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FEBRUARY, 1952.

Volume X. No. 2.

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION.

OUR 9th NATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE Annual National Conference scheduled to take place on April 26 and 27 will be the ninth of its kind. The Legion came into existence in November 1941 but was officially constituted in February 1944. Throughout that period of nearly eleven years the Legion has remained true to the ideals and principles to which it pledged itself in that dark year of the war. It has been in the forefront of the struggle for their realisation and maintenance. Attempts have been made to divert it, to make it ineffective through internal dissension, to buy it, to intimidate it and even to ignore it. Despite all this it has continued to make itself felt in the community in the cause of democracy and peace. It has played an important part, both directly and indirectly.

Each Annual National Conference has provided us with an opportunity of examining the proposition as to whether or not there is a need for the Springbok Legion, of determining what that need is, and of devising policies and programmes to meet it. The proud record of the Legion is a measure of the use we have made of that opportunity and the sincerity and honesty with which we have dealt with the matters before Conference.

At this ninth Annual National Conference again we will examine the proposition "Is there a need for the Springbok Legion?" and since policies and programmes flow directly from the answer to this question it is fitting that we should give it serious thought now.

As an organisation dedicated to the six points in the Legion's Constitution we have to ask: (a) Are all ex-servicemen and women ensured of decent work, pay and adequate living condi-

tions for life? (b) have we gained economic security for dependants of fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen? (c) Are returned soldiers, sailors and airmen adequately protected from exploitation in any shape or form and the interests of their dependants safeguarded? (d) Has South Africa achieved that unity and co-operation among races which we knew on the battlefield? (e) Are there no individuals, groups, parties or movements in South Africa attempting to undermine the principles and practice of democracy? (f) Are there no individuals, groups, parties or movements in South Africa working for a society based on the four freedoms who need our support?

The answer to the first three questions is a definite No. Ex-servicemen and their dependants generally have no economic security and their pay and conditions of work and living are far from adequate. Although there is a shortage of manpower and consequently relatively little unemployment in the community, there is a rapid deterioration in living standards due to the inflationary process brought on by the Armaments programme of the Western Nations. Again, as this process can end only in economic chaos, there is the threat of widespread unemployment in the near future. Since Ex-servicemen are an integral part of the community and indivisible from it they will be among those affected. Even with a sympathetic government it is hardly likely that Ex-soldiers would be given any real or special consideration. Our present government is not only unsympathetic but actually hostile.

On this basis alone it would seem that there is a very real need for an organisation such as the Legion.

The fourth question requires little by way of answer. The deterioration in relations between the different national groups and particularly between white and non-white, since the Nationalist Government came to power, is so apparent that it speaks for itself.

The record of the legislation of the Nationalist Government since coming to power, its violation of the constitution and attacks on Civil and Political rights, answers the fifth question.

While there are movements such as the Peace Movement, the Civil Rights League, the Freedom of the Press Council, the Torch Commando and the Non-European movements, struggling for the basic human rights the last question is effectively answered.

From this, again, it is apparent that there is a very real need for an organisation such as the Legion.

It remains for us to ask the inevitable question "In the light of the Government's hostility to the Legion and the fairly widespread unsympathetic attitude of the ignorant and ill informed is the Legion the organisation to meet this need?"

A survey of the organisations that exist in South Africa, including the other Ex-service Organisations, reveals that there is not another organisation that has given, or is prepared to give, expression to the needs and aspirations of the Ex-soldiers who comprise the Springbok Legion. It follows then that while Ex-servicemen have needs and aspirations the Springbok Legion has work to do.

The test and the significance of Conference will lie in whether or not we have THE WILL to do what has to be done.

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YOU'RE TELLING US



Letters to the Editor

Johannesburg,
31st January, 1952.

Dear Sir,

I have read your article "Discussion on Peace" in the December issue of "Fighting Talk" with some feeling of alarm.

I have not been in Russia either, but I make a point of reading whatever seems an authentic report on current affairs, and especially on what goes on behind the "Iron Curtain," and I have never yet seen or heard any serious suggestion that it was American troops or South Korean troops that invaded North Korea. On the contrary, it would seem to have been the evacuation of American troops from South Korea which gave the opportunity to Communist North Korea to start an invasion which, despite a great American effort, came very near to success.

If much is written on this subject on both sides, the statements "on the other side" are on a par with yours that "China started fighting in Korea months after the war had started, and then only after American planes had bombed Chinese territory." I shall want some very good evidence to convince me that China did not start openly the moment it was obvious that without large-scale open intervention on her part, the Korean dispute was going to be settled by United Nations intervention in a very short time. Not even China goes to war because a couple of bombs by mistake fall on the wrong side of the frontier.

