

THE BLACK SASH

DIE SWART SERP

Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper.

Vol. II. No. 6.

JULY, 1957

Price 6d.

An Affront To Nurses

AS its parting gift at the end of a session bedevilled with contentious legislation the Government presented the country with the Nursing Act Amendment Bill. This is the Bill which will introduce apartheid into nursing, split the profession from top to bottom, ban all non-European nurses for ever from having any say in the administration of their work, condemn them to an inferior status and hamstring their training. All this is being done to appease the fear of a handful of reactionaries.

There are so many things wrong with this Bill that it is difficult to state them in a short space.

The Bill is grossly unjust. While forcing all non-European nurses to join the Nursing Association and pay their due to it, it denies the non-Europeans any representation on the Nursing Council and robs them of a voice in the Association. Instead they will be fobbed off with dummy "advisory councils" which will, of course, be powerless.

The Bill is needlessly humiliating to non-European nurses. It prescribes separate uniforms and separate training. In the circumstances this will inevitably mean inferior status and inferior training. There is one clause which makes it an offence to let a White nurse work under or take orders from a non-European, and the penalty is the significantly harsh fine of £200. That such circumstances can only seldom arise does not weigh with the Government. The stigma of perpetual infer-

Die Verpleegsters Word Beledig

AS afskeidsgeskenk aan die einde van 'n sitting wat deur kontensieuse wetgewing gekenmerk is, het die regering die Wysigingswetsontwerp op Verpleegsters voor die volk gelê. Dit is die wetsontwerp wat Apartheid in verpleging sal invoer, wat die beroep van bo tot onder sal skeur, wat van nie-blanke verpleegsters alle seggenskap in die beheer van hulle werk sal ontnem, wat hulle tot 'n minderwaardige status sal verdoem, en hul opleiding aan bande sal lê. Dit alles om 'n handjievul mense met reaksionêre neigings tevrede te stel.

Daar is so baie aspekte van hierdie wetsontwerp wat onbevredigend is dat mens hul kwalik in die bestek van 'n kort artikel kan blootlê.

Die wetsontwerp is gruwelik onregverdig. Dit forseer alle nie-blanke verpleegsters om by die Verpleegstervereniging aan te sluit en hul ledegelde te betaal, maar ontsê hulle enige verteenwoordiging op die Verplegingsraad of enige seggenskap in die Verpleegstervereniging. Al wat hulle sal kry is niksbeduidende „adviserende rade.”

Die wetsontwerp sorg dat nie-blanke verpleegsters verneder sal word. Dit skryf aparte uniforms en aparte opleidingsfasiliteite voor. Dit sal sonder twyfel minderwaardige status en minderwaardige opleiding meebring. Daar is een klousule wat verbied dat 'n blanke verpleegster toegelaat word om onder 'n nie-

iority must be written into the law and underlined to the tune of £200.

The Bill is the first open attack by the State on the independence of a professional body. The Government has not yet tried to make the doctors and the lawyers toe the apartheid line. If this does come, we hope that the doctors will not have to look back and wish that they had given the nurses more support at the time when they were attacked.

The Bill is yet another black mark against this country in the eyes of professional and lay opinion abroad. "The Lancet", the leading British medical journal, has warned South Africa that the effects of the Bill may be far-reaching for this country. "There is no room for doubt," says that journal, "that the non-European nurses are to have an inferior status," and it goes on to indicate that this step is not in tune with the "international code of nursing ethics." The attitude of the International Council of Nurses has not yet been defined, but the Government has been warned that that body may cease to recognise the South African Nursing Council in view of this racial discrimination.

The Bill, in spite of what the Government may claim, has been introduced without any proper consultation with the nursing profession, and it has been heartily condemned by the majority of European nurses, now that they understand its full implications. The Government's only excuse is a so-called "referendum", in which only a small minority of nurses took part.

But the biggest crime of all, as with so much apartheid legislation, is the offence which this Bill commits against decent feelings and human dignity. The mean and petty ruling about separate uniforms sets the whole tone. Here we have a small, but hopefully growing number of young non-European girls who have chosen a vocation which gives them a chance of doing something for humanity. They have ideals, just like European girls who take up nursing. In the nature of things they are well-educated, responsible young women, many of them with the highest principles, ready to submit to the discipline of study and hard work, and proud to belong to a professional sisterhood with all that that implies. But no. The racial door is slammed in their faces.

(Continued on page 3)

blanke te werk of bevele van laasgenoemde te neem; die straf vir oortreding hiervan is 'n boete van niks minder as £200 nie. Die feit dat sulke omstandighede maar selde kan voorkom is vir die regering van geen belang nie. Wat vir hulle wel van belang is, is dat die brandmerk van ewigdurende minderwaardigheid in die wetboek moet verskyn, met 'n boete van £200 om dit te onderstreep.

Die wetsontwerp is die eerste direkte aanval wat deur die regering teen die onafhanklikheid van 'n professionele liggaam geloods is.

Tot dusver het die regering nog nie gepoog om die geneeshere en regsgeleerdes deur diskriminerende wetgewing aan bande te lê nie. Indien dit ooit gebeur, hoop ons dat die geneeshere dit nie nodig sal vind om te wens dat hulle die verpleegsters meer stewig ondersteun het toe hulle aangeval is nie.

Die wetsontwerp sal die prestige van Suid-Afrika nog verder verlaag. „The Lancet,” die vooraanstaande Britse Mediese tydskrif, het reeds gewaarsku dat hierdie wetsontwerp vir Suid-Afrika 'n onaangename nasleep mag hê. „Daar bestaan geen twyfel,” sê die tydskrif, „dat die nie-blanke verpleegsters 'n minderwaardige status sal hê nie,” en dit beweer dat hierdie toedrag van sake met die etiese beginsels van die Internasionale kode van die beroep bots. Die houding van die Internasionale Verpleegstersraad is nog nie bekend nie, maar die regering is gewaarsku dat hierdie liggaam moontlik sal weier om die Suid-Afrikaanse Verplegingsraad te erken indien hierdie rasse-diskriminasie ingevoer word.

Ten spyte van wat die regering mag sê, is hierdie wetgewing ingedien sonder dat dit behoorlik met die verpleegsters bespreek is. Die oorgrote meerderheid van blanke verpleegsters keur dit af noudat hulle die volle implikasies insien. Al wat die regering ter regverdiging van hul handelwyse kan aanhaal is 'n „referendum” waarin slegs 'n klein minderheid van die verpleegsters gestem het.

Die gruwelikste misdaad wat gepleeg word—soos dit die geval met so baie apartheidswetgewing is—bestaan uit die geweld wat teen menslike gevoelens gepleeg word. Die klein-geestige bepalinge i.v.m. aparte uniforms is kenmerkend van die hele wetsontwerp. Daar

(Vervolg op bladsy 3)

Verpotchefstroming En Sensuur In Ons Skole

Deur C. VAN HEYNINGEN

AS Presidente van die Opvoedingsbond is dit soms my plig om een of ander amptelike orgaan van 'n provinsiale Onderwysersunie of Teachers' Association te deurblaai. Lesers van **Die Swart Serp** sal miskien 'n paar uittreksels op prys stel:—

Die Skoolblad—The Teacher (die tweetalige orgaan van die O.V.S.O.V.) van Februarie 1957 bepaal die doel van geskiedenisonderwys op bladsy 5. Dit is om „die volksgees” te „verryk”. Die skrywer beweer ook dat die onderwyser „'n suiwer Afrikaanse stempel op ons jeug (moet) afdruk”, om hom van „'n kleurlose kosmopolitanisme” te red. Hy kla dat „bekruipende internationaliste met slinkse tred ons nasionale opvoedingsgrense binnetree”, en hy raai ons aan om as wapen in die frontlinie die „onwrikbare geloof” aan te kweek dat „geskiedenis die hartare en ankers is waardeur 'n volk sy identiteit bewaar.” Hy sê dat slegs kennis van die verlede ons sal leer om die toekoms op „rasse-onderskeidings” te bou, want dit is „die enigste moontlike bestaanswyse van die mensdom.”

