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The International

THE WORLD'S CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

THE ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (S.A. Section of the Communist International).
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The Workless in Britain.

MASS TACTICS.

A National Conference of the Unemployed Workers' Committee Movement met at Coventry on April 9th, 10th and 11th. Almost the first words spoken by the chairman were: "The Movement is stronger than ever before," and on every side there was testimony that the Hunger Marches had done much to arouse the rank and file of the employed workers. But although the organised labour movement has held a joint demonstration or two, and negotiations with the General Council have been opened, little progress had yet been made in this direction. Negotiations for affiliation of the unemployed to the Trades Union Congress are still going on, and a Joint Advisory Committee has been proposed, but nothing more has been heard of these proposals since a meeting two months ago.

The Conference realised what this means: that only by getting close contact with rank and file workers who are employed can they get co-operation, and press the leaders of organised labour into common action. This immediate point of tactics led to the two most important decisions of the Conference—"to join in strikes and lock-outs in an organised manner, and to insist on joint representation on strike committees," and also "to organise mass agitation by means of mass marches to factories, railway centres, trade union branches and committees, etc., to prepare the way for a general strike to enforce our demands."

These two resolutions and the speeches of delegates showed the direction in which the unemployed are turning. Hitherto they have spent their main energies in trying to force the Government's hand, or in attempting to get concessions from Boards of Guardians and such like. They have found that the capitalist classes have no pity to spare, and are not afraid of demonstrations. So now the unemployed have turned to their own fellow-workers of the factories and the trade unions, and aim at securing their support.

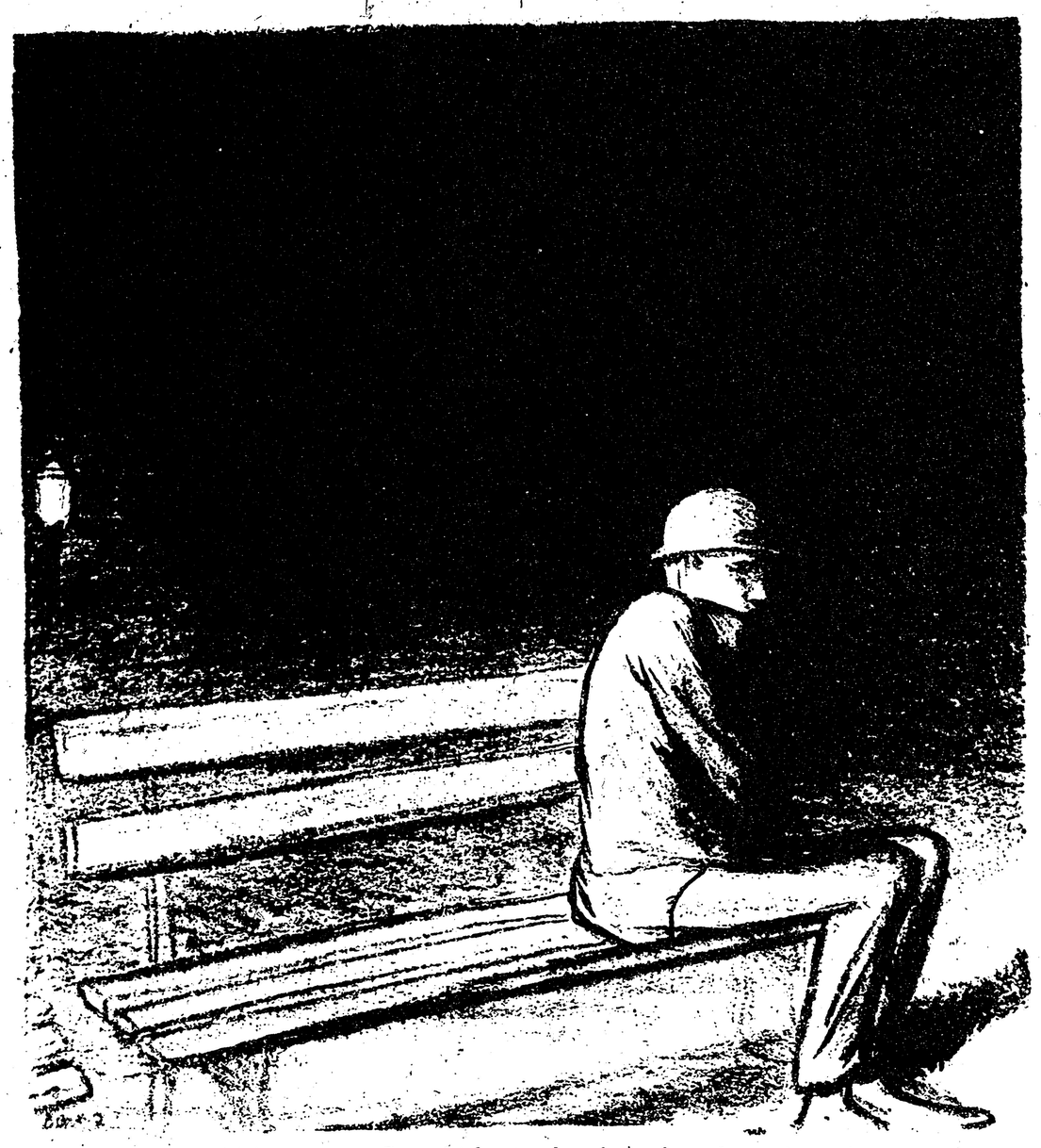
"In this fight," said Comrade Murphy, "the unemployed cannot hope to win alone. To get the general strike you have to get at those who are working, and you can't do this by the simple method of getting resolutions passed in trade union branches. To rouse the workers in the factories and the unions we must go to the factories with big battalions of unemployed, go to the union branches not with just one or two members, but with masses, and to the union committees with demonstrations of thousands. Deputations of ones and twos can be forgotten: demonstrations of thousands cannot. If you mean business with regard to the general strike these are the decisions that will test the movement."

Among the other important resolutions passed was one deciding upon the organisation of a national rent and rate strike of the unemployed. This, like the general strike, is a method of fighting, and a good one too, that needs co-operation with employed workers wherever it can be secured. But the experience of Glasgow has shown that the unemployed will have to carry the main weight of this struggle on their own shoulders; it is only the unemployed who can prevent evictions, and they will have to be ready to act at any moment of the day or night.

The People of the Abyss.

In another column we publish an article by a native contributor on the Urban Areas Bill, a typical capitalist measure, damning with faint praise, as it were, like those laws for the registration of trade unions—"look how nice it will be to be a corporation, capable of suing—and being sued," and so on. "If we provide locations," says the South African ruling caste, "we want our pound of flesh, viz., that in every town, instead of only in a few labour districts in the North, you shall come under pass laws." So the chains of slavery are drawn tighter and tighter, so capitalism reduces its victims to further and further subjection and expropriation, so Imperialism waxes grosser and grosser, the world over. No liberty in Russia, indeed! Fomentors of "Bolshevism," indeed! It is in Parliament that they are found. In particular, the natives of the Cape are being deprived piecemeal of one privilege, such as it was, after another, and we fear our contributor's hopes that the Bill will be inoperative in their case are only too sanguine. But if not, all the more is the duty cast on them using what liberties they still retain to link up with their fellow-helots of the four Provinces in One Big Workers' Union for emancipation from all oppression.

And this is Capitalist Civilisation.



"If I was an African savage I would have a kraal to sleep in. I would be able to obtain food by hunting and fishing. But I am a civilised white man, and I have no shelter, no food or possibility of obtaining any. If I creep into some hole to sleep the forces of 'law and order' rout me out. If I take food the forces of 'law and order' throw me into prison. All the forces of 'civilisation' are combined to reduce me to utter misery and starvation. Some 'civilisation,' isn't it?"—From "All Power."

