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

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The Fight.

The fight for the conquest of the political state is not the battle; it is only an echo of the battle. The real battle is for the control of industry, and is centred in the number of workers enrolled in an organisation with the definite purpose of controlling industrial production.

* * *

God Save Ireland.

Sixty-three executions of Republican soldiers have been carried out by the "Free" State Government since the "stern policy" has been adopted by the Government. Nationalism has not, it seems, brought the Irish workers much nearer to freedom.

* * *

God's Country.

"Charged with selling seditious literature, Will Henry Sheffield, described as a member of the executive of the New Zealand Communist Party, has been fined £25 by a Dominion magistrate. The charge related to the 'A.B.C. of Communism,' which the magistrate said was from beginning to end a sustained appeal for class hatred, violence, and the overthrow of the present condition of society."

Hooray! Liberty for ever!

* * *

Consideration.

Accused (fined £2): "But I've only got thirty shillings, sir."

Magistrate (accommodatingly): "All right; let's take all he's got."

* * *

Naive.

In the debate which ensued on the statement of Minister of Railways Jagger to the effect that the Secretary of the N.U.R.A.H.S. had wired the Johannesburg representative of his union, Col. Creswell deprecated the use of secret service agents, and recommended Mr. Jagger to "get back to the traditions of the country he came from and not to make use of secret service agents."

Is Mr. Creswell so naive and ill-informed as to believe that the British Government does not use such people? How, then, does he think the latest raid on Irishmen living in Great Britain was carried out, and is he not aware that there was a full-blown Minister in the person of Sir Basil Thompson during, and for some time after, the war in charge of the secret service, and that his department disposed of millions of money which from the very nature of things was never accounted for? Read your history, Creswell, and get rid of the schoolboy's idea that Great Britain is different to all other countries and its ruling class and government never by any chance have the same faults as "foreigners."

* * *

Bribing the Unions.

The two items of £500 each which appeared in the Auditor-General's report, and to which attention was drawn in the House of Assembly need a little more explanation. What trade union or trade union officials received them is a question many trade unionists would like to have answered. There was a great deal too much hobnobbing between the C.I.D. and some prominent members of the augmented executive during the critical days of March for the liking of the rank and file. For obvious reasons not much has been said about this so far, but the time is rapidly approaching when the men concerned will be called upon to explain what they were doing in Marshall Square when all their energies should have been devoted to making the strike a success.

* * *

The Selfish Poor.

A sky-pilot named Judkins has issued a statement on behalf of the Victorian Council of Churches, in which he tells the poor that they must not aspire to the things the rich people now enjoy. It would not be good for them, says Judkins. The church as an organisation is against the workers. If the workers keep on pressing for the big change, Judkins, and all others like him, who act as spokesmen of the master-class, will have to bustle for their crust; they know this, and, knowing it, have resolved to cling to their present positions around the neck of the worker like the Old Man of the Sea round Sinbad's.

* * *

Dangerous Occupations.

Although the calling of the seaman is, statistically at any rate, the most dangerous of the useful callings in which wage-slaves are employed, yet it is doubtful whether it takes the palm when numbers engaged are compared. It seems to this scribe that kings and emperors and "such folk" are amongst those who take big risks for the sake of a mouthful of [illegible]. Look at the numbers of those people who [illegible] got rid of during the past eight or nine [illegible] and now we have the news that the King of [illegible] has barely escaped presenting his credentials to St. Peter. For a dangerous occupation I can [illegible] blightly every time.

Flattery.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. The Young Communist League and Socialist Sunday School movements so detested of the kept press cannot be stopped by abuse. Hence we have the Junior "Saps," and now we are promised a junior branch of the S.A.L.P. We rather think that these attempts at recruitng for reactionary movements are dangerous experiments. Youth is proverbially venturesome, and once set young people thinking and discussing social questions you never know where their enquiries may lead them. Stick to sports, dances, bioscopes, and boy scouts, my masters, they are safer than economics—for you.

* * *

Blood Money.

Mr. Dan Radcliffe, a Cardiff shipowner, is reported to have donated £50,000 to the University of Wales. One wonders how many of the sailors, firemen, etc., out of whose sweat and lives Radcliffe has made his fortune will benefit by the educational facilities provided in that institution.

* * *

Funk.

Wellington, Saturday.—A fireman on a steamer arriving from London has been heavily fined for bringing in Communist printed matter.—Reuter.

New Zealand capitalism seems to be getting the wind up!

Economy.

The much heralded capitalist dope artist, F. W. Hirst, is among us. It is amusing to hear the "eminent economist" plead for more and more economy to an audience composed of mining magnates and their chief lieutenants, bankers, profiteers and other parasites of the same ilk. On further thought, his seeming anxiety for the introduction of more "economy" becomes rather serious. He, being an economist with a reputation, is given more than the average attention and publicity by the bosses in order to better induce the workers to accept Hirst's spoutings.

Poor deluded Henry! The economist is here and everywhere to advise your boss how to economise the working costs, or, in other words, to have his blood money increased and your pittance still further reduced.

* * *

Scabs?

"A conference between representatives of the British Ministry of Labour and French officials resulted in the latter accepting the principle of employment of British labour in the devastated regions. The number to be employed has not yet been fixed."—News item.

This looks suspiciously like scab recruiting, Henry. There are strikes in the Ruhr and also in France.

TO OUR ENEMIES.

By Wilhelm Liebknecht.

. . . YOU WISH TO EXTERMINATE OUR MOVEMENT! YOU? OUR MOVEMENT, WHOSE AIM IS TO SECURE THE REALISATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, OF A HUMAN EXISTENCE FOR THE MILLIONS OF TOILERS, TRODDEN INTO THE DUST, SUNK IN THE MIRE OF DEGRADATION! TRY, MY MASTERS! HERE AND THERE YOU MAY QUENCH A FLAME, BUT BEHIND YOU, ON YOUR LEFT, ON YOUR RIGHT, EVER NEW FLAMES WILL BREAK OUT. IT IS A SUBTERRANEAN FIRE WHICH YOU CANNOT QUENCH, THE VERY GROUND UNDER YOUR FEET IS BURNING! YOU BELIEVE THAT SUPERNATURAL FORCES ARE AT WORK. THOUGH YOU NO LONGER BELIEVE IN THE WITCHCRAFT OF YOUR FATHERS, WHO BURNED WITCHES AT THE STAKE, YOU BELIEVE IN "PLOTS," "SECRET ORGANISATIONS," IN A MOVEMENT "ARTIFICIALLY" CREATED. YOU RESEMBLE THE CHILD WHO LOOKS FOR HIS REFLECTION BEHIND THE MIRROR AND ENCOUNTERS AN EMPTY SPACE. WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU ATTACK IS BUT THE IMAGE OF YOUR FALSE CONCEPTIONS. YOU WISH TO DESTROY THE "PLOTTERS," THE "AGITATORS," THE "AGENTS"? THEN GO, MY MASTERS, AND DESTROY EVERY EXPLOITER WAXING FAT ON THE LABOUR OF HIS SLAVES! DESTROY EVERY LANDOWNER, EXPLOITING THE LABOUR OF HIS TENANTS AND ADDING THEIR ACRES TO HIS LAND; DESTROY EVERY MACHINE THAT REVOLUTIONISES INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE, INCREASES PRODUCTION AND RUINS THE PRODUCERS, ENHANCES NATIONAL WEALTH AND LEAVES ITS CREATORS TO ENDURE THE PANGS OF HUNGER IN THE MIDST OF THE RICHES THEY PRODUCE! DESTROY THE RAILWAYS, THE TELEGRAPHS, THE STEAM ENGINE! DESTROY EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY, BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS TAINTED WITH REVOLUTIONISM, SPREADING REVOLUTIONARY POISON.

The Worm Turns.

