

AFRICANA

Contributions should be sent to *Africana*,
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far the farmers are the section of the South African population which has been least hit by the disturbed trading conditions since Sharpeville. Stanley Uys has pointed out that more Nationalist M.P.s are farmers than anything else. The boycott campaign tried to give the idea that the only hope for a peaceful change is to bring Verwoerd down economically. The campaign's lack of success showed one thing; that organisation would have to be on a far greater scale. The British government had all the arguments not to give South Africa preferential treatment. Instead of underlining the advantage of belonging to the Commonwealth it even forgot to make a decent show of reluctance at giving Verwoerd such a victory in the South Africa Act. All that happened was that there was a garden party in Cape Town from which non-whites were excluded.

Secondly the Act leaves the way open for South Africa to benefit from any arrangements which Britain secures for the Commonwealth in the Common Market negotiations in Brussels. This is the only explanation for extending tariff privileges to South Africa which will only be effective until Britain joins the community.

Thirdly, the overriding impression of the Act is that the Africans in South Africa can expect no assistance in their struggle for rights if Britain has to forego advantages of trade. Every time a "soft voice" is cast by Britain at UNO on the questions of South West Africa and apartheid, the South Africa Act will be quoted.

THUS THE ACT WILL relieve many British business men who thought that their profits might drop by a small percentage. They do not seem to realise the damage that such a piece of legislation does Britain in other growing markets. Not long ago, the public relations man of an international concern was sneering about the 'non-viable' economies of African states. In an attempt to get a definition of what he meant by 'a non-viable' economy somebody asked him if he thought Swaziland was in that class. He did not answer directly; his firm was making investments in Swaziland.

The South Africa Act is symptomatic of the loss of impetus of Britain's African policy. It surprised nobody more than the white Rhodesians when the Conservatives started out upon a decolonisation policy which was more radical than the policy upon which the Labour Party had fought the General Election. McLeod was an acquisition at the Colonial Office. The Monckton Commission recommended legislation which would give a clear African majority in one legislature. But now McLeod is rallying the Young Conservatives and the announcement of a third constitution for Northern Rhodesia has been followed by strikes in the Copperbelt. Macmillan's super-cliché 'the wind of change' was evidence of a radical Conservative policy. Observers in the House of Commons have recently remarked that Macmillan fluffs some of the simplest questions whereas he used to treat such questions with slant-eyed superciliousness. Perhaps it will only be another man who can give straight-forward orders to Her Majesty's mission in South Africa to be diplomatically cool. Perhaps it will only be another government which can avoid similar South African Acts. ●

- Amusing, bewitching, considerate, dear, enchanting, faithful, generous, heavenly, incomparable, joyful, kind, lovely, magnanimous, nice, ornamental, pretty, quixotic, ravishing, staunch, tenacious, unique, venturesome warm, youthful and zealous Meadow-lark, I adore you—*Star*.
- I am delighted to learn that from May the South African edition of the *Reader's Digest* will be printed in its entirety in the Republic. The fact that we are the eighteenth country to achieve this distinction is proof anew of South Africa's close association with Western thought.—Letter from Dr. N. Diederichs, Minister of Economic Affairs.
- Young man, highest integrity, extremely deep, honest and sensitive, requires immediate loan of R300. Preferably from persons with similar characteristics capable of helping.—*Rand Daily Mail*.
- The deputy chairman (Mr. P. C. Pelsler): The member has criticised the word "Bantu" enough. (Die agbare lid het die woord Bantoe genoeg uitgekaffer).—*Cape Argus*.
- Will the gentlemen who phoned about the Ivory Banana about 5" long, please contact me again.—*Rand Daily Mail*.
- Organ, electronic Acme, as new. We never learnt to play. Cost £475. What offers?—*Rand Daily Mail*.
- "Bantu" or "Bantu person" means a Native.—*Government Gazette*.
- Les B. Ans. Contact Gay re camping arrangements.—*Sunday Times*.
- God still answers prayer. Send your requests to P.O. Box 21, Goodwood.—*Cape Argus*.
- Yet this is what his flight log reads: Left Wichita January 23 (temperature 22 degrees F, 10 degrees below zero) and flew to Boston. Pressed on to Gandar, where the mercury stood at 17 degrees below.—*Rand Daily Mail*.
- Mary Ann Wall has condensed the events told in *Brief Authority* into a narrative which is a factual record of that grim repression, and of the Hoopers' part in it.—Back cover of *The Dominee and the Dom-Pas*.