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# FIGHTING TALK

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

AUGUST, 1951

Volume IX. No. 8.

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION.

OUR WORD

## THE WAR VETERANS AND US

THE following statement has been issued to the press by Mr. Jack Sachs, National Chairman of the Springbok Legion:—

I am shocked and disgusted by the two assertions concerning the Springbok Legion and the War Veterans Torch Commando made by Dr. Malan at Brits on Saturday night. Both suggestions are so manifestly untrue that I must assume South Africa's Prime Minister has adopted Hitler's dictum that the bigger the lie, the more readily it will be believed, especially by his own supporters.

Dr. Malan affirmed that the Springbok Legion disappeared after the passage of the notorious Anti-Communist Act. What utter nonsense. The Legion maintains its public offices as before, where individual welfare cases are handled daily. Committees meet regularly and without secrecy. The Legion magazine is carried each month through the post office. In Johannesburg last month a successful street collection was held for welfare funds. Meetings are advertised in the press.

Two months ago in a national Sunday newspaper the Legion's Housing Committee conducted a poll to investigate ex-servicemen's housing conditions. To its branches the Legion has recently sent through the post a Draft Memorandum of a Non-European Policy for South Africa that is an alternative to apartheid. The regular monthly meeting of members is advertised in the press and this very week in Johannesburg a public meeting has been arranged where Dr. Malan's anti-democratic legislation will be exposed by the Member of Parliament for Benoni.

The Legion this year worked with other organisations in the Personal Liberties Defence Committee's campaign against the Amendments to the Suppression of Communism Act. The Legion presented a memorandum to the Committee of Inquiry into Juvenile Native Employment. Correspondence passes between the Legion and government departments on such subjects as pensions, housing, famine relief, state advances, exemption passes, etc. This does not, I think, indicate a subterranean existence. There is all the difference in the world between the real situation and Dr. Malan's fearful wish-fulfilment.

With regard to the statement that the Legion disappeared and has reappeared as the War Veterans Torch Commando, I can only say that the two organisations, though both are anti-Nationalist and anti-Fascist in character, are entirely independent.

The Springbok Legion welcomes the appearance of the War Veterans movement and sees in it a vindication of the Legion's ten-year old policy, that ex-volunteers have a special responsibility to carry over into the political life of 'civvy street' that active belief in democratic principles and practice which animated our wartime service. South Africa would not be suffering today from a one-party tyranny, had our comrades' idealism not been swamped by post-war complacency.

The Executive of the W.V.T.C. has been at some pains to assure both the public and the government that no official of the Legion is on its executive committees. In doing so it has, I think, fallen into the trap baited by the Prime Minister, whose one aim is to split the

anti-fascist forces aligned against him. The W.V.T.C.'s statement will, therefore, please no one but the government and, far from strengthening the W.V.T.C., will tend to create the discord so much desired by Dr. Malan and his henchmen.

I am gratified that Legionnaires throughout the country did their utmost to ensure the success of the torchlight demonstrations and my National Executive Committee has urged all the members of the Legion to support to the uttermost the War Veterans in their objective of getting rid of the Nationalists.

The Legion is a legal organisation and I can assure Dr. Malan that it will continue its worthwhile and necessary labours so long as our country, for whose freedom we have fought in war and in peace, is threatened by fascism.



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# YOU'RE TELLING US

## Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir,

What is "H.R." getting at in his article, "Death Pays a Dividend"? Is he one of those, who before the last war saw to it that England and France were thoroughly unprepared and unarmed?

He objects to us and our friends ("U.S.A.") re-arming, but it is quite in order for Russia to have never stopped arming since the last war. Not only that, she is arming millions of her slaves in subject states. Russia has 25,000 tanks: this is part of a great clean heap of weapons. Our weapons and those of our friends are a "great dirty heap for killing people!!!" Russia's clean pile is no doubt for exercise and recreation and to teach beauty to her people.

There is a queer undercurrent in our paper. I remember an article called "These Gentle People of Prejudice" some time back. In the same paper or soon after appeared the following in connection with emigration to Rhodesia. It was to the effect that so many thousands of South Africans had gone to Rhodesia, "but as they were mostly U.P. it did not matter."

Did not the U.P. join up and fight up north? Are they not battling against the Nats. today? Did they not suffer as heavy casualties as members of any other South African political party?

Also re "Prejudice." In another article a reference was made to someone who had, or had not, gone to Michaelhouse. What is wrong with Michaelhouse? Did not old boys from that school serve in every theatre of war? Did they not have casualties?

People who live in glass houses should be careful when it comes to "Prejudice".

I did not go to Michaelhouse. I joined up in 1918 while 17 years old, but did not see active service. Also in 1939. I got home in 1945. I joined as a private and was proud to be one and proud of my officers. So often in our paper there is a belittling of officers. Why? Are there no base wallah privates, lance jacks, corporals, sergeants, etc.? I knew

a few. Also there were dud officers and good ones.

