

NEW AGE

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Mr. and Mrs. Appiah (formerly Miss Peggy Cripps, daughter of the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps) sailed for Africa last week. They are seen here with their baby son, Kwame, at the Gloucester home of Dame Isobel Cripps before their departure. Mr. Appiah has finished his studies in England, and is taking his family back to the Gold Coast.

“WHOSE TURN TO BE BANNED NEXT?”

—Forum Asks

CAPE TOWN.

“It is a sad reflection on our democratic instincts that the banning of the newspaper Advance has brought scarcely a murmur from the South African public,” states an editorial in the November issue of the monthly magazine Forum.

The Forum states that, unlike The Guardian, Advance had no “past” to embarrass it. “Advance ran its entire existence in the shadow of the Suppression of Communism Act. For two years it presumably operated within the law—and now suddenly it has been pounced upon.”

The Forum says: “If Advance did contravene a law for which the penalty is banning, then whatever one might think of such a law, the paper was at any rate rightly banned. But how is anyone to tell whether it did break a law or whether it was rightly banned? There was no open trial; the sentence was pronounced behind closed doors. It is that aspect of the banning which should shock the conscience of the country. . . . No grounds were given for the banning; no charge was ever brought.”

ALARMED

The Forum points out that Mr. Swart is acting within his rights, for these are the powers the Act gives him.

“But the more the public sees of this law and its operation, the more alarmed it ought to become,” it adds. “The procedure authorised by Parliament is a negation of natural justice. The ordinary rights enjoyed by a common thief are denied to politically undesirable persons.

“Ten years ago it would have been outrageous to suggest that

anybody be condemned without a proper trial. To-day we see it happening—and there is hardly a ripple of protest. It looks as though our standards are being corroded, and when the rot sets in it moves fast.

“To-day it is the Communists who are being condemned in secret. Whose turn will it be tomorrow?”

Prayer Meeting Suppressed

PORT ELIZABETH.

In Port Elizabeth last week two African women were found guilty of conducting an illegal meeting and fined £2, with the alternative of 14 days' imprisonment. Another 46 women who had been charged with the same offence were found not guilty and discharged.

All the women were arrested on November 23 while they were conducting an open-air prayer meeting in New Brighton, and were taken to the location police station. A huge crowd of relatives and friends accompanied them to the police station to find out what the charges were.

While they were assembled outside the police station the police conducted a baton charge, in the course of which many women and children were beaten and some injured badly.

Outstanding African Headmaster Sacked Under Verwoerd Act

(From our Durban Correspondent)

Mr. M. T. Moerane, President of the South African Teachers' Federation, has been dismissed from his post of headmaster at the Government-Aided Ohlange Institute and advised to seek employment in a Sesuto-speaking district. Mr. Moerane has been one of the most courageous and outspoken critics of the Bantu Education Act.

His dismissal has come as a shock to the public, Non-European and European, for Mr. Moerane is regarded as one of the outstanding educationalists in this Province. Mr. Moerane, who is a Basuto, and his family must now leave Natal and go to Basutoland or the Orange Free State.

Banished From Natal

He was dismissed on the instructions of the Director of Bantu Education. After having served as Headmaster for six years, Mr. Moerane received a letter from the Director stating that he had advised the Ohlange Institute Board of Trustees to give him notice because it was likely that the Native Affairs Department would demand, when it took control of the Institute, that there should be only one head.

The position at present is that there is a grantee and a headmaster. The grantee manages the financial affairs of the Institute and Mr.

Moerane, officially the headmaster, is in charge of all educational matters.

BANISHMENT

Under the Native Affairs Department, therefore, the position of grantee will be eliminated, but nobody in the Ohlange Institute or outside can understand why this change should cause the banishment and dismissal of Mr. Moerane.

Secondly, it is an accepted fact by the teaching profession that the Native Affairs Department will not be in a position to take control of African educational Institutions

(boarding schools) for at least two years and no explanation can be offered for the indecent haste in dismissing Mr. Moerane.

The consensus of opinion is that Mr. Moerane has been dismissed for three reasons alone.

Firstly, because he was the first among African teachers here to expose the dangers of the Bantu Education Act to the African people. He did not shirk his duty in order to safeguard his job.

Secondly, he has been a foremost fighter in the struggle of the African teacher for better conditions and increased salaries.

Thirdly, some teachers, for long jealous of Mr. Moerane's position, seized the opportunity provided by his condemnation of the Bantu Education Act to indulge in intrigues with the authorities to have Mr. Moerane removed.

