

### AFRICAN TRADE UNION COURSES

The first African Trade Union Course was completed this week. It was organised by the Legal Aid Department of the Campaign in co-operation with the Local Committee of the Trades and Labour Council, the Left Club and the Council of Non-European Trade Unions. It was planned to cater for Africans who already work as officials in African Trade Unions in Johannesburg. It extended over a period of six weeks.

Lectures were held in the mornings and afternoons, the latter being taken to leave the period between 12 and 2 p.m. Free to show students to attend to their Trade Union duties. Although the course had been planned as a full-time school in the understanding that students would be released from their ordinary daily work for the duration of the course in practice this was impossible as nobody could be found, in most of the African Unions, to replace the officials. Eighteen officials registered and 13 completed the course.

The students maintained a consistent enthusiasm and interest and were unanimous in their appreciation of the instruction given. The course was divided into theoretical and practical instruction in such subjects as book-keeping, industrial legislation, civic trade union organisation, and rules of procedure at meetings.

### CINEMA AT GRASSY PARK

Mr. Kruger, operator, stated, in an interview that he expected more apparatus and would present better entertainment, and the audience would not have to wait while a reel was being changed (there is only one projector).

The need of a full-time cinema at Grassy Park is urgent for many people, mainly Non-European, now go to cinema at Wynberg and Diepsig, with consequent added cost to themselves, and very often miss the last bus home. Films more suitable to the community are in demand because the deeds shown on the screen are often judged by youths who find in them a model of spending their spare time.

(Continued from column 5)  
The emergency services of these white workers would be of greater value if funds were immediately forthcoming from the authorities.

Floods of this kind are a responsibility of the authorities as a whole. Elsie's River should have been examined long ago. Floods are bound to occur if streets and drainage are not properly attended to.

Immediate needs are for provision housing for distressed families, or for compensation to enable them to remove their damaged houses.

### ALL OCCASIONS DEMAND

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## THE CAPE STANDARD

TUESDAY, JULY 3rd, 1945

### UNDUPED

THE great "compulsory education" hoax has failed.

The Administrator has confessed to what we pointed out over a month ago. The ordinance about which much chattering was raised is not designed to introduce compulsory education. Its function is to make "improved provision" for Coloured education. The ordinance takes a little of compulsory education if certain impossible conditions are fulfilled.

Now a child (but not a fool or a dupe) could have seen all that from a study of the draft ordinance, which did not provide funds enough even for the children at present in school. Knowing the policy of the Government, we called the entry a fraud. That section, fortunately insignificant, of the Coloured press, which would like to delude us into trusting the Government—that minor section sang praises of the ordinance. Now they see that they have been fooled. They are sour. It is natural but unimportant that they have made hysterical attacks on us.

Why do the Coloured people have a settled distrust of the Government?

It has been in power a long time. It has had the power to give the Coloured and non-European peoples justice. It has not done so. Coloured people have inferior voting powers, inferior wages, inferior jobs, inferior health services, inferior education, and are being given segregated inferior conditions to live in. And the inferiority is not small, it is very great.

There can be only one reason for this—it is the settled policy of the Government to keep the Coloured people in a position of inferiority.

Coloured people who encourage us to support such a government can belong to one of three classes. Remember them. They are either (1) those who like to be inferior; (2) those who are fools or dupes; (3) those who get personal benefit from supporting the Government, while the rest of the Coloured people suffer. Men of the C.A.C., the Government's chief machine to fool the Coloured people, men of T.E.P.A. (which the authorities have been trying hard to boost) and all the Coloured Government mouth pieces, belong to one or other of these classes. These are the people who would lead the Coloured people into a trap—the belief that provision was being made for compulsory education—if they had had any authority with the Coloured people.

It is now possible to see the "improved provision" for compulsory education against their true background. The ordinance gives something. We are better off than we were before. But, true to the Government's settled policy of keeping the non-European peoples in an inferior position, what is granted is about one-quarter or less of what extra grant is needed to put Coloured education on a sound footing.

But although the Provincial Council has made certain new grants, it is attempting to extend its segregationist programme to school boards. The measure of the true support of organisation for Coloured education is whether they attack this.

One of the functions of T.E.P.A. and C.A.C. is to weaken the force of the progressive demands of the T.L.S.A. and C.A.I.D. and the radical majority of the A.P.O. Despite this Government sponsored attempt to demoralise the Coloured front, progressive action has been strong enough to induce certain reforms in educational grants. Much more must still be pressed for.

Militant action is the only thing which can move a hostile government. Clear, firm demands can achieve improvements, if the demands are sufficiently powerful.

### TEACHERS AND SOCIETY

THE Teachers' League of South Africa, of which a report appears in this issue, met at Port Elizabeth last week, and attempt are to be made to put into effect the Constitution adopted at Conference last year. It is hoped that many went, not of idle curiosity but in a spirit of enquiry and with determination to bring about better conditions of service, and suggestions for the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the non-European.

Teachers are the vanguard of the proletariat, for they are the people who have more time to think and offer solutions to the problems that confront the people. And then, more testimony to their importance is the regulation forbidding teachers to participate in party politics.

