Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

Elections ! Elections !

WORKERS !
VOTE COMMUNIST
In Benoni & Hanover St.

Elsewhere
VOTE LABOUR
Failing which
VOTE NATIONALIST LIST.

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. 389. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1923. PRICE THREEPENCE.

The Russian Revolution 6th Anniversary

Great Workers' Rally
Selborne Hall,
JOHANNESBURG.
Wednesday, Nov. 7.
Tickets, 2/6.

Many Workers are Saying—

That the Executive Council of the Mine Workers' Union, in turning down the suggestion to admit natives as members, have shown that they still cling to the foolish and fatal prejudices which a large number of the rank-and-file members have now wisely discarded; and

* * *

That their decision in this matter was undoubtedly influenced by the fierce screeches of the "Sunday Times" and "Rand Daily Mail."

* * *

That as long as trade union leaders allow themselves to be scared off the right policy by Chamber of Mines newspapers no progress will be possible.

* * *

That this decision of the Mine Workers' Executive is by no means the last word on the question of native organisation; and

* * *

That it behoves the rank and file of the Union to press the matter in all their branches regardless of what the enemy may say or do.

* * *

That capitalist press attacks on any progressive step which the workers propose to take can always be taken as the hall-mark of the correctness of that step for the Labour movement.

* * *

That they wonder if the severe drubbing given to parson Ponsonby by the Young Communist League will result in that reverend gentleman applying for membership of the Communist Party.

* * *

That the decision of the Springs branch of the S.A.L.P. not to contest the Municipal Elections looks very much like capitulation to the S.A.P.; and

* * *

That throwing up the sponge in such a manner will not inspire the workers with much confidence in the fighting enthusiasm or ability of the party concerned.

* * *

That it is a remarkable fact that the drought and locust plague has never been attributed to Moscow and the wicked Bolsheviks.

* * *

That capitalist Germany draws nearer and nearer its final collapse and that all the ingeniousness and ruthlessness of Smuts (who is announced to visit there) cannot postpone for long the triumph of the German workers.

* * *

That kings and emperors, Smutses and Mussolinis will rise and fall but not all of the combined forces of capitalism, its prostitute press—its pimps—its churches, parliaments and picture-shows—its armies, navies, police and detective forces, can stem the advance of the iron battalions of Labour as they sweep onward to world victory.

Workers of Hanover Street!
VOTE FOR HARRISON!

The First Broadside.

Comrade Mrs. Chapman opened her campaign, as the official Communist Party candidate for Ward 3 in the Benoni Municipal Elections, last Saturday night. A large crowd assembled in front of the new Municipal Offices, over which Comrade P. E. Harrison presided. The meeting was addressed by Comrades Donald Snowdon, C. F. Glass, Jack Allen and the candidate, all of whom were enthusiastically received. The meeting closed with a unanimous vote of confidence in the candidate and the singing of the "Red Flag." Ward 3 is an essentially proletarian district and Mrs. Chapman has a straight fight with Mr. Balfour, the S.A.P. nominee. If all comrades and well-wishers of the Labour movement put their shoulders unitedly to the wheel her success is assured.

The Potchefstroom Golden Rule

"What are you going to do if the natives rise, unless you have got a Defence Force?" asks Dubb.

Well, Dubb, what are you going to do if you have got one? Are you going to use it to down the natives as Smuts and the Corner House used it to down you last year?

Where's the difference? Natives will rise, as you did, for the right to live; and by going to Potchefstroom you are simply being trained to play the oppressor and murderer against them, as Smuts played it against you.

Result: either you are debarred from ever again complaining of your treatment last year, or you will think of a much better use for a Defence Force—to defend all the oppressed against all the oppressors.

The "Etiquette" of Capitalist Journalism.

Since the article "In Quest of Reason" on page 3 was written we have been shown a copy of a letter sent on the 20th inst. by the General Secretary of the S.A.M.W.U. to the "Star" and the "Sunday Times." Not only was this letter not published by them but, in the case of the "Star" (of all papers on this subject!) it was filletted and the extract garnished, shall we say, by the gratuitous interpolation of the following: "The supporters of such a scheme cannot be regarded as anxious to build up a White South Africa." It will be seen from the subjoined text of the letter in question that no such expression was used by the S.A.M.W.U. Executive, to whom therefore our remarks on that expression are, we are glad to find, not applicable.

The letter is as follows:—

"The monthly E.C. meeting of the S.A.M.W.U. was held on Sunday last.

"The greater part of the business was purely routine. It was decided to hold a special general Council on Sunday, the 28th inst., to deal with the circular calling for nominations for the Brace Mining Board Conciliation Scheme. The following resolution was carried and has been since forwarded to the Underground Officials' Association:—'That this E.C. of the S.A.M.W.U. congratulate the Underground Officials' Association for their attitude at Saturday night's meeting in the Johannesburg Town Hall whereby they proved conclusively to the Acting Prime Minister and Mr. H. O. Buckle that compliments from them for their mistaken loyalty during the strike of 1922 was no recompense for the sweeping reductions in their salary since introduced.'

"The newspaper items concerning the foregoing and 'Natives to enter Trade Unions' caused some discussion, and the following resolution was carried: 'That this E.C. of the S.A.M.W.U. dissociates itself entirely from the suggested organisation of the natives and that this resolution be sent to the Press.'"

The Old, Old Story.

The fatal colliery explosion at Hlobane last Monday, like all similar "accidents" in every country, at once brings to the fore the facts that the usual precautions in fiery mines were considered unnecessary in this mine; that there were no gas masks available, that the men killed were working 2½ miles inside the mine, that fans were got going after the explosion (but why not before it?), etc. "There is always a risk in coalfields subject to firedamp"; but what is the prevention of risk as against the stern necessity for MAXIMUM PROFITS? And note that in such circumstances all the "S.A.I.F." can do is the signal service of trying to detach the colliers from the S.A.M.W.U.!

Our Jonah.

Smuts is "claimed by the world," and for our part, the world may have him. The "grave of good reputations" will be quite content to let him reverse previous tradition by going and burying his reputation (and himself for that matter) not here but in Europe. By "claiming" him "the world" will certainly stop the succession of premature burials of workers, white and black, and other sections of the population in South Africa, whose systematic slaughter is the only basis we can discover for this surely the most grotesquely extravagant boosting that ever fell to the lot of "statesman."

"Down With The Navy League"

Whatever its success with the parsons, the Young Communist League seems to be making a convert of Professor J. R. Roberts, who told the Workers' Educational League last week, on the eve of a Navy League street collection, that "we must get rid of war-making institutions like the Navy League," with its aim of "keeping the supremacy of the seas." If the Professor will call round at No. 4, Trades Hall, any Tuesday evening, he will be advised as to the only way to do it, and will find himself faced with the dilemma "Professorship or proletariat?"

A Subtle Joke.

Japie: It's all right, jong, saying religion's got to go but—what'll you put in its place?

Bill (putting his hand to his face): Christ! this old tooth of mine has ached like hell for a fortnight!

Japie: Why don't you have it out then?

Bill (laughing): What'll I put in its place?

SEN YAH.

Coloured Labour Organisation.

On the above topic, which by the way was the agendum from which the now famous S.A.M.W.U. proposal arose, a representative of the Coloured Labour Union has expressed his views (which are shared by some leading natives) as follows:—

"I would favour a 'Joint Council' of Labour, native, coloured and white, for exchange of views, but while the non-whites should be delegates, the whites should be just such sympathisers as care to attend. We do not need to apply to white Unions for membership, we can organise ourselves, and we look to the capitalist class to remove our disabilities. True, we have to work cheap because we are not admitted to the Trade Unions, which hate us as competitors, although too we are out to better our wages. But our first concern is the right to work and live, even at low wages; we want to establish ourselves with the capitalist class, and are prepared, while striving to that end, to be exploited for the time being. Our chief disability is that we are prevented from working, and our children from being apprenticed. The white prejudice is very strong, but the best men among the coloured and native workers will also object to meeting the whites. Of course we know the prejudice is fostered by the capitalist class."

Another native view is that "before a 'Joint Council' becomes practical it is necessary for the native and coloured workers first to be organised. European workers, who after all cannot progress without the natives, should be able to assist in such organisation. A conference on organisation is wanted. There will be difficulties about any interracial Labour conference or Council (unlike the recent Church one), viz., that natives attending it will lose their jobs. This might be minimised if a strong non-European organisation already existed. A conference of all non-European organisations has never yet been held."

