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FIGHTING TALK

REGISTERED AT THE G. P. O. AS A NEWSPAPER

MARCH, 1952. Volume X. No. 3.

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION.

CONSCIENCE AND SELF-INTEREST

THE attitude of a State to its citizens and the attitude of citizens to each other can be assessed at any given moment by an examination of the degree of liberty enjoyed by the citizens. Where the individual's personal liberty is great, the assessor can be sure that 'the dignity and worth of the human person', each and every one, is the guiding consideration in all corporate affairs.

In such a country the assessor will find parliamentary laws that are designed to benefit the people as a whole and not just one section: he will find a high standard of education and health; harmonious industrial relations and economic prosperity. Above all he will discern in the men and women around him an indefinable happiness, springing from a sense of personal security.

Personal security in turn, he will find, rests on an absence of corroding anxiety over tomorrow's bread and tomorrow's freedom to remain outside the prison gates.

But if he finds a pervading joylessness, a look of hardness and suspicion on people's faces, he will uncover a lack of personal security, a fear of unjust oppression and a fear of tomorrow's starvation.

What will the assessor find in South Africa? And why?

It is significant that most South Africans had no understanding or knowledge of the terms 'Civil Rights', 'Democratic Freedoms' and 'Human Rights' until recent years. And yet two hundred and fifty years ago citizens in the Cape were fighting to obtain from the Governor the right to sell their cattle on the open market. A hundred and twenty-five years ago men in Cape Town defied government attempts to prevent the establishment of a free

press. More than forty years ago Cape delegates to the National Convention fought to preserve the vote for the country's non-white population.

Thirty years ago white miners stood up to the State's machine guns in their determination to enforce the payment of a living-wage.

Twenty years ago Africans died in an attempt to achieve the freedom to move about in the country without let or hindrance.

But of our history we are ignorant and the reason is clear to see. White South Africans have not dared to become conscious of their civil liberties because they have been enjoyed only at the expense of non-white South Africans. It was possible for the white man to enjoy freedom of speech, of movement, of organisation, of collective bargaining because these freedoms were denied the black man. Had there been at any time a prospect that both white and black would combine to struggle for an extension of civil liberties TO ALL MEN, the rulers would without hesitation have snatched away the freedoms the white man had.

Today with the civil rights of Europeans threatened, diluted and destroyed, we are becoming conscious that civil liberties are our only defence against tyranny. We realise that without them we lose 'the dignity and worth' of our human persons. We become less than ourselves, ciphers, pawns, helots.

And as that consciousness grows, at last we get a glimmering of the meaning of the word 'democracy'. With a gasp of fear we begin to value what we are in danger of losing.

Painfully we admit that, loving the 'free life' as we do, we must fight the oppressors who would ensure their own advantage at our expense.

Then reluctantly we become aware of the inescapable truth that the liberties we want to win back will always be in jeopardy until ALL the citizens stand shoulder to shoulder against the marauders . . . until all citizens, white and coloured, enjoy and value the personal freedoms that are the mark of adult people.

And there lies the rub. We dodge the twist and the truth: we temporise, rationalise and make excuses. Dare we grant civil, economic and political liberties to the Africans, the Indians, the Coloureds? Is the price of guaranteeing our own liberties too great?

The inexorable truth stands firm: liberty is indivisible: a house divided against itself must fall: unity is strength.

Today Non-European South Africans are about to open their campaign to win by passive resistance the freedoms for which men have fought and died through the years. Their action challenges the conscience of every honest and fearless European citizen.

Is your conscience calm and still when you see the signs, the appalling signs of oppression and tyranny? Have you so hardened your heart that it is no longer disturbed by injustice and inhumanity? Ex-servicemen and women who recall the bitter reality of the war that was fought against tyranny and the degradation of man can never have quiet consciences while their work is incomplete.

From Legionnaires, from South Africans who prize freedom above all things, sympathy and understanding must go out to the Non-Europeans in their demands for liberty.

Self-interest, no less than conscience, commands us.



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Letters to the Editor

21st April, 1952.

The Editor,
"Fighting Talk".

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate the Legion for sticking to its guns. It's so easy these days to find your ideas changing without realising it.

I have just had to move into a new house and in the general clean-up I came across some old "Fighting Talks". In the December 1947 issue, there was a report of a special meeting which makes it plain that the Legion's attitude to political and race questions have not deviated in the last four years. I wonder how many organisations and individuals can say the same.

Personally I find it by no means easy to decide who is in the right in the International squabbles, and I welcome the articles in "Fighting Talk" on Peace — they have a very different point of view to our local papers.

I have one criticism. The magazine appears at varying dates each month, and quite often advertise events which are already past.

I enclose my new address.

Yours,

J. WORMAN.



The Editor,
"Fighting Talk."

Dear Sir,

Will you please send a copy of the February, 1952 "Fighting Talk" to the six addresses attached. Enclosed find 3/- in stamps as my contribution to spreading the "gospel of goodwill"!

Though I feel the Western Democracies are all you say, I find myself in agreement with H.H., and his attitude to Russian Communism.

I feel the world is between the Devil and the Deep and hope the Springbok Legion isn't being 'had' as a sucker for the Deep, not liking the Devil!

