

RACE RELATIONS NEWS

Published monthly by the South African Institute
of Race Relations, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg.

Sent free to members of the Institute: Annual Subscription to non-
members, including Postage: FIVE SHILLINGS.

Vol. II., No. 3

MARCH, 1940

HOUSE-CRAFT TRAINING FOR AFRICAN WOMEN

The Research and Welfare Branch of the Johannesburg Municipal Non-European and Native Affairs Department has extended its activities to cope with the growing need for the education of African women on domestic lines.

For this purpose a House-craft and Domestic Science Demonstrator has been appointed.

Three types of classes are being held in the Municipal Townships:—

- (a) Public cookery demonstrations, based on suggestions for spending a small income to the best advantage.
- (b) House-to-house demonstrations at the invitation of the women to demonstrate the best use of their own home materials. This experiment is an adaptation of the Jeanes System, the women in turn becoming demonstrators to their neighbours.
- (c) Classes in domestic training for girls of not less than sixteen years of age to fit them for service.

Since November, 1939, the public demonstrations in cookery have been given in the halls of the townships and during December the classes in Christmas cookery were particularly popular. The dishes prepared are generally chosen by the women themselves and this gives a good indication of what they wish to learn. Requests have been made for the making of simple biscuits, fruit dishes, steamed puddings, etc. Foods cooked on top of the stove prove popular, as many of the women have to use fire buckets in their homes.

At the invitation of the housewives, demonstrations are given in private homes to audiences consisting of the householders and a few of their friends. It is intended to encourage this part of the work, particularly as the more intimate contacts of the small group lead to discussions on every type of domestic matters, budgeting, home cleanliness, care of children, prevention of disease, dress-making, gardening, etc.

To cater for the girls who wish to go into domestic service, fortnightly classes in cookery are being held for a selected group of twenty girls from each township. These have been chosen with the help of the principals of schools and from other recommendations and requests. In these classes the girls will learn the rudiments of housework, simple home-cooking and the preparation and serving of meals. At the completion of the year's course the girls will be examined and given a Departmental certificate of proficiency. It is hoped that by the end of 1940 about 80 trained girls will be placed in service through the Departmental Employment Bureau. It is anticipated that these girls will be able to command a higher wage than the average maid because of their training.

THE NATIVE IN UGANDA

When interviewed recently by the *Natal Daily News*, Mr. A. C. Wright, a district officer in the Uganda Civil Service, stated that the official attitude towards the Native in Uganda was that the territory was his and that he must be taught to look after it and administer it himself. To this end a progressive educational policy was being carried out and a new University had just been completed near Kampala. Already there were numbers of fully-qualified Native doctors and teachers in the territory, and the Native High Court was operated entirely by Native judges, advocates and clerks.

Mr. Wright added that "it will be illuminating when the time comes, as it must, when educated Natives of Central Africa will travel and observe the conditions of their brethren in Southern Africa, or if some educated Africans in South Africa see the freedom from restrictions under which Natives in Central Africa live."

INDIAN PENETRATION IN DURBAN

The alleged penetration of Indians into predominantly European residential areas in Durban is stirring up much feeling. In response to representations by the Durban Municipality, the Government has promised a judicial enquiry. Pending the result of the enquiry, a Joint Committee representing the City Council and the Natal Indian Association has been formed to prevent, if possible, the purchase by Indians of properties in European areas. The Joint Committee is being attacked from both sides. Europeans complain that it is powerless to prevent penetration which they allege is actively going on. Many Indians not in the Association object that to serve on such a Committee implies acquiescence in the principle of segregation. The Indo-European Council is holding a special meeting to discuss the subject.

PORTUGUESE NATIVE LABOUR IN NATAL

It will be of interest to those South Africans who tend to regard the Portuguese Colonies in Africa as something approaching "centres of repression," to read a circular letter sent out by the Inspector of Portuguese Natives, to sugar planters in Natal and Zululand. According to the *Rand Daily Mail* of February 5, the letter makes allegations of maltreatment of Portuguese Natives by the planters and goes on to say, "The Portuguese Government is not at all satisfied with the present state of affairs, and, in consequence, Native labour from Portuguese territory will not be admitted as freely as heretofore."

The Inspector recalls in his letter that he has already warned planters, through the medium of the Native Labour Organisation, that all Portuguese Natives must be given better treatment than they are at present receiving, as it has come to his notice that they are being very harshly dealt with—in fact, more like slaves than ordinary free employees.

"I would like you to understand that the mentality of the Portuguese Native is somewhat different to that of the Zulu. He has been justly and fairly treated in his own country, and expects similar treatment from you."

NATIVES CONTRIBUTE TO MAYORS' NATIONAL FUND

The interest which Natives are displaying in the war has again been shown by the fact that the Bathlaping tribe of the Taungs Native Reserve has sent a contribution of £240 17s. 0d. to the South African Mayors' National Fund. This contribution is specially noteworthy in view of the fact that the Taungs Reserve is a particularly poor area situated on the edge of the Kalahari Desert.

The Mayors' Fund has also received a voluntary contribution of £7 1s. 3d. in sixpences and tickeys from Native employees of the Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines, Ltd.

