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Pretoria Native Welfare Association.  
(JOINT COUNCIL OF EUROPEANS AND NATIVES.)

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# REPORT

by the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, for the year

April 1928 — April 1929

to be presented at the

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held in the

## DOUGALL MEMORIAL HALL

(VOM WEILLIGH STREET) ON

MONDAY 22nd APRIL 1929

at 8 p.m.

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*Your attendance at the Meeting and Interest in the Work  
of the Association are earnestly solicited.*

## Report of the Executive Committee.

The past year, the tenth of our existence, can safely be described as an encouraging one and gives promise of great things in the future.

**MEMBERSHIP.**—The Association has met as a Joint Council on twelve occasions and the Executive has formally met on seven occasions. The membership figures are very encouraging. Last year's figures, namely 45 Europeans and 20 Natives, have increased to 72 Europeans and 28 Natives, a gross increase of 35 excluding nine members who have left. The average attendance has improved from 18 last year to 27 this year. There is room for many more members, especially Native members, whose increase has not been as good as that of the Europeans.

**RESIGNATIONS.**—Nine members, having left Pretoria, have tendered their resignations. Of these three were very valuable members of the Executive in the persons of Mr. James Lang, Mr. C. E. Baber and Capt. G. C. Black, while another serious loss was the resignation of Mr. A. S. Ncapeli, the Chairman of the Native section.

**EXECUTIVE.**—The vacancies occasioned by the above resignations have with one exception been filled from time to time and the Executive now consists of the following: Dr. E. H. Brookes (Chairman), Mr. Geo. Findlay, Mrs. Chas. Christie, and Mr. A. D. Cuthbert (European Members); Messrs. Bud Mbelle, McD. Molife and T. A. Hamnca (Native Members), with the Hon. Treasurer (Miss M. Conradie) and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Hugh Leith) as ex officio members without votes.

The Executive retires automatically at the Annual General Meeting and a new Executive for the next year will have to be elected at this meeting.

Through the resignation of Mr. A. S. Ncapeli the office of Chairman of the Native Section is vacant. The Native Section will submit the name of his successor at this meeting.

**POLICE RAIDS.**—One of the first matters dealt with by the Council after last General Meeting was that of the wholesale arrests made by the Police. A strong sub-committee investigated the matter, and after representations to the Police authorities had proved fruitless, a list of questions was sent to Mr. Geo. Hay, M.L.A., who was good enough to put the questions to the Minister. Very little satisfaction was obtained from the replies, but the information gained as a result of our action and the correspondence in the Press had the effect of placing the Natives' viewpoint before the general public and will, we hope, effectively prevent a repetition of this procedure.

**THE "TRICHARD CASE".**—The Circuit Court trial, commonly known as the "Trichard Case," was very fully investigated by a sub-committee, and although it was finally decided, after consultation with the Johannesburg Joint Council, to drop the matter, this investigation was to a great extent responsible for the subsequent compilation of the very able and widely read series of Articles on the Administration of Justice, which appeared in the Press and also in pamphlet form, from the pens of a sub-committee of this Council. The fact that these articles originated in Pretoria ought not to suggest that we in Pretoria are particularly dissatisfied with all the local Courts. Instead, among the chief friends of the natives in this city are the former Chief Magistrate (Mr. S. A. McCormick, now Under-Secretary for Justice), the present Chief Magistrate (Mr. H. Britten), the newly appointed President of the Native Appeal Court (Mr. E. Stubbs), and the newly appointed Additional Native Commission (Mr. D. W. Hook).

**SCHOOLPLAATS.**—The grievances of the residents of the Schoolplaats "Location" was the subject of a very protracted investigation. A deputation waited on the Health Committee of the Town Council and pleaded the cause of this section of the native community. After lengthy negotiations a year's grace was obtained on their behalf.

**NATIVE COST OF LIVING.**—A sub-committee considered and annotated a draft Native Householders Domestic budget compiled and submitted to us by the Director of Census and Statistics. The report and annotations were duly returned to the Director and will doubtless be used by the Department in due course.

**I.C.U.**—Pursuant to our general policy of interesting ourselves in and giving a hearing to all forms of Native activity, whether we agree with them in all respects or not, we arranged an evening meeting to which Mr. Clements Kadalie and Mr. Ballinger, Secretary and Advisor respectively to the I.C.U., were invited to speak. We are indebted to these gentlemen for a most interesting evening and also to Rev. Chas. Bourquin, who kindly placed his home at our disposal on that occasion.

