

PARTY NEWS

TRANSVAAL

The past month has not been a spectacular one in the Transvaal. The total reorganisation of branches in the Johannesburg area has been carried out. This, and preparations for the provincial Congress, which takes place on April 16th and 17th, has precluded much other activity. A concerted drive has been begun to collect subscriptions, donations and stop orders. It is going well. One public meeting was held — in Johannesburg on the 23rd to commemorate the Olive Schreiner Centenary.

NATAL

Both the Edendale and Pietermaritzburg Branches have held their Annual General Meetings during the last month. At Edendale the meeting was followed by a very pleasant social event which was attended by Mr. Paton and other visitors. In Maritzburg the meeting was preceded by a Public Meeting, at which Mr. Paton spoke on "The Negro in America Today." More than 100 people were present and a number of new members were enrolled. Both Branches have shown steady progress over the last year and the secretary of the Pietermaritzburg branch was able to report an increase of a little less than 100 per cent. in membership. At Edendale the membership had increased by about 50 per cent.

In Durban, on March 11th, the Liberal Forum debated against the Durban Parliamentary Debating Society at the International Club. The Durban Parliamentary team moved "that equal opportunities for all races, without segregation, will end White influence in the leadership of South Africa." They were opposed by a Liberal team consisting of Ronald Morris, Alan Paton, Pat Poovalingam and Richard Robinow and the motion was lost by 347 points to 312.

NATIONAL AND CAPE

News from Cape Town has been unfortunately delayed.

LIBERAL BALANCE SHEET

DEBIT

1. A memorandum accepting the Government's apartheid policy and suggesting ways of introducing the policy into mixed unions has been submitted to the Select Committee on the Industrial Conciliation Bill by the Executive Committee of the S.A. Federation of Trade Unions.
2. A Bill forbidding Negroes and Europeans to dance or take part together in Athletics has been introduced into the Georgia House of Representatives.
3. In West Bromwich, 5,000 busworkers staged a one-day protest strike against the employment of an Indian as a trainee-conductor.
4. A Motion introduced by Dr. G. W. Gale, at the S.A. Nursing Council Conference at Capetown, "that this Council is opposed to the diminution, on the ground solely of race, of any rights and privileges pertaining to persons registered with this Council by virtue of such registration" was defeated after the Chairman had exercised her casting vote.

CREDIT

1. Mr. Douglas Brown, Daily Telegraph correspondent in South Africa told the summer school of the University of Cape Town "South Africa is the only independent member of the Commonwealth not accepting the principle of Universal franchise. Indeed, it is almost the only country in the world, not excluding behind the Iron Curtain, which does not pay lip-service to this principle."
2. Mr. Leo Lovell, Labour M.P. for Benoni said in Cape Town "Never before has the country had a Government which elevated its policy into a religion Just as a man's personal rights are restricted in that he may not blaspheme, so it is necessary for the Government to attack the rights of freedom and speech and assembly to prevent criticism of its policy."
3. Six nurses from Barbados, to whom nurses in a Swansea Mental Hospital objected, were offered employment in Birmingham. The Chairman of the Birmingham Hospitals said "There must be no colour bar in Britain, least of all in nursing."