

Feb. 15
Great Tragedy
Handled With
Fine Skill *Paton (Chic) Daily News*

CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY

By Alan Paton
(Charles Scribner's Sons)

There is definitely a new lift and a new look to the type of fiction being published in 1948. Add to the list of those books that have already won wide acclaim, the name of "Cry, The Beloved Country," a story of South Africa, "a story of comfort in desolation."



ALAN PATON

[Seldom do you find writing as picturesque and appealing, characters so perfectly drawn.]

This is the story of Kumalo, a humble native Zulu parson. In answer to a plea from a fellow minister in Johannesburg, he sets out to that big city to give help to his only sister who left the quiet valley many years back in search of her husband. Like so many others, he had been lost in the great mines. And while in the "city of evil," the unpleasant task of searching for his only son Absalom looms before Kumalo. Absalom, too, had disappeared into the great city and now is the time to find him.

Kumalo found his ^siter, living a life of sin and corruption. His search for Absalom leads him through the squalor and filth of the native sections and you know that they are just as the author pictures them. Painfully, the beloved Kumalo picks up the trail of his son, leading from one petty crime to another, from one reformatory to another. The trail finally ends in prison where Absalom is being held for the murder of a white man, Jarvis, a man who had devoted his life to justice for the black race, and whose father had a large plantation in the pastor's home town.

[The great tragedy is superbly handled.] The two fathers become friends and try to work out some means of common understanding. This is a sad book, an indictment of a social system which drives the native race into resentment and crime. And in addition to all this it is an excellent story of the land of South Africa, its people, its customs and its unrest.—
RAE BURICK.