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The International

THE WORLD'S CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

Honour the Fallen.

Workers attend at Boksburg on Sunday 25th
AT 3 P.M.
To visit the graves of our martyred dead

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.

Dignity.

The "dignity" of the Special Court received a nasty jar under Comrade Donald Snowdon's ridicule of the whole procedure. The Judge-President, Sir John Wessels, saw the point and recorded his objection to the Court being turned into a Variety Hall. The press-mob, of course, have done their best to make Snowdon appear ridiculous, but the judges had no illusions, neither had the public who attended the court. Anyhow, Henry, the spectacle of two elderly gentlemen trying to preserve their "dignity" while decked out in a Father Christmas rig-out is too absurd for twentieth century mortals.

It was all right for Judge Jeffries in his day.

* * *

Duke of York-Financier.

It is pleasing to read that the Duke of York is so far a "chip of the old block" as to be able to get on the soft side of a childless widow who possesses a million and a half made out of beer—B-E-E-R, Henry—and who (according to the journalists) is going to leave it to him in her will.

There used to be another name for these gentry, but it has gone out of fashion since the Royalty business has become "democratised" and—commercialised.

Anyway, as you only pay the Duke £25,000 a year as a married man, Dubb, you ought to be pleased that he is cute enough to bamber a side-line and thus make sure of a living wage.

* * *

Watch!

Detective O'Connor's peculiar face was a study in court when he was trying to get the correct "horrible" expression while charging Donald Snowdon with "taking up arms against British forces"—but you should have seen it when Donald made him admit that he fought with De Wet against his "Queen and Country" in the Boer War.

We recommend our Irish-Republican friends to keep a watchful eye on their members who are in the S.A. Police, and note carefully what they DO.

Don't watch their mouths, watch their hands!

* * *

Family Pride.

Winnie Churchill—the Coalition Fiasco—has published a book which, according to the "Star," gives a splendid historical account of some of the Churchill ancestry. I'm prepared to wager he doesn't mention the founder of the house's glory who procured his sister, Arabella Churchill, for the amusement of a putrid prince for a price—honour.

A glorious house, springing from—the proceeds of prostitution.

* * *

Ireland.

Jannie Smuts "settled" the Irish question years ago, and De Valera hasn't heard of it yet.

Why the 'ell doesn't somebody tell him and save further massacre?

* * *

Fat.

It is rumoured that the Editor of the "Sunday Slimes," Mr. Langley Levy, was once a prominent member of the revolutionary socialist movement in London.

Can anyone verify this?

* * *

Bury It.

The ancient Egyptians had more sense than we have got, Henry. They buried their kings, thrones, sceptres, and the whole circus deep in one grave.

I wonder when we shall do it?

* * *

Proverbs.

"You can lock up from a thief but not from a liar," is an old English proverb. After reading the "Policemen Burglars" episode in Pretoria I propose to make the South African version read:

"You can lock up from a thief but not from a policeman."

* * *

Advertisement.

The Corner House, through its press, has instructed Jannie Smuts to suppress socialist literature and freedom of expression. That'll put sales up a thousand per cent., and suppress nothing.

Don't worry, Henry, you'll be able to get more [illegible] than you'll ever be able to pay for. It's [illegible] Russia capitalism doesn't like, and [illegible] that for you—if not openly, still WE'LL [illegible] all right.

The City Deep.

Seven deaths and thirteen injured, but "the current month's output will be only slightly affected."

Praise God from whom all profits flow!

* * *

The Hook"

Although the attendants and witnesses stoutly denied inhuman treatment of mental patients in Pretoria Asylum, the Commissioner comes to the conclusion that such treatment had been practised, although "exaggerated" by the patients concerned. As I have recently seen another charge of brutality (of Snowdon) "enquired into" by two judges, I can well understand how the "exaggeration" comes in.

* * *

Binks the——

Mr. T. A. Binks, a leading draper and outfitter of Krugersdorp, was fined £15 for underpaying certain young lady employees. When found out by the Inspector of White Labour this "leading tradesman" got the girls, under threat of dismissal, to endorse his cheques for the balance owing them, which he retained. Of course, all petty bourgeoisdom is "horrified," but if every tradesman playing the same game (especially in Durban) was run in, Henry, there wouldn't be many who could point a finger at Binks. Naturally it's a low-down dirty business (and I suppose Binks will be a "pillar" of some church or other), but it's only a little sidelight upon the capitalist system, which is the only system under which things could happen.

The Human Leopards.

Mr. T. Alexander Barns, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., F.E.S., has written a remarkable book entitled "The Wonderland of the Congo." Amongst a lot of interesting yarns of native life, details are given of the "mambela" secret society of the Wabali and the "Anioto" sect of Human Leopards. They are cannibals who kill and eat young women and children, and no man can join before it is known that he has killed at least one man of his own tribe. The author says the cult has a strong hold over the native mind, and is spreading, and, says he: "Judging by the comparatively recent formation of such a society in Congoland, one is led to believe there may even have been some kind of propaganda at work."

Now watch the "Sunday Slimes," and by-and-by you'll read how one of these blokes has been captured with the latest number of the "International" secreted in his ear lobe.

Every "Human Leopard" knows the Communist Manifesto by heart, Henry.

* * *

A Comrade.

The Tory "Morning Post" says: "In the fall of Mr. Hughes, Socialist and Labour Politician as he was, we mourn a colleague and a comrade."

When Billy accepted the £25,000 from the capitalists of Australia he put his own pot on, and no doubt Australian labour wishes the "Morning Post" joy of its new comrade.

But what a disgraceful show down!

TRUE TO-DAY.

The home of the artificer is desolate, and the warehouse of the pawnbroker is full. The workhouse is crowded, and the manufactory is deserted.

We have looked on every side; we have searched diligently in order to find out the cause of distress so sore and so long continued. We can discover none in nature or providence. The energies of a mighty kingdom have wasted in building up the power of selfish and ignorant men, and its resources squandered for their aggrandisement.

—THE CHARTISTS' PETITION, 1839.

The System.

From the "Sunday Slimes" I take the following. To the worker it needs no comment, and if it did I daren't trust myself, as the Editor watches me very closely, and blue pencils anything blue:

"Now, gentlemen, what offers for this fine suite of furniture? Give me a start, please."

The Deputy-Sheriff looked round appealingly, and his audience—all five of them—looked at each other.

"Come, gentlemen," the officer of the law expostulated, it has to be sold for cash, you know. Anyone make a bid?"

"I'll give you £2 for the lot," offered a sharp-looking man, who had evidently been at Sheriff's sales before.

"I'll make it £2 10s. if you'll take a cheque," advanced another bidder.

"No cheques," rejoined the Sheriff briskly. "cash or nothing. Remember, the suite is worth £30 at least."

But there were no more bids, and finally the man who paid £2 got a bargain in furniture.

It is on record that on one occasion a woman literally slaved to buy back the furniture of her home that was being sold outside the Court House to satisfy the demands of creditors. She was outbidden.

* * *

Fancy.

The American Relief Administration has received an appeal for funds to buy cats for Russia, because all the cats were eaten, and now the mice are playing hell.

You can believe this or not as you like, Henry. It is marked in the press "Sunday Times Special."

Dear me!

Sli-Phi.

Did you read what Sir Lionel Phillips said about WORK, Henry?

Of course, he only speaks from hearsay, and even then it was noticed that a cold shiver ran down his back when he pronounced the blessed word.

* * *

Poor Kid.

The baby of Lord Lascelles and Princess Mary will be a Prince but not a Royal Highness, Henry!

That's real hard lines, but still the money will be good, and your baby will have to carry this little cherub on his back.

Hope he's better looking than big Mary.

* * *

Capitalism International.

