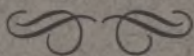


33

Bantu Men's
Social Centre

ANNUAL
REPORT

1931



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1932

Bantu Men's Social Centre

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Mr. Walter Webber.

Vice-Chairmen :

Dr. J. Dexter Taylor, Dr. A. B. Xuma.

Treasurer :

Mr. Howard Pim.

Secretary :

Mr. J. Collingwood.

Act. Membership Secretary :

Mr. A. P. Khutlang.

Advisory Secretary :

Rev. Ray E. Phillips.

Rev. S. Bovet, Major H. S. Cooke, Mr. H. Dhlomo, Rev. R. Mackintosh, Councillor E. O. Leake, Dr. A. B. Xuma, Mr. H. M. Taberer, Mr. R. W. Msimang, Rev. W. S. Ndawonde, Mr. Howard Pim, Mr. J. R. Rathebe, Mr. R. V. S. Thema, Mr. D. M. Denalane, Mr. S. S. Tema, Mr. I. B. S. Masole, Canon W. Parker, Rev. E. W. Grant, Councillor D. Penry Roberts, Mr. Walter Webber, Mr. Alf Law Palmer, Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones.

Bantu Men's Social Centre

ANNUAL REPORT, 1931.

In presenting the Annual Report for 1931, it would be an auspicious opportunity of sounding a note of optimism with regard to the now changed attitude of many of the European element in Johannesburg to Non-Europeans, primarily through the activities of the Bantu Men's Social Centre. During the last year many encouraging signs have been forthcoming of a more sympathetic attitude towards the African, and consequently the work of those Europeans and Non-Europeans who have been the pioneers of social work has been lightened, and new spirit has entered into their efforts.

The Bantu Men's Social Centre was founded in 1924 by public spirited men, who saw the necessity of helping young Native men to devote their leisure time to the best advantage in healthful recreation and good citizenship, the development of worthy character, and the promotion of a real sympathy between Europeans and Non-Europeans in South Africa, and for that purpose to raise sums of money and to acquire, by way of purchase, lease or otherwise, any real and personal property which the Executive Committee of the Institution might think convenient or advantageous for the purpose of its objects. In the attainment of these objects, all activities would be conducted along lines which would be in harmony with accepted principles of Christian practice, but sectarian propaganda would be debarred.

From a period of antipathy towards the African, is now emerging, thanks to the example of the Universities and other influential and Christian bodies, a deeper understanding between the two races, and it is hoped that a still closer spirit of co-operation and sympathy will exist during the coming year. The following report will give some idea of the activities of the Bantu Men's Social Centre, which have been conducted throughout the year.

Membership.

The maximum membership for 1931 has been 415, of which 281 are active members (58 juniors and 223 seniors). Owing to removals without notification to the Secretary, and also the economic position, 134 members are still outstanding. It has been a good augury for the future of the Centre, when we can report many new applications for membership. It has been very encouraging to note that nearly all the foundation members are subscribing to membership and taking a keen interest in the activities of the Centre.

The Social Centre has had many visitors during the year, 144 names appearing on the register, apart from others who have not signed. It has been a source of pleasure to note the number of Europeans who have been interested in social work among the Africans.

It is with much regret that we have to record the death of one of our most popular members, Mr. Daniel Nzanzeka.

The activities of the Social Centre are planned along a four-square plan, embodying the initials B.M.S.C., i.e., body, mind, spirit and character.

Body.

Practically every form of sport is embraced in the activities of the Social Centre, and it has been a revelation to observe how all the members have played the game, both inside the Centre and out. We have had three teams in the Johannesburg Bantu Football Association—The "B.M.S.C. Reds," the "Highlanders" and the "Puur Vuur F.C." We are pleased to report that after three re-plays for premier honours for the City Championship Cup, the "Puur Vuur F.C." shared the honours with the "Springboks" and won the Saturday League Cup.

The "B.M.S.C. Reds" won the Sportmanship Shield of the Bantu Football League, and this illustrates the fine spirit which prevails among the African members of the Social Centre. We are proud to give publicity to such outstanding qualities of sportmanship among the African people.

Tennis has increased in popularity and two tournaments have been held, one for " B " Division and one for " C " Division. The winners were Mr. D. Makoe and Mr. Herbert Makhothe respectively. Suitably engraved cups were presented to the winners. Several matches were played against Johannesburg and Reef teams, and the B.M.S.C. were winners on most occasions.

