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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)
No. 4, TRADES HALL, RISSIK STREET, JOHANNESBURG.
P.O. Box 4179.

Vol. VIII. No. 374. FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1923. PRICE THREEPENCE.

Good!
YES, AND IT DOES YOU GOOD.
"Its flavour delights,
Its quality satisfies."
Insist on COMMUNIST Membership.
THE BADGE OF MILITANT LABOUR SOLIDARITY.

United Front Wins out in Aussie.

C.P. AFFILIATION ACCEPTED.

The Communist Party recently applied for affiliation to the New South Wales Labour Party, and last month's conference of the latter has acceded to the application by the casting vote of the chairman. Communists had already secured ascendancy on the N.S.W. Trades and Labour Council, comprising, it is said, some 250,000 members, Com. J. Garden, who was at the Moscow Congress last November, being Secretary, and the conference vote in their favour was supported by the miners and "red" industrialists generally. The Communists have secured eight seats on the State Executive and one on the Federal Executive, and the president of the party is at any rate a "red," though not a member of the C.P. It is expected that in a few months the 'left wingers" will be in full control of the Labour Party; while the C.P. will retain full liberty of separate organisation and of propaganda.

"Cap this, S.A.L.P.!"

In this connection, Com. E. P. Beer writes from Melbourne on 15th June: "You will notice the growth of the Communist vote from a mere group to 50 per cent. Although affiliation with the Australian Labour Party was only passed by the casting vote of the chairman, the most important fact is the growth which the figures show. This to us is a welcome sign, and to the capitalists a matter of "grave concern." At this stage I am not inclined to attach too much importance to what many Communists here regard as a 'victory.' It is a tactical gain certainly, but the real value of it will manifest itself by the extent to which the united party produces a programme that will secure the support of the rank and file. Among these latter, as well as many of the leaders, reformism is preferred. To them a programme must necessarily be constitutional, and I question if economic pressure is sufficiently severe to change their ideology. Besides, a section even now want the deletion of the socialist phraseology in the present programme of the A.L.P., although it has hitherto been a theoretical expression rather than a real live objective. Words and phrases without the class-conscious spirit are like dry bones. The great task of the Communists will be to vitalise the movement generally by presenting a practical programme by which an immediate and united advance may beg n and which will appeal to the rank and file. Deeds not words are imperative."

The "Unknown Warriors" of the Rand Club.

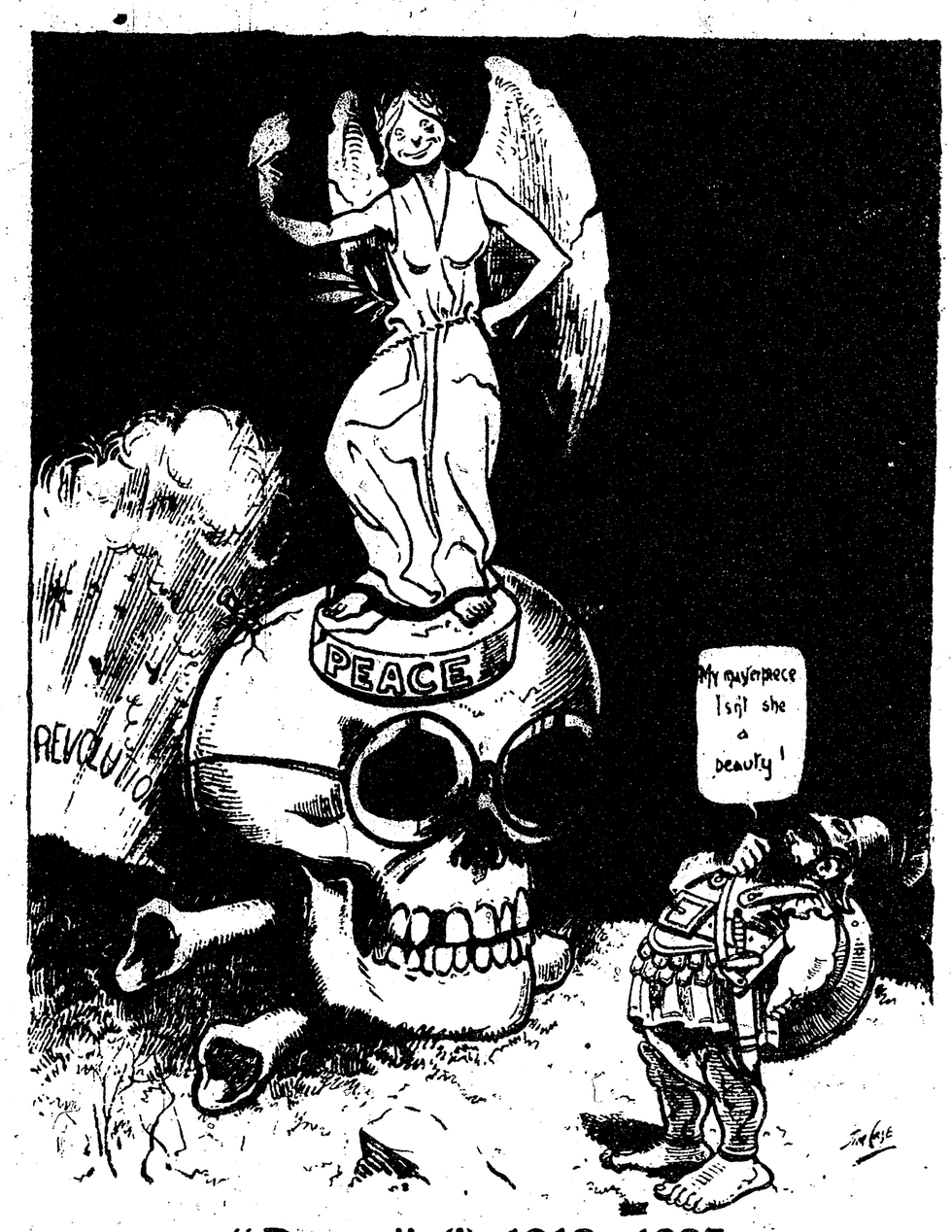
A WORKERS' DELVILLE WOOD DAY.

The trade unions chose to be unrepresented at this year's commemoration at Brixton, except for the few, mostly Communists, that made up the small procession marching from the Trades Hall last Sunday and gathering strength as it went until some 250 persons assembled at the graveside of Cavan's victims—the same Cavan who has just been to Poland to prepare for another workers' holocaust. Bumbledom, evidently apprised beforehand, held up the cortege at the cemetery gate with an alleged regulation forbidding "demonstrations" (without permission, finally desisting with an exhortation not to be "inflammatory." Comrades Haynes, E. Shaw, Mason and Bunting, who were all on the scene ten years ago, gave very brief addresses half reminiscent of the past, half anticipatory of the future Revanche when the murderers who still stalk the land while Bain and Mathews are gone shall have their turn to fall. And so for the tenth time, and with more hate and hope than ever, the Red Flag was sung over the resting place of the martyrs of July. The annual pilgrimage had been rescued from decay, as it had in several previous years, and by the same little band: the fires had been kept burning, ready to blaze out again in conflagration one day: the vow had been renewed with a clearer vision of the common thread connecting all these outrages, 1913, 1914-18, 1922, and the rest, and latterly with the reassurance based on victory already partly won. The Iron Heel has passed into the soul of the Rand working class; "though compelled," as J. H. Thomas said the other day of the railway workers of Britain, "to accept degrading conditions, the iron is in their soul, and they are determined to get their own back."

The S.A.P. Conference has before it a proposal to exclude from South Africa immigrants "with Bolshevik views." That won't help, for South Africa is daily producing inhabitants of its own with Bolshevik views, and the "agitators" are no longer, if they ever were, "aliens from Russia," but Afrikanders who have learnt quite enough of the system under which they live to vow its destruction at all costs.

DELVILLE WOOD.

"To End War."



"Peace" (!) 1918—1923.

THE RUHR, THE RAND, IRELAND, INDIA, WHITEHAVEN, BULHOEK, G.S.-WEST, Etc., Etc.

