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THE ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (S.A. Section of the Communist International).
No. 4, TRADES HALL, RISSIK STREET, JOHANNESBURG. P.O. Box 4179.

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Prickly Pars.

By Sen Yah.

The War to End War.

According to Reuter the French have succeeded in casting a gun 23 yards long, weighing 230 tons, which will throw a shell weighing 1,000 lbs. to a distance of 57 miles.

Glorious civilisation!

* * *

Coming?

"Better times coming; recovery of South African trade," scream the headlines in the kept press.

The "better times" are for Fat. There can be no better times for the working class under capitalism.

*

Honour.

The first few rounds of the "no confidence" debate in the House of Assembly developed a great mud-slinging competition between the star orators of both sides. A great discussion took place upon "honour," each clique claiming for itself a monopoly of that commodity. As all taking part were members of parliament, Henry, they were only talking from hearsay.

N.B.—A commodity is something produced for sale.

Mind your Back.

"One of the trials of the woman who has no maid, or someone to act as such, when dressing for an evening function is that she is unable to powder her back except in patches."—"Rand Daily Mail."

There you are, Henry. If you can't afford one of the new long-handled puffs invented by some genius for the comfort of Fat's old girl, you will have to do the job for Maria yourself.

*

Intimate.

"The Star" gives a throbbing description of Princess Mary's new home at Goldsborough (delightful name). Quoth the sycophant:

> "By a curious exercise of the taste of the eighteenth or early nineteenth century the restoryrs chose to cut this window off from the room, and, blocking up some of the openings designed for glass, converted it into a lavatory."

And we are all pleased indeed to hear how the comforts of the bride of Lord Lascelles are being looked after. Again:

> "In the matter of bathrooms Goldsborough Hall was thought to be well supplied when two were installed many years ago, both attached to the guest chambers and not one in the servants' quarters. There are now 10."

I hope she doesn't use all the bathrooms at once, Henry, and that she always has a maid handy to assist in powdering her august back.

* * *

The Cripples.

The wonderful photograph of the ex-Kaiser and his bride reminds me that I once saw a whole bunch of European Royalties gathered together in one place. It was like a combined parade of the inmates of a lunatic asylum, a home for paralytics, and a hospice for chronic cripples.

What an advertisement for "divine righters."

* * *

The Israelites.

Sixty-five of the survivors of the Bullhock massacre have been released, six months before their time was up, and, says the "Star" naively, "efforts are being made to induce them to go to the mines for a period.

The last "inducement" was offered by Butcher Truter and his maxim guns. Fat always gives the game away if one watches and waits long enough.

* * *

The Unspeakable Cecil.

Says Madame Melba of Cecil Rhodes:

"He once made a remark to me which I shall never forget. We had been talking of singing, and he said, 'Which do you really care for most, Mme. Melba, your art or your applause?' 'How dare you ask me such a question?' I answered."

The "Great Imperialist" was just a low, drunken, [illegible] stiff who, having no scruples, was "successful" in life under the motto "Every man has his price."

Melba, when he said that he had in mind South African intelligentsia and "very best people"—he was right.

Paying.

A "Daily Record" headline reads:

"PRINCE'S POULTRY PAYS ITS WAY."

That's more than the Prince ever did or could.

* * *

Gratitude.

"The Basutos, on presenting an address to Dr. Long, expressed their deep gratitude for the benefits they have received from the British nation. Of course, the Basutos themselves don't know much about these addresses, which are written, like the Garnsworthy appeal, by "educated" people, but what about this for a "benefit," O! Henry:

> "I have to walk through the mud to my work and you have to do the same," said a Potchefstroom magistrate the other morning in fining a native 10s. for walking on the sidewalk during the wet weather.

* * *

God!

"Socialism is Beelzebub," raves Gipsy Smith. Therefore "Capitalism is God," retorts "Forward." Obviously!

* * *

More Honour.

Tommy Boydell got a nasty crack in when he proved in the 'Ouse that the Minister of Lands had taken £1,013 of public money to buy himself household furniture; that the Minister of the Interior had taken £780 to buy a bed, tables, chairs, and crockery for himself; and another Cabinet Minister had merely taken £566 for the same purpose.

And Patrick Duncan still repeats the parrot cry, "Trust the Government."

Why?

Can any labourite tell me why Colonel Creswell, who is a very popular man, has never won the same seat twice?

* * *

Profit and Loss.

A worker in any industry to-day is having a dog's existence, but as usual that section of the working class which goes down to the sea in ships is the very worst treated of all. Subjected to a bullying discipline aboard ship, seamen have no vestige of "rights" in any part of the world in actual fact, no matter what may appear on paper. Miserably paid and fed, and robbed wholesale by that crowd of cosmopolitan harpies known as ship chandlers or, to use the seaman's own term, "sailor robbers," they are bundled hither and thither in gaol or "on the beach" in every port under the sun with no hope in life except death. Like work beasts they live and like vermin they die. Usually taking to the sea when very young, uneducated and starved from birth, "our glorious mercantile marine" is one of Fat's best assets, all of which comes to my mind on reading that

> LONDON, Saturday.—Mr. Daniel Radcliffe, a well-known Cardiff shipowner, has given £50,000 to the University of Wales, of which the Prince of Wales is Chancellor. Reuter.

* * *

Awful.

The Turks have told British Fat to shift his products (soldiers' corpses) from Gallipoli.

What a pity the great British Society idol, Horatio Bottomley, is in trunk, Henry.

Couldn't he raise a howl?

Contrasts.

I read that the Duke of York, who has never done a useful thing in his useless existence, "has presented his fiance, Lady Elizabeth Bower-Lyon (the piece of fluff the Prince of Wales didn't take after all) with a half-hoop ring of diamonds with a sapphire in the centre."

I also read that the Hunger Marchers in England are disturbing Fat's peace of mind.

You may think there's no connection, Henry, but the truth is that the Duke of York, having never earned one farthing piece in his life, couldn't account for where he got the money to buy the ring if he were asked to.

The Hunger Marchers could any one of them.

Prince and Pig.

The Prince of Wales "even likes things to eat which are typically English. One of his favourite dishes is fried eggs and ham." "The Star."

Did you ever!

Another Smack.

Since the war the very best brains capitalism could suborn have been applied (at a price) to proving how capitalism can be perpetuated.

You don't hear much shouting about "produce more," "work for less," "economise," etc., etc., to-day do you, Henry? That's because all these stunts have been found to be boomerangs.

Now, Mr. McKenna says, "deflation is futile." That's the latest "scheme" gone bung, and the next "social credit" is already on the way. That won't last many minutes, and the whole world will gradually realise that MARXISM IS TRUE AND ALL THE REST ARE LIES. Capitalism no longer exists as a system.

It is chaotic anarchy!

* * *

Judas!

It hurt Abe Bailey to hear Louis Botha referred to as Judas and quite right.

Judas betrayed his master.

Botha was true to his salt.

*

Time.

Pat Duncan says that the Government will yet find a way through the present difficult position if only "you will be patient and GIVE US TIME."

After reading Boydell's attack on three Cabinet Ministers who took thousands from the public purse to furnish houses for themselves, I think Pat's request ought to be acceded to. Don't you, Henry?

* * *

The Same Old Tale.

The following from the "Catholic Magazine" will be hard to beat as an example of hypocrisy or ignorance, or both. The black coats find themselves again in the same position as they found themselves in 1914, and of course their Master's (Fat) will must be done:

"AN APPEAL FROM THE QUAKERS.