A Growl from the Zoo.

Lord Curzon wants to be a war hero somewhere to crown his pompous career, so he is trying to get up a fight about a three-mile or twelve-mile limit, and to make "Bolshevik propaganda" in countries like Persia, Afghanistan, etc., where he has no business to be poking his nose anyway, a casus belli, also raking up a "murder" and an imprisonment now three years old—strange to choose these, if worse atrocities are still going on daily, as we are told! Only a panjandrum with Curzon's lack of humour could, on top of this, complain of other people's "irrelevance" or "offensiveness," or protest at being "insulted" because people like Chicherin can't help laughing at him. But to banish the Trade Delegation will only cut off England's nose to spite her face. The British lion is caged.

* * *

"Resolutionary Socialism."

Let's not be too much disgusted with the "resolution for the establishment of Socialism in England," introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Philip Snowden for the Labour Party. On the whole, things would be much better if we had a Labour Party to introduce such banal propositions in the American House and Senate. Banal, cowardly, obsequiously dishonest the remarks of Snowden must have been, as indicated in press reports. Judging from these despatches, he disavowed revolution, repudiated the idea of the State confiscating industrial capital and went through the usual ritual of yellow piety in denouncing Bolshevism. But what of it? The time will come to make good on this Pickwickian Socialism, and then the pitiable Snowden and Macdonald will have burnt out their fuses as lights of the Labour Party.

These first few timid words had to be spoken, and the counterfeit quality of them will soon enough be exposed by time and concrete situations. The pressure of history will drive the Labour Party on to where the Snowdens and Macdonalds will be fugitives from its wrath. In speaking now of Socialism without revolution, Snowden's party is like a man who jumps off a forty-storey building with an engagement to stop at the thirty-third floor. —"The Liberator."

A Clerical Chilvers.

The fuller report now to hand of Dominie van Broekhuizen's notorious sermon on the "pale horse" makes us doubt whether these parsons are really as simple as they pretend. Does this reverend gentleman want us to believe that he has had no time all these years to discover what every man of the world knows, that the anti-Russian tales are just propaganda legends, that so far from "marriage under Bolshevism being of no value," or "the woman being state property," or "only 'free' marriages being contracted," or "family life being done away with," etc., these are things which are daily being perpetrated under Capitalism (as the Communist Manifesto pointed out 75 years ago), and are only being abolished with the abolition of capitalism. He must be a very poor priest not to see these abuses in his own parish: and a very "opiated" reader not to know that Russia too is still full, if not fuller than ever, of churches, sky pilots, deities, and all the bag of tricks.

* * *

Another Scuttle.

The British Government announces that it will renounce its mandate over Iraq, or Mesopotamia, as soon as the latter has entered the League of Nations, and at latest within four years. Evidently oil is not as promising there as was supposed, and thousands of lives have been sacrificed to the speculators for nothing. So the imperialist edifice goes on crumbling and crumbling, and the way opens wider and wider for a real federation of free nations under the only free banner in the world, that of the international working class.

"Unemployment in South Africa."

Now that the movement for organising the unemployed is being seriously undertaken we may call attention to Mr. M. Kentridge's booklet under the above title, to be obtained at No. 4, Trades Hall, price 1s. 6d. The work is a useful compendium of statistics and general information, and whether or not its recommendations are feasible or far-reaching enough, it is a document which should be in the hands of everyone interested in the great crusade of cutting out this cancer from the body politic.

The Native (Urban Areas) Bill.

By R.A.N.E.O.

By the time these lines appear in the press, the Native (Urban Areas) Bill in its mutilated form will have passed the third reading, and Native affairs will soon fall under its provisions. It is a measure which had been carefully considered by both Europeans and natives, and which went through several processes of weeding out anything that might jeopardise Bantu and European interests. The natives, it would appear, had accepted the principles underlying it because they thought it carried with it a promise of a Canaan, and would enable them to develop along lines best suited to their aspirations. Not one among them favoured segregation, but all felt that they must bow to the inevitable and make a good job out of a bad one. Little did they suspect that the spirit of exploiting subject races and of perpetuating a policy of domination over the masses would at the eleventh hour show itself serpent-like and practically mutilate and murder in the most infamous manner the last hopes of the Bantu peoples.

The ordinary layman will not perhaps appreciate the plight of the natives under this Bill. To understand it he would have to obtain knowledge of the conditions under which native farm labourers or squatters live, and what has largely induced them to flood the towns. With this knowledge he will be enabled to discover the wickedness of the Union Government and to sympathise with the poor natives. The Act of 1913 made life intolerable in the countryside. That Act presumed in the first instance that Parliament would declare areas where natives could buy land and live with their families. It is now ten years since that Act came into force, and natives do not as yet know the areas set aside for their occupation. All they know is that land in South Africa is the property of the white man, and that they cannot enter into an agreement to buy, lease, or acquire or have interest in land.

Consequently they were knocked about from pillar to post until finally they found themselves drifting into towns where in some Provinces they bought or were working to buy plots of ground whereon to build homes for their children. The Government has again intercepted them, and is now making a law which lays down that no native shall, in a segregated area within a municipal boundary, own any landed property. Their liberty is so burdened with restrictions that some of them, if they had anywhere to go, would not hesitate to quit or follow the example of Piet Retief and his followers in 1836 when they trekked northward in search of pastures green or a new heaven. The chief and outstanding incentive propelling the powers that be to stoop right down to the trickery of dispossessing natives of their lands, both in urban and rural areas, is the desire to force them to sell their labour for a price not even sufficient to keep body and soul together. For instance, it has been thought fit to perpetuate the pass system and to declare certain areas proclaimed areas where natives will be kept in a state of serfdom and helotage. Cheap labour is the cry of South Africa. And General Smuts will support any movement that will pauperise a section of the population that it may forever produce all wealth at very low cost irrespective of whether or not the producers of such wealth are on the verge of starvation.

The liberty of the Cape natives has been encroached upon, and it is doubtful if the voting power in that Province will after ten years from date hold its value. One of the qualifications in the Cape for native voters is ownership of land the value of which is not to be less than £78. Under this Bill natives in that Province dare not purchase land in urban areas, and therefore will not be represented in Municipal Councils. It is doubtful if the Bill will affect the Cape Province, although so much talk about it has been heard in Parliament. But it is significant to know that the Smuts Government is bidding hard to alter conditions in the Cape and to place the natives there on the same level as natives of the other sister Provinces.

The opinion generally seems to point in the direction of utter disappointment, and it is held that the Bill now is quite a new document with nothing good in it for the natives.

A pushing New York firm have written to the "International," 4, Traders' (sic) Hall (that no doubt is what intrigued them), requesting us for the next few years to send them regular shipments of dry ginger. We appreciate the soft impeachment, but regret that we require all our hot stuff for local consumption.

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Light on the Underworld.

Once more the old cry for suppression of Bolshevik ideas is trolled out by the capitalist press, the occasion this time being the belated appearance of a report by Col. Truter (of Bulhoek fame) as Commissioner of Police. Any port in a storm; out of the mouths of even policemen and detectives doth the Corner House perfect its praise. Apparently the gravamen is this: anti-capitalism may be all very well elsewhere, but not in South Africa, for here "the vast majority of the Europeans are capitalists," and so you mustn't attack them "in the hearing of natives." In other words, King European can do no wrong, his crimes of capitalism must be endured, brazened out or hushed up, lest haply he lose the "respect" of the native. This is the tripe to which the ruling caste descends in order to maintain its bloody rule over white and black alike.

White workers, you have the choice either to submit to the Iron Heel for the sake of "keeping the native in his place," or to throw off the whole slaving outfit and emancipate yourselves and all your fellow-workers of whatever colour. The gulf that matters to your position under capitalism is not the gulf between skins, but the gulf between you and your fellow-whites, the boss class.

