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Presented at
The Annual General Meeting on WEDNESDAY, the 8th day of May, 1935,
Y.W.C.A., Jeppe Street, Johannesburg.

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Transvaal Workers' Educational Association

ANNUAL REPORT,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1935.



In a recent address Professor R. H. Tawney, President of the English Workers' Educational Association, said:—

"Whatever verdict may be passed on recent events in the history of Europe, they suggest one commonplace conclusion which will not, perhaps, be contested. It is that democracy is impossible without democrats, and that popular government is unstable in every society in which the mass of mankind, however admirably endowed and however highly instructed, have, whatever the reason, failed to acquire the difficult, and not always agreeable, virtue of trusting their own judgment, making decisions for themselves, and remembering that shepherds who like flocks with docile minds prepare their charges for a fate in which mind disappears, and a good deal else with it. Intellectual independence, and the capacity for co-operation between men who do not lose their individuality because they act together, are not innate characteristics. They are rare phenomena in the history of mankind, which exist only in so far as they are deliberately cultivated. A society which does not merely provide instruction, a thing useful but insufficient, but aids ordinary men and women, instead of meekly accepting the education offered them to take their educational destinies into their own hands, is doing something to create an environment by which these qualities may be nourished. The task is not a small one. It is our business to see that the Workers' Educational Association shall be worthy of it."

The aims of the Transvaal Workers' Educational Association, like its parent body, are well crystallized in these words.

In the course of the preceding year we have taken stock of the particular circumstances affecting Adult Education on the Witwatersrand in particular and have proceeded with a policy which endeavoured to meet experiences gained in the past.

The most important departure has been the decision to cater rather for the smaller number of the interested than for the larger number of the mildly concerned.

Accordingly, our public lectures for the year have been cut down in number, though by no means eliminated as will be seen from the survey of our activities for the year.

To quote Professor Tawney again:

"It is more important to offer the right kind of education to ten students of the right kind than to tickle the palates of 100 who, however individually meritorious, are of a different stamp. Of all forms of educational superstition, the worship of statistics is the least intelligent. Our business is to catch wild students, not to teach tricks to tame one. I would rather see more effort devoted to rousing an enthusiasm for education among classes of the population at present indifferent to it, than to increase in the number of classes recruited predominantly from the education of the sophisticated."

TRADE UNION ACTIVITY.

We have endeavoured to maintain our connection with the Trade Union movement. Lectures have been delivered to several Trade Union Branches. Although we have to report that the Trade Unions have not responded to our appeal to the extent it was hoped, yet this has not disheartened us. Your new Executive would be wise to endeavour to extend its influence amongst the Trade Unions. Experience has taught us that far better results are obtained by attending Trade Union Branch meetings and there addressing the gathering on some topic of importance to them than by making public appeals to Trade Unionists to attend public meetings.

To provide a function of special importance to Trade Unionists, the centenary of the Tolpuddle Martyrs was celebrated by a special meeting which was addressed by the Chairman of the S.A. Trades & Labour Council, and Secretary of the S.A. Typographical Union, Mr. A. J. Downes and Miss H. Pollak, lecturer of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Due to unforeseen circumstances several attempts to have addresses by prominent Trade Union officials have proved abortive.

EXTENSION OF FIELD FOR ADULT EDUCATION.

Your Executive has devoted considerable time to devising ways and means of extending the scope and co-ordinating the work of Adult Education. In collaboration with the Durban W.E.A. much discussion took place on ways and means.

Mr. Maurice Webb, Chairman of the Durban W.E.A., took advantage of a short stay in Johannesburg in connection with the New Education Fellowship Conference to attend a special Executive Meeting and explain the field of Adult Education in South Africa as he saw it.

Mr. A. McCree, Mr. R. Bruce McFie and Mr. D. H. Epstein, similarly, whilst on short visits to Durban, renewed contact with the Durban W.E.A.

As a practical step towards the enlargement of the scope of Adult Education in South Africa and discussing its field, the Durban W.E.A. had arranged a Conference for May. Your Executive agreed to be represented, but the Conference was unfortunately postponed to a later date.

AFRIKAANS.

