

# Well-Known Cape Sheep Farmer Wins High Award

In the presence of the Deputy Minister of Agricultural Technical Services and 400 youth attending the Land Service Camp at Cedara Agricultural College, Natal, Mr. Charles Rubidge, well-known sheep farmer from Richmond, East Cape, was awarded the Golden Protea Medal.

Mr. Rubidge was one of five receiving the award which is given in appreciation for services to South Africa in preserving the soil, culture and family life of the nation.

### CITATION

The citation reads: "Mr. Rubidge has devoted the past 40 years to soil and water conservation. The results of his dedicated labours are thickly grassed vleis which feed clean, clear water into his irrigation dam; over 100 morgen of dry land lucerne below his dam where the water table has risen to within reach of the lucerne roots; plentiful pastures and reserves of hay for winter and droughts; the doubling of the carrying capacity of his farm 'Zoetvlei' and animals which are always in prime condition. In addition to his work on 'Zoetvlei,' Mr. Rubidge has taken a leading part on soil conservation committees and has written widely on the subject in the general press. He has also inspired his family with the same ideals and so insured that 'Zoetvlei' will be left in the hands of capable and conservation-minded son and daughter-in-law."

### FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

Speaking about the award Mr. Rubidge later said: "In accepting this medal I do so on behalf of my whole family who have had to go without many of the so-called luxuries of life so that we could put money into making our farm a pattern for the whole country and especially for the Orange River Catchment area. The vision that I found through Moral Re-Armament of what my farm could become under God's guidance made all these sacrifices worth while. It gave me perspective and helped me to put first things first. A day to day plan emerged for the restoration of the farm. I realised also my responsibility to see what happened on my farm should become available to the nation. A practical step in this direction was accepting the chairmanship of our local soil conservation committee and not leaving it all to others."

### ONLY STEWARDS

"It is my deep conviction that the land belongs to God and we as farmers are only custodians or stewards. We must learn to farm under His direction. We have no right under any circumstances, to abuse the land and destroy the heritage of generations to come."

This pioneering work of Mr. Rubidge in increasing the carrying capacity of a typical Karoo farm can prove of benefit not only to South Africa, but to many other parts of the world with similar climates. It is a notable contribution towards meeting the world-wide shortage of food for the millions. It demonstrates afresh the truth of Frank Buchman's far-seeing belief that "the ordinary man, guided by God, can do the extraordinary thing." It provides the answer to problems which neither science alone nor any political concept can solve.