Of course I want peace too, but I am not prepared to submit to a Communist "Pax Romana." Half a dozen East European countries have learned a bitter lesson, and I am not at all sure that it is possible for capitalism and Communism to exist peacefully side by side — at least not while Communists call any resistance to forcible conversion to that creed "aggression". Of course, if you subscribe to the Communist creed that Communism is inevitably the system of the future, then you might as well sub-

mit voluntarily to a rule of a secret police which is bound by no laws except its own, and live in a state the economy of which is built up on a large reservoir of forced labour, made up not only of those who oppose the regime, but also of those who might, by their back-grounds, be expected to dislike the regime. Rather than submit to that, I think I would prefer to fight actively in a third world war. After all, we fought Nazism for what was probably a less dreadful danger to civilisation than Communist rule.

I do not think we are likely to find much common ground on vital principles, and I therefore have to ask you to delete my name from your list of members.

Yours faithfully,

H.H.

OUR REPLY.

If, as you say, you are a lover of peace, then what better common ground could you wish with the Springbok Legion? No matter what private political views you may hold, the fact remains that the problem of world peace will not be solved by unstinted praise for one side and nothing but calumny for the other. Your criticisms are, I assure you, welcomed, but your resignation was surely rash? Why not think again?

Editor, "Fighting Talk."

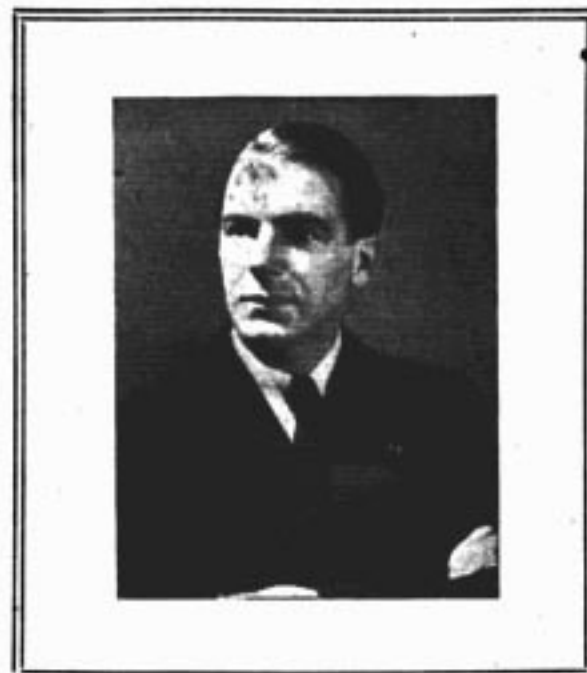
Extract of a Letter from England

8 Long Deacon Road,
Chingford, E.4.

29/12/51.

Dear Cec.,

... But what I am really writing about is the article in this month's Fighting Talk, which by the way I hope I am continuing to receive. If necessary I will pay an extra sub. for it, which in these difficult days is a sure measure of how much I like Fighting Talk. It is a



Cecil Williams, who in Capetown is maintaining his reputation as an outstanding producer-actor.

Story on page 15.

very fine journal and my new year wish is that it will long continue.

I wish however to make a gentle little criticism of the article on films. All the writer says is correct but I think he has omitted a very important aspect of the subject. I well realise the difficulty of making a full analysis in the available space as I have just been fighting a battle on this very subject in the local press, letters to the editor department. Letters to the editor if of more than about 200 words get cut and in the cutting as you can well imagine the real content of one's letter is oftentimes lost. When therefore I had the job of writing on this subject of films in 200 words I picked on the very aspect that your writer left out viz. the effect of the politico economic setup of the U.S.A. on the film industry, and this is of far greater importance than the internal economics of the industry. I am not going to develop this theme as you can read it for yourself in Modern Quarterly. If my letter gets published I will send you a cutting, but in reading it you must bear in mind the above note on letters to the local press.

Congratulations to Guy Routh on a very fine article. I thoroughly enjoyed it and think it shows a very lively discernment which could only have materialised from a man with his viewpoint and his active association with the labour movement . . .

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LOOKING BACK

A Review of Past Conferences

LOOKING back on that first Conference of the Springbok Legion one cannot but be conscious of the fact that the delegates who assembled for it were filled with a spirit of idealism. We were keen, enthusiastic and determined that out of the debris of the war we would build a new world. There was no doubt in the mind of anyone that the war would be won by the Allied Nations.

Conference was concerned first with the problems of serving soldiers, ex-service men and their dependants and second and even more important, with plans to win the peace.

No, we were not naive. Our chairman quoted from T. E. Lawrence: "When we achieved and the new world dawned, the old men came out again and took from us our victory and remade it in the likeness of the former world they knew . . ." We were resolved that it should not happen again. We knew what we were up against but we were confident that out of the death, misery, and suffering of World War II only good could come.

We did not know that in a few short years the very concepts and principles of democracy, the basic civil and human rights, for which we had fought and were fighting in a world war, would be in jeopardy in our own country. We did not know that our main efforts in the years to come would be in the struggle to preserve these basic things. Nor could we foresee that the championing of these fundamental things would be considered as subversive and earn for the Legion the label of "Communist".

