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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. 393. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1923. PRICE THREEPENCE.

Just Out!

The Internationale

Marching Song of the Workers' Revolution.

Words AND MUSIC arranged by D. IVON JONES and S. P. BUNTING.

Price 6d. (bundles of one dozen 4/6)

Many Workers are Saying—

That capitalism is producing a heavy crop of political as well as business failures, and that Smuts is returning to South Africa as one of them, whether he be compared to Ruskin or to Cromwell—or Lenin or Trotzky!

* * *

That the gods must have smiled at Smuts lecturing Sapru on "etiquette"!

* * *

That Dominie van Belkum is to be congratulated on his courage in telling a "Poor White Conference" that "in many cases poor whites are driven out of the country by THE BOER CAPITALIST, and are mercilessly exploited by their own people"—in other words, that a man must be a fool if he expects his master to stand by him on the ground of "common nationhood" or "imperial ties."

* * *

That another speaker at the same Conference was equally candid when he recalled how in 1907 Dutch labourers were drawn to the towns at 10s. a day to replace the men on strike—in other words, that a man must be a fool if he expects his master to stand by him on the ground of his having scabbed for the master.

* * *

That they are not surprised, in view of the sort of characters appointed to high positions elsewhere, to learn that a blackmailer was one of the officials in Trigger's strike concentration camp last year.

* * *

That Sir D. Harris must have raised a large-sized smile when he assured the alluvial diggers that it was for their protection that the diamond output was controlled by the four big producers.

* * *

That they are glad to hear that the full compensation to natives killed in the 1922 strike amounted to so little that there was a 100 per cent surplus, for to judge by the newspaper stories, especially those sent for European consumption, and by the appeals to the class bias which really put up the funds, they would have thought there were, as in the case of the white workers, far more victims than funds to go round.

* * *

That the action of the Johannesburg Town Council in deciding to reinstate its victimised employees is generally approved; but

* * *

That they will not rest content until the men who served on the Augmented Executive and the Council of Action (whom the Council proposes to bar from employment) are also reinstated.

* * *

That it will be the most unkindest cut to the present Mayors in South Africa if the Prince of Wales delays his visit until after the next municipal elections, and that they wonder if Slim Jannie worked that.

* * *

That the alarming increase of white suicides (particularly in the Witwatersrand area), most of whom are members of the working class, is a striking commentary on the terrible position to which the white workers generally are being reduced; and

* * *

That this increase puts out of court the clerical dictum of "wickedness and depravity" in the individual and shows that it is the rotten and depraved system which drives people to put an end to their existence.

* * *

That a better way out than suicide is organisation—organisation to smash Capitalism and establish the rule of the worker.

South African Solidarity.

Mr. Park Smith, district organising secretary of the S.A.L.P. at Somerset Strand, has shown a fine sense of solidarity in putting out the following leaflet in his district, also sending a telegram of sympathy for the occasion, and requesting petition forms for the release of the remaining nine strike prisoners:—

"In memory of Long, Lewis and Hull, who were executed on the 16th November, 1922, for the part they played in last year's strike. A demonstration will take place on the Rand on Sunday, 18th November, 1923. **WORKERS EVERYWHERE ARE ASKED TO PAUSE AND REMEMBER THEIR EFFORT ON OUR BEHALF. 'They gave up their lives so free, for brotherhood and liberty.' 'Thou shalt not press a crown of thorns upon their brow, nor crucify them on a cross of gold.' There remain nine men still in gaol. Will you petition for their release this Xmas? Communicate Box 7, The Strand, C.P.**"

Three Coffin Nails Out of Four.

The Cape Provincial election results are exceedingly important. They have placed the largest and oldest province for the first time in opposition to the Government, like the Transvaal, making three out of four provinces against Smuts at the very time when the latter was starring it in London in the name of a united South Africa. We are justified, on this result, in expecting the early arrival of the day when he will join the increasing collection of ex-Premiers now 'a-mouldering on the shelf.

Sunday Sallies.

The police have once more displayed their acumen, according to their Sunday organ, by "discovering" another "Moscow plot," the International Red Aid, by the simple process of reading all about it in last week's "International"; for some of those sleuths, mark you, are actually able to read! In consequence of this "information," as well as their mare's nest of Ivon Jones being on his way here, "our military correspondent" announces that the Defence Force, especially the bombing aeroplane section, is to be increased so as to be able to nip any rising in the very bud.