The balance of native opinion so far as we have been able to obtain it is in favour of both a non-European and a mixed conference on Labour matters, the one being preparatory to the other. Probably, as the subject more and more reaches the stage of practical politics, a similar order of events might commend itself to the white Unions.

We commend the whole matter to the serious consideration of all working class organisations.

Japanese Earthquake Relief Fund

The expulsion of the Russian relief ship "Lenin" from Yokohama, which created the greatest astonishment and indignation in Russia, has been apologised for as unauthorised by the Japanese Government, which states that it welcomes all financial and material assistance from Soviet Russia and is ready to admit all Russian vessels. The Soviet Government has accordingly continued to organise relief measures, and we can see no reason now why our readers should not respond to the appeal of the "Save the Children Fund" for Japanese relief, to which we alluded a month ago.

Heads I'm Boss, Tails You're Slave.

The M.O.H., Graaff-Reinet, has discovered a new argument against "segregation." "Keep the natives mixed up with the Europeans," he says, "and they cannot develop a national sentiment, and there is then less chance of a conspiracy against the white man's power." It is a good illustration of the postulate behind all these pronouncements on the "native question" by so-called "impartial" or "scientific" whites—viz., that the whites must in any case dominate and the blacks always be the slaves: a postulate which straight away condemns ninety-nine per cent. of all these pronouncements as utterly worthless, and worse. The same condition precedent underlies that remarkable statement just cabled that Smuts' main reason for involving South Africa in the great war was a fear lest the Germans should militarise the blacks (as the French, his allies, have always done, by the way); for otherwise, why is it not just as bad to militarise the whites—at Potchefstroom, for instance?

Liberty for Small Nations.

Sir Abe Bailey flourishes a bundle of milliards of marks before his bewildered lieges of Krugersdorp, declaring that this is what would become of South African currency if the Nationalist policy were carried out. What is the argument? That if South Africa cuts the painter, England will treat her as the Allies have treated Germany and the Ruhr? That is of course not an argument but a threat, showing the real "nexus" of the "great Commonwealth of FREE nations"—showing what the "defender of small nations" will do to any of them that might dare to be free!

Smuts and Trotzky.

Smuts has made yet another speech, and the British Press mbongos have excelled themselves. You see, there was that South African loan to be put through; there are prospective elections in South Africa, and a new halo must be found at any cost for the Man and the Hour; and besides, as his fame rests chiefly on a greater readiness to resort to the bomb and rifle than is the fashion in England, the Empire is evidently considering him as A POSSIBLE FOR THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN MUSSOLINI.

As for the world-shaking speech, he now rejects his own League of Nations as consisting of "agents, not principals"! He objects to France collaring the Ruhr, BUT NOT TO BRITAIN DOING IT "IN A LEGAL WAY" (but is not Poincare also a lawyer?)! He doubts if anything can be recovered from Germany, yet is all agog lest Britain lose her chance of recovering from Germany; if there is any boodle going, he wants it for Britain.

That is all. NOT A WORD ON THE MIGHTY HUMAN STRUGGLE OF GERMANY'S WORKING CLASS FOR DELIVERANCE, amid threats of intervention on all sides, in which Britain would eagerly join, to prevent that deliverance. Not a word about this European civil war already afoot—or rather, just the one word "Balkanisation," which is irrelevant, for the Balkans never had a Communist Saxony, for instance. Not a word about the role of the armed workers of Russia, nor of Poland's choice of "bridge or barrier."

"But see," his gang will say, "how we sympathise with the working people of Germany, as against Francophile separatism and illegality." What hypocrisy! Quarrelling with French capital, you applaud them as "good Trade Unionists" when their revolt happens to suit your book. But, if you cannot score against French capital, you will brand them as "Communists" (though THE COMMUNISTS HAVE THROUGHOUT BEEN THE RESTRAINING INFLUENCE AGAINST VIOLENCE) when, desperate with hunger, they loot the shops; then you will support their French or German military oppressors who shoot them down in the streets, AS ON THE RAND. You are quite tame after all about the Rhineland Republic; but what would you be if it were a SOVIET Rhineland Republic? You profess execration of the Fascists of Bavaria; but you will give them all the help you dare in their campaign against "Internationalism and Marxism."

The European bourgeoisie is in a hopeless mess; all it can do is to increase its armaments and review the fleet—"as in 1914." Back to pre-revolutionary 1914 it seems you must go, my masters. The workers will go "BACK TO REVOLUTIONARY 1917," not in Russia this time but all over Europe. You ignore them in your speeches; they will ignore you in their actions; they will throw you down in the dust where you have hitherto held them, and in their turn trample you underfoot!

If you want figureheads, PUT UP SMUTS IF YOU LIKE, AND WE WILL PUT UP TROTZKY!

Workers of Benoni Ward III.!
VOTE FOR MRS. CHAPMAN!

Not Watertight.

Mr. Owen Letcher, F.R.G.S., in calling attention to the reliance of the Congo and other parts of Africa upon native labour skilled as well as unskilled, rightly points out that Africa is not divided into watertight compartments, and that South Africa cannot therefore expect for ever to prevent what is an established institution in neighbouring territories, especially, we may add, as these territories are under the same general capitalist control. The London Chamber of Commerce, for instance, is pressing for the reduction in East and West Africa of "the present unnecessarily high proportion of European employees" in favour of training and utilising natives. The real perspective is that this "problem" of cheap, and particularly non-European cheap, labour is not only not a mere South African question, it is not even a mere African question, but a world question, which will not be finally settled except as an outcome of the world's working class revolution.

Much of a Muchness.

Mr. Baldwin, the steel millionaire Premier, is not much interested in dried fruit, so he slips in a little thing of his own in the shape of protection against foreign steel! After that, what have our righteous "England, Home and Beauty" patriots to say, the people who contrast the bribery on the Johannesburg Town Council, for instance, with the "incorruptible traditions of British public life"?

"Bread and circuses" was given to the Roman masses, but modern capitalism "can no longer feed its slaves" and fobs them off with starvation and speeches—followed by looting and shooting.

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"Black Trade Unionism."

The "Mail's" latest effusion under the above heading calls for little remark, except on journalistic methods.

"Since the 'Rand Daily Mail' published startling information," etc. No, the information was published days before by the "Star," at the request of a S.A.M.W.U. official. It had long ceased to be a "startling" scoop by the time the "Mail" began to "expose" it.

"The matter is being hotly debated," quotes the "Mail" from the "International," but adds that other statements contradict this, and then favours us with its "own" version, viz., "During the past week the matter has been hotly debated"!

The rest of the article is simply the usual jumble about "Red plot," "sinister" (the word will soon rival "Mesopotamia" in blessedness), "Communist penetration," "startling exposure," "lead given by Moscow," etc., which has already begun to cloy on the reader's taste. The "Mail" man must take some more lessons, he is getting too old-fashioned.

The "Mail" credits us with a membership in the S.A.M.W.U. far greater than we are ourselves aware of. Of the executive of that body not one, we are afraid, is as yet a Communist. Nor have we "penetrated" the "Guardian." Nor are any "members of the party seeking election in Johannesburg"—though we hope some will be soon. Our only candidates at present are in Capetown and Benoni.

* * *

Dear old Dubb, how long will you go on reading such rubbish? How long will you go on letting them do your thinking for you, or rather doping you, for they give you no food for thought? Can't you see that WHAT IS "SINISTER" TO THE RULING CLASS IS FOR THAT VERY REASON FAVOURABLE TO THE WORKING CLASS? Can't you see that all this language about "plots" and "secrecy" could be as much or as little applied to every new movement or propaganda, indeed applies far more to capitalist movements and propaganda than to working class ones which cannot proceed except on a mass publicity scale? And do you not realise, and resent, the INSULT TO YOUR INTELLIGENCE, THE CONTEMPTUOUS ESTIMATE OF YOUR BRAINS, involved in dishing up such tripe for your edification and taking it for granted you will swallow it?

