

Officially multi-racial

A CROWDED HALL of delegates to the Congress of the Trades Union Council of South Africa in Port Elizabeth saw the film *Men of Brazil*. This is the true story of how Rio dockers, through Moral Re-Armament, transformed the spirit and productivity of their port.

Introduced by R C Webb, a Vice President of the Council, the film followed an historic debate earlier in the day when the ranks of the Council were opened officially to the African trade

unions.

Mr Webb said, 'You will see for yourselves how relevant this film is to our local situation. It has a message for all of us.'

A coloured delegate said afterwards with tears in his eyes, 'Tonight has given me new hope.' In the audience were Dr Senator Anna Scheepers, President of the Garment Workers' Union, and Miss Lucy Mvubelo, Secretary of the National Union of Clothing Workers.

All grievances dealt with immediately

by Das Bundhoo

Vice President of the 30,000 strong South African Federation of Leather Trade Unions

Of Indian origin, Mr Bundhoo lives in Pietermaritzburg. His national union has named its board room The Das Bundhoo Board Room in recognition of his services to the union. This summer he attended the Moral Re-Armament World Assembly at Caux, Switzerland.

I FIRST MET Moral Re-Armament in 1960 during the bitter struggle of my people when 2,000 workers had laid down their tools because of grievances that had piled up.

For 18 days the boot and shoe workers in Pietermaritzburg had stayed away from work. This in turn affected business and the streets of the city were almost deserted.

The employers in turn held back wages due for the previous week. With no other source of income the workers looked upon their National Executive for aid. At that time the National Executive was comprised of all white members and the aid was turned down.

Our women and children were now desperate for food and fuel. The children had no milk and bread. The employers were reluctant to negotiate. They wanted the workers to return to work. Both sides would not submit.

At the end of the second week of the strike the employers sent word that they had decided to shut down their factories till after the Christmas holidays.

I could see disaster if the workers did not go back to work as it would have meant six to seven weeks without money or aid of any sort and this would split up our union.

On the 18th day of the strike I stood

on the balcony of our offices whilst workers had gathered in their hundreds in the hall below. To me everything looked pitch black. I asked God to guide me.

Suddenly I felt a hand on my shoulder

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NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

and someone called my name. I looked at him and he had come to bring an answer. He was an employee who had been at a Moral Re-Armament meeting. He told me that he had been in touch with the employers and that the employers would open their factories the next day if we agreed. I took the onus on myself and said, 'Yes'.

The next day the wheels of industry were set in motion. Workers were back at work. Businessmen opened their

S AFRICA continued on page 2



Das Bundhoo

6 The well attended press conference given in London by two South African Homeland leaders must surely rank as one of the most explicit and cogent statements ever made abroad concerning the potential for just and peaceful change in this country. 9

The Natal Mercury

Commenting on the press conference given at The Westminster Theatre following the visit of the Homeland leaders to Caux.

shutters and smiled whilst housewives waved from their balconies as they watched the men march to their factories. Three weeks of full work and Christmas came. There was enough for the children to eat; gifts were galore. The workers had collected their holiday pay and bonuses.

But in the New Year I found that our relationship with the employers was worse than before the strike. The workers had gone back to work in the belief that their grievances would be attended to. But once the workers went back the employers took a firmer stand and refused to discuss the grievances of the workers with the trade union officials. The officials were not allowed to enter the gates of the factories and workers were at a disadvantage.

I became grieved and worried. For the first three months of the year things were hard for the workers.

I was then invited to a Moral Re-Armament conference in Pretoria in March 1961. I met people there from different walks of life. Men with bitterness, frustration and hate. And then I saw these men change overnight. They had found an answer.

I wondered whether I could find an answer for the bitter employer-employee relationship in our industry at home. Whilst sitting quietly something within me said, 'You have the answer.'

The next moment I was sitting and writing a letter to the chairman of the local employers' association telling him how sorry I was for the bitterness in me against him and that I wished to apologise.

I felt that with my bitter attacks on him through the press I had created a division which kept us further apart and as a result the workers had been at a disadvantage.

I also wrote to him, 'Let us now start on a clean sheet.'

And the miracle happened.

There was a sudden change of heart and the management invited the trade union officials to discuss the grievances. The factory gates were opened to the trade union officials and the grievances of the workers attended to. It was also found that the personnel officer was a lot to blame for the deterioration in human relations. This person was replaced.

Later, on the expiry of the old agreement the trade unions met the employers to negotiate a new national wage agreement for the whole industry. On the eve of the conference both employer and employee delegates were invited to see the Moral Re-Armament film, *The Forgotten Factor*.

Immediately after the showing of the film I stood on the same platform as the President of the Employers' Federation and gave my personal experience of the 18-day strike in my town and what

'A show for everybody ...'

The Indian Express

'Everyone will benefit ...'

