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The International

THE WORLD'S CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

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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.

Vol. VIII. No. 354. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1923. PRICE THREEPENCE.

Prickly Pars.

By Sen Yah.

Do It Now.

ONE WAY OF HELPING THE WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN OF COMRADE DONALD SNOWDON (SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS' HARD LABOUR) IS TO BUY HIS LAST BOOKLET, "DOGGEREL FROM THE DUNGEON." PRICE 1/- POST FREE, FROM THIS OFFICE.

ALTOGETHER NOW, COMRADES!

* * *

A Vicious Mind.

The Editor of the "Star" has such a deep-seated venomous hatred for the poor that his whole outlook on life is poisoned and embittered thereby to such an extent that, at times, it appears to more moderate men that his hatred has developed into a form of mania.

Whenever he writes of the poor he deems it necessary to slander, abuse, and vilify so markedly that whatever he really intended to say at the commencement of the article is completely lost under a storm of raving drivel. As an example take this:

"Slum-dwellers, actual or potential, are notoriously the most prolific parents."

The statement is ridiculously untrue. Sir George and Lady Farrar, or King George and Queen Mary, f'instance, were neither actual nor potential slum-dwellers, but they and thousands of others of their kind have been prolific breeders. Parasites in the animal world and weeds in the vegetable world are always the most prolific, and, in any case, as the Catholic religion naturally predominates among the very poor, Fat's Editors should have a go at the mammoth army of celibate priests who dish out blessings upon those of the poor who obey the biblical injunction to "increase and multiply."

* * *

John X and Bob.

John Xavier Merriman, the antique jester who is still tolerated by the 'Ouse, complimented Bob Waterston upon the speech he made the other day on the native question. The press reports that Bob beamed with pleasure, but—he must have said something very wrong from a labour viewpoint to merit the praise of this political anacronism.

What was it?

* * *

Hansard.

The debate in Parliament about resuscitating "Hansard" would almost make an outsider believe that quite a lot of people read the Parliamentary reports.

As a matter of fact, Henry, we never read a line of the stuff, do we? and as for Hansard—

What is it a gramophone record or something?

* * *

Faith Healing.

A leading faith-healer met a young man whom he had reason to believe was becoming converted to the faith-healing stunt. "How are you?" he enquired. "Oh, I'm allright," responded the potential convert, "but my father is very sick." "You should not say he IS sick," said the faith-healer, "you should say he THINKS he is sick."

A few days later the two again met. "And how is your father this morning," enquired the faith-healer. "He thinks he is dead," responded the other mournfully.

* * *

Stronger!

The London "Times" says that General Smuts is more strongly in power to-day than ever.

That's the small boy whistling in the dark, Henry.

* * *

Chivalrous.

Accused of using insulting language to a Parktown lady, a hawker said that he had no intention of insulting the "old cow."

As the same man called an old cow a lady on the very same day, you must admit he was chivalrous, Henry.

* * *

Missing Bars of Gold.

Three bars of gold value £10,000 have been pinched between Van Ryn Halt and Germiston. The thieves are unknown, Henry, but you may be sure the theft was the result of Bolshevik propaganda.

Treachery?

Now that the Free State Army is in a state of sedition and hundreds are deserting and joining De Valera, President Cosgrave has kindly let it be known that he is ready to agree that the question of the Irish Republic should be left to the electors—IF DE VALERA WOULD ADVISE HIS IRREGULARS TO SURRENDER THEIR ARMS.

But De Valera probably has heard all about Wat Tyler, and, if he is wise, he will take his chance with his 10,000 well-armed patriots and "see it through."

Why! even the Johannesburg "Irish" Club is becoming Irish again, and I wouldn't take Cosgrave or Mulcahy's job for a pound a shift—hard up as I am and all.

* * *

Langley-Levy Notes.

Cologne, Tuesday. All efforts from the Ruhr to the unoccupied parts of Germany have been forbidden except Fats and Manure.—"The Star."

The Germans are beginning to appraise things at their true value, although this is an insult to the manure.

* * *

Accident.

The "Star" reports that the C.I.D. have "found a clue."

They must have been looking for something else, Henry.

* * *

The Message.

Come to Johannesburg, where the streets are paved with—unemployed.

Nationality.

A writer in the "Star," who hasn't got sufficient guts to sign his name, but sneaks under the "nom de plume," "God Save Ireland," makes a dirty attack upon De Valera, calling him a Spanish Jew, etc., etc., and wonders why Ireland does not get a pure-bred Irishman for President.

REAL Irishmen have wondered for years why England couldn't get an Englishman for a king, and fire the Hohenzollerns out of the job; and it's pretty near certain that "God Save Ireland" is a Presbyterian who prays hard to the Jewish Jahveh every night and morning just as De Valera does. So "God Save Ireland" and De Valera have something in common.

* * *

Botha's Monument.

It was bound to come, and D'urban was bound to be first. Botha's monument 12 feet high has been erected. The figure of the General has one hand behind his back holding his hat; the other hand, at the front, carries a sjambok. I suspect the sculptor was grinning sardonically when he arranged the pose. Hats off and a back-hander for the Chamber of Mines and a sjambok for the working class.

That's the idea!

* * *

Tutankhamen.

I wonder it hasn't struck the Egyptians to send an expedition to England to dig out that couple of hundredweight of stinking fat once known as Bluff King Hal. He'd look well, mummified, in a glass case in Cairo Museum.

The Horse.

The "Star" reprints from the "Melbourne Age" a sentimental (true) story of the care lavished upon his old charger by the Duke of Wellington. There's nothing about the "Iron Duke" doing anything for the broken soldiers who returned from the glorious field of Waterloo to find misery, starvation, and finally a pauper's grave in good old England. Of course, a horse costs money.

* * *

No Flowers by Request.

The Robinson Gold Mine will pay no more dividends, Henry. It has paid in dividends £11,980,938 in 34 years. Its present capital is £2,750,000. I suppose about £1,000,000, ACTUAL CASH, was the utmost ever put into it. So you see now, me bhoy, what is meant by "bringing capital to the country." ONE MILLION BROUGHT IN AND TWELVE MILLION TAKEN OUT.

Some day the S.A. Soviet Government will publish statistics showing how many men have lost their lives in the Robinson and how many widows and orphans are made per £1,000,000 of dividends.

It will be interesting!

* * *

A Black Country.

In the debate on the Native Question in the House of Assembly, the Government made no bones about the intention of the capitalists of South Africa to eventually (and as rapidly as possible) SUPPLANT ALL WHITE WORKERS WITH BLACK.

Join the Communist Party and get an intelligent view of the matter.

* * *

The Difference.

In charging Comrade Chapman with causing obstruction by holding a Communist meeting at Benoni the prosecution said that a LARGE crowd congregated. Any other crowd, except a Communist crowd, is always designated a DENSE crowd. So you see, Henry, whatever else it may be, the authorities admit that a Communist crowd is never dense.

* * *

Pot-Pourri.

Things are brightening up in England, Henry, according to Fat's press. Here is the menu card of a dinner yaffled by the hogs in the Grand Hotel, Glasgow:

Whitstable Oysters.
Hors d'Œuvres Varies.
Cockie Leekie.
Cream of Celery.
Amontillado.
Filet of Sole Cardinal.
Chablis.
Mutton Cutlets Reforme.
Heidsieck 1911.
Punch Romaine.
Cigarettes.
Braised Filet of Beef Parisienne.
Potatoes Boulangere.
White Horse Whisky.
Asparagus Vinaigrette.
Roast Turkey and Tongue.
Braised Celery, Duchess Potatoes.
Bombe aux Pistaches Gaufrettes.
Trifle a l'Anglaise.
Fruit Salad.
Port.
Dessert.
Cigars and Cigarettes.
Cafe.