"We have been requested to publish the following appeal for the abolition of war, which has been issued by the Quakers of Philadelphia in North America. We publish it with some reservations. We believe that war is rarely justifiable, but there are circumstances, when it is the only road to justice and peace. In 1914 we could have endorsed this appeal without any reservations. To-day we cannot, because the Versailles Peace has made war inevitable. If Germany should take up arms to drive the French blacks from German territory, the Italians from German Tyrol, the British from Dantzig, the Belgians from Eupen, the Poles from Silesia, the Roumanians from Hungary proper, the Jugo-Slavs from Montenegro, and to repel the rapacious money claims of America, could any honest Christian say that such wars of liberation would be unworthy of the Christian profession? We opposed the continuation of the war of 1914, because the motives that prompted its continuation were sordid and unjust, as any man can see now. But until some means other than war is provided to right the awful aggressions mentioned above, and many similar, there can be no peace. Christians are bound by their profession to provide some means, short of war, to free the downtrodden nations. Until this is done, we have no right to tell the oppressed that they cannot take up arms to destroy the power of the aggressor."

* * *

What Waterberg Thinks.

Waterberg is amused at reports of the Bolshevistic attitude of the Shangoane natives, a small tribe living on the Pallala River, perhaps one hundred strong. Failure to pay rents and taxes is [illegible] the result of the low price of cattle, laziness, and a weak chief. Waterberg is particularly well [illegible] ered by the Native Affairs Department [illegible] probably be the last district to be [illegible] Communistic propaganda, owing [illegible] number of stock owned by the [illegible]

> **As to that class, the purveyors of Empires, that fancies it can govern by Periodical Butcheries, go and tell them in accents loud enough to drown their clamours, "the Blood of the People will enrich the Revolutionary Field."**
>
> —LISSAGARY.

Tielman's Tit-Bit

The South African King idea is not exactly a brain-wave. We have quite a lot of Royalty real royal blood in a direct line—knocking about spare who would take on the job. The point to decide is whether Prince Solomon, f'instance, is not doing more useful work in the Sanitary Department of Eshowe?

Of course, there is the Swazi Queen to fall back upon: perhaps Tielman would add "or queen" to the motion?

Scent.

"The sales of scent have gone up three hundred per cent. this year. The rise is greatest in the most expensive blends."—"Perfumery Trade Journal."

One stink to drown another as old Jock used to remark. "Society" is spending a lot of money to hide its putridity.

Why not bury it and save a plague?

* * *

The Cross.

"The Star" comes with a whole column of real cute sob stuff about the troubles of Sister Borlas, who has spent half a long life serving Queen, King and Empire under the red cross, and now has to face ending her days in the workhouse.

The idea, of course, is a public collection to save Fat his obligations.

The filthy swine!

God Fired!

I have been taught from childhood that God himself wrote the ten commandments which were to stand for all time. The parsons of to-day, being men after Fat's own heart, have fired God—apparently he's too old-fashioned for his job, so they are now amending the ten commandments to make them conform more to the ethics and morality of Fat. In the new commandments you will go to hell, Henry, if you covet your neighbour's house, but you may covet his wife as much as you like and you'll be O.K. Something had to be done for Fat in this connection obviously, as "very best people" seem, according to divorce court—reports, to spend most of their time seducing each other's wives. Then, on the new commandments, working on Sunday will be a virtue and no longer against holy law. At the same time you must "keep holy the sabbath day."

That is to say, the more you work on Sunday for Fat, the more holy the parson will say you are, and so on. "Man is a religious animal" right enough, but it's really a thing to be marvelled at how people, apparently otherwise sane, still respect and kowtow to the thousands of black-coated confidence men and lazy parasites known as the clerics of all denominations.

"Religion is the opium of the people," and the priests, pastors, parsons and preachers are distillers of the dope.

* * *

Apology.

A correspondent writes objecting very strongly to my coupling the names of Marie Lloyd and Queen Mary, and demanding an apology. I do not usually bow to convention, but as I see no harm in this case of being respectful to the dead, I hereby apologise to—Marie Lloyd.

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FIREWORKS.

The great debate is over, and the Government has received a vote of confidence from the House of Assembly by a majority of 14 votes. Fifty-seven for and seventy-one against the motion, declared the Speaker, and the S.A.P. breathed freely again—even if it ever did otherwise, and we have a shrewd suspicion that there is some truth in the taunt by the Government speakers that the Opposition would not have voted so solidly had there been a chance of the no confidence motion being carried. Creswell and his followers burked the issue once before and walked out of the House rather than defeat Smuts, and it is common talk that he only consented to vote against the Government on this occasion when he was assured that nothing serious was likely to happen, and that the whole display would end like other fireworks—in smoke.

Both General Hertzog and the labour speakers were at great pains to deny any connection or alliance with the wicked Bolsheviks, as they love to call the Communist Party. The former, in his usual laboured way, argued that if the Labour-cum-Nationalist alliance of to-day is "tainted" with Communism, then General Smuts is open to the same charge because he sought an alliance with the Labour wirepullers in 1920. It was not very convincing, as times have altered since those days, and the Communist Party is no longer a negligible factor in South African politics, as both the Labour Party and its allies may discover before many months have gone by.

Mr. H. W. Sampson "wanted to make it clear to all members of the House that the representatives of the Labour Party present were Socialists, not Bolshevists, and they hoped to bring about Socialism by constitutional methods, by increasing the number of members in the House and education of the people outside the House." Nobody would ever think of accusing the member for Jeppes of being a Bolshevist, and his claim to being a Socialist does not rest on very convincing evidence, judging by his past record. When he asserted that he wished to get more members (Labour members, of course) into the House, we believe that he is sincere, and perhaps also in his desire to educate the people outside the House.

But there is education and education, and may the saints preserve the workers from the kind of "education" that most of the Labour M.L.A.'s dignify by that name. For the rest, the debate brought out one or two points damaging to the government and its ministers, a not very difficult task, but was chiefly notable for vulgar mud-slinging between friends fallen out, a kind of family quarrel between the Nationalists and S.A.P.'s—or, in other words, between big industry and finance as represented by the Government on the one hand, and petit bourgeoisdom, the agrarians, and the white labour aristocracy on the other.

With one exception, no speaker had so much as a word to say on the condition of the great mass of the submerged proletarians, white and black, and the entire absence of any constructive criticism gave the Government supporters their strongest debating point. No Opposition has ever had such a magnificent opportunity to pulverise a Government in South Africa before, and the mass of the workers and even other sections were waiting to see it done. On the whole, they are disappointed, and as for alternate proposals they simply have not been even hinted at. Smuts and Co. may, and probably will, destroy themselves in the near future, but if one may judge from the debate just concluded the workers have not much to hope for if the present Opposition gets into power.

The R-r-r-r-r-ed Plot.

Again the capitalist press returns to the charge with scare headlines about Red Plots, pamphlets printed in Berlin, and communism for children. This is all very complimentary to the activities of the Young Communist League, which seems to be getting on the nerves of the Chamber of Mines propaganda agencies.

What is the crime that the Young Communists are charged with? They distributed to the students of the Johannesburg Technical High School a RED pamphlet with a picture of a "beetle browed" individual on the cover. How terrible! How monstrous!

The bioscopes, by-the-bye, have no pictures of beetle-browed individuals engaged in bestial rough and tumble fights with the hero, nor of disgusting attempts of degenerate ruffians in evening dress raping the heroine. This is all, of course, quite legitimate, and is by no means poisoning the mind of our youth.

What does this terrible "red" pamphlet printed in Berlin contain that frightens the "Mail" morality mongers out of their wits. Attention is drawn to the "wave of misery and degradation which threatens to engulf the working class," and the reader is asked whether he will fight against this misery and degradation. This is an appeal which is reasonable and even necessary. Even the Smuts and other capitalist governments constantly assert that this is [illegible] chief objects.

Again we are asked to "remember the great war," and an appeal is made against militarism. Is not this the cry of the bourgeois class now in every country; in fact, was not the great war said to be fought to destroy militarism? Our bourgeois critics ought to welcome the Young Communists as allies in the campaign for peace and anti-militarism which is popular with the British statesmen to-day.

