

Whiteway, great victory

THERE were scenes unsurpassed within the memory of most of Whiteway's 150 colonists late on Wednesday to welcome back two of the Colony's successful representatives from the London courts. In a two day battle the principle of common ownership of their land had been preserved.

More than 40 of them had crowded into the neatly furnished bungalow home of Mrs. E. Payne, the Colony's assistant secretary, when Gaston Marin and the Colony chairman, Tom Wolfe, opened the door. There were cheers and applause as they entered the room.

That was at five minutes to ten. The Whiteway folk had brought their refreshments, Mrs. Payne brewed tea, and it was two and a half hours later, when Tom Wolfe had completed his resume of the case at the Land Registry, in which the application of 75-years-old Mrs. Emma Wexham who sought to register her bungalow and land had failed. That the party finally broke up.

More moved by the spontaneity of the occasion than anyone else was, perhaps the bearded anthropologist Gaston known as "Gassy" to his fellow colonists and whose eye and agility belie his years.

Old Whiteway "alive"

"I really felt that the old Whiteway was very much alive again; I think last night will remain one of the most unforgettable joys of my life to find the old Whiteway resurrecting," he told a "Citizen" reporter yesterday in his tiny kitchen where he was pouring over his records of the early days of the colony.

They told of a visit of Gandhi to Whiteway and of George Allen, the athlete, who walked from Lands End to John of Groat's in under 17

days in vindication of vegetarianism during the years he lived there.

Gaston and Tom Wolfe were the only two concerned in the case in Whiteway yesterday. Tom had left again early in the morning to continue his studies at Cheltenham teachers' training college.

Mrs. Wexham absent

Mrs. Mary Robert, the secretary, was expected to return yesterday. She had learned of Whiteway's great reception accorded her two companions when she telephoned Mrs. Payne's home during the evening. Her only regret was that she was not there to join it.

There was one interruption to the evening. That was when a car was seen to arrive about 11 p.m. at Mrs. Wexham's bungalow next door.

Shortly afterwards Mrs. Payne and a companion went across to see that the widow, who lives alone, was well. They could find no one there.

No animosity

"While no one could call her a friend and we avoided each other, we feel sorry for her, and we have to thank her for this new spirit which seemed to have been revived," said Gaston, a colonist since 1914, except for 10 years he was hiking and hitch-hiking his way across Asia and Africa.

They had all shaken hands after the case was over and Mrs. Wexham had agreed that the best side had won, he added.

It was a spirit which had been reflected by that meeting of rejoicing tempered with sympathy last night, and this morning, Mrs. Payne said: "We have no animosity towards her whatsoever."

The success of the case has preserved one of the basic principles of the old colony when it was founded 57 years ago. Yesterday it looked unlikely to make any change in a unique record of tolerance and neighbourliness that has existed over the years.

"I would never live anywhere else," they will tell you—and that from a professional man who has suffered in his livelihood because of his associations with Whiteway and still chosen to remain there.