

3 THE BANTU AFFAIRS

ADMINISTRATION BOARDS

The Bantu Affairs Administration Boards have now been brought into being in many parts of the Republic. Great things are claimed for them, in particular that they will make it much easier for African work-seekers to find work. Past experience does not lead us to be unduly optimistic about the effects of legislation sponsored by the present Government, but we are very willing to keep an open mind and to see whether the new Boards will help in this way. If they do, it would be a great blessing.

There is, however, another side to this legislation which demands consideration. It removes from the municipalities all privileges, duties and powers as regards their African populations. This tendency to whittle away the powers of Local Government has been very pronounced, and we have

now arrived at the stage when a Town Council can do little or nothing to help the Africans in its area. This is a very sad development, partly because where a municipality is more enlightened in its outlook than the Central Government, it is forced to conform to Central Government ideas; secondly, because any reduction of the powers of Local Governments is very bad for democracy. Across the years the Provinces have lost many powers, though curiously enough the fewer powers they have left the taller grow their administrative buildings.

Municipal self-government is a very vital part of the democratic system and we regret that the new legislation deals so shrewd a blow. □

STAMPING OUT RACIALISM

by Edgar Brookes



The office of Minister of Posts and Telegraphs is not usually regarded as the most important in the Cabinet, but he, more than any other Minister, controls the symbolism which has the most frequent effect on the daily life of citizens. Up to 1948 the royal family appeared frequently on the stamps of South Africa. The first Union stamp—the 2½d of 1910—showed King George V in coronation robes and as late as 1947 the 2d stamp showed King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and the 3d stamp the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. Since 1948, with the exception of the 1953 Coronation stamp of Queen Elizabeth II, the stamps of South Africa have been pointedly if not blatantly non-British. The people represented on them (in order of the date of issue) have been Jan van Riebeeck, Maria de la Quellerie, President Kruger, President Pretorius, Andries Pretorius, the six Prime Ministers, John Calvin, Dr. Verwoerd, Martin Luther, President Fouchè, General Hertzog as a Boer general, Professor Barnard, Wolraad

Woltemade and C. J. Langenhoven. The English-speaking population must take such comfort as they can from the stamps representing "The Wanderer entering Durban" (2½d 1949) and "The Chapman" (2d, 1962), and possibly a share in the pictures of a Rugby player (12½c, 1964) and a Nurse (12½c, 1964).

Far more important than this is that out of the more than one hundred and seventy designs used by our Post Office since 1910 only two have the slightest references to the African population. The 1½d of 1938 showing the signing of the Dingaan-Retief treaty gives us at one end a tall Zulu bearing a shield, who might possibly be Dingaan, though Piet Retief and his comrades takes up three-quarters of the design, while an earlier issue (the 4d of 1926) daringly shows what is described as "a Native kraal". It is no a high proportion. This is not all to be ascribed to Nationalist prejudices. The famous War issues