ANOTHER REASON FOR RAISING NATIVE WAGES

In his January report to the Pretoria Municipality, Mr. J. R. Brent, Manager of the Native and Asiatic Administration Department, expresses the opinion that an increase in the wages of Native families would largely do away with illicit traffic in kaffir beer. Mr. Brent states that "the Natives do not regard being in possession of kaffir beer as a crime, and there is no doubt that they regard its sale as an easy means of augmenting their sub-economic wages, as the sale of kaffir beer does not necessitate the woman leaving her small children unattended, as is the case when she goes out to domestic service in town."

DESTITUTION AMONG URBAN NATIVES

The extent of destitution amongst Natives in some Urban Areas can be gauged from figures which have been sent to the Institute by the Town Clerk, Graaff Reinet, regarding the activities of the Asher Trust, a charitable organisation which assists Coloured and Natives within the Municipality. At Christmas-time the Trustees distributed clothing to 205 Native women and 412 Native men who were either very old, sickly or crippled. As the total number of Natives in Graaff Reinet is only 3,000, it means that nearly 21 per cent. of the Native population is in need of help.

BASIC ENGLISH FOR AFRICANS

The Mayibuye Reader. [A general knowledge reading book for Africans. Illustrated. 68 pages.]

A Basic English reader for adult Africans who wish to learn English, giving facts "which may be of use in the fight for a better existence for black men in Africa." In addition to information on the disabilities under which Africans suffer, it explains the calendar, buying and selling, cattle and erosion, the post office, nutrition and disease, machinery, the organisation of workers and of Bantu co-operatives and farmers' societies.

Price 6d. each, post free. Bundles, 4/- a dozen, post free. From the African Defender, P.O. Box 1589, Cape Town.

NATIVES AND THE POST OFFICE

According to the latest report of the Postmaster-General of the Union, the total amount standing to the credit of Native account holders in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of the financial year was £1,806,000. To-day there are 215,500 Native account holders, so that the average deposit is £8 7s. 8d. Ten years ago there were only 32,000 Native depositors.

The Postmaster-General states that "the increase in the period has been due to the special efforts which have been made for some time to extend the business of the bank among the Natives, or in other words, to teach the Native the advantages of saving. Pamphlets are issued from time to time in the different Native languages; officials able to speak to Natives in their own language address meetings in suitable places; officers in charge of compounds assist in keeping the boys reminded of the savings bank, and Post Office clerks are sent regularly to various compounds to receive deposits."

Discussing this report at the February meeting of the Johannesburg Joint Council of Europeans and Africans, Rev. S. S. Tema pointed out that despite the fact that Post Office revenue was increasing enormously as a result of increased business with Natives, no effort was being made to employ Natives in clerkships in Post Offices. He urged the Council to press once more for further employment of Natives as clerks and counter officials.

NATIVE WELFARE IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

The Federation of Native Welfare Societies in Southern Rhodesia recently met in Council at Gwelo, when there were present representatives from Salisbury, Bulawayo, Gwelo, Que Que, Umtali and Gatooma. The Council discussed a large number of matters, most of which indicate that Southern Rhodesia is faced with the same racial and social questions as the Union, although these are at less acute stages. The monthly service contract "pass"; housing reform in Urban Areas; inclusion of African children in a scheme of dental treatment for school children; control of quack medicines; reduction of the fees for Native trading licences; treatment of sufferers from tuberculosis and venereal diseases, were the more important subjects discussed. Two resolutions may be quoted:—

"That the Federation considers that the attention of employers should be drawn to the fact that Tuberculosis is a notifiable disease, and that in order to prevent the spread of this disease, steps should be taken by the Government, in conjunction with the Governments of the Northern Territories, to establish, both in this country and in the countries to which they may ask to be repatriated, centres where Natives suffering from tuberculosis can be segregated and treated and can live under Native conditions";

"That this Federation requests the Government, in the interests of health and efficiency of Native workers as well as in the true interests of their employers, to lay down a minimum ration scale for Natives in industrial employment, to be enforced where employers accept responsibility for feeding their employees."

The Council also decided to press for the establishment of Native Advisory Boards in the urban areas.

COLOURED CHILDREN IN EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

In its issue of February 13, *Die Transvaler* describes as "one of the most tragic occurrences in the history of the Colour Problem," the fact that nearly one-third of the pupils of a certain Cape Town school have been forced to leave because of "uncertainty about their race." The paper states that a new principal was appointed to the school at the beginning of the year and discovered that for years past children had been admitted without "due attention being given to their origin."

