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ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION.

ONS WOORD

Wat Is; En Wat Behoort Te Wees

SUID-AFRIKA se nie-blanke beleid is op verskillende wyse beskryf as „Segregasie,” „Voogdyskap,” „Baaskap van die witman” en tans „Apartheid.” Die Springbok Legioen het sedert sy totstandkoming nog altyd hierdie beleid beveg as onrealisties, omdat dit uiteindelik samewerking tussen die blanke en nie-blanke rasse onmoontlik sal maak, en omdat dit Suid-Afrika doem tot 'n ekonomiese agterlike land.

Dit is egter nie die nadele van hierdie beleid op ekonomiese gebied wat ons hier behandel nie.

Enige benadering van 'n oplossing vir die „Naturelle-probleem” moet begin met 'n ondersoek van die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomiese struktuur, om sodoende vas te stel op die „goedkoop Arbeidsbeleid” in die beste belange is van Suid-Afrika.

Vir die doel van hierdie artikel is dit nodig om aan te toon dat die ekonomie van Suid-Afrika gedurende die afgelope 30 jaar 'n aansienlike verandering ondergaan het. Insteede van hoofsaaklik staat te maak op Primêre Nywerhede, d.w.s. Mynbou en Landbou, vind ons dat sekondêre nywerhede steeds 'n groter rol speel. Soos dan ook bewys word deur die feit dat fabrieksproduksie tans meer is as die gesamentlike opbrengs van Myn- en Landbou teenoor ongeveer 40 persent van die totaal daarvan in 1918. Dit is van belang om te besef dat die migrerende arbeidsstelsel ontwikkel het uit 'n nasionale ekonomie wat hoofsaaklik gebaseer was op die Primêre Nywerheid vir uitvoer, waarteenoor sekondêre nywerheid moet staatmaak op 'n stabiele

arbeidskrag en 'n uitbreidende tuismark.

Tenspyte van hierdie verandering in die vorm van die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie het die houding teenoor nie-blanke arbeids steeds onveranderd gebly, terwyl meer en meer wetgewing ingedien is om die natuurlike vloei van arbeid na die meer loonbare arbeidsmark kunstmatig te verhoed. Deur beperking van die toevloei van arbeid word daar dan vanselfsprekend beperkings geplaas op die uitbreiding van sekondêre nywerhede, met die gevolg dat dit beperkings plaas op die ontwikkeling van die land as 'n geheel en op die groei van die Nasionale inkomste, en kan om hierdie rede nie beskou word as in die beste belang van Suid-Afrika nie.

Dit is dan ook om hierdie rede dat die Springbok Legioen die huidige regering se Naturelle-beleid met hand en tand beveg. Ons insiens is die volgende verandering in ons Naturelle-beleid met betrekking tot die verskillende vertakings van nywerhede van die allergrootste belang vir die welvaart van Suid-Afrika.

Die Naturel moet in 'n geleentheid gestel word om geheel en al te integreer in die industriële ekonomie; d.w.s. opleidingsfasiliteite moet daar gestel word sodat die nie-blanke kan voorsien in die geskoolde arbeid nodig vir die uitbreiding van die nywerheid, en terselfdertyd moet die nie-blanke aanvaar word as 'n permanente stedelike gemeenskap.

Op die gebied van landbou moet daar voorsiening gemaak word vir beter opleiding en behuising van plaaswerkers.

Wetgewing wat beperkings lê op die grootte van die grond waarop Naturelle in die reserwes mag boer moet opgehef word, meer grond moet vir die reserwes verkry word, en die inwoners moet geleer word om op moderne manier te boer om sodoende die produksie te verhoog.

Op die myne behoort die naturelle in 'n geleentheid gestel te word om geskoolde arbeid te doen, met verhoogde besoldiging, terwyl voorsiening gemaak moet word vir die behuising van hulle families.

Naturelle moet opgelei word om hulle eie dienste te verskaf binne die raamwerk van die siviele diens.

Ons het hier bloot die vernaamste beginsels van hoe die Naturelle-bevolking in ons ekonomie geïntegreer kan word aangestip. Dit konstateer egter die hoofpunte in die beskouings van die wat die regering se apartheidsbeleid verwerp.

Dit kom in kort egter daarop neer dat die Naturelle as 'n bate beskou moet word en nie as 'n probleem soos tans die geval is. Die Naturel vorm die oorgrote deel van ons werkkrag, sowel as koopkrag, met ander woorde, ons rykdom, en alleen deur gebruik te maak van hierdie bate kan Suid-Afrika vooruitgaan.

Enige ander beleid wat oorheersing van die een ras deur die ander as uitgangspunt het en wat daarop gemik is om die een ras uit te buit ten gunste van die ander, moet uiteindelik lei tot die ondergang van Suid-Afrika op ekonomiese sowel as op sosiale gebied.

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YOU'RE TELLING US

Letters to the Editor



Our Reply To Last Month's Letter

Mr. G. L. Handley,
Private Bag, Greytown, Natal.
Dear Friend,

I gladly answer your letter and at the same time try to get some clarification of the issues you raise.