"Blood is thicker than water," and Profit is thicker than both. The German capitalist clique has sold to the French gang the great explosives secret—synthetic ammonia. Social-Demokrats in Germany are raving against the transaction, but the same Social Demokrats—English, French, American, German, and what not—were all anxious to cut Walton Newbold's throat when he was busy telling truths about this kind of transaction. Of course, he told the truth in advance, and one couldn't expect Social Demokrats to see a truth until it was ancient and no longer mattered.

* * *

The Jaggernaut.

Mr. Jagger announces the intention of making a bigger breakwater at Capetown. . . . . All Communists should be personally interested.

Save Us From Our Friends!

This letter, which appeared last Saturday, is a complete give-away. Read it TWICE, Henry, and then try to guess what would happen if a majority of Communists ever got elected to Parliament:

"To the Editor of 'The Star.'

"Sir,—A number of prominent leaders of the S.A.P. have refused to sign the petition for the abolition of the Provincial Council. In spite of letters in your columns they cling to the fallacy that it is not necessary to do away with the system, but only to elect 'better men.' This, they will find to their cost next October, is impossible. The Labour Party is entrenched (upon any provincial issue) on the East Rand, in Fordsburg and probably in Langlaagte and Roodepoort, while the Nationalists hold Vrededorp for all time. The Nationalists have a majority in the rural districts, and this will certainly be increased by two, after delimitation. The best the S.A.P. can do is to capture Troyeville, Bezuidenhout and possibly Denver. But, on the vital point of taxation, where, as Mr. Hills states, the towns pay 75 per cent., and 75 per cent. of the revenue is spent on the country, the 'tail' of the S.A.P. team will vote with the Nationalists. Hence even if the S.A.P. put up the cream of its legal talent from Sauer's Buildings or angels from heaven it will not get a majority of 'better men.'

But looking at the matter from the lower party point of view, I suggest that these great, wise and eminent men are very short-sighted. The Provincial Councils, as was made clear at the last Nationalist Congress, are the breeding ground and forcing house of Nationalism. Owing to the more parochial issues; and better organisation, Nationalists easily get elected in the rural districts. These positions assured, they use them just as the Labour Party does the Town Councils, as stepping stones to higher things. Hence, if the Government does not abolish the Provincial Councils, the Provincial Councils will abolish the South African Party.

"W. SMITH."

* * *

Thirty Pieces.

"In the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament appears the details of the arrangement between the Union Government and Sir William Brace. From the surface it seems that William is a good business man.

"The Union Government's contract called for the payment of William's

(a) Ordinary salary of £1,500 per annum.

(b) All out-of-pocket expenses.

(c) Free passage to and from England.

(d) A fee of one hundred guineas a month from date of sailing from England."

—"The Guardian."

Who says labour (b)leading doesn't PAY?

* * *

The Difference.

"For opening and destroying a letter addressed to her native servant, Mrs. Lizzie Richa, 316, Church Street, Pretoria, was fined £2 by the Pretoria A.M."

—"Rand Daily Mail."

But what about opening and holding up the correspondence of the Communist Party as intended by our Government.

Oh! that's different! M'yes.

* * *

The Uniform.

Said Sir John Wessels: "Because a man wears a policeman's uniform it is no reason to conclude that he is a liar. Even a policeman may sometimes tell the truth, just like any ORDINARY HUMAN BEING."

Extraordinary! the acument of the trained legal mind is really astounding!

* * *

The Process.

"He was removed in a cab to the charge office and the cells, where doubtless the taming process did him good."—"The Star."

It's about time this "taming process" at Marshall Square and elsewhere was carefully enquired into. It has gone beyond the rumour stage, and when the "Star" gloats over the notorious brutality of it, as above, surely it is public enough.

* * *

Real Australian.

The following is pinched from the "Australian Worker":

"A Melbourne ecclesiastic has been lecturing on the problem of religion. My cynical friend, who says that problems are easier to solve than the people who propound them, declares that the solution is obvious. "Fill the collection plate," he says, "and the problem is solved."

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A Communist Congress.

At the Fourth World Congress the Communist International decided that in future the congresses of the national sections should meet after the International has concluded its sittings and not before as hitherto. One of the reasons for this decision is that it will give an opportunity to the International delegates to report to their respective sections, and enable a full discussion to take place on the necessary means to carry out the international decisions.

It will be remembered that at the last congress of the South African Section of the Party, held in Capetown, it was decided to hold the next congress in Durban during Easter, 1922, but the strike on the Rand, culminating in the general strike and its suppression by military force, made this impossible, and the imprisonment of many of the comrades, renders it still difficult to get together a thoroughly representative gathering.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks, however, the fact that our delegates to the International Congress will soon, we hope, be with us, and also the urgent need of a comprehensive review of the position of the party in South Africa, makes the holding of a congress a matter which must be seriously considered. It is hoped that the letter on the subject which has been circulated to the branches and groups will receive careful attention, and that replies will be sent in as early as possible containing suggestions and views of members.

Nearly two years have elapsed since we met in Capetown, and the situation has in many respects altered since then. Tactics which were advisable at that time may require careful consideration and possibly modification in the light of experience and altered conditions. The class struggle never ceases, but it assumes new phases and exhibits varying phenomena at different times and places. It is for the congress of the South African section to examine the disposition of the enemy's forces and his probable movements in order to make defensive arrangements and, if occasion warrants, to prepare plans of attack.

The immediate need of the party appears to be a great recruiting and organising campaign. The first few years of its existence was almost exclusively a propaganda period, and the educational and propaganda work is still, and will always be, of vital importance, but even this work changes its character from time to time. The policy of the united front has been adopted, and some little success has attended the attempts to put it into practice. The party during the strike and in the subsequent agitations has found opportunities to associate itself and in some cases to lead the militant section of the workers in their attacks on the capitalist strongholds, and when the counter-attacks developed took its full share in the difficulties and hardships of the retreat.

Its business now is to assist in rallying as rapidly as possible the shattered regiments of labour, and to throw itself into the vangurad of the workers' front. The fact that it is still looked askance at by the official labour element, both industrial and political, must not deter its members nor cause them to compromise with reaction. At the same time the war-cry must be a **UNITED FRONT OF ALL WORKERS** against the enemy, capitalism. The aim of the capitalist propaganda agencies is to isolate the communist vanguard from the main body of the organised workers. This must be countered by the tactics of the united front. Our members must not allow themselves either to be pushed on one side in the trade union movement by the reactionary elements nor to take up an attitude of barren criticism. They must be willing to make all possible sacrifices excepting the sacrifice of principle for the workers' movement.

On both the industrial field and the political the Communist must prove himself a staunch and indomitable fighter even for the small points which arise from time to time. He must win the respect of his fellow-workers, and when the time is ripe he will have their support.

All these considerations lead to the necessity for periodical conferences, in order that uniform tactics may be laid down, and before doing so that different points of view and the varying requirements of the struggle in different parts of the country may be fully discussed and given attention to. South Africa is so large and thinly populated, the climatic and geographical features vary so profoundly, and consequently methods of production and the conditions of the workers, that to dogmatise on tactics without a careful survey of all the factors spells futility and failure; therefore, we think that in spite of the difficulties this year should not be allowed to grow much older before a meeting is held at which all should have a voice who are convinced that the only salvation of the workers lies in the overthrow of the capitalist system.

Smart!

When Mrs. Snowdon arrived hom after her husband had been sentenced she found an interdict upon her furniture pinned upon the door.

It was little things like this that helped to bring about the present situation in Ireland, and the agent who did the trick must have a rotten tumour in the place where decent peo,le have a heart.

The Iron Heel.

The fight for free speech continues at Benoni. Comrade Chapman has appealed against the finding of Magistrate Sampson, and meanwhile the meetings continue.

