

INSTITUTE AT ABERCORN

Sept 1948

1948



ABERCORN: Demolition of the 5-year-old building of the Tanganyika Victoria Memorial Institute, on Abercorn's main street, is now nearly complete, in preparation for the erection of a new hall on the same site.

The "T.V.M.I."—as it is known in the Northern Province—was founded in 1902 as the result of a meeting of 28 residents of Abercorn who decided that a memorial to Queen Victoria should be set up in the form of an institute building comprising a lecture hall and library, which could be used as a museum, for social gatherings connected with science and literature, and for any purpose which the committee thought suitable.

This modest brick building, now at last come to the end of its chequered but useful career, was thus a far-flung ripple of the wave of cultural activity which originated in the Great Exhibition of 1851 and has left South Kensington (London), and elsewhere, vast museums, colleges and galleries to commemorate the late Queen and her consort, Albert, whose lively support of such projects was a notable feature of the Victorian period.

IN PERPETUITY

The half-acre freehold site in Abercorn was presented to the committee in perpetuity by the British South Africa Company. They, with the old Flotilla Company, Tanganyika Concessions and the African Lakes Corporation, also helped by providing transport for building materials from South Africa via Lake Nyasa and the Stevenson Road. The building was completed in 1904, when 1,000 books of the Tanganyika Book Club were handed to the T.V.M.I. to start a library.

In 1906 there remained in Abercorn only about ten of the original 28 founders of the Institute and, in order to provide continuity of direction, an Ordinance was enacted appointing a Government trustee for the land and buildings, who is, in practice, the local District Commissioner.

Stormy times were to come. In the meantime—even up to 20

years ago—a room and kitchen in the building formed Abercorn's rest house and for a time the building was a sort of luncheon club for officials.

Then came the 1914 war. All the contents were packed and stored and the building was taken over by the military and fortified. It played, however, little part in the defence of Abercorn which, in the end, had to be abandoned to the enemy, mainly owing to lack of water. Requisition by the army and occupation by the enemy, naturally left the building in poor condition, but the Institute's efforts to establish a claim for war damage failed and the British South Africa Company again generously came forward and gave £50 towards its repair.

From then until to-day the Institute carried on its activities—mainly the library—in a population which sank, at times, to fewer than ten people, and rose at times—notably during the 30s—to five and six times that figure.

In 1939 the Beit Trust gave £200 for repairs to the roof and for the purchase of a reference library—a gift which makes their recently announced allocation of £500 all the more generous.

POSTAGE FREE

In 1904 the then postmaster-general granted the Institute the right to frank its correspondence—particularly library books, and from then until 1939 it served the three districts of Abercorn, Mporokoso and Isoka with post-free book exchanges.

This right lapsed during the recent war when the non-official population of the area once again sank to a minimum.

In 1938 white ant damage to the building first became evident and steady settlement of the foundations began which, in January last year caused the District Commissioner to declare the building dangerous.

Since then persons changing library books have been confronted with a notice at the door warning them of the condition of the building.

The committee, on professional advice, then decided to demolish the old structure and rebuild.

NEW BUILDING

The new building, far from being the largest in Abercorn, as has been stated, will be only slightly larger than the original institute. The library, now comprising nearly 5,000 books, will be separate from the lecture hall and better cloak room accommodation will be provided.

Building costs, however, will be ten times what they were in 1904—despite incomparably easier transport. The committee state that individuals throughout the three districts of the Northern Province have subscribed, according to their means, towards the building fund.

There are now several keen entomologists and botanists stationed or living permanently in the district and it is hoped that the idea of a local museum, which was part of the objects of the Institute's founders nearly

WAR ON TSETSE IN ABERCORN AREA SUCCEEDS ^{Aug 5} 1950 14-YEAR EXPERIMENT IN CONTROL

From Our Correspondent

Abercorn, Thursday.

A 14-YEAR experiment in tsetse fly control, which has virtually cleared the fly from 287 square miles of bush-covered hill country between Abercorn and the lake shore, came to an end last week, **TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY**

Mr. F. W. E. Thompson, field officer of the East African Tsetse Reclamation Department, Mbarara, Uganda, is in Abercorn after making a final survey of the experimental area. His report will be considered at an important meeting to take place here this week, at which responsibility for the area will be handed over to the Northern Rhodesia Government.