The Communists all over the world are out solely for the benefit of the working class. "Moscow" is "plotting" not against you but for you. It surveys the whole field of the class struggle and agrees with the view we have taken for years, and the view taken by Marx three-quarters of a century ago, that Labour cannot be emancipated in the white while it remains enslaved in the black. Even Councillor H. J. Crocker said the other day in effect that white workers can't get a square deal without giving a square deal to the blacks.

That's all there is about it. It is not a mere nothing, certainly. The organisation of the non-European labour of the world is a difficult but epoch-making task, OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY FOR THE DEFEAT OF WORLD CAPITALISM. And so, next time the "Mail" and "Times" come out with their same old bag of tricks, don't lose your head and say "What's all this I see in the paper about niggers and Moscow?" but realise that the facts are as they should be, and that the scribes write that stuff because they can't or daren't write common sense about them, also because they are paid to write it, for they are after all only miserable tripe-hounds doing the dirty work of your worst enemies.

Workers' Revolt.

The German Communist Party has issued a manifesto addressed to the land workers as well as to those of the towns, to the labouring peasants as well as to the small-shop-keeper, etc. It warns the whole working class of Germany against the danger of a surrender, and points out that if Poincare's conditions are accepted it will mean on the one hand the splitting up of Germany, and on the other a strengthening of the power of both the German and French capitalists.

Surrender in the Ruhr must lead, as defeat in the war led, to the coming to power of the proletariat. Only a Government of the proletariat, based on the workers and peasants, can find a solution to the Ruhr war which will conform to the interests of the proletariat and the petty bourgeoisie, at the expense of the capitalist.

The manifesto ends in calling the workers to monster demonstrations where the following slogans will be the order of the day:—

OVERTHROW OF THE STRESEMANN-HILFERDING GOVERNMENT.

FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF THE WORKERS AND LABOURING PEASANTS.

SEIZURE OF REAL VALUES (CONFISCATION, NOT OF PAPER MONEY, BUT OF GOODS, etc.), AND CONTROL OF PRODUCTION.

CLOSE ALLIANCE WITH SOVIET RUSSIA.

SETTLEMENT WITH REPARD TO THE RUHR AT THE EXPENSE OF THE BOURGEOISIE.

A Feeler.

The "Workers' Herald," organ of the "Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union of Africa," Capetown, says:—

"Will the white workers of South Africa, particularly those of the Rand, TAKE A LEAF OUT OF THE BOOK OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH AND CONVENE A CONFERENCE OF BOTH WHITE AND BLACK WORKERS to discuss the abolition of the colour bar in our industries?"

We have ourselves frequently made a similar suggestion of late, and are glad to find the idea reciprocated by the I.C.U. What do you say, white workers? And if not, why not?

We would suggest, however, that the agenda be not so limited as the "Herald" suggests, but include all matters of common interest as well as matters on which the respective interests appear to clash.

We would also suggest that the delegates to such a conference be not selected from "above," but properly elected by existing working class bodies.

More Boomerang Propaganda and the International Delegate Fund.

Some weeks ago we suggested, on internal evidence, that a certain notorious spoof pamphlet purporting to be written by "A Labour Man," which was circulated throughout the "back veld" simultaneously with a Chamber of Mines pamphlet boosting the "mining industry," was composed not a hundred miles from Rissik Street, Johannesburg. It has now been followed by another in the same style, supposed to be an appeal to Maritz' friends for funds to bring Comrades Andrews and Ivon Jones back from Moscow, but so clumsily done this time that (no doubt on advice that a bloomer has been made) the "Sunday Times" people themselves are reduced, in effect, to disown it, for the only people it shows up are of course the anti-Bolshevist scribes to whom the "Sunday Times" columns are so habitually generous.

Let us add that Comrades Andrews' and Jones' own supporters are sufficiently numerous to bring their delegates back at the proper time without appealing to comparative strangers. The bogus letter might, however, be taken as a reminder to those who have built up the "International Delegate Fund" that the figure we set out to collect under that head has not yet been reached by a long way. In face of its "belief" that we are already kept well in funds from Russia the "Sunday Times" can hardly back our appeal; but THOSE OF THE WORKING CLASS WHO ARE BEGINNING TO APPRECIATE THEIR REAL INDEBTEDNESS TO "MOSCOW"—not financial but political, agitational, educational, organisational and inspirational—might well take this opportunity to translate their appreciation into substance. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND ARE IN FACT URGENTLY REQUIRED, and may be sent to the Communist Party, 4, Trades Hall, Johannesburg, forthwith.

Those holding collecting books are requested to return them forthwith, with amount collected.

Two "Lands of the Free."

Senator Brookhart, U.S.A., whose favourable impression of Russian stability we quoted a few weeks ago, has been answering some questions put by Sam Gompers as follows:—

Q.: "Is there a free press in Russia, are opposition papers allowed to exist, and is there a censorship of the official press and of foreign correspondence?"

A.: "The Russian press is practically free. The opposition to the Government is negligible. No one wants to start an opposition paper. It would receive no support. Peasants and labouring people are all united for the present Government. No decent foreign correspondent is censored. So long as he does not attempt untruthful propaganda there is no censorship."

Q.: "Are working men permitted to organise and to what extent may they criticise the Government and working conditions?"

A.: "The working men are organised, and there are very few scabs such as Mr. Gompers encounters in America. When he gets mad a working man may cuss the Government there just as he does here. But it is a working man's Government, and the labouring classes are 99.9 per cent. in favour of the existing Government, and they are all in the Unions."

Diamond (?) Cut Diamond (?)

In the course of an attack in the "Star" on the proposal to organise native miners, Mr. A. Crawford girds at the Communists for "boasting" that out of 864 prisoners charged with treason after the 1922 strike not one was an enrolled member of the Communist Party. That statement, true up to date when it was made, according to published figures, was not a boast, it was simply a matter of fact; but meanwhile Mr. T. G. Macfie, who is claimed by Mr. Crawford as his ally in advocating more and more black labour as the salvation of the white miner, complains for his part of the Communists boasting that the revolution WAS a Communist revolution when in fact, says Mr. Macfie, it was nothing of the sort, and consequently it is untrue that "Communists misled the miners into trouble while carefully keeping out of trouble themselves." We will leave these allies to fight out their difference on this point between themselves, meanwhile claiming, on the ground of disagreement among the jury, a verdict of "not guilty" of either boast.

"Don't Shoot, Colonel."

Congratulations to the Johannesburg Tramwaymen on having secured their amendments to the objectionable new regulations. Under the threat of a Conciliation Board, and also no doubt with the Municipal elections hanging over them, the Tramway Committee climbed down.

The Tasks of the International Youth.

(By G. Zinoviev.)

The present times are full of the deepest import for the International Youth. Further violent tempests are brewing. The German Party is entering upon great struggles. It is long since we felt their very breath so near as now. The German Party in action! Twenty million proletarians raise their voices—the main army of the International Proletariat, the bearers of the international proletarian revolution advance!

The new struggles of the proletariat in Germany may assume such proportions that they will be capable of bringing us the COMMENCEMENT OF THE SOCIALIST ERA in one of the most important parts of the world.

THERE IS NO POWER ON EARTH WHICH COULD VANQUISH TWENTY MILLION PROLETARIANS! Twenty million proletarians, every one of whom is able to read and write, who have passed through the severe school of social democratic treachery and have drunk to the dregs of the preparatory cup of defeat!

The events which are now preparing in Germany may well lead us to THE MOST IMPORTANT AGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE STRUGGLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROLETARIAT AND OF THE DESTINY OF THE WHOLE OF MANKIND. The proletarian youth in particular turns to this page with trembling hands.

Let us be clear on the matter—the struggles which have already begun in Germany, and which may wax fiercer every day, perhaps also mean the acceleration of that new SERIES OF WARS AGAINST THE SOCIALIST STATES, whose inevitability was predicted by Comrade Lenin some years ago. Powerful events are in course of preparation! We dare not for a moment shut our eyes to the dangers bound up with these events.

The young generation of the proletarian youth which has grown up in the period following the great victorious Russian revolution in 1917 and of the abortive first German revolution of 1918, will essentially decide the fate of the crisis which is now ripening.