Cricket has maintained its popularity with a section of the members of the Social Centre, and several friendly matches have been played from time to time. A Saturday afternoon Cricket League is now in process of formation, and League Matches will be played next year.

Indoor Games.

Throughout the year indoor games are played. These have proved popular, and competitions and tournaments have been frequently held for members. A Volley Ball Tournament was held and was very keenly contested, the " Collingwood Shield " being won by the " Stone-breakers." Paddle tennis, ping pong, teniquits, handball and boxing has taken place, boxing in particular having received encouragement through the services of a trainer. The Transvaal Non-European Amateur Boxing Championships were held in November, and no less than three of the seven titles were won by members of the B.M.S.C. Boxing Club. The Middleweight Championship was won by Mr. A. P. Khutlang, the Featherweight by Mr. D. Kumalo, and the Bantamweight by Mr. P. Kaba. Two Boxing Tournaments were promoted by the Association, which has its headquarters in the Centre, and these were well patronised.

At a Championship Athletic Meeting, held at the Bantu Sports Club on Dingaan's Day, two members of the Social Centre were successful in annexing the long jump and the 100 yards flat respectively. The winners were Mr. E. J. Motseme and Mr. L. Nkhase.

Mind.

Regular night classes have been held under the supervision of qualified teachers, and throughout the year the classes have been well attended. Remarkable application has been shown by the scholars, and Standards 4, 5 and 6 have an average of fifteen scholars for each class per evening.

Bookkeeping classes, under Messrs. E. C. Smith and J. Strauss, for senior and junior examinations, have been held regularly, and several of the students sat for the examinations at the end of the year. The results of the examinations are not yet to hand. Music lessons have been given to pupils at a reasonable fee.

Gamma Sigma Club.

This section of the Social Centre's activities has been carried on with success, and very good attendances have been recorded each Friday evening when the Club has met. Amongst the speakers during the year have been: Prof. R. F. A. Hoernlé, the Bishop of Johannesburg, Dr. A. B. Karney, Col. R. S. Godley, Rev. J. Bruce Gardiner, His Worship the Mayor, Mr. G. W. Nelson, Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones (of America) the Very Rev. Dean Palmer, Dr. Bernstein, Rev. Ray E. Phillips, Principal Kerr, of Lovedale, Mr. J. L. Barnes (of the "Star"), Mr. W. G. Ballenden, etc. Each subject, as dealt with, has been of interest to members, and interesting discussions have followed.

We have been fortunate in having the Johannesburg Rotarians to visit the Social Centre and joining in the discussions. One special meeting was convened by the Rev. Ray E. Phillips and an opportunity was presented of the Rotarians' meeting with our most prominent African leaders in Johannesburg. The meeting was a great success and the Europeans were much impressed with the facile and impressive way various subjects were dealt with.

Spirit.

It has been found impracticable to hold regular services at the Social Centre, as the members are of different denominations, and attend their respective churches. It is proposed, however, to hold a musical evening, including a short religious message and hymns once a month in the near future.

Bantu Eisteddfod.

Mention must be made of the very successful Transvaal Bantu Eisteddfod which was held in the Social Centre Hall during the first week in November. Entries were good, but

could have been better. However, the various items were keenly contested, and the final concert gave an indication of the natural gifts possessed by the Africans. The hall on the final evening was full, and nearly a third of the audience were Europeans, who applauded each item enthusiastically.

Co-ordination of B.S.C. and B.M.S.C.

Shortly after the inception of the Bantu Sports Club the question was raised about the likely clashing of activities of both Institutions, and a Committee was formed with the object of clearly delineating the functions of each organisation. The resolutions were submitted to both Executives and adopted. It was unanimously agreed that the Bantu Sports Club cater exclusively for outdoor sports displays, and the Social Centre for educational work and religious and social gatherings. It was further agreed that each institution would consult the other when there was likely to be a clashing of dates. In full, it was accepted on principle that there should be the fullest and most cordial co-operation between the two. It was also decided that any African who was anxious to join both Institutions, could do so by paying a composite fee of 12s., the reason for this action being that the two separate subscriptions would be outside their means.

General.