I am a grandfather and have corns on my hands and hope always to do so. I married on £5 a month and my two hands. I have written to your paper before, but perhaps my too original views have not found favour. Please publish this letter. If fellow Legionnaires do not approve of it, I know that there are plenty of gentle people of prejudice left. I will also know where I stand, because I believe in freedom and a helping hand to all. Straight talk and no mudslinging at friends.

I am,

Yours truly,  
G. L. HANDLEY.

Greytown.

\* \* \* \*

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

Four or five years ago, I remember, the Legion went out to assist the 'loyal' members of the Mine Workers' Union. Why didn't the Legion come out in support of the Railway Artisans in their 'Efficiency Campaign'? There are plenty of ex-servicemen in their ranks.

Yours, etc.,

M.R.O.

Rosettenville.

### OUR REPLY.

It is true the matter was not discussed by the N.E.C., mainly on the grounds, I think, that, whereas the mine workers affair was essentially a political matter, the campaign of the Railway Artisans was a purely trade union attempt to try and get better pay and leave conditions. In principle we agree with anyone who tries to improve his working conditions, but I don't think it is our place actively to support such action. Where, however, a struggle is going on in the trade unions to preserve the true forms of trade unionism against attempts to convert them into fascist-style corporate unions, then our duty to democratic principles demands that at least we warn the work-

ers concerned of the terrible results of the nazification of their unions.

Yours, etc.,

CECIL WILLIAMS,  
General Secretary.

\* \* \* \*

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing postal order for my subscription. I am pleased to remain in the Legion, for I believe the Legion is the only organisation that wants to work for the African ex-soldiers. But why cannot the Springbok Legion get land for African ex-soldiers in the Northern Transvaal and permits to seek work in urban areas? When we try to go to Johannesburg to find work, we cannot get the permit.

Yours, etc.,

J.M.

Pietersburg District.

### OUR REPLY.

Thank you for your letter and your subscription. The receipt has been posted to you.

With regard to the question of land, the Legion for many years struggled to get more land for African ex-soldiers. The Government had made some provision for ex-soldiers to get a priority in the allocation of land and many ex-soldiers under the Demob. scheme did benefit. But we found time and time again that we came up against a stone wall. Until the Government decides to take bold action in order to make more land available for Africans, the ex-soldiers will suffer just as much as the African civilians from 'land-hunger'.

It is the same with regard to entry into Urban Areas. It was the Legion which pressed for the granting of exemption passes to African ex-servicemen and it was the Legion that was responsible for the extension for a further year of the time limit. In addition we made representations to the Johannesburg Municipality and the Witwatersrand Native Commissioner to give special permission to African ex-soldiers to enter the Reef urban areas. We were unsuccessful. The municipality is quite unable to cope with the housing of people who come into the municipal area and so they try and keep out as many as possible. In addition, the Government's 'apartheid' policy tries to keep Africans in the rural areas, so that

(Continued on page 12.)





## PERSONALIA

JOE PODBREY is as well-known in the Legion's offices as the typewriter, as constant a visitor as the postman, as sensitive as a prize Siamese, as full of points as a porcupine and as keen as Colman's.

Our magazine seems always to have acted as a magnet on Joe. During the war Joe was Chief Liaison Officer between the Legion at home and the boys in the M.E.F. and later the C.M.F. Joe, who was on the Shuttle Service, undertook to deliver "Fighting Talk" advance copies, memoranda, minutes, etc., to the active types, so far flung. From the men in turn Joe got reports of what was cooking and delivered them to National Office back in the Union.

When Joe was demobbed he patiently adjusted himself to the long years of a printer's apprenticeship. With that background, what could be better than that

Joe should serve on our Publicity Committee, which position he has retained throughout the years. He has been responsible for writing articles, vetting



contributions from other members, planning the lay-out for the magazine and seeing it through the press. In addition to these chores, he has served on the Johannesburg Branch Committee and the

National Executive Committee.

As a debater Joe is impulsive, yet tenacious. He hates compromising above all things: expediency is a word not found in his vocabulary. Joe makes a big sacrifice for the Legion when he organises poker games, with a rake-off for the Legion. A sacrifice, you understand, because of course he abominates the game.

An intelligent theatre- and cinema-goer, Joe is attracted to performing on the stage himself. Currently he is rehearsing for the Yiddish Theatre's presentation of Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice', which is being produced at The Empire Theatre in Johannesburg.

Above all Joe is an optimist. With many years of political training behind him, he analyses the present situation in South Africa with considerable foresight. 'It will take gumption and guts', says Joe, 'but if the ex-soldiers, European and Non-European, recapture and fight for their wartime ideals, all the Malanzis in the country won't stop them.'