For some time your Executive has endeavoured to provide a course of instruction in Afrikaans. During the year under review, a very successful tutorial class on elementary Afrikaans was held under Dr. P. de V. Pienaar. Six lectures were originally arranged, but in response to a request from the class, twelve lectures extending over a period of three months were delivered.

The Benoni Branch of the W.E.A. reports that the Onderwysers Vereeniging, an Afrikaans Teachers' Association, has affiliated to it.

We are glad to note the greater interest in and appreciation of the work of the W.E.A. shown by the Afrikaans-speaking members of the community.

NEW EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP.

Your Association is watching with keen interest the progress of the New Education Fellowship. Mr. L. D. Morgan, Vice-Chairman, kindly addressed your Executive on its work. In Benoni, our local branch has sponsored the formation of an East Rand Branch of the New Education Fellowship. It does not appear as if the work of the N.E.F. in any way overlaps with ours.

KRUGERSDORP LIBRARY GROUP.

Your Association has been in regular communication with the Krugersdorp Library Group and has done much to assist it financially and otherwise.

Its first lecture was given by the late Professor M. Drennan, under the joint auspices of the Group, the University of the Witwatersrand and your Association.

Professor T. J. Haarhof, your President, has also lectured to the Group. The Group, however, has not affiliated to us. The means of a more satisfactory relationship between it and your Association is being explored.

ONE-DAY SCHOOL.

The One-Day School held at Florida Lake on the 14th October, 1934, was a very great success. Mr. A. Keppel-Jones, lecturer in history at the University of the Witwatersrand, spoke in the morning on the "Background of Modern Foreign Policy." Mr. A. N. Wilson, radio commentator on foreign affairs, spoke on "War Possibilities in Europe" in the afternoon. The discussion was very keen and of some length. The holding of a "One-Day School" should be continued in the future and even extended if possible.

ACTIVITIES.

Public lectures were delivered as follows:—

Dr. Van der Bos	....	....	....	"Double Stars."	
Mr. A. J. Downes and Miss H. Pollak	....	....	....	"Tolpuddle Martyrs."	
Mr. A. Keppel-Jones	....	....	....	"Background of Modern Foreign Policy."	} At One-Day School.
Mr. A. N. Wilson	....	....	....	"War Possibilities in Europe."	
Mr. S. P. Jackson	....	....	....	"Land Settlement on the Lower Banks of the Vaal and Orange Rivers"	
				(Illustrated with lantern slides).	
Prof. T. J. Haarhoff	....	....	....	"Mediterranean, Past and Present"	
				(Illustrated with lantern slides).	
Mr. A. Keppel-Jones	....	....	....	"William Morris."	

In addition to the above, Mr. D. H. Epstein delivered several lectures to Trade Union Branches on "Industrial Legislation." The most successful was the meeting of the A.S.W., Johannesburg Branch, which was attended by 150 to 200 members.

INTER-DEBATE.

A debate on the subject "That Dictatorship is not desirable in the Interests of Progress," took place at Benoni between the Benoni Branch and Johannesburg. There was a good attendance. Johannesburg won the debate. Mr. D. H. Epstein and Mr. W. J. Hitchcock represented Johannesburg and Mr. R. Bruce Macfie and P. W. Pougnet, represented Benoni.

TUTORIAL CLASSES.

Mr. D. H. Epstein held a Tutorial Class consisting of seven lectures, on "The World To-day" with the following syllabus:—

1. England and the British Empire.
2. America, with special reference to the "New Deal."
3. Russia.
4. France and the Scandinavian countries.
5. Italy, Germany and other Fascist countries.
6. The Far East and India.
7. War possibilities to-day with particular reference to the position in Central Europe, the Far East, Russia, Germany and South America.

"SOCIAL INSURANCE."

The Association's publication "An Introduction to Social Insurance" by Professor Dalton, has proved an undoubted success. Requests for copies have come from booksellers, libraries and Government institutions of many European and American countries.

VISIT TO OBSERVATORY.

With the kind permission of the Union Astronomer, Dr. H. E. Wood, a large party consisting of over 50 members visited the Union Observatory. Dr. Van der Bos, of the Observatory, conducted the party and spared no effort in explaining in detail constellar observations.