An especially heavy, but nevertheless glorious task now lies with the German youth. The German Youth League which, we will not hide ourselves from the fact, during the last years has on many occasions remained behind events, must NOW STRAIN EVERY MUSCLE IN ORDER TO RISE TO THE GRANDIOSE EVENTS NOW APPROACHING. The German Youth League must be the most sound, the most active and the most self-sacrificing—in one word—the most illustrious troops of the German Communist Party in the battles of the future. The German Youth League must be THE LIGHT CAVALRY OF THE PROLETARIAN ARMY which is entering into new fierce struggles with capitalism.

An equally great task lies before the French Youth. To-morrow, the French armies will be launched against the German workers. An attempt will be made to convert them into the hangmen of the German workers. The French Communist Party, and before all, the French Youth League must proclaim this aloud throughout the whole of France and set itself against it.

The Communist Youth of Russia, and with it the other sections of the Communist Youth International, must regard it as their greatest honour to aid their brother troops in the youth of Germany and through them the German revolution. The proletarian youth can be thoroughly convinced of the fact that in any event THEIR GENERATION WILL WITNESS THE DECISIVE BATTLES OF THE WORLD PROLETARIAT. The best cohorts of our youthful comrades will in any case have opportunity of engaging in combat with the bourgeoisie and their Fascist sons, not only in the streets of their native towns but also in the streets of the chief cities of Europe. The oppressive atmosphere of bourgeois reaction of the last days is beginning to get lighter. The era of the retreat of the workers' army is drawing to a close. The unbearable torturing epoch of contempt and scorn of the workers on the part of international capital is approaching its end. The thunder clouds are lowering. Not to-day perhaps—but to-morrow the purifying storm may burst forth. Let us be ready! May the proletarian youth which has been wont to receive the first blows of reaction be the undaunted herald of the coming battles.

Put forth your energies, young proletarians. Deep into the masses! With the full glow of youthful fervour, with the firm conviction of Communists must we anchor ourselves in the masses! MAY THERE BE NO FACTORY, NO MINE OR WORKSHOP WITHOUT ITS PROMISING NUCLEUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST YOUTH. Let us go also into the villages. The village youth is the great reserve of the international working class in the international revolution. Tenfold, a hundredfold, a thousandfold more energy to the capturing of the youth in town and country!

The Prospects of Pacifism.

(By Prof. E. Varga.)

The experiences of the war have strengthened bourgeois pacifism—the sentimental and ideological pacifism. The fear of a proletarian revolution will certainly prevent the capitalist powers from lightly beginning a new war and arming the proletariat anew. But on the other hand it must not be forgotten that the fundamental crisis of capitalist economy is hurrying the world to a new war. There is no market for the products of the productive apparatus of the United States, Britain and Japan, which was phenomenally developed during the war. The possibilities of the economic extension of capitalism in territories not yet opened up are very restricted. The United States are endeavouring to monopolise South America themselves. China, the largest territory, appears to be on the way to develop an independent capitalism of its own, and is offering an always growing and partly militarily organised resistance to the penetration of foreign capital; that is, China refuses to be degraded to the status of a colony. The restoration of Germany, Eastern Europe, and Russia is shattered by political opposition and internecine financial quarrels. France and Britain fear a re-invigorated Germany, not only politically, but also as a competitor on the world market. Russia seems to the capitalists to be a dangerous district so long as the proletariat possesses the State power. But without the restoration of Germany, Eastern Europe and Russia, the world market is too narrow for the productive apparatus of the three victorious countries, America, Britain, and Japan, and in a lesser degree, also France. In such a situation there has always hitherto ensued an armed struggle among the Imperialist Powers interested for the national monopoly of the world market because it is unable to absorb the total product of the various capitalist countries.

The tendency of avoiding a new world war through fear of the economic consequences and the possible proletarian revolution stands opposed to the more powerful tendency of an armed struggle for the domination of the world market. It might seem frivolous to pass an opinion, at the present time, as to which tendency will gain the upper hand. Nevertheless, the experience of history speaks in favour of the view that the period of wars is not yet closed.

Logic Upside Down.

"Discontent and industrial unrest breed Bolshevism and the Class War," says bourgeois commonplace.

This is like saying that hot weather causes sunshine and wet weather produces a heavy rainfall, or that wars between nations cause them to disagree.

Surely it must be evident to every clear thinker that social discontent and industrial unrest are SYMPTOMS of the class struggle, not its cause.

—"Common Cause."

The German "security" police in Aix-La-Chapelle, we read, fired on a crowd of "Communists" (sic) pillaging the shops. No one else is hungry in Germany, of course; only Communists. Or rather, does it not mean that the whole of the hungry brigade, and that is practically the whole working class, is to-day ranged under the Communist banner?

Social Being & Social Consciousness.

(By Karl Marx.)

"Technology," says Marx (chap I.) "reveals the active attitude of man towards nature, the immediate productive process of his life, and at the same time, the social relations of his life and the mental conceptions arising therefrom." Marx gives a consistent formulation of the fundamentals of materialism in its application to human society and its history—in the preface to his book, "Critique of Political Economy," in the following words:—

"In the life of social production, human beings enter into definite and necessary relations which are independent of their will and which correspond to a definite stage of development of their material productive forces. The sum total of these productive relations constitutes the economic structure of society, the real basis, upon which a legal and political super-structure arises, and which corresponds to definite forms of social consciousness. The methods of production of man's material existence determine the whole process of social, political, and mental life. It is not the consciousness of human

EXCUSE OUR INTERRUPTION, BUT HAVE WE HAD YOUR SUBSCRIPTION YET?

beings which determines their existence; the reverse is the case; their social existence determines their consciousness. At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come into conflict with the existing relations of production, or, in juridical language, with the relations of property within which they have hitherto functioned. These relations are transformed from forms of development of the productive forces into fetters of production.

"Then comes the period of social revolution. With the change of the economic foundation, the entire immense super-structure is more or less rapidly transformed. In considering such transformations the distinction should always be made between the material transformation of the economic conditions of production which can be determined with the precision of natural science, and the legal, political, religious, aesthetic or philosophic—in short, ideological forms in which men become conscious of this conflict and fight it out.

"Just as little as one can judge an individual by what he thinks himself to be, just as little can such a revolutionary epoch be judged by its consciousness, but much rather be explained from the contradictions of material life, from the existing conflicts between social productive forces and relations of production. No social order ever disappears before all the productive forces, for which there is room in it, have been developed; and new higher relations of production never appear before the material conditions of their existence have matured in the womb of the old society. Therefore mankind always takes up only such problems as it can solve; since, looking at the matter more closely, we will always find that the problem arises only when the material conditions necessary for its solution already exist or are at least in the process of formation. Broadly conceived, Asiatic, antique, feudal, and modern bourgeois methods of production may be designated as progressive epochs of the economic social development. The bourgeois relations of production are the last antagonistic form of the social process of production."

Com. Mrs. J. Chapman's Election Address.

To The Workers of Ward 3, Benoni.

The Chamber of Mines think they have you filletted; their audacity in again putting up Mr. Balfour, who is their humble servant, and who is ever ready to help them to force you down, proves this.

You know your conditions before the strike. You know how the Chamber of Mines threatened you with, and how they eventually forced you to accept, the 40 PER CENT. REDUCTION IN WAGES and 25 PER CENT. DECREASE OF WHITE LABOUR. This means one in every four thrown on the human scrap heap, which causes you to tolerate the TYRANNY that the Chamber is pleased to call "DISCIPLINE." When you came out on strike to RESIST these conditions being FORCED on you—Where was Mr. Balfour?

Did he represent you then? NO!!

Did he come forward to help you then? NO!!

Did he lose any pay through the strike? NO!!

He remained faithfully serving his masters, and watched you being forced into submission by the RULE OF THE RIFLE.

Did he as Mayor do anything to stop the citizens of Benoni being bombed and slaughtered? NO!! He served his masters then, and he will serve them again. Can a leopard change his spots? Balfour of the Mines is Balfour of the Municipal Council.

See. (1) REDUCTION OF THE LOWER-PAID MUNICIPAL WORKERS' WAGES; (2) DISMISSAL OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES WHO DARED TO STAND BY THEIR PRINCIPLES; (3) REFUSAL TO ALLOW AN EMPLOYEE TO STATE HIS CASE BEFORE DISMISSAL (is this the so-called "British fair play"? (4) WHEN VICTIMISED MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE STARVING HE REFUSED TO ALLOW COLLECTORS TO COLLECT ON THE MINE.