## OBITUARY

### Major "POP" ALLEN

It is with great regret that we announce that Major T. E. Allen has died in Pietermaritzburg. "Pop" Allen, as we knew him, was a first class Legionnaire. For some years he was the fulltime secretary of the Maritzburg Branch, from which position during 1946 he fired broadside after broadside at National Office. Athalie Chapman and I well remember the P.M.B. letters written in Pop's fluent style . . . why hadn't we done this? why had we done that? when were we going to do the other thing? We did our best to get office matters in such trim that Pop wouldn't have a chance to criticise us. But we remained quite afraid of this Natal fighter.

Then at last Pop came up to a Special National Executive meeting and lo and behold! here was no eccentric Major, but an efficient, hard-working, enthusiastic chap who got down to brass tacks, stated his views with clarity and conviction and was readily susceptible to the other man's point of view.

Pop had a full and interesting life. As a youth he served a term in the British Navy, went over to

the Yorkshire Yeoman Cavalry: enlisted in Baden-Powell's Police and same to South Africa, the B.P. Police later becoming the South African Constabulary. He acted for a time as a Public Prosecutor and then went into the S.A.R. & H. Police in 1912. Promotion came his way, so that when the Prince of Wales toured the Union, Pop was responsible for all details in Durban. He retired from the service in Johannesburg, after looking after numerous bars of gold in transit!

As secretary of the Legion in Maritzburg, Pop did excellent work. He converted many 'ordinary' members into 'Lifers': ensured regular committee and general meetings: published a monthly news bulletin for the area. It was largely through Pop's personal contact with town councillors that the P.M.B. municipality considered making an annual grant to the Legion.

Pop's personal prestige, his thoroughness, his unflagging energies did wonders for the Legion in Maritzburg and in the country as a whole. I think the finest tribute one can pay him is to refer to the National Conference in 1947, when the Dadoo-Naicker Passport issue was to be debated.

You will remember that the Legion had protested to General Smuts against the withholding of the Indians' passports. Four years ago it was considered terribly 'red' to affirm the democratic principle that passports should be considered as an inalienable right. To have taken up cudgels on behalf of Indians was outright revolutionary.

The P.M.B. Branch, including Pop, disagreed strongly with the N.E.C. action and came to Conference determined to fight this thing out, even if it meant closing down the Branch. A certain Col. Roodt, representing Krugersdorp Branch, spoke in such unadulterated racialistic and fascist manner that Pop and his colleagues recognised the logical development of their point of view and refused to class themselves with Roodt. Finally, after all the pros and cons had been thoroughly thrashed out and after the P.M.B. delegates had roundly criticised the N.E.C. for not consulting the Branches before taking so vital a decision, Pop led his delegation in approving the N.E.C.'s action.

Pop made his contribution to South Africa. We in the Legion were fortunate to have worked with him in his finest hours.





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# WATTER NASIE?

ONS bou 'n Nasie" gaan die slagspreuk wees vir die Van Riebeeck-efes. Word daarmee die Suid-Afrikaanse nasie in die breë sin van die woord bedoel? Of is die begrip van 'n nasie in hierdie geval ook maar weer dié van die Nasionaliste, nl. dié deel van die Afrikaner volk wat aan Dr. Malan en sy partygenote hulle steun toesê?

Te oordeel na die planne wat bekend is opgestel deur die Feeskomitee wat deur Dr. Donges, die Minister van Binnelandse Sake aangestel is, blyk dit asof laagenoemde die geval is.

Hierdie komitee deur die regering gefinansieer en geïnspireer het reeds uitgebreide reëlings getref vir die fees: reëlings wat onder meer voorstellings van geskiedkundige gebeurtenisse uit die Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis insluit, waaronder bv. een wat die afbrand van Boerewonings gedurende die Boere-Oorlog sal voorstel. Hierdie voorstelling het kwaai protes van die Engelsprekende deel van die bevolking uitgelok, en is deur die Kaapstadse komitee van die handgewys.

Ander ewe skokkende, en wat ons naturelle-bevolking betref aanstootgewende voorstellings word egter skynbaar doodluiters aanvaar. Ons dink bv. aan die voorstelling uit die „kafferoorloë" waarin blanke wonings deur barbare afgebrand word, tonele wat alleen bedoel kan wees om vrees by die blanke uit te buit om sodoende haat vir die nie-blanke aan te wakker.

Om te teer op die sentiment van die Afrikaner is beproefde Nasionale party-politiek, en een waarmee hulle aansienlike sukses behaal het, in so'n mate self dat hulle daarin geslaag het om Afrikaner kultuur sinoniem te maak met die politiek van hulle party.