INSTITUTE MEMORANDA

Memoranda issued by the Institute during 1939 include the following:—

1. Welfare of Non-Europeans from Southern Africa proceeding Overseas. (R.R. 2/39). 4 pages.
2. Welfare of Non-Europeans from Southern Africa proceeding Overseas. (R.R. 14/39). 3 pages.
3. Co-operative Societies amongst Africans. (R.R. 13/39). 5 pages.
4. Family Subsidies. (R.R. 23/39). Memo by Miss H. Pollak. 5 pages.
5. Statement of Government Policy in reference to the Coloured People of the Union. (R.R. 32/39). 2 pages.
6. Annual Report of the Legal Aid Bureau. (R.R. 35/39). 4 pages.
7. Recommendations of Conference on Nutrition Problems. (R.R. 57/39). 2 pages.
8. Summary of Living and Working Conditions of Coloured Communities in Salisbury and Bulawayo. (R.R. 58/39). 2 pages.
9. Finance and Control of Native Education. (R.R. 60/39). 2 pages.
10. Control of Native Education. (R.R. 62/39). 6 pages.
11. Vocational Training in Industries—Report of what trained apprentices do when they leave School. (R.R. 63/39). 8 pages.
12. Findings of Conference on the Finance and Control of Native Education. (R.R. 65/39). 1 page.
13. Findings of Conference on Vocational Education. (R.R. 66/39). 3 pages.
14. Provisional Draft of Natives Taxation (Amendment) Act. (R.R. 67/39). 1 page.
15. Memorandum on possible Programme of work for Penal Reform Committee. (R.R. 71/39). 3 pages.
16. Desirability of a Special Diploma in Native Education for European Students, by Dr. P. A. W. Cook. (R.R. 75/39). 5 pages.
[Issued by the Institute for the Inter-University Committee.]
17. Legal Aid Bureau—Report on Experiment in the Native Commissioner's Court. (R.R. 109/39). 2 pages.
18. Free Hospitalisation for Africans. (R.R. 107/39). 11 pages.
[Issued by the Institute for the Medical Work Committee of the Christian Council of South Africa.]

Copies of the above memoranda will be supplied free of charge to members of the Institute as long as supplies remain.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NUTRITION COUNCIL

Following upon the Nutrition Conference, convened jointly in July, 1939, by the Institute, the National Council for Child Welfare and the National Council of Women, the Minister of Public Health has decided to set up a National Nutrition Council during the present Session of Parliament. According to a statement made by the Minister, "the function of the Council will be to investigate and advise the Minister on any subject which may help to lessen the extent of malnutrition in the Union and to improve the diet of the people."

The extent of malnutrition amongst Europeans is clearly shown in the report for 1939 of the Secretary for Public Health, who states that according to a survey of 58,165 European schoolboys, more than 40 per cent. are suffering either from slight or marked malnutrition. How much worse must the situation be amongst Natives and Coloureds!

INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP

ORDINARY: An annual subscription of **One Pound** or over (854 such members at present).

DONOR: An annual subscription of **Ten Pounds** or a gift of **One Hundred Pounds** (55 such members at present).

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES: An annual grant of **Ten Pounds** or over (36 such members at present).

Full particulars from The Secretary,

S.A. Institute of Race Relations,

P.O. Box 97,

Telephones: 44-3326 and 44-3781.

Johannesburg.

Telegrams and Cables: "Ubuntu," Johannesburg.

RACE RELATIONS NEWS

Published monthly by the South African Institute
of Race Relations, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg.

Sent free to members of the Institute: Annual Subscription to non-
members, including Postage: FIVE SHILLINGS.

Vol. II., No. 10

OCTOBER, 1940

CRISIS IN MEDICAL MISSIONS

The war has brought a crisis upon medical missions in South Africa and there is grave danger of the collapse of medical and health services for Africans. Many missions have been cut off from their home bases.

During the last twenty years missionary societies in South Africa have increasingly realised the need for providing improved medical services for the Native people, particularly in the Native Reserves. While they have repeatedly urged this upon the Government and upon various Commissions, they have themselves taken the initiative in establishing such services. Indeed they have frequently been the pioneers in this field and have succeeded to an amazing degree in setting up hospitals and clinics in some of the most neglected areas of the country. Their success in spite of the very limited financial resources at their disposal has been in part at least due to the fact that they have been able to secure the services of a number of devoted men and women prepared to make considerable sacrifices in the effort to help the sick and suffering amongst the Bantu.

Missions have, however, always recognised that the needs of the Native people are far greater than they can hope to meet unaided, and that in any civilised country it is recognised to-day that the Government should undertake the main responsibility for caring for those of the population who are unable to pay for medical services. They have, therefore, endeavoured to secure the support and co-operation of the Government for their work, and their efforts in this direction have met with a varying degree of success. Such help as has been given has always been inadequate, arbitrary and precarious, so that the missions have had to depend for a large measure of support on funds raised overseas. Consequently the present emergency has brought about an acute crisis in their affairs. These

services are essential services, which must be maintained, and not mere luxuries which can be withdrawn at will. Even in our own interests it should be remembered that the closing down of these mission hospitals would cause distress and discontent amongst the Native people and would also create alarm and despondency amongst them as to the progress of the present conflict, thus giving a further opportunity for the success of harmful propaganda amongst them. Yet the plain fact is that many of these mission hospitals are in danger of having to close down unless help is forthcoming quickly.