1. In his article, "Death Pays a Dividend," H. R. is getting at the danger to peace and the iniquity to the ordinary taxpayer-citizen represented by rearmament. In this he is expressing Legion policy, which is that peace is never guaranteed by an arms-race, but there is a better chance of peace in universal disarmament.

2. Since the Legion wasn't in existence before the war, I cannot say what its attitude to the arming of Britain and France would have been. I'm sure, however, that it would have urged strong action against Hitler through the League of Nations, before recommending an arms-race. In addition, I hope the Legion would have tried to expose the active support that was given to Hitler and the Nazis by big financial international interests, whose directors were American and British and French.

3. H.R. refers to "our" rearmament and not to what is happening in Russia, because (a) we have more knowledge from our own newspapers of what is happening in America, Britain, France and so on and because (b) U.N. official reports and the opinion of impartial writers like John Steinbeck (over and above Russia's own statements) indicates no largescale rearmament in Russian and Cominform countries. On the contrary, — again quoting from U.N. reports — proportionately less of the Russian national income is being expended on armaments than was done even in 1938: and certainly a much lower percentage of the national income than is being spent in Western countries. I am not suggesting that these reports and statements are infallible, but I am explaining why H.R. did not attack what you call 'Russian rearmament.' In the

absence of some official evidence to the contrary, I don't see how he could have taken a different line. Remember our policy is that an arms-race jeopardises peace and does not make it secure.

I would be interested to hear from you the official sources of your assertion that Russia has 'never stopped arming.' I think in point of fact that is one of our greatest difficulties today — this difficulty of getting absolutely impartial factual information.

4. Prejudice . . . I with regard to Michaelhouse, I think you are being unduly sensitive. If you look at the reference again, you will see the writer is referring to a 'Michaelhouse' accent, neither approving it nor condemning it. After all in England, for instance, it is traditional to talk, sometimes, I admit it, in a critical way, of an Oxford accent or 'Eton and Harrow, old man.' But those accents are generally regarded as being the 'cultural' accents of the many that one finds in England. So why not 'Michaelhouse or St. John's in South Africa?

I suppose you are right about an undercurrent of anti-officer feelings, even though, let it be admitted, we have for years always had a number of ex-officers on our National Committees. If you analyse the attitude, I think you will find it directed primarily against the brass hats, the people who, not only have never supported the Legion, but who have actively worked against the Legion, during the war and after. I suppose, too, with a fair degree of truth in it, there is a widely accepted idea that the brass hats are the conservatives of an army . . . and the Legion doesn't like conservatives, who so very easily swing over into the reactionary class. And where does that stop?

Your final criticism has caught us hopping. We were sure at first that you had made a mistake: we were sure you must have misinterpreted a sentence, if such a sentence could be found in the magazine! But, alas, we found the offending

sentence and must agree that as the sentence stands it is capable of the interpretation you have given it. But, if you look again, you will see that it is a piece of bad writing. In the previous sentence the writer has expressed the attitude of the Nationalists to the emigration of so many English-speaking South Africans to Rhodesia. 'Good riddance,' say the Nationalists. Then the writer goes on to speak in his own voice, when he says, 'South Africa desperately needs people and can afford to lose none at all . . .' But then he brings back the Nationalists to complete the sentence by saying, ' . . . even if they are only United Party supporters'.

In the same article, by the way, the writer says, 'The United Party has not stood still . . . elected a new leader without rift . . . improved its organisation . . . listening to those who can shape a sensible policy for it'.

Mind you, our attitude to the United Party is a consistent one. We recognise in the party the strongest opposition to the Nats., for which reason, the Legion gave all it had to fighting the General and Provincial Council elections in 1948 and 1949 behind the U.P. and the L.P. At the same time we feel free to criticise these parties on various aspects of policy and their tactics in fighting the Nats.

One other small thing. Although any ex-serviceman would have absolute preference from the Legion from the point of welfare assistance, we do not necessarily agree with the politics of any and every ex-serviceman. Capt. Strydom and Dr. Loock are ex-servicemen, but I think there is very little in their politics to commend them to Legionnaires.

Thank you for taking up the issues so frankly. I hope you will always do so, because I agree with you, a free exchange of ideas is the finest way of ensuring a healthy Legion policy.

With best wishes,

Yours fraternally,

JOE PODBREY,

Editor.

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PERSONALIA

GERALD MACKENZIE is a thoroughly good type, by which I mean he is an easy, sociable, good-humoured fellow and, in addition, has all the attributes of a good Legionnaire — sticks like glue, never shirks a job, encourages others.

Gerry joined up as a youngster in the S.A.A.F. Got through training as one of the di-di-di-da boys and, quite surprised-like, eventually found himself di-di-di-daing from an aeroplane. He finished up as one of the fixtures — flying fixtures, of course, in the shuttle service.

Oddly enough — I say 'oddly', because most stalwarts in the Legion came in during the war — Gerry joined the Legion only after he was demobbed in 1946. Someone roped him in to work in the Johannesburg Southern Suburbs Group, so with people like Paddy Hatton and Greg Royle, Gerry gradually

got himself well and truly involved. Later on he came on to the Branch Committee — was its chairman for two years — and also on the National Executive Committee.

