

## **ABERCORNUCOPIA No. 3 February – March 1963.**

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### **WATCH AND WARD**

A NATION voting for a candidate to represent the people in a parliament is divided into "constituencies" each containing a more or less equal number of people. A town or city whose residents are voting in the election of members to a township board or city council is divided into a number of "wards", each returning one or more representatives. These are voted for by persons living or having businesses or owning property in the particular ward.

The difference, therefore, between a "constituency" and a "ward" is that the former - although it has geographical boundaries - is a body of people voting as individuals; whereas the latter is a section of the town or city whose residents vote as occupiers or owners of property - that is, they are concerned with their local, personal interests, not the interest of the nation as a whole.

The word "constituency" is a modern one probably no more than 250 years old, "Ward", on the other hand, is one of the oldest words in the English language - perhaps more than a thousand years old in its present uses. It is the same word as "guard" and it has much the same meaning, Ancient castles - such as the Queen's residence at Windsor and the Tower of London - have enclosed areas still called "wards". Hospitals have "wards" where sick people are kept under constant watch and care. British cities and towns have city and borough "wards".

### **"QUIET ENJOYMENT"**

A "ward", then, was in the old days a guarded area in which persons took refuge, dwelt, worked at their crafts, traded or owned property in peace and security; and the duty of its representative - its "warden" - was and still is to see that the dweller in his ward is able to achieve "quiet enjoyment" - as the legal phrase has it - of his chosen way of life. That is why it is still a great honour for an outsider to be made a "freeman" of a city,

In the days of walled cities it was thoroughly understood that nobody could set up workshops, trading houses or even permanent dwellings unless local peace and security were guaranteed. Out in the countryside - in Europe just as much as in Africa - war-lords and armies might rampage, cattle thieves raid the herds, highwaymen rob the traveller, but it was in the quiet, well-ordered city wards that craftsmanship, trade and learning had a chance to grow and prosper. It was so at the great fortified settlement at Zimbabwe; it was so in the great walled cities of West Africa - Ibadan, Abeokuta or Sokoto - and it was so in the stockaded villages here in the old slave-raiding days, This is the historical reason why there is still no national police force in Britain. Each city, county borough and county still has its own police. For this reason also the Queen herself in her state coach still stops at London City boundary for formal permission to enter the city limits.

### **BRITISH PRACTICE**

Thus it is seldom, if ever, that, in Britain at any rate, national politics is permitted to take control of local government. It is true that candidates attached to the Labour Party have often been in a majority in town councils all over Britain and have had control, for instance, of London County Council for very many years; but this is not so much because they are members of a socialist party as because they have a lively and deep-seated interest in the everyday life, health and happiness of the ordinary people. Many conservatives would vote for a socialist town council. Better housing. parks. well-kept streets, good drains and

lighting are all things that Labour Party supporters fight for in local councils; but they do not, at that level, concern themselves at all with - say - nationalisation of industry, "ban the bomb" politics or relations with other countries.

If therefore, a township such as Abercorn is to have an elected management board, it will be the duty of both the voters and the candidate - whoever he may be - to think and work for local objects only. For candidates to confuse the voters with high-flown national policies, or to try to present a township election as one in support of some national politician, is a waste of time and effort. It can only harm the township by drawing people's attention away from the things that matter to them in their everyday life to national affairs which neither township voters nor township candidates have any power to influence.

### **LOCAL INTERESTS**

To bring to bear on local elections all the noisy disputation and sometimes violent action only too often evident in national campaigns can do nothing more than destroy that peace and quiet which all men have a right to enjoy in their dwelling place. Such intrusion of national politics, in fact, can only seem to the reasonable man a direct denial of all those old-established and well-proven benefits which - to the English at any rate - have for a thousand years found much of their expression in the simple term "ward" - whether used, as of old, of a castle; or, as now of a city or even - as is the case in English law - of a little orphan girl who can grow to maturity in peace and happiness as a "ward" of the High Court of Chancery.

The person most useful on a township board is one who is mature, well-balanced, under no orders but those of his own conscience and integrity, with permanent local interests and a real sense of the value he can be to the whole community. It is for such a candidate, willing to give his services without any reward or compensation, that residents should vote if an election comes.

Let us in this small place keep watch and ward over our own affairs and leave party strife and national politics to those who have the duty of shouldering such responsibilities and - incidentally- are quite well paid for doing so.

### **TELL US THE STORY**

What is the true version of the old beliefs about Kapembwa and the other much respected deities of the west shore of Lake Tanganyika?