Yes, we were conscious of the fact that the politicians would attempt to rob us of the fruits of victory. We were aware that when we were no longer needed attempts would be made to ignore our voices and our clamour for a better world. We were resolved that we would be heard.

The 1945 and 1946 conferences were vitally concerned with Demobilisation and the integration of ex-volunteers into civilian life. Nevertheless, these conferences also devoted a great deal of time to resolutions not directly concerned with the immediate problems of ex-sol-

diers. Our enthusiasm and determination were undaunted.

The Chairman reported to the 1945 Conference the action taken by the Legion to expose the Broederbond. Already we were conscious of the threat to our plans for a better South Africa. In his report to the 1946 Conference he said: "It is becoming increasingly evident that the defeat of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Militarist Japan has not sounded the death-knell of Fascism in our own country. If anything, the anti-democratic forces have been more provocative and bold since the end of the war than they ever were before . . ." Conference resolved not to appease these

anti-democratic elements but to fight them unremittingly in every sphere.

The Special National Conference of September 1947, officially opened by General Smuts, convened as a result of the growing realisation that fascism could triumph in the 1948 General Election, pledged the Legion to a political struggle to defeat the Nationalist Party in that election.

The 1948 Conference was mainly concerned with this task. Despite criticism from many quarters and even open hostility from some, to the participation of an ex-service organisation in a political matter the Legion supplemented the campaigns of the Democratic Parties, and in some instances led the United Party/Labour Party front.

The Nationalist Party victory at the polls left the Legion with no alternative but to devote more and more of its efforts to opposing the fascist legislation of the Nationalist Party and to working

(Continued on page 7)



The opening of our 1948 Conference, when General Smuts delivered the opening address.

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1952 IN DIE POLITIEK

DIT is nou maar eenmaal menslike natuur om goeie verwagting vir elke Nuwe-jaar te koester, en ongeag die feit dat die hoop meer dikwels as nie beskaam word, verhinder dit ons nie om maar weer elke jaar met hernude hoop tegemoet te sien nie.

Ek kan om niks anders dink wat meer deur die mens as 'n geheel begeer word nie, as Vrede, Ekonomiese stabiliteit en in Suid-Afrika veral 'n gesonde rasseverhouding nie. Staan ons 'n kans om hierdie begeertes in 1952 vervul te sien?

Rasse-onenigheid het in Suid-Afrika sulke afmetings aangeneem, dat dit tans reeds ingedring het op elke aspek van ons samelewing en dit is dus onmoontlik om aan die toekoms te dink sonder om hierdie feit in aanmerking te neem. Elke stuk belangrike wetgewing wat in die afgelope paar jaar deur die Parlement geloods is, het dan ook direk of indirek iets te doen met rasseverdeling.

Wetgewing tot sover deur die huidige regering geloods kan feitlik in net twee groepe verdeel word, eerstens: Die wat bedoel is om hulle as 'n politieke groep in te graawe en tweedens dié wat beoog is om die „Afrikaner Volk“ as rassegroep in 'n oorheersende posisie teenoor ander rassegroepe te plaas. „Afrikaner volk“ word hier in dieselfde sin gebruik waarin die regering dit sien, nl. die deel van die Afrikaanssprekende bevolking wat die Nasionale Party ondersteun.

Tot sover volg alle voorgestelde wetgewing vir die 1952 sitting van die Volksraad getrou binne die raamwerk deur wetgewing gedurende vorige sittings sedert 1948 geskep. D.w.s. die afronding van bestaande apartheidsmaatreëls, en die in werking stelling, en daarstelling van wetgewing wat die regering hoop hulle sal help om die volgende en ander verkiesings te wen sal hoofsaaklik aandag geniet.

In hierdie verband dink ons veral aan die voorgestelde wysiging van die kieswet; wat die regering presies hiermee beoog is op die oomblik nie heeltemal

duidelik nie, behalwe dat die indeling van kiesafdelings heel waarskynlik op die getal geregistreerde kiesers gebaseer sal word instede van op die bevolkingsyfers soos voorheen die geval was. Een ding kan egter met sekerheid voorspel word en dit is dat die regering hoop om voordeel uit die maatreël te trek.

In hierdie jaar vier die blanke beskawing sy driehonderd-jarige bestaan in Suid-Afrika. Driehonderd jaar, aan die end waarvan die blanke en nie-blanke groepe feitlik as vyande teenoor mekaar te staan kom. Hierin skuil volgens my insiens die grootste gevaar vir die toekoms van Suid-Afrika.

Alleen, samewerking tussen die twee bevolkingsgroepe kan 'n welvarende Suid-Afrika vir die toekoms verseker, en die grootste struikelblok in die weg van samewerking is die nasionale party met sy rassebeleid. Dit is dus die plig van almal wat die toekoms van ons land op die hart dra om gedurende hierdie jaar skouer aan die wiel te sit om te help om die struikelblokke te verwyder.