So you see, me boy, there's bags of gluttony still going on, and these people were not "certified hungry" before they started. In this connection it is pleasing to note that on the same day that this feast was guzzled (by the "unemployed") the Glasgow Town Council, in the fulness of their good, kind, Christian hearts, decided to provide a 3½d. meal per day to CERTIFIED HUNGRY mothers and children. It doesn't say who did the "certifying." The Rugby Guardians in the same week discussed the death of a man who had been working on the relief works at the sewage farm. The medical evidence was to the effect that "inclement weather, insufficient clothes, bad boots, and malnutrition, due to unemployment," were the causes of his death. One of the Guardians, Miss Turton, said that men and women were going downhill because they were not having enough to eat. She mentioned the case of a woman who did a hard day's washing, and all she had was a slice of bread and margarine. She was afraid to have any more, otherwise there would not have been enough for the children's dinner.

So there you are! THINGS ARE BRIGHTENING UP IN ENGLAND—for Fat.

In the crucible of the class struggle the slag of fiction and make-believe is thrown up, and the pure metal of a new idea is left behind.

M. PHILLIPS PRICE.

The Gods.

"At the opening of Parliament there was a brilliant scene in the House of Lords, diplomats being attired in gorgeous uniforms, and peeresses superbly attired, most of them wearing diamond tiaras and corsages glistening with precious stones. The Law Lords made a picturesque group. Their Majesties wore their crowns and State robes, the Queen wearing the famous Indian and South African diamonds."—Press report.

And King Geordie, with much prompting from big Mary, spelled out the "speech from the Throne." It was a wonderful affair, Henry. A real "gathering of the glands." Every useless parasite in London was there, perspiring and grunting, and accompanied by double-chinned females dressed as alluringly as possible in a vain attempt to tickle the jaded appetites of the surfeited males. The whole mob debauched with gluttony and "early piety," smirking and smiling to gain a nod from a mannikin king, flaunting their vulgar wealth upon their fat females, whose half-nude mountains of flesh sparkled with priceless jewels, and puffing out their paunches as much as to say "We are gods anointed!"

The weather was gloomy and miserable, and outside the Hunger Marchers in their thousands shivered in their rags. Women were there—aye! and little children too—and the wail for bread, bread, bread, rose and fell in the fog, like the moan of an army of lost souls.

When, oh when! will the real men and women of England wake up and tear these tinselled vampires asunder?

When?

* * *

Reward of Abstinence.

"It would be difficult," says Dean Inge, "to name any large fortune which has really been earned."

Dear me! But what about the clerical fortunes we often hear about? I suppose WE shall have to die before we can find out for certain whether the priests and parsons earned their "stipends" or not, but Dean Inge KNOWS now.

Reputation.

Great reputations are easily made—by the Press. Look at Smuts. He WON the war in German East; he SETTLED the Irish Question; he SAVED London by his genius for aerial defences; he NEARLY BROUGHT Rhodesia into the Union; and he WON the great war.

And yet, and yet, we all know that the greatest thing he has ever done in his career was to capture the public lavatory at Fordsburg—with the assistance of cavalry, infantry, artillery, air forces, and machine guns.

What a career!

* * *

A Boon Companion.

The capitalist class has sunk so low that from the gutter, and from the gutter only, can they obtain defenders. The latest man to be boosted by the kept press is Jimmy Sexton, M.P., whose blackguardly attack upon Walton Newbold, M.A., is published with great eclat by the delectable press of South Africa. Walton Newbold is a MAN in the true sense of the word, honourable, cultured, and courteous; while Jimmy Sexton, "the dockers' representative," has only one ideal—beer guzzling—and only two occupations outside Parliament, viz., retailing filthy stories and supporting the brothels of London.

A fit companion indeed for Fat's press prostitutes.

* * *

Cynical.

The "Sunday Slimes" finds itself surprised that a gentleman of Max Pemberton's intellectual pretensions should use the word "Hun" to signify a German, in writing up the biography of the master Hun, Lord Northcliffe. "Everybody knows," says the writer in the "Slimes," "that the word 'Hun' was only a war gag."

Oh! but they ARE putrid.

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The Low Grade Mines Again!

Before the special treason court has concluded its sittings, and whilst hundreds of victims of capitalist white terror are undergoing punishment in prison and many others are awaiting trial, the bogey of the shutting down of low grade mines is again raised. The absolute power secured to the Chamber of Mines by the Government's policy of ruthless suppression of the strike last year has been used to the full. Thousands of mine and other workers have been thrown into the streets, wages have been cut to the bone, and an unprecedented depression has resulted throughout South Africa. On the other hand, the gold mines have reaped a rich harvest, but that is not enough. Capitalism is insatiable, and the greater its gains the more clamorous are its demands for more.

A feeler was put out by the "Star," the organ of the Chamber of Mines, last Saturday, in a short article headed "How holiday leave is lowering mine earnings," which states that "some of the low grade mines had some difficulty in making ends meet last month. Their margins of profit were appreciably narrowed as a result of the revival of holiday leave, which is, of course, reflected in the cost sheets. . . . The effect of this, combined with the decline in the price of gold to a little more than par, has been that several of the lower grade propositions of the Rand were only able to avert making losses by a very slender margin."

The E.R.P.M., Geldenhuis Deep, New Goch, and New Kleinfontein are then quoted as having made what are called totally insignificant profits, and the warning is issued that "unless mine managements are able to keep costs down to at least their present levels there will be a real danger of the problem of the low-grade mines coming into the limelight again. THE FOUR MINES MENTIONED ABOVE ARE BETWEEN THEM EMPLOYING OVER 2,100 WHITE MEN, and are distributing many thousands a month in working costs."

The object of such articles is quite apparent. The old bogey is being trotted out of shutting down the mines unless the workers submit to still further reductions of their already inadequate standard of living. The holiday leave, which was grudgingly granted during the war period, and still more grudgingly restored after the strike, seems to be the immediate point of attack, and if this is abolished or curtailed will, as the article itself hints, directly reduce the number of men employed.

The above is made additionally piquant by another extract from the "Star" of the same date, which refers to the imminent closing down of the Robinson mine, which mine is stated to have "commenced production at the beginning of 1888, and up to the end of last year had crushed 11¼ million tons for a total out of 5,723,044 ounces. THE COMPANY HAS DISTRIBUTED IN DIVIDENDS VERY NEARLY 12 MILLION POUNDS STERLING, TO BE EXACT, £11,980,938, AND THE PRESENT CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY IS TWO AND THREE-QUARTER MILLIONS. Taking the premium into account, the total value of the Robinson's output has been in the neighbourhood of £24,600,000."

We have never heard of a proposal from the Chamber of Mines that the rich mines—which are for all practical purposes under the same control as the alleged poor ones—should pool their profits, or that the whole industry should be run as one concern, which would result in a good average return throughout the fields, a solution which would be obvious in a Communist State. Equally repugnant to capitalism is the suggestion that the workers on the higher grade mines should receive pay in proportion to the profits of the operations. It is heads I win, tails you lose, in all capitalist arguments. The workers have the solution in their own hands if they will only organise as one man and resume possession of that which they, and they alone, have created.

Not in Soviet Russia.

The daily press sometimes lifts a corner of the veil which normally conceals the hideousness of capitalist society. On the authority of the Rev. H. H. Orlandini, who writes of conditions in Mashonaland, where the Chartered Company rules, the following appeared a week or so ago:

"There is a mother. She looks more like a skeleton than a human being. Her eyes are so deeply sunk in their sockets, her cheek bones project so sharply, her whole body is so emaciated that the sight of her gives us a shock. Three famished little souls are with her. The baby on her back will shortly be seeking nourishment from its mother's breast, where the supply is certainly small. The woman has come so that by carrying earth to the dam wall from the morning to the afternoon she may earn 2lb. of mealies for herself and 1½lb. for the children. The father is an aged creature. The youngest child, a little girl of five years, works the whole day through with her little basket carrying earth. We are sorry in our hearts."

