

# Packed house sees Durban's first world premiere

16/11/51

WORLD  
WIND

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN, Thursday.

"CRY, the Beloved Country," presented tonight—the first world film premiere in Durban—was seen by a packed and distinguished house.

## Faces trial for murder bid

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

JOHANNES CORNELIUS SWANEPOEL (38), a miner, of Third Street, Greymont, was today committed for trial on a charge of attempted murder.

The Crown alleged at a preparatory examination in the Magistrate's Court that on October 24 Swanepoel fired at Constable M. H. van der Westhuizen, of the Newlands police, during a struggle in Third Street, Greymont, after Constable van der Westhuizen had gone to a house in the street to investigate a complaint of disturbance of the peace.

Swanepoel pleaded not guilty. Bail of £50 was allowed to stand.—Sapa.

## MORE SHOES MADE IN S. AFRICA

PRETORIA, Thursday. — Figures released by the Bureau of Census and Statistics in Pretoria today showed that 14,182,000 pairs of footwear (all kinds) were produced during the first 10 months of the year. This is an increase of 1,018,000 over the figure for the corresponding period of last year.

Of the total, 11,496,000 pairs were leather footwear, compared with 10,543,000 pairs during that period of last year.—Sapa.

The Administrator and Mrs. Shepstone, the Judge-President and Mrs. F. N. Broome, the Mayor and Mayoress of Durban and a concourse of leading social, professional and official dignitaries, all in the full evening dress of a gala performance, were present.

The film, both in conception and achievement, carries all the restlessness, the tragedy and the unknown grim future that Alan Paton's moving book tells of. It takes one from simple, homely mealie fields, the huts with the scraggy cows of the Natives' kkraal life into the agitated atmosphere of the goldfields, squelches through squalor, crime and social complexities of the Rand's tintown civilisation, and returns once more to hills.

## Tragic story

Through all the changing scenes runs the tragic story of the parson Kumalo in search for an errant son, a story that delves into the many facets of Black and White relationships, social evils and the seeming endlessness of a tragic Black destiny.

The weight of the story with its tenseness and ugly message falls on Canada Lee's portrayal of Kumalo, which is at once faithful, convincing and at times deeply emotional. Most of the other parts are minor in comparison, but in every case—particularly in the case of the inexperienced local Native players—the parts are extremely well done.

The picture needs probably to be seen more than once to catch up fully on its message and some of its argument, and because of its restlessness, constant scene changes and some of its philosophy is likely to cause controversy. It is, however, a great production which firmly and convincingly portrays both the tenseness and the message that the Maritzburg author so colourfully puts into words.

But there is one very disturbing factor about the film—if it is shown overseas in the form we saw it tonight, then it is going to present to the world the suggestion that the lot of the Native in this country is one of squalid living, endless crime and an insoluble relationship with his White masters.

## JOHANNESBURG PREMIERE

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

— Alan Paton's "Cry, The Beloved Country" was shown in Johannesburg tonight at the most brilliant film premiere ever seen in South Africa.

More than 2,000 people packed the Colosseum Theatre to watch the arrival of the Prime Minister, Dr. D. F. Malan, and Mrs. Malan, the High Commissioner for the Union, Sir John le Rougetel, and Lady de Rougetel, and the Minister of Defence, Mr. F. C. Erasmus, and Mrs. Erasmus.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Paton, Mrs. W. Nicol, wife of the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Anderson, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Johannesburg, Mr. and Mrs. I. E. B. Attwell, were in the Prime Minister's party.—Sapa.