Die Onderwysblad, die Afrikaanse orgaan van die Onderwysersunies van Transvaal, Natal en S.W.A., sê in Nov., 1956, op bl. 291: „die onderwys streef om—'n bepaalde volkstipe voort te bring.” Op bl. 307 dring die skrywer daarop aan dat opvoeding die nasionale bewussyn moet aanwakker want „'n jong kultuur, indien hy verflou of probeer neutraal te wees, kan deur ouer kulture ingesluk word.” „Ons moet besef,” vervolg die skrywer, „dat die onderwys ons voorbestaan kan verseker indien dit geanker is in die wese van ons volk—in ons Christelike geloof en nasionale bewussyn”. (Ongelukkig beteken „Christelike” en „nasionaal” nie meer wat hul beteken het voor die Christelike Nasionale Beleid ons oë oopgemaak het nie.)

The Transvaal Educational News van April, 1957, die Engelse orgaan van die Transvaal Teachers' Association, herdruk op bl. 7 **Item Nommer 21 van die Departement se Sirkulêre Nommer 1 van 1956.** Ek vertaal:

EDITORIAL (Continued)

It is on the grounds of callousness, more than anything else, that we would condemn this Bill. Apart from a decrease in hospital efficiency and a possible drying up of recruits, the real harvest will come in bitterness and resentment.

REDAKSIONEEL (Vervolg)

is 'n klein maar groeiende getal jong nie-blankes wat geroepe voel om hul in hierdie sfeer tot diens van hul medemens te stel. Hul het mooi ideale, nes blanke meisies wat die beroep kies. Hul is goedopgeleide, verant-

„Slegs boeke en tydskrifte wat op die offisiële Boekegids staan of wat deur die T.O.D. Biblioteekdiens goedgekeur is word in die skool-biblioteek of op skool en hostelgronde toegelaat.”

Dit sluit in boeke wat geleen of gegee is: „Enige oortreding van bogenoemde voorsiening sal in 'n baie ernstige lig deur die Departement beskou word.”

Die T.E.N. publiseer ook die T.T.A. se aanval op hierdie voorskrif, en die T.O.D. se antwoord daarop.

Die T.T.A. se kommentaar hoef ek nie weer te gee nie. Die gevaar en die dwaasheid van so 'n sensuur is vanselfsprekend. Die T.T.A. lê miskien nog meer nadruk op die onpraktiese dan op die eties gevaarlike aard daarvan. By enige sensuur kom die vraag op „Quis custodiet . . . ?” In hierdie geval lê die antwoord byderhand. Die Sensor is uiteindelik (soos my aanhalings uit die **Skoolblad** en die **Onderwysblad** suggereer) die Nasionale Party. Die doel is, uiteindelik, ewigdurende mag vir die Nasionale Party. Die metode is soos altyd—veral met die jeug—indoktrinasië. En die gevolg, helaas, is sielsverenging, sielsverarming, sielsverwringing van ons kinders.

In sy antwoord op die T.T.A. se aanval spreek die T.O.D. sy verontwaardiging uitvoerig uit oor die T.T.A. se gebrek aan „opbouwende kritiek” en „waardering.” Die gevoelens van die T.O.D. is beseer. Tegelykertyd verskyn daar 'n paar gesluiserde dreigemente. Die kritiek van die T.T.A., sê die T.O.D., is verantwoordelik vir „onberekenbare skade aan die werk van die Biblioteekdiens in Engelsmedium skole,” en dit kan ook „'n nadelige uitwerking hê op die uitbreiding van die Biblioteekdiens.” Die T.O.D. weier egter om die voorskrif terug te trek of selfs te wysig, en alhoewel hy toegee dat boeke wat in die private besit van onderwysers is, nie onderhewig aan die sensorskap is nie, beveel hy uitdruklik dat onderwysers geen boeke aan kinders mag leen of gee nie, sonder toestemming van die Biblioteekdiens!

(Continued overleaf)

woordelike jong dames, dikwels met die hoogste beginsels, wat bereid is om hard te studeer en hard te werk. Met 'n gevoel van opregte trots sien hul daarna uit om in 'n eervolle professionele kring opgeneem te word. Maar nee, die apartheidsmonster klap hul in die gesig.

Die ongevoeligheid wat hierdie wetsontwerp openbaar is die heelbelangrikste rede waarom ons dit so sterk afkeur. Dit sal waarskynlik 'n verlaging van doeltreffendheid in die land se hospitale meebring, miskien ook 'n vermindering van rekrute, maar die ont-nugtering en verbittering van die nie-blankes sal die mees tragiese gevolg wees.

THE CAMPS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

By "NATALIAN"

MANY evil stories have been spread about the nature and administration of the British camps run for Boer women and children during the South African war. They have been spread without shame and have had the effect of poisoning the minds of one section of the white community against the other.

Conclusive evidence in refutation of such stories is provided by the Boer Generals themselves. General de Wet, who well knew the conditions in the camps, (his wife was an inmate), advocated at the final conference of Boer Generals that the war be continued by inducing some men to lay down their arms and then take all women and children to the English in the towns. (De Wet: "Three Years War," p. 485).

This was no new idea. General Louis Botha stated that he had adopted this procedure long before, but that there were two difficulties. "Men still on commando were not so closely related to these families as to be willing to sacrifice their freedom for them" and there came a time when the English refused to accept more women and children ("Three Years War," pp. 491-2)

Such had been the treatment of their folk that General Botha remarked at the final conference of Boer Generals: "One is only too thankful now-a-days to know that our wives are under English protection." ("Three Years War," pp. 491-2).
"Burgher Camps"

The camps were officially known as "Refugee" or "Burgher" camps. The term "Concentration Camp" was sometimes used unofficially. Names are not important. It is the nature and intention of the camps which is important. Some malicious minds, however, like to seize on the term "Concentration Camp," so as to suggest that they were similar in nature and purpose to Hitler's Belsens.

Emily Hobhouse, accepted as a ministering angel by the Boers, readily agrees that the camps were in origin and conception, "Refugee Camps." She recounts the arrival of the first party of refugees—ten men, their women, children, cattle, waggons and carts—seeking refuge at the hands of a British officer at Eerste Fabricken. Soon there was a great influx of similar parties and Emily Hobhouse relates:

(Vervolg van bladsy 3)

Die saak is ernstig. Wanneer 'n Onderwysdepartement sy onderwysers so min vertrou, is dit die onderwysers wat onbetroubaar is, of die departement? Is dit nie 'n teken nie dat die departement onwrikbaar vasberade is om sy wil op die volk af te pers, al wil die volk dit hê of nie? En die wat die druk die swaarste gaan voel, al weet hulle dit nou nie, is ons kinders, en wie weet of hulle ooit sal herstel van die gebrek aan die soort geestesvryheid en vrye ommeegang wat ons in ons jeug geken het, en wat vir ons vanselfsprekend was?

"It became an instant duty to provide for them, and on 22nd September, 1900, General Maxwell issued the order which established the system of 'Refugee Camps.'" ("Brunt of the War," p. 34).

So serious became the defection from the Boer side that the Commandant General took punitive measures against the farms and possessions of those who streamed into the British camps.

As the guerilla war developed, and farmhouses became defensive posts, secret supply depots, or centres of espionage, Lord Kitchener proposed to General Botha at the Middelburg Conference (February, 1901) that all families be left at peace on the farms, provided they did not take part in the struggle. General Botha refused to accept this proviso (Cd. 902, pp. 119-120).

From this point it was plain that the war could not be carried on, in the manner planned by the Boers, without inflicting incredible suffering on women and children. Of interest is Hobhouse's comment which reads: "From the date of the Middelburg Conference the Boers washed their hands, as it were, more completely of the families of surrendered burghers, and, regarding them as English subjects, sent them into the English lines. From the one side or the other it was clear that the Boer women with their little ones must suffer. They were between the devil and the deep sea." ("Brunt of the War," p. 102). The later camps were the result of the British effort to remove women and children from the scene of battle and to alleviate their sufferings.

Conditions in Nineteenth Century

To understand what happened in the camps one must have some knowledge of circumstances at the end of the nineteenth century and not confuse them with those of the mid-twentieth century.

It was a dangerous age even in peacetime. Mortality rates were high. Dr. Gregory, M.O.H. for the Cape Colony, compiled figures to show the infantile mortality in the 32 principal towns for the years 1896-1900. Infantile mortality amongst Europeans was 214.40 per thousand; amongst Coloureds, 409.20 per thousand. These figures should be contrasted with figures given by Hansi P. Pollak in January, 1956, to the S.A. Institute of Race Relations. Infantile mortality amongst Europeans (Durban, 1954), 27 per 1,000; amongst Coloureds (Union, 1951), 124.7 per 1,000. It is clear, therefore, that under wartime conditions on the high veld in 1900, high mortality rates could be expected.