"Fighting Talk" is so convenient to hold and read, I feel it should be sent as much as possible to people outside the fold, if its propaganda is to be at all effectual. Unfortunately I cannot afford to send it to all the members of

the Torch Commando, but it would be a good thing to do, if funds permitted. Give them a jolt.

In the article "The First Signs of Struggle" the writer says that we must acquaint ourselves with the truth of the racial situation in our country: that this will involve among other things 'an application of Christian principles'. I would say not only Christian principles but something more that Marcus Aurelius talks of:

"Treat as befits a man endowed with reason — that is magnanimously and nobly — the animals that are not so endowed, and indeed all creatures whatever that can feel but have no reason. But other men — since they are endowed with reason — treat, with friendly affection.

And Aurelius is more practical in that he says frankly:

'Nobody gets tired of seeking his own advantage. But doing so procures an activity which is natural. Never get tired then of seeking thine own advantage, provided thou procurest thus the advantage of others also.' Simple, isn't it?

But I don't quite know what the Legion will do, once Malan's 'Christianity' has started the trouble. I personally — if fear — will feel like going to ground like a hunted fox. I don't like the idea of being trapped by hordes of righteously enraged Coloureds and Bantus any more than I like the idea of being imprisoned by hordes of unrighteously enraged Afrikaner nationalists, but I am afraid the latter will be more likely as at the moment they have the guns and the power. What the devil can the Springbok Legion do but keep on jumping in the right — that is to say the 'left' — direction and hoping to influence the Torch Commando to do the same?

The Legion should I suppose get all the rest of the enlightened whites to resist passively with the Coloureds and Bantus and refuse to carry on the work of the country, but I don't honestly think the white will be martyrs enough

to do this, as the advantage to ourselves in the short policy outweighs the advantage to mankind in general.

Yours etc.,

(Miss) F. E. POCOCK.

Muizenberg.

(One or two of the points raised by Miss Pocock will be dealt with in next month's issue.—Editor.)

Legion Statement on Monopolies Bill

WHILE the Springbok Legion is opposed to monopolies in so far as they tend to drive up prices and profits at the expense of the consumer, it objects to the Monopolies Bill now before Parliament because it bears the totalitarian stamp of nearly all Nationalist legislation.

The Bill seeks to give discretion to the Minister concerned to call almost anything he pleases a monopoly and, having done so, to exercise a degree of control over it previously reserved to the police in cases of fraud or illegal enterprises.

In the case of human beings, whom the Government would destroy they first call Communist; in the case of businesses, they will call them monopolies.

We believe that there are many monopolies in South Africa inimical to the welfare of the country. Some are operated by the Government in the interests of certain sections of the electorate; others are run by private corporations. In neither case do we believe that the machinery of the bill is capable of dealing with the problem. The assumption of enormous powers by people as violently reactionary and partisan as Nationalist cabinet ministers is to be feared and resisted in this context no less than in its others.

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Johannesburg Branch Annual General Meeting

AT the Annual General Meeting of the Johannesburg Branch of the Springbok Legion, held in the Library Lecture Room on Monday, 17th March, the following were elected to serve on the Johannesburg Branch Executive Committee during the coming year: Chairman, Mr. J. Slovo; Secretary, Mr. B. Fehler; Committee Members, Mrs. R. Hodgson, Miss G. Richter, Messrs. H. Friedland, A. H. R. Rubin, G. Mackenzie, M. Schlachter, Dr. P. Cohen, Messrs. B. Arenstein, I. Heyman, A. Israel, L. Bernstein, D. H. Giddy, and R. Cousins.

Resolutions were adopted re-affirming the Springbok Legion's determination to work for the maintenance of world peace and condemning the re-armament of Western Germany and Japan.

Several resolutions dealt with the urgent need for an immediate housing scheme. Non-European housing in Johannesburg was the subject of one resolution.

A statement of policy on South African affairs dealt particularly with the rights of Non-Europeans. After exposing the fascist nature of the Nationalist Government and warning that the Native Laws Amendment Act "accentuates the oppression of the Non-European peoples of South Africa" and further undermines the rule of law, the resolution continues:—

"Conference warns the European electorate and the political opposition to the Nationalist Government that the undemocratic attacks against the politically voiceless section of the community is only a prelude to the diminution of the political rights of all opponents of fascism.

"Conference notes with regret that the majority of political parties and organisations which professed opposition to the Nationalist Government, have during the past year, failed to make a maximum contribution in the struggle against nationalist reaction because of their readiness, in the interests of superficial political tactics, to pander to the atmosphere of racial hatred and fear which has been created by the Nationalist Government.

"Conference is of the opinion that a disregard by the European political opposition of the rights of the Non-European people and of the contribution which the latter can make in the fight for democracy, can only lead to the piecemeal annihilation of the democratic forces and the final consolidation of fascism in South Africa."

A.N.C. REPLIES TO MR. STRAUSS

THE appeal made by Mr. J. G. N. Strauss, leader of the United Party, to the people of South Africa, especially the Non-Europeans, for goodwill during the Van Riebeeck Celebrations, disappoints reasonable expectations.

