

264 JOHN X. MERRIMAN

The bulk of the collection consists of letters by John X. Merriman to his friend dr. A. Roberts of Lovedale, near Alice, written from 1917 - 1923. There is a small group of letters from other people (one each by A.V. Merriman, a nephew, and J.C. Smuts, as well as six undated letters by mrs. Agnes Merriman.)

± 100 items.

264/1**Letters, 1917**

12 items

6.3.1917

(Cape Town)

H.s.

4p.

Monograph about Gill received; Native Law Act.

(1)

27.3.1917

H.s.

8p.

"... reaping the whirlwind that was sown in 1899-02"; education versus instruction; natives and money affairs, the influence of colonial administration on natives in Transkei; civilization and the "forces of barbarism"; sends publication from the Cape Archives.

(2)

27.5.1917

H.s.

8p.

Astronomy; native education and finance; Islam and the "black brain"; Christianity preached but not practised; speech by Smuts about native policy; affairs in East Africa appalling; Pallandt; further publications from Archives envisaged.

(3)

5.7.1917

(Stb.)

H.s.

4p.

Distressed at being unable to meet him; other attempts at contacting him.

(4)

13.7.1917

H.s.

2p.

Cutting from *Common Sense*; hopes Roberts will publish it in the *Xtian* (Christian) *Express*; the "poor natives"; Raffeisen and Wolf's People's Banks; favours "economic movement towards salvation" for natives.

(5)

26.7.1917

H.s.

2p.

Appreciation for the book he sent; John Bright and Lincoln; local government and financial responsibility a possible solution for "these wretched slaves"; problems in the educational system; dr. Cillié.

(6)

UNIV. STELLENBOSCH



3005024322

10.9.1917

H.s.

12p.

His visit to German South West [Africa]; mineral possibilities; the anti-British Party; natives and lack of commercial spirit - compares them to Highlanders; Botha and the Native Bill; sugar laws in Natal.

(7)

22.10.1917

H.s.

4p.

Criticizes mercenary spirit of a specific political leader; Solly Joel; native education and the appointment of commissions; race antipathy between Dutch and British; Bryce's *Sketch of South America*; Napoleon.

(8)

31.10.1917

H.s.

3 leaves

Discusses Alexander and his relative impact on history; the influence of Napoleon; posting him copy of a publication; mentions article *Courage in education* specifically; native education; poor whites; asks him to recommend book on the "philosophy of the infinite"; respects to miss Christine.

(9)

21.11.1917

H.s.

2p.

About the article he sent; Government Miners Training School and David Louw; Bishop Grundtvig and education in Denmark; the campaign in Palestine.

(10)

14.12.1917

H.s.

4p.

Comments on two articles received; Napoleon; situation in Palestine; two people he would like Roberts to meet: Ashanti man and Chamberlain; second person interested in views of natives on the Land Act; Scully.

(11)

26.12.1917

H.s.

3 leaves

Thanks him for Christmas wishes and book; leaving Parliament in near future; has been "reading the proof sheets of two aspirants"; the Ashanti man, Chamberlain and Lloyd; good wishes to "you and miss Christine".

(12)

264/2

Letters, 1918

10 items

25.1.1918

(Cape Town)

H.s.

8p.

Sorry to hear he will not be visiting; criticism of "colour bar" in Transvaal mines; activities in Cape Town; comments on *The choice before us*; Scully.

(1)

5.3.1918

H.s.

4p.

Political awakening amongst natives; Talbot Williams; colour bar in mines; includes Williams' speech, but wants it back; pamphlet on native education; refers to the war in Europe.

(2)

19.3.1918

H.s.

8p.

Book by Froude about Disraeli that Roberts sent him; comments on article about the German colonies; Talbot Williams, Sol Plaatjies, John Dube and others "preaching very dangerous doctrines"; committee to enquire into demand of low grade mines for assistance; job reservation in mines a very negative thing for economy; bringing out a selection from the archives; launching of "our 3 new universities"; asks for his suggestions on education.

(3)

14.4.1918

H.s.

12p.

Criticism of Hofmeyr; Stellenbosch University; disapproves of the use of Afrikaans in place of Dutch; "baneful results of bilingualism"; Beattie's address [at Cape Town University]; against "feminine element"; Scully's report; gen. Botha; trouble between white and black on mines; praise for Botha; the war (World War I).

