Registered at the General Post Office as a newspaper.

Ask
Your Friend
to Join the
COMMUNIST
PARTY.

CALL AT No. 4, TRADES HALL.

The International

THE WORLD'S CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

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. 357 FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1923. PRICE THREEPENCE.

MAY DAY.

SOCIAL
IN
Town Hall,
JOHANNESBURG.
April 30th
(MAY DAY EVE.)

Tickets 2/6

It Can Talk.

During a debate in the House of Lords a startling announcement was made by Lord Haldane. The King, he said, was not a mere automaton; he can actually ask questions intelligently, just as a schoolboy can; and the noble lord solemnly declared that our gracious King not only has the right to ask for the most minute explanation of what his Ministers tell him, but often criticised in the most effective fashion.

Now this is really wonderful, isn't it? The little man is almost human!

* * *

Scabs!

London, Thursday.—Among the guests at a dinner party given by Lord and Lady Astor, at which the King and Queen were present, were Mr. Clynes, Mr. Snowden, and Mr. Thomas, Labour members of Parliament, and their wives.—Reuter."

What would you say, Henry, if during a battle your officers were feasting and merry-making with the enemy officers? You are in perpetual warfare with the boss class. What are your leaders doing, then, at the tables and in the houses of the enemy?

Watch their HANDS, not their MOUTHS.

* * *

Candid.

General Hertzog, in the course of an address to the farmers at Robertson, C.P., found it necessary to allay their suspicion of the Nationalist-Labour alliance. He assured these sturdy old conservatives that the Nationalists were neither Bolshevik nor Communist, but neither was Labour, and asked the question of his hearers: why not take these people's votes to keep out a common enemy? "No danger threatened from the Labour Party," concluded the General, in which sentiment we fully concur as it is at present led.

* * *

Ford Machines in Russia.

Moscow.—Representatives of the Ford Motor Company are in Moscow, negotiating with the Commissariat of Foreign Trade for the sale of Ford tractors. Business is business with his highness, Henry; it is one thing to attack the Soviet regime in his paper, as he does intermittently, and quite another to enter the competition for supplying Russia's great tractor purchasing capacity.

* * *

"Legitimate" Propaganda.

The "Star," in a brief review of a film dealing with the French Revolution, finds it fitting to refer to the Russian Revolution. It says, inter alia, "Many historians and economists have asserted that the French Revolution brought greater benefit to mankind than any other event."

Holy Ghosts! What a discovery!

But listen to this startler: "There are students of international problems who see in the situation in Russia conditions similar to those that obtained after the French Revolution, and claim that despite the present hardships in Russia, out of them will come a stable form of government that will be of untold benefit not only to Russia and Russians, but to all Europe."

With the "Star's" permission, we will add "and the whole world."

There need be no anxiety as to the stability of the present Russian Government. It has proved itself the only stable government in Europe, notwithstanding the abnormally adverse conditions, and thanks in a large measure to activities and intrigues of the more "civilised" European governments it has succeeded in overcoming.

During the great war the producer of the film, D. W. Griffith, was accused of being pro-German, and it would seem that he is now qualifying to be dubbed a "Bolshie."

One is tempted to the belief that the aims of the Revolution are at last beginning to dawn upon the "Star." I don't think!

* * *

South African Fascisti.

Mysterious whisperings come to our ears from time to time about Leagues of Oceania, The Sons of Africa, etc. We have not paid much attention to these yearnings after a South African edition of Ku Klux Klan or Fascisti, but a leaflet floated into this office the other day headed "Grand Order of the Sons of Africa," the primary aim of which "Order" is "to unite the sons and daughters of South Africa into one great National Union," and among the objects we notice number 3: "To counteract the spread of communistic propaganda."

We await further developments with interest.

Pitiful.

The Secretary of the Durban Municipal Tramwaymen's Union has addressed a letter to the Mayor and Corporation of that town which for dirt-eating humility and grovelling servility is hard to beat, one would think, in the annals of trade unionism. The capitalist press refers to the unfortunate men as "Penitent Strikers." It "respectfully" brings to the notice of the Town Council that the men are still being penalised for the 1921 strike, and refers to the "magnanimity," and pleads for the "kind consideration" and the "generous and magnanimous spirit" of that august body.

Shades of the pioneers of trade unionism! What must they think of their degenerate descendants?

* * *

Of Course.

It was sure to come. The sleuths of Scotland Yard have seized a number of documents indicating a deliberate plan for making Ireland a Bolshevik base of operations. Remembering our own Martial Law Commission report, we are not unduly elated or disturbed.

"Flannelled Fools."

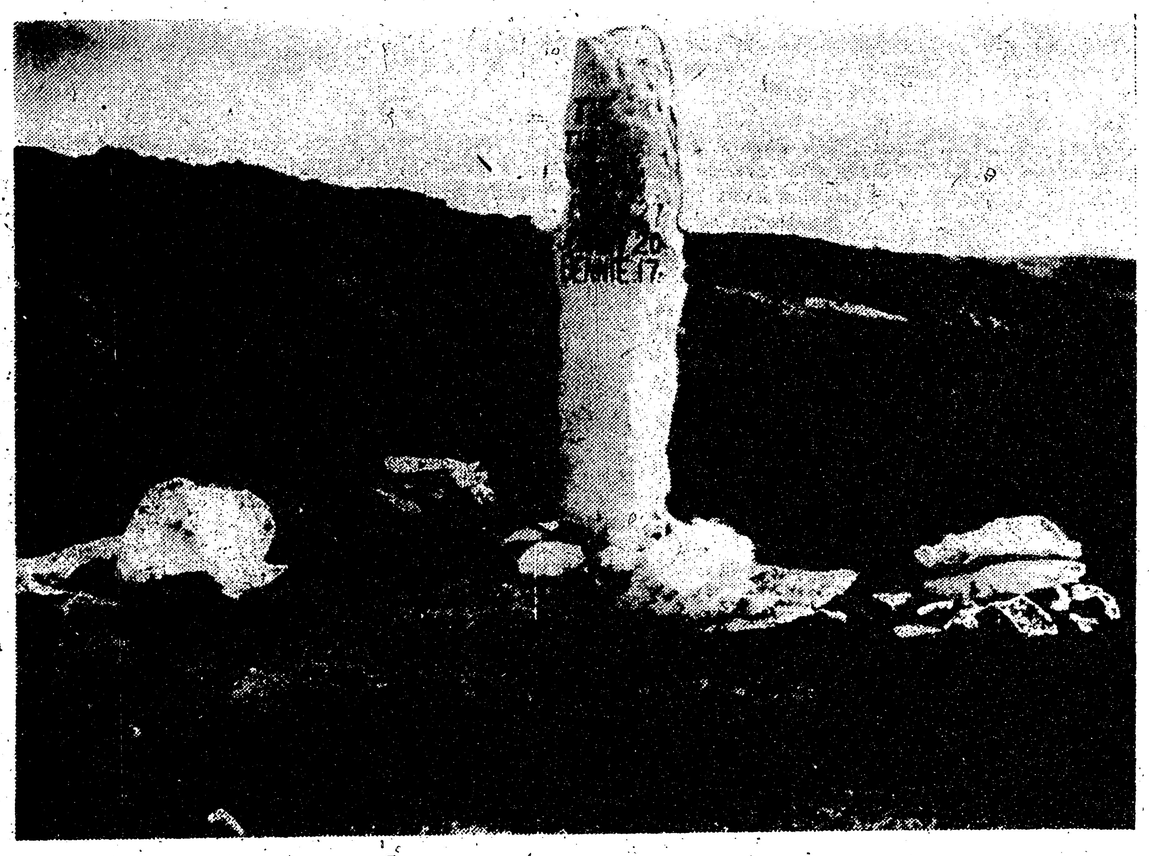
The "Daily Mail" bewails the fact that only £113 17s. 11d. has been collected for the Taylor Testimonial Fund. Whilst recognising the value of outdoor exercise for the youth of the country, the mere fact of being able to recite the performances of various professional players and wasting day after day as mere spectators of the game itself, or a list of figures at a shop window, does not to our mind constitute a sportsman. Taylor may be a very excellent man as well as a good cricketer, but the vulgar commercialism which is revealed in appraising all effort at a money valuation is one of the many signs of the degradation with which capitalism taints everything it touches. Let us have more players and fewer spectators.

* * *

Interesting.

It is now stated that the two French officers, to avenge whose deaths about half-a-dozen German citizens were shot, were killed by their own men. One wonders why?