Last Saturday a large crowd listened to the Communist speakers, and perfect order prevailed. There was absolutely no obstruction to the traffic; in fact, with the exception of those attending the meeting, both vehicular and pedestrian traffic was conspicuous by its absence. After about three-quarters of an hour, however, the police ordered Comrade W. H. Andrews, who was then speaking, to move on. The request was communicated to the crowd, which moved on to another spot, where Comrade Andrews concluded his speech, and the chairman wound up the meeting with the Red Flag and three cheers for Donald Snowdon and the boys in gaol. The police then took the names of the chairman and speakers.

It is not without significance that throughout the whole period of the Communist meeting, another meeting was being carried on by a religious organisation on the corner immediately opposite without any hindrance by the police. This gives one furiously to think. If one meeting causes an obstruction, why not the other? And if both are equally guilty of a breach of a municipal bye-law, why the differentiation in treatment? We await an answer. It is also noteworthy that some weeks ago, on the evening of the reprieve of Garnsworthy and other members of the Brakpan commando, a meeting was held by the Communist Party at Perry's Corner, and at the same time the Mayor of Benoni was holding one a little further west in Market Avenue, the main thoroughfare of the town, thus, it would appear, breaking his own municipal bye-laws.

These facts point irresistibly to the conclusion that the obstruction to traffic is not the real reason for the action taken against our comrades, and that there is no real objection to street corner meetings; but it is the Communist Party as such which is aimed at, and that the attack on free speech in Benoni is only part of the campaign against Communism which has gradually been developed during the past twelve months.

The net result so far cannot be gratifying to those responsible, as the party is having bigger and more enthusiastic meetings than at any time since the strike, and is gaining adherents and recruiting members more rapidly than at any period of its history. The meetings will continue until further notice, and all class-conscious workers and lovers of freedom are urged to turn up in support of the men who are carrying the Flag.

Lest We Forget.

BOKSBURG MEMORIAL MEETING.

Arrangements are maturing for the demonstration on Sunday, February 25th, at Boksburg, in memory of our fellow-workers, Krause, Terblanc, and Ackerman, who were shot to death in February last year by the orders of Captain L. Fulford. The various labour organisations have been communicated with by the Memorial Committee, and are taking steps to make the occasion an impressive one.

The assembly will take place on Boksburg Market Square, and the procession will move off at 3.30 sharp to the cemetery, where prominent members of the working class will address the assembly.

All unions and labour organisations are asked to marshal behind their respective banners and to conform to the arrangements made by the marshals. All wishing to take part in the procession should be on the Market Square not later than 3 p.m.

Come in your thousands and do honour to those who fell in the workers' cause, and show your abhorrence of the system which makes such sacrifices necessary.

A Unanimous House.

"What seemed to have pleased the Prime Minister more than anything about the debate—(on the Native Urban Areas Bill)—was the strict compliance with his appeal that when the House came to discuss such a question as the native question all party questions should be set aside."

Thus the parliamentary correspondent of the "Star." General Smuts thanked General Hertzog, and agreed with Colonel Creswell, and everyone seemed perfectly satisfied excepting perhaps the subject of discussion himself, i.e., the native, but of course this is a quite unimportant omission. His opinion does not seem to have been sought nor his criticism (if any) listened to. And yet one would have thought that above all the views of the six millions of helots on whose ebony backs rests the whole of our South African economy were worthy of being heard. Had that been the case, a very different debate would have eventuated, and the smug complacency of a house consisting of landowners, lawyers, and professional politicians would have had some home truths presented for its consideration.

The so-called native question, although presenting features peculiar to this country, is but one aspect of the relationship of the worker to the exploiter, and the sooner the labour members at any rate cease to use the cant phrases, native question and the native mind, and get on with their job of attacking exploitation, whether of black or white, the better will it be for the class that they are supposed to represent. The parrot-cry of segregation is getting a bit monotonous and threadbare. The Japanese, Chinese, and Indians are segregated by nature from the European and American workers, but that fact does not prevent them from competing in textile and many other industries. Whether the cheap labour is at our doors or thousands of miles away, modern industry and commerce brings the world labour supply into competition in the world commodity market, and as communication becomes easier and ever more rapid this tendency will become even more apparent, which brings us back to our main contention that only by the destruction of the capitalist system can the problem of the enslavement of the worker—white, black, or yellow—be solved.

The Fourth World Congress.

By G. ZINOVIEV.

The Fourth Congress of the Communist International made a gigantic stride on the way to the transformation of the Commintern from an alliance of separate parties into a really united International Communist Party. It has greatly increased in extent and power. At the fourth Congress 65 delegations were present (at the Third Congress 52). The greater mass of the work was done in the commissions and sections. Three-quarters of the essential activity of the congress consisted of conferences held by the various parties, in the presence of representatives of the most important brother parties, for the discussion of their internal affairs, and for the passing of resolutions founded on the experience of the advanced workers of the whole world. The greatest work of the Commintern lies in having accomplished this.

THE UNITED FRONT.

The Fourth Congress conclusively formulated the views of the Commintern with regard to the united front tactics in general and the workers' government in particular. It has overcome the last obstacles in the way of successfully carrying out these tactics, and characterises the united front as a slogan for a whole period.

THE UNITY OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

The Fourth Congress emphasised with special stress and decision the importance of unity in the trade union movement. Although at one time there were many comrades, embittered by the treachery of the Amsterdamers, who let their feelings run away with them and who declared: "We are not afraid of a split in the trade unions," the Fourth Congress now distinctly declares to the contrary: "We fear the split in the trade unions, we do not want it, we shall not permit it." It is the leaders of the Amsterdam and Second Internationals who want the split. Objectively considered, they fulfil a special task of the bourgeoisie with their eagerness for a split. The Amsterdamers and the leaders of the Second International feel that the ground is slipping from beneath their feet. They know that the future belongs to the Communists. And before they leave the trade unions, before they abandon their places to the Communists, they at least want to slam the door behind them with such violence that all the window panes rattle. They want to leave nothing but the debris of the trade unions for the Communists. Therefore the Commintern must exert every effort to save the unity of the trade unions.

No doubt much malicious joy will be felt in some quarters that, after the Commintern has existed for four years, we are still obliged to occupy the time of our Congress with such a question as that of freemasonry. At the time of the Second Congress of the Commintern, Serrati proposed that we should include, as a 22nd condition, one forbidding members of our party from being freemasons. At that time I replied to Serrati that we were just as unable to include such a special condition in our statutes as we were unable to make special mention of the fact that it was not permitted to extract handkerchiefs from strange pockets. Alas, we were much too optimistic. There is no use attempting to disguise the fact that the Fourth Congress of the Commintern had to occupy itself with the "problem" of freemasonry. We are, however, convinced that the Commintern will not be obliged to return to this and similar questions.

Almost all the larger parties of the Commintern came under the review of the Congress, and especially before its commissions. The congress helped the French party to overcome the old traditions of parliamentarism and centrism. The Congress aided the Italian Communists in their task of establishing unity with that section of the old socialist party which deserted communism at Leghorn, and which returned to the ranks of the Commintern after bitter disappointments and severe lessons. The Congress helped the Norwegian party to settle with the remains of semi-syndicalism, semi-reformism, with federalist principles of organisation, and with the social democratic intellectuals. The Congress aided the American comrades in creating the right relations between the illegal party and the legal mass movement. The Congress joined with the American comrades in emphasising with all possible force the need for the formation of a broad legal labour party (after the type of the English Labour Party). The Czecho-Slovakian comrades, who can boast of great success, are helped by the Congress to overcome the semi-syndicalist danger just at the moment when this danger is beginning to arise. The Congress helped the Spanish comrades to find the right way to win over the masses from the irreconcilable anarcho-syndicalists and assisted the Yugo-slavian comrades by efficient advice, to carry on the fight against the bourgeoisie, etc., etc.

