

stresses attended a very successful course at Edendale near Pietermaritzburg for 3 days. They learn to cut basic patterns and will allow be able to pass on their knowledge to others.

### Is the Club worth supporting?

The women would reply: "How else can we stay at home with our children and earn a regular income? Some of us are already earning as much as our men who work on farms—some are even earning more. But most important — we are learning and earning at the same time."

Also being established in the area are Pottery and Basket-making industries. The former is producing the traditional khambas or clay pots and a variety of soup bowls, caseroles, tea pots and ornamental figures. The women take a course in pottery and then return to their homes where they can carry on their work. Some of the articles made are sold in the Limehill area, others are to be sold elsewhere. The aim is to develop their traditional craft, and not to teach them a European art. They are shown how to utilise patterns and shapes which come naturally to them, decorating them with the designs of their beadwork and murals.

Costs of the Pottery Industry are kept to a minimum by using the clay available in the area, by using a home-made kiln which cost R25 to construct, and by using some of the cheaper glazes. The women who come to Maria Ratschitz Mission to take the pottery course are paid a subsistence wage which will be recovered by a tax on their work sold.

### Basket making

This was started about 2 years ago at Maria

While we are considering the railway disaster I should like to raise another point. A report appeared in one of our newspapers to the effect that the Johannesburg City Council would not endorse out of Johannesburg the widows of those people killed in the accident. I think that this is a wonderful gesture. Perhaps South Africans should pat themselves on the back for it. But I should like to know why we here in South Africa should have to make such a statement at all. I think that the fact that this idea should have to occur to anybody is disgrace to all of us.

Mr. L. E. D. Winchester.  
Hansard No. 3. Col. 1092.

Ratschitz Mission, mainly to provide work for aged and infirm Africans in the area. The raw material for this work grows in the area—the osier willow. Again, the system is the same; the women are taught to make the osiers into baskets and chairs at the Mission and then return to their homes to teach others as well as make for themselves and to sell. The chairs are made by weaving osiers onto a welded metal frame, and are fitted with cushions, and orders from Johannesburg have already been received.

Here is a practical example of home industries in African areas, supervised by Europeans at the Mission and augmenting the income of the people to a considerable extent, and at the same time giving the people a new self-respect and independence. Encouraging these schemes is surely more sensible than handing out charity.

1945

TO MR. X.

Now that you are returning to civilian life, I wish to express to you the thanks of your country for the part you have played in this great world struggle. You volunteered for military service; you made the sacrifice for South Africa and in the wider cause of world freedom. You and your comrades upheld the honour and the interests of South Africa. For all this I express our warm thanks to you.

The aftermath of war and the process of readjustment are likely to produce many difficulties and problems. Patience and tolerance will be needed and the demands upon your courage and spirit of service will remain as great as ever. I am sure you will be prepared in the tasks that lie ahead to render your country and your fellowmen equal unselfish service.

With all good wishes for your future.

J. C. Smuts,  
Minister of Defence.

1969

MR. X is now 70-years-old. He suffers from Tuberculosis. He is living in the resettlement area of Klipgat. In February of this year he was fined R19 for refusing to take part in a labour squad called by the Headman. He had to borrow money to pay the fine and cannot repay it. He did not know, nor was he told the procedure for appealing against the sentence until it was too late.