MURDER MOST FOUL.



The picture shows the simple monument which marks the spot where the three brothers, Pieter, Johnny, and Bennie Hanekom, were shot in cold blood by the Transvaal Scottish on March 16th last year. The stones just behind the upright stone mark the spot where Smith was murdered. On the open veld near by W. Dowse was similarly done to death. The fighting had been over two or three days, and these young men were unarmed and helpless prisoners, and were shot like vermin by the uniformed thugs of capitalism at the orders of their masters.

Five cold-blooded murders without even the pretence of a trial, and no one has been even charged with the crime!

Will we forget? Never!

How They Do It In Japan.

For months now news has been coming through of the depression in Japan. Thousands of wage-slaves are being laid off. In almost every industry the after-effects of the war are being felt, and wage plugs are compelled to take holidays. The latest enterprise to invite its slaves to accept holidays is the Mitsubishi shipyard, where the management has given notice that all the workers will have to take a week off once a month owing to lack of orders; but while the workers are off they shall receive 60 per cent. of their normal pay.

What would the Rand magnates say if they had to do what the Japanese capitalist does?

* * *

Insurance.

That the above par does not prove that the Japanese capitalist is a philanthropist is shown by the following:

Bunji Suzuki, the spokesman of the industrialists of Japan, laughs at the attempts being made by the Government of that country to adjust the relations between the master-class and the workers. He claims that there are now over a quarter of a million unemployed in three cities in Japan, and that the country is just on the verge of the kind of industrial upheaval out of which Sovietism must arise. Wonder if the dread of Sovietism accounts for the master-class allowing their holiday-making slaves 60 per cent. of their normal wages while idle?

Spy or Heroine?

It is to be expected that Miss Valentine, who was featured in the "Rand Daily Mail" on Wednesday as an authority on Soviet Russia, should be violently anti-Bolshevik. She is stated to be the daughter of an ex-Czarist Governor, and one would be surprised if she had much to say in favour of a regime which has taken away the right of her class to live in luxury at the expense of the workers, and forced her to work for a living. The usual stories of dismembered bodies, filthy prisons, and red savagery are, of course, trotted out, but even Miss Valentine confesses that the Bolshevik philosophy is in itself noble. It is almost Christ-like.

She seems to have been very versatile in her allegiance, and has served indifferently White Guards, the Soviet Government, and the English invaders of the country. Whether mercenary spy or heroine it would be difficult to determine.

* * *

Force.

Mr. Justice De Waal stated at the Special Criminal Court, Johannesburg, that "no State can tolerate force." A lovely contradiction, eh, fellow-workers? What he meant was—no force except THEIR force.

Et Tu Brute.

LABOUR MEMBERS PRAISE SCABBERY.

The motion by Colonel Creswell urging a general amnesty for all railway servants who went on strike last March was very half-heartedly supported by him in his speech, and he is reported to have made at the very outset the extraordinary statement that "if the Government could not accept the motion the Labour members, without wasting the time of the House, would support the amendment."

The amendment was moved by Mr. McAllister, the S.A.P. member for Germiston, and "placed on record its appreciation of the conduct of the general body of railway servants during the industrial disturbances of 1922," and then goes on to ask the Government to take into consideration the position of those servants who went on strike and who have been temporarily re-employed.

Of course, as the Labour-cum-Nationalist alliance were not prepared to fight, the Minister of Railways, Mr. Jagger, at once accepted the amendment of the Government supporter, and promised to bring in a bill to deal with the matter. He was, he said, prepared to accept the amendment for the simple reason that the amendment recognised the LOYALTY of those who had stood by their duty," etc., etc. He went on to say that "412 men had deserted their posts. . . . Of all those men 305 had been taken back. . . . The other 27 the Administration could not . . . take back. They had been leaders in the strike, and had urged the men to leave their duties, and his information was that THE RAILWAYMEN THEMSELVES PREFERRED THEM NOT TO BE TAKEN BACK."

There are one or two ugly features which emerge from this debate, which does not seem to have been very prolonged or keenly fought. In the first place, the most active and class-conscious among the strikers to the number of 27 are to be permanently victimised, and the astounding assertion is made that the railwaymen, both non-strikers and the very men who are seeking to have their action condoned by the Administration, preferred them not to be taken back.

Mr. Creswell, in his reply, repudiated this statement, and one is loth to believe that there is any foundation for it. If it is not, however, at once repudiated by the S.A.R. men, the suspicion will remain that they are willing to sacrifice the best and most fearless of their fellow-workers in order to make their position secure.

Another unpleasant feature is the fact that Creswell and his party, to say nothing of the Nationalists, do not appear to have put up any very strenuous fight for their own resolution, and accepted the phrasing of the amendment, which glorified the action of men who placed loyalty to the master class before loyalty to the workers. This is a monstrous doctrine for an avowed working class party to allow to go unchallenged, and clearly reveals the essentially bourgeois outlook of the S.A.L.P. and particularly its leader, Colonel Creswell It is calculated to hinder the work of building up the trade unions for the reason that men who find themselves deserted for doing the very thing that they are constantly urged to do by the political representaives they sent to Parliament to fight for them, will not be so ready as hitherto to take the risk as well as the work of trade union leadership.

After all the heroism, the suffering, and loss of life of 1922, it is a pitiful spectacle to see the S.A.L.P. members sitting on their comfortable benches so desperately anxious to appear respectable and constitutional that they are willing to desert the men who are suffering all the horrors of unemployment because of their faithfulness to their class and principles, whilst by their silence these same labour leaders acquiesce in the laudation of the "loyal" railwaymen who made the defeat of their fellow-workers inevitable. One can bear blows from the enemy, but a stab in the back from a supposed friend takes the heart out of all but the boldest.

* * *

J. H. Thomas and Education.

The General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen in England resisted the proposals of his union to subsidise the Labour Colleges in Great Britain on the plea that the education the workers received at those institutions was pernicious, although he knew full well that in the Labour Colleges the workers were being educated on class lines. In the report to hand from the International Transport Workers' Conference we find the Right Honourable J. H. Thomas reported as saying that what is required to-day for the working class is education. Of course, only on "safe" lines.

* * *

Waking Up.

"Colombo, Thursday.—The strike involving some 15,000 railway engineering coolies has now lasted a fortnight, and is unprecedented in the history of Ceylon. Work at the harbour is completely paralysed owing to the strike of cargo coolies. No loading or unloading of coal is possible.—Reuter."

THE INTERNATIONAL.
Official Organ of
THE COMMUNIST PARTY
(S.A. Section of the Communist International).
(Secretary-Editor, W. H. Andrews.)
Annual Subscription, 10/-; Half-yearly, 5s.
Bundle Orders of One Dozen and over: 2s. per dozen.
Crossed P.O.'s will not be accepted. Cheques should include commission.
Party Offices:
Nos. 4 & 6, TRADES HALL, RISSIK STREET, JOHANNESBURG.

Vol. VIII. FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1923. No. 357.

Forgive and Forget.

The capitalist press is just now purring like a well-fed cat, and in referring to the events of a year ago calls upon the workers of the Rand to let bygones be bygones, and urges them to look forward and not brood over the past, but by steady work, patience and reasonableness to build up an all-round prosperity. Peace, we are told, is what is needed; only with peace can we prosper. There is a sense, of course, in which this is true. To brood over past injuries would be an idle and evil frame of mind for either an individual or a class to indulge in, if the injuries were repented of by those responsible, and as far as is humanly possible reparation had been made.

So far from this being so in the present instance, however, the exact contrary is the case. The workers are progressively suffering from the brutal tyranny of the dominant class, and are writhing under the lash of poverty, unemployment, and in thousands of cases of actual starvation. The facts of the case have been stated often enough, but the tactics of the propaganda agencies of the capitalist class are to so distort and misrepresent every action as to prevent a picture to the people which depicts the Government and the employing class as honest men struggling with adversity, and regretfully having to restrain the rebellious and foolish workers in their own interest as well as what they are pleased to call for the good of the community.

It is necessary at this stage to disentangle the truth from the mass of false statements which have been scattered broadcast with untiring persistency by the Press, the Government and its agents, the C.I.D., the police, the martial law commission, and the courts of the country. The situation in South Africa towards the end of 1921 was similar in many respects to that in most other capitalist countries. The war and post-war boom was over, the inflated values began to tumble, and business was restricted everywhere. The market for South African coal had shrunk, and the gold premium, which had put millions into the pockets of the Rand magnates, showed signs of disappearing. Retrenchment on the Government railways and in private firms was the order of the day, and with a growing body of unemployed the moment was deemed favourable by the capitalist class to reduce the wages of the workers and to curtail their power by breaking their unions, or at any rate crippling them.