It is a piece of impertinence which Col. Truter could not even defend on a Cape platform, much less an English one, to suggest that labour propaganda, legal among whites, becomes somehow illegal among coloured labourers. Either the working class is not entitled at all to agitate, educate, organise and emancipate itself, or if it is it is entitled because it is a working class, and every stratum of it is therefore equally entitled. To limit that right is to destroy it altogether. To say "only white workers may be emancipated" is, in effect, to say "no workers may be emancipated." That that is the real meaning of this cant about the "danger of Bolshevik propaganda among non-Europeans" is illustrated by the appeal for legislation like that of Australia, where there are next to no blacks at all. Truter wants to suppress all "Bolshevism," whether whites or blacks are concerned in it.

He does indeed suggest "counter-propaganda." As if the capitalist press, the Native Affairs Department, the churches and the mission schools were not doing it all the time, ten to our one or none! But though thus outdone, we should have no objection to this method. By all means let us freely and in public forum debate with our opponents the whole position of the working class, in the hearing of the working class. But Col. Truter knows he could not hold out for five minutes at that game: he knows he can't argue a case on a matter which, if anything ever was, is a matter for reasoning in the open. And so he not only in effect makes our propaganda impossible while every facility is given to his "counter-propaganda," but he demands "stronger measures," i.e., force, and once force is appealed to all talk of counter-propaganda is at once shown up as a sham. Which, then, is the party of violence? He talks of "underground activities." They are all on his side: and if there were any on ours, which side is responsible for trying to drive them underground? The working class movement all over the world demands only the utmost publicity. Which class is it that dare not face the light of day, and has no real argument but "skiet, skiet" and Fascism?

In the press of both Johannesburg and the Cape which is booming this police stuff there has also appeared recently a characteristically gross distortion of a recent article in this paper. Dr. Abdurahman's warning of "a white scuttle out of Africa" if its rulers did not mend their ways is deliberately misrepresented as our own absolute prophecy and policy: whereas our article emphatically repudiated the Doctor's "colour" outlook and, as a solution to his dark forebodings, preached only common action between white and non-white workers against the common enemy, namely, not "whites," obviously, but imperialist exploitation. This sort of rank dishonesty is no doubt just what is meant by "counter-propaganda." Dishonest it must be, for it is designed to maintain an utterly dishonest system of society, in which Col. Truter's masters sit on top sucking the blood of the huge proletarian mass, white and black, under their heel, and sanctimoniously declare that it is against "the public interest" that the mass should know where it stands! A lie, a bluff, a robbery, an iron slavery bristling with bombs and bayonets—that is what the police are paid to defend, that is the throne on which the present masters sit so uneasily, that is itself the cause of those "subversive views" which to-day, depite all the "capitalist offensives," are rapidly consolidating the oppressed of all the earth in a mighty movement to sweep away all tyranny for evermore.

What about renewing your subscription to the "International"?

An Australian Letter.

Writing from Melbourne on April 13th, a South African comrade says:

The "Internationals" arrive regularly. We look forward to them with pleasure. After we have read them we hand them to a wide circle of friends who have commented on the excellence of the matter. We can't help admiring the sincerity and persistence with which you apostles preach the gospel, despite your adversaries in the path.

The recent conference of the Australian Labour Party was more like a damp squib than anything else. Nothing was achieved that matters. Three resolutions, however, may be noted, two of which indicate that there is still reason for hope. First, refusal to alter the Socialist objective; 2nd, prohibition of accepting hospitality from political opponents, and 3rd, refusal to affiliate the Communists.

The two first exasperated the moderates or constitutionalists. The second resolution prohibited the hospitality except on state occasions. But the exception was wiped out and unqualified prohibition carried.

Although the rank and file of the A.L.P. are not Communists to-day, economic pressure is gradually strengthening the left. In fact, among the antis is observable an ideology expressed in phraseology that evidences the permeation of Communism among even those who say they stand for constitutional methods and who don't want Red Russia here. It seems to me like unconscious conversion.

The press notices this fact and stresses the atheistical character of Communism. God, King and Empire are the holy trinity which is so persistently reiterated that to me it takes on the nature of a joke.

The Socialist Party that under Tom Mann developed such enthusiasm resembles to-day a mother's meeting, and only an excellent band remains of its former "glory."

The city of Melbourne is served by cable cars, and the suburbs by electric cars. Yesterday a strike broke out in the electric service, with a probable extension or compliance with the men's demands.

Part of the coalfields are closed down, and the end is not yet. In fact, the industrial position is highly inflammable generally. Some unionists tell me that anything can happen.

There is a serious drought in parts, and although in consequence the price of cattle has enormously fallen, meat and all other foodstuffs have risen in price. Wages have relatively and actually fallen, unemployment has increased, and a constant inflow of immigrants intensify the position. But despite all this there is still a long way to go before a slump is reached equal to what you have in Johannesburg.

We are glad to see that Comrades Bunting have returned, and have no doubt but that they will be able to show up Russia in its true colours, to the dismay of the "Sunday Slimes" and kindred rags. We send them our good wishes.

E. P. B.

May Day and Cape Unemployed.

Two demonstrations, one Labour Party, one Unemployed, the latter assisted by the Communist Party, were held on the Capetown Parade on May Day. Unlike the Rand press, the Cape papers, while scamping their report of the first, give much prominence, if somewhat coloured with the usual village idiot facetiousness of the journalist, to what was evidently the more impressive meeting of the two, at which "many hundreds of listeners" attended. The Cape unemployed movement has made great progress in the few weeks it has been going, and its slogans are the same as those being followed in Johannesburg—"Work or Full Maintenance" and "Fight now and win." In the Cape the ranks of the unemployed consist of both white and coloured and native, and their common class interest enables them to defy attempts to divide them against each other. Thus the demand for an amnesty included not only the Rand prisoners but also those of Bulhoek.

This being so, it would scarcely have been a tour de force if the Cape Communists (unlike those of the Rand), at their festival gathering that evening, had thrown the doors open to all workers interested. The other side find no difficulty about that. In the same Friendly Hall a day or two before, we read: "A happier and more friendly gathering of people it would be hard to imagine than those, old and young, native, coloured and white, who came to make St. Stephen's Church Bazaar the success it deserved to be. . . Sir John Kotze, K.C., Judge of the Supreme Court, opened the bazaar. . ."

International Delegate Fund.

It has been decided to open a general fund for the purpose of providing ways and means of sending delegates from South Africa from time to time to the headquarters of the world revolutionary proletarian movement. Contributions are invited at once, not only from members of the Party, but from all sympathisers who recognise the great advantage of such missions, ensuring a constant link between the radical elements in this country and those of the rest of the world, and a consequent continuous broadening of our local outlook.

Cheques should be made out and forwarded to R. Rabb, Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, at No. 6, Trades Hall, Johannesburg.

UNEMPLOYED MOVEMENT.

COTTESLOE CAMP SCANDAL.

By C. F. GLASS.

Since the inaugural meeting of the unemployed movement on May 1st, the committee appointed has been getting down to business. Deputations are being arranged to meet the Chamber of Mines, the Castle Brewery, and the S.A. Railways for the purpose of discussing ways and means of finding work for the unemployed at decent rates of pay and to secure financial assistance to enable the Committee to carry on its work more effectively.

RENT.

Numerous reports of unemployed tenants being evicted from their homes through failure to pay rent have come to the Committee, and as a consequence a deputation waited on the Rent Board to demand a rent moratorium for the unemployed. The deputation was informed that the Board had no power in the matter, and was referred to the White Labour Bureau. The Bureau received the deputation and commenced proceedings by offering the Secretary of the Unemployed Committee, Comrade M. Shall, a job—which he promptly refused, telling the Government gentry that he had not come there to seek employment but to assist his fellow-workers in distress. As might have been expected, the deputation got little or no satisfaction, and the only course now open is for unemployed tenants who are unable to pay their rent to resist eviction. In this I am confident that they will have the solid backing of the mass of unemployed. Woe betide the avaricious landlord who attempts to evict a destitute and helpless family.