Recent articles, tourist pamphlets and broadcasts have been calling Kapembwa a goddess; but local Europeans have always understood that he was a god. The colossal crowned head, with its distinct and awesome features, which is to be seen as one passes the sacred spot, is certainly bearded. Formed from the natural features of the mountain side, it is an appearance best seen at a particular distance and in certain light conditions. Thus, strangers and tourists are unlikely to see Kapembwa at all, especially as he must never be pointed at, photographed or looked at through field glasses. His horrid trick, if you insult him on your way north, is to drown you on your way back again.

Is it not a fact that the goddess who looks after the fishermen resides further north in the pile of great boulders on the coastal flats where fishermen camp in their hundreds during the season?

Perhaps someone of the Lungu people who knows all about this splendid old story - which must be one of the finest traditions of the Continent - will write and tell us the correct

version. We will be pleased to pay for and to print a short authoritative account of these west shore deities.

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### **THE MANAGEMENT BOARD; ELECTION OR NOMINATION ?**

A meeting to give residents an opportunity to express their views on whether the Local Government (Elections) Ordinance, 1962, should be applied to Abercorn was held at the T.V.M.I. on Friday, January 18, and was attended by over 100 residents, about evenly divided between Europeans and Africans. The meeting was called as a result of a resolution taken by the Abercorn Town Management Board after discussion by the Board of the provisions of the newly promulgated Ordinance.

Mr. P.R. Metcalfe, District Commissioner, who is Chairman of the Management Board, opening the meeting, said that it was not proposed to put any formal resolution or to take a vote, but to explain the Ordinance so that people could consider whether or not it should be applied to Abercorn,

He explained that at present all members of the Management Board were nominated by the Provincial Commissioner. They were chosen as being representative of residents, but not directly elected. Under the former Ordinance there had been provision for electing Board members, but this had never been applied to Abercorn. If elections to the Management Board were to take place they would be governed by the new procedure.

### ***NINE MEMBERS***

The new Ordinance provided, he said, that a Township should be divided into wards, each electing three members to the Board. The delimitation of the wards would be for the Governor to decide after he had taken the advice of local opinion, but the Ordinance stipulated that each ward should contain property of approximately the same rateable value, The valuation of property would, of course, be determined officially by the Government valuator in the same way as a normal valuation for rating purposes.

Since Mbulu Suburb had never been valued for rating purposes it was not possible to say exactly how Abercorn would be divided, but there would probably be three wards so that the Board would consist of nine members plus the Chairman, the District Commissioner, exofficio.

### ***WHO WOULD VOTE***

The people entitled to register as voters in each ward would be:-

1. Persons owning property in the ward,
2. Companies owning property in the ward. .
3. Persons occupying property in the ward who have written authority to occupy this property.
4. Companies occupying property in the ward, and
5. The wife, or husband, of an owner or an occupier as described above.

No one person or company would be entitled to register more than once as a voter regardless of how many properties he owned or occupied, nor could he register in more than one ward.

This franchise would give the vote to nearly all the adult residents in the Township - subject

to a certain minimum period of residence. By far the majority of voters - whether European or African - would qualify under item 3 above. The Residence Permits held by persons living in Mbulu Suburb, said Mr. Metcalfe, would be sufficient written evidence of qualifying occupation, as also would written contracts of employment entitling the employee to housing provided by the employer within the Township, whether or not the person himself paid rent.

### ***THE CANDIDATES***

A person wishing to stand as a candidate for election to the Board must be:-

1. A registered voter in the Township,
2. Able to understand, speak, read and write English,
3. Proposed by one and seconded by four others, all of them voters registered in the ward he wishes to represent. He need not himself be a voter in that particular ward.

A candidate would not be required to make any deposit on standing for election.

If elections were held they would be quite different from Legislative Council elections as regards constituencies, franchise and qualifications of candidates. In fact almost the only feature which they would have in common with a political election would be the complete secrecy of the vote.

Mr, Metcalfe stated the only Townships to which the new Ordinance had been applied were Mazabuka, Choma and Garneton where elections will take place in April. These townships had already had an elected Board under the former ordinance,

He stressed that the decision whether or not to apply the Ordinance was a matter for the Governor who would, of course, take the advice of his Ministers, and would also, no doubt, consider the views of the local residents, It was for this reason that the meeting had been called.

