

15 Junie in den vroegeen morgen overleed alhier de Heer William Skinner, een der oudste ingezetenen dezer stad.

Algemeen en innig leedwezen word gevoeld by het vernomen dezer tyding. Dadelik zag men de verschillende vlaggen zonder onderscheid halfstok hyzen als uitdrukking van de deelneming en smart in het sterwe van die heer Skinner. Onverwacht treft dit sterven want ene ziekte van nauweliks een week maakte een einde aan een nuttig en werkzaam leven. Velen waren onwetend met het gevaar der ziekte en nog Zondag waren de betrekkingen vol hoop op herstelling en men meende een gunstig verskynsel in die toestand van den kranke waar te nemen.

Daarop volgden den anderen morgen onze vriend is gestorven. Met weemoed gedenken wy zyne harteliken omgang en beproefde vriendskap. Een vriendelyke sonneskyn kwam overal met hem mede, en door de warmte van zyn goed hart heeft hy menigeen verkwikt. In menig huis en hart zal de gedachtenis van de brave onverzwakt voortduren. Het goede door hem gewild en gedaan keere in zegeningen op zyne treurende betrekkingen terug. . . . Zelden zagen wy zulk een meer talryken lykstoet, nooit een meer talryker, het lyk van den beminden man en vriend naar de begraafplaats volgen op Dinsdag namiddag. Als een betoning van hoogagting verdaag de zitting houdende Volksraad . . . De meerderheid van den achtbare volksraadsleden kon men onder de stoet opmerken die aldus de laatste eer aan de gestorven bewezen."

S. G. ROOS.

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## CHARLES JOHN BEANES,

born in Middlesex, 1877. Arrived in South Africa in February 1900 on the troopship "Canada".

Joined the Transvaal Post Office on 1st October, 1902.

Retired on pension 21st November 1932. He draws great pleasure from the fact that he has drawn a pension for 28 years, and feels that if many civil servants did this the Government would have to revise its pension arrangements.

As he nears his 83rd birthday he continues to play bowls three times a week, and can lay crazy paving in concrete with the best of them.

His only vice is an inordinate love of Pretoria.

Mrs. R. E. KUIPER.



# CHURCH SQUARE

ACCORDING to Dr. Gustav Preller, the first official move to bring Pretoria into existence took place at Potchefstroom on 9th August 1853 when the two Commandants-General, M. W. Pretorius and Piet Potgieter, appeared before the Kommissie and Krygsraad and asked that body "to define the place of session for the Volksraad at a centrally situated place in the country."

The matter was referred to the Volksraad which met at Lydenburg in September 1853. In addition to the previous proposal there was a letter from M. W. Pretorius requesting the Volksraad to purchase portions of two farms from J. J. P. Prinsloo and Andries van der Walt on which a town would be laid out and named after his father, A. W. J. Pretorius, the hero of "Bloed" River. Both proposals were rejected by the Volksraad. Shortly afterwards, apparently to prevent the farms from falling into other hands, Commandant-General M. W. Pretorius purchased, subject to the approval of the Volksraad, portions of the two farms for £600, and another from the widow Bronkhorst for £225.0.0.

At a further session of the Volksraad at Potchefstroom in November 1853 the subject of a new town was again discussed and again rejected. Thus frustrated by the Volksraad, M. W. Pretorius and his supporters applied to a session of the Volksraad held at Rustenburg in June 1854 "for the establishment of a Church Council on the farm Elandspoort" which had been purchased by M. W. Pretorius as the site for a new town, knowing full well that where a church was built and a congregation established a town would almost certainly follow. The Volksraad authorised the establishment of a Church Council and during August in the same year the building of a church was commenced on what is now Church Square. The existence of a Church Council, a church and a fairly large congregation had to be followed by a town and at a session of the Volksraad at Potchefstroom on the 16th November 1855 the laying out of a town to be named Pretoria was authorised. Thus the creation of the town was sanctioned seventeen months after the Church Council had been established and the original plan of the "Kerkplaas Elandspoort" had been made by Louis and Lionel Devereux.