As has been the custom in other years, the Social Centre has been the meeting place for several African Organisations. The Native Ministers' Association, the T.A.T.A. (Rand Branch), N.R.C. Cricket Club, and the Joint Council of Europeans and Natives. The hall has been used by several schools for their closing concerts, and the "Paladins" have made the gymnasium their meeting place for one night every week. Two Draughts Tournaments have been held at the Centre, and our members have sustained their skill by winning both. Chess has also been played, and a tournament was held during the year for this. The winner was Mr. H. Makhothe. A Draughts Tournament was also held among the members of the Social Centre and Mr. S. S. Malgas carried off this event. Ten "Guest Nights" have been held during the year, and each one has been very successful. New features have been introduced and every endeavour has been made

to cater for the enjoyment of all sections of the guests. The hall on each occasion has been well filled with members and their friends, and from these attendances it can be deduced that " Guest Night " is a popular function.

Junior Room.

One of the classrooms upstairs has been cleared and fitted out with pictures and attractive posters, for the exclusive use of the junior members of the Institution. A ping-pong table has been constructed and games have been supplied. It was felt by the Committee that the junior members were the senior members of the future, and as a result of their recommendation, special provision was made. The scheme has proved entirely successful and the boys enjoy their leisure time to the full. It is proposed to hold Junior Guest Functions exclusively for the younger children in the future.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the resignation of Mr. Walter Webber from the Executive Committee, and his loss is being severely felt, as his judgment and tact were such an asset in the smooth running of the affairs of the Social Centre. Mr. Webber felt that he had too many other activities, which would prevent him from regular attendance at Committee meetings, but he assured the Committee that his interest would not be severed from the Social Centre.

Children's Work.

Some efforts are being made to commence a Basketball League amongst the school children, the matches to be played between various schools during their playtime in the gymnasium. Entries have been called for and it is hoped that shortly a regular school league will be running.

The " kiddies " bioscope on Friday evenings (conducted by the Rev. Ray E. Phillips) has been as well attended as in the past. Many of these kiddies have very poor parents and homes, and their Friday evening event is eagerly looked for, when they can enjoy clean amusement with no attendant expenses, as it is quite outside their means to attend other amusements. If the public could only see some of the work which is being accomplished

by social workers amongst the Bantu, the reaction would be to their own benefit, for while healthy recreation and entertainment is being provided both for children and adults, opportunities will arise for a better and more sympathetic understanding between the races of this country.

The Secretary will be delighted to show any visitor, European or Non-European, over the Institution, and explain in detail the various activities of the Social Centre. He would also be glad if any employers of labour would get into touch with him, should they require any juveniles or other men of good character (phone 4603 Central). The work of the Centre can be helped considerably by all who will support this great work among the Africans.

DR. J. DEXTER TAYLOR,

Chairman.

J. COLLINGWOOD,

Secretary.



Bantu Men's

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR

Dr.

To Salaries and Wages	£533	0 0
„ Municipal Rates and Charges	167	11 4
„ Games	46	2 4
„ Insurance	41	6 9
„ Loss on Kitchen Account	20	7 2
Expenditure	£59	9 0
Revenue	39	1 10
„ Clerical Assistance		
„ Postages, Stationery, Telephones, Bank Charges and Sundry Expenses	270	5 3
„ Disbursements in respect of Night Schools	23	12 6
„ Depreciation of Furniture and Equipment	117	8 9
„ Balance—Excess of Revenue over Expenditure transferred to Accumulated Funds	60	2 10
	£1,308	8 11

BALANCE SHEET,

Dr.

To Creditors	£52	1 0
„ Accumulated Funds	7,992	9 8
Balance at 31st December, 1930	£7,932	6 10
Add Balance of Expenditure and Revenue Account	60	2 10

£8,044 10 8

JOHANNESBURG,

28th January, 1932.

Social Centre

THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1931.

Cr.

By Membership Fees	£95 5 6
„ Subscriptions and Donations	658 15 11
„ Native Recruiting Corporation, Ltd.	300 0 0
„ Board of Control, Deferred Pay Interest Fund	204 6 6
£1 per £1 on Revenue from Native Sources	£154 6 6
Plus Special Grant	50 0 0
„ Night School Fees	23 12 6
„ Sundry Revenue (Hire of Hall)	26 8 6

£1,308 8 11

31st DECEMBER, 1931.

Cr.

By Buildings	£7,125 19 10
„ Furniture and Equipment	500 0 0
Balance at 31st December, 1930	£597 15 0
Add Additions during the year	19 13 9
	617 8 9
Less Depreciation	117 8 9
„ Municipal Deposits	19 0 0
„ Debtors	12 7 6
„ Cash	387 3 4
At Bank	£386 18 0
On Hand	0 5 4

£8,044 10 8

Certified correct,

HOWARD PIM,
Hon. Treasurer.

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