

# ABERCORNUCOPIA

## A VILLAGE REVIEW

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G. P. O. AS A NEWSPAPER

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### Dr. Kaunda's Visit

Dr. Kaunda's first visit to Abercorn as Prime Minister, from 3.30 on Thursday, March 5, to 8.30 next morning, was a pleasing blend of important duty and social relaxation.

His main purpose was to meet and address the newly formed District Council which will in due course take over local administration of the area and this meeting with the Councillors was not open to the general public.

In a brief talk with our representative at the airport on his departure, Dr. Kaunda said that Abercorn Hospital and health services would be benefiting from the expenditure on development which has just been announced, and that major work on the Mpulungu Road would be carried out from the same funds. Asked if any consideration had been given to routing the Tanganyika rail link through this area, Dr. Kaunda said that the Tunduma route was definite.

Dr. Kaunda was the guest of the District Commissioner Mr. P.R. Metcalfe and Mrs. Metcalfe on Thursday night and among the guests that evening were Mr. Gavin Barr, District Officer, and Mrs. Barr. Mr. Barr, an accomplished guitarist, has two instruments. Knowing the Prime Minister's love of music, Mr. Barr brought both instruments and he and Dr. Kaunda together held a musical session which made a most relaxed and enjoyable evening. The Prime Minister's real mastery of the instrument impressed everyone.

### TOWN BOARD'S SIX HOURS MEETING

The latest meeting of the Abercorn Town Management Board occupied 6½ hours on two successive days—February 21 and 22.

Most of this time was spent in discussion of two items on the agenda concerned with recent difficulties arising from disciplinary action taken in the case of Mr. Sichangwa, who is employed as Labour Supervisor under the Town Foreman, Mr. H. Roskilly.

It was reported to the Board that Mr. Sichangwa had recently been suspended from his employment after having twice been found absent from his duties—contrary to the terms of his employment—once by the Town Foreman and once by him and the Secretary together. Certain other irregularities included instances where he was alleged to have countermanded or otherwise varied instructions given to work gangs by the Town Foreman.

Both Mr. Sichangwa and Mr. Roskilly were interviewed by the Board.

The meeting then decided by a vote that the allegations were wellfounded and in a subsequent ballot it was decided the Mr. Sichangwa be severely reprimanded; that he be re-instated without loss of pay for two months at the expiry of which period the Secretary would render a report; and that a list of duties and a schedule of working hours should be compiled and presented to the Board immediately.

The second item producing a lengthy discussion was a letter received from the local branch of the United National Independence Party. This letter made a number of general allegations concerning the relations between Mr. Roskilly and the African staff and concluded with a 'demand' that, whatever decision was come to in the case of Mr. Sichangwa, the present Town Foreman should be replaced.

Continued on Page Two

### NEW MEMBER'S PLANS FOR ABERCORN

Mr. J.S. Sinyangwe M.L.A., who left Abercorn with Mr. Kapwepwe to take the seat for this area in the new Legislative Assembly, in an interview with ABERCORNUCOPIA, has given a summary of the work he hopes to be able to do for the benefit of his constituency.

Speaking first on general matters, Mr. Sinyangwe said: "I will, of course, be working strictly in accordance with the policy of the United National Independence Party. There is much to be done and it is obvious that we cannot do everything at once.

"I would like to see people of all races working and co-operating with one another economically, educationally and socially"

Asked whether he could say what specific local matters he had in mind for attention, Mr. Sinyangwe said: "There are some major local cases which are going to be looked into. It is my intention to meet the different associations of Abercorn, hear their views and learn what next step we are going to adopt so that people will mix freely together".

"There are many Europeans who fear African government. They think Africans will deprive them of their rights, which is not the intention either of my government or of myself as representative of the area."

Asked again if he had any specific matters in mind, Mr. Sinyangwe replied: "Well, of course, we have no hospital."

Reminded that there is a quite large and—for a rural area—reasonably well-equipped hospital whose resources have steadily improved over a very long period, Mr. Sinyangwe said: "It can hardly be called a hospital. The building and equipment are out-of-date and inadequate. I shall be putting the matter to the Minister of Health in due course.

"Abercorn has been seriously neglected for a long time. For instance, I am interested in the Yendwe Valley, Chief Chitimbwa's area. I want to see the Kambole road improved and established as a route through to the Game Reserve and I shall be consulting with my Mporokoso colleague on this matter."

"Then education in the area goes no further than Standard VI. We must have provision for secondary education here".

Asked if he had any intention of pressing for a tarmac surface to the Mpulungu Road, Mr. Sinyangwe said: "I have been giving a good deal of thought to the Mpulungu situation. It is certainly going to be an important industrial area and I hope to get the Government really interested in the injection of more capital into the area. Much depends on the support of the lake-shore people and we shall hope to help local interests to obtain their full co-operation in the development plans which are in progress.

