

3 THE BANTU AFFAIRS

ADMINISTRATION BOARDS

The Bantu Affairs Administration Boards have now been brought into being in many parts of the Republic. Great things are claimed for them, in particular that they will make it much easier for African work-seekers to find work. Past experience does not lead us to be unduly optimistic about the effects of legislation sponsored by the present Government, but we are very willing to keep an open mind and to see whether the new Boards will help in this way. If they do, it would be a great blessing.

There is, however, another side to this legislation which demands consideration. It removes from the municipalities all privileges, duties and powers as regards their African populations. This tendency to whittle away the powers of Local Government has been very pronounced, and we have

now arrived at the stage when a Town Council can do little or nothing to help the Africans in its area. This is a very sad development, partly because where a municipality is more enlightened in its outlook than the Central Government, it is forced to conform to Central Government ideas; secondly, because any reduction of the powers of Local Governments is very bad for democracy. Across the years the Provinces have lost many powers, though curiously enough the fewer powers they have left the taller grow their administrative buildings.

Municipal self-government is a very vital part of the democratic system and we regret that the new legislation deals so shrewd a blow. □

STAMPING OUT RACIALISM

by Edgar Brookes

The office of Minister of Posts and Telegraphs is not usually regarded as the most important in the Cabinet, but he, more than any other Minister, controls the symbolism which has the most frequent effect on the daily life of citizens. Up to 1948 the royal family appeared frequently on the stamps of South Africa. The first Union stamp—the 2½ d of 1910—showed King George V in coronation robes and as late as 1947 the 2d stamp showed King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and the 3d stamp the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. Since 1948, with the exception of the 1953 Coronation stamp of Queen Elizabeth II, the stamps of South Africa have been pointedly if not blatantly non-British. The people represented on them (in order of the date of issue) have been Jan van Riebeeck, Maria de la Quellerie, President Kruger, President Pretorius, Andries Pretorius, the six Prime Ministers, John Calvin, Dr. Verwoerd, Martin Luther, President Fouchè, General Hertzog as a Boer general, Professor Barnard, Wolraad



Woltemade and C. J. Langenhoven. The English-speaking population must take such comfort as they can from the stamps representing "The Wanderer entering Durban" (2½ d 1949) and "The Chapman" (2d, 1962), and possibly a share in the pictures of a Rugby player (12½ c, 1964) and a Nurse (12½ c, 1964).

Far more important than this is that out of the more than one hundred and seventy designs used by our Post Office since 1910 only two have the slightest references to the African population. The 1½ d of 1938 showing the signing of the Dingaan-Retief treaty gives us at one end a tall Zulu bearing a shield, who might possibly be Dingaan, though Piet Retief and his comrades takes up three-quarters of the design, while an earlier issue (the 4 d of 1926) daringly shows what is described as "a Native kraal". It is no a high proportion. This is not all to be ascribed to Nationalist prejudices. The famous War issues

of 1941-2 show an infantryman ($\frac{1}{2}$ d), a nurse (1 d), an airman ($1\frac{1}{2}$ d), a sailor (2 d), a member of the Women's Auxiliary services (4d), electric welding (6 d), the Tank Corps (1/-) and a signaller (1/3), but no place is found for the Cape Corps, the Native Labour Corps or Indian medical and other personnel.



Some compensation for the shortage of humans is found in the generous representation of animals—A 1954 issue shows the warthog ($\frac{1}{2}$ d), wildebeest (1 d), leopard ($1\frac{1}{2}$ d), zebra (2 d), rhinoceros (3 d), elephant (4 d), hippopotamus (4 d), lion (6d), kudu (1/-), springbok (1/3), gemsbok (1/6), nyala (2/6), giraffe (5/-) and sable antelope (10/-). It makes one think of the faintly ironic ceremony where Mr Piet Grobler, while Minister of Native Affairs, was given an honorary doctorate for his services in preserving South African fauna.

The religious issues are somewhat one-sided. They comprise Calvin (1963), the symbol of the N.G. Kerk (1965) the Groote Kerk pulpit, Cape Town (1965), Luther (1967) and the church door at Wittenberg (1967.) Even if we



exclude the rugby player (1964) and Dr. Verwoerd, with a halo round him (1968), it is clear that the Roman Catholic, Anglican and agnostic citizens of the Republic find little to comfort them in their country's philately.

It will come as a surprise to many to discover that South-West Africa has been somewhat more liberal than the Republic. In addition to featuring Bushman rock painting, it gives us in its 1954 issue three stamps depicting Ovambo women and one depicting a Herero woman. The 3c stamp of 1965 gives us a picture of an African mail runner of the 1890's. This is the only African male to appear on the stamps of South-West Africa, and all the five Africans are in tribal dress. It would be a matter of interest to see a representation of Fort Hare University College on our stamps and perhaps a whole series might form a 1974 issue depicting the executive heads of the Bantustans. The 4c black and carmine depicting Chief Gatsha Buthelezi and the 5c brown-black and apple-green showing Chief Kaiser Matanzima would assuredly be valuable collectors' items. □

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER SEVEN MILLION WORKERS ?

by Dave Hemson

The Trade Union Council of South Africa (TUCSA) conference held between 13 and 17 August 1973 did very little about the 7 million unorganised workers in the South African economy. TUCSA has a long way to go from being an organisation representing unionised White, Coloured and Indian workers, to becoming the organising centre for unorganised workers in South Africa.

The real tension at the TUCSA conference was between Coloured and White-governed trade union interests, which could develop racial tension over job territory, blinding workers to the urgent problem of a path of liberation for black workers.

There were 28 resolutions passed at the Conference. Of

these, 10 originated from the garment unions and 8 from the distributive unions, showing a low degree of formulation of policy at the union level considering that there are 49 unions in TUCSA. Some of the most important resolutions concerned the following topics:

- 1) Unionisation of African workers,
- 2) Lack of confidence in the Minister of Labour,
- 3) A national minimum wage of R130 a month,
- 4) Elimination of racially mixed trade unions,
- 5) Abolition of African poll tax,
- 6) Elimination of discrimination against female workers,
- 7) The organisation of plantation workers,
- 8) The textile industry.