

GOODWILL BRIDGES—Continued

were at their business of separating the races for their own good. This "cruelty in operation" could be seen at Claremont, Cape, and in neighbouring suburbs.

The "absurd and sinful" practice of job reservation was condemned by Lady Packer, who said that the non-White would have to clear out of his own country to make his mark abroad if he wished to soar higher than the authorities saw fit. And then, of course, he would have to obtain a passport!

In conclusion Lady Packer said the Sash was an important moral force, at first a symbol, but later during the emergency an active friend of all in trouble. The Sash showed judgment and tolerance.

"The Sash can only exercise its full moral influence for good when we can say that we trust its judgment. This it is steadily teaching us to do."

Sashers in Action

EAST LONDON LOCATION

ON a tour of the African location at East London, members of the Black Sash learnt much of interest.

A party of members and visitors was conducted by two municipal officials through the location shebeens and shanty area where the first stop was made. The following statistics were given for this area;

- One plot 50 ft. x 50 ft. — 20 to 30 persons;
- One acre — 900 persons;
- One stand pipe tap per 40-60 persons;
- One lavatory pan per 70-120 persons;
- One room per 6-8 persons.

The party was driven through the various municipal housing schemes to the European-type dwellings erected by the more well-to-do Africans. There is much to be said for people who are prepared to erect houses on land that is only leasehold.

The community centre and a school were visited and it was noted that apart from English and Afrikaans lessons, all instruction is in Xhosa. The obvious result of this is the confining of all Africans in S.A. strictly to ethnic grouping. Since this is carried right through the universities, the

The Sikades

RECENTLY Mrs. Curry and Mrs. Grainger from Queenstown visited the Lady Grey Native Reserve to see how Mr. and Mrs. Sikade, the family whose story was told in the March edition of the Black Sash magazine, were getting on. Mr. Sikade had found a job in a road gang, and was earning R12 per month. Mrs. Sikade was finding the change from poverty in the city to near starvation in the reserve very difficult to bear. Pauline's health appeared very much better and she was delighted that Mrs. Curry had remembered her promise to see her again.

groups remain completely isolated and unable to communicate freely with one another.

The excellent swimming bath donated by Rotary was inspected but members were startled to find that children were expected to pay 3d. to swim in it.

An inspection of the library showed a great needs for books and the view was expressed that the Sash might make an appeal for books and periodicals to fill the empty shelves.

A house in the Extension was open for inspection and gave a clear indication that the Africans are not addicted to squalor given a chance of decent living conditions! The temporary emergency housing scheme at present under construction was viewed and an inspection made of that part which had been occupied for some two to three months. The improved conditions had raised the standard of cleanliness. While concern was expressed at the cramming of five persons into a one-roomed dwelling, it was clear that they were vastly superior to the tattered "kitchens" of shanty town. The statistics given for this area are:

180 persons per acre; 20 per lavatory pan; 12 per stand pipe tap. These show what a considerable alleviation of living conditions has been achieved by the emergency scheme.

We shall never have more time. We have, and have always had, all the time there is.—Arnold Bennett.