It disregards the painful and unsuccessful efforts of our people over the past century to attain goodwill amongst the different sections of our population. It takes no account of the barbarous acts contained in recent legislation of the Government which has destroyed our civil liberties and outraged the conscience of mankind. It ignores the historical distortions contained in the Van Riebeeck floats which are an affront and humiliation to our people. It stigmatises as unwise and precipitate considered decisions taken by the higher councils of our national organisations as the last resort and only after all else has failed.

INHERENT RIGHTS.

Recognition of our inherent claims for fundamental human rights is the only goodwill in South Africa. An approach foundation for freedom, justice and which refuses to face squarely crucial issues does no credit to white statesmanship in South Africa.

We are pleased to learn, even from quarters where realism and statesmanship seem to be at a low ebb, that there are European friends whose concern for our happiness and well-being is real. But we reserve ourselves the right to reject that friendship if it seeks to undermine social progress, better standards of life and the highest aspirations of the oppressed people.

It is noted that the leader of the U.P. appeals to the Prime Minister not to aggravate the position by irresponsible utterances. It is further noted that an appeal is made to the peoples of South Africa for greater unity through greater understanding. Having regard to the foregoing the African people might be excused if they discern in this statement an appeal to the white people for unity at their expense. We refuse to allow ourselves to be distracted from the forthcoming campaign for the defiance of the unjust laws by declarations which sound attractive but which might lead to a worsening of the condition of our people.

W. M. SISULU,
Secretary-General, African National Congress.

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SO YOU WANT TO PRODUCE A PLAY?

DO you want to produce a play?

You do? THEN YOU MUST BE MAD IN THE HEAD!

Why? Well, I'll tell you.

It's like this. If you want to produce a play, then you've first got to find the play. Oh yes! that's easy, very easy! You naturally look for a play that is strong, whether it's a comedy or a serious play. You want good characterisation, don't you? and as small a cast as possible and certainly only one set. And preferably not a costume play, because costumes are a heck of an additional worry and cost the earth. Oh! and the play must have "SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE", of course.

So you start looking. And you find that all the plays that meet your requirements have been done in the past twelve months by other companies or else the rights aren't available or the rights are too expensive. And then you find a good 'piece of theatre', but its political or social message is terribly reactionary, so you drop it quickly. Ah! but what about this one? Just the thing . . . until you learn that the film is showing at the Metro just to coincide with your opening night! Blast!

YOU START CASTING.

However, at last you remember a play or somebody suggests a play, which is pretty nearly right up your street. So you settle down to casting. You have a fairly clear picture in your mind of how the different characters should look, their age, colouring, the women's "built-up areas", quality of their voices, normal personalities, height, figure and so on. But can you find in the whole of Africa a fair-headed woman, about 30 years old, charming, tolerably tall, refined voice, obviously cultured, with a generous bust? No, you can't! And is there a modest, rich-voiced, dark-haired, mature man of 40 odd? Not a sausage!

But you change your conception a bit and take gladly a dark-haired woman and a fair-headed man and a girl of 25 to play an old woman of 68 and a stripling of a youth to play a 'tough' . . . and you've cast the play. Marvellous!

Now, where shall we rehearse and can you all come on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturday afternoons and all day Sundays for the next four weeks? Oh you can't, because on Thursdays you have a French class and on Sundays you take your Mum to see her Mum, who lives fifteen miles out in the country. Pity. And you can come, but you've got no transport. And you can come except on Saturday fortnight, when

your sister is getting married and you're chief bridesmaid. Well, well, you sort all that out and get down to rehearsals good and proper.

WHO'LL BUILD THE SET?

In the meantime, you've asked somebody to design the set and really it looks just right, most appropriate. But now

you've got to find someone to build the set and a place where the construction can take place and where the set can be stored until you can move into the theatre. Perhaps the Flysprite Spray Co., will let you use some of their factory space, but they've none to spare. Perhaps Irma's mother will let you use their second garage, but Uncle Herbert is coming up from Kimberley with his car. So finally, you get an empty builder's shed four miles out of town, but it doesn't cost you anything. So that's that!

And then the women start agitating about their clothes. What shall they wear? they haven't a rag to put on their backs and they want to look madly glamorous and can Jessie wear this tangerine number and can Valerie this crimson?

(Continued on next page)



Frances Shrand as Honey and Michael Drin as the Senator in the Cape Town production of "Deep Are The Roots."

(Continued from previous page)

No, they can't! But with tact and patience and a good deal of borrowing and lending and getting one or two nice models from a generous factory, you get the girls dressed, at which stage the men think they should have blue suits, which they haven't got or tropical suits which they haven't got or green flannels which they haven't got, but finally they're dressed too.

Everything going marvellously, isn't it? (You notice a couple of grey hairs this morning, which you hadn't seen before).

And the rehearsals are going along very interestingly, except isn't it funny that Robert always sticks over the words in his Act II speech and Sonia can't get a natural-sounding laugh out of her larynx to save her soul. And why are Edward's hands so weak-looking and can't Jessie relax her body instead of looking as if she'd got a poker up her jumper?

PUBLICITY.