As die Anti-Nasionalistiese magte toelaat dat die regering die volgende verkiesing wen, en hulle sodoende instaat stel om vir nog vyf jaar voort te gaan met hulle huidige beleid van ondermyning van demokrasie kan u verwag dat hulle daarna in staat sal wees om Suid-Afrika as 'n absolute diktatuur te regeer. 1952 moet dus gebruik word om slaggereed te maak vir die stryd wat in 1953 voorlê. Dan moet natuurlik ook in aanmerking geneem word dat 'n algemene verkiesing gedurende 1952 gladnie uitgesluit is nie, en dit is daarom dubbel belangrik om so gou as moontlik alle organisasies wat teen die Nasionaliste ingespan kan word agtermekaar te kry.

PREVIOUS CONFERENCES

(Continued from page 5)

for its defeat at the earliest possible moment.

Subsequent Conferences from 1949 on, have concerned themselves more and more with these tasks. Conferences have had to concern themselves with the two major problems that affect all of us: the attacks on our liberties and the drive towards war.

The records of these conferences indicate that we have not shirked the issues. In an atmosphere of "red-baiting" distortion of news, propaganda for war and official hostility to peace movements, we have asserted our demand for peace and affirmed our belief "that there are no problems that cannot be resolved by peaceful means." We have backed up our demands and belief with action. In this same atmosphere we have fought every attack on our democratic institutions and have asserted and affirmed our adherence to the principles and practice of democracy.

We have suffered many casualties. A review of the credentials committee reports to the different conferences makes one aware of this. Where are all those men and women who, inspired with hope and a common belief in the essential brotherhood of man, came together in 1944 to constitute the Sprinkbok Legion? Year after year we have seen them succumb to the pressures of reaction. They are casualties just as those comrades we saw fall on the field of battle.

Compared with 1944 the delegates attending the 1951 Conference were but a handful. We were keen, enthusiastic and still determined to build a new world. Among us there were many who had been "Named" (and who have since been "listed") but we were not dismayed. We knew then and know now that before we can build that new world we have to defeat fascism in South Africa. We are still fighting World War II.

THE FIRST SIGNS OF STRUGGLE

LAST month an ultimatum was sent to Doctor Malan. He was given until 29th February to repeal a list of discriminatory laws, including the Pass Laws, the Group Areas Act, the Separate Representation of Voters Act, the Suppression of Communism Act and the Bantu Authorities Act. Failing such repeal, a campaign of passive resistance is to be inaugurated on 6th April, in which will participate the members of the African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress and the Francis Action Committee.

In explanation of their plan, the Joint Farming Council of these organisations issued a press statement, in which they said, "All people irrespective of the national groups they may belong to and irrespective of the colour of their skin, who have made South Africa their home and who believe in the principles of democracy and the equality of man, are South Africans. All South Africans are entitled to live a full and free life on the basis of the fullest equality. The struggle which the national organisations of the non-European people are conducting is not directed against any race or national group. It is against the unjust laws which keep in perpetual subjection and misery vast sections of the population. It is for the transformation of conditions which will restore human dignity, equality, and freedom to every South African."

How did Doctor Malan reply to this communication? He begins by reprimanding the African National Congress, who sent the ultimatum, for having addressed their remarks to him instead of to the Minister of Native Affairs, but nonetheless passes over this point in order to deal with the content of the letter. He then goes on to answer their points at some length, but the answer may be summarised in a few words. The laws of which the Bantu complain are entirely for their own protection and also to teach them to appreciate those

obligations which must be respected by all who wish to enjoy rights. It is a contradiction to demand that the Bantu should not be regarded as different from the whites, when such differences are the work not of man but of nature. If the campaign is persisted in, the Government will employ its powers to suppress it and bring the leaders to book.

That is the essence of the Prime Minister's reply, smug and sanctimonious, the mailed fist in the velvet glove, a reply that will satisfy none but his own ardent supporters and himself. Despite the grandiloquent dogmas of apartheid of each race being "different", not one better than the other, and of each having a divine right to develop "along its own lines", the moment one, or in the case, three groups threaten to begin developing along their own lines, then they are threatened with the armed might of the government, brought into power by a minority of even the white doctors. The non-Europeans, Doctor Malan implies, must take what they get and like it.

IN EVERYDAY LANGUAGE.

There are many white South Africans who will support the Nationalists without troubling to dress up their self-interest in fine moral phrases — indeed, if one reads the proceedings of Nation-

alist congresses instead of Ministerial statements, one sees the fine phrases interpreted into everyday language. In everyday language, what the Doctor means is that for our mines and farms we whites depend on a black labour force, driven by police and officials, harassed by incomprehensible laws and regulations, denied the right to sell its labour in the free market or to acquire land, robbed of health and family life, condemned to an existence of fear and an early death. Many white South Africans live their life in complete ignor-

ance of what they are doing to the voiceless millions who form the bulk of the population. They are as ignorant, in many ways, as was the aristocracy of France of what was happening in that country in the years preceding the French revolution. But ignorance is no more excuse in history than it is in law, and the ultimatum to Doctor Malan is a challenge to us — a challenge to learn what is really happening in this country, beyond the newspapers and the African Mirror and the pleasant suburbs in which we live, and a challenge to find a dif-

ferent answer from that dictated by prejudice, greed and supposed self-interest.