Land of Dope and Tory.

Jan Smuts is going to attend the Imperial Conference in London.

The premiers of the dominions are going to consider ways and means of "drawing tighter the bonds which link the Empire." To put this into plain language, it means that the representatives of British Imperialism will make another attempt to bolster up an Empire which is rapidly falling into dissolution and decay.

The chief support of the status quo is, and has been for some time, dope in the various forms calculated to keep the working class from thinking. "Whatever you do," they say, "you must not think too much."

"Land of Dope and Tory,
Mother o'er the sea!
Do they still rule o'er thee,
Thou who shouldst be free?
Do their wiles still fool thee,
(Ere their sun be set)
To divide and rule thee?
Art thou slumbering yet?"

Protesting too Much.

The Chamber of Mines seems very anxious to let us know that it does not recognise the S.A. Mine Workers' Union. The true position is that the S.A.M.W.U. does not recognise the Chamber of Mines or apply for "recognition" by it. That is what chagrins the Chamber. The Miners' Union refers all disputes now to the Conciliation Boards. These are creatures of the Chamber's Government, it is true, but the Chamber itself it has cut right out. The City Deep miners, for their part, are not showing any white feather, but are determined to insist on their Conciliation Board, and hoist the bosses on their own petard.

The Stuff to Give 'Em.

On May 5th an English vessel arrived in Odessa with eleven tractors and 300 tons of agricultural implements. It was expected that 300 tractors bought in America and England will have reached the port during May and early June.

Tsarism in Native Affairs.

"THE BOURGEOISIE PRODUCES ITS OWN GRAVE-DIGGERS."

Under the new orders for better control of natives, public gatherings in reserves without the consent of the Chiefs and their Councillors are forbidden. THE TERM "CHIEF" MEANS THE SUB-NATIVE COMMISSIONER OR ANY NATIVE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. Thus all Chiefs are now appointed by the Government, they are no longer hereditary rulers, but Government policemen!

Further, these "Chiefs" are given autocratic powers to decide cases, and against their decisions there is to be no appeal. No non-resident native shall be permitted to stay in a location for a period exceeding three days. It seems that the pass system will be introduced into the reserves in order to control movements of natives from one location to the other.

"There is bound," says "Abantu Batho," "to be endless trouble in the locations, and there can be no doubt that the result of this trouble will be disintegration of tribes and detribalisation of natives. . . . The spirit of freedom is abroad in the land, and the agitation which took place in Basutoland last year against the autocratic manner in which Basutoland chiefs ruled over their people is an eloquent proof that autocracy, BE IT OF EUROPEANS OR AFRICANS, is intolerable in this age of light. The new African is determined to be free in order to enjoy the FRUITS OF HIS LABOUR and equality of opportunities with other members of the human race. His progress cannot be retarded by means of restrictive and repressive measures; SUCH MEASURES ONLY SERVE AS A GREAT ACCELERATOR of this progress."

The London Diocesan Conference has condemned raffles and sweeps, and "calls upon all church people to decline to adopt gambling methods of obtaining funds for religious and charitable purposes." The winner of the Cape Tattersalls sweep is going to devote £200 of his prize money to churches and hospitals. We should like to see them refuse the money!

Martyrdom of Germany.

Com. Bill Andrews writes from Hamburg on June 15th:

"There are 10,000 members of the Party here, and they have sold their old premises and got into a fine new place in 40-1-2 Valentinskamp. It used to be a dancing hall and cafe. The printing office is on the ground floor, and they have four or five linos., several cylinders and a rotary to print the daily paper, 20,000 copies daily. There are thirteen branches of the Party, and Hoffman, who is a member of the local parliament, informs me that there are fourteen Communist members, which number he expects to be raised to double that figure at next election.

"The Gewerkschaftshaus (Trades Hall) is a huge building, but of course 'yellow.' The mark is a nightmare, and there seems no end to its depreciation. It is difficult to keep pace with its giant plunges, and the poverty is tragic. Beggars everywhere. How on earth the people live at all is a mystery, but they do live and keep a decent front to the world: but the number of pinched and unhealthy looking faces is depressing. The cafes and amusement places are filled at night, but not I think by the working class excepting the pimps and prostitutes.

"It is bitterly cold, and the people are all wrapped up with such overcoats as they can manage to obtain—I have seen no furs or costly wraps of any kind. There are scarcely any motor cars excepting taxis and business vehicles, and I am told that Hamburg is better off than most German cities. In the great shipyards I saw one ship just laid down, and one other which had been launched and is being fitted up. The yards are certainly not busy, and unemployment is rife and widespread. Germany's biggest ship left to-day for Brazil; it is about 35,000 tons. Thousands watched her steam down river. The patriotic Hamburger writhes under the indignity of having his monster ships taken away by the conqueror, then to re-enter his great port under foreign flags. The capitalist class gains by this very natural feeling, and posters and propaganda are cunningly used to keep the German proletariat looking at the French and other foreigners and forgetting the colossal profits their own capitalists are making out of their misery. Take as an example the officers of the s.s. Adolph Woermann; the engineers, etc., were getting the equivalent of about one English pound monthly a few weeks ago. With the mark at about 500,000, this is about halved, and yet the company is charging 50 per cent. OVER pre-war rates for freight and passengers. It may be asked why they do not halve their rates and cut out all the British and other shipping. The answer probably is that if they did the ports, coaling facilities, etc., of foreign countries would be closed by the rival shipping companies, and also it is almost certain that the Hamburg-America line and the German-African lines are largely in the hands of British, American, and Holland capitalists who are reaping enormous harvests from the German labour paid below coolie rates. It would be interesting, for example, to know what interest the Union-Castle line has in the Woerman line. It is all so monstrous that Europe appears like a mad-house, and because of the hopelessness of it all a sad place to be in."

A Crying Scandal.

THE PLIGHT OF THE WORKERS.

By ONE OF THEM.

The workers of the Rand know better than all the philanthropists how intense, how scandalous, unemployment and poverty there have become as the result of the "Great War for Freedom" and the offensive of the Chamber of Mines in its United Front with the Government to grind the people, black and white, down to the lowest level of the lowest native slave. Every one of them can see that this is the deliberate policy of the ruling class to-day. Visit any part of the Reef and you will see poverty and misery in every back street, yes even in the semi-well-off streets too, though camouflaged under the cloak of "respectability." And the longer the system continues the more these evils will increase and multiply—suicides, thefts, outrages, men and women once honourable qualifying for the indeterminate sentence or the hangman's rope. The prisons are full to overflowing with the baulked, perverted and disappointed energy of the country. In this "golden city" criminals are daily being manufactured by the score.

"Arise, ye prisoners of starvation," throw from off your shoulders the yoke of capitalist oppression, and stand forth in the world as free men.

V. C. WOUDBERG.

Bottomley's "victims" are stated to have got 1½d. in the £. What about those far more numerous victims of his recruiting speeches who got only a bullet in the body?

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 13, 1923. No. 374.

The Clash of White and Black.

The present unemployment in South Africa is helping to bring to greater clarity the problem of black and white as it presents itself locally, the problem of European and colonial as it presents itself internationally, the problem of capitalism and labour as it presents itself scientifically.

The acute point of clash between black and white has now been reached here. Workers and bourgeoisie alike can no longer help seeing that the effect of capitalism is solely to drag the worker down and down whatever his colour, whatever his country, whatever his standard of life; that no amount of pumping in more black labour, though it may find jobs temporarily for a few more overseers, will check the downward pull, but on the contrary accelerates it, and moreover drags down the black worker too (witness the threat held out to native workers in the Union that they will in their turn be displaced by cheaper ones from elsewhere); and again that a mere "white labour policy," attempting, within the framework of capitalism, to prevent this downward process, is hopeless, both because it goes directly counter to the essential requirements of the system, and particularly in South Africa because it has no hope of being adopted by a majority of the voters, such majority being non-proletarian; besides which it attempts to eliminate the "black menace" by ignoring the proper aspirations and even existence of the great native mass, for that is what "segregation" really means.