Half-a-million British building workers voting for a strike against a reduction of wages is a change from the monotonous acquiescence in wage reductions which have been a feature of the last few years. Is it the beginning of the new offensive? We hope so.

* * *

How Dare They.

Norfolk farm labourers to the number of ten to twenty thousand have downed tools against a reduction of wages from 6d. to 5½d. per hour and an increase of four hours on the 50-hour week.

These free-born Englishmen are getting ALMOST as much as relief workers get. We are an Imperial Race!

* * *

Poems.

A gentleman rejoicing in the name of Rosenbach might be expected to be greatly interested in English literature. This Anglo-Saxon connoisseur is stated to have spent over £53,000 for some poems of the Elizabethan period, three of these costing £2,300. We have a large assortment in our editorial department which we would let go at a much lower figure. They are not Elizabethian, but Smutsian mostly.

The Only Way.

A Republican document found by Free State troops authorises the shooting at sight of various classes of persons, including editors, sub-editors, and leader writers known to be hostile to the Republic.—Reuter.

De Valera knows where the shoe pinches.

* * *

Wisdom.

The fact that during the fight between Siki and McTigue the ring was kept by the Irish Free State troops with fixed bayonets is an indication of the value the boss class puts on these gladiatorial combats. We are told that the Government insisted that the fight should take place.

While the Dubbs crowd in their tens of thousands go to fights, football matches, etc., Fat is safe.

* * *

The Goverment and the Strike.

The Federal Council of the National Party has issued a useful little pamphlet with the above title. It is printed in English and Dutch, and is chiefly devoted to a criticism of Smuts and the Union Government during the eventful first three months of 1922 and the few months preceding the upheaval.

Tripe!

You will be delighted, fellow Dubb, to hear that a little "golden down" adorns the head of Master Lascelles, the son of Princess Mary, and that his eyes are "nearly" blue. "Nearly" blue, Henry! Wonderful! He is also said to be good-tempered, so that poor pa Lascelles does not have to get out and walk about on the cold linoleum more than once or twice nightly.

It is rather rough on the infant prodigy that he has got to be christened in second-hand clothes. The same old garment that was used for the unfortunate kid's great grandfather, all his great uncles and aunts and uncle, will have to do for this latest specimen of royal fecundity. Why not get up a bazaar, a social, or American auction to raise money to buy the little blighter something new and up-to-date.

* * *

Stage Thunder.

It was reported that Mr. Phillip Snowdon, the enemy of Soviet Russia and the gentleman who dines with royalty and the "nobility" at every opportunity, would make a definite attack on the capitalist system on March 20th. When Phillip was dining with George the other day he probably told the little man not to be alarmed. His crown and unearned income were in no danger, as the resolution was only a little stage play to tickle the ears of the groundlings and to take the wind out of the sails of those bounders from the Clyde.

* * *

The Exalted Cyclops.

"A grand jury has been investigating the murders of men at Moorhouse and Parish, Louisana, in August last year, which were attributed to hooded mobs, believed to belong to the Ku-Klux Klan.

"A verdict has been returned giving the suspects 'a clean bill of health' on the ground of insufficient evidence.

"The murders created a tremendous sensation at the time, as a number of bodies were found in a lake, and a rack was discovered, on which the victims had apparently been broken before being thrown into the water.

"Captain Skipwith, 'the exalted Cyclops of the Moorhouse Ku-Klux Klan,' expressed delight at the verdict, and hoped the State would now be satisfied and let the matter rest."

These torturers and assassins were not Bolsheviks, Henry, nor members of the extraordinary commission, but a hundred per cent. Americans in the free Republic, and you will find no article in the "Star" denouncing these fiendish atrocities. Why?

* * *

Why.

The Brakpan magistrate (Mr. E. W. Evans) has passed sentence on Johannes van der Walt, who pleaded not guilty last week to a charge of sedition. The magistrate found him guilty, and passed sentence of six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Scores of men who pleaded guilty of similar charges got off with fines of £10. This man and others who refused to incriminate themselves appear to have been punished for daring to bother the court with their defence.

* * *

Bloody Coal.

Last year there were 1,153 deaths caused by accidents in the British mines, as compared with 813 deaths from accident in 1921. The heavy toll is not mainly due to serious exposions underground, but to the fatalities that occur in the daily routine.

The real price of coal is not the number of shillings we give the coal barons for our cwt. of that commodity. The actual price is to be ascertained by the number of human lives sacrificed in the winning of the coal from the earth. In the figures issued by the Statistical Board at Washington we find that coal mining in America has claimed on an average 2,486 lives per annum for the past fourteen years. There is blood on coal without any doubt.

* * *

Hints.

Poverty is a denial of true patriotism.

* * *

Socialism will heal the sores on the social body.

* * *

He who belongs to no party is probably too vile for any.

* * *

No one ever made a fortune in trade by honest methods.

* * *

You have no right to abuse the enemy press unless you support your own.

THE INTERNATIONAL.
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Jagger and Moore.

The storm in a teacup which was raised by Railway Minister Jagger when he accused Mr. Moore, the Secretary of N.U.R.A.H.S., of sending telegrams to the Johannesburg representative of his society during the Martial Law period seems to have subsided as rapidly as it arose. We may perhaps hear more of the matter if some sort of enquiry can be forced by those most intimately concerned. In the meantime it is very pitiful to see how frantically Moore, Mulder, and the labour men generally endeavour to wash their hands of all responsibility for, or sympathy with, the men who took all risks and paid with their lives for espousing the cause of the workers.

Mr. Moore denies that he ever spoke to, still less carried on any negotiations with such a desperate character as Percy Fisher. Like Peter when he denied his master, he protests that he "knew not the man," had never seen him, and were Fisher alive today Moore would pass him in the street without being able to recognise him. The Railwaymen's Secretary goes no further than this disclaimer, but his ex-lieutenant Mulder, in a letter to the "Mail," reminds all and sundry that he worked night and day to prevent the members of his union from coming to the assistance of the Rand workers in their life and death struggle last year, and claims that if he "had not done this there would have been a very different tale to tell," and he whines that instead of the N.U.R.A.H.S. earning "the everlasting gratitude of the Government, we are being blamed." Poor simpleton! Can he not see that he, Moore, and Nurahs generally are eating the bitter fruit of a policy of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds?

Mulder is too stupid to keep his mouth shut even now, and gives the whole show away when he boasts that he advised the men to "keep their heads cool and their feet warm by continuing at work" in the greatest crisis in the history of the working class of South Africa. In other words, to act the detestable part of scabs and traitors to their fellow-workers. J. H. Thomas, for similar action in Britain during the great coal strike, has been branded the Judas of the workers' movement. The action of Nurahs and its officials is exactly parallel to that of Thomas on Black Friday, the only difference being that Thomas was cunning enough to demand and obtain payment in advance.

Whatever developments take place as a result of the Jagger bombshell, the Nurahs and their officials cannot escape the contempt of their fellow-men for the weak and cowardly, not to say treacherous, behaviour which they now wish to be reckoned unto them for righteousness. Far better, it seems to us, to go down to posterity as the associates of the men who fought and fell in March on the side of the workers than be remembered as the "safe and sane" politicians and labour leaders who helped to make vain the sacrifices of these working class heroes.

The extent to which the poison of patriotism and war dope has saturated the minds of the workers and penetrated their movement can be clearly seen in the attitude of the labour leaders to the heroes of the March struggle, as compared to the attitude towards the fighters of 1913-14. After 1913-14 there was no repudiation of the strike leaders and no apologising for the men who fell. On the contrary, the pilgrimage to the graves of our martyred dead became an annual feature of the movement, and the deportation of J. T. Bain, Mason, and others would probably have unseated the government had not the war supervened.