Is this "in the interests of the workers" and "NON-POLITICAL"?

* * *

The Communist Party makes no apology in putting up a candidate in Ward 3, where at least 90 PER CENT. of the electorate are workers.

We emphatically state that you have a right to register a protest against the abominable conditions under which you are working. Our candidate is a WORKERS' CANDIDATE, and will represent the WORKERS ONLY; we recognise no other interests but the WORKERS' INTERESTS. We pledge our candidate to support any resolution brought forward by either the Labour Party or the Nationalists which will help to bring about the fall of the SMUTS GOVERNMENT and of his supporters on public bodies; and we will concentrate on the release of your comrades who are still in gaol.

Our principle has always been, and is, a COMPLETE OVERTHROW OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM of exploitation of one class by another.

We believe in PRODUCTION FOR USE, AND NOT FOR PROFIT, feeling sure that this is the only remedy for the curse of unemployment, and that only thus can our young men become absorbed in useful work.

While this is our objective, our candidate will support all measures brought forward in the interests of the workers

FOR UNEMPLOYMENT, WORK or MAINTENANCE at recognised white standard; shorter hours: Municipal services at cost; and all schemes brought forward for the general health and well-being of the workers.

* * *

Fellow-workers, this is our programme. Then return our candidate. Remember, a vote for Balfour is a vote for the Chamber of Mines, and a vote for the Chamber of Mines means the END OF FREE EDUCATION (MOTHERS, REMEMBER, and RECORD YOUR VOTE!) It also means an endorsement of the conditions under which you are working, and again, fewer jobs for you, and your children. Retrenchment is still going on—you may be the next.

MAKE them FEAR you!

DEMONSTRATE your POWER and your DETERMINATION to USE it!

When they see you are in earnest they will try and BRIBE you by giving you better conditions.

REMEMBER twenty-nine comrades were released from gaol before the Turffontein election. Fear of YOUR VOTE may RELEASE the OTHER NINE.

We do not want you to make MARTYRS of yourselves. REMEMBER:—The BALLOT BOX IS SECRET.

DON'T Vote for the Chamber of Mines and VICTIMISATION. Vote for yourself.

DON'T ride in our Cars, we have none.

DON'T refuse a motor ride, they are for the use of all voters.

DON'T come to our table, the Boss is watching.

DO record your Vote, we need it.

DO vote early, we can't bring you.

DO away with the old women on the Council and return a REAL WOMAN.

An opportunity will be given to question the candidate at a Meeting to be held in front of the Municipal Offices on Saturday, October 27th, at 8 p.m.

Emigration: The Old Story.

The secretary of the National Association of Unemployed, Canada, writes that

"Conditions for the unemployed here are terrible; the 'harvesters' are being sent back from the farms to the cities, and some are applying here in Winnipeg for relief. They are being refused any assistance.

"We have our hands full now, for we intend to fight the Government to the limit for allowing those of our comrades to be so misled as to conditions here. This is all the work of the Canada Colonisation Society, which is run by the C.P.R., and the Canadian National Railway, with Sir Augustus Nanton, financier and coal baron, as chairman. These people have purposely brought these emigrants to this country to get cheap labour for the land."

In Quest of Reason.

"WHITE SOUTH AFRICA."

The Executive of the S.A.M.W.U. is reported in the "Star" to have "dissociated itself from" the scheme to organise native mineworkers. The "reason" given is that "the supporters of such a scheme cannot be regarded as anxious to build up a White South Africa." That of course is not argument; it is simply a BEGGING OF THE QUESTION—as the question presents itself to white men at least; and the Central Section are as much white men as the Executive.

In any case, "White South Africa," as we and others have made clear for years past, is an ambiguous slogan. It means on the one hand the ownership of the land and property and political power by whites, and the maintenance of the whites as masters and the non-whites as servants and helots; and it means on the other hand the creation and maintenance of wage standards acceptable to white workers. Experience has shown that these two interpretations are mutually exclusive. Only a minority of the white population are land and property owners; the remainder are actually reduced, by that minority and by virtue of their privileged position, to most unacceptable wage standards. And the present exploiting system of society, so far from offering a remedy, is accentuating this contrast daily, and making "White South Africa," in the second sense, more and more a RECEDING CASTLE IN THE AIR. The Miners' Executive is confusing itself with a contradictory and meaningless formula instead of concentrating on the fundamental object of the Labour movement, a change of the system of society.

* * *

This missing the point is unfortunately only too characteristic of "orthodox" Trade Unionism; but the Central Section have at any rate to a certain degree risen above the limitations of "orthodoxy" and understood that the solution lies in THE CLASS AS AGAINST THE "UNION-BOUND" POINT OF VIEW. As little as, say, the Communist Party exists to promote merely the interest of its members to the exclusion of other workers (even if such a thing were possible), so little can any Trade Union achieve anything even for its members unless it treats the particular problems affecting its members as PART OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE WHOLE WORKING CLASS, and acts accordingly. That is what the Central Section is attempting to do.

"THREE CLASSES IN SOCIETY."

We turn to another attempt at argument against the Central Section's proposal. Mr. A. Crawford, in the "Star," says the position is (and presumably should continue to be) that the white workers exploit the black workers just as the employers exploit the white workers. In fact, of course, the employers exploit both; and once more, actual experience is that in this triple division the white exploiter-exploitees are being crushed between the upper and the nether millstones. This is the immediate dilemma of the white workers. Their midway position, their locus standi, is precarious, and disappearing; and merely restating it and insisting on it does not strengthen it, but at best only perpetuates the illusion that it is strong.

* * *

Mr. Crawford indeed admits this. "The white miner, knowing that with the native mine workers on the one hand and the "official" class on the other HE HAD NO HOPE OF SUCCEEDING by a strike policy, would decide on moderate and negotiating methods." But if he is too weak to succeed by strike methods, he clearly has equally no strength behind him when he tries "moderate and negotiating methods." He puts forward his demands, the employers refuse them of course (why should they do anything else?) and THE GAME IS UP, HE MUST SURRENDER. The fact remains that the white miners are too weak to enforce their demands, and unless it happens to be in the employer's interest for the time being to "concede" something (e.g. in order to perpetuate the division between black and white workers) they are sent empty away.

* * *

Mr. Crawford adds, that "THE WEAKNESS OF THE WHITE MINER'S POSITION" (which he thus admits) "would suggest the wisdom of association with his fellow-white workers in other trades and industries." Why of course; that is one of the most immediate needs of the Labour movement in South Africa, as in every other country. Nevertheless, the same conditions that, as he says, make the position of the white miners in particular so weak make the position of the white workers in general equally weak in the long run, and the dilemma thus persists, only on a larger scale. It may be that some other classes of white tradesmen are not so immediately threatened; well, just for that reason they will be slow to enter into a defensive or offensive alliance with the white miners. When they do, it will be BECAUSE THEY REALISE THEIR OWN WEAKNESS from the same cause, the competition of cheap black labour; which means that THE WEAKNESS IS STILL THERE. Eventually all white workers will be driven to organise on the basis of common class interest, that is the interest of ALL the exploited, irrespective of colour, or rather with a special reason for including the coloured because they are the overwhelming majority. Indeed, if Mr. Crawford's analysis is correct that the only really and wholly exploited class in South Africa is the class of black workers (an analysis which is economically false, however), it would obviously follow that the Labour movement as a whole in South Africa should concern itself exclusively, or nearly so, with the organisation, etc., of, not the white workers but the black!

THE "STAR" BOOMERANG.

The above are so far the only attempts we have seen (for we cannot count the blind opposition of the so-called "rank and file" CONSISTING MOSTLY OF NON-UNION MINERS who, if they are put up to join now, will do so only for the purpose of voting down the Central Section) to discredit the scheme on lines of argument or reason; and they turn out to be totally devoid of either. THE ONLY LOGIC IN THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN LABOUR AND CAPITAL IS THE LOGIC OF STRENGTH against your opponent. The Chamber of Mines organ, the "Star," which has repeatedly taunted the white workers with ignoring the black, is dumb now that they show signs of recognising him: it is SILENCED BY ITS OWN ARGUMENT, which of course it never expected to see treated as argument. It cannot now turn round and upbraid the miners for taking up its challenge. It dare not express its views, viz., that the new policy will tend, after the serious initial difficulties have been surmounted, so to strengthen the Labour forces that the days of its masters' supremacy are already numbered.