+ Clipping. Cape Times. 13.4.1918.

(4)

24.7.1918

H.s.

3 leaves

Christine's visit (daughter of dr. Roberts); injustice against natives on mines - fears a native rising; position of whites; Moffat; panic in Government in Pretoria and Cape Town; natives should refuse to be drawn into "antics of their white brethren"; the war; book about Rasputin.

(5)

13.8.1918

H.s.

3 leaves

Native unrest; coloured labour replaced by whites on railways; his possible role in Parliament; happenings in Europe; a book about Napoleon he read; Stellenbosch University.

(6)

2.10.1918

H.s.

4 leaves

The war in Europe; "Galway business" and Scully's daughter-in-law; Sam Evans and Moffat's report on the native question; extreme social and commercial prejudice against blacks; Van Riebeeck Society; slavery in South Africa; thanks Roberts for "*Xtian Express*" with article about Williams.

(7)

4.12.1918

H.s.

2 leaves

Influenza epidemic; his correspondence with dr. Leipoldt; injustice against natives; Botha "timid in moral matters"; mentions other politicians concerned with natives; appreciation for Roberts and miss Christine.

(8)

14.12.1918

H.s.

3 leaves

Has read the two articles in the *Express*; the influenza; Moffat, Dower and the natives; the "Nationalists", Labour Party and the poor whites; criticizes democracy and woman suffrage; Dr. Roberts and Christine are members of the Van Riebeeck Society; Miss C's article about dr. Philip.

(9)

264/3Letters, 1919

16 items

2.1.1919

(Stb.)

H.s.

4p.

Recommends a book he has read; English elections; Bolsheviks in South Africa; Dower's departure; Moffat; situation in Transkei.

(1)

24.1.1919

(Cape Town)

H.s.

2 leaves

Wants dr. Roberts to meet [?] Graham.

(2)

3.3.1919

H.s.

4p.

Happenings in Parliament; widening gulf between English and Dutch; "Transvaal ideas have won all along the line"; asks him to show enclosed clippings to Henderson; discusses what they are about; vexed with the delay of Vos in assuming office.
+ Clippings.

(3)

12.3.1919

H.s.

2 leaves

Swindle in Johannesburg; how the "dominant race" are handling the strike question; Henderson.

Note: Items possibly sent with letter are missing.

(4)

13.4.1919

H.s.

4p.

Relations between white and coloured "are gloomy"; the colour bar and the conditions on the mines; job reservation.

(5)

18.4.1919

H.s.

2 leaves

Sends report of Commission which enquired into "boycotting" on mines; influence of Bolsheviks.

Note: Report missing.

(6)

9.5.1919

H.s.

4p.

Capt. Brown and his opinions about the natives; peace terms in Europe; about a book he has read.

+ Clipping.

(7)

30.6.1919

H.s.

4p.

Appreciates what dr. Roberts wrote about him; book by Wilfred Blunt he has read; Schreiner; nominees for Education Commission; "the Peace"; Lloyd George and Wilson.

(8)

5.8.1919

H.s.

4p.

Includes letter from a young relative who wants to start a native school, asks Roberts to advise him; colour prejudice in the Transvaal; "impossible terms" imposed on Germany after war; speech by Smuts at reception.

Note: Letter mentioned is not included.

(9)

3.9.1919

(Stb.)

H.s.

4p.

Botha's death; Botha and Smuts and their views at the Peace Conference; Smuts' position; sends him "a little book"; death of professor Marais a loss to South Africa.

(10)

3.10.1919

Roberts(Lovedale)/Merriman

H.s.

3p.

Thanks him for sending Renau's *Reminiscences*; discusses different people and their attraction or otherwise; Mirley's *Recollections*; writers and readers.

Note: Letter not signed, possibly a draft that was not sent.

(11)

18.10.1919

Merriman(Stb.)/Roberts

H.s.

4p.

Renau; wants him to meet J. Bower, a friend in German East Africa; the daily task.

(12)

16.11.191

(Cape Town)

H.s.

2p.

Note with enclosure to Roberts; invites him to lunch.

(13)

264/4Letters, 1920

25 items

14.2.1920

(Stb.)

H.s.

4p.

Has read *Education for life*; will send him a copy if possible; involved in election campaign; his feelings about the "ignoble struggle".

(1)

12.3.1920

H.s.

4p.