What was the condition of the women and children when they came into the camps? The following reports are typical of countless others.

Dr. Neethling, a Boer doctor at Irene Camp, took particulars of twenty consecutive families in the lines, and found that they had lost 71 of their 168 children

THREADS FROM THE SASH

A "DAY SCHOOL," which was organised by the **South East Transvaal Region** and held in Springs on 7th June, was not as well attended as might have been expected. For those who did attend, however, it was a most rewarding day. Mesdames M. Fisher, D. Hill and A. Marais, from Johannesburg, were the speakers ("all excellent," comments S.E.T.) and attractive lunch and teas were served by members of the Springs Branch. Black Sash propaganda was prominently displayed and new subscribers to the magazine were signed on. The whole idea is one which we heartily commend to other Regions. **Stop Press!** The Special Branch of the Police force was in attendance throughout the day. We do hope they profited from the informed speeches they heard.

* * *

THE following is an extract from a letter from **Mr. Jack Bowker** to **Mrs. M. Gilfillan**: "I want you to remember that from the very first I said the Black Sash would save South Africa, if anything could do so, and I want it remembered for this reason:— I do not want anyone to say, if things go well eventually, that anyone can be wise after the event. I want to be identified with the movement as far as I can be."

* * *

THE enterprising fund-raiser of the **Waverley Branch**, Mrs. Joyce Gauntlett, arranged a cake-

sale last month which brought in over £48 for Branch funds. The response, even from those members who are otherwise "non-active" for various reasons, was excellent and Mrs. Gauntlett found that by getting in touch personally with all members on the register in her search for cakes, she incidentally drew back into the fold many whose subscriptions and interest had lapsed.

* * *

WE hear through the grapevine that there has been a considerable increase in membership at **Empangeni** and **Amatikulu Branches** since Mrs. Foley's visit there in May. The parent Region, Natal Coastal, is to be congratulated on its kindly care and guidance of these and other sturdy offspring.

* * *

UNDER the encouraging eye of Mrs. J. Martin, Border's indefatigable magazine distributor, both the **Kingwilliamstown** and **Stutterheim Branches** have adopted the idea of starting Information Tables in their respective towns. Mrs. Peggy Norton, acting chair of Kingwilliamstown, reports: "I have sold every single magazine you have ever sent me and, although I haven't as yet got any new members, I am still battling with house to house visiting." Keep it up, Mrs. Norton!

CAMPS OF THE S. AFRICAN WAR (Continued)

before they came into camp. The matron informed Dr. Kendal Franks that there were many mothers who had lost more children than they had reared before they came into camp. One had lost 9 out of 12, one 10 out of 11, another 4 out of 7 (Cd. 819, p. 166).

Dr. Van de Waal, another Boer doctor, working in the Kroonstad camp, reported on the condition of some 800 who came in after capture in laager at Graspan:

"These people came into camp laden (sic) with disease . . . I find that all diseases rampant amongst them now, were in evidence amongst them when they came in . . . They brought in whooping cough, and diphtheria, diseases of which this camp was clear when they came in. They also brought a malignant type of measles, which spreads like wild-fire. This form of measles closely resembles typhus fever, and is very deadly." (Cd. 853, p. 112).

Main Cause of Tragedy

Here we have the main cause of the tragedy, which overtook the camps. It was this measles, more than all other factors, which caused the high death roll for some tragic months. The latest edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica indicates how dreadful can be the consequences of an infection of measles. It states: "When a community has long been immune from outbreaks, introduction of infection is followed by a devastating epidemic. Thus in Fiji in 1875, it was estimated that about one-fourth of the inhabitants died within three months."

The devastating power of measles was not unknown to the Boer people. Anna Steenkamp's Journal, which records the many deaths which occurred amongst the Voortrekkers as a result of measles, is reprinted in Bird's Annals of Natal, Vol. 1, pp. 467-8).

Inmates of the camps often recorded their appreciation of what was being done for them. Appreciation was shown in extensively signed addresses, as well as in individual testimonies. That of the Revd. J. C. Hefer, of Parys, may be quoted. He had refused to take the oath of allegiance to the British administration and had lost two of his own children in the camp when he wrote:

"It will always be my happy privilege here, as well as elsewhere, to testify to the good treatment of refugees in the Vredefort Road Camp." (Cd. 853, p. 21).

Christians such as he, in spite of the tragedy of war, could appreciate what the British were attempting to do for his people.

One of the many bright features of the camps was the establishment of schools. They were attended, on a purely voluntary basis, by 28,000 in the Transvaal camps, and by 14,500 in those of the Orange Free State. **At no time prior to this had school attendance in the Transvaal exceeded 15,000, or in the Orange Free State, 9,000.** (Chamberlain to Botha: 6th November, 1902). **The great service thus rendered to future generations of the Boer people has not been properly appreciated.**

MEET THE BLACK SASH

Office-bearers of the Natal Coastal Region



Mrs. SCOTT

Mrs. HAYSOM

MRS. W. A. M. SCOTT, Chair of the Region. Mrs. Scott was born in South Africa, educated at St. Anne's College, Natal, and at universities both here and overseas. Married into the Royal Army and lived in various countries before returning with her husband to settle in Durban five years ago. Worked in G.H.Q., Middle East (Cairo) and in the Admiralty, Whitehall, during the war. Is Secretary of "Their Daily Bread" Fund, which feeds over seven thousand African children daily. Was a foundation member of the Sash in Natal. Has two children.

MRS. A. G. HAYSOM, Regional Secretary. Mrs. Haysom was educated at Cheltenham and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Was Officer in charge of Radar Intelligence for the Allied Forces in the Mediterranean and Middle East theatres during the war. An advertising consultant by profession, she is now married and has four children. Was one of the earliest members of the Sash in this Region.



Mrs. HILL

Mrs. VENTRESS

MRS. J. F. HILL, Vice-Chair of the Region. Mrs. Hill was educated at the Girls' High School, Wynberg and took M.A. (Classics) at the University of Cape Town and U.E.D. at Rhodes University. Is a lay preacher of the Congregational Church. Keenly interested in race relations. Is Chair of the Durban

and District Joint Council of Europeans and Bantu. Went to Pretoria for the original march of the Sash to the Union Buildings.

MRS. G. VENTRESS, Vice-Chair. Mrs. Ventress was born in Greytown, Natal, and grew up in Zululand. Has worked in advertising in Cape Town and Johannesburg, and has lived in Natal for three years. Has always been interested in politics. Joined the Black Sash in October, 1955, and has been Chair of the Highway Branch since June, 1956. Has been a member of the Natal Coastal Region since its inception and is now Country Branch Organiser for the Region.



Mrs. LANGSHAW

Mrs. DALTON

MRS. M. LANGSHAW, Regional Treasurer. Mrs. Langshaw was born and educated in England. Trained at the Prince of Wales Hospital, London, and the Mother's Hospital, gaining her S.R.N. and S.C.M. certificates. She then studied theology at Kennaway Hall, Anglican Training College for Missionary students. Spent five years working at Kaborole Hospital, Mountains of the Moon, Uganda, and a further four years at the Society's Hospital, Kampala. Came to South Africa in 1936 to be married. Worked at Addington Hospital during the war. Was Matron of the Babies' Home, Durban, for five years. Joined the Sash in the early days and went to Pretoria for the March to Union Buildings in June, 1955.

MRS. M. DALTON, Chair of Durban North Branch. Mrs. Dalton was born in the Eastern Province and educated at Victoria Girls' High and Rhodes University. Is married and has three children, but still manages to give a lot of time to welfare work and horticulture. Is interested in politics.

MRS. F. D. V. POWELL, Chair of Durban West Branch. Mrs. Powell was born in England and educated at Bristol. Holds the Teacher's Diploma, Bristol University. Went to Rhodesia in 1927 to work at the Hope Fountain Training School. Has lived in Natal since 1930. Has seven children and six grandchildren! Is Chairman of the local Civic

Association, Chairman of the Provincial Girl Guide Council and is also interested in Women's Institutes.