He got married to Nola Hurford a while ago — and brought in another worker! In the meantime he is swotting for his C.I.S. finals, which prevents him from engaging in another hobby — acting.

Johannesburg Legionnaires will always remember Gerry's superb mimicry in the sketch, which he and Joe Podbrey wrote, 'The Bomber Crew.' In this Gerry played every part — the Oxford Haw-Haw type, the Scot, the Lancashire Lad, the Jewish gunner and the platteland Afrikaner. Very funny performance.

When asked for a message for our readers, Gerry said, 'Aw, just somar tell them they've got to keep on sticking it out. What the Legion stands for is too good, too permanent, to let the Nats. ruin. People who hold our ideals in the long run will come out on top.'

POLITIEKE VASVRAE

(Antwoorde op bladsy 11)

1. Wat is Die Twaalf Apostels?
2. Wie is Mao Tse Tung?
3. Watter Parlementêre Wet het die Verteenwoordigende Naturelle-Raad ontbind?
4. Waarom is dit noodsaaklik om seker te maak of u as kieser geregistreeer is?
5. Wie is die Republikeinse ekstremis in die Nat. kamp?
6. Waarvoor staan die letters V.N.O. W.K.O.?
7. Hoeveel lede-state vorm die Sekuriteits-Raad?
8. Watter lande is permanente lede van die Sekuriteitsraad?
9. Watter politieke les kan geleer word van John Hersey se boek, „The Wall“?
10. Watter onlangse gebeurtenis het Hertzogisme die nekslag toegedien?

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“This Sorry Scheme of Things”

(CONCLUSION)

IT'S a tall order to set down coherently one's solution to the problems posed in the article, 'This Scheme of Things.' And yet, I believe that we shall never get any nearer the heart's desire, unless we do clarify and set down a concrete programme.

This is the way my thoughts run:

In the first place one must work for and achieve a socialist economy or at any rate a Social Security or Welfare State as near as makes no difference. Perhaps I'd better justify that postulate. A nation's wealth is made up of the finished products after you and I and the man next door have brought our labour to bear upon the country's material resources. There would be no national wealth without this process, even though at times we could cope with a shortage of capital. It seems only fair then that every worker should have a sufficient share in the products of his labour to ensure him certain benefits from the state.

On this economic basis, I contemplate the following:

Free health services to include maternity services, treatment and hospitalisation for illness and accidents, wages during incapacitation: family allowances during unpreventable unemployment, and during retirement owing to old age.

I would expect free kindergarten, nursery and primary school education for all children. Free secondary, technical and university education for all children, who reach a prescribed standard in academic and personality tests.

The provision of housing — not necessarily rent free — would be a state or municipality and not left to the caprices of uncontrolled financiers and builders.

I believe a planned economy could guarantee for all time a high standard of living for all people, so that when this guarantee is coupled with the other social security benefits, men and women could live their lives freed from the gnawing, devitalising fears of economic insecurity . . . a great boon this,

something that would increase enormously the amount of carefree-ness in the land.

OTHER FACTORS.

But life doesn't automatically become happy by ensuring material comfort and security. They are obviously vital factors, but there are others. For instance, I believe that not until women are completely liberated from the inferior position they hold today will there be any chance of producing beautifully-balanced, productive and happy relationships in the home. The first step in this direction is the abolition of all legislation which discriminates against women. This must be followed by an admission of women to any profession or trade they want to follow on equal terms with men, with respect to both pay and responsibilities.

And after that, all of us, men and women, have gradually to be educated to accept the absolute equality of women and men in all spheres of life. (There are physiological differences, of course, but in the past these have been a false excuse for robbing women of their full status).

This development, I realise, will lead to all sorts of complications on the question of running a home and bringing up children. But these are minor problems which will easily be solved, once the basic fact of equality of status has been established.

From this new pattern of equality in the home healthier family relationships will follow. Half of the Freudian ills that flesh is heir to will be avoided. Children will grow up with sounder personalities, independence being a dominant quality. This means that children will no longer be regarded at school as little vessels to be topped up passively with academic information. It means that

when they come to pick their occupations neurotic unconscious crosscurrents will not wash them into the wrong places. It means that when they choose their life's partner, their choice will be sounder than is often the case under our defective system.

SCHOOLS.

I think it is essential that our school system should be revolutionised. Away with all this parrot-learning, this insistence on 'mental' development. We must recognise that our mental development is inseparable from physical and neurological maturation and that in turn depends on the exercise of our bodies and their sensory apparatus. In addition, let's have more democracy in the schools. All this "little-fuehrer" worship of the teacher and the prefects prevents the growth of a strong, independent spirit, a recognition that everyone has rights and responsibilities — the practice of democracy.

(Incidentally, with this more adult appreciation of the schools' functions, I believe we would get more adult teachers.)

AND STILL MORE.

It sounds fine so far, but there's more to it. Somehow or other as people grow up, they must be growing into a truly communal society. Don't shy away from that word 'communal'. I mean that our lives must be patterned on lines that enable us to live and work and enjoy ourselves together. (Yes, there'll be privacy, too.) For my part, I don't believe we human beings will reach the top of our potential of self-fulfilment until we learn the meaning of and practise co-operation . . . and I don't mean that in a 'charity' or 'philanthropic' way. 'Samerworking' and 'samelewing' express the concept more accurately.

