

CONTENTS FOR JANUARY

	Page
Our Word	1
Letters to the Editor	3
Correspondence with the Ministry of Transport	5
A Living Memorial	7
The Constitutional Issues	8
New Year Message	8
The Cost of Loving	11
Branch Items	12
Held Without Trial	13
Round-Up	14

FIGHTING TALK



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ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION.

Our Word.

UNITY -- OR ECLIPSE?

THE least politically conscious amongst us becomes daily more aware that South Africa is facing the threat of Fascist domination. In passing through this historical process we are following the path blazed before by Hitler, Mussolini and Franco and we the people, as were the people of Germany, Italy and Spain at the time of the rise of Fascism in their countries, are faced with the problem of uniting all the democratic forces of South Africa to preserve what is left of democracy after two and a half years of Nationalist Party rule.

It would appear superficially that with the great common purpose of rooting out this evil before it is too late, unity among the freedom-loving people of South Africa should be easy to achieve. In fact, the problem is extremely difficult and is one which was never successfully solved by the democratic people of the other countries which have suffered Fascism.

The technique used by would-be dictators has in each case been exactly the same. Until they were firmly in power they studiously avoided any frontal attack which would serve to unite all the groups whose only common denominator was a degree of opposition to fascism. Instead, they undermined the tradition and practice of democracy in a piece-meal fashion by attacking the rights and freedoms of the political groups of the Left with the tacit consent and often the approval of the centre and Right-centre. The conservative and reactionary elements could never decide to align themselves with

groups and parties to the left of them and stood idly by until one sector after another of the democratic front crumbled and fell.

This process is all too evident in South Africa, where, unfortunately, there has to date been no really determined opposition by the United Party to Nationalist measures designed to whittle away and eventually destroy the democratic rights embodied in our constitution. It is true that in previous sessions of Parliament the United Party debated so eloquently that the Nationalists were time and again obliged to fall back on the Guillotine to put an end to their embarrassment, but the simple arithmetical truth is that in Parliament the United Party is in the minority and they can talk themselves blue in the face without making any impression on the Nationalists who know what they want and are determined to force it through. If the United Party is prepared to make a real contribution to the struggle it will be necessary to face the simple truth and to employ their forces in the extra-Parliamentary sphere. They must go to the people with a clear message that an attack on the rights of the Coloured people or the Indians or the Africans is an attack on the rights of every one of us. They must forget their respectability and the smugness born of that respectability and come down into the arena to fight the Fascist menace with what strength they have and the aid of anybody of whatever political complexion who can be drawn in as allies until the menace is passed. Then will be time enough for the various parties to sort themselves out and return once

more to the struggle for the advancement of their particular point of view.

At its recent Conference, the Labour Party passed a resolution calling, in effect, for an alliance with the United Party, in an effort to oust the Nationalists. This move was received with very mixed feelings, but it is a step and a potentially important step in the right direction if the underlying principle is understood and acted upon by all concerned. The situation is far too serious and the time far too short to permit of mere political manoeuvring and the placing of party interests above the broader considerations of the preservation of democracy. We of the Springbok Legion who have preached this message since our inception must do all in our power through the political parties to which we may belong, and in every other way possible to convince people that all anti-Fascist elements must unite now or democracy in South Africa will perish.

Attention Cape Town Members

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YOU'RE TELLING US

Letters to the Editor



THE TREKKERS AND THE TRIBES

The Editor,
"Fighting Talk"

Sir,

It is time someone challenged the assertion that the Voortrekkers saved the Natives from extermination. It has been made often enough, most recently by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. N. C. Havenga when he unveiled the monument to Sarel Cilliers at Kroonstad last Dingaan's Day. He is reported to have stated that "it was through the Voortrekkers that the Native was spared extermination" (Sunday Times, 17th December, 1950).

The Trekkers did many great things but they did not save the Natives from extermination. To suggest that they did so is to distort the facts of history. Such a distortion is unjustifiable—even if it has political value. While it is not suggested that Mr. Havenga deliberately misconstrued the past, it is nevertheless true that he should not use history to justify a political concept—this time it was Apartheid—unless he is certain that his facts are correct. A brief examination of the assertion will show that it is not even a partial truth.

The statement is a vague one. What Natives were saved from extermination? The implication is that the Bantu as a whole were spared; that had it not been for the Trekkers there would have been no Natives today. This is, of course, ludicrous. The Trekkers made no contact, direct or indirect, with many Bantu tribes. The Xosas on the Eastern frontier and the milling tribes pressing down behind them were outside the sphere of influence of the Trekkers, save that their position was if anything made more difficult by the policy which the Natal Trekker Republic adopted of drafting all "surplus" Natives southwards. In any case the Xosas and other coastal natives were in no danger of extermination. True they had been forced to flee southwards by Shaka, the marauding Zulu chief, but this is very different from extermination. Their numbers were in fact increasing and

even were it true that the Trekkers saved some other native tribes from extermination, there is every reason to think that these coastal tribes would alone have ensured the continuance of the Bantu people to the present day.