Why the difference? It can only be explained by the poison dope of Imperialism, militarism, and nationalism which has been sedulously injected into the workers' minds since 1914. The "see it through" policy of the S.A.L.P. and the ruthless ostracism of the class-conscious element of the working class by such bourgeois politicians as Creswell and the place hunting crowd which he collected round him to masquerade as labour party men is the expression of this capitulation to the enemy on the political field, and the tactics of the S.A.I.F., led by Crawford—but acquiesced in by many others who are now loud in denouncing him—expressed the same moral corruption on the industrial plane of labour activity.

The heir to what there was of militancy and class-consciousness of the political labour movement before 1914 is the Communist Party, and the upholder of the traditions of the fighting unions of 1913-14-22 will not be the S.A.I.F. nor the joint executives representing as they do the same viewpoint as the Federation they seek to supplant, but the class-conscious and aggressive element which exists and is growing in the trade unions. The Red International of Labour Unions is the rallying point of this new and vigorous element in the unions, and to which the unions will affiliate as the Reds gain adherents among the young and enthusiastic young workers, and convert their present minority into a majority.

Hanekom Memorial Gathering.

Upwards of a thousand members of the working class, with their wives and families, assembled at Kenilworth last Sunday to pay their respects to the men who fell victims to the military on March 16th, 1922. The rocks on either side of the little valley which slopes away to the north of Kenilworth were long before three o'clock covered with people waiting quietly and reverently for the ceremony to commence. The four boulders which indicate the places where Smith and the three brothers Hanekom were done to death had been covered with wreaths by relatives and friends, and the rugged upright stone which bears the names of the victims were crowned with a wreath tied with the familiar red and black ribbons of labour in mourning. A wagon was drawn up near the pathetically simple monuments to these humble proletarian martyrs, and the big audience stood silently and patiently in the brilliant sunshine whilst the speakers addressed them on the events of a year ago and the lessons to be drawn therefrom. Near by, but not in the valley itself, the fifth prisoner, W. Dowse, was shot, and it was his brother who presided at the meeting on Sunday.

Briefly recalling the circumstances of the Martial Law prisoners' murder, the chairman called upon Comrade W. H. Andrews, who in his opening remarks drew attention to the absence of any representative of the churches. Several predicants had been approached by the relatives of the deceased, but all found some excuse for not attending. Again the speaker referred to the absence of any of the officials of labour organisations, whether political or industrial, to do honour to the dead and to express sympathy with the dependents. Only the Communists, it seemed, were prepared to accept the invitation, and they felt it an honour to be asked to speak on such an occasion.

Whilst they grieved at the sacrifice of the young lives and sympathised with the sorrowing relatives, yet they declined to adopt the attitude of the orthodox labour leaders and to express regret for the action the workers took last March. The whole course of human history showed that the pioneers of truth and freedom were in their day called heretics and rebels, and were treated as outlaws and criminals by constituted authority, but as time rolled on they became national heroes and saints. The rebel was nearly always right and authority wrong. Therefore he asked his hearers to honour the memory not only of the five men who were shot in cold blood on or near this spot, but all the other fighters for the workers' cause, whether they died on the gallows, in the fighting line, or were maimed, imprisoned or victimised and denied the right to work for themselves and their dependents by a savage and ruthless capitalist class, and he suggested that the finest tribute to their memory and sacrifice that the workers could give was to carry on the work that they had suffered and died for.

The struggle between the oppressed and oppressors must go on, as it had gone on throughout the ages, but the last fight was now taking place, and with the victory of the workers would come the overthrow of the capitalist system and the abolition of exploitation of men by men. He urged them to range alongside their fellow-workers in that struggle.

Comrade George Mason then spoke, and invited the workers in the locality to send the father of the murdered Hanekoms as their representative to Parliament as a living protest against the Smuts administration.

Comrade Pate spoke, urging working class solidarity, and Comrade Allen, the Mayor of Springs, pleaded for a spirit of goodwill and brotherhood in the place of the hatred and turmoil of the present time, but said he was convinced that this could never be until capitalism was swept away by the workers, and a co-operative commonwealth established by the workers.

After a few concluding words from the chairman, the proceeding concluded with the strains of the Red Flag.

An Authority.

An ex-Natal policeman has spread himself over the best part of a column of the local daily in an effort to prove that because he was in charge of a gang of brigands in Northern Russia, and spent two years in that country as an agent of international capitalism, he therefore is an authority on Communism and conditions in Soviet Russia. He trots out the same old stories about the woes of the poor capitalist, the nobility being killed or exiled, and calls upon his readers to weep for them. Our eyes are quite dry, however. When he declares that factories, lumber mills, and industry generally is—or was when he was there some two or three years ago—at a standstill, he condemns himself and the thousands of other mercenaries who were burning, pillaging, blockading, and destroying a country and people with whom the nation which he honours with his allegiance was not at war.

Russia has suffered and is suffering not because of the indifference or incapacity of the Soviet administration, but because of the fiendish hatred of the capitalist world, who would sooner see the whole Russian nation exterminated—capitalists, nobles, and all—rather than that the greatest experiment in the world's history should be carried to a successful conclusion. Try again, Lieut.-Colonel. Comrade Bunting's information is much more up-to-date than yours, and he went to Russia not as an enemy and a filibuster, associating with the riff-raff of the counter-revolutionaries and of the soldiers of fortune of the border states, but as a friend who would have opportunities of observation and information which would be denied by the Russian workers to such an august personage as a "late" Commissioner of Natal Police.

In order to be an honourable citizen under Socialism, it will be necessary for one to be a useful citizen, and in order to be a useful citizen it will be necessary for one to be a worker.

Tom Mann Talks.

ON BOARD THE T.S.S. BELTANA.

Approaching the finish of the journey back to England, I wish to send back greetings to the comrades in South Africa. The meetings held during the campaign, and the press comments and reports, gave a helpful amount of publicity to Communist principles and criticism of the capitalist system. The lessons taught by all that happened in connection with the strike and subsequent events have been extremely valuable; the thinking section of workmen have had their attention directed to fundamental principles in a manner that would have taken much longer by any other means.

The trade unionists know, as they never knew so well before, that industrial organisations must have a wider scope and a more definite objective than has hitherto been endorsed by them. The politicians, it may be assumed, have learned the same lesson. The business section, knowing that the output on the Rand is practically normal, and that wages are three hundred thousand pounds (£300,000) a month less, and that this means to them reduced business in all cases and bankruptcy in many, will be compelled by economic necessity to examine the proposals and principles of Communists.

Big Business has no regard for the welfare of the workers, nor for those engaged in the work of the distributive trades. This, of course, is true the world over wherever capitalism dominates, and this fact, perhaps more than any other, is forcing the issue: and this is universally operative. The work in front is the solidification of the workers' forces, industrial and political, and the readiness to function administratively when the hour demands it.

Communists have a responsibility for helping the movement along in all possible ways. Political activity is essential as well as industrial, and members should identify themselves with co-operative efforts and prove their willingness to work along with all workers' organisations, and endeavour to throw them on to right lines. Outdoor propaganda work is very helpful, and has a place to fill that cannot be neglected without loss to the movement. In this regard Capetown has done excellent work, and with the return of Comrade Harrison the good work of the past will no doubt be improved upon.

If I may emphasise a point where it is possible to improve upon the methods of propaganda, I would urge the real necessity for a hall of suitable size to regularly carry on the work of the organisation. It is not sufficient that members be invited to attend regular business meetings; something wider and deeper than this is vital for the growth of a healthy movement. I saw evidence of such widening of effort before leaving South Africa, and I wish to encourage all engaged in the effort.

It is the duty of Communists to use their influence in the trade union movement to become identified with the Red International of Labour Unions, the avowed objective being the overthrow of the capitalist system. England is still the home and fortress of capitalism, but England is travelling rapidly towards the Communist goal; many hundreds of thousands of workers are quite clear-minded about this, and may be relied upon to carry on an effective propaganda till the hour for definite action comes. Australia is travelling rapidly in this direction also.