"RELIEF" WORKS.

In the meantime, men are being enrolled and despatched to construction works at Hekpoort, Hartebeestpoort, Kokstad, Franklin, and elsewhere. The Unemployed Committee have declared this work to be SCAB WORK, as the rates paid enable a man in no case to earn more than 5s. per diem, whereas men regularly engaged in such work, both in railway and mining employ, are receiving 10s. per diem and upwards. Several men returning from these constructions, interviewed by members of the Committee, state emphatically that they can scarcely eke out an existence for themselves, let alone a wife and several children. Evidently the Government is exploiting the unemployed to get railway work done cheaply, and at the same time is scattering them in batches of 200 or so over various parts of the country, where their protests will not be heeded. If massed in Johannesburg they would prove a formidable force, and would in all probability succeed in forcing maintenance from the authorities on a decent scale. Unemployed are therefore advised to REMAIN IN TOWN and keep in touch with the Committee. Better to starve here and put up a fight for it than starve in obscurity on the various constructions.

COTTESLOE CAMP.

A committee of investigation paid a visit last week to the relief camp at Cottesloe. Just a few days previously an article had appeared in the "Star" eulogising the camp, and stating that the denizens thereof were perfectly satisfied with the conditions obtaining. It was for the purpose of verifying or otherwise this statement that the visit was paid.

Needless, perhaps, to say, the conditions at Cottesloe were found to be almost the worst possible. Situated in the bleak veld below the dump where the refuse from Vrededorp location is tipped—a dump from 75 feet to 100 feet high—the camp shelters from sixteen to twenty families, living in tents. The food rations are worse, both in quality and quantity, than those allowed in the gaols. Here are the rations allowed for a family of SEVEN for ONE WEEK: 8 lbs. bread, 2 lbs. sugar, 4 lbs. Boer meal, 4 lbs. mealie rice. Butter, cheese, jam, milk, matches or candles are not allowed. A small quantity of meat is allowed each family, but this is pooled for preparation into soup for the whole camp. One bar of soap per week for this family is allowed. Begging outside the camp is disallowed under pain of expulsion. The worst feature of all, perhaps, is the verminous state of the camp, which results from its close proximity to the refuse dump. This obviously is incurable. There are upwards of sixty young children in the camp, and it is a pitiful sight to see these little tots on cold, damp and cheerless days, running about barefooted and raggedly clad.

HOW COMPLAINTS ARE SQUASHED.

Cottesloe is run by that august body known as the "Rand Aid Association," with the assistance of a Government grant, and it has appointed a superintendent to manage the camp—with a fairly handsome salary. It would appear that the Superintendent's business is to prevent any complaints leaking out, for two weeks ago some benevolent ladies from Parktown paid a visit to the camp and asked the heads of several families whether there was anything they required. "Yes, food and clothing!" was the answer. The ladies had not got very far in their investigations when they were called by the Superintendent into his tent and told not to take heed of any complaints, as all the needs of the occupants were supplied. So the ladies went away, and hence, presumably, the "Star" article. At the beginning of April a petition was drawn up in camp, protesting against the meagreness of the food rations and requesting an increase. The petition was signed by 25 out of 30 heads of families and submitted to the House Committee of the Rand Aid Association, which passed the following resolution on April 19th. Resolved: "That the signatories to the petition be notified by the Secretary that, having carefully considered the evidence, the Committee find that there is no justification for complaints against the Camp Superintendent either in regard to food rations, which it is admitted were issued according to scale, or in connection with his patrolling the camp at all times in the execution of his duty."

One of the occupants addressed a letter to the Prime Minister on the subject, and the following is an extract from his reply: "Rand Aid rations are issued according to a scale carefully prepared and approved by medical authority as sufficient to sustain life." No one, I contend, is in a better position to judge of the adequacy or otherwise of the rations issued than those receiving and having to sustain life on them. Smuts and the Rand Aid Association think they are adequate or—"SUFFICIENT TO SUSTAIN LIFE"; just "sufficient," be it noted. I would humbly suggest that those who hold this view try the game for a month or so. Perhaps they would then think differently—in fact, there is no doubt about it.

AWAY WITH COTTESLOE!

However, there seems no redress by simply appealing to humane sentiment—the parasites of the Government and its Rand Aid Association simply regard the unemployed as nuisances when it is incumbent on them reluctantly to provide for them. Hence they provide them with only just "sufficient to sustain life." But Cottesloe has got to be abolished. It is an unhealthy plague spot, and is unfit for animals to live in, let alone human beings.

NOW THEN, ALL TOGETHER!

Our Committee is endeavouring to get a new site, with water and sanitary arrangements thereon, for a camp. It shall be in a healthy locality or nowhere. If backed by all unemployed, men and women, we must succeed. IF A SITE IS NOT GIVEN US WE SHALL TAKE IT—but have it we shall. Our slogan is: "WORK OR MAINTENANCE," and not "Cottesloe" maintenance. Unemployed, get moving! Register your names and addresses at No. 8, Trades Hall, any morning between 10 and 11, with the Secretary, from whom all information can be obtained.

Now's the time to fight! If we all pull together we shall succeed—not otherwise.

ROLL UP TO-MORROW.

A mass meeting of unemployed will be held at the Town Hall steps on Saturday, 12th May, at 3.30 p.m. COME IN YOUR THOUSANDS AND PREPARE TO FIGHT!

OUR VISIT TO JOHANNESBURG.

A "COLLINS" FROM COMRADE D. L. DRYBURGH (Capetown).

. . . The proceedings of the Party Conference were rather more harmonious than I have known on such occasions, and some of the items on the agenda which foreoasted a stormy time were discussed in the most calm and philosophic spirit. The decision to apply for affiliation to the Labour Party is one which might have far-reaching consequences in our movement and makes the year 1923 one which must be full of interest to those whose policy in the past has been to keep the Communist movement free from everything associated with Reformism. Let us hope that careful direction will keep us clear of ever deserving the title of "labour misleaders."

The "Internationale" was sung at the close, and—to the memory of Long, Lewis, and Hull—the chairman asked for the last verse of that strain which will ever be associated with their heroic martyrdom. Apart from actual work done, which was of immense importasce, the actual benefit of such gatherings is incalculable.

Our Johannesburg hosts were not slow to make full use of the delegates from the Cape and elsewhere; and at the Sunday night meeting on the steps of the Town Hall a large and enthusiastic gathering was addressed by all three of the Cape delegates. We missed the native and coloured elements who so faithfully support our Adderley Street meetings. The striking feature of the meeting, however, was the keen appreciation of every point, shown by responsive applause throughout.

The great gathering held in the City Hall on the eve of May Day was a triumph of organisation (for which credit is due above all to Mrs. Rabb), and was an unqualified success. Besides other features already recorded, Comrade Rabb with his fine literature table and several assistants all busy—literature sales for the last 21 months amounted to £343 15s. 3d.—makes us feel how much the Capetown branch neglects this form of silent propaganda.

The Young Communist League, too, was much in evidence, and we were urged to give some stimulus to the formation of a Capetown Branch.

The May Day procession left the Union Ground sharp to time, and considering that the Labour members and the "creeper" section of the movement had done their utmost to prevent support, we had a fine turnout. Never did the Red Flag sound so defiant as when the procession stopped at the Corner House and, led by the band, the whole crowd sang, and here I saw the most stimulating sight of the whole visit when, at the last verse, nine out of every ten of the immense crowd of spectators lining the streets stood "with heads uncovered."