* * *

It is true that in the last few days we have seen the conflict between rival and contradictory fallacies worked off in the "Rand Daily Mail"—the fallacy that more black labour will result in more work for whites (at "white" pay) and the fallacy that less black labour will have the same result. The "Mail" has been "persuaded" now to declare that "another little drink" (of cheaper Portuguese native labour) "wouldn't do us any harm" after all: but that is really just the excuse of the old toper who often, as in the case of the "Mail," poses as a temperance man, but who in any case cannot give up his habits, and indeed, even if he does so, only loses what vitality he had before.

* * *

The white unemployed are learning the lesson, however slowly and reluctantly. One striking fact which is coming to their notice, especially as the result of co-ordination between the efforts of Cape and Rand unemployed, is that unemployment is not confined to whites, it is fundamentally not a matter of race but of cheapness all over the world. Just as whites are being displaced by coloured men on the mines, so coloured men are being displaced by natives at the Cape, and natives in turn are being displaced by cheaper natives of whom there is an almost unlimited reservoir in the continent of Africa. Thus while displaced coloured men at the Cape come to the Rand mines to take the jobs of whites, the streets of Capetown are full also of displaced natives; and none of the "solutions" even of the "liberal bourgeois" press so much as pretend to solve these dilemmas: on the contrary, they all end in a demand, by the employers, for more cheap labour, and cheaper at that; and the shopocracy blindly follow.

* * *

The Communist International, on the other hand, surveys the position throughout the whole field of world labour, when it at once becomes obvious that the process is world-wide and inevitable under capitalism; that there is no remedy except the world-wide attack on capitalism; and that for that attack the whole forces of labour, including the labouring masses of the subject races of all continents, are required. It may be that the unemployment crisis will serve to teach this lesson both to the unorganised mass of black workers and to the few organised whites at "the top," who have recently, in the building trade, shown the weakness resulting from "non-recognition" of coloured labour. A certain organisation of Plasterers, who decline to organise with any coloured worker, are scabbing on the B.W.I.U., which demonstrates that only by organising with coloured workers has it been able to save the position of the white workers in, for example, Port Elizabeth. A most striking experience, confirming a "ton of theory." But it must be clear that such an experience embodies a principle of far wider application that not in Port Elizabeth but in all South Africa and all over the world the same thing must be true, and that it must be true not only as between white and coloured but as between them and native workers (whom even the B.W.I.U. does not yet organise), and in short between all grades, standards, and races of workers all over the world. The white workers' traditional policy of aristocratic and contemptuous aloofness from the non-white and identification, as against them, with the ruling caste, a policy which was supposed to operate to maintain their standard and numerical strength, has failed to do anything of the sort. It has definitely and visibly broken down before our eyes: both their numbers and their standard are definitely falling. The solidarity of all workers is the only hope; and by reason of their greater knowledge, experience, and class organisation, it is for the class-conscious white workers in this country to take the lead. Until they accept this situation they can never carry out a sustained forward movement, and others will lead.

Unemployed Class-consciousness

Contrary to the expectations, and wishes, of the petty bourgeois of the Rand, the offering of work to five hundred married men by the Johannesburg Municipality has not put the Unemployed Committee of the Witwatersrand out of business, but on the contrary has only increased its activities. As stated previously, the work available is only a spot in a bucket. Already, we are informed, several thousand unemployed and destitute married men have registered their names for the jobs. As usual, red tape and Rand Aid methods have been adopted, and the decent mechanic and artisan who objects to busy-bodies nosing into his private family affairs will still be wanting a job when all the paltry five hundred have been absorbed. The position now is that unemployment has exceeded the limit of safety for the capitalist class. Up to a point unemployment, by increasing competition among the workers, is of great benefit to the owners and controllers of the wealth of the world. Since the war, however, owing to the intensification of the class struggle, the capitalist class runs a big risk, from the spread of unemployment, of riot and revolution. This risk is greater than any benefit they obtain from the existence of a reserve army of unemployed. THE UNEMPLOYED ARE DEVELOPING INTO A RESERVE FOR THE RED ARMY RATHER THAN FOR THE MINES, RAILWAYS, FIELDS, AND WORKSHOPS. That is precisely why the far-seeing capitalist class of Central Europe are burdened with huge insurance premiums against revolution in the shape of unemployment doles, bread subsidies, etc.

In this country the capitalists are attempting to combat the unemployed menace by ignoring the unemployed committees, and boycotting unemployed news in the press. Every other country has tried the same procedure, but eventually the unemployed themselves have forced the powers to sit up and take notice. This will later be done in this country because inevitably unemployment, especially among whites, will expand to such dimensions that no government will be able to hide or camouflage the true state of affairs. We, with the rest of the world, rapidly near the point at which the capitalists, for sheer self-defence, will be forced to feed the working class instead of being fed by it. Then comes the collapse of the system, and then comes the immediate necessity for Revolution or—death.

In the meantime can be observed a general move on the part of the unemployed to organise. This manifestation is significant, for the reason that the mass realise that they can get no work. It is not work they are organising for, and probably only a small percentage of the number could say clearly what they are organising for. But all realise that organisation is necessary. All realise that they have to combine or starve. All realise vaguely that a big world movement is afoot, and all gradually grip the fact that more is to be feared from a continuation of the present system which degrades them than from the doing away with it—lock, stock, and barrel.

Therefore the unemployed movement is becoming a conscious movement. The old flag-wagging tactics and mouthing of King, Empire, Religion and platitudes will cut no ice with the hungry army. The murmur becomes a roar. Soon we shall see a general advance, and then—capitalists beware! Your victims have found you out.

H. W. H.

Official Labour Recruiting.

The "S.A. Review" recently called attention to the report of a meeting of the Consolidated Diamond Mines Company held in Capetown, at which the chairman (Sir E. Oppenheimer), as also Sir David Graaff, "deplored the shortage of Ovambo labour, but it was announced that further steps were being taken BY THE ADMINISTRATION to secure a better supply."

But this has recently been put in the shade by the revelation that a "Commission" consisting of Mr. Pritchard, a Native Affairs Department official, and Mr. Ashburnham, Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg, has been on an expedition through the native territories with a view to stimulating the supply of native labour for the gold mines, as well as the sugar fields and collieries, and is preparing a report to the Government the result of which it is expected will be (what the Commissioners have already held out as a threat to the natives of an overstocked labour market, resulting in unemployment for them) an extension of facilities for recruiting native labour from Portuguese East Africa; while the "Rand Daily Mail," after weeks of wobbling, has been got round to urge that "for the sake of the unemployed whites" (!) more black labour should be imported. Even a *good* harvest, enabling the South African natives for the time being to escape "economic conscription," is evidently grudged them by these agents of the Chamber of Mines.

We can understand governments trying to find employment for the unemployed, but it is a very gross and scandalous abuse of government machinery to turn it into a labour recruiting agency for big employers. Especially is this so with regard to the Native Affairs Department, which is supposed to exist not for the purpose of supplying labour but of protecting the native population, which should include protection from exploitation. Of course the Department has always been administered really in the interests of the employing class (just as "relief works" are often nothing but means for getting cheap labour for Government), but never has it avowed its function so unblushingly on behalf of private capitalists. It is time the native associations, including the joint councils of Europeans and natives, raised their voice against this prostitution of the Department into an institution for exploitation of the Bantu people.

What about renewing your subscription to the "International"?

"Where Does the Money Come From?"

