

**MR. and MRS. SOL T. PLAATJE  
IN THE TRANSVAAL.**

*Reprinted from "Abantu-Batho, June 28th,  
1917.*

(By H. L. M.)

The Native Ladies of Johannesburg gave a beautiful reception in the Ebenezer Hall on Wednesday, 6th inst., in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Sol. T. Plaatje, of Kimberley. The ladies made a magnificent display, attired as they were in their best in all the colours of the rainbow, and a few extra colours thrown in.

Mr. I. Makau had the St. Cyprian's Choir in splendid form, and it gave the audience a rare musical treat. The Rag-time Troupe was also in attendance, and the funniness of "Bush" and "Mick-Mike" caused rounds of laughter which came in ripples and in roars. Miss M. Ferdinand and Miss Effant and Mr. J. Mpama gave some excellent contributions which in almost each instance brought down the house.

Mr. S. M. Makgatho, President of the Transvaal Native Council, was in the chair. Mr. H. L. M'belle read a number of telegrams from various parts of the country, wishing the gathering every success, others inviting Mr. Plaatje to visit their centres. Mr. S. Mpama wired from Potchefstroom: "Will be with you in spirit all this evening." Mrs. J. P. Ntingana (Kimberley) wired: "You have set a grand example to Native women throughout South Africa." Chief Mamogale (Bethanie): "Greetings and every blessing to our hero and heroine." Other telegrams from Mafeking, Kimberley, Thaba N'ehu, Volksrust, Pretoria, Heidelberg, Evaton, &c., were couched in similar felicitous terms, the reading of each being loudly applauded by a packed audience in a cheery mood.

The Chairman next called on Miss E. Modisakeng to read an address of welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Plaatje, thanking the former for his recent activities in England and sacrifices on behalf of black South Africa, and the latter for "keeping the 'home fires burning' during her husband's absence, and ended thus: "We are assured that in you the native women have a devoted couple of tried friends and staunch supporters of their

cause as shown in Chapter VII. of your Book, "Native Life in South Africa." We tender you our sincere well-wishes for your continued good health, happy home life, and God's guidance in your noble work for the uplift of the oppressed people of this unhappy country."

Mr. Plaatje replied in his homeliest style, and it was difficult for his hearers to believe that they were listening to a famous militant politician. He welcomed the attendance of the Cape Coloured and Indian gentlemen present. He asked them in his most persuasive style to make common cause with the Natives. The latter, he said, could throw the weight of their numbers into the Union, the Indians their money, and the Cape Coloured, the advantage of their white blood. He next proceeded to mention, amidst applause, the names of particular friends who were so helpful to him in the course of his campaign in England, and concluded by expressing the thanks of himself and his wife to their hostesses for the kind words said of them in the address.

Mr. C. M. Dantu (who said he was the first resident of Johannesburg to welcome Mrs. Plaatje on her arrival at the station that morning), Mr. R. Williams (both of the A.P.O.), Mr. Desai (chairman of the British Indian Association), Mr. C. M. Pillay, Rev. J. L. Dube, and Mr. Solicitor Msimang all made hopeful speeches regarding the possibility of an all Coloured South African Union, some of the speakers paying their tributes to Mrs. Plaatje as a faithful helpmate and noble type of Bantu wife and mother.

Miss R. Funda read a resolution expressing the thanks of the native people, and native women in particular, for the "kind interest and helpful co-operation extended to Mr. Sol T. Plaatje during his two and a half years' campaign in England, by English friends and sympathisers, notably Mr. and Mrs. T. Fisher Unwin, Mrs. Saul Solomon, Miss D. Solomon, Dr. and Mrs. A. Salter, Miss Mary Taylor, the Misses Werner, the Misses Cross, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Castle, Mr. and Mrs. Proctor, Mr. and Mrs. A. Mathews, and Mrs. Timberlake.

Besides the address of welcome, our visitors were presented by Mrs. R. H. Ntsiko, on behalf of the Women's Organising Committee, with the sum of 13

guineas, which was suitably acknowledged, and the proceedings ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

Our visitors then went to Heidelberg and Nigel for the week-end. On their return Mr. Plaatje addressed a public meeting under the auspices of the Witwatersrand Church Council, in the President Street Wesleyan Church, Johannesburg, on Monday evening, the 11th, over which Rev. W. Meara presided.