The sum total which has been spent in establishing the various mission hospitals represents a considerable investment, which, thanks to the skill and care in planning and, in many cases the actual physical exertions of the missionaries themselves, has provided, in areas otherwise totally neglected, a number of hospital beds far in excess of anything which could have been provided by the expenditure of an equal total by Government departments. The average cost per bed in Government Hospitals ranges from £500 to £1,000; in mission hospitals from £50 to £200. Standards of construction and equipment in mission hospitals are admittedly lower; but in no case are they so low that there is interference with the effectiveness of treatment—any handicaps being overcome by the devotion and resourcefulness of the missionary doctors and nurses.

The services rendered by mission hospitals, moreover, extend far beyond mere treatment of the sick. They are in addition :-

(a) The principal *training schools* for Native nurses each of whom either in the full-time practice of her calling or as a married woman becomes a centre for the propagation of enlightened ideas regarding sickness and health.

(b) *Education centres* for the diffusion of new knowledge as to the cause and spread of disease, and for the countering of superstitious ideas on these matters and the encouragement of attempts at preventive measures. As the Natives gain confidence in the curative work of the hospital, they become more ready to accept advice on other matters, such as nutrition, and the prevention of tuberculosis, venereal diseases, malaria and so on.

Recently at the opening of the Macvicar Hospital at Lovedale the Minister of Public Health is reported to have said, that in the war against ill health there could be no neutrality, that in that war the Government recognised no colour bar.

In that war mission hospitals have been occupying the front line for the last twenty years with very little and often very grudging support from the authorities responsible for its conduct. Their success in overcoming the opposition due to ignorance and superstition has opened the way for a big advance, but to-day they are faced with this possibility of a serious retreat.

We believe that South Africa, a land which is being spared the horrors of the war, and which is only bearing a comparatively light share of the financial burden will meet the cost of maintaining and increasing this advance against the power of disease.

WANTED : A LIBRARIAN

Further developments in the Institute's reference library have been made possible through the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation of New York which has made available the sum of 1,500 dollars spread over four years.

Advantage is being taken of this grant to employ a non-European library assistant, who will be helped to study for the Diploma of the S.A. Library Association and thereby qualify for an advanced library post at the end of his period of training with the Institute.

The Institute is now inviting applications for the post, which carries an initial salary of £150 per annum. The applicants must be graduates and have a knowledge of both official languages and at least one Bantu language. The post will be for a four year period (subject to an initial probationary engagement of three months) and increments during this period will be dependent on the progress made by the successful applicant in his South African Library Association Examinations.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH AND RACE

From an article in *The Crisis* (New York), December, 1939, by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays.

Fifteen hundred young Christians, averaging 24½ years of age, gathered at Amsterdam from seventy-two nations in August, 1939, to study the Christian religion in its relation to the vital questions of our time. In the section which dealt with race every race problem in the world had its representative, and members of the black, white, brown, and yellow races came from more than twenty countries in the five continents. The group included also people of mixed blood.

The Bantu delegates from South Africa* deplored the fact of segregation in the churches of South Africa, and took strong issue with the position of the Dutch Reformed Church. A Bantu delegate made it clear that the faith of the Bantu people had been shaken because the Church has followed the government, and a representative from the Gold Coast made it plain that many Africans were turning to atheism because of the failure of Christianity to solve the racial problem. It was argued that the position of the Dutch in separate churches is probably similar to that of many of the white people in the United States, particularly in the South.

The vast majority seemed to feel that until the Church settles the question of Christian fellowship across racial lines, it will be impotent in proclaiming the Gospel, and that, as exploited and persecuted groups become more enlightened and more sensitive to discriminatory practices, the Church will lose more and more power in its effort to evangelize the world, and in dealing with minority groups. It was made plain by an American that Negroes in the United States are more critical of the Church and the Christian religion at this point than at any other. They cannot see how Christians can segregate in God's Church. As long as we accept segregation we advocate inequality, thus making impossible the reality of the argument "separate but equal." This being true, segregation is highly unchristian, because equality of opportunity underlies any Christian philosophy of life. This view was opposed by those who justified segregation as a means of preserving God-given differentiations. It appears to be exceedingly hard for members of a dominant power group not to feel that they are infinitely superior to the members of the group they dominate. Christianity must change this attitude before brotherhood and justice can operate in any area.

Though it was agreed that apart from Christ there is no way out of our racial difficulties, *no technique was offered whereby Christian solutions to our racial ills would be forthcoming.*

THE JAMES DONALDSON AWARD

The Trustees of the Bantu Welfare Trust have decided to recognise long, consistent and honourable service to the community rendered by Africans by the award each year of a bronze medal and a sum of £5 to one African man or woman

*There were four delegates from South Africa, two Bantu, one Afrikaner, one English South African.

whose service is deemed by the Trustees to be worthy of recognition.

The Trustees have also decided to associate the name of the founder of the Bantu Welfare Trust—Lt. Colonel James Donaldson, D.S.O.—with the award, which will be known as “The James Donaldson Award.”

The following conditions have been laid down by the Trustees in regard to the “James Donaldson Award”:-

- (1) No application by any person on his own behalf will be considered.
- (2) Recommendations will be received from well-established bodies and should be supported, in each case, by a full statement of the services rendered by the person recommended and the period or periods covered by such services.
- (3) Canvassing will disqualify the person recommended.
- (4) The decisions of the Trustees shall be final.

