
CONTENTS FOR JULY.

	Page
Editorial	1
Letters to the Editor	3
Vryheid in Afrika	5
Death Pays a Dividend	7
"This Sorry Scheme of Things"	8
A Sorry Session	11
Branch Items	12
Book Review	13
"I Fought for These Things"	14
Personalia	15

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JULY 1951.

Volume IX. No. 7.

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION.

War Veterans' Torch Commando

THE most important development on the South African political scene since the Nationalists came to power in 1948 has been the emergence during the last few months of the "War Veterans' Torch Commando." Within a few weeks this body succeeded in rallying between 150,000 and 200,000 people in a campaign calling for the resignation of the Nationalist Government. The spontaneous response from the public in South Africa to this call to action is a positive indication that the Nationalist Government's narrow, bigoted policies, "herrenvolk" mentality and totalitarian methods are anathema to the majority of South Africans. Apart from demonstrating the country's opposition to this fascist government, the campaign has had the effect of dispelling the apathy and fear that seems to have descended over South Africa like a pall since May 1948. There is a new spirit abroad . . . a spirit of determination to rid the country of this menace before it is too late, before the whole democratic structure of South Africa has been eaten away and we fall into the hands of "liquidators", "investigators" and all the other sinister institutions of the fascist state.

It is obviously gratifying to us as Legionnaires to see the mounting opposition to fascism in South Africa and that the new anti-fascist body that has emerged has ex-soldiers as its core. The Springbok Legion is no longer a voice crying in the wilderness. The cry has been taken up and we are no longer isolated in the struggle. We salute the "War Veterans' Torch Commando" as an ally in the fight for freedom.

We believe the field is open for the War Veterans to encompass the fall of

the government. The phenomenal success of their initial campaign in the face of general public apathy, fear, intimidation, suspicion and indecision, points the way. The significant feature of the initial campaign was the fact that in the demand for a general election the War Veterans were able to canalise all opposition to the Nationalists and were able to provide a rallying point for all sections of the anti-government front. Their initial success was undoubtedly due to their confining themselves to this single all embracing objective. At their first conference, recently concluded in Johannesburg, they departed from the spirit of their initial campaign by broadening

the scope of their policies to include, inter alia, the propagation of racial unity, and the protection of civil liberties. We believe that in so doing they are narrowing the field of their support and consequently of their ability to bring about a general election.

On the other hand they have agreed to open their ranks to "civilians" as well as war veterans. This decision will be welcomed by all South Africans who are anxious to play a part in the struggle against totalitarianism. It does not involve a change in the essential character of the movement, which will always remain the inspiration of the War Veterans and will have War Veterans in its key positions.

Its leaders are men who normally eschew the political field. But they have been forced out of their normal role by the hated and dangerous policies of the Nationalists. Inevitably they will have to find their feet in this new unaccustomed situation and in doing so they may make mistakes. They must be on guard against succumbing to outside pressures calculated to divert attention from their goal or to create disruption and disunity in their ranks. But because they are sincere and determined in their desire to see democracy return to South Africa, we believe they will overcome any early difficulties, and will find the correct path for attaining their declared objective.

They have the opportunity before them to give the lead at this crucial time to the whole of South Africa.

We, in the Springbok Legion, have taken heart from the emergence of this new body and we look forward with great interest to future developments.

War Veterans' Torch Commando

The National Executive Committee at its meeting on 12th July passed the following resolution:

"The National Executive Committee advises and encourages all members of the Legion to join the War Veterans' Torch Commando and to do all in their power to assist in the achievement of the WVTC's objective of bringing about the defeat of the Nationalist Government."



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YOU'RE TELLING US



Letters to the Editor

FROM AN OLD FRIEND.

Dear Sir,

I promised to keep in touch with you, so here is my first letter. . . . So far as Legion activity is concerned, I have so far seen no sign of it in Cape Town, except that I heard Leo Lovell make a really fine speech in the House on the subject of the riots. I was very glad to be able to hear it. Until the House rose on Friday, I was there practically every evening. I had a wonderful reception and was treated by all just as if I had still been a Private Secretary.

But I was terribly disgusted with what I saw and heard in the Debating Chamber. For many years I have been a humble student of Parliamentary procedure both in Britain and here and I was shocked at the deterioration in Parliamentary behaviour, which has come about since the Nats. gained power. It makes me spit blood to hear a so-called Minister of the Crown barracking an opposition speaker like an ill-disciplined schoolboy

Yours, etc.,
HENRY PEREIRA.

Cape Town.

* * * *

RESIGNATION

. and Our Reply.

Dear Sir,

I received your letters and other correspondence, which had travelled all over the place.

Although I admire your persistent spirit, I regret that I cannot have any more connection with the Springbok Legion, since the papers have made it quite clear that you are a communist movement. I regret that I have to take this step. I wish to say that I am not a member of any other ex-soldiers' movement and have not been influenced by any of them.

