

We were told that there were four trading stores in the vicinity where they could shop — two owned by whites and two by Africans, but they all must have been some miles away as they certainly were not in sight. We asked if they were given rations. They had been to begin with, mealie meal, beans and samp but one fam-

ily said that that had stopped in February and that they had not been given anything since.

There did not appear to be anyone in charge of this camp though we were told that there would eventually be a white superintendent. Schools, churches and shops had been promised and industries were said to be going to be established in the area — sometime.

WE PROTESTED THEN:—

BONTRUG

X **F**armers, Kirkwood residents and the Black Sash have protested against the removal of Africans from their wood and mud homes in the location to a barren hillside outside the town.

The Black Sash fought against the removals last year and managed to stop them. A report of this appeared in the August, 1959 issue of The Black Sash magazine.

Now the Municipality is once again dumping Africans on the hillside at Bontrug. The Addo Branch of the Black Sash (Cape Eastern Region), deeply perturbed, immediately took steps to arouse public interest. A Sasher visited the site with a clergyman and a reporter from the Evening Post. In an illustrated Evening Post report (December 5, 1959) it is stated that at the new site:—

- No houses are provided by the Municipality, which is making the removals in terms of the Native Urban Areas Act.
- Many people have spent nights on the cactus-studded, windswept site with no covering but zinc and sacking — or crammed together with friends who have had time to raise rough sack and tin dwellings.
- They get their water from a reservoir established at the site. Many of the new residents have to walk more than a mile to collect the water in pails. There are no taps in the desolate village — except the one at the reservoir.
- There is no sanitation.
- Heads of families have to pay 10 shillings a month. A municipal official said this is for the water — which all residents interviewed allege is sour.

A Native Affairs Department official said: "We are giving these people a chance by moving them to Bontrug. A sub-economic housing scheme will probably be provided there for them next year." But he could not explain why the people are being moved BEFORE THE HOUSES ARE PROVIDED FOR THEM. Mr. H. M. Hunter, Town Clerk of Kirkwood, said the removals were absolutely necessary. "Most of these people work on farms or in areas other than the Kirkwood municipal area. They have no right to be in

those locations." He accused the Evening Post and other Eastern Province newspapers of "unfair reporting." He said if the papers continued to print unfair reports about the removals "we will withdraw our advertising from them."

Mr. Hunter was asked these questions:

1. Why were the Africans in the established locations being moved to Bontrug.
2. Why were there no houses being provided for them to move into.
3. If they had to move, why were they not being given an opportunity to build houses at the new location before they moved.

His replies were:—

1. The Government has told the Municipality the old locations must be deproclaimed. "The land will then be sold."

2. Most of the Africans being moved had no money to pay for houses at the new location. "We have applied for a sub-economic housing loan, but the Government is not very keen on making sub-economic loans these days. The real responsibility for providing housing for these people rests with the farmers. They are not doing their bit."

3. Africans were told to move about a year ago, but they did not budge. "Now the Municipality is moving them — and providing transport to carry their belongings to the new site. They can build houses with material from their old houses."

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