STOCK-KEEPING NOW EASIER

Those due to attend the meeting are: Dr. Lester, the eminent entomologist who has lately been working in West Africa; Mr. Vaughan Jones, Northern Rhodesian Director of Game and Tsetse Control; Mr. Andrew Robertson and Mr. F. W. E. Thompson, both of the E.A. Tsetse Reclamation Department; Mr. Steele, a Northern Rhodesian Government entomologist, and Mr. J. H. Venning, who has long been acting as local field assistant in charge of the work of the 40 native fly pickets and patrols in the area.

The question whether or not the Northern Rhodesian Government will continue this important work depends largely on the decisions taken at this meeting. Local settlers who can now keep cattle along the Mpulungu road without difficulty, are anxious that there shall be no relaxation of the strict control which has so improved stock-keeping conditions in the district.

STAYING HEALTHY

The experimental herd at Mkoma has remained free from trypanosomiasis since 1945 except for one beast unluckily infected by a stray fly. Milk cows introduced into the area between the Lunzuwa river and Mpulungu last year have remained in good health.

The experiment began in 1935 when the late Mr. Swynnerton reported for the Northern Rhodesian Government and, following Tanganyika experiments, it was decided to prevent seasonal bush fires from occurring in or entering the area. The effect of this no-burning policy is to increase the density of the grass and undergrowth so that *Glossina morsitans*—the fly carrying nagana, which must have shaded but open country—cannot live in it.

This policy was maintained up to 1946, and was carried out by fire officers appointed from among local settlers who for many years stood by, night and day, to rush a lorry-load of five fire-fighters to any blaze started by look-outs posted on points in the area.

"discriminative clearing" was then instituted and such areas were fully cleared whenever fly concentrations were found in them.

The effect is shown by the following figures giving the number of flies taken in a year by fly pickets established at eight key points within the experimental area:

1941, 4,044; 1942, 1,507; 1943, 645; 1944, 199; 1945, 76; 1946, 69; 1947, 86; 1948, 71.

The slight increase in 1947 was due to the discovery of new concentrations as a result of the abandonment of the no-burning policy in 1946.

BUFFER ZONE

This clearing policy was extended to a "buffer zone" 18 miles into Tanganyika territory during last year so as to reduce the pressure of fly from this area.

Last year, too, pickets at two points where over 100 flies were caught in 1941 and at one check point (outside the area) where 700 were caught in 1943, were closed as no flies had been caught at these posts for over a year. Four new pickets were established, but one of them was closed as only one fly was caught there in six months.

As the flies settle on any moving object, they are carried about by travelling natives on their clothing or bundles as much as by wild game, and it is the work of the pickets to search anyone passing their post and record the flies captured. At one post travellers enter a cage so that no fly can escape detection.

Those few now taken within the experimental area are thought to come in from the Maombe fly belt. The fringes of this belt were dealt with by "discriminative clearing" for three miles each side of the Malombe-Kambole road in 1947 and the flies caught (outside the area) by the Malombe check picket fell from 3,213 in 1946 to 1,668 last year.

Whether the small influx of fly still occurring is brought in by natives avoiding the fly belt

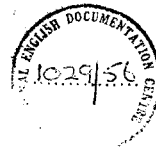
MPULUNGU

ABERCORN: The steamer Liemba, which arrived a day late at Mpulungu last week, was delayed by heavy weather and reached Crocodile Island after dark.

Commander Boyd decided not to risk the approach to the port through the narrow island channel and cruised about on the open lake until dawn.

Among the passengers were Mr. and Mrs. Geyer, from Luanshya, with their daughter Pam, who had been on a holiday trip by car to Dar-es-Salaam and Zanzibar. Mr. Geyer, who brought his car on the ship, is driving back to the Copperbelt via the Belgian Congo, spending a week at Elizabethville on the way.

On its next trip the ship will be commanded by Commander Dobson, from Lake Victoria, who is exchanging posts with Commander Boyd.