This stock question has been taken over from Crawford by the "Sunday Times" and applied to the unemployed movement. Enquiries show that the cost of the "Chain Gang's" trip to Parliament was raised by numerous collections in the streets and at meetings held by the Unemployed Committee in Johannesburg, Capetown, and elsewhere, as Mr. C. H. Hayward and Mr. H. B. Ash, the respective treasurers in Johannesburg and Capetown, can bear witness to any genuine questioner. The cost of printing of the "Torch" is being raised by similar methods in Capetown and partly covered by the proceeds of street sales and payments for advertisements. Such obvious facts have to be repeated again and again because a society whose mentality is controlled by a bourgeoisie incapable of putting up money except for "ulterior motives" of profit or social reclame, and represented by mouthpieces who are always bumming on it for their "little cheque," often cannot understand anyone putting up sixpences or occasional half-sovereigns for the cause of the working class. As a matter of fact South Africa, England, the whole world, teems with devoted men, women, and even children who are continually stinting themselves to provide a few miserable pounds to help on the emancipation of humanity from the grip of the millions wielded by the friends of the "Sunday Times." And remember, they provide these few pounds from the wretched pittance which has been returned to them by these same robbers after extorting from them the whole product of their labour: not, like the vast propaganda and agitational funds used against them, out of their masters' superfluity—the superfluity they themselves created with their sweat and blood and life itself—but out of their own penury do the workers sustain their mighty movement.

Where do the millions come from for the "Sunday Times" and all other capitalist organs? Many a newspaper to-day does not even pay, but is heavily subsidised by some great financial or industrial group whose interests it is paid specially to espouse. Those which pay are supported largely by their advertisement revenue, i.e., by the commercial bourgeoisie. And every journalist knows that an editor or manager of a bourgeois newspaper can earn big revenue for it by a virtual system of blackmail. All this money comes directly from the pockets of the exploiting class, but ultimately it is taken from the working class, who thus contribute the cost of their own mental and political perversion.

"Too long their rich men's laws have fooled us,
Robber kings too long made spoil."

The working class is entitled to demand its money back and to recover from the despoilers the press, the land, the mines and the industries it has itself paid for.

And these brigands have the effrontery to ask US "where the money comes from"!

"Education" and Education.

It is time the working class learnt to appraise what is called "education" or "culture" at its real value.

The best educated man is the man who understands the world, and especially the human world, human society, its movement past, present and future, its component classes and their struggle, his own place in these, the meaning of human history, politics and economics, the dominant and servient elements in them, the "spirit of the age," the facts of life.

A university education may stuff you with lore about atoms and entities, emperors and favourites, pure reason and dialectic, but it will give you either no understanding at all of living human matters or, if any, an utterly false understanding of them, in accordance with the interests of those endowing or otherwise controlling the university. You may spell, compose, debate, orate, translate, even analyse and criticise, but without the essential knowledge your golden education is but dross.

Thus it is that any average workman who has read and studied Communism and takes it in can deal far more intelligently with the "things that matter" than any of your capitalist "statesmen," publicists, or pedagogues no matter what their degrees. The very fact of his position is the foundation of his education. True, systematic education on these lines is at present directly obtainable only in Soviet Russia. Yet all over the world there are hundreds and thousands of workers who are painfully and indirectly acquiring it for themselves, and already they can talk sense on such subjects as unemployment, "poor whites," white and coloured labour, "segregation," "labour colonies," Soviet Russia, strikes and emancipation movements of subject peoples when your Lloyd-Georges, your Smutses, your Lehfeldts, your Dutch reformed parsons, your professors, your "Rand Daily Mail" editors, who neither want nor see a way out, can at best only grope hopelessly around with childish, confused tinsel phrases about "unrest," "rebellion," "inexorable economic laws," "Bolshevik atrocities," and the "greatness of our Empire." The capitalist class itself has to resort to ex-Socialists to lead its Fascism, its yellow journalism, and its yellow trade unionism.

Sometimes a well-meaning correspondent sends us a cutting containing some parson's or professor's observations on society. As a rule, these tail off into a surrender to the League of Nations or the Cross of Christ; they may, however, contain some more or less truisms on the relations of capital and labour, or the "mess the world is in." But, bless you, any Communist could have told us that without pretensions not to a degree only but even to literacy, and what is more, he knows, what the parson and the professor do not, the ignoble part played in those relations and that mess by the parson or the professor himself.

The Bishop of Johannesburg is applauded for divin-

(Continued at foot of next column.)

Smoke for "Imperial" Pipes.

The Imperial Conference will have to think of quite a lot of new dope for South Africa alone, let alone other "dominions."

For instance, there is the colossal unemployment problem, with its novel demand for deportation or repatriation to Home Sweet Home (wherever that may be). This demand, mind you, is not peculiar to South Africa. Canadian workers are applying for passports to the United States or to Europe. Australia—well, a few weeks ago two ships, one with emigrants from England, the other with "stowaway" emigrants from Australia making for "home" again in disgust at the swindle, berthed simultaneously at Capetown, and the passengers intermingled ashore, and it would be material for another Landor or Farson Lamont to describe the interchange of views between them. Perhaps it was one of these passengers recently who, having pushed on as far as Fremantle, then committed suicide owing to a fit of depression before even tasting the sweets of an emigrant's life "down under."

Then there is an even more humiliating topic for these great "administrators" of subject races—last Monday's resolution of the Native National Congress at Bloemfontein, as follows (we quote for the benefit of those who may have missed it in the daily press).

"In view of the fact that Great Britain has treated all treaties, promises and pledges made with and to the Bantu people as contracts of no value, and has repeatedly told several deputations from the African people of this country that His Britannic Majesty's Government could not intervene on behalf of the aboriginal races within the Union of South Africa, as Great Britain has no constitutional right to interfere in the internal affairs of the self-governing dominions, this congress therefore feels that the time has come when the Bantu people should consider the advisability of SUPPORTING A REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR THIS COUNTRY."

Coming on top of the Indian demand for independence, the "sacred trust" stunt will have to be rigged up in an entirely new outfit if we are to see a continuance of those loyal addresses to H.R.H. the Governor-General which have been such a ridiculous feature of native gatherings in the past.

Then there is the declaration of Australian labour quoted in our issue of last week against war and militarism, and especially Australian participation in English wars.

Again, if British Labour does its duty in forcing such things on to the agenda, or if that officious Clerk of the League of Nations sticks to his guns, General Smuts will find himself with something to whitewash in connection with the Rand "Revolt" and the continued imprisonment of thirty-nine of its victims, as well as with the bombing of Bondelswarts, including the promotion of one of its principal "heroes" to the Secretaryship of Native Affairs (also protested against by the Native Congress).

Altogether their bill of fare will include a pretty kettle of fish, enough to last them a month of Fridays.

ing that a miner wants something more than a "living wage" because he has only a few years' working life before he goes off with phthisis. Why, the miner and the public knew that long ago, and all there is to marvel at is that so educated a man should also discover it—probably he was told by a worker. The workman may not know all about the tortuous schemings of high finance, the stock exchange, bourgeois political economy or diplomacy, or the Ruhr adventure, but he knows (if he has been able to break through and shake off the enchaining educational smattering which the bourgeoisie may have forced on him and to acquire class-conscious intelligence) something about his own position in society, and collectively he knows about the affairs and ideas of the great majority of mankind, the working class, including the struggling masses of the subject races, which are a sealed book to the "highly educated." Even "Abantu Batho" can give the Minister for Native Affairs points about native affairs, and Erasmus of Fordsburg, in the dock last year, gave a truer account of the meaning of the strike than any of the "statesmanlike" speeches of M.L.A.'s, pastors or masters.

One feature of "education" has yet to be found out by the workers. The "good form" which may have been an end in itself a generation or two ago is to-day more consciously cultivated than before because it is prostituted to gull the subject classes. How many working men have not been bamboozled by a "gracious" reception (whether fortified or not with a whisky and cigar) at the hands of some magnate, and gone back to their fellow-workers saying the magnate was "not such a bad fellow after all, and there was a lot to be said for his point of view." On a larger scale, the English Universities are called a training school for "imperial administrators," which simply means that they learn the grand manner with which (backed by guns) to impress millions with the glory of being slaves. "The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every profession previously venerated and regarded as honourable," and "education" is one of these.

In fact, bourgeois education seems to be falling into discredit and neglect even with the bourgeoisie. A. M. Henriod, of the World Students' Federation, said the other day that "in Vienna there are 30,000 students ill-clad, ill-fed, and reduced almost to despair," without books, without warmth, for whom an appeal for funds is necessary; while Mr. Stallard and others decry not only black but even white "over-education."

