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Bantu Mens'
Social Centre

ANNUAL
REPORT

1930



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61, Simmonds Street, Johannesburg.

1931

Bantu Mens' Social Centre.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Mr. Walter Webber.

Vice-Chairmen :

Major H. S. Cooke, Dr. A. B. Xuma.

Treasurer :

Mr. Howard Pim.

Secretary :

Mr. Allen C. Davis.

Membership Secretary :

Mr. Ambrose R. Moatse.

Advisory Secretary :

Rev. Ray E. Phillips.

Rev. S. Bovet, Major H. S. Cooke, Mr. H. Dhlomo,
Rev. E. W. Grant, Mr. D. S. Goetham,
Councillor E. O. Leake, Rev. R. Mackintosh,
Mr. R. W. Msimang, Rev. W. S. Ndawonde,
Mr. A. S. Vil-Nkomo, Mr. A. Law-Palmer,
Canon W. Parker, Mr. Howard Pim, Mr. I. H. Rathebe,
Mr. J. R. Rathebe, Mr. H. M. Taberer, Mr. S. S. Tema,
Dr. J. Dexter Taylor, Mr. Walter Webber,
Dr. A. B. Xuma.

Bantu Mens' Social Centre.

ANNUAL REPORT.

“ This meeting to-night has been an eye-opener to me ”, said a Justice of the Appeal Court; “ I didn't dream that we had hundreds of Natives who speak English, who could reason just as cogently and sanely as any of us, and who could be so courteous and yet mince no words in speaking of their wrongs. They are living under impossible conditions. We've got to do something for these men ! ”

The double service of the Bantu Mens' Social Centre is illustrated in this incident. It recalls to many Europeans the existence of the progressing Native and it provides good wholesome recreation as a remedy to combat the degrading influences of the slum yards and liquor dens, vice and drink, where the Native drifts with the absence of something better to take up his leisure time.

The following report will give you an idea of what the Bantu Men's Social Centre is trying to do, in providing leisure time activities for a part at least of the Native young men working in Johannesburg and along the Reef.

Membership :—

The maximum membership for 1930 has been 374. At the present time we have 239 actual paid members, including 204 seniors and 35 juniors. We find that through the constant shifting of men to and from the Reef and the economic conditions, 116 have failed to renew their membership. Of this latter number, 46 are only three months overdue, and 33 six months. Of the remaining 47, many joined only for the Night

School classes, others leave their present address without reporting the change to the office. Many of those 3 and 6 months back will undoubtedly renew soon.

The Guest Book shows that we have had 195 visitors during the year, but there have been many more who have not signed the book. These include visiting Chiefs and other Natives as well as prominent Europeans, and others who come to see what we are doing for the Native young men who come here.

During the past year the B.M.S.C. has suffered the loss of two of its members through death; Mr. F. J. S. Lebonah and Judas Mkize.

The activities of the Social Centre are planned along a four-square plan — embodying the initials B.M.S.C., that of Body, Mind, Spirit and Character.

Body :

This year the Social Centre had another Football team playing in the Johannesburg Bantu Football Association, Saturday League. This makes three teams from the Social Centre playing in the same League. Two of the teams this year made a very good showing, one coming second and the other third. One of the teams made a trip to Natal, playing several games there, making a very good showing against its opponents.

A Volley-ball Tournament was held this year with the finals played between the All-Blacks and the Stone-Breakers. The Stone-Breakers won and were presented prizes at one of the Wednesday night Bioscope shows. In looking at some of the back Annual Reports, we find that the Stone-Breakers won the Championship in 1927.

As usual other activities in the Gymnasium such as, Paddle-Tennis and Hand-Ball have been very popular. Boxing has also been enjoyed by many. It is being felt more and more that a trainer should be secured for this particular activity. Some of the members trained for a Non-European Athletic Meet that was to

have been held in Durban, but owing to too few entries it was cancelled. The members who were training have, however, profited a great deal by the wise advice of Mr. Smith, a gentleman who has helped at the Olympic games, in correct ways to jump and run.

The Municipality held another Sports Day for the Natives, many of the members entering for the events. The Social Centre members won 17 of the total number of prizes, which was a little better than last year. Members should see from this, that those who undertake real training are superior in competitions to those without training.

Cricket was much better this year, the members playing several matches. With the co-operation of the members this activity will be as much a part of the Social Centre programme as the Football has come to be.

Tennis has been very popular this year. The members were divided into divisions and Tournaments held for the several divisions. The cup for "C" division, donated by one of the members, Mr. J. J. Dhlamini, was won by Chief Mohale and Mr. Mabele. The cup for the "B" division, the gift of Mr. Masole, another of the members, was won by Mr. J. B. D. Nkomo and Mr. Mtetwa. The "A" division is still playing their Tournament, and have cups given by Rev. Ray E. Phillips.

Several Tennis Matches have been played during the year, the Social Centre winning in each case.

Mind :—

The regular Night School classes have been held as usual this year with about the same number 50 in attendance.

The regular Bookkeeping Classes have also been held, the members taking the Examinations in June and November. Several who took the June Examination passed with good marks, the November marks

have not as yet been received. Mr. Albert Gray has taken the classes this year with the help of one of his former pupils, Mr. Harold Kumalo.

The Gamma Sigma Club, a Club where the members learn more about themselves and conditions around the world, has had a varied programme as usual this year. The following are some of the speakers and their subjects:—Mr. H. M. Taberer, "Geneva Conference"; Miss M. L. Hodgson "History and South Africa"; Mrs. Jabavu, "Womens' Work Around Alice"; Dr. J. Dexter Taylor, Illustrated lecture on "China"; Mr. Francis Miller and Mr. Cumaraswami, "Work of the International Y.M.C.A." ; Prof. Jabavu, "Report of the Bantu-European S.C.A. Conference at Lovedale"; The Secretary of the South African Football Association, "Football"; Prof. Macmillan, "Central Africa"; Rev. H. G. Leverton, "Poor White Question"; Dr. Orenstein, "Patent Medicines"; also two debates, one with the Germiston High School—Resolved, "That the Pass System should be Abolished at Once"; the other with the Catholic African Union on the question of "Lobola."