EIGHT HUT FIRE VICTIMS WERE MURDERED

CORONER'S VERDICT

ABERCORN: A verdict of "murder by arson" was brought in at the inquest on four native women and four children who died as the result of a hut fire at Msisia village a month ago.

Mr. H. D. H. Rance, the District Commissioner, acting as coroner, said in his finding that although the one woman who forced her way out of the hut and later died in hospital was never in a fit state to make a formal statement, it was clear from other evidence that the fire had been started from outside the hut after the door had been fastened from the outside.

He therefore brought in a verdict of "murder by arson by some person or persons unknown."

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to scrubbing by the fly pickets. Clearance of these drains has appeared to have had no

Continued from previous column effect on game which, in the opinion of settlers who have been 25 years in the area, is at least as plentiful as before.

The fact that tsetse has been almost eradicated from a heavily infested area, too hilly for treatment by aircraft, and without recourse to the wholesale slaughter of game found necessary elsewhere, is of considerable interest.

Visitors to Lake Tanganyika cannot fail to note that the shores of Kambuli and Crocodile Islands and the whole southern shore of the lake from Old Sache on the west of Kalambo

lots of by the movement of game, is to court you being finally removed. In general, however, native travellers all avoid the area on the east side of the lake. There are 90 feet drains under taken to rid the area of globose palpable carriers of the tsetse fly. This is a very serious sickness, which can lead to death. Shaded watercourses, much of this work has been done by the government but the area is still a very serious problem.

MICHAEL SCOTT'S PEACE MARCH IS BANNED

ABERCORN, Wednesday.

THE Northern Rhodesia Government has banned all meetings or processions of more than three people in the Abercorn and Isoka districts which adjoin the border with Tanganyika.



Processions Banned As Precaution

ABERCORN, Wednesday.— The Northern Rhodesia Government has banned all meetings or processions of more than three people in the Abercorn and Isoka districts which adjoin the border with Tanganyika.

The ban — for one month from March 5 — has been made because of the proposed March from Tanganyika into Northern Rhodesia by the World Peace Brigade.

Yesterday warning notices in English and three African languages were being distributed to border posts and villages in the area.

PUNISHABLE

The notices gave the main provisions of the immigration law and stressed that immigrants failing to report to the authorities would be committing a punishable offence.

The District Commissioners of Abercorn and Isoka also distributed copies of Northern Rhodesia Government orders under the Public Security Regulations 1961, banning all meetings or processions of more than three persons from March 5. — Sapa.

Pretoria News 14/3/62

The ban — for one month from March 5 — has been made because of the proposed march from Tanganyika into Northern Rhodesia by the World Peace Brigade.

Today warning notices in English and three African languages were being distributed to border posts and villages. The notices gave the main provisions of the Immigration Law and stressed that immigrants failing to report to the authorities would be committing a punishable offence.

The District Commissioners of Abercorn and Isoka also distributed copies of Northern Rhodesia Government orders under the Public Security Regulations, 1961, banning all meetings and processions.

The United National Independence Party in Lusaka, in a telephone interview to Salisbury tonight, attacked the ban as "the act of a Fascist regime which works through fear rather than reason."

Peaceful

Mr. Sikota Wina, the U.N.I.P. director of publicity, said: "We and the organisers have made it perfectly clear that the demonstration would be peaceful and that those taking part in the march would only carry Bibles.

"This shows that the Government has something to hide which they don't want the outside world to see."

He revealed that the U.N.I.P. president, Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, had had a telephone conversation today with the organisers of the march and had reported on the march to the party's national council, at present sitting in Lusaka.

The party had sent a telegram to the Rev. Michael Scott, one of the organisers of the march, "congratulating him on his activities in helping the people of Northern Rhodesia and assuring him that he would always be welcomed in the territory."

If the march does take place, the members will have to contend with almost impossible conditions. Unprecedented rains in the area have closed border roads to all but essential traffic. —(Sapa.)

OPTOGTE VERBOD BY GRENS VAN TANGANJIKA

ABERCORN.