Away with the fetish worship of false 'education," and on with proletarian culture, the hope of the future of mankind!

It is not generally known that in more than one of the street collections which make Saturdays in Johannesburg a continual running of the gauntlet, it is customary for the amount realised to be divided equally between the objects of the appeal and the collectors.

These Parasites.

"They always go too far, these parasites, and do themselves in."

Thus the Professor of Zoology.

Now the professor was not discussing politics. Politics are barred in the University (at least that is what the authorities will tell you if you ask them), and therefore far be it from the zoologist to introduce into the "strictly non-partisan" atmosphere" of the lecture room anything of a "political" or, as the powers that be call it, of a "controversial" nature. The professor was expressing, perhaps in a slightly exaggerated form, a biological truism.

The extent to which parasitism is present in the animal kingdom would surprise anyone who had not studied the matter closely. Parasites are extremely common. There are parasites in the blood of man, parasites in the digestive tract, parasites in the internal organs, besides the lice, fleas, mosquitoes and bed-bugs which the proletarian soap-box orator uses as additional wealth of illustration when wishing to drive home a point.

THE MAN AND THE TAPEWORM.

The parallel of the man and the tapeworm on one side, and the worker and the capitalist on the other, can be drawn very much further than the Socialist as a rule is prepared to take it. The parasitising power of the capitalist does not lie in his individual superiority over the worker. The latter has in most cases sufficient strength in his own strong arms to shake the life out of his fat exploiter. The power of the capitalist lies in something else. It results from a definite social relationship. When we understand this social relationship we are able to grasp just how and why it is that one human being is able to live by the sweat and blood of another.

Similarly animal parasites are relatively weak and defenceless creatures. Some of them are so small that it is necessary to use a microscope in order to see them at all. Their power does not lie in their physical strength. In order to be able to understand how they are able to live at the expense of other animals we must study their biological relations with these other animals.

A knowledge of the BIOLOGICAL relationship of host and parasite enables us to take steps to destroy the parasite and therewith the system of parasitism. A knowledge of the SOCIAL relationship between worker and capitalist will enable us to eliminate the capitalist and at the same time the system of capitalism.

Among animals we often meet with what we might call SUPER-PARASITISATION, i.e., a parasite itself becomes parasitised. Sociologically we may compare this with the super-parasitisation of our modern ruling class. The newspaper editors, detectives, labour bleeders, crook politicians, manicurists, fashion specialists, priests, medical doctors who specialise in curing the ailments peculiar to those who over-indulge in food, drink and other things, the so-called "better class" prostitutes—all these are lesser parasites who batten on the industrial bourgeoisie, administering to and encouraging their vices, and generally helping to support a class which supports them.

BREAKING THE CYCLE.

In order to destroy a parasite, not an individual parasite—that would be relatively easy—but a race of parasites, it is necessary to strike at the root of the trouble. Malaria is caused by a microscopic animal which is transmitted by mosquitoes of a certain kind. Half of the life cycle of the parasite is passed in the mosquito, the other half in man. Both halves of the cycle are necessary in order that the parasite may continue its existence. By breaking the cycle you kill the parasite. You cannot prevent malaria by swotting a mosquito here and a mosquito there—you must prevent the mosquitoes from breeding.

We come now to another question, the question of specialisation. A parasite is a highly specialised animal; it has to live under peculiar conditions. In order to exist under these conditions, parasites have found it necessary to adopt modifications of an unusual kind. Sometimes to complete its life cycle a parasite must enter and leave the bodies of no less than three hosts.

OVER-SPECIALISATION.

The sheep liver-fluke is a two-host parasite: the adult parasitises the liver of a sheep; the larval stages are passed inside a snail. It has been found in South Africa that it is always a particular snail which is parasitised, not any old snail but a particular species, that and no other. And just here we see the vulnerability of the parasite: eliminate this particular species of snail and you will probably eliminate the parasite. The latter is going just a little too far with its specialisation. It is inclined to overdo it; and that is the reason why, unless it is very careful, it is going to come a cropper!

Meanwhile in society we see the same sort of over-specialisation. The capitalist class is becoming utterly incapable of existing non-parasitically. We hear the cry of the working class. In the words of Norah Hellgren:

"We are the men who've created,
We and our kind through all time.
We and our kind shall possess now
All of the things we have wrought.
You shall have all you've created
By labour of hand or of thought.
What! You will starve? You must shiver?
You who were lords of the earth!
Then by what power have you kept us
Out of the rights of our birth?
Justice you shall have in plenty.
All that you make you shall own.
Bread you may have, if you earn it,
Else you may feed upon stone."

And capitalism is arrogant in these days of its downfall. We all know that the toiling masses are slow to move, slow to rise. But they are being compelled to rise. Wages are being cut, hours are being lengthened, millions are being thrown out of employment. And world capitalism seems blind to the fact that it is only hastening the day of its inevitable destruction.

French militarism is swanking round Europe with drawn sword. Soviet Russia is being insulted almost daily—the assassination of Vorowsky not the least of these insults.

In this country the supreme arrogance of Jan Smuts (a reflection of the recent victory of the Chamber of Mines) is estranging not only thousands of the workers and farmers who voted for him at the last election, but even members of his own party who are becoming unable any longer to withstand his unbearable insolence.

"Yours were the priests and the temples,
Yours were the courts and the law.
Yours were the press and the pulpit.
Your system had never a flaw.
You thought I was yours for ever:
You were sure that I would not wake;
And, serene in the thought of that never,
You goaded and urged to the break."

Yes, it is true. They always go too far, these parasites—and do themselves in!

E. R. R.

"All for Peace."

(From Zinoviev's manifesto to the workers, especially of England, on the war danger.)

The ruling circles of English imperialism have forgotten that Soviet Russia does not permit herself to be addressed in the language of ultimatums, that the Federation of Soviet Republics is not Ruhr area, that our workers' and peasants' government is not at the mercy of the foreign governments which have done their best to ruin it, but is founded solely on the united endeavours and the determined will of the working masses of the great Soviet Federation.

Of what does Lord Curzon accuse our country? In the eyes of the imperialists the blackest crime is the friendship between the first victorious workers' and peasants' government and the oppressed peoples of the East. Stricken blind, they cannot see that just as no one can prevent plants from turning to the sun, so it is impossible to prevent the oppressed millions of the Orient, exploited by world imperialism and degraded by financial capital, from striving towards alliance and friendship with the only Soviet country, which in turn approaches the people of the East not treacherously but fraternally, not with egoistic aims, but in a spirit of equality.

We appeal to the workers of all countries: A fresh campaign is being opened against Soviet Russia. In this campaign the victory, or even semi-victory, of world imperialism would signify the annihilation of the labour movement for many years, and the prevalence of blackest reaction.

We appeal to the English workers, upon whose shoulders an immense historical responsibility rests. We are confident that the English workers will do their utmost to prevent the present rulers of England from unchaining the dogs of war in Europe again.

The workers, peasants, and toilers of every description in Russia will do their duty to the full. This we guarantee to the English workers. We call upon them to fulfil their duty too. Down with the instigators of new imperialist wars! Long live the struggle of the International Proletariat for peace and the workers' government.

* * *

(From the telegram of L. Kamenev, Chairman of the Moscow Soviet, to Ramsay Macdonald.)

The Soviet Republic, shaken out of its peaceful work by Lord Curzon's ultimatum, and by the murder of its representative Vorowsky, is anxious to obtain peace and peaceful relations at any price, but is at the same time ready to rise as one man in defence of its independence, its sovereignty, and its government.

—L. Kamenev, Chairman of the Moscow Soviet.

* * *

(From Kamenev's Appeal to Fritjof Nansen.)

The Moscow Soviet appeals to you, as its honourable member, in the hope that in this dark hour, pregnant with disaster, you will raise your voice against the instigators of war, and will proclaim to the world, which will listen to your voice, that Soviet Russia without flinching before the ultimatum and the bullet, is willing to exert herself to the utmost to preserve and secure peace.

'Democracy' or Fighting Front?