Uitbuiting van die vrees en bevooroordeel by die blanke, is 'n ander voor die hand liggende wapen in die hande van hierdie reaksionêre party vir wie party-wins oneindig meer beteken as die welvaart van die land en sy bevolking. Geen steen word dan ook onaangeroerd gelaat wat betref die aanstoking van Rassehaat. Die onthullingsplegtigheid by die Voortrekker Monument, was 'n goeie voorbeeld van hoe 'n volksfunksie kan uitgebuit word vir politieke voordeel. By hierdie geleentheid het die Broederbond-beheerde regering n sogenaamde kultuur-organisasies dit onmoontlik gemaak vir Engelsprekendes en selfs Afrikaners, wat na rasse-eenheid soek, om deel uit te maak van 'n feesvierende volk. Dink maar aan die destydse besluit wat sprekers verhoed het om van Engels in hulle toesprake gebruik te maak.

Die tekens is reeds daar dat die Van Riebeeck-fee op dieselfde manier vir politieke voordeel uitgebuit sal word.

Van Riebeeck is die stigter van die beskawing in Suidelike Afrika en wanneer ons praat van beskawing dan bedoel ons iets heel anders as die sogenaamde blanke beskawing waarvan die Nasionale hulle self voordoen a kampvegters. Die beskawing wat Van Riebeeck en sy mense na die Kaap gebring het was nie bedoel vir net een deel van die inwoners nl. die paar blanke setlaars nie, maar vir almal sonder enige bevooroordeel of diskriminasie.

Hierdie is dus die geleentheid waarop alle Suid-Afrikaners ongeag van kleur of taal verenig kan word vir dieselfde doel, nl. om hulde te bring aan die stigter van Suid-Afrika.

So'n verenigde front is egter die laaste ding op aarde waarto edie medewerking van die huidige Regering verkry sal word. Teer hulle dan nie juis op die verdeeldheid wat soiets onmoontlik maak nie?

As samewerking tussen alle rasse op so'n mate vir watter doel ookal verkry kan word, sou dit eenvoudig die einde van die Nasionale Party beteken.

## POLITICAL QUIZ

### DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS?

1. What is the town of Lesley notorious for?
2. Does 'apartheid' officially envisage an independent Bantu State?
3. How has MacArthur helped the general move for peace in Britain?
4. What major international financial event has helped the Nats. to remain in power?
5. Name a recent bye-election where the Nat. majority was increased and one where it was decreased.
6. How many special permits do you require to pass from the Western sector of Berlin to the Eastern sector?
7. Name three pieces of legislation designed to entrench the Nats. in power?
8. Name the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.
9. What is the name of the pro-Russian party in Iran?
10. How can you prove that the Nat. government has brought down the C.O.L.?

(Answers on page 14)

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"It is for us the living to be dedicated to the unfinished work which they who fought have thus far so nobly advanced. It is for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure to devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." (Gettysburg).

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# TWO REPLIES TO THE "SORRY SCHEME OF THINGS"

## On Security . . .

HAVE we not found an answer, after centuries of striving, to the problem of LIVING TOGETHER for the benefit of all? Can we not say to Kheyyam, across the ages, "Visit A.D. 1951, and here is humanity's clay, remoulded nearer to the heart's desire?" I fear his certain smile, his cynical sneer: no solution has yet been found to the frustration, the humiliation, the injustice and above all the INSECURITY of life in South Africa today. Black or white, religious or atheist, man or woman, politician or "litter on the fence" — our future is in the melting pot.

A pawn in the biggest game humanity's leaders have ever played, where the stakes are the destinies of millions of common people, I may perhaps be excused for competing with the philosophers of past ages, and for offering my solution to the vast problems which face us.

May I say at once that we don't know how to live together and that's a fact. Who knows his next-door neighbour? Who stays awake at night because his

friend has lost his job or lost a limb while working in his factory? Who gives a damn when he hears about thousands starving in India or being bombed in Korea? Who can say with truth that he feels personally responsible for the mass into which our country is galloping at breakneck speed? Who gives a moment's thought to the tragedy of tuberculosis amongst our non-European population, to the lack of adequate food, housing, sanitation and recreation facilities in our

non-European townships? Who worries about the unequal distribution of wealth between rich and poor, except to wish that he had more money jangling in his own pocket?

No, each man grasps his own life to himself, bargains with the rabble on the money market, and thanks God at night that his windows are barred against burglars and his safe against thieves. When he gets a twinge of conscience, it is rapidly assuaged by a donation to this or that charity, or suppressed altogether into his subconscious, where it haunts him forever with neurotic fuses and feelings of insecurity.

Until we "love our neighbours as ourselves" — the greatest ethic that philosophy or religion can teach us — we cannot be materially or spiritually secure. We must sink all differences of colour, race, creed or political opinion, and realise that ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.