With kind regards to all concerned,
Yours etc.,

P.O. Winterskloof, Natal.

OUR REPLY.

Dear Friend,

I have received your letter of resignation and must thank you for the friendly way in which you wrote the letter. In fact, it is just that spirit which prompts me to write to you before accepting your resignation.

You say that 'the papers have made it quite clear that you are a communist movement.' Which papers? The Nationalist papers, I am sure, would have no hesitation in saying categorically that the Legion IS a communist organisation. But what about our own papers? think you will find that not a single one of them has said such a thing. They report, of course, the statements made in Parliament by members of the Government. After all, the Nats. have been saying we are 'communist' ever since we started our election campaign in 1948. Now the question is: are you going to accept the Nationalists' statements about the Legion, remembering that the Legion has been for years their most militant opponent?

Today, as recent newspaper reports indicate, the Nats. will label ALL anti-Nat forces as communist. Did you see that they have called the various Civil Rights Leagues 'communist'? They said Oom Dolf had been made the tool of the communists in the War Veterans' Movement. Their plan is perfectly clear — they're trying to frighten all fighters, by saying that all the other fighters are 'communists'. By so doing they split the opposition forces, isolate the militant members and in the meantime entrench themselves ineradicably in power . . . an easy and effective technique, IF WE FALL FOR IT.

Sorry to give you the trouble, but if you would like to stand in with us, would you renew your subscription. If, however, you still wish to resign, please drop me another note.

Yours fraternally,
General Secretary.

H.N.
Legion Office,
Johannesburg.

POLITICAL QUIZ

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS?

1. What proportion of the Union's parliamentary voters do the Cape Coloureds represent?
2. In what year was the Cape Native Franchise changed?
3. Who made up the Government at that time?
4. Until when was Gen. Hertzog Prime Minister?
5. On which side did Dr. Malan fight during the South African War?
6. Name the Union's first South-African born Governor-General.
7. What are the four basic ci rights?
8. What representation in Parliame have the Africans of the Transvaa
9. How many members are there the House of Assembly?
10. Which government was responsibl for the 'unanimity principle' (veto on the U.N. Security Council)?

(Answers on page 7)

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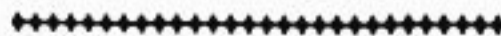
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VRYHEID IN AFRIKA *deur P.B.*

BINNE die afgelope twee jaar het daar drie gebeurtenisse van uitstaande belang op die Afrikaanse vasteland plaasgevind:

- (1) Die Goudkus Verkiesings.
- (2) Die verklaring van beleid in verband met die politieke regte van die inwoners van Nigeria.
- (3) Die besluit van die Belgiese regering om beperkte kiesregte toe te staan aan die inwoners van die Belgiese Kongo.

In elke van die bogenoemde gevalle is daar uitbreiding van fundamentele menslike regte, wat lynreg staan teenoor die beleid van die Nasionale Party in Suid-Afrika waar regte ontnem word.

Die redes vir hierdie besluite is te vind in drie aparte maar nogtans samehangende faktore:

- (a) Ekonomiese ontwikkeling.
- (b) Toenemende politieke gewaarwording by die Naturelle.
- (c) Veranderinge in die stamstelsel.

Die beste illustrasie van hoe hierdie faktore werk kan gesien word in 'n uiteensetting van die toestand in die Goudkus.

Aan die begin van die eeu was die Goudkus die wêreld se grootste produseerder van kakao. In 1914 na herstel van die gevolge van 'n siekte onder die kokosbome, het die wêreldoorlog uitgebreek wat dit onmoontlik gemaak het om die kakao te bemark. Met die onvermydelike afname in produksie het werkloosheid toegeneem. Terselfdertyd kon die boere nie by bly met betalings op verbande nie, hoofsaaklik omdat hulle nie kon oorslaan na enige ander vorm van produksie, 'n toestand wat 'n groot getal landelose boere laat ontstaan, waarvan die een dorp na die ander beweeg het op soek na werk, en as gevolg waarvan die getal werkloos steeds aangegroei het.

EINDE VAN DIE STAMSTELSE

Die stamstelsel het spoedig onvoldoende geblyk te wêes in hierdie nuwe ekonomiese era. Die uitbreiding van kapitalistiese kompetisie het heel gou die stadige maklike stam ekonomie ondermyn. Die Naturelle wat weg gebreek het van die stamstelsel het vinnig politiek bewus geraak; hulle het spoedig

beseft dat hulle sonder politieke vryheid en regte nie hulle ekonomiese toestand sou kon verbeter. Hulle heel eerste eis daarom was self-regering.

Dit is 'n belangrike faktor, en een wat in gedagte gehou moet word, wanneer 'n studie gemaak word van die politieke eise van koloniale inwoners. Blankes wat simpatiek gesind is teenoor die koloniale wikkellinge voortspruit uit ekonomiese faktore, 'n eis om beter werkgeriewe. In werklikheid vind ons egter dat die leiers van die koloniale naturelle meer begaan is oor politieke regte, 'n feit wat bewys word deur die program van die „People's Party", in die Goudkus, waarin geen spoedige verligting beloof word aan die werkersklas wat onder uiters moeilike omstandighede leef.

