

learn history in English. But it is better to learn history in English than to learn handwork in Sesotho.

The Eiselen Report does not exclude the teaching of English and Afrikaans to African boys and girls. It says, in paragraph 924, that these official languages should be taught, but however:

“in such a way that the Bantu child will be able to find his way in the European communities; to follow oral or written instructions; and to carry on a simple conversation with European about his work

There you have it. “Bring daardie sak mielies! “Ja, baas.” “Jim, sweep the floor!” “Yes, Missis.” Teacher, you thought you belonged to the noble company of Socrates in the high profession of drawing forth and leading out the tender souls of the young. You were wrong. You are not there to teach the languages of Shakespeare and Langenhoven, but to teach your pupil how to follow instructions and listen to the baas.

We little thought the day would come when we should mourn the passing of the mission schools. The day is here.

WESTERN AREAS

By MOSES KOTANE

THE Townships of Sophiatown, Martindale and Newclare were established as Non-European free townships way back in 1905 and 1912. They were set up as places where Africans too could acquire, buy and hold landed property in their own names in the same way as other, non-African, citizens of the Union of South Africa do.

The three of them together have a total of 2,605 stands on which there are dwelling houses, schools, shops, churches, halls, tea rooms and cinemas. These townships have electric lights, water and tarred roads. They house a Non-European population of some 60,000 souls or 19,130 families. They are within five miles of the centre of the city of Johannesburg, and they are served by what according to all South African Non-European standards is regarded as a tolerably good and efficient bus service.

Now the Nationalist Government and its conscienceless sadist Dr. Verwoerd ruthlessly plan to uproot this large and old established Non-European population of Johannesburg. To enable them

to carry out their oppressive and humiliating policy of Apartheid, the Nationalists have passed the "Natives Resettlement Act" which provides for "the removal of Natives from any area in the magisterial district of Johannesburg or any adjoining magisterial district and their settlement elsewhere, . . ."

This Act legalises plunder and downright swindling. It empowers the Government to acquire land "by purchase, exchange, expropriation or otherwise." The Government's brutal Western Areas Removal Scheme envisages the forcible removal of all the inhabitants of the affected areas without regard to the loss suffered by those who have invested their whole life savings in there, and without offering equal ~~homes~~ at places to which they are to be removed. In addition to and apart from being cheated and chased out of their property and homes, therefore, these Africans will be deprived of the right to buy and own land in freehold.

The working people of Sophiatown, Martindale and Newclare, the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants in these areas, are to be removed to Meadowlands, some six or seven miles further from their places of work; fares will be higher than they are and transport services will be of the scantiest kind; they will have to get up at three and four o'clock in the mornings, and come back late at night. At Meadowlands they will be ~~subjected~~ to oppressive and degrading regulations; there will be no electric lights; no tarred roads; water will be scarce, and it is doubtful whether school accommodation and recreational facilities as well as places of worship will be sufficient for the needs and requirements of the people.

Government propaganda has it that the scheme has been prompted by the desire on the part of the Government to abolish slums. This is not true. The truth is that this is the implementation of the apartheid policy. If it were true that the Government really wanted to do away with slums it would have started with the shanties and pondokkies at Moroka and Orlando, and with the squalors of Vrededorp, and not with people who are relatively well housed. Let no one be misled by this false propaganda.

No, the scheme must be read together with other sinister acts of the Nationalist Party. It must be seen as a part of a huge conspiracy against the people of South Africa, in particular against the Non-Europeans and the working class. It is a part of a scheme to render the people hopelessly impotent organisationally and helpless politically and industrially by dividing them and impoverishing them, and by keeping them ignorant and making them suspicious of one another. It is a part of the Group Areas Act, the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act, the Industrial Conciliation Act Amendment Bill, the Bantu Education Act, the Bantu Authorities Act and the Suppression of Communism Act. The Western Areas Removal Scheme is such a scheme

This predatory scheme has aroused the indignation of the residents in the affected areas and alarmed the African people and lovers of justice and fairplay throughout the country. It is the utter injustice of it all that has aroused the anger and opposition of the Liberals, Labourites, Christians and even of the majority of the members of the United Party. These people together with the residents of the Western Areas and the African National Congress, the S.A. Indian Congress and the South African Congress of Democrats are to be highly congratulated for the splendid and admirable work they have done so far in drawing the attention of the country and the world to the gross injustice that is being done to the people of Sophiatown, Martindale and Newclare.

However, much more still remains to be done. The people in the affected areas and throughout the country must be made aware of the issues at stake in the Western Areas Removal Scheme. Let there be no mistake about it is not only the Western Areas that are affected by the scheme and the Act. Alexandra Township, Lady Selborne and similar areas throughout the Union will be dealt with in the same way sooner or later.

All the South Africans must be made to realise that the Western Areas Removal Scheme is a matter of grave national importance. They must be made to understand that they are on trial; that they cannot with impunity allow the Government get away with its criminal plan which the Western Areas Removal Scheme is but a part, and that it is their political responsibility and national duty to respond to the clarion call to halt the Government in its intentions.

WRITE FOR LIBERATION

The Editor of "Liberation" cordially invites contributions in the form of articles on political, scientific, literary and other matters of general interest, short stories, poems, or factual material upon which articles can be based.

If stamped addressed envelopes are enclosed with the articles, the Editor undertakes to return them with critical comments in the event of their not being considered suitable.

Address all communications to the Editor, "Liberation," P.O. Box 10120, Johannesburg.

BUILDING, BUILDING, BUILDING

By RUTH FIRST

THE day I left Moscow all newspapers carried reports of the first atomic-energy power plant opened in the Soviet Union and this was the main topic of conversation everywhere: in the metro, in the buses, in hotel lifts and dining rooms, in the plane in which I flew to China, and here, too, in Peking. Everyone was elated. For while in the Soviet Union all are appalled at the thought of using atomic science for devastating atom and hydrogen bombs ("It is equivalent to thinking of the power of electricity in terms of the electric chair," was the way one Soviet scientist put it) all understand the tremendous benefits the Soviet citizen will reap in his everyday life if atomic power is harnessed by man to production and for creative purposes.

This atomic energy plant just opened is a small experimental one with an output of only 5,000 kilowatts, but already work has started on a second plant that will have an output of 100,000 kilowatts.

So life strides on in the Soviet Union, as though by Seven-League Boots.

Graphs of industrial production soar as do the temperature of patients in high fever, but ever higher, with no crises of overproduction and unemployment to bring them hurtling down again. In this country there is no limit to man's endeavour.

First illiteracy is wiped out, then seven years' education is made compulsory for all, now 10 years' schooling for every single soul in town and country, far east and far north. In a Republic like Armenia which 34 years ago had not a single secondary school, one in every four persons is now enrolled either at a school, university or technical institute.

Statistics again? Yes, in the Soviet Union one must learn them everywhere.

Seven sharp falls in the cost of living since the end of the war. Wages in 1953 219 per cent higher than in 1940. In the formerly backward Armenia, whose capital, Erevan, had three small factories in 1913, the per capita output of electro-energy is higher today than in France or Italy.