One last word: in the happier set-up I've sketched out above, race hostilities will diminish and the causes of war grow weaker. Utopia? not necessarily. In any case, it's worth fighting for.

WE WANT PEACE — NOT WAR

"To us, the response of the West to Russia's offer of a peace pact seems little less than horrifying."

(Editorial, Rand Daily Mail, 9/3/51.)

This quotation sums up the reaction of people who believe that a peaceful settlement of world problems is possible. The editorial goes on to quote the spokesman of various Foreign Offices who with various unanimity deplore the Russian offer. "Each of any of these views may be right or wrong. But the underlying idea of all of them is the same; and it is a very alarming one. It is nothing less than the idea that Russia can never really want peace."

"This view is buttressed by two other considerations which have recently achieved acceptance in many circles: one, that any Russian peace proposal is a 'peace offensive'; the other that any form of bargain with the Soviet Union would be 'appeasement'. Taken together, these theories mean quite simply that we should dismiss all possibility of a peaceful settlement from our minds. There is to be no bargaining, let it should be regarded as appeasement; no peace talks, for they would always be propaganda traps. What is left then but war?"

The editorial attacks the panic of the United States where, it says, in some parts the position has been reached, "If anyone talks peace, call the police."

N.E.C. RESOLUTION.

At its meeting on August 15th the National Executive Committee RESOLVED:

that the Legion shall co-operate in the South African Peace Campaign to the extent of:

undertaking to collect as many signatures as possible by sending Petition forms and a covering letter to all members; and by featuring the Campaign in 'Fighting Talk.'

There you have it. It is not necessary to be pro-Russian or anti-American to believe in peace. Peace for its own sake, as an abhorrence of the tragedy of war are good enough grounds for attacking warmongers wherever they may appear.

It can be shown without fear of contradiction that powerful interests are making great profits out of international tension, and these interests control the press and radio, at least in America. The vast majority of Americans want peace — they are not Nazis, schooled and trained to a belief in war. But it is not their voices we hear. We hear the propaganda of those who profit from the stirring of fear and hatred. Possibly even these elements do not want war, but tension they must have. And tension, animosity and hatred must lead to war in a world beset with thorny problems and rivalries.

One dare not lose sight of the fact that the present armaments programmes and supporting security measures, are coincidentally or by design being used as a weapon against the working class. One has only to think of Australia or New Zealand or England where dockers have been dealt with as though their demands for wage increases were a threat to the state. It became, not a dispute between workers and bosses, but a crushing of "traitors" with the full weight of the state machinery. No wonder then that peace talk is unpopular — to the point of hatred, in some quarters. The Red Bogy is a wonderful weapon — as we in this country know only too well.

We have a duty to ourselves and to humanity to stand firmly by our belief in peace, and to expose to the best of our ability those who for class interest or profit seek to provoke war.

The Legion as a whole is speedily a supporter of peace, through the United Nations or by any other practical means which may appear. Five Power peace talks can do no harm to the cause of peace and from them may emerge a new chance of understanding and settlement of differences by negotiation.



"Well, isn't this what you wanted?"

For a Peace Pact Between Five Great Powers

To the Hon. Speaker and Parliament of the Union of South Africa

We, the signatories of this petition, peace-loving citizens of South Africa, recognise the imminent danger to our country of a world war.

A third world war would bring unparalleled slaughter and misery to millions, destruction of cities and peoples' homes. Already war preparations are lowering the peoples' standard of life. Manhood's hope for a better life depends upon peace.

Whatever our views of the causes which have brought about this danger we express our determined belief that international dif-

ferences can and must be settled by negotiation and not by war.

To this end we respectfully call on you, in our name, to support the worldwide demand for the conclusion of a Pact of Peace between the Five Great Powers, the United States of America, Great Britain, France, the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union, a pact to which all countries including South Africa should adhere.

We would regard refusal to enter into such a Pact of Peace as evidence of war-like intentions on the part of the Government concerned.

We therefore set our names to this Peace Petition.

Few indeed are the men who can say precisely why they joined up to fight in the Second World War. Motives are extraordinarily difficult to analyse and are inevitably mixed and undefined. Some men were goaded into joining up by the realisation that one or more of the freedoms they cherished were at stake; others were the children of impulse and yet others were guided by nothing more rational than sheer instinct.

I cannot honestly say that I know what caused me to join up. I know it wasn't for adventure or glory — a teacher of mine whose lung-racking cough suggested why he hated war so vehemently made us all learn off by heart Wilfred Owen's being poem "Dulce et decorum est". What I do remember was a long talk with my father, who was already a rookie in the Jocks while I was still finishing my University course at Jan Hofmeyr's instigation. I remember him saying something to the effect that man struggled for centuries to win his freedom and then let it slip out of his fingers in a few months and had to begin the struggle again. He was referring to the blind complacency of the democratic world of the thirties when Hitler and Mussolini were regarded as heroes and world regenerators — until it was too late.