"I also want to work for the encouragement of farmers and to influence help for them by means of loans so that they can establish the production of a diversity of cash crops."

Asked if he had given any thought to the possibility of influencing the route of the proposed Tanganyika rail link nearer to Abercorn, Mr. Sinyangwe said he had not gone into this matter but thought it might be very much more expensive for Northern Rhodesia than the present plan. He could give no opinion on it until he knew more of the intentions and policy of the Minister concerned.

(See Page 5)

C. B. C. SHOPS

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# THE NEW HESPERIDES

Islands have always fascinated men. Since the dawn of myth, legend and literature man has seen in them some hope of building the kind of life he wants to live; and he has been right, for all the great civilisations of both the old and the new worlds have arisen either on islands, or in near-islands or in areas so easily defensible—such as Egypt—that the growth of culture in them is almost as secure as it has so often been in islands themselves. It is not an accident that Britain was for so long the leader in our present culture; or that Japan leads it in Asia today.

"The Hesperides", "The Happy Isles", "The Isles of the Blest", the "Utopias" of More, Butler and Swift; Shakespear's unnamed island of "The Tempest" (where "The isle is full of noises, sounds and sweet airs that give delight and hurt not")—all these are witness to the strong appeal of some "sea-girt" paradise.

Thus, islands fascinate imperialists. Britain has been one of the ablest practitioners in the art of using them as stepping stones to world power. A list of the islands—or near-islands—she has acquired or "protected", and sometimes discarded, from time to time in the last 400 years would fill this column. A few are:—Heligoland,

Corfu, Malta, Cyprus, Ascension, St. Helena, Christmas, Trinidad, the Bahamas, hundreds of Caribbean, East Indian and Pacific islands, Newfoundland, Zanzibar, Hong Kong, Lagos, Singapore and the near-islands of Gibraltar, Aden and the Cape Peninsula.

And now there are new, different and perhaps more ruthless imperialisms. Just as Britain did not seriously embark on her stepping-stone technique until she had consolidated the three kingdoms in her own island (so that the Portuguese and the Dutch preceded her) so these new forces have had to feel secure in their homelands before reaching out into the great world—from stone to stone across the raging torrent of other men's lives and aspirations.

What has given them this feeling of security is not real consolidation and prosperity at home but the virtually universal renunciation of large-scale war as an instrument of policy. The homelands are safe not because they are rich and prosperous but because others are convinced that it would be suicide to attack them. They have, as it were, left Samson chained to the pillar of the temple knowing that if he moves he will bring the whole edifice about his head, while they go on foraging expeditions among Samson's property. And, as the phrase has it, this is "nice work if you can get it."

Thus has the "cold war" technique spread to islands. Cuba is now an old story. Its heat glowed, flickered and died; but the embers are there and can be fanned into flame again in an instant. Cyprus is now aflame. A British fire-brigade has doused it for the moment and the flames have now for some time been smothered by "talks".

Zanzibar flared up the moment the blanket of "talks" was removed. Most remote, primitive and least regarded of the three, its conquest was instant and complete and no one will rescue it now. Aden proved too tough

a nut for the Yemenis and Egyptians to crack by assault; but now looks like being "softened-up" by a political attack on the South Arabian Federation—just as Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia were "softened-up" by the successful political assault on the Central African Federation.

The Malaysian crisis is aimed at Singapore. Hong Kong is not yet directly threatened. It is too useful as China's postern gate to the western world. It will be interesting to see what happens to Malta when the "talks" stop and somebody gets "independence".

The knowledgeable ones are busy determining how much of all this is Russian and how much of it is Chinese—and I suppose it matters.

What is impressive to any-

one with a sense of history is the immense speed with which all this is being done. As I have said, Britain acquired her multiplicity of islands in 400 years; but these new imperialists are, either openly or clandestinely, establishing themselves in the world's strategically important islands so fast that it does not seem beyond the bounds of possibility that one or other—or both—of them may reach a similar geographical dominance in 400 weeks—a fiftieth of the time.

The difference is, though, that there does not seem to be much "trade" to follow "the flag"—only disastrous Communist "planning" which has already starved millions in China and Russia and will starve millions more before the world's people awake to their peril.

CORNELIUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

The Secretary's reply to this letter was before the meeting. It pointed out that no specific instances of the conduct complained of were given in the letter and that no staff difficulties had arisen during the 18 months Mr. Roskilly has served as Town Foreman.

After a long discussion the Board endorsed the reply made by the Secretary, pointing out that action in the case of such complaints can be taken only in specific instances supported by detailed evidence of the circumstances.

## BETTER WATER SUPPLY

Another important matter decided by the meeting was the extension of the township water supply which is now barely adequate to serve the new extensions of the Mbulu Suburb.

