Registered at the General Post Office as a newspaper.

LABOUR DAY
May 1st.

Procession Assembles 10 a.m.
DEMONSTRATION 12 NOON.
All Working Class Organisations fall in under your banner.

Bands, Decorated Trolleys, and Cars.

PROMINENT LABOUR SPEAKERS.

The International

THE WORLD'S CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

MAY DAY.

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

Tickets 2/6

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. 363. FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1923. PRICE THREEPENCE.

Without Chains.

Mussolini, the assassin of the workers, reviewed 20,000 Fascist Militia on the occasion of the 2,600th anniversary of the foundation of Rome, and said the occasion was symbolic of the re-birth of Roman triumphs "without the chains."

We like the chainless idea.

* * *

Their Share.

Fourteen million medals and 1,800 miles of ribbon have been issued by the British War Office for services in the Great War.

This is about all most of the ex-warriors are likely to get out of it.

* * *

A Point Scored.

A cable reports that the Norfolk agricultural strike has resulted in the men accepting 2½s. for a 50-hour week and 6d. per hour for overtime.

As this is the rate that the farmers sought to reduce the agricultural workers to, they may be congratulated on a victory, and also on the fact that they refused to allow negotiators to intervene in their affairs.

But what a wage for an "imperial" race!

* * *

Trying to Escape.

The story that Lyons, the leader of the Irish Republican band who were besieged in a cave on the Irish coast, was shot whilst trying to escape after falling 150 feet on to the beach, is a bit thin. It is, however, on a par with the usual excuses made by the forces of law and order when they assassinate their prisoners in cold blood.

* * *

Money from Misery.

Whilst the German workers starve, the German capitalists are getting along quite comfortably. The German Petroleum Company has just declared a dividend of 400 per cent. as compared with 25 per cent. last year.

* * *

Awkward.

Referring to the uproar raised by the anti-Socialists in Britain over the trial of Russian priests, Mr. Walton Newbold asked whether the law officers of the Crown would put at the disposal of the Soviet Government all the details of the British manner of dealing with similar persons during the Protestant Reformation in this country.

This question was, of course, ignored.

* * *

Creswell's "Free" Empire.

The system of child slavery, called mui tsae, persists in the British Colony of Hong Kong, though abolished in other parts of China. A mother sold her child recently for 90 dollars, and the sale took place at the office of the British Secretary for Chinese Affairs. When the mother wanted her child back, the purchaser demanded 180 dollars as the price of redemption, and the Secretary for Chinese Affairs told the mother she must settle the business with the owner.

* * *

Capitalist Chaos.

A strike of German sailors in Durban is proceeding, which takes the form of slow-down on the job. The men refuse to work because a ride on the trams from the Point to the Post Office costs the equivalent of a month's wages, and a packet of cigarettes eats up the earnings of six weeks.

Yet the capitalist system is boosted as the only possible one.

* * *

The Toll of the Mines.

Between April 12th and 15th fifteen accidents occurred to natives on the Randfontein Central Gold Mine, most of them being injured by falling rock. A native was injured at th Durban Roodepoort Deep in the same way, and on the Tavistock Coal Mine a native sustained a fractured spine and a broken leg from falling coal. At Moddr B a slimes assistant had his fingers crushed in the machinery.

* * *

Nothing Doing.

Great Britain has declined Mr. Hughes' proposal for the mutual searching of ships for liquor on the high seas.

The whisky distillers and boose makers are still influential with John Bull, it seems.

* * *

A Brain Wave.

The suggestion of a correspondent in the daily press that the Citizen Defence Force would be better and more usefully employed in destroying locusts than in killing strikers has some sense in it.

We would enjoy seeing the gallant Scottish chasing locusts with a bayonet.

Cause and Effect.

A DAY'S NEWS.

Four native mine workers killed and four injured by a fall of rock at the Largo Colliery.

Enquiry into the collapse of the Randfontein Block A shaft, by which at least twenty natives lost their lives.

At the annual meeting of the Union Corporation, Ltd., a forecast was made of the output for the year of £38,500,000 on the Witwatersrand.

Profits for the year on Modder Deeps, £693,114; Geduld, £322,625; Rand Mines, £800,620; New Modder, £1,167,265; Robinson Deeps, £248,000.

Working costs reduced from 4/4 per ton on Modder Deep to 8s. per ton on Robinson Deep.

Increased efficiency, lower working costs, more poverty, unemployment, accidents and death for the workers, and record profits and dividends for the parasites.

* * *

Peace.

Lausanne, Monday.—Ismet Pasha declared at the resumed Peace Conference that Turkey had always shown firm will to serve peace.

Paris, Monday.—The Turks have massed on the French frontier in East Silesia several infantry battalions and artillery.

Keep Off the Grass.

At the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, held at Kingwilliamstown lately, the President is reported to have solemnly warned his hearers "that to let the native people get into the hands of revolutionaries without the one Christian foundation, meant chaos and revolution of the worst description."

This worthy parson is a fitting successor to John Wesley, who is credited with saving the capitalists of England from the wrath of their victims by means of his strenuous "pie in the sky" teaching.

The missionaries are among the best friends of the exploiters to-day, as the priests have been in all ages.

* * *

Uplift.

Dr. Arthur, a missionary from Kenya, who is now in England, said in an interview with the "Manchester Guardian" that the white man had saved that part of Africa from the slave trade, and that the white influence had been in a very real manner responsible for the moral uplift of the African.

The reverend gentleman should see what goes on in the Rand and Kimberley compounds. He might alter his mind.

May Day.

JOHANNESBURG ARRANGEMENTS.

PROCESSION: Assemble at 10 a.m. on the Union Ground. March off at 10.30.

DEMONSTRATION: Front of Town Hall, at 12 noon.

ALL COMMUNISTS are requested to fall in under their respective banners.

Demonstrate your solidarity with the WORKERS OF THE WORLD.

Demand the return of the WORKERS' HOLIDAY.

The System.

"William," said the teacher, "if coal is selling for $14 a ton and your father orders $65 dollars' worth, how many tons will the coal man bring?"

"A little over three tons," said William promptly.

"Why, William, that is not right," said the teacher.

"No, ma'am, I know it ain't right," said William, "but they do it anyway."

* * *

The Reward of Ability.

Eli Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin, had his model stolen from his home before he had patented it, and in a few weeks hundreds of gins were working all over the Southern States, from the makers of which he, of course, got nothing. This is how capitalism rewards genius.

To-day the capitalists do not steal models; they break the inventors in the law courts and then use their inventions free.

We make progress, Henry, but you'd hardly notice it.

* * *

The Week's Wisdom.

"The British Commonwealth is based on the utmost freedom for everyone."—Colonel Creswell.

What about the Martial Law prisoners, Colonel?

"There is too much luxury in certain sections of this country."—Abe Bailey.

Yes, we have noticed it in Parktown and Muizenberg, Sir Abe.

". . . Stick the British flag under my nose, I say take the stinking thing away."—Gen. Hertzog.

Fie, General! What will Creswell say?

* * *

Sight-Seeing.

"Guide! Please indicate to me the battlefields."

"You see them on all sides, sir. Is not Europe one huge battlefield now? Vive la Gloire! La patrie uber Alles!"