CAPITAL THREATENS A SIEGE.

The Fourth Congress established with perfect certainty the fact that in a number of countries the workers are confronted with an approaching state of siege and White Terror. Fascism may before long become an international phenomenon. The Fourth Congress recognises this clearly. But it does not take a stereotype view. It is aware that a new page of history may be turned to-morrow, and that there are at least some countries (England, France) where episodal rebirth of democratic pacifist illusions is very well possible.

THE NEGROES IN OUR MIDST.

The negroes were represented for the first time at the Fourth Congress, and they brought reports full of interest to us. The Fourth Congress created an exhaustive programme of action for the parties and revolutionary organisations of the Near and Far East, and in this question it was only necessary for the Fourth Congress to put in more concrete and definite form the resolutions of the Second World Congress. The work to be executed will be of tremendous practical significance.

TOWARDS THE UNITED WORLD PARTY.

The Fourth Congress has at last altered the structure of the leading organ of the Commintern. Every vestige of federalism in the structure of the Executive Committee of the Commintern has been laid aside. From now onwards the Congress itself will elect the Executive Committee, and the Fourth Congress has determined that this committee is to be a real central committee of the International Communist Party.

The Fourth Congress was a gigantic university for us and for all participators. All advanced workers in the world should acquaint themselves with the magnificent work done by the Fourth Congress. The path of the Commintern was outlined at the Fourth Congress with a care and clarity and distinctness hitherto unknown. A few years more of such work, and the Commintern will form such a solid foundation of workers' parties of the world that it will be able to take up the fight, with the fullest confidence, against every attack of reaction and against every attark of international Fascism. At the Fourth Congress we felt, more than ever before, that the international community of communist workers has joined hands, and will not retreat, even in face of the powers of hell.

—International Press Correspondence.

Conscience Money.

Our comments regarding the donation of £30,000 to the University of Wales by Mr. Daniel Radcliffe, the Cardiff shipping magnate, brings us an interesting little script from a Welsh comrade, who says. "Originally ship-owning did not go quick enough for old Thomas Radcliffe, so he engaged the Reverend Llewellyn Jones to tour all the churches and chapels in Wales with the object of cajoling the £ s. d. from the workers' savings to put the Radcliffe line of steamships on a firm footing. The very reverend gentleman used to tell a fine tale to the servant girl 'shareholders' about the Radcliffe ships transporting the black diamonds to N.S.W., and thus performing the heaven-sent philanthropy of providing plenty of work for the Welsh miners. Money came in hand over fist, and the first year the servant girls got a good dividend; second year small dividend; third year calls were made to pay for ship repairs. The shareholders kicked. Secret agents got busy and bought in the 20s. shares at 2/6. The servant girls' money had gone to found the Radcliffe fortunes. From 1880 to 1902 the Radcliffe line was the worst found and lowest paid out of Cardiff, and the nickname of the firm remains: 'The servant girls' line' to this day."

That's only one more. EVERY FORTUNE IN THIS CAPITALIST WORLD WAS ORIGINALLY FOUNDED ON FORCE OR FRAUD—OR BOTH."

EDUCATION.

The report of the examiners for the award of junior county scholarships as reported in the "Star" contains some "howlers" which cause one to think. The answer to the question, "How would you spend your time if you were king or queen?" clearly show how capitalism in the schools puts a clamp on the brain of the child which makes it easier to exploit later on. One little girl in reply to this question wrote, "I should give all the miners the sack for not working and hang the Kaiser."

That kid comes from a good stock, Henry, and will get on in life, while all of them show in their answers that newspaper advertisements and the cinema are more "educative" than the cramming obtained at school.

Proletcult.

If you haven't read "Proletcult," by Eden and Cedar Paul, get it and read it. Marxism in work-a-day clothes is a description of some of these comrades' works, so that when they produce a book on education, of which they may be considered authorities, one can appreciate its importance.

The authors define culture as being the result of education and environment, etc. Not long ago the workers were asked to fight Kultur, spelt with a K, and to substitute Culture, the difference being one of a letter, that is all. Now, the workers have a mode of life that is peculiar to the working class. How often are we told that we are not of the cultured classes. It is true we are a class by ourselves, hence we do not want the culture of the other class any more than we want their education. It is quite useless for our purpose as workers. Education is needed, knowledge is wanted, but not the futile pittle that our masters would throw at us.

The workers' mode of existence, their environment, is making for a culture peculiar to themselves as a class. The class-struggle develops discipline, education supplying the conscious aim, and the result is Proletarian Culture or "Proletcult." Proletcult is a fighting culture, is based on the conception of the class struggle. . . . The idea of the class struggle will run through this book like a red thread, differentiating the proletarian culture from bourgeois culture supplied to proletarians. The very latest scientific ideas on education are discussed, and methods suggested by which the fullest use may be made of them.

An extensive bibliography and a directory of workers' educational institutions throughout the world completes a book that is an absolute necessity to every student member of the working class movement.

To be had from the Literature Department, Communist Party (S.A. Section), Trades Hall. Price 5/6.

* * * *

During November, 130,000 tons of oil were produced in the Grozny oilfields. This is 136.6 per cent. of the estimated production, and is over 2,000 tons more than the October output.

Donald Snowdon Goes West.

An Example of Bourgeois Justice.

Before Sir John Wessels (President) and Mr. Justice De Waal, in the Special Criminal Court, Johannesburg, Comrade Donald Snowdon was charged with high treason, or alternatively sedition.

The trial was opened on the 5th inst., and the indictment set out that, between the hours of 4.45 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. on the morning of the 10th March, 1922, Snowdon and another had fired upon the police with revolvers from the garden and house of the accused at Benoni. The Government had offered to reduce the charge to one of sedition and remit it to the lower court (which meant a fine of £10 or a month) with the consent of the accused. Snowdon's alleged accomplice accepted the offer, but Snowdon refused to accept and elected to stand his trial before the Bench of Judges—no jury being permissible.

Snowdon defended himself.

At the outset Comrade Snowdon objected to the higher charge (treason) on the ground that, as the Government had offered to reduce the charge it was no longer competent for the higher charge to be sustained. He further objected that the chief witness for the Crown, Detective O'Connor, was the man who had "framed up" the case against him, and he objected again to Scott's being called to give evidence on the ground that he was a convicted liquor seller under suspended sentence and a personal friend of, and living in the house of Detective O'Connor.

The Court over-ruled the objections, but the Crown Prosecutor (Mr. Walsh) notified the Bench that he intended to proceed only with the alternative charge of sedition.

The first witness called by the Crown was Detective O'Connor, who stated that, on the morning in question, firing started at, or about, 5.15 a.m. He was on his own stoep—he lived next door to Snowdon—from where he watched Snowdon firing WITH A SMALL WEBLEY REVOLVER at a squad of policemen who were stationed at Tonkin's Corner.

Cross-examined: He had fought with De Wet against the British in the Boer War.

He had a revolver in his possession, but made no attempt to attack Snowdon, considering "discretion the better part of valour."

He did not know that Scott was a convicted liquor seller. He now remembered he had heard that Scott had been convicted of liquor selling. He might have attacked Snowdon, but he was "off shift" at the time.

The accused: So if the British Empire was being smashed up when you were off shift it could smash?

No answer.

Accused: Are you a trade unionist?

Witness: No.