The Times of India

BOMBAY'S BIRLA THEATRE was the setting last month of the tenth anniversary of *Himmat* and of the Bombay première of *Song of Asia*. Six scenes were filmed for television.

Speaking to the audience of 1,200, Russi Lala, Editor of *Himmat*, said, 'Ten years ago we launched *Himmat* as the voice of Asia. Today we hear another voice of Asia - vibrant and colourful. It is *Song of Asia*.'

In the première audience were the Mayor of Bombay, the Minister for Prohibition; Judges of the High Court; George Fernandes, leading Socialist trade unionist; and the Vice-Chancellor of Bombay University. Others who came included newspaper editors, industrialists, mill-owners, deans of colleges and school principals.

Founder members of a militant Harijan organisation watched the per-

formance. One of them said, 'The challenge of the show is to build a society without hatred.' A colleague added, 'It is the society we have seen on stage.'

Reviewing the show *The Times of India* wrote, '*Song of Asia*, the new MRA revue, is a strange and altogether ennobling fusion of man's many ideals and arts. It is a string of vignettes, glimpses of the life and thought of modern Asia, strung together in a splendid presentation of various elegant though simplistic incidents and tales through word, song, mime and dance.'

The paper continued, 'Seeing it and listening to it and, deep inside, feeling the very texture of it, one is somehow, even though for moments only, elevated to another level ... A great show ... Do manage to see it ... Everyone who sees it will benefit in one way or another.'

The Indian Express wrote, 'The MRA

it had brought in its trail. I told those present of how I had met Moral Re-Armament and of the dramatic change in our relationship with the employers; how I had found an answer to bitterness and that in all my dealings I now seek guidance from God and adopt the principle 'Not who is right but what is right matters'.

The next day we met at the conference and produced the best agreement ever negotiated with better wages and improved conditions of work. Ever since we have been working as a family unit. No more strikes - no tools down. All our grievances are taken up immediately and we sit round the table to resolve our disputes.

The membership of our Federation now stands at 30,000 comprising all races. We have always maintained the principle of rate for the job irrespective of sex, race or colour. Our National Executive is now no longer all white but consists of white and non-white members drawn from the different branches.

I believe that with absolute unselfishness and with a change of heart management and labour would combine to serve the nation and the world. New motives would settle disputes much more speedily because neither side would have as its aim how much they would get for themselves. ■

WELSH GARDEN PARTY



The McTiffins

PERCHED ATOP a steep hill above the Rhondda Valley, overlooking one of the few remaining collieries and with a view across to the mountains beyond, is the home of Mr and Mrs William McTiffin. This was the scene recently of an unusual garden party.

'Mac' is a retired miner. He has been associated with the industry for over 52 years since at the age of 13 he started as a lamp boy on the surface and the following year went underground. Like many miners he retired with 30 per cent dust disease, his father having died with



(left to right) Dr Popat, Maharashtra Minister for Prohibition, and Dr R K Anand, child specialist, talk with members of the cast of 'Song of Asia' at the Bombay premiere. photo: Pankaj Shah

philosophy of love, tolerance, forgiveness, is conveyed in a simple, direct style that immediately goes to the heart... Topicality is the key-note of most of the items. The Vietnam tragedy, the Sino-Japanese war, the caste conflict at an Indian village well, corruption in high and low places and even men's long hair came in for comment, sometimes moving in its grim picture of violence and hatred, sometimes delightfully humorous in its satirical twist.

'Every item is presented with taste and dignity and a large cast of men and women from 14 countries provides a splendid example of spontaneous teamwork. All told it's a very enjoyable blend of various Asiatic cultures presented in colourful and impressive style—a show for everybody.'

Song of Asia is also being given in Hindi to 10,000 millworkers and management staff in Bombay.

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at a glance

RESILIENT LAND

The Vietnamese Embassy publication *Viet-Nam Yesterday and Today* carried the article in *Himmat* by Rajmohan Gandhi in which he gave his impressions when *Song of Asia* visited Saigon. Gandhi writes, 'This land that has seen much sorrow could yet surprise the world with its moral and physical resilience.'

ABLE YOUNG MEN

Robert Webb, Washington Bureau Chief, has written four major articles on Caux in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. He concludes his final article, 'From the United States came such able young men as Richard W B Ruffin, of Norfolk, Va, and Steve Dickinson, Roscoe, Mont, former Rhodes Scholars now giving their full time to the construction globally of a character and philosophy aimed at bringing out the best in all men. Buchman invited every man to measure his life by the absolute moral standards centred in the Sermon on the Mount—and to listen daily to the deepest voice inside him in the effort to find what is right.