These words stuck with me and it was most certainly the thought which arose from them which impelled me to join the recruiting queue as soon as my name were over at the end of the year.

FREEDOM—LIKE PEACE.

And now you ask me what freedom I was fighting for? Freedom itself, without any definition or limitation of its meaning, has a very clear meaning to me but I know that it conveys different meanings to different people. There are many freedoms and if I were asked which three I considered most important, I should answer that freedom, like peace, is indivisible, but I could add that no man has freedom unless he has free speech, free and equal access to the courts and the free right to worship which God he pleases or no God at all.

Freedom of speech is of paramount importance. Few are the citizens of few countries in few ages who have had the right to free speech. The first freedom the tyrant destroys is the right to criticize him. Once won, therefore, freedom of speech is most highly to be cherished: once lost, most vigorously to

be fought for. Democracy cannot survive without free speech. It is the highest form of community life and requires a thinking, critical and fearless people who not only have the right to free speech but also the desire fearlessly to use that right to protect democracy.

Freedom before the courts was, I know from my history lessons, also a rare achievement and one greatly to be prized. The law is often vicious and unfair in its actions against men and their only salvation may lie in the wise interpretation of law by the Courts. A country without a free, impartial judiciary, quite independent of the governing party, is a country in chains.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS.

I'm not what one would call a religious man but I do hold fast to the Christian ethic and my right to worship God in the way I choose. It is a freedom greatly to be cherished. Attacks on freedom of worship are perhaps even more fundamental than attacks on freedom of speech for they seek to control thought as well as the spoken word. The days when the Church and State were one and the interests of the one affected the other are part of history, a bad and evil part of history and so out of touch with the development of civilization that any sign of their revival is something greatly to be loathed.

These were the things I fought for. There is no freedom without these freedoms. I fought for other things too, other freedoms, but I choose these three not only because they are of fundamental importance but because I look around me again today and see that these three freedoms are being attacked as viciously by the Nationalist Government as ever they were by Hitler: freedom of speech by the Suppression of Communism Act, freedom before the Courts by that same inquisitorial act and freedom of religion by the Language Ordinance.

Quite clearly the war I won is being lost again! My fight is not yet over.

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Some Useful Tips on the New Rents Act

By HENRY PEREIRA.

IN the parliamentary session this year the Minister of Housing introduced a bill covering a number of amendments to the Rents Act. If you are in rented accommodation, it is important that you should be aware of the following points in the Amendments. Get wise, so that you can prove to be as smart as the owner or the agent.

1. If the lessor of residential or business premises wishes to get rid of his tenants for the ostensible purpose of a reconstruction scheme, he must now, before giving notice to the tenants, apply to the court for permission and show that (a) he has had a plan of the reconstruction approved by the local authority; (b) satisfy the court that the scheme is in the public interest.

It is further laid down in this connection that dwellings (flats or houses) are more essential at present than hotels or boarding-houses. (The only exception to all the above is a case of total demolition and rebuilding from the foundations upwards).

The importance of this provision is that whereas the previous Act laid the onus of going to Court on the lessee, who in most cases will probably be less able to afford litigation than the lessor, the present Act transfers that onus on to the lessor.

Further, the rent inspectors are given authority to supervise such schemes (whether dwelling or business premises) to ensure that the proposed reconstruction is actually carried out in accord-

ance with the plans previously exhibited to the Court. The maximum fine for infringing this provision is £500.

2. The new Act provides that, where a lessor has proved to the Court his intention to take over business premises from a lessee in order to occupy them himself, he must now give the tenant 12 months' notice (instead of 6, as formerly) to dispose of his stock, etc.

3. Recently the Supreme Court gave an interpretation of the phrase 'different dwelling', which was contrary to the intention of the legislature. Now the new Act makes it clear that, if a lessor puts some furniture into a dwelling, which previously fell under the Rents Acts, and proceeds to demand a fancy rent, the tenant still has the right to complain to the relevant Rent Board that the new rent is unreasonable. This means, in effect, that it does not become a 'different dwelling', and, therefore, the Rent Board will value the furniture and allow an increase in rent not exceeding 18 per cent. *per annum* of the determined value of the furniture.

As you will know, this is an extremely important provision: let me give an example. Original rent of flat, say £12 per month. Value of furniture added, say £200 (which is generous!) The lessor now claims a rent of £20, £25 or £30 p.m. Tenant goes to Rent Board, which accepts the valuation of 200 for the furniture and allows the full 18 per cent. *per annum*, viz., £36 or £3 per month. Determined rent of flat plus furniture thus becomes £12 plus £3 equals £15 p.m. The landlord takes a fit, dies of shock. R.I.P.

4. Another new provision forbids a lessor to evict tenants on the ground that he wishes to provide accommodation for his employees, unless (a) the building is newly erected or (b) is empty — in which cases there are no tenants to evict.

5. The common law 7 days' grace for the payment of rent is now by statute extended to 14 days, provided good reason is shown to the Court.

Good luck to all Legionnaires who find their homes in danger.