**LOCATION MATTERS.**—Arrangements have recently been made with the Town Clerk to furnish the Association with copies of the half-yearly reports rendered by the Location Superintendent to the Town Council under the provisions of the Urban Areas Act, and a standing sub-committee deals with reports as they are received. One big step in the right direction which arose out of a memorandum submitted by the Association to the Town Council was the appointment of a Special Committee to consider the question of Location Policy generally. The Committee consists of the following:—

The Chairwoman of the Public Health Committee,

The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee,

The Town Clerk,

The Superintendent of Locations, and

A representative of the Native Welfare Association.

The Association's representative on this Committee is Mr. Geo. Findlay.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE.**—Dr. Brookes was our representative at the National Bantu-European Conference, organised under the auspices of the Joint Councils and Welfare Associations throughout the Union, which was held at Capetown on the 6th, 7th and 8th February, 1929. His enthusiastic reports of the success achieved at this memorable conference are very encouraging and lead one to look forward confidently to its becoming an established annual event.

**THE DOUGALL HALL.**—Undoubtedly the most important event in the year from a Native welfare standpoint is the completion of the long-delayed Municipal Native Recreation Hall which the Civic Society and our Association had worked so long and so hard to bring about. This fine structure, erected at a cost of over £2,100, was completed on the 30th November, 1928, and is intended to serve the needs of the Non-European population of Pretoria. The interest on the capital expenditure was guaranteed by a group of well-wishers in which most of the Association's members are included.

On the 18th August, 1928, the foundation stone, which was inscribed as follows:—

THIS HALL BEARS THE NAME OF

JOHN DOUGALL

FRIEND OF THE BANTU

was laid by Mrs. John Dougall, the widow of our revered founder, at a delightful and well-attended function.

The Guarantors, at a meeting held on the 29th October, agreed to hand over the control of the Hall to the Native Welfare Association and the Association unanimously accepted this trust and laid down a series of basic principles on which the Hall was to be conducted at a meeting held on the 1st November, 1928.

On the 12th December, at a most successful function organised by the Native members of the Association, the Hall was officially declared open by his Worship the Mayor (Councillor F. Dey). About 500 Natives and a very representative gathering of leading Europeans were present. Our thanks are due to the organisers and to Rev. Ray Phillips and Mr. G. Motsieloe, both of whom travelled from Johannesburg to assist in this function.

The Executive of the Association was given power to constitute themselves into the "Dougall Hall Control Committee" and to enter into negotiations with the Municipality to furnish and equip the Hall and to draw up a lease. Such Committee was also given power to undertake the control of the letting and to manage the finances of the Hall. The Town Council has granted the Committee the sum of £458 for furniture and equipment, but technical difficulties have prevented them from actually handing over the money.

The main terms of the lease will be as follows:—

- (a) The Committee pays a rental of £160 p.a. on the sum of £2,100; pays interest at 8% on amount borrowed for structural alterations and additions; pays interest at 10% p.a. on amount borrowed for furnishing and equipment; pays light, water, and licence rates.
- (b) The Committee retains all profits earned from the letting of the Hall.

The Dougall Hall was first opened to the non-European public on the 20th December, 1928, and since that date it has become increasingly popular. Unfortunately owing to the absence of furniture the only type of entertainment for which the Hall can at present cater is dancing and the initial bookings are almost entirely for this purpose. The tendency to use the Hall only for dances is, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, contrary to the spirit of the Association and steps are being taken to remedy this by organising other and more instructive forms of recreation such as Pathfinder and Way-farer rallies, Bioscope performances, Lectures and Classes.

Being financially committed to the Town Council makes it necessary that the Hall must be run on business and not on purely philanthropic lines, but the Committee urges the members of the Association in particular and the public in general to use the Hall for functions, entertainments and educative movements relating to non-European welfare, and will always be glad to place the Hall at the disposal of persons or bodies organising such features at reduced rates.

The Committee further desires to emphasise the importance of members visualising the Hall as being merely a nucleus of a complete self-contained Social Centre, which would comprise, besides the Hall itself, such items as a Library, Reading rooms, Committee rooms, a Gymnasium, and having in the grounds facilities for tennis and football, hockey and other sports.

**NATIVE RECREATION.**—Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of several members, notably Mr. D. Mackay, Mr. Burrough and the Native members, the annual Native Inter-school Sports Meeting was held in November and eclipsed all previous records both in the keenness displayed by the competing schools and the interest it evoked amongst the Native population generally.

In conclusion, the Committee wishes to place on record its indebtedness to Rev. Canon Jenkin for the use of St. Augustine's Church as our meeting place; to Mrs. Webb and Mr. Bud Mbelle for donations, and to all the members and friends, both European and Native, who have during the past year given their time, energy and interest to the furtherance of the Welfare of the Natives in Pretoria.