Proceeding, the pamphlet asserts that: "The bourgeoisie are attempting to capture the young workers, to isolate them from their elder brothers." Is this not true? Boy Scouts, Wolf Cubs, Young S.A.P.'s, the bioscope, theatre, the church, the schools, Y.M.C.A., even the sports and recreation clubs, are forcing beds for jingoism and a false patriotism. No money or effort is spared to blind the workers, and particularly the workers' children, to their class interests.

This, then, is the crime of the young Communists. They are trying to counteract the sinister influences of the capitalist class by putting the workers' point of view before the youth. We can understand the rage of the enemy, and we honour the young men and women who can find some better use for their spare time than lounging about the cafes, bioscopes, and dance halls of our city. The future of the workers lies with them, and we join with them in the slogan: "Long live the united proletarian front."

The Voters' Roll.

DISFRANCHISING THE MILITANTS.

THAT SPECIAL CIRCULAR.

A charge was made by Mr. Madeley during the no confidence debate to the effect that a special circular had been handed to the registration officials on the Witwatersrand, instructing them to exclude persons who, among other reasons, had been in receipt of public relief. Mr. Patrick Duncan replied that he did not know of the circular, which is quite possible, but his disavowal does not disprove the existence of such a document.

In the "Sunday Times" Mr. R. C. Leathern, the chief registration officer for the Witwatersrand, is quoted as saying:

> "I have issued no instruction as alleged, and in no case has there been any disqualification by me or my assistants on that account. If there had been a circular, it would have been sent through me, as I am the Registering Officer for the whole of the Witwatersrand."

He is further reported as saying: "No circular has been issued as alleged, and no special instructions have been given to canvassers." If such a statement and denial was made by Mr. Leathern, it would be interesting to hear his explanation of the following, which is an exact copy of a circular placed in our hands last week:

"INSTRUCTIONS TO CANVASSERS FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

"(1) If a person has been convicted in any court of the British Empire

(a) Since 31st May, 1902, for Treason.

(2) At any time of murder, unless he has obtained a free pardon.

(c) At any time of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment without option of fine, unless the imprisonment expired at least three years before 22nd January, 1923.

"(2) If person has been in receipt of relief from public funds in the Transvaal within six months previous to 22nd January, 1923.

"(Sgd.) R. C. LEATHAM.
"Registration Officer."

We have every reason to believe this document authentic, and although it is true it does not contain any specific instructions it is clearly intended as a hint to canvassers to specialise on the points indicated, and keep an eye on the sections of citizens mentioned. The Government is undoubtedly afraid of the hostility of the Rand workers, and no stone will be left unturned to keep them from exercising their rights as citizens. Hundreds of the more militant men will be left off the roll, which at the same time will be packed with probable government supporters and even bogus voters. Workers are therefore urged to see to their registration PERSONALLY and GET ON THE VOTERS' ROLL. As Communists we are aware of the largely futile character of parliamentary institutions, and part of our work is to discredit parliament and bourgeois "democracy," but in order to bring home to the workers the impossibility of effecting their emancipation through parliament they will probably have to go through the bitter disillusionment of a labour-nationalist government in power. Therefore we will support the alliance against the Smuts Government, and as our comrades in Britain did we will try and get as many labour men, socialists, and communists into parliament as possible.

This cannot be done unless every worker sees that he is registered AT ONCE. Elections are largely won and lost during the making up of the roll. It will be too late when election day comes. Communists, Socialists, and Workers generally should organise to defeat the aims of the Chamber of Mines and its tool the government, which is to disfranchise them, by not only getting on the register but urging all their friends to do likewise.

Farewell to Tom Mann.

Comrade Mann writes from Capetown that he has booked passage to England on February 2nd by s.s. Beltana. He bids all the comrades good-bye, and says he has had an interesting run, and has no complaints. He believes a stimulus has been given to the movement, an opinion which all class-conscious workers will heartily endorse. We wish our stalwart and genial comrade a pleasant voyage and a safe return to his family. He has cemented old friendships and made many new ones amongst the younger generation, and has shown that a man need not become a back number with the gathering years.

The South African movement is deeply indebted to him, and will watch with interest his future activities wherever they may be.

Jan Smuts Reiterates.

(HARRY HAYNES.)

With a face like the Egyptian Sphinx, and an air of great solemnity, General Smuts, in his alleged reply to the motion of "no confidence," said that "the Communists sought to make this a black man's country."

Said Gustav le Bon, in his treatise upon crowd psychology, constant reiteration creates public opinion no matter whether the statement reiterated be true or false, and there is not a defender and upholder of capitalism anywhere in the world who does not know that this is so.

General Smuts is no exception. A very mediocre backveld petty attorney raised by the capitalist press to the dignity of a bourgeois statesman, held up to the masses as a genius and saviour of mankind, having no political scruples and holding other people's life in cynical contempt, he himself is a living example of the power of constant reiteration. "Smuts is a great statesman, therefore what Smuts says is truth and wisdom." That is the press—pulpit—politician—picture-created public opinion, consequently of a verity Communists seek to make this a black man's country and, conversely, capitalism strives hard to prevent so great a calamity falling upon the white population.

Briefly, what are the facts?

In the Cape the white worker has been ousted entirely (since the Boer War) from such skilled trades as cabinet making, plastering, and tailoring (Malays having a virtual monopoly of the latter trade, which has been called by an eminent socioligist "the only really skilled trade surviving"). In every other trade cheap coloured labour makes it harder and harder for a white man to earn a living.

Did Communism accomplish this?

In Natal, the Garden Colony, the Indian "coolie" and Arab trader have invaded every avenue of white employment. The huge industry, sugar—second only to the gold industry in this country—provides very little employment for dear white artisans and mechanics (in the case of the Natal Sugar Estates cheap Mauritians of all trades have been imported, and have almost entirely superseded the dearer white workers in every department). Even the high-collar "professions"—shop-assistants, typists, legal clerks and civil servants—find themselves being ousted by the ubiquitous "coolie."

Did Communism do this?

It is true that petty shopkeeping bourgeoisdom in Natal is to-day supporting an anti-Asiatic organisation which aims at deporting the INDIAN TRADER, but its constitution makes it very explicit that no intention of removing the INDIAN WORKER exists. That requires no comment, except that the support given this society by well-known "labourites," shows what little hope blind labour has from these blind leaders.

In the Orange Free State matters have not progressed so rapidly, where agriculture remains the only industry, but even here we notice a tremendous growth of "poor whites" divorced from employment by the cheap native, while in the railway centre at Bloemfontein a slower encroachment is noticeable.

Is that Communism?

On the Rand the procedure goes on more openly and brutally than anywhere else—despite the "colour bar." Here the Chamber of Mines (which Mr. J. A. Hobson, the foremost English sociologist, calls the world's highest expression of capitalism), is carrying out a calculated policy of entirely dispensing with white labour in every branch of the industry. The very latest figures available, and these we have to take from the Chamber itself and accept them as true, show that in the month of December, 1921, the mines employed 20,824 whites and 178,211 coloured workers. A year later (December, 1922) 16,989 white and 176,605 coloured workers were employed, and the saving on white wages PER MONTH is shown at £315,966 sterling. (The Chamber is pleased to record that output and profits are on the up-trend.)

According to the booklet on unemployment published by Mr. Kentridge (this office 1/6), unemployment among white workers is greater in proportion in this country than in any other country in the world. Capitalism is presumably considering this vital question—as usual, but all the "consideration" in the world will not alter one material fact, and the development of capitalism, as briefly shown above, makes it imperative that cheaper labour than white shall be exclusively used in exploiting the vast resources of this country.

