1939, the industry was, with a few exceptions, badly housed in fine buildings have gone up, with more to follow, especially designed to give technical efficiency and maximum comfort for the workers.



## 14,000 WORKERS

Fourteen thousand garment workers, the vast majority of them Afrikaans-speaking women, are today organised in the Garment Workers' Union.

Many of them have memories of the early days of the union, the first strikes and struggles for a living wage for workers in the industry. Twenty years ago women factory workers earned starvation wages and worked under dreadful conditions.

Typical among the garment workers who remember these conditions and struggles to improve them are Mrs. H. C. Pretorius and Mrs. Gertie Brockman.

Mrs. Brockman started work in a clothing factory at the age of 16. To-day she is 63 years old. I asked her to tell me about the strikes she had been in.

### PICKET LINE

She laughed as she remembered a picket line in the early thirties which police were called out to break. The police arrived at the factory gates to try to help the scabs get through to the factory, but were daunted by the picket line of solid workers.

"We pulled the policemen's helmets off," said Mrs. Brockman. "They were laughing in the end, and so were we, but they did not get past."



Mrs. Brockman remembers the days in the garment industry when there were no electric machines and the women sewed by hand in small factories. She started at 12, a week, and thought she was getting plenty. When she was paid £1 5s a week in another factory later on she wondered what she would do with all that money.

To-day she earns £7 17s. 3d. a week.

### AT THE UNION OFFICE

I met Mrs. Pretorius as she came hurriedly into the union office one lunch hour to make arrangements about two meetings which she had to attend on the same night.

She joined the union in the month she started to work in a clothing factory in 1927. She pointed to her photograph hanging on the walls of the union office, together with those of other trade union committees year by year.

"She experienced her first strike in 1936, and it lasted about three weeks. In those days the workers had many complaints. Factories had no cloakrooms, workers had to eat their lunch sitting on the floor, and they had to make their own tea. Wages were as low as 15s. a week.

### RECRUITING WORKERS

To-day Mrs. Pretorius earns £6 8s. a week.

She is proud of the part she played in recruiting workers to the union, sometimes bringing whole factories in. She has participated in every strike in the clothing industry, but has also helped organise strikes in other industries, such as the sweet workers, and more recently, building workers' strike.

Hours were as long as 50 a week. Mrs. Pretorius and Mrs. Brockman, and many other veteran trade union members besides, shared in the struggles to improve these conditions, and in the process the highly organised and powerful Garment Workers' Union was welded.

An organiser of the Garment Workers' Union, Miss Hester de Wet, holding a small lunch-hour meeting in the workers' rest room in a clothing factory.

## Amenities For Workers

Wise employers in the clothing industry began to realise some time ago that a cheap labour policy did not necessarily mean low production costs.

Firms to-day are beginning to study the welfare and comfort of their employees, realising that efficiency in production is assisted by up-to-date methods in industry, thoughtful planning of the comfort of the workers and the administrative staff, and bright and healthy surroundings.

In many clothing factories to-day bright slogans are painted on the walls to help step up morale and aid production; and a wireless installed throughout the factory and rest rooms carries out the "music while you work" method.

### EDUCATION

Restrooms are equipped with wicker chairs and tables and even palm trees. In one factory, as part of a campaign to promote efficient production methods, the management arranged for a series of lectures and demonstrations during working hours to teach workers more about the clothes they make. With the aid of a blackboard the design and manufacture of each garment was explained to the employees so they would have a better understanding of their subject, and the complete process entailed in turning out one of the factory's products.

Social welfare services, whether of a limited or highly organised nature, are slowly becoming the rule and not the exception in large numbers of well-established clothing factories to-day.

(Right): A workshop scene in Grey's clothing factory, Johannesburg. Modern machine processes have brought about a big increase in production.



And here buttonholes are made by an ingenious machine in the Rex Trueform factory.



## A MILITANT TRADE UNION

Largest of the trade unions in secondary industry, the Garment Workers' Union is one of the most militant in South Africa. Its history, like that of most South African trade Unions, has still to be written, but highlights in its development, remembered by all its members, were recounted to the Guardian by the union president, Miss Anna Scheepers.

Its work really began in 1928. Before that, an agreement existed in the industry but it was not observed and employers paid any wages they thought fit. The first struggle of the union was to have this agreement carried out.

In 1931, during the depression period, employers tried to reduce wages, and the workers went out on strike. Yet another strike followed the next year, in 1932. At that time Mr. Pirow was Minister of Justice. The police force was called out to deal with the strikers.

In 1933 the union launched a widespread rebuilding campaign.



Workshop scene in a Cape Town clothing factory.

Its membership then was 1,300. The following year a new agreement was concluded, and thereafter the union grew by leaps and bounds every year. In 1937 the workers won an increase of 5s. in their basic wage, and their first annual paid leave. From 1937 to the present time wages have more than doubled.

To-day workers enjoy three weeks' annual leave on full pay and six paid holidays. In 1933 hours were 50 a week; to-day they are 42 and a half.

### MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Garment Workers' Union is to-day 14,000. It is firmly established in Johannesburg and Germiston, Port Elizabeth and Potchefstroom, Kingwillamstown and East London and George, Bloemfontein and Kimberley. The millinery workers have also been organised in a branch of the union.

The first medical aid society was established in this union in 1934. Workers to-day enjoy benefits including free medical attention and gynaecological, eye, ear, nose and throat, skin and neurological services. Workers who have been in the industry for three years get these benefits. Sick pay to-day is more than workers earned as wages before 1937.

This union has also been one of those to bear the brunt of attacks by Fascist union smashers who tried, in accordance with their theory of establishing "Christian" controlled, properly-run unions, to infiltrate into the branches and spread racist propaganda among the workers.

This campaign of slander against the union led to several actions in-



An intricate operation in the Rex Trueform factory—shoulders are basted by hand.

stituted by Mr. E. S. Sachs, general secretary of the union, and resulted in substantial damages for defamation being awarded him.

In court and among its members, the union managed to put a stop to these Fascist attempts to capture the union.

### NON-EUROPEANS

Until 1939 there were only about one hundred Coloured workers employed in the industry out of a total of 3,000 workers. During the war some 3,000 Coloured and Indian women workers were taken on in clothing factories in Johannesburg. The recent successful strike of Coloured garment workers in Kimberley has helped to win for them far more satisfactory conditions in the industry.

NORTHERN EDITION

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## S.A. Fascists Try To Woo African People

### ATTEMPT TO SPLIT UNITED FRONT

JOHANNESBURG. — I have evidence that fascist and reactionary groups in this country are making approaches to sections of the African people, says Ruth First, the Guardian's Johannesburg correspondent. Segregation is still their avowed policy. They are trying now to sell it to the African, even "con-descending" to meet him on joint committees.

Under the auspices of the Dutch Reformed Church, five Europeans — the Reverend Radd, Mr. J. M. van Graan, a Mr. Schoeman, a Mr. Meiring, and a Dominie Esterhuizen — have had several meetings with Africans for the express purpose of "bridging the gap in relations between the Afrikaner and African."

These meetings were held in a church hall in Ferreirastown. Rev. Radd, in the chair, said the Church was worried at the attitude of the African towards the Afrikaner. There was prejudice on both sides. Ways and means must be found to bring about closer understanding and co-operation.

It was suggested at the second meeting that a joint committee of five Africans, five Coloureds, and five Europeans be set up to do this. Such joint committees should be formed throughout the country.

But it was made clear that any "co-operation and understanding" between the two groups should be based on "apartheid." One of the five Europeans, in the course of his speech, said ways and

means might be found to help the African economically to establish businesses.

### NATIONAL LEADERS APPROACHED

The Africans invited to this meeting were all members of the Dutch Reformed Church. But it is understood that approaches were first made by these five Europeans to Dr. Xuma and Mr. Selope Thema, as well-known national leaders of the African people. These approaches were rejected, hence the decision to concentrate for the moment on Church members.

Then, members of a group of African trade union secretaries, who engineered the split in the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions to form the new Council of solely African unions, are alleged to have met high-ups in certain fascist organisations to discuss their union-splitting activities. It is said some of these unions have received financial assistance from the fascists.

Further, two Coloured individuals are understood to have solicited assistance in a scheme to launch an Afrikaans newspaper for the Coloured people. It is reported, though, that their scheme was rejected, and they were advised to make use of the "Transvaler", the Nationalist daily newspaper in Johannesburg.

One of the links in these intrigues appears to be E. Domingo, a leader of the so-called African National Improvement League. He was present at the joint Dutch Reformed Church meetings, and an able seconder to the proposals of the Reverend Radd; in the latter two intrigues he appears to have been the go-between.

### INSPIRED BY O.E.

The National Improvement League attacked on several occasions as O.E. inspired, has been lying low of late. In a spurt of activity some time ago it produced a pamphlet, "The Falsties of Communism," favourably reviewed by the "Transvaler"; a leader urging the "liquidation" of bioscopes for Africans and Indians; and a scurrilous news-sheet titled "The Reverend Scott's Bethal Blitz," which alleged that it was the wealthy Jewish farmers in the district who were the big bosses employing Native and European slave-drivers.

The same sheet carried a cartooning effort by Domingo which depicted the impressions of the United Nations—a South African, Near and Far East species of the black market vampire which has sucked the milk out of the mouths of babes, "the oriental mongrel wolf which lives by the commercial exploitation of the South African

(Continued on Page 5)



# FASCISTS WOO AFRICANS

(Continued from page 1)

masses; and a gorilla as the Black States of Liberia, Haiti and Abyssinia.

Domingo calls himself the chief propagandist of the League.

## INTERVIEWED AT HOME

I went to see him at his home, and asked him to talk about his policy and activities. He made it quite clear that he works together with the Ossewa-Brandwag. He talked quite freely in answer to most, but not all, questions.

On matters like the membership, organisation and finances of the League he was most evasive. "Their organisation attracts the ordinary worker. Each leader has sub-leaders below him."

Subscriptions come when necessary.

Domingo said he did not support the African National Congress. At one time, during the anti-pass campaign, he claims he did. But his attitude has changed. "The failure of the anti-pass campaign was deliberately directed. It was due to 'swelled-up' balloons." Congress has not the interests of the people at heart. They are all intellectuals. Our movement is not intellectual. Every man must prove his worth.

"Anyone who wants it, can have the African National Congress," Domingo offered generously. Domingo is against any co-operation between the Non-European groups. "It will not co-operate with any racial element except the Afrikaner."

## LEARNED FROM COMMUNISM

Asked whether he was also anti-Communist, his reply was: "I had to learn a great deal from Communism. I studied Upton Sinclair, Lenin and Tolstoy. I borrowed from their theories. But Communism in South Africa is not of any benefit to our people. I support segregation with equal facilities for both sections."

And then: "Historically, the Afrikaner and the Coloured, and to a great extent the Afrikaner

and the African, owe more to one another than any other two racial groups."

The National Improvement League has an interesting theory. Here it is, as expounded by Domingo: "The future of the Afrikaner cannot be decided by the Nationalist and United Parties. Both are capitalist groups, working for the moneyed classes—one form will be replaced by another. Only two groups will decide their position—the Communist Party and the Ossewa-Brandwag. A revolutionary change is needed and can be brought about by only one of these two groups. I support the Ossewa-Brandwag."

## AFRIKANERS BACKWARD

The antagonistic policy of the Nationalist Party towards the African has changed recently, he explained. "A great deal of this antagonism is due to ignorance. Neither group has understood the other." And then a curious statement for a man knowing to Afrikaners national circles: "The Afrikaner is now emerging from a state of backwardness. He is a limp ahead of the Coloured and African. It is usual for backward people to resort to brutality to maintain their superiority."

I asked for more details of this theory. "Do you believe in working together with these groups—the Nationalist Party, the Ossewa-Brandwag, the New Order and the Greyshirts—to improve relationships?" "Definitely. But it is impossible to work with Pirow or the Greyshirts. Their anti attitude goes to extremes. Having read the literature of the Nationalist Party, together with them."

"I, as an individual, am closer to the Ossewa-Brandwag. Van Rensburg is more awake to the problems of the day than Malan. The O.B. is more progressive than the Nationalist Party. It allows every person the opportunity to develop to the highest position whereas the Nationalist Party does not. Every person in the O.B. is given five years' compulsory training—denial for the national state."

"Are there joint meetings between the O.B. and your League?" "The Ossewa-Brandwag fears the propaganda that will arise from such meetings. It is afraid co-operation will break down if it becomes too open."

Domingo confirmed the names of the five-man Dutch Reformed Church Committee. He said he helped form it, but was not a member of it.

One of the three leaders of the Improvement League is a physical culture and ju-jitsu instructor. All members must undergo physical culture training."

## PREPARED TO WAIT

Several times during the interview Domingo made a veiled threat that soon enough the results of his

League's work would become obvious. But the most stark admission of its failure was his sudden statement towards the end: "I am prepared to wait for the next ten or fifteen years; for the next generation of Africans I will start to-day to train disciples."

"Our movement is not intended for the present generation. They are no good for our purpose. This generation is not sufficiently principled for such great political movement in the country."

"How will you train your disciples?"—"In our physical culture clubs."

A question on the new African trade union Council rounded off the interview. Domingo's reply: "If I were a Baiyot I would see that the people who broke away from the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions to form the new Council had sufficient funds."

## COMPENSATIONS

It is curious to hear an African expound the beauties of segregation and fascist theories. Embracing such doctrines probably has its compensations for a clique of unscrupulous persons. In using Africans as tools to do their work of division, the Ossewa Brandwag and Nationalist Parties have chosen a new technique.

How will they use it? Perhaps these opportunists, having been carefully rehearsed beforehand will bob up one day to support the apartheid plan of the fascists—when they have succeeded in working it out. That might be a nice general election stunt.

And taking a long-range view, the fascists must be beginning to realise that a united, militant African movement stands four square in the way of an extension of fascism in this country. If they cannot hope to obliterate this movement, they can at least try to divide and confound it.

# Indians To Call Pan-African Conference

JOHANNESBURG.—"Our plan for a Pan-African conference of all Non-European liberatory organisations was wholeheartedly supported by all African and Indian leaders," Mr. Debi Singh told the Guardian on his return from a tour of East African territories.

"Our Congress will now make preparations for such a conference. We will approach organisations in West and Central Africa and are confident they too will support the idea."

Mr. Debi Singh and Mr. A. E. Shaikh toured Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda and Zanzibar on behalf of the Passive Resistance Movement. One of the main objects of their visit was to explore the possibilities of implementing the 1946 resolution of the Natal Indian Congress which instructed the Congress to try to bring about closer co-operation between South African Indians and Non-Europeans in other parts of Africa.

In their trip lasting 47 days, Messrs. Singh and Shaikh addressed large and enthusiastic gatherings in all centres. All Indian leaders stated that they regarded the struggle of the Indian people in South Africa as part of their own struggle.

In the words of one Indian leader: "If the plague of racial discrimination is not destroyed in South Africa in the days not far off it will spread to East Africa." The passive resistance struggle seems all the more allied to their own interests because of the Immigration Bill now before the legislative council of the three territories.

The Bill aims to restrict Indian immigration to East Africa.

## COMMUNAL FRANCHISE

Mr. Singh said that Indians in Kenya have communal franchise entitling them to a limited number of members in the Legislative Council. "There is no doubt this communal franchise has proved most harmful to their interests. It has created great friction and division in the community."

He said there is a growing degree of co-operation among Africans and Indians in East Africa. They realise they have a common cause in their struggle against British Imperialism and for democratic rights.

They believe their oppression in East Africa is less severe than in South Africa, but all leaders expressed the view that the pattern of racial discrimination was the same.

The colour bar is most marked in Kenya, which has a fairly large number of European settlers. In Tanganyika there are no legal colour bars, and even in the daily social life of the people the colour bar is not nearly as evident as in Kenya. In Uganda the position is much the same as in Tanganyika.

## UNIFICATION

There is to-day a danger of Kenya's colour bar spreading to these territories as the Colonial Office has indicated its intention of introducing the notorious paper

# "Coloured Problems Destroying Us"

—ST ALLARD

JOHANNESBURG.—President of the newly formed Council of Europeans, which has issued a leaflet addressed to "Lovers of South Africa," is Colonel C. F. Stallard.

The council has been established to "protect the interests of white civilisation in South Africa." Its members will use their influence "with educational authorities to ensure that the study of coloured policy is conducive to the maintenance of white civilisation" and will "endeavour on every possible occasion to obtain permission to address public bodies, scholars, or students, on the coloured problems which are busily destroying us."

"Die Transvaler," organ of the Nationalist Party, has greeted the formation of this Council as a "further proof of political dissatisfaction" among the English-speaking section.

On their policy: "Here one has to do with men who have made a serious study of the problem. They are English-speaking people of whom it cannot be said that they are aping the Nationalist Party."

## GETTING RID OF AN "AGITATOR"

JOHANNESBURG.—Moses Ndlovu, 33 years old, has lived on his land in the Pilgrim's Rest district all his life. He is a respected man in the district. In 1937 he was the chairman of the district electoral college, set up under the 1936 Native Representation Act. He is known as the general adviser to the chiefs of the district on most matters affecting the people.

On September 25 the Native Commissioner, through the chiefs, called a meeting to which all people were invited, to discuss the allocation of land under the two, three and five morgen system. To this meeting held at Bushbuckridge, Moses Ndlovu, as one of the men of the tribe, also came dutifully.

Standing in the crowd at the meeting, he was surprised when the Native Commissioner ordered him to leave the meeting. He did so. The next morning a number of policemen came to his house and arrested him. He was kept in jail for four days, and then taken to court. The charge, he was told, was one of telling the people not to agree to the morgen system. He was found guilty. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, or a fine of £7 10s.

Straight after the case he was served with a 'trek pass.' He and his family of a wife and seven children must leave the district in which they have lived all their lives within six days.

Moses Ndlovu has come to Johannesburg to note an appeal against this verdict. He is a puzzled man. When the morgen system was introduced in his area he was away in Natal. When he came back he found the people all in opposition to it. He has done no more than express their views. "On what grounds did they arrest me?" he asks. "I have always obeyed the law." And even more worrying than that: "How can I move from my home in only six days?"



# "WHAT IS TO BE DONE?"

Recent election results in South Africa and Europe indicate that the struggle between Left and Right throughout the world is sharpening. "How to defeat reaction?" is the question in the mind of every progressive to-day. This week the Guardian gives the views of Mr. Colin Legum, of the Labour Party, in answer to this question. In following weeks we will give the views of South Africans of other political creeds and parties, as well as other individuals who might have something to contribute to the debate.

The Guardian accepts no responsibility for the views expressed in any of these features, which are intended solely to stimulate discussion and assist the working people and their allies to formulate the correct policy for the struggle.

Contributions to the debate will be welcomed, and should be addressed to P.O. Box 436, Cape Town.

## The Problem of the Left

The Guardian: Do you regard the Labour reverses in the recent Johannesburg municipal elections as part of a world-wide wave of reaction? (Other indications are the municipal election results in Britain and France.)

Mr. Legum: No. But there is a definite swing away from the wartime wave of emotional enthusiasm for progressive policies.

The Guardian: Do you think the trend in France, for example, of Socialist co-operation with the centre (MRP), is a repetition of the Blum-Daladier co-operation which preceded France's collapse?

Mr. Legum: Communist policy in France has made co-operation with Socialists impossible. At the last Socialist conference it was decided to work with neither the extreme Right nor the extreme Left.

### ECONOMIC CRISIS

The Guardian: Do you think the Labour reverses are an indication of the growth of a world economic crisis, and the consequent upsurge of Fascism?

Mr. Legum: I don't think the Labour reverses are an indication of the growing world economic crisis—but I do believe that there are definite signs of this impending economic catastrophe, and there is no doubt that "polite and subtle" fascism will be resorted to in certain countries.

The Guardian: Can you see any prospect of progressive forces combating this growth of reaction on a world scale?

Mr. Legum: Not if the Cominform carries out the policies it is advertising. I do not see any possibility of a Left United Front emerging in Europe to-day.

The Guardian: Do you think the municipal election results in Johannesburg an indication of the difficulty Labour might experience in getting adequate representation in Parliament at the next election?

Mr. Legum: No.

### A PROGRAMME

The Guardian: Has the Labour Party any programme for combating the rise of reaction in South Africa?

Mr. Legum: Yes. They are implicit in the social and economic

policies of the Labour Party, in the organisation of the party, and in the close bonds which are being forged between industrial and political labour.

The Guardian: Would you consider an extension of South African democracy a weapon to counteract the forces of reaction and fascism in this country?

Mr. Legum: If you mean, should the Non-European be given the vote now, then my answer is no. South African fascism must in the first place be fought out on the parliamentary front, and only in the second place on the broad political front. It is no answer to the fascist propaganda of the "black menace" for the progressive forces to say "Give every black man a vote" or "We demand social and political equality." Along this road lies political suicide for Europeans and Non-Europeans in South Africa.

### BAN FASCISM?

The Guardian: Do you consider stern measures should be adopted to bring a stop to the activities of openly fascist organisations, and the dissemination of anti-democratic, anti-Semitic, and anti-Non-European propaganda?

Mr. Legum: Yes. But we must guard against repressive legislation no matter how distasteful it is. Propaganda of our opponents, you can't legislate a state of mind out of existence. You can apply an ice-pack, but so long as you don't eradicate the causes of the high fever the patient will not be cured. Effective, democratic education through political activity is the only satisfactory way of getting the causes of fascism and racialism understood and thus removed.