The accused handed to witness a blue-print drawn to scale by the Government draughtsman, and asked O'Connor to mark the spot at which he stood, and the spot where it was alleged he saw the accused firing. The witness did so. Snowdon then produced a pencil and ruler and requested O'Connor to draw a straight line from one spot to the other. O'Connor did so, and it was then found that the view of Snowdon from O'Connor's position was obstructed by two nine-inch brick walls.

The Court adjourned at 4.30 p.m., and the evening and morning papers published a carefully selected report intended to make Comrade Snowdon appear ridiculous. Each paper ("The Star" and the "Rand Daily Mail") suggested that Snowdon's only object was to prolong the trial by asking irrelevant questions.

SECOND DAY.—THE POWER OF THE PRESS.

At the outset the Judge-President warned Snowdon that he would not allow him to ask the witnesses all the questions he had prepared, and after one or two minor questions he ordered O'Connor from the witness-box.

The Crown then called Sergeant Jingles, who stated that he was in charge of six men at Tonkin's Corner on the morning in question. Shots were coming from the direction of Snowdon's house. He saw a man in the garden whom he took to be Snowdon, but would not swear to it. He had known Snowdon some years. He would not swear that the man he saw fired any shots.

The accused was cross-questioning Jingles regarding shots being fired from the same street but away from his house, when the Judge-President warned him to desist or he would order this witness also to stand down. The Judge-President then asked Jingles why the police did not fire upon, or rush Snowdon. (Snowdon at this stage was fighting fifteen police armed with rifles.)

Jingles: It was not safe; we were keeping under cover. (Loud laughter.)

Snowdon attempted to continue his cross-examination, but the Judge-President ordered the witness to stand down, and threatened to clear the court if there were any more interruptions from the public gallery.

Constable Botha, S.A.P., was then called by the Crown. He stated that on the morning in question he was one of a party of six or seven policemen on duty at Tonkin's Corner, under Sergeant Jingles. He knew Snowdon, and saw him fire three shots from a revolver at the police. The first shot struck the ground in front of him. The second shot struck the ground behind him. The third shot he saw go between him and Constable Laas chest high. (Laughter.)

By the accused: He was at Tonkin's Corner 70 or 80 yards away. Accused was behind the hedge in his own garden. Accused wore a white suit. He knew accused by his figure. He had a good view of accused. He was a good shot. He would wager to hit the label of a beer bottle at 100 yards with his rifle. He did not fire at accused, as he was waiting to get a fatal shot.

At this stage the Judge-President enquired if it would be possible to go to Benoni and back by one o'clock.

Snowdon: Easily, my lord.

The Judge: We will go.

Snowdon (earnestly): Thank you very much, my lord.

The Court then adjourned for an inspection in loco.

Upon resumption, P.C. Botha stated that he saw the wife of the accused come out of the house and take the accused inside.

Snowdon: Did she spank me for being a naughty boy? (Loud laughter.)

Botha: She came out and took you into the house.

The Judge-President here again threatened to clear the court if the laughter did not cease.

Accused: This witness has said that he was waiting to get a fatal shot at Snowdon. If he had seen me, my lords, he would have killed me stone dead. I'm not blaming him for doing his duty. I'm only against these policemen because they wander from the truth. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Did you find the bullet marks?

Yes. One bullet went through a door frame and another through a pane of glass. (Here the alleged bullet pieces were produced.)

The next witness was P.C. Laas, a curly-headed gentleman, very sun-burned, who could not speak English.

Judge-President (to accused): Do you speak Dutch?

Snowdon: No, but I can speak Hindustani. (Laughter.)

The witness stated (through an interpreter) that on the morning in question he was at Tonkin's Corner with the party under Sergeant Jingles. He saw Snowdon, and saw him shooting from behind the hedge of his own house. He saw the pistol. IT WAS A BROWNING. The distance was about 80 yards. He was only away fifteen minutes when he went down to the police station with prisoners. He also saw the smoke of firearms coming from the windows of accused's house.

By accused: He was only away fifteen minutes. He took prisoners to the police station, made a report, put them in the cells, and came back.

Accused: You did all this in 15 minutes? How did you make a report, take them to the cells, and give them each a couple of kicks as they went in, all in fifteen minutes?

No answer.

Accused and P.C. Laas entered into a long argument as to the number of shots fired by rebels and police. P.C. Botha said the Cape police had taken cover deep in a doorway.

Accused: I was in an exposed position. Are the police not so courageous as I am, and the Cape police not so brave as the Benoni police? (Laughter.) Jingles says the police fired over our heads to frighten us. You say you fired to kill us. Yet you didn't hit us, and you were armed with a service rifle, the most deadly weapon ever invented, which would hit a half-crown on a child's head without hurting the child. (Laughter.) Fortune favours the brave. (Laughter.)

Two revolvers were produced for P.C. Laas to say what kind of revolver he alleges he saw accused using. After the judges had handled the weapons, accused asked for them with the observation: I have no ammunition on me. (Laughter.)

After further questions and answers, accused upbraided witness with: Why don't you give your evidence clearly. You give your evidence sloppily, and I go to Pretoria Gaol, while you draw pay. (Laughter.)

The Judge-President: This cannot go on for ever. Will you be long?

Accused: Not so long as I shall be in gaol. I am faced with these stupid policemen. (Laughter.) I am accused of fighting 16 policemen, and I am alone in my defence, and cannot deal with them in 16 minutes. (Laughter.) The Court is prejudiced against me.

The Judge-President: Why?

Accused: I have been brought up in a proletarian atmosphere, and I instinctively feel there is prejudice.

The Court adjourned.

THIRD DAY.

Capt. Rennie gave expert evidence on the bullets produced. He was of opinion that they were RIFLE bullets. He had known the accused about fifteen years. He was a good citizen, except that he had got his head full of crazy Bolshevist ideas.

Mrs. Jessie O'Connor, the wife of Detective O'Connor, gave evidence to the effect that she lived next door to the accused. She did not see him fire any shots, nor did she see him with arms on that day, but on the 12th March the accused had threatened her and pointed a revolver at her. Being "a little deaf," her husband assisted her to give evidence, against which procedure Snowdon objected, but was told by the Judge-President that he "had nothing to do with it."

Scott, the liquor seller, to whom Snowdon objected on the ground that he resided with Detective O'Connor, was the next witness. On entering the box he was asked by the accused if he were ever convicted of liquor selling. The witness refused to answer.

"Well, my lord," said the accused, "I am a total abstainer, a man of clean habits, a man who considers that the man who acts as a liquor seller to natives is the lowest of the low," and, turning to witness, the accused said:

"Now get out of that box, and don't face me any more."

The witness left the box, while the spectators in court broke into loud laughter, which evoked a rebuke from the Judge-President that he would not permit the court to be turned into a variety show.

The case for the Crown was then concluded, and the accused called witnesses for his defence.

For the defence a Mr. McGrath, engineer, put in a statement to the effect that at the time Snowdon was stated to have been firing at the Crown forces he was with him, and could swear that the accused never fired a shot. Three other young men gave evidence that they were with the accused on his verandah all that morning, and that no shots were fired from Snowdon's premises. A lady living opposite stated that the accused had been under her observation all that morning. He had walked over to her house with a cup of tea during the time the alleged firing was going on, and they had discussed the strike. She had seen a man with a rifle and bandolier firing at the police stationed at Tonkin's Corner from a position near O'Connor's house. He lay down to fire. This evidence was borne out by the statement of a young lady, the daughter of a boarding-house keeper in the vicinity, and by the wife of the accused. Comrade Snowdon wished to recall McGrath to amplify his statement, but this was disallowed by the Judge-President.

Comrade Snowdon wished to call evidence to prove his statement that he had been brutally assaulted by Detective O'Connor after arrest, but the Judge-President would not allow the witnesses to give evidence, as "it had nothing to do with the case," but all the policemen present when accused was brought into the gaol, including Detective O'Connor, were called to the witness-box one after another at the instance of the Judge-President. When questioned regarding the alleged assault on accused, all of them denied either having participated in the assault or having noticed anyone else among the police commit any assault on the accused.

