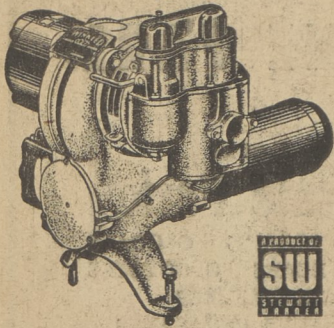


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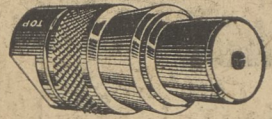
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South Africa's Problems Date From Founding—They Are Big

By DAVID VANN

David Vann, a graduate of Westmoreland High School and Wilkes College is now a Rotary scholar at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. His year in Africa is being sponsored by the Wyoming Rotary Club. David's letters will appear at intervals in The Post—Editor

I have been somewhat reticent writing about the native question, mostly because I wanted to learn

more about it. I wanted to spend enough time here to learn the various facets. It is true that I have spoken something of it in previous columns, but no comprehensive coverage of it.

Difficult Not To Be Biased

It is difficult to express an opinion on the problems that are faced here, and even more difficult to set forth any solution. In the first place, I am subjected to a thousand opinions. In the second place, in spite of how hard I may try to be objective, I nevertheless, look at these problems from an American viewpoint, and thus I can never hope to present something that does not have some bias attached to it. However, I feel that I can be less biased than most South Africans, white or black, or even than most journalists, who quite often are superficial.

One of my courses is an intense study of South African economic history. The two most important threads running through South African history, are lack of unity and confusion. To have even a surface understanding of the color problem one must have knowledge of South African history.

Dutch Settle In 1652

South Africa was founded officially in 1652 by the Dutch. From the moment of her foundation, lack of unity was apparent. The farmers who detached themselves from the Dutch East Indian Company, the founding company of the Union, desired to trade with the natives, apart from the instructions of the company. Evidences of apartheid were apparent, even then, though it was not called by that name. The Free Burghers wanted to set up South Africa as a true colony, whereas the company, and the Dutch looked upon South Africa, or rather Capetown, as being simply a stopping off place for ships between the continent and the East Indies. Van Riebeeck, the commanding officer of the company, proposed to set up a hedge that would separate the white from the black.

Growth of Colony

In the next hundred years, the colony grew but always the government set boundary limits which were constantly being broken by the settlers. In 1806, the British assumed permanent control of Cape Colony and began to Anglicize the Afrikaaner. He was no longer a Dutchman, however, in the same sense that Americans were no longer English, or French, or German. Moreover, he had formed his own language, which was completely different from Dutch.

This Anglicization of the Afrikaaner was highly resented, and the

effects of it are still felt in the sharp division between the English and the Afrikaaner. They resented this intrusion so much that in 1836 large numbers moved into the interior to set up independent Republics of their own, away from British influence. In 1820, the English had imported vast numbers of their countrymen, to settle the border regions to help cope with native wars. These settlers originally came to Grahamstown, and Grahamstown still has a heavy English influence.

Conflict Begins

In the 1870's, Kimberley diamond mines were opened, and in the 1880's, gold, was discovered in the Transvaal, near Johannesburg. The diamond mines were on the boundaries of the Afrikaaner Republic and the English colonies. A struggle for their control erupted, which never broke into open warfare, but nevertheless served to deepen the rift. One of the chief issues was how native laborers should be treated. South Africa had been a nation that existed mostly on the produce of her land, wool, beef, wines, and ivory being her mainstay crops. On the farms, or ranches, the native had enjoyed a relatively low form of life, and now a chance was seen for introducing him into an industrial society. Except for the British Colonial office, no one wanted him to occupy a better station in life, and in fact, the diamond diggers wanted him to be in the same subservient position that he had held on the farms.