The capitalists advanced to the attack systematically and relentlessly. After retrenching wholesale on the railways and reducing the railwaymen to a condition of abject terror, the Railway Administration refused to recognise the union, the N.U.R.A.H.S. and Minister Jagger, at the last interview with them, contemptuously in effect kicked their officials out of his office. The cry of closing down the low-grade gold mines was next raised, and having reduced the representatives of the S.A. Mine Workers' Union to a condition of abject funk, they were persuaded by Smuts and other agents of the mining interests to give way on several important matters of underground organisation. The S.A.I.F. and Crawford, all through this period, exercised a sinister influence against the men who were paying him his inflated salary and keeping him in luxury.

The rank and file, however, were not so easily satisfied. They felt the actual pinch, and spasmodic and so-called unofficial strikes broke out from time to time, always to be frowned upon by the executives and paid officials and by the S.A.I.F. The most important of these uprisings were the Langlaagte and Crown Mines strikes. As a consequence of their activity in the former, the more militant of the miners' leaders were, at the instance of the Chamber of Mines, punished by their own executive by the imposition of heavy fines and suspension from office in the union for periods varying from six months to five years.

The stage was now set for the general assault, which commenced with a demand for a reduction of the white coal miners' wages of 5s. a day. After considerable hesitation the white workers stopped on the Transvaal coal mines, but with the greatest folly left the native miners at work; and then the ultimata of the Chamber of Mines, the V.F.P., and other employers were issued demanding wholesale reductions in wages and the retrenchment of some thousands of white miners and their replacement by blacks. An overwhelming ballot against these proposals was cast by the workers concerned, and the great lock-out of the whole Reef began early in January, 1922. Failing in its policy of sowing dissension among the workers, and alarmed at the unwonted solidarity shown by the strikers and the sympathy shown to them by the farming population, the forces of the Government began to be ostentatiously paraded throughout the strike area.

The insolence of the police increased, until it culminated in the killing of three members of the Fordsburg commando or picket on February 28th. The enormous demonstration at the funeral of these victims indicated that the workers had been thoroughly aroused by this incident, which convinced them that the Government was determined to break the strike by armed force. Events moved rapidly from this point, police—mounted and foot—special constables, and defence force regiments were rushed to the Rand by the thousand from all parts of South Africa, and peaceful picketing was made an offence. The Government announced its determination to run the mines with scabs, and called upon the strikers to desert their unions and return to work "on any terms," in the words of Jan Smuts, the Prime Minister.

A few did so return, and the bitterness increased. The organs of the Chamber of Mines cunningly suggested a ballot of the men, thus hoping to break their solidarity, and certain members of the augmented executive of the S.A.I.F. were inclined to take that course in order to throw the onus on to the men of closing down the strike, but before doing so tried to obtain an audience with the Chamber of Mines. This was brutally refused on March 4th, and the letter stated that "the Chamber will not in future recognise the S.A.I.F. for any purpose." The men's executive then decided to take a ballot, but the rank and file, led by the militants who had been punished by the Miners' Union, the Communists, and others, would not hear of a ballot, but demanded the declaration of a general strike. Enormous meetings were held, and on March 6th the strike was declared.

It became clear from that moment that the Government intended to force the men back at the point of the bayonet, but one more attempt was made to side-track the workers. Mysterious encounters with natives took place simultaneously all along the Reef, and it is more than suspected that these were engineered by the authorities in order to side-track the strikers from their legitimate object into an anti-black pogrom. Although there was some killing, the plot failed, and the Government on March 10th proclaimed Martial Law, and the work of crushing the strike by military force began. It lasted five days, and then the orgy of revenge had full swing. Thousands were rounded up into gaols, camps, and improvised lock-ups, and treated with the utmost brutality by the police and C.I.D., the vilest deeds being done by an infuriated and cowardly soldiery, the outstanding example of callous brutality being the murder of helpless prisoners by the Transvaal Scottish referred to elsewhere in this issue.

Having arrested or killed all the men's leaders and rounded up the rank and file, the union representatives who were released from gaol for that purpose called the strike off, and those who were accepted by the mines returned to work unconditionally; but thousands were refused employment because they were believed by the bosses to be class-conscious workers, and most of them are still unemployed, and those who are at work are made to feel their position as beaten men. Meanwhile, throughout the year the work of punishing the prisoners has been proceeded with. Four men were hanged by the special court of three judges, others had vindictive sentences handed out to them, and many are still untried at the time of writing. This brief outline of what has taken place during the past year shows how bitter has been the revenge of the capitalists on the men and their women and children, and the latest attempt in the House of Assembly to obtain a general amnesty from the Government has been met with a refusal.

In the face of these facts the capitalists dare to talk about peace and forgiving and forgetting. Piling up millions as a result of the speeding up of the workers in the mines, reckless of the appalling accident rate which the slave-driving tactics now in vogue make inevitable, the sleek, smug capitalists order their hirelings the pressmen to urge the necessity of peace and hard work on the part of the tortured workers to bring back prosperity.

We on the other hand urge our fellow-workers to keep the memory green of the men who fought and died for their class, either in the heat of the battle, before the firing squad, or on the gallows. To remember with abhorrence the traitors to their class who assisted the enemy in any capacity, but more particularly the scab, the spy, and the informer; but above all never to forget that the underlying cause of all the bitterness, suffering and misery is the accursed capitalist system itself. No mere blind and unreasoning hatred should be cultivated, but a cold determination to rebuild the workers' organisations, to remedy the defects of organisation and discipline, and above all to foster a correct conception of the goal aimed at; and when the time is ripe to strike another, a more formidable, and we hope a successful blow at the monster which still holds the majority of mankind in its clutches.

There can be no peace, there should be no peace, in the eternal struggle against injustice until not a man, woman, or child is denied all that is necessary for the fullest human existence conceivable.

"The history of mankind is a history of class struggles. The real fruit of the struggle lies not in the immediate result, but in the always growing unity of the workers." Capitalism produces, above all, its own grave-diggers. Its downfall and the victory of the proletariat is equally inevitable. Let these words of the Communist Manifesto, written as far back as 1847, inspire the workers on the Rand and in South Africa to go forward remembering the mistakes of the past only to remedy them, to remember the indignities they went through and are still undergoing to avenge them, and to remember the heroes of the March struggle in order to emulate them and carry on their work to a triumphant conclusion.

Sabotage.

A CORRECTION.

Comrade T. Chapman wishes us to make the following correction. In our article under the above head, last week, it was stated that the appeal against the decision of the magistrate's court in the case of Comrade Chapman was placed in the hands of Messrs. Meyer, Foley and Levy. This should read Messrs. Reid and Etoleff. The lawyers concerned in the third example of absent-mindedness were Messrs. Katzen and Levy. We regret the error in names, but the inference to be drawn remains the same.

THE UNITED FRONT.

M. LOPES.

Much of the difficulty felt by Communists in accepting the tactics of the united front is due in a large degree to ignorance of the conditions prevailing which necessitates its employment by the Communist Parties. The revolutionary movement at the close of the war and during the ensuing period was marked by unprecedented activity. In the years 1917-1921 the following incidents took place which gave promise of the early victory of the workers:

In May, 1917, great strike movement in England.
In November, 1917, the Soviet Revolution in Russia and Finland.
In November, 1918, the downfall of the German and Austro-Hungarian monarchies.
In March, 1919, Soviet Revolution in Hungary.
In September, 1920, seizure of land and metal factories by Italian workers.
In March, 1921, an uprising of the workers in Central Germany.
In March, 1921, coal miners' strike in England.

This great revolutionary wave, however, did not succeed in sweeping away capitalism, and was followed by a period of retreat and a series of disastrous defeats for the workers. Alike in its ebb and flow, this great wave of revolution has been, and is at present, of gigantic importance to all workers, its forward march establishing the Soviet Republic of Russia, in its ebb resulting in the spread of apathy, despair, and unprecedented suffering amongst the workers of the world. The leading spirits of the bourgeoisie who had trembled before the coming—as they thought—of Communism have now regained their confidence, and have assumed an offensive against the workers everywhere.