The Bantu tribes which were directly or indirectly in contact with the Trekkers were the Zulus, Matabele and Basuto (the Great Three) and a number of smaller tribes in the Orange Free State and Transvaal. From what sort of extermination did the Trekkers save these people? As they had no foreign enemies besides the Trekkers themselves the danger of extermination could only have resulted from starvation and disease on the one hand or internecine strife on the other. Disease and starvation were admittedly more rife than is generally realised. Food was hard to come by and pernicious diseases such as TB even then sapped the vitality from the people. But they were in no danger of extermination then by starvation and disease than they are today. In any case, the Trekkers did precious little to rid the land of these two scourges.

Mr. Havenga's claim resolves itself therefore into one that the Trekkers spared the Natives from extermination by their own kith and kin. True the Trekkers did much, particularly in the Transvaal, to bring an end to the intertribal strife which had caused havoc for generations. But neither this strife, nor the more terrible campaigns of tyrants such as Shaka and Mosilikatze, at any time threatened the survival of the Natives. Shaka's depredations have been greatly exaggerated. As research work progresses, it is becoming more and more clear that Shaka did not slaughter millions. A most recent history "Historic Natal and Zululand" which was written by Mr. H. C. Lugg at the request of the Natal Provincial Council, confirms earlier researches which show that at the height of his power in 1823, Shaka's subjects did not number one hundred thousand and that his army never exceeded 15,000. However terrible these 15,000 may have been, they could never have exterminated the other Na-

tive tribes. They did do great damage but it was damage to kraals and fields rather than to mortals. They scattered tribes, not slaughtered them. No less an authority than Professor de Kewiet has written: "The death roll in purely native wars was never high and there is even much reason to suppose that the devastation of the Zulu, Matabele and Mantati "hordes" was very greatly exaggerated." He continued: "The confusion of the 1820's saw much displacement of tribes and surging hither and thither before the attacks of the warlike Zulus and Matabele. When these were broken the fugitives poured back into their lands, for example in Natal and the Western Transvaal, and a new mixing of the people thus took place."

Dingaan may have been as bloodthirsty as his brother, Shaka, but he lacked his military genius and was certainly less successful in his marauding activities. The Matabele were bloodthirsty and their expulsion across the Limpopo by the Trekkers saved many tribes from their ravages, but this certainly does not mean that the tribes were saved from extermination. Even had the Matabele exterminated these smaller tribes, they could not have wiped out the Zulus. Had the Zulus exterminated them, on the other hand, there would still have been the mighty Zulu nation to perpetuate the Bantu people. Moshesh, the Basuto chief, was also very powerful and caused some uneasiness to small tribes within his reach but his actions led to the death of even less than were killed by the Matabele.

No, the Native peoples were never in any real danger of extermination, however hard life may have been for them. They lived a life of fighting but comparatively few were killed. The Trekkers slowly subdued and subjugated many tribes and thus decreased the amount of warfare. But the major task of finally breaking the power of the greatest tribe, the Zulus, was accomplished not by the Trekkers but by the British authority in South Africa.

It is seen therefore that there is not a shred of evidence that the Natives were in any danger of extermination from which the Trekkers could have saved them. And those who perpetuate such a canard not only do a disservice to their fellow South Africans today, but also to the gallant Trekkers of a century ago.

Yours etc.,

HISTORIAN

Johannesburg.

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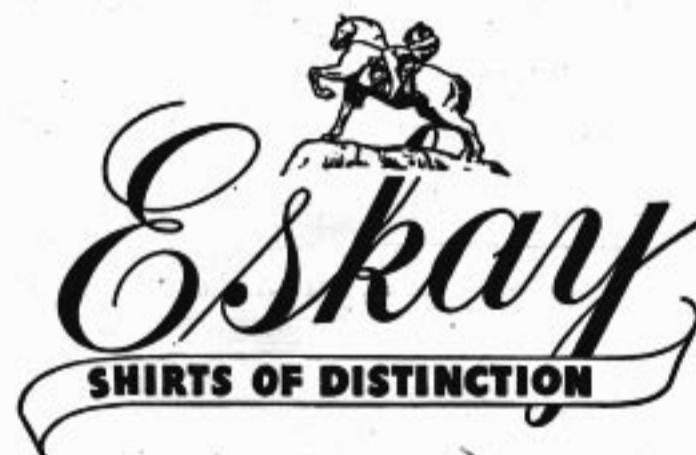
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A LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

15th Nov., 1950.

The Secretary,
The Minister of Transport,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA.

Sir,

After requests from Non-European Ex-Servicemen, and a recommendation from the Legion's Non-European Sub Committee my National Executive Committee wishes to express its concern at the number of accidents involving Non-European Train and Tramway passengers.

My Committee requests the Minister to consider the holding of an enquiry with a view to ascertaining whether

the preponderance of accidents involving Non-Europeans is not due in part to the failure of the authorities concerned to insist on the same standards of safety that are demanded in conveying Europeans. In particular, reference should be made to:-

- (a) Age and condition of vehicles and rolling stock.
- (b) Overcrowding.
- (c) Maintenance of vehicles and rolling stock in good order.
- (d) Experience of Drivers.
- (e) Speeding.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) P. J. HODGSON.

National Secretary.

non-European passenger traffic, coupled with the abnormal conditions prevailing immediately prior to and during the war as well as during the post-war years, resulted in a large measure of overcrowding taking place. New stock has and is being acquired, however, and every endeavour is made to cater for this traffic in a satisfactory manner. In this connection it may be mentioned that 48 new 3rd class main-line saloons (including 25 steel coaches) have recently been placed in service, and it is anticipated that a further 77 will become available during the current year. In regard to 3rd class suburban services, 57 new coaches have been introduced in the last 12 months.

