

## "THY LAND MY LAND"— (Contd.)

His troubles were not yet over, however. He had been offered his old job in Phillipi, but the authorities in Nyanga East, who deal with Africans working in the Divisional Council area, refused to stamp his book, until he had been "cleared" by Langa, which deals with Africans working in the Municipal Council area. The authorities at Langa at first refused flatly to have anything to do with him—he was a Nyanga East responsibility.

At length, a reasonably minded official "cleared" him, at the same time advising the Black Sash worker who had accompanied him to go with him to Nyanga East in case there was any difficulty. There was. The authority at Nyanga East at first refused to give him permission to take up work, in spite of the Court's decision; but after some argument (and protected by the very fine lawyer's letter), Walter was allowed to take up his job. He has been warned, however, that the minute he loses it he will be endorsed out, on the grounds that when an African transfers from the Municipal to the Divisional Council area his previous years of residence no longer obtain.

(As the law stands to-day, an African can "qualify" to be in the Cape only if he was born there and has lived there continuously ever since, or if he has had ten years' continuous service with one employer, or 15 years' continuous lawful residence in the Cape.)

### Angelina

There is also Angelina. An unmarried African woman, she maintains that she came to live in Kraaifontein in the Municipal Council area, "the year after the sun went down," i.e., in 1942. She obtained her passbook when they were first issued, in 1955. Now she has lost it, and her job. When she reported for a new book, she was handed a temporary pink permit, and endorsed out, although she had with her an offer of new employment—this time with an employer who lives in the Divisional Council area.

The case was referred to the authorities at Nyanga East, who told her to go to Langa to obtain proof that she had been in the Cape since 1942, when her permanent residence might be considered. When Langa was telephoned, the officials maintained that it was the duty of the officials at Nyanga East to check for proof of her statement—they would do nothing for her. The mild reproof that Africans were batted between the two offices, which are about ten miles apart, like tennis balls, and with about as much consideration, was dismissed with the all-too-familiar remark, "That's none of my business!"

The outcome of Angelina's case, at the time of writing, is still in the balance. The officials at Nyanga East have been informed of the ruling at Langa, but the lack of co-operation between the two offices adds to the difficulties of Africans in their hopeless trudge from office to office, from hospital to hospital, in their endless quest

for official proof that what they say is indeed true.

### Sympathy and Help

These, of course, represent only a fraction of the cases dealt with. Only by patience, persistence and politeness to the authorities, who, in their turn, are in the main courteous and helpful to the workers, has a small measure of success been achieved. Those fortunate few "clients" who have won their cases would never have done so without the help of the Advice Office. For it is there, as they have so often trustingly said, that they know they will be listened to sympathetically and patiently, helped, and advised how best to present their case to the authorities.

### "I am a Man"

Long after one has left the office, the imagination is haunted by the memory of the wives trudging back to their leaky pondoks, which they have been told to leave; of the men in their broken shoes and torn jackets, saying, "I am a man. I must support my wife and children. How can I do that when we are sent back to the Transkei where there are no jobs?" But however much a morning at the Advice Office may sear the heart and destroy peace of the mind, there is always consolation in the actual presence of the patient Africans waiting there every morning. *They need the office—no more can be said.*

### Mrs. Malindi

No account of the Advice Office can be given without paying a tribute to Mrs. Malindi, the Black Sash paid interpreter, who has worked there since its inception. Blessed with an invigorating command of English, indomitable courage, a deep and possibly unique knowledge of the Bantu Urban Areas Act, an active and serpentine brain, and an unconquerable sense of humour, Mrs. Malindi has guided, advised and helped every one of the workers of the office.

### PENSIONS FOR AFRICANS

IN reply to a question from Mr. G. N. Oldfield, M.P. for Durban-Umbilo, the Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration and Development gave the following figures in respect of the monthly maximum amounts paid to Africans for old age, war veterans', blind persons' and disability benefits:

In respect of all schemes, with effect from April 1st, 1962,

(a) City areas ... ..	R3.52½
(b) Town areas ... ..	R3.02½
(c) Rural areas ... ..	R2.52½

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