When Mr. A. F. du Toit was about to lay out the town taking cognisance of the original plan of the "Kerkplaas Elandspoort" by the Devereux brothers he was instructed by M. W. Pretorius to make the Church the centre of the town, the result being that the centre of the Church became the centre of the intersection of the north-south and the east-west streets. Ground equal to two erven in extent was left vacant at each of the four corners of these two streets to provide for the area known today as Church Square. Although the name "Kerkplein" was

used on the deed of transfer of the ground from M. W. Pretorius to the Nederduitsch Hervormde Gemeente in 1867, the name "Market Square" persisted until the 1890's.

The Concession to build a market hall on the corner of Church and van der Walt Streets and control the morning market was granted in about 1889. Sales of produce on Church Square came to an end in the early nineties although sales of property took place under "The Oaks" at the south western corner of the Square until "The Oaks" (which was one tree) and the building known as "The Coffin" were removed in about 1917.

In Jeppe's Directory for 1881, dated November 1880, two or three addresses are shown as near "New Market Square," which indicates that plans had already been made to remove the market from its old site.

The obvious reason for leaving a large open space around the Church was for the parking of wagons and the erection of tents by farmers who travelled to Pretoria by ox-wagon for *Nachtmaal*, and there can be no doubt that the obstruction so caused was one of the reasons for the purchase by the Government of the Church and ground. An account of the negotiations between the Government and the Church Council on the subject should provide interesting reading.

Church Square could originally be entered only from Church or Market (Paul Kruger) Streets, but today five other streets enter the Square, viz. Parliament Street, Bank Lane, Bureau Lane, Mutual and Palace Streets. Mutual Street, part of Erf No. 278, was opened up only in 1903-1, when Mutual Building was erected. An account by Miss J. H. Davies of the origin of Palace Street (part of Erf No. 275) appeared in the first issue of "Pretoriana" in September 1951. Permission for the opening of the street was granted by the Executive Council of the Volksraad in April 1885 and the street became known as Court Street. It was officially named Palace Street by the Municipality in 1907.

These are the only two streets for which I can give the dates of origin. The Registrar of Deeds writes to say that he cannot give the dates of origin of the other three streets.

Parliament Street (part of Erf No. 411) so named officially in 1907 was formerly known as Theatre Lane, and in Jeppe's Directory for 1881 two bars are shown hereabout as being in "Cheapside". Bank Lane occupies parts of Erven Nos. 414 and 415, and Bureau Lane parts of parts of Erven Nos. 368, 369 and 370. Bureau Lane was at one time occupied largely by members of the legal profession and was colloqually referred to as Sharks' Alley and Aasvogelslaan, and it was by no means uncommon for letters to be sent through the post so addressed.

Photographs show that Bank Lane and Bureau Lane were in existence before 1877.



*CHURCH SQUARE ± 1904*

Today we might wish that the church had been placed in a "square" similar to Market Square and bounded by four streets. The conditions prevailing one hundred years ago however made it necessary occasionally to use the church as a fort and place of refuge. A fort in the centre of Market Square would have been much more vulnerable than the church on Church Square.

At the time the church was built the ground belonged to M. W. Pretorius and he no doubt indicated to the Church Council the site of the church. A most peculiar thing about the matter is that it was built on ground to which the Church Council had no legal title for thirteen years, for it was not until 18th April, 1867 that M. W. Pretorius transferred to the Nederduitsch Hervormde Gemeente what was simply described as "Stuk grond in het midden van het dorp Pretoria gelegen, bekend by den naam Kerkplein". No dimensions were stated.

This uncertainty of what was church property and what was public property no doubt caused the Government some concern. Was there any legal objection to the church authority building new premises right up against the front windows of the premises surrounding the Square?

In 1895 Surveyor Servaas de Kock surveyed Church Square and for the first time the dimensions are stated. The area is given as 3 morgen 171 square rods 69 square feet. The dimensions being 519 Cape feet in the N.S. direction and 547 Cape feet in the E.W. direction. The land described includes a right of way presently comprising the streets around the Square in favour of the general public, 79 Cape feet wide along all boundaries. On the 6th July 1899 Kerk Plein was transferred by the Nederduitsch Hervormde Gemeente to the Government of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek. To the deed of transfer was attached a diagram framed from the survey by S. de Kock in 1895. In 1905 the land was transferred to the Pretoria Municipality by Crown Grant. I have to thank the Surveyor-General for the information about the ownership and dimensions of Church Square.

