

MONDAY JAN. 28, 1963

A BRAVE MOVE

NO better news could have come out of the Federal and Southern Rhodesian capital than that of the admission of the Wakatama children to a European school.

The news is as heartening for us all as it is timely for Mr. R. A. Butler.

Salisbury, the capital of a federal state constituted on a policy of partnership, is the most notorious in the enforcement of discriminatory practices.

That it is in this city that the Wakatama children have been enrolled in a formerly all-white school is news that takes a lot of believing.

It has happened because the board of governors of the Sharon Hebrew School have not been influenced by colour considerations in making up their decision.

THE 'STANDARDS'

Their decision is the more welcome insofar as it will show Mr. Butler that in this Federation it takes, not an English school, but one that is Jewish to put the policy of partnership into practice.

Had it not been for the generosity of the Jewish Community Mr. Wakatama, a lecturer at a British-run university and a university college of which her Majesty the Queen Mother is Chancellor, would have had the difficulty and the indignity of sending his young children daily to Harare or Highfield.

All because the English schools near this English-run University College would not "lower their standards" by admitting two black-faced children!

IMPLICATIONS

It is too early yet to gauge what the implications of this historic development will be

At this stage we can only wait and hope that no pressure will be brought to bear on the Sharon School.

In addition it would be greatly appreciated if other privately-run schools in Salisbury and elsewhere in the country emulated this admirable example.

If a concerted move was taken by these schools to rid themselves of the devilish colour-consciousness they would put to shame any other institutions — educational or otherwise — still wedded to the concept of racial segregation.

MARIST BROTHERS

It is a happy coincidence that as the Wakatama children were being enrolled at the Sharon School, three other African children were similarly registering at the all-white St. Joseph School, Que Que.

If the European children, obviously with the approval of their parents, at Sharon and St. Joseph Schools are happy to learn side by side with children of other races, there is no reason why this pattern should not be repeated everywhere.

It was unfortunate that side by side with the good story of the Wakatama children in our weekend edition we had that of Mr. J. Dayalji, an Asian, bitterly bitten by the segregationist policy of the City Council.

Only a few weeks ago we praised the residents of Highlands for welcoming an African family amongst them.

WHY NOT?

If an expensive suburb such as Highlands does not suffer property depreciation by the presence of an African family what reason is there, other than that of racial prejudice, to stop Mr. Dayalji settling at Southerton?

With the good example set up by Sharon and St. Joseph schools we urge Salisbury City Council not to bar Mr. Dayalji from taking occupation of a house at Southerton.

The City Council must not succumb to the influence of the select few among its members who are doing nothing but damaging the good names of both this country and its capital.

If anything the Council must follow the commendable example of Sharon Hebrew School — a school that has chosen to take the only path to racial harmony.

Monday, January 28, 1963.



LITTLE Snowy and her sister Gladys as they sat over their homework last night.

TWO AFRICANS JOIN WHITE SCHOOL

By Herbert Munangatire Salisbury, Friday.

TWO African children, a boy and a girl, have broken Southern Rhodesia's traditional school segregation by enrolling and attending classes at a formerly all-white school in the heart of Salisbury.

Gladys, aged nine and Snowy, (seven) children of Mr. Matthew Wakatama, lecturer at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland have become the first Rhodesian-born African children to enrol and enter an all-white school since the Federal and Southern Rhodesia Governments amended their respective Education Acts last year to allow private schools to take in students without regard to race.

When I visited Sharon Hebrew School this morning I found Gladys and Snowy playing with other boys and girls.

Later they filed into their respective classes.

Mrs. Vera Todes, school principal said the two children were settling "very well" in the school.

She said: "What is interesting is that the other boys and girls accepted them completely from the first day.

There has not been the

slightest signs of resentment by them."

She said both Gladys and Snowy were doing very well in class as well as in other school activities.

"Gladys has been placed in standard one and Snowy is working K.G. one.

Both are doing remarkably well.

In fact they are as good as any other student," she said.

Gladys is finding it a little difficult in catching up with others in Greek.

But there is no doubt that she will make it," added Mrs. Todes.

IN ALL TOWNS

The chairman of the Board of Directors of Sharon School, Mr. H. H. Gollar, said: "The decision to integrate the school had been taken by the full Board which represents Jewish communities in all towns of Southern Rhodesia.

From now on admission will be decided on merit regardless of race.

But like any church school preference will be given to children of Jewish faith."

Meanwhile, Brother Xavier, Principal of St. Joseph School run by the Marist Brothers near Que Que until now reserved for Asian children announced that the school had taken three African boys.

He added: "In future students will be selected on merit regard-

Seder Televised In Salisbury

SALISBURY: A dramatisation of the Seder was brought to the Rhodesian public in Salisbury and environs for the first time when Rabbi M. Konviser and the children of the Sharon Hebrew Day School presented a 20-minute programme on television.

A demonstration of the Seder ceremony was given and the children read and sang the portions of the Hagaddah. The Rabbi explained the Seder ceremony and concluded with a message for Passover.

Mrs. Aliza Hatchwell, principal of the Hebrew department of the school, was in charge. Mrs. R. Court played the accompanying music. Mr. Cy Jaffe, of the R.T.V., was the Production Manager.

The arrangements for the television programme were made by the Rhodesian Jewish Board of Deputies.