RESISTANCE?

Supposing the Non-Europeans do resist? It has happened before, in almost every country in the world — the voiceless, the speechless, the oppressed and exploited have resisted, in England, France, Germany, America, Russia, Italy, India, China, and, in the long run, they have proved themselves invincible. Sometimes, as in Britain, the rulers have

given in at the cost of a few shots; in others, as in France and Russia, the cost has been thousands of lives. All these revolutions, peaceful or bloody, have begun by the issue of manifestoes, the delivery of ultimatums, and, over the years, have grown into irresistible movements imposing their terms on those who opposed them. Is it possible that we may be seeing the birth of a similar movement in South Africa?

Then what is our duty as Legionnaires? A debate is beginning in the Legion similar in some ways to the sort of debates we have been having all along, but this time concentrated into a narrower field — are we to meet the challenge of the Non-Europeans with machine-guns as the Nationalists will undoubtedly do if they are given the chance, or are we to make an effort to think these things out anew and try to arrive at some real and enduring basis for bringing hope, peace and freedom to our country? There are terrible dangers in either course. The first leads to the police state and the stultification of economic progress, the flight of capital from the country and its gradual decay; the second involves a painful reorientation, the surrender of cherished privileges, an application of Christian principles that are so comfortable to contemplate but so discomforting to apply.

What should the Legion do if the threat of passive resistance becomes a reality? Is there some honourable role it can play which will help to eliminate injustice and rid the country of the medieval beliefs of the Nationalists? It is for Legionnaires to decide, by writing your comments to "Fighting Talk" and expressing your views at the forthcoming National Conference. IT IS A DECISION THAT MUST BE MADE AND MADE SOON.



... FOR REASON IN REVOLT NOW THUNDERS ...

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The Van Riebeeck Celebrations

WE do not know whether to laugh or cry about the van Riebeeck Tercentenary Festival. That the occasion of the tercentenary of European settlement in South Africa, should be a matter for celebration we accept, but that the celebrations should take the form they have done we find wholly unacceptable.

It would have been too much, we suppose, to have expected the Nationalist Government to keep the festival free of bias. That they have not done so is manifestly clear. Look, for instance, at the subtle way in which the tercentenary has been linked with the Great Trek. Apart from the sop of stage coaches instead of wagons, the whole idea of the coach procession is bound up with the Trek idea. One of the coaches began its journey at Ohriststad. Why? Not because it is the furthestmost outpost, nor because it is an important centre, nor even because it is linked in any way with van Riebeeck, but simply because it was the capital of one of the Trekker settlements across the Vaal. That supreme malcontent, Hendrik Potgieter, established it after he had quarrelled with the people of Potchefstroom. Malaria forced the community to move out of the valley and established new headquarters at Lydenburg. But Potgieter had already moved on into the Zoutpansberg.

PREMIER EVENT

The Nationalists and the others who make up the cultural minority who have captured for themselves the term *Afrikanerdom*, have over and over again attempted to make the Great Trek South Africa's premier historical event. Most people, not only *Afrikaners*, have swallowed this. But it is not true. It was an important event in our history but no more so than half a dozen others. In any case true *Afrikanerdom* is represented by the people who did not leave the Cape with the Trekkers but remained there to face the issues from which the others escaped.

And now there is this subtle linking of the Trek with van Riebeeck. What is more, there is the absolutely unwarranted linking of van Riebeeck with the

Trekker republics whose flags have been flown on many of the coaches wending their wearisome way to Cape Town. Might as well fly the Stars and Stripes or the Hammer and Sickle for all the relevance which the republican flags have to the van Riebeeck festival. Their relevance is to the bigotry of nationalism, to the undemocratic and unnational aims of a small section of the population. No wonder most South Africans can find little enthusiasm in themselves for the festival!

That is one angle of the celebrations for which we can lay the blame fairly and squarely on the Nationalists. But there is another distressing angle of the whole business for which a much wider section of the people must be brought to task: and that is the exclusion of the African and coloured peoples from the process of celebrating. One could argue that it is an European festival in that it commemorates the beginning of European settlement. But, in a wider sense, it commemorates the beginning of civilised (sic) South Africa, a new era as vitally important to the indigenous peoples as to the invading Europeans. Apart from all that, it would be gracious, let alone wise, to make the Coloureds and African peoples feel that they are part of the nationhood which is being celebrated. As it is, these people have been forced into a separate camp and will celebrate van Riebeeck day with mass demonstrations of their anti-European solidarity. The possible consequences are frightening.

TREMENDOUS WASTE.