### ***VOLUNTARY SERVICE***

In answer to questions Mr. Metcalfe said that members of the Board received no payment, either as salary or expenses. Their attendance at meetings and the interest they take in the welfare of the people they represent is entirely a voluntary public service, and this position would remain the same whether they were nominated or elected. The Commissioner of Local government has the power to veto expenditure. Some persons expressed the view that the Ordinance contained defects, but it was pointed out that any amendment to it was a matter for Legislative Council; all that could be discussed at the meeting was the Ordinance as it stood.

Several residents pointed out that the Ordinance provided a considerable measure of democracy in local government and as such was to be commended; the point was also made that so far as possible local government should be divorced from party politics.

A number of people felt that in so small a town as Abercorn, with such a shifting population, elections under the new Ordinance might not in fact provide a true representation of the residents. Another view widely expressed was that it might be as well to postpone any decision until after the first elections under the new Ordinance had been held in the three Townships where it has been applied when it would be possible to form a clearer opinion of its effect. '

### **REMEMBER MPULUNGU 1936?**

(From "Abercorn Notes" - The Bulawayo Chronicle - February 10, 1936, slightly condensed)

"The much needed new quay at Mpulungu Harbour is now completed. It replaces the two loose stone jetties which were provided temporarily to allow the ship to come alongside but which, owing to silting, were becoming a danger to shipping. The new quay, built of steam-driven piles and concrete, was constructed by the Tanganyika Railways at the request of this Government. All the material was brought by the S.S. Liemba which can now come alongside without damage. The work of loading and unloading the vessel is greatly simplified. The completed work has cost about £2,000." The story goes on to press for a cargo shed to be built "before next wet season".

The same issue records the memorial service to the late King George V, conducted by the Rev. E.H. Clark, of Kawimbe at the T.V.M.I. on January 28, 1936, which was attended by almost everyone in the district.

### **FAMILY FORTUNES**

(After. A.A. Milne)

Two old ladies sitting in a parlour,  
For a gossip, a chat, and a nice cup of tea.  
Said the one from Threadneedle Street  
"I hear you had your bag snatched;  
"What an awful shock for you! Oh dearie, dearie me!"

The one from Katanga smiled into her tea-cup.  
"A lot of people wanted it, my dear," said she.  
"You've got British guardsmen  
"To supervise your property.  
"But my methods keep it—hmm—in the family,"  
J.L.C.

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#### **FOR SALE**

TRIUMPH HERALD SALOON, July 1960 Model, 19,000 miles, 998 c.c. engine, twin carburettor version; colour, white; In very good condition-£350  
C.W. Stoertenbeker, I.R.L,C.S, Abercorn. '

ALSATIAN PUPPIES pure-bred bitch imported from UK. Originally for Congo Force Publique.  
Enquiries-Audrey Scotcher Phone 228, Abercorn

#### **WANTED**

GOOD 20 BORE D/B SHOTGUN  
FERREIRA; POST OFFICE.

#### **SOME FINE CATCHES AT KASABA**

Recent' visitors to Kasaba Bay achieved the magnificent catch of 250 lbs. weight of fish in 25 hours fishing. Such an average per hour of good fighting must come close to the rod-and-line fisherman's dream.

Also Mrs. Curtis - in a moment of recreation from running the game reserve Rest Camp -

hooked a wonderful and unique 30 lbs. golden perch fishing from the Camp jetty. This fish, which is being sent south for examination and, perhaps, preservation, has astonished all the experts, and makes Mrs. Curtis herself "First Lady"-at least- of her own "Golden Perch Club".

**New Football Season  
LEAGUE AND OTHER SPORTS UNDER DISCUSSION**  
By CHIKANDA NAMA

The football season is approaching and it has been suggested that, to ensure that the township has a really good team, players should be divided into a number of sides from which the best can be selected to form a representative eleven.

One team from each of the following is proposed:-

1. All Federal Departments;
2. The Boma with the Veterinary, Agricultural, Education, Fisheries and Information Departments;
3. The Police;
4. Red Locust Control;
5. Building, Mechanical and Roads Departments;
6. Township Management Board;
7. C.A.R.S., Shell Co. staff and all others in commercial work.

These teams could form a local league with, perhaps, a cup for the team with most points for the season, and one or two players from each would be selected to play for Abercorn in any inter-town match such as one with Kasama or Mungwi.

The teams would, of course, consist of the best available players whether African or European.

It is also suggested that each team, while primarily a football side, could organise other games such as tennis, rugby etc. It is hoped that those already expert in these games will help to train others, not only in football but in the various other games popular elsewhere in the world and thus make a valuable contribution to the activities of the township.