Let none despair that the hour is long in coming: events are travelling rapidly, and we need not attempt to rush them along. Our slogan must be—EDUCATE, PREPARE. First prepare our own minds and this will include helpful work in helping others to prepare, that when capitalism has committed its last crime we shall be found ready to take up responsibility and CARRY ON, not as well as, but very much better than ever capitalist society was able to.

My love to all the comrades on the Rand, at Durban, the Cape, Kimberley, Vereeniging, Pietermaritzburg, East London, Port Elizabeth, and Somerset West. Fight on! Dare to identify yourselves with the cause of the workers. With the One Cause that must triumph ere long, and for which humanity is waiting, and which will redeem mankind from economic subjection, and at long last usher in True Freedom for All.

February, 1923.

Logic.

The Government of Canada has insisted on the right of its Minister of Marine, Mr. Lapointe, to sign in Washington a treaty with the United States Government. The British Government gave way, but with a bad grace, and the treaty is signed without the assistance or signature of the British Government Ambassador, Sir Auckland Geddes. Rather a slap in the face from one of Britain's loyal dominions. But the professors got to work to prove that black is white at the bidding of the Imperial authorities, and in the "Times" Professor B. Keith writes an article very much on the lines of the Athanasian creed, which tries to prove three is one and one is three. The professor tries to prove that although Canada refused to allow the British Ambassador to sign, yet as she disobeyed the wishes of the King, by the King's permission and his Ministers' consent, therefore she did not disobey at all, and as she did not disobey, therefore the treaty is virtually signed by permission of the King, and so the complete unity of the empire remains and no harm is done—which is as clear as mud, isn't it?

But as the spread of science toppled over that monstrous theory of one god and at the same time three, so the British Empire theory only requires a few such shocks as the one under discussion to destroy the whole myth, for a myth it becomes the moment the so-called mother country is unable to defend the dependencies against foreign attack, and that day arrived when America induced Britain to reduce the navy below the one-power standard.

40% or 60%--That is the Question

By PAUL FROLICH (Berlin).

"The situation is best characterised by Stinnes' utterance in the State Economic Council: 'We cannot form a concern with Loucheur in which Loucheur would have 60 per cent. and Stinnes 40 per cent.'"—("Rhenish Westphalian Periodical," January 20, 1923.)

In Germany the Nationalists are shrieking themselves hoarse: The Fatherland is in danger! Forward to the national united front!

In France there is the same uproar: For the only just and sacred cause! To gaol with the Communists!

It is true that the Ruhr occupation means the strangulation of the masses of the German people. And the arrest of the Communists in France demonstrates the dangers threatening the French people through Poincare's imperialist policy: the abolition of civil liberties to the end that the French proletariat may be the better exploited.

It is also true: the German Government has presented the great industrial magnates with gifts of milliards, and has failed to fulfil the Versailles treaty.

But is it a question of preserving unstained morality and eternal justice, of saving the peoples? No! It is a question of business. As in 1914! As always!

Almost simultaneously with the sending of troops into the Ruhr area, there came an invitation from Paris to Essen. The Comitee des Forges (the organisation of the French iron works) invited the Stinnes concern to a conference regarding closer relations between German and French heavy industries. Mr. Stinnes refused to accept this invitation so long as there were French troops in the Ruhr. The organ of heavy industry, "Rhenish Westphalian," gave the authentic explanation of Stinnes' attitude in the quotation given above: The Essen-Briey, Westphalian coke and Lorraine Ore Trust, will come to nothing, if Loucheur is to receive 60 per cent. of the booty and Stinnes only 40 per cent.

Halves first, colleague, and then let us embrace! —thus cries Stinnes, and thus the voice of justice. Halves, and then the prices may rise, then Europe may feel our power. And the Fatherland can go to the Devil!

60 per cent! Loucheur bellows back. Show your claws, Poincare!

And, in fact, this is the sole point in question. This is the real essence of the political struggles between Germany and France preceding and following 1918.

And now on both sides the call of national united front! Here the workers are goaded forward to a general strike. There the Communists are thrown into prison for high treason and anti-national agitation. Everything for the 60 per cent.!

Again the Stinnes men utilise the favourable moment, as during the world war. At that time they enriched themselves by unscrupulous usury against the fatherland, they left the army in the lurch by non-delivery of supplies when they got higher prices abroad, and to-day their watchword is the same: enrich yourselves! The first act after the occupation of the Ruhr area was to raise coal prices to a height which neither the wages nor the cost of materials justified. The second act was to grab at the State railways. The third was to demand that the Government place credits at the disposal of heavy industry. The result of this last step is not yet known. But Cuno's government is absolutely obedient! The fourth act: Stinnes ensures for himself the business in English coal. And the natural result of all this: The price of labour power sinks and sinks: God's blessing on us, the profits rise.

How can the "Temps" assume such an air of morality and justice, and proclaim with calm self-confidence: "France's cause is just. She defends the interests of all." Just! Because she is pulling at the rope which hangs around the neck of the starving German people. Just! For she is pulling for Loucheur's 60 per cent.!

The Cross Roads.

Professor Gilbert Murray, who was one of the representatives of South Africa on the Assembly of the League of Nations, is contributing a series of articles to the "Daily News" on disarmament, and in the first of these he declares that civilisation (i.e., of course the capitalist system) is at the cross roads, and there is nothing between it and a mad plunge into the depths but the League of Nations. If that is all, the past performance of the League must give little comfort to the capitalist class. France moved in Turkey and later in the Ruhr contemptuously indifferent to this moribund organisation, and again in the Vilna affair the League feebly protested against the action of the Polish troops under Zelingowski, but has now acquiesced at the dictation of France in the incorporation of Vilna as part of Poland.

Leaving aside his remedy, the professor states the facts of the present situation with sufficient lucidity. Referring to the position of armaments, he says that the defeated side have been forced to reduce their armies by 700,000 men, but the victorious nations have increased theirs by 1,400,000, and so all over Europe, in consequence of this deadly atmosphere of jealousy, suspicion, and fear, there is a constant piling up of arms, but the Professor either does not see or dare not draw attention to the real cause of this madness. He talks of Europe perishing of pugnacity and fear, when the real reason is the determination of a handful of rich men in each country to use the whole resources of their several countries for the purpose of their private enrichment. Production for profit is at the root of all the social ills, and if civilisation is synonymous with capitalism then the sooner civilisaton takes the plunge the Professor dreads the better, and let the workers get on with the job of building up a society on more rational and therefore more humane lines.

Poisoning Young Minds.

The capitalist press waxes wroth whenever it suspects or discovers an antidote being applied to its own particular poison. Particularly is it furious when any attempt is made to put plainly the facts of life before two sections in the community which it looks upon as its own particular preserves, whether by the Communist Party or any other agency. Just now it is on its hind legs because it professes to have discovered a sinister plot (which has, of course, been hatched in Moscow) to hand circulars to school boys and girls in Johannesburg, which said leaflets deprecate the militarisation of the schools of this country.

But we thought the great war was the last war, and in our innocence believed that it had become fashionable to prate about peace, and to scrap warships and have disarmament conferences. Apparently it is not so. Whilst talking about peace and leagues of nations and disarmament every nation excepting Russia is bleeding its workers white in order to buy or construct even more devilish engines of destruction than those which disgraced humanity from 1914 onwards.

To talk peace and anti-militarism, therefore, is to poison young minds, and to prepare and train impressionable youth for the next blood and mud bath is the sweetest of reasonableness, and yet these same papers yawp about atheism, blasphemy, war against religion, and shocking pageants in Soviet Russia. During the war the local censor ruled that the bible was a very dangerous book, and that quotations from the sermon on the mount were seditious, and could not be tolerated. We seem to be rapidly approaching that stage again.