Politieke Vasvrae

(Bladsy 5)

1. Die Besturende Raad van die Broederbond.
2. Die President van die Nuwe Sjina.
3. Die Wet op Bantu Outoriteite.
4. Omdat daar beweer word dat die afbakening van kiesafdelings sal geskied volgens die aantal geregistreerde kiesers, en nie volgens die bevolkingsyfers nie.
5. Strydom.
6. Die Verenigde Nasies se Onderwys, Wetenskap en Kulturele Organisasie.
7. Elf.
8. Groot-Brittanje, Rusland, Frankryk, V.S.A. en Sjina.
9. Dat alle anti-fascistiese groepe by die eerste bedreiging deur Fascisme alle verskille moet vergeet en as een mag saamveg.
10. Die verswelging van die Afrikaner Party deur die Nasionale Party.

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ITEMS

THE Legion non-European Sub-Committee's draft memorandum on a non-European policy for South Africa is occupying the attention of all active members in Johannesburg. The groups are busy discussing and analysing the memorandum and a special meeting of the Branch Committee has been called for this purpose. It is hoped that more members from other centres will let us know their feelings on this most important matter.

The public meeting at the Phylencia Hall on August 8th was reasonably well attended. Leo Lovell, member of Parliament for Benoni and N.E.C. member, gave an extremely well reasoned (and well delivered) analysis of the present political set-up in South Africa. Mr. Lovell divided the Nationalist's struggle into three periods. The first, immediately following the Anglo-Boer War, was a period of submission. The second, from 1910 until 1931, was a period of struggle for equality. Thereafter the Nationalists have aimed at domination of all other groups. Some intelligent questions and observations came from the floor and contributed to an evening as instructive as it was interesting.

The film show at the August Three-in-One was very enjoyable — so much so that members have requested a speedy follow-up of a similar programme. The September Three-in-One will be a showing of "The Stars Look Down", adapted from Cronin's novel. This film, which is now regarded as a classic, was directed by Carol Reed, British director of "The Third Man," "Odd Man Out", and "The Fallen Idol." Its stars are Michael Redgrave, Margaret Lockwood and Emlyn Williams.

A further dramatic treat for Johannesburg will be the production of "Deep Are The Roots", which opens at the Library Theatre on October 3rd. This wonderful play has a fine producer, an impressive cast (including the lovely English actress, Lesley Brook), and a beautiful set, so there is every indication that the success of last year's "Home

of the Brave" will be repeated. Members are busy on a ticket selling campaign to ensure that the Gala Premiere raises lots of money for the Legion.

"DEEP ARE THE ROOTS"

"ON top the flower is quite beautiful, full of grace and very delicate. But underneath are the robots and occasionally you glimpse them, twisted and crossed as if choking each other."

So speaks Howard Merrick, the novelist from New York, when he describes his malaise during a visit to America's deep South. He is referring to the contradiction between profuse luxuriance of nature and twisted, choking roots of racial prejudice inside human nature.

This is the theme of the play "Deep are the Roots," which I am producing in Johannesburg during the first two weeks of October. It is a play that has all the virtues. I read it two years ago and was profoundly impressed. Last year I saw a performance of it in Aberdeen, Scotland. I was so tremendously moved, almost unbearably moved, that I decided there and then to produce the play in South Africa.

I do so for two reasons: firstly, because it is an unsurpassably good piece of drama for presentation in a theatre. The characters are all 'real': the structure of the play is taut with natural exciting climaxes: dialogue is first class. Secondly, I want to produce this play because the playwrights have something

valid, challenging to the point of being shocking, to say.

And what they say is quite simple; something that audiences will perceive and understand with their hearts as well as with their minds, namely, that, whether skins be black or white, people are after all no more nor less than human beings. You can change the colour of my skin if you like, but you won't change my frail virtues, my personality flaws, my abilities, my basic 'humanity.'

The play, in addition, gets underneath the 'liberalism' of a fine, talented 'liberal' girl. In the crisis of her life, as presented in the play, Alice Langdon's unsuspected race prejudice gets the upper hand for the time being. She acts like "any red-necked planter". How her honesty and courage enable her to recapture her ideals, now purified and strengthened, gives the last act of the play.

Because of my own convictions about this play, because of my eagerness that all worthwhile people should see it, I appeal to all Legionnaires in Johannesburg and along the Reef to make absolutely sure that they and their friends see this magnificent play. You remember how upset people were two years ago, when they couldn't get in to see 'Home of the Brave'? See that you're not in that position with 'Deep are the Roots.'

(Booking at Polliacks on Sept. 20.)

Tickets for the opening night of 'Deep are the Roots' are priced at One Guinea. Legionnaires are asked to reserve seats for that night, if they can afford it, treating expenditure as one way of supporting the Legion, OR every Legionnaire on the Witwatersrand is asked to get vouchers for the Gala Premiere from the Office and to make sure of selling them. We must have a full house that night. We can get it only if YOU sell a couple or more of the First Night vouchers. Please do your bit.