Finally, we cannot help commenting on the immense waste of time, material and energy involved in the festival. The celebration could have taken a less elaborate form without, we suggest, losing any of its splendour. As it is the whole country has been put to great expense on a childish-conceived celebration at a time when it can ill afford it — a situation far the worse because the festival does not truly embrace the whole people, not even the whole European people.

SHARE THIS WITH THE OFFICE

AS the Editorial Committee fails to provide enough copy for this issue we are left with a column unfilled. Should we write an article about the dreary pattern of fascist legislation the Nats. are pushing through Parliament or something equally depressing. No! there is enough of that. No Whipping Bills, Monopoly Bills and Native Laws Amendments Bills. Have a laugh instead.

When Mr. Jones went to Canberra he had a very busy programme and took his secretary with him; but there was some fumbling with the bookings and while Mr. J. had a big double room his secretary had no accommodation and it was impossible to get any at short notice. "Now be sensible, Miss Joyce," he said. "You've worked for me a long time and you know the kind of man I am. You'd better use the spare bed in my room."

Miss Joyce agreed, and the business of getting to their respective beds in the dark was easy. But very soon Miss Joyce spoke.

"Mr. Jones, are you asleep?"

"No."

"Did you make that appointment with the permanent head of the Department?"

"Yes."

A little later—

"Mr. Jones, did you sign those contracts before we left?"

"Yes."

And later still: "Mr. Jones, did you pay that interest account?"

"I did, Miss Joyce."

All this had a disturbing effect on Mr. Jones. He rose on his elbow.

"Miss Joyce," he said, "we've known each other for a long time."

"Yes, Mr. Jones."

"And we know each other pretty well."

"Yes, we do."

"Would you do me a great favour, Miss Joyce?"

"Well — er — yes — if I can, that is."

"Will you act as my wife, just for tonight?"

"Ooh, Mr. Jones! Well, I — er — well, if you ask me, I suppose so. Yes, Mr. Jones."

"Very well, Miss Joyce. Shut your big trap and go to sleep!"

BRANCH



ITEMS

THE Johannesburg Branch can claim to have run a very successful campaign on the showing of "the Desert Fox" the film which glorifies Rommel. Over 10,000 leaflets decrying the purpose of the film were distributed, and on the opening night over 700 people turned up at the cinema (apart from patrons) to support the Legion demonstrators. Two dozen banners were carried with slogans such as "Rommel was a Nazi", "The Desert Fox is Propaganda for War."

As you probably read in the Press, your old enemy Robey Leibbrandt turned up to make an anti-semitic speech, and was fairly quickly ejected by the police, but not before he had emphasized the real character of the film by his support of it. The demonstrators deserve credit for restraining their impulse to shut him up, and instead allowed the police to do it.

The fact that the film has done good business for its exhibitors cannot lessen the importance of the fact that our campaign has made large sections of the population awaken as to its purport, and to reject its facile distortion of the truth. Numerous letters and telephone calls to the Legion office indicate widespread support of our stand.

The start of the Three-in-One, which was held on the same evening, had to be delayed to allow the demonstrators to arrive there. A packed house enjoyed a most absorbing symposium on Race and Racialism." John O'Meara discussed methods of combating racialism in children and Dr. A. B. Xuma analysed racial tensions in South Africa. Dr. M. D. W. Jeffreys's talk on the scientific basis of race theories surprised most of the audience, who learned that biologically, the negroid races are more advanced than their Caucasian and Mongolian neighbours.

Groups are busy meeting in order to discuss resolutions for the Annual General Meeting, which will be held in March. Our National Secretary is at-

tending these meetings to discuss plans for 1952. The Northern Suburbs Group will meet on Monday, 25th February, at 57 Westcliffe Drive, Parkview; Central/Hillbrow Group on Thursday, 21st February at 65 Sunbury Court, Claim Street, Hillbrow; Eastern Suburbs Group on Wednesday 27th February, at 66 Second Av., Bez Valley North (corner Second Avenue and Third St.).

Several Cape Town members were very helpful to Cecil Williams during his production there of "Deep are the Roots", notable Wolfie Kodesh and Stan Eppel. At a recent meeting of some Cape Town members a decision was taken to run a campaign similar to Johannesburg's on the showing of "The Desert Fox". Members who wish to help should contact Tony Jenner at his home at 20 Stanford Road, Claremont, Cape Town.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS !

THE attention of all Legionnaires is drawn to the Ninth Annual Conference of the Springbok Legion, which will be held at the Trades Hall, Kerk Street, Johannesburg, on the 26th and 27th April, 1952.

Whether you are a delegate or not, we will be very pleased to see you in attendance, since it hardly needs stressing that our organisation faces a grim struggle in the ensuing year — a struggle which has been made doubly severe by the set-backs, both economic and political which this country is experiencing.

Don't forget the date, time and place.



This was our first National Conference, held in Johannesburg in 1944.