This matter has been under consideration for some time and attention was drawn to it in our issue of September 3 last.

After the Chairman had reported on discussions held with the Consultant Engineer, it was resolved to apply immediately for a loan of £15,000. This is to cover the installation of one 50,000 gallon high level storage tank, one 60,000 gallon low level storage tank, one new borehole pump, a 6-inch pipe-line to replace the present 4-inch rising main, one new 25/30 h.p. Diesel engine and certain pipework alterations. Tenders for the high level tank are to be called for immediately.

It was announced that the African Housing Board had approved a loan for a further 16 houses in the Mbulu Suburb, but approval had yet to be received from the Ministry. These are to be superior type 4-roomed houses similar to those already built but with internal washing and sanitary provision and certain other interior improvements.

The present members of the Board are:— Mr. P.R. Metcalfe, Chairman; Miss J.M. Carlin, Mr. D. Currie, Fr. A. Ideler W.F., Mr. H.S. Lydon, Mr. C. Musonda, Mr. I. Nkumbula, Mr. G.P. Sikazwe and Mr. A.K. Walimbe.

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**MORE AFRICAN  
RESIDENTS**

The Editor  
Sir,

While scrapping an old file I came across the following Abercorn Township population figures for July, 1959.

Europeans	132
Africans	1,281
Eurafricans	5
Indians	5

Can you give the present figures?

Yours faithfully,  
W D Westwood

Enquiry establishes that these figures were the estimate current at that date—although they seem somewhat low. The present estimate—based on the recent census is:

Europeans	200
Africans	3,500
Eurafricans	10
Asians	10

This indicates a very substantial and real increase in the African population but little significant change in the number of Europeans which has remained at about the 200 mark for a long time. The figure for Europeans quoted in the official 1949 handbook was 97—Editor.

**THE PENALTY IN SNOOKER**

The Editor

Can a game of snooker open with a penalty? At the Club the other evening the opening player missed the reds completely and his ball hit the black. His opponent claimed seven. Others contend that the game has not begun until a red has been struck and that no penalty can be incurred until the game has begun. If the opening player succeeds in missing everything at his first shot, is he also penalised? Some people would give the poor bloke another chance. But if his ball strikes a colour the table has been disarranged and the stroke must either count as a penalty or the coloured ball be re-spotted. What is the law in these situations?

**SNOOKERED**

**SISTER TEACHER PLAN  
FOR ABERCORN  
SCHOOL**

At a parents' meeting on February 25 there was considerable discussion of the problem of providing teaching staff for Abercorn fee-paying primary school which would have some prospect of permanency.

Mrs. Alder, who undertook the work only a few weeks ago, now has to leave on the transfer of her husband to Kasama; and Mrs. Dyer, the only other qualified person available, although she has agreed to fill the post for the time being, will be leaving with her husband at the end of May.

It is understood that the Chigwell Sisters, who are already providing nursing staff for the hospital, would be able to supply also a qualified teaching sister for the school, provided the Education Department and parents agree to this solution.

If this plan proves acceptable, it is likely that the Sister appointed would remain for seven years and could be accommodated with the other members of her Order already here.

The meeting, it is understood, decided by nine votes to four in favour of a Sister being asked for, some parents abstaining from voting because they are due to leave shortly. The feeling among the majority was that the benefits of having a permanent teacher far outweighed any disadvantages there might be in this solution of the problem.

**AFRICA'S OLDEST TOWN  
SITE?**

Is Abercorn the oldest consistently inhabited township site in Africa?

I write "consistently" rather than "continuously" because there must have been intervals arising from climatic conditions and migratory movements when it was without human residents, but it has been "consistently" a place where men have lived over a very long period of time.

The story—so far as we know—begins with Acheulian man, whose relics are also found all over Europe. He lived on the banks of the river then flowing where Lake Chila is now. It may have been a bigger river than the Lucheche and it was certainly at a level 30 feet below the present level of the lake—perhaps much lower, because the hills at the present outlet were higher and had not then eroded down, depositing the boulders and rubble which now fills the former gorge and dams back the stream to form the present lake.

It will surprise newcomers to hear that when Lake Chila drained very nearly dry nine years ago, it was possible to walk dry-shod from the diving board to a point above the Yacht Club not far from the palms—skirting the end of the disappearing stream.

Abercorn's water supply was then pumped from the lake itself near the present pumping station and the intake was left high and dry. In an effort to preerve the supply, the P.W.D. attempted to sink a well a few yards out from the shore line near the earth jetty bearing the Golf Club's water hole tee.

They dug into typical lake-bed clayey sands for ten or twelve feet but the well collapsed and was of no use.

The spoil heaps from this well showed that it had been dug right into an Acheulian stone-age "floor" and a number of perfect hand-axes and bolas stones in "mint" condition were recovered before the lake rose

again, showing that ancient man had lived and made his hunting weapons there when the water was at least 15 or 20 feet below the present lake bed and 30 feet or more below the present lake level.

