

RFP 25p148/15

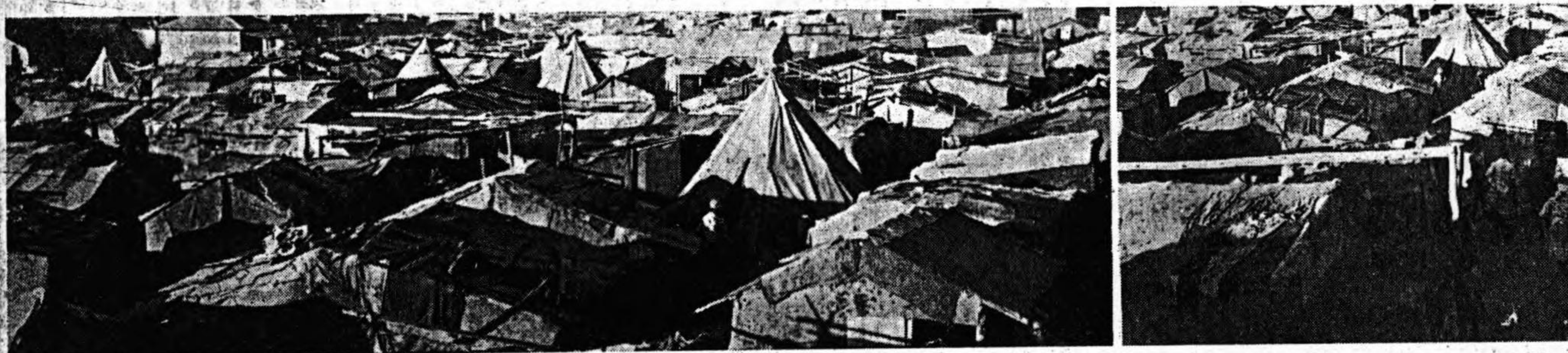
# THICKLY POPULATED AFRICA?



Under the headlines "THOUSANDS OF NATIVE SQUATTERS FORM CITY'S GRAVEST PROBLEM", a special representative of "The Star" writes: "Concealed in a hollow of the spacious, treelined Pretoria Road, eight miles from Johannesburg, is the most densely-populated square mile in Africa. With a population of 70,000, Alexandra Township contains almost as many people as Krugersdorp. But Krugersdorp covers 44 square miles. Alexandra Township's population is crammed in one."

Above is a photo of Alexandra taken from the Pretoria-Johannesburg main road. (All photos in this edition are by the Editor.)

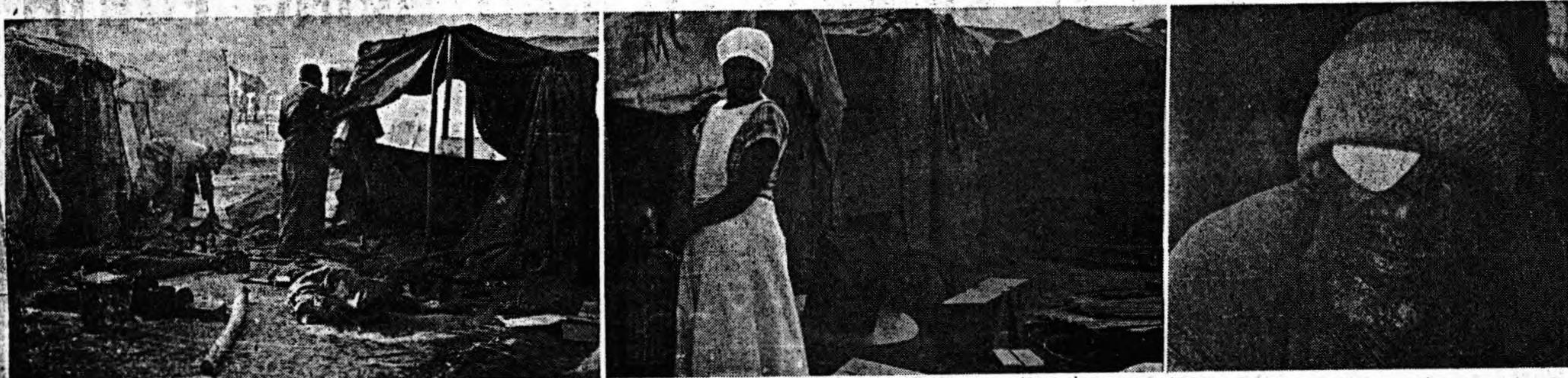
## SQUATTERS AT ALEXANDRA AGGRAVATE OVERCROWDING... A DANGEROUS SITUATION



One of Johannesburg's ugliest sores is the SQUATTERS. Already Alexandra had been seriously overcrowded, and now with many thousands of squatters camping on its squares as seen on the photos above, the position is greatly aggravated. It is a menace to the health of the city, for if epidemics break out here, they can easily spread to the city. Disease knows no Colour Bar! They are a cause of extra burdens to the police too, especially when there are threats of mass disorderliness and rioting. Feelings have run high. "A gigantic administrative breakdown is creating an enormous human tragedy," says "The Star". The splendid efforts by the authorities to solve the Squatters' Problem evoke admiration.