*Een stoet van mensen bezield door één gedachte,
Een nationale eenheid trekt op naar de „Ereplaats”.*

*„Gedenk Uw dooden, die den goeden strijd
Gestreden hebben in gerechtigheid,
Draag voort hun vlam, zij zijn gebleven,
Maar in dien gloed wordt nieuw ons leven.”*

*Een zwijgende mensenmenigte eert
de Grote Dooden bij het ere-monument
in de vierde stad des lands,
de voortschrijdende vrouw met de fakkel.*

TWO BOOK REVIEWS

"The Cruel Sea" and "Mao Tse-Tung"

THE CRUEL SEA . . . Nicholas Monsarrat: Pickwick Bookshop, Africa House, Kerk Street, Johannesburg.

I HAVE seldom read a book of such unflawed authenticity. Events, situations, procedures, characters, all give of a bell-like ring of reality. One wonders how the author could have experienced all these situations single-handed, as it were, so convinced is the reader that every incident described is auto-biographical.

Nicholas Monsarrat has written of World War II as it happened to convoy-escort ships in the North Atlantic. It is a story of fact, of how a corvette is commissioned, of how the ship and the crew are trained to battle-readiness, of how the ship and the men meet their two implacable foes, the U-boats and the cruel sea.

Nothing that Conrad has written surpasses, I think, what Monsarrat has to say of the terrifying, relentless savagery of the North Atlantic tempests. The reader stands in awe of the monstrous magnificence of nature and man's incredible capacity to endure.

The unceasing and unequal combat of the convoys with the U-boat packs during the first four or five years of the war is depicted here with unforgiving realism and detail. The story moves from one dramatic episode to the next, each one initiating the reader into some fresh and unbearable horror, some fresh and heartbreaking audit of pain and death, heroism and endurance.

Monsarrat draws no veils for the squeamish, no asterisks for the delicate. With brutal insistence he forces one's eyes to view the ugly reality of war-time death at sea . . . the men trapped in the messdeck when the torpedo hits, the men in the icy waters too frozen to live through the black night, the Wrens torpedoed, rescued and torpedoed again, the escaping tanker's crew fried to death as the burning oil moves faster than they across the sea's surface, the survivors from a merchantman death-charged to eternity, the sudden destruction of women in the Liverpool blitz.

Time and again the book made me howl with anguish. Too soon have we forgotten the senseless pain and destruction of war. Monsarrat in paying his tribute to the men of the British Navy during World War II has, almost in passing, stirred us to fight not for war but for peace.

Following the history of submarine

warfare in the Atlantic, it was inevitable that the dramatic tension should slacken towards the end. Perhaps that is why the author has unnecessarily introduced the lovely figure of Julie Hallam. But this tailing off of the interest cannot weaken the terrific impact that three-quarters of the book makes.

I recommend it unreservedly.

C.G.W.

* * *

MAO-TSE-TUNG, by Robert Payne. Secker and Warburg.

BIOGRAPHIES are, I imagine, difficult works to write, for not only has the author to give the facts of the subject's life, but he has also to fit them into a pattern and place the biography in its proper historical perspective. It is not sufficient to say, as many do, that "so-and-so" did "such and such" a thing which made him famous. The significance of the event from a geographic, historic, economic or what-have-you aspect must be properly analysed in order that the fame (of infamy) may be fully accounted for.

To Robert Payne's credit, it must be said that he has tried sincerely to fulfil these obligations. To a man of his middle-class background and political outlook, it could not have been an easy task.

Mao Tse-Tung is a leader who arose from the struggle that bred him. Born of peasant parents, his work was among peasants and he organised, trained and led them in a struggle lasting twenty-five years and which was to result in the People's Republic of China with Mao himself as President. Whatever one's political beliefs may be, a study of this amazing man is a fascinating experience. Moreover, a study of Mao's life is a study of contemporary Chinese history and is absolutely essential if one is to understand the events now taking place in the Far East.

Of course it would be naive to say

simply that Mao was just another peasant with certain qualities of leadership. He was by no means "just another" anything. He was and is quite different from the ordinary run of people. He is a political mastermind and a military genius, with perplexing elements of poetry in him. With a price on his head, he was organising Hunanese peasants into guerilla bands at a time when ordinary people would have been afraid to go outdoors. With these small guerilla bands, he was to form an army which defeated first the Japanese and then the Kuomintang.

But of course, neither Mao nor anybody else would have been able to achieve these results had the times not been propitious and had the economic factors not demanded such a historical course. That is Payne's major weakness. He claims quite bluntly in his book that without Mao the Chinese revolt could never have happened, just as the Russian revolution could never have taken place without Lenin. This, of course, is nonsense.

"Mao Tse-Tung" is a thrilling book. It will be intensely interesting to students of history as well as to students of drama, and the famous Long March makes a story of hazardous adventure to satisfy devotees of exciting fiction.

As the first biography of the Chinese leader, this book should be read by everyone interested in contemporary politics. Above all, it paints a picture of what happens to a country when the struggle for survival has reached the stage beyond which it is impossible to go without either one side or the other being eliminated and a new society formed.

J.P.

* * * * *

"Know then thyself, presume not God to scan—The proper study of mankind is Man."—Pope.

CONFERENCE reaffirms the will of the members of the Springbok Legion for World Peace. It reaffirms the conviction of its members that:

- (a) there exists no problem between the Nations that cannot be resolved by peaceful means without resort to war;
- (b) there exists in the United Nations, backed by the will for peace of the peace-loving people of all nations an instrument capable of preserving the peace.