Marxian Materialism.

(By N. Lenin.)

The realisation of the inadequacy and one-sidedness of the old materialism convinced Marx of the necessity of bringing social science into accord with the materialist foundation of society. If materialism lays down the general rule that consciousness is to be explained by being, then the application of materialism to the examination of society demands that social consciousness be explained by social being.

CAUSES FOR MOTIVES AND MASS CHANGES.

The materialist conception of history, or, strictly speaking, the application of materialism to the sphere of social phenomena, has removed two of the main defects of history as hitherto understood. History has, at best, up to now, considered the ideal motives of the historical activity of human beings, without examining into the cause of these motives, without discovering the objective law behind the development of the system of social relations, without seeking for the root of these relations in the degree of development of material production. Secondly, the theories applied up to now have overlooked precisely the activity of the great masses of the population, while historical materialism has given us for the first time the possibility of examining, with the precision of natural science, into the social conditions influencing the life of the masses, and into the changes taking place in these conditions. Pre-Marxian "sociology" and history writing achieved, at best, an accumulation of bare facts, and have provided us with nothing more than a representation of some separate phases of the historical process. Marx showed the way to a comprehensive and thorough examination into the process of original evolution and decay of social-economic formations, in that he regarded all contradictory tendencies in their totality, and traced them back to accurately definable conditions of life and production in the various classes of society; he thus eliminated subjectivism, as well as arbitrariness in the choice and interpretation of some "leading ideas," and laid bare the roots of all ideas, without exception, and of all the different tendencies in the state of social productive forces. Human beings make their own history, but Marx was the first to show what determines the motives of human beings, and particularly of the masses of human beings; he was the first to show what the totality of all these conflicts is to human society, what are the objective conditions of the production of material life, forming the basis for every historical activity among human beings, what is the evolutionary law of these conditions. In this way Marx pointed out the way to the scientific study of history as a consistent process, following definite laws through all its multifarious immensity and in all its contradictions.

CONFLICTS EXPLAINED.

That in every society the strivings of some members of this society are opposed to the strivings of others, that social life is full of contradictions, that history shows us a struggle between and within peoples and societies, that history is composed of alternating periods of peace and war, revolution and reaction, standstill and rapid advance or decay—all these facts are well known. Marx gave us the clue which enables us to discover the law underlying this apparent labyrinth and chaos. This clue is the theory of class war. It is only the study of the sum total of the strivings of all the members of a society, or of a group of societies, that can lead to a scientific determination of the results of these strivings. The source of conflicting interests lies, however, in the difference of position and living conditions of the classes into which every society is divided.

Com. W. H. Harrison's Election Address.

To The Workers of Hanover Street.

Fellow-Workers,

Day by day the working class is being driven lower into the depths of poverty, suffering and degradation. Day by day the masses of the poor are becoming poorer, while the few wealthy exploiters are piling riches upon riches. The worker, the wage-slave, who creates the world's wealth, receives an ever smaller portion of that which he has himself produced. The worker must accept a miserable pittance in return for his labour, so that the idle rich may enjoy all the good things of life; he must toil long hours in ill-ventilated, insanitary shops and factories, wearing out brain and muscle, so that the idle rich may have ample leisure for golf or fishing; he must herd with his family in the most crowded, most sunless, most airless quarters of the town, in a jerry-built, ill-planned, uncomfortable hovel, or maybe in a single room—or, worse still, sharing with other families the floor-space of a single room—so that the idle rich may live at Sea Point or Muizenberg in gorgeous mansions filled with every luxury and aid to comfort, spacious, airy, conveniently planned and stoutly built.

When by his industry the worker has produced more goods than can be sold AT A PROFIT, the master, having no more need of him, throws him on to the street—unemployed. Then he tramps the town, cold, wet, ragged, hungry, seeking for the job that he never finds, and returns at night to his "home," to be met by the sobs and cries of his starving wife and children. The master needs him no more; so he and his may rot upon the veld like lung-sick cattle.

At times the worker falls sick or meets with an injury, then his fate is just the same. There are plenty to take his place; let him die like a poisoned rat, in silence; what does the rich exploiter care?

* * *

Every worker is more or less exploited—that is, robbed—by the master class. Some of the worst sufferers in this respect are what we call the subject races, such as Indians, Egyptians, and the natives of Africa. The exploiter has come to their country uninvited, because he has seen a chance of making big profits out of their labour; by means of missionaries, politicians, police, and latterly aeroplane bombs and machine-guns, he keeps for himself the land that he has stolen from them, and forces them to learn the "dignity of labour" by working for him under conditions that are worse than slavery.

Another section of workers which suffers grievously from the exploitation practised by the master class is to be found in the agricultural toilers, irrespective of colour. Not only have they been robbed of their land, but their conditions of life and work are reduced to the very lowest level that can be endured by human beings. Their interests, economically and socially, are identical with those of the town workers.

As an aftermath of the war there has been attack after attack on the working class by the rich exploiters of labour. In this country the land-owners and mine-owners, aided and abetted by their tool the Smuts Government, are steadily driving the working masses further and further into misery and starvation.

Capitalism makes no distinctions of race or colour. All workers are robbed to a greater or less extent. The condition of the more down-trodden and exploited workers is used to undermine the position of those relatively better off, and all together sink towards the pauper level.

The small shop-keepers and traders are no exception to this. Unable to withstand the competition of Big Business, they fall into the working class or help to swell the mass of unemployed.

* * *

For such a degrading, pernicious and destructive system the Communist Party has one remedy, and one remedy only, to offer to the workers of the world. It is the establishment of Communism. By this we mean the setting-up of a new industrial and social order, wherein the workers shall own and control industry and all the sources of production, and society shall be based upon co-operation and mutual service. Under this system everyone, without distinction of race, colour, creed, caste or sex, shall perform his share of the world's work and shall receive his share of the world's products. At present, those who do the least work have the most frequent and the most varied opportunities of enjoyment; under Communism we shall see the practical adaptation of the saying, "If a man will not work, neither shall he eat."

In the face of the attack of the Capitalist Class the Communist Party calls upon all workers to rally to its banner. It is only by the overthrow of the existing system and the establishment of a workers' and poor farmers' government that the vast mass of the people of this country can escape from pauperism and slavery.

There is need for a united front of all anti-capitalist parties against the present imperialist government. We believe that the cry for the abolition of the Provincial Councils is inspired by the desire of the S.A.P. to do away with the opposition majorities which exist in some of the provinces. We believe that this opposition should be maintained and strengthened.

* * *

WE DEMAND free compulsory primary education for all children, including native and coloured children. Also we demand that the high schools and universities be open to all regardless of colour.

WE DEMAND the abolition of the Defence Force.

WE DEMAND work or maintenance at full rates for all unemployed, the necessary funds to be provided by the Government and to be administered by the Provincial Councils.

The Communist Party fights unceasingly—

AGAINST THE PAUPERISATION OF THE WORKING CLASS.

AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO DRAG SOUTH AFRICA INTO ANOTHER CAPITALIST WAR.

AGAINST THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE SMUTS GOVERNMENT!

LONG LIVE THE UNITED FRONT OF ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLES AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND REACTION!

LONG LIVE THE INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL ORGANISATION OF THE WORKING CLASS!

DOWN WITH SMUTS AND JAGGER, AND GOVERNMENT BY THE CHAMBER OF MINES!

VOTE FOR W. H. HARRISON, AND SEND A FIGHTING CANDIDATE TO REPRESENT YOU IN THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL!

Workers of the World Unite! You have nothing to lose but your claims; you have the world to win!

Fat's Domestics.

Since Hell was let loose in 1914 the capitalists of the world have made little or no attempt to hide, or even camouflage, their brutal greed and inherent prehensile instincts. To-day, five years after "peace," the bourgeois world complacently looks on while one man, Stinnes, to satiate his ghoulish money-lust, slowly starves a whole nation out of existence, and, in fact, bourgeoisdom actually reveres the German "Herr" as a model of what a capitalist should be. All sections of society look on with folded arms, while the sheep who are being slaughtered by the slow process of vein-opening—the working class—seem too terrified to strike the final blow which will disembowel and slay the capitalistic world monster. The intense misery of the workers throughout the world may be one of the causes of the state of mental somnambulism in which they are found to-day—"In the deep gloom of abject poverty men seldom revolt"—but this intense misery was not brought about by a stroke of the pen. By no means. It is the culminating point of capitalist propaganda, which for years has aimed at creating a psychology in the producers which would turn them into mere work machines almost incapable of human feeling and having no power to think or act for themselves.