I am now on board one of the most wonderful floating palaces of the Southern sea, the "Windsor Castle," and cannot but reflect on the enormous amount of "brain and hand" labour in its construction—but the people who occupy the beautiful suites of rooms and lovely cabins are not workers. May our visit have brought us one short step nearer the end of such an absurd state of affairs!

Topics of the Time.

Capitalist statesmen, editors, and publicists are marvellously lacking in a sense of humour. Thus a few brief months before the Rand revolt General Smuts was grandiloquently expounding the achievements of the "world revolution"! More recently still we had the statement in a leading New York daily editorial that "all citizens have the inalienable right of rebellion"! To-day we have the cabled utterance of Lord Buxton—himself a professional politician—deploring the fact that "every man in South Africa is a born politician"! Innumerable similar instances could be quoted, all going to show the utter contempt with which the politically active section of the capitalist class regard the intelligence of their beloved "public." One can imagine with what gasps of amazement the honest and sincere bourgeois receives statements like the one by the American Admiral Sims on the U-boat warfare, and the memoirs of Colonel Repington, Sir William Robertson, Lord French, Signor Nitti, Winston Churchill, and of many other "distinguished" figures in capitalist political life, all vividly illustrating the insincerity and gross cynicism of the men who to-day rule the destinies of mankind. They are not only corrupt, false, cunning, and unscrupulous careerists, but they take every opportunity of parading their repulsive philistine depravity before the eyes of their dupes.

* * *

Three of the four weekly leading articles in the "Sunday Times" are now regularly devoted to attacks on the Labour and Nationalist Parties, and especially on their "dreadful" combination to oust from power the Smuts dictatorship. The language and the phrases of these "leaders" are extremely simple; the reasoning and logic mere tricks of sophism; and the substance of the accusations and charges laid against the Opposition parties largely falsehood and misrepresentation. But the "Sunday Times" knows quite well the customer it caters for: it is the "average citizen" that it addresses itself to. We all know that "average citizen." We see thousands of the species filling the traincars at 9 a.m. every morning; the banks, offices, and shops are his abode during the "working" day; and from 2 p.m. on Saturdays till late on Sunday evenings the "average citizen" can only be found on tennis courts and motor cycles. The "Sunday Times" knows quite well that in the homes of the working class on the Rand it is, although read, despised as the most contemptible rag that gutter journalism has yet produced in South Africa. Hence it speaks to the "average citizen" of the lower middle class—everywhere the first and readiest victim to the most grotesque propaganda cast before him. He needs "simple language," for where reasoning is concerned he is a newly-born infant; and he requires the wise sermons of the "Sunday Times" lest his century-old prejudices might become disturbed in his daily contact with the workers of Newlands, Jeppes, Fordsburg, and Benoni. The backbone of imperialism in South Africa is the "average citizen," for where political and social idiocy is in close alliance with unscrupulous, publicly-proved liars and hireling hacks of a prostitute press everything is possible.

* * *

General Smuts has of late become frankly pessimistic. In not a single one of his recent public utterances has he even dared to express the hope that he might be returned to power at the next election. He, and other Ministers too, are on the contrary all stating at every opportunity that a Nationalist Government will most probably be in power as a result of the coming elections. That this anxiety by the South African Party leaders for the future is genuine is evidenced by their strenuous efforts to retain the Uitenhage seat and thus maintain for a time at least their precarious and dwindling majority. It is over a month now since Mr. Louis Esselen, chief organiser of the S.A.P., has been in Uitenhage preparing and perfecting the Government arrangements. The extraordinary, even frantic, efforts being made by the Smuts party show quite clearly the grave concern with which they view the future. The downfall of the Smuts Government would possibly cause the greatest crisis in the affairs of South Africa since the Boer war. It would be an enormous calamity not only to the imperialists in London, but also to the Chamber of Mines and its agents and representatives abroad. It is for this reason, if for no other, that Communists should assist the Labour and Nationalist parties in inflicting a crushing blow on the financial oligarchy that has for so long controlled the destinies of this country to the disastrous detriment of its inhabitants.

* * *

The recent amazing developments in Kenya are illuminating once more the fact which has already been proved on every possible occasion in history, but which so many "democrats" never learn to see. It is because the European settlers in Kenya, although more loyal to King and Empire than the King himself, see their economic position threatened that they defy imperial authority, and are organising for mutiny and rebellion. And once again the inherent contradictions of the capitalist system, incapable of being smoothed over, are causing an acute crisis. On the one hand there is the Colonial Office seeing a greater danger to the whole imperial structure by denying the demands of the Indians in Kenya than by making impossible white settlement in that colony. India and its teeming millions must at all costs be kept quiet and tranquil; the handful of white settlers in East Africa must therefore be sacrificed on the altar of imperialist strategy. On the other hand, the settlers are not going to be strangled without a struggle, hence their determination to resist and their frenzied hatred of Major Ormsby-Gore, Bonar Law's Secretary for the Colonies. But it is not the Secretary who is the villain of the piece; it is rather the glorious Commonwealth of Exploiting Nations, of which the East African settlers are an integral part, that has come to grief in its efforts to reconcile exploited with exploiters. And the Kenya settlers being ranked with the latter they must be prepared to stand or fall with the needs of their class as a whole.

* * *

In Europe, too, there are at the present moment men who are fervent adherents of the capitalist robber system, but yet wish to deny or stave off the working of that system when it acts to their disadvantage. Germany having been defeated in the war, and being disarmed and helpless, can have no valid excuse of any kind for refusing to pay the reparations she undertook in 1919, and which she herself forced on a similarly situated Soviet Russia a year earlier. The four feasible and possible methods that have been advanced for a solution of the reparations crisis have all been turned down by the Herren Stinnes, Krupp, Thyssen, and the few others who control the affairs of Germany, although by so doing they are inflicting unbearable hardships on their already agonised fatherland. Increased taxes they will not hear of; participation of the German State in their profits is turned down; assigning part of their shares as security for an international loan is rejected; and a French share in exploiting the mineral wealth is refused except on worthless terms. If any concrete personalities can be pointed to as the crucifiers of the German proletariat, than the dozen or so men with Stinnes at their head who control the economic and political life of Germany to-day must be placed in the dock as those criminally responsible.

V. D.

LORD BACON BLOWS THE GAFF.

Lord Bacon was born in 1560, and died in 1626. Under Queen Bess he was Queen's Ambassador at Paris, and under James I. he was made Attorney-General, and later Lord Keeper and Lord Chancellor. He was a profound scholar and wise to all the dark dodges of Statecraft, many of which he revealed in his Essays, which should be closely studied by all lovers of good literature and students of their fellow-man.

In his essays on "Seditions and Troubles" (1625), we are shown how statesmen regard "seditions and troubles"—that is, agitation and unrest of the working class.

Bacon first observes that a sure sign of trouble is when attacks and speeches against the State are frequent and open; and sagely warns against severe repression as only likely to increase trouble. Rather is it better to despise such attacks.

When discords and quarrels are carried on openly and audaciously it is a sign that the reverence of government is lost. When any of the four pillars of government are shaken, look out for bad weather. These four pillars are Religion, Justice, Counsel, and Treasure.

The cause of these troubles Bacon traces to poverty and discontent. If conditions permit, these causes must be removed by opening and balancing trade, banishing idleness, repressing waste, lightening taxation or improving the soil. And generally one must see that the population does not exceed the state of the kingdom which should maintain them—"especially if such population has not been mown down by wars." This is one of the nice calculations of Statesmen.

Bacon warns against "revolutions of the belly," which he says are the worst. Fears of oppression, he says, are worse than actual oppression; because actual oppression makes men patient and saps their courage—a shrewd observation.