### UNITED ACTION

The Guardian: Do you visualise any united action by working class groups in South Africa for the next elections, or any specific programme such as the banning of fascist activities?

Mr. Legum: No. Traditionally the Labour Party has acted as a United Front in itself. It offers a home for all shades of "Left" opinion—from crusty, Right Wing trade unionists to conscious scientific socialists on the far Left. It has

## Pietersburg Bans Trade Union Meeting

JOHANNESBURG. — The Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions recently organised a meeting of African workers in Pietersburg to discuss the proposed Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill. Its secretary, Mr. F. B. Magoye, went to Pietersburg for this purpose.

When he arrived there he learnt that the meeting had been banned by the location superintendent—for no stated reason. It is understood permission for the meeting had previously been granted by the Native Commissioner and the Town Clerk.

Several hundred workers had assembled for the meeting. The Council has decided to call another meeting for November 29 at the same place.

## African National Congress Decision on Boycott

JOHANNESBURG. — The African National Congress Working Committee recently held a meeting to discuss tactics for the boycott of elections of advisory boards, and all elections under the 1936 Native Representation Act.

It is understood that the meeting adopted a resolution recommending to the forthcoming annual conference that the Congress contest elections on a boycott ticket.

Members of the Congress National Executive are now being consulted on this matter.

## DR. LANGUAGE GUILTY OF ASSAULT

BRAKPAN.—Dr. F. J. Language, manager of the Brakpan Municipality Non-European Affairs Department, was found guilty in the Brakpan Magistrate's Court last week of an assault on Mr. D. W. Bopape, Secretary of the Transvaal Branch of the African National Congress and a member of the now adjourned Brakpan Advisory Board.

Dr. Language was cautioned and discharged.

The assault took place on October 22, when Dr. Language, after an adjourned meeting of the Board, called Mr. Bopape a "verdomde kaffer" and hit him on the cheek and right temple.

*4 continued*

been careful to cherish this united front. Anybody who believes in some form of democratic socialism is welcome to join, and that is the course of action I urge.

There is no possible room in South Africa for any United Front between the Labour Party and the Communist Party. On that issue I have always been frankly emphatic.



## GREYSHIRT FINED FOR INCITING TO PUBLIC VIOLENCE

JOHANNESBURG.—R. C. Saayman was fined £10, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment, in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court last week when found guilty of inciting to public violence at a meeting on the City Hall steps on September 28.

Three detectives who were present at the meeting gave evidence on his speech. Among the things he had said were: "The war was fought for Jews, Natives and Asiatics. They have not contributed towards peace. Communists are the cause of all the trouble. It is a dirty thing and is meant for the slums, not for the people of this country."

"The Communists are responsible for all the chaos in this country. Mr. Churehill has correctly said the Communists have a fifth column in every country. These dirty bloody Jews... the scum...". He spoke also in Afrikaans, saying much the same thing.

Detective Sergeant M. B. Diedricks, quoting from notes he made of Saayman's speech at the time, said that during the speech someone in the crowd shouted: "Nazi", to which Saayman replied, "Yes, White Nazi."

### A WHITE MAN

Saayman, in several tirades to the court, said he had addressed a meeting as a white man, to warn other white men of the dangers of Communism. "I showed the small gathering the dangers of Communism, and called for all whites

to become aware of the danger and to stand together to avoid the downfall of the white civilisation."

He had called the Jews "terrorists," and described them as "the scum of the land." In mentioning Moroka, he had meant that the Communist propaganda had been the cause of the deterioration in the relationships between white and black, with the result that European policemen were murdered at Moroka.

"It is my conviction that the Communists are also responsible for the assaults on European women by dissatisfied natives," he added.

The detectives who gave evidence said that the cause of the attack on Saayman was undoubtedly the speech he made. He had had a bodyguard as he stood addressing the meeting from the steps.

The Magistrate, Mr. D. S. De Jean, said there was no doubt Saayman had committed an offence under the Riotous Assemblies Act. He said the sentence he would pass would be to act as a deterrent to others. "All political opinions are equal before the law," he said.

Saayman has given notice of appeal.

## MORE TROUBLE ON CITY HALL STEPS

JOHANNESBURG.—At the Communist Party City Hall steps meeting last Sunday, the District-Commandant of Police, Major J. C. Kriek, threatened to confiscate the loudspeaker if it were used.

A number of detectives present took notes of the speeches. A group of booring fascists attended. A detective stopped their booring. He told them they could heckle, but not "make funny noises."

Ten anti-Fascists who appeared in the Magistrate's Court on Monday on charges of assault, were told the charges against them had been withdrawn.

## COUNCIL ASKED TO BAN CITY HALL STEPS MEETINGS

JOHANNESBURG.—The City Council agreed unanimously, at its last meeting, to a notice of motion presented by Mr. J. J. O'Connor that, in view of disturbances arising from the holding of public meetings on the City Hall steps, the Works Committee should consider and report on the advisability of amending traffic by-laws to provide for the control of such meetings.

Mr. O'Connor suggested that no public meeting should be permitted on the City Hall steps without the Council's consent, and that the Council should withhold permission if it had reasonable grounds for believing that the holding of a meeting might lead to disturbances.

## EX-SOLDIERS ARRESTED FOR PASS OFFENCES

JOHANNESBURG.—Among the many thousands of Africans arrested annually for pass offences under the Urban Areas Act are large numbers of African ex-servicemen.

It has been brought to the notice of the Springbok Legion that ex-servicemen have been arrested even while carrying letters indicating that they are seeking employment.

This was the experience of Solomon Mahamba. He served in the army from March 1941 to July 1945, and was then discharged as medically unfit. He called at the offices of the Non-European Branch of the Legion on November 6 this year, and was given a note to seek work at the Tramways Department, where he had been employed prior to enlistment.

On the 7th he was arrested under section 29 of the Urban Areas Act. His permit to seek work expired on the day he was arrested. At the time of his arrest he had in his possession a note to the Tramways Department Compound Manager. Solomon Mahamba is illiterate and cannot speak or write English. He was kept in goal for two weeks for this offence.

Dickson Phakula served in the U.D.F. for over two years, and was then discharged as medically unfit. He suffers from foot trouble, which makes it difficult for him to keep employment as a labourer, the only type of work for which he is suited. On August 11 this year he was informed by the Legion office he should report to the Native Commissioner to draw his pension.

As he was leaving the Pensions Office, after drawing his pension, he was arrested under section 29 as a vagrant. He, too, spent two weeks in goal.

### NO EVIDENCE

The Springbok Legion points out that there is no evidence to show that these men, or the others in the same position, are habitually unemployed or leading idle, dissolute or disorderly lives. In fact, the two men mentioned were cautioned and discharged eventually, but only after having spent a fortnight in goal.

The Legion will make representations to the Minister of Justice and the Commissioner of Police protesting at the summary arrests under the Urban Areas Act; and recommending that ex-volunteers who can produce discharge certificates and evidence that they are endeavouring to obtain employment, or are suffering from pensionable disabilities, should be exempt from this section of the Act.

## RACIALISM PREACHED IN SCHOOL TEXT BOOK

JOHANNESBURG.—The "Rand Daily Mail" drew attention last week to what it called a "shocking" book on history, published in English and Afrikaans by the Transvaal Education Department, for use in schools.

One of the illustrations in the book shows "The Bantu or Kaffir deep in thought planning their murder..."

A passage from the English version of the book reads: "Eventually the Council of Policy appointed the astute border farmer, Adriaan Van Jaarsveld, as veldcommandant with instructions to take the necessary steps to put the Natives in their place."

"On one occasion the treacherous Xosas entered the territory of the whites on the pretext that they wanted tobacco, but Van Jaarsveld saw through the ultimate plan of the rascals and ordered his men to slice the tobacco and scatter it on the ground."

"Just as the Xosas bent down to collect the tobacco, the order, 'Fire!' was given and many of the Kaffirs fell dead. Adriaan Van Jaarsveld was a very worthy man..."

A week later the Transvaal Education Department announced that the book was being withdrawn from the schools. It was originally approved by the Department in March 1946, but has now been removed from its book lists.

## African Clothing Workers Win Strike

JOHANNESBURG.—A one-and-a-half-day strike of the African workers at South African Steam Pressers factory resulted in the workers winning their demands for a 42-hour working week and two weeks and two days annual leave, plus Dingaan's Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, on full pay. Nineteen of the 22 African workers took part in the strike, which was conducted by the South African Clothing Workers' Union.

The dispute in this factory has been dragging on since August, 1946, when the Transvaal Clothing Manufacturers' Association, of which this firm is a member, agreed to a 42-hour working week and three weeks' annual leave on full pay.

Interviewed by The Guardian Mr. Gama Makabeni, secretary of the South African Clothing Workers' Union, said his union had been fully assisted in the strike by the Garment Workers' Union, which had called on the Coloured

women workers in the factory to join the strike in support of the demands of the African workers. His union wished to express its appreciation for this act of workers' solidarity.

## U.N.O. Debate a Moral Victory

—REV. SCOTT

FUSHING MEADOWS.—The debate was a moral victory for the cause of human rights and liberty in South Africa," says a statement on the South African Indian dispute issued by the Rev. Michael Scott, on behalf of the Council for Asiatic Rights and the Council for Human Rights in South Africa.

"It was also a repudiation of the attempt to evade this vital question of principle."

"The failure to secure a two-thirds majority is a set-back for progress and for a strong United Nations Organisation. As indicated by the majority vote and by the speeches of many delegates, our strength lies in the justice of our cause."

"Passive resisters and lovers of liberty in South Africa will not be discouraged by the failure to secure the adoption of the resolution."

"They will be encouraged by the fact that it is the only enemy of our country amongst the United Nations appears to be our Government's own bad case. That no oratory or jurisprudence can defend."



# Trading in Human Beings—How Labour is Recruited

JOHANNESBURG.—The labour agent lifts his telephone. It is a call from Pietersburg. "Nothing come through to-day?" he repeats. "Business is bad, isn't it?" He is talking about the difficulty his agency is experiencing in recruiting African men for the mines, farms and other industries.

He says recruiting must go on. South Africa needs the system. His line of business is a national asset.

A Government official put it this way: "It is necessary—but it would not like to see it continued for ever. After all, it is trading in human beings."

Africans condemn the system in far more bitter terms.

Nobody really knows enough about recruiting practices in this country—except perhaps, the victim. Recruiters themselves admit that half the time they do not know the details of how their runners stationed throughout the country carry out their business.

From time to time newspaper reporters and leader writers have raised their voices against certain malpractices. There have been allegations of sharp practices by runners and agents, pre-gangings methods and black-birding.

Recruitment of labour depends on poverty. In time of drought and poor crops, recruiting figures soar. In better times, fewer men present themselves at the depot of the recruiter, and they choose to serve shorter periods of contract. They choose "Ntshelula"—the shorter period known as "the easy way," rather than "Isatu se Oazi," the long period of work away from home when blood comes from your stomach, so hard is the work.

## ON A BIG SCALE

Recruiting on a really tremendous scale is done on behalf of mining interests in South Africa, and Africans are brought not only from all parts of the Union, but also from as far north as Portuguese East Africa, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland to work in South African mines.

All labour agents are required by the 1911 Native Service Contract Act to be registered annually. This is done by the Director of Native Labour. A large agency will have branches throughout the country, and each sub-agent is again registered with the local magistrate.

Agents in turn employ runners. One agent may have anything from five to 16 runners. There is the actual task to locate the labour and to obtain a signed contract.

## FARMERS' PRIVILEGES

Recruiters complain that the recruiting laws are in a muddle. So much so, that it is impossible to observe them around the recruitment of labour for the farms.

In many parts of the country farmers have banded together into farmers' recruiting bodies. Such an association was the one of Bechuanaland in the news recently. Farmers' associations, say labour agents, enjoy privileges which not even they share. They have no boundaries (for example, the Limpopo River separating the Union from the Rhodesias), and these are the best and most "fertile" areas for recruiting. Labour organisations which

have to be registered are excluded from these areas. So the farmers have first choice and pride of place in their recruiting activities.

Labour agencies also, however, recruit farm labour. In addition they supply workers to diamond and independent gold mines, copper, manganese and coal mines. For each labourer they supply they may be paid anything from 30s. to 60s. The amount depends on the length of the contract the labourer signs.

Many sub-agents and most runners, if not all, operate on the basis of a capitation fee. This is the source of one of the main abuses in the "business." The more labourers that can be got to sign on the dotted line, the larger the wage earned by the runner each month. No one doubts that abuses are frequent. The difficulty is to establish them.

Too often, the man being recruited does not understand the terms of the contract he is signing. And when he has signed it, he finds out by sad experience that the employer does not adhere to its terms.

## RISKS OF THE TRADE

It is the experience of all labour agencies that some of their recruited labour, even while being escorted through the country by a specially picked agency "guide," absconds. Men who have signed contracts discover too late that they are being taken to work further from their homes than they imagined they would be. Or perhaps the meaning of the contract dawns on them later. In a batch of a dozen men being taken to work, as many as three, or sometimes five, may disappear on the way.

This is counted as one of the "risks" in the recruiter's business. He experiences, too, the competition for labour of other agencies. When a batch of men is being taken through a part of the country known as a "danger spot"—such as Kimberley,

(Continued at foot of next column.)

Guardian

December 11,

1947

# African Youngsters Riot at Krugersdorp Location

JOHANNESBURG.—In the Krugersdorp location it is a criminal offence to be found in possession of malt.

This is laid down in a regulation recently approved by the Krugersdorp Town Council and promulgated in the Government Gazette despite the opposition of the African people.

Their explanation that malt is an essential part of the diet of the Bechuana people from the Western Transvaal, and the Bapedi people from the north was ignored. The regulation was gazetted in August 1946. Since then there have been continual raids for malt, and people have been fined heavily, on the basis of £1 fine for every pound of malt found.

In August of this year the Council appointed a "Peace Officer" to the location. This European was to be in charge of rounding up malt culprits. The African people objected to his appointment, and wanted to know why he was employed and given this particular name. Then his title was changed. He became the Overseer of the Municipal Police.

The people complain that there have been raids twice a day in their homes for passes, permits or malt.

## ARRESTED BOYS

Then this week the overseer began to stop young African boys in their

passes. Last week the deep-seated grievances of the people came to a head, when a group of youngsters who were intercepted by this overseer, began to shout at him, and then threw stones at him. He sought refuge in an African shop, which was then also stoned. African municipal police had to run back to the municipal offices.

In the late afternoon a pick-up van arrived to arrest the youngsters who had taken part in this episode; and another minor riot followed. This time African school girls also took part in it.

A detective fired two shots in the air to frighten the crowd. Had it not been for the assistance of an African who started the detective's motor cycle, he might have had difficulty in getting away.

The following day twelve arrests were made: 10 young lads of school-going age, and two adults.

A tremendous mass meeting of location residents collected bail money for the adults, and the youngsters were released. A half-mile long procession to the court was organised the day they appeared for a formal remand.

(Continued from previous column.)

where employers are hungry for labour and may sweep on someone else's haul—special precautions are taken to have the bacon well guarded. Yes, there is fierce competition among recruiters. This is so particularly since the recruitment of the "foreign Native" has been forbidden by the Government. But in Basutoland they may still operate, and very numerous indeed are the labour agents working in what has become known as the "Basutoland Bazaar." Almost every storekeeper, it is said, does recruiting as a side-line. Basutoland's greatest export is her labour.

## GETTING JITTERY

Recruiting agencies are jittery these days. Their first great shock came at the beginning of this year when the Government took control of "foreign Natives." Their labour turnover has been halved in many instances.

With apprehension in their voices, labour agents suggest that perhaps the Government intends nationalising the recruiting business. But from all signs, the Government shies away from such an undertaking.

One can only hazard a guess at the annual recruiting figures, covering all agencies and recruiting organisations as well as farmers' associations and private arrangements made by coal and copper mines and other industries.

Recruited labour comes of necessity not of its own free will, but under stress of miserable economic conditions. The system and its methods, its abuses and malpractices, are a symptom of the topsy-turvy economy of the country. Only the existence of stable communities of families centred around established industries can put an end to this widespread trading in human beings.

# SELLING NEWSPAPERS IS A BUSINESS

JOHANNESBURG.—Franz is a newspaper seller. He sells his papers on most days of the week on street corners, at bus queues, and in various parts of the town. He has now been told he must become properly registered, and must apply for a certificate or licence.

He got the necessary application form, and sat down to fill it in. But when he came to answer the questions on the form, he became very bewildered indeed. Altogether he must answer 50 questions.

Here are some of them: "Will more than 10 gallons of inflammable liquid, e.g. petrol, turpentine, paraffin, benzine, or similar spirits or solutions be stored at any time on the premises to which this application refers?" "Has your estate ever been insolvent or assigned?" "If so, have you been rehabilitated?"

"Material of which floor is constructed—whether wood, brick, stone, cement, earth or other material?" "Height of building from floor to ceiling?" "Distance of sanitary premises and of what material are they constructed?"

Franz feels that a new and more suitable form for these applications should be drafted.

# General Workers' Union Founded in Pietersburg

JOHANNESBURG.—Several hundred workers attended a mass meeting in Pietersburg by the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions recently. Mr. S. E. Mogyoe, the Council secretary, attended the meeting.

The workers deplored the action of the superintendent in banning the previous trade union meeting. They rejected the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill, and demanded the amendment of the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act to include all workers.

The meeting formed a "General Workers' Union for the Northern Transvaal." Members of the committee are R. G. Mosochi (chairman), N. Manika (secretary), D. Mailula (assistant-secretary), S. M. Magoro (treasurer) and G. Mononyia (vice-treasurer). Further members will be elected at a later date.

# NEW SOVIET FILMS SHOWN IN JO'URG

JOHANNESBURG.—New Soviet films were presented to the Johannesburg public at two recent showings organised by the Friends of the Soviet Union.

"Adventure in Bokhara," the story of an Eastern Robin Hood, was very well received. Other films included "Bakdash," a very lovely ballet, the documentary "Urals Forge Victory," and "Musical Journey," a film of a troop of Red Army men in Georgia.



## GAOL CONDITIONS FOR RESISTERS WORSEN

JOHANNESBURG. — Released from the Maritzburg Gaol, where she served a term of imprisonment as a passive resister in one of the U.N.O. batches, Mrs. Amina Pahad told the Guardian that prison conditions have worsened considerably since she served her first term in the same gaol a year ago.

Mrs. Pahad was a member of a batch of 24 women resisters. They complained that the food given them was often burnt; that they were seldom given salt with their food and that they were continually sworn at by the wardresses and matron.

When they protested at this treatment, Mrs. Pahad lost a meal and was locked in a cell; and the resisters were not allowed any lights in their cells between 8 p.m. and 8 p.m., a privilege allowed to other prisoners.

Resisters who became ill were not allowed any medicine. They made repeated attempts to see the superintendent to have their grievances rectified, but were not allowed to do so.

Mrs. Pahad reports that African women are given shocking treatment. For the slightest fault, they lose three or four meals and are locked up for several days. They are stripped and searched daily and beaten frequently. One African woman who had an argument with the matron was given solitary confinement and spare diet for a whole month.

Prisoners in solitary confinement receive barley water three times a day; may not ever leave their cells, and are not given a mat or blankets, but have to sleep on the cement floor.

## Alexandra's New Civic Centre—A Department Store

JOHANNESBURG.—As the large green and yellow buses carry the workers and housewives of Alexandra Town, a bundle slowly up the main avenue into the township, these days, they pass on the left an imposing glass and concrete structure. It is Selfridges—the first Bantu department store in South Africa.

Opened barely one month ago, it is an enterprise of the Industrial and Commercial Holdings Group which plans to set up a chain of similar stores along the Reef. In size and equipment the store compares favourably with department stores in the main cities of the Union. It is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Run by a smart and trained staff of a hundred, the vast majority of whom are African men and women, the store stocks everything anybody could wish to buy. There are separate departments for clothes for men and women, groceries and hardware, book and newspaper stalls, a counter where gramophones, musical instruments and records are played, counters for bread, cakes and pastries, beautiful dress materials, blankets and shoes.

The soda fountain, supplying cold drinks of 17 different flavours, turkey specials over the week-end, a hot lunch for 1s. is a special favourite of the youngsters and children, many of whom walk up

from the furthest points in the township to buy their penny ice-cream or pineapple flavour drink for 2d.

On Sunday afternoons the store sponsors special talent performances, in a search for outstanding singers and musicians among the African people. It is planned soon to build an open-air tea garden in the square just fronting the store.

It is already more than a store in the township—it has become a civic centre for the people.

## ORLANDO AFRICANS ACCUSE POLICE

JOHANNESBURG.—Some time ago Africans living in Orlando complained of the anti-Jewish remarks of a police officer who attended a meeting of the Orlando Branch of the Communist Party on an open square.

Isalah Maseko, in his sworn affidavit, said that this police officer said: "The only bad thing about Communism is that the Jews are exploiting the Africans and the only friends of the Africans are the Afrikaners." He added: "Before the Jews came into this country the Afrikaners gave the Africans a lot of malle pap and the Africans never starved, and of course the Africans were sjambokked when they made a mistake and that is why the Africans were loyal to the Afrikaners."

