

South Africa's choice—Moral Rearmament or chaos

— By J. WINDIG —

WHAT is it that makes Mr. R. Kingwill, a wool farmer who has just been elected Mayor of New Bethesda, decide to give his war-time wool profit to Moral Rearmament? He has seen the dynamic effect of a team drawn from seven different countries on the people of the Eastern Province during the last three months.

One rugby team applied Moral Rearmament and found such a new spirit that it revitalised their club and brought new teamwork on to the field. Many were surprised by their improved play.

At another place students came to a meeting in their rugby togs, planning to leave early for their game. They were so gripped that they stayed till the end and their game was cancelled.

Large crowds have attended the meetings in Graaff-Reinet, Queenstown and Grahamstown and the other centres the team has visited.

The new spirit sweeping through the Eastern Cape is affecting race relationships and farming to a marked degree. At one meeting, a young English-speaking farmer from the Graaff-Reinet area expressed his regret for the attitude of superiority he had had towards the Afrikaans-speaking section of the community.

Following him a prominent Afrikaans-speaking farmer and his wife from Queenstown told of the change they had found at the Moral Rearmament centre at Caux, Switzerland, and said they were sorry for the hurts they had caused their English-speaking friends.

Erosion

Leading Nationalists and United Party members decided to fight together that this new spirit should become the deciding factor in South Africa.

For many farmers Moral Rearmament has brought a revolutionary change in their whole farming policy. They have seen that soil erosion is basically a moral problem. Now they try to put back into the land what they have taken out through over-stocking.

Even at this time of high prices, they have not hesitated to reduce stock and so save the land for future generations. One man has now only one sheep to three morgen, instead of one to a morgen.

Speaking to the students at the Grootfontein Agricultural College at Middelburg, one farmer told that by caring for his Native workers as human beings he had never had any shortage of labour.

"But it all begins in the home," he said. "When my wife and I are honest with each other and listen to God together, we find happiness in

our home, a purpose in our work and good relationships with our neighbours."

Many of these people who have been beginning to find this new way of life will be coming to Grahamstown next week to attend a conference, where they will be able to learn more about the whole application of this idea. This will be something of Mr. Kingwill's reward.

Many ideas are on the march across the world today. This is an age of ideologies.

The problem that puzzles the statesmen today is how to deal with the wrong ideas that are rapidly gaining ground throughout Africa. You cannot shoot an idea dead, nor lock it up in prison.

The answer is to have a better, bigger and more dynamic idea. That is Moral Rearmament — an idea that unites and inspires, an idea that is big enough to change communists, yes, and capitalists too.

It is an idea that is on the march right across the world. At a time when materialism, whether we see it as organised and godless materialism of Moscow or the disorganised materialism of our democracies, has taken such a grip on the world, we must find a great uniting idea.

We need it in Africa. We have been blinded, many of us, by the present-day political crisis. It seems to be all important whether Parliament or the Supreme Court has the final say, whereas the real issue is that in a few years' time there may be neither Parliament nor Courts unless we find a uniting idea.

We can have heated discussions on how far apartheid is desirable or possible, while Africa may fall into the hands of the wrong forces regardless of whether we have apartheid or not.

Materialism

Our whole civilisation is at stake. That is the issue that faces us. The enemy is not this or that party or race. It is materialism, penetrating every party and race; and penetrating too our homes, our hearts, even our churches.

It saps the strength of our national character and it is the root cause of broken homes, industrial strife and war between the nations. It goes hand in hand with chaos or moral

rot. It breeds hate, fear, greed and division.

The answer to materialism is Moral Rearmament. It is not a new party, church or sect, but unites people of all parties and churches to stand together to save civilisation. It fights for absolute moral standards — honesty, purity, unselfishness and love — and for the guidance of God in every sphere of life. It brings sound homes, teamwork in industry and unity in the nation.

Moral Rearmament recognises the need for social, economic and political change, but maintains that without a change of heart in people, none of these other changes will last. It emphasises the very simple truth that for everyone who really wants to bring an answer to the world the best place to start is with himself.

Mau-Mau

Right across Africa, Moral Rearmament is having a profound effect. The play, "The Forgotten Factor", was recently staged in Kenya and Uganda. Members of the cast were in touch with African leaders.