We are taught to shudder at the barbarities of Egypt, Greece, and Rome. In South Africa great irrigation works are being constructed which will bring millions to the land owners by such atrocious suffering as the above indicates.

Land of Hope and Glory.

"About 100,000 white people are living below the subsistence line, and are definite paupers. Another 100,000 are living on the borderline of existence." Thus Professor Schwarz, of Grahamstown, who then proceeds, as a bourgeois professor naturally would do, to blame the drought, the position of the Union capital—anything but the system which allows the rich to rob the workers of everything they produce excepting the barest and most miserable subsistence. Although the professor's remedies are pitiful when not grotesque, his statement of the position is sufficiently startling.

Of the 1½ million whites in the Union, he says half are children under 21 years of age, and 70 per cent. of these are growing up without any prospect of earning a livelihood. There are children, says the Professor—white children, Henry—in parts of the Cape Province who never had a stitch of clothing on their bodies, and who are subsisting on prickly pears and any castaway mutton they might pick up. "I have found children growing up hopelessly and living almost like animals."

What remedies have the bourgeois politicians to suggest for this state of affairs; which threatens to exterminate the white workers of South Africa or to degrade them to the level of savages? The challenge is to the S.A.P., Nationalist, and Labour constitutional politicians, particularly the two latter, who blame the government and are in opposition: What have they got to propose? The Communists have stated their case. We await the answer from Hertzog, Creswell, and Crawford.

Free Speech at Benoni.

Four weeks ago the town Bumbles of Benoni got alarmed at the headway Communism was making in that district, as evidenced by the growing popularity of the Saturday night meetings held at Perry's Corner. It may well be also that Fat had sent along a hint that he would esteem it a favour if these meetings were suppressed. However it happened doesn't much matter, but the Benoni "authorities," robed in power and might, hired someone who had a smattering of brains to rake up a bye-law (which doesn't fit the case) regarding obstruction, and the police duly received instructions to summons the conveners of Communist meetings. Comrade Chapman was the first victim, and his case is now on appeal. Comrades Andrew and Glass "had their names and addresses taken" next, and it was seen that the time had come to put up a scrap for the ancient right of Freedom of Speech. A few bills were circulated in Benoni calling upon the working class to rally to the support of the Communists. The response was immediate and magnificent. Last Saturday, at Perry's Corner, the huge assembly, which was addressed by Comrades Oates and Haynes, was a grand reply to the tin-pot despotism of the wise councillors of Benoni. The police were present in force, some in uniform and some in mufti, but—nothing happened, and an enthusiastic crowd was somewhat disappointed.

Keep it up, Benoni Town Council! You'll never learn anything, and your suppression means our rapid growth in your centre.

Charity!

A few days ago a long list of organisations and so-called charitable societies which have been granted permission to indulge in the usual Saturday orgie of blackmail appeared in the local press. One of these was the Langlaagte Orphanage. A lurid light was thrown on the methods adopted in this "charity" the other day by the unfortunate child who was found sitting outside a building in Johannesburg, having fled from the brutalities of that "home" for orphans. Dickens in his day was scathing in his denunciation of a certain class of orphanages. We seem to be cursed with some of the same dens in South Africa.

Even in a Government institution such as Pretoria Asylum the recent "revelations," which only hint at the truth, are sufficiently alarming, and if such treatment is meted out in a public institution it is probable that many semi-private institutions are dens of infamy. Will some of our reformist and step-by-step friends who do not believe in revolution get busy on the reform of these so-called charities.

Disturbing the "Native Mind."

For unadulterated brutality even the blood-stained history of the relations between the natives of Africa and their white masters scarcely produce a parallel to the horror of Windhoek, where two white farmers are being charged and tried for beating a Hottentot servant to death with sjamboks. We shall watch with interest the trial. Meanwhile it is permitted to ask whether the alleged propaganda among the natives by the Communists or such atrocities by the employers of natives are the more likely to provoke hostile feelings between the two races?

A Confession.

Mr. John Buchan, discussing Lord Haig's blunders in Flanders, lets a little light on the uses that the British army was put to. He says, referring to the colossal and protracted blunder of Passchendalle, where the British troops were massacred wholesale, that "the same result" (i.e., preventing a general mutiny of the French troops) "might have been secured at a less heavy cost."

This is interesting, and points to the conclusion that at one period it was on the cards that the French as well as the Russians and Germans might turn on their tormentors and drive them from power. Lord Haig and the British army were used to prevent this. Those who fought and suffered in the "war to end war," and for the "rights of small nations," will be gratified to learn that they were used by Fat to rivet the chains on the French workers, and by so doing binding themselves more strongly to their masters.

The Associated Trades Unions of South Africa.

THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION.

The following explanatory memorandum has been circulated among the trade union branches, with a copy of the proposed constitution of the new body: THE ASSOCIATED TRADE UNIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

To all Trade Unions.

Many misleading, and in many cases quite untrue, statements are being circulated amongst trade unionists concerning the establishment of the above organisation, and it is proposed herein to present the facts of the situation for your consideration and guidance.

Trade unions and federations are organisations that grow because of a necessity for them, and when they fail to meet the necessity they wither and die. From the earliest days of trade unionism in South Africa the need has been felt for a central co-ordinating factor and machinery to keep the unions in close touch with each other and to facilitate the formulation of a common policy on matters of interest to all the unions or any group of unions.

For some years the Witwatersrand Trades and Labour Council was the body that carried on this work; it was later superseded by the Transvaal Federation of Trades, which in turn was displaced by the S.A. Industrial Federation. After many years of good work, this latter body from one cause and another ceased to have the confidence of the unions, and began to be an expensive incubus from which the unions dropped away one by one until to-day it is as far as the established unions are concerned dead. During the period of the S.A.I.F.'s decay, a co-ordinating body was necessary to deal with the many big problems, and the custom arose of the Executives of Unions meeting jointly to deal with common business.

Officials of the S.A.I.F. took up an attitude of antagonism towards this new departure, notwithstanding that the Federation had itself acted as conveners of these Joint Executive meetings; however, the Unions found the new methods more efficient and infinitely cheaper than the S.A.I.F., and consequently the system was continued.

After the strike and the consequent disorganisation of unions the Joint Executives continued to function, and it is noteworthy that the unions that thus worked together have been more successful in this reorganisation than those unions that isolated themselves.

Towards the latter end of 1922 the Executives considered that the organisation should, in view of its efficient and cheap working, be given a more permanent form, and that its functions should be defined. This was done under the name, "The Associated Trade Unions of South Africa," and a constitution has been adopted which is calculated to avoid the mistakes of its predecessor, the S.A.I.F., and secure the harmonious co-operation of the constituent unions. That constitution has been submitted to unions that they may consider the matter of affiliation at a quarterly fee of 6d. per member.

The advantages of the central co-ordinating machinery are so obvious that it is not our intention to labour them; it only remains for us to outline them, and to indicate the pitfalls and mistakes of the past that the new organisation hopes to avoid. A need that has been badly felt in the past, and that has not been adequately met, was for a Central Records and Statistical Department. Such a department should be furnished with every work of reference pertaining to labour and industrial conditions that can be obtained.

Every union should file a copy of each agreement entered into, and of all important dealings or settlements of disputes, thus a record of great assistance to all would be built up, and instead of the present laborious search for data when a case for the workers has to be built up the material will be available at a moment's notice, and the efficiency of union staffs enormously increased, and the work of branch and district officials made less onerous.

The conduct of general trade union propaganda will also be a sphere of work of the "Associated Trade Unions." This important function has been somewhat neglected in the past. Organisers of unions follow each other in various centres, confining their activities to their own craft, whereas a little co-operation would enable aggregate organising meetings to be held assisting all unions, and the expense could be curtailed.

