Registered at the General Post Office as a newspaper.

To-Morrow at 8.

Social & Dance Selborne Hall, in aid of International Delegate Fund.

TICKETS 2/6. DANCING 8–12.

The International

THE WORLD'S CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

Sunday at 3. Brixton Cemetery.

Workers' Rally

TO COMMEMORATE THE RAND CLUB MARTYRS.

C.P. PROCESSION LEAVES TRADES HALL AT 2.15.

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. 373. FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1923. PRICE THREEPENCE.

To-Morrow at Selborne Hall.

All interested in music and dance, all interested in extending comradely acquaintanceship in the proletarian movement, and all interested in defraying the expenses of Com. Andrews' and any other delegates' visit to Russia, are reminded of the Social and Dance at the Selborne Hall to-morrow (Saturday) evening from 8 to 12. Tickets 2/6 are obtainable at the doors. The artists include: Sister Mackenzie, Miss Winnie Smith, Messrs. M. Green, Harry Haynes, Argolis and Christian. Well-known demonstrators will exhibit the newest thing in dances, and the band has been organised by Charlie Hudson. Com. Jack Allen, of Springs, will be there.

"Educated Native" & Worker.

(From "Navayuga," a Madras paper.)

"Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains," is the war cry of world Labour, and it is literally true. World peace can come only through the international solidarity of the workers' front, and it is the workers alone that can stop future wars. The "Swarajya," of Madras, a typically bourgeois organ, may sneer at the labour men and jeer at their demonstrations. But such tactics will not deceive the workers nor stop them in their work. We are glad that the "Swarajya" has come out in its true colours. Its profuse pretensions of sympathy with Indian Labour are evidently hypocritical. If desires to chain Indian Labour to the chariot of middle-class capitalism in India. It is, of course, true that many a time workers have cast in their lot with the capitalists of their own country. One must admit that the workers are ignorant and are seduced by the hypocritical propaganda of party newspapers into the belief that the capitalists are good and unity with them is possible. Now experience proves the dangers of such union, and there is no fear of such mistakes being committed in future. The war-cry of labourites may be "pompous" in the opinion of "Swarajya," but we assure its editor that it is not hypocritical or deceitful. The workers are not intelligent lawyers to deliver carefully-worded speeches or write editorials in newspapers in flowing diction and bombastic style. THEY ARE NOT VERSED IN THE ART OF EXPLOITATION, THEY HAVE NO STATUS IN THE CAPITALIST-CIVILISED LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. THEY DO NOT POSE AS PATRIOTS OR SAVIOURS OF THE COUNTRY. The workers are a lot of submerged humanity living in ignorance and poverty, and yearning for knowledge and praying for the establishment of the "kingdom of God on earth." It is such people that struggle to establish a better world, a heaven on earth, and surely they deserve our sympathy and support more than those who sell themselves for lucre to the capitalists and serve the ruling class with their pen and tongue. These hired but misguided people are "educated" but ignorant and know not what they do. Happiness in life they do not possess, for theirs is a life of degraded slavery. They do anything at the bidding of the master and they are most docile creatures next to Liberals. They, too, adopt strikes, like the workers: to get increased pay, and sometimes succeed. But they do not know that they too are labourers, and to jeer at their compatriots in other walks of life is to commit suicide. To put on airs like the master may seem good for a time, but it will not help the misguided "educated" chap to realise a better life in the world. It may help him to get a few more rupees as increase of salary, but certainly it makes his life arduous and troublesome, degrades the little human nature he possesses, making him a living corpse, taking away his vitality.

How Proletarian Industry Raises Funds.

A general meeting of the workers of the wagon workshops of Tampov passed the following resolution: "The plenary meeting resolves to enter 10 of the revolutionists incarcerated by the bourgeoisie as employees and foremen of the wagon workshops of Tampov, for the period April 1, 1923 to January 1, 1924. The work of the ten imprisoned comrades entered on the wage list is to be performed by the workers assembled at the meeting, and is to be carried out on properly regulated lines. The wages are to be paid over to the Central Committee of the International Red Relief, by the factory management, for the support of the political prisoners."

All for Peace!

Trotsky's Speech to the Moscow Soviet.

