

CAPE WESTERN

SEVERAL deputations and interviews took place during the year with the editors of leading newspapers and departmental officials.

The work done during the emergency was reported in our August, 1960, issue. The emergency is over, but the effects linger on, and the State of Emergency Relief Fund (S.E.R.F.) continues to deal with the problems of maintenance of the families of convicted men and legal aid, hire purchase commitments and so on. Relief work is carried on by all branches in the country districts.

Mrs. Mary Stoy has been the driving force behind the Relief Committees and the Region is grateful to her and her workers.

Bail Fund Office

In the Bail Fund Office, too, Mrs. Stoy has proved her strength. Since the emergency the office has been busier than ever and it is becoming increasingly difficult to help the unfortunate Africans in their troubles with the Pass Laws. A press report of this work appears elsewhere.

Group Areas

The Simonstown branch has been extremely active in opposition to the proposals for Group Areas in their town. A full report of their work appears elsewhere.

CAPE EASTERN

Relief to Detainees' Dependants

DURING the emergency relief to detainees' dependants was the most important activity in the Eastern Cape. Money, food and clothing were collected and distributed. Members of the Sash did "jail duty" on two days every week outside the Port

Elizabeth jail in order to help those both inside and outside the prison. The work done by the Sash during this most trying time earned respect from the public in Port Elizabeth, from the press and even from the Special Branch. Special tribute should be paid not only to town members for the magnificent job they did, but also to the country members for helping to supply funds and the farm produce to carry on this work.

Grahamstown branch did equally well in helping the families which were affected in their area.

Group Areas

The Walmer branch, together with ratepayers' associations and Church organisations, helped to organise a petition against the proposed implementation of the Group Areas Act in Fairview Township. A tremendous amount of work has been put into this including a door-to-door canvass of every householder in Walmer, Fairview and Newton Park. The work has not yet been completed but more than 2,000 signatures have already been obtained.

BORDER

THE main work has been in detainee relief organisation. The Sash in this area has borne the brunt of this task, and is still at it, handing out food and rent money to the dependants of sentenced detainees.

One of the most remarkable features of this work is the surprise of non-Whites that there are white women interested enough to care. Critics suggested that "these people would be only too happy to accept charity, and do nothing to help themselves." On the contrary it is the dependants who terminated assistance immediately they found other means of support.

A report from the Region states:

"On the pass law question we have managed to sort out a few problems—have saved at least a couple

"International Family" sends a Donation

NINE people in England, who described themselves as an "international family," have sent the Black Sash a donation of £5 10s.

Two couples in the "family" come from Nigeria, one man from Sierra Leone, one from Aden, and one from China; two are English.

"We know that there are people in the world and especially in South Africa at this time who find it hard to believe that a family like ours can exist and find happiness," they write. "But we do both, and because we have been so blessed ourselves, we would like to spread a little of the peace and com-

panionship we have found, out into the world beyond ourselves and the friends we have collected. To any who may be suffering from loneliness, poverty, illness, injustice or fear, or any other unhappiness, we would like to send our sympathy and love as your brothers and sisters in the great human family of the world."

This international group sends its blessing to "all who are striving for goodwill and racial harmony." They had been told of the Black Sash in South Africa and the good work it was doing. "We will remember you," the letter concluded.