

CAPE WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL:

Chairman: Mrs. M. Henderson.

Vice-Chairmen: Mrs. J. Power and Mrs. E. Stott.

Secretary: Miss F. Thorne. Treasurer: Mrs. B. Willis.

Mrs C. van Selm. Mrs J. Pare. Mrs M. Hamilton. Mrs J. Grieve.
Mrs B. Spottiswoode. Mrs J. Robb. Mrs M. Petersen. Mrs H. Struben.
Miss A. Windham. Mrs M. Wilson Mrs N. Le Feuvre. Mrs P. Hodgson

THE OFFICE: 1, Kildare Road, Newlands. Telephone 6-8660.

Our office is easily accessible. The appeal for equipment through the Branches has had most gratifying results, and our list of requirements has dwindled to :- a full-sized typewriter, a desk and 4 chairs. We invite members to call and see how the office is run. A roster of voluntary help is under consideration.

Suggestion Book. This will be in the office so that entries may be made or proposals sent through the post.

HAUNTING Mr. STRYDOM. 26th July 1956.

Nearly 200 women were at Cape Town Station to sash Mr. Strydom and Mr. Eric Louw on their departure on the Blue Train for Pretoria after their overseas visit. The women had gathered by 11.10 a.m. allowing 50 minutes before the train left. It was soon discovered that the Prime Minister and Mr. Louw had already arrived, so our full force was mustered on the platform. The line of mourning women stretched from the guard's van to the engine.

As the train drew out at noon, there was a face at every window except those of the Ministerial coach, where the blinds were "half-mast." Mr. Louw had a further opportunity to inspect our footwear!

In Cape Town a 3d. platform ticket must be bought. Thus the Minister of Transport was able to chalk up £2. 10s. This is surely a small price to pay to bring home to the Government and the people of South Africa that the Black Sash continues to exist as a vigilant and protesting body.

BILINGUALISM.

The Union of South Africa came into being in 1910 when the four Provinces were united to form our country. True Union (one of its synonyms is "concord") can only become a real thing if we all try to know and understand the language and point of view of both sections of the white community.

OUR POLICY IS VIGILANCE, PROTEST and EDUCATION.

(1) Vigilance. We shall keep a close watch on legislation in every sphere of public affairs. Whenever anything is clearly in conflict with our principles, we shall take suitable action, e.g. taking part in protest meetings.

We have formed a Civic Affairs sub-committee, led by Mrs. Stoy and Mrs. Wiley. Members of the Black Sash attended every day the Group Areas Committee inquiring into zoning in the Peninsula. Our investigations led us to stage a big protest demonstration against the injustice of the proposed zoning. Plans for a lunch-hour protest meeting sponsored by the Black Sash, and a petition to the Minister concerned are being considered by your Committee.

W A T C H T H E P R E S S F O R D E T A I L S.

(2) Protests. In order to keep the public aware of the inroads being made into our liberties and democratic rights, and to remind the public and the Government of the Sash's continuing existence, we must keep up our public "Stands", and in future we shall have more large demonstrations against specific acts on suitable special occasions.

LETTER FROM A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

To show that our past activities have decidedly not been in vain, we quote from a letter to Mrs. van Selm from a Member of Parliament:-

"I want to send you a message of warm congratulation on the really wonderful work of your Black Sash organisation during this unpleasant Parliamentary Session.

"I am not one who finds it easy to show appreciation to Sashers on duty - but can assure you that I've never passed them at the gates of Parliament without a feeling of admiration and gratitude for what they are doing, and for their courage in so openly and effectively showing their convictions.

I am sure that, despite the attempts of Eric Louw and others to disparage the Black Sash, the sustained demonstrations of the past 5 months in Cape Town - in conjunction with what has been done elsewhere - have not only worried the Nationalists, but have also made a profound impression on all sincere South Africans.

"I know that your organisation is non-political. But as a politician and a South African, I take off my hat to you all. Your example has been an inspiration to those of lesser courage.

"All good luck to you and your cause."

(3) Education. We are continuing to organize public lectures because of the interest shown in our first series. We have decided to hold the meetings whenever possible in different centres. Our last two lectures have been on the Group Areas Act by Mrs. Grant and Advocate Molteno, Q.C., held in Claremont and Hermanus respectively. Further lectures on the Tomlinson Report and "The Individual, his duties, responsibilities and rights in a multi-racial democratic society" are scheduled for October. WATCH THE PRESS FOR DETAILS. Members are urged to make every effort to attend these lectures because only if we are a really enlightened body of women can we hope to be fully aware of the immoral way in which we are being governed.

LITERATURE.

(1) A book entitled "The Women of the Black Sash" by M. Rogers will shortly be available. The price is 15/-. We suggest that every member who is proud of the achievements of our organization should order a copy (through the office) as a lasting token of her participation and membership. It even may become Africana!

(2) A printed booklet containing speeches given to the general public under the auspices of The Black Sash, by Professor Beinart, Advocate Gerald Gordon, Professor Monica Wilson, and Professor Thompson will be available soon at the price of 1/- . As these speeches were made to the man-in-the-street, they are, besides being of great educational value, easy to digest.

LIBRARY.

We have started a small library in the office. Members may take out books at 6d. per copy. We make a strong appeal for books on South African subjects. These books may be given or lent.

FINANCE.

(1) The Senate Act. As the Black Sash came into being to protest against the Senate Act, it was our obvious duty to raise money to help fight the case in the Courts. Our appeal realised an amount of £178. 14s. 5d., which was sent to the legal firm.

(2) Fund Raising. In view of the fact that our expenditure is vastly in excess of our income (2/- of every subscription is sent to the Central Executive) it was decided at an All-Branches Meeting that every Branch should make itself responsible for raising a sum equivalent to 10/- per member - i.e. if a Branch has 40 members, it should raise £20.

In response to this two members have offered to give the full commission on the sale of their houses to the Black Sash.

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- (1) "EDINGIGHT", Ravensberg Ave., Newlands. Approx. 6 rooms. £6,400
- (2) "KINGSLYN" Boyes Drive, Muizenberg. Approx. 9 rooms £7,000

PROTEST ON GROUP AREAS ACT IN CAPE TOWN ON 18th AUGUST 1956.

Members, especially from the Rosebank Branch, followed closely the evidence given before the Land Tenure Board on the proposed group areas. Our investigations led us to stage a big demonstration in Adderley Street when a large bilingual banner reading "Proposed Peninsula Group Areas unjust" was carried. This followed a day when Mr. Broemskas, Q.C., who is appearing for 24 Coloured Organizations, asked that the Minister of the Interior, the Administrator, and the Superintendent-General of Education should be called to give evidence.

"You say it would be fantastic to summon the Minister" he said. "Well, I say these amendments are fantastic, and the most undemocratic restrictions of rights I have come across in all my studies of the law and constitution."

About 130 women gathered at the top of Adderley Street at 11.30 a.m., and took up a stand down one side of the street, and round the middle island where the banner was held. They donned sashes at 11.45 a.m. and stood for half an hour.

A humorous foot-note to this was provided by a woman who was heard to say: "I suppose they are mourning because the Springboks have lost the Test Match to-day!"

BADGES.

We urge every member to wear her badge at all times.

HUSBANDS.

We thank all husbands for their help and co-operation.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Marian Horwood of Rosebank, grand-daughter of the late Hon. Alfred Ebdon, a former member of the old Cape Parliament.

Your Editors,
"BLACK" and "SERP".