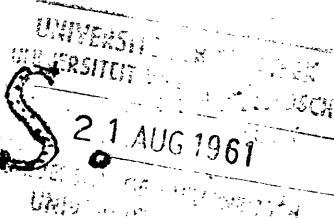




I.M.S.



INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF
STELLENBOSCH. No. 13. STELLENBOSCH, DECEMBER, 1946.

1. A BIRTHDAY NUMBER.

This edition of I.M.S. is really a birthday number because it is just a year ago that the periodical first began to appear. The first few numbers were written on both sides of one single folio sheet, but as time went on it was found to be necessary to add additional folio sheets. The sheets have been folded in such a way that the single sheet appears as four pages. When two sheets are used, I.M.S. has 8 pages, when three are used, 12 pages. In order to expedite the publication and circulation of I.M.S., its numbers have been roneoed in the Municipal Offices, although it was realised that a better job could be expected if printing was resorted to. As printers find it next to impossible to undertake more work and print it at short notice, we have continued with roneoing. As our machine is not as young as it used to be, it sometimes displayed great reluctance to run off 1,500 copies of I.M.S. Our capable and willing operator has, therefore, had to use his talents to the full to prevent a complete breakdown. When stencils have broken, Miss R. Joubert, our typist, has had to type additional ones. Sometimes her work has been most trying and exacting.

Since I.M.S. first appeared it has received favourable mention in various quarters. We have even received a letter of congratulation from the editor of an Australian daily. Beyond the borders of Stellenbosch, there are those who insist on getting I.M.S. regularly and who are even willing to pay for it. While generous tributes must not be taken literally, it was appreciated when the Deputy Mayor of a larger Municipality than our own remarked that he had become so interested in Stellenbosch that he sometimes

confused the figures pertaining to his own town with those pertaining to ours.

The Council has been so busy of late that it was not convenient to discuss the future of I.M.S. Its publication entails much work for those who edit it, for those who type and roneo it, and even for those who fold and despatch it. Under the circumstances the question must crop up sooner or later whether it is worth while continuing with monthly editions. When I.M.S. was started its publication was regarded as an experiment and so this experiment must soon be evaluated. It is realised that there are some ratepayers who would like to see an exchange of views taking place. Once correspondence is allowed, it will become very difficult to keep free from the speculative or the day dreaming side of Municipal affairs. Like other official and semi-official periodicals, I.M.S. has thought it best just to publish the views of the Council it represents. It is believed that those citizens who feel aggrieved will continue to use the public press as heretofore.

2. A TOWN PLANNING SCHEME FOR STELLENBOSCH.

Up to the present no reference has been made in I.M.S. to town planning, but the matter has been given a considerable amount of attention by the Council. Our town is expanding rapidly with the result that new subdivisions of land have to be undertaken and new needs met. If additional sporting grounds are needed by our coloured community, where can those grounds best be provided? What are the best sites for providing additional residential accommodation for Europeans, non-Europeans and Natives? These and similar questions demand a long term policy and must not be solved in a haphazard manner. If a Municipality is not to be overtaken by expansion problems such as have been mentioned by us, it is imperative to embark on a town planning scheme. This is not only good theory, but it is the actual practice of all progressive municipalities. Some municipalities

even have their own town planning departments who work year in and year out in order to prevent their municipalities from being overtaken by unexpected problems. In our case Messrs. Bowling and Floyd were appointed to guide the Council in this important and difficult task. A stage has now been reached when it is possible and necessary to inform the public of what is proposed. Further statements will be issued from time to time. It must be noted that aggrieved parties can lodge their objections with the Council and if redress or satisfaction is not obtained, they can approach the Townships Board. The procedure to be followed in a town planning scheme is carefully set out by law, and is further referred to in the following paragraphs.

3. THE FIRM OF TOWN PLANNING CONSULTANTS.

Colonel P.J. Bowling, M.T.P.I., F.S.I., M.I.Struct.E., set up as a Town Planning Consultant in Johannesburg some years before the last war. He had originally come to South Africa as representative of the firm Adams, Thomson and Fry, leading town planning consultants in England, who had been appointed to do the planning for the towns of the Reef and Pretoria. Col. Bowling took over from this firm. He went on active service in the early part of the war, but in the later years of the war he resumed his practice.

Col. Bowling was joined by Mr. T.B. Floyd, M.T.P.I., M.I.M. & Cy.E., M.S.A., Soc. C.E., in 1944, and the firm then became Messrs. Bowling and Floyd.

