

RACE RELATIONS

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FREE TO MEMBERS

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RASSEVERHOUDINGS

OffisieU Joemaal van die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut vir RasfVerhouJing

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Uitgegee tweemaandliks Descmber 1934—Januarie 1935

GRATIS AAN LEOE

INTER-RACIAL STUDIES (1)

The need for inter-racial study and research is felt by (he Council. We feel (hat in Natal, where the ratio of non-white to white is over 10 to 1 compared with about 31 to 1 over the whole Union, we have » definite need for a Department of Inter-Racial studies in our local University Institution. Such i Department should dn inestimable good in providing reliable facts and in carrying out research on our local problems. With public sentiment so easy lo sway on racial lines, such a Department could do much to bring stability and confidence.

The Council has suggested that there should be an exhaustive enquiry into all aspects of local life, the manners, morals, and habits of the respectVe races, their points of contact, and how far their standards, cultures and traditions (end to enrich or to deteriorate their common nationhood. A study of problems arising from the difference in economic standards (e. g. the application of the minimum wage) and of their environment, occupation, aspirations and opportunities. The complication and the study of the history and the results of the introduction of Indian indentured labour to Natal, with special reference to the Administrative devices adopted (o prevent exploitation, and the conditions under which labour can be beneficially transferred from one area to aJiother. An investigation into the development of Indian Agriculture and peasant proprietorship. A special study of the application and effect on Indians of the industrial laws, and the position of Indian women under existing marriage laws. Generally to explore the various social problems thatarise from contact of the races, and ways and means for providing mutual respect and regard. The endowment of the Chair of Inter-Racial Studies would be of great value to Na(al and to South Africa, but its realisation would mean a capital sum of about £20,000. One of the future activities of our Council might well be to work for the foundation of such a Chair.

Another activity for our Council might be to work for the founding in Durban of a non-European Art Training Centre, and to encourage our Indians to make their contribution to South African art, literature, music and general culture. In this we feel that our Indians should not imitate the West, but should add to South African culture something of the wealth of that of the East. We want some of our Indians to write stories from the lives of our Indian pointers, written

purely as stories and not as propagandist literature, giving us their outlook, and their reactions to their new country and to the race contact with the European and the African. We want some of our Indians to give us music embodying their Indian traditions with their new South African outlook, with words in English or Afrikaans, and perhaps with details such as the voice production modified so as to appeal to the Western ear. Jazz music may have its critics, but a most interesting point about it is that, though it expresses to the world the rvthm of the African, it has not come direct from Africa, but through the descendants of African slaves in America, and through America to the world. Might not our Indians express some of their traditions in music, in art and in general culture, through South Africa to the world, so that in these directions the East may have some of the world influence that it has had in religion, for the religion of the West had its cradle in the East. South African culture is not Afrikaans culture only, but that together with the culture of the English-speaking Europeans and with that of the non-Europeans including the South African Indians. Our Council has been able to give a platform to lecturer* on Indian Art and Culture, which have fl of definite value in stressing the fact that they have fl culture and I civilisation older than ours of the West.

These details give some idea of our ideals and of the work, that our Council has been tackling, but in addition there is the very important work of creating and maintaining co-operation, toleration and friendliness between the Indian and the European. The welfare and stability of South Africa has been retarded by the lack of co-operation and friendliness between the two white race groups : how much more intensely will South Africa suffer if for generation after generation an atmosphere of suspicion and intolerance and non-co-operation is maintained between the whites and the non-whites I We feel that the existence of Councils such as ours would be more than justified if their only work were to foster the ideal of all sections working together for the good of the community as a whole, rather than for each section to expend its energies in pressing for exclusive benefits for itself. The picture of a future South Africa after generations of race antagonisms, is one that might inspire Dante; but one of a future South Africa working on a basis of race co-operation and goodwill, would be like a polished jewel, each facet adding to that lustre and beauty of (he whole. As a variety in i nstmmnts in an orchestra blend to give a richness

(1) This b on extract from the Annual Report for 1934 of the Indo-European Council hi Durban.

that one cannot get with any one of them singly, so Our race groups in South Africa, if blended harmoniously, should give us a richness not possible in a country having only one race group.