The present fashionable procedure of Governments trying to legislate trade unionism into impotence is one that requires close attention: the Associated Trade Unions provide for this being done.

Finally this organisation will avoid the pernicious past practice of the S.A.I.F. of going to branches and stewards of unions over the head of their popularly elected executives and officials. This procedure has caused more bitter feeling and division in the labour movement than any other, and must be scrupulously avoided if unions and officials are to work amicably together.

My Committee trusts that your members will see that an honest attempt is being made to build a useful machine of great benefit to the workers, and that they will use their influence and vote accordingly.

Attempts have been made and will in future be made to stultify this great work, but we trust the workers will see to it that efficient machinery is built and maintained to bring us nearer to the emancipation of the workers from many of the great disabilities under which they at present labour.

J. WALLACE,
Secretary.

Johannesburg,
31st January, 1923.

The affiliation fee, it will be noticed, is fixed at 6d. per member per quarter. Assuming that the unions which decide to affiliate number 20,000 members, this will produce a revenue of £2,000 per annum, which will naturally result in several new offices being created—an industrial secretary and a financial secretary are mentioned—with, of course, their respective staffs.

This leads one to the consideration of one or two serious defects in the draft constitution to which we think attention should be drawn. Clause 18 provides that the Association shall be divided into departments on the basis of industry controlled (clause 19) by departmental councils, WHICH SHALL CONSIST OF THE COMBINED EXECUTIVES of all unions having members in the particular industry. There are two objections to this clause. The proposal to place the executives in this position is a most unfortunate one, and should be opposed by the rank and file of the unions as introducing a principle capable of grave abuse.

Admitted that the clause allows the affiliated unions to adopt "other methods" of selecting their representatives, but not only in the clause quoted, but in the even more important clause 21, which provides for the creation of the General Council, the executive committees of the unions are indicated as the constituent members. We would strongly urge the membership of the unions to press for the deletion of all reference to executive members in connection with departmental and general councils, and to insist that these important positions are thrown open to all, and the selection to rest on a referendum of the entire membership of the several unions. There need be no barrier to executive members becoming candidates and submitting to the same test as the non-official members, but all paid officials should only hold consultative votes in the councils.

It may be argued that the very fact that the executives have been elected by a plebiscite of the membership is an indication of their fitness for the position, and that they are considered the best men available at the moment. The answer to that is, that in the older unions more particularly, an executive member is often elected for his technical knowledge (real or supposed) of the rule book and the general administration of his union, and it by no means follows that the same man would be a success in the larger sphere of national and international problems. In any case, he should take his chance with the rest.

It seems difficult to understand what will be the effect of the provision that the departmental councils shall consist of the combined executives of ALL UNIONS HAVING MEMBERS IN THE PARTICULAR INDUSTRY. If this is to be literally interpreted, every departmental council will in effect be a General Council. In the mining industry, for example, there is scarcely a union without its quota of members, and it would seem, therefore, that at a meeting of the council of the department of mining there would be present not only the executives of the S.A.M.W.U., the Reduction Workers, and Winding Engine Drivers, but the A.E.U. and other mechanics' unions executives, and most, if not all, the executives of the building workers would have the right to be present. Obviously, this would be an impossible position, as the more specifically mine workers' representatives would be swamped. Exactly the same contention holds good in regard to railways and transportation.

It is, of course, almost impossible to reconcile the two opposing conceptions of organisation, craft and industry, but in this transition stage some workable compromise will have to be agreed to, and the simplest way seems to be to delete all reference to executives and frankly adopt the principle of special delegates to the General Council. It will then be easier to form the departmental councils by taking the basic unions, Miners, Railwaymen, etc., as the nucleus, and to add a certain percentage of representation from the unions only incidentally connected with a given industry. This would enable all views to be heard and considered, and avoid the anomaly of the basic union being swamped by representatives of unions only incidentally connected with the industry.

We agree that some co-ordination amongst the unions is necessary, in fact imperative, but success will not be achieved by any attempt to thrust a constitution on the unions which bears evidence of being ill thought out, and leaves ground for suspicion that the official element wants to retain a maximum of power in its hands, and is unwilling to leave the matter of the selection of delegates and appointment of officials to the decision of the rank and file.

Barking Up the Wrong Tree.

At the Fourth Congress of the Communist International, held in Moscow last November, Comrade W. H. Andrews was elected a member of the Executive Committee for 1923. This is probably the origin of the stupid announcement made by the "Sunday Times" last week that our General Secretary had been appointed by Moscow as deputy chairman of the South African Section. The S.A. Section of the Communist International, of course, elects its own officials, in common with all other sections.

What about renewing your sub. to the "International"? DO IT NOW!

CAPITALISM AND THE FAMILY.

"I want houses for my people. Eighty per cent. of my constituents live in houses of not more than two rooms for each family. Great numbers of them live in not more than one room. I was accused at the election of a design to break up the family. I was accused then of all kinds of immoral opinions. I will tell you one thing. We found during the election—and it was reported to the medical officer of health—that in one room there was a family living and a corpse was lying in one bed while a man and two grown-up daughters were in the adjoining bed. That is not under Communism. That is under Capitalism."

—Walton Newbold.

News from Russia.

By D. IVON JONES.

In a letter from Alypka (Crimea), Comrade D. Ivon Jones writes that he is feeling much better, and may yet be of some use to the movement, "thanks to the great generosity of the Russian comrades."

Referring to the Martial Law Commission's Report he comments on the amount of Communist propaganda which the Government has made free of charge, and hopes that the report will be well circulated. Continuing, he says: "The situation in Russia is steadily improving all round, although there is a certain amount of suffering in the Crimea and other parts. Moscow and Petrograd are now better off than Germany. The stability of the Soviet regime resembles that of a pyramid, broad-based. We are just celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Extraordinary Commission, now the 'Political Intelligence Department,' and old Djerzhinsky still sits there. Lenin still Premier, Kalinin the same old Peasant President, Trotsky still at the head of the army, while in capitalist countries presidents topple over or are shot, and governments tumble in a night. The Proletarian Revolution has come to stand for stability, while the reaction has appropriated demagogic incendiarism. The New Economic Policy has been the salvation of the Revolution. The workers are again joining the Party. No more cataclysmic changes after the conquest of the Proletarian Dictatorship, but the slow, steady hand-over-hand work of reconstruction, a process of ripening into Communist Society. The workers in the group of sanatoriums, of which this is one, are the least class-conscious in Russia, servants, nurses, etc., just being pandered to by Wrangel's White Guards. Last week one of their number committed an offence against orderly management, which the Doctor complained of. He could not dismiss her: it required a general meeting. The general meeting agreed, and only with its unanimous permission was the offender dismissed. These things are a matter of course, and are not so much appreciated by the non-class-conscious just now, when conditions are hard, but when there will be abundance again it will mean all the difference between capitalist and socialist society.

"I see, en passant, an interview with a delegate to the Soviet Congress from Ekaterinoslav. He repeats what seems to be a general phenomenon, 'The youth are with us.' Lenin has not yet appeared at the Congress. He is not his old self, I fancy. Kamereff and one or two more are doing the detail work which he used to do. And this is right: Lenin is to bother only about large questions of policy. There never was god or king whose position was so unquestioned, universal, so identified with Russia. I saw an allusion to kiddies in the street making mud pies—one was 'Uncle Lenin.' To the workers in the factories he is 'our Hytch.' In quite a different category is Trotsky, also unquestioned in his sphere; one the Father, the other the great Champion—the Spartacus. I have just read an army order issued by him: every army order is a jewel of communist literature—it arraigns before the military tribunal certain Commandants for ill behaviour towards Red Army soldiers, and gives the whole army a lesson on what is meant by discipline in a Workers' Army. Orders must be given with respect, etc. Commandants are teachers, and command only by virtue of their superior wisdom.