Hulle hoof program bestaan uit twee punte:

- A. Vry verkiesings en 'n onafhanklike Goudkus.
- B. Landbou hervormings en beheer oor kokos produksie.

Na 'n reeks onluste vanaf 1921 tot 1945 het 'n Koninklike Kommissie ingestem tot die hou van vry verkiesings. Die verkiesings is gehou en die „People's Party" het 'n oorweldigende meerderheid verkry.

HOE OM TE STEM

Wat veral van belang is, is die feit dat sommige van die punte in die Handves van die Verenigde Volke deur die Koninklike Kommissie in ag geneem is. Hulle erken bv. die koloniale inwoner se reg op onafhanklikheid, wat nie weerhou kan word deur 'n imperialistiese mag. Die enigste manier waarop uitdrukking gegee kan word aan die wense van die inwoners is deur middel van vry verkiesings, wat gevolglik deur die kommissie aanbeveel is.

Die Goudkus verkiesings het 'n ander geloof algemeen deur blankes daarop nagehou die nek ingeslaan, naamlik dat die naturel geen begrip het van die demokratiese metode van verkiesings. Aangesien daar geen verkiesings voor die in die Goudkus plaasgevind het, was daar geen voorbeeld waarvolgens die ongegrondheid van hierdie geloof bewys kon word nie. In die Goudkus is die hele proses egter op eenvoudige wyse aan die inwoners verduidelik met algehele sukses. Daar is daarom geen rede

meer om aan te neem dat die naturel nie in staat sal wees om sy stem op die gewone wyse uit te bring nie.

Ontwikkelings in Nigeria en die Belgiese Kongo is beperk in vergelyking met wat plaasgevind het in die Goudkus. Nogtans is die veranderinge van die alergrootste belang. In albei lande word aangeneem dat die reg om te stem gebaseer moet word op onderwys en eiendoms-kwalifikasies en nie op kleur soos voorheen die geval was. 'n Nuwe houding kan dus onder die imperialistiese magte bespeur word. Die dae van koloniale uitbuiting is verby.

Hierdie ontwikkelings gebaseer op die Handves van die Verenigde Volke word verwerp in Suid-Afrika, waar die regerings beleid afstuur op die verskansing van die regte van die blanke en onderdrukking van die nie-blanke.

DIE TOEKOMS

Ons sal goed doen om te probeer beseft wat besig is om plaas te vind op die Afrikaanse Vasteland. Wat plaasgevind het in die Goudkus, Nigeria en die Belgiese Kongo sal gevolg word deur soortgelyke veranderinge in die status van ander Afrikaanse kolonies.

Hoe lank sal Suid-Afrika kan volhou met sy retrogressiewe en gevaarlike beleid teenoor die agtergrond van sulke ontwikkelinge.

Die toekoms van Suid-Afrika is vol gevare. As die Nasionale Party aan bewind bly vir sê nog vyf jaar en voortgaan met hulle onderdrukkingsbeleid, kan ons dan verbaas wees as die naturelle politieke organisasies hulle toevlug neem tot geweld omdat alle demokratiese kanale vir hulle gesluit sal wees?

In die lig van hierdie uiteensetting kan Dr. Malan se ontsteltenis gesien word omdat die Goudkus sy regmatige plek ingeneem het onder die nasies.

Demokrasie is aan die mars! Die magte van vooruitgang is egter vreemd aan Dr. Malan.

APARTHEID?

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DEATH . . .

Pays a Dividend

by H.R.



THE Economist gave a hearty laugh. This was his first reaction to a suggestion that some people are deeply interested in fostering armament drives — purely for reasons of profit. "The days are done, when mystery men went round stirring up tensions and then sold arms as a result of the demand they had created" said the Economist and passed lightly to other topics.

OR ARE THEY?

The "Saturday Evening Post", an American magazine with a circulation of several million copies per week, is the source of the glad tidings that General Motors had in the previous year (1950) made a net profit of 334 million dollars. This all time record was not based on a record output of Chevs. or any other peacetime product — as we know, output has been restricted and new American cars even at present prices, are impossible to get at short notice. Whence then the tidy profit? From Government orders for armaments and many of the million and one things which a modern army uses.

So it becomes apparent that even though General Motors may not (and for all I know they do) make guns or bombs, they still make record profits out of war materials. So the output of Chevs. for civilian use suffers, and future profits depend on how much the Government buys of army truck and other equipment

This picture is true of every one of the great trusts which today control the American economic system. Result — increased profit, shortages of consumers goods, inflation and a dirty great heap of weapons and equipment for killing people.

* * * * *

PROOF OF THE PUDDING

The dawning of peace possibilities in Korea was eagerly welcomed all over the world—except in financial circles. Share prices on the New York Stock Exchange took a dive and alarm and despondency was the order of the day.

