

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—I am enclosing herewith for publication, a copy of a letter which I handed in at last night's meeting of the E.L. Coloured Vigilance Association.

The Secretary, E.L. Coloured Vigilance Assoc., 11a Factory Road, East London.

Dear Madam,—I wish to tender my resignation from the East London Coloured Vigilance Association for the following reasons:

(1) I became a member of the Association with the hope that its programme would work in the interests of the Non-European oppressed on a principled basis. For the period of my membership I consider the stand taken, with regard to membership, the Group Areas Act and the franchise was indeed one for "immediate self-preservation" and not for the ultimate attainment of full democratic rights for all.

(2) The Association—of at least six months' standing—has to date not provided me, a member, with a copy of its constitution, but has created machinery in its constitution to deal with people who constantly bring up matters which are contrary to the policy of the Association.

(3) I consider that the function of an executive is to implement the policy accepted by the general body, and not to assume that the members have implicit faith in the executive.

(a) The executive, on behalf of the Association, asked for a particular group area for the Coloured section. The 85-odd members outside the executive do not know which particular area their executive had asked for; and one or two querying members were told by the chairman that the people have confidence in their executive.

(b) A letter received by the secretary of the Association was not read at the general meeting. A querying member was told that the letter was "privy to the executive".

From (a) and (b) I draw the assumption that the executive fears to divulge all its actions, lest the condemnation of its actions by the general body is not forthcoming. Following logically upon this, I conclude that the policy of the Vigilance Association does not enjoy the full confidence of its members.

(4) Oppressed people can never hope to achieve emancipation by dividing themselves into blocs—racial or otherwise. The Coloured Vigilance Association in maintaining its emphasis on an exclusively Coloured membership is facilitating the *Herrenvolk* policy of divide and rule.

(5) I cannot afford to pay subscriptions and other dues to enrich the legal maladvisers on the implications of the Group Areas Act.

Unless the Vigilance Association is prepared to change its policy and throw in its lot with the oppressed people for an honest unity and struggle for the achievement of full

equality of rights for all men and women, I foresee its premature death. Again there would have been wasted effort on the part of the people and all the inevitable frustration which follows.

DOROTHY MURPHY.

6, Walker Street, East London.

Sir,—At the general meeting of the above association representing the majority of parents of children attending the Welcome Estate Primary School, it was unanimously decided to forward a strong protest to the Rev. F. H. R. Buckle of the D.R.C. categorically refuting his allegation that liquor was the cause of the trouble at the meeting convened to elect a school committee.

The Rev. Buckle, election officer at the meeting, when asked a number of questions regarding the outgoing committee, completely ignored the parents' requests for information.

The association further resolved to request the School Board to convene another meeting on the grounds that the disputed meeting was undemocratic and the proceedings irregular, and that the Rev. Buckle was himself the cause of the trouble by refusing to allow the parents' requests to ask questions relative to the election of a school committee.

J. DYSAL, Chairman.

N. ARENDESE, Secretary.

Surrey and Welcome Estates Vigilance and Civic Association, 2nd Street, Welcome Estate, Athlone.

Sir,—My political sense began (I may tell you this as a matter of interest) when I first came in contact with the *Torch* and started to read it. The careful perusal of the articles therein brought me a light that I so longed for. I had read many other so-called liberator newspapers, to quote only one, *Advance*, but it cannot compare with the *Torch*, which is so straightforward to the point, and does not give us the propaganda and valueless, baseless talk; as a matter of fact, it sets up your mind in such a manner that one has to take an interest.

Therefore I would never like to be without this valuable weekly. May this paper live long. It is a true informer to all the oppressed people of this and other countries in the world. It is our official organ, it is our staff, our weapon and our tool. It is truly a light in this dark world of ours.

"LIBERTY CAP".

Winifredmere.

NEVER BE WITHOUT "THE TORCH"

THE PASSING OF A POPULAR KIMBERLEY SCHOOL TEACHER

The Kimberley Coloured community was shocked to learn of the passing of Mr. Daniel Alfred Daniels, who died with tragic suddenness on September 25, 1953, after only two days' illness.

The deceased was an assistant at the William Pescod High School. The late Mr. Daniels was extremely popular with both the members of the staff of his school and the students.