Further than that, on the world market, capitalism from pure white countries finds it more and more necessary to obtain concessions and erect factories in distant countries where vast armies of cheap labour wait ready and willing to be exploited. Nishimura and Wilson, Yokohama; Paul and Co., Kobe; and so on all round the world are monuments erected to the doctrine—the Holy Ghost—of cheap labour.

Is all this Communism?

There are none so blind as those who will not see, and so long as the reiteration of a deliberately concocted lie has the power to create a "public opinion" favourable to capitalism and its procedure, so long will the tool of "big interests," typified by Jan Smuts, hold power, and so long will white workers remain blind to their own interests, believe that "Communism seeks to make this a black man's country," and hold aloof from the only movement which can, given sufficient backing, make life for the present generation worth living, and guarantee the future for the children yet unborn who must carry on when we have gone to the "tongueless silence of the dreamless dust."

COMMUNISM REMAINS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD!

Impressions of Australia.

Comrade E. P. Beer writes from Melbourne that he is having an interesting time with the comrades, and that he and his better half are in good health. He says "the anti-parliamentarians have considerable influence, which accounts for the small poll at the elections just past in some working class constituencies. The result of this one-eyed policy is that Fat controls the state machinery with which he never fails to suppress the workers. The boat we came over in (Beltana) brought 600 immigrants, nicknamed here 'Pommies,' since then several other contingents have arrived, and large numbers are stranded here, swelling the large number already unemployed.

"One particular batch of immigrants impressed me. They were Italian agriculturists wanting to go on the land in any capacity; and yet, despite the fact that the advocates for immigration plead that the land is starving for want of men, they are unable to place those who are the very kind they say they need. Another instance of capitalist contradiction. They paid their own passages too.

The oversea cables in the press here are mainly of the murder and dope kind. As far as European politics are concerned they don't figure for more than a few inches, but a bloody murder or a spicy divorce case will run into columns. All the labour parties are quiescent. My friends tell me that as soon as Fat finds himself menaced by labour solidarity he brings out the 'snake'—sectarianism—and the workers immediately dissolve into their respective camps, Pats (Catholics) and Prots (Protestants). A recently elected union official told me that the Pats told him if he brought his revolutionary ideas into the union they would turn his overwhelming majority into a defeat. Pat is dominated by his priest and Prot by his parson, and so between these two the workers are sacrificed. But Fat wants an army of surplus labour to lower wages, smash the unions, and so provide himself with a safe 'refuge'—hence immigration."

Comrade Beer sends a cutting from the Melbourne "Age," headed "A New Impression of Russia." It is interesting as showing that the truth will out, in spite of all the efforts of capitalism to stifle it. It is a report of Mr. E. T. Asche, of Melbourne, who has returned from Russia, where he represented the Australian relief organisations. In an interview, he said he had spent two months in the famine areas of Buzuluk and Samara, and three months in Moscow.

The political experiment that is being carried out in Russia, he states, is most interesting. Moscow is now one of the most pleasant capitals in Europe in which to live. Fluctuations in the value of the rouble have not affected the people's lives. The exchange increased from 18,000,000 to 220,000,000 roubles to the pound in five months, but wages went up accordingly, often preceding the rise in prices, with the result that there is no poverty. Lenin's Government is conducted by able, efficient, zealous men. The present new economic stage is known as State Capitalism. It is intended to be educative, and is the intermediate stage between military communism and national communism. The State owns all the lands and properties, and all the people are either lessees thereof or employees of the lessees. Life is secure and safe.

Mr. Asche states that the Government has made many arrests of proved or suspected anti-Bolshevist agents. These are all well treated. He was once arrested and imprisoned for a week as a suspect, but he underwent no hardship, and was liberated as soon as he satisfied his questioner of his bona fides. On the contrary, when he was penniless, he went to Communist headquarters, and was immediately given free hotel room and one free meal daily. For British and Australian tourists owning sterling Russia is the cheapest and most interesting country in the world to-day.

The Crucifixion.

The following letter has been received by the I.R.A. Durban, from the wife of Cathal Bruga (Charles Burgess), who was murdered in the cause of Ireland by British capitalism. All the papers in South Africa have refused to publish it, hence we give it space in our columns:

(Copy.)
Rossnaree,
Rathmines, Dublin,
October 3rd, 1922.

A Chara Dhil,

I wish to thank you and the other members of your Association for their kind sympathy with me in my great trial.

Though my cup of sorrow is indeed full, for Cathal was one of the gentlest and noblest of men, yet it is my consolation to know that he got the great and glorious death of dying for Ireland.

From his devoted life to his religion and to his country I feel sure that he is now praying before God's Great White Throne for the cause which he loved so well.

We are at present going through a time of great stress, as we have so much lying propaganda, etc., to fight, but God, who is the God of justice and of truth, will help us to win.

May Cathal's sacrifice inspire our people to resist the intrigues of those who would sell the Irish nation into slavery and degradation.

mise a Chara Dhil,
CAITLIN BRUGA.

"Tampering with Natives."

WHO IS DOING IT?

"The Star" last Tuesday gave prominence to the opinions of Mr. Harold Myer on native affairs, and referred to him as being in a position to speak with authority. The following correspondence, which appeared in the "S.A. Review," is interesting as showing that the Native Recruiting Corporation, which is of course the slave procuring branch of the Chamber of Mines, leaves nothing to chance, and carefully manufactures "spontaneous" native opinion in the same way as it does "responsible" trade union opinion to suit the policy of its master, the Chamber of Mines:

"NATIVE RECRUITING CORPORATION, LTD.
12th March, 1920.

"The Secretary,
The Compound Managers' Association,
Johannesburg.

(Confidential.)

"Dear Sir,

"NATIVE NEWSPAPER: 'UMTETELE WA BANTU.'

"In order to dispel certain erroneous ideas cherished by many natives and sedulously fostered by European and Native agitators, and by certain Native newspapers, it is proposed to conduct a publication under the Corporation's aegis which, it is hoped, will be of service to the Native peoples of British South Africa.

"The objects of the publication are fully set out in the foreword contained in the specimen sheet enclosed herewith, and in view of its mission, to develop Native reason and to allay unrest, we confidently rely on your Association's sympathy, and do not hesitate to ask for such help as it may give.

"It is intended to publish the first number of 'Umtetele wa Bantu" on the 1st May next, and as we are anxious to ensure the widest circulation and the greatest possible number of readers, it is proposed, with your Association's approval, to supply a number of copies of the first issue to each of its members for distribution gratis to the more responsible and intelligent Natives, many of whom will, it is hoped, become regular subscribers. The appointment of one or more natives in each compound to sell the paper and to secure subscribers will materially assist us, and will doubtless lead to a permanent and important circulation amongst Mine Natives.

"FOR REASONS WHICH WILL READILY BE UNDERSTOOD, IT IS NOT DESIRABLE AT PRESENT TO DISCLOSE THE CORPORATION'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE PUBLICATION, and I have provisionally taken the management in my own name. I trust, therefore, to have your Association's cordial co-operation, and I shall always attach the highest value to opinions or suggestions, both on Native topics and on the general conduct of the paper, which reaches me from your Association or from any of its members.

"Yours faithfully,
(Signed) HAROLD MAYER."

The Compound Manager then got to work. The result was as follows:

"Johannesburg, 26th March, 1920.

"Dear Sir,

"NATIVE NEWSPAPER, 'UMTETELE WA BANTU.'

"A letter dated the 12th instant, marked 'Confidential,' from Mr. Harold Mayer, of the Native Recruiting Corporation, Ltd., copy of which is attached, was brought before my Executive Committee, at its meeting on the 17th inst. After discussion, it was resolved:

"That this Committee welcomes the publication of the Native newspaper 'Umtetele wa Bantu,' and is of opinion it will fill a long-felt want, and be the means of counteracting the evil effects of the poisonous literature now being circulated in the Compounds. Further, that this Committee is prepared to assist on the lines suggested in the letter, and in any other way possible.'

