

THE WORLD'S WORST SLUMS

Behind the pomp and glamour of the recent royal tour of South Africa by Britain's King and Queen lies another story—a sordid, grim story spotlighted dramatically by a young, idealistic Anglican priest who was fined by a Johannesburg court because he chose to live with and share the suffering of Negro natives in the shantytown slums.

The Rev. Michael Scott defied long-standing racial taboos to go into the squalid shacks on a stretch of sloping veldt at West Orlando and bring out a gruesome picture of how 70,000 homeless squatters are living and dying in the worst slums in the world within the shadow of one of the richest cities in the world. Just outside the gold city of Johannesburg, Scott lived in a camp called Tobruk, so named because many of its colored dwellers found it fully as horrible as the prisoner-of-war camps they lived in when captured by the Nazis in North Africa.

Kept out of Johannesburg by the color bar and unable to live in the native reserves because of overcrowding, thousands of Africans have built their own cities out of rubbish and trash. Most of the men labor in the gold city's industries, shops and homes. But after work they ride 10 miles in Jim Crow aluminum-colored street cars back to the stench of enormous piles of rubbish composed of oxen entrails, human excreta and decaying garbage that infests Tobruk. They try to sleep in their makeshift huts but when it rains, the roofs leak and streams run down the hillside, often through the middle of the shack. Children can be seen lying on grass mattresses surrounded entirely by running water.

In the midst of the Tobruk camp, one of half a dozen such shantytowns, the tall, lean figure of the Rev. Michael Scott came to try to grapple with the hopeless burdens of these people, to become their only friend and adviser. He started a school and a chapel, but neither education nor religion can begin to meet the dire economic problems of the South African natives whose plight has become a blot upon all white civilization. It has made a tragic mockery of ex-Prime Minister Winston Churchill's wartime admonition: "There should be no barrier of race, color or creed to prevent any man by merit from reaching any station."

MINISTER PUTS CIVILIZATION ON TRIAL IN AFRICAN COURT

King George VI, Britain's first reigning monarch ever to visit the Union of South Africa, shocked a great many white Europeans on his first day in Capetown. He told a state banquet that he hoped South Africa would strive "towards a just and contented relationship between

all dwellers in your many-peopled land."

"By achieving such a relationship you can show to the troubled world how peoples of different race and color may live and work together for the common good," said the king.

There was bitter irony and hollow sham in those words for South Africa today is the exact antithesis of every concept of racial good will. Nowhere in the world is the Negro as oppressed and exploited as in South Africa. And in shantytowns like Tobruk the world can view the results in the raw. The Rev. Michael Scott graphically described the mis- African court he told the magistrate that white civilization rather than he should be on trial.

"Here we have a situation in which the poorest and most uneducated and untrained section of the people have neither land nor homes in which to bear their young. They are denied the most elementary needs."

"They have been regarded as our raw materials, as an endless field for exploitation, the residue to be discarded as useless refuse."

Whether still "raw material" (av-

Easter Greetings

Easter is one of the most joyous and happy festivals of the Christian year. It is more to every grateful heart than the wearing of new clothes. It is more than gladness that the long winter is over and that spring has come again. Easter is more than looking forward to the full blooming of summer; more than beautiful Easter flowers and thrilling Easter music.

Easter is the celebration of the most important event in the whole history of man—the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. God in His wonderful Providence planned it to come in the spring so that Easter coincides with the bursting forth of new life from the dark cold earth. It is the renewal of hope in every heart that from "the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be." Easter is the joyous reassurance of the truth of those immortal words: "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid". These glorious words which have rolled down the centuries bringing solace and relief to the sorrowful and broken in heart, are sorely needed in our confused and anxious world.

According to a ruling established many centuries ago, Easter is observed on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox (March 21) which this year is March 28th. So that Easter comes this season almost as early as ancient law makes possible. Let us all celebrate Easter this year by attending Divine Service.

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