ODDS AND ENDS

VIC EDDY

THE WHIPPING BOYS

SWART'S fascist flogging Bill will sicken the stomach of every civilised man and woman, modification or no modification. With Mr. Swart's legislative record, it has become about as ludicrous to call him Minister of Justice as the appointment of a Minister of the Swiss Navy.

These new measures with regard to compulsory corporal punishment are neither corrective nor punitive. They are merely an expression of the fear and hatred that Swart and his ilk have for the black man — a concentrated guilt complex that will lead them to do the most savage and barbaric things in order to assert their mastery. And this Government has the colossal nerve to call itself Christian!

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MASTER AGITATOR

In an effort, perhaps, to make up for lost time, Dr. Verwoerd, Minister of Native Affairs has introduced the Native Laws Amendment Bill — a measure which is not likely to gain the unqualified admiration of the rest of the world. Under this Bill, inspectors of labour will have almost unlimited powers over Native employers; to tell them where to work, what to do and even what to say.

Dr. Verwoerd has proved that he is a far better agitator than Rev. Michael Scott. The legislation he had introduced in Parliament will agitate the Native population far more effectively than anything yet seen. Doubtless, if universal unrest does develop, the Minister and his colleagues will blame the "communists". But they won't get away with it so easily next time.

SILENCE IS NO LONGER GOLDEN

With the country in the state of tension that it is today, the War Veterans' Torch Commando could play a very important role. But the Torch Commando has been remarkably quiet lately. Whether it is aloofness or inability, I could not venture to say, but in either event, that organisation is hardly covering itself with glory by maintaining a stony silence.

There are still thousands and thousands of Europeans in this country who are looking for an effective anti-Nationalist lead. The Torch Commando should be fulfilling that role, not licking its wounds in some Johannesburg office.

CAPETOWN ENTHUSIASTIC

(Continued from page 15)

grand production. Said "I.J." of the "Cape Times":—

"Excellent theatre and with a significance in its social consciousness to command interest . . . Mr. Williams, who came from Johannesburg especially to stage this play, has provided an absorbing entertainment and I know discerning theatre-goers will not fail to appreciate its unusual worth."

The dramatic critic of the "Argus" marked the play as a return to the standard of quality for which the Labia Theatre was founded. He calls it a fine production of an interesting play, one which should be seen by those who like to combine excitement with mental activity.

Only Cecil Williams remained of the original Johannesburg cast. The new cast is as follows:

Michael Drin as the Senator, Flora McKenna as Brett's mother, Cecilia Sonnenberg as Alice, Peggy Arscott as Geneva, Frances Shrand as the maid Honey, Lawrence Ayres as Roy Maxwell, and for the part of Brett Charles, Cecil was fortunate in obtaining the services of David de Keyser, who was unanimously praised by audiences and critics.

It can well be said that Cecil Williams has the golden touch with his dramatic productions.



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E D B L O

"HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"

HOME for Christmas. Yes, that'd be grand. If only I could see what's going on in here. It's this bit of cotton wool hanging out of the bandage — over my eyes.

I could push it up with my hand.

No — I can't move my hands at all.

I seem to be dead from the neck down — must be the dope they're giving me.

Only my head seems alive. Christ, I'm thirsty—but there's no pain now. Not like there was after that red splosh hit me.

Of course, that tinpot general told us "Home for Christmas" last year, but it didn't come off. But this time it'll be different.

We always have a quiet day at home. Football match Christmas morning. The lads'll be there—spanking new scarves and gloves—straight out of the tissue paper. Every one smoking mannikins. I wonder if 'Ginger' is still playing centre-half.

We'll tell the 'ref' a thing or two—then off to the "Standard" for a quick one to clear our throats.

Mum'll be a bit hot and flustered when we get home. She always is—what with the dinner and the other frills. But she'll be pleased we're all there — together.

Yes, it'll be a quiet day—a peaceful day.

Christ, I'm thirsty — and cold — icy cold.

But where is this? What's on?

Yes — I remember — it started when that red splosh hit me. Must have been a mortar bomb — hundreds of 'em — like rain.

The pain after—I knew I screamed — but I'm all dead now. Only my head's alive.

I'll get sent home for sure—perhaps get my ticket.

Anyway, what are we doing out here?

Land of the Morning Sun—I know the sun went out of my life when I came here. Never seen so much misery and slaughter in all my born days.

But—what am I doing here? What's this war about?

Why can't we go home and leave these poor buggers alone. We've stored up enough misery and hate here to last a lifetime.

What's this war about?

If only I could have a drink—a bit of ice to suck. A three-penny brick from the sweet shop round the corner.

But I want to live — so do they. What's it all about—what are we fighting for?

To stop aggression—don't fall for that one, mate! The 'bull' they shove at you out here.

But — what are we doing — what's it all about.

"The kid in No. 7 went at two this morning," said the night sergeant. "You'd better do the necessary—notify next of kin — the M.O.'s seen him — here's his case sheet. Eighteen eight he was."