Meanwhile Conradi, who assassinated Vorowsky at Lausanne, has been acquitted, for all the world like a South African white man charged with shooting a native, as much as to say: in Switzerland at any rate it is lawful to shoot any Communist at sight. Well well, Switzerland has been put on the working class' black-list, and her bourgeoisie will one day pay the penalty.

P.S.—The police have "discovered" (again from last week's "International") that Jones is remaining in Russia. A number of aeroplanes have accordingly been countermanded.

When therefore the "Mail" adds that Comrade Andrews is receiving a subsidy from the "Commintern or Executive Government of Moscow" (it's all one for all the "Mail" knows or cares) which is to "continue after his arrival in South Africa," this deserves just about as much credence as the previous story about Jones, or its latest scream-jumble from that scarecrow of a paper, the "African Voice," about Black American Bolsheviks at Lovedale, or preaching revolution and challenged to produce their books, or Cyril Briggs and Chandler Owen who "attended the Congress of the Fourth International at Moscow" (the Fourth International is a very anti-Moscow little cave somewhere in Germany, with Sylvia Pankhurst as its chief member in England; or if they mean the Fourth C.I. Congress, there was no Briggs or Owen there) or about the collapse of the "African Blood Brotherhood" and the "Crusader," an American negro organ (well, we got our exchange copy as usual this week: but as it happens—and again it's all the same for all the "Mail" knows or cares—the "Crusader" is a distinctly anti-Communist paper, as also is the "Workers' Herald," organ of the I.C.U., which is the body really challenged by the "African Voice" to produce its books. But the "Mail" prefers the ways of dark and devious distortion. What a game it is!).

An I.R.A. Appeal.

TO THE AID OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS AND PEASANTS OF BULGARIA

Workers of all countries! The Bulgarian workers and peasants, after a heroic struggle, have been defeated by the Tzankov Government. The Bulgarian social democrats, arm in arm with the Wrangel bands and the Bulgarian capitalists and large land owners, are wading in the blood of the revolutionary workers and peasants of Bulgaria.

A WILD GOVERNMENT OF TERROR IS RAGING IN BULGARIA. The White Guards are working destruction in the workers' sections. The villages of the revolutionary peasants are being reduced to ashes. Thousands of rebel workers and peasants have already been murdered. Over 15,000 revolutionists have been thrown into the prisons of the Bulgarian Fascists. Thousands of others were forced over the borders into Jugoslovaia, Roumania and Turkey, in the struggle. The bestial frenzy of the Bulgarian counter-revolutionaries knows no bounds. The White Terror is pitilessly raging through Bulgaria. ALL BULGARIA IS QUIVERING UNDER THE FEARFUL MASSACRES INSTIGATED BY THE WRANGEL HORDES.

Workers of all countries! The struggles of the revolutionary workers and peasants of Bulgaria are your struggles. The sacrifices made to the Fascist terror in Bulgaria are your sacrifices. It is your brothers and sisters who are breathing their last at the hands of the murderous bands in Bulgaria. Our Bulgarian brothers fought for your cause. Defeated by Bulgarian Fascism, they are calling to you now for help.

SHOW BULGARIAN FASCISM THAT BEHIND THE BULGARIAN WORKERS AND PEASANTS, UNITED AND DETERMINED, STAND THE PROLETARIAT OF ALL KINDS.

RAISE YOUR VOICES AGAINST THE BESTIAL FRENZY OF THE BULGARIAN FASCISTS.

THROUGH OUR UNITED STRENGTH, CALL A DEFIANT HALT TO THE RAGING OF THE BULGARIAN COUNTER-REVOLUTION WHICH HAS BEEN LET LOOSE.

COME TO THE AID OF OUR BULGARIAN FIGHTERS, AND BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO MAKE COLLECTIONS ON THEIR BEHALF.

Central Committee of International Red Aid.
Moscow, October 16, 1923.

Cape Election Fund.

Fellow-workers, do not ignore our appeal published last week for contributions to this fund. Amounts received will be acknowledged (by initials) in due course. So far we have received the following: V.D., 2/6; S.B., 2/-; M.G., 1/-.; F.B., 22/-; W.H.N., 1/-.

Russia and Germany.

TROTZKY'S VIEWS.