These hand-axes were pronounced by Dr. J. Desmond Clark as identical in type with the Acheulian tools found at Kalambo (25 miles away) which were dated by the C14 process to 57,300 years before the present.

The next people of whom we have evidence are the Late Middle Stone Age people who left the debris of their arrowhead and spear-point manufacture in the sands of Lake Chila's beaches which were also exposed at the time the level dropped. They lived there more than 10,000 years ago.

Profuse traces of later occupation—not as yet dated but approaching Neolithic times—exist in the Mbulu stream valley.

Then came the iron people, the ruins of whose furnaces may still be found below the Lake Chila outlet and also on the Mbulu stream.

The next evidence is that of the photograph in the T.V.M.I. collection showing the slave stockade of 75 years ago, and in 1893 we come to the establishment of the administrative post and the modern documented history of the place.

Few, if any, town sites in Africa—perhaps in the world—have such a long record of human habitation—certainly not London or New York—for there are few existing towns in places where geological conditions have been so stable over such an immense period. J.L.C.

Mr. Simon Kapwepwe, Minister of Home Affairs, paid a short visit to Abercorn on February 29. The constantly rainy weather prevented the organisation of any large rally and he spent half-an-hour in conference with local U.N.I.P. officials.

GET GOING—  
COME OUT OF YOUR SHELL  
—WITH



# —COMING EVENTS IN

MARCO

## ST. PAULS AND ST. FRANCIS SPECIAL EASTER SERVICES

Catholic Church, Abercorn:

**Holy Week Service:**

22nd March: Palm Sunday:

At St. Francis: H. Mass at 7.30 a.m.

At St. Paul's & at the Catholic Welfare Hall:

Blessing of the Palm, Palm Procession, H. Mass at 9 a.m.

26th March: Holy Thursday:

At St. Paul's: Service at 6.30 p.m.

27th March: Good Friday:

At St. Paul's: Way of the Cross at 3.00 p.m.  
Service at 4.00 p.m.

28th March: Easter Saturday:

At St. Paul's: Service at 7.00 p.m.

29th March: Easter Sunday:

At St. Francis: H. Mass at 7.30 a.m.

At St. Paul's: High Mass at 7.30 a.m.

At the Catholic Welfare Hall: High Mass at 9 a.m.

## "ALERT GIRL" WINNER

Winner of the small contest announced last month for "the most nice alert girl" who is wanted as a pen pal by somebody in Sweden, was:-

Miss Jean Mee.

Jean is the step-daughter of Mr. Meis Marbus and is at present staying with her mother in Abercorn.

She has been at Fatima School, Ndola, and other schools in Southern Rhodesia but has been somewhat handicapped in her later education by ill-health from which she has now quite recovered.

Jean's principal interest is dress-making and she has lately been working at this in Ndola and Kitwe. She hopes also to continue her education at night school or by correspondence.

Jean is a bright, pretty girl of seventeen—in our view as "alert" as anyone could wish and "nicer" than any young man in faraway Sweden has any right to expect.

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## KELLETT FAMILY LEAVES ABERCORN

Mr. Peter Kellett, with Mrs. Kellett and their young child. will be leaving Abercorn shortly after a stay of 12 years during which Peter and his parents made a sustained effort to build a permanent life here which it has proved impossible to continue.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Kellett, with Peter, who was then a schoolboy, were "overlanders" and Cliff drove a truck with his family and possessions south through the desert route to Kivu Province, Congo, where he spent a season looking after a Belgian pyrethrum estate.

They then came on south to the Copperbelt where Cliff picked up a good job and Peter who was then aged 14, went to school for two years at Bulawayo. Cliff comes from a Yorkshire family who for several generations had operated a family rope-making business and they made hundreds of miles of rope of all kinds for the Admiralty in World War II. Thus Cliff is a rigger born and bred and in addition is a very experienced small-boat man who has built many hulls including one which was Peter's first sailing boat when he was aged eight.

As many will remember, it was Cliff Kellett who designed and built the excellent trimaran hull now operated by Peter Parton, who of course, did the engineering work and financed the venture.

When Peter was 16 he joined his father on the mines, but his parents found that Peter—one of those lads who puts all his energy into everything all the time—had undertaken the heavy and anxious underground mining work at too early an age and his health seemed likely to suffer.

Three years later, therefore, in 1952, the family came to Abercorn in the hope of establishing a worth-while farming and stock venture—on the face of it a reasonable proposition because it is estimated that it needs a herd of 3,000 beef cattle to provide reliable supplies of meat for the available Abercorn market. They took over the small Mwandwesi property from Mr. Westwood, who had not long before given up running milk into Abercorn as uneconomic, and later obtained the lease of the large Isia Ranch with extensive grazing rights in the Saisi Valley.