The Young Communist League and the Next War.

Addressed to Cadets, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Wolf Cubs, Y.M.C.A.'s, Navy Leagues, Junior S.A.P.'s, and other militaris. and semi-militarist organisations:

YOUNG SOLDIERS.

The war of 1914-1918 has been fought and won, and the capitalist world is now preparing for another "War to end war," a war which, if it comes off, will make the last one look very small indeed.

We are living under a system of robbery called Capitalism. The worker is only able to buy back with his wages a portion of the wealth he has produced. The surplus must be sold in foreign markets in order that the capitalist may realise his profit. The competition for foreign markets between large national groups of capitalists results in a series of wars, which if not stopped by the overthrow of capitalism, will cause the downfall of civilisation and a return to barbarism.

During the last war the young men of South Africa died in thousands in South-West, German East, and Flanders. Many of those who came back are now physical wrecks, dependent for their living on what they can beg at the street corner. As a first step towards making this country "a land fit for heroes to live in," the Chamber of Mines has introduced drastic wage reductions and sacked thousands of white workers, thereby affecting not only the miners themselves, but the whole white population of the Transvaal.

You, the young generation of South Africa, are being trained to kill and be killed in the next war. The capitalist class has no concern for your lives and welfare; it only wants profits. While you are willing tools it is prepared to use you.

DO NOT ALLOW OTHERS TO DO YOUR THINKING FOR YOU. JOIN UP WITH THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE AND LEARN TO THINK FOR YOURSELVES.

Further information may be obtained at No. 4, Trades Hall, on Tuesday evenings, or communicate with the Secretary, Y.C.L., P.O. Box 7599, Johannesburg.

Armaments.

". . . . the sport of rifle shooting which had done and would continue to do so much for the building up of a virile nation in South Africa."

So spake Col. Sir Wm. Dalrymple at the close of the man-killing practice. By his patronage of the Bisley Sir Bill again proves himself a public benefactor. He considers gun practice is doing much for the manhood of South Africa. What hypocrisy! Cannon fodder is the material he and his mates want to make of you. Otherwise who will protect his ill-gotten gains? Insufficient reduction of armaments being one of the causes of Europe's present sorry plight, is Mr. Hirst's cry. Sir Bill one night patronises economy in the shape of being one of the notables at the economist's lecture, and before he is quite awake the next day encourages that cause responsible for untold misery and suffering and demoralisation of commerce.

Henry, I'll take you into my confidence. The best and only way to have a virile nation in South Africa is to make Dalrymple and his crowd give you some of the good things in life, and be not as now, half-starved and ill-clothed and housed.

"A daily paper talks about the history of invention. But very much more interesting would be the truth about the invention of history."

* * *

"'Poisoned by Escaping Gas.'—London cable item. It seems rather inexplicable, considering that no election campaign was raging at the time."

* * *

There will be no war in Labour's world; there will be no classes; there will be no robbers and no robbed; there will be no privilege; it will be a world of Right. It will be a world of wealth, too, but it will not be wealth which makes palaces and slums and creates opulence from poverty. It will be wealth at the service of and for the well-being of all.

DOPE IN THE SCHOOLS.

By C. F. GLASS.

Portions of Sir Robert Kotze's address at the Witwatersrand University on the occasion of graduation day last Saturday have been responsible for a sub-leader in the "Star," which makes interesting reading as showing the policy of the capitalist class in the educational institutions. Sir Robert appealed for the inculcation of a spirit of "healthy" patriotism in the schools and colleges, and referred to "the evils of modern warfare caused by science without a conscience." He said that "the present danger to civilisation arises not, as in ancient days, from the barbarian beyond our borders, but from the barbarian in our midst and from the educated barbarian rather than the uneducated."

The "Star," reviewing and commenting on the speech, naturally resents this unwitting reference to the capitalists and their scientific inventors as barbarians, and bleats out the following: "The inventor places his brains at the disposal of his country through the same instinct of devotion to its cause that leads men gladly to sacrifice their lives in the trenches. It is a platitude to say that science is responsible for providing means of destruction which, in the event of future great wars, may bring about the destruction of European civilisation. To avert this we look to such international agreement as the League of Nations stands for and NOT TO A SUPPRESSION OF THE INSTINCT WHICH UNITES AND INSPIRES A NATION WHEN ITS COMMON LIBERTIES ARE ATTACKED" (i.e., patriotism). One must agree with the "Star" that it is not science which is responsible for producing means of destruction.

But the "Star" will not go so far as to say that the evil lies at the root of the cursed system which it upholds. For it to say, however, that the inventor places his brains at the disposal of "his country" through instincts of devotion is sheer hypocritical nonsense. The function of the capitalist class in modern society is the exploitation of labour, and to do this effectively markets for surplus commodities have to be found. This hunt for markets brings the rival capitalist groups into conflict and periods are reached when the workers of the different nations are flung at each other's throats to decide which capitalist group shall dominate particular markets. Hence, the person who is successful in inventing the most deadly instruments of warfare is the inventor who counts in the capitalist world—he "gets on." So, therefore, it is but natural that scientists should devote their attention to the creation of the most hellish engines of destruction, these being the discoveries there is a demand for. And not science alone is perverted and prostituted to the ends of capitalist exploitation—but all social institutions such as press, pulpit, stage and cinema, these latter being used to manufacture "public opinion" and to direct it into channels favourable to imperialist plundering.

Dilating on the urgent need for fostering the patriotic spirit in the educational institutions, the "Star" goes on to say: "Unquestionably vile deeds have been perpetrated in the name of patriotism, but it is a perverted form of patriotism—a love of country which manifests itself in hatred or jealousy of others, in jingoism or aggression. It was in no such spirit that Britain and the Dominions went to war in 1914; it was in no such spirit that our young men gave their lives. Whatever the blunders of politicians the moral value of the sacrifice remains, and will survive to the last syllable of recorded time."

The denial that any "perverted" patriotism actuated the British capitalists when they entered the war is well answered in "An Outline of Imperialism" (Plebs Textbook Committee, London, 3s.) This book drags mercilessly to light the imperialist aims which threw millions of British workers into the unholy holocaust and gives the lie to the disclaimer of the "Star." As for the "spirit" in which the young members of the working class sacrificed their lives, were the whole thing not so tragic it would be laughable. They, poor devils, were dragooned into fighting for their slave-drivers; it is questionable whether they will do it again to the same extent—memories of the "new world" they were promised, and which they are living in to-day, will not easily be forgotten.

But what is patriotism if not a perverted and false ideal as far as the modern wage-earner is concerned? The "Star's" definition is "a sense of duty and single-minded devotion to one's country," and this of course is based on the long discredited idea of the oneness of interest of all sections of the nation. It takes no cognisance of the class struggle, the existence of which it is the business of the capitalist press to deny. What duty can the workers owe to "their" country when that country—land, factories, railroads, in short, all the means of life—are the property of a privileged few who use them for the robbery and enslavement of the mass? Devotion to country under these circumstances must inevitably mean devotion to the interests of one set of exploiters as against the interests of another set. Patriotism, or devotion to one's country, taken in its true sense, should mean devotion to the welfare of the people in that country. And who are the people if not society's toilers? The patriotism of the worker, then, should be ALLEGIANCE TO HIS CLASS—the only allegiance he owes. But, as said Marx and Engels in 1848, "the ruling ideas of any particular age have ever been only the ideas of its ruling class," and the capitalist interpretation of patriotism is loyalty to the state and, through it, to the ruling class.