In South Africa, of course, the minds of non-European children are, if the authorities have their way, to be trained in the idea that all those, whose only sin is that they pigmented, are inferior, just as white children are nurtured on the "hervenvolk" idea. The Teachers' League is to be congratulated on its attempts to counteract propaganda of such a nature, and the healthiest sign that organisation has manifested is the exchange of delegates between the African teachers and the Teachers' League, and the resolution to work with trade unions when the occasion arises.

The teachers have realised that they cannot be isolationists and that their struggles are consonant with the struggles of the working class in general. They cannot hope for an improvement in their service conditions unless the conditions of the oppressed are improved.

Their struggle is, therefore, inextricably bound up with the fight for full democratic rights, and it is on the non-European intelligentsia in the teaching profession that the people will depend for enlightenment when difficulties become too complex for them to solve.



TUESDAY  
ALFRED STREET.

### Sour Grapes

"Segregiated trains" means a caption in the latest issue of a minor weekly. The Fwa hope, by the attack to influence the Coloured people. What a pity the railway authorities did not lengthen the already "tail-end" trains. The "segregated" train could then have accommodated some Europeans to placate the promoter who believes that "segregated" is synonymous with "segregated". Only people with the mentality of the Lama of thirteenth century Tibet will be influenced by such morning. Ordering a special train is definitely different to being ordered to occupy a reserved portion of a train. Dear readers are grateful, one day perhaps, maybe you could organize on the T.L.S.A. scale, but meanwhile, O, stop your moaning, stop your grinning—The grapes are sour.

### A New Game

A recent hysterical attack on the "Cape Standard" in a little local newspaper attempts to prove a variety of silly things by a number of laboriously chosen quotations.

I should like to demand to the level of Spectator and retributions can be trapped upon the head of the misquoting, but really, is not the misquoting gentleman worthy of rebuke?

Spectator was a little—about a

the underlain years ahead, but without considering whether this may or may not be an illusion, bloodily gouges upon the idea, and with his horrid of starvation holds it as a new dawn in the life of the Coloured people.

I fear the Greeks, their oratory, their gifts, spectator, contemplates them, and heaps imprecations upon the Cape Standard, because while it accepts the Coloured Compulsory Education Draft, it dares to criticize the Provincial authorities for a measure long overdue and, which when finally staked, proves hopelessly inadequate.

### "The Tables Turned"

Imagine a man who, with a mouth of public, abstracts from its context a passage that sounds different from the rest, and uses it to prove his point. But the devil can quote Scripture in his own interest, can't he? The headline of Spectator's article, in T.L.S.A. obtains a fraud, when fraud is synonymous with Compulsory Education. So does not the headline admit that Compulsory Education is a fraud?

You see Spectator's trick? I've played the same game. But you see that Spectator's was merely a trick of related quotations, and no doubt Spectator believes in the compulsory education programme, like an ostrich that swallowed a bar of soap and still believes it's a sponge-cake.

Watchman

## ELSIES RIVER FLOODS

### Many Families Still Need Relief

Families whose houses were flooded or damaged in the Parow-Elsies River area between June 19 and June 23 when the Elsie's River came down in flood, are still in need of relief.

Dr. W. Forbes, president of the Thervli and Elsie's River Welfare Council, says that conditions have improved somewhat, but at least 30 families have not been able to return to their homes.

### SEVENTEEN HUNDRED PEOPLE

Address and disorganisation involves far more than those families

In our half the relief costs and the bulk of the Committee's funds came from gifts by private people. A great deal of assistance had, however, been given by the Social Welfare Department, which has given meat and vegetable rations, and hundreds of blankets. Dr. Forbes praised especially the energetic work of the Senior Social Welfare Officer Mr. V. Steyn. Mr. Steyn was given authority by the department to take what action he thought best, Dr. Forbes said.

### PAROW TOWN COUNCIL

Additional help has also been given to the Parow-Elsies River distress committee by the Parow Town Council, which contributed, for example, blankets, coffee and bread.



A flooded room of an Elsie's River house — the level to which the water rose can be clearly seen. For the story, see page 7.

More than three-hundred and fifteen families were catered for by the Parow-Elsies River distress relief committee, on a single day last week, said Dr. Forbes, who is a member of this committee. Over seventeen hundred people were fed in all.

The minimum ration given to each family, in last about two days, was 1 lb. meat, 3 candles, 1 lb. coffee, 1 loaf bread, 1 lb. barley, 1 lb. jam, 1 lb. oats, and 1 lb. mealie rice or samp.

### SOURCE OF FUNDS

The committee has received in the neighbourhood of £1000 to finance its work. Goodwood Town Council (Elsies River) is in the area has given £100 and Parow Town Council £50.

The Minister of Social Welfare is to declare the area a distressed area (in which case it would have had

Mr. McGuinness, Parow Town Clerk pointed out that housing was the main difficulty. The floods had aggravated a housing situation which was already bad. Mr. McGuinness said, and it was his personal view that it would take some time yet before housing was provided for those worst affected by the floods.

### CO-OPERATION

The Coloured people in the area, he said, displayed a very fine spirit of co-operation with one another; distressed families were given much assistance by friends.

Mr. McGuinness said that the body of workers, particularly Dr. Forbes and Dr. Freedman, had given great service.

### PRESENT NEEDS

A Cape Town teacher pointed out (Continued in column 1)