EDGAR H. BROOKES, Chairman.	} European Section.
HUGH C. LEITH, Hon. Secretary,	
P. SELOKANE, Hon. Secretary, Native Section.	

PRETORIA NATIVE WELFARE ASSOCIATION  
(Joint Council of Europeans and Natives)

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Sir/Madam,

You are invited to attend the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the above Association to be held in the Dougall Hall, von Weilligh Street, Pretoria, at 8 p.m. on TUESDAY, the 15th of September, 1931.

INTERESTING ADDRESSES WILL BE DELIVERED.

Hugh C. Leith,  
Hon. Secretary.

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Twelfth Annual Report of the Pretoria Native Welfare Association (Pretoria Joint Council of Europeans and Natives), for the period August, 1930, to September, 1931, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held in the Dougall Hall at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, the 15th of September, 1931.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Executive Committee has pleasure in submitting the following report and financial statement for the period 15th August, 1930, to 15th September, 1931.

MEMBERSHIP: It is gratifying to be able to report that our membership has increased by 45 members and now stands at 184. Meetings have been held each month throughout the year and the average attendance has been satisfactory.

EXECUTIVE: At the last Annual General Meeting the following Executive Committee was elected:-

Dr. Edgar Brookes (Chairman), Mrs. Charles Christie, Mr. George Findlay, Mr. A. A. Roberts, (Committee members). The Native members were elected later in the year as follows:- Messrs. McIlife, Motau and Kuzwayo. Mr. Motau was also elected Chairman of the Native section, with Mr. P. M. Selokoane as Honorary Secretary. Mr. G. Boulanger was re-elected Treasurer and Mr. H. C. Leith was re-elected Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year. Subsequently Mr. Roberts resigned owing to pressure of work and Captain Church of the Salvation Army, was appointed in his place.

With one or two notable exceptions the activities of the Association have been most apparent in matters relating to local conditions particularly, but the year has been marked by the increased amount of publicity which the Association has

1931  
gained and the amount of interest it has been privileged to rouse amongst citizens who were otherwise uninformed. The following matters have been dealt with from time to time:-

NATIVE LIBRARY: Thanks chiefly to the untiring efforts of Mrs. E. A. Ross, the Association has established in the Dougall Hall a large and well-stocked library of books now numbering over 800. This library is open to visitors three days a week and is becoming more and more popular.

GENEVA CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE: A Questionnaire emanating from the body responsible for this Conference, was considered by a Sub-Committee and the reply duly forwarded to London.

NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION: A Sub-Committee under the leadership of the Rev. J. W. Alcock prepared an exhaustive report on local conditions which was submitted to the Native Economic Commission early in June, 1931. Personal evidence was also given by the Chairman and other members.

NATIVE SCHOOL SINGING: A great deal of interest has been taken on this side of Native work and the Association is indebted to Mrs. G. W. Clark, who arranged and successfully completed a series of concerts on the 19th and 22nd. of May, which were greatly appreciated both by European and Native audiences.

ANNUAL NATIVE CONFERENCE: The Association arranged a little function at the Swiss Mission on the 11th of December, 1930, at which most of the delegates were present and at which most interesting addresses were given by Major Herbst, Professor Jabavu, the Rev. J. Lube, Mr. Plantje and several others. It appeared that the arrangements for the accommodation of delegates at the last Conference left much to be desired, and your Executive will ask to assist in this respect on the next occasion.

SCHOOL SPORTS: The usual Annual School Sports were held on the Dougall Hall Grounds on the 25th of May and proved a great success.

PROPAGANDA MEETING: A very interesting meeting was arranged by Miss Conradie on the 23rd of May, 1931, in the Wesley Hall, at which a large number of Europeans and Natives were present. Interesting and arresting addresses were given by Miss Dorothy Maud, the Rev. G. Olivier and Mr. Ngakane, and it is felt that considerable interest was awakened in the work and ideals of the Joint Council.

Further propaganda was also achieved by means of two well attended debates. The first was a debate, on The Pass-Laws, in the Wesley Hall on the 27th of September, 1930, and a second, on Urban Segregation, in the Town Hall on the 25th of June, 1931. One of the results of this latter debate was the formation shortly afterwards by Mr. H. R. Abercrombie of a "Council of Europeans" - one of whose objects is to combat the activities of so-called negrophilists.