In Johannesburg, the Star questioned a Stock Exchange official about this peculiar phenomenon, and the reply (which they published) was to the effect that a reduction in the manufacture and use of weapons would result in a fall in

prices of raw materials — wool, rubber, cotton, steel and so forth. While I feel duly sorry for the trusts, I am also aware that these raw materials also could be used to make the clothes I wear, or build the house I one day hope to have, but which recedes further and further as my pound buys less and less.

* * * * *

TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

Personally, apart from my girl friend's number, figures running into millions confuse me. So I find it difficult to grasp the significance of the defence budget in the U.S.A. and Britain. America alone is spending 360 billion dollars. It's quite fantastic and all comes out of the value of real wages. There will be full employment, but the demand for goods, which are being diverted to war purposes, will drive prices and profits high. No wonder a relaxing of international tension forms the subject of financiers' nightmares.

* * * * *

THE PAY OFF.

Senator Pat McCarran of America was the author of a Bill to provide a loan of 10 million dollars to Franco Spain. He wrote an article about it (again in the "Saturday Evening Post") in which he explains his reasons. With breath-taking cynicism he explains that while we may not like the Spanish form of government, "they can still kill Reds". So for this amiable qualification they draw 10 billion dollars to be used in due course — not to raise the living standards of the most poverty-stricken nation in Europe — but to buy bigger and better guns.

* * * * *

BLACK IS WHITE

Many years ago (so long ago that we are expected to have forgotten) a pack

of Nazi leaders were tried and either flung into gaol or hanged. But times have changed since then and while the Americans regretfully admit they cannot bring the dead ones to life, they can at least release and reinstate the gaoled murderers. This they are doing as quickly as they can in the face of worldwide revulsion.

Today it was announced that the 'allies' are ending the state of war with Germany forthwith "to clear the way for the re-establishment of full national sovereignty for Western Germany." What the announcement doesn't say is that it will also clear the way for the re-armament of Germany and its integration into the Atlantic Pact. The tiger is off the chain, boys, and it hasn't changed its stripes. There isn't a hope in hell for progress inside Western Germany now — it has been carefully turned back on the road to Fascism. Too bad about the gas chambers and things, but "they can still kill the Reds".

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. 3%.
2. 1936.
3. Hertzog's Nationalists and the S.A.P., making the Fusion Government.
4. September 1939—outbreak of War.
5. Neither — he spent the three years under the protection of the British flag in the Cape.
6. G. Brand van Zyl.
7. Freedom of speech, movement, association and organisation.
8. One-half of Senator Ballinger, who represents the Africans of the Transvaal and the Free State.
9. 159.
10. United States.

(Questions on page 3.)

"When men are imprisoned unjustly the only place for a just man is in prison."—Thoreau.

HAD a letter from a friend of mine in England. He said he would have liked to go out for a drink, but couldn't afford it. And I thought, 'What sort of life is this, where a decent man, earning a reasonable gross wage, serving the community fairly, is nevertheless deprived of the simple pleasure of dropping into a pub and having a drink? It isn't as if he's a drunkard, a spendthrift, a won't-work. It's just that he lives at a time when taxation is so crippling and prices so high, that he cannot do the ordinary little things that an ordinary little man should be able to do'.

I asked myself the question: Isn't humanity old enough, hasn't it been long enough on this earth to be able to regulate its social life with some commonsense? And the answer came clearly, 'No, it bleedin' well ain't, it bleedin' well can't.' And with that, all the frustrations that life brings along, all the anxieties, the dimly felt fears, the unfulfillments, the insecurity, the lack of reliance and confidence, came swooping out of the skies and enveloping my groping mind . . . 'this sorry scheme of things', as Omar Khayyam put it. I didn't get depressed and morbid, as some people do, when they contemplate the sorrows of life. I got angry. Don't you feel the same way too?

After all, we have only one life to live — three score years and ten, the Bible says, though geriatrics will probably add another decade or two. But, what's the good of adding on ten years to your normal span, if the years you already have aren't brimful with a zest for life?

Do you welcome each new day eagerly as an opportunity for creative work, enriching companionship, re-creative leisure? Do you still experience your childhood's sense of wonder? the love of exploring and finding? Or have you become an unwilling cog in an unimaginative machine?

Perhaps it will do some good, if we spend a little time becoming conscious of the things that go wrong, the obstructions that rob you of the twinkle in your eye and the spring in your step.

A child is born. Countless thousands don't have enough to eat, not enough clothes, not enough light and air. Their bodies are now open to all the things that can go wrong, colds and weak chests, digestive ailments and so on. In the meantime, fathers and mothers, rich and poor alike, unknowingly allow their own mental kinks, pettinesses, dissatisfactions, unconscious frustrations to influence their children's personalities, so that in later life the children emotionally and mentally are pushed just a little bit out of line.