From the foregoing it will be seen that this question continues to receive every attention.

Extant instructions provide that only specially-selected, experienced drivers (special and first grades only) are permitted to drive passenger trains.

Established cases of speeding are relatively few and far between. Strong disciplinary action is taken in any case where a driver has been found to have exceeded the maximum permissible speed. Tests are at present being conducted with a view to obtaining a reliable type of speedometer to assist drivers in this connection. This matter has been engaging the attention of the Administration for a long time, but no entirely suitable type of instrument has so far been found. The indications are, however, that the type of instrument at present under test will prove suitable. The progress made with this work was unfortunately retarded by the war and post-war conditions.

In view of the comprehensive precautions in force to protect the safety of the travelling public — both European and non-European — and the close attention continually being given to this matter by the Administration, the Minister feels that no good purpose would be served by appointing a committee as suggested by your Legion.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) H. H. HUMPHREY,

Administrative Secretary.

... AND THE REPLY

Ministry of Transport,
Pretoria,

5/1/51.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of 15th November, 1950, concerning the standards of safety maintained in respect of the transport of non-European passengers, I am directed by the Hon. the Minister of Transport to inform you that the Administration makes no differentiation whatever in this connection between Europeans and non-Europeans.

As a matter of fact, most passenger and mixed trains convey both European and non-European passengers, and in those cases where separate trains are provided the running of such trains is so inextricably bound up with the running of other trains that differentiation is virtually impossible. European drivers, firemen, guards and ticket examiners are employed on Non-European passenger trains, and any slackness in observing the safety precautions would

expose these servants to the same dangers as the non-European passengers.

In so far as Railway accidents in general are concerned, an active campaign is in progress to improve the standard of safety. Tramways, of course, do not fall under this Administration.

In so far as the specific points mentioned by you are concerned, I am to give you the assurance that no vehicle, irrespective of age, is allowed to run in an unsafe condition.

Axles are inspected regularly and are renewed at stipulated intervals, or earlier if warranted. Every precaution is taken to ensure that the vital unseen parts, particularly the running gear, on which safety is mainly dependent, are maintained in safe running order. It is appreciated that to the eye of a layman some of the rolling stock used appears to be aged, but the system of examination and check-records in force is such as to ensure that the safety of the travelling public is adequately safeguarded.

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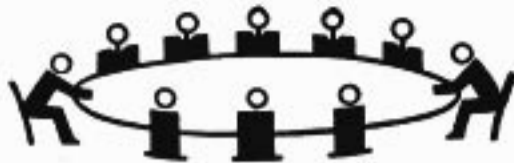
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A LIVING MEMORIAL

AT the end of the war the Health Foundation was chosen by the soldiers themselves as a fitting memorial for their dead. It was a spontaneous idea that arose in the battlefields of Italy. Their battles over, the men had laid down their arms. Their thoughts were of home and their hopes were of the future. But mingled in these bright hopes were thoughts of their dead comrades who had no future to which to look forward. And, during these days of joy and anguish the men who would shortly leave for home determined that the memory of those who remained would be preserved forever by something splendid, lasting, living and worthy of their sacrifice. Something that would make the country that these men died for a healthier one, a stronger and better one, and that this would be achieved in their memory.

From noble thoughts as these, sprung the unique concept of the Health Foundation as the country's National War Memorial. As an earnest of their faith in their ideal the soldiers gave £17,000 which was later supported morally and financially by the government of that time and the people of South Africa. That was four years ago.

During the intervening years the Health Foundation has worked slowly — but surely — finding out in what ways the soldiers' ideal could best be achieved. It spent three full years in investigation and planning. Three years, not wasted but essential, if the ultimate usefulness of the Foundation was to be built on solid ground and was to be of real value to our country.

Its achievements during this time can be summarised as follows:

(1) Roll of Honour: The Foundation has set aside the necessary money, helped to list the names of those who fell, and made the arrangements for the production of a Roll to be prepared on vellum and housed in a suitable shrine.

(2) Bursaries: 115 bursaries have been allotted to students of social studies, mothercraft, personal hygiene, nutrition, etc. Among these are 23 Europeans, 15 Coloured, 2 Indian and 56 Native students.

(3) Propaganda for Health: The Foundation has organised lectures, prepared and released pamphlets and press statements and broadcasts, prepared and presented expert evidence on school feeding, shortage of nurses, etc., and issued monthly a magazine, "Foundation" with a circulation of 10,000 — all as an essential part of its aim to arouse sound and informed interest

throughout our land in health and in the Foundation.

(4) Projects: Pilot community centres have been erected at Moroka (Johannesburg), Goodwood (Cape), New Brighton (Port Elizabeth) and Duncanville (East London): the first two of these have been running for some time past. At Mount Coke (Ciskei) playing fields with a sports centre have been provided. At Pretoria a European lunch and rest club for workers has successfully provided nutritional and recreational services — as the nucleus of a community centre. At Edendale (Natal) and Lamontville (Durban) and in the Ciskei, trained social workers have been appointed to prepare the way for, and to build up, community centres. A magnificent site at the mouth of the Bulugha River near East London has been purchased for development into the Foundation's first European Holiday Health Camp.