**MAIL DESPATCHES & DELIVERIES**

Present posting and delivery times for air and surface mails at Abercorn Post Office are:-

**AIRMAILS**

**OUTGOING**

MONDAY.	Fort Rosebery and Lusaka only, Box closes 4 pm, Mondays to connect Kasama aircraft Wednesdays,
TUESDAY.	All South and Overseas. Box closes 3 p.m. Tuesdays.
WEDNESDAY.	Dar Es Salaam and East Africa. Box closes 8 am. Wednesdays.
THURSDAY.	All South and Overseas. Box closes 4 pm, Thursdays

**INCOMING**

WEDNESDAY.	All South and Overseas, Sorted by 11 am.
THURSDAY.	All South and Overseas. Sorted by 4.30 p.m.

## **SURFACE MAILS**

### **OUTGOING**

TUESDAY. South surface. Mpulungu , Box closes 4 pm. Mondays  
WEDNESDAY. South surface and Overseas. Box closes 4 p.m. Tuesdays,  
THURSDAY. Nakonde, Mpulungu, Box closes 4 pm. Wednesdays.  
FRIDAY. South surface, Box closes 4 p.m. Thursdays.  
SATURDAY. Nakonde. Mbeya and East Africa Africa. Box closes 4 p.m, Fridays.

### **INCOMING**

TUESDAY. South surface and Overseas. Sorted by 11.30 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY, South surface. Sorted by 11.30 a.m.  
FRIDAY. South surface and Overseas. Sorted by 11.30 a.m.  
NOTE Articles for registration and parcels must be handed in 30 minutes  
prior to closing times, but more will be heard of all this early in April.

### **“TYPE-LICE”**

One of the first things a printer's apprentice learns is about Type-lice. They are supposed to live among the type and, when it is all set up, well damped with water and ready to be locked up in the form by means of steel wedges, the apprentice is told that if he looks very closely he will see them running about. The “c1icker” then gives a wedge a sharp knock with his mallet and “shooting-stick” whereupon hundreds of fine jets of dirty water spurt straight into the lad’s eyes. Excellent training for teenagers.

However, he later learns, as readers will discover for themselves on page 8, that there really are such things as type-lice which nibble away to cause misprints so quietly that they sometimes remain undetected until it is too late - especially in Africa.

### **ANY OLD IRONS?**

Abercorn Club Golf Section: urgently requires second-hand golf clubs.

Anyone who has clubs but has given up the game and has no further use for them is asked to contact the Golf Member and give the Club the opportunity of making the first offer.

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## **CHURCH SERVICES**

ST PAUL'S & ST. FRANCIS

### **Holy Mass every Sunday**

At St. Francis; 7 am. (sermon in Bemba or Mambwe) 8 a.m. (sermon in English)

At St. Paul's 6.30 am. (sermon in Bemba)

8.30 a.m. (High mass with sermon in Bemba)

At Catholic Welfare. Hall, (Abercorn Location) 9.30 am. (High mass with sermon in-Bemba or Mambwe)

### **Holy Mass 'daily**

At St. Francis; 6. 15. am,

At St. Paul's; 6. 30\_'a.m. ,

**Meetings and Classes at Catholic welfare Hall.**

Mondays at 5 pm: St Vincent de Paul Conference  
Tuesdays at 4. 30 pm: Instruction for catechumens.

**Meetings of the Legion of Mary:-**

Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m. Adults .  
Thursdays at 4.30 p.m. Boys  
Fridays at 4.30 p.m. Girls;

Confessions: every Saturday at 3.00 pm, and everyday before Holy Mass.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Francis every Saturday at 6 p.m

At St. Francis (in the library)

There will be a meeting of the Patricians and of the Non-Denominational discussion group.  
Time and date will be announced later,

'N,.B Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent; falls on February 27th

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

Evening Services 6.30 pm  
Sunday, February 24; Mr. G. Coulter '  
Sunday, ' March-3, -Rev. Woffenden  
Sunday, March 10 -Mr, W.D. Westwood  
Sunday, March 17 Mr. A Scott  
The Lords Supper C.S. I. Order -1st Sunday of" every month'

The Women's World of Prayer: Friday, March 1st. Services will be held  
In the vernacular in the United Church, '(near the African hospital) at about 2.30 p.m.  
In English in All Saints Church at 5.30 p.m.  
All are warmly invited to attend one or both of the services.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CENTRAL AFRICA**