The reason given by the Hamburg Congress (Reformist) for the rejection of the proposal of the Delegation of the International Committee of Action against War Danger and Fascism was that the Congress was already overburdened, and that, in view of the fundamental differences existing between the social democrats and the communists, there was little prospect of an understanding being reached. According to the statement made by Friedrich Adler, these differences consist in the denial by the Communists of the democratic principle within the proletariat, and their conception that not the majority of the proletariat shall decide, but a minority, a "small clique, which is to exercise dictatorship over the proletariat."

To this the delegation of the International Committee of Action replies with the utmost emphasis, though without in the least denying the existence of far-reaching fundamental differences between the consistent revolutionary policy pursued by the Communist Parties and the policy of the Social Democratic Parties, that:

Not only the revolutionary trade unions, affiliated to the R.I.L.U., and represented in the International Committee of Action, not only the shop stewards' councils organised on the democratic principle, but also the Communist International itself, has nothing in common with the ideas ascribed to it by Adler. The theses and resolutions of all International Congresses, particularly those of the Third Congress, held in 1921, as well as the programmes of all Communist Parties, place the winning of the majority of the working class over to their standpoint in the very forefront of their tasks. The whole activity of these parties is directed to the realisation of this task. They hold the view that the revolution, and the dictatorship of the proletariat necessary to carry it through, presuppose the winning over of the majority of the working class for these tasks. So long as the majority of the proletariat has not made up its mind to seize power, partial struggles for the most pressing economic and political needs of the working class are necessary. The Communists, consciously supported by great masses of non-Communist workers, are striving for the creation of a united front of all workers, irrespective of organisation, for these struggles.

The refusal to participate in joint action proves that the leaders of the International founded at Hamburg are neither willing nor able to begin the struggle against war danger and Fascism. The majority of the parties represented at Hamburg are already closely bound up with the bourgeois governments of their own countries. They are dependent on them, and share the guilt of their nationalist and imperialist policies. It is therefore greatly to their interest to conceal the real dangers, to calm the working masses, and to restrain them from any

(Continued at foot of next column.)

"A Filthy, Filthy Race."

SATAN REBUKING SIN.

The "Sunday Times" of Johannesburg, the most powerful purveyor of dope in South Africa, which a few months ago was vilifying the present editor of this paper, during his absence from the country, with all manner of filth, now appeals to him as an "educated man" for his opinion of what it calls certain "filthy references" in the newly published organ of the Cape and Witwatersrand Unemployed Committees, the "Torch."

We thank thee, Langley, for providing us with so fruitful a text.

We would not presume to pit ourselves against such a graduate in general Kultur and good taste as yourself. If ever the public want to wallow in a cesspool of rape cases, divorce scandals, society revelations or horrors, they go not to the "International" but to the slimes newspapers of the Rand. (Indeed, if they wanted the best in journalism, for example, the "Pravda," they could not get it, for it is burnt weekly on arrival in Johannesburg by the G.P.O.—just as the "Sunday Times" would be burnt if ever it fell into the hands of the workers of Moscow lest they should learn too much of newspapers without filth.)

Nevertheless, although we hold no brief for the writers of the "Torch," we gladly give the opinion desired. We did not notice anything "filthy" in the "Torch" except this, that it said things about persons in "high places" which if said of a man in the street would not seem "filthy" to the "S.T." In the eyes of that class of paper, you may say anything of a kaffir, a striker, or a Communist; "decency forbids" only in the case of a magnate, a "gentleman," or a king; just as you may rape a black woman with comparative impunity but not a white one; or, in "British" circles, or at elections as at Uitenhage, you may say anything against the Germans or (now) "frog-eating Frenchmen," but nothing against "the British"—i.e., British capitalist and imperialist slave-drivers.

"Filth" and "filthy references" are characteristics of the perverted and degraded atmosphere which capitalism requires among its slaves in order to continue its class domination over them. The schools, newspapers, races, bioscope dope, etc., provided by capitalism are responsible for what it pleases to call the "mass psychology" or (to quote the famous Chamber of Mines "despatch" of 4th March, 1922) "persons of that mental calibre"; and the "Sunday Times" is one of its prophets to tickle the mentality so created. The filthy conditions of life to which filthy lucre's "prescribed regulations" condemn the working class are quite sufficient excuse for any filthy language in the mouths of workmen. Abraham Lincoln aspired to a condition of things in which the worker should be able to BETTER himself: but capitalism, the "dead leveller," keeps him rigidly down, rubs his nose in the filth, with its "cost of living" indexes, and if he tries to "better himself," shoots him down as a revolutionary. For "cost of living" in no way signifies "living like a lord," but living like a pig. At that filthy pig level it would be no wonder if "filthy references" were occasionally heard. Similarly a native worker often smells filthy, but it is not for his boss, who fails to provide him with a bath, to revile him on that account.

But as a matter of fact the conversation of capitalist smoking rooms, billiard rooms, officers' messes, and even drawing-rooms, is frequently, and without the workers' excuse, a hundred times more filthy than that of the proletarian "home," such as it is. It is there that you may hear dirty stories reeled off with relish and gusto by the hour or the day. The life of the idle rich, and even of some of their journalists, is a hundred times filthier than that of the working poor, "deserving" or undeserving. The ruling class is the arch purveyor of filth, and most "filthy references" are in fact references to the vices of the parasitic ruling class. The essential worker has neither time nor money for their beastly and degenerate indulgences. To apply the language of a woman writing recently in the "Friend" about the Russian people, it is the masters of the yellow journals of the world that are "the filthy, filthy race."

"Analphabets," Literate and Illiterate.

In the last few months the Russian Trade Unions have been making a great push against illiteracy amongst their members. At the beginning of 1923 there were 2,642 trade union schools for illiterates, of which 608 were maintained by the builders, 326 by the railwaymen, 316 by the miners, and so on.

"No use to us, we can all read and write," will be the comment of S.A. Trade Unionists. Perhaps. But can we all read the signs of the times? Can we write or even read intelligently a commonsense paragraph on, say, the class struggle, or can we at best only hash up as our own what the "Daily Mail" said this morning? Are we mental illiterates, are we political analphabets, that is the question. That sort of illiteracy is more useful to capitalism than the other, for it can be reached, as the other cannot, by newspaper and other printed dope. And it has often been remarked that metal-workers, for instance, are more advanced politically and class-consciously than the "literary" Typos, for instance.

For that matter, three-fourths of the South African working class is literally illiterate after all, and gets no state schooling at all, while white children get even secondary education provided free by Government. Is not this also a matter for the trade unions? If not, whose business is it?

The capitalist education given to them is studiously confined as a rule to the native vernaculars, and some of these are praised, justly enough, as interesting if not beautiful languages. But we do not learn languages in order to admire them but in order to get the ideas expressed in them, and this plan of not teaching natives English has a design in it—to keep them really illiterate, to keep them out of touch with the world's ideas, especially "Bolshevik" ideas. To fortify against "Bolshevism," indeed, is the main object of all education to-day, as admitted at the Imperial Education Conference.

There is literacy and literacy, and many an analphabet, whether in or out of Russia, could give points in political intelligence to some of our statesmen," editors, or professors.

Unemployed on the Rand.

The chain-gang are still much in demand, their services being asked for by the workers in every Reef town. In Benoni last Sunday they addressed a meeting in the Savoy Theatre. Although the Committee had been assured, when engaging the hall, that there were no other "shows" for that night, it was found that a popular concert had been hastily arranged to take place in the Criterion, evidently to draw off the large crowd that would otherwise have come to hear the unemployed. Consequently, the hall was only half full. But the lack of numbers was made up for by the enthusiasm, and the meeting came off successfully. The police authorities consider the pronouncements of the Unemployed Committee of such importance that they have their representatives at every meeting—two were sent from Johannesburg on this occasion. As the chairman, Mr Henderson, remarked, paraphrasing a biblical dictum: "Where two or three are gathered together in the name of the people there are the C.I.D. in the midst."

Further meetings were addressed during the week at Edenvale and Krugersdorp and the Masonic Hall, Springs, is booked for 3 p.m. on Sunday, the 15th.