Good heavens! you suddenly remember publicity. Somebody must write up some ullage and take to the newspapers and the photographer must be called in



David de Keyser and Peggy Arscott as Brett and Nevvy in the Cape Town production of "Deep Are The Roots."

PLAY PRODUCTION IN CAPE TOWN.

I WANT to thank very sincerely Legionnaires in Cape Town who worked for the success of the presentation of "Deep are the Roots." The arduous and tricky work of box-office manager was taken over by Stan Eppel, Ron Eppel, Ralph Lever, Max Kalley, Tony Jenner, Wulf Kodesh and W. Herzberg.

In addition Stan Eppel made himself responsible for the distribution of posters and leaflets advertising our successful one-night stand at Muizenberg.

It was a pleasure to renew acquaintance with so many Legionnaires who came backstage after the performance or who found time to give me a late cup of coffee or a mid-morning cup of tea.

To you all — a hearty thank-you!

CECIL WILLIAMS.

and somebody must concoct the advertisements for the daily papers and shall you have a 'gala premiere' and what about the printing of the tickets and who's going to do the booking and who's going to distribute the window-cards? And, marvellous again, it all gets done.

(Funny about the grey hairs . . . there's quite a cluster of them now.)

And then your stage-manager, a lamb of a girl, really keen and hardworking, says hadn't we better start getting the furniture and the props, because it's a good thing to get that all lined up as early as possible. So you take time off and start touring the town for a simple, elegant settee and a couple of nice-looking chairs and two silk lampshades and a carpet and a couple of pictures, not much really. And you discover that nobody in the continent has the sort of settee you want and the pictures that are easily available are atrocious and cheap-looking and you finally lend your own precious carpet and pray fervently that no one will set fire to it.

PROPS PROPS PROPS.

Furniture emporia, antique shops, second-hand shops and junk-shops you get to know like the back of your girl-

friend's hand and you've developed a permanent propitiating, almost obsequious grin . . . but the articles get themselves ticked off the list. But what a job to get a pair of handcuffs and revolvers that really go off and the forms you sign to borrow a telephone!

So you sit down one night with the electrician — and what do you know about stage-lighting anyway? And you work out a lighting plot, remembering that you heard someone say you musn't have the walls a blaze of light . . . the lighting must be concentrated on the 'working' area: and you wonder whether faces will be at all visible during the third act dim-out.

And slowly the people are booking their seats for the opening night and the following Saturday night, but nobody wants to come on the intervening week-nights. (Your temples now look quite frosted.)

OPENING NIGHT.

Until at last comes your opening night and you pretend to be cheerful and optimistic and not at all worried about the critics and the audience in general and the lighting and whether

(Continued on page 11)

The Wall Crumbles—Push It Over!

It is becoming increasingly more apparent even to the casual observer that the wall of the Industrial Colour Bar is crumbling despite all the efforts of the Nationalist Government to bolster it up with Apartheid Legislation and what-have-you.

The signs of it become more evident day by day. There is not an aspect of our economic life that is not affected. The inefficiency of our transportation systems, both local and national, the inadequacy of our postal services, the inability of our judicial machine to deal with its tasks, the ineffectiveness of our policing systems, are all attributable directly to the shortage of man power and our failure to utilize our labour resources in a more realistic and productive manner.

In competition with Industry and Commerce, the Civil Service endeavours to obtain from the 1½ million white workers the personnel necessary to provide civil service amenities for a total

population of over 13 millions — a sheer impossibility! It was inevitable that a point would be reached where the amenities would become inadequate and inefficient. If the process continues, a point will be reached where they will break down altogether.

TURNING TO NATIVE LABOUR.

But not only is the Civil Service affected, Commerce and Industry are already seriously handicapped by this competition for the available European labour. In the face of the pressure, they are turning more and more to Native labour. Tens of thousands of Africans, male and female, are being absorbed into industry as semi-skilled and opera-



LEGION STATEMENT ON NATIVE LAWS AMENDMENT BILL

THE Native Laws Amendment

Bill is a highly provocative measure designed, amongst other undesirable aims, to entrench, and extend the oppressive Masters and Servants Laws of the Transvaal and Natal, to further break up African family life in the towns, and to make compulsory the carrying of passes by Africans even in towns where municipal councils do not desire it.

The Bill seeks to extend the already wide powers given to mine-owners to have their African workers punished, fined or imprisoned for alleged offences, in connection with which it is almost an institution in this country that the word of the white employer is taken against that of the African worker.

But its most objectionable provisions are those relating to the right of Africans (and their families) to reside in towns. To retain such right, an African must either have been born and permanently resident in the town concerned, or

have worked continuously for the same employer for ten years or have been lawfully resident in the town for a CONTINUOUS period of fifteen years. If, during either period, he has been sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine for more than seven days, he forfeits his right to remain in the town. This gives the Government tremendous powers to force Africans to take up work on the farms or in the mines.

This is a measure that will do far more than any hostile press reports to shock the democratic world and further embitter the Non-European community, which has already suffered both insult and injury at the hands of the Government.

While bringing the country still nearer the catastrophe that the Government seems determined to inflict upon it, it will please no one but the most backward and inefficient farmers, who can think only in terms of slave labour to save them from bankruptcy.

five workers. There is a shortage of skilled labour and more Africans are being utilized in this category, although still camouflaged as "semi-skilled or operative."