Sunday School'—at 8.30 a.m.  
Service every Sunday at 9. 30 am. :  
Meetings and Classes in the Church:  
Tuesdays, 4 p.m.-Instruction for catechumens.  
Wednesdays 4pm -Prayer Meeting;  
Thursdays, 4 p.m. -Instruction for hearers. '  
Fridays, 2 p.m.- K.B.B.K

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**ABERCORN CLUB**

The Annual General Meeting of Abercorn Club took place on Wednesday. January 30. and was attended by over 50 members. In the absence of Mr. McNish, Mr. K. Kuhne took the chair. On opening the meeting Mr. Kuhne said he would take this opportunity of drawing the attention of members to the various ordinances governing the operation of clubs. He mentioned in particular that the provision restricting the use of the Club to members only was of the greatest importance, as any infringement could cause the Club to be closed down. The only permissible visitors were persons from a distance properly introduced by a member and' non-members residing in the Abercorn district could in no circumstances

make use of the club even as visitors. The very occasional "open" functions which had been held in the past would not now be possible.

The election of the Club's officers and Committee resulted as follows:—

President: K. Kuhne Esq.  
Vice-President: Miss A.M. Gamwell O.B.E.  
Chairman: D. Vesey-Fitzgerald Esq., M.B.E.  
Secretary: Mr. M. Farina  
Treasurer: Mr. P. McLoughlin  
Alternate: Mr. P. Scotcher  
Bar Member: Mr. P. Tobin  
Alternate: Mr. P. Harris  
House Member: Mrs. P. McLoughlin  
Golf Member: Mr. S. Richards  
Tennis Member: Mrs. J. Missen  
Theatre Member: Miss J.M. Carlin M.B.E.  
Yachting Member: Mr. K. Stortenbeker  
Entertainment Member: Mr. G. Dean

During a general discussion arising out of the Chairman's explanation of the importance of enforcing the provisions of the Ordinances governing clubs, attention was drawn to the rules regarding applications for membership. These are:—

1. An applicant must be proposed by a member and seconded by another member of the Club.
2. The application, with the names of proposer and seconder is then posted on the Club noticeboard for one calendar month.
3. Before the application goes forward to the Committee it must be supported by the signatures of ten or more further members.
4. It is then considered by the Committee whose decision is final.

### **FERTILITY AT CHILA**

A great sacred python, according to African legend, has lived for centuries in the pool at the Lake Chila outlet. There used to be a sacrificial ceremony there each May. The spirit was grossly insulted, people said, by the efforts of the late Humphrey Nash (When he was D.A. here) to stabilise the level of the lake with a sandbag dam and it was this interference, they thought, which caused the lake almost to dry up some years ago. Perhaps this powerful influence - probably a fertility cult - is now restored for, we hear, the household pet of an already populous family living in those parts has lately had a litter of no fewer than 12 fine pups. (See "Sma1ls")

The range of Aberconucopia is increasing with each issue. There is even, this time, an unsolicited advertisement from Umtali. It is a pity, though that even an Ndola professional should misquote us and thus cause some little doubt locally as to our always excellent intentions.

### **THE SEASON'S RAINFALL**

Local rainfall figures are still well ahead of the averages for the season and there have been a number of very heavy, though isolated, falls in the last three or four weeks.

Among the most violent was that of January 25 which recorded 1.29 ins. in half-an-hour on

Mr. W.V. Morony's gauge and was accompanied, in his area and in Abercorn by exceptionally large-sized hail. Mr. Morony made careful measurements of one piece which he found to be 1% ins.  
x 1} ins. x § in.

The figures at January 31 were :-

STATION	JANUARY	TOTAL
Post Office	12.20	22.98
I.R.L.C.S.	11.16	26.52
Airport	10.12	28.88
Isanya 2	11.37	29.75
Mpulungu -	12.87	26.08

### **A CASE DISMISSED**

The Anglo-Italian motor vehicle encounter, reported elsewhere in this issue, led to a prosecution in which Mr. G. Basili was fined the nominal sum of E1 on a charge of "dangerous driving".

On the same day, Thursday, February 21, he was recalled to the Court, his fine was returned and he was informed that the case was dismissed by reason of the fact that the street along which he was driving "has not been gazetted."

### **ABERCORN CHURCH COUNCIL**

An Extraordinary General Meeting of Abercorn Church Council will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 8, to discuss the committee's findings on the proposal to make a ; to the United Church's n building in Abercorn.

