

1, Kildare Road,
Claremont, Cape.

Dear Sashers,

Come on, now, snap out of that holiday spirit and get right down to work. Forget the long, lazy days on the beaches, the excitement of holiday trips, the delight of meeting out-of-town friends down for the season. That's all over, girls and it's back to the grindstone. Isn't that a pleasant thought? And your first New Year Resolution, doubtless, is to put far more time and energy into the Sash. That suggestion probably makes us Miss Popularity of 1960 and we hope we haven't offended those wonderful Sashers who give so much of their time. We are thinking of all those who would and could do more if only they got right down to it. Well, there is no need to list again the many jobs that are waiting, just give in your names at the office and we'll find something for you to do. Don't be shy.

Most of this News Letter will consist of a Report for November/December which has already been sent out to Branch Chairs but which many of you may not have seen. But mention must be made first of the Regional Conference which was held in October. The Conference was well attended and the resolutions thoroughly discussed; particularly interesting was Mrs. Roberts' report on the year's work which made us all very proud of the part we had played in making such a report possible and our thanks and admiration go to Mrs. Roberts herself for the wonderful lead she gave us.

The Regional Conference was closely followed by the National Conference and at our All Branches Meeting on November 9th, Mrs. Stoy and Mrs. Le Feuvre gave a most excellent review of the Conference, to which they were delegates, together with Mesdames Robb, Roberts, Ferris, Conroy and Solomon. This review was greatly appreciated by members.

We were most fortunate, too, in having Mrs. Stott to tell us of her interview with Mr. De Wet Nel - we are most fortunate in having Mrs. Stott! She must have made a great impact on the Minister, as she does on all who meet her, to judge from the length of the interview, which was to be only half-an-hour, and actually lasted nearly two hours! Thank you Mrs. Stott.

There was great activity in the Peninsula during the first weeks of November, as this marked the beginning of the distribution of Reference Books for African Women by the authorities. Mrs. Duncan was in charge of the stands arranged to protest against this distribution and members stood at Rondebosch and at Athlone. There were no incidents and stands were quiet; members carried posters which read, "We deplore the break-up of African home life."

On Saturday 14th November, from 11.30 to 12, Mrs. Duncan was again responsible for a very good stand in Adderley Street, (also against Reference Books.) This was felt to be a good time and day to hold a stand, as it was seen by many members of the public.

On Sunday, 15th November, a protest meeting called by C.A. T.A.P.A.W. was held in the Banqueting Hall of the City Hall. There were about 100 people present. Mrs. Stott was in the chair. Advocate de Villiers explained the Pass Laws and Mrs. Silinga of the African National Congress Women's League pleaded for better understanding between Whites and non-Whites. The meeting was quiet but not as well attended as it might have been and the Region feels that in future meetings should not be arranged for Sundays if possible.

A stand protesting against the banishment of Mrs. Mafchong was organised by the Paarl and Wellington Branches in Paarl and 40 members who came from Wellington, Stellenbosch, Elgin and Somerset West took part. Congratulations to those who organised this stand and all who came so far to take part. But Wellington (with those who help in Paarl) is a most amazing branch and we are not surprised any more when we hear of its achievements. It seems that nothing is too difficult for it to tackle and nothing deters it from its purpose. They have now been refused permission to enter the local location, which is deplorable in view of the enormous amount of goodwill their work has engendered amongst the people there. In the Cape Times of December 29th, we see there is a letter from Mrs. Struben of Wellington Branch who feels that the local Sash Branch did much to keep the peace in the location, whilst they were allowed to work there. We hope they will find some way of getting round the restrictions that have been placed on them.

Rondebosch Branch is to be congratulated on having an

African speaker at their Branch meeting during November. They invited Mrs. Kubasi, the wife of the Anglican minister at Nyanga to tell them of the daily life of an African in the location. This proved to be a most moving and interesting address.

On November 21st, Cape Western held its annual Fete - and a great success it was too. The stalls were all quite wonderful and there were many non-Sashers present. The Christmas gifts and the Christmas decorations were beautiful and the country branches brought all sorts of good things to eat! Our very sincere thanks to Mrs. Le Feuvre, who convened the Fete and to all the members who helped to make this quite the most outstanding money raiser we've yet had - £470 - congratulations to all!

The Archbishop's Conference was recalled on Saturday 28th November and Mrs. Stoy and Mrs. van Selm attended on our behalf. Mrs. Oliver was again responsible for arranging the teas - thank you Mrs. Oliver and all your helpers. Mrs. Stoy reported to All Branches on the Conference. She had been most encouraged and thrilled by the work done by the various sub-committees which had been asked to make investigations into a) poverty b) civil disabilities c) a new Constitution for South Africa and d) Union Day 1960. It has since been decided that there will be a March ending in a Re-dedication Service in the Drill Hall on the afternoon of Union Day, 31st May. As members know, the Black Sash decided at the National Conference that such a re-dedication would be our best formal observance of 50 years of Union. We are relying on every member of the Sash not only taking part herself in the March, but trying to see that as many as possible of the general public of all races and both sexes join in.

The new Regional Council has been most fortunate in persuading Mrs. Robb to take the Chair of Cape Western (she says purely in an "Acting Capacity" - we are not at all sure of that!) Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Henderson will be our Vice-Chairs while Mrs. Green will be our Treasurer and Mrs. Solomon the Hon. Secretary. We are sure that with such a team at the top we shall be able to carry on as well as we have done in the past. We are sure that all members will join us in wishing Mrs. Marquard a speedy recovery after her very serious illness. We miss her sweetness, her wisdom and her quiet humour and we hope she will soon be with us. And to Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Henderson, who have done such sterling service for the Region in the past year, may we offer our thanks and appreciation.

This quarter too has seen the first street sale of our magazine and Mrs. Leinberger says "there is no doubt that the "Pass" issue of the magazine aroused tremendous enthusiasm. Because of this, extra copies were printed and two street sales organised in October. The first took place in Adderley st., the second in Main Rd. Claremont.

"Mrs. Syme deserves special congratulations for her bold eye-compelling poster which commanded the attention of almost every passer-by on both occasions.

"Another feature which encouraged people to stop and buy was the series of smaller cards pinned to the black crepe paper covered tables. These carried extracts culled from the editorials of some of our leading newspapers. Sashers who served at the tables were struck by the expressions of goodwill encountered during these dealings with the public. "How we admire your movement" was heard by more than one Sasher. In fact, many people insisted on accompanying this heart-warming encouragement with even more concrete evidence of their approval, in the shape of half-crowns and florins - "so that you may carry on the good work".

"Now as only a small number of extra copies were printed, these sales were conducted more or less as an experiment. When the next special issue (on the threat to education in our schools) comes out, we shall be able to use that valuable experience to make a real impact upon the general public.

"When the time comes (you will be well warned) we hope to see tables not only in Adderley St., the Main Rd. Claremont but in every branch both in the city and in the country districts. This is an exciting opportunity, lets be sure we make full use of it."

Thank you Mrs. Leinberger for your contribution to this letter.

And lastly, if any of you known anybody with any money over from Christmas or perhaps - happy thought - an unused monetary gift, would you bear in mind that we are looking for donors to subscribe towards the rental of our Bail Fund Office?

With best wishes to you all for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

"SWART" and "SERP".