

# “SOUTH AFRICA AFTER THE NATIONALISTS”

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## The Editor Sums Up

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We launched this symposium in our issue of last November with two stimulating articles: by Mr. Walter Sisulu (formerly general secretary of the African National Congress, now banned from Congress and charged with Treason) and Mr. Patrick Duncan (national organiser of the Liberal Party, once jailed as a Defiance Volunteer). Their articles were followed by a thoughtful article by the Rev. Douglas Thompson and a brilliant and provocative sketch by Mr. Joe Matthews based upon a “report from the future.”

We cannot, thus complain of the quality of our contributions. But we can and do complain of the quantity. Many were invited to contribute, people of widely differing views, ranging from the Socialists of the Labour Party to the ultra-nationalists of the “Africanist” faction. To our disappointment, very few of those invited responded, and our readers who were asked to join freely in the discussion did not do so at all.

We continue to hold out an open invitation to all who are interested in a democratic future for South Africa to contribute their views to this Journal, whether on the problems raised in the Symposium or on any other matter of general interest, though we have now, perforce to terminate the Symposium itself.

We are very grateful to those who did take the trouble to write out their views on the crucial questions originally posed. On the whole, despite differences of approach and detail, they showed a remarkable similarity on fundamentals. One and all, the participants declared their belief in a full democracy for our country, based on a universal adult franchise; and their confidence that the social forces exist in our country to bring about such a profound change.

True, there were differences. Not all the contributors shared Mr. Duncan's enthusiasm for the “free enterprise system” as exemplified in the United States, nor Mr. Matthew's surmise that the partners to the Congress alliance would eventually merge into one big organisation. But all of them were informed with the spirit of free and fearless debate, of boundless faith in our people and their future which is so characteristic of the Democratic Opposition in our country. No contrast is more striking than the total absence of this spirit from the upholders of the present regime in the Union: who are as afraid of new ideas and their free discussion as they are of the future itself. From which remarkable contrast our readers will not find it difficult to deduce who, in fact, the future belongs to.