ALLE vergaderings en optogte van meer as drie mense is deur die Noord-Rhodesiese regering in die distrikte Abercorn en Isoka, wat aan Tanganjika grens, verbied. Die verbod wat vir een maand van krag sal wees (begindatum was 5 Maart) is gehef as gevolg van die voorgestelde opmars deur die brigade vir wêreldvrede van Tanganjika na Noord-Rhodesië.

Gister is kennisgewings waarop waarskuwings in Engels en drie Bantoetale gedruk was, by die grensposte en dorpie in die gebied versprei.

Die kennisgewings het die vernaamste voorwaardes van die immigrasiewet uiteengesit en beklemtoon dat immigrante wat hulle nie by die owerhede aanmeld nie, 'n strafbare oortreding begaan.

Die United National Independence Party in Lusaka het die verbod gisteraand gekritiseer en bestempel as „die optrede van 'n Fascistiese regimentstelsel wat nie deur rede nie, maar deur vrees fungeer.”

„Ons en die organiseerders het dit heeltemal duidelik gestel dat die betoging vreedsaam sal wees en dat diegene wat aan die opmars sal deel-

neem, slegs Bybels saam met hulle sal dra,” het Sikota Wina, Unip se direkteur van publisiteit, gesê. (Sapa.)

Volhouster 8/3/62

SCOTT SAL NIE MEER KAN MARSJEER

ABERCORN. — Die regering van Noord-Rhodesië het alle vergaderings of optogte van meer as drie mense in die distrikte Abercorn en Isoka verbied. Dié dorpe grens aan Tanganjika.

Die verbod, wat van 5 Maart af vir 'n maand geld, is gehef omdat die World Peace Brigade, waarvoor eerw. Michael Scott 'n leier is, planne beraam om van Tanganjika na Noord-Rhodesië te marsjeer.

Die United National Independence Party het die verbod aan geval omdat dit sy verkiesingsplanne dwarsboom. Die distrikt Abercorn en Isoka is glo van groot belang vir dié party se veldtog. Die verbod kom op 'n slegte tyd „wanneer ons (die U.N.I.P.) on uiterste bes doen om 'n oplossing vir Noord-Rhodesië te vind”, aldu die party. — (Sapa.)

Burger 8/3/62

E.P. Herald 8/3/62

MEETING BAN ON BORDER OF TANGANYIKA

North Rhodesia reacts to proposed "peace march"



ABERCORN, Wednesday.—Sapa.

THE Northern Rhodesia Government has banned all meetings or processions of more than three people in the Abercorn and Isoka districts which adjoin the border with Tanganyika. The ban—for one month from March 5—has been made because of the proposed march from Tanganyika into Northern Rhodesia by the World Peace Brigade. Warning notices in English and three African languages are being distributed to border posts and villages in the area.

The notices gave the main provisions of the Immigration Law and stressed that immigrants failing to report to the authorities would be committing a punishable offence.

SECURITY LAWS

The District Commissioners of Abercorn and Isoka also distributed copies of Northern Rhodesia Government orders under the Public Security Regulations banning all meetings or processions of more persons.

If the march does take place, the members will have to contend with almost impossible conditions. Unprecedented rains in the area have closed the border roads to all but essential traffic.

A lorry which arrived in Abercorn from Tunduma in Tanganyika this week struggled for four days to make the 100-mile journey. A car took 12 hours to do the same trip.

If the normal heavy March rains persist, Abercorn may be cut off from all but air traffic.

In Lusaka, the United National Independence Party attacked the ban as "the act of a fascist

regime system through fear reason."

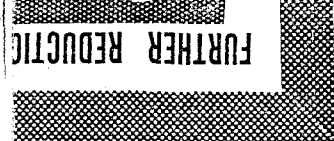
Mr Sikota Wiru, director of publicity, said: "We and the organisers have made it perfectly clear that the demonstration would be peaceful and that those taking part in the march would only carry Bibles.

"This shows that the Government has something to hide which they don't want the outside world to see."

Mr Wina said that the U.N.I.P. President, Mr Kenneth Kaunda, had had a telephone conversation today with the organisers of the march and had reported to the party's national council, at present sitting in Lusaka, on the march. His conversation was "secret", said Mr Wina.