"One can see from the 'Pravda' that the transition period is a continuation of the propaganda, agitation, etc., with eternal vigilance as the price of liberty. The Nepmen, as the traders are called, are continually trying to wrest advantages, economic and political, and have their agents in the Soviet institutions. A trader will go to the railway station first in the queue for an express and buy up all the places, then sell them to the rest of the queue at exorbitant rates. But of course this has been squashed, like many other abuses. It shows how desperate is the trading instinct among the petty bourgeois, especially when the big things are in the hands of the State and there is nothing left but to speculate."

A Warning.

The Labour Movement differs from all other movements in one vital respect it tolerates no leaders.

It refuses to be led. It will entrust its destiny to no individual. There is not a man alive who can say to it with any hope of success: "You must come this way! Whithersoever I choose to go, you must follow!"

At various times attempts have been made to take the Labour Movement in tow, and reduce it to the status of something that obeys a will imposed upon it. In vain.

Ambitious persons have sought to make it subservient to their interests have felt the lust and pride of power surge within them, and being selected as its honoured servants, and entrusted with authority in its name, have lost their heads and given themselves the airs of masters, strong enough to strike out a course of their own, and drag the Movement after them.

Ignominious failure has been their fate.

Labour will not be led. No man can take it where he pleases. It is the maker of its own destiny. It hews its own path. It decides upon its own goal.

If you are lucky enough to be chosen as one of its instruments, give thanks for your good fortune.

But take care that vanity does not whisper delusive words into your ears, and inflate you with a sense of self-importance. For should that happen, you are in danger, my friend.

The way of progress is strewn with the skeletons of those who have succumbed to the temptations of egotism.

—"Brisbane Worker."

When Socialism releases the worker from the sordid conditions of his slavery, it will simultaneously release the capitalist from the sordid conditions of his mastery.

Paris—London via Ruhr.

By J. T. WALTON NEWBOLD.

The situation presented to both the supporters and the opponents of capitalism by the threatened occupation of the Ruhr valley is serious in the extreme. The very fact that it affects alike the exploiters and the exploited renders it very difficult for a member of the Communist Party to adopt a correct attitude. The German comrades naturally expect that the British worker should oppose with might and main the action of the French. They see it is an act of predatory capitalism, of imperialism in its most blatant form. The British worker, in so far as he is class conscious and intelligently informed concerning the situation, regards it similarly, but he requires to keep clearly in his mind the fact that the offensive of French imperialism reacts most immediately and most severely upon the equally predatory capitalism of Great Britain. In the conference at Essen the difficulty that presented itself to the British delegation was that it feared, in declaring itself strongly against the French action, it might seem to assist the propaganda of the British interests which, rightly, see in the occupation of the Ruhr the death-knell of British supremacy in the heavy industries. To the Germans of all classes and to the French outside of the official financial and metallurgical circles, the advance of the French army to Essen and Bochum appears only to be directed against Germany. This, however, is not the gravamen of the whole affair. In reality, France, capitalist France, bankrupt but imperialist France, is attacking not so much Germany as, through Germany, striking a deadly blow at her age-long antagonist and competitor for world power, Great Britain.

If it were not for the fact that Great Britain is dependent for its corn supply, for its meat, for its cotton, and for many other essential raw materials either upon the U.S.A. or upon countries in South America, from which ships must come along sea-routes easily to be menaced by the submarines and commerce-destroyers of the U.S. navy: were it not for the fact that Britain has been compelled by its creditor the U.S. Government to reduce the size of its fleet, and that the world commitments of Empire defence are such that the British Government cannot afford to maintain so many squadrons of fighting aeroplanes as are at the disposal of Monsieur Poincaré, war between Britain and France would be a matter not of years or of months but of days and hours.

The situation presented by the French advance into the coking coalfield of Germany is infinitely more menacing to Britain's economic and political position than was the advance of Major Marchand to Fashoda in 1898. Then only one outpost of the Empire was threatened, though Egypt and the Soudan had a great value to Britain, lying as they do on the flank of that road to India which is the spinal column of the British Empire, but the Soudan is removed from the Suez Canal, and it was "honour" and "prestige" rather than any more material safeguard that was threatened at the time of the Fashoda incident. Now, however, France is making her greatest effort finally to checkmate that cunning policy by means of which Britain has for centuries made it utterly impossible for any Power or combination of Powers so to co-ordinate the resources of Western Europe as to make them financially, industrially and politically stronger than Great Britain.

It has for centuries been a first principle of British statecraft to prevent either Holland, Spain, Austria, France or Germany getting control of that region known as Belgium. A study of the map will show, whether you examine it as it is drawn at the present time or any time since the seventeenth century, that the rich manufacturing and agrarian territory of northern France and of southern Belgium, geographically and geologically one, has been cut across by an arbitrary frontier delimited by order of and in conformity with the interests of British commercialism. Again, ever since the Congress of Vienna in 1814, when the British merchants had already begun to appreciate the value to industry of coal, British statecraft has taken care to prevent the whole of the Saar coalfield belonging completely either to France or to Germany. Cunning Old England took very good care that these rich deposits should be divided between two hostile states. Again, when in 1830 Belgium revolted from Holland with the approval of the English Liberals the enthusiasm of the latter for their new protege, "free" Belgium, would not go so far as to permit the bourgeoisie of Brussels making common cause with that of Paris and attaching Belgium to France. Britain has ever stood for the self-determination of "poor little Belgium," well knowing that in this case justice, right and liberty consort with the interests of the London Stock Exchange and the Manchester Cotton Market.

Prior to the industrial revolution, France was much more populous and economically much more powerful than Great Britain. It was only by a policy of encirclement that the money merchants of London and Amsterdam, employing as condottiere the hired soldiery of Prussia, Hesse, and other German states, as well as the declining naval and military power of Spain, contrived to keep France from gaining and maintaining the hegemony of Europe and adding to it a great colonial domain. A century of class struggles and of war with the states of Central Europe has entangled France in complications which have made it impossible for her seriously to challenge Great Britain's world supremacy. Added to this, France, with a soil much richer than that of Britain, has been handicapped by the fact that nearly all her coalfields lie on the frontier or far removed from the sea coast, harbours and great rivers. This has meant that, in an age when economic supremacy is built on coal and iron in juxtaposition, France has suffered something akin to political eclipse. When, in 1871, Bismarck took from France the only part of the Lorraine orefield then being developed, it seemed as if France must sink to the status of a second rate power.

When, however, in the last decade of the nineteenth century it became commercially profitable to open up the populously rich areas of Lorraine, and prospectors began to put forward great expectations of even richer iron fields in Anjou and Normandy, the French metallurgical and banking interests found new hope. They learnt from the incident of Fashoda that as long as Britain and Germany remained economically intact and comparatively friendly that there was no hope of France securing control of the great resources of tropical Africa or of any other unexploited part of the world. They noted in the very same year as Fashoda that the Germans were commencing to build a navy upon a plan which was alarming to the British governing class. Immediately they saw and made use of this heaven ordained opportunity to make bad blood between two empires traditionally in alliance or, at any rate, favourably inclined towards each other. A mysterious change came over certain jingoistic newspapers in London. The "Daily Mail" ceased to cry that France "must be rolled in blood and mud" and commenced to shriek against the menace of the German navy. Next, the Unionists, the party of the successful industrial and commercial capitalists, took up the cry of protection for the British steel industry against the competition of the German steel industry. Meanwhile there had ascended the throne of Great Britain an ancient roue, notoriously in the pocket of Sir Ernest Cassel and a group of Franco-Belgian moneylenders. Edward the Peacemaker architect of the bloodiest slaughter in human history the present Lord Balfour and sundry other British politicians made an alliance, secret in character, which was the diplomatic reflection of a financial community of interests already existing for some time between coteries of moneylenders around one or two houses in Paris, Brussels, Antwerp and London. This dirty gang set themselves just like the equally unscrupulous rascals associated with the Deutsche Bank and the Bleichroeders their antagonists—to corrupt the mercenary politicians, both reactionary and reformists, of the Balkans, Italy, Spain and Russia. Ten years of this intrigue and the French capitalists were able to hurl a combination of powers against the blustering might of German and Austrian Kaiserism. The result of the war is well known to everybody. When it came to making the peace, Britain and France alike held their hands up to heaven, swearing eternal allegiance to the divine principle of the self-determination of small nationalities. This new policy of radical republican roguery consorted much more with the interests of France than those of Britain. The latter had no particular desire to see Austria-Hungary divided up into a jig-saw puzzle of tiny states drawing their financial and military support from Paris, but had to agree to it, for, as we English say, "needs must when the devil drives." France and Britain have spent four years in reducing Central Europe to chaos and its currency to ruin. The real reason for all this seeming lunacy has been a struggle, not between two ideas or between two empires, but between two groups of financiers, one of which rose to power in the early 19th century and held the Hapsburgs in the hollow of its hand, the other which has risen to prominence within the last quarter of a century and has become immensely rich in "promises to pay" since the beginning of the world war. The old group may be summed up in one name Rothschild. The new group in three names—The Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, the Societe Generale de Belgique and the Banque de l'Union Parisienne.