This period of defeats, of retreat, is symbolised to all Communists by the adoption of the new economic policy in Russia and the adoption of the tactics of the united front in the countries of the West. A great chance had been missed. At the end of the war, when the armed and aroused workers returned home to learn the truth of the great struggle for democracy and peace and security, it would then have been possible to have overwhelmed capitalism. But owing mainly to the dark treachery of the reformist leaders the chance was missed. Then came the retreat, and it was the Communists who realised the necessity, first, of stopping the retreat and, secondly, to obtain the support of the majority of the workers for the revolution. Considerations such as these caused the Third Congress of the Third International to issue in the middle of 1921 the well-known slogan, "To the masses!" This slogan took a more definite form in the publication in December, 1921, of the thesis on the united front tactic.

"The United Front means the leading of the working masses in the daily class war. It means we are ready to march against capitalism side by side with all workers, whether anarchists, syndicalists, Christian Socialists, Labourites, or whatever you please, in the struggle against the reduction of wages and against the loss of the eight-hour day."

The uniting of the working class in a common struggle implies at the beginning (1st) co-operation with reformist leaders, (2nd) fighting for partial demands. The first is necessary because large sections of the workers still have faith in these people and are still prepared to follow them. But it is of the highest importance to note that the Communist Parties are in no way to give up their freedom of agitation, of propaganda, or of criticism in the formation of the United Front. "This condition of Communist independence must not be given up under any circumstances. We co-operate with these people not on account of their beautiful eyes nor because we trust them, but because of the unprecedented need of the hour."

The fact that the workers are not yet Communist, and that their leaders are not prepared to fight for the dictatorship, necessitates the formulation of partial demands. As Radek said: "We do not expect these people to fight for revolution, but we expect them to fight for a crust of bread, to fight against further world ruin." In the words of Zinoviev, "We shall never be able to organise the workers unless we fight on behalf of their partial demands." The development of the Communist Parties can only be achieved through a fighting policy. Even the smallest units must not rest content with mere propaganda and agitation. The virtue of the United Front lies not only in the achievement of proletarian unity in the class struggle, but also in these two factors: First, in the struggle even for partial demands the treacherous and cowardly character of the reformist parties and leaders will be revealed. They are afraid to fight because they are afraid that the struggles even for a modest demand may develop into an open revolutionary struggle. The realisation by the workers of this fact can only be of use to the Communist Party, which is interested in exposing the true character of these parties and leaders.

Secondly, in the struggles which should follow the establishment of a United Front the working class will obtain that necessary experience which will enable it to appreciate the truth of the Communists' position, i.e., that only working class dictatorship can benefit the workers. The workers in the mass do not learn from propaganda; they learn from actual experience only. And in the struggles even for a 'crust of bread" they will develop that clarity of thought, that class-consciousness, that cohesion which is necessary if capitalism is to be overthrown.

In accordance with the tactics of the United Front, the Communist International participated in a conference held at Berlin in April, 1922, which consisted of representatives of the Communist International, the Second International, and the Vienna Working Union (or 2½ International). The E.C. of the Communist International proposed as a basis for practical united action the following programme:

1. Defence against the capitalist offensive.
2. Struggle against reaction.
3. Preparation of the fight against new imperialist wars.
4. Assistance in the reconstruction of the Russian Soviet Republic.
5. The Treaty of Versailles and the reconstruction of the devastated regions.

With inconceivable impertinence, however, Vandervelde, of the Second International and formerly royal minister of Belgium, laid down a series of conditions for acceptance by the Communists before any further discussion took place. The conditions were:

1. Renunciation of the "cell" tactics, i.e., formation of Communist groups in proletarian organisations.
2. Nomination of a commission for the examination of the case of Georgia, where, according to Ramsay Macdonald, a Socialist Government had been overthrown by the Red Army.
3. Liberation of political prisoners from the Soviet gaols and the trial of the Social-Revolutionists under the control of International Socialism.

These conditions were laid down by an international body, which included the German Social Democracy responsible for the deaths of thousands of German workers and the imprisonment of many thousands more, and for the murder of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht; and also the British Labour Party, which did not protest against the excesses of British Imperialism in India, Egypt, Ireland, and South Africa.

Radek, after exposing the reactionary nature of the government of Georgia, which had been overthrown by the Georgian workers later assisted by the Red Army, and in connection with the matter of political prisoners, telling Vandervelde and company to mind their own business, at first refused these conditions, declaring "we stand for the united front without conditions." Later on, however, various concessions were made by the Communist delegates, which resulted in the formation of a committee of nine, which should make arrangements for further conferences on a wider basis. This committee of nine never met, due to the deliberate sabotage of the reformist section, which continually put off its first meeting for one reason or another. Thus ended the first attempt to establish the United Front on an international scale. The tactic is now being fought out in the national groups, and when the time is ripe may again figure on the order paper of an International Congress.

THE ROTARY CLUB AGAIN.

The insidious propaganda for further reduction of working costs on the mines continues. Reduction of working costs means, of course, further encroachments on the workers', particularly the white workers', standard of living. Two articles appear in one issue of the Rand morning paper on the subject. One attempting to prove that the wholesale reduction in white personnel on the mines and the drastic cuts in the wages of those remaining has resulted not only in huge profits to the mining houses, but by some extraordinary process of reasoning has benefited the mine workers themselves, and in order to continue the beneficent policy of sacking a large proportion of white workers and making the reduced staff carry on operations on the same or an increased scale for pay in some cases one-third of that formerly given, a gentleman lecturing before the Rotary Club on the life of the Rand trots out the time-honoured tripe about the need for saving the working man from himself by refusing all demands for his betterment and reducing his already inadequate remuneration.

Mr. Owen Letcher, discoursing on "The Life of the Rand," claimed that, as hitherto, the mines are charitable institutions, and quoted the E.R.P.M. as an example of capitalist philanthropy, because he claimed that it lost £5,283 last month, and that to grant the mechanics' demand for a 30 per cent. wages increase would result in closing down the mine and throwing 130 mechanics out of work. He does not say, of course, how the working loss was arrived at, nor reveal what overhead charges and profits on the supply of material and stores are booked as working expenses. Were these matters carefully gone into it might put quite a different complexion on the E.R.P.M. and some other alleged low-grade propositions.

The lecturer then proceeds to make the flesh of the workers and business men creep by announcing that at the present rate of exhaustion of payable rock the gold mining industry will last 11½ years. Note the exactness of the calculation; it even takes cognisance of half-years. But, says Mr. Letcher, "if through LOWER WORKING COSTS," etc., etc., "the tonnages mentioned in the second category could be worked" (i.e., 724 million tons below 6 dwts.) the life of the Rand could be extended for another 31 years."

There we have the same old story dished up. If the workers want work and prosperity they must consent to be reduced as near as possible to the kaffir level, or starve altogether. Of course, figures, particularly mining estimates, can be made to prove anything, but one thing emerges from all this pseudo scientific jargon, that the policy of ruthless rate-cutting and retrenchment of whites, which has proved so successful from the capitalist point of view during the past year, is to be pursued more relentlessly and remorselessly than heretofore. The lesson of all this to the mine and other workers is to get together, build up your unions and other workers' organisations, and demand that the whole gold mining industry shall be run as a unit, and the rich mines be pooled with the less rich, thus enabling operations on a maximum scale without depressing the standard of living of the workers.

Kadding for Kilts.

"A private in the Capetown Highlanders, William Murray, was charged before Mr. Harmer, A.M., at the Second Criminal Court with disobeying the command of a superior officer, who ordered him to fall in, in readiness to proceed to the Woltemade butts. Accused, who pleaded 'guilty to a certain extent,' stated that formerly volunteers had been called for duty at the butts, and he objected to being sent under compulsion. He was found guilty and fined £1, the magistrate remarking that accused had acted in a very foolish manner in defying authority."—"Cape Times."

That's the stuff to give 'em. The mugs of workers who join the Defence (of the capitalist) Force cannot see the joke until the capitalist pulls them up for not doing their job properly. But in the same paper we come across the following:

"FOR THE KILT FUND.

"FURTHER EFFORT BY CAPETOWN HIGHLANDERS.

"There was a large attendance at the concert in the Drill Hall, on Saturday, in aid of the Capetown Highlanders' Kilt Fund, and TONE was given to the proceedings by the presence of T.R.H. Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught, and a number of other distinguished persons."

Whoever would imagine that we still had such a collection of mugs in Capetown! The workers provide the human targets, and now they have to cadge for their own kilts. The Prince and Company are prepared to dress the workers up like a lot of marionettes providing these same workers will only supply the dresses. Let us analyse the situation.