And how wise is this! Bacon divides the probable revolters into two classes: the "common class of slow motion," and the better class of small strength unless operating on the common people. The game is to keep these two classes divided.

Full liberty must be given for the expression of discontent in order that it may evaporate. And when men's needs cannot be satisfied, then men must be led from hopes to hopes, till the ferment has subsided.

There is a very knowing passage dealing with the buying off of leaders—a thing not unknown to-day. Bacon openly says that it is excellent caution to remove all leaders around whom rebellious people might gather—those who "have reputation and confidence with the discontented party." These, he says, are to be won and reconciled to the State, and that "in a true and fast manner." If this cannot be done (though it generally can) then sections must be pitted against one another to divide and break them.

Here Bacon expounds the essence of Statecraft as practised even to-day.

What should be done when the "common people slow to move" begin to move, are honestly and capably led, and are neither side-tracked by traitors nor divided against one another, Francis Bacon doesn't say. The possibility never occurred to him!

Workers will see here the old, old game played on succeeding generations; they will also see what is implied by the term Statesman.

The capitalist class talks of principle, but acts on interest.

* * *

I am unaware of anything that has a right to be called an impossibility.

—Thomas B. Huxley.

* * *

It is not enough to be industrious; so are the ants. What are you industrious about?

—Thoreau.

SIDELIGHTS.

Portfolios for the S.A.L.P.

While not adopting the S.A.P. press criticisms of the Hertzog-Creswell pact, the South African working class is entitled to make a demand of its own. It is rumoured that if the Smuts ministry is overthrown, the S.A. Labour Party contemplates accepting several portfolios in a Hertzog ministry. It has always been understood to be a principle of real Labour politics, and a very sound one, that Labour representatives should in no circumstances join in a government with any other party, but should refuse to take office in any but a Labour Government. The main charge against the S.A.L.P. is that it exists more for the sake of place-getting than of fighting the essential battle of the class it professes to represent. Tactics are one thing, but sacrifice of principles is quite another, and such a coalition must inevitably mean such a sacrifice on a wholesale scale. Every class-conscious worker knows that immediately Smuts is defeated the task of the proletarian movement will be to split both the Nationalist and the Labour parties into their bourgeois and proletarian elements and unite the latter. Will the S.A.L.P. rise to the occasion, or will it follow the disgraceful precedent of the Social Democratic Parties of the world and sell its birthright for a mess of office?

* * *

Attempted Bribery.

One of the enemy's favourite tricks is to buy off working class militants with a job, in order both to neutralise them personally and also to use them as decoys to seduce their followers into supporting the ruling class. One revolutionary leader of last year's strike who has just done his time for high treason has dropped into a billet with a well-known yellow "labour" organisation while thousands of his fellow-fighters still walk the streets: others are actually received with open arms into cushy jobs on the mines. Attempts have been similarly made to tempt leading men of the unemployed movement with offers of work. To their everlasting credit these efforts have been contemptuously rejected with the same fine class loyalty that has prompted thousands on the Reef to remain out of work and hungry rather than undercut a fellow-worker in a job. Men in jobs, hats off to these heroes, and may your backbone never grow less than theirs!

* * *

"All Your Fault."

A common cry on the Reef is: "Owing to the 1922 strike things have been, and still are, very bad," implying this was the strikers' fault. What greater absurdity can be conceived? Which party has been in control of "things" both before and since the strike? Clearly not the strikers but their enemies who, by provoking and then defeating the strike, overcame the strikers' protest and carried through their "retrenchments." It is they that always were and still are on top: it is they that are responsible for the present state of affairs: it is their game that is being played. Capitalism, not Communism, is to blame, wherever it rules, for the condition of its working class. To say, therefore, "it is your (the Bolsheviks') fault that I am out of a job, or that my wages were reduced," is the grossest of distortions. As well say that the Soviet Government is responsible for the destruction of Russian industry and transport by Denikin, Koltchak, and Wrangel! It is not owing to the strike, but owing to the defeat of the strike, that "things" are bad. As a matter of fact, capitalism is highly satisfied with its handiwork on the Reef. It takes credit for "things" as they are now. Its costs are down, its dividends are up. If that is what pleases you, then don't blame the strikers or the Bolsheviks, praise them. But you cannot have it both ways.

* * *

Our Far-Flung Empire.

The poet of imperialism, true to its policy of division and empire, proclaims that East and West shall never meet; but the international working class breaks down these exploiters' kraal-walls, and May Day, 1923, is celebrated for the first time in China and Japan, and attempted in Constantinople. The event, says the cable fiend, was devoid of "incident" in Tokio owing to the energy of the police in arresting the leaders of the movement. The arrest is not an "incident" itself, just an ordinary administrative precaution, of course; but it is clear "the event" took place in spite of the police. The captains of capitalism, like their labour lieutenants, but unlike the apathetic among the rank and file, know that May Day is no mere flower show or harvest festival, but a demonstration of implacable militancy, and they attempt to kill it, either by violence or by sabotage, accordingly: but it grows and spreads and encircles the earth, racing along like a veld fire notwithstanding all the enemy's beaters, so that everywhere we find him hesitating between permission and suppression and baffled by both. Long live the Red movement of the East! May it grow into Revolution as rapidly as the Zimmerwald Conference grew into the greatest world power of to-day, the Communist International!

"Justice and Truth."

"Justice," the well-known English anti-Communist paper, which became a byword for its "Socialist" patriotic rabies during the late war—the war which, while defeating Germany, also defeated the working class of all lands, and "Justice's" hands are thus part-stained with that guilt—has lately become a bin where all sorts of anti-Soviet rubbish may be shot and welcome. The Russian authorities have recently had occasion to complain that certain foreign famine relief organisations have been used as a cloak to cover not only private profiteering, not to say theft (as well as "begging"), but also counter-revolutionary propaganda; and the letter from a Czecho-Slovakian "comrade" on "relief" work, republished in "Justice" of the 5th ult. under the sarcastic heading of "The Soviet 'Paradise'" seems to confirm the latter charge.

"This kingdom of profiteers, speculators, and criminals" is his description of the country. We thought it was ruled by a "junta" consisting of Lenin, Trotsky, and Co. Then does this "comrade" dare to suggest that these men are "profiteers, speculators and criminals"? Of course he dare not. Everyone knows that what profiteers and speculators there are in Russia are not, as in bourgeois countries, the backbone and bulk of the ruling class, the people "whom the king delighteth to honour," but are, on the contrary, the very "criminals" whom he adds as the Holy Ghost of his Trinity, and are continually being laid by the heels by the Government: they are legacies of Tsarism and capitalism, they exist not because but in spite of the Bolshevik regime. The same applies to the beggars he mentions: for that matter, what about the beggars (and white "aristocrats" at that), far more numerous than a year ago, in Johannesburg?

He complains of relief goods being "stolen in transit," but is careful not to say whether they were stolen within or without the Russian border: indeed, when he talks of a "comrade" losing £300 while travelling "between Riga and Moscow," "in a special carriage under the charge of five soldiers," he is implying what is surely impossible, namely, that Russian soldiers would be allowed to guard a train on the Lithuanian section of the line, which is nearly half the distance; and the Lithuanian Government and army are very hostile to Russia. . . . Besides, in point of fact, the trains are not guarded by soldiers. A traveller the other day informed us that train robbery is universal in that "paradise" of British imperialism, British India. As for pickpockets—well, we were three months (to the "comrade's" five weeks) jostling in dense Moscow crowds; we left things about everywhere; but all the time we were away from South Africa the only theft we suffered, or even heard of, was—on a British ship. It is remarkable that other relief organisations, so far from sharing this alleged experience of theft, congratulate themselves on the small percentage of loss in this respect; Dr. Nansen's figure was 1 per cent., and the Australian Quaker quoted in our issue of April 20th puts it at less than ½ per cent.