(The enemy press represented Trotsky's speech on the Curzon ultimatum as war-like and jingoistic. Let us judge from the text itself:)

Comrades,—Yesterday I received two comrades, delegated by the workers of a paper factory in the Kalusch Government. One of them had worked in the factory for 51 years, the other for 46 years. . . . When these two old workmen told me what they had experienced since 1918—hunger, cold and actual collapse in the years 1919 and 1920, in part also in 1921—they said that to-day they are comparatively well-off. These old men, these heroes of toil, brought with them some dozens of forms which they have to fill out in relation to various economic and cultural requirements. With gnarled fingers, rendered unsteady by decades of work, they showed me with justifiable pride these signs of our reviving industry. And we say with them: two more years, three more, five more, of work in peace, and we shall perfect our economies, our schools, and our culture.

And they say we are meditating war! We, with our vast territory, our population of many millions, and our backwardness, our poverty, our defective culture—how can we think of violence, of conquests, of attacks! No; what we say is: cursed be everyone in our ranks who raises his voice in favour of an attack, of a war.

One of these two workmen had worked for 51 years (I do not know how old Lord Curzon is) at the work-bench, and if we were to say to him that we, the State of the workers and peasants, cherish the idea of attacking anyone, he would not understand this language. He would reject the idea. The working class would drive anyone from its ranks who would not defend peace and work with every available means.

Nevertheless, the sky has become overcast again on the frontiers of Soviet Russia, and we must again anxiously and attentively observe the plans, not only of the governments, but of various groups and various cliques within these governments, for the present position of European politics is such that the attitude taken by separate groups or persons at the head of an imperialist power may involve things in such a knot that these gentry will be obliged to cut it in the end.

We defend peace with all the means at our disposal, and support our diplomacy, which is fighting honourably, sincerely, and determinedly for the independence of the Soviet Federation, and is employing the peaceful agencies of negotiations and understandings. And I think, comrades, that every Red Army soldier—and in our country the Red Army soldier is above all the citizen of the State, taking active part in the political life of the country—that every Red Army soldier to-day understands the language of the Soviet power and its diplomacy. It is the language of peace and quietness, of admonition, of exhortation to prudence.

I know very well that we have good cause for indignation, for showing our clenched fists, and gnashing our teeth. But, comrades, the situation is such that we must throw all our prudence, reserve, and caution into the balance. The masses of workers and peasants belonging to our Red Moscow have shown that they fully realise the dangers of the present position.

We do not know whether Lord Curzon's act is an isolated one on the part of Great Britain, or whether there are also others, nearer home or equally distant, collaborating with Lord Curzon in the same diplomatic and perhaps not merely diplomatic plans. Despite this, or rather because of this, we do not take a single step, or utter a single word, which might tend to render the situation more acute, or close the path to a peaceful solution by means of negotiations.

We desire peace above all things. Naturally not at the price of capitulation, not at the price of converting the Soviet Federation into a vassal state of foreign imperialism. We know that the governments of the Entente, since the war and the Versailles peace, have become accustomed to carrying on intercourse with other states and nations in tones of command. To this we reply that words of command do not penetrate to Red Moscow. (Prolonged cheers.)

We, the Republic of Workers and Peasants, are prepared to make the greatest concessions, but only on the basis of agreements, of contracts, on the basis of independence and equality. For this we stand, comrades, alike in the government and in the state apparatus, in the ranks of our party, and in the ranks of the many millions of non-partisan workers and peasants of our country; we stand as one man behind every step taken by our diplomacy in the interests of peace, and for upholding commercial agreements and maintaining economic relations with other countries.

And our Red Army and Red Fleet, like the rest of us, are also firm supporters of our diplomacy. The army knows better than anyone else what a war signifies; it knows what a war would signify to us to-day. To-day, amidst the strained relations of all Europe, it would be a war of life and death; it would be a war lasting not for months, but perhaps for years; it would be a war which would engulf all the resources and forces of our country . . . would be a war putting an end to all economic and cultural work for years. And thus we hope that this cup may pass from us. We want peace! this we call to all the leading elements of our country, these are the words of the Red Army and the Red Fleet, which are flesh of the flesh, and bone of the bone, of the working class: all for peace!

But, comrades, when our wish for peaceful work, the wish which I heard from the lips of the two old workmen who had spent half a century at the work-bench; when this wish, arising from the depths of the soul of the workers and peasants of the whole of the Soviet Federation; when our will to peace is unavailing, when the ring of imperialism is drawn still closer about us, when one challenge follows another and assumes a material form, when the bayonets of imperialism are pointed at our breast, or are raised to give us a stab in the back, then we shall say:

"The Red Army and the Red Fleet, though they desire to work peacefully—the Red Army and the Red Fleet will always do their duty!"