Not only, however, is there a shortage of European labour but there is a growing shortage of Non-European workers. According to recently published statistics there is a shortfall of some 75,000 African workers in the Mining Industry. The demand for farm labour is evident from the hysterical and vicious efforts of the Government to redirect African workers to the farms.

Until recently the neighbouring territories were regarded as an inexhaustible reservoir of cheap migratory labour. Today this is no longer the case.

DRYING UP.

As a consequence of the new demands for labour for the Free State Gold Mines, the growing utilization of foreign work-

ers by the developing industries of the territories themselves and the keen competition for this labour from the Northern Rhodesian mines in particular, we find South Africa's needs for labour increasing as the potential of imported labour is decreasing. The reservoir of migratory labour is drying up, so that the shortage of African labour in the Union will make itself felt more and more.

We are being forced, therefore, to think increasingly in terms of an urbanised skilled and semi-skilled labour force instead of supplies of migratory workers.

The almost surreptitious use by industrialists of Non-European labour in fields of employment, hitherto regarded as European preserves, is now being copied openly by the government. As a slight illustration one can cite the employment of Non-Europeans as telegram delivery boys in the postal service.

Short of reverting to a basically agrarian economy, which is unrealistic, there is no way of escaping the pressure. The Nationalist Government with its policies of Apartheid can not alleviate them: it can only increase and intensify those pressures, at the same time reducing the country to impoverishment.

IMMIGRATION NO SOLUTION.

It is doubtful if immigration even on a large scale could have prevented this development. Be that as it may, it is too late now to think in terms of immigration as a solution to itself. In the light of the Nationalist Government's policies and record, especially the sense of insecurity created for minority groups, it is unlikely that the number of immigrants to South Africa would be large enough to meet the demands of the Civil Service, the municipal and national transportation systems, the needs of Commerce and Industry. In the final analysis

the real solution must lie in the effective and more productive use of the available labour, both European and Non-European.

TWO ALTERNATIVES.

South Africa has two alternatives: (a) suffering the crippling effects of the Industrial Colour Bar and the impoverishment that results, until such time as the pressures of themselves eventually smash this artificial barrier; (b) anticipating what must happen and in consequence intelligently and deliberately destroying the Colour Bar, thereby releasing the potential prosperity latent in the productive capacity of our 12 million people.

The first course implies in addition an even more frightening deterioration of relations between white and non-white, the inevitable linking up of economic with political demands and their concomitants of civil and political strife. It is obvious, therefore, that this is the worst possible course.

Over and above the torments and dangers of physical violence, there are many South Africans who oppose this disastrous development on moral and ethical grounds. They refuse to deny the legitimate aspirations of the Non-white population or to acquiesce in the oppressive policies which are the logical consequences of preserving the Industrial Colour Bar.

Let us rather recognise that the wealth of a country is the productiveness of the labour of its people. Let us accept the fact that the productive potential of the individual is not limited by the colour of his skin. Let us acknowledge that the standards of living of the individual are determined among other things by the sum total of the National Wealth. Let us be clear that the Industrial Colour Bar is a dubious luxury and one that we cannot afford.

Armed with these convictions and the knowledge that already the wall is crumbling, let us go out and push it over for good and all!

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DIE LEGENDE VAN DIE BLANKE BESKAWING

DIT is genoeg vir enige politikus in Suid-Afrika om homself voor te doen as die beskermer van die Blanke Beskawing, om hom en sy party van volgelinge te verseker.

Onder hierdie voorwendsel verbloem persone in regerings hulle onbekwaamheid, soek opportuniste roem en mag, en namate die gekleurde groepe daarop aandrang dat hulle ook die reg het om beskaaf genoem te word, vorm dit 'n al hoe beter gebaande weg vir dié wat soek na faam en mag op politieke gebied.

In werklikheid is dit 'n blote legende, die uitbuiting waarvan politieke oneerlikheid op sy ergste is. Die groot mate van sukses wat daarmee behaal word is alleenlik te wyte aan die feit dat die emosionele vrees wat daar by die blankes bestaan dat hulle uiteindelik deur die nie-blankes oorheers sal word, 'n natuurlike verskynsel is. Dit is dus die plig van elke politikus in Suid-Afrika om langs die weg van gesonde verstand hierdie vrees te probeer oorkom om sodoende 'n gesonde verhouding tussen blank en nie-blank te verkry.

Dit is in die eerste plek geheel en al onlogies om die blanke, m.a.w. die minderheidsgroep in Suid-Afrika, die alleenreg op beskawing toe te sê, veral as ontbore word dat sekere nie-blanke rasse reeds beskaaf was toe die voorouers van die Europeaan of blanke nog in grotte gewoon het.

Net so min kan die blanke homself die alleenreg op beskawing toeëien net omdat dit juis sy voorouers is wat beskawing na Suid-Afrika gebring het. 'n Alleenreg wat hom dan volgens die beskermers van die blanke beskawing die reg sou gee om vir altyd as 'n groep die heerser oor alle ander groepe te bly, ongeag van die ontwikkelingspeil wat deur hulle mag bereik word. Dit is presies, so 'n moontlikheid wat deur die voorstanders van apartheid voorgestel word.