This police officer, stated that the meeting was orderly, later instructed the police to leave.

In his affidavit, Jonas Mokhosid said the police officer had told him "the Communist Party was an organisation composed of Jews, and that we Africans are being misled by the Jews, who were collecting money for themselves."

### SAW THE NAZIS

He said he had been in the war and showed Mokhosid the ribbons he was wearing. He then said: "I have seen the Nazis and the Fascists, but the worst organisation is the Communist Party."

"I asked him why he said this and he said it was because we were told that Non-Europeans were equal to Europeans; in his opinion, the Native people should be under Afrikaners." These sworn affidavits were sent to

the Minister of Justice and the Commissioner of Police.

The Minister of Justice replied one month later to say that the happenings at Orlando were thoroughly investigated, but "the Minister can find no substantiation of the allegations." The Commissioner of Police said much the same thing.

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## JEW'S SPLIT ON PALESTINE ISSUE?

JOHANNESBURG.—A large gathering of Johannesburg Jewry welcomed the United Nations decision for the partition of Palestine at an open-air meeting last week.

Much blood will flow before this State is established."

Mr. L. A. Pinsof said a call should go out to Britain, the mandatory power, to take steps to ban restrictions on immigration and allow into Palestine those persons in displaced persons camps. He hoped that the position of the U.S.S.R. as a geographical neighbour of Palestine would be but the prelude to "re-establishing contact between world Jewry and the Jews of the U.S.S.R. and would bring the Jews of the Soviet Union back into the stream of Jewish life."

During the meeting a plane circled overhead dropping leaflets issued by "The Anti-Partition League of South Africa."

The leaflet alleged "If you accept it, partition is not the beginning, it is the end. You are not 'receiving' anything, you are handing over 88 per cent of Eretz Israel to the Grand Mufti!"

"The Jews are to receive 12 per cent, two thirds of which is desert. A desert is a desert, and can not be turned into a garden overnight. Down with defaenism! Down with Treachery! Down with Partition!"

Addressing the meeting Mr. N. Kirschner said the Jews did not want to fight. "But if they have to stand up and defend themselves, we must see they are able to. There is a war on."

**MORE COLOUR BARS**  
The Mayor, Mr. G. B. Gordon, said: "The Jewish people are the rightful heirs to Palestine. The domination of the black man—the Arab—has turned not only Palestine, but the whole of North Africa—into one vast desert."

Chief Rabbi Rabinowitz said the decision of the United Nations cut down the boundaries of the Jewish partitioned State. "The world will ultimately realise the necessity for the revision of these boundaries . . .



# GUARDIAN

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## NEW TACTICS PROPOSED FOR N.R.C. BOYCOTT

### Xuma's Address To African Congress

**BLOEMFONTEIN.**—In his presidential address to the annual conference of the African National Congress over the week-end, Dr. A. B. Xuma urged the African people to re-elect the present members of the Natives' Representative Council on a boycott ticket.

Tracing the history of the N.R.C. over recent months, Dr. Xuma referred to General Smuts' promise to place more concrete proposals before the whole N.R.C.

"However, before long we heard it rumoured that it was Government strategy not to call a statutory meeting of the present N.R.C. in the hope that they will present the concrete proposals before a new Council to be composed of untutored representatives.

"The proposals, vague as they are, have been published, and the present councillors completely ignored. This is not calculated to win the faith and confidence of the African people."

Dr. Xuma said the Government's act in side-stepping the present councillors had influenced the congress to change its strategy in implementing the resolution to boycott the Natives' Representation Act of 1936.

#### GIVING SMUTS A CHANCE

"We urge the African people to send back the present N.R.C. members to give General Smuts another opportunity to keep the engagement he promised to have with all the present members of the Council.

"We must not abandon the boycott as an ideal, but we must return the present councillors as a second step in our strategy to organise our people for the final stage—the complete boycott of elections.

"We are not abandoning the field. We are merely withdrawing for the time being to regroup and change our tactics for a final blow."

It is understood a meeting of the national executive confirmed a recent decision of the working committee to re-elect the elections on the boycott ticket as a positive method of carrying out the boycott decision.

The conference was attended by delegates from all parts of the Union. N.R.C. members, Matthews, Mosaka and Mpanza were present. In the absence

of Mr. Seloape Thema, the Speaker of Congress, Mr. Champion presided.

#### COLOUR PROBLEMS

Dealing with South African questions before U.N.O., Dr. Xuma pointed out the colour problems of this country have occupied the international stage over the last two years.

"In defending her case, South Africa said the issues of South-West Africa and the treatment of Indians were domestic issues, yet she voiced for interference in the internal affairs of Greece, Palestine and Indonesia. Race and colour problems are not domestic issues. They are international and world problems.

"South Africa has much to learn from the ventilation of her internal affairs on an international stage. She must not lose her temper over U.N.O. decisions on South-West. Other mandatory powers have taken strictures and U.N.O. decisions with grace and dignity."

### A. I. MEER IN LONDON

**JOHANNESBURG.**—Mr. A. I. Meer, the secretary of the Natal Indian Congress and a representative of the Joint Passive Resistance Council to the United Nations, arrived in London last week. He visited the House of Parliament and had a series of discussions with leading British M.P.s on the Indian question in South Africa.

Arising from these discussions progressives in Britain are considering a suggestion that an impartial commission be sent to South Africa. It would consist of representatives of trade unions, the Civil Liberties Association, progressive members of Parliament and others. The Commission would enquire into racial oppression in the Union.

Mr. Meer is expected to return to the Union next week.

### T.L.C. Opposes Ban On City Hall Steps Meetings

**JOHANNESBURG.**—Both the National Executive of the South African Trades and Labour Council and the Southern Transvaal Local Committee have asked the Johannesburg City Council to meet a deputation in order to hear the objections of the trade union movement to the proposal of Independent Councillor J. J. O'Connor to restrict the right of free speech on the City Hall steps.

The trade unions are strongly in favour of meetings being held without any prior permission having to be obtained from the Council.

### TVL. COMMITTEE OF TRADES COUNCIL

**JOHANNESBURG.**—At the annual meeting of the Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the South African Trades and Labour Council, held on Monday December 8, the following officials were elected: Chairman, Mr. J. J. Venter; vice-chairman, Mr. F. Weinberg; and secretary, Miss H. Le Roux.

## Passive Resistance Has Forced Govt. to Change Policy

—Dr. DADOO

**JOHANNESBURG.**—“Eighteen months of struggle against the Ghetto Act has been the chief factor in the change of the Union Government's attitude to the holding of a round-table conference,” said Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, in an interview with a Guardian representative, explaining the attitude of the resistance movement towards the proposed round-table conference.

Dr. Dadoo said that both General Smuts and Mr. Lawrence had indicated in their recent statements that it was now possible to hold discussions with India.

“We have always supported the holding of a Round Table Conference between the two Governments, but the Union Government remained adamant. During the Conference of the South African Indian Congress in February 1946, a deputation interviewed General Smuts, but he bluntly refused to hold such a conference on the grounds that the Indian question was purely a domestic one.

“The United Nations has given its verdict on this contention of the Union Government, and it seems that the Union Government has to fall in line,” said Dr. Dadoo. Dr. Dadoo stressed the fact that had

no resistance been launched, and had the Indian people followed the policy of the reactionaries, there would have been no change in the attitude of the Union Government.

#### RESISTANCE SUCCEEDS

“Where the Broome Commission recommendations on a Round Table Conference failed, where the South African Indian Congress and the pleadings of reactionaries failed, the resistance struggle has succeeded in making the Indian question an international issue concerning millions of oppressed and democracy-loving peoples of the world, and has made the government realise that a change in its attitude is necessary, and that it cannot afford to remain isolated in the world,” concluded Dr. Dadoo.

Prize-giving at St. Peter's Secondary School in Rossentenville was a joyful occasion last week. On the right Georgias Pop of Form Three, receives his prize for good school work while (below) the rest of the school look on. In his report the headmaster, Mr. D. H. Darling, commented on the grave shortage of qualified graduates willing to enter the teaching profession, and pointed out that training was costly for those who did not manage to obtain financial aid.

### Prize-Giving Day



## Passive Resistance In The Transvaal

**JOHANNESBURG.**—The Transvaal Passive Resistance Council met here last week to consider the decisions of the Joint Passive Resistance Council held recently in Durban. The meeting discussed various aspects of the resistance decisions relating to resistance in the Transvaal.

Although the Transvaal Council has issued no statement on the decisions arrived at by this meeting, a leading member of the Council told our correspondent: “The new year will see the Transvaal becoming the focal point of the resistance struggle. Within a few weeks our decisions will be made known.”



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## BETHAL CONDITIONS HAVE NOT IMPROVED

### Farm Labourers Still Driven to Work

JOHANNESBURG.—Conditions of indentured farm labourers in the Bethal district have not improved. If anything, they have deteriorated since the police investigations in the district. An iron curtain has now descended over the farms, and squatters who report on conditions are severely victimised.

It was disclosed to the annual conference of the African National Congress in Bloemfontein last week, by two delegates from the Bethal branch of the Congress. They submitted a memorandum on farm conditions and urged that the conference try to have a representative commission appointed to investigate labour conditions in the Bethal district.

This conference resolution was passed unanimously. The conference was appalled at the description of conditions given by the two delegates. In a number of instances, it was reported, police investigations have done more harm than good. "Mal-treatment and bad conditions are today reaching alarming depths. Our members who give us reports of these conditions are being expelled from the farms, and all farm squatters have been told by their employers to desist from attending Congress meetings, on pain of expulsion from the farms," says the memorandum.

#### WRONG IMPRESSION

"News does, however, reach us. The police inspectorate does not seem able to get the facts and consequently there is a wrong impression that conditions have improved."

These conditions are then detailed. Farm labourers are still locked up in compounds as soon as their work is done. They are kept locked up until morning, when they are driven to work in exactly the same way as hard-labour prisoners. On Saturdays they are locked up after their work and the lock remains on the door through Sunday until Monday morning. As latrines these workers must use buckets which remain in the compounds during the "lock-up."

These workers never see a store or a Native Commissioner. For clothes their employers bring them second-hand clothes for which they are forced to pay exorbitant prices.

They are not supplied with dishes and are served with food in their bare hands even if it is hot. "If they let it fall because their hands are burnt by it they must eat it from the ground.

"At work they are made to run all the time and are thrashed and have dogs set on them if they do not run hard enough."

## Jute Bags By Next Harvest?

JOHANNESBURG.—There is no use denying the fact that the shortage of grain bags due to trade sanctions is having a very serious effect on the economic life of South Africa. In spite of all the efforts of the Union Government to substitute other materials, the transport of food and grain from the farms to the towns remains a serious problem.

This spoke Dr. Y. M. Dadoo at a mass meeting called jointly by the Transvaal Indian Congress and Passive Resistance Council on Sunday December 21.

"The only sensible thing for General Smuts to do is to make every effort compatible with the dignity of both South Africa and India and in terms of the United Nations decision of last year to settle the dispute.

"We can get the gunny bags—we can have trade with India and Pakistan. We can remove the serious difficulties confronting the farmers, provided General Smuts and his Government act in earnest and with promptness by agreeing to a round table conference.

## SEDITION CASE INSPIRED BY POLITICS

—Kotane

JOHANNESBURG.—"These proceedings . . . are inspired by political motives intended to embarrass, prejudice and harass the accused for political purposes," said Moses Kotane, general secretary of the Communist Party, in an affidavit made to court in the present preparatory examination into an allegation of sedition which opened in Johannesburg last week.

Members of the Communist Party central committee charged with sedition are national chairman W. H. (Bill) Andrews, Moses Kotane, I. O. Horvitch, Advocate H. Smitcher, H. J. Simons, F. Carnison, and H. A. Naidoo. Also accused are W. J. Roberts, of the Johannesburg District of the Communist Party, and L. C. Joffe, who is not a member of the party.

Moses Kotane's affidavit continues: "I have now been arrested four times in connection with the events which are the subject matter of the charge of sedition, and I have already appeared in three preparatory examinations. On each occasion the crown withdrew the proceedings against me. "At the instance of the Attorney-General of the Transvaal on two occasions preparatory examinations were held upon charges of sedition arising out of the identical events, and on each occasion the proceedings were ultimately withdrawn by the Attorney General of the Transvaal.

"I aver these last arrests are illegal and invalid, and it is not competent for this or any other court to open or conduct a further preparatory examination upon a charge of sedition in respect of these same matters against us.

" . . . These repeated arrests, preparatory examinations, and withdrawals of proceedings and re-arrests constitute an abuse of the process on the part of the crown, and these proceedings are being instituted by the crown so as to vexatiously harass, embarrass, and prejudice myself and the other accused persons.

"Neither I nor the other accused are guilty of the crime of sedition and we have already been put to thousands of pounds of legal expenditure."

#### CHURLISH BEHAVIOUR

Mr. S. Kahn (of Messrs. T. H. Smitcher, Kahn and Company) who together with Mr. V. Berrange (of Messrs. Berrange and Wasserrug) and Dr. G. Lowen (instructed by Messrs. Berrange and Wasserrug) appeared for the accused, addressed the court on this affidavit, which traced the history of the long drawn-out proceedings. He spoke of "churlish and cavalier fashion" in which the crown had dealt with requests by the defence for certain information on the proceedings.

Mr. H. J. S. Johannas is on the bench, and the crown evidence is being led by Dr. F. Yutar, professional assistant to the Attorney-General of the Transvaal, assisted by Mr. W. S. O'Brien.

Dr. G. Lowen, on behalf of Roberts, referred to the court proceedings in September 1946, in which Roberts was involved, when negotiations had taken place between the defence and the crown whereby the accused persons agreed to plead guilty to a lesser charge, and, in accordance with the agreement, the charges against Roberts and several others were withdrawn. With the second arrest of Roberts on a charge arising out of the identical events, Dr. Lowen pointed out that the crown had broken its side of the agreement.

Mr. Berrange referred to this as "a gross breach of faith and agreement." The magistrate ruled it was not necessary for Dr. Yutar to reply to this.

#### EVIDENCE BY COMPOUND

A number of witnesses gave evidence of the distribution of leaflets of the African Mineworkers' Union in preparation for the strike.

Mr. Murray Smith, senior compound manager of the Sub Nigel mine, gave evidence on events on his mine on August 12 and the days following. When 5,000 Africans refused to go to work, five were later arrested. After the arrest there was a sharp deterioration in the attitude of the workers.

Mr. Kahn: These arrests caused an intense wave of bitterness and ill-feeling?—Yes.

Both you, the manager, and the police were against arresting the five?—Yes.

The arrests were provocative and ill-considered?—Yes.

Mr. Murray Smith said they were the instructions of the consulting engineer from head office, who was not present at the mine.

Mr. Murray Smith told the court that in the evening several hundred workers left the compound and spent the night on an embankment near the concession store. "Scouts" were sent out to pull out other workers from the shafts.

Later Major du Toit arrived with a force of police and began to encircle the workers on the embankment. There was no attempt before the encirclement to address the men and ask them to return to work. Then the police began to fire on the men from the embankment and there was a wild stampede of these workers to get through the narrow gate only about ten feet wide into the compound. They were being followed by the police.

## 1948 I.L.O. CONFERENCE

JOHANNESBURG.—The 31st session of the International Labour Conference is to take place in San Francisco on June 17, 1948. The Trades and Labour Council has invited affiliated trade unions to submit names of possible delegates by January 19, 1948.

The agenda of this international conference will include discussions on the freedom of association and protection of the right of the worker to organise; and the application of the right to organise; and bargain collectively. Other discussions will be on wages and vocational guidance, and the revision of conventions concerning the night work of women and young persons.

#### TERRIFIED MEN

Mr. Murray Smith agreed they could be described as a group of terrified men seeking to escape through this gate. "They did not know what they were doing. They were like cattle, plied at the gate."

Four workers were killed, and 62 injured.

In reply to Dr. Yutar, Mr. Murray Smith said the causes of the strike were "pamphlets and agitators."

Mr. Kahn: Have you ever seen an agitator? Not a known agitator, or any outsider.

Mr. Colin Kellas, a mine detective employed on the Sub Nigel gold mine, then gave evidence of the same events.

He said that after the police had fired on the workers there was a rush to the compound. He noticed some of the workers making towards the shaft, and was afraid they were heading for the European married quarters. He ran up to try to intercept them, assisted by some of the European miners. They eventually turned the Africans back to the compound.

Before this he used his revolver, and fired shots into the ground in front of them as they were advancing. Among the 62 casualties of this day, there were, as far as remembered, 11 bullet wounds.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kahn, Mr. Kellas said he had not wounded any Africans with his shots. He had fired shots into the ground because he thought his life was in danger. He fired six shots, and saw them all go into the ground.

#### POLICE FLED

Detective H. M. Ferreira, giving evidence, said the African workers launched an attack which was so severe that the police recruits turned and fled. He did not run and when the leading workers were within ten paces of him, he realised his life was in danger. He then raised his rifle, and fired four shots.

"I saw two of them drop," he said. He said he had attended the inquest in connection with the deaths of the two African miners. "I saw them drop when I fired," he said. "And I knew they were killed. I said so at the inquest."

(Proceeding.)



# N.R.C. BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN TO BE INTENSIFIED

JOHANNESBURG.—Chief topic debated at the annual conference of the African National Congress in Bloemfontein last week was the boycott of the 1936 Native Representation Act. One and a half days of the last two days' continuous discussion at the conference was devoted to this question.

By 67 votes to seven, conference adopted the resolution of the national executive which pledged the Congress to intensify the campaign and get African public opinion mobilised behind the boycott resolution of the 1936 conference.

"The best and most effective way of attaining this objective is to help in a campaign to return the Native Representative Council as far as possible, and for Congress to elect others on a boycott ticket, to continue the work begun by this council, and to make it possible for General Smuts to keep his appointment promised in May last with this Council, and for the government to meet them once more at the usual statutory session of the council which for tactical reasons, has been abandoned this year.

To advise the electorate to abstain from voting at this stage will merely leave the field clear for collaborators who will be used to undermine and nullify our campaign. Besides, instructions for non-participation in these elections will cause great confusion and division among our people, the Council, the electorate and among the rank and file.

"This must be avoided and everything done to consolidate our forces behind a definite campaign by electing trusted and tried men to carry out our policy in the Council."

The position of advisory boards and the European senators and members of Parliament—the latter also elected under the 1936 Act—was not clarified by this conference. A few delegates referred to them in passing in their speeches, but Congress policy was not elucidated in any conference resolution.

(Continued on Page 5.)

## T.L.C. BALLOT TO BE CONTESTED

JOHANNESBURG.—The Garment Workers' Union is to make application to court in the near future to set aside the ballot for the post of secretary, which resulted in the election of Mr. W. J. De Vries.

Among the grounds are the irregular exclusion of about 15 trade unions from participation in the ballot; and the fact that the Mine Workers' Union was allocated 20,000 votes, which the Garment Workers' Union contends is considerably in excess of the actual voting strength of the union.

The Garment Workers' Union also maintains that at the time of his election, Mr. de Vries was neither a member nor a duly appointed officer of any union affiliated to the Council.

## BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN TO BE INTENSIFIED

(Continued from page 1)

Here are a few points made by some of the speakers during this debate:

**Dr. R. T. Bokwe—Cape:** "Boycott" is a nice word. But putting it into effect is another matter. Few of you know what work lay behind the resolution of the Native Representative Council when it adjourned en bloc. It was not a spontaneous action."

**E. Mofutsanyana—Transvaal:** "Everything possible has been done to violate last year's decision. As long as no attempt is made to make Congress decisions respected by the people, we shall remain where we are. There is no discipline in this organisation. A positive boycott must be one in which the leaders go to the people in town and country."

**O. Thambo—Transvaal:** "Confusion about this resolution flows not from the resolution itself, but from opposition to it. One leader of Congress speaks for the boycott; and another speaks against it."

**R. G. Baloyi—Transvaal:** "There has been no answer to Mrs. Ballinger's query: 'What is to happen to us?' I say we must boycott. If Congress members contest, we must expel them. You must be disciplined."

**S. P. Sessel—Cape:** "The considered opinion of the Cape is that now is not the time to boycott."

### PEOPLE MISLED

**G. Makabeni—Transvaal:** "The people who were so eloquent for the boycott last year are fighting it as eloquently this year. The people are being deliberately misled."

**Dr. Xuma—president general:** "Unfortunately when you took this decision I was at Lake Success. I would have warned you against plunging into this thing."

**Prof. Z. K. Mathews—Cape:** "Much as we would like to have the boycott, it paralyse all the machinery of the government, we will not do so by speeches here. We can admit all the strictures against Congress; but the fact remains we have not done the work for the boycott."

**S. Msimang—Natal:** "We understood from the boycott resolution our job was not to go out and declare a boycott, but to intensify the campaign. We are organising the advisory boards in Natal to be in readiness for the time when Congress will say: 'Now is the time to boycott.' We are telling our chiefs they must not boycott until we have a united front. Then we can meet any obstacle."

### NO AMENDMENTS

When the time came to vote on the boycott, Mr. A. W. G. Champion who was the speaker in the absence of Mr. S. Thema, said he would not allow any amendments: "You vote for or against this resolution of the national executive." A number of delegates felt the resolution had many loopholes, and should be amended. This they were not permitted to do.