Michael Scott

He added, however, that the party had sent a telegram today to the Rev Michael Scott, one of the organisers of the march, "congratulating him on his activities in helping the people of Northern Rhodesia and assuring him that he would always be welcomed in the territory."



copy of... Mr. Kaunda reported to the party's national council this afternoon for 15 minutes. Mr. Wina said details of the conversation...

** were "confidential". He said the council would not meet till 3:00 tomorrow evening, when the members will be asked to explain the party's attitude to the new council's proposal. A large rally on the Copperbelt on Sunday would be addressed by Mr Kaunda and other party leaders.*

N.R. Govt. bans all processions along border with Tanganyika

Northern News
8/3/62

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The notices gave the main provisions of the immigration law and stressed that immigrants failing to report to the authorities would be committing a punishable offence.

The District Commissioners of Abercorn and Isoka also distributed copies of Northern Rhodesian Government orders under the Public Security Regulations, 1961, banning all meetings or processions of more than three persons from March 5.

The United National Independence Party in Lusaka, in a telephone interview to Salisbury tonight, attacked the ban as "the act of a Fascist regime system which works through fear rather than reason."

Mr. Sikota Wina, UNIP director of publicity, said: "We and the organisers have made it perfectly clear that the demonstration would be peaceful and that those taking part in the march would only carry Bibles."

"This shows that the Government has something to hide," he said.

Mr. Wina revealed that the UNIP president, Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, had had a telephone conversation today with the organisers of the march and had reported to the party's national council, at present sitting in Lusaka, on the march.

His conversation was "secret," said Mr. Wina.

He added, however, that the party had sent a telegram today to the Rev. Michael Scott, one of the organisers of the march, "congratulating him on his activities in helping the people of Northern Rhodesia and assuring him that he would always be welcomed in the territory."

Vital areas

UNIP also attacked the ban because they had planned to start a territory-wide campaign tomorrow to "explain how our national council had come to its decision to impose its conditions for fighting an election," said Mr. Wina.

"We feel it is bad that this should be done at a time when we are doing our best to find a solution for Northern Rhodesia."

"The Abercorn and Isoka areas are vital. The ban will be a great handicap to us."

Mr. Kaunda reported to the party's national council this afternoon on his 45-minute talk this morning with the Governor of Northern Rhodesia, Sir Evelyn Hone, on his party's election "terms."

He said the council would sit until 3.30 tomorrow morning, then disband. The territory-wide campaign to explain the party's attitude to the new constitutional proposals would then begin.

A rally on the Copperbelt on Sunday would be addressed by Mr. Kaunda and other party leaders, he said. — Sapa.

Cape Times 8/3/62

'PEACE MARCH' BANNED

ABERCORN. — The Northern Rhodesia Government has banned all meetings or processions of more than three people in the Abercorn and Isoka districts which adjoin the border with Tanganyika.

The ban—for one month — has been made because of the proposed march from Tanganyika into Northern Rhodesia by the World Peace Brigade.

Mr. Sikota Wina, of the United National Independence Party in Lusaka, attacked the ban as "the act of a fascist regime system which works through fear rather than reason".

ALWAYS WELCOME

He added that the Party had sent a telegram to the Rev. Michael Scott, one of the organizers of the march, "Congratulating him on his activities in helping the people of Northern Rhodesia and assuring him that he would always be welcomed in the territory."

UNIP also attacked the ban because they had planned to start a territory-wide campaign to "explain how our National Council had come to its decision to impose its conditions for fighting an election".

"We feel it is bad that this should be done at a time when we are doing our level best to find a solution for Northern Rhodesia. The Abercorn and Isoka areas are vital. The ban will be a great handicap to us. The other parties may not worry so much because I don't think they have many supporters there; but we plan to campaign over the whole territory."

If the march does take place, the members will have to contend with almost impossible conditions. Unprecedented rains in the area have closed the border roads to all but essential traffic.—(Sapa.)

ONE MONTH BAN ON MEETINGS

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Rhod. Herald 8/3/62