Morality.

An American woman waxes enthusiastic over the female Fascisti of Italy. She says they have entered heart and soul into the creed of patriotism, order and morality.

Order and morality is distinctly good as applied to these murderous assassins and enemies of the workers.

* * *

Loyalty.

Queen Mary, addressing a party of fifty orphan girls on their departure to New South Wales, said: "Remember, girls, life is made up of loyalty—loyalty to your king and country, and loyalty to God."

The king and his government allowed these girls to be brought up as paupers, and the country refused to support them and sent them to the Antipodes to become wage-slaves. Then they are told to be loyal.

What mockery!

* * *

An Example.

In glaring contrast to the timidity of those leaders of labour who have decided not to take any part in May Day demonstrations for fear of being tainted with Communism, the Transvaal Agricultural Union, the farmers' trade union, organised a general farmers' day throughout the Province on April 21st, for the purpose of advertising the advantages of organisation. The day was not so successful as it was hoped, owing to the wet and cold weather, but a start was made, and there is no doubt that, as in the case of the Natal and Zululand sugar planters, the farmers of the Transvaal and other provinces will build up a formidable organisation to look after their economic interests.

* * *

Exiles.

Five thousand Scots leave their native land in one week for Canada and the States, says a cable this week.

They are still seeking the new world, it appears.

Work or Starve.

CRESWELL AGAINST MAINTENANCE OF UNEMPLOYED.

Colonel Creswell was asked by the unemployed organisation to speak in the City Hall, Capetown, in support of the series of resolutions which we print in another column. He agreed to speak, but refused to support the resolutions. He is reported to have said: ". . . Nor would he be responsible for any resolution put from that platform, and he would tell them why. He thought it should be the policy of the country to see that there was no unemployment, but he was not a believer, and nothing would convince him that it was a healthy policy in paying out money to keep men in idleness; it was far better to get value out of them."

Let us examine this pronouncement of the man who has, more than any other, been instrumental in dragging the Labour Party off the track its founders laid down for it, and has landed it in the morass of petit bourgeois compromise and futility in which it now flounders. This political charlatan is not, it would appear, opposed to the pensions and retirement on half-pay of the officer class to which he belongs. So long as the dole is a big one and is received by royalty or any other section of the parasitic class, Mr. Creswell is quite content, and accepts it as in the natural order of things, but to pay a working man or woman when they have been thrown on the industrial scrap heap by the boss is repugnant to this patriotic and imperialist ally of Republicanism and backveld racialism.

Is the gallant Colonel aware that the British trade unions have paid out millions of pounds during their history in out of work and sick benefit, with never a murmur on the part of the membership about keeping their fellow-workers in idleness. He and his class applaud these efforts to shoulder the burden by men and women who often can scarcely obtain food and shelter for themselves and their families, because it relieves the parasitic class of their rightful responsibility. It is only when the workers demand that whether they are allowed to work or not they still have a right to live, and live as men, and that the State should bear the burden, that such misleaders as Creswell turn up the whites of their eyes and unctuously declaim against the evils of eating the bread of idleness.

The capitalists in Britain are wiser than the South African Labour leader, for they recognised years ago that as a measure of insurance it was necessary that the unemployed should be given the dole, and although it is villainously small it is at least a recognition of the obligation of the state to keep its slaves alive. For sheer callous brutality we have to look for a parallel to the remarks of Creswell in the classic words of Foulon during the French Revolution, who told the starving Paris workers to eat grass, and whose head later on decorated the head of a pike with its mouth stuffed with grass; or our own Sir George Farrar, who threatened to let the grass grow in the streets of Johannesburg if the workers did not vote for the Chinese. To-day such callous indifference to the misery and degradation can only be given expression to by labour leaders. Smuts and his friends would cloak their brutality in more carefully chosen words.

It is certainly not an ideal state of society which reduces large masses of the useful section of society to demand doles, but that is not the fault of the unemployed or the employed workers, excepting in so far as they take no effective steps to overthrow it. But at the same time the supporters of capitalism, of whom Creswell is one, cannot avoid responsibility for this state of affairs. The claim of Creswell that he has tried for twenty years to solve the problem, and that if he were in power he and his Nationalist friends could and would do it, is a gross piece of political dishonesty not to be concealed by his King Charles' Head of the evils of imported indentured native labour. The contention that the cause of unemployment is the encroachment of native and coloured workers is an appeal to race prejudice and passion, and every time it is made by labour politicians they are wilfully deceiving their dupes.

Will Colonel Creswell explain why there are between one and two million unemployed in Britain, and why in all other purely "white" countries the same phenomenon is observable. There are no indentured native labourers there, and yet in the best organised and most highly skilled trades the percentage of unemployed is 20 to 25 per cent. even now. We warn Creswell and his satellites that the workers will not for ever sit still and wait for an opportunity to put certain men into comfortable jobs in the hope that in some mysterious way their speeches in the House of Assembly will provide the wretches outside with bread and shelter.

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The United Front.

Colonel Creswell and General Hertzog have at last made a written statement of the relations between their respective parties, which has given the leader and letter writers of the S.A.P. press something to write about. These organs of political purity are afraid that what they call an "immoral pact" will lower the standard of public life in South Africa. In our opinion there is not much to fear on that score, as public morality could scarcely be lower than it is in South Africa to-day.

There is not much in the arrangement to congratulate the Labour Party upon. An alliance with a purely Nationalist and bourgeois party will probably tend to still further water down the already extremely weak and timid policy and propaganda of the Creswell Party, and confirm the tendency, already very apparent, for it to become Labour only in name and the party of the petit bourgeois element in South African society. It is historically true that no third political party can permanently survive, and that every effort to slur over the essential antagonism between the capitalist and working class must sooner or later fail.

It is quite clear that there cannot be any permanent alliance between the two parties under discussion, unless a much closer fusion takes place than is indicated by the public utterances of the leaders. There is, however, a possibility that if a general election does not take place within a year or so the process of educating the followers of Hertzog and Creswell will proceed, and that a further whittling down of principles on either side may take place, with the object of forming a coalition government if a majority is obtained at the polls. On the other hand, the Durban labour paper, which presumably speaks more or less officially for the S.A.L.P. parliamentary leaders, makes the following statement in the current issue:

"Between Labour and Nationalist there is no alliance. There is no compact to rule the country together. If there is a Nationalist Cabinet next Parliament, THERE WILL BE NO LABOUR MAN THEREIN. It is a cardinal principle of the South African Labour Party that it will join no other party to form a Government. On its own broad basis it stands, and it stands alone. . . . LABOUR WILL NOT FORM A GOVERNMENT WITH THE NATIONALISTS. . . . If Hertzog has the second largest party, as seems probable, then he will be called upon to form a Government. It is possible he will invite Labour to help. LABOUR WILL REFUSE. It cannot do otherwise."