BRAZENING IT OUT.

In their carefully calculated methods the capitalists have been clever enough to procure individuals from all sections of society who, for money, were prepared to prostitute whatever individuality they possessed in furthering the "interests" of the dominant class of the day. Only a few years ago the operations were veneered and, on occasions, even apologised for on such grounds as "national necessity," etc., but to-day capitalism no longer deems any excuse necessary, and the bloody greed of the individuals of the capitalist class is extolled by their official trumpeteers the journalists, who themselves have so degenerated that modern capitalist journalism would be correctly defined as morbid pornography.

THE AIDS: AMATEUR RELIGION.

But Fat—always a nervous individual—does not feel quite safe after all. When his money and bloodlust eases up for a moment and allows him to think, he fears that the apparently meek workers may one day awake and rend him. Himself knowing no god but Capitalism and hence no devil but Communism, it is in these sweating moments that his thoughts turn to a "religious revival" among the people as a safeguard for himself and his illgotten gains. The wage-workers must be kept resigned to their lot, and nothing can do the job so efficiently and well as the propagation of Christianity, i.e., humility and submission to God, who chooses the masters and sets off the servants and completes its teachings by the "eternal principles" of bourgeois democracy. It is good that the slaves should be kept guessing in religious controversy and in discussions on Liberty, Justice, Ethics, Patriotism, and other such thimble-rigging stunts, so that their own wretched condition in this world may never come up for discussion. John D. Rockefeller has always appreciated this soporific so thoroughly that we find him, and many others like him, devoting his Sundays to reading and commenting on the bible to his wage-slaves. In the main all capitalists are bible-thumpers, and their most efficient tools—Chamber of Mines managers, directors, chairmen, etc.—are usually pillars of the Church.

THE PROFESSIONAL PRIEST.

But amateur biblical brain destroying, which capitalists of both sexes undertake to kill time or as a hobby, is not sufficiently regular and efficient to do the whole job. Professional brain-destroyers have to be hired, at so much a prayer, hymn, or anthem, to fulfil the task. Fat hires them in his clergy of all persuasions, and the only pity of it all is that to-day the working class can read the bible for itself, and see there the curses put upon the iniquities of riches, and the cries of envious wrath against the possessors of immense wealth in the days of poverty. The Catholic Church foresaw the danger and long ago forbade its members to read the bible themselves, and even executed Wycliffe, by burning him for translating the collection of Palestinian legends into the vulgar tongue. Consequently capitalism has now to get busy on a new bible from which all these portions have been expurgated—the job has already been partly accomplished—and fervently hopes that its priestly dope artists can persuade the sheep back to the fold. Until this is done the old cock, religion, will remain "too proud to fight," and the gaols—locked, barred, bolted and guarded—will remain full, while the churches—wide open day and night—will remain empty.

WORKERS INDIFFERENT.

In the meantime, to quote Paul Lafargue, "Indifference in religious matters, the most serious symptom of irreligion, is inborn in the working class. While the political movements of the bourgeoisie may have taken on a religious or anti-religious form, no inclination can be seen in the proletariat of the great industries of Europe and America towards elaborating a new religion to replace Christianity, nor any desire to reform it. The economic and political organisations of the working class in both hemispheres are uninterested in any doctrinal discussion on religious dogmas and spiritual ideas; this, however, does not prevent their making war on priests of all cults, regarding them as the domestics of the capitalist class."

HARRY HAYNES.

Bully Yourself!

Speaking at the meeting of the General Federation of Trades Unions, Mr. (Colonel) John Ward, a Labour member of the British Parliament, said that he had to ask himself whether British democracy had destroyed one bully a few years ago in order that another bully might succeed him. Now, why did the noble Colonel not ask himself that question prior to enlisting in the army of the master class? Why did the Labour Colonel enlist and go to Russia to fight the working class in that country? There was no force used to compel Colonel Ward to go to fight the Communists, nor was there any working class principle involved when he went with the army to Russia—in those things were quite the other way about.

—"Australasian Seamen's Journal."

"S.A. Industrial Disunion" on the S.A.R.

The General Secretary of the N.U.R.A.H.S. writes:

All railwaymen are conscious of the frantic and almost despairing endeavour of the Railway Administration to create or foster any form of railway organisation which shall be sectional and confined to just a grade or group of grades. This programme is quite in accordance with what is going on all over the world, but it is well that the railwaymen of South Africa should identify it wherever it appears. The Railway Administration appears to have recognised Mr. Crawford and the organisation with which he is connected, called the S.A.I.F., as the best medium TO KEEP THE RAILWAYMEN DIVIDED INTO GRADE SECTIONS. It is true that a development of the S.A.I.F. is called the "S.A. Industrial Union," but so far its operations have never evolved any activity towards defending the interests of the railwaymen or recovering any of the conditions which have been depreciated in this post-war period. The greatest facilities have been granted Mr. Crawford and his confederates all over the country to invade mechanical workshops and other railway premises during working hours in order to propagate the principles which Mr. Crawford has to place before the railway servants. From every centre our organisation has reports of this organised programme, and generally it includes the suggestion that THE N.U.R.A.H.S. ORGANISATION, with its potential political activities designed to protect and promote railwaymen's interests, SHOULD BE GRANTED THE SAME FACILITIES.

One of these workshop centres sends me the following circular, which it will be seen is marked "strictly confidential." I do not know why such circulars should be "strictly confidential." All our N.U.R.A.H.S.' operations have been characterised by putting all our cards on the table. We are not afraid of the searchlight upon our exertions on behalf of railway and harbour servants whether they are inside or outside the courts of the land. It will be observed that Mr. Crawford's circular is all in a line with the suggestion that Sir William Hoy has taken up the role of INTERCESSOR FOR THE RAILWAYMEN. Mr. Crawford's circular sees the General Manager on his knees at the feet of Minister Jagger, posing as the saviour of railwaymen's conditions as against the autocratic and unreasonable policy of the Minister and his South African Party Government. It is a very nice picture!

I can hardly believe after the years of experience the railwaymen have had, both in the Transvaal and in the Union as a whole, that they would believe this fancy film. See how solicitous Mr. Crawford is in his circular warning. He says "you must be discreet what use you make of the situation, otherwise the sources may dry up." . . . "I will make an effort to interview Mr. Jagger himself during the coming week," etc., etc. So there we have Mr. Crawford SIDE BY SIDE WITH SIR WILLIAM HOY bending with the olive branch in their hands before the mighty monarch whom railwaymen and others have placed in power by their political votes.

Again, Mr. Crawford's circular says "Mr. Jagger insists on a bigger cut than that proposed by the Conference." Is the role of Mr. Crawford to frighten men into compliance with these "cuts" and these "bigger cuts"? Is the function of an organisation to assist, to browbeat and SCARE MEN INTO ACCEPTING LOWER CONDITIONS? Railway servants and other working men do not want to pay into an organisation for such services as these. If they desire to give way and surrender something of their pay and conditions, they can do that without paying an organisation. Surely the function of the S.A.I.F., or any organisation, posing to work for the interests of the railway servants, is to at least defend existing conditions, and improve them if possible. The other side surely are capable of taking care of the facts and the figures which are supposed to justify these cuts and reductions. Men need not pay monthly subscriptions to get their own organiser and their own organisation to conduct the case for the OTHER side.

With these remarks, Sir, I think the circular attached hereto speaks for itself.

The circular is as follows:—

S.A.I.F.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

29th September, 1923.

To Railway Workers' Shopmen's Conf. Delegates.

Fellow-Workers.

A further meeting of the Railway Board was held yesterday, and although I have had no official news yet and may not receive same for several days, I have reason to believe that Mr. Jagger was very strongly opposed to the decisions of the conference.

