

another. And these are only some of the people who have found the weight of Government policy pressing ever more heavily on them during the last twelve months.

Happiness and prosperity, as Mr. Strauss says, can very easily be illusions. In South Africa, for many people, they probably are. But how many thinking people possess even the illusion of these desirable prizes to-day. Uncertainty and fear are probably the most common bed-fellows of most of us. Almost everyone is afraid of almost everyone else . . . particularly if that other happens to be of a different colour or to speak a different language. Those who are most afraid are those who know least about the people they fear. As apartheid drives us into increasing mutual ignorance so will we suffer this increasing mutual fear and suspicion. Along the apartheid road one of the early stages is that at which those other illusions of peace and rest, which Mr. Strydom finds so satisfying, will desert even the unthinking. Soon to follow will be that prosperity of which we boast to-day, its foundations cracked and crumbling under the impact of mistrust and resentment.

A gloomy picture? Certainly! But also a challenging picture. And so, at the beginning of this new year, the Liberal Party does not send its members a message of good cheer or of encouragement. Instead it sends them a challenge. A challenge to each individual member to do something in 1956 to replace that foundation of mistrust and resentment with one of faith and mutual trust. It can be done and it is for Liberals to do it. It can't be done if we simply go through the motions of membership of the Party and then sit back and hope for the best. It can be done if each of us resolves **now** to do more work for the Party this year, to make a deliberate effort to persuade more people to join it, to break new ground in friendships across the social barriers which divide us, and at all times to live and propagate the way of life in which we believe.

The task for 1956 is not easy. It will probably not be pleasant. It promises no early rewards. But our failure to make the effort now faces South Africa with a future almost too awful to contemplate. What will **you** do to meet the challenge this year?

PARTY NEWS

NATIONAL

Annual Subscriptions: Annual subscriptions are now due! Could you **PLEASE** send yours off to-day? You have no idea of the amount of extra work in which our very limited office staff is involved each year, in collecting outstanding subscriptions. We can't afford to waste this time or energy. Will you make your good deed for to-day that of sending off your subscription to your nearest Party Office? Please add to it anything you can spare in the way of a donation.

National Committee Meeting: The National Committee met in Cape Town on Saturday, January 14th, to discuss a number of important questions of policy and organisation.

In keeping with an agreement made when the Party was first formed, and allowing for the rotation of National Headquarters between Provinces, the National Office will shortly move to Natal. It will be in the same building as the Natal Provincial Office, at 240 Church Street, Pietermaritzburg. In order to relieve pressure on the Party's Parliamentary representatives and to keep the National Office Bearers in close touch with the administration of the Party, Prof. Leo Kuper, of Durban, will be Acting National Chairman and Mr. Peter Brown will be Deputy Chairman until permanent appointments are made at the next National Congress. Provincial Divisions are being asked to suggest where and when this next Congress should be held and there is a possibility that it will take place in July.

The National Committee authorised an increase in the size of the National Executive, the Party's effective executive body. In addition to consisting of Office Bearers, Parliamentary Representatives, etc., the Committee will now have four additional members from the Cape and three each from Natal and the

Transvaal. The National Committee itself has been strengthened by the co-option of Mr. Patrick Duncan, who will represent the Orange Free State.

After unsuccessful efforts to appoint a National Organiser the National Committee has decided to advertise for a suitable person. Ideally, of course, the Committee would like to make the appointment from amongst existing members and anyone who is at all interested is urgently asked to get into touch with the nearest office of the Party.

On questions of policy the Committee accepted the principle of a most important memorandum submitted by Mr. Donald Molteno. The memorandum pleaded for the Party to commit itself to calling a National Convention, on coming into power. The Convention, representative of all South Africans, would be asked to draft a new Constitution outlawing racial discrimination in any form. The Constitution would be subject to amendment, not by Parliament itself, but only with the agreement of the representatives of all groups. This, briefly and inadequately, is the idea behind the memorandum. It will now be redrafted by a sub-committee and included in the Handbook as a statement of the Party's Constitutional Policy. Its object is to name and guarantee the rights of every individual and to try to remove fears of any one group of domination by any other group.

A Transvaal resolution on Junior membership will go forward to the National Congress. The Land and Agricultural Policy will also be sent to the Congress, after members of the Commission have studied the Tomlinson report and other material which may become available, and introduced any necessary changes in their recommendations.

CAPE

Chief activity of the Division during December was the sponsorship of a fund-raising dance held in Cape Town shortly before Christmas and attended by about 300 people. Messrs. Tikili and Brodie spent a great deal of time and energy in behind-the-scenes activity before the dance.