Conference, therefore, pledges itself to continued support for the UNITED NATIONS.

LEGION NON-EUROPEAN POLICY

AN ALTERNATIVE TO "APARTHEID"

AT the last conference of the Springbok Legion held in Johannesburg in April, a resolution was adopted expressing complete disapproval of the Nationalist Government's "Apartheid" policy on the grounds that this policy was inimical to South Africa's social, political and economic interests. Another resolution was adopted outlining an alternative to this policy and at a subsequent meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Legion it was decided to prepare a memorandum based on the resolution adopted at conference, with the eventual object of offering this alternative policy to individuals and organisations throughout South Africa.

The decision to do so was motivated by the knowledge that the policy of apartheid is retrogressive and based on narrow bigoted, self-interested motives, and by the belief that the progressive development of the Non-European people and of the rest of the population do not run counter to each other. This view was ably expressed by the Institute of Race Relations in 1948 when they told Dr. Malan that

"The white race was in no danger except from itself. If it forsook the fundamental principles upon which Western Civilisation was based, then it would be destroyed, not by the Non-European people, BUT BY ITSELF."

The last and most important of the reasons for deciding to publish this memorandum is the belief that with the exception of an extreme section of the population, who are prepared to sacrifice South Africa for their own interests, the average South African will not stand in the way of Non-European progress. He believes that the Non-European should have a "square deal". He is appalled by the squalor and misery

of the "Shantytowns", by the poverty of the Reserves, the lack of housing and the growing danger of the frustrated urban native youths, who have the education and ability, but are denied the opportunities to engage in occupations which offer them more than a miserable pittance.

Unfortunately, the average South African of whom we speak has been led to believe, by the protagonist of 'apartheid' and other such doctrines, that the native is a danger, that he is an inferior being, who does not qualify for ordinary human consideration, that he wants to "marry your sister", live next door to you, take your job, and so on and so on ad nauseam.

Liberal-minded people who advocate a progressive approach to the Non-European problem are labelled "Kafferboeties". The results of this insidious propaganda are manifold. The whole subject is confused by the red herrings dragged across the trail and, what is fundamentally a matter of how to give the Non-European a "Square Deal" becomes a problem riddled with all sorts of bogey anxieties and fears. In addition "Mr. Average South African" has been led to believe that there is something sinister in expressing a progressive opinion on this question, as if he were being unpatriotic or disloyal to his own kind. He consequently evades the issue.

Unfortunately this is an issue that cannot be evaded, because in so doing we help to perpetuate a policy that is rapidly leading to a situation in which no rational solution will be possible.

At the moment the Legion's memorandum is in the course of preparation. Basically it attempts to show that the economic development of South Africa depends on the economic integration of the Non-European people, that the present policy which attempts to reverse the normal flow of labour to industry and which fixes the limits of opportunity of Non-Europeans in industry, is stifling South Africa's industrial progress. The memorandum also tries to show that the employment of Non-Europeans in industry, far from being a threat to European economic security, would create more and better opportunities for Europeans, because of the industrial development that this policy would allow.

In attempts to show that in another sphere of economic activity the Non-European people could become a much greater contributing factor to the national income than they are at present to the ultimate advantage of all South Africans, both white and black.

It is not within the scope of this article, however, to deal exhaustively with the policy itself, but merely to indicate its general direction.

It will be some time yet before the memorandum is finally ready for publication but in the meantime a draft has been prepared and Legion Committees, Branches and Groups, are considering it. We would welcome at this stage individual expressions of opinion on the draft policy from Legion members. Any Legionnaires interested in seeing the draft with a view to submitting suggestions should write to the National Secretary for copies.

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REVIEW

"THEY LIVE BY NIGHT"

AT present touring the Johannesburg Suburban Cinemas is a film of considerable merit, "They live by Night."

It tells the story of a young married couple who are fugitives from the law. The boy was imprisoned at the age of seventeen for murder and, after serving six years of his life sentence, he escaped with two hardened criminals to raise money for lawyers' fees to clear himself of the earlier unjust charge.

The girl, a relation of one of the criminals, is living a completely unfulfilled life and she joins him in his fight, although realising that he is almost certainly doomed. They have a short, happy period together, but in looking for sanctuary for his wife while she gives birth, the boy is betrayed and killed.

The film is illuminated by the sincerity of the writing and the performances and by sympathetic direction and resourceful photography. Cathy O'Donnell, warm, tender, but never makewhisk, makes the girl tremendously appealing and Farley Granger does a good straightforward job as her husband. All the supporting parts are unusually well done, particularly Howard da Silva as the psychopathic bank robber, Society's

responsibility for the couple's flight is very clearly brought out, both directly and by implication.

The film was made a few years ago by R.K.O., under Doré Schare's plan of producing intelligent "B" pictures. The same studio set-up produced "Cross-Fire" among others. Now at M.G.M. Share has been responsible for the production of a number of excellent such films, amongst them "Intruder in the Dust", and "Mystery Street". Look at the same studio's expensively produced rubbish, and you come close to understanding the problem now why we see so few real films. Interestingly, the film was not shown in the large city bios. at all.

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