

NEWS OF HIS DEAD SON

Bulgarian of 90 Inquiring MANY ADVENTURES IN AFRICA

The following are this week's inquiries and replies to inquiries for missing people—

In the "Sunday Times" of April 11 an inquiry was made for information concerning the later doings of Stanislas Nicolas, a Bulgarian, who lived in Southern Africa for many years, and died a few years ago in the Belgian Congo. The inquiry was made on behalf of his father, who lives at Yamboli, Bulgaria, and is now 90 years old.

In reply to the foregoing, W. A. Barclay writes from P.O. Valenciennes: "Stanislas Nicolas and I were mates in the Boer War, and we were prisoners of war together on Tucker's Island, off the Island of Bermuda. On the conclusion of peace the British would not allow Nicolas to return to South Africa with the other Boer prisoners. He then went over to New York. From there he went to Aden, and then to Tamatave, Madagascar. He went there on a cattle boat about two years after the war. There he noticed an advertisement in a Johannesburg paper of a syndicate that was sending a hunting party to Central Africa. He joined the party in Johannesburg and went up to German East Africa, and from thence to the Congo.

Always Hunting "We always corresponded till the Great War broke out, and up to that time he was continually hunting. He was 20 years old when the Boer War began. He was always known as Nicolas Kaldroff, and only when he wrote to me from Aden did I learn his real name. If this information is of any interest to the old man, please send it to him." This has been done.

In the "Sunday Times" of March 28, Albert Ashman, of Hastings, England, inquired for news of his brother, George Ashman, who came to South Africa 28 years ago as superintendent of a Government plantation "in Cathcart, Kingwilliamstown," lived later in the Orange Free State, and was last heard of in Salisbury, Rhodesia.

The "Sunday Times" has received a letter from Salisbury stating that George Ashman and his wife died about six years ago, leaving four daughters, who went to Durban.

Last Sunday Andrew Carolin, of La Rochelle, Johannesburg, was informed by A. MacLennan, of Camptonville, Johannesburg, that Ivor Guest, for news of whom Mr. Carolin had inquired the week before, was killed in action in East Africa during the war. C. H. Gardner, of Benoni, now writes to say that this happened at M'Kungwa on November 6, 1917. Mr. Gardner was a brother-officer of Guest's in the 1st Cape Corps, and was quite close to him when he was killed. The letter has been sent on to Mr. Carolin.

The "Sunday Times" has received the following inquiry through Fanny Farmer's Tea Room, Kerk Street, Johannesburg, to whom it was addressed by a New York resident, who states: "I have been looking for someone in your town to do me a favour and felt as though you would help me."

Known in America

The inquirer is Mrs. Lillie B. C. B. Hartshorn, of New York, U.S.A., and she wishes to find Cyril Fullerton Logan, who came to America with a man named Peter Buckle. She adds: "I think young Logan's mother is married again, and there is a brother named Kenneth. I wish to get in touch with some member of the family, as the matter is a most urgent one." Mrs. Hartshorn states that H. H. Hirstendahl, proprietor of the Durban Hat Manufacturing Company, 128A, West Street, Durban, may be able to supply information concerning Logan.

Mrs. C. A. Wilkinson (born Hall), of Bezenbosch, Johannesburg, inquires for news of her aunt, Mrs. Catherine Agnes Eccles, a widow, whom Mrs. Wilkinson last heard of just after the Boer War. Mrs. Eccles was then living in Stanley Avenue, Birkdale, Southport, Liverpool, with her daughter-in-law, and two grand-daughters whose names were Grace and Kitty Eccles. She wrote to Mrs. Wilkinson from that address, enclosing the death certificate of her (Mrs. Wilkinson's) father, John Parker Hall.

T. Butler, of Norwood, Johannesburg, is anxious to find six ex-Free State men who served with him during the Boer War in the 10th Company of the Royal Engineers. Their names are: John Mathews, Ted Smythe, George Rock, Bob Greenaway, William Davis and Captain Grier (late District Engineer of Kroonstad).

A visitor to South Africa from Holmfirth, Yorkshire, inquires for news of a Holmfirth man named Dearnley, who was last heard of in Pretoria seven years ago. The inquiry is made on behalf of Dearnley's sisters, who are anxious to hear from him.