The workers produce all wealth.

The capitalists pinch it and pay the workers wages.

With the balance of the wealth produced the capitalists maintain an army of police and military.

This army is comprised of workers.

This army of workers is used for the purpose of enabling the capitalists to freely DEPRIVE THE WORKERS THEMSELVES OF THE PRODUCTS OF THEIR LABOUR.

The climax is certainly reached when the capitalists call upon their dupes to provide their own uniform. They will soon be expected to provide themselves with a revolver each to blow out their own brains. Why not? Then finally, William Murray is fined £1 because he neglects to learn to shoot straight.

W. G.

The Revolutionary Red Cross.

In a former issue we referred to the formation of the International Revolutionary Red Cross, in which connection the following manifesto will be of interest:

Dear Comrades,—The Russian proletariat, having broken its chains of capitalist slavery, after making innumerable sacrifices in the struggle for emancipation, having for many years shed its blood under the oppression of the Czarist regime with its penal servitude and exile, cannot regard with indifference the numerous sacrifices made by the international proletariat in its struggle for the overthrow of the domination of capitalism.

During the Czarist regime the international proletariat enthusiastically came to the aid of the Russian prisoners of Czarism. With even greater enthusiasm it came to the aid of the Russian proletariat on its emancipation from the domination of capitalism, at the time when all the enemies of the Proletarian Revolution combined in order to drown the gains of the October Revolution in the blood of the workers and peasants of Soviet Russia. All the attacks of international capitalism have now been beaten off. The Russian proletariat is now commencing its work of constructing a new society. At this moment it considers it to be its sacred duty to stretch out a hand of assistance to the international proletariat tortured in the prisons of the capitalist plunderers.

With this end in view an International Organisation for Aiding Fighters in the Revolution was formed in Red Moscow in December, 1922. The aims of this organisation is to render material aid to the Communists confined in bourgeois prisons and their families, and to all workers who have entered the path of struggle against the capitalist system.

In order to organise this work in the best possible manner, the International Organisation for Aiding Fighters in the Revolution asks you to enter into permanent correspondence with it, to establish mutual information on the activities of organisations having analogous aims, to inform it of the number of comrades confined in prisons, the conditions under which they are detained, and to report any cases of atrocities committed against them. On receiving this information our Organisation, in collecting the necessary funds, will be able to determine the extent to which it can render aid to the prisoners of capitalism in your country. Furthermore, the material obtained can be made use of in the press and in special publications.

After receiving the necessary mutual information, we hope it will be possible to raise the question of organising an international centre for committees of revolutionary aid. Please will you send, as detailed as possible, all the informatien you are able on this question.

It will be extremely desirable to receive all published matter on this question at your disposal.

We recognise the extreme urgency of this matter, as the capitalist offensive in all countries is daily snatching an increasing number of our fighters from our ranks. For that reason we must make haste.

We therefore once again ask you not to delay in sending us the necessary information.

With comradely greetings,

LEPESHINSKY, President.
TEMKIN, Secretary.

Moscow, 11/1/23.

Loucheur, Stinnes & Co.

By JACQUES SADOUL.

Before 1914, the exploitation of the two mightiest mining areas of the continent, Lorraine and the Ruhr, ensured the predominance in Europe of the German bourgeoisie.

In order to break this dominion, the victorious Entente had to destroy its foundations. The Versailles Treaty, therefore, provided for the separation of the ores of Lorraine from Germany, and their incorporation in France, while the Ruhr coal was left to Germany.

But even the most solemn agreements, written in the blood of millions of poor propertyless victims, and protected by armies comprising millions of soldiers, cannot hold good if they contravene economic realities. The Treaty of Versailles, like many other treaties, is nothing more than a scrap of paper, because it attempts to break up the natural unity of the Rhine valley.

The German metal industries are as little able to do without the ore of Lorraine as the French metal industries of Lorraine are able to dispense with the Ruhr coal. The mutual economic dependence of the two areas is inalienable. The Rhine flowing between them must again become what it was before, a connecting line. It is only possible to properly utilise the huge riches of the Rhine valley when the owners work in the closest relationship with one another.

The men on both sides whose interests are chiefly at stake, and who are therefore best informed—the French and German iron barons—are perfectly aware that such an understanding is inevitable, and that it will be necessary, within a short time, to form a Franco-German syndicate for the exploitation of the mines of Lorraine and the Ruhr. Both parties are preparing for this understanding, and both parties are naturally endeavouring to grant as little as possible, and to gain as much as possible, when entering into the agreement.

In order to fill and defend their cash-boxes—for this is the sole tangible reality in the whole affair—French and German capitalists are resorting to every possible medium of deception and violence.

In the last resort it is a question—and this no Communist must forget—of what privileged rights this or that partner is to have over the sweat and misery of the workers, of what proportion of the riches squeezed out of the exploited workers of the Ruhr mines is to be granted to Loucheur, Schneider and Co. (French) and how many millions in return for this are to be accorded to Stinnes, Thyssen and Co. (German) from the no less scandalous exploitation of the miners of Lorraine.

The feelings of the workers are again to be played upon, their idealism appealed to, and the same trap laid for them. Once more the German and the Frenchman, the workman and the peasant, the exploited tax-payer, is to be converted into a "heroic soldier," ready to sacrifice his life and possessions on the altar of his native country, that is, on the altar of capitalist profit.

Thus the German and French capitalists are in full agreement with respect to the division of the mines of Lorraine and the Ruhr. Four years of war, of suffering, of horror and of murder, ten millions of dead, thousands of milliards of debt—this has sufficed to convince them of the necessity of this agreement. ALL THAT REMAINS TO BE SETTLED IS THE PERCENTAGE OF PROFIT TO BE ASSIGNED TO EACH OF THESE GENTLEMEN. Hence all these negotiations, manœuvres, and intrigues, carried on for the last four years between high finance and heavy industry, and aided by the enthusiastic intermediaries at the heads of our democratic republics. Hence the waste of further milliards, the slaughter of more workers.

Despite the protests—though these are discreet enough—and mild threats of the British Empire and the United States, despite the indignation and rage of the German bourgeoisie, its declarations of hate and vengeance, and despite even its gestures of resistance, the Ruhr occupation will have the following effects:

(a) A reduction or cancellation of France's debts to her allies.

(b) The creation of a Franco-German syndicate: Loucheur, Stinnes and Co., for the exploitation of the Ruhr and Rhine areas.

Even should this process be interrupted by complications, it will be inevitably continued sooner or later. Events will take the course they are bound to take.

The French divisions will evacuate the Ruhr district. But the French capitalists will retain it. Extremely significant consequences are bound to follow in the near future.

We must once more emphasise that the State is a tool in the hands of the ruling class, and that the democratic State serves the ends of the bourgeoisie. The logical consequence is that to-day the French and German proletariats are incited against each other in the Ruhr area, and to-morrow they will be thrown together as friends, just as it suits the pockets of a handful of industrial magnates.

We have no need to be indignant; indignation is not a Marxist virtue. But we must keep on repeating these elementary truths and never let our clearness of vision on these points become blurred.

The essential point for the Communists is neither the occupation of the Ruhr area in itself, nor the question if the miners of the Ruhr are to be exploited by the French bourgeoisie instead of the German, or thrown into prison by German gendarmerie or French soldiers during strikes.

We must do nothing calculated to induce the French or German) workers, under any circumstances, to join the "holy alliance," the united front with the bourgeoisie. The working class must know only one enemy: the bourgeoisie. The sole war in which it is the duty of the worker to participate is the class war, the civil war. The Communists must take no sides whatever in open conflicts between the French and German bourgeoisie. They must strike with equal force on both sides of the frontier, the French workers against the French bourgeoisie, and the German workers against the German bourgeoisie.

Out of the numerous problems arising from the Ruhr occupation, we must only devote our attention to those in which the proletariat has a DIRECT interest. We must be prepared for defence against every attack on the rights of the proletariat, against every act of violence perpetrated by the bourgeoisie against the working class; we must be ready to fight for the overthrow of the bourgeois government, for the united front of the workers, and for establishing the workers' government. But we must under no circumstances make common cause with the exploiters, with the nationalists.

Despite the outcries, the shrieks of rage, the rattling of sabres, and the warlike gestures both real and sham, the actual effect of the occupation of the Ruhr is to bring the French and German capitalists closer together, and consequently to LESSEN the danger of war between bourgeois France and Germany.