'Buchman, whose ancestors came from St Gallen, Switzerland, fought for his ideas in many lands—but most of all, perhaps, he longed for America to lead the way. "The world lives today in the climate of suspicion, fear and greed," he had said at Interlaken, Switzerland, in 1938. "The world awaits an inspired answer from statesmen as well as the ordinary man. Yes, inspired statesmen, guided not alone by human wisdom, but by that added help which sees and recognises the Supreme Plan."'

UNSHAKEABLE BELIEF

The Mayor of Colwyn, Councillor Howell G Roberts, has called for 'un-purchaseable' men to lead Britain in the priority task of uniting the country.

He was speaking as chief guest at a meeting of The Friends of the Westminster Theatre in Colwyn Bay.

Describing the 'wave of dependency sweeping the country' the Mayor said, 'What is needed today is a return to the authority of God, an unshakeable belief in the reality of an absolute authority

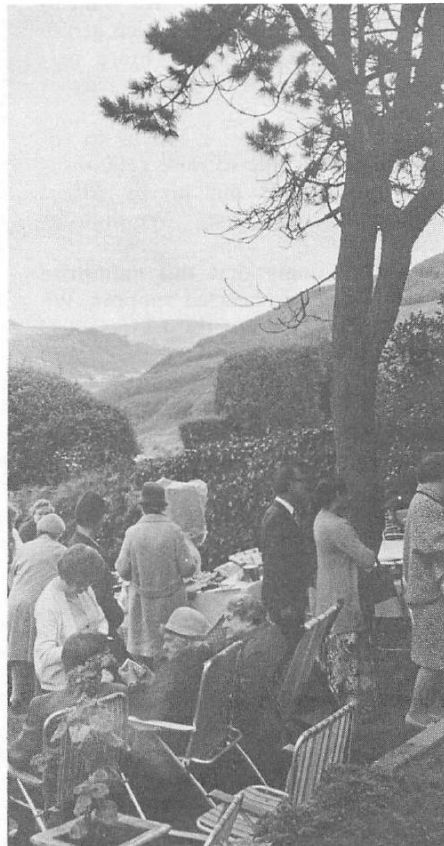
100 per cent pneumoconiosis.

'Three years ago,' he says, 'I was depressed, with a feeling of hopelessness about the country. I could see no antidote to the greed, bitterness and dishonesty.' But because of a visit to the Westminster Theatre and to the World Assembly in Caux, Switzerland, he and his wife, Eleanor, decided they wanted to play their part in bringing a change to the spirit of Britain.

So when the matron of an old people's home and her twin sister who is a health visitor—both had been to Caux with the Welsh delegation—had the conviction to give a party to raise money for Moral Armament, the McTiffins offered their garden.

Over 80 people came and £83 was raised which will be used towards starting a fund to enable a coach party of children to go to the Westminster Theatre to see *Give a Dog a Bone* this Christmas and for Welsh students to go to Caux next year.

Since the party the McTiffins report that they have been 'inundated with phone calls and letters' and that 'walls have been broken down'. 'It meant a lot of work but it has brought new life for us', says Mr McTiffin, 'and we are more convinced than ever that Moral Re-Armament is the answer to our present problems.'



The Rhondda Valley garden party photos: Winnie Browne

AT A GLANCE continued on page 4

over and above any worldly authority whatsoever. We need today perhaps more than ever before in our past, unpurchaseable men and women—people who cannot be bought—people to whom truth, righteousness and justice matter supremely—we need these people in all spheres of life—these are the people needed to give to our society the leadership which our country sorely requires.'

THOUSANDS OF COPIES

A six point Civic Programme and a Declaration by Housewives were published last month on the front page of *New World News*.

Since then many letters and newspapers cuttings have been received by *New World News* describing the response to these two initiatives around the country.

As of going to press, six days before the election, people in 210 different constituencies are making use of the Civic Programme. Local councillors, including county council chairmen, have added their names to those of the original signatories. In some areas Conservative, Labour and Liberal representatives have signed together. The *Nottingham Evening Post*, for instance, carried the Programme under the six column headline: 'Honesty code wins civic 'votes''. The *Evening Sentinel* in Newcastle, Staffordshire, reported a sermon about the Programme under the headline 'Democracy is on trial'. Thousands of copies of the Civic Programme have been requested and by election day the organizers hoped that most candidates would have been presented with copies.

Similarly, eleven thousand copies of the Housewives' Declaration have been printed because of the continuing demand. Housewives have been interviewed on television, radio and in the press about it. The *Edinburgh Evening News* had the headline 'Just where are we headed?—Now housewives start their own revolution'. The *Hereford Times* had the headline 'Women power: birth of a revolution to beat inflation'. And the *Eastern Daily Press* the five column headline 'The housewife's declaration of intent'.

A SHOCKING PLAY

Africans, Asians and West Indians were among the audience of 350 who attended last month's reading of the multi-racial drama *Britain 2000* at the Westminster Theatre. Parties came to see it from Birmingham, Coventry, Liverpool and the South Coast.