Those who were changed by Moral Rearmament were responsible for organising a national gathering of the Kikuyu people, which was attended by a crowd of more than 30,000. It was held to denounce the Mau-Mau, a subversive movement which has been much in the news recently. To quote a report from the East African Standard:

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"After prayers had been said, Senior Chief Waruhiu, who presided, took up a tuft of elephant grass. 'The Kikuyu country,' he said, 'is like this grass, blowing one way and another in the breeze of the Mau-Mau. We have come here to denounce this movement; it has spoiled our country and we do not want it.'"

Jomo Kenyatta, one of the most powerful leaders in Kenya

Some members of the Moral Rearmament team who have been touring the Eastern Cape.

and president of the Kenya African Union, was the first speaker. "We are looking for one thing and that is peace," he said.

Mr. Waruhiu, son of the Senior Chief, spoke later: "We look to Moral Rearmament as the only organism of unity in the world. It is the way to bring peace to the world. Through Moral Rearmament we have seen South Africans change, Kenya settlers change, and we ourselves have changed. Many ideologies have come to Africa in the past, but nothing has appealed to Africans as Moral Rearmament has to every section of the continent. Africans will give everything for Moral Rearmament."

A young African lawyer was so anti-British that he took delight in tearing up pictures of the Royal Family. At a public meeting in Mombasa, he stated as his conviction, "To be dominated by hatred is worse than to be dominated by another human being. It is not worthy of a young African, and I want to give my life to unite Africa on the basis of not who is right but what is right."

In the Rhodesias and Nyasaland the question of Central African Federation has become a burning issue. At the time that the proposals were discussed in London six months ago, the African representatives refused to attend as they felt their views had not received consideration.

One of the spokesmen of the Africans in Northern Rhodesia is Mr. Godwin Lewanika, founder and former president of the Northern Rhodesian African Congress. His party is opposed to federation.

"Mr. Welensky, leader of the Elected Members of the Legislative Council, and I were the bitterest enemies," said Mr. Lewanika recently.

Apologised

"He speaks for the Europeans and I speak for the Africans. Meeting Moral Rearmament has impelled me to apologise to him and assure him of my friendship in the future. He accepted my apology and invited me to discuss the question of federation."

On account of Moral Rearmament Mr. Lewanika stated that he is advocating a round-table conference to discuss federation informally and without ill-feeling. His change of attitude has brought a much more co-operative press and augurs well for the talks which are to develop.

In Europe, too, Moral Rearmament is playing an important part in bringing an answer to some of the key problems.

Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the Chancellor of Western Germany, said, referring to the Schuman Plan: "In recent months we have seen the conclusion of important international agreements. Moral Rearmament has played an unseen but effective part in bridging differences of opinion between the negotiating parties, and has kept before them the aim of peaceful agreement in the search of the common good."

Many political and industrial leaders as well as thousands of ordinary people from all over the world have been to the Moral Rearmament centre at Caux, Switzerland. The chief of the Parliamentary staff of the London Times called it, "The headquarters of the hope of the world."

Moving scenes of international reconciliation have taken place there. A former communist leader from Denmark, who had been in a number of German concentration camps, apologised to Germans present for his hatred against them.

Miracle

In the audience was the German staff officer who had planned the invasion of Denmark. He got up and apologised in his turn for the great harm his country had done to Denmark and other nations.

"I have had in the past many honours bestowed on me," he said, "but the greatest honour of my life was when this man from Denmark put his hand on my shoulder and called me 'comrade.'"

From Japan, 72 leading citizens, among them the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, came to Caux. They wished to find the ideology on which to build their newly found democracy.

After their visit, they went on over to America, and there were received in both houses of Congress. They asked forgiveness of the American people for "Japan's big mistake in breaking a century-old friendship" between the two countries.

A member of the Transvaal Provincial Council recently gave it as his opinion that the choice before South Africa was Moral Rearmament or chaos.

It is certainly increasingly evident that three million White people can hardly hope to survive on a continent of over 180 million non-Whites unless there is change. We may be strong, but might alone will not protect us.

In Rhodesia a Native leader, referring to the Europeans he had met at a Moral Rearmament conference, said: "We would be prepared to start a revolution to keep people like this in Africa."

As Europeans, is not that the way we would most like to stay, because the other races are ready to start a revolution to keep us?