The former is the master of Andrew Bonar Law, the latter of Raymond Poincare. The year 1923 will see some wonderful happenings as these two duellists and their much interested seconds dance furiously around each other. But that belongs more to the story of Central Europe and less to that of the Rhineland. Yet they are all of a piece. The question of the oil of Mosul, the mastery of the Straits at Constantinople (through which must pass the corn from Odessa and Constanza and the petroleum from Baku as also in payment therefor the cotton piece goods of Manchester); the question of Vienna and the railways and river routes of the Danube Valley; the occupation of the Ruhr—not one can scientifically be separated from its complement.

Some people think that Britain and France will arrange a deal, and that in return for a free hand at Mosul and control of the oil, Andrew Bonar Law, a particularly stiff-necked Scotchman and, for a bourgeois, a singularly honest fellow, will allow Poincare to have his own way at Essen and Bochum. They forget that Andrew Bonar Law, before he was a politician was a business man, and that he was in business as an iron and steel merchant. He understands probably better even than Poincare, attorney of the Comitee des Forges, the importance to industry, to armaments, to statecraft in the capitalist era, of the disposition of the Ruhr, whether to a weak but independent Germany, a strong and arrogant France, or an international control commission which would, probably, be under the thumb of the United States Government, that is to say, of the United States Steel Corporation.

This is the problem, the whole mighty problem, of the Ruhr, with its mighty river, the Rhine, with its efficient canals, with its stupendous steelworks, with its wonderful coke ovens, with its gigantic collieries: the Ruhr, which if its coking coal and its machinery are allied with the mighty iron fields of Lorraine and Normandy and the finely equipped harbours of Antwerp and Rotterdam, will be a producer and a vendor of steel, the basic material of capitalist production, at a price and in a volume with which British capitalism can in no way hope to compete.

Sooner or later, somehow or other, the proud, unbending British bourgeoisie whose flag "has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze," will

(Continued at foot of column 4.)

The Gas House.

Minister Burton gave us masses of figures regarding the financial position of the State yesterday, figures which to the Communist don't count very much. The ruling class can be depended upon to run the financial side of their State business without any assistance from either labour man or Communist; suffice it to say that, according to Burton, the deficit will be approximately £900,000 for the current year. This, of course, is purely camouflage in order to enable Ministers to furnish reasons for further cuts in wages, etc. Old man Merriman told us that the only person who had done anything for economy was his friend Jagger. "He had laid his accounts before his men and got his men to agree to reductions, and the result was that he had got now a slight profit on his railways." All railwaymen will be quite pleased to know that Jagger asked their permission before he decided to reduce their wages.

Mr. Burton sums up the financiers' position as follows: "His own view was that in the present state of affairs of South Africa they unquestionably had no right to place on the PEOPLE of this country (substitute for people "capitalists") any additional taxation of a substantial character. Of course not! Bleed the workers down to the last basin of mealy pap, Mr. Burton, that will suit your employers best.

Mr. Creswell pulled the Minister's leg over the question of "normal." Burton said that he meant "bedrock." I suppose that meant a hell of a sight lower than normal when applied to the wages of the workers. The Labour members must have suffered keen mental agony later on as their leader actually used the revolutionary phrase, DIRECT ACTION, in reply to an interjection with regard to the matter of "a radical alteration in the policy of the government." Mr. Madeley was very interesting on the question of the training ship, "General Botha," as though it mattered a damn whether it cost £432 per head or £508.

Good old Jagger! He is really class-conscious. No half-and-half about him. Would to goodness some of our labour leaders were the same on the workers' side.

W. G.

Capetown.

The Boksburg Demonstration.

LEST WE FORGET!

The final arrangements are that the unions and labour bodies will fall in behind their respective banners on Sunday, the 25th inst., at Market Square, Boksburg, and be ready to move off to the cemetery at 3.30 sharp. Each contingent will assemble under its own marshal, and the whole parade will be under the chief marshal.

On arrival at the cemetery short speeches will be made by W. Price, Gen. Secretary S.A.M.W.U.; W. H. Andrews, Gen. Secretary Communist Party, and others. The proceedings will close with the singing of the Red Flag, followed by the Last Post.

Kluk Kluk!

Kowards who kover their faces,
Katiffs who skulk in their shrouds,
Kankers the kountry's disgraces,
Kravens kourageous in krowds.

Killers where Faction defends them,
Kurs who will bite if they kan,
Kut-throats when darkness befriends them
Kaps in the air for the Klan!

Arthar Guiterman.

find a way to break the chains with which French imperialism is trying to bind Britannia. The issue can, in my opinion, only be—WAR.

What the British workers think at the present time scarcely matters. They are thinking very little at all about the Ruhr. Even if they were thinking, the trade unions have been so hammered by the capitalist offensive (which has, however, seemed only to make their leaders more pudding-headed than before) that they could, in the circumstances of the moment, do little to help the German workers. It is for them a terrible danger, regardless of whether French capitalism enters the Ruhr alone or whether it comes accompanied—for the purpose of keeping an eye cocked upon it—by its fellow-bandit, the capitalism of Great Britain.

In my constituency of Motherwell, in Scotland; where, in normal times, more steel is produced than anywhere else in Britain, with the possible exception of Middlesbrough, the works, considered according to our standard to be relatively efficient, are like toys in comparison with the works at Bochum, Rheinhausen and Essen. For two years some of them have been virtually closed down. For two years there have been from ten to twenty thousand workers unemployed in an area whose population does not exceed 80,000. These men receive in unemployment pay, inadequate to maintain them in decency and productive efficiency, 15s. a week each, 5s. for the wife and 1s. for each child from the Labour Exchange, supplemented, in some cases, by parish relief. This payment is, whilst utterly inadequate, yet greater than the weekly pay of a German steelworker. This means that our employers, some of whom, to my certain knowledge, are financially interested in Krupps, can use and are actually using the German workers as blacklegs to beat down to yet lower levels of degradation and misery the men and women.

The British workers, though not the workers in Motherwell, Barrow and certain other centres where the communist propaganda is intense and our influence strong, do not understand the significance of the occupation of the Ruhr. It is our business in Britain to point this out and to draw the only conclusion possible, that within capitalism only three things are possible—slavery, starvation, and then slaughter!

Bald Heads and Brains.

Having received as yet no intimation from the Editor that this correspondence must now cease to leave space for the more important views of other women workers, I take it they still fear to tread where I as a fool rush in.