Election success; the Unionist Party "pretty well wiped out"; commercial ventures on mines; the coloured vote; native education; Sir Thomas Muir's library.

(2)

16.3.1920

/Roberts, Miss(Lovedale)

Telegram

Thousand thanks for your charming book and best wishes for your anniversary.

(3)

28.4.1920

(Cape Town)/Roberts, Dr.

H.s.

4p.

Native situation; encloses letter from Browntree at Mt. Ayliff; the Lovedale riots; justice in reform.

(4)

4.5.1920

H.s.

5p.

Quotations to cheer him up; reminds him of famous statesmen; letter from Carmichael who visited India to gain knowledge of their system of land settlement; motion for removal of colour bar; has a cold; Christine and women's rights.

(5)

12.5.1920

H.s.

4p.

Writing at request of Smuts; vacancy in Senate; Roberts' qualities; hopes he will accept offer "when and if it is made".

(6)

22.5.1920

Roberts(Lovedale)/Merriman

Telegram

Needs his presence to reach a decision before 31st; "take heart of grace and grip kicking sweep head".

(7)

- 25.6.1920** Merriman(C.T.)/Roberts
 H.s.
 1 leaf (8)
 Latin quotation; Smuts.
- 17.7.1920**
 H.s.
 2 leaves (9)
 Sends letter from a native; has counselled him to wait for work being done by Commission.
 Note: Letter not included.
- 24.7.1920**
 H.s.
 3p. (10)
 Native question; poor whites; black and white justice; hopes to get a discussion about it in the Senate.
- 9.8.1920**
 H.s.
 2 leaves (11)
 Regrets that he cannot accept his invitation.
- 12.8.1920**
 H.s.
 2 leaves (12)
 Thanks Roberts for letting him see letter; "weltering in the `morass of millions' wastefully thrown away"; will not be in room in the morning.
- 16.8.1920** [], Dick(Pilgrim's Rest)/
 Telegram Merriman (13)
 Appointment of Stubbs to Native Commission.
- 28.8.1920** Merriman(Stb.)
 H.s.
 3 leaves (14)
 Appointment of Barrett as secretary for Native Affairs; Smuts and party "off to German West"; farms in Hottentot country to be dealt out; Roberts and the Native Commission; problems to find people "to go on that body"; *The black man* and Clements Kadalie from New York.
- 30.8.1920**
 H.s.
 4p. (15)
 Appreciates the book he sent; governor-general's banquet; talk with H.E., whom he gave a personal opinion of Barretts appointment; the Native Commission; Smuts; a book he has been reading.

11.9.1920

H.s.

3 leaves

Native affairs and the act; the shortcomings of the Senate; Native Commission and its members; Feetham; relationship with Smuts; Scully; Harris; sends a *Nation*.

Note: Item mentioned not included.

(16)

18.10.1920

H.s.

6p.

Words of cheer; "cesspool of politics"; treatment of natives; native titles and surrounding problems; typhus; the Native Affairs Bill.

(17)

25.10.1920

H.s.

4 leaves

Brochure by Tengo Jabavu; "trying to shape a Senate"; asks Roberts to keep details confidential until Krige's report comes out; Native Commission; appointment of Barrett "a fatal error"; suggests other names; about *The rising tide of colour against the white supremacy of the world* he is reading and its implications for South Africa; the riot in P.E.; the colour bar and the way Smuts treated him over that matter.

(18)

28.10.1920

H.s.

2 leaves

Doings at P.E.; his discussions with Smuts; the Stellenbosch location; Bloemfontein Congress; Native Act.

(19)

5.11.1920

H.s.

4p.

Letter from a magistrate; typhus; out of door speeches at bottom of Adderley Street on Sundays; gives example of specific occurrence; Jabavu's pamphlet.

Note: Letter not included.

(20)

8.11.1920

H.s.

1 leaf

Incidents at Lovedale and P.E.; reading Jabavu's book; has sent a copy to Apthorp.

(21)

13.11.1920

H.s.

8p.

Advises Roberts to "keep in touch with Smuts"; some individuals on the "Board"; Jabavu's book; native grievances; the P.E. matter; influence of Kadalie and Stuart on native unrest in docks; gatherings addressed by Bolsheviks in Adderley Street; strikes and trade unions; jobs for whites at expense of competent blacks.

(22)

29.11.1920

H.s.

