

1, Kildare Road,
Claremont, Cape.
June, 1959.

Dear Sashers,

Protest Stands.

My forecast that this would be a busy year has certainly proved correct. This quarter has seen sterling service from those Sashers whose strength of spirit and sense of duty enabled them to turn out and support all the stands we have had. Stands for Job Reservation, Fort Hare College and the Abolition of Native Representation were good, but the all-night stand against University Apartheid was magnificent and we, who for various reasons could not support these stands fully, are filled with admiration and gratitude for the fortitude of these stalwarts. The all-night stand brought out qualities of endurance that many Sashers never dreamt they had. One Sasher who had intended to stand for the first half-hour only, was so fired by enthusiasm that she rang her husband to expect her when he saw her, and went back to take her place with the others in the rain. There must have been many others like her, and we want them to know how proud we are to have such women with us.

Ex-Chief Luthuli's Visit.

For many of us, the highlight of this quarter was the privilege of listening to ex-Chief Albert Luthuli who addressed a private meeting at Mrs. Robb's house. Those who were unable to attend - and, since it was a last minute arrangement, many who would have liked to hear him were unable to do so - must be sure to read the account of the meeting which will be appearing in the Magazine. No written account though, can adequately convey the quiet dignity, the wisdom, the sense of peace and calm that emanates from this truly remarkable man. Were there any who attended that meeting who could fail to feel that here was a man one could be proud to follow? He, for his part, was deeply moved to see the ranks of white women lined up to protest against University Apartheid, for he felt, as we do, that sacrifice for another race is a big step in the direction of racial goodwill.

Education.

There is no doubt there is much common ground amongst the various groups opposing the Government and much good can come from meeting representatives of different races and groups and learning of their hopes and beliefs and difficulties. And discussing them brings knowledge and understanding. Our last Brains Trust brought out a remarkable agreement on certain questions between the various groups represented by the speakers and we are glad to report that the Brains Trust on 9th June on INFLUX CONTROL was equally stimulating. Another such occasion was the talk on the Bantu Education Act by Mrs. Phillips who is from England and has spent a year here teaching in African Schools and studying the Act and its application. It was particularly interesting to hear the subject dealt with by someone from outside our political scene. So often we miss such an evening and when we hear reports afterwards, bitterly regret that we had not attended. We do urge Sashers to make a note of such dates. It is true that nights are cold now and often wet, but lifts can be arranged for those without transport if they will only telephone the office. 6-8660.

National Council Meeting and Fund Raising.

The Brains Trust was arranged to take place during the National Council meeting which was from 9th - 11th June, and we thank you for helping us, as in the past, by co-operating with Mrs. Oliver who convened the catering so efficiently for the meeting. This was an excellent and easy way for members who cannot be active in other ways, to help by contributing biscuits, cakes and other "eats"; and thus cutting the cost of catering, and swelling the profits. Various ways of raising funds have been explored. One is to have a bridge "kitty", everyone paying a shilling, and this soon grows into a sizeable amount. The only snag is that many of us have been doing this for years for other funds. Our "bring-and-buy" sale before All Branches meetings seems to be the answer, because there are very few people who aren't good at making something, and most of us are only too pleased to buy "home-made" stuff.

It is this kind of co-operation that makes the "cash" just a little more "personal", something members have been squealing about for some time. Those who do a good deal of active Sash work, have made so many contacts, met so many people they would

otherwise never have known, and gathered so many new friends, that they look back on pre-Sash days and wonder how they could have existed then. Elgin's idea of a family picnic did something towards establishing the personal note amongst Sashers. It was most successful, and the sun shone and those who accepted Elgin's invitation had a wonderful day.

Wellington's Fight for Newtown's Water Supply.

Country Branches are certainly stealing a lot of thunder these days and those of us who heard Mrs. Pearce's account of the fight Wellington branch is waging over the Newtown waterhole, are full of admiration for the work they have done. Most of the daily papers had an account of what happened but the facts, briefly, are these. The trouble started when three small coloured boys were arrested for entering the African location and stealing water. Investigation showed that the residents of the coloured village of Newtown were dependant for their water on a pool, thick with mud and slime, from which cattle drank and where people did their washing, to name just two of the purposes for which the water was used. Mrs. Pearce's account of how photographs were taken of this pool (complete with cattle), samples taken and sent for analysis - and found to be full of infection - and the ensuing battle with the local Council, was most interesting and exciting. It was a stout achievement for so small a branch, and one formed so recently, and a stimulating illustration of what can be done by initiative and vigilance of individual members. There are so many abuses that could be brought into the open if we kept our eyes open, and our fighting them will not merely keep the Sash in people's minds, but create goodwill between us and those for whom we are fighting. We look forward eagerly to the next installment of Wellington's story - for their fight is not yet over.

The Magazine.

Our magazine will carry a full account of Wellington's battle, for it is the personal stories such as this that we want for the magazine and which are so hard to extract from members. We want Sashers to become "magazine conscious". All sorts of things happen to us in our daily lives or in our Sash work that other Sashers would like to hear about and which would do much to make the magazine warm and human. If you find it difficult to write,

telephone your story to us and we will gladly write it for you. If you don't like the magazine, write and say why. If the articles are controversial and you have any comment to make, write and tell the Editor. It is this sort of thing that makes a magazine live, and which we find so difficult to get out of you.

Another thing - our magazine is running at a loss - please try to get new subscribers even if you have to bully your friends into it. You can always salve your conscience by telling yourself that by increasing their knowledge and opening their eyes you are doing them a tremendous favour. I myself lost 7/6 at bridge the other night to a friend of mine. I gave her 1/6 and informed her that she had just paid a year's subscription to the Black Sash magazine. It was quick and painless and she didn't feel a thing. If one plays bridge often - and badly - there is enormous scope here for a record turnover in magazine subscriptions. And reading the magazine may interest outsiders in our work far more than any nagging on our part can do. So, too, can friends be influenced to come to our lectures. Once they are interested in our work it may be but a short step to their joining us.

Meanwhile, Sashers, with the wind howling outside and the rain beating down, we think the best wish we can make is that the sun shines on our next stand and that we shall see you there.

Yours sincerely,

"BLACK" and "SERP".

P.S.

Next All Branches Meeting.

There will be no All Branches meeting in July, so the next one will be on Monday 3rd. August, 1959. We would like to stress again that each and every member is welcome at these meetings, which are held at the Cecil Hotel, Newlands on the first Monday of every month, at 2 p.m.