



Prof. Botha said HOFFIE was a hard judge of a man's morality. Sometimes he was inclined to push people because of their character. He was not a creative genius. Administratively he was magnificent. Re facts and figures he was a genius, and B. had never met his equal in this respect. He was the opposite of Pirow and was not interested in force, military matters, etc. He was Liberal in the best sense of the word. H's magnificent speech in Parliament (see Haigh) was a combination of marvellous humility with marvellous conviction about things in which he believed.

(X) He was sometimes too gentle for B. When B. was busy starting the Medical School in Pretoria, he said that the English Press was not representative of the best English opinion in the Transvaal. B. wanted £50,000 from the City Council and the English-speaking Press opposed him. He told the Press to "go on with their dirty work." H. was shocked at B. and said B. had said a terrible thing. He said Smuts would be offended. B. apologised to H. "He was more of a gentleman than I was," said B. (article in Huisgenoot)

(X) He thought H. was out of place - he should have grown up on the Platteland, been to a war, have married, perhaps. B. said he would never forgive the Nats for the way they attacked H. He was a tragic figure in the last couple of years. He would not achieve catharsis by telling the Nats where they got off. He had no intimate friends to blow off to.

(Ask Maynard Page and van Schalwyk about the origins of the C. Act)

One day B. went to the house. Mrs. H. said, "If you go on like this, you will kill my son." She even blamed B. for her son's doing so much work. B. thought she was a marvellous mother but in many ways had spoiled H's life.

Mrs. H. and H. and a man who played a great part in old League of Nations and B. were motoring out to Pretoria. She made a remark and H. said to the man, "You see what I have to put up with." It was a joke, of course.

Once B. forgot Mrs. H's birthday. He rang H. up and said, "I have done a terrible thing and forgotten your mother's birthday." H. said, "Yes, that's a terrible thing." B. bought an expensive box of chocolates and took it as a peace offering. B. admitted the disgrace. "Yes," said Mrs. H. "it is a disgrace, but I'll take the chocolates."

B. said he felt a love for H. but never told him. B. could never get on to common ground with H. and sometimes felt he could shake him.

PROF. BOTHA: contd.

B. said H. was very frugal, both with his own money and with the State's. One year B's money for Social Welfare was exhausted before the year was out. He asked H. for more money, but H. was unwilling. I said, "What a pity you aren't married and have children." H. said, "I have my mother." B. said, "I'm sorry, I forgot, you have your mother."

B. thought H. often allowed his intellect to cramp his emotions.

H. was very impatient with Professors. B. asked him why he was against Professors. H. said, "They are so unpractical." When Theo wanted to go to Bloemfontein, H. said to B. "It would kill him in threemonths." B. taxed him about being a Professor and yet an administrator, and H. retorted, "I know one too, he's Secretary for Education."

H. said to B., "You mustn't write these reports so well; they give me too much work in Parliament."

Once Gen Hertzog wanted to prevent teachers from entering Parliament (about 1938 or 9). H. came to B. and said, "You're in the soup; your Annual Report aims at the PM." B. said to him, "It doesn't. Have you any objections to it?". H. said, "No - we need people like you."

Once B. gave the degrees at Fort Hare. He showed H. his speech. "Ah," he said, "I could not dare to speak like that."

B. told how Malherbe wasted H's time.

(See Leif Egeland).

*Strange -
Bottha
didn't like
teachers in
politics.*