After adopting this essential premise, we can ensure this equality by introducing certain safeguards into our way of life. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL should be our motto, and we should work in every sphere to ensure that this principle is put into practice. Adequate schools for our children, decent homes for our families, insurance against sickness and for old age, a more equal distribution of wealth, would bring us SOCIAL SECURITY without which we must all perish.

The government of any country has a serious responsibility to its people, in that it should and must introduce a system of national control of essential services and a national insurance scheme, whereby the material things of life may be made abundant for everyone. If a man has bread in his mouth, clothes on his back and a decent home to live in he will develop both spiritually and culturally. Instead those very material necessities which are his birthright in a civilized community are denied to him, and he becomes entirely pre-occupied with how to obtain them to the exclusion of everything else.

The South African Government has a gigantic guilt-complex towards its own people and it attempts to patch up its neurosis with an outward show of bravado: bills are passed, laws are made, in-

justice are done, cash worse than the last, in an attempt to stem the rising voice of the people.

We demand:

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT.  
FREEDOM OF SPEECH.  
FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION.  
FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY.  
FREEDOM OF RELIGION.  
FREEDOM FROM WANT.  
FREEDOM FROM FEAR.

It is not until the common man and woman, closely understanding the necessity for co-operation, demand with one voice that their government represent the majority and not the few, that we shall have a truly representative and democratic parliament. We must organise in our trade unions, our co-service organisations, in our religious and political clubs. We must each and every one of us accept the responsibility of full citizenship and all that it entails and participate actively in the life of our community. Only then will discriminatory laws cease. It is all very well for one here and there to speak. It is hard to disregard the voice of millions, and difficult to discount the rising anger of the common man.

Let torchlight processions light up throughout South Africa, let the people carry banners! "Let us grasp this sorry scheme of things entire and shatter it to bits — and then, remould it nearer to the heart's desire!"

"CITIZEN."

## .. and on Education

THINK one would have to be either very young or very bomb-happy to suggest seriously any solution to the problems of "This Sorry Scheme of Things". By solution, I mean not something that would work if . . . but some scheme which could be undertaken at once and succeed in spite of all the difficulties. But where can one find such a scheme for a guinea? To be quite candid, you donator of guineas, you have given yourself the pleasure of a good meal, and left your Legionnaire readers

the headaches. It is only my own tendency towards masochism that draws me on to sweat over the problems you set us.

Look, I could tell you how to produce happy children, who will "welcome each day eagerly", if you could provide me with happy pairs of parents. I could suggest how to change our schools from prison houses to palaces of joy, if you could find me free, happy, progressive teachers, a free, happy progressive director of education, and a free, happy and progressive Provincial Council. One can even get square pegs into the right holes, given the necessary facilities. One could tackle all our problems successfully, if some kind deity would arrange to give us a free hand. But why go on wasting paper in this vein?

All I know is this. We have been progressing in South Africa towards a less sorry scheme of things, very slowly, it is true, but reasonably steadily. For the last few years, however, our hard-won gain towards a better life for all have

been ruthlessly stripped from us, and all major progress blocked by our reactionary government. One can suggest no progressive step which they would not immediately attempt to stamp out. My humble contribution, therefore, towards your little competition, Mr. Guinea-man, is that we back up the War Veterans to a man in their hope-inspiring campaign to oust the Nats. That is obviously the first step in improving the South African scheme of things.

Need I add that I am cynical to a degree which appals me. Articles in papers amuse me no longer. But I still have some belief in action. The torchlight procession in Johannesburg, and the magnificent Commando to Cape Town gave me new hope. If the War Veterans can continue to give us action and keep the people moving, I'm their man. But already I'm worried about the way they allow the Nats, to put them on to the defensive. Surely we've been on the run long enough!

Up and at 'em!



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. . . . . to insecure old age.

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# JUSTICE . . . . . . with a Sjambok

ON the 22nd June, a short item, but one of significance appeared in the "Star". The Minister of Justice replying in the Senate to Senator Edgar Brookes (Native Representative) said that from January 1st, 1949 to April 30th, 1951, 347 members of the police force had been found guilty by the courts of assault and 52 had been found guilty departmentally. The assaults concerned were 54 on Europeans and 345 on Non-Europeans. The Minister said that 89 of the police concerned had been subject to disciplinary action by his department and 51 had been dismissed.

These figures are capable of shocking even the most hardened citizens, specially when one tries to find a parallel in other countries. Even the best of police forces have their unfortunate mishaps. The London Metropolitan Police for example had occasion to dismiss 6 men in 1948 and 16 men in 1949 for all breaches of conduct including assault. This is out of a total number of between fifteen and sixteen thousand members. The South African police force numbers between sixteen-seventeen thousand members of whom 10,000 are Europeans. From these figures, it becomes obvious that the South African figures of assault cannot be dismissed as 'unfortunate mishaps'. Rather they must be taken as indicative of a very unhealthy relationship between the police and the Non-European population.