Lesers, kan u in alle erns glo dat so iets moontlik is? Selfs al word die ontwikkeling van die land op ekonomiese gebied geheel en al buite rekening gelaat.

'N DROOM.

Die ergste van alles is egter dat daar onder die blankes diegene is wat glo dat hulle deur middel van hardhandige optrede uiteindelik hulle droom sal verwe-

senlik, nl. om die nie-blanke vir altyd op sy plek te hou; 'n plek waarvan niemand enige sekerheid skyn te hê nie, met die gevolg dat die Politici wat hulle self voordoen as die beskermers van die blanke beskawing deur hulle volgelinge gedryf word om voortdurend wetgewing in te dien wat ongeveer dieselfde uitwerking het as 'n spelde prik. Ons Wetboek is vol voorbeelde van sulke wetgewing waarmee ons besig is om voort te snel op die grootpad na dwingelandy.

Die beleid tot sover deur die Blankes in Suid-Afrika gevolg kan maar net een uitwerking hê, en dit is om die twee hoof rassegroepe in teenoorgestelde kampe te dryf totdat ons uiteindelik 'n toestand bereik waar samewerking absoluut onmoontlik is.

OPLOSSING?

Die tyd het aangebreek vir die twee rasse, blank aan die een kant, en nie-blank aan die ander, om bymekaar te kom en 'n lang termyn oplossing te vind; 'n oplossing wat alleen bereik kan word as albei rassegroepe gesamentlik daarna strew.

According to recent estimates, 300 million human beings — 13 per cent. of the people on the globe — lost their lives, their health, their homes, or their means of livelihood during the second world war.

The number of people who lost their lives is put at 57 million, including:

17 million soldiers killed in battle,
4 million civilian dead,

9 million concentration camp victims,
27 million who died of hunger or exposure.

In addition, 35 million were wounded or mutilated, 20 million children lost their parents, and 190 million persons lost their homes or were forced to leave their native land.

From: "New Era," organ of the World Veterans' Federation.

PRODUCE A PLAY?

(Continued from page 7)

the frail chair in the corner will collapse at a crucial moment and whether Leslie will 'dry up' as he always does in his quarrel with Edward and whether the tumblers will look like cut-glass and not something from the bazaars and whether the shistol-pot will go off at the right moment . . . oh no! you're not worried . . . everything will be fine, except that all you want to do is go away somewhere, possibly throw-up, then have a brandy and go to sleep. In your heart you are vowing you will never again submit yourself to this torture, to challenging the public to approve of what you can do, to playing the exhibitionist! Never again!

And the curtain goes up and you hear the familiar lines and nothing falls over, and the lights don't go out, and Scnia is playing remarkably well, and really the set looks quite pretty and the audience seems attentive. For a moment you have a heart attack, but it is only the audience laughing at a line, which you hadn't thought at all funny. And before you know where you are, the curtain comes down on the first act and the audience is clapping. Gosh, then you start to feel genuinely a little of the confidence which you had previously been putting on. Hell, man, it's a marvellous game, nothing like it. Did you hear them clapping?

AT LAST IT'S OVER.

And act two goes well and act three you could hear a pin drop . . . nobody's coughing, flicking lighters, rustling chocolate papers . . . they're all listening so attentively and sympathetically. And towards the end you stand back in a dark corner in the wings and take a big deep breath and your chest expands with satisfaction and a wonderful feeling of exultation sweeps through you. God! isn't it marvellous? the cast . . . you love them all, they're so talented and what a glorious play it is, so worthwhile . . . and everybody has been so kind and cooperative. And, after all, you've done something, you've made a contribution to society . . . you've made people laugh and you've made people feel and you've made people think.

Now, what play shall I choose for our next production.

BRANCH



ITEMS

THREE-IN-ONE.

THE February Three-In-One took the form of a symposium on the Industrial Legislation Commission Report. The attendance was not as good as it has been in recent months, due partly to bad weather.

The speakers made it clear that the Report is most dangerous and is in fact nothing less than an attack on the Trade Union Movement in South Africa. Its recommendations prepare the way for legislation that will destroy workers' organisations and enable the Nats. to wipe out formidable opposition. A Legionnaire, speaking from the floor, criticised the Trade Union leaders who are doing so little to meet these attacks.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A meeting has been arranged for the 31st March at which Dr. Y. Dadoo will explain what is meant by the term, "passive resistance", the tactic adopted by the Non-European National Organisations for their new campaign. The Legion will shortly have to decide what its role will be in relation to these organisations in the present phase of their struggle. This meeting has been arranged in order that our members may hear for themselves the reasons which led the Joint Planning Council of the Non-European organisations to come to their decision. The venue of the meeting is No. 3 Trades Hall, and it is hoped that Non-European members will attend and give their point of view when the meeting is thrown open for discussion.

VOTERS' ROLLS.

The campaign run by the Johannesburg Branch to enrol voters was most successful. The Legion manned a table outside the United Services Club and succeeded in enrolling many new voters and correcting the records of people who had changed their addresses — over a thousand voters were affected from our table alone. The United Party had several tables of their own at various points about the town and the joint effort should materially affect the Election results.