Mrs. POWELL



Mrs. SCHWARTZ

MRS. I. T. SCHWARTZ, Regional Magazine Distributor. Mrs. Schwartz was born and educated in Johannesburg. Lived abroad after her marriage and has travelled very widely. Was in Trinidad during the war and did a great deal of Red Cross work. Since returning to the Union a few years ago, she has been active in welfare work. Joined the Sash in its early days.



Mrs. HOPKINS



Mrs. WALLACE

MRS. S. HOPKINS, a Committee member of the Region. Mrs. Hopkins was born and educated in Somerset East, Eastern Province, and took her B.A. degree at Rhodes University. Joined the Civil Service and was secretary to the Medical Superintendent of Addington Hospital. Later moved to Pietermaritzburg, where she worked in the Education Department. Has two children, a son and daughter. Joined the Sash at the end of 1955 and drove in the convoy to Cape Town.

MRS. D. WALLACE, Committee member. Mrs. Wallace was born in England and educated in Canada and the U.S.A. Returned to England to be married and then lived in Scotland. Has always been keenly interested in Social Welfare and has done much work in that direction. Worked in an aircraft factory during the war. Came to South Africa in 1948 and continues her child welfare work to this day. Joined the Sash very early on.

From "SMOKING FLAX"

(M. Louise Hoskins)

*"When man shall till the earth
To feed the hungry and not for gain;
When he shall build his houses for men's lives
And not to meet the calls
Of politicians;
When he shall work his factories and mills
In service for his kind
And not for profit, or for prestige, or for power;
When he shall frame his laws
To champion Justice, Liberty, and Love,
When words shall channel truth
And crime shall mean all intent
Towards one's neighbour, alien or kin;
Then man may knock at Heaven's Gate
And have no need to wait.
Then he shall know
God's will is moving through earth's men
And Heaven is rising on the earth—
But not till then."*

**Extract from "Nursing Times", published in
England, 3rd May, 1957**

How far can a special group of citizens withstand or overcome limitations enforced by a national policy? This is the problem facing the nurses of South Africa and the sympathy of their colleagues must be expressed to them in this situation. The Amendment to the Nursing Act, to which we referred with deep concern last July, is now before the South African Parliament; the proposals were first put forward in 1946. The present Amendment will set up a South African Nursing Council of Europeans only (with advisory bodies for other groups) which must maintain separate registers for European and non-European nurses and may institute distinctive uniforms. The professional association—The South African Nursing Association—will still include all nurses in its membership but will have a Board of European nurses with a Standing Committee of non-European nurses, linked by a liaison officer elected by non-Europeans, but being a member of both bodies. Nurses are not alone in this tragic situation; the Churches and the Universities are also faced with comparable problems as a result of the national policy of apartheid. But the developments resulting within the nursing profession alone will be watched with concern, as throughout the long history of professional nursing in South Africa all nurses have taken the same examinations, been registered by one Council and been members of the one professional association.

Back Sash Editorial Comment: The members of the "advisory bodies" referred to above will have no vote.



THIS IS Y

UNITED PARTY

THE United Party is a Commonwealth Party without reservations and without qualification. We believe in the Commonwealth and we shall remain in the Commonwealth. To us the Crown is and will remain the cherished symbol of our free membership of that great organisation. The Party will therefore oppose the coming of a republic with all the lawful means at its command, whether that republic be outside or within the Commonwealth of Nations. Because, inevitably, a republic within the Commonwealth will be to the extremists of the Nationalist Party merely a first step towards a republic completely isolated from the Commonwealth—and in the Nationalist Party the extremists sooner or later outbid the less extreme elements!

The seeking of a greater unity is no new concept; it is in fact the very reason for the existence of the United Party. And the Party applies its principle of unity not only in its strivings and objectives within the Union, but also in its approach to the outside world. Therefore, it propounds unequivocally the adherence of the Union to the Commonwealth as a great and voluntary organisation directed at the attainment of harmony in a vast sector of the international field.

Long ago General Smuts dealt with secession in these words:

"Secession means not only secession from the British Commonwealth, it means also secession of Afrikaans-speaking from English-speaking South Africans, who made a solemn Covenant at Union.

"It means the secession of the Natives, whose devotion to the British connection is historical.

"It means the complete isolation of Afrikaans-speaking Africa, and in that isolation its stranglement and decay.

"It means that civilised South Africa becomes a dream and that the white people of the Continent have decided to commit suicide."

They are as true today as they were then!

THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE VARIED AND INTERESTING VIEWS ON

THE REPUBLICAN ISSUE

(Points of view expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Black Sash.—Ed.)

FEDERAL PARTY

THE Union Federal Party is uncompromisingly opposed to a republic. The republican ideal is incompatible with a major feature of the Party's policy—its determination to strengthen and maintain South Africa's Crown—Commonwealth link and membership—and republicanism is accordingly rejected by Federalists.

The Union Federal Party opposes republicanism, and in particular, the local brand, Broederbond National republicanism, not for mere sentimental reasons, but for reasons so sound and so obvious that to recapitulate them in detail would be tedious and unnecessary. The stability, integrity, impartiality, justice and progressive character of the monarchy we accept as matter-of-fact. The tremendous benefits, social, economic, military, scientific and cultural, which we derive through Commonwealth membership, are too numerous to list. These too, we regard as part of the normal pattern. And, in the matter of international relations, the relatively prominent status and sound reputation enjoyed (until recently) by our homeland was in large measure due to our integration, in a multitude of matters of common concern, with the sister nations of the Commonwealth. Make no mistake. A republic must cast off the monarchy with all its values; and it must inevitably (ask Dr. Diederichs) leave the Commonwealth.

In spite of the actions of the Government, since its accession to power, many of which have been viewed with alarm and disgust in the Western world, South Africa, allied to the Crown and the Commonwealth, continues to enjoy the enormous benefits of this connection.

(Continued in column 6)

LIBERAL PARTY

ONCE upon a time there was a British Republican movement. The organizer and leading spirit called a meeting; was pleasantly surprised by the attendance; happily noted enthusiastic denunciations of the monarchy; finally threw in his hand when those present, ardent republicans all, stood up at the end of the meeting and sang "God Save the Queen"! A moral? Well, perhaps not, but it's a good story.

The Liberal Party believes that there is nothing **inherently** good or bad in either a constitutional monarchy or a republic. Great Britain is a "good" constitutional monarchy, South Africa a "bad" one; France is better as a republic than she was as a monarchy; Russia was not a "good" monarchy, nor is she a "good" republic. It is not the form of government which is important: it is what we may call the content. The test is, is the state a democracy? Does it assert and protect the rights of all its citizens?

On this test, South Africa's present constitutional monarchy is not a good one. This is not to say, however, that South Africa would be better as a republic. When one considers the political outlook of many of those who today are advocating a republic, **it is clear that the republic they would introduce would be even less democratic than our present form of government** (if that is possible) and the Liberal Party views, therefore, with suspicion current republican talk. Further, not a single sound argument has ever been put up for weakening the commonwealth connection. Whatever her form of government, South Africa could not be more "sovereign" than she is now: we are, constitutionally speaking, a completely independent nation. Moreover, faced with any sort of crisis, South Africa needs every friend she can get: she cannot "go it alone" and, her race policies being what they are, she cannot expect to find friends easily anywhere in the world.

(Continued in column 6)



SOUTH AFRICAN BOND

IS a Republic desirable now? Will it succeed? Will it bring about European Unity and help to build a United Nation? How will we benefit economically? In time of need are we strong enough to defend ourselves? Will the other members of the Commonwealth, who enjoy the same status as we do, viz. Australia, Canada, Great Britain and New Zealand, still support us to the same extent that they have always done? What are the real advantages to South Africa and what do we stand to gain or lose?

The advocates of a Republic seem to base their arguments purely on sentiment and emotion rather than logic. There is no objective reasoning. Their only object seems to be able to say, "At last we have won the battle and have regained what we have lost." To the emotionalist and the revenge-seeker these words sound sweet, but to a rationalist able to weigh up the pros and cons calmly it is most disconcerting.

In the Programme of Principles, clause 5, of the S.A. Bond, provision is made for a change of the Form of Government, if two-thirds of the electorate vote in favour of it by a special referendum. Such a change of the form of Government refers to **any** change and includes a Federation, if at some future date we are required to extend our boundaries and find that such a form of Government is better suited for our requirements.