These words are at least unambiguous, and it will be interesting to observe how far they reflect the policy of Creswell. There is certainly no justification for them in the letter that the Labour Party leader has published, which is a classic so far as fogginess of phrase and ambiguity of meaning is concerned. So far as there is any distinct policy in the mass of verbiage, it would appear that both parties, being in agreement that the present government "acts as though" dominated by big finance, three-cornered elections must be avoided, which would allow government candidates to be elected on a minority vote. The difficulties in the way of this arrangement are stated to be the old secession bogey of 1921, which is said to be opposed by the bulk of Labour supporters and, on the other hand, the alleged Bolshevik tendencies of the Labour Party.

This is got over by an undertaking that no Nationalist member of Parliament will use his vote to upset the constitutional relation of South Africa to the British Crown in the next Parliament to be elected, whilst although the Bolshevik bogey is not further mentioned, we may presume that further efforts will be made by Creswell, Barlow and Co. to eliminate the already emasculated clause dealing with the Socialist objective in the Labour Party programme. We already see the result of the alliance between bourgeois Nationalism and Labour Imperialism in the refusal of the Labour Party to take part in any demonstration in which the Communist Party is represented. Notwithstanding this and the obvious insincerity of the whole arrangement, we recognise that a general assault on the Smuts-Chamber of Mines combination must be made. Whether a purely Nationalist or Labour-Nationalist Government comes into power does not matter much.

The workers will rapidly discover that the administration of the country will not be materially different to that at the present time. New groupings will inevitably take place. Clever manœuvring by party leaders and wirepullers cannot for long obscure the essential fact of modern society—the antagonism between the exploiting and exploited classes. The rank and file of both the Labour and Nationalist parties must sooner or later refuse to follow their bourgeois leaders, and will form a real workers' party not to be side-tracked either by British Imperialism nor reactionary bourgeois Republicanism, but organised, drilled and determined to unceasingly work for the overthrow of the capitalist system.

Until that position is reached the Communists are compelled to take part in the attack on the governments which are the executive committees of big capital, but at the same time they will unhesitatingly expose the false economics and spurious reforms of the petit bourgeoisie and reactionary landowners and their allies the yellow labourites, with their national and racial prejudices. A united front against Smuts and his government in order that the ground may be cleared for a genuine united front of all exploited workers against the real enemy, private property in the means of life and therefore of life itself.

Ploughing the Sands.

The Associated Trade Unions has delivered itself of a supplementary memorandum on the Industrial Conciliation Bill, which is to be forwarded to the Select Committee now considering the Bill. In it the opinion is expressed "that no legislation seeking to settle disputes in industry can be of material practical value unless its basic principle is the prevention of disputes and unless it provides machinery to carry that principle into effect." Having said this, the memorandum might have concluded, as it must be obvious that no conceivable machinery can be created which under the capitalist or any other system of exploitation will prevent disputes.

The Government is wiser than the Associated Trades—or whoever drafts its memoranda—in that it recognises this fact, and therefore seeks to bring into existence machinery which will load the dice in every conceivable way against the workers, and make it difficult if not impossible for them to succeed in the disputes which it recognises to be inevitable and inherent in the capitalist system, which it is pledged to uphold and support.

In support of its first contention, the Associated Trades memorandum proceeds to quote three resolutions passed at a conference of employers and employees held in Pretoria in 1919, which advocate the creation of joint boards, the free recognition of employees' organisations, and the freedom from government direction or ratification of representatives on these boards, but naively overlooks the fact that at the date when these resolutions were passed the war was still on, labour was well organised and in great demand, and could exercise great pressure on the employers at any time that it wished. The employers, being on the defensive, naturally favoured any scheme which would put a brake on the activities of the unions.

The boot is on the other foot now, and although the employers know that the ball will not always be at their feet, yet they are not prepared to allow any legislation to be passed which will in any way hamper their freedom to crush the last ounce out of such workers as they require to carry on their industries, but on the other hand, if the weakened unions can be still further enfeebled by hampering legislation the whole-hearted support of the employers will be given.

For the rest, it is recommended that Government servants be included in the scope of the bill, that agreements once arrived at be binding for a definite period, and may be sued upon by either party. A rather interesting feature is introduced in the provision for the veto of the Minister "in the public interest." This would seem to be taking away with one hand what is given with the other, as one may be perfectly certain that any Minister in a capitalist government (and the bill would be unnecessary under any other) will only exercise his veto in favour of the master class, which masquerades in all times of industrial strife as the "public."

The essentially bourgeois outlook of those responsible for the memorandum is shown in this insistence on the existence of a third party in the State which is outside and above the clashing interests of employers and employed, and whose interest is not identical with either. It is on a par with the heresy which divides the community into capitalists, workers and consumers, and has just as much or as little relation to facts. The government, and consequently each of its Ministers, is the representative and executive committee of the capitalist class, and if a Minister intervenes in the interest of the "public" it is only another way of saying that he has used his power against the workers.

The proposal that publication of anything during the sittings of a board which may influence its decision shall constitute an offence seems a reasonable proposition, but as it would deprive capitalism of one of its most powerful weapons, is not likely to be carried out. On the question of strikes, the most extraordinary admission of all is made, and the memorandum recommends that once the principle of the bill is accepted it should be "illegal and therefore a criminal offence and a civil wrong for two or more employers to cease work about the same time, even after giving the notice required otherwise by their contract of employment, if the Court is satisfied that their object was to bring pressure on their employers."

That a body of trade union representatives should so far forget the whole history of the working class as to endorse such a monstrous proposal is almost inconceivable. The right to strike or withhold his labour is almost the only thing that distinguishes the modern wage-worker from the chattel slave, and no legislation has ever been successful or, we hope, will ever be successful in enforcing such a provision, and we trust the organised workers of South Africa will repudiate this suggestion of those who claim to speak for them, and oppose to the utmost the passage of such a proposal into law.

In discussing the question of the prevention of strikes if the Conciliation Board is unable to effect a settlement, the memorandum states that this problem "is impossible to solve by ONE Act of Parliament . . . but a whole range of carefully thought out legislation would be necessary to eliminate strikes." Which is tantamount to saying that it is impossible. The history of the Rand strikes of 1913-14, 17, and 22 is then reviewed, the progressively serious nature of the outbreaks emphasised, and the methods adopted by the Government to suppress them rightly condemned; but again the memorandum

(Continued at foot of next two columns.)

fails to come to grips with the problem, and wanders off into futile expressions of regret that the Government should always take sides with the employers, ignoring the obvious fact that no capitalist government could survive if it did otherwise.

It draws attention to the growing lack of confidence amongst vast numbers of workers in all countries in the impartiality of courts and governments," and concludes by stating that no matter how amended the Bill can "only be a fractoinal contribution to the prevention of strikes." Which brings us back to our first comment; the antagonisms inherent in the capitalist system of production cannot be eliminated without the destruction of the system itself, and this cannot be accomplished without strife, of which strikes are one of the expressions. In the words of Marx, "Here and there the struggle breaks out into revolt. From time to time the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their struggle lies not in the immediate result, but in the always growing unity of the workers."

This is what the signatories to the memorandum fail to grasp or wish to conceal, and if half the time and energy which has been and is now being devoted to diplomatic negotiation with the capitalist class and its government were devoted to organising the workers as a class, and rousing them to an understanding of their class interests, we should be very much nearer the only solution of the problems of strikes, unemployment, and other evils of capitalism than we are at present.

FAIR PLAY.

