

Port Elizabeth Is Industrial Supplier for The Union of South Africa

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles by Luke Lange, former Medford resident on an around the world cruise aboard the freighter, SS Friesland. Today's article is about Port Elizabeth and the Union of South Africa.)

By LUKE LANGE

Port Elizabeth is the industrial supplier for most of the Union. Ford, Studebaker, and Chrysler have large assembly plants for their autos. The units are all shipped by boat, and put together on a factory assembly line with nearly 100 per cent black labor.

In all these ports the loading and unloading is done by blacks under the supervision of a white man. While this work is going on there are probably from 50 to 75 of them aboard.

When he returned to the ship, a native came running down the gangplank at full speed with a portable radio in his hand and at least 10 to 15 Dutchmen of the crew at his heels. They captured him before he reached the high wire fence surrounding the dock and returned him to the ship, along with the radio, which he had dropped in flight.

Police Confer

This episode caused quite a hassle aboard ship. Three native police and two white police conferred with the captain, and he had his choice of leaving a man behind to testify or tie the ship up until the man was tried. This, of course, would be foolish since the seaman had his radio back, and I think everyone by

this time felt sorry for the native who tried to steal it.

It was probably the only way he would ever hope to own one because his salary as a stevedore was 6 shillings (84 cents) for a 12-hour work day. The white officer said he would receive five lashes with a cane and be banished from any job in the city, and would have to live in the bush with his uneducated brothers. This seemed like pretty rough justice, but that is the way it is done in South Africa.

While here, we saw another example of their strict segregation. The morning paper told the result of a trial of a police trap that had been set. The police had been watching an attractive 18-year-old African girl who they believed to be consorting with certain white men. When the police trap was sprung and they entered the room, they found the African girl and the white man.

Police were much surprised as the white man was a member of their own police force. The constable was sentenced to six months in prison with three suspended conditionally. The girl got 18 months with no suspension.

Threat to Settlement

This law, called the "Immorality Act," reminds you of the impossibility of enforcement in the last year or two of prohibition in our country. From what I have seen, it is the most serious threat to a peaceful settlement of the race problem they have all over the Union of South Africa.

The Indians or Hindus, as we call them, are well educated, run most of the businesses and stores, and are quite well to do throughout the Union. They are classed as blacks and must carry a card at all times showing this classification.

They, as well as the blacks, resent this law more than any other complaint they have with the whites. Even the whites can't agree as to the advisability of the necessity of the law, and it is the main point of argument among the whites. You can hear them on the street or in taverns arguing heatedly. It seems everyone but government officials want the law repealed.

The blacks, or the colored, have no vote. The government of England is recommending that the Union of South Africa no longer be recognized, and the country to be turned over to the natives with full independence. Look at Other Side

The United Nations is for this, but when you look at the other side of it, when nearly 3 million white people built these large plantations, buildings and cities right out of a jungle and their fathers and grandfathers put everything they had, including their lives, into building up the country, and the Dutch and the English fought the Boer War over this land, then have an organization such as the United Nations or a ruling body in England, who naturally do not know the problems like the people living here, give its decision that takes everything away from you with little or no compensation, and turns it over to a group of people who, outside of a few educated members, are savages, you would fight for your rights as well as these people. It seems that a fair comparison would be for our Fed-

eral Government in Washington to declare the Klamath Indian had not been treated properly and therefore southern Oregon and northern California from Redding to Grants Pass would be turned back to the Indians in its entirety forthwith.

That is the decision that has been handed to the Union of

South Africa, and the Union has answered with a call for voluntary enlistment and claim they will use force to protect their interests. You can feel a smoldering undercurrent everywhere you go.

East London Port

The port of East London is much like Port Elizabeth. Behind the docks is a large prison for the Union of South

Africa and prisoners could be seen from the ship where they were breaking up rocks and loading gravel into the box cars. There were many armed guards. We tried to take pictures but they stopped us.