One wonders with Britain, how much of its greatness has been due to the diversity of its constituent nets, certainly in that lies one of its great charms: it b delicious to find in Britain, towns such as Pwllheli b North Wales, where one fifth of the population cannot speak English, and to have the experience of not being understood when speaking English in Britain Itself. Britain has drawn from the best of the cultures of the English, the Scots, the Welsh, the Irish and of many other races who have found a welcome there.

NATAL REGIONAL INTER-RACIAL CONFERENCE¹

This was the first inter-racial Conference in the history of South Africa at which representatives of flour racial groups met to discuss each others problems. Mr. Maurice Webb (Natal Regional Representative of the Institute) took the chair and welcomed His Worship the Mayor of Durban (Dr. S. Copley), who in turn welcomed the Conference to Durban, and congratulated it on its representative character. Speaking of the inevitability of the disappearance of discrimination against colour, he urged that the importance of the colour factor would lessen as educational and cultural differences disappeared. He concluded a most inspiring address by wishing the Conference all success.

- Twentyeight organisations were represented at the Conference.

The Chairman addressed the gathering on the ideals, objects and rules of the Conference, and the Rev. R. G. MILBURN (Honorary Secretary, Pictersriurg Indo-European Joint Council) opened the discussion on

Joint Councils : Their Functions, Organisation and Extension

In his address Mr. MILBURN laid special stress on the following points :—

- (1) Lack of co-ordination between Joint Councils
- (2) Need for fuller information concerning the activities of other Joint Councils
- (3) Need for adequate machinery for co-operation, not only between Joint Councils but also between Joint Councils and other bodies
- (4) The value of Local Correspondents in centres where there are no Joint Councils

South Africa is much more interesting by reason of its diverse race groups, and the variety of problems that have to be tackled make for (he development of national character.

"East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet" was said by Kipling, but here in Natal the East and the West have met, and are working out their common destiny. A rational solution of South Africa's race problems may mean more than South Africa's welfare ; it may have an influence on the world inter-racial problems that have arisen with the age of quick transport. It is our responsibility to see that our inter-racial councils go forward with courage, stability and fore-sight in their work for South Africa.

- (5) The value of District Conferences
- (b) Need for more careful study of Reports of Conferences
- (7) The need for discrimination between detailed welfare services and the main national problems
- (8) Need for reports from the Institute of Race Relations to Joint Councils on results of presentation of Conference resolutions to Government
- (9) The value of local social welfare services directed by advice of Headquarters
- (to) The value of Visitors (principally women) who, being members of Joint Councils, should visit the Non-Europeans in their homes and learn from personal contact
- (i) The necessity for stronger united activity and (with this object in view) for a stronger Consultative Committee
- (12) The necessity for more effective local propaganda
- (13) The value of the organisation of Joint Councils into three Committees, viz. (i) General Welfare ; (ii) Law and Politics ; (iii) Publicity and Propaganda
- (14) The urgency of some political organisation if the Consultative Committee cannot act with effect; (In this respect, Mr. Milburn sketched the ideals and objects of such a political body in the form of a Liberal Association)

Discussion ensued on these proposals and em-

phasis was laid by several **speakers** on the necessity of publicity and propaganda for Joint Councils. It was also suggested that the Institute of Race Relations might issue a series of "tracts" on Joint Council problems. Division of opinion was expressed in regard to the desirability or otherwise of Joint Councils concerning themselves with political matters; and also on the question of the division of Joint Councils into Committees (see 13 above).

Mr. Rheinallt Jones, in his review of the discussion, dealt with the points raised by Mr. Milburn in regard to the functions of the Institute of Race Relations and showed that, in regard to the first nine points raised by Mr. Milburn, the Institute and the Consultative Committee of Joint Councils are in actual fact carrying out his suggestions, but that Joint Councils themselves find it difficult to respond. He would welcome some way being found of enabling Joint Councils to communicate regularly with the Institute and the Consultative Committee. He warned Joint Councils of the practical difficulties and dangers of any attempts to bring all Joint Councils into united action on any political policy.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Conference:—