A CONTRAST IN TWO SCENES.

Scene I.: Adderley Street, Capetown, on a Sunday night. A Communist Party open-air meeting, with a big and sympathetic crowd.

Comrade Green, on the box, gives a severe dressing-down to a pair of would-be hecklers who are well-known adherents of the South African Party. The next speaker, Comrade Pereira, meets their further questions courteously but firmly, and reduces them to silence. At the close of his speech, Heckler No. 1 asks the Chairman's permission to speak. Leave is freely granted, and the opponent is invited to the platform and given an uninterrupted hearing. He publicly disavows all connection with the S.A.P. and declares that ALMOST the Comrades have persuaded him to be a Communist. Loud applause, amidst which the heckler and his friend depart in peace. Thus do the "rowdy, hooligan" Communists treat an (apparently) honest opponent.

Scene II.: The City Hall, Capetown. A "Grand Rally" of the S.A.P., with Smuts and Smartt as the stars. The platform is filled with sleek M.L.A.'s and other hangers-on of the ruling class. Tone is added by a few boiled shirts. There is an army of hefty stewards, with the police half concealed in the wings. In the body of the hall some sappers, young and old, a large body of Nationalists with a sprinkling of Labourites, and a solid phalanx of the unemployed, headed by the Unemployed Committee, and supported by the local members of the Communist Party.

Enter Major Van Zijl, General Smuts, and Lance-Corporal Smartt: loud cheers and much louder booing. The chairman (Van Zijl) utters the usual platitudes about "our 'great' leaders," and calls on Smuts.

Comrade Pereira (chairman of the Unemployed Committee) rises to ask the P.M. a question. He is set upon by stewards, whose activities come to a sudden end when they are told that the hall contains some three hundred actual relief workers—hungry, tired, and far from pleased with life. Smuts says that he will, at the proper time, answer the question. The Comrade: "Is that a promise, General Smuts?" The P.M.: "Certainly, if you and your friends will give me a hearing." On the strength of this "promise," the Unemployed and the Communists refrain throughout the whole meeting from any disorder beyond the customary interjections. Smuts discusses the wickedness of Hertzog and Creswell for an hour, being frequently howled down by the supporters of those "honourable and gallant" gentlemen. The Communists keep silence. Smuts reads out a peroration anent the Imperial Conference. NO WORD ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT. As Smuts sits down, Comrade Pereira rises again, but the chairman says "not yet." Smartt bellows semi-audible flattery of Smuts for twenty minutes. Again "not yet." An aged Sapper moans out a brief hymn of praise and moves an inaudible resolution, presumably of confidence. This is seconded by a pup of the bull-dog breed, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. "Amendment, amendment," shout the Unemployed, whose amendment has been printed and distributed through the hall (see below). The chairman ignores the demand, puts the resolution, for which perhaps a hundred hands go up, and declares it carried. The National Anthem is sung, and Smuts advances to return thanks. Chorus, led by Comrade Pereira, "We claim the fulfilment of your promise, General Smuts!" A large majority of the audience takes up the cry. Smuts bows to the storm, and the Comrade is at last invited to the platform. Badged and ribboned stewards crowd round, including Heckler No. 1, who had previously disavowed all connection with the S.A.P. (vide Scene I.) Comrade Pereira asks the P.M. why his 1½-hour speech has ignored the crying question of the moment, viz., unemployment, and why he has used a contemptible subterfuge—at this, a rush is made at the Comrade, HEADED BY HECKLER No. 1. He is thrown headlong from the platform to the floor, and whilst on the ground is twice kicked heavily by "lovers of British fairplay." A rush is made to storm the platform, but it empties itself miraculously and the meeting is closed, Smuts, white with rage, hissing to Pereira, "Go away, go away."

Thus the "orderly, law-abiding" ruling class demonstrates its conception of "law and order": thus the Prime Minister of South Africa breaks a public pledge, and to the cry "What about the unemployed?" uttered by an honest worker, can only make the "crushing retort" (vide Press), "You, I can see, will NEVER be employed."

"Fair play," "law and order," "the welfare of the people": WHEN are you going to wake up, Henry?

The amendment referred to above reads as follows:

RESOLUTION.

"That this meeting, comprising a large proportion of the unemployed in the Cape, hereby registers its entire lack of confidence in General Smuts and the present Government, and calls for their immediate resignation on the following grounds. Because:

1. Immediately on taking office the Government
(a) commenced a system of drastic retrenchment;
(b) commenced a system of drastic wage cutting;
(c) commenced a system of replacing men workers by women, in order to cheapen production.

2. Because the foregoing actions of the Government have resulted in
(a) augmenting by leaps and bounds the number of unemployed;
(b) reducing wages almost to starvation level;
(c) causing untold misery to thousands of workers, tradespeople and their dependents throughout the country;
(b) creating hundreds upon hundreds of bankrupts

3. Because: In the opinion of this meeting, these drastic changes have been introduced in order that
(a) the big financiers may have their rail transport provided at privileged rates;
(b) the big financiers may be relieved from any increased taxation.

And further, this meeting demands IMMEDIATELY, EMPLOYMENT or full maintenance for all unemployed, MEN AND WOMEN.

ISSUED BY THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
13/4/23

This is the resolution from which Col. Creswell dissociated himself at the City Hall meeting on April 19th.

DISLOYALTY.

The New South Wales Minister for Education has announced that his Government will put down disloyal propaganda with a strong hand. When such people are asked what we are supposed to be loyal to, the answer is "The British Empire."

There is no British Empire. The existence of an Empire presupposes that of an "Imperator"—a supreme despot—whose will is law. It was not to establish an "Empire" that Cromwell's Ironsides fought on Marston Moor, or the Chartists agitated for the Reform Bill.

Judged by the cold, clear light of traditional British legal and constitutional jurisprudence, the present-day Imperialist is a traitor and a sedition-monger of a far more dangerous type than the most foolish and frantic anarchist orator who ever mounted a soap-box. The Imperialist who lolls back in a luxuriously appointed motor car not only talks treason to-day, but perpetrates it on the colossal scale. An enormous amount of evidence could be cited in support of this accusation.

It is treason-felony from a British constitutional standpoint to expend public money for the purpose of foreign aggression without a declaration of war, and without the authority of Parliament.

In spite of this fact, many millions of public money have been spent in financing buccaneering expeditions with the object of capturing Russian oil wells and for other predatory purposes, without the knowledge or consent of either the British Parliament or people.

When the Imperial Cabinet was definitely questioned in Parliament it officially denied that any such expenditure was going on. At the time this official denial was given a contract had been signed with American financiers to supply millions of pounds' worth of ammunition and war stores for a raid on Russia, using Poland as a base.

This nefarious arrangement was carried out by nominally issuing Polish bonds of a six years' currency at 5 per cent. interest, with the endorsement of the British Treasury, without which, of course, the bonds would have been waste paper.

The oil raid failed, and the alleged Polish bonds have become part of Britain's liabilities to the United States.