This is not, however, a state of affairs that has only developed recently. In 1937 dissatisfaction with the police force was so great that the Government was forced to appoint a commission of inquiry into certain matters concerning the South African Police! Many very interesting facts emerged from this enquiry — facts which unfortunately are still valid today. For example only 10 Europeans came before the Commission with personal complaints which incidentally covered a period of 16 years. On the other hand, the Commission found that there was 'no doubt whatever about the existence of an attitude of mutual distrust, suspicion and dislike between police and non-Europeans. This hostility the Commission attributed mainly to the enforcement of discriminatory laws and the frequent use by the police of unnecessary harshness, lack of sympathy and even violence! The constant raiding of locations to enforce taxation, pass and liquor laws, the invasion of private homes and the use of force must have a brutalising effect upon the police.

The Commission also found that 'the comprehensive powers of the policeman which can so easily be abused, tend to beget in him a spirit of arrogance towards the native, while the submissiveness imposed upon the latter and the

## INDISCRIMINATE ARRESTS

EVERY month large numbers of innocent Africans spend periods of not less than two days in prison, for according to figures contained in a report issued by the Penal Reform League of South Africa, some 50 per cent. of the Africans arrested are found not guilty and discharged.

It is small wonder that so many Africans are becoming convinced that there is no justice for them, for though the law provides that arrested persons may be detained for 48 hours before their case is heard, it has been found in practice that such periods of detention are often considerably longer.

It has to be accepted that a number of arrested persons will prove to be innocent but when this figure rises to 50 per cent., it is obvious that something is seriously wrong. Apart from the grave loss of respect for the country's legal machine that this situation engenders in the African mind, it is difficult to compute the annual cost to the country both directly as well as in manpower hours that such procedure brings about. It is to be hoped that something will be done to reduce to a minimum such unfortunate arrests.

(Acknowledgements to the Institute of Race Relations).

reflection that he is treated differently from others induce in him a sullen and resentful attitude.' It is not surprising that these conflicting moods should develop a feeling of hostility which sometimes finds expression in acts of violence! Attacks upon policemen while carrying out raids and arrests have been numerous and show a tendency to increase.

It is a short step from brutality to illegality. In South Africa the normal police practice has been and still is to manhandle an African who is aggressive, to jostle one who is slow in responding to an order barked out in a language often unintelligible to him and to push and cuff a prisoner who shows less than the usual degree of submissiveness. Members of the police force claim that harshness is essential to protect themselves and their opinion is shared by a large section of the European population.

That brutal methods are unofficially sanctioned can be seen in the behaviour of the African police who, taking their cue from their European superiors, are especially inclined to assault Africans before and after arrest. Indeed the Commission felt that cases involving violence on the part of the Police were probably far more numerous than official figures led one to believe. Disciplinary action is taken against an officer convicted of assaulting a prisoner but the police 'stand by' one another and it is not easy to disprove a plea of 'self-defence' when the assault has taken place in the absence of independent witnesses.

Under these conditions, legal safeguards against the use of police authority to extort confessions are not likely to be effective. Confessions to a policeman are generally inadmissible in evidence, unless confirmed and reduced to writing before a judicial officer. Statements not amounting to a confession and made to the police may, however, be admitted. There is a strong temptation when sufficient evidence cannot be obtained for a conviction, to induce a suspect to give information and to make incriminating statements which repeated before a magistrate, become admissible. For this purpose violence, threats and false promises of lenient treatment are employed. It is not uncommon for prisoners to deny the accuracy of statements alleged to have been made by them or to maintain that a confession was obtained under compulsion.

(Continued on page 14)

# BRANCH



# ITEMS

THE Johannesburg branch can congratulate itself that it has at present more active groups than for two years past. No less than six Groups have been distributing leaflets for the Public meeting at the Phylencia Hall.

The Northern Suburbs Group met on the eighteenth of July at Trudy Richter's house to discuss "Peace". Yeoville Group devoted their last meeting to a discussion of Legion policy which developed into a most interesting debate. The North-Eastern Suburbs Group have been busy drawing up a programme of future activities, including a report by delegates to the recent N.U.S.A.S. Conference. Their next meeting will be at Jack Sachs' house on 13th August.

\* \* \*

## "MORE AMUSED THAN EDUCATED."

The July Three-in-One took the form of a Quiz and was a howling success. The audience was more amused than educated by the questions and answers, and there was a typically delightful moment when Cecil Williams was completely stumped by the question, "Who wrote 'Home of the Brave'?" (For months Cecil slaved himself almost into a nervous breakdown working on and acting in the Legion's production of the play).

The Street Collection on July 21st was most successful. July is a bad month for this purpose but we were able to reach just on £300. The public responded very well indeed and one collector averaged £5 10s. an hour, which was twice as good as he had managed in previous years. Congratulations to those members who did such a fine job and shame on the sluggards who failed to appear.