Recommendations should be addressed to the Secretary, Bantu Welfare Trust, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg, not later than November 30th in each year.

The award for 1940 has been made to Naftali Mnyandu, an employee of the Betania (Church of Sweden Mission) Hospital, Dundee, Natal, who, since 1901, has been a faithful worker for his people, always willing to serve in any capacity, even the humblest at any time of day and night, and who by his upright, reliable, and trustworthy character has been an example to all. This recommendation was made by the Church of Sweden Mission and the Magistrate of Dundee.

WASTE OF HUMAN ABILITY THROUGH LACK OF EDUCATION

[Extract from a lecture by Professor J. L. Gray.]

Recently Dr. M. L. Fick declared that “it is important to know the limit of the Natives’ intelligence in order to stop any waste.” Dr. Fick is most anxious not to educate the Natives above their intelligence, a danger to which I did not think they were yet exposed. He is the victim of a very common fallacy, also encountered in countries whose social divisions are between rich and poor. So concerned are the rich in England and the Whites in South Africa to protect themselves against competition from below, that they are constantly being led to assert that socially inferior groups, who are also on the average intellectually inferior groups, are being over-educated. The one statement may be true and the other false. It may be true that the

Native's mean intelligence is significantly lower than that of Europeans. It may still be false that he is being educated excessively. In short, waste does not occur only or mainly when people are educated *above* their intelligence. It occurs far more conspicuously when people are educated—and thus employed—*below* their intelligence.

If we examine Dr. Fick's figures, we can convict him of error out of his own mouth. "Statistical surveys of the Native's average intelligence," he writes, "showed that about 25 per cent. could pass Standard VI. and only 3 per cent. could matriculate." (This compares unfavourably with European children, of whom it is believed 80 per cent. could pass Standard VI. and 20 per cent. matriculate.) Now passing Standard VI. implies ability to enter upon a post-primary course. According to figures I have calculated from the Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Native Education (p. 142), Natives who enter upon post-primary education in 1935 numbered 1.23 per cent. of the appropriate age-group, or one-twentieth of the number with ability to enter upon it, in Dr. Fick's own estimate. As for those who were in matriculation classes the number is so small as to make a percentage calculation meaningless. It is 33 out of a possible maximum, on Dr. Fick's figures, of nearly 20,000. (The school figures refer to Government and State-aided schools only. The age group referred to is 15-19 years and it contained, according to the Census of 1936, 663,929 persons of both sexes.)

I may be very innocent, but the conclusion I draw from these figures is not that we are in danger of educating Natives *above* their intelligence, but that we are *wasting the intelligence of no less than 95 per cent. of intelligent Native children* by not providing schools for them.

Nor does wastage of this kind only apply to Natives. I have calculated from the data in Dr. E. G. Malherbe's volume on *Education and the Poor White* that in 1931 there was a corresponding wastage of the ability of European school children of 46 per cent., and that taking Poor White children alone the wastage may have been as high as 88 per cent. Whatever kind of post-primary education we may think best to increase the skill and productivity of our population, we still have vast reservoirs of unutilised ability to draw upon. Until we do so, we stand convicted of waste of *personnel* on a scale as great, if not greater, than the corresponding waste of the fruits of natural science and technology.

WHAT IT COSTS AFRICANS TO LIVE IN TOWNS

A novel experiment in cost of living enquiries was recently conducted at Kroonstad by the Institute's Secretary, Mr. A. L. Saffery.

Cost of living enquiries have been carried out in most of the larger towns of the Union, and valuable statistics into wages and cost of living of unskilled workers have been obtained. The smaller industrial towns, however, have been singularly neglected and for this reason alone the investigation at Kroonstad is of considerable importance.

A new and simplified method was adopted for the investigation, and with such success that it is urged that Joint Councils consider the advisability of conducting similar investigations in their areas. In the past it has been customary to try and ascertain the income of a family or group of families and relate this to the expenditure on food, rent, clothing etc., of the same group of families. The process was a lengthy one which had to be carried out by experienced investigators, and even then accuracy could not always be guaranteed.

In the present investigation the procedure adopted was to ascertain the wages of the male members of the family by a careful analysis of the service contracts issued in Kroonstad, and to relate this to the cost of a scientific *minimum* diet suitable for a Native family. To the cost of the diet was added an estimate of minimum expenditure on clothes, rent, school fees, medicines and sundries.

A startling fact which emerged at an early stage of the investigation was the extent to which Africans are being cheated by unscrupulous traders.

In ascertaining the cost of the minimum diet in Kroonstad, the services of a number of African women were obtained. They were given money and sent to different shops to buy quantities of the various ingredients of the diet, and on their return their purchases were carefully weighed and checked. It was found that short weight was being given to an alarming extent. Thus one woman was able to purchase 4-lbs. 13-ozs. of kaffir corn for sixpence whereas another got only 2-lbs. 10-ozs. Similarly at one store 2-lbs. of beans were given for sixpence whereas at another the purchaser got only 1-lb. 10-ozs.

The enquiry showed that the cost of a minimum diet for a family of husband, wife and three children is 18/11½ per week. Other essential charges which have to be met are:—stand rent 2/-; clothes 2/-; school fees and church dues 1/8;

fuel and light 1/8; poll tax 5d.; and sundries 2/-. This gives a total of £1 8. 8½. per week.

