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STELLENBOSCH

Burgemeesterskantoor,
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Onder-Papegaaiberg se Probleme

Vir die afgelope paar weke was die inwoners van Onder-Papegaaiberg baie onthuts, met alle regverdiging, oor die onaangename reuk wat by tye oor die gebied getrek het. Daar was heelwat gissings oor die bron daarvan, maar daar is gou vasgestel dat dit deur die stookwyn-afloopwater veroorsaak is wat net langs die Devon Valley-pad in drie damme opgegaar is.

Ek wil meteens hier meld dat die Stadsraad tot dusver nie verantwoordelik was vir die behandeling van daardie afloopwater nie. Die betrokke stokerye moes toesien dat daar voldoende hoeveelhede kalk toegedien word om te verhoed dat die verkeerde chemiese reaksies plaasvind. Hierdie werksaamhede was nie onder die toesig van die munisipaliteit nie, en vermoedelik is die wantoestand toe te skryf aan verkeerde prosedure of gebrek aan optrede.

Reeds op 5 Maart is samesprekings met die betrokke organisasies gevoer en daar is ooreengekom oor die stappe wat onmiddellik deur hulle gedoen moes word om die reuk van die afloop te verwyder. Die probleem was ernstig omdat daar sowat een miljoen gelling ou afloopwater in die damme opgegaar was en daar 'n daaglikse verdere toevoeging van 20,000 tot 30,000 gelling was. Alle pogings om die stank uit die damme te kry was tevergeefs, en uiteindelik is daartoe oorgegaan om die damme oop te maak sodat die beddings drooggelê kon word. Ek is tevrede dat hierdie optrede effektief was. Die vars

afloopwater word nou oor losgeploegde akkers gelei waar die verdampingsproses vinniger is en waar daar hopelik geen geleentheid sal wees vir die ontstaan van die onaangenam reuk nie.

PETISIE

Die Stadsraad het 'n lywige petisie ontvang waarin hy verwyt word dat daar min aandag aan die saak geskenk word. Ek wil hierdie wanindruk tog uit die weg ruim deur die inwoners van die gebied die versekering te gee dat daar buitengewone maatreëls onder my persoonlike toesig geneem is om die saak in die reine te bring. Dit het heelwat nagwerk en baie geld gekos. Of ons pogings 'n permanente oplossing sal bring, kan slegs met verloop van meer tyd vasgestel word. Dit mag wees dat die besproeiingsterrein te klein is. Ons weet nog nie. Desnoods sal daar 'n ander terrein gesoek moet word, en intussen kan ons geen waarborg bied dat die oorlas nie weer sal verskyn nie. Ons hoop maar op die beste.

DIE FOUT

Ek wil net byvoeg dat nywerhede in die algemeen met hulle nadele aanvaar moet word waar sulke nywerhede toegelaat word. 'n Woonbuurt in so 'n omgewing moet noodwendig aan die een of ander vorm van oorlas blootgestel wees. As daar 'n fout begaan is, dan was dit toe die woonbuurt daar aangelê is, maar nou kan daar niks aan die saak gedoen word nie. Die rioolwerke, waarvan die behandeling van stookwynafloop 'n aanhangsel is, kan nie uit daardie geweste verwyder word nie. Ook nie die komposwerke of die slagplaas nie. Die koste van 'n verwydering is eenvoudig ondraaglik. Die Raad het al vir baie jare oor sulke skemas beraadslaag, en ek is bevrees dat dit vrugteloos sou wees om weer hieroor te argumenteer.

GEEN VOLKOME OPLOSSING

Ek wil dit baie nadruklik stel dat die Stadsraad terdeë bewus is van sy verantwoordelikhede teenoor elke seksie van die gemeenskap, en dat hy sy bes doen om toestande te skep wat vir almal draaglik is. Elke wyk het sy besondere probleme wat bestudeer en opgelos moet word. Dit help nie veel om Onder-Papegaaiberg met enige ander wyk van die dorp te vergelyk nie. Eersvermelde lê in 'n gebied waar daar talle steurnisse geskep word en altyd sal ontstaan, en dis nie waarskynlik dat hulle ooit heeltemal uitgeskakel sal kan word nie. Aanvanklik was die bedoeling dat die gebied huisvesting sou bied

hoofsaaklik vir diegene wat in die nywerehede aldaar werksaam was, maar dinge het in 'n ander rigting ontwikkel. Die dorpie het 'n pronkstuk geword waarop die inwoners en ook die res van Stellenbosch opreg trots kan wees, maar ek is bevrees dat al hulle kwellinge nie sal verdwyn nie. Ons doen ons bes om hulle te help, en meer kan daar nie verwag word nie.

W. C. DEMPSEY.

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1 April 1960

Municipal Congress

I have been attending the annual congress of the Cape Province Municipal Association at Muizenberg this week, accompanied by the Town Clerk. A number of important matters were discussed, about which I shall report in more detail in next week's issue.

Postal Services

It has been ascertained from the Postal authorities that they expect building operations on the new Automatic Telephone Exchange for Stellenbosch to be commenced with during the latter half of this year. It is to be erected on the open space between the new Magistrate's Court and Alexander Court Flats. Work has already begun on the laying of additional cables in the streets.