Notwithstanding unpleasant exposures of this sort, the treasonable clap-trap about loyalty to the Empire still goes on in imperialistic circles. A zealous school inspector visited a public school recently, and asked a few random questions in order to test the general knowledge of the pupils in the upper classes. In answer to the rather vague question, "What do you know about India?" he got this reply from a girl:

"I know that more human beings died of hunger in India during the war period, because of the over-export of food for military purposes, than were killed on all the battle-fronts of Europe."

"That's disloyal!" snarled the inspector.

"But it's true!" retorted young Australia, undauntedly.

"I don't care whether it's true or not; it's disloyal!" roared Fat's flunkey, in a red rage.

Loyalty to Imperialism means loyalty to a lie. It can have no other meaning.

Frank Cotton,
in "Australian Worker."

The Anglo-American Alliance.

By J. T. WALTON NEWBOLD.

The following are extracts from an extremely interesting article in "Inprecor" by J. T. Walton Newbold:

The Ruhr, and to a lesser degree, the Near East, have for some months been absorbing practically the entire attention of all those interested in world politics. Yet, at this very time, there has been taking place an enormously important orientation of forces in an entirely different quarter. . . . . It is not always the more spectacular aspects of state policy which are worthy of our notice. The adventures of Great Britain in the East were nothing like so vital an interest to our governing class as some people imagine. They were in fact rather a last effort of an obsolete phase of imperialism.

All-important as the question of oil is for the British Admiralty the question of finances appears even more important in the minds of the government as a whole. While the war had greatly enriched the manufacturers, shipowners and certain other profiteering interests, their position had been undermined by the two years of depreciation by those other and older economic interests whose capital values, relatively depreciated during the war, had rapidly appreciated during the last two years. In this country, at any rate, the whole banking fraternity and the mercantile houses in the City of London have recovered the position they occupied in the national economy prior to 1914, but which they lost for a while during the war. They have a natural predilection for friendly relations with the United States. British investments in South America are somewhere in the neighbourhood of £1,000,000,000, and these, like holdings in Canada, Mexico, and the West Indies, would be endangered by any complications with America. We can understand how strongly their influence works for the achievement of an entente between the two English-speaking peoples. Sentiment may appear to be a link which binds these peoples together, but in reality it is a class bias, an economic community of interest.

Turning now to America, we find that there also, as a result of the terrible industrial depression, the big industrialists have come once more under the domination of those financiers of Wall Street, from whose control they had managed to slip during the war period.

The Wilson Administrations from 1913 to 1921 were a visible political expression of an effort at emancipation from Wall Street, vigorously attempted, and for a time successfully carried out, by American industrialists. That is to say, with the building up of huge fortunes as a result of the expansion of American industry, to meet the demands of the war-years, American big business became more self-reliant, more self-assertive, and more nationalist in character, and for a time revolted successfully against the big houses of Wall Street, whose power in American finance was built not so much upon American production as upon the service which they rendered to European capital, seeking to exploit the expanding agriculture, industry and trade of the United States. . . . It seemed, until last year, that America intended to assert herself as a great world power in active opposition, not only in finace, but in trade and politics, to Great Britain. The same phenomenon of militant industrialism which expressed itself through Lloyd-George and the Coalition Government appeared also in America. The failure, however, of the gigantic promotions of the industrialists and the Trust Companies, for the purpose of developing export trade, and the calamitous failure of the American Mercantile Marine, built and promoted by the United States Shipping Board, together with the added inability of Europe to do business with America, have in America brought in the same liquidation of bloated industrialism which we have witnessed in this country. The great financial houses of Wall Street have once more come into their own and resumed their sway in the world of economics. Not only that, but the farmers of the Middle West, unable to sell their produce in any of American or European markets, have also fallen back into the clutches of these same bankers.

Thus, while the Republican Party came into power in 1921 with a tremendous majority, to carry into practice this policy of splendid isolation and strident Americanism, the logic of events has compelled President Harding to bring his party into the service of its traditional taskmasters and paymasters, the bankers of Wall Street in general and J. P. Morgan in particular.

The house of Morgan has been a concern for the active promotion of Anglo-American friendship and co-operation. During the war it was a buying agent for the British Government; it sold immense quantities of securities for the British Government which that government had taken over from its subjects; it acted as a loan agent for all transactions, the cumulative result of which is now seen in the stupendous debt of the British Government to America. In every scene and on every occasion, J. P. Morgan and Company have been the faithful friends and close collaborators of the British governing class.

While it would seem at first sight that the Americans have driven a hard bargain with the British Government in the matter of the funding of the debt, it is now evident that the British have not done so badly. The Americans have quietly dropped the Shipping Subsidy Bill, which was causing intense anxiety to British shipowners and which, had it been proceeded with, would without question have resulted in the bankruptcy of British shipping or, at an early date, war between this country and America.

This abandonment of State guarantee for the American shipping industry means, in effect, the actual abandonment of the attempt to build up a great American mercantile marine. . . .

This coming together of the American and the British financial oligarchy and the harmonious relations being established between the respective executive committees, are phenomena which deserve our most earnest attention. What is coming into existence is an alliance of bondholders, an alliance of creditors, and an alliance of international owners of abstract property. The American Government and the British Government will come together as agents of the mortgage-holders of the Continent. They both desire, and will see that they get, tranquility, however drastic the measures of repression which may be necessary. Together, they will guarantee the supremacy of the League of Nations, together they will formulate a code of laws to govern the hopeless millions who, for the next eighty to a hundred years, shall have one duty, and one duty only—to toil ceaselessly to pay off a debt incurred in order to make the world "safe for democracy."

Fascisti and Class War.

The Great Council of the Fascisti, which met in Rome on January 12th, passed the following resolution respecting its attitude to the trade union movement.

The great Council of the Fascisti confirms the principles of the Fascisti trade union movement, WHICH IS OPPOSED TO THE PREJUDICES OF CLASS WAR, AND THEREFORE TO THE ACTUAL FORMS OF CLASS ORGANISATION OF THE PROLETARIAT, as well as of the employers, as the same were continually in conflict with each other to the detriment of production and of the nation. It declares it to be necessary that all those engaged in production, that is, the workers, the technicians and the employers, be organised in the Fascist organisations in order to protect their interests, guaranteed by the law in accordance with and in harmony with the highest requirements of the country and of the national government. In approving of the work of the federation of the Fascist trade-unions, the Great Council expresses the wish that its relations to the employers' organisations, which to-day retain their old attitude of opposition to socialism, be not strained owing to prejudices, but on the contrary that they may become as cordial as possible in order that in future the workers' agreements guarantee to the workers good conditions, and at the same time assure LIBERTY TO PRIVATE PROPERTY and the profitable exercise of its social and national functions."

This is so like the views expressed at various times by Creswell and other S.A.L.P. leaders, as well as many of our local trade union leaders, that it would seem that the reformist labour leader and Fascism have much in common. The Fascist unions are tying up the workers all over the country with agreements with the bosses, which will hamper the free movement of the unions in times of industrial crises just as, e.g., the Typographical Union was tied up during the late strike by its national agreement.