"In view of the objects of the paper, and their importance, I am directed by my Committee to request that you will use your best endeavours to assist in the distribution, in sending in copy you think may be of interest to readers, and generally to do what you think you can to ensure the success of the publication.

"Yours faithfully,
"H. G. VICKERS, Secretary."

It will now be understood how spontaneous and untainted are the articles denouncing Comrade Bunting and the Communists when appearing in such organs of native opinion as "Umtetele wa Bantu" and others, and which are reproduced from time to time in the columns of the "Star" and other papers.

Caught Napping?

After its dirty yelp about Bolshevism among the natives in the Waterberg district, the "Star" so far forgets itself as to publish the following from its Capetown correspondent. We suspect the paragraph escaped the vigilant eye of the Editor, who no doubt has already received a "please explain" from Argus at the Chamber:

"The 'Cape Times' published this morning a paragraph about alleged native unrest in the Waterberg threatening to culminate in another Bullhoek. On inquiry I learn that nothing has officially been heard to any such effect. The Waterberg natives have for some time been showing, it is said, a certain sullenness of disposition, due to the settlement of Europeans on lands over which they stock were wont to roam. But these areas lay outside the reserves, and did not belong to the natives, who thus dispossessed them.

"The case seems very analogous to what happened in England during the enclosing of the commonages in the late eighteenth century, when the gentry got land which had in practice been free to the peasantry. The colour of the agricultural labourers affected in the Transvaal is different, but their sentiments appear to be the same."

The Fascist Movement.

By A. BORDIGA.

Comrade Bordiga, at the Congress of the Third International, gave a highly interesting report of the origin and development of the Fascist movement in Italy. He said, in part:

The origin of the Fascist movement may be traced back to the years 1914-1915, to the period which preceded the intervention of Italy in the world war, when the foundation for this movement was laid down by the groups which supported intervention. From a political point of view, these groups were made up of several tendencies. There was a group of the right, led by the big industrialists, which was interested in the war and which had even supported the war against the Entente before the decision to fight on the side of the Entente. On the other hand, there are the left wing of the bourgeoisie, the Italian radicals, i.e., the democrats of the left, the republicans who had been by tradition in favour of liberating Trieste and Trento. Finally, the interventionist movement included also certain elements of the proletarian movement, including the leader of the Left Wing of the Socialist Party, Mussolini—the manager of "Avanti."

The Centre groups did not participate in the formation of the Fascist movement, but returned to their traditional bourgeois political parties. The only groups which remained were those of the extreme Right and those of the extreme Left, i.e., the ex-anarchists, the ex-syndicalists and former revolutionary syndicalists.

These political groups, which in May, 1915, scored a big victory in forcing Italy into the war against the will of the majority of the country and even of parliament, lost their influence when the war was brought to a close.

In the period that followed immediately after the war, we saw the influence of these groups reduced to a minimum.

From the end of 1918 to the first half of 1920, the period of demobilisation and slump, this political tendency was completely defeated owing to discontent caused by the consequences of the war.

Nevertheless, from the viewpoint of political organisation we may connect the origin of the movement which seemed so insignificant at first with the formidable movement which we see to-day.

The "fasci di combattimento" did not disband. Mussolini remained the leader of the fascist movement, and their paper "Il Popolo d'Italia" continued to be published.

At the elections in Milan in October, 1919, the Fascisti were completely defeated, in spite of having their daily newspaper and their political chief. They obtained a ridiculously low number of votes; nevertheless, they continued their activities.

The proletarian revolutionary and socialist movement, which was considerably strengthened by the revolutionary enthusiasm of the masses after the war, did not make full use of the favourable situation, for reasons I need not go into now.

The revolutionary tendencies lacked the backing of a revolutionary organisation and of a party that would lend them permanence and stability, and thus the favourable psychological and objective circumstances were not utilised.

To the extent that the Socialist movement failed to take advantage of the situation and the crisis in social life in Italy, the opposite movement of fascism began to grow.

Fascism benefited above all by the crisis which ensued in the economic situation, and the influence of which was begun to be felt in the labour organisations.

The middle class became discontented when it saw that the Socialist Party was unable to organise in such a manner as to gain the upper hand; and losing confidence in the proletarian movement, it turned to the opposite side.

It was then that the capitalist offensive of the bourgeoisie started. This offensive was to a certain extent the result of capable exploitation of the state of mind of the middle class. Fascism, by reason of its heterogeneous character, offered a solution of the problem, and for this reason it was chosen to lead this offensive of the bourgeoisie and of capitalism.

The method employed by Fascism is rather peculiar. Having got together all the demobilised elements which could find no place for themselves in post-war society, it made full use of their military experience. Fascism began to form its military organisations, not in the big industrial cities, but in those which may be considered as the capitals of Italian agricultural regions, like Bologna and Florence, thanks to support of the State authorities, of whom we will yet speak later on. The Fascists possessed arms, means of transportation, assured immunity of the law, and they took advantage of these favourable conditions while they were still less numerous than their revolutionary adversaries.

The mode of action is somewhat as follows: They invade a little country place, they destroy the headquarters of the proletarian organisations, they force the municipal council to resign at the point of the bayonet, they would assault or murder those who opposed them or, at best, force them to quit the district. The local workers were powerless to resist such a concentration of armed forces backed by the police. The local fascist groups which could not previously fight by themselves against the proletarian forces have now become the masters of the situation, because the local workers and peasants have been terrorised and were afraid of taking any action for fear that the Fascist expedition might return with even greater forces at their command.

Fascism thus proceeded to the conquest of a dominant position in Italian politics in a sort of territorial campaign, which might be traced on a map.

In their dastardly work they enjoyed the full backing of the police and the authorities. The terror started at Bologna on the historic date of November 21st, 1920, when the Municipal Council of Bologna was prevented by violence from assuming its powers.

From Bologna, Fascism moved along a route which we cannot outline here in detail, but we may say that it went in two chief geographical directions, on the one hand towards the industrial triangle of the North-West, viz., Milan, Turin and Genoa, and on the other hand towards Toscana and the Centre of Italy, in order to encircle and lay siege to the Capital. It was clear from the outset that the South of Italy could not give birth to a Fascist movement any more than to a great socialist movement.

Fascism is so little of a movement of the backward part of the bourgeoisie that it could not make its first appearance in Southern Italy, but rather in those districts where the proletarian movement was more developed and the class struggle was more in evidence.

FASCIST SYNDICALISM.

But a more striking phenomenon in this respect is the appearance of Fascist Syndicalism.

The Fascists have taken advantage of the fact, which we already mentioned, that the Socialists never had an agrarian policy, and that the interests of certain elements of the countryside which are not purely proletarian are in opposition to those of the socialists.

Fascism was an armed movement which employed all methods of the most brutal violence. It also knew how to employ the most callous methods of demogogy. The Fascisti endeavoured to form class organisations among the peasants and even among the agricultural labourers. In a certain sense it even opposed the landlords; we have examples of the syndicalist struggle, led by Fascisti, which resembled greatly the old methods of Red organisation.

We cannot consider this Fascist syndicalism, which works through the use of force and terror, as an anti-capitalist struggle, but neither can we, on the other hand, draw the conclusion that Fascism, in an immediate sense, is a movement of the agricultural employers. The fact is that Fascism is a great united movement of the dominant class, which is capable of using for its final aims any and all means, martial interests, and the local interests of certain groups of employers, agricultural and industrial.

The proletariat has not properly understood the necessity of forming a united single organisation for the common struggle, by sacrificing the immediate interests of small groups. It has not yet succeeded in solving this problem. The ruling class created an organisation which should defend its power; this organisation was completely in its hands, and it followed the plan of the capitalist anti-proletarian offensive.

