

Chairman's Foreword.

Behold, we build a Nation.

Where the bright blue ribbon of road, which forms the main highway linking Cape Town with the rest of Africa and emphasising the essential oneness of our continent, winds round the base of the Voortrekker Monument and passes through Pretoria, the Transvaal celebrated the tercentenary of Van Riebeeck's landing in Table Bay. For some weeks in March and April, 1952, our festival continued in grateful remembrance of our past. We endeavoured to assess our achievements of the past three centuries and some of these we represented in visual form. The result was an inspiration to many. We also tried to understand the nature of the mandate which civilisation has given us in Africa. It was a great task, as we saw it, and we pledged ourselves anew to its fulfilment. Moving on those pinnacles of inspiration and insight, we obtained strength for the road that we are to follow.

We thought big and we felt proud, but at times we deemed ourselves small and unequal to our task. Yet in those days whilst we found ourselves on the heights, some of us felt an urge towards achievement and much was accomplished: a poem specially composed, a drama, a melody, the experience of successful organisation, here and there a fine dress designed, display cabinets for a museum, a nature reserve in remembrance, a stretch of tarred road named in honour of the wife of our first coloniser, a contribution to a good cause that needed it, bonds of friendship strengthened, more tolerance and affection, a deeper knowledge of our history and the factors that went towards its making as well as the men toward whom we were indifferent or worse.

And here is presented, over the name of our Hon. Secretary, a brief summary and unadorned, of what the Celebrations Committee and its many helpers were able to offer, trusting that it will be a reminder to many who as a result of the celebrations, grasped their terms of reference more clearly and mapped their lines of action more firmly than before; trusting, too, that it will strengthen those who come after them in their faith.

Herewith, then, we believe that we have carried out the instructions imposed on us by our principals, the "Afrikaanse Kultuurraad" of Pretoria and the citizens of the Transvaal; and the Committee ventures to assume its honourable discharge.

G. W. EYBERS.