Yesterday, the possession of Lorraine and of the Ruhr secured for Germany the industrial domination of Europe. To-morrow, the exploitation of these areas by the combined forces of French and German capital may establish a Franco-German hegemony.

We must keep these gigantic processes of political change before our eyes; we must follow the great economic alterations which bring about this change, and must foresee the effects to be expected from the union of the capitalists of these two countries on the position of the Franco-German proletariat, and on the development of the European revolution.

"Relief" Works.

General Smuts said a short while ago that there was work for every man in South Africa if he would apply for it. He was referring, of course, to that kind of human slavery and degradation called "relief work." The class of men and the conditions under which they labour, besides the remote localities in which "relief" works are situated, renders the victims largely inarticulate, and of course it is not the business of the kept press to draw attention to the miseries the men and their families suffer from at the hands of the Chamber of Mines-ridden Government of the Union. They can fish out apocryphal atrocity stories from Georgia, Armenia, and other remote parts of Soviet Russia, but are discreetly silent on the slave colonies miscalled relief works in South Africa.

In Kimberley the unemployed have demonstrated against the reduction of 25 per cent. in the already pitiful pay of railway construction workers, and in the case of the Forestry Department the conditions have become so scandalous that an enquiry had to be made by the Government Labour Department. Of course, the usual white-washing report resulted, but even this official agreed that the Jonkersberg Afforestation Settlement is not a bed of roses owing to the climatic conditons and the harsh condition which the Department imposed on the unfortunate men. One of these is that the tools used by the men are charged up to them; this regulation, it appears, owing to the agitation has been abolished.

A moving story comes from La Motte, near French Hoek. A man went with his wife and three children to work there at the munificent salary of 6/4 per day, with house found. The "house" turned out to be a couple of round iron huts 14 feet in diameter, with no window and no lining, the roof about seven feet high. The heat in this iron kennel was terrific, and his wife became seriously ill in consequence of the conditions. The nearest water was half a mile away, the shop 1½ hours' walk, and the nearest doctor 25 miles distant at Paarl. The conditions are so harsh that men leave the place in despair, notwithstanding the hopelessness of finding anything to do elsewhere.

These are the "relief" works which Ministers of the Government, getting £5,000 a year salary, say men are so eager to go to that they marry in order to qualify for the job.

Last Sunday's Demonstration.

A large crowd assembled at the Town Hall steps last Sunday in response to the invitation of the Communist Party to demonstrate their respect for and solidarity with the men who lost their lives during the great strike last year, and as a result of the subsequent judicial proceedings. The chair was taken by Comrade Oates, and the speakers were Comrade C. B. Tyler, representing the B.W.I.U., Comrade C. F. Glass, of the Witwatersrand Tailors' Association, and Comrade W. H. Andrews, Secretary Communist Party.

Invitations were sent to all trade unions on the Witwatersrand, but with the exception of those mentioned none responded. It may be taken that so far as the officials of the various unions are concerned they look upon the events of the first few months of last year as an unpleasant nightmare, and would have it buried in oblivion. Such is not our view, however. The struggle which the Rand workers put up against the concentrated and organised brutality of the capitalist class and its Government last year, although it was unsuccessful, was one of the most glorious episodes in the history of the South African workers, and we hope and believe that as the years roll by and the happenings of March, 1922, are seen in clearer perspective by the toilers that a true appreciation of the heroism of the fighting workers will take the place of the cowardly tendency to repudiate their action or at least to speak of it in an apologetic manner as if the workers had committed some great crime. Their only fault was failure; had they succeeded, we should have found the very men who now most stoutly deny that they have any sympathy with the movement trying to take all the credit for the success, and posing as simon pure revolutionists.

"RED" SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The capitalists are getting uneasy over the loss of their monopoly of the training of the children of the workers. For considerably over a hundred years the children of the poor have been herded in so-called Sunday schools, where suitable ideas have been installed into their plastic minds as to their duty to their "betters," which term includes, besides reverence for king and the parsons, proper humility towards their masters and exploiters. These institutions have been and are smiled upon by the exploiting class, and such philanthropists as Jawn D. Rockefeller are counted amongst the Sunday school teachers.

During the last ten or fifteen years, however, Socialist Sunday schools have sprung up all over Great Britain and in other countries, and even in South Africa, where children are taught the facts of life and history, and not doped with old wives' fables on the one hand and a bastard patriotism on the other. These schools are a nightmare to Fat, who knows full well the value of catching 'em young, hence we see scare articles from time to time denouncing the efforts of the self-sacrificing men and women who are trying to bring a little brightness into the lives of the children of the poor, and to brush some of the cobwebs superstition and false ideals from their minds.

In a filthy lying article in the "Sunday Slimes" this week, the working class Sunday schools are referred to as "Devil's Sunday Schools," "Schools of Blasphemy," where "slum" children are taught contempt for law and order and to "curse the Deity." All this shrieking hysteria is very amusing, but if not carefully watched may result in a further attack on liberty of thought and expression. Attempts, says the article above-mentioned, are being made by that typically English expression of Fascism, the National Citizens' Union, to outlaw these schools and close them down, and a lover of liberty called Sir John Butcher (suggestive name) is bringing a bill into the British House of Commons making it an offence to give "seditious" teaching to children under 16. By sedition is meant, of course, anything which tends to undermine the security of the ruling class in their power over the lives and liberties of the great mass of the workers.

We have a little song book before us, which was published in 1911 for the S.L.P. Glasgow Sunday Schools, and on the cover are the words of Shelley:

"Rise like lions after slumber,
In unvanquishable number.
Shake your chains to earth like dew,
Which in sleep had fallen on you,
Ye are many, they are few."

This, of course, is sedition, and makes the parasites of society writhe and foam at the mouth, but worse is to follow. On the first page is the following text:

"Remember that all the good things of the earth are produced by labour; whosoever enjoys them without working for them is stealing the bread of the workers."

This is, of course, monstrous blasphemy against the good, kind capitalists, who find us work—sometimes—and is equally the work of Trotsky, notwithstanding the fact that the little book was printed years before the name of Trotsky was known outside a few small groups of revolutionaries, and when he was a fugitive from Czardom.

The "Sunday Slimes" and the agent of the British steel magnates who has been pulling its leg may go on raving; meanwhile it is hoped that the Proletarian Sunday School movement, which started in South Africa six or seven years ago, will spread until it embraces every child who is being poisoned five days in the week by the dope of capitalist so-called education.

The R.I.L.U. in Ameria.

THE AMALGAMATION MOVEMENT.

Wm. Z. Foster, of Chicago, writes as follows on the above subject in International Press Correspondence:

The United States and Canada have long been classic lands of craft unionism. The workers have long realised the weakness of the trade unions, but no real work for industrial unionism was accomplished in the old unions until 1920-1921. The Trade Union Educational League, the representative of the R.I.L.U. (Red International of Labour Unions) in America, is carrying on a most active campaign for amalgamation of the old craft unions into modern industrial organisations, with surprisingly effective results. Fully half of the American labour movement has been led to declare itself in favour of industrial unionism.

In view of this widespread movement for amalgamation that is going on, the trade union officials are very much alarmed. They can readily see that many of their easy jobs are about to be eliminated. Consequently, they are showing great hostility. But the rank and file are aroused, and are determined to put an end to craft unionism. In the recent convention of the Railroad Trackmen, which was made up of 1,500 delegates representing 200,000 members, the officials tried to defeat a resolution calling for amalgamation. In consequence, nineteen of them, including the General President and the General Secretary, were swept out of office, and new ones were elected. This event, unparalleled in American labour history, has caused consternation in the ranks of conservative trade union officialdom. It has made them very cautious in fighting the amalgamation movement. The rank and file are aroused. Ruthless American capitalism has taught them the futility of craft unionism. The slogan of the new movement is "amalgamation or annihilation."

By-Election Lessons.

Since the "man of the hour" election of 1921 swept Smuts into power, every bye-election has been lost by the Government. This is a fact hard to explain away, but the hacks of the capitalist press, goaded on by their owners, have to address themselves to the task. It is generally agreed that the Smuts Government has completely lost the support of the electorate, and that were a general election to take place to-day Smuts would be overwhelmingly defeated; nevertheless a laboured attempt is made by the daily press to prove that although the government is clinging to office when it no longer represents the feeling of the constituencies, and by all the rules of so-called democratic government should resign, yet the programme which it has set itself to carry out has not been repudiated nor seriously challenged by the country.