The Central, Yeoville, Eastern and North-Western Groups have all held meetings at which Jack Hodgson, our National Secretary has been the speaker. Attendances were not always good, but it is profitable to retain this form of organisation, if only to keep in contact with those members of whom otherwise we see little.

SOCIAL.

Several of our Johannesburg Branch Committee Members have been very active recently. Wilf East's wife, Evelyn, gave birth to a daughter; Trudy Richter and Josh Brigish are now happily learning the joys of parenthood and Max Schlachter married Rose Behr (who has always been a willing worker for the Legion). Hearty congratulations are extended to all of them. No matter how successful the Nationalists are at thinning the ranks of the progressives with "fear campaigns", the steadfast have one sure method of preventing our numbers from dwindling too much, even if we have to wait eighteen years for the new recruits to become fully active!

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

THE attention of all Legiannaires is drawn to the Ninth Annual Conference of the Springbok Legion, which will be held at the Trades Hall, Kerk Street, Johannesburg, on the 26th and 27th April, 1952.

Whether you are a delegate or not, we will be very pleased to see you in attendance, since it hardly needs stressing that our organisation faces a grim struggle in the ensuing year — a struggle which has been made doubly severe by the set-backs, both economic and political which this country is experiencing.

Don't forget the date, time and place.

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ODDS AND ENDS

VIC EDDY

SOMETHING IS ROTTEN . . .

WHAT a terrible reflection it is on European outlook that the recent exposure in the "African Drum" of the treatment of Native labourers on Bethal farms evoked in responsible newspapers the opposite reaction to what might have been expected in a more civilised country. That august daily, the "Star", tripped over its own editorial feet to get one of its leading journalists, Mr. John Bond, out to Bethal on a "tour of inspection", in order to refute the allegations contained in the "African Drum." I am afraid Mr. Bond made himself sound quite ridiculous when he wrote from Bethal: "I see nothing but contented labourers everywhere." Mr. Bob Crisp, one-time editor of the "Drum", also wrote to the "Star", but in a somewhat more repugnant form. He hastened to assure everybody that he had nothing whatsoever to do with this "political change" of the "Drum's" editorial policy, and assured us gleefully that the Minister of Native Affairs knows that he, Mr. Crisp, is innocent. However, the general public, white as well as black, is somewhat uneasy about labour conditions on the Bethal farms. After all, the "Drum's" reporter merely confirmed what the Rev. Michael Scott and others have been saying about Bethal for years. The Government must realise once and for all that what is needed here is not a chorus of "Oohs" and "Tuts", but a vigorous and thorough investigation.

THE POLICE COULD STOP IT.

IN common with thousands of other people, I find it difficult to understand why the state of affairs that exists at Newclare cannot be brought to a satisfactory conclusion by the police of Johannesburg. From the press reports it is plain that organised Native gangsters have been terrorising the inhabitants of the Western native townships for a long time, and that only the forceful steps taken by the Natives themselves have brought the matter to a head. Surely the police were aware of the existence of the "Russians" long before today? Our Af-

rican citizens are also taxpayers and are equally entitled to police protection when necessary.

OPEN-AND-SHUTUP.

THE time is fast approaching when Dr. Malan's shocking statements will shock only the inhabitants of the Little Karroo and the immediate hills surrounding that area. For the Prime Minister seems to be far more badly-informed than the average voter. According to

a "Rand Daily Mail" report of the 15/3/52, Dr. Malan, at a meeting in the bush somewhere, again attacked the Torch Commando as being a communist-inspired body and, even more outrageous, he accused the Springbok Legion of being non-existent! For his next birthday present, the National Executive Committee of the Springbok Legion will probably send the good doctor a Witwatersrand telephone directory with our number circled in red (I mean blue) pencil. Further, we should like to entreat the Prime Minister to read his correspondence in future. There he will find the letters, usually of protest, that the Legion is constantly sending him. We can't stand the thought of our Prime Minister making an ass of himself every time he opens his mouth.

A PREAMBLE WORTH REPEATING

We, the people of the United Nations . . .

DETERMINED

To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

To unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

To ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

To employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organisation to be known as the United Nations.

Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations.

HITLER'S WAR GOES ON!

AN EXPOSURE OF GERMAN VETERANS ORGANISATIONS

WHILE Lord Montgomery's famous wartime dictum that "the only good German is a dead German" might have been a suitable slogan for the Allied armies on the battlefields of World War II, the programme of annihilation which it suggests could never have constituted a major article in a declaration of allied War Aims. We freely accord the German people the right to live and to achieve independent nationhood.

But we do most firmly adhere to the view that one of the most important objectives of any programme for peace is the prevention of a rebirth — in any form whatsoever, under any guise whatsoever — of Nazism.

DUTY BOUND.

It was in this belief that the Springbok Legion felt itself in duty bound to protest against the portrayal in the recent film of Rommel as an 'adventurous gentleman.' We do not and cannot accept the view that any General of Hitler's armies is or was anything but a murderer and we do insist that the only good German General is a dead one.