It was not to the disadvantage of Stellenbosch that Mr. Floyd had particularly detailed insight into the affairs of the town, for the reason that he had been in the service of the Municipal Council of Stellenbosch for a number of years during the time that the sewerage of the town was being carried out.

Both Col. Bowling and Mr. Floyd have been associated with the town planning work of all the Reef towns and Pretoria. Messrs. Bowling and Floyd have been and

still are consultants to Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban and the Reef towns. At the moment they have twenty town planning schemes for towns in the Transvaal and the Cape.

4. APPOINTMENT AS CONSULTANTS FOR STELLENBOSCH.

Messrs. Bowling and Floyd were appointed as consultants for the Municipality of Stellenbosch in January, 1945. In the beginning difficulties were encountered which were bound to create delay. The main difficulty was the lack, as in most towns, of suitable data in the form of maps based on which the scheme could be prepared.

Preliminary work has provided the Municipality with a basic map showing all subdivisions and properties within the Municipality. Then Map No. 1, the so-called civic survey map, showing existing conditions, was submitted and forwarded to the Administrator, as required by law. After this map had been prepared, a tentative scheme was prepared and the drawing was discussed with the Council so that it was possible for the firm to proceed with the preliminary scheme, which is Map No. 2, required by law. Together with this map the firm has forwarded to Stellenbosch the preliminary statement of proposals for development and 24 copies of a comprehensive report on the scheme, called "Stellenbosch Town Planning Scheme No. 1 of 1946."

5. FURTHER PROCEDURE.

Map No. 2 and the abovementioned documents having been submitted, the Council will now have to proceed further in terms of the Regulations promulgated under Ordinance No. 33 of 1934 and advertise the scheme, giving the public an opportunity to lodge objections should they feel that their interests are affected. The

map and scheme **clauses** will be open for inspection to the public during the period that the advertisement appears. • Any person making a statement or objection will be given an opportunity to appear before the Council on a day set aside for this purpose and at this meeting the consultants will also be present. After this hearing, the scheme is adjusted and adopted by the Council, with or without amendment, and then forwarded to the Administrator. Any aggrieved parties whose objections have not been met by the Council will then have an opportunity to appeal to the Townships Board.

6. THE ADVANTAGES OF A TOWN PLANNING SCHEME.

The advantages of a scheme are that a frame-work for future development is laid down so that any growth that takes place does so in an orderly manner instead of in a haphazard way. This embodies:-

- (a) The laying down of a network of main roads.
- (b) The zoning or setting aside of areas for particular uses so that confused development with shops, factories and houses mixed together will not take place in the future.
- (c) The laying down of density zones which control the size of erven, the free space about buildings and the height of buildings. The effect of this would be to stabilise land values and protect the amenities of the different neighbourhoods by preventing congested development. Height restrictions benefit in that they prevent traffic congestion and ensure access of sunlight and air to buildings and the street.

7. THE POLL.

The poll^{that} was demanded at the Ratepayers' meeting on 8th October took place on 7th November. The Ratepayers'

meeting sanctioned the distribution scheme proposed by the Council, but rejected the proposal to buy the farm Ida's Valley and to construct a storage dam there. At the poll the proposal to buy the abovementioned farm and to construct the storage dam was again turned down. Many ratepayers have asked what the position is now. The answer is threefold. In the first place the Provincial Administration has been informed that the Ratepayers' consent has been obtained for a part of the original loan, viz. the part pertaining to the improvement of the distribution of our water supply. In the second place the option on the farm Ida's Valley has lapsed. In the third place the Council is considering financial implications of additional schemes that may be undertaken. It is possible that the Council may suggest a conference with the ratepayers in order to solve our problem. Nothing has been decided with regard to plans for future consultation, but it must be emphasised that goodwill and co-operation are the prerequisites for solving a problem that is both formidable and not confined to our own town alone. At any conference that may take place we do sincerely hope that every vestige of recrimination will be absent and that the discussions that may ensue, will be as between citizens and brothers. We must set high standards for Ratepayers' meetings.

8. PERSONAL.

In the last issue of I.M.S. it was announced that satisfactory reports had been obtained about the condition of Mr. J. Louw, a former employee at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Mr. Louw had taken ill and was a patient at Nelspoort Sanatorium. News has now come to hand that Mr. Louw suddenly succumbed on the 19th November. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Louw and her two children, one of whom was born after Mr. Louw's death. Those who knew Mr. Louw will remember him as a kindhearted, willing and efficient employee and friend.

9. INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS.

In 1945 the Council considered the advisability of increasing the number of Councillors. At that time it was maintained that the time had not come for undertaking such a step. In September of this year a number of Women's organisations at Stellenbosch petitioned the Council to reconsider its former decision and to accede to their request. The Council has now reconsidered the matter and has given its approval to the idea of increasing the number of Councillors. For the information of the public the legal aspects of the matter are set out hereunder:

Sections of the Municipal Ordinance relative to the proposal are as follows:-

Section 10: "The Administrator may from time to time by Proclamation exercise all or any of the following powers:-

10(g) Determine and alter, within the limits of the Ordinance the number of Councillors assigned to any Municipality".

The basis used for the determination of the number of councillors to be assigned to a municipality is not mentioned in the Ordinance otherwise than in -

Section 9: "Whenever the number of councillors for any municipality is determined under the provisions of the Ordinance, it shall be some multiple of three, not less than six, and not more than twenty-four (unless the population of the municipality exceeds one hundred thousand, when the number may be not exceeding thirty-six). If the Municipality is divided into wards, three councillors shall be returned for each ward."

To add to the number of councillors, it will be necessary to petition the Administrator thereto.

Section 12(2). "A petition presented on behalf of a municipality whether constituted under the general law or a special

law, shall state precisely what exercise of the powers of section 10 of the Ordinance conferred on the Administrator is desired by the petitioners, and shall pray for such specific exercise thereof, and may pray for any partial exercise of such powers; and shall be signed by the Mayor (or, in his absence, by the Deputy-Mayor, or a Councillor duly authorised in that behalf), by whom it shall be certified that the petition is in terms of a resolution carried by a majority of enrolled voters present and voting at a general meeting of enrolled voters convened for the purpose in accordance with a resolution of the Council, or in the event of a poll having been demanded at such meeting, carried by a majority of the votes cast at such poll

Section 12(3): "The substance and prayer of every petition shall, before it is submitted to the Administrator, be published in the Provincial Gazette, and in some newspaper circulating in the neighbourhood concerned, at least once a week during three consecutive weeks."

10. THE ROYAL VISIT.

We regret to announce that no official intimation has yet been received with regard to what part of our suggested programme for the Royal Visit has been approved by the Prime Minister. Such preliminary and provisional arrangements as could be undertaken, have been attempted, but it does not seem wise to enlarge on them or explain them when nothing is definite yet.

11. CHRISTMAS STAMPS.

The response of the public in the campaign of selling Christmas Stamps for erecting Sunshine Homes for children who have been in contact with tuberculars has been splendid. On November 22, Mrs. Serton, the local Honorary Treasurer of the Christmas Stamp Fund,

was able to state that she had already banked £372. What is more, some money has still to come in. When all the money has been received, it will be interesting and helpful to see how the younger generation has contributed.

12. GENEROUS DONORS.

When it became apparent that the Nurses' Home and the Administrative Block at the Infectious Diseases Hospital could be opened towards the end of November, it was felt that the opening ceremony was the right time to improve on the present gate giving admission to the Hospital. A new entrance for the Hospital was designed and it was anticipated that the work could be undertaken without asking assistance from Government. Miss L. Wirth generously contributed £50 and Mr. S.D. Sacks added £25 in an equally generous way.

Unfortunately the new entrance has not been undertaken yet as the tendered price for erecting it exceeded the amount in hand very considerably.

As the Government has signified their willingness to contribute towards the cost, the erection of the new entrance will be undertaken in due course. It was unfortunately not undertaken soon enough to be completed (or begun) in time for the opening of the Nurses' Home.

13. DECEMBER.

During December estimates are made up for the following year. The various Committees of the Council each meet to consider their needs and programmes for the next 12 months. When they have indicated what their requirements are, the Finance Committee and the Council as a whole must decide what is within the realm of possibility. The money for the proposed programme

has to be found and the rate levied. For the Finance Committee and especially for its Chairman, Mr. L. Hofmeyr, as well as for the Council as a whole, December is a most important month.

December is also the month in which Christmas falls. On behalf of the Municipality I.M.S. wishes to extend to every individual and to every home in our area good wishes and kindly greetings.

14. JUNIOR DAY.

The Council gratefully acknowledges a donation of £50 from the Juniors of 1946 towards the funds of the Infectious Diseases Hospital. The money has been donated by the students for the purpose of constructing a tennis court at the new Nurses' Home. The Council is glad that it could in some small measure contribute to the fun and success of Junior Day by making some of its draught animals available for the great occasion.