Other resolutions passed by the conference registered strong protests against the order given to the South African police to fire when they consider themselves to be in danger; called on the Government to declare all Fascist and Nazi organisations illegal; pledged full support of the Congress in their struggle against high rents; and demanded the recognition of African trade unions under the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act. The proposed Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill was roundly condemned.

# 300 Arrested In Police Raid On Moroka Township

JOHANNESBURG.—More than 400 policemen, assisted by detectives and 16 mounted police, raided the Moroka camp at daybreak on Friday last. Over three hundred African men and women were arrested and marched to the Moroka police station for questioning.

By 4 a.m. a cordon had been thrown round the whole camp. Squads of detectives then began their search. The "Rand Daily Mail" reports: "The mobile squad assisted by patrolling the outskirts of the camp. The mounted men also made a number of dashes into the camp and into the veld to head off natives who had attempted to avoid questioning."

Sir George Albu, chairman of the Council's Non-European Affairs Committee, explaining that the purpose of the raid was to remove "trouble-makers who had infiltrated into the camp from outside areas," said that four members of the Moroka Advisory Board had been invited to be present during the raid to satisfy themselves it was carried out "with the fullest sympathy and co-operation of the police and municipal authorities."

These four members, in a statement to the "Rand Daily Mail," said: "It is difficult to sleep at night because of the noise made by agitators."



With all their worldly belongings on their shoulders, this column of African mineworkers, their contracts completed, set out on the first stage of the long voyage home. Africans come to work on the Witwatersrand mines from all parts of the Union and from territories in Africa as far as Nyasaland.



## Asiatic Land Board at Work in Tvl.

JOHANNESBURG.—Members of the Asiatic Land Tenure Advisory Board created under the Ghetto Act, and officials of the Department of Immigration and Asiatic Affairs, are once again out on an extensive campaign in Transvaal country towns to create new ghettos for the Indian people.

Among the towns visited during the last few months have been Volksrust, Carolina, Standerton, Zeerust, Bloemhof and Wolmaransstad.

The reasons behind this vigorous campaign are clear. The authorities want the Ghetto Act to become operative before the Round Table Conference between the Indian and South African Governments takes place.

If they succeed, the Union Government might be able to say that the Indian community is co-operating in putting the Act into force; and that there is no longer any opposition to it. These arguments would be used to blame India for "interfering in the internal affairs of the Union."

But the members of the Board and officials of the Asiatic Affairs Department have met with strong opposition in these country towns. Even the bait offered to the Indian community that their present illegal ownership of their properties will be converted to full and legal ownership, has not helped the Government carry out its segregation plan.

### SEGREGATION REJECTED

The Indian community has made it clear it will totally reject all segregatory measures. Had it accepted the provisions of Law 3 of 1885 which set aside special wards, streets and locations for the Indian people throughout the Transvaal, it would not have made the protest it has to date.

Law 3 of 1885 was defied by the Indian community, and many of the locations set aside for Indian occupation under this act have to this day not been occupied by Indians. In defiance of the Act, Indians have occupied other areas and have acted as pioneers in commerce in the remotest corners of the province.

Actually, the Indian people of the Transvaal have already experienced the results of the granting of so-called "exempted areas," with full rights of ownership and occupation in those areas marked under the Gold Law of 1908. In these very areas Indian advancement is checked administratively by the authorities refusing to grant licences to Indians and to effect transfers of licences from one Indian to another.

Such incidents have already occurred in Krugersdorp and Brits. The Indian people have no guarantee that even should they accept locations, they would be allowed to continue to trade on the properties at present occupied by them.

This problem was fully discussed at a recent meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress, attended by a number of delegates from country towns. A unanimous resolution of the Congress Working Committee, drawing attention to the possibility of a Round Table Conference between the Governments of the Union, India and Pakistan, urged the Indian people not to accept any recommendations of the local municipalities, Immigration Department, or Advisory Board in their sinister move to make the Act work, and to inform these bodies it is impossible for them to co-operate and that consequently they are unable to put forward any suggestions in their areas.

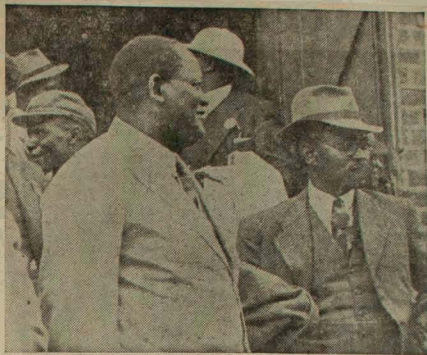
## African Builders Discuss Wages

JOHANNESBURG.—The annual general meeting of the African Building and Allied Trades Workers' Union, attended by workers from Johannesburg and towns as far as Springs and Potchefstroom, recently considered the wage and working condition proposals of the Master Builders in the Building Industry.

The Master Builders' Association has offered 3jd. as against the present 2½d. cost of living allowance per hour and a reduction of 46 hours a week to 45 hours a week in 1948 and 1949, without any increase in the basic wage. In 1950 and 1951 the basic wage would be increased by ½d. an hour, and the hours of work would be reduced to 43 a week. No distinction has been made in regard to workers doing semi-skilled work in the industry.

The union executive committee has asked for the classification of African building workers into unskilled and semi-skilled workers, and night watchmen. It urges that the agreement for the African workers be retrospective to October 4, the date when the strike of artisans was settled, and for a higher scale of wage increases.

The following union officials were elected at the general meeting: A. Dhlamini, chairman; J. Sedike, vice-chairman; M. S. Diphuko, secretary; J. Misi, treasurer; committee members, J. Maso, I. Zitha, E. Mchachiti, J. Motshapi, W. Mabebele, A. Ndebele, J. Boshomane, A. Mahlangu and other members to be co-opted later.



Professor Z. K. Mathews (left) and Mr. Paul Mosaka, members of the Native Representative Council, enjoy a chat during an interval in the three-day African National Congress Conference held in Bloemfontein recently.

A champion team of Rand crack cyclists beat a combined Bloemfontein-Kroonstad team outright in the 36-mile bicycle race at Bloemfontein on Dingaan's Day. Kimberley also participated in the competition. Apart from the sporting aspect of the competition, there is a tidy sum in it for the winning side. Each of 50 entrants puts 25s. in the pool which is later shared out between the five finalists.





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## COMMUNIST ELECTION POLICY DEFINED

### National Conference Decisions

JOHANNESBURG.—Everything possible will be done by the Communist Party in the forthcoming general elections to work for the defeat of the extreme reactionary and pro-Fascist forces represented in the Nationalist Party.

This is the decision on general election policy arrived at by the National Conference of the Communist Party, held in Johannesburg on January 2, 3 and 4. The conference was attended by over 50 delegates from all parts of the country.

The resolution on the general elections points out that the conference recognises that as long as the vote is denied to the African, Coloured and Indian peoples, Parliament cannot be representative of the great bulk of the population, but must perpetuate the present backward and oppressive system of society.

"Conference regards the primary task of the Party in the forthcoming general elections as that of advancing the struggle for the universal franchise, and for the Socialist Democracy, and of rallying the people against Imperialism."

#### SEDITION CASE

Conference passed a unanimous resolution recording its strongest protest against the continued prosecution of members of the central executive of the Party and others.

"The Government's conduct in this case constitutes a grave attack on civil liberties and deserves the universal condemnation of all liberty-loving peoples."

"Conference calls upon all workers and democrats to unite in protesting against the Government's action and to demand the immediate withdrawal of the prosecution."

The Native Representation Act of 1936 was condemned as a vicious measure of racial discrimination, intended to defeat the demands of the African people for their direct representation in Parliament and to cloak the undemocratic structure of South African society.

The resolution on this subject reads:

"Conference recognises that the stand taken by the members of the Native Representative Council has forced the Government to make concessions, but denounces these concessions as useless and a further attempt to deceive the African people as to the real character of the segregation system."

"The N.R.C. cannot achieve any useful purpose and the African people's efforts must be directed towards its abolition. In the forthcoming elections to Council, Conference resolves to work for the election of a bloc of candidates pledged to repeal the Act, the introduction of a universal franchise and the recognition of the right of all Africans to sit in Parliament."

Questions of the forthcoming nominations for the Native Representative Council, and the matter of African representation in the House of Assembly and the Senate, were referred to the Central Committee of the Party for further discussion.

#### BAN THE FASCISTS

Other resolutions demanded the outlawing of open Fascist organisations such as the Ossewa Brandwag, the Greyshirts and the Frow New Order Group; condemned

mass police raids on African locations, and cases of police brutality against Non-Europeans; and demanded the immediate introduction of the National Health Services plan.

The conference was characterised by the great amount of attention paid in commission to work in the rural areas, and by the greater representation and high standard of debate of African delegates from centres such as the East Rand.

The proposed Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill was vigorously condemned, and the Central Committee was instructed to concentrate its full energy upon the carrying out of a broad and intensive campaign among all workers and friends of Labour to secure the rejection of the Bill and the amendment of the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1937 so as to include on an equal basis all workers without discrimination.

#### REACTIONARY CAMPAIGN

Delivering his opening address to the Conference, Bill Andrews referred to the attempt of international Capitalism, allied with the forces of Reaction, including the survivals of Fascism and Nazism, to rally to a general counter-attack on all progressive forces, whose spearhead is the Communist movement.

"We note the increasing treachery of governments which are controlled by big business, land monopolists and other vested interests, the alliance, open or concealed, between these governments and the dregs of Fascism, and the threat of a Third World War, with the atomic bomb waved threateningly in the face of the U.S.S.R. and its Democratic and Socialist allies."

Bill Andrews said the forces of liberty and progress were immeasurably stronger really and potentially than the dark forces of Reactionary Capitalism.

"Our part in South Africa may seem a small one, but remember that a hundred and fifty millions or more of our fellow men and women in this great Continent of Africa have started on the road to liberty. Do not forget Molotov's clarion cry on the thirtieth anniversary of the glorious Soviet Revolution: 'We are living in an age when all roads lead to Communism!'"

#### COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR 1948

JOHANNESBURG. — Amidst tremendous ovations, Bill Andrews and Moses Kotane were unanimously re-elected national chairman and general secretary respectively of the Communist Party, at the party's national conference held in Johannesburg last week-end.

The members of the Central Committee are Dr. H. J. Simons, Advocate H. Smitzer, Fred Carmichael, Lucas Phillips, I. O. Horwitsch, B. P. Bunting, H. A. Naidoo, Mrs. Betty Sacks (Betty Radford), A. S. Damane, Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, E. Motlatsanyane, I. Wolfson, D. du Plessis, Advocate A. Fischer and M. Muller.

The site of the head office of the party will continue to be Cape Town during the coming year.

#### COMMUNISTS TO STAND FOR N.R.C.

JOHANNESBURG.—The Central Committee of the Communist Party has announced the names of its candidates who will be nominated for the Native Representative Council elections to be held shortly.

They are Edwin Motlatsanyane who will contest the Wilson seat and A. S. Damane and Alpheus Maliba, who will be nominated for rural seats.

These candidates have already begun their nomination campaign.

#### WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

## NATIONALIST PARTY MUST BE BEATEN, SAYS SEN. BASNER

JOHANNESBURG. — "Only the thorough defeat of the Nationalists will lead to a regrouping of political forces on more rational lines," said Senator H. M. Basner, discussing with The Guardian how best democratic support could be mobilised in support of progressive policies at the next general election.

Senator Basner said the next election will be a straight fight between the United and Nationalist Parties. "This is very unfortunate for South Africa, but it happens to be the only political reality at present. All that progressive forces can do is ensure as many progressive as possible among the United Party candidates, and try to eliminate the more reactionary M.P.s and then to work for the complete defeat of the Nationalist Party."

Senator Basner said he believed an organised progressive and working-class combination could bring great pressure on the United Party to drop its more reactionary candidates, and to adopt a stronger attitude towards fascist organisations.

"I believe also that in some urban centres where there is no possibility of Nationalist success, there should be independent progressive candidates on a programme of radical reforms."

"There is no point in opposing the United Party except on a radical programme. Therefore the groups in such a combination must include that section of the Labour Party, the Communist Party and those trade unions which genuinely seek reforms."

#### DISSATISFACTION

Asked whether he thought the Labour reverses in the recent Johannesburg municipal elections part of a world-wide wave of reaction, Senator Basner said they were part of a wave of revulsion from social-democracy."

He continued: "This revulsion is not a wave of reaction but a wave of dissatisfaction and disillusionment. The election of a socialist government in Britain was greeted with almost hysterical hopefulness by the suffering masses in war-torn Europe, by leaders of liberatory movements in colonial countries, and by the working and lower middle classes in the British Empire."

"In three years Mr. Bevin's party has dissipated all the goodwill and exhausted all the optimism which its political victory engendered. I believe it has discredited the Labour movement beyond the possibilities of redemption."

Senator Basner did not think the Labour reverses in Johannesburg and elsewhere were an indication of the upsurge of fascism. He said there was a world-wide welter of political confusion and frustration in the face of the difficulties of post-war reconstruction.

"It is obvious to the masses of people that the Labour movement is impotent to deal with these difficulties. They are not yet ready to face the implications of a radical change of social systems, so they turn to political quackery such as that of De Gaulle or Marshall."

Turning to South Africa, Senator Basner said he did not accept that the Labour Party was a progressive force. He did not view the elimination of the Labour Party in the last municipal elections as an indication that progressive forces had no chance in the coming general election.

"There is no possibility of immediate socialism in South Africa," he said, "there is only the possibility of immediate reforms in the colour bar and cheap labour structure of South Africa's economy, which will help to industrialise South Africa and abolish its feudal agrarian structure as a progressive party at this stage."

"There is more chance of the United Party being driven in this direction than the Labour Party. There are more progressive individuals in the latter party than in the United Party, but that does not alter the basic fact that in South Africa, where the broad masses are disfranchised, the Labour Party must always be based on the white working class which has an immediate interest in the maintenance of the colour bar. The industrialists and middle classes have, paradoxically, no such immediate interest."

#### EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE

Senator Basner made the point strongly that there is no other method to combat fascism here, than by the extension of the franchise and democratic rights to the Non-European section of the nation.

He said fascist organisations should be made illegal, and the dissemination of any doctrine advocating racial intolerance should be prohibited.

"It is to-day an offence," he commented, "to create hostility between Europeans and Non-Europeans. That legislation should be widened to include any sections of the population, and the penalties should be made more severe."

"I believe that any incitement to racial conflict should be promptly and very severely punished in South Africa, where any irresponsible speech or action can lead to race riots of great dimensions."



# S. A. Police Sent Report on Michael Scott to America

JOHANNESBURG.—The Union Government, through the South African Police force, did everything possible to prevent the Reverend Michael Scott from reaching the United States of America to attend the sessions of the United Nations.

The granting of a visa to the Reverend Scott was delayed to the very last minute by the United States authorities, and severe restrictions were placed on his movements and activities in the States which he arrived there.

The role of the Union Government in printing United States authorities through its police reports, and in thus helping his work on behalf of the chiefs and tribes of South-West Africa, is only now revealed by a confidential police report on Michael Scott, which appears to have been handed over to United States Departments, and thence to the American Press. This police report reaches "The Guardian" via an American source.

## DETAILED REPORT

Written in stiff "police report" language, carefully documented with dates and names of places, the report traces minutely the career of the Reverend Michael Scott, his activities in South Africa in the passive resistance movement and other events over the last few years, the meetings at which he had spoken, and details of the prison sentence he served as a passive resister.

The report describes the Reverend Scott: "Scott is a reserved, eccentric type of man with fanatical views, is financially poor, and has no fixed abode. He is a member of all left wing organisations, and at various times has addressed meetings of the Springbok Legion, of the Indians (held in opposition to the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Bill) and of the Non-European Mine Workers' Union. In short he takes an active part in all demonstrations convened by these bodies."

Examples of such demonstrations are then detailed. They include meetings of the Transvaal Indian community in the Gandhi Hall, and on the Indian Sports Ground; meetings of the "Non-European Mine Workers' Union" on the Newtown Market Square; and a Springbok Legion demonstration held in Johannesburg in opposition to a Nationalist Party Conference.

Many paragraphs are devoted to a month-by-month description of the meetings he attended and addressed in the Union.

## NOTORIOUS AGITATOR

Then a choice tit-bit: "It was also brought to the notice of this Department that the Reverend Scott addressed a meeting held on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Indian Passive Resistance movement on June 13, 1947, when Dr. Y. M. Dadoo presented him with a certificate of honour."

"Dr. Dadoo is a notorious Agitator (with a capital 'A'), an active Communist and author of libellous literature. He is also President of the Transvaal Indian Congress, Communist Party and of the Transvaal Passive Resistance movement."

The report continues: "No meetings were addressed by the Reverend Scott during July, 1947, although he has often seen at the Passive Resistance offices."

"On August 11, 1947, he was billed to address a meeting of the Joint Council of Europeans and Africans, but at the meeting a telegram from Scott from Windhoek was read, apologising for his inability to attend.

"On August 7, 1947, it was ascertained from the Deputy Commissioner, Windhoek, that the Reverend Scott was visiting the Native Reserves under permit from the administration. He was

taking numerous photographs evidently to illustrate the living conditions of the Natives both in the reserves and on farms where Natives were working under contract. The Bethal and Mafeking areas were also visited by him for the same purpose.

## "COMMUNIST TEAM"

"It is reported from Johannesburg that Scott is anxious to attend the next U.N.O. conference, that as recently as yesterday he approached Dr. Dadoo with a request to be included in their Communist team to U.N.O. This request, however, was refused."

That the Union and United States Government acted hand in glove over the question of granting a visa to the Reverend Michael Scott to enter the United States for the United Nations session, can now hardly be doubted.

## DEAN OF CANTERBURY'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

JOHANNESBURG.—In a New Year message to the "Guardian," the Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Hewlett Johnson, says:

"I wish the 'Guardian' God speed. The struggle for the integration of all mankind on the basis of equality and liberty for all, irrespective of age, race, or strength, is the noblest struggle in the world.

"South Africa is in the thick of the fight, and what you can do there is of the greatest importance. It is the duty of all South Africans to do their utmost to build their towns and cities. Students go down the coal mines to add their effort to the national target.

"Therefore, I wish you all success in your struggle."

The Guardian has also received New Year greetings from the editorial board of "Borba," the organ of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, wishing us a "happy New Year and all success in the struggle for a lasting peace."



Our picture shows Marshal Tito as he talks informally with seven young visitors to Yugoslavia towards the end of September. On his right is Victor Mboobo, South African delegate to the World Youth Festival. Next to Mboobo is a youth leader from the liberated areas of China.

## VICTOR MBOOBO DESCRIBES AN INTERVIEW WITH TITO

JOHANNESBURG.—Victor Mboobo, South African delegate to the recent World Youth Festival, has just returned to South Africa after six months spent in Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and France.

Highlight of his visit was a long interview with Marshal Tito, head of the Yugoslav state. To the group of young delegates, seven in all, from Malaya, the liberated areas of China, India, New Zealand, and Victor Mboobo of South Africa, the offer of an interview with Marshal Tito came as a complete surprise. It was due to last half an hour.

It lasted two hours and twenty minutes as these young people chatted informally with Tito about the problems of Yugoslavia's youth and the young people of other countries. Victor Mboobo describes this as an "inspiring" interview.

The youth group asked Tito for a message to take back to their countries, still struggling for complete freedom and independence. He said simply: "There is no royal road to freedom. There is only the hard way."

Victor Mboobo has returned greatly impressed by the activities of the youth of countries in Europe to-day.

## STILL TO LEARN

He said: "Our young people have still to be taught to do things on their own. Here everything is done for us. Young people in the countries I have visited plan—and carry out—their own programmes. They make a great contribution to the national progress of their peoples."

"In Czechoslovakia, all young people do six hours voluntary work on a Sunday helping to build their towns and cities. Students go down the coal mines to add their effort to the national target.

"Here we still have that wonderful reverence for our elderly folk, even if we completely disagree with them."

"We must be more ambitious in our youth work. Half the time we do not seem to be aware of any definite goal towards which we are working."

"We must also work among the people. We spend too much time preparing speeches and writing articles, and too little among the people."

"South African youth should play a bigger part in the World Federation of Democratic Youth. We don't yet know enough about the federation. I will try to bring home to our youth the importance of its work."

Victor Mboobo spoke of the policy of the Union Castle line towards Non-Europeans wishing to travel to South Africa. They ask all Non-Europeans to pay £120 for a first-class berth so that they have a cabin for themselves, on the grounds that other passengers will object to their presence.

A young African doctor, a Birmingham graduate, who wished to return to South Africa, was told last July when he applied for a second class berth costing £40 less: "Who the hell will share a cabin with you anyway?"

Mboobo and other Non-Europeans on the boat back to South Africa work on the prejudice on the part of the passengers. They feel the Union Castle line's attitude is an excuse for its own colour bar policy, and not one dictated by the passengers.

## Police Try Out New Form Of Pass Raid

JOHANNESBURG.—Certain members of the South African Police have found a new method of stopping large numbers of Africans for passes.

As buses of the Public Utility Transport Company were travelling from Alexandra Township to Johannesburg, on Monday, January 5, they were stopped by a group of police. The police ordered the people to climb down, examined their passes, and made a number of arrests. The buses were then allowed to proceed.