It is this perverted, patriotic piffle which is being imbibed by the workers' children in the schools and colleges to-day. But evidently the dope is not as effective as the "Star" would wish, for it says: "Not the least deplorable feature of last year's upheaval was the evidence it afforded of a failure in the school as in the home to implant and foster a feeling of loyalty to the State." It would seem that the relentless facts of the class struggle, the bitter experience of disillusionment, has triumphed over early school training, and the young workers are commencing to stand forth as a united class-conscious army. Regarding the workers of the future, now in the colleges and schools, the press waxes hysterical over the anti-dope leaflets distributed by the Young Communist League. The capitalist class realise that their grip over the mind of the child is being loosened, and that in large degree their power is on the wane. "May these instincts and ideals (e.g., patriotism) be preserved amid the disintegrating influence of our time. If they are lost everything is lost." Thus ends the "Star" article. Let us paraphrase and say that when patriotism—loyalty to the State—is lost, CAPITALISM IS LOST.

The Lausanne Conference.

By M. N. ROY.

The Near East problem still remains unsolved. The rivalry between France and England renders the solution impossible. At the eleventh hour, when everybody hoped for a final agreement, the Lausanne Conference broke down and the diplomats assembled there had nothing else to do but to return home. Most of what had been won so heroically on the battlefields of Asia Minor was gradually surrendered in the comfortable saloons of Lausanne. The liberation of the Turkish people still remains an unrealised goal, and a bitter struggle has to be carried on before the direct and indirect domination of imperialism is finally overthrown.

The whole show at Lausanne was run, not to sign a peace treaty with the Sovereign State of Turkey, as it was ostensibly declared to be, but to strike a bargain between French and British Imperialism over their respective shares in the exploitation of the Near East. Turkey, which is supposed to be the principal factor in the struggle, was used only as a pawn in the game. Nothing better was to be expected of the imperialist robbers; but what is tragic was that the Angora Government, at least the faction dominating it at present, deliberately assumed the unenviable role after having conquered an otherwise almost invincible position.

Why did the Angora Government start on a road which led to such a tragic end? The answer is simple. In the course of its evolution the Turkish national struggle arrived at a point where it had to choose between two ways: one of revolution leading to final victory, and the other of compromise, meant to preserve the social status quo. The social affiliation of the elements leading the struggle naturally made them prefer the latter way, and thus handed them over to the mercy of French finance under the pretext of a "friendly alliance."

That day, when, with the victorious National Army standing at the gates of Constantinople, it preferred the deceitful hand of French finance extended through its crafty envoy Franklin Bouillon, to the unconditional aid of Revolutionary Russia, the Angora Government started a career whose logical conclusion is the disgraceful defeat at Lausanne. It is a defeat not for the cause of Turkish independence, which is an historic necessity and thus will be attained eventually; it is a defeat for a certain brand of Nationalism and the compromising tactics followed by it. The present Angora leaders would much rather hand over the Turkish workers and peasants to the exploitation of French finance than permit the Turkish people to surge forward in the channel of revolution, aided by Soviet Russia. Fear of revolution drove the Angora rulers into the embrace of French capital which, either alone or in conjunction with the Britsh, will reduce Turkish independence to a fiction. French finance will employ the Turkish ruling class at least as its slave-driver in Angora, whereas a joint struggle with Soviet Russia might lure the Turkish peasantry dangerously far on the road of freedom—this was the consideration that tied the hands of the Turkish generals at Mudania, and those of the Turkish diplomats at Lausanne.

So the Lausanne Conference has ended precisely where it started. This is specially true in so far as the Turks are concerned. They came to Lausanne elated with the hope of playing one imperialist against another, but they only played the part of a pawn. They are returning without signing the Treaty, not that they are convinced that the National Independence of the Turkish people cannot be won except through a revolutionary struggle, but again hoping to consolidate their diplomatic position while England and France are engaged in a new dispute. But the latter will prove as hopeless as the former. The internal conflict of Imperialism can never be over. It will grow sharper in proportion as the process of capitalist decay goes on. But in so far as the colonial peoples are concerned, Imperialism will still put up a united front. To have learnt this lesson from the experience at Lausanne would be of the greatest benefit for the Angora Government. The sincerity of the refusal to sign the treaty will be tested by the latter's attitude towards Soviet Russia, whose unconditional help the Turkish rulers have so far rejected, if not in words still in deeds. The sinister design to perpetuate imperialist domination in Turkey can only be frustrated by a resolute struggle along revolutionary lines.

Disturbing the Native Mind.

For assaulting a native girl and chaining her up with a heavy trek chain for two days a farmer named A. A. Johnstone was fined £10 or one month. The girl, who is described as a young frail specimen of a native, stated that her master assaulted her; she then ran away, and he sent after her on horseback, and when she was brought back Johnstone fastened the chain about her neck with wire and a pair of pliers and then chained her to a wagon, and refused her either blanket or sack to sleep under. His son the next morning fastened the chain to a log of wood and told the unfortunate girl to cut grass, which she had to do dragging the heavy log about with her. In the evening she was fastened to the stove in the kitchen, but managed to get loose, and walked ten miles to the police station, where the chain was removed from her neck by a constable, who required the use of heavy pliers to untwist the wire.

We have given the story as it was unfolded in the Utrecht magistrate's court. The magistrate characterised the farmer's conduct as inhuman, but such is the working of the mind of a member of the ruling class that it is impossible for it to realise that a crime against a native servant who is almost a slave is in the same category as, e.g., in a case where the actors' parts were reversed, if that were conceivable. The native in the more remote country districts is almost entirely at the mercy of the employer, and for one case of inhuman treatment which sees the light there are scores hushed up.

In every country justice is blind to the faults of the dominant class, or nearly so, and keen to detect and ruthlessly punish the lapses of the oppressed. In South Africa this inevitable result of class rule is accentuated by the political and economic helplessness of the native worker. Unsettling the native mind is a crime unpardonable, and is the charge laid against Communists, but it is doubtful whether all the teaching which the Communists are alleged to have disseminated is one-tenth so disturbing as incidents such as the one described above.

Us, the Hoboes.

GOVINGTON HALL.

We shall laugh to scorn your power that now holds
the world in awe,
We shall trample on your customs and shall spit
upon your law;
We shall come up from life's desert to your burdened banquet hall,
We shall turn your wine to wormwood, your honey
into gall.

We shall go where wail the children, where from
your race killing mills
Flows a bloody stream of profits to your cursed insatiate tills;
We shall tear them from your drivers in our shamed
and angered pride
With the fury and the fierceness of a fatherhood
denied.

We shall set our sisters on you, those you trapped
into your hells,
Where the mother instinct's stifled and no earthly
beauty dwells;
We shall call them from the living death—the death
in life you gave,
To sing our class's triumph o'er your cruel system's
grave.

We shall strip them of their epaulettes, the panderers who fight
Your wars against the workers for a bone on which
to bite.
We shall batter down your prisons, we shall set
your chain-gangs free,
We shall drive you from the mountainside, the valley, plain and sea.

We shall hunt around the fences where your ox-men
sweat and gape
Till they stampede down your stockades in their
effort to escape;
We shall steal up through the darkness, we shall
prowl the wood and town
Till they waken to their power and arise and ride
you down.

We shall send a message to them on a whisper down
the night,
We shall bid the warrior women drive the ox-men
to the fight;
We shall use your guile against you—all the cunning
you have taught—
All the wisdom of the serpent to attain the ending
sought.

We shall come as comes the cyclone—in the stillness
we shall form,
From the calm your terror fashioned, we shall hurl
on you the storm;
We shall strike when least expected—when you
think toil's rout complete
And crush you and your Hessians 'neath our brogan-shodded feet.

We shall laugh to scorn your power that now holds
the world in awe,
We shall trample on your customs and shall spit
upon your law;
We shall outrage all your temples—we shall blaspheme all your gods,
We shall turn the old world over as a plowman turns
the clods.

The "dope" of the capitalist daily press is the most dangerous of all the dangers to-day. The workers will know no safety till they discard every word printed in Fat's corrupt and unscruplous newspepers, which are waging incessant war against all democratic ideals—under the cloak of hypocrisy. They dare not come out in the open, and refuse all invitations to do so.

