

PC111/7/30/4



Not
7 July 2

This letter in reply (somewhat belated I fear) to yours of the 7th June is being written under difficulties, but better I suppose to write under difficulties than not to write at all. I am in fact clearing up the arrears of my correspondence accumulated during my holiday, while on my way back home in the train, and our trains with their narrower gauge are much less steady than yours.

I have just had a fortnight camping on the South Coast of Natal, which is one of the most delightful parts of the whole world. It is of course now the middle of our winter which does not suggest a camping holiday, but the Natal coast winter climate is delightfully mild, and ordinarily almost rainless. This year however the elements played a trick on us. We had heavy rain all but continuously for more than 24 hours. A rain gauge 4 miles away recorded 15 inches and I don't think we had any less. The result of course was the washing away of road and railway bridges, and for a day or two we were virtually marooned. Not of course ideal camping weather, but a wonderful experience to see Nature in one of its wildest moods.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the holiday and feel quite freshened up again after the session. You will be interested to know that I am thinking of employing the recess - except for such of it as will be taken up in political touring - in reading Law, with a view to getting a qualification for practice at the Bar. I don't suppose that I shall ever do much at the Bar - I shall be starting too late for that - but it will be useful as a second string, and provide a certain amount of interesting occupation during the recesses between sessions.

I was sorry to hear of your father's illness. I hope he is quite himself again. Please give him and your mother my greetings. My mother I am glad to say keeps fit though perhaps not as active as she used to be.

The session ended early in June, leaving the Govt's position considerably weakened by the unpopularity of the financial expedients on which the depression forced it to embark. Since then the two factions of Labour have made peace and formed a United Labour Party. It is almost inevitable that they will press for the breaking of the Pact, but it is by no means clear that Col. Creswell will be willing to resign. In any case his political career is ended and it may be that he will decide to stick to office for as long as he can, even at the cost of severing his connection with the official Labour party.

The new Steenkamp party has been launched, not however with quite as much success as at one time seemed likely. But it is still too early to say whether and to what extent the movement will spread, and in how far it will weaken the Govt's position. In any case the political position continues to be full of interest, and a general election next year is quite within the bounds of possibility.



I am glad that you received my book - it was not part of the bargain that you should read it. It has been very well received out here. So far I have seen no oversea reviews, except a somewhat colourless one in the TLS. But I fear my interest in it is largely mercenary. It was written under great difficulties, and very far from being the best that I can do. I have therefore no strong paternal affection for it. But at least it will bring in a little money which is more than can be said of anything else that I have ever published,

Out of pity for your eyes I must stop. All good wishes.