Short Shrift!

THE CAPITALISTS HAVE PRODUCED NOTHING BUT WAR, MISERY, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND MASSACRE. THEY STAND CONVICTED OF BEING INCORRIGIBLE ROGUES. IT IS FOR THE WORKING CLASS TO PASS THE ONLY POSSIBLE SENTENCE.

Johannesburg Unemployed.

CHAIN-GANG'S RETURN.

A crowded meeting was held in the Carlton Theatre last Sunday to hear the report of the men who recently protested against the callous indifference of the Government to the sufferings of the unemployed. Comrade C. F. Glass, who presided, announced that the tramwaymen who were being victimised by the Council had decided to throw in their lot and fight side by side with the general body of the unemployed, and appealed to the returned soldiers who were still adhering to that jingo, white-guard organisation, the B.E.S.L., to do likewise.

Comrade V. C. Woudberg (in English and Dutch), Comrade H. J. McCarthy, and the leader of the "chain-gang" all spoke, amid thunderous applause. "The 'Star,'" said Harry Haynes, "has said that the unemployed movement is under the thumb of the Communist Party, which is exploiting it for its own ends. That is a lie. But what is the Communist Party? It is the intelligent advance guard of the working class movement, a party small in numbers but mighty in influence. Let there be no misunderstanding. I am a Communist and proud to be one." (Loud and prolonged applause.)

Comrade Geo. Mason wound up the programme by urging the Committee to get in touch with the movement in other dominions with the object of getting the unemployment question placed in a prominent position on the agenda of the forthcoming Imperial Conference of Premiers.

A wholly successful meeting, almost a record for the enthusiasm displayed, terminated with the "Red Flag" sung with great gusto and three cheers for the World Labour Movement.

"To Smash the B.W.I.U."

A master builders' offensive seems to be being worked up, beginning at the coast towns, to judge from the disputes at Capetown and Durban, which are evidently inspired by the Master Builders' Association from Johannesburg. In the attempt at Durban to break up the unity hitherto existing as between plasterers and other building workers, some members of the former trade are, it seems clear, being used, if unconsciously, to further the design ascribed to the M.B.A. to smash the Building Workers' Industrial Union. So much for "conciliation": it is resorted to when the masters feel too weak to fight, but vanishes the moment they think they can catch us bending. All the more need for the utmost effort to eliminate sectional differences and unite in one militant industrial union to repel attack and in turn to deliver a successful counter-attack.

List of Rand Strike Prisoners Still in Gaol.

Bornman, R. A.	Naude, F. P.
Botha, G. F.	Price, F. A.
Brussouw, J.	Price, J. E.
Church, Alf.	Potgieter, J. S.
Coetzee, W. A. D.	Robinson, M.
Coetzee, C. J.	Sanders, L. M.
Coetzee, D.	Shaw, H.
Colraine, Dan.	Smith, M.
De Lange, A. H.	Smyrke, H.
Du Toit, J. J.	Snowden, Donald.
Erasmus, R. P.	Van der Berg.
Garnsworthy, J.	Van der Merwe, P. J.
Gravett, G.	Van Rooyen, P. B.
Jacobs, P. J.	Van Schalkwyk, G.
Jolly, A. K.	Van der Walt, H. W.
Kendyk, W. C.	Van Wyk, G. J.
Lategan, A. W.	Van Zyl, A. R.
Lewis, D. J.	Viljoen, I. J.
McLoughlin, M. A. C.	Westphail, E. P.
Morable, J.	

Workers, pass resolutions in your trade union branches and in public demonstrations demanding the immediate release of these victims of Chamber of Mines Fascism, and forward them to the press, capitalist and working class, for publication: also to the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Justice, for action. And do not forget or forgive the guilty party when election time comes round, but perfect your organisation, political and industrial, against the time when you will be strong, united, and class-conscious enough to sweep the whole ruling class into limbo.

* * *

With this issue is included gratis a copy of the new organ of the Unemployed Movement of South Africa, the "Torch"—in Darkest Africa. We wish our bright little contemporary all success not only in the sphere of journalism but in its grand crusade to rescue the unemployed workers from apathy and to bring them into active participation in the Labour movement which is their only road to salvation.