We are confirmed in this opinion by a review currently appearing in our contemporary, 'New Era', official organ of the World Veterans' Federation, of the character of the German War Veterans Organisation, which have emerged in West Germany since the end of the War.

The German war veteran is once again, 'New Era' remarks, regarding himself as a political force, potential and actual. This in itself is no crime. The

Springbok Legion, unlike most of our brother organisations, has always insisted that the ex-serviceman, whose act of joining up for service in the last war was pre-eminently an act of political faith, is in duty bound to use his political power both as an ex-serviceman and as a citizen.

SINISTER.

In Germany, however, the term 'political power', has a rather sinister connotation. The fact is that the vast majority of German veterans organisations have fallen under the sway of the most reactionary neo-Nazi military clique with the former Generals of the Nazi armies at their head. Their activities are directed almost exclusively at the resuscitation of German Nationalism in its most aggressive, chauvinist form.

There are, our contemporary reveals, three Groups of Ex-service Organisations:—

1. Organisations devoted mainly to social problems — mainly the question of soldiers' pensions:
2. Organisations of former military comrades, dedicated to the main-

tenance of their organisations' traditions:

3. Openly political organisations, set up for the purpose of influencing government and public opinion on political matters.

Whatever their stated purpose, however, the veterans' organisations in West Germany are almost without exception political.

QUASI-FASCIST.

These are at present grouped together under a wider association called the Verband Deutscher Soldaten, organised by former Admiral Gottfried Hansen. Included in this association are numerous quasi-Fascist organisations, controlled by — among others — General Bernard Ramcke, honorary president of the "Green Devils", an organisation of ex-parachutists: General Hasso von Manteuffel, head of the organisations of the Grossdeutschland Panzer division: General Hans Guderian, expert in tank-warfare and former Generals Student and Hans Friessner.

At a press conference after the founding of the Verband Deutscher Soldaten Friessner voiced the chant that has now become familiar to our ears that no German officer can be a war criminal: that no honourable German

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

soldier could have taken part in the bomb plot against Hitler in 1944 and that Hitler's solution of the problems of Danzig and the Polish Corridor was the only possible one.

The most revealing fact about most of these organisations, states the article, is that the vast majority of their members are professional officers, now in other employment. They are all highly nationalistic: all fanatically anti-Soviet. They pay lip-service to the Bonn government and the Western point of view. They stress, however, that German participation in Western Defence is dependent on the erasing of any reflection on "the honour of the German soldiers", which they consider implicit in the trial of war criminals.

There can thus be no doubt at all of the direction in which these organisations are driving.

And what is the attitude of the Bonn government in the face of these developments?

There are, of course, laws on the statute books prohibiting the formation of organisations, which make the status of 'war veteran' a condition of membership. (In view of post-World War I experience, this is quite understandable).

EASILY EVADED.

Nevertheless, the regulations are easily evaded in the absence of a strong, uncompromising government policy. Since the regulations can be applied only to organisations seeking official registration, it is only necessary to withhold application in order to avoid an official prohibition.

Let it be stressed: the organisations mentioned above are organisations of Generals and other officers of the Nazi military machine. The aim of their political activity is the re-establishment of an elite German army, equipped to car-

ry on where Hitler's defeated armies left off in 1945.

There is nothing in these organisations to attract the rank-and-file who desire nothing more desperately than peace and an opportunity to re-instate Germany in the comity of civilised nations.

The German Generals must go, for if they do not the chances for peace in the next ten years are slim indeed.

DR. MALAN AND WORLD WAR II

THE statement by Dr. Malan to an audience at Graafwater, reported in the press, that, "South Africa had not entered the last war on its merits but in the interests of England," is consistent with the war record of the Nationalist Party. It is in keeping with the expressed intention of the Government to compensate ex-internees. It squares with the basically fascist ideology of the Nationalist Party manifest in the undemocratic character of the legislation introduced by them since coming to power.

All of these things fit into the pattern which betrays the Nationalist Government for what it is. The Springbok Legion has never had any illusions about it. We have constantly from the day we came into existence tried to make the country aware of the true character of the Nationalist Party.

The implication of what Dr. Malan had to say, however, and the context of his speech cannot go unchallenged. It would seem that what he is trying to tell the electorate is that South Africa should have entered the war on the side of Germany or have remained neutral, (which in the end is the same thing), in order to fight communism. Furthermore, the only way now of remedying that 'fatal' mistake in September 1939 is for





us to accept fascism from the Nationalist Party in order to suppress and kill Communism, which we so lamentably and ignorantly failed to do in 1939.

We reject this unequivocally. We are not prepared to accept fascism or to fight anything anywhere under the leadership of Dr. Malan and his party.

We are conscious of the futility of expressing our opposition to this statement and to the plan to compensate ex-internees. The Nationalist Government has shown time and again its contempt for the electorate and, in particular, for the men and women who put their lives at the disposal of the State in defence of South Africa. It is not likely to give heed at this stage to our protests.

We know, however, that today many more people are alive to what is happening to our country than was the case in 1948. The Nationalist Government has exposed itself for what it is and in the next Election, together with the rest of the electorate, we will tell them in unmistakable terms that their perverted ideology can find no permanent home in South Africa.

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