At the same time, a group of traffic inspectors were stopping taxis, cars and lorries to inspect them for overloading and to see whether they were roadworthy.

## NO EXPLANATION

Asked by The Guardian for an account of what happened, both the Norwood and Wynberg police stations denied all knowledge of this incident. Neither had instructed any of their men to stop the buses and ask for passes.

Major J. C. Krick, District Commandant, also knew nothing of this incident. Asked about raids for passes on buses, he said: "It is not customary to do so."

The mystery is still not solved: who instructed this police patrol to examine the passes of the Africans travelling in to work from Alexandra Township, and what authority did they have to do this?



# Militant Campaign By Communists In N.R.C. Election

JOHANNESBURG.—Already out in the field campaigning prior to nomination day are Edwin Mofutsanyana and Alpheus Maliba, Communist Party candidates for the urban and one of the two rural seats respectively in the elections for the Native Representative Council.

Edwin Mofutsanyana makes it clear to all advisory boards that the stand of the Communist Party ten years ago on the dud Native Representative Council has at last been vindicated. He is pledged to a struggle for the repeal of the 1936 Native Representation Act, for the vote for all, and the right of all South Africans to sit in Parliament.

He said, in an interview with the Guardian, that there is really no one to-day who is against the boycott movement. All agree the N.R.C. has proved a failure.

"But we also all agree that a total boycott can only be achieved when sufficient organisational work has been done in the country. The people to-day are not ready as one man to abstain from going to the polls.

"Our aim must be at all costs to prevent the Native Representative Council falling into the hands of people who are satisfied only with talking, who are prepared to co-operate with the Government in making this fake representation work, and who would be prepared to compromise and sell out at any time if the price were high enough."

"We need a Council composed of responsible and reliable men who will consult the people and carry out their wish. Above all they must be people who are prepared to organise a militant struggle for the vote for all; and to work for the abolition of this oppressive Act.

## ADVISORY BOARDS

Visiting many Reef location advisory boards, Mofutsanyana found great bitterness against the present urban representative. They complain they have not been visited by their councillor since 1943, when they were urged to vote for him.

"Both the outgoing member for the urban areas and I had a similar policy of organisation," said Mr. Mofutsanyana. "Both of us pledged we would do all in our power to strengthen the African National Congress as a national organisation.

"But as soon as he was elected, the present councillor denounced Congress, and formed a new organisation: 'The African Democratic Party'. Of late this party has adopted a new name.

"The struggle in this election will be between Mr. Moxaka and myself, although other candidates who have announced their intention of contesting may try to make a show in limited areas where they might be well-known."



EDWIN MOFUTSANYANA, Communist Party candidate for the Transvaal and Orange Free State urban seat in the coming N.R.C. elections.

# ELECTION OF DE VRIES DECLARED NULL AND VOID

JOHANNESBURG.—The South African Trades and Labour Council national executive has declared null and void the recent election of Mr. J. de Vries to the post of Council secretary.

This decision was reached after legal opinion had been obtained on the conduct of the ballot for the post. New elections for a secretary are to be held. The next meeting of the national executive, to be held on January 20, will decide whether these elections will be held before, or during the next annual conference of the Trades and Labour Council.

The next executive meeting will discuss also the constitutional difficulties which resulted in this election being declared null and void.

The election of Mr. de Vries in the recent trade union ballot was contested by the Garment Workers' Union, which announced that it would go to court to have the election set aside on the grounds that it was unconstitutionally conducted.

Mr. E. S. Sachs, general secretary of the Garment Workers' Union,

told the Guardian that his union was still proceeding with the court action.

Mr. Sachs said the present resolution to declare the election null and void rescinded a previous resolution of the Council which declared Mr. de Vries elected. There was no guarantee that the Council might not, at some future date, rescind even the present decision. A court action would give a decisive and final ruling on the matter.

Mr. Sachs said further that the action would help to "expose a handful of irresponsible trade union leaders, who in spite of counsel's opinion on the ballot, still insisted on the appointment of Mr. de Vries."

Mr. Sachs added: "We want once for all, to stop the buying of votes on the Trades and Labour Council."



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## FASCIST LITERATURE POURING INTO SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG.—Anti-Semitic and Fascist propagandists, operating on an international scale, have been busy since the end of the war flooding the countries of the world with large quantities of racialistic tracts and hysterical exhortations against the Jews.

Among the countries which have been receiving this propaganda is South Africa, reports Ruth First, Guardian's Johannesburg correspondent.

One of these days you, too, may receive a letter from Sweden, sent by surface mail, with the post mark: "Goteborg." It will contain three tiny sheets with slogans such as: "Behind Communism stands—the Jew!" "Bolshevism is Judaism." "Anti-Semitism is not persecution of or hatred for the Jews. It is Self-Defence of the in-



People's Bookshop,  
Africa House,  
Aork Street,  
Johannesburg, Transvaal,  
Sye-Afrika, South Africa.

Among those singled out to receive Fascist and anti-Semitic literature from Sweden is the progressive People's Bookshop in Johannesburg. The purveyor of this Fascist filth chooses his victims indiscriminately from some South African address book.



circumstances of the people. "The Jews are the Children of the Devil," and after all this and much more. "Can you trust the Jew?" To these documents the editor signs his name. He is Einar Aberg, of Norrviken, Sweden.

One day even may also, as the Guardian office did last week, receive a registered letter from R. K. Rudman of Pietermaritzburg. This envelope will contain material about the so-called Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Rudman and Aberg may be members of some "inner circle" of international anti-Semites. On the other hand, they may never have heard of one another. But they are spreading almost identical propaganda.

#### NAZI TECHNIQUES

There are established techniques of anti-Semitic propaganda. These

behind Communism stands the Jew!

For my country against the Jews

This leaflet was enclosed in the envelope reproduced at the top of this page.

are based largely on so-called "research" by the Nazis, who established special institutions to collect forgeries and distortions of documents and statements attributed to the Jews; and to perfect anti-Semitic propaganda techniques.

Many of these statements attributed to the Jews have been refuted again and again. But they still find a ready market with the Radmans and Abergs, Mosleys and Weichards, and their followers.

Aberg's line is very familiar. "Communism is Judaism," he says. His leaflets contain as much abuse of the Soviet Union as of the Jews. In Sweden Aberg is the leader of the Swedish Anti-Jewish League. The Guardian learns that since 1941 he has been sentenced on numerous occasions for disorderly behaviour. One of his pamphlets was quite recently confiscated by the Swedish police.

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

During one of his trials under the Freedom of the Press law he told the court he had financial support from Sweden, but he denied getting money from abroad.

He is known to have been in contact with some well known anti-Semitic agitators in Canada. His material has been shipped to Australia, France, Great Britain, South America and the United States of America.

It has been arriving in South African mails since the end of the war, and appears to be extensively distributed all over the country. Aberg appears to be using some South African address book from which he picks names and addresses quite indiscriminately.

The material sent by Aberg into this country is easily identifiable. Most pernicious material would be difficult to find. It does nothing to ease already strained race relations in this country, and only gives added ammunition to fascist hate-groups peddling their own racist propaganda up and down the country, and working hard to block the spread of democratic beliefs and practices.

If the authorities wished to, they could soon put an end to the import of this material. Steps should be taken immediately to do so.

## WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

# Non-European Fight For Franchise Is Key to Future

—Dr. DADOO

JOHANNESBURG.—A national convention to campaign for a programme of democracy for all, convened possibly by the Non-European national organisations is envisaged by Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, President of the Transvaal Indian Congress, as a valuable pre-general election campaign to focus attention on the demands of the Non-European people.

Dr. Dadoo said present conditions in South Africa have placed a great responsibility on the Non-European people, who are voiceless in the elections. The only sound bulwark against fascist tendencies and reaction is the extension of the full franchise to all South Africans.

"The future lies with the struggle of the Non-European people for the franchise. The peculiar point to note about the general election and campaigns around it in this country, is that because of the restricted form of democracy, the elections are not fought on fundamental issues affecting the people, such as food, the high cost of living, and health and social service plans.

"Instead they are fought on the one question on which all political parties, with the exception of the Communist Party, wish with one another to outdo the next: how far each party can go to segregate the Non-Europeans and maintain the cheap labour policy."

#### PROGRESSIVE FORCES

Dr. Dadoo said there were undoubtedly progressive forces among the Europeans. "The trouble is that

it has not yet dawned sufficiently on large sections of the workers that their economic interests are closely bound up with the conditions and status of non-white workers."

Any agreement among progressive bodies for the general election, said Dr. Dadoo, would be welcome if the pre-requisite for the agreement was the removal of colour bars and segregation, and the extension of the full franchise to all. These points of policy should be the basis of an election programme to fight reaction, as they alone were the basis for a radical swing towards true democracy.

Other points for a common programme mentioned by Dr. Dadoo were the achievement of the Workers' Charter; agricultural reforms to improve the productivity of the land and give the peasants land; and State health, education and social services.

# Wide Support for Communists in N.R.C. Elections

JOHANNESBURG.—Both Communist candidates in the Native Representative Council elections have been nominated. Edwin Mofutsanyana has been nominated by supporters throughout the two provinces of the Transvaal and the Free State for both the urban and a rural seat. Alpheus Maliba has been nominated for a rural seat.

This is reported by the Electoral Officer and Chief Native Commissioner in the Pieterburg district. Mofutsanyana is swinging many parts of the country behind him, and there is great enthusiasm for his candidature. This was evident even in the swift campaign for nomination although both Communist candidates entered the field very late.

Surprise nominations thus far have been those of Dr. A. B. Xuma, president-general of the African National Congress, and Mr. R. G. Baloyi, the Congress Treasurer. Dr. Xuma has been nominated for both the urban and a rural seat, and Mr. Baloyi for a rural seat.

Mr. L. K. Nhlabati, Bloemfontein Congress organizer, has been nominated for a rural seat.

All three sitting councillors, Messrs. Thema and Mosaaka and Dr. Moroka have been nominated; and for Dr. Moroka there is overwhelming support throughout the provinces.

Mr. J. S. Mpanza has been nominated by his own Board, Orlando, and one other voting unit.

Altogether 20 individuals have been nominated for the urban seat, and there are 82 nominations for the two rural seats. But a large number of these nominations may later be disqualified because the candidates have not enough nomination votes, do not fulfil some of the other qualifications required of them, or decide to reject nomination.

Candidates have until February 6 to announce whether or not they will accept nomination, pay their election deposit, and submit an affidavit outlining their qualifications for the Council seat.

# DR. XUMA IGNORES A.N.C. DECISION ON ELECTIONS

JOHANNESBURG.—"Dr. Xuma's New Year message on the elections for the Native Representative Council is in direct conflict with the resolution passed by the Bloemfontein Conference of the African National Congress," said Mr. J. B. Marks, a member of the Congress National Executive, in an interview with The Guardian.

In his New Year message printed in the "Bantu World," Dr. Xuma appealed for the return en bloc of all the present members of the Native Representative Council. He asked chiefs, headmen and members of electoral colleges to ensure this.

But the Bloemfontein Congress resolution provided also for Congress members to contest seats on a boycott ticket.

The executive of Congress was not consulted about this new line of policy in the president's New Year message, the Guardian was told.

#### CHARACTERISTIC

Mr. Marks said it was becoming characteristic of Dr. Xuma to make individual statements without consulting the people who work with him. If this policy is to be perpetuated, it will lead nowhere except to the eventual smash-up of the Congress.

"It is strange Dr. Xuma stopped making individual statements on such fundamental issues on behalf of such a responsible body

as the African National Congress executive."

Mr. Marks said the Congress decisions on the boycott had been respected by the people. "But they have been violated by the leaders, who have thrown the whole election into confusion. This last statement has greatly aggravated the position. People just do not know where they are."

#### ROYAL VISIT

Mr. Marks added that this was certainly not the first time an important Congress decision had been flagrantly violated by responsible leaders of the Congress.

"Congress decided to boycott the Royal visit. The first to violate this decision were certain leaders, prominent among them the President-General himself, who hurried to greet the King at Esbrow. On his heels followed Mr. Thema, who welcomed the Royal family over the microphone at the Pieterburg reception. "This sort of action is bringing the Congress into disrepute among the people. It must stop."

# Dispute In Rand Clothing Industry

JOHANNESBURG.—A deputation of the Southern Transvaal local committee of the Trades and Labour Council is to meet the Transvaal Clothing Manufacturers' Association to discuss a dispute that has arisen in a large clothing factory.

African workers in the clothing industry were recently covered by the industrial council in a private agreement with the employers and the trade union. The agreement provided that the reduced hours of work of 4 1/2 a week and the annual leave of three weeks on full pay would be granted to all African workers.

In December 1947, one employer discharged all his workers, about 80 in number, because they would not work a 4 1/2-hour week.

The S.A. Clothing Workers' Union, which was to go to arbitration 18 months ago, was informed this would not be necessary as the employers had agreed to extend the agreement to cover their members.

#### T.I.C. PERTURBED

Although this matter is now going to arbitration, the local committee, in a press statement, says it is much perturbed at such practices in the industry, and emphatically condemns the employers' disregard of the agreement. It is also perturbed for the terms of the agreement. The clothing industry is one of the very few in which the industrial agreement is not extended to the African workers.

The local committee delegation to the Manufacturers' Association will consist of Messrs. J. J. Venter, J. Calder (president of the Trades Council), W. Kalk and Miss B. du Toit.

# TRADES SCHOOL FOR AFRICANS

JOHANNESBURG.—At Vlaakfontein, just outside Pretoria, a teachers' training college and industrial school to house over 800 Africans is to be built.

Work has already begun on the industrial school. The trades to be taught include building, bootmaking, tailoring, pottery, gardening, cooking and catering, weaving, watchmaking and motor-repairing.

The land — 45 morgen near the Vlaakfontein school — was sold to the Transvaal Education Department by the Pretoria City Council.

# T.U. Opposition To Slave Labour Bill

JOHANNESBURG.—The South African Trades and Labour Council has been asked by its Southern Transvaal local committee to send a deputation to Parliament to urge the withdrawal of the proposed Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill and the recognition of African workers under the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act. The deputation should demand further that the Workers' Charter be placed on the statute book, suggests the resolution of the local committee.



## TWO ARRESTS—BUT NOT A SINGLE CRIME!

JOHANNESBURG.—On a Wednesday afternoon a young African schoolboy, a boarder at the Pietersburg Diocesan Training College, was arrested as he was walking in a Newclare street.

As he was put in the police van, he asked why he was being arrested. "Section 29," he was told, although he produced his school pass for the policeman.

When he arrived at the Newlands police station he again produced his school pass. "This pass is torn, it is no good," he was told. He was put in the cells overnight, and next morning appeared before a magistrate.

He was asked no questions at all, but remained till the thirteenth of January, which meant he would have to remain in the cells for five days.

### INTERVENTION

Father Huddleston of the Sophiatown Anglican Mission heard about the case and went along to the Newlands police station to find out what had happened. The schoolboy was brought up from the cells and recounted what had happened.

"When I got back from court," he said, "the police took away all my belongings, among them my pass, and gave me a receipt. But the pass they tore up and threw in the wastepaper basket, and nothing was written on the receipt about a pass."

The sergeant in charge asked the boy: "Where is your pass? Is it in the wastepaper basket?"

The boy went down on his hands and knees, searched through the basket, and found his pass. It was in perfect order.

### DEMANDED RELEASE

Father Huddleston said he intended to take this matter further, and asked to see the station commander. The latter was out. He demanded the release of the boy, but the sergeant said he had no authority to effect such a release.

Father Huddleston then put the pass in his pocket. The sergeant demanded he hand it over, and when he refused, as it was the only evidence he had, said: "I now put you under arrest."

Father Huddleston remained "under arrest" for several minutes, and then the deputy station commander was sent for. The schoolboy made a full statement, and a full investigation was promised.

Father Huddleston said he would raise this affair as a charge against the police for wrongful arrest and illegal detention.

The whole case is still pending.

He asked Harnel to report him to the charge office. And then, pulling open the car door, hit him on the jaw with the words: "Take this you Jew."

A large crowd of angry Africans witnessed this incident.

## TOOK FISHING KNIFE TO STEPS MEETING

JOHANNESBURG. — A large group of fascist youths shouted, sang "Sarie Marais," and booed continually at the meeting of the Communist Party on the City Hall Steps on January 11.

After the meeting the same group followed members of the Communist Party through town as they dispersed to catch trams and buses home. Detectives followed one of the youths for a while, then stopped him and searched him, and arrested him for carrying a large knife.

Appearing in the Magistrate's Court, two days later this youth told the court the knife found in his possession was a "fishing knife." He was acquitted.

## PIMVILLE RULED BY TERROR GANGS

JOHANNESBURG. — Among the people of Pimville there is great concern at the growing influence of small criminal gangs and the apparent reluctance or inability of the police to cope with them.

The police are never so alert or willing to operate in the township as during a beer raid. But it has happened on more than one occasion, during a stabbing assault or robbery, that when someone has telephoned for assistance to the police station — a good few miles away at Kilbourn — the reply has been given: "Laat hulle eers maar kila."

And the police, when they do arrive, come when it is already too late for effective action.

The story of Nathaniel Serouale illustrates this. He was assaulted on December 23, 1947, in his house in Pimville. Members of a gang were chasing a neighbour who sought refuge in Nathaniel's house. The gang broke the furniture, and stabbed Nathaniel just above the

heart. Of the gang of six, two were inside the house during the incident, and four remained outside.

The stabbing was reported to the police.

### THREATENED WITH DEATH

Shortly afterwards a member of the gang threatened Nathaniel in his house that if he did not withdraw the charge, and if the gang member was sentenced as a result of the prosecution he would be killed. This, too, was reported to the police.

Three weeks after the assault on Nathaniel, the police had still not been to see the damage inflicted on his furniture, and none of the gang members were under arrest.

Brutal police treatment of arrested Africans, and on the other hand, their seeming reluctance to prosecute the law effectively when it can protect the public against gang terrorism, is doing little to give the people confidence in the law.

## Communist Assaulted By Location Superintendent

JOHANNESBURG. — Michael Harnel, member of the Johannesburg District Committee of the Communist Party, was assaulted by the Winburg Location superintendent, a Mr. Badenhorst, when he attempted to hold a meeting in the location last Sunday in support of Edwin Mofutsanyana, the Communist N.R.C. candidate.

The superintendent hit Mr. Harnel on the jaw and twisted his arm in an attempt to prevent him from driving his car.

The superintendent openly expressed his determination to disallow any meeting of the Communist candidate. He ordered Harnel to "get out of my location at once. I am not allowing any meetings in this location, not even a concert," he said.

### Sculpture

#### ANYA MILLMAN

In a private exhibition at her home Anya Millman shows her work in a number of media.

Extremely impressive among her clay models are the studies of Zachariah, an African, a head with very fine expression and a great depth of feeling in the late Dr. J. B. Robertson; an, good and interesting head of an African woman.

A few pastel still-lives, though pleasing in their composition, bear witness to hard labour and studied effort.

Wood carving, the latest medium chosen, is also beyond doubt the most successful and impressive. The head of an African on view is both more spontaneous and imaginative, and shows more marked originality than any of the other exhibits.

Anya Millman has noted modelling ability, as shown in the good body form of her nudes; the effective likeness she achieves. This outstanding success in wood suggests she would be well advised to use clay as a medium for study, but to begin to turn more to wood and stone in which media she should achieve considerable success. Her mark as an expert crafts-woman has already been made in more than one of her clay heads.

R.F.N.

## NATAL INDIANS CROSS BORDER INTO TVL.

### No Action By Police

JOHANNESBURG. — On Sunday fifteen Natal passive resisters opened a new phase in the resistance campaign when they crossed the Natal-Transvaal border in defiance of the 1913 Immigration Act. On Monday they reported to the Johannesburg office of the Immigration Department that they had entered without permits.

Mr. Combrink, of the Immigration Department, took down their names and Durban addresses, and informed them that his department was awaiting further instructions from the higher authorities in Cape Town. No arrests have yet been made.

Despite the rain, Indians at all the towns en route gathered to cheer the resisters who, accompanied by leaders of the Natal Indian Congress, left Durban last Saturday for Volksrust, the border town.

At Maritzburg, five Indians volunteered to cross the border. Several hundred Indians waited in the Athlone Cinema, Ladysmith, from 8 p.m. till 11 p.m. for the resisters and stayed for the meeting which lasted till 12.30 a.m. Arriving at Newcastle at 4 a.m., the resisters and their escort were received by Indian residents in whose homes they rested until daylight.

Leaving Newcastle from the historic spot where Gandhi in 1913 led his passive resisters into the Transvaal as a protest against the poll tax, the resisters reached Volksrust just after 11 o'clock.

### CROSSED THE BORDER

Led by trade unionist R. A. Pillay and businessman R. Mahabeer, the 15 chosen resisters crossed the border from their own province into the Transvaal.

The border ceremony was simple but impressive. Dr. Dadoo, who led the welcoming party from the Transvaal, shaking hands with Dr. Naicker, said: "I greet you. We are defying the provincial barriers in the faith that a just cause never fails to triumph."

The ceremony was watched by a group of bystanders, many of them Volksrust inhabitants. But though some were openly hostile, there was no organised opposition. One comment overheard was: "They should not be allowed to go through. Someone should shoot the lot of them."

One man, working himself up into a fury, beating his chest, repeated as the resisters passed him: "Dis my land! Dis my land!"

