

Dear Member,

It is good for all of us to get away for a time from the stresses and strains and disappointments of our work, and we are glad to welcome you back after the midyear break. In particular we welcome back Mrs. Robb from her visit to the far East, and thank Miss Henshilwood for so ably standing in for her at the Advice Office. You will be glad to know that we had a very cheerful letter from Mrs. Wilks, and in thanking Mrs. Birt for acting Chairman up to now, we wish her a very happy trip to England for the wedding of her daughter Anne to a Cotswold farmer.

The rising of Parliament brought to an end for this year the passing of legislation that affects human rights, but the implementation of Group Areas goes on steadily. The last blow is the proclamation of a large part of Woodstock as a White area. This is a not unexpected follow-up of the refusal of the use of the Woodstock Town Hall to the Coloured ratepayers.

More than ever is it necessary for the members of the Black Sash to make and keep contact with the Coloured and African people. Multi-racial parties are one way of doing this, and we are glad to see that several branches are planning these. Unfortunately the meetings at the Cathedral have fallen through because of lack of interest. Wynberg held their last meeting at the home of a Coloured friend, who gave a talk on "What we would like White people to know", and Rondebosch has a regular multi-racial sewing party. These are all ways of getting to know our Coloured friends, and members have found these contacts very rewarding. As we are losing much of the "tourist attraction" appeal of our non-White people, we can still find ways of getting to know them as human beings, and it is a comfort to them to know that there are those who care what happens to them in their humiliation and frightening uncertainty.

The Advice Office is able to assist fewer Africans as Contract Labour is enforced at a great rate, but it is still a refuge where they can come for advice and such help as is possible, knowing that they will have sympathetic treatment. Before he left for the Conference at Uppsala Dr. Wilson was feeding the Advice Office cases into a computer in preparation for a book on Migrant Labour.

The cases dealt with in May were:

Men endorsed out	17
Women endorsed out	33 (22 of these were "old" cases)
Miscellaneous	44
Old	<u>63</u>
Total	<u>157</u>

A case from the files:

M.M. came here from Northern Natal in 1946, and has been working on ships based in Cape Town docks ever since. He is a ship's cook and regards himself as a seaman. His jobs were always registered with the shipping company concerned and with the shipping master in the dockyard. But it was not until 1962 that his name was registered at Langa. His earlier record is of no avail as a qualification to reside permanently in the area.

In 1966, Mr. M. married a Coloured woman. She continues to reside in District Six with their two children. The marriage was Christian. When he was warned that he must return to his birthplace, he asked how he was to take his Coloured wife? The authorities themselves made investigations and found that in fact his home district would not accept a Coloured woman. They suggested that he might get here to visit her occasionally! Such prospects were even more than usually dim, because Cape Town Docks take no contract labour. (So Mr. M. told us). He would only be able to work on ships based at Durban.

The outlook for this couple seemed almost hopeless but we are happy to be able to record that it has at least improved considerably. We are glad to note that when a flagrant case of human misery is clearly shown to the higher authorities, a compromise can still sometimes mitigate the suffering. Our legal adviser sent Mr. M. to Department of Bantu Affairs with a letter explaining his whole unfortunate predicament, and he has been given permission to take another job here until a house has been found for him at Umlazi, a location outside Durban where his wife and children will be able to live with him. He was delighted, and his confidence in the future was restored.

ALL BRANCHES:

In May Mrs. Mathem spoke on the three bills that have since become law. The Prohibition of Political Interference, the Separate Representation of Voters, and the Coloured Persons Representative Bills. These remove from the Coloured people all political contact with White people, and the last vestiges of representation on White legislative bodies.

Mrs. Robb explained that according to Proclamation R74 of the Bantu Labour Regulations there are ⁴copies of a labourer's contract, but that he himself never receives one, in spite of the fact that when he returns to his "homeland" he is entitled to help in "rehabilitating" himself from the tribal labour officer. It is now compulsory for all African men in the Bantu Areas, who are dependent on their earnings, between the ages of 15 and 60 to be registered at the local bureau.

In June, Mrs. Morris read Mrs. Sinclair's speech at a protest meeting against the Political Interference Act, and Mrs. Burton read Mr. Alan Paton's speech made on that occasion. Later Mrs. Herbstein gave us an account of a visit to a Transit Camp near Kingwilliamstown.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Mrs. D. Davis suggested that contract labourers be taught about compensation before taking on a job, and that they should be told to see that their names were registered with their employers.

"DINNER PARTY QUESTIONS".

A small sub-committee has been appointed to go into the matter of finding factual answers for the kind of questions that members are so often asked by other people. It is hoped that a report will soon be forthcoming. It is relevant here to say that items from Hansard that bear on this subject are being pasted into a book in the office, available for consulting by anyone who wants facts for a talk or otherwise.

We wish to congratulate Mrs. Stott on her efforts to obtain housing accommodation for qualified men in the townships, and to find out what chances there are of accommodation for migrant labours in Langa.

CONFERENCES.

An Extraordinary Regional Conference will be held after the next All Branches meeting at 2 p.m. on Monday August 5th, in the usual place, in order to discuss our resolutions and to choose nine delegates for the National Conference. The Regional Conference will be held on Monday October 7th, and the National Conference will be held at Durban on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th October.

There is a suggestion that prospective members of the Sash may be invited to attend an evening meeting in summer that will be devoted to a speaker and not to the usual business.

MORNING MARKET.

This will be held on November 30th, and the Dean of Cape Town, the very Reverend M. L. King will be asked to open it. The stalls will be:-

Claremont and Plumstead:	Delicatessen and weekend larder.
False Bay:	Bargains Galore.
Gardens/Sea Point:	Teas.
Regional Council:	Flowers and Needlework.
Rondebosch:	Cakes.
Rosebank:	Books
Simon's Town:	Bookstall.
Somerset West and Elgin:	Produce.
Wynberg:	White Elephant.

Mrs. Digby has very kindly consented to convene the Market and Mrs. Andrews the Boutique. Simon's Town made R59.43 at a book sale, and with out-of-hand sales, rummage sales and donations, has well over R100 towards the Market.

All members who are not already providing food are asked to bring at least one cake or a donation to the Delicatessen stall, as well as two articles of needlework and flowers.

LETTERS:

- 2.5.68 Cape Argus - In reply to G. Blake re Protests.
- 14.5.68 Cape Times - Handcuffs on repatriated Africans.
- 14.5.68 Cape Argus - Death of Prof. Z. K. Matthews.
- 11.6.68 Cape Times - On attack by Dr. P. G. F. Koornhof, M.P. upon Mrs. H. Suzman on Separation of families.
- 17.6.68 Cape Times - On School books for Africans.
- 24.6.68 Cape Times - On Coloured emigration to Canada.
- 2.7.68 Cape Argus - Family Day.
- 11.7.68 Cape Times - University staff appointment on basis of colour.
- 23.7.68 Cape Argus - Woodstock Group Areas.

Yours sincerely,

R. N. Robb
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ACTING CHAIRMAN.