The S.A. Bond feels that the time is not opportune to talk about a Republic now. Our European population is too small and divided. It can only cause greater cleavages and damage the possibility of a united nation for all time. A Republic will not bring about Unity, but Unity may eventually accomplish a Republic, based on the goodwill of its peoples.

Impetuosity will bring further division amongst our own citizens and alienate our best friends abroad. Economically we will suffer and from

NATIONALIST PARTY

Information Refused

S.A. BOND (Continued)

a point of view of defence we will be in a more vulnerable position, because our equal partners of today will ipso facto not have the same affection for us and consequently not be so ready to make sacrifices on our behalf. Furthermore we will not enjoy the same degree of priority as far as defence equipment is concerned.

Let us have faith and dispel all bitterness. Our future destiny is best left in the hands of Divine Guidance. Deeds speak louder than words, let us therefore first consolidate our position and prove to the world that in truth "united we stand."

FEDERAL PARTY (Continued)

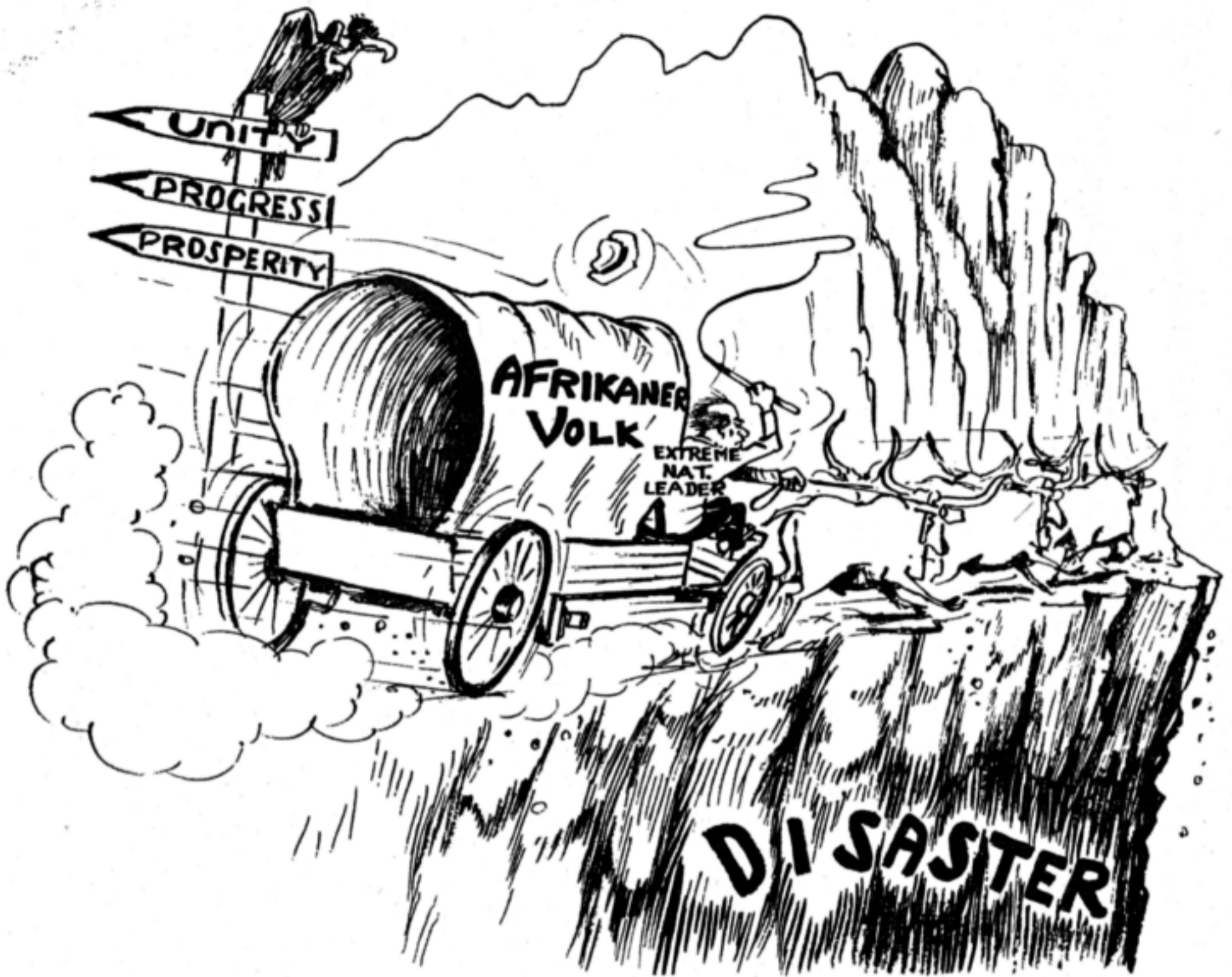
What, however, will the advent of a republic bring? What added benefits will republicanism bestow on our country? Surely no citizen would be so foolhardy or unpatriotic as to call for a radical change in the nature of the government of one's country, unless very real and more-than-compensatory benefits accrued from such a change? Such action would be nearer treason than reason.

But the Nationalist government assures the unconvinced that benefits will flow from a republican coup. No great or detailed examination of these benefits is necessary to show that they are either hypocritical or just plain eyewash. We are assured by the protagonists of republicanism that: (1) it is the **traditional form** of government in S.A.! Any student will realise the absurdity of this contention. (2) S.A. will only be really independent under republican status: here again, comment is superfluous. (3) A republic will bring about true National Unity. If the portents mean anything, republicanism will shatter the nation.

What Nationalist-republicans hesitate to tell us is the nature of the proposed republic, and a quick glance at the 1942 Draft Constitution (issued with Dr. Malan's approval) shows why. Krugerian republicanism, insular, retrogressive, oligarchic and tyrannical, is the Broederbond ideal. Only a section of a section of the White community will gain any (temporary) benefits from such a republic. It will mark the triumph of Herrenvolk Broederbond Nationalism and spell the ruin of our land and people.

LIBERAL PARTY (Continued)

These, briefly, are the Liberal Party's general views. On the method of introducing a republic, however, we want to say emphatically that any change to a republic must genuinely reflect the "volkswil": it must represent the majority decision of **all adults, irrespective of race or colour, voting together in a referendum.**



TOEWYDINGSREDE

MET trots en nederigheid verklaar ons ons gehegtheid aan die land van Suid-Afrika, ons wy ons aan die diens van ons land, ons bevestig opnuut ons getrouheid aan die Unie-verdrag, wat ons bymekaar gebring het.

Ons belowe plegtig die ideale te handhaaf waarmee ons Unie besiel was—ideale van onderlinge vertrouwe en verdraagsaamheid, van die onskendbaarheid van beloftes, van moed vir die toekoms, van vrede en regverdigheid teenoor alle persone en rasse. Ons beloop plegtig om ons te verset teen enige vermindering hiervan, oortuig dat hierdie plig ons opgelê is en dat die geskiedenis en ons kinders ons sal regverdig.

Mag God ons help, op Wie se krag ons ons verlaat.

APATHY ANN

(Editor's Note: As a respite from more serious matters, we think our readers will enjoy the following light-hearted attempt to bring the alphabet up to date. Further instalments of the Black Sash A.B.C. in future issues).

Apathy Ann just couldn't care less,
That her country is now in the direst distress.
Active Aletta's the opposite kind
For she works for justice and uses her mind.

Bored Bella Barbara sits and looks on
While even her freedom is lessened—then gone,
Bold Bessie knows she was born with the right
To move where she pleases—for this she will fight.

Careless Clotilda won't bother to act
When her children are taught mostly fiction,
not fact.

Cultured Carola, a much saner sort,
Knows it matters what history her daughter is taught!
P.B.

FROM OUR POSTBAG

To the Editor, The Black Sash.

WITH their attention focussed on the impending General Election, there are many Black Sash women who feel that the time may have come to down tools in the Sash and throw their whole weight into an Opposition political party. I have heard it said—and quite rightly so—that we will only get the Nationalists out through the Ballot Box.

