

S.T. Plaatje - Correspondence

Da 22 1912 Dec.12

Sir,

I am writing to inform you that some time back (perhaps three to four days back) I went with the Barolong of Seleka to see General Hertzog ... as Tsala will report next week. He is a very stubborn man and he has no intention of doing anything worthwhile for Blacks. Although he sees injustice he spares no pity; as long as he can please the Boers like he always says with his own mouth ... that the English have long been dominating now "die Afrikaner moet baas wees in zy land" - [the Afrikaner must be master in his land]. The people of Thaba Nchu tried in every way to make him consider their case; he refused to pay heed except to pursue the implementation of his Segregation law and say only after that has been done can he consider what to do for Blacks ... not before.

I saw Rev.Molema Moshoele and his wife on my way ... they are both well, the children too. I got there at 8 in the morning and left at 4 o'clock the same day for Kimberley. There I found Coghlan and others in a fix having spoiled the works. I was forced get them on their way and give orders to different people. Mr Jonas came this morning from King Williams-town and I think that he will do well with us. I am expecting Mr Mpinda too. One thing that retards Tsala is a lack of Capital. I don't know why the Batswana never pay attention to things that bring their nation progress. Just think, had one of them given Minchin £100 to keep your machines in Mafikeng (keep them long because iron cannot be destroyed by moth), how much money, or look what a lot of money he would now make through Tsala.

I have heard twice about the help the Barolong give people through their Fund ... Mr Mashwa about £40 and Mr Mashueshue also lately. Can't you be my lawyer and get from the Barolong a loan of £100 to improve the machinery of the Tsala and have a working capital so as to print a readable paper.

It is said that one hand washes another - so if you can help me in this regard I could send you 10 bags of grain from here as your commission. Try and get it for two or three years and I will pay interest of 12 shillings per month. The loan will make gain for the paper will be widely read and advertisements will increase a great deal.

People like Seleka do not understand communication as their elders did. When you interpret for a white man they argue that the interpreter puts questions to them and they fail to understand. They are not so quick-witted as the Mafeking lot. Surely they made me think of home, for they are made foolish by their beards.

Kindly do your best for me very quickly in the matter of loan. If you cannot get £100 get what you can please.

Greetings

Your true son,

Sol J. Plaatje

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