I rushed in the City Hall last week to hear a lecture on physical culture, but had to squeeze up in the gallery, the hall was so packed, and as I looked down on the mass of expectant humanity, amongst whom I recognised many politicians and teachers, all seeking bodily fitness, the thing that struck me most (being a fool I suppose it would) was the shining number of bald heads amongst the audience below; and I thought what an opportunity that fact would give to a man able and willing to give a lecture on mental culture. He could advertise extensively as a draw which would appeal to the vanity of men that this new culture would be a cure for bald heads!

As the developing of the muscles of the mind would give tone and stimulation to the roots of the hair, he could especially invite our politicians and teachers, many of whose hairless state was baldly shown that night, and even if after getting a start on the system of mental gymnastics they found that hair did not grow SOMETHING would, and they would be the gainers, having obtained the habit of THINKING, so the end would justify the means.

From my exalted position I could hear very little of the lecturer's discourse, his physical abilities not extending to any powers of oratory, but the beneficial effects he claimed from eating sand and drinking water made me think he must be an agent of the capitalist class giving hints to the unemployed, and reminded me of a book I saw advertised called "How to live on 24 hours a day," which is about all the unemployed have to live on.

No doubt, if we can only get the right viewpoint, we shall soon not have to work or eat much, but think a lot for a change. There was a great writer who said, "May we not hope that man the tool-using animal is on the eve of using that most stupendous of all tools, HIS OWN MIND?"

ALICE E. HARRISON.

LIGHT.

"The Minister is right. He and his department know far more about the feelings of the unions than the whole of the Labour and Nationalist members combined. THIS paper knows that the most pronounced of the leaders of every section in the trade union movement were consulted about the Conciliation Bill before the Government finally decided upon the draft. The Labour Party members thus show their ignorance of trade union matters, about which they process to know everything, as also does Mr. Munnik, the Nationalist member. THE LABOUR INSPECTORS—MILLER, FREESTONE, AND GRAY—at Johannesburg, Capetown, and Durban, with the inspectors at other centres, enable the Government to know the trade union truth from all angles, unadulterated by the professional politicians who trade in the name of labour and turn and twist the truth to suit their interests." Thus Crawfish in the "Weakly Herald."

It is very interesting to know what useful individuals our labour inspectors are, and on such authority. For instance, this gentleman Freestone has his office adjoining the Trades Federation Offices in Capetown, and no doubt he would receive every assistance from friend Mr. Steward, the Federation secretary, in his efforts to supply the necessary information to the Government Minister. Anyhow, the writer can vouch for the following conversation:

Freestone (marching into Federation Offices): "I say, Bob, have you any painters on the books?"

Bob: "Oh yes, I've got one or two."

Freestone: "Well, you might let me have a reliable man for a day or two."

Trade unionists of the Cape will be delighted to know how pally their secretary is with this government shack, both working together in the same building. No wonder the Cape workers failed the Rand strikers a few months ago, the Government having a representative on the spot would know every move. Isn't it about time there was a breach made between the Trades Federation and the Government officers? It is the rank and file who have to get a move on, and the sooner the better.

W. G.

Capetown.

War on War.

Sydney, New South Wales, Organisation of the workers throughout Australia so that industry may be tied up in the event of another imperialist war is the purpose of a plan formulated by the Australian Council of Action, appointed by the All-Australian Trade Union Congress.

It warns the imperialists that the organised workers of this nation "will hold those individuals who precipitate the people into such a war personally responsible for the death or mutilation of any member of the working class resulting therefrom."

Pointing out that 60,000 Australians sacrificed their lives and 166,000 suffered mutilation in the recent European war, the Council of Action has set out to organise the workers in all industries, "so that manufacture of army supplies and transportation of troops and war equipment may be prevented at all costs; and to organise all effective forms of opposition, including general strikes, strikes in key industries, and open-air demonstrations."

Prime Minister W. M. Hughes is condemned by the Council for "his servile acquiescence to the veiled commands of the British imperialists to plunge this country into another war in the Near East."

"The time has gone by," declares the Council, "when the organised workers are prepared to permit irresponsible politicians, who themselves risk no personal danger and who shoulder none of the burdens of war, to plunge our people with impunity into the horrors of any capitalist war, even with the aid of a referendum."

Padlocks in Trade Union Rules.

OFFICIAL TITE BARNACLES.

When the Amalgamated Engineering Union came into being in 1920 as a result of the amalgamation of the A.S.E. and several other engineering unions, a rule was inserted in the constitution providing that paid officials of the various unions who were taken over by the A.E.U. should not have to seek re-election for eight years. A revision of rules took place in 1922, and incidentally certain rules bearing on the retiring allowances of full-time officials and the management.

On presentation of the new rules to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, he refused to register them on the ground that the society had no right to alter the rule safeguarding the rights of officials, consequently what is called by the National Committee the padlocking rules will remain in the rule book till 1928. The representatives of the National Committee, a body popularly elected by the membership, in their report remark: "We also desire to draw your attention to the reference made by the Registrar to a letter received by him from one or more of the permanent officials, drawing his attention to Rule 14 and the other rules referred to. From this it will be noted that the full-time officials referred to have acted against the expressed wishes of the National Committee, thus giving an unworthy example in a period when solidarity and discipline is most needed."

These are pretty strong words, and indicate that in the opinion of the National Committee a certain class of trade union official, generally those termed sane and level-headed, appear to be more concerned with retaining comfortable jobs than they are with the welfare of the union or the members they are supposed to serve.

The Great Churchills.

As I anticipated, in writing up the lives of his ancestors, Winston Churchill preserves a discreet silence about the founder of the line, and doesn't say a word about the female prostitutes of his ancestry who got the best of a debauched prince, and thus established the family "honour" and glory. However, the "great" Marlborough is selected by Winnie as being, I suppose, the very finest ancestor of them all. Of this "brilliant" General, Jonathan Swift says he was an arrant knave and abject coward, and even my kiddies' school history book says: "He was greedy for money; he had played the traitor over and over again; he betrayed James II., who had been a good friend to him; he plotted to betray William III.; he even kept up a correspondence with the old Pretender while he was commander-in-chief of Anne's armies. One of the blackest deeds in the whole of our history stands against his name. Talmash was sent by William to surprise Brest. Marlborough was jealous of Talmash, and wished him to fail, so he was mean enough to let the French know of the intended attack. They received the English with a tremendous fire, and Talmash was killed."

That's a pretty good record for an "honourable" ancestor, what? But the present Winston's is about as good. How he really escaped from Pretoria during the Boer War; what he did at the battle of Omdurman in '98, and how he preserves a "discreet" silence about the millions made out of the battle of Jutland when the British Admiralty, under his control, were in wireless communication with the German Fleet and, according to "Forward," arranged the British naval defeat in order that a few speculators could make millions—all these questions Winston could answer, if he dared.

There are some filthy records among "our old nobility," but the most putrid of the lot is that of the Churchills, which is a long record of panders, prostitutes, traitors, sneaks, murderers, and toadies unequalled in any genealogical study of hereditary criminality.

But the honest British Workman stands it, and even reads Winston's puerile account of how HE won the war.

Talk about Horatio Bottomley!

Destroying the Home.

"Socialists want to destroy the home." That used to be a great gag of Fat's defenders. You don't hear 'em shouting about it so much nowadays, Henry, do you? Why? To-day there are 15,000,000 more women than men in Europe. Millions are war-widows with children. The (monogamic) family has been wrecked. In some sections of Europe there are ten women to one man. In certain French villages there are 15 women to one man. A German report says: "30 to 40 per cent. of the German women cannot marry, because there are no husbands for them," and so on. What is the result? "Illegal" births are so frequent that governments have declared them legal, and offered a premium for babies whether born in or out of capitalism. The war armies loosened all moral restraints upon sex. It is declared by an American publicist that "95 out of every 100 married soldiers were polygamists and the unmarried soldiers were licensed free lovers by order of the governments. The angel makers' trade flourished, especially in high society, and a brisk trade developed in ways and means of preventing conception, but nevertheless, millions of babies were born out of wedlock and nursed in public institutions THERE IS MORE PLURALITY OF WIVES AMONG THE BRITISH NOBILITY THAN THERE IS TO-DAY AMONG THE MORMONS. There is not an issue of illustrated magazines in England or of Sunday papers in the United States that does not contain the pictures of one or more triangles in "Anglo-Saxon" nobility. And the other classes of England? Well, Limehouse has no monopoly on free love. The monogamic family in Europe is no more. It simply cannot exist, when 15,000,000 women are denied legal husbands."