A Jamaican family, Mr and Mrs John Richards of Peckham, London, and their six children took part. Speaking from

the stage afterwards Mr Richards, a builder, said, 'You may have found the play a shock. Bernard Shaw said people needed to be shocked to get them to face up to reality. If you saw me in my overalls after we had put up a ceiling or better still after we had taken one down, you probably would not look at me twice but pass on the other side. Our family were in on the birth of this play and since then we have tried to live out these ideals.'

The play was written by Marie Embleton, the wife of a London accountant, but an Indian doctor from East Africa said he thought that 'half the play must have been written by a coloured person'. A West Indian factory worker referred to the incident in which a young black man is refused a job because of his colour and said, 'When I first came to Britain 10 years ago I was refused a job because of my colour. I was hurt but shrugged it off. Today I have talked about it for the first time.'

Britain 2000 will be read at the Dulwich Public Baths, Peckham on Friday 25 October.

GOLDEN ENTERPRISE

18 months ago *New World News* announced that Ivan and Elsie Menzies, the former D'Oyle Carte opera stars, were celebrating their Golden Wedding and had asked for gifts of old gold and jewellery towards the production costs of the musical revue *GB*. The sum raised was £1,503.

They were so encouraged by the response that now, they write, 'We want to launch the gold and jewellery idea afresh—this time on a wider and more permanent basis. We will do this as part of "Enterprise 100".'

The aim of 'Enterprise 100' is to enlist a thousand people to raise £100 units for the productions put on by Moral Re-Armament at the Westminster Theatre.

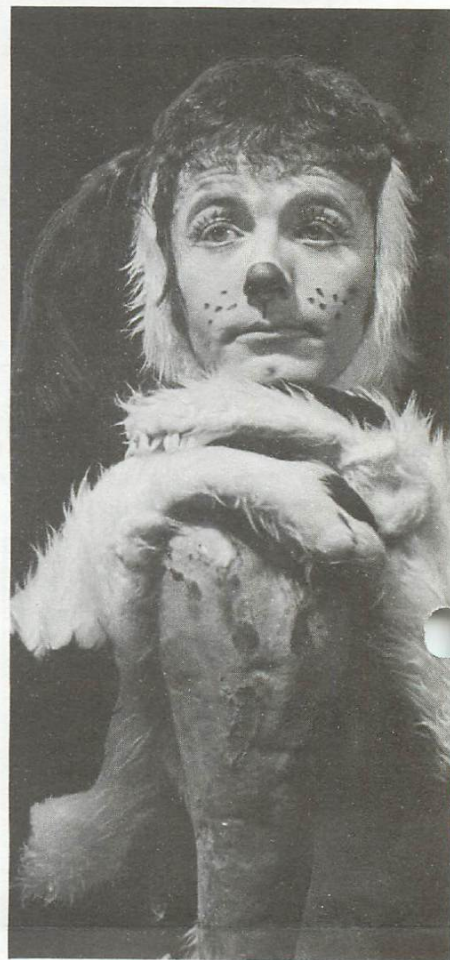
'We feel strongly that this enterprise calls for our whole hearted support. We are now working on our third £100 unit,' says Ivan Menzies. 'We hope that more old gold and jewellery will roll in from our good friends in the many countries in which we sang and were so warmly received which would enable us to complete many more £100s.'

Items can be sent directly to Mr and Mrs Menzies or delivered to the Westminster Theatre.

CONTENTED BLOKES

Tom Morecroft, Chairman of Colchester Trades Council, who went with an East Anglian delegation to Caux, has told the *Colchester Express* that workers in Britain need an ideology based on more

Tony is back!



Tony Jackson (above), who left 'Give a Dog a Bone' after the 1971/72 run to join the London production of 'Godspell' which he has been in for the last two and a half years, is returning in December to his old part of Ringo. Last week in two days 85 actors and actresses were auditioned by producers Henry Cass and Bridget Espinosa for the eleventh annual season of Peter Howard's family pantomime. *photo: Stuart Robinson*

openness and honesty between the existing levels of factory life: the shop stewards should not stand apart from workers, and neither should management.

'Nowadays, factory workers are just machines,' he commented. 'But they want to be treated as human beings.'

The paper headlines his conviction that there are three deadly sins in factories today—greed, selfishness and apathy. 'What we're now trying to do is to get the ordinary shop floor lad to think for himself. This will make him more content—a bloke who is content will slap out the work.'

Moral Re-Armament, he believes, can help ease the situation in British industry as a whole. With meetings, trade union speakers and literature he hopes to bring more straightforward humanity to shop floors in Colchester. The *Evening Gazette* reported his words, 'If there is trouble we believe in discussing it reasonably not calling everyone out?'