This year we have formed a Junior Gamma Sigma Club for the Junior members. They have held their meetings Saturday afternoons, which have been very interesting. They have had mostly debates amongst themselves to what things were the most useful, such as, "Which is the most useful, Fire or Water." Rev. Ray E. Phillips also gave a series of talks on "Personal Hygiene." These meetings have been in charge of Mr. R. V. S. Thema.

These have all been very interesting and helpful to all who have attended. It is hoped that others interested in what is being done for the Native young man will be willing to speak to this group when asked.

Spirit :—

Although we have not held any regular services for the members, as we encourage all to go to their own churches, the Secretary has had many personal talks with members regarding the spiritual side of their life. On Christmas Day, a special service was held with the film, "From the Manger to the Cross."

General :—

As has been the custom in other years, the Social Centre has been the meeting place for several Native organisations. The Native Ministers' Association, the T.A.T.A. (Rand Branch), N.R.C. Cricket Club, and the Joint Council of Europeans and Natives. The Transvaal Missionary Association has also held two meetings with the Native Ministers here. The Bantu Board of Music held its Second Annual Meeting here during the year. This Board brought together many Natives who are interested in preserving their own music for the future.

Draughts and chess have been very popular this year. Several matches have been played in draughts with outside teams, the Social Centre coming out the winners. A draughts Tournament was held amongst the members, Mr. R. Snyman being the winner in the Junior division, and Mr. Mtetwa the winner of the Senior division. Many have been learning chess during the year and a Tournament in this is well on the way.

Ten "Guest Nights" have been held during the year. Two new features have been tried this year and have proved very successful. We have been teaching the members and their friends Folk-Dancing, we have also been having speakers give short talks on matters of home life, that have been interesting not only to the members but their wives as well. Games of various types have proved to attract as much interest as they have in the past. Several evenings of competitive events have been held, the winning side being given a prize.

Several Schools have held their closing concerts in the Hall.

The Paladins were given the use of our Hall on Monday evenings as they had no place to meet. These evenings have not been entirely for the Paladins, as many of the Pathfinders take advantage of these evenings and join with them. This is another way in which the Social Centre has extended a helping hand to those in need.

Children's Work :—

Owing to the School Teachers taking courses at a Continuation School, it was impossible to have a Football League amongst the Schools. It is hoped that they will not be so busy this next year and will be able to continue with the School League.

The "Kiddies" bioscope on Friday evenings has been as well attended as in the past. They have been enjoyed by many who have just followed the crowd to see where they were going. This is one way in which the Social Work has been extended to these unfortunate kiddies who otherwise would not have a chance to go to a bioscope show.

The Secretary has also helped with the extension of Social Work into the various locations, in connection with the Witwatersrand Social Service Council. These evenings in the locations will be a great source to draw on for members in the future.

The Secretary having resigned with this report, wishes to thank all who have helped in the work to make his two years so pleasant. He also joins with the Bantu Men's Social Centre Committee in thanking all who have helped with their gifts, subscriptions and services.

WALTER WEBBER,

Chairman.

ALLEN C. DAVIS,

Secretary.

Bantu Men's'

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR DR.

1929.

£566 5 0	To Salaries and Wages ...	£541 8 11
136 2 6	„ Municipal Rates and and Charges	137 18 7
31 13 0	„ Maintenance of Build- ings	
29 18 8	„ Games	67 12 4
41 6 9	„ Insurance	41 6 9
3 19 11	„ Loss on Kitchen A/c	16 19 9
94 13 10	Expenditure	101 3 7
90 13 11	Revenue	84 3 10
	„ Loss on Concert ...	10 13 6
28 9 3	„ Clerical Assistance ...	38 9 6
244 5 1	„ Postages Stationery, Telephones, Bank Charges and Sundry Expenses	285 0 7
17 19 6	„ Disbursements in re- spect of Night Schools	33 1 6
106 16 5	„ Depreciation of Furni- ture and Equipment ...	111 8 5
£1,206 16 1		£1,283 19 10

JOHANNESBURG,

29th January, 1931.

Social Centre.

THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1930.

CR.

1929.

£103 10 4	By Membership Fees ...	£118 15 0
573 2 9	„ Subscriptions and Donations	655 13 6
300 0 0	„ Native Recruiting Cor- poration Ltd. ...	300 0 0
208 13 6	„ Board of Control, De- ferred Pay Interest Fund	174 19 10
158 13 6	„ £1 per £1 on Revenue from Native Sources	124 19 10
50 0 0	Plus Special Grant ...	50 0 0
17 19 6	„ Night School Fees ..	33 1 6
3 10 0	„ Sundry Revenue (Hire of Hall)	1 10 0

£1,206 16 1

£1283 19 10

Certified correct.

HOWARD PIM,

Hon. Treasurer.

Bantu Mens'

BALANCE SHEET

DR.

1929.

£55 6 3	To Creditors	93 9 10
34 9 0	On open Account ...	67 15 1
20 17 3	On Kitchen Account	25 14 9
<hr/>		
59 12 0	„ Subscriptions and Donations in Advance	
7,932 6 10	„ Accumulated Funds Balance as at 31/12/29	7,932 6 10

£8,047 5 1

£8,025 16 8

JOHANNESBURG,

29th January, 1931.

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