There you are, Henry. You're a great boy for facts and figures. Think these over, and then shout again about Russian nationalisation of women.

Barrett's "Bombshell."

The Secretary of the Native Affairs Department, Mr. E. Barrett, has just issued his report for the years 1919 to 1921. Had it been published before the "black country" policy of the Chamber of Mines had become apparent to all, that is to say, before March, 1922, it might have caused the usual "thrill of horror" throughout petty bourgeoisdom in South Africa. As, however, to-day every petty interest, from the milk-shake purveyor to the ornament of the Chamber of Commerce, has very little illusion left about the responsibility for white and black labour unrest, it is a bit late for Mr. Barrett, in accordance with his press-educated mentality, to report the gruesome discovery that International Socialists engineered that unrest, and that Communist agitators were the root cause of the industrial unrest amongst natives on the Rand.

As Mr. Barrett may know, THE CAUSE FOR UNREST ALWAYS PRECEDES THE APPEARANCE OF THE AGITATOR. That being so, it was up to him, as a presumably honest and courageous, and certainly a well-paid, public official holding one of the most important positions in this country to investigate and report honestly upon the matter, but unfortunately the public official of this country has ever been specially selected for certain peculiar qualities, chief among which is the one of always conforming to the slightest wish of his real master, the Chamber of Mines.

Job-consciousness is not conducive to official honesty, and so we now read "officially" that the Communist Party is responsible for all the atrocious massacres of helpless and defenceless natives which were carried out in the period 1919 to 1921.

The Fascisti.

That the Cork docks are scab-proof, so far as the working class is concerned, goes without saying, and anyone who knows rebel Cork would not expect it to be otherwise. But ye gods and little fishes, what a sight for the gods was furnished by the first-class passengers of the s.s. Classic, who volunteered to scab on the sailors and firemen who refused to sail the boat to Fishguard. The dockers having refused to unload the boat, the sailors and firemen proved their manhood by refusing to take the blanned boat out of Cork until it was unloaded. We are informed: "The men remained ashore, and 100 first-class passengers volunteered to replace them. The Classic left Cork with passengers in pyjamas working in the stokehole. She had to put into Cork for water and reached Fishguard a day late, with her cargo undischarged."

Impossible.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the boss class is looking anxiously at Irish industry, at Irish wages and at THOSE GUNS. Fancy cutting a man's wages when he might be knocking at your door the next night with a tin of petrol and a gun in his hand. It simply can't be done.

Norwegian Communists.

A GREAT VICTORY.

The results of the municipal and rural districts elections in Norway, which took place at the end of 1922, are an encouraging sign of the times. The Communist Party ran candidates in 58 towns, and 560 out of the 2,120 members of municipal councils are Communists. In Bergen, Trondhjem, and 13 other towns the Communists are the strongest party. In 44 towns the Social Democrats (Labour Party) received 30,000 votes as compared with 87,000 received by the Communists. In Christiania the Party gained 5,000 votes over last year's figures. In the country districts, 1,800 Communists as against 500 Social Democrats were returned to the rural councils.

Bravo, Norway!

—International Press Correspondence.

May Day.

Martial law prevented the celebration of May Day last year, and this year the fact that May 1st has been withdrawn from the list of public holidays will make it more difficult to celebrate it adequately. Nevertheless, the Communist Party, which kept the tradition alive throughout the war period at considerable sacrifice, and at least on one occasion at great personal risk, is determined not to let the day pass unnoticed. It is hoped that the labour unions will do something to mark their disapproval of the attempt to filch the one workers' day from them. The most effective way is, of course, a general one-day stoppage of work.

In any case, the usual Social will be held in some suitable hall. The Town and Selborne Halls have, we understand, been booked for May 1st (quite conveniently for those who hate all that May Day implies), but some way will be found to gather the class-conscious workers together on the great international holiday, in spite of the obstacles thrown in the way.

Scrapped.

On March 31st all employees of the Johannesburg Municipal Council who have attained the age of 60 are to be retired without pension. Commenting upon this, the "Rand Daily Mail" says: "A number of the men who have to go stuck loyally by the municipal tramways during the recent strike, and as a result were expelled from their trade unions. This is also the case with men who, contrary to the dictates of their unions, consented to work 48 hours a week instead of 44. They are all marked men, and have little or no chance of getting employment when they leave the service of the municipality."

It pays to scab! Doesn't it?

COMMUNIST PARTY NOTES.

The Party Congress.

In response to a circular letter which the Central Executive sent to branches, groups, and individual members in the smaller centres of the Union, inviting opinions as to the desirability of holding a Communist Party Congress, a considerable number and variety of replies have been received. On one point, however, all are agreed, viz., that a congress is desirable and as soon as possible. Some difference of opinion was shown as to the time and place, but the great majority of replies indicated a preference for Johannesburg as being the most suitable place at the moment.

Regarding the date, Easter was favoured by some, and certainly being a holiday has some advantages, but the weight of opinion favoured May Day or the day immediately preceding it.

The Central Executive, after going into the matter carefully, has decided to hold the second Congress of the Party in Johannesburg on April 28th and 29th. The first day will be devoted exclusively to business concerning the party, report of C.E., including financial statements and balance sheets, election of officers for the year, the constitution, etc., and will be confined to delegates and members of the Party. The second day will be open to all members and such other workers as the C.E. may invite, and the discussion will deal with the broader questions of policy. Being May Day Eve, it is hoped that visiting members and delegates will be able to attend the May Day celebrations.

Branches and members attached to Head Office Branch are requested to send in suggestions and proposals for the more successful working of the party as early as possible. An intensive campaign of propaganda and organisation is required, and the Congress will be asked to discuss ways and means to make this effective.

* * *

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

Meeting of Johannesburg Branch will be held at No. 4, Trades Hall, on Thursday, March 1st, at 8 p.m., when all intending members must be present. The Assistant Secretary will be at No. 4, Trades Hall, every day for the purpose of receiving contributions and giving advice.

* * *

BENONI BRANCH.

Comrades desirous of attending the Bridge Drive, Social and Dance at the Hotel Cecil, Benoni, on March 10th, can obtain tickets, price 2/6, at the General Office, No. 4, Trades Hall, Johannesburg, or of members of the Benoni Committee.

The tickets are worth the money as souvenirs. The second page contains a picture of Benoni Workers' Hall being bombed by a Government aeroplane, and the dance programme is as follows: 1, "Essential Service" Waltz; 2, "Corner House" Fox-Trot; 3, "Loyalist" Lancers; 4, "Janie Smuts", Two-step; 5, "Aeroplane" Maxina; 6, "Dunswart" Waltz; 7, "Loftus" Lancers; 8, "Burgers" Saunter; 9, "Turn On Your Pal" Veleta; 9, "Rebels" Waltz.

* * *

BOKSBURG DEMONSTRATION.

An omnibus will leave the Trades Hall for Boksburg on Sunday at 1.30 p.m. A few seats are still available; fare, 6s. return. Comrades going out by rail must take the 12.55 or 2.22 train from Park Station.

* * *

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

L.W.G. Your article would be more convincing if your name was on our subscribers' and membership list. Advice is cheap; help is more to the point.

* * *

A. Pratt. Letter received and photo. The meaning of the one is as obscure as the other. Try again.

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).

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.

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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