## DRAFT MEMORANDUM.

The N.E.C.'s Non-European sub-Committee has drawn up a draft memorandum on a Non-European policy for South Africa, which is being submitted to Branches and Groups. They are asked to formulate and set down in writing their criticisms and suggestions. The Johannesburg Branch is calling a special meeting to consider the draft and it is expected that a good deal of Group activity will develop from this attempt to formulate a new, positive approach to this problem.

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## YOU'RE TELLING US.

(Continued from page 3)

they can work on the farms. Against these difficulties, we fail. We believe that only when the Africans themselves have the power to back up their demands for free movement, decent housing and so on, will governing authorities relax these discriminatory measures.

Yours, etc.,

**MONTY BERMAN,**

Chairman, Non-European Committee.

\* \* \*

To the Editor

Dear Sir,

I was glad to see that the Legion took the decision to throw its weight behind the War Veterans Torch Commando. I cannot say that I'm completely satisfied with the War Veterans policies as announced, nor with their slowness in getting off the mark, but I feel there is great promise in the movement. They have got the support of all anti-Nat. forces in the country. With that potential, they can surely knock the Nats. for a loop.

I think it is right at this time for Legionnaires to do all they can to strengthen the Torch Commando and to see that it directs its energies to one thing and one thing only — getting the Nats. out at the earliest possible moment.

At the same time the Legion must retain its identity as an independent organisation. The Legion must continue to exert its influence on all the movements which impinge on Legion policy. It must keep its strength intact to assist the War Veterans, the Civil Rights Leagues, in addition to the United Party and Labour Party, as it has done in the past. The Legion must not forget its obligations in the ex-service welfare field. At the moment, however, I agree that Legionnaires will best serve the Legion's objectives by supporting the War Veterans.

Yours, etc.,

R.H.

Pretoria.



## BOOK REVIEW

**"HIGH TREASON — The Plot Against the People"**

by Albert E. Kahn.

THE usual concept of "Treason" involves acts by individuals or groups against the State, but the thought that the State may be guilty of "Treason" against the people is something foreign to us. And yet it should not be so. The atrocities committed by the Nazis against the people, became at Nuremburg indictable offences and for a time — a very short time—the German citizen who had actively opposed the Nazi regime was regarded by us as a true patriot, while it was the Nazi Government that was traitorous. Times however have changed. Recently in the United States a government official was found "disloyal" at a Loyalty Board hearing because he had been "prematurely Anti-Nazi". The type of reasoning that produces this kind of finding also produces actions, strange in a "Democracy". The words "loyalty" and "patriotism" assume new meanings and the new "patriots" are those who commit every possible act of treason

against the people in the name of "Democracy".

Albert E. Kahn has compiled in his new book sufficient factual material (all documented) for several hundreds of Hollywood Gangster films. The fact that the gangsters are the "respected" members of society, the government, should present no difficulty to the producers; just say that everything is done to stop a red revolution and your gangsters become "patriots". The book is a catalogue — a gripping and seemingly fantastic catalogue — of American politicians, industrialists, financiers and military leaders who have copied and very often improved on techniques used by Hitler and his strong-arm and financial thugs.

Do you want to know in what shady or outright crooked deals, President Truman's special envoy has been involved? Just look up the index under the surname. Which special envoy? Take your choice! What about the War Hero of the Pacific? The one who democratized Japan. There are several references to

him. "Washington . . . 1932 . . . That night MacArthur's troops stormed the Anacostia encampment. With giant floodlights blazing across the mud flats, the steel-helmeted soldiers advanced, flinging tear gas bombs, setting fire to ramshackle huts and tents and driving before them the veterans and their families. By midnight, the Washington sky glowed as though a great forest were ablaze. Many veterans and their wives and families were overcome by gas fumes. One infant died . . . Dawn . . . Miles off along the roads and highways of Virginia and Maryland thousands of veterans and their families were hurrying away from the Nation's capital, some weeping and cursing, others silent and dazed."

Another reference to MacArthur is even more interesting. In 1934 a plot was uncovered. There had been plans for a fascist coup d'etat in the United States. MacArthur was considered as a potential leader. And so the story goes on up to 1950 when the book was written. Harriman, John Foster Dulles, Marshall, Forrestal and the rest. Bring it right up to date by reading in the daily papers.

(City Bookshop, Johannesburg.) J.B.

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Would you like to show your approval of the Legion's activities, past and present? Don't you think a donation NOW might be a political gesture of value to your own morale and the Legion's?

WE MAKE THIS APPEAL TO ALL LEGIONNAIRES KNOWING THAT OUR MEMBERS, WHO OVER THE YEARS HAVE PLAYED THEIR PART IN THE DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLES IN SOUTH AFRICA, WILL DO THAT EXTRA BIT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN FIGHTING ORGANISATION TO CARRY ON EFFECTIVELY WITH THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE.