That concluded the case. The Prosecutor then addressed the court, but was pulled up by the Judge-President, who pointed out that he was not making a good job of it, and suggested the lines upon which the prosecution should proceed. Comrade Snowdon refused to avail himself of the "privilege" to go into the witness-box, and addressed the court from the dock as follows:

SPEECH FROM THE DOCK.

My Lords,—Had I had the advantage of education and training I might have been a K.C., but as I never had those advantages I have done my best to defend myself against the charges brought against me at the instigation of this perjurer, Detective O'Connor. I know I have antagonised this Court—I have infuriated you at times, my lords, and I admit, I did it deliberately. I did it so that if you find me guilty you will give me a severe sentence, and, if not, you will not forget O'Connor. I have brought evidence to prove that I am a man of honour, a man of integrity, a clean living man in every way, but if to wear a red tie, if to love the working class, if to be a Communist be a crime, then, my lords, I am a criminal, for I am guilty of all of these, and I love the working class, who I believe love me in their hearts. Upon my arrest I was brutally assaulted by O'Connor. I was not allowed to cross-examine him fully, or I would have torn him to pieces until, like Ananias, he dropped dead in the box. I have admitted I was at my house on the 10th of March—I was where the Martial Law regulations ordered me to be. I do not admit firing at the police, but I do admit being heart and soul with the working class against the Government of this country. Perhaps for that I ought to plead for mercy. My lords, to plead for the mercy of this court would be against my dignity as a man, for, in one respect, I pride myself that I am like David and Christ—sufficiently courageous to stand firm on my legs and assert my manhood, and I may say here that it is a great honour to me to stand here in the same dock where before me stood my dear comrades, Taffy Long and John Garnsworthy, and ——

The Judge-President: Snowdon, you are not to make a Socialist speech here, you have only to deal with the evidence.

Snowdon: My lords, I am talking to the back of the court because there are no jingoes there—all the jingoes are in front of me. Now regarding the evidence. In arriving at your verdict, my lords, I ask you to take particular notice of the fact that at my preliminary trial in the lower court, Detective O'Connor called his own kitchen boy to give evidence. That evidence is here—(holding up the lower court records)—and in it the native swears that he actually saw a man other than me firing with a rifle at the police from the corner near O'Connor's fence. That evidence is fully borne out by my witnesses. WHY HAS O'CONNOR NOW SUPPRESSED THIS EVIDENCE, my lords? Why was this native not called to give evidence before this court?

That is all I have to say, except that I have always stood with my class in their fight for freedom. You do not know my criminal record. It has not been brought up. I will tell you myself. In 1914 I was a commercial traveller in the employ of D. Isaacs and Sons. The strike had nothing to do with me as an individual, but when the whole population of Benoni was "rounded up" and the officer there said "strikers this side, public this side." I lined up with the strikers and did my six days in Boksburg gaol. Why did I do that? Because I am class-conscious. Because I know that we of the working class have to stand together until this cursed system we live in is smashed for ever. I am now at your disposal.

Judge-President: Are you sure you have finished?

Snowdon: I am at your disposal, my lords.

The Court then adjourned.

The Judge-President summed up and delivered judgment the following morning. The summing up was unique in its way. The contradictory evidence of the police was made to coincide, and the Court announced itself satisfied that the position of O'Connor enabled him to watch Snowdon from the stoep of his house. Constable Botha's evidence was accepted "in toto," as was also the evidence of Captain Rennie and Constable Laas—only one of whom could have been correct. O'Connor's evidence, which any ordinary-minded man would have considered a fabrication from beginning to end, was nicely made to fit in with a few platitudes from the bench. The Judge-President laboriously pointed out that a policeman was as capable of lying as any "ORDINARY human being," and finally ignored entirely every scrap of evidence for the defence, found Comrade Snowdon guilty, and sentenced him to two years with hard labour, ruling that the time he had spent in gaol awaiting trial should be allowed to count. Comrade Donald Snowdon, therefore, has twenty-one months to serve.

A feature of the case has been the noticeable tactics of the press. Right through attempting to make Comrade Snowdon appear a pure mountebank, the press-gang has published under big headlines everything tending to convict him, and suppressed all the evidence of the witnesses for the defence and every point in his favour. His own speech from the dock contains the whole matter. Everyone closely concerned knows that of the charge of shooting he is entirely innocent, but he is guilty of standing four-square with his class against Corner House bloody oppression, and for that—and only for that—our courageous comrade has gone west for two years.

But the movement has already gathered a little more strength on account of his trial, and he will live to fight another day.

Coming Events Cast Their Shadows Before.

The Allied authorities in the occupied zone have seized 25 million marks which were being taken to Mayence for strike payments. Two hundred million marks deposited in a bank at Treves as a strikers' fund have been confiscated.—News item.

This is the latest from the Ruhr, and of course refers to French military methods of dealing with German striking workers. But does any sane man doubt for a moment that the so-called Conciliation Bill now in the hands of a Select Committee in Capetown has the same object in view. Lacking the stark brutality of the military method, it contemplates precisely the same tactics. Whenever the strike funds become considerable a quarrel will be sought, and the painfully accumulated finances will be confiscated by the boss class. Oh, blind constitutionalists! Oh, trustful law-and-order men!

Russian Information and Review.

The first congress of the Union of Soviet Republics was opened on December 30th, in the Moscow Grand Theatre, and the treaty of union was formally adopted. The delegates to the Union Congress are elected in the proportion of one for each 125,000 of the population; the Union Executive Committee consists of 371 members, also elected in proportion to population—270 from the R.S.F.S.R., 68 from the Ukraine, 26 from the Transcaucasian Republics, and 7 from White Russia. The Union Council of People's Commissaries will be elected by the Union Central Executive Committee.

* * *

"We believe that when the time comes we shall have to deal with your class as the hon. member who once sat for Huntingdon (Oliver Cromwell) dealt with your predecessors."

—Walton Newbold, in House of Commons.

The Mugs.

"The people they left the land, the land,
But they went on working hard;
And the village green that had got mislaid
Turned up in the squire's back yard,
But twenty men of us all got work
On a bit of his motor car;
And we all became with the world's acclaim
The marvellous mugs we are;
The marvellous mugs, the miraculous mugs,
The mystical mugs we are."

—G. K. Chesterton.

* * *

A group of textile workers from America has applied to the Ukraine Economic Council for permission to work one of the Ukraine State textile enterprises. This request has been granted, and the group will be allowed to work either a Poltava or an Odessa factory in accordance with a definite agreement.

Body Snatchers.

The cold-blooded humbug, Lord Curzon (one of Fat's bad bargains, Henry), is trying to emulate Horatio Bottomley in raising hell about the Turkish demand that Britain remove the soldiers' corpses from Gallipoli. At the same time, I notice Lord Carnarvon carries on with a crowd of paid body-snatching experts removing bodies from the tombs of Egypt—where they of right belong—and taking the useless lumber to London. The Egyptian hawkers, too, are doing a roaring trade in mummies' heads.

How Fat's employees do pull your leg, to be sure, Henry!

* * *

In memory of the author of the words and music of the "International" the former Dmitrovka (a street in Moscow) has been renamed by the Moscow Soviet, Potier Street.

The Fascist Danger in South Germany.

By H. TITTEL.