"Too young," said the day sergeant, "Pity, really—came from my town."

"Yes," said the night sergeant. He was putting on his coat now and preparing to go off duty.

"About twelve o'clock last night he started shouting about being home for Christmas.

October 1st, today — funny, isn't it, but they're often like that. We couldn't give him another 'shot'.

Then about one o'clock he was mumbling something about what are we fighting for—what's it all about."

"Well," said the day sergeant, "What are we fighting for?"

He was standing by the window now looking out at the misty morning.

"It's a pity in a way he's gone. He was starting to think and ask himself questions. That's a good thing. There's plenty of lads out here doing the same — about these truce talks and so on."

"Yes", he said, "I reckon the boys will come to a conclusion soon."

(Reprinted from "Ex-Service News.")

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THE DOGS OF WAR

IN the year 1934 there first appeared a book by a young English writer, Beverley Nicholls, which jolted the conscience of the world in the fateful days of the Disarmament Conferences of the period between the two wars. It was called "Cry Havoc" and made some startling revelations about the operation of the Armament Industry in Britain, the United States of America and Europe.

It started off with the statement of one simple — and terrible fact: that in the civilized world of the 20th Century there were men who made vast profits from the production and sale of weapons of war; that the instruments of death and destruction which achieved their frightful purpose in the 1940's were manufactured by private manufacturers to be sold on the open market to the highest bidder — *irrespective of political or ideological allegiances* — like so many pounds of butter or so many pockets of peas.

The branches of the firms these men controlled were situated wherever men and machines were available — France, Germany, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Britain, the United States. And all these firms were linked together in one mighty cartel with one common purpose unconnected with Democracy or Liberty or Justice or Good or Evil — but having to do only with profits and dividends and volume of sales.

Now, like all good businesses, these armament firms sought by any means in their power to "push" their products. You may recognise such names as Schneider, Morgan, Krupp, Thyssen, but does the name "Shearer" mean anything to you?

No, probably not. Well in 1929 a certain Mr. Shearer, describing himself as a "publicist", sued the following firms:

The Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation;

The Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company;

The American Brown Boveri Corporation for the sum of \$255,655 which, he claimed, was "the balance due to him for his services in preventing any effective disarmament resulting from the Naval Conference in Geneva in 1927!

He admitted that he had already received 51,230 dollars!! And the services which he rendered on behalf of the armament manufacturers included:

- (1) The discrediting of American Advocates of peace.
- (2) The preparation of political articles in magazines in support of preparation for War.
- (3) The organisation of public lectures by "experts" to a similar end and
- (4) the insertion of such "publicity" in American newspapers in the form of news!

It was revealed that Mr. Shearer — and many other "publicists" representing firms throughout the world — actually took orders for the deadly products of their principles from the representatives of the various countries attending the disarmament conference at Geneva.

Salesmen — ordinary salesmen. But in this case the "sales-resistance" against which they pitted their skill as pedlars, was the will of the ordinary citizen to peace.

Why, you may wonder, did the Governments of the World, knowing the frightful consequences which flowed from the private manufacture of arms, permit these industries to remain in the hands of private individuals?

Partly it was because these men had their representatives in the actual governments concerned, partly because, in the mores of our society, to interfere with a man in his pursuit of profits is to interfere with the liberty of the subject, and partly because you and I, were too apathetic to do much about it.

And so, in the 1940's when death itself interferred so effectively with the liberty of so many of the world's subjects, these arms manufacturers were still the back-room boys selling arms to the enemy, doing their dark mischief out of reach of the world's anger.

And now, in 1952, while new disarmament conferences are mooted, while peace talks are wearily prolonged in Korea, little in this picture has changed.

Little that is, but the fact that the advance of science has added more terrible weapons to the armoury of treason — atom bombs and unspeakable means of chemical warfare, privately manufactured, pouring bigger and better dividends into the coffers of these same armament kings — or their sons and daughters.

Is this, do you think, one of the reasons why we, the ordinary peace-loving citizens of the world, stand in such imminent peril of losing this peace too?

CAPETOWN ENTHUSIASTIC

IT can be claimed without reserve that Cecil Williams' production of "Deep are the Roots" at the Labia Theatre, Capetown, went over with a bang. All three Capetown dailies were unanimous in their praise for his fine presentation, which, incidentally, is officially presented by the Springbok Legion.

It is surprising, really, that even "Die Burger" gives unstinted praise in its columns, since the play has a somewhat more than liberal theme. "Die Burger" says:

"Here is a strong drama and played by a group of actors each of whom was good in his or her role . . . the audience enjoyed the play . . . the silence during the performance and the spontaneous ap-

plause at the end was sufficient evidence of that . . ."

After describing the play, the reviewer ends by suggesting that the play deserves larger audiences at the Labia. "For the theatre-lover there is much here that is attractive."

Both the "Cape Times" and the "Argus" rated "Deep are the Roots" a

[Continued on column 3, page 13]



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