

NEWS FROM REGIONS AND BRANCHES

CAPE WESTERN REGION

SINCE the National Council meeting there has been a report back to our Regional Council and All Branches meeting, and ways and means will now have to be found of putting the decisions into effect.

On 3rd August, Simonstown Branch held a stand at the public enquiry of the Group Areas Board. An account of Simonstown's protest appears elsewhere.

Our Bail Fund work is going from strength to strength. An interpreter has been employed for our "case-work" office and the group of Sashers who are engaged in this field have our admiration and gratitude for the useful and rewarding work they are doing. Men, too, come for help and they are re-

ferred to the Institute of Race Relations.

Members are turning their minds now to what may become an annual fête which will be held at the end of the year. This is an event in which all branches participate, and despite the initial groans and moans, a good time is had by all in the end.

We wish to pay a tribute to our Editor for the magnificent "Pass" issue of the magazine (June/July). We are proud that the Sash has contributed to the dissemination of knowledge about the pass laws and their tragic effects.

We thank Mrs. "Essie" Oliver (Chair, Rondebosch) and her helpers for their hard work, efficiency and unfailing cheerfulness whenever they are called upon to organise catering.

Praise for the "Pass Law" Issue

MANY favourable comments have been received about the June-July issue of this magazine dealing with passes.

The daily Press devoted space to summaries of its contents and some newspapers made complimentary editorial references. The *Cape Argus*, in a sub-leader, said:

The articles on the various aspects of passes for Native women are factual and written with sincerity and, it is fair to say, with passion. That is only right, for the subject is one which arouses the deep feelings that are associated with a sense of justice, respect for the value of the individual and a deep concern for the future of the country. As for the illustrations, they have been chosen with care, and a picture of three still figures may be said to sum up the contents of the publication in a few square inches.

If the Black Sash had never done anything but produce these 24 pages, it still would have justified its existence.

"The Chiel," writing in the *Daily Despatch*, East London, commented:

The latest Black Sash magazine . . . deserves to be read carefully and completely by everybody. . . . With fact, objective report and sharp criticism a trenchantly clear picture is built up of the oppression and discrimination that pass under the title of "Natives (Abolition of Passes and Co-ordination of Documents)

Act." . . . It is an eloquent, disturbing, challenging survey. . . . Read it and see what is happening. . . . There is a great deal to think about in this valuable pamphlet.

A leading article in the *Natal Mercury*, referring to recent disturbances, speaks of the "resentment prompted by fear" among African women, and adds:

The current issue of the Black Sash magazine discusses the issue from many points of view. Much of the opinion here expressed is unashamedly tendentious; but much more of the contribution is a factual examination. The Black Sash, as becomes its tenets, has ventilated the subject fearlessly, to make a document which merits study by those who want to probe the truth of a situation that is rooted in racial unrest.

The magazine *Contact* comments:

The June/July issue of the Black Sash is a very fine effort, and anyone interested in having in one small compass, everything necessary on the pass system, should get a copy of this magazine.

From the Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, Bishop of Johannesburg, comes the following tribute:

"I read the Black Sash publication every month with great interest. Having just read the last issue I feel I must send you a line to congratulate you all on this excellent number."