The authorities expect a great improvement in the telephone service after the automatic exchange is taken into use.

There have been complaints amongst the public regarding alleged delays in the delivery of post. The Postmaster, Mr. Grisel, assures me that, although there are quite a number of factors which can contribute towards such delays, no delay at all is caused at the local Post Office.

Flag Poles for Town Hall

After consultation with its architects, the Council decided to erect two 30 feet flag-poles on the lawn in front of the Town Hall entrance. The existing flag-poles, jutting out from the side of the building, were rather obscured by the oak tree and not very satisfactory.

Stellenbosch Archeological Reserve

It is perhaps not very well-known that it is the intention of the Historical Monuments Commission to proclaim an archeological reserve on the slope to the north of the Adam Tas bridge over the river and railway line.

The plaque which will be erected there, gives the following facts:

"IN A ROAD-MAKER'S BORROW PIT HERE IN 1869 LOUIS PERINGUEY MADE THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF 'STELLENBOSCH' STONE IMPLEMENTS AND THEREBY PROVED THE GREAT ANTIQUITY OF MAN IN SOUTH AFRICA.
ERECTED BY THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS COMMISSION."

The Council is now busy designing a suitable lay-out. It is the intention to develop the site, which is approximately one-third of a morgen in size, as a pleasant park with attractive lawns and structures.

An interesting fact revealed by the late Prof. Van Riet Louw and Dr. Nobbs, is that the present course of the Eerste River in that vicinity is already the third course which the river has taken. Once upon a time the river had its bed where the big fir tree stands today opposite the cemetery of the Church of England.

W. C. DEMPSEY.

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8 April 1960.

Onluste in Kaya Mandi-Bantoelokasie

Die gebeure van die afgelope week is volledig in die koerante en oor die radio bekendgemaak en ek wy dus nie daaroor uit nie.

Al wat ek hier wil doen is om dank te betuig eerstens aan ons Polisie en Militêre magte vir die uiters bekwame wyse waarop hulle hulle van hul taak gekwyt het en die dorp beveilig het. Dankie ook aan ons eie amptenare en ander wat die bewaking van strategiese plekke deur die nag onderneem het, en aan almal wat op een of ander wyse hulp verleen het. Laastens voel ek dat die dorpsinwoners — en hierby sluit ek die Kleurlinggemeenskap in — gelukgewens behoort te word vir die kalme houding wat hulle gedurende 'n tyd van spanning ingeneem het.

Ons probleme is nog glad nie verby nie — miskien begin hulle maar. Dit is duidelik dat die Raad sy hele beleid, i.v.m. die plaaslike toelating, indiensneming en huisvesting van Bantoes, in die lig van die onlangse gebeurtenisse deeglik in hersiening sal moet neem. Dit is egter 'n saak met verreikende probleme en nie een waaromtrent oorhaastige besluite geneem moet word nie.

Hulp vir Bantoe-Polisiebeamptes

In besonder wil ek egter graag melding maak van die toestand waarin die drie Bantoe-polisiebeamptes hulle tans bevind. Nie alleen die huise wat hulle bewoon het nie, maar ook al hul persoonlike besittings, sowel as die van hul vrouens en kinders, is vernietig deur die oproermakers. Al wat hulle nog het, is die klere wat hulle aangehad het.

Daar is alreeds mense wat hulp aangebied het en ek wil graag hiermee 'n beroep doen op die publiek om hulle op tasbare wyse vir hulle verlies te vergoed. Dit sal waardeer word as items wat geskenk word by die Polisiekantoor ingehandig sal word.

Leningsvergadering

Die publiek word herinner aan die Leningsvergadering wat eerskomende Dinsdagaand, 12 April om 8 nm. in die Banketsaal plaasvind. Ofskoon alleen geregistreerde eienaars van onroerende eiendom kan stem oor die voorstelle, is almal baie welkom op die vergadering. Na afloop van die formele agenda, sal ek ook die geleentheid gee vir vrae of voorstelle oor ander onderwerpe.

Kleurling-Sportraad

Graag wil ek gebruik maak van hierdie geleentheid om die Kleurlinggemeenskap se sportraad, die Raad van Beheer oor die Idasvallei Sportterreine, namens die Stadsraad geluk te wens met hul uitstekende werk gedurende die afgelope jaar. Met die afsluiting van hul finansiële jaar het hulle £89 in lopende rekening gehad en nie minder nie as £500 op vaste deposito belê. Hierdie prugtige resejer is opgebou ten spyte daarvan dat die Sportraad elke maand 25% van alle hekontvangste aan die Stadsraad stort vir instandhoudingswerk.

Ek voel regtig dat hulle tot voorbeeld vir alle ander sportliggame kan dien.

Tesauriërskongres

Die Raad se „Minister van Finansies", dr. J. C. de Wet en die Stadstesourier, mnr. H. J. Hendriks, is hierdie week in Margate vir die jaarlikse kongres van die Instituut van Munisipale Tesouriers en Rekenmeesters. Die kongres sal veral aandag gee aan die desimalisasie wat volgende jaar plaasvind, en al die ingewikkelde probleme wat daaruit voortvloei. Ons begroting vir 1961 wat reeds teen September voorberei moet word, moet in rand en sente opgestel word.