Today all Pretorians should be thankful for the foresight of the Government of the South African Republic in purchasing the land from the Church authorities, otherwise there would have been no obstacle, other than public outcry, to the church authority, if that body so desired, erecting buildings all round the Square leaving the 79 feet roadway only if they agreed to that boundary.

The Church built during 1854 - 1857 was a simple structure but contained seating accomodation for 700 - 800 people. It was enlarged and rebuilt during the 1860's and burned down during 1882 and replaced by a large cruciform church with a tower surmounted by a steeple at the east end, and to preserve the original church-fort complex a door faced each of the north, south, east and west streets. The church continued to be used until 1904 when the congregation moved to the new church at the

corner of Bosman and Vermeulen Streets. Most of the church fittings had been moved to the new church when news came that President Kruger had died in Switzerland and was to be buried in Pretoria.

It was arranged that the body should lie in state in the old church for a few days before the funeral and an edifice was erected on the south side of the church, facing the Old Government Buildings, from which valedictory speeches were to be delivered on the day of the funeral. All was ready for the arrival of the body when an official of the Public Works Department reported that the steeple was in danger of falling down. To prevent this happening during the service it was at once decided to remove the steeple.

The orations were to be made at the west end of the church and that is where the mourners would accordingly be, while the steeple was at the east end. However, a steel cable was placed round the top of the steeple and the two ends fixed to a traction engine (which in those days was the most powerful vehicle on the road in Pretoria). When all was ready the engine made a rush in the direction of Bureau Lane, but before it got so far the vehicle stopped, the cable became taut, and for a moment the front wheels of the traction engine were off the ground and down came, not the steeple, but the weather vane and the small piece of zink sealing the top of the steeple. The applause by the delighted onlookers was great.

Telephone rentals in those days was £17 a year for an unlimited number of calls, so it is easy to understand why so few private residences had one, and this makes it difficult to explain how the residents living beyond the central area got to know that something worth seeing was taking place on Church Square — but the crowd soon arrived.

While the cable was again — and yet again — being passed round the steeple the question was asked: “What is wrong with the steeple? It has been up for less than twenty years.” But all that happened when the cable became taut was that the engine stopped with its front wheels off the ground — the steeple keeping its head erect all the time. Every effort was well applauded. It is not possible to say whether the official who reported that the steeple was unsafe, had a good night’s sleep or not, but the operation was continued the following day with two traction engines, but every time the cable became taut it left the steeple and the front wheels of the engine in the air. It was a real fete day, nothing to pay, and the gleeful onlookers enjoying it to the utmost. The output of work in shops and offices must have been well below normal judging by the number of onlookers.

The few people who did not enjoy the fun were the members of the Public Works Department, and obviously they were troubled. When the steeple finally came down and the rubble cleared away the officer responsible for the original report was no doubt called upon for an explanation which would have made interesting reading had it been made

public. The failure of the two traction engines to pull down the "dangerous" steeple caused operations to be suspended while a man went up and removed a few bricks from the lower courses. The cable was again placed in position and the traction engines rushed forward for the last time, and as the cable tightened a small part of the steeple fell into the roadway, but the bulk, pushed westward, smashed the roof of the church, fell into the nave and smashed the organ which at once made the building unsuitable for the lying-in-state.