The restiveness of the workers grows daily in intensity, as they see their position growing more and more hopeless, while the taunts of the ruling class are adding fuel to the fire. For the 500 jobs offered to married men by the Municipality over 2,000 married men applied—all residents of Johannesburg. This perhaps will convince the "honourable" (S.A.P.) member for Swellendam, Mr. Van Eeden, that there ARE a large number of men, willing to work, who cannot get employment—and the pay offered by the Municipality is only 10s. per diem or, reckoning 26 working days, £13 a month—a princely wage indeed for a man with a wife and family.

In London bars and bioscopes are open now on Sunday nights. It is thought better that the workers should "amuse themselves" at pubs and bioscope halls than attend communist meetings. That is the argument of the capitalist class, and, from their own point of view, it is an essentially sound one.

Africa's Awakening.

FOR A WORLD NEGRO CONGRESS. By D. IVON JONES.

The negro is the greatest living accuser of capitalist civilisation. The wealth of England and America is built upon his bones. The slave ships of Bristol and New York, with good Quaker prayers to speed them, founded the fortunes of many a Christian home. Every capitalist government is drenched with the blood of the negro. British Imperialism in South Africa, the French in the Cameroons, Belgium in the Congo, and the German Empire in Damaraland—they all constitute the blackest record in human history of mass slaughters and violation of every primitive human right, continued up to the present day. Even the liberation of the American slaves was only an incident of a civil war between two factions of property holders engaged in a quarrel over the forms of exploitation, and was not the aim of the war as is commonly supposed. And as an aftermath of that war there was created a social attitude towards the negro race which leaves the one-time chattel slaves still degraded outcasts among the peoples of the earth.

WORKERS' PREJUDICE PASSING.

This artificially generated race animosity towards the negro pervading the whole of Anglo-Saxon society infects also the large working masses. The African negro is the hewer of wood and the drawer of water even for the white workers of Europe. The workers of England are trained from childhood to regard the Zulu and Matabele wars as heroic exploits, rather than foul pages in English history. Hence the apathy and social prejudice towards the negro race, for we hate most those we have injured most. But this period is passing, just as the days of the Second International are passing. The workers of Europe are no longer sharing the profits of their masters. The Communist International has appeared, and calls into the one great proletarian family the negroes of Africa as well as the peoples of the East, along with the revolutionary proletariat of the capitalist countries.

NEGRO CONGRESSES.

This is the first ray of hope for the negroes throughout all the centuries of their oppression. For the first time, Negro Communists appeared at the Fourth Congress of the Communist International, and a resolution was passed declaring in favour of a World Congress of Negroes.

There have been World Congresses of Negroes before. But they have been composed of members of the very thin layer of negro intelligenzia, who have placed vain hopes in professions of loyalty to their oppressors. The London Congress of 1921 greeted the recruitment of negroes into the French army as a mark of citizenship. Among the huge toiling masses of negroes such a Congress passes by without notice.

MARCUS GARVEY.

There are also the Congresses held by the association headed by Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican negro who has captured the imagination of the negro masses in America, and whose slogans, "Back to Africa" and "Africa for the Africans," are even spreading into Africa itself. This organisation is strongly flavoured with religious and racial charlatanism. The proletarian character of the negro mass is not so distinct in America as, for instance, in South Africa. In the latter country the negroes form a race of labourers, without any shopkeeping or small tenant element. Probably the small property psychology of the tenant farmers and the small trader element in America reflecting on the purely labouring negro masses, has a lot to do with what is now notoriously known as "Garveyism," a charlatan exploitation of awakening race consciousness: which, in so far as it takes anti-white forms, is secretly encouraged by the capitalist class both in America and in South Africa. The number of negro farmers, mostly with very small holdings, according to the last American census, was 949,889 which, with their families, represents a big proportion of the negro population in America.

RACE OR CLASS CONSCIOUS?

But awakening race consciousness in Africa tends to have a positive side among the large industrial masses, namely, the outliving of old tribal sectionalism. What the South African bourgeois calls a native hooligan is one who, having worked some time in the towns, no longer recognises the authority of his tribal chief. Race consciousness, in the case of the negro in Africa, is a step towards class consciousness, because his race is a race of labourers. The coming World Congress will have to decide the question, how far the movement towards race consciousness can be directed into proletarian forms.

DUBOIS AND A.B.B.

The foremost leader of the negro intelligenzia in America, Burghardt du Bois, a graduate of Harvard, stands apart from the Marcus Garvey organisation. He is an author of several books of high literary merit, in which appears a glimmering apprehension of the truth that negro emancipation can only come through proletarian emancipation. But in action, the negro intelligenzia, including Du Bois, pin their faith to mixed associations of negroes and white philanthropists. Their eagerness for immediate social contact on equal terms with white intelligenzia cannot stand the long strain of waiting for proletarian emancipation. But the organisation of negro Communists, known as the African Blood Brotherhood, has achieved considerable progress. Undoubtedly, America will supply the leaders of negro emancipation.

AMERICA AND AFRICA.

But negro emancipation is not an American question; it is a question of Africa, as our American comrades themselves have declared. Who is to get this great Africa, the capitalist class or the Commintern? And when is the European proletariat going to stretch out the hand of brotherhood to the masses of Africa, and wipe out centuries of capitalist wrong? The status of the American negro cannot be raised without the awakening of Africa. But it is no less true that the European proletariat cannot obtain a real link with Africa except through the more advanced negroes of America.

THE PROLETARIAN LINK.

To the South African negro, every white man is an oppressor, a master, a "boss." Even the oppressed among the whites appears to the black the most violent curser of the negro. And therefore it is no wonder that news of class emancipation in Europe must appear to him a purely domestic affair of the whites. A few young industrial workers are beginning to hear news of the Communist Party and of its actions on behalf of the blacks, and these are beginning to spread the idea. They see Communists gaoled for declaring the solidarity of black and white workers. But a more imposing gesture is needed to convince the negro masses that a new dawn is breaking, that "white man" and "oppressor" are not one and the same thing, that there is an army of liberation coming to aid him, the revolutionary proletariat. Time is pressing, the negro armies of Imperialism are already on the Rhine. Only the Communist International can reconcile the negro and the white races, and only through proletarian solidarity can this reconciliation be achieved.

A C.I. NEGRO CONGRESS.

The Fourth Congress appointed a Committee to draw up the plans for a World Negro Congress. It is to be hoped that this Committee will report to the forthcoming Enlarged Executive, and that the delegates will be equipped with definite ideas on the subject. The Congress will undoubtedly be a proletarian Congress, but the extent to which non-proletarian representatives will be invited will also be a matter for the Enlarged Executive to decide.

The foregoing notes are written as part of the Committee's publicity campaign; the Committee hopes that the Party organs in Britain, America, Belgium, etc., will devote special attention to the negro question and to the preliminary work necessary for the calling of a World Negro Congress under the banner of the Commintern.

COMMUNIST PARTY NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG.

Thursday evenings, July syllabus:

19th—Com. A. Goldman, "Psychology."

26th—Com. S. Barlin, "The native as a revolutionary factor."

* * *

CAPETOWN.

A PARTY HOME.

With the opening of our new Communist Hall, last week, I feel that such a great step in the right direction has been taken that the whole of "The International" could well be filled in describing the great event, but bearing in mind the Editor's blue (or would it be red?) pencil I will try to be brief. The new premises are situated at No. 145, Long Street. Trams pass the door, and, as our chairman remarked, failing the City Hall—which should be our next step forward—it is the best possible.

On the first floor we reach our spacious, well-lit hall, and I could not help comparing our Party to a ruby which lay on a rubbish heap looking like a piece of glass until, picked up by an expert, polished and in a new setting, it glowed Blood Red, revealing to all the fire and value of the precious gem.

When the crowd had settled themselves a pleasant surprise was given by the chairman announcing that the Communists' Choir would sing. Some recollections of Communists' singing might be such as would bring smiles of derision to the faces of opponents or tears of sympathy from friends, but on this auspicious occasion our choirmaster, Comrade Pereira, stepped forward and with a wave of his magic wand brought forth from the little band of enthusiasts under his control such inspiring marches and triumphant songs as were never before heard in our Party here.