Police too, witnessed the crossings. There were no arrests.

### TREMENDOUS MEETING

At a tremendous meeting in the Patidar Hall, Johannesburg, where the resisters were welcomed, Dr. Dadoo explained:

"We decided on the attack on this Act to show the hollowness of Mr. Lawrence's contention that Indians are Union nationalists. An Indian born in Natal, a Union national according to Mr. Lawrence, on entering the Transvaal is put in the identical position, of a national of a foreign country entering the Union."

He is a prohibited immigrant, and administratively receives from

the authorities even worse treatment than a foreigner with a white skin entering the country from abroad."

TRANSVAAL RESISTANCE CAMP  
After the meeting thousands followed the resisters to Fordsburg's Red Square, where the first tent of the Transvaal Resistance Camp was pitched.

"This tent is the symbol in the Transvaal of our struggle for full democratic rights," said Dr. Dadoo. "It is now up to the Government to arrest the resisters in terms of the 1913 Act. If they are afraid to do so, then our stand will have been vindicated." On Saturday five more resisters will leave Natal to cross the border. Batches of resisters will enter the Transvaal each week. They will live and work in the Transvaal as citizens of the province, in the same way as they did in Natal.

Newspapers throughout Natal and the Transvaal have adopted the official policy of playing down the Indian movement. In Natal the papers gave no publicity to the crossing of the border.

January 29  
File 8



# Contentious Issues Before Trades and Labour Conference

JOHANNESBURG.—The status of African workers and their trade unions will again be debated at the annual conference of the South African Trades and Labour Council in Cape Town this year. Once again, it is likely to be one of the bones of contention between the conservative unions and the more progressive ones.

A large number of unions have sent forward resolutions demanding the extension of the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act to all workers; and the complete withdrawal of the proposed 1946 Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill.

From the South African Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association comes a resolution that the constitution of the S.A.T.L.C. be amended to restrict affiliation to trade unions registered under the 1937 Act; and to provide for the establishment of a separate co-ordinating body for trade unions thus not eligible for membership of the Council.

Of the 78 resolutions on the preliminary agenda, about one third are devoted to amendments to the constitution. The conference this year will be four days longer than usual, the extra days at the outset of the conference being set aside to deal with these constitutional issues.

## MINERS' UNION

But before the resolutions or any constitutional issues can be decided, the conference will have to discuss and give a decision on the size of the vote to be exercised by the Mine Workers' Union. This union's voting strength of 20,000 is being challenged by the Garment Workers' Union.

Their resolution asks that the voting strength of the Mine Workers' Union be reduced to the membership in financial standing, as indicated in the lists issued by the Commission of Inquiry into the unions.

The Garment Workers' Union draws attention to a statement in the press by the Commission, to the effect that the membership of the union in financial standing is only about 24 per cent. of the names appearing on the union membership lists.

This statement, it is claimed, has never been refuted by union officials.

## ELECTIONS

Among the main constitutional questions to be raised is the method of electing the National Executive and the Council secretary.

Both the Garment Workers' Union and the Tailoring Workers' Industrial Union submit proposals for choosing the executive to represent classified industrial groupings.

The Typographical Union suggests that unions be represented at conference by one delegate for every 500 members. "Any affiliated union whose maximum membership is less than 500 may be represented by one delegate at a conference, but he shall only be entitled to vote when a card vote is taken."

A number of resolutions make proposals to prevent the continued

rise in the cost of living. The National Union of Distributive Workers proposes the limiting of profits, control of directors' fees, the prohibition of high-pressure advertising and conditional selling, and the elimination of speculators in people's food, land and housing.

## PROTECTION OF INDUSTRY

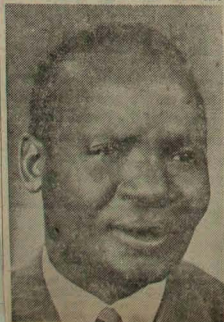
Resolutions by several unions urge the revision of the Geneva Tariff agreement. The Leather Workers' Union urges control on the import of footwear, or the provision of facilities for exporting footwear to countries in a difficult position owing to the present chaotic state of international currency.

Other resolutions suggest improvements in the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act, a national minimum wage for unskilled workers of not less than 23 a week.

The Garment Workers' Union asks for full support by the Incoming National Executive to the African Trade Union's Technical Advisory Committee, The Concessions and Allied Trades Assistants' Union suggests close co-operation between the Labour Party and the Trades and Labour Council.

# A People's Leader

Throughout the Northern Transvaal the name of Alpheus Maliba is known and well-loved. If the



people's interests have called for personal risk and sacrifice and a brave and clear-sighted leader, Maliba has always been ready.

In the autumn of 1941 Maliba led the great land struggle of the people in the Northern Transvaal, faced with starvation after the Native Trust had re-divided their land. Maliba was arrested and charged; but the people stood solidly behind him, the charges were withdrawn, and the people gained the right to plough their old lands and new rights of wood-cutting.

Only last year he was in the forefront of the campaign against the viciously autocratic action of the Native Affairs Department in depositing and then summarily deporting Chief Sibasa of the Zoutpansberg district.

As no other, Maliba understands the difficulties and suffering of the people in the countryside.

He is the candidate of the Communist Party for the Native Representative Council, and will contest one of the rural seats for the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

# THE IDEALISM OF UNITED PARTY YOUTH

JOHANNESBURG.—The World Federation of Democratic Youth, which recently sent to the Union Youth Front (The Junior United Party) a letter urging that South Africa "cut out the United Nations decisions on a trusteeship agreement of South-West Africa and on the treatment of Indians in the Union, in an indignant letter, Mr. J. W. van Eeden, the Cape Provincial organiser of the Union Youth Front, advises the W.F.D.Y. and even the United Nations to realise "that it is impossible for any country or group of countries to pass judgement upon any matter affecting the domestic affairs of another state" without an intimate knowledge of the state.

"Such information is not obtained from the noise of loud-mouthed agitators and trouble-makers who themselves have no knowledge of what they are condemning."

The letter concludes: "More racial animosity has arisen in South Africa since the interference of that middle-class initiation, U.N.O., than has ever been experienced in the past."

# WORKING WOMEN WANT SHORT SKIRTS

JOHANNESBURG.—In a resolution to the annual conference of the Trades and Labour Council, the Sweet Workers' Union condemns the reintroduction of the long skirt in women's fashions.

"Prices of garments will be forced up through the use of more material, and working women will be at a disadvantage," states the resolution.

# INDIAN "MODERATES" TRYING TO MAKE A DEAL WITH SMUTS

JOHANNESBURG.—It looks as though the misnamed "moderates" of the Natal and Transvaal Indian Organisations are trying to get Smuts to agree that they should act as mediators in discussions between South Africa, India and Pakistan—but on terms completely unacceptable to the latter two countries and the Indian people of South Africa.

This week nine members of the Natal Indian Organisation, six from the Transvaal Indian Organisation and three from the Cape Indian Congress have been appointed to meet General Smuts.

Publicity surrounding this meeting seems to suggest that it is preliminary to the holding of negotiations for a Round Table Conference between the Union and India and Pakistan, writes a special correspondent to the Guardian.

Suggestions arising from the meeting with Smuts will be put before a Durban conference, which, it is believed, will elect a deputation to fly to India to act as mediators in the dispute.

## WOULD CLAIM CREDIT

It would be useful for the fast-waning prestige of this isolated group of Indians if it could claim credit as the prime movers in settling the dispute.

But on what basis should there be Round Table discussions? The leadership of the Natal and Transvaal Indian Congresses has always urged such discussions.

For the first time the attitude of the Union Government was made public by the Prime Minister in reply to a question in the House during the first week of the present parliamentary session. He said the basis of Round Table discussions would be the 1927 and 1932 agreements.

But the basis of both these agreements was the reduction of the Indian population in South Africa, and schemes for their repatriation to India and other British possessions.

They were agreements concluded by the old Imperial government of India, to which the new India and Pakistan would never become party.

# U.S. Intervention in France Blatant A Frenchwoman's Impressions

JOHANNESBURG.—American intervention in France's internal policies is now quite open. De Gaulle is to-day supported by French reactionaries, who, during the German occupation, sentenced him to death in his absence. There is the closest collaboration between the American Government and De Gaulle's rally of the French people, which is most obviously revealed in their organised policy of anti-Communism.

These are some comments on the position in France to-day made to the Guardian by Miss Anna Kuritsky, who is on a short visit to South Africa from France. Miss Kuritsky is here in connection with an appeal for funds for a large Jewish organisation in France, one of whose activities is to care for the children of the Jewish partisans of the French resistance movement; the children of Jewish deportees who never returned from German concentration camps; the children of Jews who immigrated into France from Poland, Lithuania and other countries.

Commenting about the general situation in France, Miss Kuritsky said it was now quite obvious that one of the conditions of American aid to France was the removal of the Communists from the government.

## SENATOR'S HOPE

Just before the municipal elections in France, an American Senator Bridges had said publicly: "I hope the next French government will not be under the control of the Communists."

"We have received the assurance that depending on reasonable co-operation, they could prevent Communists taking control."

In the Marshall plan the majority of French workers have no confidence. They see it as a means of industry remembering the examples of Greece and Italy—and certainly not as a genuine offer of help to France. American capital is becoming more and more involved in France and her industries.

With the help of the American dollar, French reaction is completely mobilised. Large sections of the Socialist Party are siding with the De Gaulle forces. In the recent municipal elections many municipalities which had been held by Socialists for as long as 50 years, were handed over to De Gaulle by the Socialists' refusal to co-operate with the Communists.

The outcome of the March general election depends largely on the stand of the Socialists. The Communists will probably still emerge as France's largest party, but a solid front against American-backed De Gaulle reaction will only be effective if there is Socialist-Communist unity.

## CARE OF CHILDREN

Turning to her own work in France, Miss Kuritsky said the Union of Jews for Resistance and Mutual Help has under its care 1,800 children, many of them orphans, and has opened hostels and schools for them. Other children have been placed in foster homes, the Union being responsible for their clothing, and other care.

"We have to teach these children to regain confidence in themselves," said Miss Kuritsky. "One says this in one or two sentences, but it is a very difficult task."

A proportion of the budget to maintain these hostels and schools is received from a section of the Jewish War Appeal, a small amount from the French government; but the majority of the Union's funds must be derived from the Jewish community.



## MOOIJPLAATZ—STUDY IN AFRICAN HOUSING

JOHANNESBURG.—Sprawled over the stony koppies just seven miles outside Pretoria is Mooijplaatz, like a few other odd places nestling around Pretoria, it is an "unofficial" township.

It is recognized by the Licensing Board which has a number of shops among the hovels. It is recognized by the private bus companies which ply their services to and from Mooijplaatz at a six-penny fare each way.

Any African housewife, pausing for a moment from her washing, or cooking, or ironing, will tell you what it means to live in an "unofficial" township.

There are no roads, just tracks

over the hills. Water brought several miles by an ox on a donkey cart, costs 2s. 6d. a barrel, and a barrel of achievement for a Mooijplaatz housewife must be to make even this washing clothes, last a week.

There are no sanitary services. Coal costs 6d. a bucket. Black people are paid for a bucket, but most of the goods in the shops.

### ISCOR WORKERS

Who lives at Mooijplaatz? Workmen from the mines are not far away; labourers from the industrial areas just west of Pretoria; and miners who, during the war, were sent to Roberts Heights army camps.

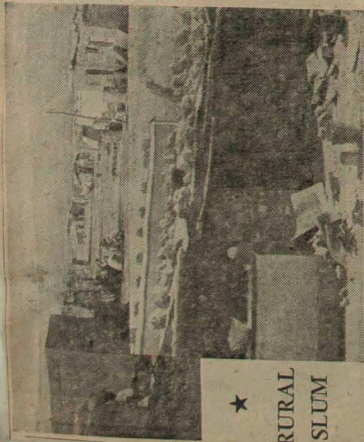
Comparative newcomers to the township, are the locations, struggling with an enormous housing shortage, closed to them. There is no room for them to return back to the countryside. When they have to pay taxes, raise a family, educate their children, buy warm clothes in winter, and pay for their education on the bills around them, they settle down to construct a shack patterned after both of the above. The location and the shack built hurriedly in one of the stone walled huts of the compound, side, find a job and travel in to work each day to the city.

### PRIVATE LAND

The people of Mooijplaatz really have no right to be there. They are on private land owned by a farmer. The area was originally that each family would supply the farmer with one worker for a set of months each year.

Some families still do this. Others pay him a cash amount (some pay 2/6 a year) to build a home on a tiny piece of land. With no land to cultivate, and no land for the milk to be sold, the farmer has no means to pay. Only the farmer can tell how long they will remain there.

Large numbers of these people have already been arrested on charges of trespassing. The police raid for these people now. Police raids for trespass have now ceased. True, they have no money, but where they could go, so they stay on.



RURAL  
SLUM

Our top picture shows just the housing shacks of suburbanites of the residents in Mooijplaatz who have spilled out into their own shantytown. Below is one of Mooijplaatz' stony hovels, its sheet iron roof kept down by hundreds of stones.

FEBRUARY 5

648



Dr. Dadoo and Naicker meet at the border of Natal and the Transvaal, near Volksrust, as the first group of Natal resisters to enter the Transvaal without permits prepares to cross the border.

## Indian Resisters Want An Answer From Smuts

JOHANNESBURG.—"The Passive Resistance Council wants to know from Genetl Smuts whether he intends taking action against those who willingly defy and contravene an unjust law of the country," said Dr. Y. M. Dadoo at a special prayer gathering in memory of Mahatma Gandhi, held on the Fordsburg Resistance Plot.

The second batch of Natal resisters crossed the border on Tuesday. Within the next few days a third batch is expected. Batches will be much more frequent now in view of the fact that the Government is making no arrests.

None of the 15 Natal resisters who crossed the border over a week ago have yet been arrested. According to an official of the Immigration Department, higher authorities are still consulting about what action the Government should take.

Dr. Dadoo said the Natal resisters, in this province without permits, Resistance Plot and the Resistance settlement just outside Johannesburg since they entered the province. They have been allowed to

go unhindered in their work in the Transvaal.

### PROVISION WILL BE MADE

Dr. Dadoo said: "If the Government does not arrest, we will make provision for those coming into the Transvaal to be gainfully occupied, so that they can contribute their share to the prosperity of the country."

"If the Government does intend to arrest this first batch it should do so. We have already handed in a list of the names and addresses of these resisters."

"But if no arrests take place, we are not called upon to submit any future lists."

"We will then assume that administratively at least the Government has abandoned the restrictive regulations of the 1913 Immigration Act."

A letter in these terms has been sent to the Prime Minister.



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There are no roads, just tracks over the hills.

Water, brought several miles by an old man on a donkey cart, is sold at a barrel. The height of achievement is to make this housewife must be to make this barrel of water, used even for washing clothes, last a week.

There are no sanitary services. Coal costs 6d a bucket. Black market prices must be paid for almost all the goods in the "shops."

### ISCOR WORKERS

Who lives at Mooiplaat? Workers from the Iscor quarries not far from Johannesburg, the industrial areas just west of Pretoria, Africans who, during the war, were housed at Roberts Heights army camps.

Comparative newcomers to the town find the locations, crowded with shacks, housing no turning back to the country. There are 500 low to pay axes, raised by the children, buy warm clothes in winter on the hills newcomers settle down to the shack patterned after South Africa's "trabbit hutch," location house on the hillside, the mud and stone, walled but open on the side; find a job and travel in to work each day to the city.

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Some families still do this. Others pay him a cash amount (some pay £6 a year), instead of returning pieces of land, with no land to cultivate, and no land for animals to graze. They wonder how long they will remain there.

Large numbers of these people have already been arrested on a charge of trespass. Police raids on the shacks have now ceased. True, they have no right to be where they are, but so they stay on.

FEBRUARY 5

K48



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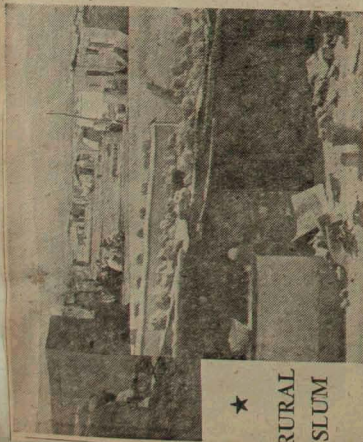
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SLUM

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# U.N.O. MISLED BY GOV'T. REPORT ON S.-W. AFRICA

**JOHANNESBURG.**—Before leaving Lake Success, the Reverend Michael Scott wrote to all United Nations delegations urging that South-West African chiefs and leaders be given an opportunity to present their case directly to the United Nations General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council.

The Rev. Scott who returned to South Africa last week from the United States, said the "incompleteness" of the report on South-West Africa submitted to the December meeting of the Trusteeship Council emphasized the need for the fullest information to be made available to the Council before its next meeting in June.

"South Africa must answer 50 most heart-searching questions," said Michael Scott.

"Every South African, black and white, must find the answers to these questions in his own conscience. An answer must go back to the Trusteeship Council not only from the Union Government, but from the African people themselves.

"I would like to see the next few months before June used for a most intensive campaign to get the real and truthful answers on South-West Africa to the Trusteeship Council.

**INADEQUATE REPORT**  
The December meeting of the Council found the Union Government report most inadequate, and this led to a strongly worded resolution requesting fuller information.

"The work of the United Nations Trusteeship Council was greatly handicapped by the fact that South-West Africa is not a trusteeship territory," commented Reverend Scott. "The Trusteeship Council is thus mandated by the Assembly to receive only the Government report. The Mexican and Iraq delegates pointed out that information was also available from other sources.

"During the proceedings of the Council an African arrived from West Africa to represent the Ewe tribe. He argued his case before the Council fluently in English and French. It is clear other parts of Africa are waking up and taking their share in world deliberations, putting their cases before world tribunals.

**GREATLY WORRIED**  
Talking to many delegates, Reverend Scott found they were all greatly worried by the evidence of colour discrimination in South Africa.

"It was pitiable to watch Mr. Lawrence, crimson in the face, trying to account for South Africa's discriminatory laws, such as the pass laws and Masters' and Servants' Act.

"Delegates were all aware that South Africa's Prime Minister, more than any other single man, had been responsible for the concept of trusteeship. And now South Africa was infringing it.

"Delegates to the United Nations feel the future of the United Nations and the world depends on the realism with which we face this challenge."

## U.N.O. WANTS TO KNOW

Before next June South Africa has to answer an exhaustive list of questions on her Non-European policy in South-West Africa. The list was compiled by the United Nations' Trusteeship Council, which examined the Union's report on South-West Africa and found it unsatisfactory.

Here are some of the questions. Would the Government of the Union of South Africa give details of the steps planned toward fuller participation by Non-Europeans in the government of the Territory?

In view of the fact that the Union has been administering the territory for a long period, to what causes does the Government attribute the continued distrust and lack of confidence in European rule still shown by the Africans?

To what extent have Africans shared in the increased prosperity of the territory over recent years? Does the Government consider the existing land laws are compatible with the interests of all the inhabitants of the territory?

Would the Government state whether the law provides for the recognition of Non-European trade unions? When Africans are imprisoned under the masters' and servants' laws, can the mines hire them as convict labour?

How many hospital beds are provided per 1,000 of the population for Europeans and Non-Europeans respectively?

Is it a fact that the lands of the Hereros were not returned to them after the first world war and that further land was taken from them after the mandate for the territory had been given to the Union?



The first group of Natal resisters to cross the Transvaal border raising their banner, "Resistance Camp," on the Transvaal Resistant settlement, established on Fordsburg's Red Square.

## S.A. Mourns Death Of Gandhi

Deeply moving scenes were witnessed in the streets of Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and in many other parts of the country when the death of Mahatma Gandhi was announced on Friday afternoon.

In Johannesburg Indian places of business were immediately shuttered up. Many embarked on a 24-hour fast in memory of the great Indian patriot.

At a prayer meeting on Friday many broke down as Dr. Dadoo made graphic references to his meeting with Gandhi during his and Dr. Naicker's recent visit to India.

Among the outstanding public figures who paid tribute to Gandhi at a memorial meeting were Senator H. M. Basner, Professor the Very Reverend Dr. L. Rabinowitz, the Reverend Michael Scott, the Reverend J. B. Webb, Mr. A. B. Xuma, Mr. G. L. Wolfson, Mr. P. S. Joshi, Mr. G. L. Carr, and Messrs. D. U. Mistry and T. N. Naidoo.

**STUNNING SHOCK**  
In a statement issued immediately after the announcement of the Mahatma's death Dr. Dadoo said the news of Gandhi's death under the most tragic circumstances had come as a great and stunning shock to the entire Indian community.

"Besides being the architect of India's freedom, Gandhi's name lived in the hearts of millions of oppressed and down-trodden people fighting for their freedom throughout the world."

"His death is a great national calamity for he has been taken

away when his presence was vitally necessary to restore communal peace and harmony in a troubled India."

At the Resistance Plot Prayer meeting, the Reverend Michael Scott said: "The spirit of Gandhi still lives on in his people. It is an invincible spirit. It is for us to continue the struggle which he began."

**DURBAN PRAYER MEETING**  
In Durban over 10,000 Indians congregated on the Red Square on Saturday to mourn Gandhi's death at a meeting called by the Natal Congress.