NATIVE SWIMMING BATHS: Independantly of the Council's agitation for a recreation facilities generally, Mrs. Ross has very generously undertaken to agitate and collect funds for a swimming bath. Considerable progress has been made

and by means of a very successful concert given in the Girls High School Assembly Hall, a sum of over £25. has been raised and put aside for this purpose.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS: The following legislative and administrative matters have come up from time to time for discussion, and appropriate resolutions have been passed and forwarded to the right quarters:-

Reduction of teachers' salaries,  
Introduction of the Tot System,  
Abandonment of Native Census, and  
Imposition of passes for Native women.

EVENING CLASSES FOR TEACHERS: A series of classes designed to assist Native teachers in their profession has been inaugurated and regular classes are being held in the Dougall Hall on Tuesday evenings. These are being very much appreciated and will undoubtedly be of very great value.

NEGRO & BANTU ART: Through the generosity of the World Service Exhibition authorities, the Association staged an Exhibition of Negro and Bantu Art in the Hartley Hall during the first week of August, 1931. Several hundred Europeans and Natives, both adult and juvenile, saw the exhibits and it is felt that the Exhibition was thoroughly appreciated and caused considerable comment. The Exhibition was arranged by the Secretary, with the valuable assistance of Mr. Hendricks, Art Director of the Pretoria Technical College, and was opened by Mr. J. H. Pierneef, the well-known South African artist.

FIRST AID CLASSES: The First Aid and Home Nursing classes, which were inaugurated last year, were discontinued during the cold months but are being recommenced shortly, and it is hoped that a large attendance will be forthcoming.

SPEAKERS: During the year meetings were held which were addressed by the following speakers:

On the 23rd. of October, 1930, Mr. COOPER, of the Bloemfontein Municipal Native Affairs Department;

On the 29th of October, 1930, by Mr. J. D. RHEINALLT-JONES, Adviser on Race Relations, in the Hartley Hall, and

On the 1st. of May, 1931, in the Dougall Hall, by Dr. JESSE JONES, Education Director Phelps Stokes Fund, New York.

These meetings were all well attended and were greatly appreciated by those present.

RECREATION: This subject has occupied most of the time and efforts of the Executive, and although at the time of reporting no definite solution has been found, it is felt that very considerable progress has been made. A series of conferences, at which all shades of civic opinion were represented, was called by His Worship the Mayor, and at these and subsequent Committee meetings the whole subject of Native recreation was very exhaustively thrashed out. It is hoped that within the next few weeks a definite undertaking will be obtained from the Town Council to spend a certain amount of money on the provision of a fully equipped ground situated in the non-European area, and that before many months are past properly organised recreation, which will embrace both schools and adults, will be operating.

Your Executive especially wishes to thank His Worship the Mayor, Municipal officials, and the members of the public who contributed towards these most interesting debates.

DOUGALL HALL: Since the last Annual General Meeting the Executive has been able to keep abreast with all rentals due to the Town Council, and to reduce our liability by an amount of £39. One result of our original introduction of better class bioscope pictures into the Location has been the advent of two newly built, up-to-date and properly designed non-European theatres, equipped with modern machinery and seating accommodation, which are a very great improvement on the original bioscope facilities. This competition has naturally adversely affected the revenue derivable from bioscope entertainments in the Dougall Hall, especially during the winter months but it is expected that the Hall will still be made to pay its way and will be able to give accommodation more and more for educational purposes.

The Hall has been completely fenced and a portion of the ground has been utilised for a Miniature Golf Course.

DONATIONS: The Executive wishes to acknowledge with gratitude a donation of £11. presented to the Association by Mrs. H. L. Smith, as a result of a bridge drive organised by her, with the assistance of Mr. Ross and Mrs. Bleasby. Also a donation of £10. given by the Pretoria Town Council to meet the expenses of the Native School Sports in May.

INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS: The monthly Bulletins prepared by Mr. J. D. Rheinallt-Jones have been much appreciated and the success of the Institute seems assured.

DEPARTURE OF DR. C. T. LORAM: Jointly with all other Joint Councils and the Native population generally, Dr. Loram's departure for Yale University, came as a shock and your Executive wishes to place on record its regret at the loss of so valuable an ally.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The Committee desires to tender its thanks to Canon Jenkin for the use of St. Augustine's Church as our meeting place; to Mr. L. G. Baker for the use of the Wesley and Hartley Halls for public meetings; to Mr. Baikie for the use of St. Andrew's Hall, and to all members and friends, European, Native and Coloured, who have supported us loyally during the past twelve months.

(Signed) Edgar H. Brookes.  
Chairman.

(Signed) Hugh C. Leith,  
Hon. Secretary.

Joint Council of Europeans and Natives.

(Signed) E. J. Motau,  
Chairman.

(Signed) P. M. Selokwane,  
Hon. Secretary.

Native Section. P. N. W. Association.

Pretoria. September, 1931.



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