

THE OXFORD GROUP HOUSE PARTY

**DR. NORVAL SAYS COUNTRY SHOULD THINK MORE
OF DUTIES, LESS OF RIGHTS**

MOST SUCCESSFUL MEETING OF THE SERIES

The most successful of the series of meetings being held by the Oxford Group house party in Pretoria was led last night by Dr. Arthur Norval, a member of the Board of Trade and Industries. Dealing with national life, Dr. Norval said that the country needed to see wherein healthy nationalism lay. If we took into consideration the size of our population there were few countries in the world which had so many problems. There were so many economic groups with conflicting interests, such as the mines opposing the other industries, and all these against agriculture.

It was impossible to separate the economic from the moral problems. For instance, when a factory owner did not pay high enough wages, or made his employees work for long hours, the economic problem became a moral one. There was conflict in different departments of national life, agriculture was the most difficult and the solution was not to be found in pure economics.

As far as the white and the coloured race groups were concerned, Dr. Norval said:—

“Six years ago I thought the only solution lay in the supremacy of one European race group. I saw the Afrikaners coming into power and so threw in my whole weight towards that end. I achieved a certain amount of success. However, I met the Oxford Group, and

saw that selfishness was at the root of my national ambition. Instead of rendering a service to the nation, I was doing it a definite disservice in that I was exploiting national sentiment to glorify myself.

MORAL SOLUTION

“I saw that if I wanted to serve the Afrikaners the greatest thing I could do would be to give myself to the moral solution, which I then knew to be the real one.

“I saw that I had to take the responsibility for the English as well as the Afrikaans, and could only give maximum service by giving everything I had—language, culture, and talents. When I had put my life at the service of the nation in this way, my hate disappeared. I saw that all my effort had only been an attempt to escape from myself.

“What we need in this country is to think less of rights and more of duties.”

Speaking of the years of the Anglo-Boer War, Advocate Norman Price, of Johannesburg, said that he was born and brought up in the Eastern Province, and had never understood or identified himself with his fellow-Afrikaans citizens. He had hailed British victories during that war with exultation, little dreaming or understanding the incredible suffering and sorrow that was being inflicted.