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

Vol. VIII. FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1923. No. 373.

Lest We Forget.

JULY 4, 1913.

Ten years ago last Wednesday the working class movement of South Africa received its baptism of blood outside the Rand Club, Johannesburg, at the hands of Imperial troops. To many of us, the events of 1913 and 1914 meant a first awakening to the reality of the Iron Heel, and although subsequent slaughter, both of blacks and whites, has thrown that first massacre into the shade, July 4 must remain a red letter day in our calendar because it was our "first communion" with capitalism ungloved, a day when first we vowed never to forget and never to forgive.

How many of us have kept that vow, and how many have made their peace with the Beast, taken its shilling, or its thirty-two pieces, have betrayed, even fired on, their one-time fellow-workers? Well do we remember the exaltation with which men trampled with disgust on the British Flag, and a few months later rushed headlong on its supposed behalf into the world war which, as we all realise now, ended in the defeat of the working class all round and by the hands of the working class. And in the next war that situation will be more distinct than ever: it can only develop everywhere into a war of the ruling class against the ruled.

During the ten years' interval capitalist bloodthirstiness has increased tenfold, a hundredfold, and South African labour may even forget the death of Labuschagne in the light of Fisher's and Spendiff's supreme sacrifice, may think little of the 23 killed in 1913 by the side of the 200 killed at Bulhoek, the 342 in last year's strike and the millions in the great war. So numerous have these bloody days of remembrance now become that it may be found advisable in future to appoint one day in the year when they shall all be celebrated. In the meantime let none of them be overlooked. It has been arranged to hold a demonstration next Sunday afternoon at the Brixton Cemetery, as heretofore (particulars appear elsewhere in this paper), in honour of our martyred dead of July 4 and since, and also of our living martyrs still confined in gaol for service to their class and the world. Let every class-conscious worker observe this occasion. The other side have not receded one iota from their previous ferocity, all the contrary. Let us not grow soft towards them, but clench our teeth the more; let us hate the harder with an improved understanding of what we hate, let us renew our solemn dedication to the cause of working class victory, bearing the standard onward, not "until we fall" merely, but until the fall of all that murderous class who now choke the whole world's thirst for life and liberty, when the Fourth of July shall become indeed an "Independence Day."

We Stoop to Conquer.

In another column we publish the mixed feelings of Australian comrades at their successful part in securing the election of a Labour Government in Queensland. We understand them perfectly, but these are days when Communists have to think not merely of forming a purely revolutionary party (necessary as such a party is no less than heretofore), but also of taking action, or taking advantage of others' action, best calculated to speed up the fall of the enemy power. The "United Front" in no way involves us in responsibility for the whole policy of those with whom we may temporarily "unite" for some specific purpose, such as the purpose, for the present supreme in South Africa, of defeating Smuts' Government. On the contrary, we are constantly criticising both Nationalists and Labourites. Nevertheless, it will often be the duty of Communists and militant Labour element, in general to support a Nationalist or S.A.E.P. candidate in forthcoming elections, no matter how gross the heresies, or worse, in his platform. Even Labour imperialists may have to be supported in order to beat the arch-imperialists now in power. It is stomach grip, but, being our duty, let there be no shirking it. On the contrary, the explanation of our reasons will afford a first-rate opportunity for enlightening the working class on the poverty of their present weapons and on the scope and plan of campaign of the world revolutionary Labour movement.

The Town Council of Johannesburg sent a deputation to Capetown to interview the Premier on the question of unemployment. Five Councillors came to this City, and they were accompanied by the Town Clerk. The cost was £300. Another "deputation" on the same subject of unemployment comprised the "three men in chains," and the cost was one-tenth of the other, namely, £30, which amount was raised by public subscription in the streets of Johannesburg.

* * *

"Fit for Heroes."—Not satisfied with trying to divide the unemployed among themselves, the British Empire Service League seems to be out to divide the employed also by acting as a scab labour recruiting organisation. A trade-unionist ex-soldier, a blacksmith, applied to the B.E.S.L. for a job. He was offered one out of town at 10s. a day. The standard wage being 20s., he declined it. Later, when a meal was offered to those awaiting jobs, he applied but was told "he could not have one as he had refused a job."

Cesspool Mentality.

