

Kruger: Pres. Transvaal Rep. J. van Rensburg 1904  
Bureau Pretoria

FIFTY YEARS UNION OF S. AFRICA

Johannesburg forgot Apartheid for a day or two and took on a festive mood, celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Union of S. Africa. In May, 1910, the descendants of the old Dutch Settlers joined with their British countrymen to form the Union.

Johannesburg celebration

The first Prime Minister was Louis Botha, who fought against Britain in the Boer War but afterwards worked hard for peace between the two peoples, under the Crown.

Picture of Botha (S.A. House)

But the Memory of our Boer War opponent, Paul Kruger, is still held dear by all Afrikaners who were never completely reconciled to the British. Still, the Union became firmly established. After Botha, Gen. Smuts was the leader of the pro-British element in S. Africa, supporting us in both world wars.

~~Boer Memorial and statue of Kruger~~

Cape Town Parliament

Smuts.

High up in Southern Rhodesia is the noble tomb of Cecil Rhodes, the genius who did so much for the gold and diamond industries that paved the way for S. African prosperity. His statue stands in Salisbury, capital of Southern Rhodesia, the country Rhodes founded.

Rhodes's Tomb

Rhodes's statue

And in Joburg itself, the Gold capital of the Union, evidence of prosperity is on every side. The question now is, Can the white man hold his place as top dog - outnumbered by the coloured man more than four-to-one?

~~Johannesburg. Various spots showing prosperity angle.~~

Smuts took his election defeat in 1948 in good part, but for S. Africa it may turn out to have been a disastrous change. Dr. Malan, succeeding as Premier, adopted the policy of segregating the negroes. Apartheid was born.

Smuts in England. Perhaps a sentence about new faces.

Malan and wife

The diamond and gold discoveries of last century called for cheap labour. Into S. African territory flocked the Bantu. With Coloureds and Asiatics they are now the big majority.

Old time diamond discoveries.

New Gold Mine.  
Negro workers on surface and in shaft.

Upon their labour - dirt cheap by white standards - depends the whole economy of the Union of South Africa. The situation, and the Union Government's handling of it, have become explosive - witness the Nashville shootings and the near killing of Premier Verwoerd.

Shanty area. Burnt post office  
Verwoerd shooting.

So Cape Town today is the gateway of a seething country. An incongruous atmosphere for the Jubilee Celebrations in Johannesburg. The best hope is that Apartheid will be modified, harmony be restored between white and coloured races, and S. Africa start an enlightened era of prosperity, based on equality between her different peoples.

Cape Town from sea and from Table Mountain

Back to Joburg celebrations.