

A. SCHAUDER.
Box 140.
PORT ELIZABETH.
South Africa.

6th March 1964

Rabbi N. Lamm,
27, W. 86th Street,
New York,
N.Y. 10024.
U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

Since you left Port Elizabeth I have heard nothing from you but I followed the various Jewish and Non-Jewish papers and am very pleased indeed with the various statements and speeches made by you.

I think that your trip to South Africa was a success from every point of view and I also hope that you have enjoyed your trip very much.

I for one was very happy to have met you, especially as you can also from the province of Galacia.

As promised I am sending you under separate cover various printed matter which might be of interest to you. I hope you will find time to read same.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,


A. SCHAUDER.

PILLARS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

No. 8: CR. ADOLF SCHAUDER

THE pen leaps with particular pleasure to its portrait of Adolf Schauder, because the report has been belied that, after 40 years' uninterrupted service as a councillor of the City of Port Elizabeth, he had decided to retire. He has given the Editor the following account of how he comes still to be a city councillor:

"I questioned whether to fight the election or stand again. At the ratepayers' meeting they stated that they wanted 'new blood'. In answer to this I told them that if they wanted real new young blood they must vote for me because, during the last 40 years as a councillor and dealing with all the slum landlords and other vested interests and fighting for decent homes for all classes of the people, I had lost all my old blood in the fight and this was replaced by new blood. Anyhow, in view of the critical position South Africa is undergoing at present, I felt it was a crime to retire when I could still be of service and therefore decided to stand again."

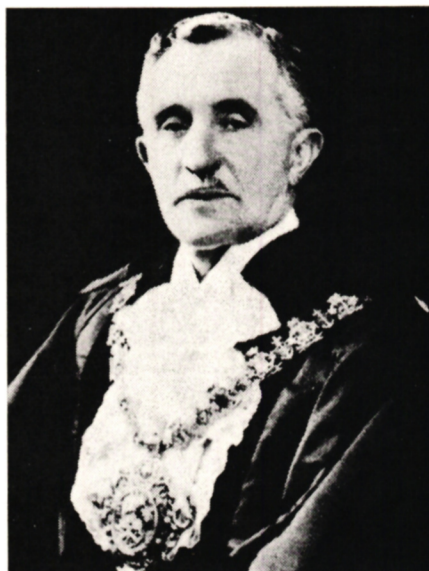
Not surprisingly he was re-elected: ratepayers generally know a good thing when they see one.

Great Housing Authority

Dynamic and drily humorous, Cr. Schauder makes an immediate impression. When he unexpectedly entered the Editor's Johannesburg office some time ago it was more than a fresh-faced, wiry, grey-haired man that entered: it was a spirit that later left the office seeming empty and rather drab after his departure.

He is one of the nation's great housing authorities. When A. J. Archibald was building the Bantu city south-west of Johannesburg for the city council, he had occasion to draw on Cr. Schauder's knowledge and experience.

During his 40 years as a councillor of Port Elizabeth Cr. Schauder's main interest has been the welfare of the lower-income groups. He has never faltered in his determination that every member of this section of the community of each racial group should be provided with a roof over his head at a rent within his means.



He has had opposition and there have been many setbacks in his endeavours to rid the city of its slums and re-house the occupants in the houses provided in the separate townships for each racial group. In his own words, he refuses to accept the word "no"; and he has always fought with the tenacity of a bulldog to attain his object, never letting go until he has won the opposition over.

An Inspired Step

During the war years when materials and labour were scarce, very little could be done. He chafed at the bit during this period of inactivity in the house-building sector. By 1948 he was becoming concerned at the slum buildings which were, on sites previously cleared, being erected by families desperate for accommodation, many of whom were securing motor car packing-case timber for their shacks. With his usual ingenuity he killed two birds with one stone: he first persuaded the city council itself to use the packing-case timber for the building of houses for Natives; and he then obtained the consent of the Ford Motor Co. to allow the council to have free of charge all the company's packing-case timber, thus preventing it from being used for the erection of shacks.

In this manner 28 houses, each comprising a living-room, two bedrooms and one latrine for each block of two houses, and no fewer than 950 houses comprising a living-room, one bedroom and one latrine for each block of two houses, at a cost of R200 and R160, respectively, a house were erected during the period 1948-51, and a Government housing loan for 10 years with a subsidy of R18 a house a year on this experimental scheme was granted. The scheme is called Kwaford. The majority of the houses are still standing, and are proving a boon to families with low incomes.

"Unbelievable" Energy

The energy of Cr. Schauder in his eighties is described by one of his friends and collaborators as "unbelievable". His quest for knowledge in the housing field has in recent years taken him to America, the British Isles and Israel, and has earned for him the reputation of being the successor to the Wandering Jew. He has always maintained that nobody is ever too old to learn and that he is learning something new every day.

Cr. Schauder, 23 years ago, when Mayor of Port Elizabeth, was a founder of the Cape Midlands Development Association. This was formed in order to create a better spirit between town and country and English and Afrikaans-speaking citizens. The Orange-Fish River Scheme appeared on the agenda for the first meeting of the association.

Dream Realised

The sixteenth annual conference of the association held in October was considered so important that the Prime Minister, Dr. Verwoerd, himself attended its opening, Cr. Schauder moving the vote of thanks to the Premier. Once again the Orange-Fish-Sunday's River scheme was on the agenda, this time as the main theme of the congress, and Cr. Schauder is happy to be able to watch a dream achieving reality.

It is Schauder and the men of his calibre who make local government in South Africa what it is; and it is all of a piece that he, who has given it so much service for so long, should be loud in his insistence that that service be given without pay. Perhaps it is ungracious to ask still more of a man who has already given so much. But Port Elizabeth will nevertheless be hoping to have him as a councillor for many years to come.