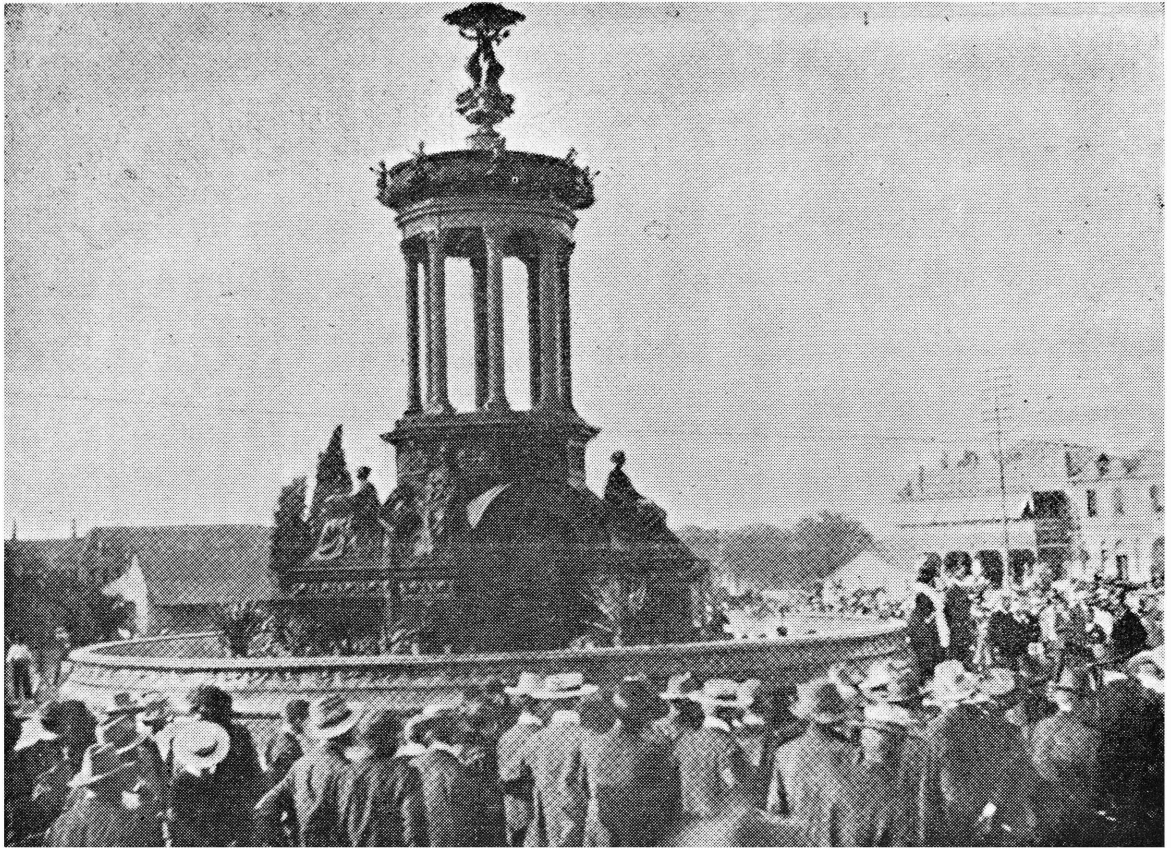
This unexpected climax brought consternation to everybody and an embarrassed Government at once offered the Volksraad Chamber for the lying-in-state, but the officiating body chose the newly completed Suzanna Hall for the purpose, and on the day of the funeral the body was brought from Vermeulen Street to Church Square for the valedictory service.

The demolition of the church was completed early in the new year and the pedestal for the Kruger Statue, which stood a little beyond the western end of the church, was also removed and re-erected in Prince's Park. When the rubble had been cleared away the Square was bare except for the poles supporting the telegraph and telephone wires.

For a year or so the Square was used occasionally for ceremonial military parades, torch-light tatoes etc. On these occasions the Municipality erected wooden staging on the pavement round the Square, leaving openings for entrances to the buildings. The same staging was used several times and as the seats were free they were filled by thankful Pretorians and visitors.

In the meantime, Messrs. Lewis and Marks who, ten years earlier, had donated the Kruger Monument, presented a fountain for the centre of the Square. This fountain is now in the Zoological Gardens, but when on the Square it stood upon two or three broad granite steps which gave it a more dignified appearance than it has today. The fountain, however, was never regarded as anything more than a stop-gap while some scheme for a new lay-out for the whole Square could be worked out.

The opportunity came a few years later when it was decided to replace the horse-drawn trams by an electrical system. The extended system included a line east and west of the Square and south to the Railway Station. That was accepted, but when the proposal was made that the line to the Zoological Gardens should go along Market (now Paul Kruger) Street, the town was in an uproar. The utilitarians wanted the Square to be crossed by tram lines from east to west and north to south, with four small plots which would be laid out as gardens -- each about the size of a pocket handkerchief. The opponents wanted the line to the Zoo to travel along St. Andries Street and the east-west line to go round the south side of the Square. That party won the day but then the question arose as to how the central part of the Square was to be finished off, and it seemed as if it were to be laid out horticulturally.