I should like to point out to these women, and others of our critics, that were it not for the Black Sash many of them would possibly not yet be fully aware of the importance of the pending election. We must, each of us, join a political party, try to improve and enliven it, work for it, but I doubt if any of us will be able to do this without the Black Sash behind us. Where would we get all the valuable information, encouragement, enlightenment and inspiration that is being put out by the Black Sash?

We must have an informed electorate and I doubt if the political parties will be able to give us all the material we need. Has any party thought of elucidating any of the recent confusing legislation and putting it out to its members in an easily-understandable form? Were it not for the Black Sash magazine and other literature, I, for one, would not be able to talk intelligently about half the Bills and Acts that have been introduced in Parliament recently.

There are many women in the Black Sash who make a special study of these laws and are therefore able to classify and analyse the implications for those of us who are unable to do so. I should like to say to those who are doubtful about the continuance of the Sash—think **very** carefully, stay in the movement and use what you get out of it to improve and expand the particular party for which you intend working from now until the General Election.

E. YOUNG, Johannesburg.

* * *

To the Editor, The Black Sash.

AMONG our members are many teachers and ex-teachers. To pave a pathway to a happier future let the Black Sash beg them to start writing new reading and history books for our schools.

In the early nineteen-thirties I did all I could to interest people in the type of drama I found children presenting in Afrikaans-Medium Schools. No one would listen to me! The children who acted in racially-biased plays then are the adults who know race prejudice and hatred today. It is essential that books presenting **all** aspects of our national life should be given to **all** children in the future.

I should like to see simple stories written in groups of three, presenting facts about Britons, Afrikaners and Africans who have served South Africa. (John Bond's book "They were South Africans" makes one realize that he could provide the material for such stories). Plays should be written. There is a wealth of drama in our history, but again a book of plays should present the three-fold aspect

of our national life. Let us have these "three-sided" works ready and know that the day will come when we will be able to use them.

I think a plan should be made to collect material for books for all age groups and these books on our three-fold life—Afrikaans, English, African—must be of three types and thus cover history, drama and general reading. **Black** children should learn that, in the days before the white man came to these shores, black men killed black men and that white men often freed them from slaughter and starvation. **Afrikaans** children should learn of the contribution Britons made to our development both before and after the Great Trek. **English-speaking** children should learn of the great kindness and generosity of the Boer people. **Racial understanding and tolerance must be taught from the grades upwards.**

Perhaps we could try to present a Christmas annual of the "right sort" of stories and poems. The plan could be put into action immediately for our children's good and perhaps Black Sash profit.

NORAH TAYLOR.

I BESEECH YOU TO BE CAREFUL WHAT CAPTAINS YOU CHOOSE; A FEW HONEST MEN ARE BETTER THAN NUMBERS.

—Cromwell.

To the Editor, The Black Sash.

I recently attended a meeting to hear a talk given by Mr. Ngokani, a Field Officer in the Institute of Race Relations.

Mr. Ngokani elected to speak on "Pass Laws and Humans." The pass laws have often been the subject of lectures, but never before had I had the opportunity of listening to an individual putting forward his own experiences, the tragedies and the humiliations caused in the administration of these laws. The human element can only be fully appreciated, I feel, when one hears these facts from an ordinary law-abiding citizen, a husband, a father, a man with a home.

I was grateful for this rare opportunity of being informed, not by Mrs. Ballinger, or another Native Representative, or welfare worker, but by a man who has first-hand knowledge of these laws, has personally been arrested and molested, has no axe to grind politically, and who has no voice in the making or administering of these laws.

I am ashamed to say that, before I heard Mr. Ngokani, I felt that one of the few improvements this Government had instituted was the excellent organisation and control of all African labour. Every male African has a finger-printed card giving all particulars which is filed for reference. After Mr. Ngokani's lecture I realised that I had regarded all

HAPPY THOUGHTS FROM HANSARD

Mr. J. H. Fouche (Nat. Smithfield) during the Railway Budget debate: When we consider how many meals are provided at the various stations and on the trains and in the cafeterias we must expect a deficit if we want to give service to the public.

Editor: Obviously, for the Catering Department to make a profit, it should serve no meals.

Mr. Knobel (Nat. Bethlehem) during the same debate: Well, I am not the Minister of Railways nor am I the General Manager, but I feel that if I had occupied one of these positions and if I wanted to establish a profitable Railway organization, I would always have aimed at having fewer trucks than the number needed for traffic.

Editor: ! ! !

FROM OUR POSTBAG (Continued)

Africans as numbers in a labour force, never thinking of the human story behind each card—a wife and children waiting anxiously for a father who might spend that night in a cell, because he forgot to carry his pass.

Mr. Ngokani said that one of the direct results of the pass laws is the present situation in the Native townships surrounding Johannesburg. Because of the introduction of Proclaimed Areas, thousands of Africans are prohibited immigrants, and cannot obtain employment in certain areas. Thus an African born and bred in Alexandra township may not enter the Municipal area to obtain work, without a permit.

In his idleness he is tempted to join one of the many location gangs, and petty crime is practised and perfected in the township. This stage is soon passed, and his ambition leads him on to bigger things, to our own burglarproofed homes in the Northern suburbs. Ironically enough, these pass laws which were basically framed for our protection, are directly responsible for unemployed, passless Africans turning to serious crime. Another result of the pass laws is that pass offenders are so often imprisoned that gaol has lost its stigma. A term in prison is now known as "going to College." Mr. Ngokani also pointed out that many pass laws are not new laws, but that the harsh administration of these laws is causing hatred and fear of the Police, and therefore of all Europeans. The African's very survival is dependent on his pass, and the police have tremendous power in the exercise of these laws. Incessant raids are carried out in their homes, where doors are broken down, husbands and wives pulled out of their beds, while small children watch their parents' indignity and degradation.

I was grateful to the Black Sash for arranging this talk, because I now realize that the only satisfactory way to learn about the African is from the African himself.

PEGGY A. MASKEW.

This South Africa

(Readers are invited to submit contributions to this feature. A prize of 5s. will be awarded each month to the reader submitting the first-mentioned contribution.)

"The Special Branch are finding many useful recruits amongst 'good neighbours' who will inform the police, advising them of 'mixed' parties and meetings in private homes."—Letter in "The Sunday Tribune", 9/6/57.

(5s. to Mrs. W. Jackson.)

"The Government's measures solve no problem: they do not even point in the direction of a solution. But a fatal impetus drives them on."—Arthur Keppel-Jones in "The Sunday Express," 16/6/57.

"Ducktails, 'jollers,' rock 'n rollers, 'battlers' and 'scalpers'—in fact the whole genus of crazy, mixed-up kids—have come to stay on our local scene."—Antony Quain in "The Star," 20/6/57.

"My policy is for Bantu race pride, Bantu race purity and Bantu race development in our separate areas where no Indians or Chinese shall ever enter."—A. F. L. Sikosana in "The Rand Daily Mail," 19/6/57.

"At the beginning of the session there was no doubt in anyone's mind but that the Nationalists would win the 1958 election with the greatest of ease. Now there is a doubt."—"Junius" in "The Star," 20/6/57.

"It is the low purchasing power of the mass of the people in South Africa that is largely responsible for our high cost of living."—Letter in "The Evening Post," Port Elizabeth, 11/5/57.

"It is of inestimable value to anyone to be able to continue his studies at university institutions where he can exchange his ideas with others, provided the institution is not subject, as the universities were in Hitler's Germany, to complete control by the State as to who should teach, what should be taught and whom should be taught."—Mr. A. van de Sandt Centlivres, in "The Daily Dispatch," 27/4/57.

"The whole protracted and still unfinished story of car reflector legislation has high-lighted the extent to which vestiges of federalism in an otherwise unitary State can defy all attempts to establish a uniform traffic code for the whole country."—Leader in "The Star," 20/6/57.

"Today Nationalism is frightened stiff that the youth may be South Africanised. That is why it persists in keeping the children of the two language groups apart."—Leader in "The Friend," Bloemfontein, 24/2/57.

"We have ahead difficult problems to solve in our multi-racial society, but I am convinced that good sense must prevail and that South Africa will provide for all its peoples security and justice."—Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, as reported in "The Star," 24/5/57.