"De Burger" is an organ of a section of the Nationalist Party. It is also the most childish paper in the country, and its editorials create great amusement among the professional journalists who hold down a good job by faking the cable news in the interests of Abe and Lionel.

Consistently against the unemployed, "De Burger" was the only paper in the country which, figuratively speaking, foamed at the three delegates who spoke to Smuts and Co. when they didn't want to hear. Its Editor apparently almost got an attack of apoplexy worrying about the "dignity" of a crowd of political crooks and merry men called by courtesy a Parliament. Now someone has been pulling the editorial leg with a yarn about the unemployed kidnapping the children of our bourgeoisie. What on earth the unemployed would do with them, unless they ate them, our childish little editor doesn't pause to consider, in fact it is doubtful if he is mentally capable of considering anything. The unemployed cannot feed their own children, but perhaps the editor of "De Burger," evidently a die-hard capitalist of the old school, suggests that the unemployed members of the working class would let the bourgeois children starve. No, sir! Only capitalists, and editors like yourself, are capable of filling the role of baby-killers. We of the unemployed have hearts filled with human sympathy and kindness. You and your kind, in place of a heart, have only a tumour of rotten principles. Perpend!

SEN YAH.

Why Upton Sinclair was Arrested

(Further details of "justice" as administered in the U.S.A. have been received from the "Defence News Service," Chicago, which brings every week reports of hundreds of American citizens arrested and convicted for such offences as belonging to an industrial organisation, being on strike, or, during a strike, "being without visible means of support." The crime of reading the U.S. Constitution recalls the S.A. censor's blue pencilling of quotations from the Bible.—Ed.)

Los Angeles, May 23, 1923. Hundreds of arrests have been made in the San Pedro waterfront strike, following an order by Chief of Police Oaks, of Los Angeles, to arrest every man on the streets on Monday if he could not prove he was working. 260 were arrested in the first raid. The strikers are charged with vagrancy, traffic violation and criminal syndicalism, and are being held without bail.

According to officials of the Shipowners' Association of the Pacific Coast, negro strike-breakers will be imported.

On May 15, Upton Sinclair, well-known Socialist and novelist of international reputation, was jailed by Chief of Police Oaks, on a charge of criminal syndicalism, after AN ATTEMPT TO READ ALOUD THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. His brother-in-law, Hunter Kimbrough, Prince Hopkins and Hugh Hardyman were arrested at the same time.

The three are charged with "exciting discontent and disturbing the peace by DISCUSSING, ARGUING, ORATING AND DEBATING CERTAIN THOUGHTS AND THEORIES that are contemptuous of the Constitution of the State of California and calculated to cause hatred for the law," as also with conspiring to create a riot and blockade the streets of San Pedro. The trial is set for June 15th.

The three were spirited away in an automobile immediately after arrest. After denying them access to their attorneys for 18 hours, they were finally brought to Los Angeles and arraigned without their lawyers being present.

Protest regarding the violation of constitutional rights brought the answer from Chief of Police Oaks, "Don't talk this constitution stuff here!"

Sinclair claims that he is "in a position to show that the entire campaign to smash the harbour strike by means of the police is instigated and directed by the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association of Los Angeles."

Chief of Police Oaks says, "I shall prosecute Upton Sinclair with all the vigour at my command, and upon his conviction demand a gaol sentence at hard labour."

Baths and Wash Houses.

"Another of our cherished illusions has been shattered. We always understood not merely that cleanliness was next to godliness, but that the ruling classes in particular made a religion of the bath-tub.

Yet here is the whole Tory Party, discussing the Housing Bill, affirming with one voice that the bath is a fetish, a middle-class humbug, and that the working classes ought not to insist on houses with baths.—Labour Press Service (London).

And this though a professor in England has been lecturing on the offensive smell of the British workman! But what about ourselves in South Africa? Many of us complain of the smell of the native African proletarian, but would similarly turn down with ridicule and contempt a demand from him for one-tenth of the opportunity for being clean claimed by the British working class. Wouldn't we now?

* * *

The daily press is becoming confused over the unemployed campaign. Beginning with a benevolence that was almost suspicious, it has discovered that some members of the Committee are Communists, which of course means that the unemployed must therefore be left to starve, and so it has taken to ignoring monster meetings in Capetown and Johannesburg (when it will report lectures attended by three old women and a dog) and trying to trip up unemployed speakers in some exuberant "indiscretion" with a view to ridiculing the movement. On the whole, it is better to be back at this familiar pose than to deceive ourselves with the former false smiles.