"The cost of living is enormous," says this veracious comrade, and proceeds: "Personally I do not feel the high cost of living, because I have American dollars"—the best standard of cost to-day, so what is the point? The implication is that with the fall of the rouble wages are lowered as in Germany; but it is well known that in Russia the workers are strong enough to get their wages raised in step with the valuta, in fact while we were there we always found, on enquiry, that this was being done. What is even more remarkable is the fact that the Government kept the price of bread practically constant even in terms of roubles during our three months, while the rouble fell to one-third of its value; in other words, bread went down to one-third of its former cost. What other country can show anything like that? As a matter of fact, the standard of living was, by common consent, improving during that time, and that is the real point. To take his prices for last December, the "comrade" says "one litre of milk costs eight million roubles, 1 lb. of butter ten million, and so on." Well, we bought by a measure equal to about a pint, and on November 30th last, the latest day I can speak for, that measure of milk cost one, not eight, million roubles delivered at our room, and less if you fetched it from the Government shop: while butter was 4½ millions, not ten. In general, we found prices about equal to those of Johannesburg; staple foodstuffs were actually cheaper than here, and they are cheaper here than in England.

As for life being "unbearable for those who live on their earnings," well, they have borne it and bear it still, cheerfully and, when it comes to celebrating their Revolution and their regime so abhorrent to the "comrade," most enthusiastically. Unemployment is not "raging": the queues are not "huge" for the population, and the dole is—well, more than here, where there is none; his figure of four millions probably dates from long before December. "Thousands do not know to-day whether they will have anything to eat to-morrow." Yes, if you include famine areas: but nothing like the proportion of ordinary town population that is in this condition in London or Johannesburg—or Czecho-Slovakia, where the unemployment is stupendous owing to the Versailles Treaty having taken away its markets; yet it is in order to return to that country presumably that the "comrade" is anxious "to get away from Russia as quickly as possible," although "personally," he says, "I am quite comfortable"!

"We are taken round by Commissars in splendid motor cars." Well, I never met a "Commissar" in Russia, it is a term chiefly beloved of the yellow press: and as for the motor cars, most that I saw were anything but splendid, very racketty, war-worn things, and I don't expect the Russian built cars, the first of which was launched while we were there, are too splendid either. "We are treated well in order to prevent us from seeing and feeling the poverty of the people." Then how did he see it and feel it? Lastly, if "those who do not steal or speculate starve or die of disease," as he says, then by this time the majority must obviously be all dead. Altogether, the fellow is not merely an exaggerator, he is an infernal liar.

S. P. BUNTING.

(Continued at foot of previous column.)

The Moscow Agricultural Exhibition.

An All-Russian Agricultural and Home Industries Exhibition, which will be open to Foreign Exhibitors, will be held at Moscow from August 15th to September 30th. Intending exhibitors and others who are interested in the matter should apply to the Secretary, London Committee of Moscow Agricultural Exhibition, 49 Moorgate, London, E.C.2.

AIMS OF THE EXHIBITION.

At the present time it is hardly necessary to refer in detail to Russia's unlimited agricultural and mineral wealth. The vast fields and forests, the minerals in the Urals, Siberia, and other districts, and the oil supplies of the Caucasus and the south-east are well known. It is the fundamental task of the Soviet Government to make possible the rational exploitation of this wealth, and to raise the actual production of the country far beyond its pre-war level.

On the agricultural side, especially, the measures already initiated by the Soviet Government have had a considerable influence in restoring the damage done by the years of war and civil war and famine; and the area under cultivation is being enlarged each year.

A very serious obstacle to the further progress of agriculture is, however, the shortage of agricultural capital generally, and more especially of up-to-date farming machinery and implements. These necessities, in addition to good seed, draught cattle, fertilisers, and other agricultural requirements, can only partly be supplied from Russian sources; in other words, the restoration and further development of Russia's agriculture must be largely dependent upon the industrial production of Western Europe. The All-Russian Agricultural Exhibition, which will be opened in Moscow on August 15, has been organised with a view to showing Russia's need in farm requisites, as well as the enormous possibilities of Russia's agriculture. It will give the opportunity to the peasants, on the one hand, of becoming familiar with the advantages of Western European methods of cultivation; and to foreign business men, on the other hand, of showing their goods and getting into touch with the Russian market.

In the official statement issued by the People's Commissary for Agriculture, the aims of the exhibition are explained as:

(1) To give a general view of the present position of agriculture and of the agricultural machinery production and Kustar (home) industry in the Soviet Republics;

(2) To show in what ways the industrial resources of the country can be used for the development of agriculture and consequently of exports;

(3) To bring to the notice of the population the methods and achievements of agricultural science;

(4) To acquaint the people with the advances made in agricultural methods abroad, and the prospects of help from foreign industries in the further development of Russian agriculture.

After the All-Russian Agricultural Exhibition a series of similar exhibitions will take place in various localities, to which, in accordance with the decision of the Chief Exhibition Committee, foreign exhibitors will be given facilities for transporting exhibits not sold at the All-Russian Agricultural Exhibition.

SCOPE OF THE EXHIBITION.

The scope of the Exhibition is shown in the following list of sections into which it will be divided:

I.—Scientific Section:

(1) Nature of the country—land and forest management. (2) The organisation of agriculture. (3) The training of agricultural experts. (4) Agronomic assistance to the local population. (5) Agricultural literature and its distribution.

II.—Experimental Investigation in Land and Forest Cultivation:

(1) Scientific and economic investigation. (2) Experimental stations. (3) Seed selection and varieties of seeds.

III.—Husbandry:

(1) Field cultivation (grain, beans, tubers, root plants, fodder, etc.). (2) Special cultivation (flax, hemp, cotton, and other fibrous plants); oil plants (sunflowers, rape seed, etc.), sugar beet, tobacco, medical herbs, sub-tropical plants. (3) Meadow land cultivation. (4) Vegetable and water melon cultivation. (5) Garden and fruit cultivation; ornamental garden and flower cultivation. (6) Vine culture and wine production. (7) Manure and fertilisers, their production and preservation. (8) Plant protection (method of dealing with weeds, fungi, harmful insects, and other pests).

IV.—Forestry:

(1) Forest management. (2) Forest cultivation. (3) Forest preservation. (4) Organisation of forestry. (5) The utilisation of forests in general. (6) The utilisation of by-products. (7) Mechanical working up of timber. (8) Chemical treatment of timber. (9) Forest improvement and the exploitation of waste land.

V.—Animal Breeding:

(1) Horse breeding and stud farms. (2) Horned cattle. (3) Sheep rearing. (4) Pig rearing. (5) Goat and rabbit breeding. (6) Poultry rearing. (7) Bee keeping. (8) Silk production. (9) Deer and camel rearing. (10) Supply of fodder.

VI.—Fish Catching, Fish Protection, and Hunting.

VII.—Veterinary Section:

(1) Section for animal ailments and hygiene. (2) Laboratories.

VIII.—The Working Up of Agricultural Products:

(1) Milled products and cereals. (2) Starch flour, sugar syrup. (3) Oil Mills. (4) Alcohol distillation, beer brewing, yeast, and honey. (5) The sugar industry. (6) Working up of flax and hemp. (7) The tobacco industry. (8) Working up of medicinal plants and the technical application of vegetable dyes. (9) Working up of fruit and vegetables. (10) Erection of corn warehouses (elevators).

IX.—The Utilisation of Animal Products:

(1) Dairy produce. (2) The working up of meat and fish. (3) Construction of cold storage. (4) Soap industry. (5) Wool, bristles, horsehair, horn, bones, etc. (trade and manufactures). (6) Leather and furs.