### **WHAT NEWS FROM MBULU?**

What do people do in Mbulu Suburb? That is the 64,000 dollar question. Who knows what goes on? Certainly not anyone in this office - despite trying sedulously to find out

The library continues to function in what remains of the old Welfare Hall; there is a Welfare Committee; there are occasional entertainments at the Catholic Welfare Hall (most them arranged off the cuff'), The only association - outside politics - that has any life in it is the Football Club; and the lower school headmaster seems to be the only man who tries to organise entertainment.

It seems passing strange that among some thousands of residents there is apparently little done to bring a little gaiety to people's lives.

Perhaps the Welfare committee will let us know what plans they have. We are only too willing to print such news just because it IS news.

Mbulu Suburb traders are giving us whole-hearted support; now what's wanted is some news of what goes on.

There is the challenge! Lets have your reply!

## **LAKEVIEW HOTEL**

### **EXTENSIONS PLANNED**

Although - as I wrote previously - there is no longer any hotel actually within the township, visitors to Abercorn will find comfortable, fully licensed accommodation only a few miles out on the way to one of the district's main attractions - Lake Tanganyika.

This is, of course, at the beautifully sited Lakeview Hotel, well known to scores of C.A.A. 'Package Tourists' to Kasaba Bay and to hundreds of other visitors. Its amenities have been fully described and illustrated in current tourist literature and in a recent full-page article in a Sunday newspaper.

The accommodation at present available consists of six double rooms, each with bath, and three double rooms in a cottage annexe; and these facilities - while making no specific mention of the 'hote1 - I previously described as "limited - though high-standard - accommodation". I had in mind, of course, the regular overnight provision for C.A.A. crews on Thursdays and for Kasaba Bay visitors booked« through C.A.A. The fact that the hotel, as I mentioned, has these firm airways commitments is, of course, practical evidence of its good standards of comfort.

Mrs. Anne Parton, the proprietress, disagreeing that these facilities should be described as "limited", tells me; 'Give us the business and we'll show you whether we're limited" and adds, "Remember, we've never turned anybody away", - assurances which I am pleased to convey.

I am, however, even more pleased to learn from Mrs. Parton that the three annexe rooms are at the moment being provided with bathrooms and that plans are going ahead for the building of six single rooms. This is excellent news and will provide fully modernised accommodation for some 25 adults. I know, too, that in the event of any unusual demand a few more people can be accepted by special arrangement.

The magnificent view of the Lake - especially when the air is clear as it is at this time of year - the pleasant gardens and the comfortable yet modern furnishings of bar and public rooms quite off-set the slight disadvantage of the seven' miles, distance from the township centre and, in any case, transport is provided for all booked and other visitors from the airport and, by 'arrangement to the town when required.

A special attraction of the hotel is the scheduled motor launch cruise on the Lake every Sunday which, for the moderate charge of £1 a head, includes buffet lunch at the hotel and tea on board the M.V. Triton—notable for the fact that her novel "trimaran" design provides, speed and comfort with perfect safety and freedom from rolling which appeals to many who might otherwise hesitate in taking what almost amounts to a short ocean voyage.

### **BAR-FLY**

#### **CURRENT COMMENT**

It is not always easy to live in the same room with a mirror. The teen-age girl who despairs of bringing a half-formed face up to that precise mask of beauty which current fashion demands; the ageing woman who cannot bear the look of the creature staring at her from the glass, are two examples. Thai is why, of course, every woman believes passionately that to break a mirror brings seven years' bad luck. If she didn't, a terrible lot of mirrors

would get broken!

Politicians too - whose mirror is the Press - are often dismayed by the reflection they find confronting them, If they possess the instinctive wisdom of the sensible woman, they either adjust the image by discreet modifications of their public face or learn to live with it. and take the consequences. If they lack this wisdom, they break the mirror—by abolishing a free Press—and, lacking any guidance, find that the terror which walks beside haphazard power is more evil a curse than a mere seven years' had luck,

## **CORNELIUS**

### **THE LAKE LEVEL**

In 'Round the North-' on Thursday evening, January 31, F.B.C.'s Alistair Mackenzie somewhat rashly wondered whether the high level of Lake Tanganyika at that date was an "all-time record.

