

THE STANDARD AND WEST RAND REVIEW

"The Forgotten Factor"

*Weapon in the War
of Ideas*

Brilliant Stage Production

THE MUCH DISCUSSED Moral Re-Armament play, "The Forgotten Factor," was staged at the Town Hall, Krugersdorp, last night at the special invitation of the Rotary Clubs of Krugersdorp, Randfontein and Roodepoort.

The curtain rose on the international chorus. They sang with a perfection of diction and joyful enthusiasm which were a delight to hear and see. The colour effect of this number, produced by the clever shading of the dresses, added greatly to the whole scene.

Mr. Bremer Hofmeyr, leader of Moral Re-Armament work in South Africa, in an introductory talk, described the play as "a weapon in the war of ideas." He pointed out that we have now moved from an industrial age to an ideological age. Gigantic forces are on the march, he said. The godless materialist is giving all he has to win the minds of the millions to his philosophy of class warfare, hatred and division. But Moral Re-Armament has become the overarching ideology which alone can bring unity and peace to the world.

LABOUR ISSUES

The play began by showing Mr. Wilson, the factory owner, at breakfast with his family. A strike is about to break out. Father is very worried, but the rest of the family are absorbed in the pursuit of their own selfish interests. Young Betty Wilson's school friend is Polly Rankin, daughter of the labour leader, Jim Rankin. Wilson and Rankin are avowed enemies who, although they have never met, fight each other bitterly over labour issues. There seems to be no solution other than a strike, and the result is deadlock until young Dick Wilson comes home from college with a new idea. He tells his family: "If you listen, God will speak to you," and relates what happened to himself when he tried the experiment. He finds he has to start with himself before he can begin to put other things right such as the trouble at the factory. Later he decides to visit Jim Rankin at his home, and the developments from that visit are the main features of the play.

The quality of the acting is of a very high standard, being both sincere and polished, giving the impression that the parts were being lived and not merely acted.

PROBLEMS SOLVED

The impact of the message of "The Forgotten Factor" on everyday human relationships cannot be measured. Approximately 30,000 South Africans, including over half the Members of Parliament, leaders of commerce and industry, labour leaders, miners, university students, and people from every walk of life have seen the play in the last four months as it has toured the Union. From every section of the community comes reports of the after-effects

of the play. Many husbands and wives have found the solution to their problems. The leader of a Mineworkers' Union apologised to an underground manager whom he had opposed for years. "This is no light thing for me," he said. "I have to undo the work of years on the basis of 'The Forgotten Factor.'"

The head of a large Union asked for the play to be shown at a Rand factory. He said: "The trouble is between the sound forces in labour and the materialists who are out to cause division in the ranks of labour. The only answer is 'The Forgotten Factor.'"

LAST PERFORMANCE

At the end of a performance in Cape Town, which was attended by the Governor-General and Mrs. G. Brand van Zyl, the President of the Senate, Senator C. A. van Niekerk, addressed the audience and ably summed up the issues at stake. "We believe that the world is facing a great crisis," he said. "There is an evil ideology which encourages dishonesty, impurity and hatred, and this ideology is fighting for control in every country.

"Moral Re-Armament on the other hand can help every nation to restore the spiritual backbone of democracy. Whether it succeeds or fails will affect world peace in the future . . ."

Tonight is the last night of the present presentation of the play in South Africa as two of the principals leave for Europe a few hours after the last act.

INTERNATIONAL CAST

Money and equipment for the play have come from South Africa and many other countries. The very effective lighting equipment, which is only procurable in America, was given by American business men and certain British export firms who do business with South Africa. The building of the scenery was made possible by a gift from Kenya by people who believe that the message of Moral Re-Armament is vital for Africa. The cast came from Britain, America, Holland, Germany, Kenya as well as from different parts of the Union. They are giving their services free to make the Christian ideology of Democracy decisive in the life of South Africa.