I believe that it was only on hard pressure that he decided not to cut existing wages and he is said to be opposed to the period of stability agreed to by the G.M. and ourselves. We will only carry this by hard fighting and may have to yield ground in the matter of apprentices' pay. I also understand that there is an intention to reduce the amount of dirt money in running sheds, and goodness knows what else will be put up to us. I am not losing a moment in warning you of the likely position so that you may be able to rally the forces at your centre for a strong effort which the S.A.I.F. will lead to save as much as possible.

We can put up a good fight, but to succeed we must have backing. We will rely purely on your negotiating skill to make the best bargain and guarantee that no one will do so well as shopmen in the end.

You must be discreet as to the use you make of this information, otherwise the sources may dry up and you will learn nothing in time to take preventative action in the future. I will make an effort to interview Mr. Jagger myself during the coming week, and will put up a case for the conference decisions. I will also insist that we recall the delegates to the conference before he finally decides his points.

I may also state that Mr. Jagger insists on a bigger cut than that proposed by us. In fact the cut will probably be more than I anticipated in my first letter sent you. With an assurance about future deductions there is a greater danger of the lower rates for new entrants affecting the position of the existing staffs. You may now see how necessary it was that I should urge the shopmen to organise in my circular of the 25th inst. We must have a big rally to the S.A.I.F. at all centres so that we can get unity under one co-ordinating authority RIGHT AWAY and fight to retain all the advantage we can. I will do my best to get to those centres that wish to hear me. The conference results were good and as the G.M. agreed with us, we are in a good position to fight provided the shopmen themselves will rally to their own cause.—Yours faithfully,

A. CRAWFORD, General Secretary.

[This letter was evidently written in intelligent anticipation of the announcement made by Mr. Crawford at Durban on the 22nd inst. that "the negotiations had taken a disappointing turn as the result of the intervention of Mr. Jagger, whose views had just been received by Mr. Crawford, and that the latter "anticipated that the new conditions would be rejected." The N.U.R.A.H.S. also issue a circular showing that the argument put up for reduced shopmen's wages, viz., that it would then be possible to build coaches, etc., locally, is contradicted by a statement by Sir W. Hoy himself to a Select Committee last February, that an imported coach costs £7,800 as against £6,000 for a local one.—Ed.]

War, Glorious War.

Potchefstroom, where our boys are practising bombing and bayonetting for use against—we all know whom—in the struggle which everyone says is bound to come all over the world, is being gingered up with hilarious stories like this one, stories that are bound up in the glorious traditions of the "Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the Free." It was told by a gallant soldier, Coy.-Sergt.-Major Franklin, M.C., to the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps, in London:—

"I remember once disobeying orders in France. I got permission to go salvaging in High Wood—actually I wanted to go up and see the show. . . . When the show died down I carried on with my salvaging task, and I picked out no less than five German bodies with British bayonets still in them. The bayonets were in their guts. There is an unfortunate tendency with a Britisher to go for a German belly—I support that is to let the lager out. (Laughter.) But it shows a lack of direction and withdrawal. When I saw this I thought that there was good food for reflection; I saw that one had not only put the bayonet right in, but he had got the nose-cap in as well. (Laughter.) The spirit was there but the skill was not. It is always advisable to avoid the stomach, for you are not likely to get out quickly enough to deal with anyone else who is likely to be coming along.

"I remember a corporal saying to me, pointing to some German prisoners close by: 'Can I do these blokes in, Sir?' I said: 'Please yourself.' He did. When the corporal came back he said: 'I have felt something I have never felt before—and I have been in Dartmoor, too. (Laughter.) I felt what it is like to kill; but it is damned hard to get it out. He had a belly like iron. (More laughter.)"

Professor Masaryk, of Czecho Slovakia, who has just been arranging with Poincare for a joint onslaught on Southern Germany in case the workers there attempt to throw off their chains, is another of those bought over renegades from Socialism who make the best Fascists. Workers, once more, "watch your bleaders"! Capitalism, in its alarm, is everywhere calling for "dictators," and such men are always among the readiest to undertake the job.

Trade Union Reconstruction.

TAILORS ON THE MOVE.

A special general meeting of the Witwatersrand Tailors' Association held in the Grand National Hotel on Monday night resolved to make a considerable change in the structure of the organisation. Hitherto masters and men have been members of the organisation without discrimination, i.e., tailors taking work on contract from merchant tailors and the sets (machiners, pressers, tailors and tailoresses) employed by them. During the war period when labour was in greater demand this rather conglomerate form of organisation worked quite effectively to the benefit of all members. But the slackening in trade and the consequent decreasing demand for labour which characterised the post-war period have resulted in an intensified competition between the contractors (middlemen), a wholesale cutting of the union contract rates, which in its turn has reacted to the detriment of the contractors' employees. The latter have come to the conclusion that some brake must be put on the competitive tendencies of their immediate employers, the middlemen, if further wage-cuts are to be avoided, and to that end the meeting above referred to decided to divide the Union into two branches, of middlemen and workers respectively, each branch to be autonomous and to elect proportionally a joint council to co-ordinate activities where necessary. By this means it is hoped to be able to improve conditions all round, as any decision which the workers may come to will no longer be influenced by a fear of the boss, whose presence alongside his employee at the meetings of the union, it is believed, has prevented any effective action being taken. The cry of "bosses and workers in one union," which in the past has been used as a convenient point of attack by Crawford and his satellites, and which has been used by many workers in the industry as an excuse for not joining the organisation, is now no longer valid. Considerable progress is confidently anticipated as the result.

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COMMUNIST PARTY NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

This Sunday, October 28, all comrades and friends are invited to the Picnic at the Zoo Lake. Motor charabanc leaves Town Hall (President Street side) at 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. Sports and games will be arranged, with prizes. Don't forget to bring your own provisions and cups. Tea will be provided.

* * *

Next Wednesday, October 31, the monthly Branch meeting will be held at No. 4, Trades Hall, at 8 p.m. Comrades will please roll up in force to elect a new executive and officers and transact other important business.

* * *

On Wednesday week, November 7, the Sixth Anniversary of the Russian revolution will be celebrated with a Workers' Social and Rally at the Selborne Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets 2/6, including refreshments. Children 1/- at the doors.

* * *

There are still some outstandings on previous Socials, May, July, September. Will ticket sellers kindly square up everything forthwith?

* * *

BENONI BRANCH.

Mrs. Chapman will hold another meeting to-morrow (Saturday) outside the Town Hall, Benoni, at 8 p.m. Vote for Chapman!

YOUNG COMMUNIST NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

Meets every Tuesday night at 8 p.m., in 4, Trades Hall. On October 30 the discussion will be on "Modern theories of evolution and their bearing on the class struggle." All welcome.

HAYNES' BOOK DRAW.

Winning Numbers:—

First—A98.
Second—D92.
Third—B84.

United Front in Spain.

The military revolution in Spain is directed as much against the workers as against the politicians.

The new Spanish dictator, General Primo de Rivera, is out to crush the Trade Union and Communist movements, and has proclaimed that strikes are illegal, and that all strikes in progress must be stopped at once.

Already a number of arrests of workers' leaders have been made.

In face of this danger a Joint Committee of Action has been set up by the Spanish Communist Party, the National Confederation of Labour, and the Anarchist groups.

"The Times" reveals something of the real situation in saying:—

"As against the Army, Labour alone is organised . . . The gap between Labour and Communism has been bridged by an agreement to unite against the danger of a military dictatorship. That agreement is pregnant with grave possibilities, and may constitute a threat to military predominance, as many of the troops are in sympathy with Labour."

THIS WEEK'S LITTLE JOKE.

"South Africa has turned the corner in every way."—General Smuts.

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6, MORLEY HOUSE,
(First Floor), Cor. KERK & JOUBERT STREETS,
Place your Christmas order now—don't wait for the rush.

The General Dealer's Business of Grace Wilson Gourlay carried on at 80a, Commissioner Street, Boksburg, has been transferred to Arthur Board as from the 17th September, 1923.

26.2.9.

Notice is hereby given that the General Dealer's Business carried on on Stand 486, Brakpan, by N. Nochumson has been abandoned as from 8th October, 1923.

J. BACHARACH.

12/19/26. Agent for N. Nochumson.

This paper will be posted FOR FOUR WEEKS ONLY (a) to subscribers whose subscriptions have expired from date of expiry; (b) to persons recommended as likely subscribers.