In South Germany, above all in Bavaria, and more recently to an increased extent in Wurtemberg, the efforts being made by the National Socialist Labour Party are most conspicuous. The latest events in Wurtemberg, the bloody occurrences at meetings in Stuttgart and Geislingen, and the shooting affairs at Gœppingen, show how immediate is the danger of a rising Fascist movement. For some weeks the followers of the hooked cross (an anti-semitic organisation) have been holding a systematic campaign of meetings in Wurtemberg. They are striving to gain ground all over the country. The national socialists carry on their propaganda with a flood of placards and leaflets. These facts show that the movement is supported by groups possessing capital.

The national socialist movement is anti-Semitic, it is a national Greater Germany movement. It has unfortunately found a willing ear among the disappointed masses with its demagogic catchwords against Jewish capitalists, against usury and profiteering. Although the movement is militarily organised and highly centralised, it denies having a party character. This attitude is adopted for the purpose of gaining possession of all those masses of workers who went over to the socialist parties at the time of the November revolution, and have there been disappointed with them as well as with the trade unions, by the passivity of the bureaucracy.

The adherents of the national socialists are recruited for the most part from the middle classes. Tradespeople, students, teachers, and discharged soldiers, are the most active members. But workmen join as well. Although it has been demonstrably proved that the movement is financed by the great agrarians and great industrial capitalists, still it would be wrong to assume that the organisation is kept going merely by generous monetary support. On the contrary, the movement is based on a very strong idealistic (although reactionary) view. Money alone would not suffice to build up a party possessing the strength of the National Socialist Labour Party.

This party possesses a military organisation. It has, in a certain sense, active and passive members. The active members are organised in troops based on military formations. Each troop has its particular number. These troops are composed of ordinary soldiers, corporals, sergeants, lieutenants, and majors. Rank is marked on a red sleeve band decorated with hooked crosses, and with stars corresponding to the military rank. There are reasons to believe that these troops maintain close relations with the military formations of the regiments. The members of the troops are bound by oath to support each other to the death.

The spirit permeating these troops is best illustrated by the bloody events in Gœppingen. Here the Munich troop (number 247) was threatened by a crowd of workmen. The major thereupon gave the command: "Weapons out, load!" The threatening attitude of the crowd caused the troop to hesitate. Upon this the major shouted: "Will you not keep your oath?" This appeal to conscience called forth the reply: "We keep our oath!" The shooting then began. The troops are armed with rubber cudgels, revolvers, and army pistols. The arms are carried legally. The Munich troop which caused the bloodbath in Gœppingen was properly provided with licences permitting arms to be carried, and after it had been separated from the crowd by superior numbers of police, it was allowed to retain the weapons, and was conducted out of Gœppingen with the free escort of the police, and placed in a special carriage attached to an express train.

The following is characteristic for the convening of hooked-cross meetings:

All the armed members of the National Socialist Labour Party, from all over the country, are ordered to appear at every meeting, so that even in places where they have no followers whatever the meeting is always comparatively large.

The occurrences in Wurtemberg show that the government of this province—the social democrat Wilhelm Keil is a member of this government—is working hand in hand with the Bavarian reactionary government.

The workers of Wurtemberg have hitherto adopted an almost indifferent attitude with regard to the national socialist movement. The proposals made by the communists in the trade unions towards organising proletarian self-defence received no attention from the great masses. But the bloody events in Stuttgart, Gœppingen, and Geislingen (in Geislingen a social democratic editor was severely wounded) have been the means of opening many eyes to the necessity of these proposals.

—International Press Correspondence.

Worth Seeing.

I don't believe in a free advert., but an old pal stood me a gallery seat at His Majesty's on Monday night. The play was "Partners Again," and if you haven't seen it, and can afford eighteenpence, Henry, don't miss the opportunity. There are a good many comrades continually asking for advice on how to become a good speaker. Go and hear the young lady who plays "Hattie Friedman" (I don't know who she is, as one doesn't get a programme in the gallery), she is the very best elocutionist I have ever heard, and I think I've heard every celebrated actor or actress in the last thirty years.

She is just about as near perfection in all departments of the elocutionary business as it is possible for a mere mortal to be. The piece is a good one, too, and, apart from the fun, is educative. Go and see it.

* * *

Mr. Snowdon, I can assure you that as far as we judges are concerned there is no suggestion that you are not an honourable man, BUT HONOURABLE MEN OFTEN GO INTO REVOLUTION.

—Sir John Wessels.

The Native Scare.

WHO RAISED IT?

In summing up in the case of R. V. Acton, Mr. Justice Wessels made light of the contention of the accused and his witnesses that there was a general fear in March of last year of a native rising on the Rand, and seemed to hold the view that the scare was engineered by those "in the know," as he put it, for the purpose of diverting the police from the activities of the commandos, and as a screen behind which a revolt could be organised. The whole of the facts point directly to a contrary conclusion.

The murder of Dave Nortje and two other white men by natives at Sophiatown (for which no one has been punished) would seem to indicate an agency at work quite other than that of the strikers. The well-known fact that the natives were armed by the Chamber of Mines and used as mine guards, and that simultaneously all along the reef on March 8th both natives and whites were alarmed and fighting took place, points exclusively to some concerted and organised plan, but there is absolutely no evidence that such a plan was even contemplated by the strike leaders or the commandos, and consequently no justification for the remark from the bench that some of the men's leaders were "in the know." On the contrary, the news that natives and whites were fighting came like a thunderclap to the headquarters of the strikers, and steps were immediately taken to stop the fracas.

Men were sent out east and west of Johannesburg to personally warn the strikers against diverting the strike movement into an anti-native pogrom. Official notices were put in the papers by the Augmented Executive, and thousands of dodgers distributed warning the strikers to leave the natives alone. Percy Fisher and others, at the risk of their lives, threw themselves between the excited whites and blacks, and the result of this prompt and resolute action was that the dastardly plans of those responsible were upset. The leaflet scattered broadcast by the Communist Party correctly summed up the situation, and had much to do with the failure of the authorities' plans to side-track the movement. It reads as follows:

LEAVE THE KAFFIR ALONE!
WHITE WORKERS, HANDS OFF THE BLACK WORKERS!

It is not they that are your enemies, but the Chamber of Mines which exploits both them and you.

Keep your attention fixed on defeating the Chamber: that is your only job in this strike.

The Chamber's agents and C.I.D. provocateurs have repeatedly tried to foment trouble between whites and blacks in order to divert your attention from your only job in this strike. Remember that they tried on the same game when the Municipal Board of Control was established in 1919, and they succeeded then.

DON'T FALL INTO THIS TRAP AGAIN.

The natives will not fight unless someone goads or incites them to do it. See that you do not play that part: and treat whoever does as the worst of scabs. Beware of police frame-ups!

LEAVE THE KAFFIR ALONE!

This is the strikers' case to-day. If there was—as there undoubtedly was—a native scare it was emphatically not engineered by the strikers. At no meeting did any speaker say anything against the native workers as such. The trouble came from the other side, and their only regret is that owing to the prompt action of the responsible strikers the plot failed in its object.

How to be a Journalist.

Young man, why waste time in college if you intend to become a journalist on one of the "great" daily papers?

It is unnecessary. The rules of the Kept Press are simple. By memorising a few stock phrases any Dubb can become a journalist in a week's time. Just remember, when writing for the newspaper owned by big business, that:

Every swindling shopkeeper is a "well-known merchant."

Every working man who criticises Jan Smuts is "a Red."

Every person who tells the truth is "an unreliable source."

Every bunch of exploiters are "grateful to their employees."

Every working class traitor is a "sane and level-headed leader."

Every rich old ignoramus or vulgarian is a "lover of art."

Everything that the police are too stupid to figure out is a "baffling mystery."

Every public utility concern is "operated at a loss just to accommodate the public."

Every old politician in office is a "statesman."

Every toady to foreign royalty is possessed of "broad international vision."