THE WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT EDUCATION.

Your Association is affiliated to the World Association for Adult Education.

BENONI WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

A gratifying feature of the year's work has been the progress achieved by the Benoni Branch. The following lectures were held:—

Subject.	Lecturer.
"Situation in Palestine"	Prof. W. O. Brown.
"Authors I have met"	Mr. Duncan Little.
"Present Day Russia"	Dr. Simon de Moor.
"Afrikaans Kultur"	Dr. Skawram.
"Cult of the Future"	Swami Adyananda, M.A.
"How Past Lives are Remembered"	Mr. Geoffery Hodson.
"A few Experiments in Physical Science"	Mr. I. Kushlick, M.Sc.
"Fascism"	Dr. A. Murray.
"Physiology of Mining"	Dr. Osborne.
"An Anthropologist's Wanderings in East Africa"	Dr. A. Galloway.
"Meaning of Sound"	Dr. J. Gurney Lawrie.
"The Soviet Union as I saw it in 1933"	Mr. S. Buirski.
"Awakening of the Indian in the East"	Rev. C. E. Andrews.
"Adult Education with special reference to Public Libraries"	Mr. Maurice Webb.
"A Few Observations on the New Education Fellowship, with special reference to the recent Conference in Johannesburg"	Dr. A. Murray.
"Aims and Objects of the New Education Fellowship"	Dr. E. G. Malherbe.
"A Biological Conception of Civilization"	Dr. A. Galloway.
"Drought" (illustrated)	Prof. Wellington.
"Changes in Russian Music"	Prof. P. R. Kirby.

In addition, the Benoni Branch sponsored the formation of an East Rand Group of the New Education Fellowship, as an outcome of which has been formed a Parent-Teachers' Association.

The following Trade Unions in Benoni were addressed by members of the Branch:—

- Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers (Mr. Macfie).
- Reduction Workers' Association (Mr. Frankel).
- S.A. Boilermakers', Ironworkers', and Shipbuilding Society (Mr. Macfie).
- Amalgamated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union (Mr. Pougnet).

Much credit for the success of the Benoni Branch is due to its Chairman, Mr. P. W. Pougnet, M.A., and Mr. R. Bruce-Macfie, Secretary.

THE "HIGHWAY."

The "Highway," published by the English W.E.A. has become this year of even greater interest, which is paying a high compliment indeed to those responsible for its publication. 2/6 per annum is the small charge in respect of the year's subscription.

LITERATURE—W.E.A. OUTLINES.

These little volumes have been arranged by the W.E.A., in every instance the author being given freedom to deal with his subject in his own way. The books are inexpensive, well-written in a lucid and comprehensive style and will appeal to our students. Copies, at 1/- each, are obtainable from the Secretary.

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| How to read Literature. | Trade Unionism to-day. |
| The Industrial Revolution. | The Economic System. |
| Modern Imperialism. | Local Government for Beginners. |
| Chartism. | Capitalist Combines. |
| An Introduction to Philosophy. | How we behave: an introduction to Psychology. |
| Appreciation of Music. | Six Tragedies of Shakespeare. |
| Drama. | Framework of International Society. |
| Co-operation. | Geographic Background of Modern Problems. |

"RACE AND ECONOMICS IN SOUTH AFRICA."

Mr. W. G. Ballinger, past Secretary/Organiser, to your Association, has published an excellent booklet on the above subject. Members can be supplied with copies at the reduced rate of 1/-.

OFFICERS FOR THE PAST YEAR.

At the last Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, the 26th April, 1934, the undermentioned were elected officers for the ensuing year:—

President	....	....	....	....	Prof. T. J. Haarhoff.
Vice-President	....	....	....	....	Mr. R. F. Kennedy.
Secretary	....	....	....	....	Mr. D. H. Epstein, B.A., LL.B.
Hon. Treasurer	....	....	....	....	Mr. W. Greer.

Owing to an imminent departure for England, as Exchange Professor at Cardiff University, Professor Haarhoff resigned his office as President on the 6th March, 1935. Mrs. W. G. Ballinger was unanimously elected to the chair, vice Professor Haarhoff.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

To represent individual members:—

- Miss M. L. Hodgson; alternate, Mr. A. Keppel-Jones.
- Mr. J. D. Stevens.
- Mr. J. W. Hitchcock.
- Mr. A. McCree.
- Mr. W. G. Ballinger (in advisory capacity).