But children are wonderful, aren't they? So often they grow up healthy in body and happy by nature, despite what their parents and their surroundings do to them!

yet learning how to live with other people.

And how many children in later life bear a grudge because they couldn't afford to go to the University, even though they had the brains. For years and years they feel they were cheated. It's true, isn't it?

And then Father says, 'Well, come on, me lad. What are you going to do?' and the youngster, who so often hasn't an idea, finally takes a job, because it is safe, it is respectable, it's a cut above what Johnny Brown is doing, it means he'll be able to start paying in to the family purse. How many square pegs in round holes are produced! You wanted to be a vet., but the family couldn't afford it; you wanted to be an

utterly free and wise choice. We all do, don't we? Then how is it so many marriages are disappointments? why so many divorces? Those little kinks in our personalities, derived from our childhood days, lurk beneath the surface and make us grate on each other and inevitably on our children. Infuriating, isn't it? And all our days we smother this feeling that our marriage has lost its glamour; it's a makeshift, filled with little frustrations and unfulfilled longings. But we make quite a job of it all the same.

Oh god! and then the fears that crop up. When a man takes a wife and children, he gives hostages to fortune. How right you were, old man! Shall I lose my

Oh threats of Hell and Hopes of Paradise!

One thing at least is certain — THIS life flies;

One thing is certain and the rest is lies;

The Flower that once has blown for ever dies.

watering with their wonderful homes and beautiful women and yet it's mostly hullyho, except for an occasional English or Italian film. And what about my leisure time, what I get of it? Can't afford to join a golf club, in any case haven't got a car to get out to the cheaper clubs; and so and so and so on!

You'll be saying that this article is one long moan. I agree it seems to be one-sided. In any case, I realise I have written from an individual point of view, as a European. I can't imagine what the coloured people would write, even though they often seem so much more capable of joy than we do. And you will be saying that I don't offer any solutions. Well, I have a few suggestions of my own, but WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I'm offering the Editor a guinea for the best article received offering some solution to the problems, which take the sparkle and the joy out of so many lives.

WILL YOU LET US HAVE YOUR IDEAS?

(In connection with the above, articles should be received by the Editor at P.O. Box 4088, Johannesburg, by August 10th. Articles to be typed, if possible.)

(The two verses in this article are from Omar Khayyam.)

Pass this Copy
on to a Friend

"THIS SORRY SCHEME OF THINGS"

Ah Love! could you and I with Fate conspire

To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire,

Would we not shatter it to bits — and then

Re-mould it nearer to the heart's desire!

job! how can I earn a little more? suppose I should get sick or even die! Who's going to look after the family? I must take out an insurance, but I can't afford that just now. What shall we live on when I'm too old to work? And now I must help to keep my dear old Dad, who hasn't got a pension. Worry after worry, slipping away that joy-of-living you once dreamt about.

The papers every day don't bring much satisfaction either. There's all this talk of war. There's great armament programmes. The cost-of-living goes crazily upward and always the threat of war. Must it be? Must I be killed or crippled — or my children?

It's odd, too, how people become aware of how frightened they are of the natives, not in an open, physical way, but in a hidden way . . . It's always there. You're afraid for your wife, for your children, for your mother, for yourself! And I suppose the natives are afraid of us in the same way. How maddening. Why must we have these fears? Can't we live together peacefully? working together? being friendly? Surely that's possible, to do away with the suspicion, the vague hostilities, the fears.

And what else? Well the films at the bioscope mostly get on my nerves so silly and untrue to life; so mouth-

engine driver, but that was too dirty; you wanted to be a carpenter but that is a trade, not a profession; you wanted to be a ballet dancer, but that isn't manly enough; you wanted to drive a truck, but that's Kaffir work. It's a wonder that sometimes one meets a man who wanted to be a doctor and he IS a doctor.

Apart from the choice of a job, one rebels against the nature of so many jobs. Too many people become little bits of a great machine, never knowing where their bit fits in or what the machine is turning out. The job is monotonous, drab. At the end of the day they feel dead and disgruntled. They've got nothing out of eight hours work, no creative gesture, no satisfaction. They feel they'd love a change, any sort of change . . . but they can't get it.

What about marriage? Both you and your wife are confident you have made

And they go to school . . . shades of the prison house begin to close about the growing boy. What do you think about the schools there days? Of course, they don't beat the kids with birches and the children have dental clinics, school-feeding, usually airy classrooms and fine playgrounds. But what about the actual educational system? I think it's terrible. The system demands that each child shall finally have a lovely certificate to the effect that he knows who won the Seven Years' War, that x plus y squared equals x squared plus xy plus y squared, that the Great Trick took place in 1858, that 's' comes before 'c', except after 'c' . . . and all that. All this unnatural emphasis on intellectual learning, cramming, sweating, passing exams, failing exams, homework, detention and lines! One doesn't get a picture of a crowd of children happily DOING things, playing, make-believing, being wonderfully individual and



Children at play . . . what is their future?