Meanwhile Cliff, in particular, turned his hand to building work and father and son both engaged in Lake Tanganyika fishing at various times, but always with a view to establishing their ranch property as a permanent cattle proposition. Cliff did much construction work at the fisheries depot on Lake Tanganyika including the stone wharf still in use but now below water level. He also did much to assist the building and rigging of the original six "Sharpies" which were the foundation of the present sailing activity on Lake Chila.

The history of their connection with Abercorn Butchery is too complex to detail. Mr. Westwood disposed of it to Mr. Landry and Cliff Kellett had much to do with the building of both Westwood Store and the butchery building. They then took over the business from Landry's. It later returned to the former operators but was again taken over by the Kelletts who ran it until recently when it again went back to Mr. Landry and his associates.

Meanwhile, with substantial help from Government sources, the Isia Ranch herd grew to over 1,000 head of good beef

## THE BIBLE IS

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2 Tim. 3: 16

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**COLD THIS IS CASTLE**  
THE BEER

cattle and was providing an ever increasing proportion of the butchery's requirements.

Peter built himself a good mainly stone, house on a fine site at the Isia Ranch and married Miss Madeleine Pike who was one of the last two Colonial Office nursing sisters at Abercorn before the Chigwell Sisters took over the hospital.

A few months ago, Peter being married and settled, Cliff returned to rigging work on the Copperbelt.

It came as a surprise to most people to learn that P.S. Kellett, the butchery business and Isia Ranch had all gone into voluntary liquidation. It appears that this was inevitable because the greatly reduced level of business in recent months made it impossible to maintain interest and capital payments on the resources provided by Government.

The "Public Examination" is due for March 13 at Lusaka and Peter and his wife left on February 29 for a prior visit to Peter's parents. He intends to take up work with cattle if possible—in Southern Rhodesia.

## MPULUNGU STORM

The most violent storm of the year broke over Mpulungu on Sunday night March 1st. Heavy gusts took the roof off the Greek company's fish store and severely damaged the roof of the C.B.C. Shops building in the township. The last mile of the road was badly affected by flood water and Mr. Joe Brown, who drove down in the morning to see how matters stood, says that, stopping to see where the water was coming from, he noticed that much of it was pouring out of the door of one of the buildings on the upper side of the road.

The Liemba was anchored in the stream—as she has had to do for the last three trips being unable to tie up to the flooded wharf—and her officers

## HOSPITAL'S 4,000 PATIENTS

Subsequent to the interview on Page 1, it has been announced that the "phased re-building" of Abercorn Hospital is included in the projects to be financed from the £5,000,000 which is being provided for immediate rural development.

(The average daily number of African in-patients at Abercorn hospital during a recent month was 129. Their average stay in hospital is 12 days. On these figures the hospital admits and treats 4,000 in-patients a year and, in addition, organises attention to a much larger number of outpatients at Abercorn and at clinics.

## "FACE-LIFTS" TO TWO STORES

Rebuilding and improvement of the frontages of two local stores will give the township's main street a far better appearance. The old Abercorn Trading Company's store towards the southern side of the town centre has been given a well designed verandah and small plateglass windows which, with redecoration in pleasing tints, greatly improves its appearance. Landry's Store is undergoing such drastic alteration at the hands of Mr. Fanie Smit that business is being conducted in the building usually used for wholesale trade. The main store must be the oldest building in Abercorn except, perhaps, for the prison. Formerly African Lakes Corporation store, it at one time had an upper floor but this was dismantled at a time when a series of fairly violent earth tremors were felt in Abercorn and so high a building was felt to be unsafe.

spent an anxious few hours as it seemed doubtful that her anchor would hold. All was well, and she sailed safely on Monday afternoon.

## THE WORD OF GOD

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever. Jesus said: "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it."

Isa. 40: 8. Lk. 11: 28.

P.O. BOX 27, ABERCORN

It is regretted that last minute demands on space have caused the omission of detailed rainfall figures. A representative Abercorn township figure for February was 6½ ins., making a total of 35½ ins. at February 29.

## FORTHCOMING FILMS

- Wed. March 11 "CINDERFELLA"  
Jerry Lewis—a male Cinderella—makes a modern comedy out of the old fairy tale.
- Wed. March 25 "THE SHIP THAT DIED OF SHAME"  
Richard Attenborough plays the leading part in a tale which brings a ship's glorious war-time record to one of shame and humiliation in her peace-time role as pirate and smuggler.
- Wed. April 8 "THE PLEASURE OF HIS COMPANY"  
Fred Astaire and Debbie Reynolds lead in a romantic comedy set in San Francisco

## RH—QZ—QM.

"Flight Prefix Letters", which are those symbols (somewhat daunting to the infrequent passenger) telling you in two letters exactly what aeroplane is going to take you wherever you are going and how and when, are to change as from April 1st. on the re-organisation of Central African Airways into a holding company with three wholly owned subsidiaries.