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## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Privately-owned gaol.
2. No.
3. Reaction to MacArthur's warmongering against China has taken the form of numerous 'Peace with China' Committees throughout Britain.
4. Devaluation of sterling.
5. (a) Ceres. (b) Wolmaransstad.
6. None.
7. Citizenship Bill, Repeal of Indian Representation Act, S.W.A. Act, Coloured Vote Bill.
8. Tom Naude.
9. Tudeh.
10. By standing on your head.

(Questions on page 7)

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### JUSTICE WITH A SJAMBOK

(Continued from page 11)

One of the main causes of this unsatisfactory state of affairs has been, in the words of the Commission, the inability to recruit the right stamp of men for police work. The pay is too low to attract the more able and ambitious citizen. Many of the police recruits have only the minimum educational qualification, a standard 6 Certificate.

It must be accepted that this tension between police and Non-European is not a necessary evil wherever two different racial groups live side by side. In the 1947 Report of the Northern Rhodesia Police Commission of Inquiry for example, evidence was given stressing the respect with which European police officers were regarded by the African public. In fact no adverse criticism of European police officers was expressed in evidence by members of the public—

European or Non-Europeans. There were several minor complaints against the Non-European police by the Location residents.

In South Africa, however, we find a situation where the taxation, pass, labour and liquor laws can be enforced only by placing the innocent as well as the law-breaker under close supervision. The police raids, the bundling of suspects into pick-up vans that patrol the streets, the arrests of hundreds of Africans at a time for screening — are all measures taken on a large scale and that must inevitably affect the innocent as well as the defaulter. And they are measures that must inevitably breed resentment in the minds of the innocent, especially as these people have no civil rights and therefore no legitimate means of voicing their complaints.



REVIEW

*"A Streetcar Named Desire"*

It has been claimed by some that "A Streetcar Named Desire", currently touring the Union, is a social drama, that is to say, a piece out of real life played by actors who represent real live people. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is possible, of course, to build a social drama round an anti-social character. It has been done successfully by numerous writers from Dostoevsky to Ernest Hemingway. But it is quite another thing to present a play in which almost all the characters are a thoroughly bad lot, for that is the essence of Tennessee Williams's "masterpiece." Blanche Dubois, her brother-in-law Stanley, his friends, his neighbours — all ooze venom at themselves and at one another. Even a knifing outside their doors evokes no surprise from them and certainly no alarm.

Can it be that the American Way of Life has reached the stage where the average working man is a brutal, furniture-throwing, money-grabbing monster whose normal reaction, when his wife is in hospital having a baby, is to find a substitute? Does it really produce a situation in which only Blanche Dubois is certifiable? Are the penthouses of Los

Angeles really peopled by the psychopaths who constitute Tennessee Williams's dramatis personae?

I don't believe it. People as a whole fight against a bad environment. They do not, as "A Streetcar Named Desire" would have you believe, succumb to it, to be dragged down into a hopeless, helpless morass of brawls and benzedrine.

If that were so, civilisation would have long since perished. J.P.

**A NON-EUROPEAN POLICY.**

The Legion's Non-European Sub-Committee has prepared a draft memorandum on "A Non-European Policy for South Africa." This is the Legion's reply to the official Government policy of Apartheid.

At present committees, branches and groups are criticising the memorandum and their comments are being collated by the Non-European Committee.


We want to ensure that this policy expresses the views of the majority of Legionnaires. If YOU would like a copy of the Memorandum, please write at once to P.O. Box 4088.


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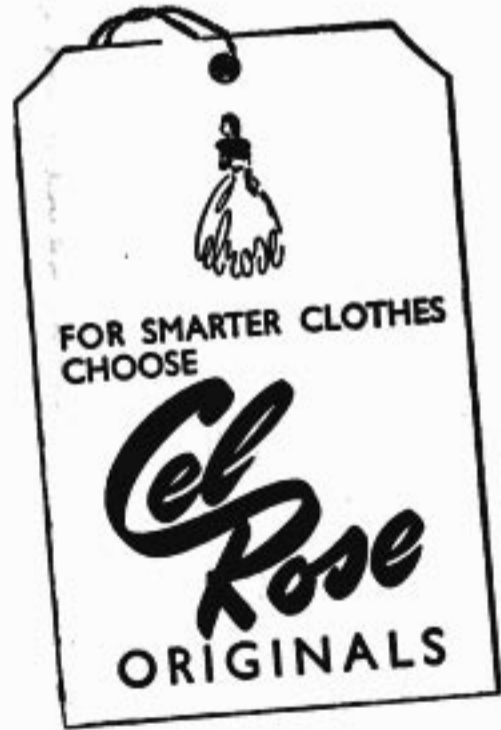
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