To represent Affiliated Organisations:—

- Mr. J. Gibson, Amalgamated Engineering Union, S.A. Council.
- Mr. J. McGowan, A.E.U., No. 2 Branch, Braamfontein.
- Mr. L. Lines, Plasterers' Union.
- Mr. E. W. S. Young, Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, Johannesburg Branch.
- Mr. W. Greer, Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, Johannesburg Branch.
- Mr. Z. Orlandini, S.A. Typographical Union.
- Mr. E. Way, Municipal Employees.
- Mr. C. F. McKay, S.A. Postal Association.

To represent the Senate of the University:—

- Prof. Wellington.

To represent the City Council:—

- Councillor A. Immink.

EXECUTIVE ATTENDANCES.

Your Executive has held regular monthly committee meetings throughout its period of office. There have also been special meetings of syllabus sub-committee and sub-committee on the co-ordination of Adult Education in South Africa. All meetings have been well attended, and the thanks of members are due to those who have given up so much of their time and leisure to the interests of the Association.

FINANCE.

Your Executive has much pleasure in reporting that the City Council of Johannesburg renewed its subscription of £100 per annum to the Association during the past year. Thanks are due to the City Council for this assistance.

Your Association is greatly indebted to the constituent bodies of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines for a generous donation of £50 from the Mining Industry, which has greatly assisted the Association in its work.

Thanks are also due to the Council of Education, Witwatersrand, for a generous grant of £50.

Full particulars regarding the financial position of the Association are clearly set out in the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet duly audited by Messrs. Windram & Wainstein, presented herewith.

(Mrs.) W. G. BALLINGER, President.
D. H. EPSTEIN, Secretary.

Transbaal Workers' Educational Association.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1935.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
Sundry Creditors	Cash
Sundry Persons	At Bank
Salary, Secretary	Savings Account, S.A. Per-
	manent Mutual Building
	Society
Accumulated Surplus	Investment Account
Balance as at 31st March,	Fixed Deposit with S.A.
1934	Permanent Mutual
Add Excess of Revenue	Building Society.
over Expenditure for the	
year ended 31st March,	
1935	
£165 14 1	£165 14 1

We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the vouchers and documents relating thereto. Subject to our separate report of the 12th April, 1935, we have to report that (a) we have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. (b) The Association has kept proper books and records, and (c) the Balance Sheet is, in our opinion, properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Association's affairs as at 31st March, 1935, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Association.

WINDRAM & WAINSTEIN,
Chartered Accountants (S.A.),
Auditors.

Johannesburg,
12th April, 1935.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT For the Year ended 31st March, 1935.

EXPENDITURE.	REVENUE.
General Expenditure	General Revenue
Secretarial Salaries:—	Subscriptions
W. G. Ballinger	Affiliation Fees
D. H. Epstein	Grants:
	City Council of Johan-
	burg
	Educational Council of
	Witwatersrand
	Donations
	Interest
	Literature
	Suspense
Rent	
Printing and Stationery	Lectures and Classes Revenue
Advertising	Afrikaans Tutorial Classes.
Postages	
Pettries	Publication of "Social Insur-
Audit Fees	ance"
Travelling Expenses	Grants:
Bank Charges	University of Witwaters-
Loss on sale of typewriter	rand
Sundry Charges	Transvaal Chamber of
	Mines
	Sales
£116 10 11	£180 13 2
Lectures and Classes Expenditure	
Tutors' Fees (Afrikaans	
tutorial)	
Lecturers' Fees	
Advertising	
Sundries	
42 8 6	
Extension Lectures Expenditure	
Lecturers' Fees	
Grant, Krugersdorp Library	
Group	
5 10 0	
Literature	
6 8 6	
Publication of "Social Insur-	
"ance"	
88 14 0	
Balance—Excess of Revenue	
over Expenditure	
7 1 7	
£266 13 6	£266 13 6

Johannesburg, 12th April, 1935.