Fascism participated in unionism. Why? In order to take part in the class struggle? Never! The Fascisti took part in the union movement, saying all economic interests have the right to organise; one can form associations of workers, peasants, business men, capitalists, landowners, etc. They can organise on the same principle. But all organisations should, in their activities, be subordinate to the national interest, national production, national prestige, etc.

This is nothing but a class truce, and not a class struggle. All interests are directed towards a certain national unity. This national unity is nothing more than the counter-revolutionary conservation of the bourgeois state and its institutions. In the makeup of Fascism, I believe that we can count three principal factors: the State, the capitalist class, and the middle class. The State is the principal constituent of Fascism.

(To be continued.)

Ireland & the Red International.

Connolly, in the name of the delegation of the Irish Communist Party, proposed the following resolution:

The Fourth Congress of the Communist International vigorously protests against the executions by the Irish Free State of the five national revolutionaries on the 17th and 25th November. It draws the attention of all the workers and peasants of the world to this savage culmination of a widespread and ferocious terror in Ireland. Already more than 6,000 valiant fighters against British Imperialism have been thrown into jails under nauseating conditions; scores of women have been compelled to hunger strike in prison, and already 1,800 casualties have resulted from five months' struggle against this Terror, which has produced samples of horrible atrocities unparalleled by the British Black-and-Tans, the Italian Fascisti, or the American Trust Thugs. The Free State, which has unhesitatingly used the British supplied artillery and munitions, rifles and bombs, and even aeroplanes with death-dealing machine guns on crowds of ordinary people as well as on the armed revolutionaries, has capped all this by the brutal executions of five men on the charge of merely having arms in their possession. This desperate shooting of prisoners is a direct outcome of the declared bankruptcy of the Free State, and is a last resort on its part to crush the resistance of the Irish masses fighting against their enslavement to the British Empire. The crushing of the Republicans can only result in firmly establishing an Imperialist Terrorist Government which will not hesitate to attack the Irish working class movement with the same brutal weapons upon the first sight of an advance to power or to better conditions. This being undeniably so, the action of the majority of the Labour Party headed by Johnson, in supporting the executions, is the most criminal betrayal that these traitors to the working class have yet perpetrated, particularly so when even the most reactionary Irish capitalist organ that called aloud for the blood of Connolly in 1916 deprecates this action of the Government. The Communtern warns the working class of Ireland against these betrayals of the ideals of Connolly and Larkin, and points out to the Irish workers and peasants that the only road out of this Free State terrorism and Imperialist oppression lies through an organised and co-ordinated struggle in the political and industrial as well as the military field. The struggle with arms alone, if not supplemented and reinforced by political and industrial action, will inevitably fail. To win success the masses must be mobilised against the Free State, and this can only be done on the basis of the Social Programme of the Communist Party of Ireland.

The C.I. sends fraternal greetings to the struggling Irish national revolutionaries, and feels that they will soon tread the only path that leads to real freedom the path of Communism. The C.I. will assist all efforts to organise the struggle to combat this terror and to help the Irish workers and peasants to victory.

Long live the Irish national struggle for Independence.

Long live the Workers' Republic of Ireland!

Long live the Communist International!

CAPE NOTES.

Tom Mann, during the last few weeks, has held some very fine meetings, all of which were well attended and accompanied by that enthusiasm which he always arouses. The fiery cross has been carried into the country districts for the first time by a meeting held in Paarl. The inhabitants were somewhat shy at first, but later on rolled up in large numbers. At a lecture on the "New Psychology," delivered in the Trades Hall, twenty-three new members were enrolled, and altogether the Party locally is gaining in numbers and influence as a result of the efforts of Comrade Tom Mann.

The proletarian members of the Labour Party have received a shock as a result of a meeting held here, at which Messrs. Creswell, Forsyth, and Boydell spoke. Dr. Forsyth was responsible for the following gems of thought: "He was not afraid of the word 'Socialism,' but they were afraid of the interpretation that ignorant or designing men put upon the word." So to prevent this they put it out of their objective completely, substituting for it a heap of phrases which any designing man (a leader of the Labour Party, for instance) can twist to what he damn well pleases.

Another gem from the same speaker: "Socialism was only a material means to a higher end: there was no end in Socialism." These vague phrases only serve to conceal the fact that if we have to wait for the leaders of this party to do anything Socialism will have no beginning either.

Now listen, you workers on the Reef, to Mr. Boydell speaking in a bourgeois quarter of Capetown: "The Labour Party was not a CLASS PARTY; it was not in conflict with any particular class. The fight which the party was making WAS NOT AGAINST CAPITAL. It was fighting to uphold one set of ideals as against another set."

General Smuts and General Hertzog could with the same amount of truth say the same, but we of the Communist Party declare: "The Communist Party is a party of the working class; it is in open and direct conflict with the capitalist class and its hangers-on. The fight which we are making is against capitalism. We are fighting for our ideals, but these are WORKING CLASS IDEALS, with their roots in the economic and social conditions of our class." And we welcome the attempts of any ignorant or designing men to muck that about—if they can.

SEPOL.

Well for the drones of the social hive that there are bees of an industrious turn willing, for an infinitesimal share of the honey, to undertake the labour of its fabrication.

—Hood.

WHY MEN STARVE.

Messrs. Irwin and Johnson (S.A.), Ltd., the firm that entirely controls the fishing industry of South Africa, wants £350,000 more capital. The capital paid up to-day is £550,000, and the Company possesses assets to the value of £905,814. The profits from £1913 to £1922 total £536,672, or an average of over £50,000 a year.

The other day, we understand, 30 tons of fresh fish was dumped into the sea at Durban because the market was glutted, and the extra quantity might cause a drop in price.

If you take temptations into account, who is to say that he is better than his neighbour? A comfortable career of prosperity, if it does not make people honest, at least keeps them so. An alderman coming from a turtle feast will not step out of his carriage to steal a leg of mutton; but put him to starve, and see if he will not purloin a loaf.

—Thackeray.

OUR MARTYRED DEAD.

At a Conference of the Industrial and Coloured Workers' Union, held in Capetown, a resolution was unanimously passed in favour of the erection of a memorial over the graves of those natives who fell at Port Elizabeth on October 21, 1920.

It was also decided to observe January 17 as the annual Labour Day of African workers.

It moves!

A GENERAL AMNESTY.

A petition to Parliament asking for "a general amnesty on behalf of our fellow-citizens affected in connection with the recent trouble on the Witwatersrand" has been prepared by the Social Democratic Party, Durban, and copies of same can be obtained at No. 4, Trades Hall, for signature. The matter is urgent, and our comrades and friends are urged to secure as many signatures as possible.

Hamstringing the Unions.

ASSOCIATED TRADES' DECISION.
"TOO PROUD TO FIGHT."

On Sunday last a largely attended meeting, convened by the Associated Trade Unions of South Africa, to discuss the Industrial Conciliation Bill, was held in the Council Chamber of the New Trades Hall. The following unions were represented: Amalgamated Engineering Union, S.A. Association of Municipal Employees, S.A. Bank Officials' Association, Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, S.A. Typographical Union, Boilermakers' Society, S.A. Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association, Building Workers' Industrial Union, Witwatersrand Tailors' Association, Plasterers' Union, Postmen's Union, Electrical Trades Union, Amalgamated Building Trades Union, National Vehicle Builders' Union, S.A. Mine Workers' Union, Transvaal Shop Assistants' Union, Tramwaymen's Union, Public Services Associations, Operative Masons' Society. Mr. McPhie and the Inspector of White Labour were present by invitation.