That a united Consultative Committee of the Joint Councils in Durban, consisting of four representatives from each (two European and two Non-European) with power to co-opt, should be established to meet periodically with the Representative of the Institute of Race Relations and that the Chairman of the Indo-European Joint Council be asked to convene the meeting.

and

That the proposals made by Mr. Milburn be referred to the Durban Consultative Committee for consideration.

a. Social Welfare Services:

I. Health Services

Mrs. RHEINALLT JONES (Honorary Organiser of Women's work) introduced the discussion under this heading and referred to the need for the co-ordination of all health work and showed what is being done in this direction, instancing the information of the Institute's Standing Committee on Non-European Medical and Health Services, and the holding of the Conference on Rural Nursing, convened by Their Excellencies, the Governor-General and the Countess of Clarendon, and held at Cape Town in May last. Mrs. Jones also gave an outline of a memorandum on Rural Nursing Services, recently prepared by the Institute; stressing the absence of data on the needs of the Indian community

and pointing out that the health position of the Coloured people will be investigated by the Cape Coloured Commission. In regard to the Bantu rural population, Mrs. Jones spoke of the extensive work done by mission hospitals in Reserves and other rural areas and urged the importance of the training of Bantu nurses for employment by the Government to supplement its Scheme for the training and employment of Bantu Medical Aids. In conclusion, Mrs. Jones emphasised the necessity, for more extensive or preventive work and health education.

In considering the Government Scheme, members of the Conference expressed regret at the failure to provide full medical training for Non-Europeans in South Africa. It was agreed that co-operation with mission hospitals would be an important factor in the success of the Scheme and the following resolution was passed:—

That this Conference respectfully urges upon the Department, in its scheme for Native health services, consideration of the possibility of using recognised missions as part of the machinery for such work, and suggests that medical aids, nurses and nurse-aids be placed directly under the employment of missionaries receiving from the Government a grant equal to the salary of such employees and a supply of the necessary equipment for the work.

Attention was drawn to the lack of facilities for medical treatment in the Native areas and to the possibility of diverting more of the income derived from Native taxation to Native health work. Attention was also drawn to the disabilities of the Coloured and Indian communities in respect of medical care. The position of Non-European tuberculosis sufferers was discussed, the need for preventive and remedial work being stressed. Mention was made of the fact that the Government is anxious to use the balance of the Central Medical Fund, contributed by employers of Indian Indentured labour, for the training of Indian rural nurses, and this raised the question of the responsibility of the employer in regard to the health of the employee. Satisfaction was expressed at the success of the recently established Native Infant Welfare Clinic in Durban; the establishment of a scheme of training of Non-European Health Visitors in Pietermaritzburg and at the work of the Indian Social Service League at Durban.

Mrs. Jones then suggested that the points raised be referred to the National Consultative Committee, but after discussion it was agreed

That the organisations represented at the Conference be asked to consider the problems of

- (a) *treatment of Non-European tubercular patients;*
- (b) *nursing as a career for Non-European girls*

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- (i) *training and employment of Non-European sanitary inspectors.*

a. Institutional Work and Outdoor Sport
Mr. S. W. B. SHEPSTONB (Native Welfare Officer, Durban) led the discussion on this subject and drew attention to the lack of social amenities for educated Natives, pleading for the establishment of more Social centres.

In the debate which ensued the following points were discussed: The encouragement of sport amongst Bantu in rural areas; the need for family recreational activities and the provision of sports at Native Agricultural Shows; development of the Pathfinder and Wayfarer Movements; provision of recreation for Native women; necessity for differentiation between the recreational needs of the educated and labouring classes of Non-Europeans.

b. New Native Pass and Exemption Regulations

After the lunch interval the Rev. JOHN DUBE spoke on the position in regard to Pass Regulations in Natal and drew attention to the hardships suffered by farm Natives as a result of their ignorance of the regulations. He described the passes required by Natives and enumerated the qualifications required by Natives wishing to be exempted, urging that the privileges of exemption should be extended to Natives of good standing and behaviour.

Mr. D. G. SHEPSTONE described the recently published pass Regulations for the Transvaal and Orange Free State and affirmed that the position in the Transvaal is more restrictive than in Natal where the Pass Laws are not harshly administered.