We are told that the people still want grain elevators, irrigation schemes, new railways, and the encouragement of manufacturing industries, and therefore it is necessary to keep Smuts and his Corner House gang in power in order to get these things done. The argument—if argument it can be called—is puerile, and an insult to the intelligence of the readers of the daily press. Who does not know that once the arrangements have been made for public works, the orders placed, and contracts given out, the whole business becomes a matter of departmental routine, and whatever change of government takes place the work would automatically be proceeded with.

The Government's unpopularity is due to quite other causes. Its brutal callousness in its dealings with the workers of the Union, black or white, when they dare to make a stand against injustice and oppression has become a byword. The Bullhoek massacre, the Port Elizabeth slaughter, and the abominable atrocities committed by Hofmeyer on the Bondelzwarts in the South-West, have had their effect. The one-sided character of the "justice" meted out in the courts of the country when it is a question of black versus white amounts to a positive scandal, and the crowning iniquity of the events of last year on the Rand are the main causes of the unpopularity of the Smuts administration. He has even from a bourgeois point of view proved himself entirely incapable of carrying on the business of a bourgeois state without constant explosions and exhibition of brutal military force which to the more enlightened capitalist observers is fraught with danger to them and their interests. The Dutch Republican section also dislike his constant posing as the great imperialist statesman, and although probably the Nationalists, or at any rate the bulk of their supporters, would be more repressive towards the native and coloured population than the present government, and equally hostile to anything in the nature of proletarian management and control of industry, they have an instinctive hatred and distrust of a policy which constantly tends to drag South Africa into the orbit of European entanglements.

It is no mere accident that a long series of bye-elections have been lost, and although we do not for one moment believe that any material benefit would accrue to the working masses at the hands of a Nationalist-cum-Labour Party Government, yet these politicians, who do believe that their policy will improve matters, should leave no stone unturned to upset the present government. The sooner the workers have a taste of Nationalist and Labour Party administration the sooner will they be disillusioned and turn to the only solution of the problems confronting them—a revolutionary working class organisation pledged and organised to overthrow the capitalist system.

A "Lady" on Labour.

Lady Phillips discoursed learnedly the other evening to the Women's Enfranchisement League on the evils of restriction of work and the benefit of an increased output. She informed her audience—which of course hung on the words of the wife of Sir Lionel Phillips as if they were pearls of purest wisdom—that "she had been trained by her husband on the subject of labour. . . . She had studied the problem until she had thoroughly mastered it," and as a result of her exhaustive investigations into and profound study of work—at a respectful distance, of course—the solution of the problem had been revealed to her. Married women should be allowed to work, declared this wonderful wife of a wonderful man—this profound student of economics.

Herein lies the solution to all the economic ills of society. Send your wives into the factory, the store, and the office, and let women use up all their spare time in finding new avenues of labour, and all will be well. Glut the labour market with ever-increasing swarms of boys, girls, and married women, and with the larger number competing for the jobs more jobs will miraculously be created. One can well understand that this parasitic woman has been well trained by her husband. The hand is the hand of Esau, but the voice is the voice of Jacob. Li Phi has been for years insisting upon, and paying his hirelings to bray unceasingly, the statement in regard to the mining industry that the larger the number of cheap native workers employed the more jobs there will be for white men.

The workers on the Reef who formerly swallowed this sophistry have had a rude awakening during the past year, when thousands have been thrown out of work and their places taken by the native workers, whose presence is still said by such mouthpieces of the Corner House as Crawford and others to result in increased opportunities of employment for white workers. It seems beyond comprehension that working men and women can be found who will sit and listen complacently while fussy females like Li Phi's wife prate about work and economics, whilst they flee from the former as the devil does from holy water and know as much about the latter as the average politician or university professor.

[illegible] result of the evening spent by Mrs. Phillips and the sycophants who surrounded her in wrestling with the problem of unemployment was a resolution to the Johannesburg Town Council "regretting [illegible] to dismiss its women employees [illegible]. . . ."

Organiser's Report.

For months past it has been constantly urged that the time is ripe for a big drive to increase the membership, and to make the Communist Party a power to be reckoned with in South African politics. Moving about among the workers of the different centres, one realises the great possibilities in this connection and the value of the personal contact of an organiser. Thousands of men are out of work (some through ordinary retrenchment and others through victimisation), whilst the life of the worker who is still on the mines is one of abject slavery. One man now does the work of several, and the result of this is shown in the appalling increase in accidents. The work of re-organising the unions proceeds apace, but there is a marked reluctance by the more timid spirits to be openly associated with any labour body. Despite this, however, there is a fertile field for organisational and propaganda work, evidenced by an obvious desire to win back what was lost in the opening months of last year. This must be the groundwork of our efforts.

PRETORIA.

I visited Pretoria on the 6th and 7th instant, and got into touch with most of the comrades there. They have not yet got further than financially supporting the Party. It seems that the formation of a branch is not yet feasible, as no one is prepared to push the matter owing to fear of being victimised. Regular propaganda meetings would be very useful to prepare the way for the formation of a branch, but the shortage of speakers precludes this for the time being.

BENONI.

Under the chairmanship of Comrade D. Cohen, Comrade W. H. Andrews and myself addressed an open-air gathering at Perry's Corner last Saturday night. The occasion was the anniversary of the proclamation of martial law, and the meeting was attended by several hundred people. The Social and Dance which had been arranged to celebrate the occasion had been abandoned owing to the refusal of the management of the Hôtel Cecil and other proprietors of halls to let their premises for the occasion, and this probably accounted for the good attendance. The speakers were enthusiastically received, and several new subscribers to the "International" were gained. Benoni, which has always been looked upon as a stronghold of the Party, shows signs again of coming into line with its traditions.

BOKSBURG.

The Labour Party still holds the field in Boksburg, but its real life-strength, feeble though it is, is drawn from the militant left-wingers. These, however, are not yet sufficiently numerous to warrant the formation of a Communist Branch, and in the absence of such both moderates and militants are pulling together usefully.

SPRINGS.

I attended a meeting of Springs Branch, which was held in the Municipal Council Chamber last Monday night. There was a very good attendance, and the meeting commenced with the passing of a vote of condolence with the wife of Comrade O. Gorman, who was killed in the New State Areas a week or two ago. In Comrade O'Gorman the Branch has lost one of its most militant and enthusiastic fighters. Several new members were enrolled, and the Branch officers elected. Comrade Jack Allen (the Mayor) was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Branch, and in him the Party will undoubtedly have a staunch and influential officer. A public meeting is being arranged to take place in the Lyric Bioscope on Sunday, 25th instant, at which it is confidently expected that many members will be recruited. I spent the following day in visiting the inhabitants, and I find that Springs is a real stronghold of the movement. Everyone I met, practically, is a member of either the Labour Party or Communist Party. The former, of course, holds the field, but that, I gather, has been due to the absence of a real branch of the latter. However, now that our Branch is well under way, it will grow rapidly. Springs for the Reds!

BRAKPAN.

The formation of a Branch at Brakpan is now a most necessary step, as this will supply the missing link in the chain from Benoni to Springs, and will facilitate united action on all matters affecting the Far East Rand.

C. F. GLASS.

Soviet Siberia at Work.

With the withdrawal of the Japanese from Siberia, and the affiliation of the Far Eastern Republic with Soviet Russia, life in Eastern Siberia has taken on more vital, more optimistic colour. The news from Chita, Vladivostok, and other centres is consistently indicative of progress. The following brief items are significant.

Chita.—Dr. Asmus, Germany's Envoy to the former Far Eastern Republic, has left for Berlin after a thorough study of economic conditions here. It is his intention, he has announced, to discuss with officials in Moscow and in his country projects for industrial enterprises in the Far East.

The Soviet authorities here are proceeding to clear away the economic wreckage of robber exploits left by the several counter-revolutionary and interventionist groups in Eastern Siberia. The Far Eastern Revolutionary Committee has issued a decree nullifying all contracts for the exploitation of forest resources in the Maritime Province illegally concluded under Japanese military protection. Persons desirous to continue in the business must make application to the proper organs of the Revolutionary Committee, with a view to making contracts in conformity with Soviet laws.

Trade between Russia and Japan will be more active beginning next spring, according to M. Sugina, Japanese Consul at Nikolsk Ussuryik. Business interests in his home country, he asserted, are urging the Ministry of Trade and Commerce to establish trade relations with Soviet Russia immediately.