A Letter from Belfast.

Dear Comrade,—After many days. A few lines to let you know I am still to the fore; have not gone to the other world as yet, as unfortunately many of our comrades in all parts of the world have been compelled to by a capitalist class driven to madness by the uncontrollable forces of the present system, forces that will ultimately compel the working class to see clearly the futility of expecting any sort of salvation under capitalism.

I notice the South African Government has—in the selfish interest of holding on to political power—called a halt to the orgy of slaughter. Fear of the ultimate consequences, and not the spirit of charity, is the driving force that has prompted them to stay the blood bath. It is well this has been done. Yet I hope the working class will appraise the action of the Smuts Government at its proper value, and not be carried away with the idea that the end has been seen of such brutal measures, but rather realise it as a mere foretaste of what will be meted out to them in the future if they resort to force without the material means of carrying out the full programme of ousting the capitalist class from political power.

There is nothing of a startling nature taking place in this particular corner of "a little bit of heaven." Other parts are still lively. The opposition to the Free (?) State are making it impossible to carry on smoothly, but what did these people expect? Generation after generation, nurtured in hatred of English rule, and many who were loudest in voicing that hatred accepting a compromise and expecting the rank and file to follow suit. "Divide and rule" has been a working maxim of the ruling class, and the English ruling class, in appealing to the property instincts of a section of the Irish National Party, have been very successful in splitting the combined opposition and saddling the responsibility of restoring law and order upon the present Irish Free State—a difficult task, and one that will, I believe, beat the Irish government.

To-morrow is to see the state entry of the Governor-General of the abortion called the Government of Northern Ireland. This ceremony may lead to strife, but the authorities are not taking any risks, as can be seen by the number of troops moving about the city. I don't see any proclamation restricting movement in the city, as was done during the King's visit; yet the precaution will be taken in an underground sort of fashion.

J. W. GIBSON.

25th February, 1923.

American Churchman on Russia

Boston.—Right on top of the hair-raising tales of anti-religious orgies in Soviet Russia comes the report of a prominent churchman who has just returned from the scene of these orgies. But strangely enough this divine found that despite his religion and his frankly missionary objects, he was treated with more consideration in Russia than in any other part of the world.

Rev. Dr. Ernest Lyman Mills, one of the leading Methodist ministers in the country, recounts his Russian experiences in a series of articles in the official Methodist journal, "Zion's Herald." He says in part:

"At the outset let me say, as one who has haunted the consulates of Europe for three years and stood in line on many boundaries of the continent, I have not had more courteous treatment anywhere. There was not, from the first letter received in answer to our request, or throughout the entire journey, which took us to Petrograd and Moscow, one single untoward incident, or a word that was other than courteous. At the Legation of Soviet Russia in Berlin we were closely questioned as to our purposes, and warned that the Government would not allow enemies to enter, or those who sought to overthrow the power now firmly entrenched. There was firmness but no assumption of hauteur in the attitude of the officials, and there was no uncertainty or cringing. Absolutely no promises were made or even asked as to what we should or should not say or write."

—F.S.R. Press Service.

Will the "Star" please note?

Enslaving Emigrants.

Mr. James Stevenson, Secretary of the Toronto Unemployment Council, sends a warning about emigration to Canada.

There are, he says, thousands of unemployed men and women in the Dominion. In Toronto alone there are 5,000 men and 1,200 women registered as unemployed, while the number unregistered probably runs into many thousands.

Canadian capitalists regard the present situation as opportune for adding to an already overcrowded labour market, and using the surplus workers to depress wage-rates and worsen conditions.

* * *

DECLARATION OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL REGARDING THE ALLEGED "SECTION OF THE COMINTERN" IN MEMEL.

A so-called "United German-Lithuanian Socialist Labour Party for the Memel District, 3rd International," has made its appearance in Memel, and has instigated an uprising for the purpose of affiliating the Memel district to Lithuania.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International proclaims to the general public, and especially to the workers of the Memel district in Lithuania, that there exists no such organisation of the Third International in the Memel district. It is solely a despicable provocation on the part of the Lithuanian nationalists, who do not venture to come forward in their own names, but hope to serve their purpose better by acting under the cloak of the Third International, whose followers are persecuted in Lithuania with greater severity than in Tsarist times, and who are tortured in the prisons.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International.
O. W. KUUSINEN, Secretary.

Isadora Duncan on Russia.

Interviewed by the representative of the Friends of Soviet Russia Press Service, Isadora Duncan, the great dancer who is now in America with her Russian husband, said she is "heart and soul with Soviet Russia—fully aware of its shortcomings and frank in discussing them, but convinced of its persistent striving for the achievement of a truly communist society.

"I don't believe in the narrow bourgeois formula of art for art's sake," she said. "Art must be based upon and flow from life. That is why I want to dance for the masses instead of the few rich. That is why I want to dance before a real people's audience, such as will come to the benefit for the Russian orphans."

Even some of her professed admirers are outraged by the dancer's open enthusiasm for the Russian Revolution.

"My old bourgeois friends cut me cold," she said. "They'll have nothing to do with me. And the anti-revolutionists in the Russian colony in America are of course indignant. They are for ever talking of the 'good old times,' because the times were good for THEM, with never a thought for the sufferings of the people.

"I was sick of artists being forced to adopt the tactics of shopkeepers," she said; "I was sick of theatres filled with fat, rich and stupid money-grabbers. My dream of a school devoted to the expression of life in terms of the dance came true in Russia.

"We have been maligned in the press. We have been called names. An attempt has been made upon our lives. But we go back to Russia as determined as ever to give our art to the Russian people, and through them to the people of the world. Although I am American born, my citizenship has been annulled because of my marriage. I am a citizen of Soviet Russia, and shall indulge in no futile regrets over the fact."

Isadora Duncan's great grandfather, she said, was an Irish revolutionist. Rebellion is therefore to an extent a family tradition. But wherever she may have gotten her revolutionary spirit, she most assuredly has it as the very marrow of her art.

A Much-Governed City.

When you go to Ekaterinoslav almost any citizen you meet will tell you: "Ours is an historic city. It has had twenty-two governments! Also it has been bombarded hundreds of times."

"All the same," he will add with no small touch of pride, "they couldn't destroy it!"

Twenty-two governments—and heaven alone knows what they all called themselves! There was always some greedy hunter or other to snatch the power from the still feeble hands of the workers and peasants. And every one of them—from the German General down to the Polish Uhlan—thought it a matter of strictest honour to shatter a few roofs and blow a few more from their places.

There was one cheerful period when for a whole month the town of Ekaterinoslav was held by four governments at once—and each of them hostile to the other. The natural disposition of the town, divided as it is with deep valleys with several commanding heights on the outskirts, facilitated such a state of affairs. The Bolsheviks held the working class quarter. Petlura commanded one end of the bridge, the railway station, and the adjacent quarter, as far as Sadova. The hilly part of the town with the central post office was in the hands of the Germans; and finally, the Theodosia and Simferopol barracks and the surrounding districts were held by the Eighth Corps of the White Army. A sort of balance of power existed. "Zones of influence," were marked out, and Notes were even exchanged between the various governments.

It is easy to understand why all sides were so determined to maintain a foothold in Ekaterinoslav. The town is the gateway to the Hearth of Russia, the coal and iron of the Donetz basin.

As was only natural, when the "balance of power" became disturbed, shells began to burst over the town, the crack of rifles became incessant, and street fighting was prolonged for days. The wonder is that the whole of Ekaterinoslav was not reduced to ruins. As it was, whole districts were wiped out and only tottering fragments of walls remain to prove that the places were not always desert wastes.

Immigrant Workers.