3 leaves

Politicians; advice about the locations; Ndabeni and the Town Council; poor whites; Beit and Solly Joel; a book he is reading; the election and probable end of his political career.

(23)

10.12.1920

H.s.

3 leaves

Will take item to Scully; refers to trouble at Fort Beaufort, P.E. and now Queenstown; comments on specific politicians and officials; his own political prospects; Smuts and Lloyd George; other political comments.

(24)

16.12.1920

H.s.

3 leaves

Took papers for Scully to see as Roberts wanted; has received them back with "a very painful letter"; the Irish; thanks him for the book.

(25)

264/5

Letters, 1921

12 items

14.3.1921

(Cape Town)

H.s.

1 leaf

Asks for number of the item that he lent to Roberts.

(1)

16.6.1921

H.s.

1 leaf

Asks to have item back the same day; Scully and Barrett.

(2)

30.6.1921

(Stb.)

H.s.

2 leaves

Explains why they missed one another; situation at Lovedale; read his address with "greatest interest", would like to send a copy to Lord Bryce; feels despair at the situation in SA; Morton's book, *Finding the way out*.

(3)

1.8.1921

H.s.

5 leaves

Crewe's actions should not disturb Roberts "too much"; information about Crewe; C.J. Smith; native policy in Natal; Reitz in Zululand; Native Land Act of 1920; Ndabeni location; problems of unemployment; media reports about economic plans; participants at a native congress of "industrial and commercial workers of the world"; Barrett; counsels him to "gather your Commission together".

(4)

14.8.1921

H.s.

4 leaves

Stuttaford laid foundation stone in Cape Town; Ndabeni location; Maimanz [?] and Kadalie; growing insolence "of the yellow folk"; reasons for this; what happened in Haiti; influence of Smuts; comments on book he had read; advises him to see Smuts about the way Barrett obstructs his work in the Native Affairs Department.

(5)

26.8.1921

H.s.

5p.

Sorry to hear of his accident; Stallard and segregation; natives being edged off their land; "Bulhoek evil"; political activities; problem of bad harvests by natives; suggests that Commission can do something about it; sends a book "which describes the system fully"; would like to have it back; letter from John Dube; Pan African Congress in Paris.

(6)

11.9.1921

H.s.

6p.

Attitude of coloured and native voters in supporting labour in the Cape Peninsula; Boydell; Bulhoek incident and Native Commission; co-operative banks; Carmichael and Raffaisen system; banks in other European countries; advises him again to begin with granaries; tries to cheer him up regarding "Native drift"; magistrates in Tanskei need encouragement.

(7)

21.10.1921

H.s.

8p.

What Roberts thought of situation in Johannesburg; mentions "some very good men... in Johannesburg re the native question"; Dower; "ineptitude of B."; Durban beer houses; sugar interest; Marianhill; Carmichael; Transkei system chaotic; Roberts and his colleagues must "let us know the facts".

(8)

15.11.1921

H.s.

4p.

Comments on Johannesburg, Smuts and League of Nations; Dominion status; Conference of Washington; replies to grievance in Roberts' letter; Report of the Ministry of Mines and Industries for 1920; Cresswell; Carmichael and mealies for natives.

(9)

28.11.1921

H.s.

4p.

Episode at Queenstown; Bulhoek episode; Roberts and the Native Council; concurrent jurisdiction and the chaos of officialdom in the Transkei.

(10)

30.11.1921

H.s.

4p.

Comments about Natal and Natalians in Roberts' letter; the Zulus; the sugar interest; scheme for Bantu race in previous century; Brother Nivand;

(11)

politicians in general and some in SA; reading about League of Nations; asks to have addresses where Roberts can be reached.

13.12.1921

H.s.

4 leaves

Gustav le Bon's *The world in revolt*; Smuts; Jagger and Spilhaus; German aspirations; he feels saddened; democracy and the "Kafir mind".

(12)

264/6

Letters. 1922

9 items

3.1.1922

(Stb.)

H.s.

3 leaves

Coal strike and its effects; Smuts; Urban Bill that Roberts sent him omits the employer; medical inspectors; has book for miss Christine.

(1)

4.2.1922

H.s.

4p.

His activities, both intellectual and physical; native question and Scully who "takes a gloomy view"; "root idea... of... book *'Bayete'*" about which Roberts may have heard from his daughter Mrs. Lee; Native Affairs Dept.; Cresswell, Tielman Roos, Abe Baily [sic] and Chamber of Mines; Smuts; has posted him a book.