Every assemblage of five persons opposed to exploitation is "an unruly mob."

Fifty thus assembled is "a revolt."

All rich persons are "beautiful, witty, and refined."

All poor folks are "gawky, illiterate, and boorish."

A working girl in trouble is "mixed up in an unsavoury scandal."

A society dame in the same fix is "involved in a romantic escapade."

A defaulting bank president is the "victim of temptation."

A common burglar is a "criminal from birth."

Every strike is "a war declared on the community."

When you've mastered these apply to the "Star" for examination into your qualifications for lying.

—"The Worker" (Glasgow).

What's Wrong with Bloemfontein

The answer to the above question is, there is nothing wrong. There are a good few Socialists here from the middle classes, as well as from the class-conscious workers, but, in the absence of any combined movement here, one may look for and find the reason in the conclusion that, although intelligence must necessarily reflect itself in the desire for a Socialist circle, "independent thought" is translated to mean independence from any organised socialist movement. But this would not be the real cause. Time after time the writer endeavoured to form the nucleus of an anti-capitalist combined movement here, but so far has not succeeded. The reason is that they are simply AFRAID. ALL Socialists, either real or adopting this term for convenience, are afraid of the C.I.D. and victimisation. The question arises, then, if there is no solid foundation, will the building ever arise? Some people argue here that when things quieten down a bit, and Socialism ceases to be the terror as depicted by the press, government, and other capitalist organisations, then the time will be opportune to start a movement. But will things quieten down, and will Socialism ever become respectable again in the eyes of the capitalist machine, which is deluding the masses? There can be no doubt that capitalism, instead of weakening its vicious propaganda, will rather strengthen it in the same degree as they realise that their darling god—the profit system—is gradually collapsing. Is there any reason to wait, then? Wait-and-see is not a policy of a convinced, sincere and devoted Socialist, who is anxious to educate the ignorant and gullible masses. Don't wait for to-morrow. DO IT NOW. And remember, UNITY IS STRENGTH.

If any of you, Bloemfontein Comrades, are not disposed to come out in the open, do not shrink back, but give a helping hand to those who can do it by joining the circle. Any Socialist wishing to do his bit in the movement, either to become a member or to help in the organisation of the circle, should communicate with S. Malkinson, Box 400, Bloemfontein.

U.S. Credits in Europe.

"WASHINGTON, Wednesday.—The Senate Agricultural Committee has reported favourably on the Bill introduced by Norbeck, proposing the appropriation of 250 million dollars to furnish credits in Europe for the purchase of American agricultural products.—Reuter."

Said the Yankee Mr. Norbeck, "We have got a lot of trash
All lyin' round promiscous like, for which we want some cash,
And I kinder sort o' calculate that we can make it pay
By selling off our surplus to those mugs across the way.

"I know they haven't any gold just now to throw around,
But I make a proposition that you'll find is mighty sound.
We just vote this NATION'S money to their credit over there,
And then WE'LL scoop the profits (for ourselves) I guess that's fair.

"And when we've finished trading with this mighty nation's wealth,
And we've pocketed the specie, we can then retire by stealth;
Leave the European citizens to liquidate the debt—
P'raps by then they'll have some horse sense, but they have not got it yet."

"OLD SLEDGE."

Business and Falsehood.

Even the business men are beginning to recognise the disadvantage of lying, from the purely business standpoint. Real trade cannot flourish on a foundation of falsehood. The awakening to the moral law is seen in the most unexpected places. In a recent issue of a trade journal, the "Monthly Journal of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce," we find these words of a disillusioned militarist: "The accounts (about Russia) published in the press have proved untrustworthy in the past. According to them, the Soviet government has been just on the eve of collapse ever since its foundation, and the economic state of the country, beginning in chaos, had got worse and worse. Yet the Soviet government continues, and the Russian people, or some of them, survive. Is it not within the power of the great organisations which supply the foreign news of the press to give us such an account of the state of the country as represents facts not prejudices?" The shoe of falsehood pinches them at last. As long as these falsehoods merely resulted in the death of millions of men, women and children, the business men did not seem to mind much. But when it comes to supplying false information that makes business impossible, you have a different case. This, for many business men, is the in against the Holy Spirit. For plain, honest Christians it is some satisfaction to find that falsehood does not always pay.

—"The Catholic Magazine."

So long as a mere handful of international financiers remain the masters of the human race, the workers of the world will continually be called upon to fight each other for their masters' interests.

* * *

If any civilised nation to-day were to become modest enough to see itself as it really is, it would utter a shriek of horror and run violently down a steep place into the sea.

—G. B. Shaw.

* * *

A Revolution is not a young maiden wandering in white robes with a green palm in her hand. It could only come armed with shield and sword to oppose its enemies.

—Clara Zetkin.

COMMUNIST PARTY NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

The usual Sunday evening meeting will be held on the Town Hall steps at 8 p.m. Comrades are required to be in attendance to assist with sale of papers and literature, and to take up the collection, also to assist Comrade Oates with the platform, etc.

Members wishing to pay subscriptions to the branch can see Comrade J. Oates, the Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, at No. 4, Trades Hall, daily during office hours, and correspondence on branch matters may be sent to him at same address.

* * *

BENONI BRANCH.

The weekly Saturday evening meetings continue to draw big crowds owing to the action of the police in prosecuting our speakers. Next Saturday, Comrades Haynes, Oates, and Dunbar will keep the pitch for Communism and free speech.

GRAND BALL.

The arrangements are being perfected for a grand rally on March 10th, to commemorate the first anniversary of the proclamation of Martial Law. It will take the form of a grand ball at the Hotel Cecil. Keep March 10th open for this occasion.

* * *

ORGANISING CAMPAIGN.

A special organising committee has been appointed by the C.E. to tighten up the organisation of the branches and the party in general. Members and branch officers are requested to assist in every way possible the work of the committee by answering enquiries promptly and accurately, and placing all information at the committee's disposal.

* * *

Our Guarantee Fund.

Our readers and supporters are reminded that the Guarantee Fund is essential to the continued publication of the "International." We have to thank our friends for the support already given, but there are many who could help us who have not yet done so, and we appeal to them to take their share of the responsibility, as well as the satisfaction of having done their bit for the cause of the workers.

We gratefully acknowledge the following further donations: J.M.C. 2/6, I.I. 5/-, Le G. 10/-, P.G. 5/-, J.F. 40/-, G.A. 10/-, H.L. 20/-, A.P.C. 20/-, A.L. 10/-, N.N. 5/-, R.R. 10/-, Miss N. 5/-, P.D. 10/-, W.T.G. 20/-, R.M.K. 5/-, W.F. 5/-, J.J.H. 2/-, V.B. 5/-, M.G. 8/-, F.M.J. 20/-, C.H.S. 5/-, J.F. 2/6, A.G. 2/6, C.F.G. 2/6, S.R. 5/-, F.R. 5/-, A.H. 10/-, R.E.C. 5/-, F.B. 10/-, H.G. 9/3, D.W. 10/-, M.M. 8/-, C.J. 20/-, Jeppes 5/-, J.M. 10/-, F.N. 21/-, C.G. 3/-, D.M. 5/-, L.M.S. 60/6, J.D. 20/-, R.G. 2/6.

YOUNG COMMUNIST NOTES.

STUDY CLASS PART PROGRAMME FOR 1923.

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.

"The English school teachers have voluntarily accepted a 5 per cent. reduction of salaries. Which seems to amount to a voluntary confession that they were getting more than they were worth. Thus do conscience and candour get their reward."

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).

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To ensure receipt of paper thereafter Postal Order for 10/-, being one year's subscription post free, must be sent DURING THE FOUR WEEKS to "The International," Box 4179, Johannesburg.

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