Betrayed by British Labour.

RAND STRIKE PRISONERS REPUDIATED BY RAMSAY MACDONALD'S PUSH.

A CALL TO REPENTANCE FROM THE C.P.S.A.

The British Labour Party has once more shown itself to be dominated by the psychology of trade union officials, middle-class "intellectuals," pacifists, etc., rather than of the proletarian rank and file, who have always shown appreciation of the fight put up by Rand strikers. Nor is the South African Labour Party free from blame in this matter. It was expected of them that they would at least have pressed publicly for the 38 prisoners' release before Parliament rose; but they seem to have been silent. Do they agree with the British Labour Party's slam of the door? WE INVITE THEIR PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF THE FOLLOWING "LETTER FOR HOME" which left by this week's mail, and which may perhaps contribute to a victory in that Party's councils of the militants who are blaming Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, the apparent admirer of Fascism, who talks of "the end of Marxism" and sneers at "foreign inspiration" in English Socialism, for "killing the enthusiasm of the workers for the Labour movement"...

The Executive of the
British Labour Party,
33, Eccleston Square,
London, S.W.1 2nd July, 1923.

Fellow-Workers,

With indignation, but without surprise in view of the attitude previously taken up by your party in the matter, the class-conscious workers of South Africa, in whose name we are confident we speak in this connection, read the cabled news of the rejection by your recent Party Congress of a motion for a campaign for the release of the Rand strikers, thirty-eight of whom, including some of the finest types of proletarian militants, are still in prison serving sentences of from a year to life-long servitude, while their families are living in distress despite great efforts locally to support them.

We cannot but contrast this apparently deliberate boycott not only with the sympathy of the Communist International and its affiliated parties but also with the interest shown, we believe, by your party itself in the case of the "class-war prisoners" in similar plight in America, to say nothing of certain Barabbases in Soviet Russia.

An uncharitable explanation, supported perhaps by the attitude of the recent Hamburg Conference, is that you still consider it more important to oppose the Communists (who according to Government reports which you perhaps accept were behind the Rand upheaval) than the capitalist class against which our imprisoned fellow-workers were unquestionably engaged. As a matter of fact, there were more members of the South African Labour Party (with which you are no doubt in fraternal relationship of the Communist Party involved in all phases of the strike and "revolt," and there are at least as many now in gaol, while the great majority concerned belonged to neither but to the Dutch Nationalist Party, or none at all. You are hurting the workers in general, but not the Communists in particular, by rejecting the resolution.

We remember the plea being put up many months ago that more information was required before the Labour Party could commit itself to support of the cause of these strike victims. There has been ample time since then for your party to have obtained all the facts. Have you asked the South African Labour Party for a report all this time? We are sure you have not. Have you even studied the report, admirable considering that it was based almost entirely on capitalist sources, of your Labour Research Department, drawn up as long ago as April, 1922? Did you ever consult the "Class War Prisoners' Release Committee" of London, which was actively agitating on behalf of our prisoners during most of last year, and at whose instance numbers of resolutions were passed by trade unions, etc., and copies forwarded to your Party? Did not these resolutions at least put you on enquiry? Did not the news of the execution of four strikers, and of the national storm of indignation thereat in South Africa, disturb your complacency?

Perhaps you have regarded the Rand strike of 1922 as opposed to the interests of the native workers. Again it would have been wiser to take the opinion on this point of representative working class bodies here, both black and white, instead of swallowing Smuts' propaganda, calculated to delude the native worker, as well as the foreign observer, into the belief that the strike was directed against the native slaves and not against the masters of black and white workers alike. It may be mentioned that native associations were among those who protested against the execution even of a striker convicted of shooting a native. In any case, you will surely agree that a fight to maintain a skilled workers' standard of wages (which this strike was in essence) operates at least indirectly for the benefit of all ranks of workers; and our native workers' standard has certainly not improved as the result of the defeat of the white workers, although it is true that a number of jobs previously held by whites are now performed by coloured men at a much lower wage that is what the "abolition of the colour bar" comes to. It is a procedure no more defensible because there is a difference of colour involved than it would be in, say, England.

Or again, are you still under the delusion that Smuts, the "democrat," is a friend of the working class after what you know of his treatment of white and black indifferently in (to go no further back) the Rand strikes of 1913 and 1914, the native strikes of 1918 and 1919, the Village Deep, Port Elizabeth and Bulhoek affairs and the Bondelswart campaign where, as here last year, women and children were bombed from the air?