All buildings and various other constructions erected by the Japanese military command in the Nikolaevsk area have been declared to be the property of the Russian Soviet Republic.

The Ruhr Occupation.

"L'Humanite" of January 26th reports that the French railwaymen who have been mobilised and sent to the Ruhr under military discipline did not go without protest. They threw their rifles down, damaging many, and very slowly and reluctantly boarded the trains. Singing the Internationale, they were only induced to leave for "the front" when large forces of police were brought on the scene.

Reports from Aix la Chapelle state that the discipline of the French troops is not good, and many are deserting into Germany. On January 26th there were 28 desertions, and the next day 36. They evidently have no liking for their job.

The General Executive of the Red Trade Union International in Moscow has sent 100,000 gold roubles to the class-conscious workers of the Ruhr. The Japanese workers demonstrated outside the French Embassy in Tokio against the occupation by the French of the Ruhr Valley. Thirty trade unions were represented, but the police dispersed the demonstrators.

RED MINERS REBUFFED

In connection with the occupation of the richest industrial districts of Germany by the French and Belgians, the following appeal has been sent to Frank Hodges, the Secretary of the Amsterdam "reformist" Miners' International, by the miners' unions affiliated to the Red International of Labour Unions:

"The occupation of the Ruhr area is an attack on the German and French miners. The international situation has become so acute that the outbreak of war is imminent. In accordance with the resolutions of the Frankfort Congress, the miners are bound to fight against imperialism and against the Spa agreement. The undersigned organisations therefore propose to you to call a 24 hours' protest strike of the miners in all countries against the occupation of the Ruhr and against the dangers of war. We await an immediate reply."

The following reply was received to this telegram: "The Miners' International takes no instructions from Moscow.—Hodges, International Secretary."

Thus the renegade Hodges, who betrayed the British miners in 1921, refuses to do anything but talk and protest, and in his petty arrogance snubs the revolutionary section of the miners who demand action. It will be as well to remember that the Amsterdam International of Trade Unions is the "yellow" organisation to which Crawford is attached.

Another fact that reveals the treacherous tactics of the Amsterdamers. When the Red International of Labour Unions proposed to the Amsterdam International in March, 1922, to hasten with joint aid to the locked-out British engineers, the heroes of Amsterdam declared that their hands were full with the relief work for starving Russia. To-day they reject the proposal of the revolutionary miners' unions to join them in a common struggle against war with the stupid impudent excuse that the Amsterdamers take no instructions from Moscow.

The situation is clear: The revolutionary workers want revolutionary class war against imperialism. The Amsterdamers do not want class war; once more they seek to save capitalism from the inevitable abyss.

High Finance; or Verneukerij.

An illustration of the manipulation in this country by the captains of industry and commerce, directed as elsewhere by scientific financial experts with a sprinkling of titled gentry, is brought to light by a brief study of the last balance sheet of that most respectable and (hic) generous institution, the Standard Bank. Its directorate includes: The High Priest Solomon Barnato Joel, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, A.B.C., etc., the Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.Y.E., G.B.E., F.R.S., and others of the same calibre. All of undoubted integrity (?) and ability (?), or, in brief, supermen.

The balance sheet discloses that the depositors trust this institution with about £50,000,000. Can you imagine our own Solly lending money without interest. Not a penny interest is allowed depositors who, owing to the monopoly controlled by big finance, have no choice but to deposit their money free of interest. A favourite trick of Capital is to confuse the layman by displaying accounts of public concerns in a manner to strike awe into the minds of the community. For an example, in the balance sheet the authorised capital of the bank is £10,000,000, the subscribed £8,916,660, and the PAID UP £2,229,165. A dividend is declared, and mark, the percentage is declared on the fictitious amount of capital, namely, on £8,916,660, and not on the capital actually paid up. By this method of calculation the dividend is 14 per cent.—highly respectable; but in reality it is 42 per cent.

Go a stage further, and the question crops up: How is the profit made, and with whose money? The capital invested by the directors and their satellites? Not at all. The profit is made by manipulating the money deposited. How is the huge sum of money used? Invested in other concerns of this country? No! Invested principally in British Government securities. Who controls the bank? The people who have invested most funds? No! The select body of supermen.

To the ordinary mind a Bank is a convenient and stately structure, with and within which one can exchange a cheque. But have you never asked yourself the question, how a bank amasses huge profits? Has it not struck you that considering the enormous staff a bank employs, the huge salaries of the managers and accountants, etc., the palatial structures kept up, that what you are charged for ledger fees and other detail charges is only a flea-bite towards the bank's revenue. Like every other capitalist concern carrying on operations on a large scale, you don't know what is happening, and how things and people are done.

And they tell you, "You have no right to know!" "You produce more, that is all you are concerned with." "Go to church and listen to your master."

COMMUNIST PARTY [illegible].

MAY DAY COMMITTEE.

The meeting of the General Committee will be held in No. 4, Trades Hall, as arranged, on Sunday, 18th inst., at 3 p.m., to receive the reports of sub-committees and to transact any other business that may be necessary. All comrades and friends who are interested in keeping the international workers' holiday are cordially invited to attend.

* * *

CAPETOWN BRANCH.

The Capetown comrades have arranged a series of lectures for the winter season, which will be held every Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Hall, 166, Longmarket Street. Admission free. The syllabus is as follows:

Mar. 1—"Working Class Education," M. Lopes.
" 8—"Wages and Profits," W. Green.
" 15—"Imperialism—The Historical Aspect," H. Pereira.
" 22—The Materialist Conception of History," S. Buirski.
" 29—"The State," M. Lopes.
April 5—"The Theory of Exchange," I. Schack.
" 12—"Capitalism in Fiction," H. Pereira.
" 19—"Trade Unionism, Syndicalism, and Communism," J. Pick.
" 26—"Socialism and the Press," D. L. Dryburgh.
May 3—"Musical Evening." ——.
" 10—"The Federation of Trades and their Wages Bill," W. Green.
" 17—"Women and Socialism," I. Schack.

Adult Choir meets Mondays at 8 p.m. The Branch meets every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m.

* * *

Our Guarantee Fund.

We trust that the guarantors will not forget their monthly donations to this fund, which is the only source of income, excepting sales, which our paper has to rely on. We invite all who feel the necessity of a Communist paper to add their names to our list of monthly donors to the fund. It cannot be too often emphasised that every issue of our paper is produced at a loss. We have no advertisers, nor does the Chamber of Mines send along an occasional cheque, nor the Russian Bolsheviks for matter. We need, therefore, a regular monthly income from our guarantors in order to meet our printing charges. We gratefully acknowledge the following further donations: K.W. 5/-, D.L.D. 2/6, J.M. 1/-, H. Bacher 30/-, J.J.R. 5/-, J.S. 10/-, V.D. 5/-, D.W. 10/-, A.L.M. 10/-, W.F. 5/-, G.M. 10/-, V.B. 5/-, Mrs. W. 5/-, C.F.G. 2/6, H.G. 20/3, F.W.L. 15/-, P.D. 10/-, Miss N. 5/-, F.B. 10/4, M.G. 4/-, S.G. 2/-, H.L. 20/-, J.E. 40/-, Mr. L., sen., 20/-, M.M. 8/-, H.E.P. 10/-.

* * *

Our Exchanges.

The "Workers' Weekly" is the new name of the official organ of the Communist Party of Great Britain, the first number of which has just reached us. It is got up in the style of a daily paper, and claims to be the forerunner of the "Workers' Daily." Comrade R. Palme Dutt is the editor, which is a recommendation in itself. The price is one penny.

It is significant that certain passages in "The Aims of the Communist Party" on the front page have been "CENSORED BY THE PRINTER." The absolute necessity for a party printing press is thereby revealed.

* * *

Our Delegates Return.

Comrades Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Bunting and family have arrived in Capetown, and have been busy with interviews, socials, and public meetings. We hope to see them amongst us soon, and to hear at first hand their impressions of the land of the free.

* * *

The Hanekom Murders.

The relatives of Smith, Dowse, and the Hanekom brothers invite all friends to attend a memorial service on Sunday, 18th inst., at 3 p.m., at Kenilworth, on the spot where these members of the working class were shot by the Transvaal Scottish. La Rochelle or Rosettenville trams.

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.

Printed by the I.S.L. Press, 54, Fox Street, Marshall Square, and published by the Communist Party of South Africa, No. 4, Trades Hall, [illegible] Street (Box 4179), Johannesburg.