This camp will help to meet the needs of those families who find it difficult these days to afford the annual holiday by the sea; the break-away so essential for health and happiness. The idea is fast finding favour that towns and villages should endow cottages at the camp which will entitle them to name the families from their centres which will occupy such cottages.

At the community centres already in action, run by trained workers of the same racial group but under European guidance, the type of facility provided is: nursery school and creche, physical training, vegetable and food clubs, cookery and sewing classes, handicrafts, etc. Each of these centres provides primarily for the family as the unit of member-

ship; each of them is maintained from the subscriptions and donations of the members, from Governmental refunds and from Foundation funds. But in each of these Family Centres self-help is the guiding spirit — they are places where certain simple facilities are provided through which the members can achieve health for themselves.

The Foundation stresses the importance of European leadership, especially in the matter of non-European health and welfare. It stresses the importance of self-help and the over-all importance of the individual and of the family in achieving health. It plans no patchwork relief of disease. It plans nothing that will overlap the work of Government or other organisations.

But it does say that whole health, which means liveliness, happiness and efficiency, can be achieved and maintained in our land if we are prepared fully to attack these five factors adverse to health: ill-nourishment, bad surroundings, ignorance and lack of adequate physical and mental recreation.

Nationally and in each of the Regions, the Foundation plans along these lines.

The Foundation now, therefore, makes its first nation-wide Appeal for the funds to proceed with its Living Memorial. It is now appealing to the country for One Million Pounds for Health in our Time.

For what purposes does it ask for this sum of money?

1. For the consolidation of a NATIONAL FOUNDATION TRUST to be used as a central fund for the maintenance of projects, for the assistance of communities according to their needs, and for the maintenance of pressure upon those responsible for the provision of health measures.

2. A NATIONAL BURSARIES FUND for the further provision of facilities for the training of workers in the wide field of health.

It is hoped to establish "IN MEMORIAM" bursaries, dedicated to the me-

(Continued on page 15)

THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

THE dangerous tendency to regard African and European interests as different in all respects, and essentially in conflict, is implicit in the segregation policy which was the foundation of General Hertzog's franchise proposals. That policy assumes that the state governed by Parliament is a European state, in which the principle of self-government demands that decisions should be made by Europeans. Since, however, those who hold these views are not prepared to dispense with the services of the Africans, they find it difficult to discover a constitutional principle which will cover the position of the Africans. Even the ingenious principle of limited group representation does not fill the bill, since at unexpected moments the

functions will not, for the present at any rate, be limited to certain topics as was originally planned.

What changes do these proposals involve in the political rights of the Coloured people? To day their voting strength is scattered over a number of constituencies, in a fair proportion of which they can exercise a determining influence. In future, however, the influence they will be able to exercise in Parliament will be strictly limited to the statutory number of their own seats, i.e., four. And, in terms of the proposal to allow no increase in coloured seats without a corresponding increase in European seats, this balance can never be changed, no matter what change may take place

by Margaret Ballinger M.P.

Natives' Representatives may actually hold the balance of power between the Representatives of the European voters. This is why the Indian franchise was abolished and this is why the Government proposes to abolish the Native franchise. The only alternative to such abolition, if European interests are to remain paramount, is to limit the rights, as well as the numbers, of the group representatives. In other words, the logic of the system, as is clearly demonstrated by the history of the Native franchise, must be a progressive deterioration of the franchise rights of the non-European voter, until those rights disappear altogether.

It is against this background that we must consider the proposals to remove the Coloured voters from the common roll, and to give them group representation in the House of Assembly, with one representative in the Senate. We have only the outline of the plans as yet, but its characteristic features are pretty clear. The Coloured voters in the Cape are to be given four seats in the House of Assembly now, and they will be allowed increased representation only when there is an increase in European representation. At the worst, it would appear that these representatives will have equal voting rights with all other representatives, i.e., that their

in the proportional levels or the economic character of the coloured population.*

These arrangements are designed, as were the arrangements under the Representation of Natives Act of 1936, to prevent the coloured population from exercising a determining influence on the policies and laws of the country. But, so long as the Coloured representatives can vote on matters of confidence, they may still at times exercise that determining influence. Hence here, as in the case of the African representatives, it is almost certain that their rights will eventually be even further curtailed.

In all these circumstances, the political implications of the situation must be abundantly clear. Here, undoubtedly, is a major retreat from the level of democratic principle and practice which has so far survived in our constitution. Those who are immediately affected by it must inevitably oppose it, with all the powers at their command. And it is equally inevitable that they should more and more make common cause with those who find themselves in a similar, or even a less eligible political position.

But all of us who do not appear to be directly affected must equally oppose

The Chairman's New Year Message



THE Springbok Legion has entered its tenth year of existence, and we think we have made a most indelible mark on the history of our country.

But now, after ten years, we are not only a deteriorated world situation, but also an onslaught on democracy at home. A very real threat has been presented to the democratic people of South Africa, and the very existence of our organisation is in jeopardy.

As a result, the Legion stands today more than ever before, as a direct appeal to every ex-serviceman of his ability in the furthest of the early 1940's, and which in that country at any rate has never been completed.

We in the Springbok Legion have never wavered from our ideals as expressed in our Constitution, and as a danger in which we stand today is direct evidence for this. If we see it, as I firmly believe we shall, it will be because of the men and women who make up our ranks and the democratic public in general.