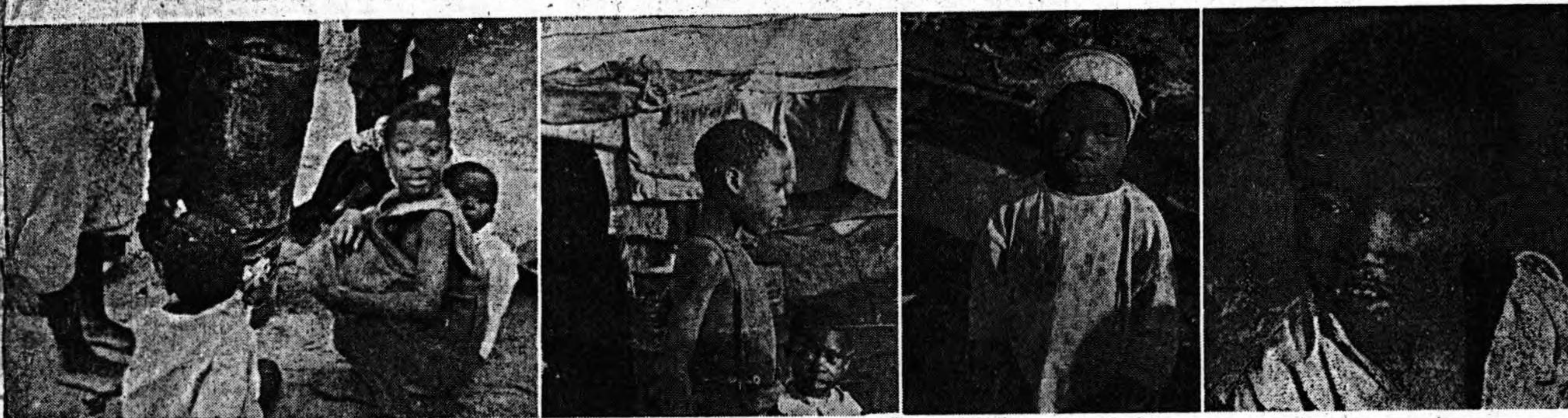
## THE GRIM STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL INTENSIFIED BY WINTER

June '47



It is almost incredible that such masses of men and women can live and survive under these circumstances. In the rain a squatters' settlement is a sad sight. The hessian is very inadequate protection against wind, dust, rain or cold. It is variously estimated that there are between 50,000 and 100,000 squatters in the Johannesburg area. "And when Jesus saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion". The old man on the right cut a pitiable figure as he sat all alone in one of the hessian huts. What an existence!

## "THE CHILD IS FATHER OF THE MAN," WORDSWORTH REALIZED



Mr. D. F. Hennesy of the Johannesburg City Council Native Affairs Department is reported in "Die Transvaler" to have said: "When all the figures are known, it will be to many people a rude shock to discover how many of the Johannesburg squatters' families came to the Johannesburg squatters' camps from the Native rural areas within the last twelve months." Note the word "Families". It means that many more children have been added to Alexandra and Johannesburg generally. This will greatly aggravate the awful conditions already existing at Alexandra which "The Star" describes thus: "There are 24,000 children who get no education whatever. Many of them are illegitimate; a large number of births are not registered". In these increasing numbers of children living under such circumstances enlightened citizens see a potential new and more dangerous crime wave, unless something more is done. Shall we not rather see in these same children the potential future African Church of Christ, and to that end seek to win them for the Saviour?

June 1947

The Star(?)