Shops throughout Natal were closed on Saturday. All sports fixtures for the week-end were cancelled and social activities ceased. In temples, mosques and homes prayers were held.

At the Red Square Dr. G. M. Naicker opened the meeting saying: "Bapujee is gone" and broke down with emotion. Men, women and children wept. "Those who loved Bapujee," Dr. Naicker said, "must pledge to end communal strife."

In Pietermaritzburg, the Director of Education, Mr. R. A. Banks, the chief magistrate Mr. Todd, and the Mayor, Councillor Hirst, joined with the Indians at a prayer meeting on Saturday to pay tribute to Gandhi.

## Workers' Rally in Krugersdorp

**KRUGERSDORP.**—At the biggest mass rally for years on the West Rand, Non-European workers, some of them from as far as Venterspost and Bank Station, decided unanimously to reaffirm the 1947 conference decision of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions rejecting in toto the slave labour Bill — the proposed Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill.

The meeting demanded the amendment of the 1937 Industrial Conciliation Act to include all workers.

This workers' rally was the fourth in a series organised to launch a national campaign against the draft Bill.

"The right to come together to discuss wages, treatment, and improved working conditions is the birth-right of all workers, irrespective of their race or colour," said Mr. S. E. Mogyee, secretary of the Council.

At the conclusion of the three-hour meeting the rally passed resolutions demanding the withdrawal of War Measure 1423 which prohibits the gathering of more than 20 persons on a proclaimed area, and demanding the withdrawal of the sedition charge against members of the Communist Party Central Committee.

## Youth Commission To Austria

**JOHANNESBURG.**  
A commission of the World Federation of Democratic Youth has just concluded an investigation into conditions of youth in Austria.

The Commission was composed of representatives of American, Australian, Yugoslav, Polish and Austrian youth.

The American delegate was refused permission by the American occupation authorities to travel outside Vienna. The British occupation authorities would not allow the commission to travel in the special Slovene area in Carinthia.

## BLOEMFONTEIN AFRICANS REJECT NEW T.U. BILL

**BLOEMFONTEIN.**—At a meeting held here last week under the auspices of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions it was unanimously decided to reject the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill as a move "designed to enslave further the African people."

The meeting, which was held in the Batho Location, was addressed by Mr. J. B. Marks and Mr. D. Tloome, president and vice-president respectively of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions.

The meeting condemned the actions of a handful of Africans in the Transvaal aimed at splitting the ranks of the African trade unionists and accepting the proposed Bill.

Another resolution calls for a minimum wage of 10s. a day.



## Should Trade Unions Mix With Politics?

JOHANNESBURG.—Should trade unions affiliate to the Labour Party—or any other political party, for that matter?

This has become a much-discussed question in trade union circles here following the decision of a number of large unions in secondary industries to throw their weight behind the Labour Party, and the election to the Labour Party national executive of many leading Witwatersrand trade unionists.

The Guardian approached a number of trade unionists for their views.

E. S. Sachs, general secretary of the Garment Workers' Union, and now a member of the Labour Party national executive, said: "There are over 750,000 European wage earners in South Africa. In addition, there are several thousand poor people on the land. For all these the United Party—the party of finance capitalists, mining magnates, big industrialists and backward agrarians—holds out no hope. "Nor does the Nationalist Party, the party of feudal, backward reaction and racialism, offer these people a positive solution to their problems.

"A progressive political home must be found for these hundreds of thousands of people, and the only party at present which offers such a political home is the Labour Party.

"There is a united front of reaction among the European people of South Africa, and the most urgent task is to split this front of reaction and lead the masses of poor people along more progressive lines."

### QUITE OBVIOUS

Mr. C. Rehm, whose union, the Motor Industry Employees' Union, has long been affiliated to the Labour Party, said it was quite obvious why trade unions should want to affiliate to the Labour Party. "It means that trade unions will begin to have a say in legislation passed in Parliament, and the workers will have a voice in the House. . . . The Labour Party is, after all, the political wing of the trade unions."

I. Welton, of the Tailoring Workers' Industrial Union, and a member of the national executive of the Trades and Labour Council, said he thought it wrong in principle for a trade union to affiliate to any political party.

"The mere fact that a union affiliates on thousands of members to the Labour Party does not necessarily mean that those thousands of members even understand the policy of the Labour Party.

### TRADE UNION BUREAUCRATS

"Basing myself on the experience of close affiliation between the Labour Party and the trade unions in other countries, particularly Great Britain, I believe that it leads to the setting of progressive policies. The control of the Labour Party is placed in the hands of right-wing trade union bureaucrats, who do all they possibly can to prevent a militant and progressive policy from developing inside the Labour Party.

"The German trade unions were affiliated to the German Socialist Party with similar bureaucratic control that resulted

in the German trade unions becoming spineless and not putting up a fight against fascism. "In South Africa there is, of course, the added reason that the Labour Party represents a colour-bar party and does not take in Non-European members. This means that any union with Non-European members must find it extremely difficult to explain away to its members a policy of affiliation to the Labour Party.

"The best way to make the trade unions politically active is on the one hand to get individual members to join progressive political parties and on the other to see that their trade unions pursue a policy that is progressive and democratic, and in the best interests of all members of that union, regardless of race or colour."

### CANNOT MIX

Mr. George McCormick, of the Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association, said he was himself a member of the Labour Party, but thought "trade unions and politics could not be mixed. "It does not seem right and proper," he said, "for any trade union to associate itself officially with a political party unless its whole membership by unanimous vote decides to do so.

"The make-up of the trade union movement in this country is such that members hold various views with regard to politics, and it is certain that if a trade union affiliated to a political party it would be imposing certain views on its members' views other than those for which a trade union stands.

"The duty of a trade union official is to meet the wishes of all his members, not only of some." Mr. McCormick said that for as long as he had any influence in his trade union he would not be in favour of affiliation to any party.

### PREFERABLE TO U.P.

Miss Betty du Toit, of the Food Canning and Laundry Workers' Union, said it was quite impossible for a union with a Non-European membership to affiliate to the Labour Party, but where unions have a one hundred per cent European membership she did think they might possibly affiliate.

"My point of view is that it is preferable that they support the Labour Party, rather than the United Party.

"I think there are interesting developments inside the Labour Party to-day. The election of the national executive with leading trade unionists on it ought to assist in changing the policy of the Labour Party, if these progressive trade unionists stick to their guns and try to make the Labour Party into a genuine Labour Party to counter-act the United Party and the Nationalists."

## Scurrilous Attacks On Communist Candidate

JOHANNESBURG.—For the last two weeks the "Bantu World" has carried scurrilous attacks on the Communist Party and its candidate for the N.R.C. elections, Edwin Mofutsanyana.

Interviewed by the "Guardian," Mr. Mofutsanyana said: "It is interesting to see, on the eve of the election, that the two people who co-operate in making bitter attacks on the Communist Party are Messrs. Thema and Mosaka.

"Mr. Thema is known as the 'Emperor of all the Good Boys.' Mr. Mosaka, the flourishing shop-keeper, views himself as a progressive. Both are now joined in an unholy anti-Communist alliance.

"This slander of the Communist Party is the same as that indulged in by the United Party, the Nationalist Party, and all oppressors of the African people."

### CONGRESS RESOLUTION

In view of the Thema-Bantu World opposition to the Congress resolution on the elections, Mr. Mofutsanyana said the whole country was also waiting to know what Dr. Xuma, one of the candidates nominated for a rural seat, was going to do.

"Will he stand by the policy of Congress?" asked Mofutsanyana. He added that the Bloemfontein resolution was being adhered to only in part by many leading Congressmen. "They adhere to the part that suits them: that the N.R.C. be returned en bloc as far

as possible. They conveniently forget the second half of the resolution which allows for Congress nominees to stand on a boycott ticket."

### CRUCIAL STRUGGLE

Mr. Mofutsanyana said the nomination results have once more proved that the crucial struggle will be between Mr. Mosaka and himself.

"Mr. Mosaka tries to make out that from the nomination figures it is certain the Communist candidate has already lost the election. That is not true. The fact

is that many of the people who voted knew only of Mr. Mosaka's candidature at that stage.

"But Mr. Mosaka's statement in the Bantu World of January 21, shows he is very nervous of the election. His attack on the Communist Party, and not on me, is not a new thing. He fails to understand the African people cannot be bluffed by the Communist bogey."

## NO PLACE TO GO

JOHANNESBURG.—At eight o'clock on Sunday morning a wall of a house in Fordsburg collapsed while the family living in the house was still asleep. A 10-year-old girl was crushed by the falling bricks, and her leg was broken.

Eight families live in the house and the groups of rooms at the back of it. Many of them have been living there for over nine years.

The house has been in a very bad state of disrepair for a long time. "I don't know how many times I showed the landlord that crack in the wall," said one tenant, "but he did nothing about it."

Most of their furniture was badly damaged by the collapse of the wall. Other parts of the house are likely to fall in any day. The tenants know this. The landlord knows it too and gave them 24 hours' notice, "in case of fresh collapse."

This notice has already expired, but not one of the eight families has found a place to move to. "No one seems to be able to help us," where can we go to move. But houses."

## Threat to Indian Flower Sellers

JOHANNESBURG.—The livelihood of more than 200 Indian flower sellers will be jeopardised if the City Council and provincial administration put into effect a new set of bye-laws and regulations restricting flower selling in the streets of Johannesburg.

The Transvaal Indian Congress asks that the flower sellers be permitted to remain on the stands from which they conduct their "businesses at present, and that the conditions remain the same. If new stands are allocated, the flower sellers will be banned from the centre areas of the city. People would then be driven to buy more expensive, says the memorandum.

Indians have been selling flowers in the streets of Johannesburg since the time of the Boer Republic.

"The flower stands do not in any way congest the streets or pavements of Johannesburg. They lend colour and beauty to our city," says the memorandum.



## MASS POLICE RAID ON PIMVILLE 150 Arrested After Three-hour Search

JOHANNESBURG.—More than 1,000 policemen and Detectives, drawn from Johannesburg and all along the Reef, in a mile and a half long convoy of lorries, motor-cars, vans and cycles invaded Pimville early on the morning of Friday, February 6.

The raid lasted over three hours. Police authorities said it was to root out and remove the "lawless" element in the township.

"Never have I seen so many policemen together," said one Pimville resident. "The whole thing was like an army invasion."

Another added: "I do not believe the police found any of the gangs we have been complaining about. But they interfered with the workers trying to catch their early morning trains to work." This frightening police-raiding technique has been used and perfected only since the beginning of the Johannesburg shanty movement, its effect appears to be, not to trace and trap known criminal gangs, but to conduct what resembles a punitive expedition against the entire location population.

### 150 ARRESTED

Neither the Press nor the police have thus far announced the arrest

of any of the gang members who have been terrorising the people of Pimville. The 150 people who were arrested appear to have been largely brewers of illicit beer and people whose passes were not in order. In addition, quantities of stolen goods are said to have been recovered.

A group of residents told The Guardian how the invasion was organised. On a square adjoining the township police were drawn up and formed into two cordons on the double. One cordon completely encircled the location lying to the east of the railway line that runs right through Pimville; the second cordon encircled the western side.

Mounted police patrolled the outskirts of the two cordons, which, with police spaced every ten yards, were in position within ten minutes of their arrival.

Another group of police, divided into groups, were detailed to search

(Continued on page 5)

## MASS RAID ON PIMVILLE

(Continued from page 1)

special area. "They rushed the houses to search them," explained one man. "The police were stretched from one end of Pimville to another, some in uniform, others in plain clothes."

### GATES CLOSED

The gates leading on to the railway station, at both ends and all along the line, were closed and guarded by police.

"No one could get on to the station without being stopped by a policeman. No sooner had we passed one policeman than another further on demanded our passes. I carried my pass all the time in my hand, held up like a banner for the police to see."

He added: "We were safe only

when we were allowed to get into the train."

"The behaviour of the police towards the people was very rude," said another informant. "We were woken up and shouted at. Many people left for work very late in the morning."

### SLAPPED HIS FACE

The Guardian was told that one African railway policeman was stopped. He was not wearing his uniform at the time. Asked to produce his pass, he handed over his exemption pass for inspection.

The policeman who was exempting him said the exemption amine said another Pimville resident was not his, and when he protested that it was, he had his face slapped. He later managed to convince the policeman the pass was really his own.

"I saw the people the police arrested," said another Pimville resident. "They were all sitting together. I saw none of the gang members among them. But there were many women and ordinary workers."

## XUMA NOT STANDING FOR N.R.C.

JOHANNESBURG.—"I have never been, and I am not a candidate for the Native Representative Council," said Dr. A. B. Xuma, president of the African National Congress, in a recent statement to the press.

Dr. Xuma said: "My Congress has asked the country to return the outgoing members on their boycott ticket as far as possible. What is wanted from the rest of us is an intensive campaign and organisation for direct representation in all legislative Chambers. . . ."

Dr. Xuma then set out also his eight-point programme of the Congress covering land, education, housing, trade union and other demands.

"Future generations, white and black, will not bless us if we do not risk all to remove causes of inter-racial friction and bitterness, and leave them a legacy of inter-racial peace, goodwill and co-operation."

"This is a challenge to both white and black."

## Petition to Recognise African Trade Unions

JOHANNESBURG. — The Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council has drawn up a petition to be presented to Parliament this session, demanding the recognition of African trade unions under the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1937.

The Local Committee has asked that the S.A.T.L.C. deputation to Parliament this week should demand the withdrawal of the proposed Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill.

This deputation will see the Prime Minister to discuss the non-publication of agreements in several industries.



An African building worker on joinery work at the saw bench.

## AFRICAN BUILDING WORKERS' DEMANDS GO TO ARBITRATION

JOHANNESBURG.—This week the case of the African building workers in the Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Klerksdorp, Vereeniging and Potchefstroom areas, who threatened to strike unless their demands for higher wages, better working conditions and training were heard, goes to arbitration.

Presented their case forcefully as among the lowest-paid industrial workers, whose skill used in many different kinds of building operations is to-day completely unrecognised, the Pretoria and Johannesburg Building and Allied Workers' Unions urge in their detailed memorandum a completely new classification of the African builders into skilled and unskilled labourers.

"The present wage levels of labourers in the building industry condemn the workers to a life of under-nourishment, squalor and ill-health. The workers do not receive a living wage," states the memorandum.

Wages in the building industry lag far behind those paid in other industries, such as printing, distributive, milling, leather, baking and tobacco. Work in the building industry is far more strenuous than in these industries. Labourers in the building industry have no provision for sick leave; they are liable to suspension of work and loss of pay due to bad weather; there are periods of unemployment between the end of one job and the beginning of the next; and they have to provide for much greater wear and tear on their clothing than in other industries.

The unions suggest for unskilled labourers a basic weekly wage of £1/13/6 in 1948; £1/16/6 in 1949; £1/19/6 in 1950 and £2/2/- in 1951. A cost of living allowance of 6d. an hour is suggested.

### SKILLED WORK

Most important change suggested is the classification of workers according to the work they do in the industry.

Only a small percentage of the African workers in the building industry to-day do completely unskilled work.

But the skill and experience of the stone-polisher, the man who operates the mortar or concrete-mixing machine, erects scaffolding, threads piping, assists the plumber or electrician is quite unrecognised.

Most of these operations require considerable skill. Operating stone-polishing machinery and erecting scaffolding, among other jobs, are classified in other industries as semi-skilled work.

The African Building Workers' Unions will introduce affidavits and lead evidence to prove the skill required by these workers, and propose a wage gap between skilled and unskilled labourers. The wage suggested for skilled labourers is £2/17/6 in 1948, £2/4/- in 1949, £2/13/6 in 1950, and £3/3/- in 1951.

### EFFECT ON BUILDING COSTS

Wages of labourers to-day form from 10 to 15 per cent of building costs.

But, while building costs have increased about 100 per cent in recent years, wage increases for labourers cannot account for more than five per cent.

On this the unions say: "To suggest that labourers should not receive a substantial increase in wages because costs will rise is callous impudence on the part of people who are exploiting the existing housing shortage for personal gain."



African builders at stone-polishing.



# New Hospital For Non-Europeans In Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG. — After many years it looks as though Johannesburg is at last to have a good hospital for its African population. Last month the old Non-European Hospital perched on Hospital Hill in the centre of the town began to move lock, stock and barrel, to Baragwanath, the former military hospital, on the way to Orlando along the Potchefstroom road.

One of the "sighs" generally in Johannesburg is along to visitors interested in the social conditions in Johannesburg was the incredibly over-crowded Non-European Hospital. Here sick babies in the children's ward lay

two in a cot; doctors examined patients lying on mattresses on the floor. The new Baragwanath hospital will be able, from the beginning, to accommodate between 1,200 and 1,500 patients in its 38 wards. Compare this with the old hospital built originally for 450, but later holding as many as 800 patients. There are 10 to 120 patients a ward in the old hospital, and there are less than 30 to a ward in the new.

Baragwanath, eight miles from the centre of Johannesburg, is perhaps its biggest drawback. "It is well situated to serve the people of Johannesburg, and of Moroka, Pinetown and Klipfontein."

The people of the Western Areas are now served by the Coronation Hospital. The old Non-European hospital was divided into an in-patient ward and out-patient department, and an emergency ward for cases being brought to the out-patient department. The centre of the city and the east are still too far removed from hospital services.



Women patients on the verandah alongside their ward at the Baragwanath Hospital.

## LARGE AIRY WARDS

Baragwanath, like all military hospitals, is built in the form of single stories, but the air in one another by a series of long, narrow corridors. This arrangement is a very progressive difficulty; but has the advantage of large, airy wards flanked by lawns and flowerbeds.

Bewildered and apprehensive they were at the first hint they were to leave the old hospital in some unknown new patients now seem far happier from the clutter surroundings, far from the city.

The nurses say they can already see the vast improvement in patients in the 113 rooms, many of whom can now lie on the broad verandahs alongside their wards, facing the lawns and gay flowers.

It will be about two months before the removal to the new hospital is complete, and many building alterations are still being made to Baragwanath.

Pride of the new hospital is the Training Centre for African Nurses, "Nurses' Home," built throughout the country," said the African nurses are coming forward in large numbers—50 last October. In the beginning of January, another 36 only a week ago.

Very little that is good and benevolent is being done for Baragwanath Hospital is one of the more worthwhile heritages.

# Dadoo Claims Victory For Resisters

JOHANNESBURG.—"The arrest of the 25 Natal resisters is our first victory in the second phase of the Resistance campaign," said Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, chairman of the Transvaal Indian Congress, at a meeting on Monday afternoon.

"By arresting the resisters, the Government is not arresting the movement. More resisters will come to take the place of these first batches. We will continue to defy the Ghetto and other oppressive Acts."

The resisters were arrested in a simultaneous police swoop on the Fordsbury Resistance Plot, and the Graameer Resistance Settlement, on Monday afternoon. There were stirring scenes in court and shouts of "Long live Resistance!" the following morning when the resisters were found guilty and sentenced by the magistrate to one month's imprisonment, suspended for one year on condition they did not again infringe the Immigration Regulations Act of 1913.

## TO BE DEPORTED

The Public Prosecutor announced in court that all Natal resisters would be deported back to Natal on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning.

The Court established that the resisters were "Asiatics all deemed by the Minister to be undesirable immigrants."

In a statement to Court, the leader of the batch, Mr. R. A. Pillay, asked how the Government could contend the Indians were Union nationals if they were not allowed freedom of movement.

"The people oppressed under

such laws as the Ghetto and Immigration Acts are no longer able to tolerate them," he said.

The first batch of resisters were sent to him by Dr. Dadoo on behalf of the Passive Resistance Council asking whether, since the Government had taken no action, it could be assumed that the restrictive provisions of the Act had been abandoned.

## NAICKER'S CHALLENGE

"The arrest of the resisters again proves the hollowness of the pronouncements by Smuts and Lawrence at U.N.O. that Indians are Union nationals," declared Dr. G. M. Naicker, president of the Natal Indian Congress, in a statement to The Guardian.

"If Smuts and Lawrence are sincere in their desire to attain better relations between India and South Africa I challenge them to prove to the world now whether Indians are Union nationals by allowing them freedom of movement in the land of their birth."

"I can assure them and their Government the urge to end oppression and discrimination is as powerful as it was when the struggle was launched."

# PROPOSAL TO BAN STEPS MEETINGS

JOHANNESBURG.—The proposal of Councillor J. J. O'Connor that the traffic by-laws be amended to prohibit the holding of meetings on the City Hall Steps have been referred to the Commissioner of Police for his views.

At its meeting on February 5, the Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council resolved to protest strongly to the City Council against the use of traffic by-laws as a pretext for banning workers' meetings.

# Anna Scheepers' Election Manifesto

JOHANNESBURG.—Miss Anna Scheepers (Mrs. J. J. Van der Merwe) is the only candidate so far in the Turfontein by-election for the Transvaal Provincial Council to be held on March 17. Miss Scheepers is the candidate of the South African Labour Party.

In her manifesto she says: "I am not a politician in the ordinary meaning of the term, and I do not propose to do you with clever phrases, with stunts or with bores."

"I realise that our country can never be a happy one by means of racial hatreds and division."

"My interests are concerned solely with a decent livelihood for all people, social security, adequate medical and health services, the fullest educational facilities for all children, and decent salaries for teachers."