In many towns May Day has been abolished as a public holiday and national festivals substituted. Meanwhile 8,000 workers suspected of being Communists have been thrown into jail, and the rank and file released after signing a declaration that they will never again take part in politics or trade union work. Victimisation on the railways, in the civil service, of teachers in schools, and by public authorities takes place on a wholesale scale. Notwithstanding these facts, the Italian workers are offering resistance against the offensive taken up by their enemies. Robbed of freedom to hold meetings, of free press and speech, bleeding from fresh wounds every day, abandoned as spoil to its hereditary enemies, the Italian proletariat groans beneath the heavy yoke, but it clings to its faith, and does not permit itself to be robbed of its class-consciousness. Whenever the workers have an opportunity of expressing their true sentiments, they demonstrate unequivocally that they feel nothing but hatred and contempt for Fascismo.

* * *

The Provisional International Committee for Combating Fascism makes the following appeal to the workers of all countries:

TO THE WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES.

A new Horthy Hungary has arisen in Italy. From day to day and from week to week the murderous terrorism of Mussolini's Government continues to increase, to follow its aim of completely enslaving the proletariat. The most unheard-of deeds of horror are committed daily at the behest of the Italian Government. In its own interests, the international proletariat cannot look quietly on while the Italian labour movement is being annihilated. A suggestion made by the Fourth Congress of the Communist International has therefore led to the formation of a Provisional Committee, under the chairmanship of Comrade Clara Zetkin, for the purpose of carrying on the fight against Fascism on an international basis, and aiding the victims of Fascism.

The committee appeals to the international proletariat to organise defensive action against the Fascist regime of murder, and relief action for the victims among the brave Italian working class. It will be the task of all proletarian organisations, regardless of political tendency, to fulfil this international duty as a point of honour.

The provisional committee, at the same time, appeals to the executives of the London and Vienna Internationals, as well as to the executive of the Amsterdam trade union international and the international organisation of syndicalists, to join the Communist International, the Red International of Labour Unions, and the Communist Youth International, in forming the final committee for combating Fascism. Workers of all countries, demand of your organisations that they take part in the proceedings of the undersigned provisional committee.

Special national committees will conduct the work, in every country, of collecting in aid of the Italian labour organisations. Working men and women, show your international solidarity! Think of Horthy Hungary! Here the most bestial Terror raged, and the international proletariat failed to step in and prevent it. You must make sure that the Italian proletariat does not share the fate of the Hungarian. The brutal subjugation of the Italian proletariat would be inevitably followed by an enormous increase of Fascist reaction in every country. You are threatened, one and all, by the Fascist outlook of your bourgeoisie. Therefore, up and fight against Fascism by propaganda, by international collections, and by political defensive action.

CLARA ZETKIN,
Chairman.

* * *

ITALIAN FASCISTI IN GERMANY.

It has been known for a long time that the Italian Fascisti maintain close relations, not only with Russian monarchists and Hungarian White Guards, but also with German counter-revolutionists, and they have formed regular fighting organisations in the German Republic.

As early as the end of September, 1922, a "Fascist Union" was officially founded at a secret session in Berlin; this is affiliated to the Fascist Party of Italy, and receives the active help of the diplomatic representatives of Italy, and of the arch-reactionary Italian officers attached to the various Entente missions in Germany. They now receive ample funds from the Italian Government.

Mussolini has addressed a circular "To the Italians abroad." This circular, which is highly interesting as showing the plans of international counter-revolution, contains the following words:

"Italy does not cease to exist at her frontiers. (!) Italy is everywhere where there are Italians. The Fascist national party appeals to the Italians scattered all over the world, and steadfastly loving their native country, to assemble their forces for the greatness of Italy, and immediately to establish fighting unions everywhere."

In this circular the "tasks of the Fascisti abroad" are further explained. The affairs of foreign countries are not to be interfered with: "Every country deals with its Communists as it thinks best." The Fascisti would only make themselves unpopular if they "carried civil war into the countries granting us their hospitality." But at the same time every band of Fascisti is called upon to "COMBAT COMMUNISM AND ALL OTHER HARMFUL PHENOMENA."

In order to carry out this programme, various service bureaus are formed on precisely the same pattern as the German secret societies—unlimited funds being at their disposal.

The propaganda service of the Italian Fascisti consists of the closest co-operation with German counter revolution. The Italian Fascist society in Berlin occupies itself mainly with political spying. It "ascertains" the whereabouts of the revolutionary refugees living in Germany, and delivers them over to the murderous Italian "justice" with the aid of the German police.

A few weeks ago a Fascist meeting was held in the Rheingold Hotel, and attended by the Italian ambassador in Berlin. This gentleman, Count Bosdari, a confidant of Mussolini's, sent the Berlin Fascist society a letter expressing his "great joy" at the founding of the society, and went on to say: "I am convinced of your keen patriotism, and shall be happy to grant your enterprise the very greatest possible support." Thus the Italian ambassador in Germany abuses his diplomatic immunity by organising Italian murderers in the German Republic.

The Fascisti have also founded their first organisations outside of Berlin. In Hamburg, the general consul Giacchi, is working in co-operation with the Hamburg German Nationalists. His assistant is the Fascist Jesuit priest Don Mozzicarelli. In Cologne the Fascist confidence man is a certain Dr. Pertille. He spies among the Italian workers in the Ruhr area.

The Fascisti are now quite openly publishing a newspaper in Berlin, with government money, called the "Gagliardetto" (The Banner). It bears on its front page the symbol of the Fascisti, an axe with rods, and conducts the wildest nationalist reactionary propaganda. It lauds the persecutions of Communists in Italy, and describes in detail the energetic suppressive action on the part of the government against the underground agitation of the Bolsheviki in Italy.

These new facts suffice to show how closely the network of international reaction is woven. The thousandfold murderers and executions of the Italian proletariat dare, active and organised, to put in an appearance in Berlin. They form "German service bureaus" in the German Republic. The ambassador Bosdari participates in this organisation of conspirators. Consular officials co-operate with the German national unions endeavouring to overthrow the Republic.

The German workers will have to interfere in this matter. They will not tolerate the appearance in their midst of the murderers of their Italian brothers.

To the Workers of Johannesburg.

A good many contradictory statements have appeared in the press during the past week or so regarding May Day arrangements. In order to place the facts of the case before the workers, the May Day Committee published the following leaflet:

MAY DAY, 1923.

For over twenty years the Rand Workers have, at the annual Labour Day demonstrations, demanded May 1st as a public holiday. The Communists, with other class-conscious sections of the workers in the various towns of South Africa, celebrated May Day throughout the period of the war, and as a result of the incessant agitation the first of May was declared a public holiday in 1921.

One of the results of the onslaught of the capitalists on the workers in 1922 was the decree of the Chamber of Mines and other employers that May Day should no longer be observed.

Owing to Martial Law, no attempt could be made last year to organise a demonstration. This year, however, there was nothing to hinder the usual procession and demonstration, and accordingly the various labour bodies, industrial and political, were approached by the Communist Party with the suggestion that the unions should take the initiative in organising the celebrations. The S.A.I.F., however, declined to move, and the "Associated Trade Unions" took no action.

