

1/2 Knott's Cottage  
Kidd's Beach.

March. 14. 1956.

Dear Z.K.,

Thank you for your letter, marked "Urgent" which I have just received. I'm going in to East London tomorrow to put my car in the garage for a periodic check over, so will be able to post this in time to catch the first post back.

Let me say, first, that I was not in Alice at all, and would not have visited Alice without arranging to see you, at your home rather than at the college at this stage. We have been living out of suitcases since we left, with ten changes of residence, and though we have been very glad to see all the members of our family, we have found it rather tiring. One cannot go too long without a quiet place to work or read, and Elsie was feeling she wanted something to do, so we decided to move down to a cottage at Kidd's Beach for six weeks or more until we can move back permanently to Marlyburg to a home of our own. We looked for properties there - renting is practically impossible - and finally found what I think will suit us. With transfer fees it is going to cost about £4,400 for a house with two

bedrooms and a study right on the outskirts of Maritzburg, about 20 minutes walk from the University. It is on about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of an acre, enough to provide some interest in the garden for a permanent home for our old age, and I am going to settle down to some chemical research in the laboratories at the University, with the hope of occasional part time lecturing as opportunity may occur. It is going to take more than all I get for the Hogstack property plus all I have in cash in the Provident Fund, barring my one insurance policy, so I am wondering when the Provident Fund is likely to make that cash available. Perhaps you could ask Mr Hunter to make enquiries for me on this point.

When we decided to come down to these parts, Maseli asked us to spend the first weekend with them on the farm, and that is what we did travelling by the nearest route from King through Beekfontein. I did not want to appear in Alice at this time. The fact that our weekend at the farm coincided with the Council Meeting was purely accidental, and I did not want it to appear as if it was deliberate. I was a

but anxious to know what had happened to  
 my comments on the Auditor's statement. There  
 have been so many charges of maladministration  
 made by "suggestions" with no enquiry, that  
 those comments upset me. I saw Steve,  
 who told me the Council had expressed  
 itself satisfied with my explanation, but  
 I asked ~~no~~ no more than that, and he told  
 me no more, except that Dr. Shepherd was  
 back on the Council as a co-opted member,  
 and was Vice-Chairman. I was glad to hear  
 that. I know nothing about the progress  
 made towards the appointment of a new  
 Principal; though I am interested in  
 anything that concerns you and Fort Hare,  
 I certainly have no right to ask questions  
 like that, and did not do so.

With reference to the History Department, the  
 position is as follows: the approved  
 establishment for the Department is a Professor  
 and a Lecturer, with Professor Chapman  
 seconded to Rhodes for two years; the interim  
 arrangement was that Williams should be  
 acting head, with Senior Lecturer's pay and  
 allowance as head for the two years, with, I  
 assume an increment for the second year.  
 At the end of that time, Professor Chapman's

position will be defined; if he returns, the approved establishment will be a Professor (Chapman) and a Lecturer (Williams) on the scale he would have reached as a Lecturer; if Chapman does not return to Fort Hare, the approved establishment will be the same, but with the Professor's post vacant. Meane's appointment was for two years. The Council could then advertise the vacant post of Professor, for which Williams could apply, or, if satisfied, could do what we did with the Department of Zoology. There is no permanent approved post of Senior Lecturer, and I don't think Williams was ever led to believe there was. I remember saying to him that he would be wise to set aside the extra salary for the two years, so as not to become accustomed to the higher scale; he had not bought a house then, and I suppose the extra salary has been useful there. Williams is a very hard worker, and, I think, a very promising young man, who may soon qualify for promotion, but there has been no permanent promotion, nor any promise of such promotion. When approved establishments are reconsidered more than one department will have to be considered —

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there is the Department of Physics, for example,  
which should be due for reconsideration soon  
and, I hope, the Departments of Mathematics  
and Zoology. However, these matters are now  
in other hands. What I do say now is that  
the arrangements made for the Department  
of History were made for two years only,  
with no commitment beyond that.

We think of you often and miss our  
friendships and comrades of Alice very  
much, but for everyone's sake we must  
leave peace of mind outside Felt Hall's  
affairs. The time will come when we can  
come to see you, with misunderstanding  
and pain, not in our meeting with you  
but in being about the old place.  
Meantime we may meet elsewhere and  
would be glad of the chance.

Warmest regards to you all

Yours sincerely  
Cliff Dent