X.—Home Industry.

XI.—Co-operation:

(1) Co-operatives for agriculture and forest culture, agricultural credit co-operatives, etc. (2) Trading co-operatives. (3) Consumers' associations.

XII.—Land Clearing and other Agrarian Operations:

(1) Utilisation, distribution, clearing, and so on. (2) Colonisation.

XIII.—Agricultural Machinery Section:

(1) Agricultural machines and implements. (2) Electrification and mechanisation (including the use of motor ploughs, etc.). (3) Agricultural improvements, application of water power, etc. (4) Farm buildings. (5) Use of power in agriculture.

XIV.—Household Life, Manners, and Customs.

XV.—Work Section.

XVI.—Trade and Export.

XVII.—State Regulations for Land and Forest Economy.

XVIII.—Foreign Exhibits Section.

More Tutankhamen Laws.

Under a section of the Cape Lord's Day Observance Act of 1838, Comrades I. Vermont and F. Barnes have been prosecuted, and the former convicted and fined 10s., for selling the "International," the "New Leader," and the "Workers' Dreadnought," at an unemployed meeting on the Capetown Parade on Sunday, the 8th ult. The court decided that these papers, although probably not contemplated by the Act, and although produced and sold at a loss, were "merchandise," and brushed aside the pleas that chocolates, cigarettes, matches and newspapers, all genuine "merchandise," were sold on Sundays from the railway bookstalls, and that papers had been similarly sold for the past twenty years. And yet Mr. Colliers, M.L.A., is not satisfied, and wants more and more laws against "Bolshevism"!

"Constitutional Methods."

The singing of the Red Flag in the House of Commons, says the "Star's" London letter, was "a novelty of immense significance," and especially so because Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, it seems, told his followers "that they must confine themselves to constitutional methods of obstruction. They might shout and prevent business"—"gentlemen" often do that, of course—"but there must be no singing in the House or other revolutionary methods": and the "Red Flag," says the "Morning Post," "is the slogan and symbol of Red Revolution; and therefore it is clearly Labour's intention, if it gets the chance, to set up a Soviet Republic in Britain." Well, once it makes up its mind it will take more than Mr. Macdonald and his constitutionalists to stop that. "Singing in the revolution" is certainly not enough, but it is better than no singing at all.

How Royal Weddings are Boomed

The "Newspaper World," the organ of the British capitalist press industry, which is run either for profit or for propaganda or both, said in its issue of March 4, 1922, what doubtless holds good to-day:

"Those behind the scenes are aware how the news concerning the royal wedding arrangements found its way into newspaper offices. This has been dealt with by a skilled publicity agent, who has known what to give out day by day having in view its culmination in the wedding scene. How much this news has contributed to the public interest (sic) can be appreciated by those skilled in deciding what readers require. I wonder sometimes whether the patriotic sentiments and keen human interest exhibited by ordinary people over the wedding are credited in their right proportion to the daily and weekly press of the country."

The writer might have added that those days "culminating in the wedding scene" were the same days that led up to an industrial dispute affecting thousands of workers and "culminating" in the engineers' lock-out. On the last occasion, last week, the "Daily Herald" showed how this boosting was deliberately done to foster extravagant spending by millions of "loyalist" 'Eneries who could not afford it. to the huge profit of the big advertisers in this same press.

Meanwhile the King is falling on the neck of Bloody Mussolini, G.C.B.

slaves will do nothing but cry to Parliament for freedom we, too, should use the machine to whatever extent it may be used to better our position as seamen.

We have, therefore, decided to recommend each branch to affiliate with the Australian Labour Party in their ports, and also to affiliate with the Trades and Labour Councils.

Solidarity at Sea.

The report of the General President and the General Secretary of the Federated Seamen's Union of Australasia for the year 1922 contains an interesting survey of the ebb and flow of maritime class solidarity. It says, inter alia:

THE WORLD MOVEMENT.

Prior to September last the French seamen have had the benefits of an eight-hours' day at sea, but after the June, 1922, conference in Paris, when the representatives of the American and English seamen refused to make common cause with our fellow-workers in France, the shipowning fraternity in France compelled the Government of that country to launch an attack on the working condition of the men in French ships. The result of this attack was that the seamen had to accept the conditions forced on them by the Government.

The seamen of Germany, on the other hand, won a great strike, which was declared for a higher rate of wages and for other conditions which were, in nearly every instance, conceded.

The Belgian seamen also struck for higher wages in certain trades, and won.

The seamen of America, together with the seamen of England, are, apparently, willing to allow the shipping profiteers to fleece them to their hearts' content. No alterations either in wages or working conditions have taken place in England or America, except in the direction of further reductions of the already miserable wage rate, and this condition of affairs will continue so long as the seamen are prepared to allow their affairs to be directed by people whose interests are not foreign to those of the shipping magnates.

However, during the later part of the year 1922 we had a very clear demonstration of what the English seamen are capable of. The Orient Company tried to engage one of its ships, the "Orvieto," in the coasting trade of Australia without complying with any of the Australian coastal trade conditions. Immediately the members of the crew of this ship were made acquainted with the position, and how the company was trying to use them to attack the Australian seamen's wages, they refused to be the tools of the Inchcape crowd; they refused to work the ship, and the consequence was that the attempt of the commercial filibusters to attack us here in Australia miserably failed.

We cannot speak too highly of the courage and determination of those seamen in the "Orvieto."

During the dispute on this vessel the crew received a cable from the General Secretary of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union of Great Britain and Ireland, instructing them to immediately resume their duties; in other words, they were ordered to scab on the Australian seamen, but those men declined to scab at the orders of Mr. Cathrey or anyone else.

CLASS SOLIDARITY.

During the year a deputation of two natives of the Solomon Islands called on the General President and General Secretary and asked if the Seamen's Union could not help in organising the native workers in the South Sea Islands. Those two fellow-wage slaves made it very clear to us that the Seamen's Union is looked upon by the natives of New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and the Solomon Islands and Gilbert Islands as the organisation which might be approached for assistance in organising for their fight with the master class.

Every advice and help, as far as could then be rendered, was given to our two comrades. They informed us that a further deputation will come to Sydney this year and lay the position of the native workers before the members of the Seamen's Union, with the hope that some practicable work may be done on their behalf.

The policy of the Seamen's Union not to close the union's doors to any man because of race or colour is having its effect. The deputation from the Solomon Islands is the direct work of the natives of Fiji and other islanders who are members of the Seamen's Union, and who are spreading the divine doctrine of discontent amongst their native brothers in the South Seas.

POLITICAL ACTION.

Serious attention has been given to the industrial situation. In view of the apparent lack of interest on the part of the wage slaves we are convinced that our tactics must, for the immediate future anyway, be altered. We see around us an indifference to the industrial side of the class war on the part of the toilers. The dispute which arose out of the New Zealand situation clearly proves that the wage slaves in Australia have had the courage belted out of them during the war years. They went to France to belt it out of the Germans, but if recent events are anything to go on, the courage has been knocked out of us also.

There does not appear to be an industrial union in Australia prepared to sustain a fight against the attacks of the master class on the wages of the slaves. This being so, we would be foolish not to recognise the necessity of altering our tactics and using every other means to supplement industrial action.

For years now we have remained aloof—as an organisation—from politics, but if the workers generally will not recognise the force of more pronounced industrial action, and if they will devote most of their activities to politics, we would not be doing our duties in the movement by declining any longer to line up with the other slaves in their political fight.

We have no delusions at all about the limits of political action. We have very little respect for the Parliamentarian, and we have no intention to ask the seamen of Australia to devote all their time and be satisfied with what the Parliamentarian might do for them. We know quite well that the capitalist will never sit by and allow the wage slaves to legislate him out of existence as a capitalist, but we do say that seeing the other

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