These flight prefixes, which appear on all tickets and timetables, will be as follows:—

Southern Rhodesia—Air Rhodesia—RH

Northern Rhodesia—Zambia Airways—QZ  
Nyasaland—Air Malawi—QM—QM

With the new schedules coming into force on April 1st. "QZ 602/603" will operate on Fridays, arriving at Abercorn at 11.00 hours and leaving at 11.35. Freight will therefore be accepted at the Town Office up to 10.00 hours on Friday mornings.

Wednesday's flight, which will be known as "QZ 604/605", will be unchanged.

The prefix "CE" will continue to be used for flights from Southern Rhodesia to South Africa or to Mozambique.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH

- Sunday, March, 15th Evening Service at 6.30 p.m.—Rev. D.T. Woffenden.
- Sunday, March, 22nd Evening Service at 6.30 p.m.—Mr. A.E.A. Scott.
- Good Friday, March, 27th Morning Service of Meditation at 9.30 a.m.—Rev. R.O. Dyer.
- Easter Sunday, March, 29th Morning Family Service at 9.30 a.m.—Rev. R.O. Dyer
- Sunday, April, 5th It is hoped that Services on this day will be taken by a visiting Anglican Priest.
- Sunday, April, 12th Evening Service at 6.30 p.m.—Mr. G.K. Barr.
- Sunday School At 9 a.m., with the exception of the last Sunday of the month when the Family Service is held.

# THAT RAILWAY — A GLANCE AT THE ABERCORN ROUTE

The Rhodesia—East Africa rail link connecting the territories "either at Tunduma or at Mpulungu" should be proceeded with, says a United Nations Economic Commission on Africa report just published. The link, it says, in addition to providing a further outlet for copper and assisting an African common market would "generate pent-up economic activity in the vast areas round Mpika."

To route the Great North Road due north from Abercorn through Sumbawanga and Tabora to Mwanza on Lake Victoria was a pet scheme of Sir Edward Twining when he was Governor of Tanganyika.

He drove over the route himself, spending a day in Abercorn; he organised the survey of ten blocks of farms on the open tree-less Ufipa plateau, which was to be developed by the road, and a start was made with bridging on the Tanganyika side to provide access for heavy road plant which it was proposed to use on the route. Even Northern Rhodesia went so far as to excavate a few hundred yards of road terracing and the holes for bridge foundation at the border stream. The Tanganyika route is still scheduled as a "main road" on some maps.

With a change of governors—and of policy—in Tanganyika, nothing more happened; although such a route would nowadays be quite well served by this township's smart new bridge over the Lucheche!

The main use of such a road would have been for the long-distance through traffic which was then developing in the shape of luxury passenger buses for tourists traversing more than half the continent from south to north, and heavy lorries bringing East African produce in the shape of the delicious pork products of Kenya and other specialties. With industry developing throughout Central and East Africa it took little imagination to see the possibilities of such an artery.

For the time being, at any rate, all this must be shelved.

But has the idea been given any consideration by those planning the new railway? Dr. Kaunda and his colleagues assure us that this project is still "very much on the cards" and high level talks about it were held by Dr. Kaunda during his mid-February visit to Dar es Salaam.

The advantages to Tanganyika of such a route are substantial, for the line could link up with the

existing system through Mpanda at about half the cost of the present proposal, which involves new construction from the border almost to Morogoro. It would open up valuable and well watered open plateau country through Ufipa.

For Northern Rhodesia the mileage of new construction would be almost the same as that planned between Walamba and Nakonde. It would, however, serve Kasama and Abercorn—both developing urban communities with substantial populations and trading interests—and would also serve the southern end of Lake Tanganyika, an important transshipment point also with good prospects of increasing production.

Such prospects seem preferable to the present route's 240 miles of sparsely populated and undeveloped country between Mpika and the border.

The disadvantage to Northern Rhodesia would be that copper exports would have to cover about 100 more miles before reaching Dar es Salaam, while the crossing of the Chambesi and its surrounding flats might require substantial bridging and earthworks.

For Tanganyika the disadvantage would be that such a line would not serve Mbeya and the associated highland country. Nor would it serve the northern tip of Nyasaland.

The planned route, as described in press publicity last November, leaves the Rhodesian main line at Walambo, 150 miles north of Lusaka. Skirting the southern point of the Pedicle, it passes through Serenje, Mpika, Shiwa Dandu and Isoka. Leaving the Great North Road before the Ka'ungu river crossing, it passes through four miles of Nyasaland territory to approach Tunduma from the east.