The difficulties overcome by the conductor will be better realised when we look back only a few months, and remember how half of our brave comrades in "singing" the Red Flag would reach the "gallows" while the rest were still in the "dungeons dark." Mutual admiration will never cause swelled heads in the Communist Party, but do let me urge the Johannesburg comrades to show that most sincere form of flattery by forming a choir, and to those who are unable to make harmony in the choir should be given the chance to maintain harmony in the movement. After the choir, a young lady comrade who wins gold medals from capitalist critics deemed it a pleasure to give us of her best in song and recitation, thereby winning golden opinions (which are the best things on earth when deserved).

Other willing workers, including Comrades Mrs. Green and Mrs. Pereira, used hand and brain to make the Social the success it was; the former's cakes were as much appreciated as her speech was (I hope good results will follow both), the latter's nimble fingers made the artistic curtains which decorated the windows, and she also presided untiringly at the piano.

Our catering department is in the able hands of Comrade Schak; in future any visitor or comrade will be supplied with the cup that cheers at a very nominal rate.

After the usual speechifying we held an American auction sale, and lastly a dance, and so ended the social side of the opening ceremony, and I hope the "Workers' Battle Song" will dwell in the minds of all who heard it as it did in mine.

"Then, call a halt to Tyranny, and from your slavish yoke break free.
So striving live, or fighting, fighting die."

The Malthus Cure for Joblessness

It is exceedingly characteristic of most of the English economists that they can suggest no other solution for the unemployed problem than emigration and limitation of population. We are experiencing a renaissance of Malthusianism. It is no other individual than Keynes, at the present time lauded by the radical bourgeois press of the whole world, who writes as follows in the reconstruction number 12 of the "Manchester Guardian":

"In the light of present-day science, it is impossible for me to see any practical method of materially improving the fate of the average human being which does not include a plan for the limitation of the population. If, to use Malthusian phraseology, the ravages of poverty, disease, and war are removed, they must be substituted by something else. It may prove sufficient if we render the limitation of births easy and free from danger, and if we alter our customs and conventional morals a little."

Precisely as Malthusianism originated during a period of transition to a new state of society, during a period in which the introduction of machinery had released so much man-power that England could not support her population; precisely in the same manner there is now a revival of Malthusianism, for the present period of transition from capitalism to socialism again causes the English economists to despair of being able to solve the problem of unemployment by economic means.

—E. Varga.

"Pioneer Days."

Mr. Dooley has been writing on the dangers of being a Socialist in the pioneer days, says the British Labour Party Press Service.

"A gr-reat chanest a Socialist had thin. If anny-body undherstood him, he was kilt be infuryated wurrukinmen. . . .

"They used to hold their meetin's in a cellar in Whitworth avnoo, an' th' meetin' was most allways followed be an outin' in th' patrol wagon.

"'Twas wan iv th' spoorts to go down to see th' Brotherhood iv Man rushed off in th' on'y Municipal Ownership conveyance we had in thim days, an' havin' their spectacles busted by th' hardy an' loyal polis."

Well, well, we can remember similar scenes during the "Great War" in Johannesburg, and the "infuryated wurrukinmen" included some who are still leading lights of the S.A.L.P., and who have never apologised or recanted. What is more, we are quite prepared for similar sights again. "The pioneer days," indeed! Have they passed yet for large and important sections of the South African working class? How about the Railwaymen or Typos who took up arms against striking miners? How about the Trade Union Defence Corps who were ready to shoot down native strikers? How about the Commando or so drilled black levies in the

The Be-all and End-all of the Elections.

Much speculation is being bestowed on forthcoming elections and on the Turfontein election in particular. There are two principles which, as it appears to us, should prevail in the choice of a candidate. First, the paramount necessity is to beat the S.A.P. and to return a member who is pledged to vote against the S.A.P. Government. In other words, the question in these elections is not so much to put any particular party in, but to put a particular party out. What will follow then is another story which doesn't matter much—Parliament as such will not do anything very big. Secondly, the very best candidate for this purpose must be found, and if all the Opposition parties really mean to achieve the result they profess to desire, they must be ready to support him even if he is not a member of either the Nationalist or the Labour Party. It will be a test of the sincerity of the Labour Party in particular, whether they will sacrifice their mere "party purpose" to the supreme purpose of the party and of the Nat-Lab alliance at this juncture, or whether they will, sooner than give up a candidate of their own, gravely risk the loss of the seat to Smuts. In our view, the red-hot "Red" campaign is the best way to win these elections.

Krugersdorp Unemployed.

The "chain gang" held a most successful meeting in the Communal Hall on Wednesday night. The hall was packed to the doors, and Woudberg, speaking in Dutch, held his audience up to a high point of enthusiasm. An Unemployed Committee was formed and it is understood that a commando will be organised. We expect to hear more from the Krugersdorp unemployed in the very near future.

According to the "Daily Herald," some Belgian soldiers caught singing the "Internationale" were told that if they did this again they would be given an extra two months with the colours. Nevertheless, the soldiers showed their sympathy with the strikers whenever possible, and their wives marched in a great procession carrying banners with the inscription: "Yesterday against the Boches, To-day AGAINST THE BELGIANS."

* * *

"Wars are precipitated by motives which the statesmen responsible for them DARE NOT publicly avow. A public discussion would drag these motives in their nudity into the open, where they would DIE OF EXPOSURE TO THE WITHERING CONTEMPT OF HUMANITY." — Lloyd George, in "League of Half the Nations," April 7, 1923

* * *

The British steamer "Grace and Ruby" was seized by an American guardship outside the three-mile limit over a year ago, and is still held in custody by the U.S. Government! But then, the U.S. has got tons of money and no workers' government.

England Arise!

There are several noticeable points about the English strikes. One is that the dockers' outbreak coincides with the union of the Amsterdam and Moscow Transport Workers' organisations, which was reported in the "International" of the 22nd ult. Then there is this healthy feature that not the strike protagonists but the union leaders are this time denounced as the "political agitators who have nothing really in common with the interests of the rank and file." Indeed, it is wonderful that English trade unionists still have the courage and energy to strike at all considering the enormous power wielded by these orthodox labour leaders to their detriment in the past. It will have been noticed that tactics familiar to Rand workers are being adopted in England, of reporting in one quarter alleged defeats in another, thus diddling both into a surrender which otherwise neither would have made. We must await untainted news before professing to know the exact position; but one prophecy may be ventured, that the day when strikers in Britain are first fired upon will be the beginning of the end of British capitalism and imperialism; indeed, even Nova Scotia tactics in Britain would shake them—and note, these tactics are applied when the strike leaders there declare cordial relations with the R.I.L.U. There seems a new fighting spirit awakening in England which means business despite, or perhaps because of, all their leaders' dinners with the king and votes for maintenance of royalty.

The Selborne Hall, Johannesburg, was the scene last Saturday of one of the most successful Socials and Dances ever given by the Party. Three hundred guests filled the hall with jollity under the Communist banner and in a Communist atmosphere, totally eclipsing the succes d'estime of many a fashionable and expensive ball held in the capitalist interest in the same place in recent times.

The Entertainment Committee thanks the several artists for their most acceptable services, and hopes to add a substantial amount to the Delegate Fund. All ticket sellers are earnestly requested to assist to this end by squaring up promptly with the Treasurer.

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

REGISTRATION OF BUSINESS ACT, 1909.

Notice is hereby given that the Auctioneer's Business carried on by Robert Edwin Lagerwall at 95, President Street, Johannesburg, under the style or firm of Geo. Saunders and Co., was sold on the 23rd day of June, 1923, to Robert Joseph Lundie, together with the assets and liabilities, who will continue to carry on the said business under the above style or firm for his own account from that date. Johannesburg, this 29th day of June, 1923.
A. S. MALAN, Solicitor for the Parties, 45, Asher's Buildings, Fox Street, Johannesburg. 29-6-13

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