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A SORRY SESSION

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NO one expects that, while the Nationalist Government is in power, Parliamentary sessions will make a good impression. But there are many people who were surprised and alarmed at the degree of ruthlessness shown by the Government during the 1951 session.

The Nationalist Government has now been in power for three years, during which time there have been four Parliamentary sessions. The first short session in 1948, a few months after the "great victory", was the curtain-raiser: In the subsequent three sessions, the Government laid the foundation of Nationalist rule. With the conclusion of the 1951 session, it can be said that the groundwork has been completed.

The next one or two sessions before the General Election need not necessarily be as controversial and bitter as the preceding ones. No doubt, the country will be treated to mild budgets, and when the public are thought to be forgetting the evil deeds of the past three years, the election can be launched.

Of what does this foundation of Nationalist rule consist? Briefly, it is the collection of legislation designed to entrench the Nationalist Party so firmly in power that it cannot be upset by an election. The process began with such measures as the Citizenship Bill and culminated in the notorious Coloured vote bill, which was forced through Parliament at the tail end of the session.

When the next election is held, therefore, 48,000 Coloured voters in the Cape will have no voice in it. If this enables the Government to win back, say, five seats from the United Party, then it can increase its majority by 10. Naturally, the four Coloured representatives who must be elected in terms of the Act, will vote with the Opposition. But this still means a Government gain of about 6 Parliamentary seats.

Then next year the re-delimitation of constituencies will take place. Hitherto delimitations have taken place every five years, but after next year they will occur only once every 10 years. If the delimitation is favourable for the Government,

then it could benefit them very materially.

The next election, therefore, could quite possibly see the United Party at a serious disadvantage from the outset. It will not be a straightforward election. It is worth recalling the recent prediction of an Opposition Member of Parliament, that while the Nationalist Government is in power South Africa will not have true elections.

There are many ways of "arranging" elections. Taking away the Coloured vote is one way. There are many other "constitutional" devices. The Citizenship Act is such a device.

The last Parliamentary session showed only too clearly that South Africa has entered a completely new phase. The old circumstances have changed; the accepted traditions and the traditional

We are very pleased to print this article written by an independent observer of the political scene, since it confirms our own analysis of the situation and re-inforces, therefore, the need for a heightened struggle outside Parliament itself.

methods all lie on the scrap heap. If the past session showed anything, it was that the Parliamentary system is being killed.

The republic is not here yet, but the "republican" government of which the Nationalist Party is so fond, is virtually upon us. Why have a republic when you can silence your enemies just as effectively by remaining within the Commonwealth?

History has proved that Parliamentary democracy, as our form of government is known, can function only if the two major parties are ready to honour the traditions of the system. There is no form of legal coercion. The whole basis of Parliamentary government is a friendly understanding. And the Nationalist Party has torn up this basis, uprooted it.

What happens next? What happens when the Parliamentary Opposition suddenly finds that the ground has been cut away from underneath it?

There is only one answer: The struggle must be transferred from Parliament to the public outside Parliament. That is the lesson of the 1951 Parliamentary session.

Opposition Members of Parliament, generally, have been reluctant to fight on public platforms. They have clung desperately to that frail cry: "Our fight is inside Parliament." Now they are discovering that their opponent inside Parliament has no intention of engaging them in combat within the walls of that sombre building. They are being presented with a choice: To submit, or to take the fight out among the public.

The legislation of the 1951 session can be divided into three parts: A number of small measures affecting everyday problems of administration, such as loopholes and weaknesses in non-political Acts: the monstrous Coloured bill, designed to help keep the Nationalist Party in power; and several apartheid measures, some of which had to be held over.

One of the most important apartheid bills was the so-called Bantu Authorities Bill, which seeks at re-establishing the dying tribal system and depriving the African population of the political rights they have acquired in the course of their progress from tribalism to urbanisation. This deprivation is contained in a brief statement in the bill, which abolishes the Natives' Representative Council.

So here we see the fight spreading on two fronts. On the European front, the struggle is moving from Parliament to the general public, and mass resistance is growing. On the Non-European front, the Government is breaking off all contact with advanced African leaders and with the progressive forces in African society and the stage is being set for a clash.

South Africa is stirring into active resistance against the Nationalist Government. The public are becoming roused on a wide scale. Only now is the real struggle beginning.

BRANCH



ITEMS

THE Area Groups in Johannesburg have continued to be very active. THE NORTHERN SUBURBS GROUP spent a most enjoyable evening on June 14th listening to the adventures of Joe Openshaw and Guy Nicholson on the Torch Commando. It was very pleasant and encouraging to see Legionnaires there with whom we had not been in touch for some time.

For business reasons Mackie Pereira had to stay behind in Johannesburg for a month after Henry had left for Capetown, so THE CENTRAL GROUP at the meeting on June 26th had an opportunity to make the Branch presentation to her personally just before her departure. Some very stimulating discussion on various aspects of Legion policy was followed by some recorded music — "La Boutique Fantasque" by Rossini.