The Bill was discussed at considerable length in practically all its aspects, and it was somewhat surprising to find that after the experiences of last March the majority of the trade union officials were in favour of "conciliation" as against the "strike weapon," the usual balderdash about the latter being "out of date" and "crude" being much in evidence. Mr. McPhie, in a well-reasoned speech, showed that attempts at conciliation were useless when matters of vital interest to either of the disputants were at stake, as neither side would be prepared to forego their claims, and that in such circumstances if the trade unions were to be deprived of their right to strike at the shortest possible notice they would be fighting a losing fight from the very start.

One delegate dwelt on a dangerous part of the Bill, which provides that no ballot may be taken for a strike until after the conciliation machinery has been religiously exhausted. The unions should be in a position to take a ballot the moment a dispute arises so that the hands of the workers' representatives at the conference table may be strengthened by knowing the feeling of the rank and file.

A resolution was eventually passed in favour of the principle of investigation of all matters in dispute between employers and employees by means of conciliation machinery established by law.

Most of the delegates expressed themselves as being strongly against the Bill in its present form, as it would have the effect of handing over the unions bound and gagged to the employers and the Government, as was shown in detail in the last issue of the "International." A resolution was passed requesting the Government to withdraw the Bill, and, after consultation with the organisations concerned, to introduce a measure dealing with the industrial relations of employers and employees, consolidating the best of the mass of legislation already on the Statute Book on this subject, and introducing such reforms as may be necessary and possible without stultifying the legitimate objects and aspirations of the unions. A committee was appointed to draft amendments to the Bill, embodying the views of the organisations represented, so that such amendments might be pressed should the Government decide to proceed with the Bill.

A resolution, calling on the unions to solidly refuse to register in the event of the Bill becoming law without the deletion of the objectionable and restrictive clauses gained ten votes, and was turned down by a considerable majority. The argument against this resolution was that it might prejudice the representations which were to be made to the Government. What bad reasoning! This resolution, coming from such a representative meeting, far from prejudicing the representations to be made, and apart from the fact that it would instil courage into the rank and file of the unions and prepare them for the action indicated, would actually lend weight to the demands put forward to the Government. Smuts will be far more likely to concede the wishes of the workers if he knows that the Bill will be resisted if passed in its present form than he will if the workers merely go, cap in hand, to request certain modifications.

In any case, it is to be hoped that the above resolution will not be lost sight of, and that it will be put into operation without any hesitation should occasion demand.

C. F. G.

Sheep and Shepherd.

JANIE SMUTS is my shepherd; I am in want; he maketh me to lie down on Park Benches; he leadeth me beside the free Soup Kitchens; he restoreth my doubt in the South African Party; he leadeth me in the paths of destruction for his Party's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of starvation, I do fear evil, for thou art against me. Thou preparest a reduction of wages in the presence of mine enemies, thou anointest my income with taxes, my expense runneth over my income.

Surely unemployment and poverty will follow me all the days of the S.A.P. Administration, and I will dwell in a sheep truck for ever.

What is man born for but to be a Reformer—a Remaker of what man made, a Renouncer of falsehood, a Restorer of truth and good.

—Emerson.

* * *

Law and equity are two things which God hath joined together, but which man hath put asunder.

—Colton.

* * *

All that any man can do for a people, all that any man can do for another man, is to set the man or the people free.

—George D. Herron.

France and Britain To-Day.

TWO STUDIES OF IRON AND IMPERIALISM.
By J. P. M. MILLAR.

[The following extracts from "The Phobs" was written before the occupation of the Ruhr Valley by the French, but is extremely valuable as showing the real motives underlying this latest move of French capitalism, and the events of the last few weeks prove conclusively the correctness of the writer's estimate of the position.—Ed.]

In 1914 the weight of France in world affairs was very much less than that of either Britain, Germany, or the U.S.A. There were several reasons for that, but the most important by far was France's industrial weakness—she lacked a big heavy industry. If we compare her iron and steel industry with that of Britain, Germany or the States, we find she was very far behind, and the same was true of her coal output

Moreover, although France had the advantage of three protective sea frontiers, as well as of a practically impregnable mountain barrier cutting her off from Spain, her north-eastern frontier was a source of weakness. Here, not merely was there no natural obstacle between Germany and herself, but her principal industrial district was jammed right up against the exceedingly weak frontier.

France had another serious handicap. Her population was practically stationary, while that of Britain, Germany and the States was increasing.

In Germany, for instance, the birth-rate in 1913 was twenty-eight per thousand, in France nineteen, with the result that 65,000,000 Germans, ever increasing in numbers, confronted 40,000,000 Frenchmen, whose numbers refused to grow. In consequence, France was becoming relatively weaker in military and industrial man-power and France's future looked anything but reassuring.

The war came, and after it the Peace Treaty. To what extent did the latter help France to overcome her three great weaknesses? The addition of Alsace-Lorraine gave her a population of nearly 2,000,000, which more than made up for her war losses, and, of course, weakened Germany. Moreover, it put France in possession of by far the biggest ore field in Europe, and the second biggest in the world, according to Eckel ("Coal, Iron, and War"). In 1913 the Lorraine output had reached the colossal figure of 40,000,000 tons. The whole of that field, along with some of Germany's most modern and scientifically equipped steelworks, was now entirely in French possession.

The addition of so much iron ore alone would have been little help to France, for what she needed above all was coal. That, however, was not overlooked, and the Saar mines, with an output in 1913 of 17½ million tons, were also handed to France; and in addition Germany was compelled to send France some 20,000,000 tons per annum for a considerable number of years as part of the reparations. Besides, thanks to the fact that the left bank of the Rhine was to be occupied by the Allies, with France as the chief occupant, for a period up to fifteen years, the Rhine now became temporarily the French frontier, and the Rhine as a natural obstacle is in these days of machine guns, as Marshal Foch said, a very formidable barrier. Altogether, then, the Peace Treaty went far to strengthen France materially. It gave her a good frontier temporarily at least; it gave her an increased population; and, moreover, it gave her the coal and the iron that offered her an opportunity of CHALLENGING BRITAIN'S DOMINANT INDUSTRIAL POWER OVER EUROPE. France had now the chance of developing into a new and more formidable Germany, and that is the alluring prospect that beckons her on to-day.

Of course, there are difficulties in the way. First of all, there is hardly any world market for iron goods at present, and France, because of the relative strength of agriculture as compared with industry, has no extensive home market for iron and steel wares to give a really strong impetus to great extensions in the French heavy industries. Besides, iron pigs and steel billets are little use in themselves; they require to be turned into machinery, etc., and France has yet to develop an extensive engineering industry.

But there is a more serious difficulty. Saar coal cannot provide sufficiently hard coke for smelting the Lorraine ore. That means that the Lorraine iron and steel industry is being kept alive on the coke coming from the Ruhr under the provisions of the Peace Treaty. "For seven to ten years to come Germany will be under obligation to deliver coal and coke from the Ruhr. After that the deliveries will cease. When that takes place the position in the Lorraine may well become catastrophic." If France is to have the golden future that her new circumstances promise her, she must have coke from the Ruhr.

Were France to get the left bank of the Rhine her position would be strengthened enormously. It would give her a permanent frontier on the Rhine, a great increase in population (about 5½ millions) and the increase would be in the highly industrialised population she requires, besides putting under her control one of the most highly developed parts of industrial Germany.

Although the permanent control of the Left Bank would increase France's industrial power, it would not give her the Ruhr coke. That, alas, is over the Rhine. But if France got that (which she now has—Ed.)—and it is only just over!—not merely would she have the precious coke and Germany's greatest coal field, but the backbone of Germany's economic system, for the Ruhr is the headquarters of the great German metal trusts. It produces not merely coal, but iron, steel, and dye-stuffs and manures. In Germany, it is said, even the humble potato is a by-product of the coal industry.