In the circumstances, the Communist Party decided to convene a meeting for the purpose of forming a JOINT MAY DAY COMMITTEE. Invitations to attend were sent to FIFTY different unions, labour organisations, and branches, in response to which the following bodies sent delegates: The Building Workers' Industrial Union, Tailors' Association, Tramwaymen's Union, Vehicle Builders' Union, The S.A. Labour Party District Committee, and several branches of the Amalgamated Engineering Union. The General Secretary of the S.A. Mine Workers' Union promised to co-operate, and the Ironmoulders' Society intimated that a ballot was being taken of its members.

The Joint Committee thus constituted has held weekly meetings for the last four weeks, and on Wednesday last the arrangements were completed for a procession and demonstration. A band was engaged, joint resolutions drawn up, speakers, marshals, and collectors appointed.

On the following morning the Secretary of the Committee was informed by Messrs. Clingman and McCann (Chairman and Secretary of the S.A.L.P. District Committee), who had attended the Committee the night before, that the Labour Party had decided to withdraw from the Committee.

THE COMMITTEE IS DETERMINED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE THE MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS SHALL NOT SUCCEED. THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS ADVERTISED.

The May Day Committee therefore confidently calls upon all the REAL WORKERS—THE RANK AND FILE—to ignore these vacillating tactics, and to fall in ON MAY 1st under their appropriate banners at 10 A.M. ON THE UNION GROUND.

W. H. ANDREWS,
Chairman of the May Day Committee,
4, Trades Hall, Johannesburg.

Since the issue of the above leaflet the Associated Trades Unions have met and passed the following resolution:

"The Associated Trades Unions recommend that workers should wherever possible celebrate May 1st as a Labour Holiday, and join in any demonstration having for its object the advancement of the solidarity of the workers."

WORKERS! DEMAND THE MAY DAY HOLIDAY.

AGITATE FOR A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR THE CLASS-WAR PRISONERS.

UNEMPLOYED! DEMAND WORK OR MAINTENANCE AT TRADE UNION RATES.

THE SOLIDARITY OF LABOUR IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD.

DEMONSTRATE THE UNITED FRONT OF THE TOILERS.

PRISON SONG.

By RALPH CHAPLIN. (Tune: "The Red Flag.")

The pale and dismal daylight falls
Through iron bars on prison walls.
In chains we came from far and near,
And in dark cells they hold us here.

Chorus:

Defiant 'neath the Iron Heel;
Their walls of stone and bars of steel!
For though all hell at us is hurled,
We and our kind shall rule the world.

To all brave comrades o'er the sea
In chains for human liberty,
And all jailed rebels everywhere
We say: be bold and do and dare!

Chorus: Defiant 'neath, etc.

By all the graves of Labour's dead,
By Labour's deathless flag of red,
We make a solemn vow to you
We'll keep the faith: we will be true.

Chorus: Defiant 'neath, etc.

For Freedom laughs at prison bars,
Her voice re-echoes from the stars:
Proclaiming with the tempest's breath
A Cause beyond the reach of death!

Chorus: Defiant 'neath, etc.

The Athenians.

Addressing an open-air meeting in the Greek capital some time ago, the Apostle Paul twitted the people there with being highly superstitious, and he said much the same at the Asiatic towns of Ephesus. Notwithstanding the dialectic or commercial aptitude these people had acquired, he found them thoroughly infantile in their general outlook on life and on "man's place in the universe." They would believe anything, even that there was some virtue in going crazy over an image of Diana the huntress. Yet it is doubtful whether, in these modern days of "enlightenment," of "science," of "fearless thinking," the "public" can be considered any further advanced than those Athenians and Ephesians: whether even to-day there is any limit to the rubbish they will believe.

A speaker asked the other day who "the public" was? "The public" is a very real thing, especially as a tool. It is just that great stupid mass which will accept anything that a designing class in control of its ideas suggests to it, and will rush wildly into any war or panic or mob-outbreak it is told to. Such a "public" is the main instrument of capitalist power to-day, and one of the chief objects of capitalism, attained through capitalism's control of all the schools, newspapers, churches, cinemas, novels, etc., is to keep it as numerous and as stupid as it possibly can. Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings its "praise" is perfected.

From our earliest years we are taught the habit of believing things in complete contradiction to even our childish commonsense and observation, and it is seldom that we can entirely shake them off in after life, even to our dying day. Leaving aside all we learn about God, who "made everything," sees all the naughty things we do through the ceiling in the dark, and so on, it is thought quite "delightful" for a child to have his mind stuffed with fairies and elves, with phantom ships and mythic beasts, so that it becomes second nature to him to believe the absurd and the impossible and consider it quite the proper thing. A little later comes all the king and country stuff, the bowing to "authority" which his pastors and masters call "discipline," ill-assorted, in this country, if he is a white boy, with the slave-owner psychology that makes possible the general "scare" of a "native rising" (when actually all the time the natives are in terror of a pogrom), which has so repeatedly served the ruling class design of diverting the militant workers from their purpose and dividing the proletariat against itself. And so they go through life in a continual daze of fiction and reality, babyish nightmare and "solid fact" all mixed up, and all accorded equal credence in their minds.

The Great War, with its continual playing on the nerves of the masses, military and civil, with its panicky appeals to God and legends of Mons angels, has undoubtedly increased the superstition of "the public" to such a point, indeed, that in England, for instance, while on the one hand you see more king worship, more snobbery, more young and middle-aged men going to church, than ever, on the other hand the superstition has over-reached itself and produced a healthier cynicism than has been previously known. What is more, the division is crystallising more or less on class lines: the still superstitious portion of the "public" are all for the capitalist system, the disillusioned are for breaking it, realising at last not only that capitalism would not be able to persist except for the support of the public's superstitions, but that these superstitions are just for that reason deliberately fostered by the capitalist class.

The capitalist leaders know very well what they have to do in this respect. They appear on every sort of platform that tends to keep their public guessing. The parsons mostly understand the game, and exploit those who see "visions" which they will privately acknowledge to be hallucinations. The purveyors of spooks, mystery men and "hush-hush" tales like those of the "Sunday Times," whose recent trumped up "fears" of a "native rising," to eventuate just because a delegate from Moscow happens to return to South Africa, were widely swallowed, although they transparently conceal nothing but support for the existing helot system on which the ruling caste of South Africa thrives—all these people know quite well why they are able to do good business. The scribes whose yarns are dated from Riga or Helsingfors, who tell you how the Soviet Government, which every mass demonstration in the country shows anew to be firmly enshrined in the hearts of the people of Russia, massacre hundreds and thousands weekly for some trifle, are able thus to serve the anti-Labour forces of the world because they know what a mentality their masters have been able to create in millions who will never ask themselves how a government that did such things could last a day, especially a government entirely made up of real popular assemblies. Why, many a member of the public, having heard a lecture, will believe a false report of it in the newspaper next day in preference to the actual thing he heard. How much more will he believe the papers about things 10,000 miles away?