THE FAMILY

By Dr. EDGAR BROOKES

I HAVE chosen the topic of the Family, because it seems to me that this is a subject which must interest women who are taking part in public affairs. There is more to it than this, however. The present condition of family life in South Africa is one which should give us all cause for serious misgiving. We are thankful indeed for those families which are healthy and for those sections of the community where healthy family life is the rule rather than the exception, but it would not be realistic to assume that this is general.

African Family Life

There is no desire on my part to blacken the character of the Africans, to hold them up to public criticism, or to make things one shade worse than they are. The difficulties, which African families and African young people face in urban areas, are very great. Nevertheless the truth must be faced, and the truth is that large proportions, amounting in some areas to as much as 50 per cent., of the African births in urban areas are illegitimate. Sometimes these unions are irregular rather than illicit; that is, the parties live together permanently and regard each other as husband and wife, but are not in fact married, either by Bantu custom or by European law. In a large number of cases, however, the unions are temporary, the man concerned takes little or no responsibility for the woman and her children, and I cannot think of anything more likely to corrode the very heart of a nation than for its men to escape their responsibilities in this way.

For this state of affairs those concerned are partly responsible. To help them to make the right choice means personal work involving the giving of time to individuals and real caring. External circumstances alone can never be a sufficient explanation for widespread sexual laxity. Nevertheless they are a partial explanation, and, if we are interested in politics, we should do all that lies in our power to deal with these externals which hinder family life.

Migrant Labour

Of these externals the most important is the system of migrant labour. The more we encourage it the more we encourage immorality. There is nothing necessarily of the colour problem about this. Any garrison town or large seaport tends to have a greater amount of organised immorality than a more happily situated community. A Bantu chief has said, "When married men leave, the home is broken up, often with disastrous consequences." The absence of the head of the family means that parental authority is weakened, and decisions which are normally made by the head of the family become the responsibility of the already fully-occupied mother. In an article in the South African Medical Journal in the early days of the Pholela Health Centre, Drs. Kark and Cassell say, "While the progress towards

better health which has been achieved by the people, in association with the Health Centres programme, has been most encouraging, there are aspects of life in Pholela which mitigate against the attainment of health . . . Amongst the most significant is . . . the system of migrant labour, whereby a very large proportion of the able-bodied men spend a large part of their lives working in the towns, while their women remain in Pholela." Drs. Kark and Cassell go on to say that the health of the countryside deteriorates, through the continual introduction of fresh foci of infection by those returning from work in the towns, a high incidence of T.B. and syphilis being maintained by this process. The persistent frustration, in the lives of deserted wives in the Reserves, is the cause of hysteria, and a strong aid to the superstitious fears of witchcraft and the like.

THE PEOPLE NEVER GAVE THEIR
LIBERTIES BUT UNDER SOME DELU-
SION.

—Edmund Burke.

There is no doubt as to what our positive policy should be, and it should be supported, even where it seems to encourage **apartheid** by those of us who favour integration, and even where it appears to encourage integration by those of us who favour **apartheid**. For the human needs of human beings are far more important than conformity with a political slogan. Thus any real development of the Reserves which would enable families to live together there is to be welcomed, and any increased settlement of families, in place of unattached males, in the urban areas, is also to be welcomed. Whatever laws restrict mobility, whatever laws keep wives from their husbands, whatever laws or administrative actions shake stability ought to be resisted by us in the interests of the African people, of ourselves and of the Union as a whole.

Indian Family Life

The Indians have in many ways the best record in South Africa so far as family life is concerned. Both their illegitimacy rate and their divorce rate are exceptionally low. Evolution from the "joint family", namely the living together of married sons and their families with the parents, to the family as we know it is proceeding rapidly, but there is need for much understanding and help in this process. Probably only those who know the Indians very well could do much in that particular field, but we can all do our part in resisting the undue interference of the Group Areas Act with family life. It uproots homes, discourages the attempt to build a home and is likely to cause widespread suffering.

In one Transvaal dorp the situation is such that there is not a house—not a single house—which a newly married couple can occupy. In Ermelo and Piet Retief there are houses in rows, each of two or three rooms, in which families of ten, twelve and even fourteen people are living. Adult children of both sexes are sleeping in one room with their parents. There is space for beds for perhaps one-quarter of the occupants. Back rooms serve as kitchens and dining rooms by day and bedrooms by night. The Indian people do not like living in this way, but the restrictions on the purchase and hiring of land have driven many of them to it, and the operation of the Group Areas Act is likely to make the situation worse.

Coloured Family Life

The Coloured people, especially in Natal and the Transvaal may well be described as "the lost legion". Any real interest in them and caring for them would be a most valuable service to South Africa. They are so often forgotten, even by those who are interested in African welfare. The new race classification under the Population Registration Act has borne with exceptional harshness on borderline cases between white and coloured and between coloured and African. **It is hardly possible for us to imagine the psychological disturbance which takes place in a child ejected from a European school and compelled to attend a Coloured school.**

European Family Life

While we think more honestly and deeply about the issues already raised, we should also face honestly and deeply our own family life. If a choice has to be made between political activity and maintaining a healthy family life, no woman should hesitate to choose the latter, even in the interests of the State itself. We must never forget the parable of the beam and the mote and if we try to help the non-European groups to have a better family life, we must fight all that goes to injure family life among ourselves. We are concerned not only with parents who are too cruel, but with parents who are too kind, not only with harsh homes but with oversoft homes, not only with families which are not closely enough knit, but families who are too closely knit, with domination by one or both parents and a corresponding disastrous influence on the children. We need honesty and reality in our own family life, and these, with the wisdom that we need and do not have, we can obtain only from the inner springs of faith. Refreshment and wisdom are there for the asking, but they must be sought.

UNLESS A MAN HAS THAT VIRTUE, HE HAS NO SECURITY FOR PRESERVING ANY OTHER.

—Dr. Johnson on "Courage."

End of the Parliamentary Session.

WHAT HAVE WE BECOME?

- A country where religion and friendship are State-controlled.
- An investment field avoided by foreign capital.
- A land which has more emigrants than immigrants.
- A people censured by the civilised world.
- Citizens who have lost their freedom of speech, association and movement.
- A country tormented by racial tension and fear.
 - This Government is responsible.
 - This Government must go!

MAINLY FOR HUSBANDS

WE in Pietermaritzburg were indeed grateful to Mrs. Foley for her address at the opening of the last Conference. It stimulated, encouraged, and inspired us. It even made the husbands go home with a smug expression, when she lauded their tolerance and patience in allowing their wives to absent themselves from home in pursuit of an ideal. And that it where I did NOT agree with her. To start with, it is not only an ideal, it is a terrible, terrible, necessity. Make no mistake. All husbands of women of the Black Sash must realise that what their wives are doing is not an idle pursuit, nor a frivolous desire to become news in the papers, but a frightening realisation that, if we thinking women do not do every single thing that it is possible for us to do now, then it will be the men who will be forced to neglect us, and leave us in order to don battledress and fight with all the horrors of man's destructive weapons, to keep alive the light of liberty in this dark land.

We are women who are deeply conscious of our duty to our husbands and our children. Up till now our homes have been the core of our life. We now realise that to preserve that core of happy family life **FOR ALL RACES** (make no mistake, not only for the white), then we must go out to our meetings, we must bring together the weapons that we can muster. We must organise, lecture, teach and pray. We must get up earlier in the mornings, and make the puddings, and do the lunches, and organise the households so that we can attend our conferences and make our just cause grow and grow. **We want to preserve our sons for better things than fighting.** No! Do not let the husbands feel smug that they allow their wives to join the Black Sash. Do not let them say "I do not want my wife to wear a Black Sash and make an exhibition of herself." I have heard this so often, "My husband doesn't like to see me standing in public." An exhibition of yourself? What an idea! We are not individuals when

FACT AND FICTION

FICTION:

The Government's policy of apartheid is the only possible policy which will build up a strong South African nation and preserve White civilisation in this country.

FACT:

Seldom has there been so tragic a fiction in the history of this or any other country. What **in fact** has happened in South Africa in the past nine years? Let the facts speak for themselves, facts, which in most cases stand written upon the Statute Book of the Union of South Africa. The Constitution has been shattered, the courts of law have been ignored, hatred and bitterness exist among all the peoples of the nation, while abroad South Africa has scarcely one friend in a world where friendship means investment money. For the first time in our history the Coloured people, the Africans, both primitive and educated, and the Indians have been driven to unite in hatred and distrust of the White man. The Johannesburg bus boycott, crudely handled by the Government, has shown that non-Europeans can and will organise their people. The Universities of the country are being fettered by the chains of apartheid in the face of the protests of people, both here and abroad, who believe that the University is the stronghold of Western civilisation, not a glorified technical school. Nursing, one of the most honourable of professions, is to be sullied by apartheid. Does disease or death distinguish between a white or a black skin?