We tried to go through the prison, but were not granted permission. We were informed

it would be too dangerous, and that their worst type of criminal was shipped here and most of them would die here.

We also were told they had escape tries almost daily and most of the prisoners were little more than savages and might attack a guard, a visitor or another prisoner at any time.

From their attitude for visitors, as well as the refusal of any pictures and information, I gathered in a conversation with a black taxi driver, the authorities do not want outsiders, especially a group of Americans, to get a view of prison life as run by the English in South Africa.

The beaches are wonderful in all of the coastal cities, but one is warned to swim in the netted areas where there is no shark danger. Since the weather has been hot, we have managed to visit the beaches in every port.

Since we were only in East London one day, we spent the rest of the time visiting the

Queen's Park, a large natural park with an abundance of flowers and planted flower gardens. An animal area is in the middle, where various African animals graze. Lions and tigers are in pens. Monkeys followed us through the park, jumping from trees. They were free to roam wherever they pleased.



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Naturalization Hearing Slated In County May 23

A naturalization hearing will be held in Circuit Judge Edward C. Kelly's court Wednesday, May 23, according to Alfred J. Urbano, district director for immigration and naturalization.

All petitioners will be notified to appear at 9 a.m. for signing certificates and for other preliminary matters.

Robert Duncan, speaker of the house of representatives and Democratic Congressional candidate, will speak.

Invocation will be given by the Rev. Le Roy Cox, St. Mark's Episcopal church in Medford; presentation of candidates will be made by John Williams of the immigration and naturalization service; and oath of allegiance will be administered by County Clerk Marvin Madden.

To Present Corsages

Dr. Billy Blackstone will present corsages donated by the Kiwanis club. Leonard Carlson of the Medford Elks lodge will present flags to each citizen. Miss Annette Gray, teacher of naturalization classes in the adult education program, will present citizenship class certificates.

Mrs. Shirley Collins, of the American Legion auxiliary, will give each new citizen a flag. Mrs. Virgil Bolton, of the Daughters of American Revolution, will read a poem, and Mrs. Helen Rice, representing the Disabled Veterans of America, will present booklets.

Refreshments will be served in the courthouse auditorium by the American Legion auxiliary.

Band Boosters Set Pancake Dinner

Ashland - A band booster pancake dinner will be held at the Lincoln school cafeteria in Ashland Tuesday, May 22, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., according to Raoul Maddox, Ashland High school band director.

Pancakes will be served with ham, scrambled eggs, coffee or milk and ice cream. All the batter will be donated by Sambo's Pancake House in Medford.

Musical entertainment will be featured continuously during the entire meal.

Tickets can be purchased from band students. All money will go into the band benefit fund.

Camper Parents To Attend Y Meeting

A meeting for parents of prospective campers and YMCA staff members will be held Monday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Medford YMCA.

Odd Bjerke, well-known wilderness survival expert and director of the Diamond Lake camp, will explain his plans for camp this summer. Fred Sapp, Applegate day camp director, will explain his program to younger boys.

A discussion period will follow.

Merkel To Moderate Discussion Panel

Dr. A. E. Merkel, county health officer, will be moderator of a panel discussion on mental illness and health to be given at a meeting of all interested persons at 8 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Rogue Valley Memorial hospital, according to Dr. John McLaughlin, president of the Jackson County Mental Health association.

Other participants on the panel will include a team from Oregon State hospital in Salem with Dr. Thad Furlong and Dr. Harry Doyle, psychiatrists, and Mrs. Gertrude Stoltenberg and Mrs. Nadine Nunn from the social service department.

Dr. Merkel pointed out a report of a recent extensive study of mental illness ordered by the Congress of the United States shows that the "outstanding characteristic of mental illness is its staggering size."

He also noted that among the recommendations made as a result of the study was one calling for increased local responsibility and knowledge of the problem. In view of this, the local Mental Health association has urged as many interested persons as possible hear the discussion, which will include an explanation of facilities available in Oregon, commitment and discharge procedures, modern treatment methods and programs of prevention.