Our task is obvious, therefore, and our aims clear-cut.

this move to reduce the democratic content of our constitution. Fundamentally, the supposed principle behind it is unsound, and cuts at the very roots of good government, as well as of economic advance for this country. There is not a series of communities here, but one community made up of diverse elements. There is no "European" State in South Africa, but a South African State, the future of which depends upon the co-operative enterprise of all its people. The attempt to divide us into groups on racial lines can only separate us into virtually hostile blocs, in which our resources must be dissipated in frictions and conflicts. Government, to be stable, must be based on consent. Our non-European populations do sever, and can never, accept the assumption that the laws of this country are European laws which should be made by Europeans. They are laws made to regulate the lives of all the people, and they should therefore be made with the co-operation of all the people.

We ourselves need to be particularly alive to the logic of these policies of separation, segregation and apartheid. Once the principle of discriminatory exclusions is admitted, there is no end to the course which it can and will run except the destruction of all our rights. We warned South Africa of this when the first attacks were made on the African franchise. Time and experience have brought only the consolation of Cassandra — the empty consolation of having ineffectually warned of the dangers implicit in those attacks. At that time, the coloured people were promised that they would always be treated as Europeans. They, and we, should know now what confidence to place in promises. The Prime Minister has told us that we must not be governed by the dead hand of the past, that times change, and policies must change with them.

Societies are indeed not static — we must either go forward or go back. Democracy has been in retreat in South Africa for twenty years now. If we do not reverse its course soon, we shall have only ourselves to blame if we are engulfed by the rising tide. The process



Mrs. Ballinger, who delivered this address at the Conference of the Civil Rights League.

of reversal demands a dynamic counter-policy, in which we should start from the existing position, and plan to work outward again to a truer and saner democratic pattern. This does not necessarily mean uniform patterns. We have a diverse society, for which new patterns should continually be sought. But they must be patterns worked out in collaboration with the non-European peoples.

*It should be remembered that Coloured men have to pass an educational and a wage or property test before they can qualify for the franchise, and that Coloured women have never had the vote.

HELPERS WANTED!

The Civil Rights League requires helpers to man tables in the City and Suburbs of Johannesburg to obtain signatures to the Petition to Parliament to reject the Coloured Franchise Legislation. If you are available at any time during the day from 14th to 24th February please contact our office, Telephone 33-0975

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THIS C.O.L. BUSINESS (5)

The Cost of Loving



"I suppose there is no law by which I can sue Enteric Louw or spittle by spittle for breach of promise, is there? Or any law whereby I can sue him for damages, because after all he has damaged me a lot. Here I was a fine figure of a girl, full of joy de veever, passed J.C. with distinction in needlework, worked my way up from serving in a Greek cafe in Boksburg to salesgirl behind the wool counter at Joseph Hore & Sons in Johannesburg and as Mr. Hore himself said on more than one occasion, "Miss van Gelden," he said, "you're a smart looking girl and a credit to the firm." Of course, some of the other girls were a bit catty about that, but then, you know what girls can be like, don't you?"

"Well, anyway, as I say, I really was doing quite well. I shared a little flat with an ex-service girl up in Braamfontein. She'd been in the army for years and years and knew a thing or two, I can tell you. But we got on very weell together, even though she did get very narked when I borrowed a pair of her nylons one night when I was going out with Bert. You see, Bert was my boyfriend. How we met was like this."

"He lived in a private house in Braamfontein and we used to see each other in the bus queue. One day, just as I was getting on the bus, my bag flew open and everything tumbled out all over the stairs, my lipstick, keys, money my sunglasses and one or two unmentionables. Well, I did feel awful, but then this red-faced young man came forward and quickly picked up all my stuff and handed it back to me and me standing there like a perfect silly all over blushes. So I thanked him and we sat together upstairs."

"Then we used to look out for each other every evening on the way home and one afternoon he took me in to have a 'special' at the Greek cafe on our corner. Anyway, it was all very nice and he was one of these irritants who came out from Scotland after the war, came from Glasgow. He's a sheet-metal worker and gets good money, but he sends some money to his Mother every month, which means he hasn't a lot to throw away."

"We got ever so friendly and went to the bioscope and once or twice went to a dance the irritants arranged in the Ritz Hotel. After a time we both kind of knew that we'd get married and have a home of our own and settle down nicely. And I thought of my first class in needlework and I started making tray cloths and cross-stitch tablecloths. It all looked ever so nice and my girl friend said she'd get me up a kitchen tea."

"As you can imagine, I couldn't have been happier, but now it's all over and I can see myself growing old and withered and mean, a proper old maid. I can't help crying even as I write, as I think of the future and think of all the happiness I'm going to miss. And that's where this Enteric Louw comes in. Bert blames him for the whole trouble and I'm afraid he's right."

"You see, we used to have a very nice time — this was back in 1947, but then this Nationalist government came in and, my lewe, everything went up like wildfire. First of all they put my rent up. Dorothy couldn't afford the difference and left the flat which meant for three or four months I had to pay all the rent, which came out of my savings, of course. Then the bioscope went up, then the bus fares, then food! that was worst of all. Tea, coffee, butter, eggs and every time you bought a carton of milk at the Greek shop it was 5³/₄d. As for meat, I sometimes bought a couple of pork chops, when Bert was coming over, he's very fond of a well-done pork chop (oh dear! silly that I am, I'm crying all over again, when I think of all the pork chops that I'd have cooked for him. He's such a nice boy, one of the best, really.) and those chops used to cost the earth. What I couldn't understand is why vegetables and fruit should cost so much. Sometimes tomatoes 1/- a pound, a few peas 1/- a pound; as for peaches or grapes, well, it was a sin to have to pay such prices in this country, where everything grows so easy."

