

farmer to obtain from it an adequate living for himself and his family. Initially these holdings would be leased to the "new farmers" who were emerging from the agricultural colleges and training farms, but, after a trial period, all "new farmers", who seemed capable of making a success of the venture, should be given an opportunity of purchasing this holding on easy terms. A sufficient number of these holdings would be grouped together to warrant a central depot from which the farmers could hire heavy agricultural implements, and at which a team of agricultural experts could be based to give advice and assistance to the farmers on all aspects of farming. The tenants and owners would be encouraged to form an association and to organise co-operative marketing of the produce of the holdings and also bulk buying of seeds, etc.

3. The acquiring of sufficient land for the scheme outlined under (2) would be an enormous problem in itself. Obviously the Government would have to purchase land from individual owners for this purpose and would have to have the right to compulsorily acquire land which could not be purchased by private negotiation. Would it be too much to hope that, once the above scheme had proved itself, something like India's Bhoodan could be instituted to provide land for the landless?
4. The above scheme could not initially be tried in the "Native Reserves", but it might be later on when the population of the reserves had been considerably reduced by these land settlement schemes and by other methods.

I hope these thoughts will form a basis for discussion and will draw comments from readers of *Contact*.

Yours sincerely,

JACK CAUSTON

---

## PARTY NEWS

### NATIONAL AND CAPE

Arrangements are almost complete for the holding of the National Committee meeting in Johannesburg on April 27/28. Indications are that there will be a good turn-out of members from all provinces. The Agenda is being kept to a bare minimum, in order to allow full discussion of the Native Laws Bill and other matters, vitally affecting the Party, which have arisen since the Congress. It is hoped that there will be time, however, to clear up some matters still outstanding from Congress.

Patrick Duncan returned home briefly from Cape Town and then set off to Johannesburg, where he spent a fortnight working with Jordan Ngubane.

In the Western Cape the full financial results of Patrick Duncan's visit are not yet known. In the meantime the Committee itself is organising a new financial drive and Mrs. Stott is busy establishing a women's committee to undertake Party work.

### TRANSVAAL

A full report of the Jordan Ngubane/Patrick Duncan visit to the Transvaal will appear next month but it would be quite wrong to think that this was the only Party activity going on. Main interest, of course, centres on the Pretoria Provincial Council By-Election, which is being contested on behalf of the Party by Mrs. Margaret Brink. The election is serving to confront people with a challenge they have not faced before in a city not noted for its liberal attitudes and Mrs. Brink and her supporters deserve all the support the Party can give them, for their courage and enthusiasm in undertaking a very difficult task.

Another rather different field in which the Party has been very active lately is in Sophiatown. After a small start the Sophiatown Branch of the Party now has some 200 members. Members have been working actively to help residents in their difficulties with the Natives Resettlement Board and there is no doubt that this practical assistance has done a great deal to bring the Party into prominence in the area.

## NATAL

During the month two public meetings addressed by members of the Party were held. The first, a specifically Liberal Party affair, was an address given in Stanger by John Didcott on the "Struggle Against Fascism". The meeting was attended by over sixty people and, from all accounts, they were treated to a brilliant talk. At Edendale Leo Kuper spoke to a meeting of the general public on the contents and implications of the Separate Universities and Native Laws Bills. The meeting was held primarily to spread information on the two Bills but out of it arose some very pertinent questions on the Liberal Party and its plan of campaign in the face of these repeated Government attacks on democratic values.

This is Annual General Meeting time in Natal and this last month has seen the Kokstad, Pietermaritzburg, and Edendale Branches hold theirs. In spite of the fact that it was held when the Verwoerd Bill was in its original form the Kokstad meeting had a record attendance. Although the majority of branch members are Africans, and liable to all sorts of intimidation, the meeting was remarkable for the very determined spirit shown. So also was the Pietermaritzburg meeting which was also held when things looked blackest.

During the next few weeks, meetings are due to be held at Winterton, Greytown, Pentrich, Pinetown as well as in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

---

Liberal Party addresses in the larger centres are: 47 Parliament Street, Cape Town; 268 Longmarket St, Pietermaritzburg; 25 Plowright Buildings, Plowright Lane, Durban; c/o Mrs. S. Stakemire, 21 Princess Road, East London; 69 New Kempsey Buildings, Fox and Joubert Streets, Johannesburg.

---

"CONTACT" is the monthly Newsletter of the Liberal Party of South Africa, and is edited by P. M. Brown, 268 Longmarket Street, Pietermaritzburg.

Printed by the Natal Witness (Pty) Ltd., at 244 Longmarket Street, Pietermaritzburg.