Gold Fields Cause Trouble

Squabbles between the English and Afrikaaner erupted again over the gold fields. The Afrikaaner was chiefly interested in farming, and had no "know-how" in the gold fields. Eventually, the problems caused the Boer War which the English won. The rift between Englishman and Afrikaaner became wider. In 1910, the sovereign state of South Africa emerged as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Since the first Prime Minister took office, there has always been an Afrikaaner heading the country's politics.

The English surpassed the Afrikaaner, as far as business and education were concerned. In the first quarter of this century, Afrikaaner institutions, traditions, and language seemed to be submerged to make way for the English. In the meantime, the Afrikaaner was becoming more and more irritated at this process, so that when the Nationalist party emerged after World War II it dedicated itself to the preservation of Afrikaans traditions. Today, the Englishman decries the

fact that the Nationalists are trying to submerge him. The English all belong to the United Party, as do a few Afrikaaners, who oppose the government. The chief attribute of the United Party, is that it attempts to bring the Afrikaaner and the English together, but outside of that, its policies are so vacillating that most of its own members accuse it of having no policy whatever, or simply being against everything for which the Nationalists stand. There are no Englishmen who belong to the Nationalist Party.

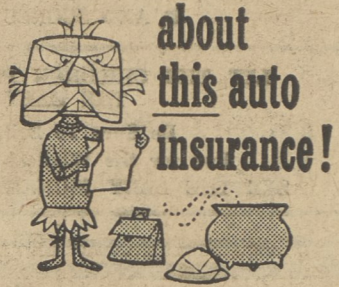
But disunion does not only exist between white and white. Historically, it has existed between black and black and white and black. A policy that was often engaged in the past, was to play tribe against tribe. As the Whites advanced from the south, the blacks advanced from the north so that when they were repelled by the whites, they fell back upon their black brethren. The inevitable result of this was that they were in constant strife with one another. Disunity exists even today, in that some of the black members of South Africa, are firmly convinced that their only hope lies in some sort of Apartheid, in which they can develop their own form of society, relying on their own history, customs and traditions as guide posts. These people are convinced that a doctrine similar to the American doctrine which was upheld previous to the famous Supreme Court ruling of 1954, stating that separate but equal facilities should be available is the best policy available. These people hope that they may have even political independence in their own areas in future years.

Another section of the black population, probably the majority, feel that an equal partnership with the whites is necessary. In this same sense, white is divided against black, with most of the whites seeing the natives, as necessity to their own existence, occupying an inferior role.

When I began this article, I stated that I would talk about the Native problem, but the problem is complicated by so many factors, that it will take more than one article to deal with it. Consequently, I have

given this background, which I feel is necessary, for the true understanding of the problem, with the idea in mind that I'll write several articles dealing with the situation so that it can be understood more fully.

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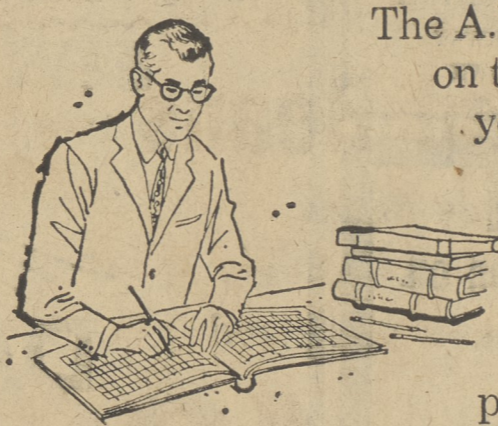
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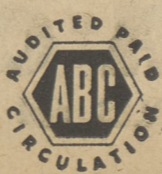
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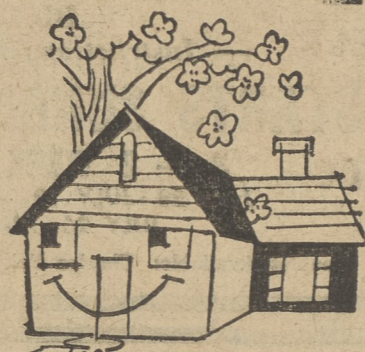
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