What have the non-White people gained by apartheid? The daily humiliations because of Colour, the insulting discrimination, the savagely cruel Group Areas regulations, pass laws, amended and still more amended Native Urban Areas Laws, are these counted as gains by our non-European people? The Native Reserves are still as unable as ever before to provide a living for their people and the natural increase, let alone the millions Dr. Verwoerd will cast out of the towns and cities. Week after week laws pour out of Parliament, giving more and more power to Cabinet Ministers, setting them above the power of the Law and even of Parliament.

Who then dares allege that apartheid is possible or right when the Anglican Church, supported by nearly every Church in South Africa, has gravely declared that it must break the law which forbids the free association of Christians in Christian churches? The last bridges between White and non-White have been broken down. In apartheid lies the greatest threat to White civilisation in South Africa that has yet been devised by mortal man.

M.E.F.

we stand on vigil. We sink our individuality. We are making an exhibition of our immoral, fanatical, crazy government. That is what we are drawing attention to, and it is with these silent, but virulent weapons, please God, we will triumph.

D.T.

The Black Sash, July, '57

FANTASIE EN FEIT

FANTASIE:

Apartheid is al beleid wat 'n sterk Suid-Afrikaanse nasie sal opbou en ons blanke beskawing sal bewaar.

FEIT:

Selde in die geskiedenis het enige land met so 'n tragiese verdigting te kampe gehad. Wat het **in werklikheid** in die afgelope nege jaar in Suid-Afrika plaasgevind? Laat ons die feite noukeurig in oënskou neem—feite wat in die meeste gevalle in ons wetboek aangeteken staan. Die grondwet is verpletter, ons howe is geïgnoreer, haat en nyd kenmerk die verhoudings tussen die verskeie rasse-groepe, terwyl Suid-Afrika skaars 'n enkele vriend oorsee het in 'n wêreld waar vriendskap met waardevolle beleggings gepaard gaan.

Vir die eerste keer in ons geskiedenis is daar eenheid tussen die kleurlinge, die naturelle en die Indiërs—eenheid wat deur gemeenskaplike vyandskap teenoor die blankes bewerkstellig is. Die boikot van busse in Johannesburg, wat skandelik deur die regering mishandel is, het getoon dat nie-blankes in staat is om saam te staan. Die universiteite word aan bande gelê ten spyte van die hewige protes van diegene wat glo dat Universiteite die vernaamste vestings van die Westerse beskawing is, en nie blote tegniese kolleges nie. Verpleging, 'n eerbare beroep, gaan deur apartheid besmet word—asof siekte en die dood enige onderskeid tussen 'n wit en 'n swart vel erken.

Wat beteken apartheid vir die nie-blankes? Die daelike vernederings as gevolg van hul kleur, die beledigende onderskeidings wat in die lewe geroep word, die wrede regulasies i.v.m. groepsgebiede, paswette, gewysigde wetgewing op stadsgebiede—reken die nie-blankes dat hul hierby gebaat het? Die naturelleserwes is onbekwaam om diegene wat daarin woon van 'n redelike bestaan te voorsien, en tog wil Dr. Verwoerd die posisie vererger deur miljoene uit ons dorpe en stede uit te dryf. Elke week kry ons nuwe wetgewing wat alhoemeer mag aan die Ministers gee, wetgewing wat hulle bo die howe en selfs bo die Parlement verhef.

Wie het dan die vermetelheid om te verklaar dat apartheid regverdig is wanneer die Engelse kerk, met die ondersteuning van feitlik elke ander kerk in die land, verplig voel om die wet te oortree wat omgang tussen Christene in Christenkerke verbied? Elke brug tussen blankes en nie-blankes is verbreek. Apartheid is die grootste gevaar wat daar nog ooit bestaan het teen die behoud van die blanke beskawing in Suid-Afrika.

M.E.F.

DURBAN NEWS

All reports from **Durban** indicate that the mass vigil held recently in protest against the Separate Universities Bill and the Region-wide distribution of pamphlets were very effective.

Reply to an "English-Speaking Woman"

To the Editor, The Black Sash.

IN the May issue of the "Black Sash," is published "An Open Letter to an Afrikaans-speaking Woman by an English-speaking Woman."

To a statement in this letter I take exception and I think I am representing the views of most English-speaking South Africans.

Your correspondent writes:—

"Your big grudge against me, in the past, was that I could not, you felt, love this land as much as you did; that my loyalties were divided. I think you were right in your condemnation of me; but I can assure you that the situation barely exists today. English-speaking South Africans are growing more and more to love South Africa and recognise her as their only homeland."

I think your correspondent is young, her people may not have been in South Africa for generations, as mine have been, and she has probably learned her history in the Government Schools. I am 75 years of age—my grandfather and uncles and relatives fought in the early Kaffir wars.

My husband's grandfather, uncles and brothers took part in the same campaigns—which included the Zulu and Basuto campaigns.

My father, my brothers, by husband, and his brothers fought in the South African War. Those who survived and were fit, fought with the next generation in the First Great War.

My husband, sons, nephews and sons-in-law, fought in World War II.

The official Rolls of Honour, kept in the House of Assembly, and signed by the present Governor-General show these figures:—

European Losses:

World War I:

British South Africans: 7,544.

Afrikaners: 770.

World War II:

British South Africans: 6,347.

Afrikaners: 1,812.

Do these figures not disprove your correspondent's statement?

"Greater love has no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friend."

I write this for the sake of those of my people who have died and suffered for their beloved homeland—and with Britain, have kept this country secure for those who are now living in it.

J. M. GRANT, Queenstown.

REGIONAL CHAIRS AND SECRETARIES

BORDER.

- C. Mrs. D. Curry, 3 Carisbrooke Road, Stirling Ext., East London.
- S. Mrs. M. G. Pollock, 106 Devereux Avenue, Vincent, East London.

CAPE EASTERN.

- C. Mrs. A. Pirie, 68 Westview Drive, Port Elizabeth.
- S. Mrs. R. Pearse, 49 Bird Street, Port Elizabeth.

CAPE NORTHERN.

- Acting Chair:* Mrs. R. Welham, 14 Pratley Street, Beaconsfield.
- S. Mrs. B. Buck, 3 Poole Street, Kimberley.

CAPE WESTERN.

- C. Mrs. M. Petersen, Beacon House, Klaassens Road, Wynberg, Cape.
- S. Miss F. Thorne, 1 Kildare Road, Claremont, C.P.

LOWVELD.

- C. Mrs. Sandenbergh, Eastry, Plaston, Tvl.
- S. Mrs. B. Tracey, Pleasant Hill, Box 17, White River.

NATAL COASTAL REGION.

- C. Mrs. M. Scott, 77 Ridge Road, Durban.
- S. Mrs. A. G. Haysom, P.O. Kloof.

NATAL MIDLANDS.

- C. Mrs. M. Corrigan, 306 Alexandra Road, Pietermaritzburg.
- S. Mrs. O. Forsyth, 2 New England Road, Pietermaritzburg.

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL.

- C. Mrs. C. M. F. Lang, 91 Manning Street, Colbyn, Pretoria.
- S. Mrs. A. Rethman, 190 Lisdogan Avenue, Arcadia, Pretoria.

ORANGE FREE STATE.

- Acting C.* Mrs. J. Ollemans, 18 Peter Crescent, Bloemfontein.
- S. Mrs. R. Kruger, 4 Van Heyningen Street, Bloemfontein.

SOUTH-EASTERN TRANSVAAL.

- C. Mrs. E. Gouldie, Marievale Mine, P.O. Marie shaft, Transvaal.
- S. Mrs. J. Stephenson, Geduld Mine, P.O. Dersley, Transvaal.

SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL.

- C. Mrs. D. Hill, 41 The Valley Road, Westcliff, Johannesburg.
- S. Mrs. M. Cluver, 2 Hope Hall, cor. Von Wielligh and Jeppe Streets, Johannesburg.