Just when it appeared that everybody was satisfied a letter appeared in the Press signed by two Pretorians with foresight and taste — Dr. Engelenburg, editor of *DIE VOLKSTEM*, and Mr. W. J. de Zwaan, architect, who pointed out that Church Square had about the same dimensions and slope as Trafalgar Square, and suggesting that Church Square should also be laid out architecturally. Argument broke out afresh, the main question being: Who is going to pay? Pretoria, it was generally felt, could not afford such a costly plan. Fortunately the idea was ultimately accepted by most of the town councillors, and by Mr. Walton Jameson the Town Engineer and many influential Pretorians. Models showing what the Square should look like soon appeared. Ultimately, the Council asked architects to submit designs for the lay-out, and that submitted by Mr. V. Rees-Poole (who is still in practice in Pretoria) won the One hundred guinea prize.

All disagreement on the subject did not cease when the design was accepted. The cost troubled many councillors, especially as they were divided on the important matter of the material to be used. The Town Engineer, supported by some of the councillors, wanted the work carried out in granite, but the majority — because of the cost — voted for freestone. The Town Engineer was instructed to call for tenders for the work to be done in freestone. He had perforce to comply, but he asked all tenderers to submit an alternative price for granite.

During the period between calling for prices and the opening of the tenders, the advocates of granite must have done a lot of lobbying. The Town Engineer's main argument was that granite would last for a thousand years and the upkeep would be negligible, whereas freestone was quite unsuitable for use in Pretoria where the iron pyrites in the soil affected it adversely. He was able to point to the Union Buildings, then not completed, where the lower courses were at that stage already discoloured.

After the opening of the tenders, the Council agreed to the use of granite, for which they are entitled to the thanks of Pretorians for many generations to come. The white population at that time was about 40,000, and the estimated cost of the project was £36,000, which figure was certainly exceeded. Has any other town in the Union spent £1 per head of its white population on a work of adornment for its town?

Mr. Jacob Epstein (now Sir) contracted to come to Pretoria to carve two lions in granite which were to be placed, one on either side of the lower steps at the southern entrance to the Square. If one stands on the landing between the two flights of steps the bases for the two lions will be seen, one on each side. People probably wonder why those two blocks of



*The Marks Fountain, Church Square, Pretoria.*

*Ceremony of turning on the water.*

*This fountain is now in the Zoological Gardens.*

granite were left with rough tops. The reply is simple — that the sculptor never arrived to carve the lions.

The Town Council decided to have the centre of the Square adorned with statues of eight prominent South Africans, although this was not part of the original design. On the outer edge of the circle around the Kruger monument a bronze lamp stands on each side of the four paths that converge there. The lamps stand on the granite bases at ground level that were put down for the statues. Subsequently a wise Town Council decided that agreement on the prominent South Africans could never be reached, and the eight bronze lampposts were erected instead of the statues.

It has been stated in certain brochures on the town that the eight statues were to be erected on top of each of the eight pylons at the entrances to the Square. Six of the pylons have tops that are neither flat nor large enough for a small statue and at the same time they are much too high for such a purpose.

A few years ago the architect, Mr. Rees-Poole, told me that a few people suggested that statues of Generals Botha and Smuts should surmount the two large pylons at the southern entrance, but the idea did not fit in with his views on the subject.

While in London some years ago I attended a lecture on building stones at the Geological Museum, and a slide was shown of a granite surround to a bank entrance in London, and the lecturer remarked that he knew of no instance where granite had been used more decoratively. To my way of thinking, it was very plain, so I obtained photographs of the two pylons at the southern end of the Square on which the coats of arms of the Union and Pretoria have been carved. The lecturer was surprised that granite could be so finely worked. He asked for the negatives so that slides could be made and when the negatives were returned he wrote to say that the slides would be used at future lectures. These two pylons are well worth inspection. On each pylon has been carved the Pretoria coat of arms and the Union coat of arms, one in front and the other at the back, the order being reversed on one of the pylons so that both coats of arms face north and south.

In addition to these two pylons there is another pair or ornaments which can be classed as architectural gems. They are the fountains, one on each side of the central steps and midway along the retaining walls. A walk across the lawn to one of the fishponds will show, recessed in the retaining wall, a semi-domed fountain with a projecting carved head emitting a stream of water into the pool below. The projecting surround to the recess is carried up to intercept the balustrade which is recessed for a seat on the reverse side above pavement level. In the many brochures that have been issued by the City Council and the Pretoria Publicity Association I have no recollection of ever having seen photographs of either the pylons

or the fountains. Is it possible that they have remained unnoticed for nearly half a century?

