

PARTY NEWS

NATIONAL AND CAPE

A successful Public Meeting was held in the Mowbray Town Hall on Thursday, June 23rd. A vigorous and inspiring address was given by Donald Molteno, Q.C., on the subject "Liberty is Indivisible." Leo Marquard took the Chair and Mr. Molteno was supported by Walter Stanford, M.P., and Dr. O. D. Wollheim.

Towards the end of the Parliamentary session considerable public interest and indignation were aroused by the refusal to issue a passport to Mr. Sidney Katz, an active member of the Party in the Cape. Mr. Katz was to attend a meeting of the co-ordinating Secretariat of National Student Unions, a body, with headquarters in Leyden, set up in opposition to the Communist dominated International Union of Students, whose headquarters are in Prague. No adequate reason for the refusal of the passport was given.

With the Parliamentary session ending rather sooner than was expected the meeting of the National Executive, which was to have been held in late June, has now been postponed to late July or early August and will take place in Johannesburg.

TRANSVAAL

During the last month energetic steps have been taken to establish a Youth Branch of the Liberal Party in the Transvaal. A foundation group has met and now plans to hold two gatherings during July to recruit members and spread the idea of a Youth Branch. The Branch itself will be formally established at a big meeting which is planned to take place during August. It is hoped to attract young people both above and below eighteen years—the minimum age for membership of the Party at present—and application has been made to the National Committee to introduce a special category of membership for those below this age.

A proposal by Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Coggan that a letter, written by a prominent Liberal and stating the case for liberalism and the Liberal Party, be widely distributed amongst non-members, has been received with great enthusiasm. The Coggans have undertaken to address 2,000 envelopes a month, and eleven other people have promised to help them. It is hoped that the letter will be ready for posting within six weeks.

There has been considerable fund-raising activity during the month. Besides several small projects larger sums of money have been brought in by a cake sale, a book sale and an evening of readings of some of her most recent short stories by Nadine Gordimer.

NATAL

During the last month a number of successful small meetings have taken place in Natal. At a house meeting held in Stanger about fifty people were present and a new branch of the Liberal Party was formed. Two nights later a meeting was held for the first time in Estcourt. People attended from as far afield as Ladysmith and other surrounding towns and a number of new members were recruited. The following night the Provincial Secretary visited Kokstad and attended a meeting of members. The Kokstad Branch of the Party was formally established and a committee elected.

Since this last meeting in Kokstad was held Mr. Walter Stanford, M.P., has visited there on his report-back tour. He was met by Mr. E. G. M. Njisane of the Natal Provincial Executive and these two addressed a meeting of interested local Africans.

In Durban the office has been kept busy collecting subscriptions and arranging activities. A successful jumble sale was held on July 2nd and plans are now being made to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Coastal Region of the Party early in August. The Provincial Committee has also decided to make tentative arrangements for the Provincial Congress of the Party to be held in Durban or Pietermaritzburg on October 15th.

The Natal Division is looking forward to a fund-raising visit from Robin Spence during August. He will spend a fortnight trying to raise money in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

We have been lucky in having Senators William Ballinger and Leslie Rubin with us for a few days recently. Unfortunately their visits coincided with the July season, when it is almost impossible to arrange anything in Durban, but a very pleasant dinner party was held by Leo Kuper at which those present were able to get some first-hand impressions of the recent session.