On February 4 the lake just reached the level of the main Liemba quay, built - as recalled elsewhere in this issue - 27 years ago this month. The highest level reached in those 27 years was about six inches above that quay, as recalled by Mr. J.H. Venning, who was making much use of his own boat on the lake during most of those years. Also in the first week of February, Albertville Jetty was 1 ft. 2 ins. and Kigoma Jetty' 3 ft. above the water, but the oil installation at Kigoma was only 18 ins. "in the dry". All the Rift lakes are at similarly high levels this season and one port on Lake Victoria has been abandoned.

In 1892, however the Lake was about 25 feet higher than recent normal levels. In that year the break—through occurred at Lukunga into the Lualaba river and its level dropped with great rapidity, causing Marshall - the first B.S.A. Company official here - to express concern lest it should be drying up! The lake's enormous depth was not then realised. Although this outlet has silted up badly, the stream pouring through it was recently reported to be 7 feet deep.

### **SEVEN ISLANDS**

About 100 years ago when Livingstone visited the southern end of the lake he recorded seeing seven islands. Now there are two. With the water at a much higher level, he would have seen "Pig Island" as two islets, "Tiger Point" as another, two more would be the hill 'behind the port area and the one on which the burned out fisheries house stood, while "Crocodile island" may also have appeared as two islets.

Thus, the lake has been substantially higher at least three times in the last 100 years. If, however, one is looking for "all-time" records, there is the "low level raised beach" at 15 feet above the datum line (as accepted by archaeology) on which man has lived—and consumed vast quantities of shell-fish—at various times during the last 10,000 years. The dispensary is built on this beach and a few years ago the 800 years' old skeleton of a woman was found in its enclosure almost at surface level.

Earlier still—about 45,000 years ago - the level was at the point marked by the "high-level raised beach" traceable all round the southern end of the lake. On this beach - some 70 feet above the datum line and in some places far inland - Sangoan man left stone tools in profusion.

Thus the use of the expression "all-time record" - however applicable it may be to the four-minute mile, is a somewhat risky one to apply to the Rift lakes. .

## Rehearsals Again

It's started again -rehearsal for A.C.T.S. new play. So back to early dinner - or sandwiches between scenes - frantic calls of- "Isn't Paul back yet?"-Joan Carlin's calm statement, "It's only 10.30, no one wants to go home, so we'll run through it again." The play, "Watch it, Sailor", sequel to "Sailor Beware!", is scheduled for the end of March with substantially the same cast. There has been no lack of volunteers for behind the scenes work, but the cast has its difficulties. One aspiring actor, faced with baby-sitting troubles, has actually persuaded his mother-in-law guest that she should not risk the rigours of England's dreadful winter and MUST stay until the end of March. Another visiting grannie, however, seems determined to escape. In this case, however, the arm of the law, combined with the arms of Morpheus, should be able to cope.

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### CHILA CHAT

Bouquet this month again goes outside our own small and closely knit community, to a Bulawayo daily publication. Their report of the rise in the level of Lake Tanganyika spoke of "the imminent submersion of this densely populated area and its thriving fishing industry". I hear that the "Lyashi" reporters rushed to Mpulungu after the F .B.C. had mentioned water levels in a news broadcast; perhaps it's just as well that "Lyashi" has no correspondent in Bulawayo.

After all the somewhat inane and naive "noises off" over elected or nominated management boards, is it within the realms of possibility that the present board,- appointed, nominated, anointed, elected or excommunicated for all I care - will actually DO something about the township roads? If you live off the main street or the upper-crust approaches, it is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish "road" from the surrounds, whether they be drains, other householders' brave attempts at gardens, or Bill Morony's landscapes. I do note, however, that a new access road is being prepared to the cemetery. Is there perhaps any significance in this?

"Smalls", suggested by another columnist last month, have, I am told, caught on. Apparently the rates are very cheap and this should prove a useful feature, in that it provides a service that the community has not had before. Of course this is the purpose of Abercornucopia, but it cannot go on with only the same people churning the "stuff" out month after month. There is talent in Abercorn - you only had to be at the Residents' meeting at the T.V.M.I. last month and hear John Mandona so skilfully pass the "buck" and Roland Anderson play so professionally to the gallery, to realise that the potential is here—in speech at any rate!

Congratulations to that peripatetic travelling salesman who has at last had his flowing locks trimmed! I wonder if he will declare the proceeds from the sale of his tonsure in his next income tax return? Mark you he would have to earn a colossal salary to exhaust the number of rebates he's entitled to!