In Tanganyika it passes through Mbeya and then turns eastwards to Mpanga, north-east through Hakarat to Kilosa and joins the main line about 45 miles west of Morogoro which is 120 miles from Dar es Salaam. There is a 20 miles branch line leading south from Kilosa, and Tanganyika maps have for some time shown a "projected" railway leading about 100 miles south-westwards along the route towards Mpanga.

The distance from Walamba to Dar es Salaam is given as

1,223 miles and of this all but 185 miles is entirely new construction—a total of 1,038 miles.

Of this total of 1,038 miles of new construction about 595 miles would be in Northern Rhodesia. The cost has been put at about £17,000,000 which is £30,000 per mile. The Tanganyika Government's bill—with 443 miles of new work would be about £13,300,000.

If the total leaving out the substantial port work necessary to handle the copper, were in the neighbourhood of £30,000,000 for the whole line, it would have to earn an operating surplus of nearly £1,000,000 a year (that is, revenue in excess of running costs) to pay interest even at only 3 per cent.

Tanganyika could save substantially on this liability by using the direct northern route. This would involve new construction of only 270 miles from the border (20 miles from Abercorn) to the existing track at Mpanda. At the cost per mile quoted this would cost them under £9,000,000.

A rough computation of the total distances by the Abercorn route gives 770 miles in Tanganyika (270 new construction) and 550 in Northern Rhodesia (all new construction). This totals 1,320 and is just under 100 miles longer than the 1223 miles given for the route at present proposed.



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# MINUTES AND MEMORANDA "By Conch"

## SMALL BORE SECTION

At a successful meeting of the Small-bore rifle section which was held at Abercorn Club on Tuesday February 25 under the chairmanship of Mr. Cliff Putterill considerable changes were made in the existing hand icapping system.

It was decided that the section should no longer be split up into men and ladies divisions but into Senior and junior groups the dividing line being fixed at a mid-point on the handicap scale. This will infuse an element of competition into the shooting of new comers and the poorer shots.

Similarly the scratch point at the top of the scale was raised to increase the differentiation between the six or so scratch shots and so help competition at the top of the scale.

New members will be required to shoot off one set of deliberate, standard and rapid so that their handicap can be determined before participating in a competitive shoot. New members are asked to arrive at the range promptly at 10 a.m. on the appropriate Sundays so that the determining shoots may be held with the minimum of delay to the main shoot of the day.

A "riding committee" was formed to find a site near the club for a Club Range and a report of their activities is expected shortly.

It should be appreciated that when placing the range first regard will of course be given to the safety of golfers and everybody else using the club grounds and their vicinity.

## THEATRE SECTION

The Annual General Meeting of the Theatre Section was held on February 14, and was well attended.

The following committee was formed:-

Incharge of the overall supervision of sets for the year—Colin Carlin.

Wardrobe and Props.—Mrs. A. Gregor

Lights—Mels Marbus

Refreshments—Mrs. R. Howe  
Business Manager—Mrs. M. Kuhne, assisted by Mrs. Tobin, who will do bookings for the plays at the Town Management Board.

The above committee will

assist any producer generally, but the section hopes that volunteers will come forward to be in charge of the various sections in connection with each production.

The next production was discussed, and it was decided to do 'Clutterbuck' on April 18.

Miss Joan Carlin has undertaken to do the production of 'Clutterbuck', and it is hoped that others who are interested in producing will turn up for future shows, as more than one producer will enable the theatre section to give Abercorn a good selection and a steady supply of shows during the year.

## GOLF SECTION

"Golf School" is to be held on Mondays at 4.30 p.m. to encourage new members and improve the general standard and will be conducted by the more experienced local players.

This was decided at the annual general meeting of the Golf Section held on February 22 which was attended by Mr. and Mrs. R. Jones, and Mrs. M. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. P. McLoughlin, Miss J.M. Carlin, Mr. G. Basili, Mr. J.S. Fraser, Mr. R. Howe, Mr. W. Morony and Mr. F. Smit.

It was also decided that a bridge evening be held on the first Saturday of each month and that the date of the annual dance should be October 3.

The Golf Member reported that the Landrover is now operational and work would shortly begin on raking up the cut grass. The 6ft. Hayter cutter is expected within a month and the "Hayterette" in a fortnight. Several members have undertaken to weed and attend to a green each and it is thus confidently expected that the course will be in good condition for the first fixture on March 21.

It was decided that the Golf Member should undertake to replace committee members forced to withdraw by reason of transfer, and that the captain for the annual match with Kasama should be appointed at least one month before the match.

## TENNIS SECTION

The Tennis Section is preparing to resurface court No. 1 themselves. As is well known, this has needed doing for a considerable time but although £300 is available, it is insufficient to cover the full cost. Materials are being gathered and it is intended to begin reconstruction as soon as possible.

