

Hospital Hill constituency and other seats may also be contested. What prospects there are of success can only be judged by the people on the spot. Important as the winning of an election is, there are other advantages to be gained from an election campaign. The name of the Party is brought to the front-doors of a number of the electorate ; the policies of the Party are distributed and are publicly debated ; the Party's members take part in a campaign which calls for a common and combined effort from them. Finally, other political parties are forced to meet the challenge with which the Liberal Party confronts them. All these things are, in themselves, worth while.

PRESS COMMENTS

The publication of the Party's first newspaper *Liberal News* was widely reported and several papers ran a picture of Mrs. Ballinger and Mr. Gibson (Cape Western candidate) inspecting the first issue.

In the *Natal Daily News* "Crossbencher" comments on the fact that during the last year Liberalism has come into the open and the public is not nearly so disconcerted as might have been expected. Of the Party he writes, "The Liberal Party, for all its extreme youth, its small membership and its Puritan principles, is held in notable respect, not least by the Nationalists who see . . . the thing they fear most of all—an anti-Nationalist alliance of White and Black". He feels that, with the gradual acceptance by white people of partnership with the Non-European, "an historic stage is being reached" in South Africa.

Three different Indian newspapers carried leading articles criticising the Natal Indian Congress's recent criticisms of the Liberal Party's franchise policy and method of struggle. *Indian Opinion* considers that one of the "essential principles of satyagraha is never to lose an opportunity of honourable compromise if it can be found". It thinks that the proposed franchise of the Liberal Party "on a common roll but loaded for the time being" is a step forward which should not be spurned but to which serious thought should be given. These sentiments are themselves a step forward and the Party would welcome more Non-European support along the same lines.

In Natal considerable publicity has been given to the Party in different ways. Both the *Natal Witness* and the *Daily News* quoted extensively from the leading article in February's *Contact*. The Party's meeting at Kokstad was very well reported and in addition, "Crossbencher" of the *Daily News* gave up his column to Mr. Paton's "Liberal Point of View" on Mr. Strauss's integration speech in the Assembly. At Kokstad Mr. Paton again stressed the fact that the path which led to a common society was the only one which could be followed if South Africa was to be saved. In his article in the *Daily News* Mr. Paton praised Mr. Strauss's speech although he also found grounds for criticism. The U.P. had at last moved forward from the vague country in which it had for so long lived. However, Mr. Paton regretted that the speech dealt only with the material motives for extending political rights. "Admittedly", he said, "it is difficult to stress these moral motives in politics ; but they are real and very powerful". Speaking of the Liberals he wrote "It is said they go too far and too fast ; they must continue to go as far and as fast as they think it is right for them to do. By going as far and as fast as they have they have at least caused some movement, some break in an iron system, which if not broken will break us all".

From the Afrikaans Press there have been lurid details of what will happen in South Africa if Liberalism is persisted with. *Die Vaderland*, apropos of the formation of *Liberal News*, does not doubt the intellectual honesty of the Party but wonders if the ultimate results of our "unpractical idealism" have been sufficiently thought out. *Die Volksblad* maintains that we have no need of the *Liberal News* as papers like the *Rand Daily Mail*, the *Star*, *Argus*, etc., do our work for us ! This same paper hails as a triumph for the Liberal Party the now expressed liberalism of the United Party.

In the *Evening Post* a correspondent discusses the misuse of the word "liberal". Apropos of Dr. Jonker's favourite term "neo-liberal" he writes "After hearing . . . and Dr. Jonker expound on the colour issue, however, I felt that if either of them had been liberals they must have been neolithic-liberals".