The average wage, however, of the male adult was found, after very thorough investigation, to be only 13/6 per week.

The next stage in the investigation was to ascertain how the difference is made up. It was found that practically every married woman in the location is either engaged in domestic service or takes in laundry. This brings in an additional average income of 3/6 per week, but also brings in its train all the evil consequences of the breakdown of normal family life. In addition approximately 60% of the standholders are engaged in the illicit sale of beer to the unmarried Africans in the location. But the most serious feature of the situation is that when the two sources of income do not make up the difference between income and minimum requirements, the saving is usually made on food, and results in gross malnutrition and disease caused thereby. The latest figures show a mortality rate of 29.29 per 1,000 and an infantile mortality rate of 296.11 per 1,000.

A limited number of copies of the full report of the enquiry are available, and can be obtained by those interested by writing to the Secretary, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg.

" PROBLEMS OF URBAN BANTU YOUTH "

Readers are reminded that Dr. Ellen Hellmann's "Problems of Urban Bantu Youth" is being sold at the special price of 2/-, to members of the Institute. Members who intend to order the book, and have not yet done so, are requested to send in their orders without delay so that the success, or otherwise, of the new system of distribution of publications can be gauged.

INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP

ORDINARY: An annual subscription of **One Pound** or over (850 such members at present).

DONOR: An annual subscription of **Ten Pounds** or a gift of **One Hundred Pounds** (52 such members at present).

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES: An annual grant of **Ten Pounds** or over (37 such members at present).

Full particulars from: The Secretary,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,

Telephones: 44-3326 and 44-3781. Johannesburg.

Telegrams and Cables: "Ubuntu," Johannesburg.

RACE RELATIONS NEWS

Published monthly by the South African Institute
of Race Relations, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg.

Sent free to members of the Institute: Annual Subscription to non-
members, including Postage: FIVE SHILLINGS.

Vol. III., No. 6.

JUNE, 1941.

THE STORY OF A STRIKE

A strike of Native labourers in five Johannesburg coal yards resulted recently in 366 workers being arrested and lodged in gaol.

The reasons for the strike go back a long way. On January 1st, 1940, Wage Determination No. 70 in respect of the Commercial Distributive Trade, came into operation, when the workers found that the Coal, Dairy and Timber trades had been excluded. The minimum wage of £1. 7s. 8d. a week for labourers fixed by that Determination did not, therefore, apply in the coal yards. The Minister of Labour subsequently issued a reference to the Wage Board to cover the Coal Trade. In the meantime, the employers had formed a new organisation to undertake cartage, so that the labourers became the employees of a company (as distinct from the coal merchants), operating as a cartage concern and not as a dealer. In this way the workers found that they would be excluded again from a wage determination.

The dissatisfaction of the employees with this state of affairs very nearly resulted in a strike, but in November, 1940, the employers came to an agreement with the employees' union, whereby there would be an immediate increase to £4. 0s. 0d. per month, and that negotiations would be commenced with a view to further increasing the wages and shortening the hours of work. Subsequently, however, the employers refused to negotiate with the workers' union, and in some cases even reduced the wages which had been agreed

upon in November. In the meantime, representations were made to the Minister of Labour to amend the reference to the Wage Board so as to include these workers in the investigation which the Board was making. The Minister issued instructions accordingly.

The workers, however, went on strike on May 8th, because they considered that the employers had failed to carry out their "gentleman's agreement," and had refused to recognise their Union. They were arrested and charged, under the Urban Areas Act, with refusing to obey the lawful command of their employers. The Union resented the use of the Urban Areas Act to break a strike, and decided to insist upon a separate trial for each striker, even if this process were to take several months. When this was put to the strikers, 85 chose to be tried jointly, were found guilty, and fined £1 or ten days, suspended for three months. The remainder chose to be tried separately.

Despite the threat of the Union to defend each remaining case individually, the employers still refused to negotiate, and it appeared that the deadlock would continue. The Union began to prepare for a long strike, and money was collected to support the families of the strikers.

As efforts to secure a settlement through the official channels had failed, Senator Jones intervened, and, at a meeting with the employers, persuaded them to recognise the Union and to meet its organisers and legal advisers. A conference followed, which was attended by the employers, the Union organisers and their legal representatives, Senator Rheinallt Jones, Mrs. M. Ballinger, M.P., Mr. A. L. Saffery (Institute of Race Relations), Mr. W. G. Ballinger (Friends of Africa), and representatives of the Departments of Native Affairs and Labour.

The representative of the Department of Labour presided over the conference, at which a settlement was reached (the minimum wage for all adult workers being fixed at £4, and for juveniles at £2; with an advance of 2/6d. a month for all who were already receiving £4 or more); this settlement is to be of force until August 1st, or until the coming into operation of the Wage Determination—whichever is the lesser period. The employers also confirmed their decision to recognise the

Union in all further negotiations. The strikers were then cautioned and discharged.