Mr. Plaatje gave a clever analysis of the Native Lands Act and a vivid account of the actual operation of its provisions, and next proceeded to explain the various aspects and probable effects of the new Bill. It was useless, he said, to deny that the intention, so far from aiming at the segregation of the races, was merely to enslave the natives, as the same idea created the D.R. Church Law, the mining regulations, and the legislation of 1913—the tendencies were all in that direction, and General Smuts' propaganda in London seems to be part of the scheme. He wound up with a powerful appeal to the English people for their help to combat these pernicious enactments.

He spoke for three-quarters of an hour after which there was a short discussion in which several gentlemen took part. Mr. Wm. Hosken thanked the speaker for his lucid explanation of the salient points in the Bill, and laid special stress on the light thrown by Mr. Plaatje on the Law Courts part of the Bill. He added that it will be a sorry day for the Natives when the Courts of Justice are closed to them.

A resolution was passed expressing the intention to fight the Bill with all the constitutional means at the Council's disposal in this country, and, if necessary, in England.

Mr. I. Bud-M'belle, of Kimberley, also attended this meeting to which Natives were admitted, and returned to Kimberley with Mrs. Plaatje on Wednesday evening, when they were seen off by a large number of friends.

The reception committee was composed of the following members:—Mrs. R. H. Ntsiko, Mrs. J. Mgadi, Mrs. H. M. Smouse, Mrs. M. Ramailane, Mrs. Bbola, the Misses M. and E. Kumuza, M. Mabinza, E. Modisakeng, Martha Keyi, Nellie Mokoanyana, L. Bavenda, D. Ndlovu, M. Mdala, P. Kogroana, Julia Malekutu, and Alice Mazinyo.



D.F.A

3.11.1920

# The Coloured Man in Trade.

Speech by Mr. J. H. Munnik, M.L.A.

## Native to be Barred from Industries

Johannesburg, Nov. 2 (Reuter).—Speaking last night, Mr. J. H. Munnik, M.L.A., declared that if the miners of the Rand went on strike, and said "no nigger in this country shall ever go down a mine again," they would have a legitimate question on which to strike. He was referring to Sir Robert Kotze's evidence before the Unemployment Commission. The trouble, he said, lay in the Cape. They had certain parties fostering the Cape coloured man, and they wished people to think that this man should be allowed into trade unions, and be treated as an equal to whites. Sir Robert Kotze gave 800 years. He was wrong. It would not work up to facts, and there were not one of the industries on the Rand where the native was allowed to work. "There is plenty of room for the native," he said, "to look after sheep or goats, or anything else in the country. There is no desperate hurry to get all the gold out of the mines, and if you take 100 years over it, and achieve it by means of machinery and white men, you will be all right so far as the Transvaal is concerned."

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kulixesha lesitatu olu Manyano  
siwa kayo langabi nampumelelo in  
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bako ngexeha u Rev Christeller,  
umlandeli ka Rev. Casilis, wayo  
hambele isikolo somfi ukuya ku-  
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se ndlwini yomfi. Kwelo dabi  
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intombi yake yabaqala. Emva  
koko umfi watunyelwa ngu Rev.  
Christeller kwesona sikole sikulu  
e Qelo, kwi komkulu lika Chief  
Joel Molapo.

Nge 1898 umfi wabuye wabizwa  
e Kroonstad waza wavuma. Uhle-  
li kona etitsha kwada kwasemva  
kwemfaswe ya Mabulu na Ma-  
ngesi. Ngenxa yokuba waye  
sazi ilwimi sabantu nesi Búlu  
waba luncedo olukulu ekukum-  
shelezi am joni kweso sithili.  
Lakuzola wasinga e Mafeking  
ukuba yitoliki yemantyi, waza  
emva koko wabuya wapindela  
e Bloemfontein kwa ngobutoliki  
kwi nkandla ye mantyi.

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