## ON THE WATERS... FIND IT"



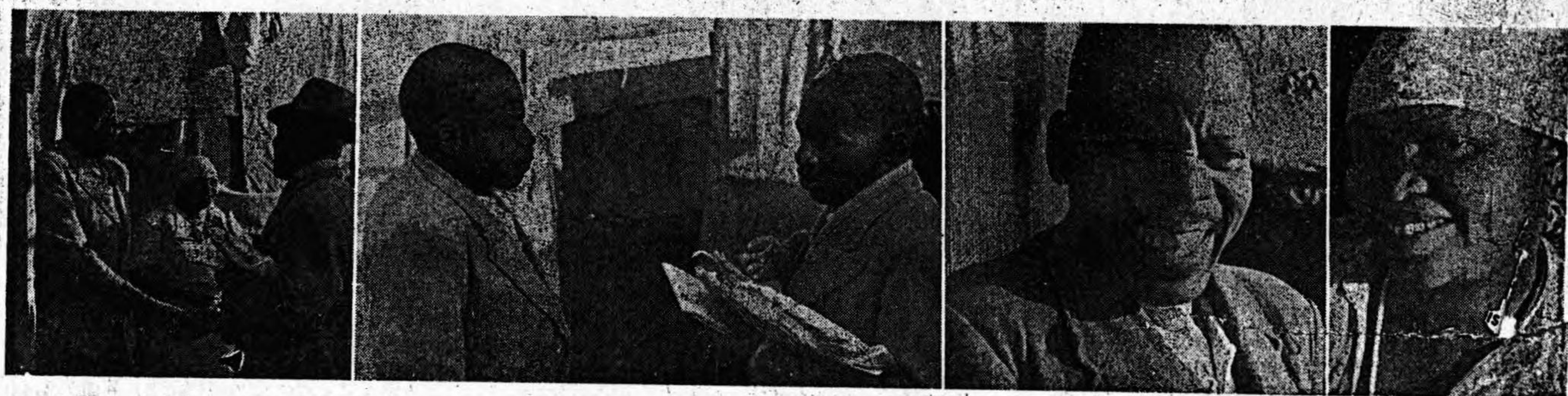
It is a study to watch how eagerly the contents of the tracts are literally devoured as seen on the picture above. Evangelist Isaiah of the Dorothea Mission is seen amongst the squatters at work with his tracts (each with an eternal message). Tracts often lead to talks and even conversions — besides that which we never see. God says, "My Word shall not return unto me void".

## THE CHILDREN WITH THEIR IMPRESSIBLE HEARTS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN



Evangelist Ernest Nquka tenderly feels for the little ones, as if he heard the Master say to him, "Feed my lambs". Watching the children's eagerness to take and read was in itself surely a reward to Evangelist Ernest, besides the unknown "fruit" one day!

## "CHOSEN THAT YE SHOULD GO AND BRING FORTH FRUIT"



In this squatters' camp converts of a recent mission are being visited at their little hessian homes. Now we can never think of the tens of thousands of squatters without remembering that home where the light has come, but surrounded by dense darkness which will stifle it, but for God's grace and your and our prayers... In God's own time we hope to continue evangelizing efforts at Alexandra.