The strike raised again, in an acute form, important questions, viz:—

(1) The absence of any form of official recognition for Unions of Native workers, such as is given to unions of other workers under the Industrial Conciliation Act.

(2) The confusion as to where responsibility lies, and the means to be used, for dealing with disputes in which Natives are primarily concerned.

(3) The resort to criminal sanctions against Natives who strike, and their arrest before any enquiry has been made by the Department of Labour.

(4) The use, for the breaking up of strikes, of legislation not intended for such purposes.

The Executive Committee of the Institute of Race Relations has decided to join in a deputation to the Ministers concerned to discuss these points.

MRS. BALLINGER ON AFRICANS AND THE WAR

The implications of the war for Native Africa was the theme of an address by Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, M.P., that was broadcast from Cape Town early in May.

Mrs. Ballinger drew attention to the present life of Native Africans: "Far from having political control of their own lives, Africans are everywhere subject peoples. It is true, the degree and character of their subjection varies, and has almost everywhere been modified in this last generation by some measure of consultative rights; . . . their standard of living is often excessively low, and it is not too much to say that poverty is the constant companion of their lives."

There were, however, more encouraging aspects of the African scene, amongst which was the increased sense of social

responsibility reflected in public opinion in Great Britain; and the awakening of African opinion "in this last generation, not only through the influence of the Mission school and its successors, but through the labour market and the commercial exchange . . . everywhere in Africa there has been an enormous advance, both educational, economic and political; but everywhere the tempo of that advance has been slower than the pace which the leaders of the people themselves have demanded, and the characteristic irritation of half emancipated peoples against their rulers is increasingly making its appearance. . . ."

"In the circumstances, it would not have been surprising if Africans had felt that this struggle was none of their affair, that they had little to defend, and therefore little to lose. That they have not done so, that for the most part, in fact, they have tended to feel exactly the opposite, in my opinion points more directly and more clearly to the inner significance of the struggle in progress than any other single fact. The rallying of the African to the cause for which we fight has not meant a surrender of their hope for and their intention to demand, an increasing control over their own destinies and a greater share of the wealth of the world which they help to create. Quite the reverse. Africans have not made the mistake that many more sophisticated people have made of believing that one imperial control is much like another. . . . They have appreciated the fact that with a Nazi victory would go the whole principle of liberty upon the acceptance of which, in however sectional or limited a sense, the whole meaning of their own hopes and aspirations depend."

Mrs. Ballinger went on to consider the policy of Nazi-Fascist powers in respect of subject peoples, and concluded with a quotation from Mr. Charles Collet, who stated in London recently: "It was not sentiment which determined the attitude towards the War of peoples under the British and French Imperial rule. It was cold logic—the logic of men joining forces with other men with whom they desired to be friendly despite differences, against an enemy who had set down in black and white what fate he had reserved for the 'semi-apes'."

(Quotations are taken from *The Sun* of May 9th, 1941.)

THE INSTITUTE COUNCIL MEETING

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Council of the Institute of Race Relations, will be held in the Trinity Hall, East London, on June 30th and July 1st and 2nd. On the evening of the first day a public session will be held, when addresses on the Principles of Native Urban Administration will be given. The second and third day will be devoted to discussions on Problems of Native Urban Administration. Municipalities, Native Advisory Boards and other bodies from the Midland and Eastern districts of the Cape Province will be represented in the discussions. The main topics will be Housing, Finance, Beer, Social Services and Public Relations.

RISE IN NATIVE LIVING COSTS

General Smuts stated in the Senate recently that there ought to be a rise in Native wages which had been stationary for many years although European wages had risen steadily.

The need for this rise was evident before the war but is even more urgent to-day when we consider the enormous rise in the cost of foodstuffs and other commodities used mainly by Natives.

The Government Department of Census and Statistics, in its most recent statement on the rise in cost of living, reports that the increase over 1938 is only 8.3%, excluding rent. But the Government figures have no significance in considering the cost of living of Natives. Mr. P. H. Guenault of the Department of Economics, University of the Witwatersrand, has shown that the Government cost of living index indicates how the cost of a group of goods and services has changed from time to time. But this group of goods and services were types of goods and services consumed by European families in 1936, with incomes between £225 and £450. Moreover the quantities taken, of each separate item in the group of goods and services, were the quantities consumed by these European families.

Thus, out of an average monthly family expenditure on fuel and light of £1. 4s. 0d., only 4d. was spent on candles and 12/- on electric current. In an average monthly expenditure on food of £8. 3s. 11d. only 1/4d. was spent on mealie meal. It is clear that a rise of 50% in the price of candles or mealie

meal would not affect the official cost of living index to any great extent, whereas we do know that it would seriously affect the cost of living of the Native.

The following table indicates just how seriously Natives are affected. The commodities listed are in constant use by unskilled Native workers and make up the major portion of their expenditure on essential items excluding rent and clothes.

	Pre-war price	Present price	Percentage Increase
Mealie meal (10 lbs.)	10d.	1/-	20
Candles (per lb.)	6d.	8½d.	45
Rice (per lb.)	3d.	4½d.	50
Wood (per bundle)	2d.	3d.	50
Boermeal (5 lbs.)	1/-	1.3d.	25
Paraffin (per gallon)	1.5d.	2.3d.	50
Coal (100 lbs.)	1.6d.	2.3d.	50

In addition, potatoes and onions are up by nearly 100 per cent., and blankets have increased in price by 60 per cent.