"Bert was having the same trouble. His landlady put up his board by £2 a month and Bert was always full of grouses, as it was, said the old bitch was starving him, anyway. And when

he had to buy new flannels and a sports coat and a couple of shirts, he went redder and madder than ever."

"I found Bert getting more and more short-tempered. I remember he got real wild one night at the 'Gaiety'. We were in the queue for the 2/7 seats and when we got to the pay-box, there weren't any left and Bert had to take 3/10. Oh he was wild! I could feel it all through the film and it was a lovely picture spoilt. It was Tryon Power in "The Black Rose" or "The Scarlet Tulip" or something but Bert didn't care if it was Tryon Power in his underpants he was so mad. After the show he came back to my place for some coffee and I happened to mention that coffee was up another sixpence, and Bert burst out, "Oh for Crissake, shut up about the bloodey cost of everything. You can't do a damn thing in this country without going bankrupt. What chance has a man of saving up a bit to get married and if he does get married, what's he going to live on? Talk about kids, you haven't got a hope in hell. We can't go on like this." And he just suddenly went home. I was terribly upset."

"I didn't see Bert for three days and then he came to see me, and was very sorry. He said we must have a straight talk. He had heard from his Mother who wanted him to send more money to her because the cost-of-living had gone up over there and Bert said he didn't want to waste my time and my chances. It was better if we didn't see each other. He thought of going down to the Free State to see if there was any more money down there, but he didn't want me to waste my chances of getting a good man. I told him I didn't want to find anybody better than him, but it was no good. He was like a rock and that was the end of my dreams."

"I felt awful. For days I went round like a ghost with red eyes. Even Mr. Hore asked me if I was feeling alright and I said yes I was, but I feel as if all my life has gone out of me. I don't care what happens anymore. As I said to Dorothy, when she came round last

(Continued on next page)

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ITEMS

THE December 3-in-1, which took the form of a variety concert, was a great success. Many people felt that it was our best Christmas 3-in-1 ever, which is saying a good deal. The singing of May Cooper was really delightful and Nat Bregman is so funny that I now understand why the Plastic Theatre is so well attended when he performs there. The climax of the evening was a sketch by Tony O'Dowd, "Red Tape Blues", a very funny burlesque of Civil Service inefficiency. The cast, including Joe Podbrey, Gerry Mackenzie, Monty Berman and the usual quota of Legion hams was obviously enjoying itself as much as the audience, but Cecil Williams' performance as a fat, bibulous Irish priest had to be seen to be believed. Cecil had such a good time himself that he could hardly be persuaded to leave the stage. Roy Cousins is to be congratulated on a fine production.

Bruce Anderson provided the final item on the programme with three magnificently rendered songs in Italian which sent the audience home feeling that they had enjoyed an exceptional evening's entertainment.

Mr. Errol Wilmot, the well-known critic, gave a lecture on "Committed Drama" for our January 3-in-1. Mr. Wilmot, who has the initial advantage of possessing a beautiful speaking voice, was so patently sincere in his approach that even his opponents (some of whom spoke very persuasively) found his lecture intellectually stimulating. The theme of the lecture was the failure of dramatists to use the medium of the theatre to propogate "humanistic" attitudes to the fundamental problems of our society, and the resultant decadence of the drama generally and in South Africa in particular.

The groups are busy arranging meetings to discuss resolutions to our Branch General Meeting. It is incredible to think that a year has passed since our last Annual General Meeting. It only goes to show how busy we've all been.

If you are unable to attend your Group Meeting, send in any resolutions which you wish to have placed before the General Meeting, direct to the office.

THE COST OF LOVING

(Continued from previous page)

night, "Talk about the cost of living, it's the cost of loving that's done for Bert and me." So Dorothy said she was volunteering to go and fight in Korea, I don't know on which side, and why shouldn't I volunteer, too."

"But I said, 'No, Dorothy, I don't want to go all the way over there and kill any Chinese or Americans or whatever they are. I'd rather stay right here and get my hands on that Enteric Louw. Bert says he's the nigger in the woodpile. But, nigger or no nigger, he's ruined my life: he's taken away all my chances of happiness and now I shall be an old maid. Instead of going to Korea to fight, I'm going to start organising the old maids into a commando of Suffering Jets or whatever they called themselves in England. And we'll hammer the life out of Enteric Louw and Malan and this Donga, who's all the time having a lovely time overseas, lunch with the King and tea with the Queen. Just wait until we women get him along to our tea-party. I'll stick my nails into him and probably get the first bit of cheap steak in months and months. Dorothy says she knows where she's going to attack Dr. Voorwaarts, she says she knows where it hurts most."

"D'you know, I'm feeling much better now that I've got this off my chest and, believe me, I'm not going to rest until we've got rid of these people who come along with their dirty ways and ruin a girl's life. And when we've done that, then I'll find Bert again and I'll bet we can make a go of it. Do you think it will be looking too far ahead, if I go and put my name down at the 'Vic?'"