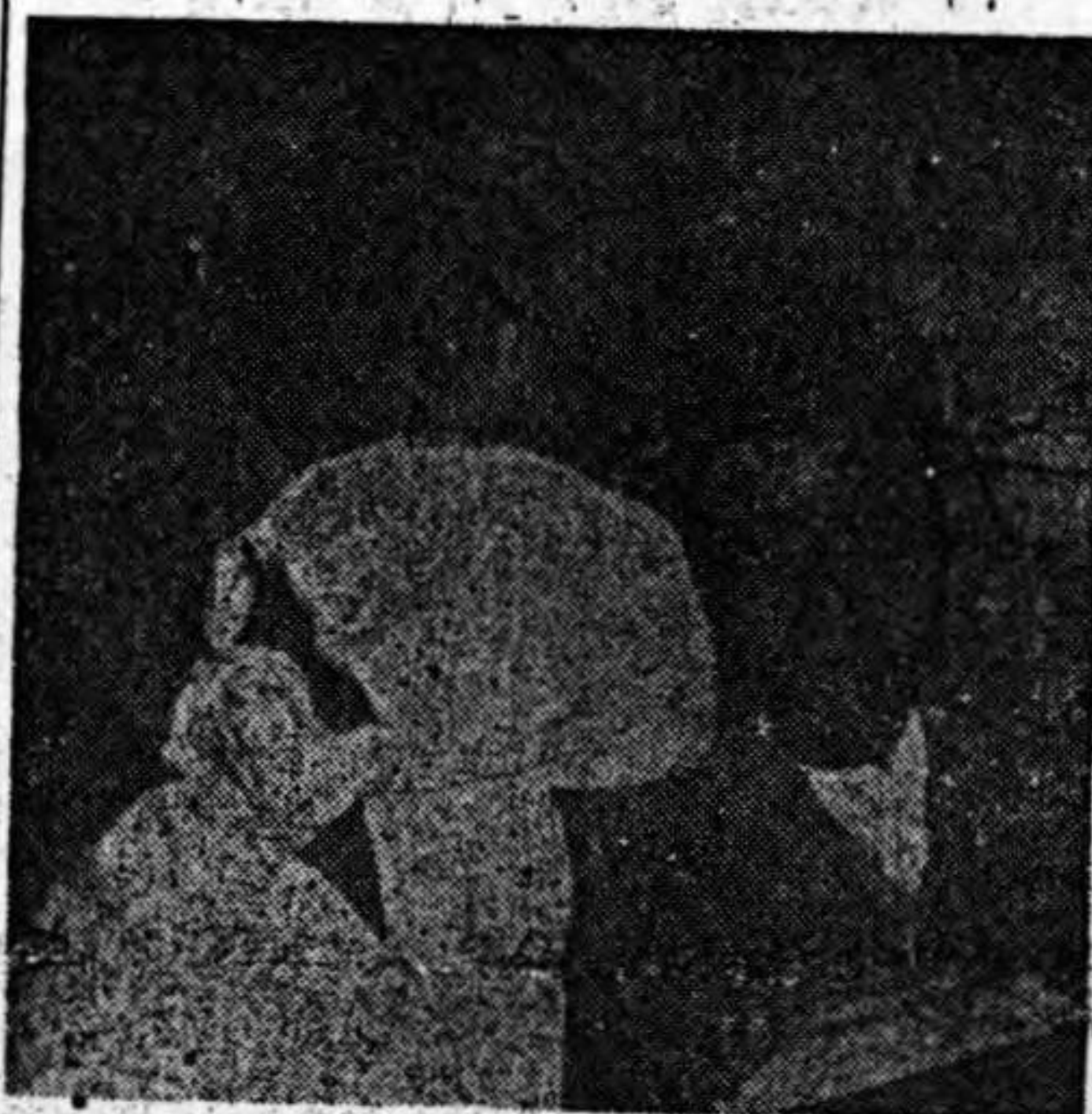
### Rand Daily Mail's Grave Warning

On Wednesday, May 7th, the *Rand Daily Mail* had a Leader on the subject "Why Crime Marches On". It made very, very grave reading. We quote:—

The criminal ranks are recruiting faster and more heavily than the police, and crime marches on.

The important and obvious necessity is to remove those incentives to crime which South Africa has allowed to grow, not merely since the war but for many years. Thousands of natives have flocked from their kraals, where they were under tribal discipline and a code which they understood and generally respected, and too many have been left to congregate in the cities and around them without any instruction in a new code which they could understand, and with no encouragement—indeed, often with no vestige of a chance—to settle down and become respectable citizens. It is idle to talk now of sending them all back home, even if it were desirable. It is equally futile to talk of curing them with the whip. Our neglect has bred ignorance, idleness, and a feeling of resentment and frustration that finds an outlet in crime, and only when we have provided all the natives in our cities with a reasonable alternative to crime can we expect all of them to show any regard for law.

A little enlightened selfishness should tell us that the crime problem has now grown so urgent that the time for reassuring words, or mere threats of sterner punishment, is past. For one very practical reason—our own security—if no other, *we must try another remedy.*



### We must try Another Remedy

If we had fully done our Christian duty in South Africa in bringing the Gospel to these people, would such grave and stern words by one of Africa's great and responsible journals be necessary? In how far is it an indictment of us followers of Jesus Christ? To what extent must we read our neglect and failure in the words "we must try another remedy"? There have been loyal, devoted, deeply spiritual missionaries and native workers in these locations, unselfishly supported by praying and giving people of God. And there has been glorious fruit. But have we all done what we could and ought? Can we say the Christian Church has been fully obedient? Ourselves and our land reaping the bitter fruits of our selfishness, sluggishness, disobedience and neglect? Shall we, as Christ's Church in this land, not rise and acknowledge "we must try another remedy", or apply more fully the remedy we know, and then give to these people in the locations the Gospel more truly and faithfully than hitherto?

Of course our motive is not prevention of crime or making our streets and possessions safe! It is far higher and holier. It is ever and only obedience to Christ's great command, "Go... preach the Gospel to every creature". But then, obedience especially in taking the Gospel to the lost, ever brings in its train real blessings. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you."

We believe that fuller obedience of the Church of Christ in South Africa, in this urgent matter of bringing the Gospel to our locations, alone will assure us of God's blessing on our land in internal and external protection and safety. Further neglect—and terrible neglect there unquestionably is—bodes us all no good!

By candle light inside their hessian home the Dorothea Mission evangelist instructs the converts in the Christian life. His text book is the Word of God. Outside the above-mentioned hessian home Mr. Joubert is pleading with a soul.