Two further very important facts which should be remembered, and to which attention has been drawn by Mr. Guenault, are:—

(a) People who are moderately well off can curtail expenditure on luxuries, leaving “necessities” untouched. An adequate diet for example can be maintained in the face of substantial increase in the cost of living. In the case of the poorer sections of the population, there is not, as a rule, any substantial expenditure on luxuries which they can curtail. Hence a rise in the cost of living will generally force them to consume fewer necessities; it may be impossible for them to maintain an adequate diet.

(b) Very often moderately well-off people react to a rise in the cost of living by purchasing cheaper qualities of the goods to which they are accustomed, or they may buy substitutes or other articles which may “do as well.” The poorest sections of the population are, however, very often buying the cheapest qualities they can and there are often no possible substitutes. This method of economy is not, as a rule, open to them. In this respect, too, they find it necessary to curtail expenditure on “necessities.”

AN AFRICAN CONDUCTS HIS OWN APPEAL

In a recent case before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court at Bloemfontein, the appellant was an African from Bulawayo, who had been convicted of theft and who had in consequence lost his employment in the Government service. He conducted his own case, as he could not afford Counsel. For over an hour he argued his case before the Chief Justice and four other Appeal Judges, referring easily to the relevant passages in the bound record, and quoting cases aptly (no doubt having been well coached by his legal advisor in Bulawayo). He was questioned by the Bench and answered all questions clearly. After hearing Counsel for the Crown, the Court granted the Appeal. Appellant claimed that the charge was a "frame up," and that the magistrate had failed to take note of the fact that an important witness had subsequently confessed to perjury in a sworn statement before a Native Commissioner.

THE NATIVES REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

A recent motion in the Senate by Senator Rheinallt Jones drawing attention to the resolutions of the last session of the Natives Representative Council led to a full debate on the working of the Council and the subjects dealt with by it.

Senator Jones made a number of practical suggestions and raised an important point: what measures did Parliament intend should be referred to the Council when it enacted Section 27 (3) of the Representation of Natives Act. Several measures "specially affecting the interests of Natives" had been passed by Parliament this year without reference to the Council. He instanced the special chapter of the Workmen's Compensation Act dealing with Native workmen; the Census and Electoral Bill which contained special provisions in regard to Native voters; the Miners Phthisis Amendment which had a clause relating specially to Native workers. Nor had these been referred to the Native Affairs Commission as contemplated in the sub-section. He pointed out that the Council placed great importance upon the sub-section. The Ministry of Native Affairs said that he would place upon the representatives of the Natives the onus of bringing to his attention any measure which they thought should go before the Council. He would give careful consideration to such requests.

INSTITUTE MEMORANDA

The following roneoed memoranda were issued by the Institute during 1940, and copies can be obtained from the Institute offices at the prices indicated:—

No.	Title	Author	p.p.	Price
1/40	Co-operative Societies among Africans	Sen. J. D. R. Jones	8	3d.
2/40	Native Marital Unions	Fr. D. Shropshire	19	3d.
3/40	Agricultural Marketing and Nutrition	Sen. J. D. R. Jones	3	1d.
4/40	The Institute's Research Activities	Sen. J. D. R. Jones	6	1d.
5/40	Pass Law Provisions and Exemptions	—	9	3d.
14/40	Suggestions for Joint Council Activities	Miss E. Hawarden	5	1d.
17/40	Finance of Native Education	—	3	1d.
18/40	The Need for Legal Aid	—	2	1d.
22/40	Finance of Native Education	—	2	1d.
44/40	Report of Penal Reform Committee	—	3	1d.
45/40	Report of Legal Aid Bureau	Miss R. Hayman	8	1d.
46/40	Report of Wages Enquiry at Kroonstad	Mr. A. L. Saffery	12	3d.
60/40	Memo on Extension of Institute Work	—	3	1d.
64/40	Funds for Sub-Economic Housing	—	1	1d.
M9/40	Native Trading in Urban Areas	Sen. J. D. R. Jones	11	3d.
M29/40	The Copper Belt Strike	Mr. J. Lewin	7	3d.
M34/40	Resolutions of Regional Conferences of Joint Councils	—	7	1d.
M35/40	Finance of Medical Mission Services	—	13	3d.

INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP

ORDINARY: An annual subscription of One Pound or over (854 such members at present).

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES: An annual grant of **Ten Pounds** or over (39 such members at present).

DONOR: An annual subscription of **Ten Pounds** or a gift of **One Hundred Pounds** (51 such members at present).

Full particulars from: The Secretary,

S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,

Johannesburg.

Telephones: 44-3326 and 44-3781.

Telegrams and Cables: "Ubuntu," Johannesburg.

Published by the South African Institute of Race Relations, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg.
Printed by McPherson & Field (Pty.) Ltd., 194-196 Fox Street, Johannesburg.

Collection Number: AD843

XUMA, A.B., Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers Research Archive**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.