Since New Year most people's energies have been taken up with preparations for the Provincial Congress. This was opened with a public meeting in the Banqueting Hall of the Cape Town City Hall on the evening of January 13th. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Bunny Curran, M.P.C., Sen. L. Rubin and Mr. Leo Marquard. Mrs. Ballinger was in the chair and about a hundred people attended.

The Congress met in private session on Sunday, 15th, and was attended by some 60 delegates and observers, including a strong contingent from the Eastern Cape. Among important resolutions passed were these:

One protesting at the delay in the Government's announcement of the results of the inquiry into mail-tampering allegations and calling for a judicial inquiry. Another protesting against the removal of Africans from their homes under the Natives' Urban Areas Act. Bus apartheid proposals for Cape Town were deplored "not only in principle but as a measure likely to add to the cost of transport and to cause inconvenience to all sections of the people". The Congress condemned the proposed Industrial Conciliation Bill and deplored the Government's decision to press for segregation in Universities against the recommendations of the Holloway Commission. It further objected to the dismissal of African teachers who have opposed the Bantu Education Act, and called for their immediate reinstatement.

The Congress decided to contest seats in the Cape at the next general election and, to this end, to start a special election fund immediately.

NATAL AND TRANSVAAL

During the last month there has been no great activity in Natal. Shortly before Christmas a small public meeting was held at Pentrich, just outside Maritzburg. The nucleus of a new branch was recruited and the Regional Committee plans to hold a follow-up meeting, dealing particularly with Group Areas matters, during February. The House meeting arranged by the Stanger Branch during December, and addressed by Leo Kuper, Violaine Junod and

Leon Lewis, attracted almost a hundred people and seems to have been a considerable success.

Fund-raising efforts have met with some success and we are particularly grateful to Mrs. Anderson and Miss Rogers, of the Coastal Region, who organised a jumble sale and a book sale respectively and brought some £35 into our coffers.

One of the most important of recent events was a visit paid by Messrs. Peter Mtinkulu, Jordan Ngubane and Peter Brown to Northern Natal. The visit was spread over two days and included a successful meeting at Charlestown. Most important was the amount of information collected on threats to African free-holders in this area. It seems that a campaign to publicise these dangers will be one of the Division's most important activities during 1956.

On their way to the National Committee meeting from Johannesburg, Transvaal members paid a visit to Kimberley and held a house-meeting of interested people. Over twenty people were present and at the end of the meeting a Kimberley Branch of the Liberal Party was formally established.

LIBERAL PARTY BALANCE SHEET

DEBIT

1. The Free State Rugby Union has unanimously supported the City Council ban on non-Europeans at the new Free State Stadium, even if separate facilities are provided.
2. At Memphis, Tennessee, final plans have been laid to try to bind the pro-segregation forces of the Southern States into one big political movement.
3. In Pietermaritzburg a motion that "The Liberal Party is a retrogressive force in the struggle for human rights" was carried at a debate organised by the Indian Technical Students' Society.
4. Governor Marvin Griffin recently declared that the people of Georgia must never surrender to the decision of the United States Supreme Court, which has banned segregation in public schools.

CREDIT

1. The Goldfields District Cricket Association will support the Free State Union in opposing the Bloemfontein City Council's ban on non-European spectators at the Free State Stadium
2. Mr. and Mrs. G. Depuy, owners of a Lake George, New York, barber shop, were fined £35 for refusing to cut the hair of a Negro orchestra leader.
3. The first suit seeking an end to racial segregation in Kentucky's schools has ended in favour of Negro pupils in Adair County.
4. "Deeply ingrained there is a lie in the soul of this country—that there is an essential difference in men, and that one race or group is essentially superior to another. A lie repeated often enough soon disguises itself as the truth. This is the method of the Evil One." Father Raymond Raynes, of the Community of the Resurrection.
5. "I met one responsible neutral journalist who said that, if a historian should write the history of South Africa in the year 2,000, the outstanding event of the 1950's would not be the Malan-Strydom advance to power but the creation of the Liberal Party." John Gunther in "Inside Africa".

Liberal Party addresses in the larger centres are: 47 Parliament Street, Cape Town; 240 Church Street, Pietermaritzburg; 25 Plowright Buildings, Plowright Lane, Durban; c/o Mrs. S. Stakemire, 21 Princes Road, East London; c/o Mrs. P. Lange, 2b Lawrence Street, Port Elizabeth.

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