HELD WITHOUT TRIAL

SEQUEL TO WITZIESHOEK DISTURBANCE

A JUDICIAL commission is sitting at present to enquire into the differences that have arisen between the Africans in the Reserve and the Government, differences that culminated in the clash between police and members of the tribe at which 14 Africans and 2 members of the S.A. Police lost their lives, and scores of tribesmen were wounded. Over 100 people have been arraigned at a preparatory examination on charges alleged to arise out of the clash itself.

As these matters are sub judice it is not possible to comment on the circumstances that gave rise to the hostility that evidently exists between the people, living in the reserve, and the authorities, or the events that immediately preceded the clash itself.

One matter, however, on which it is possible to comment, is the fact that, 14 members of the tribe are at present in jail, where they are liable to be detained for a period of 3 months, without trial.

It appears that in terms of the Natal Code (as amended in 1932) the Governor-General (in practice, the Minister of Native Affairs) has the right to suppress agitation against the Government by arresting any Native considered "dangerous, to the public peace" and without trial imprisoning him for a period of three months, with the right to rearrest him again at the end of every three months sentence — that is to keep "Native agitators" in jail for indefinite periods. This piece of legislation, which violates the principle of the rule of law, is dangerous in the hands of any Government, but particularly so in the hands of a Government determined to promote a policy, which is opposed by the people most affected, viz. the policy of apartheid.

Almost every country in the world today has accepted the principle that no person shall be arrested and held in confinement on any charge without being given the opportunity of answering the charge at the earliest opportunity. This opportunity is being denied the 14 men at present under arrest. In this context it should be noted that in terms of the Riotous Assemblies Act, European men

may likewise be held in jail without charge. The National Executive Committee of the Springbok Legion has addressed a strong protest to the Minister against the use of this legislation, and all members of the Legion who are concerned to ensure that the liberties of the individual are safeguarded, should similarly protest against this authoritarian action on the part of the Government—an action which is a painful reminder of the methods which have been adopted in totalitarian states.

As indicated earlier, both a judicial enquiry and a preparatory examination are being held, and without attempting to prejudge the issues involved, but out

of the need to ensure that the people concerned have adequate legal representation, the Legion is making a donation to a fund which is being set up for the legal defence of the people involved. It is expected that the fund will also be used for the benefit of the dependants of those killed or injured in the clash with the police.

An appeal will in due course be made to the public to support this fund, and in the meantime members of the Legion who are interested in seeing that the Witzieshoek tribesmen are able to obtain adequate legal representation are urged to contribute. Donations should be sent to the National Secretary, Springbok Legion, Main House, Main Street, Johannesburg, and the Legion will pass such contributions on to the Trustees.

Happy Ending to the McCracken Affair

For the information of members who subscribed to the fund to send young Brian McCracken to America for his operation, we publish this letter from his father, Mr. C. H. McCracken.

9, Phoenix Mansions,
Bertha Street,
Turffontein,
Johannesburg.
2nd. December, 1950.

Springbok Legion,
96, Main Street,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 30th November, the following is the information you require.

Brian's operation was completely successful, and up till now has been keeping remarkably fit. As for post-operative treatment in South Africa, we have settled all accounts.

With regard to the remaining money, we would like to suggest that it be used to help any sick child who would need financial assistance or any other needy cause.

Thanking you again for all you did for us.

Yours Sincerely,

(Sgd.) C. H. McCracken.

The National Executive Committee has decided to transfer the residue of the fund to Accumulated Funds and to earmark it for Social Welfare Purposes. The comment and suggestions of those who subscribed to the fund will be welcome.

ROUND-UP

by

VIC EDDY



THE TEAR-JERKER

ONE of the oldest tricks that a politician can pull is to get up on his hind legs round about Christmas time and plead for co-operation. A multitude of sins can be adequately camouflaged by one such appeal, and the wonderful thing about it is that it usually works. The more platitudes and clichés the speaker employs, the more likely is the public to be lulled into the belief that the appellant is a man who has worked all his life for co-operation and would like nothing better than that.

Our own Mr. Havenga used precisely this technique in his Christmas broadcast to the nation, the only difference being that his terminology was even more banal and his sentiments even more syrupy than they usually are. But perhaps it is a question of interpretation. After all, Mr. Havenga did not say who must co-operate with whom. He, of course has no intention of co-operating with the Coloured community or with any democratically-minded South Africans. He co-operates with the Nats.

The only puzzling feature about it is, with whom will Mr. Havenga co-operate after he and his Party have merged with the Nationalists? On second thoughts, however, the answer is clear. Once Mr. Havenga has merged with the Nats he need no longer appeal for co-operation; he can quite effectively demand it.

OMISSION OF ENQUIRY

SOMETIMES the Nats are smart. Sometimes they show an aptitude

for manoeuvring which leads one to believe that they do learn something in their universities after all.

Take the Press Commission for example. The Terms of Reference of the Commission of Enquiry into the Press have been so worded that 90% of the time will probably be spent by the Commission in enquiring into the English press. The whole emphasis in the Terms of Reference has been laid on accuracy in the publication of news reports, and that is one point on which the Nats expect to score. Accuracy is very important you may say. Quite; it is very important. But let us look at it this way.