C.M. (Randfontein)—Your letter has been forwarded to the person you inquire for, who will doubtless reply to you direct.

All inquiries for this column must be addressed to the Editor, and each inquiry must be accompanied by a postal order for 5s. All the money thus subscribed, without any deductions whatever, will be distributed periodically among Johannesburg charities.

M.L.A. IN COURT

The judgment given at Pretoria in February in favour of Mr. H. H. Moll, M.L.A. for Christiana, in which S. M. Magatha, the president of the Transvaal Native Congress, sought to recover the sum of £50 on a promissory note, is now the subject of an appeal in the Supreme Court, Pretoria. It is being heard before Mr. Justice Tindall and Mr. Justice Gey van Pittius. The respondent Moll, in his plea,

HUSBANDS WHO VANISH

Hasty Marriages DESTITUTE BRIDES

The police on the Rand and in Pretoria have been receiving many complaints from women that their husbands have deserted them. In fact, an epidemic of desertion by wage-earners seems to be in progress.

A feature of the various cases which come to the notice of the authorities is that most of the women who are left to fend for themselves are young girls—many of them still young enough almost to be still at school.

"It is a terrible thing for the woman who is left behind when the husband packs up suddenly and vanishes. There is a lot of this going on," a police officer told a representative of the "Sunday Times" yesterday.

"Some people argue from the point of view that if there is an unhappy marriage the sooner it ends the better. But these domestic philosophers forget the bread-and-butter side of the matter.

"A man can desert his home without any fear of the consequences unless his wife complains to the police. There are not many women who want to go to the police, because of the publicity it brings about. But in the cases where the wife does complain, and the husband is arrested, he still holds the trump card. This is in the nature of another chance."

"Take, for instance, the case of a husband who is brought before the magistrate for not maintaining his children.

Plo-Crust Promises

"The prosecutor proves that he has not supported his children for months. But the husband tells the magistrate: 'I am willing to support my wife and children.'

"Some figures are arrived at as to the amount the husband has to pay for the support of his family. The magistrate orders a payment of this amount and the husband gets a little respite. He, of course, risks being sent to goal if he does not carry out the order of court, but that does not worry this type of man very much.

"I think most of these desertions are due to young people rushing into marriage without stopping to think. After a few months they grow tired of one another, and then comes the break-up of the home. Half their quarrels would never occur if they were a little older.

"A great deal of the unhappiness in homes is due to false notions of the basis of marriage. These young people rush to get a special licence and think they are going to live on love all the time. After the glamour has worn off they find that perhaps they should have had a little more money before embarking upon a matrimonial partnership."

The police officer drew attention to a case which was heard in the Johannesburg magistrate's courts last week, in which a young wife made a complaint against a young husband. The woman said that since March 1 she had received only £1 from her husband. She had a child of eighteen months, and was destitute. Her husband had been ordered by the court to pay £50 a month for the maintenance of herself and the child. This order had not been complied with.

A Bride of 13

"I had no money, so they kicked me out of the building where I was staying," the wife said. "I had promised to pay my rent, but the money never turned up."

"I sent her a note to come back to me, but she would not," was the husband's explanation. The magistrate told the young man he would have to go to prison if he did not support his wife. He passed a suspended sentence of three months' imprisonment, suspended for twelve months, provided he paid his wife 30s. a week.

"If you go to goal, it will be your own fault," the magistrate added. "I don't see why the child should have to suffer." Inquiries made by a "Sunday Times" representative at the office of the marriage clerk in Johannesburg show that many girls marry between the ages of 17 and 20, and girls of 16 also make their bow as brides. The popular marrying age for men is from 19 to 21.

In the case of one couple who arrived to get married the prospective husband found that he did not possess enough money to pay for the privilege, and he had to borrow some from the bride's brother.

A rather remarkable marriage from the point of view of age took place in Johannesburg recently. A white man of 25, a widower with two children, married a girl of 13, who thus established the record of being the youngest white bride in Johannesburg.

AFRAID TO RETURN

Says He Was Forcibly Ejected

Describing himself as a journalist, Alfred Lyons claimed that Lynn and Nurick, in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday, the sum of £50 as damages for alleged wrongful and forcible ejection, and for the alleged wrongful detention by defendants of his property. The latter, he stated, included manuscripts and drawings, the total value of his property being given as £20.

