

HAVES AND HAVE NOTS

THERE is nothing new in the doctrine that one section of a community cannot remain prosperous indefinitely by keeping another section poor, but this obvious truth was restated with skill and force by Mr. Samuels in his address yesterday to the conference organised by the National Development Foundation. Mr. Samuels, who is Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of the Witwatersrand, noted that the real wages of Africans had

Mr. Samuels concluded with a warning that this poverty of the African worker would eventually impoverish the White man. "The negotiation of fundamental changes in our economic structure is not something which can be achieved overnight and will provide a severe testing time for our economic statesmanship," he said. "But for the White community to resist change is to run the risk of becoming its chief victim."

FRESH BREATH

JUST how starved the Golden City is of beauty is illustrated by the fact that hundreds of people have gathered every day—and every evening—this week to watch the impala leaping over the water in the un-named square where the old Standard Theatre stood. The fountain, in the short time it has been on view, has brought immense pleasure and relaxation to city workers whose only preoccupation, previously, was window-shopping or studying the pigeons on the lawns of the Supreme Court or the Library Gardens.

It is remarkable that Johannesburg, a wealthy city that is the business hub of the Union, can boast of so little that is aesthetically attractive. Even its most loyal sons will admit that it is an ugly and featureless city. The fountain presented by Mr. Harry Oppenheimer in memory of his father, is the first major step in the direction of beautifying the city.

There is ample room for more statuary of this kind to relieve the monotony of concrete city blocks. It is to be hoped that the gay impala will help to introduce a new era of civic awareness in Johannesburg.



Showpiece without a name

The fountain on the old Standard Theatre site has attracted throngs since it came into play last Saturday, and is already a Johannesburg showpiece. The fountain, given to the city by Mr. Harry Oppenheimer, in memory of his father, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, is nameless and stands in a nameless square. The Mayor, Mr. Alec Gorshel, who opened the fountain, said, "The question of a name for the fountain has not been considered by the council." However, sightseers are already referring to "the Oppenheimer Fountain," and "Oppenheimer Square."

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A threat to peace

French way in Africa

CULTURALLY the Belgians have always succumbed to

Don't fence them in

It is to be hoped that the Government will now lose no time in demolishing the old Rissik Street Post Office. We also hope that when they have done so they will accept the city council's offer of an alternative situation for a post office on the other side of Joubert Street and so leave the present site vacant.

For only in this way will this remarkably dismal city centre get the breathing space it so badly needs. And only in this way will it be possible to provide a site worthy of the Oppenheimer Fountain which was unveiled on the now vacant half of the block on Saturday.

These bronze impala, leaping like a lyric over the soaring waters, do indeed lighten the heart and uplift the spirit, as Mr. Oppenheimer said they were meant to. They are one of the few pieces of South African statuary that catch the imagination. They should not be confined.