The section is hoping to foster more interest in the game by providing a full programme of activities. The first American Tournament of the season was well attended and enjoyed by all. An auspicious start has been made despite the severe reduction in tennis players during the past year.

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R.M. Howe, Secretary.

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## CHILA CHAT

Great North road traffic through the Tanganyika border post at Nakonde lately is reported to have dropped to an average of barely one vehicle a day. At this figure the oft-repeated nationalist aim of diverting Northern Rhodesia's southern trade to East Africa appears—well, anybody is welcome to finish this paragraph, but no prizes are being offered.

One of those endearing pied wagtails whose song is really quite as melodious and elaborate as that of the finest canary, nowadays takes a delight in perching on a high window sill of our workshop and singing his heart out under the great echoing roof. Like the mediocre baritone who is a Caruso in his bathroom, this Willy Wagtail seems convinced that he is well worthy of some great opera house and—as birds go—so he is. But, surely, this must be done from sheer enjoyment and not for some dull behaviourist notion of establishing a territory in a print shop?

The Postmaster, Mr. D.G. Ferreira, had to make a hurried trip to Nakonde on February 27 on receipt of a report that the small post office there had been broken into during the night. He found that 15 parcels had been broached and the thief had taken his pick of the contents.

Someone has removed part of a "Keep Left" sign from the Marshall Avenue roundabout. At the moment the authorities are disposed to regard its disappearance as no more than a prank and are hoping that it will be

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returned, as these parts are very difficult to obtain. It is always possible, however that they may change their minds if there is undue delay in its recovery; for an official sense of humour in such situations is, at best, quite temporary.

It is reported that Mr. Peter Kellett's house on Isia Ranch was ransacked and damaged within 24 hours of the family's departure. Doors and windows, fitted wash basins and other fittings to the value of £83 were torn out and removed. Motor transport, it is thought must have been used. The estate is in the hands of the Official Receiver and, presumably, this grave depreciation in the value of an almost new European residence is a loss to the marauders' own nationalist government rather than to any private interests.

Very extensive Post Office staff changes are now taking place very rapidly and Mr. D.G. Ferreira, Abercorn's Postmaster for several years, has just learned that he is to be transferred very shortly. The name of his successor has not yet been announced, but in view of the rapidity with which "localisation" of the service is being undertaken, it is expected that the authorities hope to be able to appoint a qualified African.

Chatting with Stan. Richards the other day about electrical storms, I heard a story from him which deserves a wider audience. During a severe storm earlier this season his African operator, although thoroughly accustomed to the alarming effects of lightning as a hazard of his work, left his crackling and flashing apparatus and came to Stan's office saying he couldn't stand it any longer. Stan said: "But you know everything is earthed two or three times over and we are safer here than anywhere." "Yes, I know", he replied, "but look Bwana Your telephone is on fire!" And so it was—smoking away merrily!

Perhaps you are as puzzled as I was by the Small-bore Rifle people's "riding commit-

tee" formed to find a site for a new .22 rifle range. This is NOT a cover for the formation of a squadron of cavalry. It is nothing more than the natural laziness of people who enjoy lying for hours flat on their stomachs and squinting through a pinhole at a fullstop. The facts are: the country they wish to examine cannot be driven over in cars, there are four horses from the combined Kellett and Putterill stables at present eating their heads off on the one-time cricket field, and—especially—it is just not done these days to walk. Hence the splendid idea of a "riding committee" Someone deserves congratulations.

The only casualties during the Prime Minister's visit were two motor vehicles. The Police Land-rover leading the "motorcade" from the airport broke a rear spring—possibly from carrying too many large policemen too quickly over too big a hump—and Mr. Metcalfe's car sustained a shattered window—possibly through too big a passenger closing the door too powerfully in too much of a hurry. The first mishap imposed a dignified half-speed progress on the procession; the second merely involved the necessary polite noises.

Proof readers normally work in still, silent glass-enclosed cubicles with a smart youth to read aloud to them from the "copy" at high speed and with all the technical tricks of the trade but NOT in Abercorn. Here they are instantly available for light conversation, demands for advances, the purchase of potatoes, the telephone, small change, political discussion, correspondence, accountancy, general information and all those other distractions which make Abercorn so like that lady of whom the poet said "Age cannot wither nor custom stale her infinite variety". A lady, nevertheless, who gets on one's nerves a bit after a time.

Several people have repeated to me a pleasant little tale which may, perhaps, be allowed to serve this column as a small "Trumpet Voluntary." On hearing, in England, that her daughter and son-in-law—Mr. and Mrs. Petit—had been posted to the wilds of Abercorn, Mrs. Petit's mother went to the Northern Rhodesia office in London to find out what sort of a place it is. She wrote her daughter that to her "astonishment and delight" she was given a copy of ABERCORNUCOPIA and found in it everything she wanted to know!  
IMPULUMUSHI

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