

PARTY NEWS

CAPE and NATIONAL

The National Executive Committee will meet in Johannesburg on June 24th. Members from all four Provinces will attend.

In Cape Town a protest meeting against proposals to remove Coloured women from the Municipal Voters' Roll was planned but was cancelled when the objectionable clauses in the Provincial Ordinance were withdrawn by the Administrator. Instead a meeting of members was held and, in addition, it is planned to hold a lunch-hour meeting under the title "You Are Right, Father Huddleston" soon after publication of the counter-blast to "Naught For Your Comfort".

The Eastern Cape Region has been active this month, highlight of its programme being a meeting of representatives of Eastern Cape branches, held in Grahamstown and attended by over 30 people. Discussion ranged over a number of subjects including the question of contesting elections, contributing more towards Party funds, making regular contributions towards *Contact* and so on. The Regional Associations agreed that the National Congress be held in East London later in the year, provided the East London branch could cater for it.

An important resolution taken at this meeting resulted in a telegram being sent to the Minister of Native Affairs protesting against the dismissal of African teachers "with no appeal to the Courts and under instructions from the Minister which forced the hand of the School Boards". In a piously worded reply the Minister's Private Secretary says that "no Bantu teachers were dismissed simply on ground of matter of opinion" and ends his letter with the sentence "True liberalism should be unprejudiced and investigate all aspects before taking sides". While we appreciate the lesson on what constitutes "true liberalism", coming as it does from such an eminent authority on the subject, it can do no harm to point out that the reply fails to deal with the question of dismissal without appeal to the Courts and completely avoids one of the cardinal issues raised—that the Minister had exerted pressure on School Boards to secure the dismissal of the teachers concerned.

TRANSVAAL

The energies of the Transvaal Division are being concentrated on fighting the Municipal by-election in the Berea Ward of Johannesburg. Miss Ruth Hayman is standing as an independent candidate with the support of the Liberal Party, the Congress of Democrats and a number of prominent ex-U.P. supporters. She is a member of the Liberal Party. The main issue in the election, apart from questions of general principle, is the decision of the United Party-controlled City Council to co-operate with Dr. Verwoerd in the implementation of the "Locations in the Sky" Act.

As soon as the election is over the next in the series of meetings in African residential areas will take place in Sophiatown. In addition it is planned to arrange a tour of inspection of African housing conditions, with particular reference to the Western Areas Removal Scheme, for members and interested people. This will take place immediately after the election and, if it is a success, will be followed up by other similar tours.

Fund-raising efforts have met with considerable success lately and the good financial position of the Division has enabled it to embark on the publication of a new pamphlet.

NATAL and O.F.S.

Highlight of the month in Natal was an Inter-racial Variety Show entitled "Good Neighbours" put on in the Wesley Hall, Durban, by the Coastal Region. Crystal Rogers and her helpers are to be congratulated on the success of the evening and particularly for the extremely efficient manner in which the performance was run. Members of all groups took part before a thoroughly representative audience and the hall was packed. Besides providing everyone with a very pleasant evening the show also made a small profit.

Small house-meetings have been held at Winterton, Ladysmith, Balgovan and Kokstad during the last month. Although mainly confined to members a number of non-members attended each of these meetings, with some profit to the Party in terms of new members recruited. In the Pietermaritzburg Region plans to hold a protest meeting against the removal of Sobantu Village have been postponed pending the receipt by the City Council of a reply to a letter sent by them to Dr. Verwoerd asking him to visit the City.

Arising out of the recent Group Areas Conference organised by the N.I.C. in Durban a Provincial Vigilance Committee has been appointed. The Liberal Party is represented by Alan Paton, who is vice-chairman, and Ken Hill.

The O.F.S. Committee of the Party met on May 31st and will send a delegation to the S.A.B.R.A. Conference which will take place in Bloemfontein shortly.

YOU SCANDALISED OUR NAME

*You fed on our moshbolletjies
You ate our fish and game
You drank our tea, our beer, our wine,
Then scandalised our name.*

*You took our nationality
You breathed our southern air
You travelled through our Great Karroo
At half the usual fare.*

*For you our jacarandas bloomed
And spread the streets with blue
For you our graceful springboks sprang
Our ringhals rang for you.*

*You sat beneath our doringboom
You shared its shelter too
With all its many branches and
A special branch for you.*

*Come back again, best-selling monk,
We've another cell for you,
With Government hospitality,
And naught for your comfort too.*