These items should not be overlooked when visitors are shown the grandeur of Church Square.

In the erection of the Kruger Monument on Church Square a grave error was made, many Pretorians feel, in using a garish granite for the base which clashes harshly with the grey granite of the main features of the Square. The general effect of the grouping of the figures is also at fault in that one's attention is attracted to the subordinate figures, (which however should not be overlooked) rather than to the principal statue. Furthermore, the despondent, humped back of the statue faces that side of the Square where public gatherings are held. On the original pedestal the front of the statue was to face the Raadsaal and it is a pity that it is now facing in the opposite direction.

The grey granite used for the pylons, walls and balustrade on the Southern half of the Square came from Halfway House, while on the northern half Bon Accord granite or norite was used for the small posts supporting the bronze chains.

There might be other views, but many of us feel that the beauty of the Square has been enhanced by the horticultural efforts of the present Director of Parks, Mr. Bruinslich.

When showing your visitors Church Square you are doing an injustice simply by walking round or through it. Stop, look at the pylons, the fountains, the wall and the balustrade. Look, and be grateful to those who made this work of adornment possible. An old friend of mine once remarked that the beauty of Cape Town and Durban was there before the arrival of man, but the beauty of Pretoria was created by its citizens.

The number of Scottish residents in the early days of Pretoria was no doubt responsible for the large gatherings of Pretorians of all ages in Church Square to welcome in the New Year. From 10.00 p.m. onwards Church Street was packed with Pretorians on "pantoffel parade", as the Dutch called it. Cafes were crowded but as the old year drew to its end people gravitated to the Square where they formed a huge circle. As the clock struck midnight hands were crossed and joined and Auld Lang Syne would be sung with deep feeling.

Although many carried a bottle of the Spirit of Scotland (6/6 a bottle in those days!) which was handed round to friends and strangers alike, there was no drunkenness or disorder. It was a huge family gathering, the like of which is unknown in Pretoria today. There were no water pistols or paper tassels with wooden handles pushed into one's face to cause annoyance and even injury. It was the arrival of those "aids to enjoyment" that caused families to remain at home instead of assembling on the Square.

C. J. BEANES.

# BURGERSPARK

## ONTSTAAN VAN DIE OU BOTANIESE TUIN.

**B**URGERSPARK is Pretoria se oudste park. Op 2 Augustus 1961 sal dit presies 'n honderd jaar wees dat C. A. Preller in 'n brief aan die destydse regering van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek die gedagte uitgespreek het dat in die dorp Pretoria — wat sopas in die vorige jaar die regeringsetel van die Suid-Afrikaanse Republiek geword het, behalwe vir die aanlê van een of meer parke, daar ook voorsiening gemaak moes word vir 'n *Botanische Tuin*. Daar is egter geen onmiddellike uitvoering aan Preller se wenk gegee nie.

Eers in 1874 het president T. F. Burgers aan die saak daadwerklike aandag geskenk toe hy in de Volksraad 'n voorstel ingedien het waarin die wenslikheid van die aanlê van 'n „Botanische Tuin” in Pretoria bepleit is. Die Volksraad was die voorstel van die President goedgesind en op 8 Oktober van daardie selfde jaar het die Raad besluit om 18 erwe in Pretoria vir die aanlê van 'n „Botanische Tuin” te skenk. Benewens die skenking van die waardevolle erwe (wat destyds besig was om uitgemeet te word) het die Volksraad ook £100 per jaar vir drie jaar bewillig vir die aanlê en instandhouding van die Tuin wat direk onder toesig van die Regering gestaan het. Hierdie 18 erwe was geleë tussen (Jacob) Maré-, Van der Walt- en St. Andriesstraat (soos die straat destyds genoem was). Burgersparklaan, die teenswoordige noordelike grens van die park, het eers mettertyd tot stand gekom.