During the discussion there was agreement on the desirability of a single life-long identification certificate instead of Passes which, with their criminal sanctions,

cost the country nearly a quarter of a million pounds a year to administer. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

- That this Conference believes that the present pass laws should be replaced by a law providing for a single life-long registration certificate on which*
- *should be endorsed the tax receipt and employment record.*

4. Compulsory Medical Examination of Native Women

The question of the compulsory medical examination of Native women was then brought up, as a result of a suggestion that it was likely that the Pietermaritzburg Municipality wished to enforce it. There was general agreement that, although it is desirable that there should be voluntary medical examination of Nat-

ive women servants, compulsory examination is highly undesirable. Natives resent it and it leads to a false sense of security, thus defeating its own ends. It was suggested that a mutual agreement might be entered into between mistress and servant and that encouragement should be given to women to undergo voluntary examination to which, it was stated, they came frequently when they realised the benefits to be derived therefrom.

The following resolution was thereupon adopted:—

That this Conference considers that there are grave objections to compulsory medical examination of women servants, chief of which is the false sense of security it gives. On the other hand, the Conference believes that the best prophylactic measures would be sympathetic clinical treatment, encouragement of voluntary submission to treatment and the organisation of extensive propaganda on personal and social hygiene.

5. Adult Education,

After the tea interval an address on Adult Education was given by Mr. MAURICE WEBB, in which he urged that all social work should take serious cognisance of adult education, in order to bridge the gulf between educated and non-educated and to link parent and child. He drew attention to three media of adult education, viz. libraries, films and wireless. Libraries for Non-Europeans are at present very deficient, but library services are doing much to remedy this state of affairs. The possibilities of wireless in the education of the adult were also outlined by Mr. Webb.

6. South African Institute of Race Relations

DR. EDGAR H. BROOKES (Campaign Organiser) said that, during the year's membership campaign, he had received evidence of great interest in the Institute, and he was satisfied that the Institute had now wide support in South Africa. The Institute had done much for which it could claim credit. As examples of its achievements he mentioned the National Coloured-European and the National Bantu-European Conferences convened by the Institute in 1933. The former had yielded the recently appointed Commission on Coloured Affairs. It had been hoped to arrange an Indo-European Conference, to be followed by an "All In" Conference, but these had had to be deferred.

The New Education Fellowship Conference had made use of the Institute, and the Adviser had been responsible for the whole of the African Education section, of which he was Chairman throughout the Cape Town and Johannesburg sessions.

Dr. Brookes explained that the primary object of the Campaign had been to raise sufficient funds to enable the Institute to continue work when the American

grants were withdrawn, £ 2000 per annum is now available from South African Sources, with an endowment Fund of £ 2500, so that provision exists for carrying on the present work of the Institute.

Dr. Brookes drew attention to the establishment of offices of the Institute at Capetown and Durban, and to the fact that Committees had been formed to deal with the Anti-Jewish Agitation.

He concluded by saying that he was sensible of the deficiencies of the Institute due to its limited resources, but made a strong plea for continued confidence and support.

7. Social and Economic conditions of the Coloured people

Mr. FATAAR (Durban Coloured-European Council), in addressing the Conference, pointed out that its unique opportunity was to be afforded the Coloured community to bring their disabilities to the notice of the Europeans through the recently appointed Commission of Enquiry. He urged that his people should give unselfish evidence, bearing in mind that the several sections of the people make up the nation.

Some doubt was expressed by members as to whether the Commission would visit Natal, and it was decided to urge that the Commission should do so.

8. Old Age Pensions for Indians

Mrs. L. RUXTON (Indo-European Women's Association and the Indian Welfare Society, Johannesburg) read a letter from these Societies, drawing attention to the misery suffered by aged Indians in the absence of an old age pension, and it was resolved

That the Consultative Committee enquire into the position of the aged poor among the Indian community with a view to co-operation with other organisations in pressing for old age pension for Indian!

The Conference closed with votes of thanks to the Chairman and all who had contributed to the success of an inter-racial conference which was unique in the history of South Africa.