Lyons said he had hired a room from the defendants, and that on February 20, when he wished to enter his room, he was forcibly prevented from doing so.

Defendants pleaded that Lyons had ceased to be a tenant of theirs from February 3.

In the course of his evidence, Lyons stated that his property had been returned to him since his ejection. He admitted that he was indebted to defendants for 19 days' rent on the date of his ejection. On the night following his ejection he was accommodated at the house of a friend. He was afraid, he said, to return to the building.

Witnesses for the defendants asserted that Lyons had given notice of his intention to give up his room on the date of his ejection.

EXCHANGE OF WIVES

"Readjustment" SOME QUEER TANGLES

Two remarkable cases of matrimonial "adjustments" have come to the notice of the authorities on the Rand. In one instance two husbands exchanged wives—and apparently the wives did not object to this arrangement! In the second case it was found that two men were each living with two wives.

In the first case a report made by the daughter of one of the exchanged wives caused a "readjustment" to be ordered.

Two families, it appears, occupied adjoining cottages. The husbands in both houses made an arrangement between them whereby they changed places, and in this way took unto themselves new mates. This scheme was put into practice, despite the fact that in each family there were children.

Apparently the wives, too, were quite in favour of, and in fact welcomed, the change.

The eldest daughter in one of the families made a complaint to the police. A report of what was taking place was made to a magistrate, who immediately summoned the husbands and wives to appear before him.

Two Men with Two "Wives" Each

He then threatened that unless they returned to their legitimate spouses their children would be removed from their care. This had the desired effect.

The details of the case in which two men were found to be living with two wives each are as follows—A married woman found that her charms failed to ensure the fidelity of her husband. One day he came home with a "lady friend," who continued to live in the house as a second wife.

At first the original wife raised little objection, but eventually she and her husband disagreed, so she left him. The six children of the marriage remained with the husband, but the mother visited them and eventually begged to be permitted to take one child away with her.

She herself went to the house of a married man, and here the circumstances of her own home were repeated, for here, too, there were two wives under the same roof, sharing the same husband.

News of this strange relationship reached the authorities, who placed the woman's child in an institution.

ACTION FOR DAMAGES

Married Woman's Claim For Defamation

In the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday Mr. J. Graham heard an action for £200 damages for alleged defamation of character instituted by Mrs. Johanna Cornelia Jacoba Pike against G. van Os.

Mr. Lewis Levy appeared for Mrs. Pike and Mr. J. Lowenburgh for Van Os.

A young woman who gave evidence yesterday, after being closely cross-examined, broke down and fainted on leaving the witness-box. In delivering judgment, Mr. Graham said there was a conflict of evidence as to whether the defamatory words which Mrs. Pike complained Van Os had uttered regarding her were actually used by him. He was influenced, however, by the evidence given for the plaintiff by two entirely independent witnesses, and the defendant's own evidence suggested the probability that the testimony of these two witnesses was correct.

Van Os had stated, Mr. Graham said, that Mrs. Pike had told him she would be separated from her husband. Van Os and Mrs. Pike, according to the former's evidence, had become very friendly. He paid frequent visits to her house. He said that he provided her with money for clothing and for her support.

She later told him that her husband was returning, and, in view of the relationship which existed between Van Os and Mrs. Pike, it was only natural that Van Os should become annoyed. There was every probability that Van Os had made use of the words reflecting on Mrs. Pike's character, as alleged by the plaintiff, and, apart from the probabilities, Mr. Graham said he was very strongly impressed by the manner in which the two independent witnesses for the plaintiff had given their evidence.

Mr. Graham thought that justice would be met by an award of £50 with costs to Mrs. Pike. Judgment was entered accordingly.

WINTER HOLIDAYS

Excursion Fares to the Coast

Where to go and how to get there is clearly set out in the railway programme of winter season excursion facilities for residents in Johannesburg and on the Reef.

The pamphlet which has just been issued provides for the usual seasonal excursions to Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London, Lourenco Marques and other centres at single fare for the return journey.

To Durban and stations on the Natal coast lines these cheap rates are available during May, June, July and August; to Port Elizabeth and Jeffreys Bay during May and June; to East London and Port Alfred, during July; and to Lourenco Marques during June, July and August.