Seems there is some disagreement between the powers that are in the veterinary world. One day the Sumbawanga border is closed because of "foot and mouth", and the next an edict comes from Lusaka that imports are again allowed! I can tell you off the record that the border is again sealed and likely to remain so for some time yet. Latest slight difference of opinion seems to have been over whether bees and their honey come properly within veterinary control. If professional gentlemen had unions there would be a

fine chance of 4a “demarcation” argument here—wouldn't there Vesey?

Momentary indecision the other day as to the correct. order of precedence in an Anglo-Italian encounter at a road intersection, although somewhat injurious to the respective vehicles, has had valuable results, The Township Management Board immediately ordered an inspection of all corners. Any low tree branches, bushes or long grass obscuring drivers' vision at cross-roads are being removed, Luckily nothing much more than a Shetland pony got away before this stable door was shut.

An impertinent - but amusing - suggestion about our title comes . from a reader in England (Yes! We have one!) He writes: “A good nick-name for it would be ‘Corny’. we don't mind so long as it is used in the matey sort of way which belongs to nicknames; but anyone making an epithet out of it might find themselves in a “pistols for two: coffee for one” situation.

Any lady or gentleman wishing to make a complaint - particularly any lady - is asked to do so in the from of a letter to the editor which will be given cartful attention, The traditional call 2, ' the printing office with a horse-whip - whether actual or metaphorical - should be left until other means of protest have failed. In any case the editor's decision on actual use of the horsewhip will be final,

#### MINUTES AND MEMORANDA

First, apologies to any lady housekeepers who may have taken me seriously about the “two lonely bachelors”. Actually, the idea of a joint household never really got off the ground.

#### ***Yachting***

After the General Meeting, which re-elected the committee en bloc, Ted Davies very kindly presented the trophies, to Anyk Stortenbeker—Graduate champ., to Peter Bowyer—most improved helmsman, and the burgees to those who had earned AND paid for them. Ted was then presented with an honorary burgee for himself and promptly made certain that no one could complain of an unquenched thirst

The annual regatta will again be held over the Whitsun weekend June, 1st, 2nd and 3rd. In the months until then handicap racing will be staged on the third Sunday every month - February 17 March, 17 April 21 and May 19. The helmsman with the 'best average over at least six races will be the winner of the Scotcher trophy.

There was a good deal of talk at the General Meeting about finances, or rather the lack of them. No doubt the committee will be bringing forward some novel ideas for raising cash, but perhaps a little help might be forthcoming from just ordinary sailors?

#### ***Snooker***

The table continues to. be well patronised, but it does seem as if all Nobby's hard work on ladders -and “penny-a-point” has come to nought. Mark you it may be that this is the one game that is played for fun!

#### ***Football Club***

The season opens officially in April, and we will be publishing the fixture list as soon as this has been decided. This co1umn's suggestion last month of a league on Kasama lines has taken root, and attempts are now being made to arrange something definite. We are waiting to see, the Federal Departments doing battle with the P.A.! Any helpful suggestions

should be passed to Aston Muswaba at the Post Office.

### ***Golfing***

Stan Richards is the new golf member and has certainly started off in great style with a committee meeting lasting a marathon 4 hours or more, or virus that Eve's fault really, Stan? The bridge evenings are becoming a regular feature and have 'been very' well supported. We did hear that Stan had actually talked that merchanted giant out of some fuel for the tractor but this hasn't been confirmed. Certainly the course needs some cutting; even the hydroponics are growing at last! The competition list is published elsewhere, but all handicaps have got to be verified before the season officially gets under weigh.

### ***Tennis***

Quite obviously there is a firm and, (may we say it?) aggressive committee with every conceivable idea to be tried. The bougainvillea has already been serve rely pruned; charges for this, that and the other are to I be levied; competitions organised, even the 'bar is to open at the club on Sunday afternoons for the exhausted players to restore their equilibria. Well done Joan, you'll resurface the two courts and if you're not careful and be building a third .one before you're finished. Friendly tennis is on all the time, and we hear confidentially that even some ladies thought to have 'retired' have been seen lately disporting themselves in whites. — Where did you get those blisters from, Margot?

An excellent scheme has been put forward for physical training sessions. Cliff Putterill, who is a qualified P.T. Instructor, has been persuaded to help. The idea is to start with beginners' classes — men and women together—and, as people notice the benefit, see where we go from there. So, whether you are 18 or 80, apply or registration to Stan Richards.

The Horticulturals are having some difficulty presenting the miniature cups to- their trophy winners from last year. Can it be that one of the officers has mislaid the list of winners?