Munisipale Kongres

My verslag aangaande die Kaapprovinsie Munisipale Vereniging se jaarkongres, waaroor ek beloof het om hierdie week te rapporteer, is ongelukkig nog nie gereed nie. Hopelik sal ek volgende week die een en ander daaroor kan meedeel.

Matrone by Sanatorium

Dit is vir my baie aangenaam om hierdie week ons nuwe matrone by die Sanatorium, **mej. S. H. Laubser**, welkom te heet. Sy kom hierheen van Karl Bremer-hospitaal, en voorheen was sy etlike jare by die Livingstone-hospitaal in Port Elizabeth.

Sy is vol entoesiasme vir die werk en ons wil vertrou dat sy baie jare van gelukkige diens by ons sal deurbring.

W. C. DEMPSEY.

14th April, 1960

Planning Ahead

In a recent issue of the Eikestadnuus it was suggested that the Town Council should consider a positive scheme of industrial development over a number of years, having due regard to the programme of expansion as envisaged by the University authorities, in order to counteract the high proportion of non-rateable properties in Stellenbosch.

Before commenting on this proposal, I must thank Eikestadnuus for broaching a subject which is of paramount importance to our community and which had been debated, sometimes heatedly, since time immemorial. The question certainly is an interesting one, and we sincerely welcome discussions on such topics.

At one stage industrial development was hailed by most local authorities as a kind of panacea for all their financial difficulties. We may assume that in many instances it did afford considerable relief to the private ratepayer whose burden of taxation has been steadily increasing, but we are equally aware that at the same time industries have created numerous new problems, and I could cite many instances of large cities that would gladly surrender a good proportion of such undertakings within their boundaries.

As far as Stellenbosch is concerned, I must confirm that the Town Council has at no stage declared itself against industrial development, but it has most decidedly been very careful not to admit industries that would tend to destroy

the traditional character of our town. The line of demarcation is not easily defined, and consequently the Council might have been over-conservative in the past, but for this, I think, the public should rather be thankful.

The Council is, it may be assumed, very much aware of the fact that the percentage of non-rateable properties is abnormally high in Stellenbosch, but it would be unwise to cast the blame on the University alone. Detailed analyses are available in the mayors' reports of the past three years, but I think that the following statistics will be of some interest:

Year	(1) Total Valuation	(2) Non-Rateable	% (2) to (1)	(3) University properties (exempted)	% (3) to (1)
	£	£		£	
1955	10,311,425	3,509,960	34	1,519,385	14.7
1956	10,553,555	3,616,785	34.2	1,617,480	15.3
1957	11,205,650	3,853,420	34.4	1,826,625	16.3
1958	11,707,150	4,042,635	34.5	1,906,380	16.3
1959	12,200,485	4,245,785	34.9	2,019,430	16.6

We have had no intimation of the nature of the developments contemplated by the University, but it is not likely that the full amount of one million pounds mentioned in press reports would be invested in buildings. In any case, it will be observed from the figures quoted above that the average increase in our valuations is over £500,000 per year, so that an additional amount of £1,000,000 on the non-rateable side over five years or so should not make any material difference. There has been a gradual but constant increase in the percentage of University properties, but at present there is no cause for alarm.

It is also apparent that the percentage of total non-rateable properties (all classes) is increasing, and for the past few years the Council has been studying possible ways of improving the position. Representations were made to the Borckenhagen Commission, but I do not expect early reaction from that quarter. It is not, moreover, likely that the Government could be induced to agree to the taxation of educational properties, and consequently we shall have to explore other avenues of relief.

To some extent we should be able to depend upon a natural process of adjustment. Probably all of us are aware of an acute housing shortage, and private townships comprising approximately 300 building plots are awaiting development. In fact the municipal organisation cannot cope with the demand for utility services. In addition, the Council is anxious to proceed with the development of the Union Park area where some 150 to 200 sites will be available. The residential extensions are bound to stimulate development in the commercial sphere, and on the whole I have no reason at present to fear that the town will be swamped by the educational institutions.

In the Mayor's Report of 1959 some attention was given to the question whether our charges for utility services were on a realistic basis, and the conclusion drawn was to the effect that a review of the tariffs might result in a higher revenue yield by non-rateable properties to relieve the heavy burden on rateable properties. Sooner or later the Council would have to pay further attention to this suggestion.

In passing I wish to refer to the negotiations now being conducted with the Provincial Administration in connection with the possibility of obtaining relief from Divisional Council rates in urban areas. Some progress has been made and we expect to see more tangible results by 1961.

In conclusion, then, I would like to express a personal opinion that industrial development by itself would not provide a real solution to our financial difficulties for the simple reason that such development would have to be on a relatively large scale to balance out the educational institutions, entailing at the same time a real risk of swamping the rest of the community as we have known it thus far. Festina lente.

W. C. DEMPSEY