A funeral service held at the Bean Street Church was conducted by Mr. Douglas, and was largely attended. Tribute was paid to the deceased at the church, when six Matric students of his class, Lionel van Reenen, George Adams, Colin Ritchie, Denzel Baatjies, Arthur Wheatly and Edmund Michaels, acted as pall-bearers.

After the last rites were performed a friend of the deceased, Mr. M. R. van Reenen, delivered an address as a tribute to his life.

The sympathy of the community is extended to the widow, her four children and to his brother Jock.

NEW PONDOKKIE SCHOOL FOR AFRICANS Church and State on African Education

On Saturday, Dr. Meiring, the Cape S.G.E., opened a new pondokkie primary school for African children near Tervlei. The school falls under the Parow School Board and will cater for 600 children.

Meiring said that the parents should appreciate what was being done for them. ("African education is a burden for the White population" is a popular cry amongst the *Herrenvolk*.) In other words, provision of a school, even a pondokkie school, is an act of charity and not part of a right.

The children, said Meiring, must learn to read, write and calculate. "No person in the modern world can make any progress unless he can at least read, write and calculate." This, of course, is all the equipment that is necessary for an African to fit into the South African pattern of White master and Black slave. He must have the bare minimum of education, as he is intended to become nothing else but an underpaid, unskilled slave.

Warning About Politics

A D.R.C. dominee also spoke. He said that "politics" should be based on the word of God; all South Africans should work in harmony with each other; in unity based on the word of God. What this means is that the only acceptable politics are *Herrenvolk* politics, which are supposed to be divinely inspired. The politics of the people presumably comes from the devil.

All-African Convention Committee (W.P.) invites you to a GRAND SOCIAL EVENING on Thursday, 29th October, 1953 from 7.30 p.m. to 12 midnight TOWN HALL, MOWBRAY Educational Film, Music, Dancing to meet all tastes. ADMISSION: 3/6 (incl. tax and refreshments)

T.A.T.A. CALL cont.

in education: A T.A.T.A., isolated and fighting alone, was doomed to defeat, he said. He drew attention to the policy of divide-and-rule and how it was put into effect in a very subtle way by first dealing with the African—broken further into tribes—and then the Coloured and Indian, although the same disastrous fate was intended for all three sections of the Non-European people.

Demand For Equality

The conference adopted the following resolutions:

(1) The conference unequivocally rejects the Bantu Education Bill and all other discriminatory legislation designed to relegate Non-White people to a position of permanent inferiority and strongly reiterates its demand for equal education and educational facilities for all, irrespective of race, class or colour.

(2) The conference feels convinced that the fight against inferior education is a nation-wide struggle for which the unity of all the teachers among the oppressed people is a necessary and urgent requisite.

(3) The conference, therefore, decides to initiate efforts to call a conference of all teachers in South Africa this year in order to plan a course of action to be taken in the fight against lower education.

(4) Realising that all our disabilities, whether educational or not, flow from a lack of political rights, this conference feels that teachers' associations must cooperate and join hands with the other organisations of the people in the struggle for the liberation of the oppressed people. Towards its end, conference urges all ranches to proceed forthwith with the formation of parent-teacher associations as a first step.

GOLF

(By Peter Louw)

Golfers turned out from all parts of the Peninsula and the country districts to participate in the monthly competition played over the Milnerton course. There were 65 competitors and only three managed to break 80. The best nett return came from C. Elliot (73) and the net gross from P. van Dieman (77).

Van Dieman's card reads:  
Put . . . 5 3 4 6 4 4 4 5 4—39  
Hole . . . 5 4 5 4 5 4 3 5 3—38  
Gross total . . . . . 77

The leading returns were: C. Elliot, 73 (Mid.); D. Reynolds, 74 (R.H.G.C.); Peter Louw, 75 (R.H.G.C.); P. van Dieman, 75 (R.H.G.C.); J. Dreyer, 76 (R.H.G.C.); P. Reynolds, 76 (R.H.G.C.); R. L. Brown, 76 (Thorn); A. November, 76 (R.H.G.C.); A. Reynolds, 77 (Thorn); F. Wilson, 78 (Thorn); W. Walbrugh, 78 (H.H.); G. Hendricks, 79 (R.H.G.C.); P. Hendricks, 79 (R.H.G.C.); P. Molander, 79 (H.H.); B. Hearne, 79 (R.H.G.C.); T. Brandier, 79 (R.H.G.C.); F. van Dieman, 80 (Thorn); M. Daniels, 81 (H.H.).