THE EASTERN SUBURBS GROUP at its meeting on July 4th was supposed to discuss the political situation in South Africa, but before very long everyone was so engrossed in an analysis of the International situation that when the chairman tried to bring them back to the subject he was ruled out of order and the meeting carried on with

great enjoyment until they were compelled to go home.

* * * * *

The Johannesburg Branch is holding a public meeting in the Phylencia Hall, 39 Koch Street (near Joubert Park) on Tuesday, 7th Aug. We are arranging for a Member of Parliament to discuss the recent session of Parliament, surely one of the gravest in our history. Members in Hillbrow are now busy re-forming their Group and this meeting should give them a good start in their efforts to re-activate Legionnaires in that area.

* * * * *

Johannesburg film fans are very excited about the forthcoming showing at the University of "Louisiana Story", directed by the brilliant Robert Flaherty. The Johannesburg Film Society deserves everyone's support for their courage in

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risking their slender resources by importing this outstanding work of art. The film will be shown for a week from July 18th.

LUCKY WINNER

The winner of the Competition organised in the month of June by the Johannesburg Central Group is:

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BOOK REVIEW

Coloured Writer's Success

"WILD CONQUEST" by Peter Abrahams, published by Faber & Faber, is a novel by the Coloured author of "Mine Boy". It is the best that has come from his pen.

The material is similar to that of "Turning Wheels" by Stuart Cloete, but the author's treatment is objective and sympathetic both to the Whites and native Africans. He paints a picture not only of the heroic Whites trekking into the wilderness in search of a home but also of the equally heroic struggle of the Matabele to defend theirs. He brings out the fact that this was a clash between two forms of civilisation. He does not treat the Trek only through the eyes of a white man. The result is more satisfying and real than anything dealing with this subject that has yet been published.

The story opens on the farm of the Jansens in the old Cape Colony. The news of the freeing of the slaves has come. So masterly is this part of the story that one has a feeling for the intense and utter loneliness of the farm and the vastness of the distances which separate one farm from another.

The story moves quickly and violently from there to the Northward Trek and the final crushing of the Matabele. The characters and their thoughts and actions, the environment in which these take place, all ring true both for white and non-white.

While there may be some South Africans who will reject the more brutal Boer characters, these characters are depicted fairly. On the other hand Abrahams has brought a humanity and dignity to the Bantu characters which should do something towards breaking down the traditional stereotype of a Kaffir of that time as a savage motivated only by a senseless and brutal desire to kill and rape. The character of old Johannes, the slave, is exceptionally well drawn.

My first impression was that this just missed being a great book — that it was not completely satisfying. On reflection, however, I believe that this feeling is evoked by the revelation of the vast potential that exists in the history of South Africa and particularly in the field of the interaction of white and non-white as portrayed by this master.

"THE STRANGE LAND" by Ned Chalmers, published by Jonathan Cape, is a new novel. It is among the best to come out of World War II. It is of the same pattern as "The Young Lions" and "The Naked and the Dead".

Covering the brief period of six days and an ill-directed offensive against the Siegfried Line in the Autumn of 1944, "The Strange Land" reveals a picture of war as it is.

In turn the twelve characters contribute their "stream-of-consciousness" narratives to reveal the interaction of personalities. This is obviously a difficult method — one that could fail so easily. Yet the author succeeds in conveying a realistic and convincing picture without the reader being conscious of the vehicle.

This is marred somewhat by the Hollywoodian introduction of an improbable love interest. Lt. Clare Booth, the

W.A.C. Officer, while a convincingly drawn character, was not something that happened to anybody you or I know of in or about Battle Area. She may have been possible for the Base Wallahs. The inhumanly tough General Mallon, anxiously striving to make a name for himself that will enable him to go into politics, sacrificing the lives of those under his command in order to make "news" and, in general, behaving as if the war was created just to give him scope for his ambitions, is more real and comprehensible. Similarly, the clot, John C. Wexel, the self-important War Correspondent, is completely convincing.

Contrasted with them are the Platoon Commander, Lt. Keith and Captain Michael Crosby, Sgt. Franz Vorak and the Riflemen.

The Battle Action is depicted truly and effectively but whether he is describing the luxury of Paris or the muck and blood and sweat of the front line one is always conscious of Ned Chalmer's sympathy for the rank and file soldier and his passionate indignation against the callous and needless suffering and sacrifice of life. J.H.

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"I FOUGHT for these things"



WE were having a bit of an argument, after leaving a pub, when MacDonald suddenly asked, "Well, what the devil DID we fight for, then?"

His question started me thinking and even after I'd got back home and into bed, the question kept buzzing in my head.

Some of the old war-time phrases came back again.

"We're fighting for democracy," the Information Officer used to say. A fellow asked him, "Is South Africa a democratic country?"