At one time another point was raised on behalf, we believe, of your party that South Africa being a "self-governing" country, any outside "interference" was inadmissible. This ground is obviously no longer tenable in view of the recent agitation, in which your party was also involved, against the "persecution" of priests in Russia.

Seven months ago the Communist Party of South Africa cabled to Mr. Walton Newbold, M.P., urging him to bring pressure to bear in Britain to save the lives of a number of the same prisoners, then condemned to death. Feeling the necessity of support, Mr. Newbold enlisted the interest of some members of your party; but, for your party's official support he felt it was useless to appeal, and events seem to have borne out his judgment.

Meanwhile our fellow-workers are still in prison. The agitation for their release continues. We would urge that the rejection of the Barrow resolution at your Congress does not prevent you from still assisting that agitation.

May we suggest that even at this late stage you should obtain from the S.A. Labour Party a report (which should be published here at the same time that it is despatched to you) on the propriety of the agitation. We believe that the effect of such a report, if honestly drawn up, would be that you would no longer remain indifferent, but would do your utmost to repair the injury your Congress has done to the cause of the imprisoned men. One opportunity will occur during the forthcoming visit of General Smuts to the Imperial Conference. We would urge that you should not only force the matter of the release upon the attention of that capitalist body but should simultaneously organise working class demonstrations, equal to those that protested against the South African deportations of 1914, throughout the British Isles, and thus help to remove the world-wide impression that the British Labour Party, or at least its ruling element, deserves the reproach which according to our cables has recently been made against it by the Communist International, that it is "one of the greatest props of British Imperialism."

For the defeat of Capitalism,
The Communist Party (South Africa),
SIDNEY P. BUNTING,
Secretary.

HICKSON AGAIN!

(The ubiquitous Hickson has again turned up, this time in Sydney, Australia. As in Johannesburg, the mission is only serving to throw into even more hideous relief the intellectual and physical bankruptcy of capitalism. The "Saviour from on high" has again failed to come to the rescue, and the workers have again received ample proof that their "strong right hands" are the only things that are likely to prevail in the struggle against poverty and disease.)

The Hickson Mission is one of the most painful exhibitions that has ever been witnessed in Sydney. Never did credulity display itself in a form more pitiful.

Of all that vast assemblage of stricken humanity—lame, blind, paralysed, mind-wracked, body-tortured—only a few declared they felt the least relief; the overwhelming majority experienced no benefit whatever, but added to their ravaging ailments was the bitter affliction of a terrible disappointment.

Would it not be better for the Church, instead of lending itself to this immense and cruel futility, to help in the campaign to prevent disease?

Most of those wretched human wrecks owe their sufferings to preventable causes. They have been caught in the toils of a ruthless social system. Poverty has smitten them sorely. In the struggle for bread they have neglected themselves, or have been compelled to live and work amidst insanitary conditions, or have been unable to supply themselves with proper nourishment, or maybe have been born of underfed mothers, and from birth have had to endure the privations of penury.

Why doesn't the Church assist the Labour Movement in its fight to abolish the social system that produces the horrible results we see around us everywhere?

An improvement of economic conditions does more good than all the spiritual healing stunts, with their solemn incantations and hypnotic music.

The sweeping away of a slum area cures more disease than a hundred Hicksons.

The Church does nothing in this direction. Labour is left severely alone in its ameliorative task. The shadow of the rich man darkens the church door. The profiteer sits unrebuked in the best pew. The exploiter of women and children takes round the plate.

Capitalism apparently regards the Church as one of its subservient institutions, on which it can always depend, and its generous contributions to the collection are for services rendered as well as to be given. Under such circumstances how can we think with respect of the Church's healing efforts?

The system which it upholds and blesses is the chief cause of the maladies of men.

These elaborate pretensions to cure cannot hide the truth that the Church as an organisation supports a state of things that inevitably breeds disease, that produces both mental and physical aberrations, and fills the world with pain and woe.

And, for every "reported" cure, Capitalism, friend and patron of the Church, is sowing the seeds of ten thousand dreadful cases a stone's-throw away from this heartrending scene of faith, folly and delusion.

"Physician, heal thyself." H. E. B.,
in "The Australian Worker."