Some are so slow that they won't forget their superstitions quickly enough to suit their masters' ends: for instance, if they are British, they go on hating Boers, or Germans, long after the ruling class has ceased to have any further use for that particular stunt. The "Christian Science Monitor" has long since disavowed its old "German gold for Lenin and Trotsky" fable, but thousands of "the public" will still throw it at you. Talking of old wives' fables, a "dear old lady" in England, much interested in Russia, said to me: "You know, of course, I—er—never really did believe it, but I should just like to hear it from you, just to reassure me, that there is no truth after all in the story of the Nationalisation of Women"; and meanwhile the "Star" itself cannot "keep it up" any longer: it explained the other day that "nationalisation of women" simply meant that women had equal political status with men! But that won't kill the legend. Similarly with the British Labour Party. The capitalists of England have at last succeeded in detaching them from their pro-Russian sympathies, one of the main preventatives of war against Russia, by stories of religious persecution in Moscow, in support of which they have not even found it necessary to adduce a single allegation, not even a fake one. The liemongers know they can't; but the Labour members, largely bible-thumpers, will repeat the yarn for years yet. Even the story of Moscow travesties of Christianity turns out only to be a local variant of what is reported in this week's papers from New York, where an episcopal parson, in the spirit of Fraser's "Golden Bough," is carrying out in his Christian church mimic rites of various pagan religions by way of promoting, as he says, their comparative study!

Superstition! thy name is "the public."

S. P. B.

May Day.

Notwithstanding the attempts of the South African Labour Party and some of the trade union officials to sabotage May Day celebrations this year, the live wires in the movement are determined that the day shall be adequately marked.

The final meeting of the General Committee has completed all the arrangements, and the various sections will assemble on Union Ground at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 1st. Preceded by the band, they will march under their respective banners via Plein, Troye, Commissioner, West, President, Eloff, Jeppe, and Rissik Streets to the front of the Town Hall. From platforms to be arranged the following resolutions, which were agreed upon by the Joint Committee unanimously, will be moved:

RESOLUTION I.

"This mass meeting of Johannesburg workers assembled on May Day sends fraternal greetings to the workers of all lands. It sends a word of cheer to those who are suffering imprisonment and are otherwise being victimised by capitalist governments, and pledges itself to unceasingly agitate for the release of all class war prisoners. In particular it calls upon the South African Government to declare a general amnesty for all Martial Law prisoners in the Union."

RESOLUTION II.

"This mass meeting of Johannesburg workers assembled on May Day demands that May 1st be recognised as a public holiday throughout South Africa, and calls upon all labour bodies to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to bring about in future the total cessation of work on the International Workers' Holiday. It urges on all workers to combine, both industrially and politically, to bring about the required economic changes for the eventual emancipation of the workers."

Speakers to these resolutions will include visiting comrades from Capetown, Durban, and other centres, as well as local Communists and trade unionists.

The Communist Party has arranged for decorated trolleys to be in the procession, and children who wish to ride must apply to the Ladies' Committee, No. 4, Trades Hall. Every Communist is expected to fall in behind the party banners.

Communist Party Congress

The arrangements for the second Congress of the Communist Party (South African Section) are now complete. Delegates will attend from the Witwatersrand and Pretoria and from the various South African towns. All delegates must be provided with credentials from their branch secretaries, and members of the party who wish to attend must produce their membership cards for examination.

The Congress will last two days, April 28th and 29th. The first day's proceedings will take place in No. 8, and the second day in the Council Chamber (top floor), of the Trades Hall, Rissik Street, Johannesburg. The order of business will be as follows:

(1) Congress opened at 10 a.m. by Comrade W. H. Andrews.
(2) Examination of credentials.
(3) Election of chairman for the Congress.
(4) Minutes of previous Congress.
(5) Report of Central Executive, including audited accounts and balance sheets.
(6) Amendments and additions to Constitution and Rules.
(7) Election of Central Executive for the coming year.
(8) Next Congress.
(9) Resolution (submitted by C.E.): That this Congress instructs the C.E. to apply for affiliation with the S.A. Labour Party.
(10) Proposals for party platform, Capetown.
(11) General business.

The delegate to the Fourth Congress of the Third International, Com. S. P. Bunting, will be present, and will report to the Congress.

Delegates and members are urged to take their seats promptly, and to assist in getting the business through with despatch, as the agenda is a long one.

WEDDING.

We are asked to announce that Comrade J. den Bakker (Benoni) and Miss E. E. Brissenden (Johannesburg) are to be married on Monday, 30th April. We hope our comrade will never regret joining the ranks of the benedicks.

Cape Federation Congress.

The Fifth Annual Congress of the Cape Federation of Labour Unions will open in the City Hall, Capetown, on the 28th inst., and is expected to last four days. The resolutions which will be considered include the following:

Resolved: There appears to be a general belief that the colour bar is still in existence throughout the Cape Province, therefore this Congress desires to again place on record its entire repudiation of any colour bar amongst organised workers and seeks to organise all workers irrespective of race, colour, or creed.

Resolved: That this Congress accepts the position that, so long as no truly National Federation exists, the Cape Federation of Labour Unions shall be the co-ordinating body in any scheme for INDUSTRIAL organisation, either within the limits of the Cape Province or subject to the consent of trade organisations concerned, outside those limits throughout the Union of South Africa.

Resolved: That this Congress is of opinion that Industrial Unions are desirable and necessary as the next step towards working class solidarity and freedom. Therefore we call upon all craft organisations to cultivate and develop ways and means whereby sectional and craft unions may be abolished and replaced by industrial organisations.

Resolved: That this Congress re-affirms the resolution passed at the last Annual Congress that the time has now arrived to consolidate the forces of organised labour in this country by forming, as a first step, a National Federation, to include and embrace all workers throughout the Union of South Africa.

That each centre shall immediately upon dissolution of the Congress embark upon a vigorous campaign of organisation in its own area, to include all sections of workers as far as possible.

That as soon as this has been accomplished each centre shall proceed to elect a number of representatives, who, in conjunction with the representatives of other centres, shall constitute the Executive Council of the National Federation, as follows: 3 for the Cape Province, 3 for the Transvaal, 2 for Natal, and 1 for the Free State. Basis of discussion:

That until otherwise determined each centre shall be granted sufficient local autonomy to manage its own centre, whenever national questions are not involved

That wherever there are National Unions in existence nothing shall be done to harass or interfere with their activities except with the consent of their National Councils.

That wherever there are isolated local unions in any particular trade or industry, immediate steps shall be taken to form a national organisation for such particular trade or industry.

That wherever such national organisations exist or wherever same may be brought into existence, arrangements shall be made whereby membership cards of each centre shall be freely exchanged.

That negotiations be immediately commenced in each centre with all existing service organisations with the object of including them in the National Federation.

Solidarity.

British interest in the problem of the Ruhr, which had begun to show signs of fading, has suddenly received a sharp stimulus, says a cable message. The increased interest is probably due to the fact that the tortured German workers have at last turned on their tormentors and have taken forcible possession of one or more of the Rhenish industrial towns.

Intervention against French capitalist brutality has been withheld by the British Tory Government, but if the Ruhr workers' movement shows any signs of spreading there will be no further hesitation, and French, German, and British capitalism will stand shoulder to shoulder against them.

Books in Stock.

Our readers are advised to keep this catalogue for further reference. Further instalments will be published until the list of books and pamphlets in stock is completed. Send cash with order to Box 4179, Johannesburg.

W. T. GOODE—		
Bolshevism at Work	3	6
FRANK HODGES—		
Nationalisation of the Mines	6	0
B. G. HORNIMAN—		
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