"My politics, in plain English, are bread and butter politics, and my party, the South African Labour Party, says: 'We have had enough of racial politics—let us concentrate on bread and butter politics.'"

# Immigration Office in Deplorable State

JOHANNESBURG.—The Transvaal Indian Congress has written to the chief commissioner of the Department of Immigration and Asiatic Affairs, bringing to his notice the "deplorable state of affairs" in the Pretoria office of the department.

"There is only one person attending to the Indians, and it has been pointed out that he is not only discourteous, but even indulges in remarks of an abusive nature. Many of the Indians come from far away places, and their visit to your office is an agony and humiliation."

"Unnecessary difficulties are placed before Indians wishing to obtain visiting permits."

The chief commissioner is urged to go into this matter and adjust the irregularities.

# COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS ON PETROL RATIONING

JOHANNESBURG.—The Commercial Travellers Union has written to the Minister of Economic Development about the rumours that have been circulating that petrol rationing may have to be re-introduced.

If the situation is serious, says the union, it has no faith at all in the effectiveness of the type of voluntary saving campaign that has been proposed.

continue to waste fuel irrespective of any appeal. The union adds that the proposal to introduce rationing through the trade by quota allocations to the dealers of petrol is particularly disturbing. "Advantages may be taken of this position, to create a black market in petrol."

The Commercial Travellers' Union asks for a clear and comprehensive statement of the petrol position. A series of meetings will be held by union branches to discuss the matter and submit suitable proposals to solve the difficulty.



# New Hospital For Non-Europeans In Johannesburg

**JOHANNESBURG.**—After many years it looks as though Johannesburg is at last to have a good hospital for its African population. Last month the old Non-European Hospital perched on Hospital Hill in the centre of the town began to move lock, stock and barrel, to Baragwanath, the former military hospital, on the way to Orlando along the Potchefstroom road.

One of the "sightseers" generally seen in Johannesburg along with visitors interested in the social conditions in Johannesburg was the incredibly over-crowded Non-European Hospital. Here sick babies in the children's ward lay

two in a cot; doctors examined patients lying on mattresses on the floor.

The new Baragwanath hospital accommodates in its 33 wards over 1,500 patients in the old hospital built originally for 450, but later holding as many as 800 patients. There were eighty to 120 patients a ward in the old hospital. There will be less than 20 to a ward in the new.

Baragwanath is eight miles from the centre of Johannesburg. This is perhaps the best site for a hospital. However, it is well situated to serve the people of Orlando, Jabavu and Moroka, Fimvuis and Klipfontein.

The people of the Western Areas are also served by the new Baragwanath Hospital. The old Non-European Hospital will maintain a casualty department of immigration, but even indulges in remarks of an abusive nature. Many of the Indians come from far away places, and their visit to your office is an agony and humiliation.

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If the situation is serious, says the union, it has no faith at all in the effectiveness of the type of voluntary saving campaign that has been proposed.

"If the discretion is left to the conscience of the individual motorist, it is obvious that this will penalise the small minority of public-spirited citizens, while the overwhelming majority will

continue to waste fuel irrespective of any appeals."

The union adds that the proposal to introduce rationing through the trade by quota allocations to the sellers of petrol is particularly disturbing. "Advantage may be taken of this position to create a black market in petrol."

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Women patients on the verandah alongside their ward at the Baragwanath Hospital.

### LARGE, AIRY WARDS

Baragwanath, like all military hospitals, is built in the form of one long wing with a row of open corridors. This arrangement makes for administrative efficiency, and the advantage of large, airy wards is enhanced by lawns and flowerbeds.

Bewildered and apprehensive though they were at the first sight of the new hospital, the patients now seem at ease in their new surroundings, far from the clutter of the city.

The nurses say they can already see the vast improvement in the condition of the patients. Many of them can now lie on the broad verandah alongside their wards, facing the lawns and gay flowers.

It will be about two months before the removal to the new hospital is finally complete; and many interesting alterations are still being made in the building.

Pride of the new hospital is the Training Centre for African Nurses. Nothing to equal it throughout the country, it will be the first African nurses to be trained in large numbers, 50 last October. It at the beginning of January, another 36 only a week ago.

Very little that is good and beneficial comes out of war, Baragwanath Hospital is one of the more worthwhile examples.

## Dadoo Claims Victory For Resisters

**JOHANNESBURG.**—"The arrest of the 25 Natal resisters is our first victory in the second phase of the Resistance campaign," said Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, chairman of the Transvaal Indian Congress, at a meeting on Monday afternoon.

"By arresting the resisters, the Government is not arresting the movement. More resisters will come to take the place of these first batches. We will continue to defy the Ghetto and other oppressive Acts."

The resisters were arrested in a simultaneous police swoop on the Fordsburg Resistance Plot and the Grasmere Resistance Settlement, on Monday afternoon. There were stirring scenes in court and shouts of "Long live Resistance!" the following morning, when the resisters were found guilty and sentenced by the magistrate to one month's imprisonment, suspended for one year on condition they did not again infringe the Immigration Regulations Act of 1913.

### TO BE DEPORTED

The Public Prosecutor announced in court that all Natal resisters would be deported back to Natal on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning.

The Court established that the resisters were "Asiatics all deemed by the Minister to be undesirable immigrants."

In a statement to Court, the leader of the batch, Mr. R. A. Pillay, asked how the Government could contend the Indians were Union nationals if they were not allowed freedom of movement.

"The people oppressed under

such laws as the Ghetto and Immigration Acts are no longer able to tolerate them," he said.

The first batch of resisters were fifteen days in the Transvaal before the Government decided to take any action. The Prime Minister did not bother to acknowledge two letters sent to him by Dr. Dadoo on behalf of the Passive Resistance Council asking whether, since the Government had taken no action, it could be assumed that the restrictive provisions of the Act had been abandoned.

### NAICKER'S CHALLENGE

"The arrest of the resisters again proves the hollowness of the pronouncements by Smuts and Lawrence at D.K.O. that Indians are Union nationals," declared Dr. G. M. Naicker, president of the Natal Indian Congress, in a statement to The Guardian.

"If Smuts and Lawrence are sincere in their desire to attain better relations between India and South Africa I challenge them to prove so the world now whether Indians are Union nationals by allowing them freedom of movement in the land of their birth."

"I can assure them and their Government the urge to end oppression and discrimination is as powerful as it was when the struggle was launched."

## PROPOSAL TO BAN STEPS MEETINGS

**JOHANNESBURG.**—The proposal of Councillor J. J. O'Connor that the traffic by-laws be amended to prohibit the holding of meetings on the City Hall Steps has been referred to the Commissioner of Police for his views.

At its meeting on February 5, the Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council resolved to protest strongly to the City Council against the use of traffic by-laws as a pretext for banning workers' meetings.

## Anna Scheepers' Election Manifesto

**JOHANNESBURG.**—Miss Anna Scheepers (Mrs. J. J. Venter) is the only candidate so far in the Turfontein by-election for the Transvaal Provincial Council to be held on March 17. Miss Scheepers is the candidate of the South African Labour Party.

In her manifesto she says: "I am not a politician in the ordinary meaning of the term, and I do not propose to come to you with clever phrases, with stunts or with boogies. I realise that our country can never be a happy one by means of racial hatreds and division."

"My interests are concerned solely with a decent livelihood for all people, social security, adequate medical and health services, the fullest educational facilities for all children, and decent salaries for teachers."

"My politics, in plain English, are bread and butter politics, and my party, the South African Labour Party, says: 'We have had enough of racial politics—let us concentrate on bread and butter politics.'"



## 63-HOUR WEEK FOR LIQUOR WORKERS

JOHANNESBURG.—The latest Wage Board determination for the liquor and catering trade on the Witwatersrand and in Vereeniging provides for a seven-day working week of 63 hours, and a six-day working week of 58 hours.

Mr. Lawler, secretary of the Liquor and Catering Trade Employees' Union told The Guardian it was absolutely fantastic that a modern wage board in this century should approve such intolerably long hours for any workers.

"During the war," he said, "there was an outcry because allied prisoners of war were being made to work 10 hours a day. You don't need to look beyond South Africa to-day to find workers working even longer hours."

Mr. Lawler said for men in this trade there was no family life at all. An employer could demand that a worker be on duty more than 13 hours in any one day. After six hours the employee must be allowed a half-hour break; but his total spread of working hours amounts to fourteen.

### TEA ROOM INDUSTRY

"When employers say their trading hours necessitate such long working periods, we point to the tea-room industry which is governed by an agreement stipulating a 46-hour week," said Mr. Lawler.

In the Cape employees in the same trade work 58 hours in a seven-day week, and 52 in a six-day week.

## VENTERSPOST AFRICANS FIGHT PERMIT SYSTEM

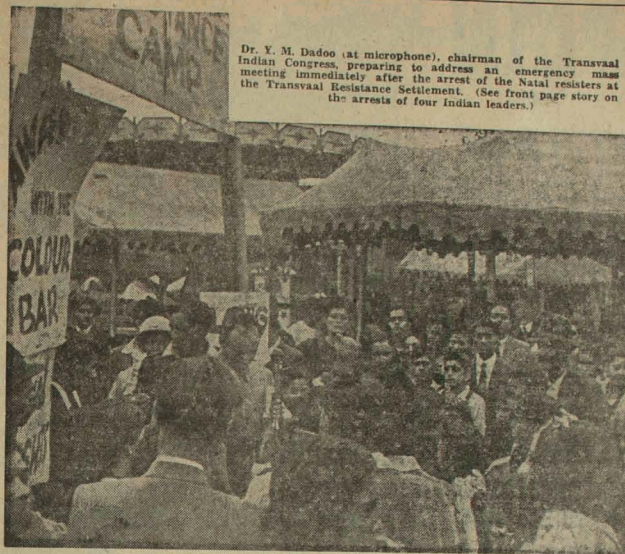
VENTERSPOST.—Residents of the Venterspost Location have organised a petition to the Venterspost Health Committee urging that the contemplated permit system and the establishment of a beer canteen should not be carried out by the health committee.

The petition points out that the advisory board elections held on November 19 last year failed completely, and the board was subsequently appointed by the committee itself, quite disregarding public opinion in the location.

The petition further urges that the council should not allocate trading sites or build shops in the location until the opinions of the residents has been heard, and that the qualifications of applicants to trade should then be open to "impartial scrutiny."

A cemetery, school, clinic, and adequate water supply and sewerage system, as well as the fencing of yards and street lighting should be immediately carried out, says the petition.

If the Council does not wish to hear these grievances of the people, and deal with them, the residents ask the Native Affairs Department to appoint a special committee to investigate their grievances.



Dr. Y. M. Dadoo (at microphone), chairman of the Transvaal Indian Congress, preparing to address an emergency mass meeting immediately after the arrest of the Natal resistors at the Transvaal Resistance Settlement. (See front page story on the arrests of four Indian leaders.)

The offensive against the Resistance movement of the Indian people, promised the country by Mr. H. G. Lawrence in his speech to Parliament on February 9, broke towards the end of last week.

Simultaneously with police swoops on the Johannesburg and Durban headquarters of the Resistance movement, summonses were issued against Drs. Dadoo and Naicker and Messrs. Manilal Gandhi, of Durban, and Sundra Pillay on charges under the Riotous Assemblies Act, or of aiding and abetting the contravention of the 1913 Immigrants Regulations Act.

### FOURTH BATCH FROM NATAL ENTERS TRANSVAAL

JOHANNESBURG.—The fourth batch of Natal resistors defying the provincial barriers crossed into the Transvaal on Sunday.

They were immediately arrested at the border and taken to the Volksrust jail.

The resistors were met by the representatives of the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council at the border.

The names and addresses of the Transvaal representatives were taken by the police and they were warned that action would be taken against those who aided and abetted the resistors to cross the border illegally.

A mass meeting to express solidarity with Doctors Dadoo and Naicker and Messrs. Manilal Gandhi and Sundra Pillay will be held at the Gandhi Hall on Sunday.

The four Resistance leaders will appear before a Durban magistrate on Feb. 26 to answer charges of "having incited or instigated certain Asiatics to cross the border illegally"; or of having "wrongfully and unlawfully aided and abetted Asiatic persons in entering the Transvaal, knowing that Asiatics are prohibited from entering."

### POLICE RAIDS

Scenes reminiscent of the Union-wide police raids which took place just after the August, 1946, strike of African miners were seen in Johannesburg on Saturday morning, when batches of C.I.D. officers, armed with search warrants, arrived to search the Barkley Arcade headquarters of the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council, to examine all minute books, documents and booklets that might have a bearing on the charges.

Meanwhile, another C.I.D. squad entered the home of Dr. Dadoo at End Street, searched his desk drawers and bookcases, and looked through his surgery.

A number of documents and files were taken.

These police raids followed the re-arrest at Volksrust last week of the 15 Natal resistors who re-crossed the border into Volksrust for the second time, the day following their court sentence.

These resistors have already been found guilty of a second offence under the Act by a Volksrust magistrate, who postponed sentence on them till February 13, in the meantime they are in Volksrust jail.

Preliminary to the arrests police were stationed at various points on the Transvaal side of the border, taking down car numbers and stopping certain cars driven by Indians to examine their permits.

The police appeared to be special plain clothes men sent from Pretoria.

The Natal resistors were arrested just inside Volksrust when they told detectives who had stopped their cars that they were resistors defying permit regulations.



# SOARING LIVING COSTS

## Mechanics Threaten Action

JOHANNESBURG.—Mechanics' unions will take direct action, if they consider it necessary, to enforce a more rigorous control on living costs.

The Government is to be asked to introduce measures restricting profits. If no satisfaction is obtained within a limited period, these unions will demand from the employers in their trades a recognition of the soaring cost of living.

These decisions were reached at a four-day conference of mechanics' unions' joint executives held in Johannesburg last week. The unions participating were the Amalgamated Engineering Union, the Ironmoulders' Society, the Society of Woodworkers, the Electrical Association and the Boltmakers' Union.

Discussing demands in their own industries, the unions adopted proposals demanding introduction over a period of three years of the 40-hour week as opposed to their 46-hour week; and four weeks' annual leave instead of the present three weeks.

### INCREASE FOR P.E. TRAMWAY WORKERS

PORT ELIZABETH.—A 46-hour week and increases of 2d. to 3d. an hour are improvements won by tramway workers here under the new agreement between the Tramway Union and the Port Elizabeth Tramway Company, which dates from February 1. Mr. E. Farquhar, secretary of the Union, also Messrs. A. Hunter, F. Postinger, P. Squire and D. Jacobs.

service pay and those of over 16 years' service will get 28 days leave annually. A satisfactory pension scheme is in operation and a sick fund is under discussion.

There are nearly 500 workers in the Union. Present pay is 3s. an hour.

### FOOD WORKERS 100 PER CENT. ORGANISED

PORT ELIZABETH.—Mr. J. S. Serfontein, president of the Council for Non-European Trade Unions, opened the sixth annual general meeting of the Port Elizabeth Food and Canning Workers' Union, at which it was reported that the Union has achieved 100 per cent. organisation. Mr. M. M. Desai, the secretary, also reported that a sick benefit fund is being established. The Union has purchased land adjacent to Schauder Township and hopes to build offices and a hall by the end of the year.

Resolutions calling for recognition of African trade unions under the Industrial Conciliation Act and the withdrawal of the charges against members of the Communist Party, were adopted.

Mr. Zündahl was elected chairman, Mr. S. Peters vice-chairman, Mr. Desai secretary and Mr. Symons treasurer. Elected to the executive were: the Messrs R. Base, S. Fletcher, F. Symons, M. Johnson, M. Hall, L. Meyers, K. Arnolds, S. Jantjes, M. Ford and Messrs. A. Hunter, F. Postinger, P. Squire and D. Jacobs.

## Trade Union Opposition To Geneva Pact

JOHANNESBURG.—An appeal to the Government not to ratify the "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade" (the Geneva agreement) is made in a special memorandum just issued by the Garment Workers' Union.

Although the Geneva agreement has not yet been ratified by the Union Parliament, its mere presentation for ratification has already caused industry to be faced with a serious crisis, says the union. A very considerable amount of local capital is available for investment in industry, but industrialists hesitate to extend their factories, to re-organise them or create new industries, because the future is so uncertain.

The flooding of South Africa, at the present stage of its development, with consumers' goods from other countries would prove disastrous to South Africa's industries.

The Garment Workers' Union appeals to the Government to pursue a tariff policy which will give South African industry the maximum amount of protection. It urges a most effective anti-dumping measure to be introduced immediately.

"The entire trade union movement will co-operate wholeheartedly with the Government and with employers in an effort to raise all-round productivity and to keep 'soft' prices."

## CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE TVL. WORKERS

JOHANNESBURG.—A campaign for the education of workers is to be launched by the Southern Transvaal Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council. A series of lectures on topical matters and on industrial legislation which concerns all workers is being organised.

The first of the talks will be held on February 24, 1948, at the Darragh Hall, when Mr. E. S. Sachs will deal with the Geneva Tariff Agreement.

The Local Committee comments that few workers, unless they are directly concerned, are aware of the attitude of the Department of Labour in holding up agreements which provide for increased wages. Talks on matters such as these will be combined with the showing of educational films in working-class areas.

It states that the transferable vote was improperly applied; that sixteen unions were improperly deprived of a vote in the election; and that the date of the election was improperly fixed.

The members of the Trades and Labour Council National Executive who are defending this court action are Messrs. B. Caddy, G. McCormick, J. Briggs, G. Wadsworth, D. T. Eland, T. O'Keefe, K. J. George and A. J. Downes.

Judgment in the case has been reserved.

## CASE OVER ELECTION OF T.L.C. SECRETARY

JOHANNESBURG.—The application by the Garment Workers' Union for an order declaring the election of the secretary to the South African Trades and Labour Council, held on November 14, 1947, irregular, invalid and not in accordance with the constitution of the council, was heard in the Supreme Court by Mr. Justice Price last week.

The union asks for an order declaring the election of Mr. De Vries invalid, interdicting him from taking up his post of secretary, and that twelve of the respondents who voted in favour of the election of Mr. De Vries should pay the costs of this application, as well as attorney and client costs.

The petition of the Garment Workers' Union challenges the voting strength of the Mine Workers' Union, asserting that the 20,000 votes allocated was considerably in excess of the number to which the union was entitled.



The scene of a tremendous police raid only two weeks ago, Pimville is one of the most notorious of Johannesburg's slums, dating back to 1904, when it was established as a temporary camp for people moved from another Johannesburg area experiencing a plague outbreak. Our top picture shows part of the huge crowd on the station during a rush hour, while, centre, is a Pimville 'street,' and below, one of the many converted tanks in which some of the people of Pimville live.

## Mpanza Charged With Public Violence

JOHANNESBURG.—James Sefonke Mpanza is facing a charge of public violence in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court.

It is alleged that a gang known as the "Skelm Key," under Mpanza's leadership, intimidated inhabitants of Orlando Township who were not members of the gang.

Mpanza is charged with having caused a riot and the break-up of a meeting of the White City Residents' Association on January 18 of this year.

Giving evidence, Nathaniel Ramatole said that during the meeting on January 18, 30 Africans armed with knives and dangerous weapons arrived. Later, Mpanza rode up on a horse. He had a jambok in his hand and said he would spoil the meeting if it was not stopped. He told his thirty followers they should hit the assembled people.

He is alleged to have said: "Who gave you instructions to hold this meeting in Orlando? I am the king of this Orlando, and nobody else."

The case is still continuing. Mpanza is conducting his own defence.

## GERMAN SAILORS STILL AT LARGE

JOHANNESBURG.—The 18 German sailors who failed to report for deportation to Germany last year are still at large, probably hiding in Johannesburg.

The decision to release these sailors, interned during the war but later allowed to live with friends in the Union, was taken on the undertaking by the Deutsch-Afrikanischer Hilfsausschuss, a South African German organisation, that the sailors would comply strictly with the terms of the paroles they signed.



## JO'BURG'S MAYOR ANSWERED

JOHANNESBURG.—"I was flabbergasted at what the Mayor said. We did not expect to hear anything like that coming from him. The majority of us certainly did not agree with his views." This is only one of the comments made by trade unionists on the speech made by the Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr. G. B. Gordon, when he opened the conference of the Mechanics' Union Joint Executives.

Mr. Coole, of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, who made these comments on the Mayor's speech, said it was "quite out of place" at the conference.

The Mayor, who characterised Durban as "nothing but a Kaffir and Indian town" (and so evoked the loud protests of Durban's Director of Publicity), had subsequently to retract most of what he said. He issued two statements to the Press, protesting that his real meaning had been misunderstood.

But he has not yet retracted his statements about African workers, in which he said he was totally against the training of Africans to do trades "which the Europeans had taken centuries to acquire."

Mr. Low, of the A.E.U., said the Africans should be given education and then allowed to use it. This was his attitude to the training of Africans.

Replying to the Mayor's speech, the Transvaal Indian Congress said it, too, had fears about the future of South Africa—which has a multi-racial population"—whilst the Mayor of Johannesburg upheld such dangerous views.

"By virtue of your office, we should think that you, as the first citizen of Johannesburg, should at least look to every member of the city with an eye of justice." But "you have not only been partial, but have actually sided with the racialists and have preached the gospel of open discrimination.

"We ask you, in the name of the Indian community of Johannesburg, to publicly withdraw your dangerous statement."