(2)

15.3.1922

Roberts(Cape Town)/

H.

Merriman

2 leaves

Complimentary words about him.

Note: Letter incomplete; written on Senate notepaper.

(3)

19.9.1922

Merriman(Stb.)/Roberts

H.s.

2 leaves

Sends some clippings and newspaper, as well as letter from Frank Brownlee; had a letter from Scully; has written to Smartt as requested by Scully.

Note: Items mentioned not included; letter was about Peddie Fingoes.

(4)

1.10.1922

H.s.

3 leaves

Namaqualand [sic]; Weidner; Augrabies Falls; Roberts' coming visit to Pretoria; encloses letter from John Elliot; Jagger; mines and native "upheaval"; colour bar to be explained at Geneva by Warrington-Smyth and Crawford; situation in Europe.

Note: Item mentioned not included.

(5)

3.10.1922

H.s.

1 leaf

Refers to case of Peddie Fingoes; encloses copy of letter from Dick Innes about this subject; feels it is a case for Native Commission; has been reading a new native story by Scully.

+ Letter. Rose-Innes, R./Merriman. 25.9.1922. H. 1 leaf.

Fingoes have an "incontestable right to the ground".

Note: Handwritten copy by Merriman.

(6)

10.10.1922

H.s.

2 leaves

Asks Roberts to have lunch with him "at one o'clock on Wednesday".

(7)

25.11.1922

H.s.

3 leaves

Has a "horrid cold"; the Commission; "the way the natives have been shelved"; happenings in Scotland; will try to have "rascals... indicted by Parliament"; letter from a shift boss on Crown Reef Mines; comparative condition on mines in England and SA; opening Library extension on December 6.

(8)

264/7Letters, 1923

4 items

3.9.1923

(Stb.)

H.s.

2 leaves

Roberts' tour; native cause; Rev. A. Cripps and the Rhodesia land question; Cripps should wait to see sir John Chancellor before publishing; Chancellor's visit; different approaches to natives; encloses "cuttings"; regards to miss Christine; Brownlee's volume.

+ Clippings.

(1)

11.9.1923

Roberts(Pta.)/Merriman

H.

2 leaves

Condolences on "sad sad day"; his friendship with mrs. Merriman; comforts Merriman in his great loss.

Note: Letter incomplete; written on Native Affairs Commission paper.

(2)

10.10.1923

Merriman(Stb.)/Roberts

H.s.

1 leaf

Thanks him for sympathy.

(3)

10.12.1923

H.s.

3p.

In his debt; had a visit from Scully; Rev. Hall.

(4)

264/8

Miscellaneous letters

Letters from J.C. Smuts, A.V. Merriman and Mrs. Agnes Merriman. Mrs. Merriman's letters are undated.

8 items

28.7.1919

Merriman, A.V. (Nelspruit)/

H.s.

Uncle Jack

2p.

(1)

Visit of Van Heerden (cabinet minister); thanks his uncle for "asking a few awkward questions"; another visitor at White River Estates; natives keen on education; plans to start a school for children of labourers and others; Cresswell; other visitors.

12.5.1920

Smuts, J.C. (Cape Town)/

H.s.

Roberts

4p.

(2)

Thanks him for note; anxious to appoint Roberts as "member of the Senate to represent Native interests"; succeeds Theo Schreiner; hopes he will accept; needs to know soon.

19.10.[19-]

Merriman, Agnes (Stb.)/

H.s.

Roberts

4p.

(3)

Illness of Roberts and daughter; his travels; "this roving Commission"; Scully's book; her own health better after "that horrid flu".

[-.-.19-]

(Cape Town)

H.s.

2p.

(4)

Sends him an advance copy of *Idle thoughts in Darkland*; author is her nephew; the "blinded S. African boys".

[-.-.19-]

H.s.

1 leaf

(5)

Off on a holiday; wishes Roberts "every success" with his new work.

[-.-.19-]

H.s.

Notelet

(6)

Invites Roberts to visit her husband who is ill.

Note: Written in pencil.

[-.-.19-]

H.s.

Notelet

(7)

Asks Roberts to persuade her husband to drive down to the House when it rains; the flu.

Note: Written in pencil.

[-.-.19-]

H.s.

Notelet

Asks for book to read.

Note: Written in pencil.

(8)

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