## PROBLEME IN VERBAND MET DIE INSTANDHOUDING VAN DIE BOTANIESE TUIN.

**O**P 7 Desember 1874 is daar 'n ooreenkoms aangegaan tussen staatssekretaris N. J. R. Swart en John Hunter McLea (voorheen kurator van die botaniese tuin op Graaff Reinet) waarvolgens McLea teen 'n jaarlikse besoldiging van £300 as eerste kurator van die Tuin aangestel is. Op 6 Maart 1875 het McLea 'n afskrif van 'n „huishoudelike” reglement vir die tuin aan die Staatssekretaris voorgelê.<sup>1)</sup>

Teen die einde van 1874 is verskeie vry gifte van allerlei soorte boom-, blom- en struiksade ontvang o.a. van McGibbon van die Kaapse Botaniese Tuin, van J. C. Preller van Pretoria en van die heer Brink by die Fonteine.<sup>2)</sup>

Die Volksraad het op 25 Mei 1875 die £100, wat voorheen belowe is, toegestaan maar het geweier om die voorgenoemde kontrak met McLea te bekragtig. Ook die naturelle-arbeiders is uit die Tuin teruggetrek.<sup>3)</sup> Die Staatspresident en Staatssekretaris was gedurende hierdie tyd in die buiteland.

In Junie 1875 is 'n goed-bygewoonde openbare vergadering in die Volksraadsaal gehou, van burgers wat belanggestel het in die welvaart van hulle dorp en vriende van die Staatspresident, onder voorsitterskap van J. R. Lys. Hier is 'n komitee bestaande uit S. J. Meintjies, H. van Breda, J. C. Preller, J. Brooks, met D. M. Kisch as voorsitter en eerw. George Sharley as sekretaris, aangestel om hulle vir die voortsetting van die werk vir die Botaniese Tuin te beywer. Die Komitee het opdrag gekry om geldelike bydraes, in die vorm van gereelde subskripsie, vir die werk van die publiek te probeer verkry.<sup>4)</sup> Tydens een vergadering aan die huis van D. M. Kisch is £57. 11s. gekollekteer.<sup>5)</sup>

Aan die einde van 1875 het McLea bedank en O. Lincke is in sy plek aangestel.<sup>6)</sup> Lincke se salaris was £200 per jaar.

President Burgers het na sy terugkeer dit betreur dat sy opdragte in verband met die Botaniese Tuin in sy afwesigheid verontagsaam is. President Burgers het baie belang in die Tuin gestel, en hy het selfs beloof om die salaris van die kurator uit eie sak te betaal as dit nie anders kon nie. Die doel van die Tuin was ook om landboubelange te bevorder. Verskillende sade en plante is uit die buiteland bestel en reeds op 5 Januarie 1876 kon die Staatsekretaris in die Staats Courant bekend maak dat die publiek daar verskillende soorte eucalyptusbome, dennebome, akasias en sipresse, asook struik, blombolle en aarbeiplante kon kry.<sup>7)</sup>

## POGINGS OM DIE GROND VIR ANDER DOELEINDES TE GEBRUIK.

**I**N 1877 was daar 'n verdere interessante ontwikkeling toe besluit is om 'n nuwe tuin op *Knoppiesfontein* ('n naam wat blykbaar heeltemal in die vergetelheid geraak het), twee myl buite Pretoria in 'n westelike rigting, aan te lê. Die gedagte was dan om op die beskikbare 175 akkers grond 'n modelboerdery aan die gang te sit onder bestuur van G. Baikie. Die nuwe tuin buite die dorp sou in die plek van die oue kom en laasgenoemde sou dan tot niet gemaak word. N. J. R. Swart, die eertydse Staatsekretaris van President Burgers, maar destyds in Engelse diens, het in Junie 1877 dit as sy mening uitgespreek dat die ligging van die Ou Botaniese Tuin swak gekies was en daarby was die grond nog boonop rotsagtig. Vir daardie rede het Swart aan die Engelse Tussenregering voorgestel dat die Ou Botaniese Tuin liewer verkoop en 'n nuwe een in 'n ander geskikter omgewing aangêlê moes word.

Gedurende hierdie tyd was Transvaal deur Engeland geannekseer. Shepstone se doel was om 'n proefplaas te skep waar uitheemse bome en plante geakklimatiseer kon word en wat ook as 'n opvoedkundige inrigting kon dien.

Die Tussenregering was ten gunste van die oorpasing en mettertyd is die Botaniese Tuin na sy nuwe omgewing oorgeplaas en het die Ou