“MOST CAPABLE”

Ilanga Lase Natal, in an angry editorial on Mr. Moerane's dismissal, says: “. . . Mr. Moerane whom the public of Natal and the Teachers' Union regard as one of the most capable teachers and a good Christian man, has been given notice to leave Ohlange and the whole Province. He is Headmaster, the President of the Natal Teachers' Union and President of the South African Teachers' Federation. He is an exemplary family man, a moderate and objective man . . .

“No reasons are given for this drastic action which shocked teachers and the public. But the free public demands to know and will find out.”

PROTEST MEETING

“We can unequivocally state that all teachers are opposed to the new school system to be created under the Bantu Education Act,” said Mr. Moerane in reply to the Minister of Native Affairs who, while acknowledging that African teachers through their associations had declared themselves opposed to the Act, added that not all African teachers opposed it.

Mr. Moerane was addressing a parents' association meeting to protest against the Act at Inanda last week.

The philosophy of the new scheme of education for Africans cuts through fundamental educational principles such as the development of the child to the fullest capacity in his own interests and interests of his society. Not only is it designed to make Africans inferior but it is also designed to compel them to accept a position of inferiority.

“Such an education is more dangerous than no education and the teachers' organisations have no alternative but to oppose it.”

Because of threats implied in the Minister's statement of policy, said Mr. Moerane, it would not be surprising if some teachers were afraid to express their opposition. Already, he warned, there was an unwholesome atmosphere of fear and insecurity arising.

“We can expect persecution, but the volume of opposition to the Act on moral grounds is so great that we believe it is a matter of time when the forces against this bad system will be so united that it will convince even the Government that South Africa does not want this ‘Bantu education.’

“We teachers' associations are definitely working for the repeal of the Bantu Education Act. It is a matter of conscience and professional conviction.”

African Rent Rises On Rand Were Illegal

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent)

The attorneys for Mr. P. Q. Vundla, chairman of the co-ordinating committee of Johannesburg townships which is fighting the rent increases demanded by the City Council from Africans in municipal townships, have been informed that they have won their case. The Council and the Minister of Native Affairs notified last week that they would not oppose Mr. Vundla's application to have the rent increases set aside on the ground that the regulations were not placed before the Advisory Boards in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Urban Areas Act.

This means that the previous rents stand. No increases can now be enforced without the Council starting from the beginning again and going through the proper procedures. That means that new regulations would have to be drafted, submitted to the Advisory Boards and ratified by the Minister of Native Affairs, before they can be gazetted.

GREAT VICTORY

“This is a great victory,” said a Congress official. “But it does not mean that we can now go to sleep. Undoubtedly the Council will go ahead making new preparations to increase the people's rents.

“In the long run our only remedy lies not in the Courts but in the mass organisation of the residents into the African National Congress to be able to exert sufficient pressure to maintain sub-economic housing for all who need it. At present wage-levels and the present cost of living, that comprises about 99 per cent. of the African population.”

Boycott Successes At Port Elizabeth

PORT ELIZABETH.

Africans in the Eastern Province are successfully conducting a boycott of the products of the United Tobacco Co. in response to the appeal of the executives of the A.N.C., S.A.I.C. and C.O.D.

The boycott was introduced, and an appeal issued to people not to smoke U.T.C. cigarettes because of the recent tobacco strike in Durban.

In New Brighton the A.N.C. called on shopkeepers to observe the boycott. Two shops which did not comply with the request were boycotted, not only in respect of U.T.C. cigarettes but in respect of all goods. After two days of this the shopkeepers agreed to withdraw U.T.C. products from their shops and the boycott was called off.

The A.N.C. called a boycott of another shop which had refused its request that an African shop assistant and block-man be employed. The shopkeeper eventually met the A.N.C. representatives, and after discussions agreed to employ African assistants.

The A.N.C. chairman, Mr. Mayekiso, explained that the economic boycott was not designed to remove European employees from industry or trade, but to open skilled jobs for Africans as well.

POLICE SUPPRESS UITENHAGE MEETING

UITENHAGE.

Police suppressed a public meeting called by the Uitenhage branch of the A.N.C. on Sunday, November 21, giving the people ten minutes in which to disperse, failing which they would be prosecuted.

The meeting was to have been addressed by Mr. M. M. Phongolo, chief volunteer of the Uitenhage Branch. But the C.I.D. officials appeared together with the location superintendent. They claimed they were acting in terms of a regulation gazetted since November 11 this year providing that any gathering or procession in the area without a permit was illegal.

The police informed the people that if they wished to hold a meeting they had to apply for permission to the Superintendent or to the district Magistrate who would grant permission at his discretion.

Local leaders protested strongly against such measures for the prohibition of meetings and gatherings. There was proof that the measures were being used for the oppression of the people and must be brought to an end, they said.

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