The only false news reports that can be adequately checked are, naturally, local news items, particularly reports concerning Government departments. Now it is well known that the Government departments have, either by official edict or in practice, withheld news whenever opportune from the English-language papers. (Mr. Louw, for example, has banned "The Star" from his Department; Dr. Malan has shown the door to the "Rand Daily Mail"). The English-language newspapers, therefore, can hardly be blamed for assuming more in their news reports than they would do had they freedom of entry into the departments.

The result is that some of these reports may be slightly garbled and evidence could easily be presented by Government spokesmen before the Commission quoting chapter and verse of instances where these newspapers have erred in their reports.

Since pro-Government papers are not faced with such a dilemma, their reports about departmental goings-on are usually verifiable. In consequence, therefore, the English press will receive the brunt of the criticism.

The Terms of Reference as they stand are far too narrow to allow the Commission to report fully on the state of the South African Press. Why is there nothing in the Terms of Reference of the Commission about racial incitement, for example? The English press is by no means innocent of such a charge, but oh, my friends, what a case could be made out against the Nationalist sheets!

INCIDENT AT THE GATES

The story is being told of the American psychiatrist who died (from overwork, possibly) and found himself outside the Golden Gates.

"Who may you be?" enquired St. Peter formally.

"I'm a psychiatrist from the States" came the drawled reply.

"A psychiatrist from America!" exclaimed the Saint, "you're just the man who can help us. Please come in at once. We're having such a lot of trouble with God. He thinks He is General MacArthur!"

'n Dame klim op 'n stukkende skaal. Die skaal registreer toe 70 pond. Haar ou man staan by en sien wat die gewig is. Hy kyk haar aan en sê: „Ek het altyd geweet dat jy hol van binne is.”

* * * *

Mevrou De Gock: „Lena, waarom is jy so laat vanmôre?”

Lena: „Ag, Mevrouw, ekskuus tog, ek het my verslaap en die horlosie ook.”

* * * *

Jan: „Adoons gaan kyk of die horlosie wat ek reggemaak het, nog loop.”

Adoons: „Nee, baas, hy loop nie, hy waai net sy stert.”

A LIVING MEMORIAL

(Continued from page 7)

mony of individual South Africans who made the supreme sacrifice.

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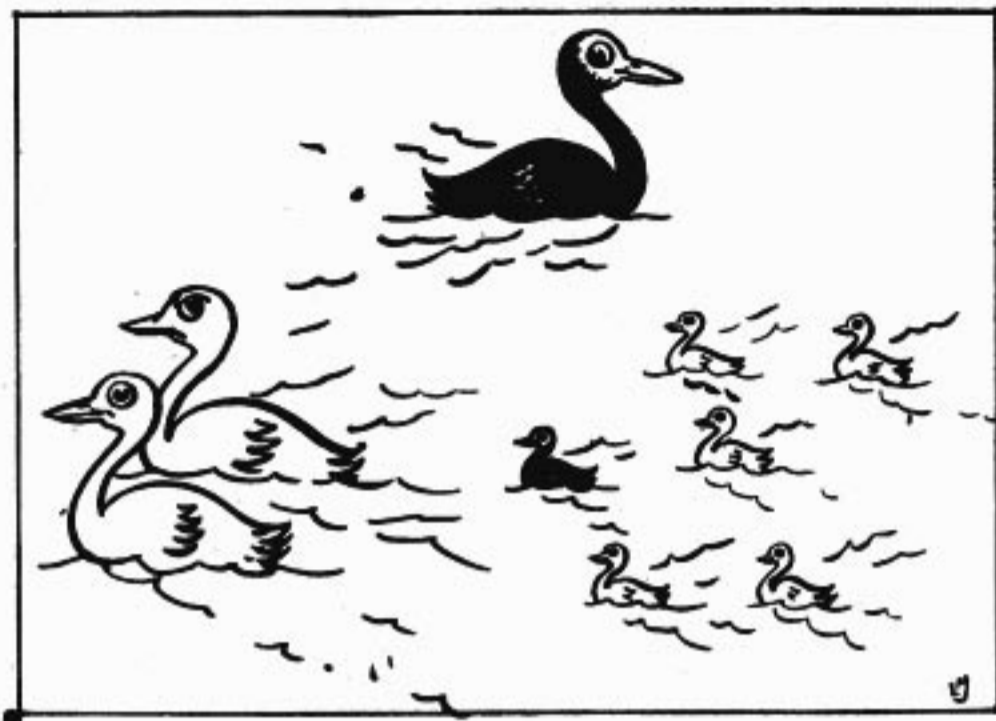
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The Foundation believes that unless the present drift toward ill-health is arrested, alongside which marches increasing delinquency and unrest, we shall face disaster.

The Foundation claims to have an answer — comprehensive, broad, simple, practical, attainable. It believes that the soldiers were wise in their time and desire for this type of Living Memorial. It believes, with President Kruger, in "taking from the past what is good" and in building the future of South Africa through the health of all its citizens.

The Foundation believes, with the assistance of men of goodwill, this can, and must be done.

And how can men of goodwill help? Is there a better way than to take the lead from the soldiers who established the Foundation and give two days' pay? They gave their donations to establish a National War Memorial. You can give yours to complete it, by making it possible for the Foundation to bring health and happiness to the people of our country.



"Wonder what he's looking so smug about?"

Our National Conference — Saturday, 7th April, 1950

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