"Well, yes and no," he replied. "The Afrikaners have a strong sense of equality and the ancestors of the English-speaking had no time for that old feudal stuff about upper and lower classes and masters and serfs. So white people in the Union realise that a man is as good as his neighbour and their children should all get the same chance

By JAMES LAWTON.

in life.. Of course, when it comes to black folks, the white people don't think it's so simple. But the principle is the same, isn't it? The Natives are not inferior human beings, as the Nazis say. They are just people who've never had a proper chance to improve themselves."

All this the Information Officer said — and at the time it made good sense to me. Well, come to think of it, it still makes sense. Why shouldn't everyone have his human rights respected?

I remember my own grandfather saying that Cecil Rhodes stood for "equal rights for all civilised men." I believe that WAS the policy in the Cape Province right down till 1936 and Jan Hofmeyr stood for it till the day he died in 1948.

Yes, that's the decent line to take, but of course we must civilise the Natives more and more. That means giving them every opportunity to learn and to reach the same standards as us. All this stuff about apartheid is false. If you keep people apart, how can you or they find out what the other crowd is like beneath their skins. I used to think that Jews were odd and quite different from us until I rubbed shoulders with dozens of them in the army. Then I saw they were really

no different from me in the things that mattered.

Do you remember that during the war there was a lot of talk about "social security"? At first I didn't know what it all meant. Then that tall chap, another Information Officer, explained it quite clearly one night.

He said that everyone should get a job after the war. And should be paid a living wage so that one could support a wife and a couple of children. He said, too, that if a man was injured and couldn't work for a time, or if his health broke down, or if he was too old to work at a normal job, the State should provide for him out of big insurance funds to which he had contributed when earning good money.

I like that idea of "social security". In Britain to-day, I read in *Picture Post*, everyone gets free medical service. I hate to see men obviously sick walking around. I hate to see a man with one leg trying to get along without crutches.

That reminds me of another thing you can say I fought for. I fought for peace. War is all right until you're in the middle of it. I remember some of the men in that hospital — the one with his face all messed up and another who didn't know if he'd be blind or not. When I saw men who'd taken punishment like that for life, I thought this must surely be the last war. But now the papers write about "the third world war" as if it would just be a picnic for everybody. It seems to me high time that there was permanent peace so that we could enjoy our lives without fear and without spending all those millions of money on armaments.

When we saw that film, "All Quiet on the Western Front", last month, the audience cheered a soldier who said: "Next time let those who want to fight be given sticks and stones and fight it out on a football field."

So there's my answer to MacDonald. The things I fought for were these:—

I fought for democracy, meaning the right of all civilised men and women to have a voice in the way their country is run.

(Continued on next page)

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PERSONALIA

THERE are two types of Legionnaire.

Firstly, there is the old-stager who signed on in the early days, worked hard on Camp Committees in the Union, at Helwan — do you remember the Legion office? — in Italy and in Algiers — do you remember 'Maison Blanche'? Then there is the type who came into the Legion in recent years, because he saw in the Legion an organisation through which an ex-soldier could make his contribution to winning the political fight in peace time.

Falling into this second category is Harold Hurford, 'G.H.' as he is called. When the Legion started its Election Campaign early in 1948, G. H. threw in his weight. He canvassed till his feet were sore and he stuck up stickers right, left and centre. Then he joined the Legion good and proper.

The War Office refused to enrol G.H. in the First World War, because he was too young, but he got into the S.A.A.F. in 1939 and served through the war as a W.O. in the Met. Section. These duties took him all over the place, up north, South America and even to

Tristan da Cunha — 'Job 49'. wasn't it?

Now he is Chairman of the Legion's Central Group in Johannesburg. He is a staunch progressive and during debate often throws in some challenge, which makes us all sit up and start thinking again.

I've always thought G.H. must be a very kind man, because his wife remains as youthful and as good to look at as his daughter. Gerry Mackenzie, by the way, wolfed his way into the Hurford menage and made off with the aforementioned beautiful daughter. So now the whole family are working for the Legion. Does YOUR family measure up?

* * * *

KEY GEFFIN is by no means the only star rugby player in the ranks of the Legion. BILL BUSH plays regularly for E.R.P.M.'s first fifteen and there is a parallel between his activities on the Rugby field and in the Legion.

A rugged, unflagging "grafter", continually on the ball, shoving in the tight with all his 200 lbs., as intelligent as he is vigorous; — those of you who know how much he has done in Germiston will recognise how aptly those words describe his efforts in both fields.

One man doesn't make a team. But when Bill and the other Germiston stalwarts get a few more to help carry the ball they will have a team that will take some stopping.

I FOUGHT FOR THESE THINGS.

(Continued from previous page)

I fought for social security, meaning a decent job and a living wage and insurance against ill-health and old age.

I fought for peace, meaning that I don't want to see any more young men maimed in the prime of life, without arms or legs, blinded or paralysed — victims of another war.

And you'd be surprised how many fellows feel the same as I do.

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