Holders of excursion tickets must complete the return journey within three months of the date of the issue of the ticket.

These tickets are only available by certain trains, so that reference to the

MARVELS OF ACCURACY

Clocks Used by Astronomers HOW UNION FIXED STANDARD TIME

Time is such an abstract and transient thing that ordinary mortals give little thought to its importance beyond the measure it takes of their daily passage through life. It is merely the milestone of their progress from one event to another.

Possibly not many South Africans are aware of the circumstances that led up to the fixing of a standard time for the whole of the Union, and how much the busy man of to-day owes to the astronomer for simplifying at one stroke the inconvenience of clock adjustments during a journey in the Union. Standard time for the Union is now two hours east (that is to say, fast) of Greenwich.

It was from the Cape Observatory that the movement emanated to standardise the time of the country. In the old days, according to Admiralty instructions, a daily time signal was given by the Observatory, and a cumbersome signal it was. Taking with him a large, ungainly, brass-barreled pistol, which is still preserved, an attendant watched the second hand of the chronometer in the Observatory until it had reached the appointed instant, when he discharged the weapon, its flash being observed on the top of Signal Hill by a signalman with a telescope, and he in turn, by means of a rope attached to his foot, worked the mechanism which dropped a time ball in the vicinity of the Bay. Heath Robinson would be the appropriate cartoonist to depict this elaborate operation of sending out a not too accurate signal. To-day time is measured on instruments that are accurate to a one-thousandth part of a second.

The Time Signal

Later a gun was fired and the time signal was transmitted along over the Government telegraph system for use in the Cape Colony, the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. Until February, 1892, states the late Sir David Gill in his book on the Cape Observatory, the signals were made at noon and 1 o'clock local mean time of the Observatory. Arrangements were then made for changing the "civil time" of the Colony. Before this date "Observatory mean time" was used for telegraphic purposes throughout the Colony, the disconnected railway systems using the local time of their principal terminal stations.

Each principal town had clocks fitted with two hands, one showing local, the other railway time, and even the smaller villages used local as distinct from railway time. On the junction of the eastern and western railway systems to Cape Colony some change in the time arrangements became necessary, and it was decided that the meridian 2 1/2 degrees (1 1/2 hours) east of Greenwich should be adopted for all purposes throughout the Colony. The new system worked so well that soon afterwards the uniform time of the Cape Colony was adopted in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

When the change was made, Sir David Gill strongly urged that the meridian two hours east of Greenwich should be adopted in order to adhere to the international programme by which civil time is adopted for meridians of even hours east or west of Greenwich. Ministers, however, feared to allow so great a change as three-quarters of an hour, and kept to the 1 1/2 hours east of Greenwich as an approximation of the mean longitude of the Cape.

Clock Put Forward

As a result of representations made by the Transvaal and Natal, the question of Gill's original proposal to adopt for the whole of South Africa two hours east of Greenwich was raised, and in March, 1903, all the clocks in the country were set forward one hour. The change was accomplished without difficulty by means of magistrates, fieldcornets and village authorities posting notices that at the appointed day and hour the change would be made. In this way was standard time fixed for the Union.

A beneficial result of this standardisation is that nearly the whole of South Africa enjoys a little more of summer time than it is really entitled to. Capetown steals no fewer than 46 minutes more, and even Johannesburg enjoys eight minutes extra. A glance at the degree lines on the map will show how the greatest extent of the country has the advantage.

With the aid of wireless and the invention of super-accurate clocks, the keeping of correct time is now a simple matter. There is, in fact, synchronous clocks at Greenwich and some other observatories which only show an error of one-tenth of a second in six months. Astronomers can no longer blame the clock for inaccurate observations!

Wireless is in daily use at the Union Observatory in Johannesburg to record time signals. Daily signals are received by wireless from Bordeaux and other stations in Europe and America. From Bordeaux a correction of the previous day's timing is sent out, and this rarely shows an error of more than one-thirtieth of a second. Among several clocks kept in the Observatory is a "master" instrument, and this is synchronised with the wireless time signals. The clock in turn signals the correct time to the General Post Office every hour, a clock inside that building being in unison with the Observatory instrument.

Soldier's Appeal