There has lately been a steady inflow of foreign workers and former emigrant Russian workers into Russia. These frequently come as organised groups either to take over or establish some industrial or agricultural enterprise. It has become evident that both for the sake of these workers and the good of Russia the question of immigrant workers should be regulated, and the Council of People's Commissaries has accordingly issued a decree setting up a permanent committee of the Council of Labour and Defence for this purpose. The functions of this body will be:

(1) To attract groups of desirable immigrants and returning Russian emigrant workers, and to provide them with industrial enterprises or vacant land.

(2) To regulate the immigration of individuals and groups of such workers and to arrange for their reception at the ports and frontiers.

(3) To assist them through the customs and to transport them to their future place of residence.

(4) To assist them financially and materially during the period of settlement.

(5) To prevent the irregular immigration of agricultural and industrial groups.

Their Master's Bidding.

NEW ZEALAND METHODISTS FAVOUR SLAVERY.

"A special commission appointed last year by the Methodist Conference in regard to indentured labour in the South Sea Islands has come to the conclusion that in Samoa some JUST form of contract system as a means of securing imported labour must be accepted.

"The Commission favours a short contract system for Chinese labour in the case of single men if married men cannot be procured. They state that there is no foundation for the assertion that the introduction of single Chinese resulted in the moral degradation of the Samoans.

"The report concludes by acknowledging the New Zealand Government's sincere efforts to carry out the terms of the mandate in Samoa, adn hope ultimately that Chinese labour will be unnecessary. The report was adopted.—Reuter."

This is another glaring instance of the willingness of the church to do the dirty work of capitalism. This precious commission, instead of concerning itself with its ostensible business, i.e., attending to the moral uplift of its flock, is much more concerned with the question of exploiting to the uttermost the unfortunate natives of Samoa and other islands which have fallen as the spoils of war into the hands of New Zealand capitalists. The abysmal vice degradation and disease which results from the herding of thousands of indentured labourers without their families have been the subject of indignant comment by various observers, including the Indian Government, and these snuffling Pecksniffs have the audacity to assert that the testimony of impartial observers as to the moral degradation of the Samoans resulting from the influx of hordes of single men as indentured labourers has no foundation in fact.

No doubt these pious hypocrites quite approve of the action of the New Zealand Government in persecuting Communists and other would-be enlighteners of the working class, and are firmly of opinion that it is God's will and their duty to prevent the spread of such "pernicious" doctrines whilst they whitewash the vile gang who ruin body and soul thousands of healthy and simple Polynesians every year in their insatiable lust for wealth. But it was ever so! The most inhuman practices of the ruling class have ever received the blessing of the priestly craft and the church—for a consideration, of course—and God has in all ages been called upon to bless the most abominable injustices. In this connection, in an address to the Manchester and District Bankers' Institute, Mr. Alfred Williams quoted the following 18th century bill of lading, which for cool effrontery takes some beating:

"Shipped by the grace of God and in good order and well conditioned, by James Robinson in and upon the good ship called Mary Brough, whereof he is master under God for this present voyage, Captain David Norton, and now riding at anchor at the Bar of Senegal and by God's grace bound for Georgey, South Carolina, to say 24 PRIME SLAVES, SIX PRIME WOMEN SLAVES, BEING MARKED AND NUMBERED AS IN THE MARGIN, and are to be delivered in the like good order and well conditioned at the aforesaid Port of Georgey (the danger of the seas and mortality only excepted), and so God send the good ship to her desired port in safety. Amen."

These piratical and rascally slavers were quite as convinced that they were entitled to the blessing of God in their slave-running as are the over-gorged, over-dressed crowd of social parasites of to-day who derive their wealth from the misery and degradation of the toiling millions, black, brown, or white.

Vultures.

From the frequent periodical cable messages regarding Comrade Lenin's state of health, and by the wishes expressed in these messages, the press gang seem to consider our comrade's health as a matter of life and death to their masters. It is about time these "dying" statements were read by everybody as lying statements.

* * *

What Ho!

"The commercial and moral fabric of civilisation was tottering." We don't say so. Economist Hirst does. And also these words of wisdom from his lips: "It was not yet realised that public vices and public forgeries should be punished at least as vigorously as private forgeries." There you have it, Henry. He means those on high have been, and still are, defrauding you with their currency system and that all should be in gaol.

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Heads I Win Tails You Lose.

The thirty-five banks in Great Britain and Ireland made an aggregate profit in round figures of 19 million pounds in 1922. This in spite of—or perhaps as a result of—an unprecedented depression and period of suffering.

* * *

Recovery.

The rather obscure cable announcing that twenty thousand miners have struck work in mid-Glamorgan and that fifty thousand in the Rhondda Valley have given notice to strike in a fortnight is at any rate an indication that the Welsh miner is once more on the war-path. The period of hopelessness and despair which ensued on the black betrayal by the leaders, Hodges and Thomas, appears to have passed. We hope so, at any rate. Three big strikes at one time is an indication that the British workers have reached the limit of their endurance.

"I saw a newspaper heading which read: 'Suspected Persons in the City.' I referred it to Miranda. 'The only difference between the suspected and the unsuspected,' said that eminent authority, "is that the one lot are, and the other lot ought to be.'"

COMMUNIST PARTY NOTES.

The annual meeting of the Johannesburg Branch will be held on Thursday, 29th March, at 8 p.m., in No. 4, Trades Hall, Rissik Street. Business: Annual Report and Balance Sheet, Election of Officers for the ensuing year, including delegates to the Congress. All members and intending members are requested to be present.

Dates of meetings: April 12th and 26th, May 10th and 24th, June 7th and 21st.

All subscriptions are now due, and can be paid to Assist. Treasurer at 4, Trades Hall, before the annual meeting.

* * *

MAY DAY SOCIAL.

Tickets for the Grand Social to be held in the Town Hall on Monday, 30th April, are on sale at 4, Trades Hall, 2s. 6d. each. The next meeting of the General May Day Committee will be held in the General Office on Sunday, April 8th, at 3 p.m.

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SPRINGS.

A meeting under the auspices of the Branch will be held in the Lyric Bioscope, Geduld Township, on Sunday, 25th March, at 7.30 p.m., when the chairman will be Comrade Jack Allan. Speakers: Comrades W. H. Andrews, C. F. Glass, and others.

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CAPETOWN.

Branch meeting every Tuesday at 8 p.m., at 166, Longmarket Street. Syllabus of lectures:

Mar. 29—"The State." M. Lopes.
April 5—"The Theory of Exchange." I. Shack.
" 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.

A Fraud.

The Labour Press Service complacently records the formation of the first Young Labour League in Great Britain, which has been formed at Cambridge. Debates and study circles form the programme, and among the speakers are Dr. Alex. Wood, M.A., of Emmanuel College; the Rev. T. B. Scrutton, M.A., Dean of Trinity; Mr. Aubrey Clark, Secretary of the University Labour Party; and Miss Norton, of Newnham.

Apart from its political side, the League "runs" a Sickness and Share-out Fund. Quite a nice charitable institution, which will dope the young workers if it catches any—with bourgeois philosophy and pseudo economies, and provide the "dear poor" with blankets and coal—and opinions.

What was true of Disraeli's time is truer still of these days: "There is more serfdom in England now than at any time since the Conquest."

* * *

The worker in the factory gets, as a worker, absolutely no advantage from the machinery which causes the product of his labour to be multiplied a hundredfold. He gets no more of that product as wages for himself in a state of free, unrestrained competition than his colleague labouring at the very margin of cultivation with the very minimum of capital.

* * *

The capitalist system of production and exchange has become a curse upon us all, and is fettering the free development of the human family. Under this system all the trials of man in his march from savagery to modern civilisation are ending in the ruthless defeat of the vast majority to obtain even such conditions and comforts as were possible under less favourable economic conditions.

—G. Moore Bell, in "Justice."

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