Necessity knows no law. Without Ruhr coke France cannot develop her industrial might she cannot make use of the "talents" that Fortune has placed in her hand. Ruhr coke is the magic wand that can turn the otherwise practically useless Lorraine ore into steel billets, machinery, big guns and—profits. CAPITALIST FRANCE MUST THEREFORE COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING WITH KRUPPS, THYSSENS, AND STINNES, OR SHE MUST GET CONTROL BY FORCE.

And please note that France is already in the Ruhr! In May last the Allies sent Germany an ultimatum on the reparations question, and at the same time the French army crossed the Rhine and occupied Dusseldorf and two other important Ruhr towns. That was illegal. Germany accepted the ultimatum. Did France withdraw? Not a yard, and thus, in the words of a British capitalist daily, the occupation became doubly illegal.

M. Dariac, an agent of the French Government, had also something to say of the Ruhr. After pointing out France's need for Ruhr coal, he said that in the existing French occupancy of part of the Ruhr, France had a pledge which she must not give up. By means of it, he said, France can "utterly destroy" the whole industry of the Ruhr, if she desires to. France, he urged, must get a definite control over the Ruhr industries.

In January, Germany owes France an indemnity payment which the latter well knows Germany can't pay, and even now (December) France is threatening to occupy the remainder of the Ruhr, unless Britain helps Germany to make the payment. Thus is France placing British capitalism on the horns of a dilemma. It is being invited either to pay France an instalment of her German indemnity or allow France to become the possesor of Germany's biggest coalfield.

Is Britain anxious to see France owner of the Ruhr: If France either now or later is able to unite Lorraine ore with Ruhr coke, she will have the basis on which to build up an industrial power that will enable her to dominate Europe, and as an iron and steel State leave Britain far behind. That is a prospect anything but pleasing to capitalist Britain. Said the "Guardian" in a leading article on M. Dariac's report: "The report is a nightmare of brutality" (not of course to the French to whom it is a pleasant dream with prospects of 'realisation'). "If," continues the "Guardian," in so many words, "this is the policy of France, the outlook is black indeed." Said the "Referee" a short time ago: "If the French plan were adopted, and France allowed to seize and exploit the rich coal and iron fields of Germany, . . . she would become the dominant industrial power on the continent. . . . We would be up against a powerful aggressive force in international markets, and be closed out of French spheres by high tariffs. . . . but we would oppose a new industrial concentration which would be distinctly hostile and detrimental to our industrial interests."

Exactly. But will Britain be able to resist if France insists?

A Woman's Challenge.

By ALICE HARRISON.

Three interesting happenings this week, all relating to that all-important problem of how to live healthy, leisurely, and efficient lives, tempt me to try to pass along a few concrete facts that I gathered from each of them. The first was an article in the women's page of "The Cape," entitled "Community Housekeeping," in which the writer deplored the shifting of the burden of housekeeping on to the shoulders of a less fortunate human being, white or black, and equally denounced the household slave of the home who has her nose to the grindstone from morning till night cooking four meals a day with which she overfeeds her family, thereby shortening their lives with mistaken kindness. She goes on to suggest that in place of the dozens of inconvenient hovels where we prepare our food we might have in each district a Community Ktichen, which is fitted up with all the modern appliances would abolish drudgery, dirt, and adulteration. Women of each district would take turns in choosing suitable foodstuffs and cooking them to the best advantage, and healthy competition would add variety to the present monotonous task, and offer fascinating possibilities of education on all subjects of interest and helpfulness to women.

The second was a demonstration given by a Nature Healer, which went to show how we overworked our digestive organs by overfeeding, and how by cutting half our meals out we should double our energy.

Last, but not least, comes a lecture by Tom Mann advocating "four hours a day and four days a week work," which, he declared, would be hours enough to supply the world with all the commodities necessary for an ideal existence.

At first I thought it quite all right from the man's point of view, but I pitied the woman at home who would have a "Sunday" dinner to struggle with on all these non-working days of her family, but when I sorted out all the possibilities I could see hope for the world AND his wife as follows:

First, the four-hour day, which would supply all the necessaries of life to the community.

Second, the community kitchen, taken in hand on the same principle, would cater for all our needs.

Third, the physical culture needed to show us regain health by moderation and keep it by judicious feeding.

These things are all practicable, and only need the driving force of application to give us the "something now" which we so badly need. Other subjects for our leisure would come in due course.

I should like other women's views on these possibilities, and would gladly share in any effort to bring them about.

Capetown.

YOUNG COMMUNIST NOTES.

STUDY CLASS PART PROGRAMME FOR 1923.

Classes in Economics and Politics to be held at No. 4, Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on Tuesdays, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 6th.—Production of Relative Surplus Value. Co-operation and Division of Labour. Growth of the Modern State.

Tuesday, February 13th.—Machinery and Modern Industry. Functions of the Modern State and Future Possibilities.

Tuesday, February 20th.—Wages. The Rise of Democracy and Liberalism.

Tuesday, February 27th.—Accumulation of Capital. National Movements in the 19th Century.

Tuesday, March 6th.—History of the Growth of the Capitalist Method in Production to the present day, and general conclusions. Imperialism and Colonial Expansion.

The above parallel classes in Economics and Politics will be open to the public. All interested in working class education invited to attend. Time will be allowed for discussion.

Can You Oblige?

The office requires a copy of the "International Socialist Review" for Jne, 1912. If any of our readers have one, we should be very glad to receive it.

The Provincial Council.

The agitation for the abolition of the Provincial Councils is being well stage managed and financed. We understand that the army of canvassers who are touting for signatures are being paid twenty-five shillings a day. The question naturally arises, who pays? In Johannesburg there is little difficulty in answering the question. Although by no means a perfect body, the Transvaal Provincial Council has been a thorn in the side of the mining and financial interests. Its free secondary education policy is also detested by snobocracy, which desires the professions and the better paid jobs under the government and in industry to remain the preserve of its sons. Free secondary education opens the door to the sons and daughters of the workers.

The main attack is, however, being made by big finance, mining, banking, and mercantile. The employers' tax has hit them where it hurts, and they fear that at the next election a more radical element will control the Transvaal Council, and so the Corner House has decreed that the system of local government inaugurated by the Act of Union must go.

Unfortunately thousands of thoughtless workers are signing the petition, not considering for a moment that they are assisting the schemes of the very crowd which had them shot down in March, and which is starving thousands to-day.

We look in vain for any pronouncement by the S.A. Labour Party on a subject peculiarly its own. The Communist Party, therefore, even on this purely constitutional question, takes the lead with the slogan: "Hands off the Provincial Councils."

Look Out!

GLAZER (the Ex-Convict)

Ladies and Gent.'s Tailor,

Wishes to notify Comrades and Friends that he has REMOVED FROM BECKETT'S BUILDINGS TO ROOM 22, GROSVENOR CHAMBERS, LOVEDAY STREET. (Between Commissioner and Market Streets.)

COME AND SEE ME.

A. Goldman & Company

(Late of Norman Anstey and Longfield & Co.)

Has started LADIES' TAILORING, at

No. 1 Goch Buildings,

(OVER CAREY'S BOOT SHOP),

Eloff St., Johannesburg.

Comrade SAM BARLIN

Invites all Comrades and Friends to call at his office before ordering their suits or costumes elsewhere.

FIT AND STYLE GUARANTEED.

It will pay you to give him a chance by calling at

20, ROYAL ARCADE,

(Pritchard Street).

To ensure receipt of paper thereafter Postal Order for 12/6, being one year's subscription post free, must be sent DURING THE FOUR WEEKS to "The International," Box 4179, Johannesburg.

This paper will be posted FOR FOUR WEEKS ONLY (a) to subscribers whose subscriptions have expired from date of expiry; (b) to persons recommended as likely subscribers.

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