In the evening, His Worship the Mayor of Durban presided over a public meeting which was addressed by Dr. Edgar Brookes, Mr. S.R. Naidoo and Mr. J.D. Rheinallt Jones on the topic "Racial Conflict in Industry and the Way Out." The speakers dealt with the social and economic effects of the Civilised Labour Policy and urged the recognition of the essential identity of interests among the unskilled and semi-skilled urban workers in any employment policy.

THE BANTU PRESS AND RACE RELATIONS

A lecture on the Bantu Press and Race Relations was given by Mr. Theo. E. G. Cutten, M. A., of the University of Pretoria, at a recent meeting of the Bantu Studies Society of the University of the Witwatersrand.

The lecturer said that although the Official Yearbook stated that there were 19 native newspapers in the Union, there were actually only seven native weekly newspapers, the other journals being periodicals edited by missionary societies. He paid a tribute to missionary enterprise in so far as it had assisted in the building up of a Native press in this country.

Dealing with the difficulties with which Native newspapers had to contend, the lecturer stated that it is to be regretted that the younger Native generation as well as the European children. Lack of funds and the absence of effective distribution facilities also militated against the development of a really powerful Press.

The most formidable obstacle, however, was the illiteracy of the Native people. Only 874,000 of the millions of natives in the Union could be classed as literate. The combined circulations of the seven native weeklies probably did not amount to much more than 15,000. The Bantu press as an instrument in forging race relations was accordingly at present comparatively limited in scope but its potentialities in the future were boundless.

Touching on the attitude of the European Press towards race relations, the lecturer said that the English Press was far in advance of public opinion in this regard. The English Press had adopted a sane and sympathetic attitude towards Natives, as was shown by recent leaders dealing with the Minister of Native Affairs' promise to modify the Pass Laws, the inauguration of a medical service for Natives, and deploring the crimes against Natives committed by Policemen.

After giving a glimpse of picturesque essays in English by Native writers, the lecturer traced the development of the Bantu Press from the time of the first Bantu newspaper, "Indaba", published at Lovedale in about 1824, until the present day. He described how Native journalistic enterprise had resulted in newspapers being born only to die within a few months. In spite of severe handicaps, however, a few had managed to survive and were making a valuable contribution towards engendering a healthy relationship between black and white in the Union. There was no clamant cry for absolute equality, but the papers

urged the necessity for realising the inevitable unity of European and Native interests, and made an earnest appeal for the incorporation of the Native into the economic life of South Africa in the role of a junior partner.

As being representative of the Native newspapers of the Union—with the exception of the Communist organ—the lecturer quoted the creed of "The Bantu World", the most recent venture in Bantu journalism in Johannesburg:

"To print without prejudice or bias all the news that will be interesting and instructive to the Bantu people, in order that the reading public may be fully and truly informed as an aid to clear thinking and logical action,

"To be independent of party politics, supporting men and measures only in the interests of what it conceives to be the public welfare, and unhesitatingly attacking evils and combating evildoers with frankness and vigour, regardless of race, party, or power,

"To render helpful public service by instilling racial self-help and self-respect, thereby promoting harmonious race relationships and the maintenance of inter-racial goodwill and co-operation.

"To seek to give every man a chance and, as far as law and honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so—an equal chance,

"To strive for the economic development of South Africa along lines that will be beneficial to all its inhabitants,

"To encourage the development of the Bantu people as an agricultural people and to foster the growth of Bantu arts and crafts, literature, and music,

"To combat illiteracy and to stimulate education among the Bantu, by catering for the needs of semi-literates as well as for the most highly advanced".

The lecturer referred to the part played by the late Mr. Sol. T. Plaatje in helping to build a Bantu Press in South Africa. Next to the late Mr. John Tengo Jabavu, "The Father of Bantu Journalism in South Africa" and the founder of "Imvo Zabaneundu" in King Williamstown in 1884, he had probably made the

Any articles or information appearing in this journal may be published, provided acknowledgement is made to "Race Relations", the official organ of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

Enige artikelaaf inligtingwat hierdie Joemaal verskyn kan gepubliseer word, mite erkenning geraak word aan „Rasseverhoudings", die offisiële orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut vir Rasseverhoudings.