To a question by Senator King as to the possibility of the intervention of Russia should revolution occur in Germany, Trotzky replied: "We could only intervene by first making war on Poland, and on no account do we desire war. We do not conceal our sympathies with the German working class and with its heroic struggle for freedom, and, to be perfectly frank, I can say that if we could assure victory to the German revolution without risking war we should do everything we could. But we do not wish to engage in war. Further, war would harm the German revolution. Only that revolution is of a vital and stable character which comes out victorious as the result of its own strength. Particularly is this the case in revolutions made by a great nation. We are wholly on the side of the German people against the predatory, bloodthirsty French imperialism. We are heart and soul with the German working class in its struggle against internal and foreign exploitation. But at the same time we are also heart and soul for peace. The Russian Red Army is being converted into a territorial militia to be used exclusively for defensive purposes."

RUSSIA AND HER DEBTS.

Senator King next asked Trotzky how the Soviet Government could expect to maintain stable trade relations with other countries while she refused to recognise her old debts. To which Trotzky replied: "Our own debts we pay and shall continue to pay, but we have no desire to pay anybody else's debts. Already in December, 1905, the Petrograd Soviet, forestalling evidently the attitude of the present Government, warned foreign Powers and foreign capitalists that the Russian revolution would not recognise debts made by the Tsar, nor would it be responsible for any other assistance granted by foreign capitalists to the Tsarist regime. This may seem unfair, but the planters of the Southern States during the civil war of the 'sixties also considered very unfair the acts of civil war whereby the slave owners were deprived of their property rights to slaves. Nevertheless, it is just thanks to this civil war that America has grown to her present might. So long as we desire to maintain trading relations with the rest of the world we are bound in our own interests to carry out our obligations. I can assure you that SO LONG AS PRIVATE PROPERTY REMAINS IN AMERICA we shall recognise to the full American investments in Russia. The very conditions of our internal life assure the absolute stability of the New Economic Policy."

* * *

Sylvia Pankhurst, echoed by Crawford, finds in the foregoing a betrayal of Communism and the German revolution. She bases her attack partly on a version of Trotzky's statement apparently much bowdlerised as compared with ours, which is extracted from the full report in "Russian Information and Review." One remark Trotzky makes is: "War with Poland would signify a general European conflagration which would result in the wiping out from the face of the earth of the remains of civilisation." Does Sylvia want that? Is she such a military expert as to know it's a safe risk? And if it results in failure, could Trotzky ever be forgiven? At a meeting at Guildford, England, the writer heard her describing how under Communism, if the workers of Guildford wanted the 9.15 train to London altered to 9.30, they would just pass the word along to the workers' committee at the railway station, and 'twould be done. Communism to her and her like is but an unreal toy, and her cries over it are like a child's.

The Capitulation of the German Bourgeoisie.

(By Karl Radek.)

The former ruling classes of Germany have ceased to fulfil the leading functions of a ruling class! They can no longer give any security to the masses of the people over whom they rule, and this incapacity does not merely relate to their conditions of human life; they are not only powerless to stop the increasing economic collapse, they not only have no plan for the structure of the state, but they have ceased to be a factor guaranteeing the independence of the country and securing the conditions of its national development. This signifies that they are condemned to extinction. So long as private property is the foundation of the existence of the bourgeois regime, the chief factor in the maintenance of power in the hands of the bourgeoisie is the consciousness present among the majority of the people that the ruling class is competent to defend the independence and preserve the fundamental national pillars of the country. It is solely this feeling which enables the bourgeoisie to find among the population its tools for the suppression of the dissatisfied exploited elements in the country. The German bourgeoisie is forced to render worse not only the position of the working masses, but of the petty bourgeoisie as well. In delivering over the country to pillage and oppression of foreign capital, it at the same time destroys the ties which enabled it to organise sufficient powers for the maintenance of its power.

A people of seventy millions, educated, and trained to industrial pursuits, cannot become the colonial slave of Entente capital. There is no means in the world capable of holding these millions in slavery for any length of time. The German bourgeoisie and the German landlords are incapable of organising a national struggle for emancipation; they may cling to their power with the aid of hirelings, but it will not be for long, as the moral bases of their power have disappeared.

This is the great lesson to be learnt from the capitulation of the German bourgeoisie. It will speak of a Brest-Litovsk, but it will not be able to afford that pause for breath which the Brest treaty afforded Soviet Russia; it has simply capitulated. Five months after Brest-Litovsk, Soviet Russia was in a position to resume the struggle for existence. Four years after the Versailles peace, the ruling class of Germany capitulates finally.

But the German people cannot capitulate. M. Clemenceau once remarked that there are about twenty million Germans too many. But before these twenty millions of German proletarians and small bourgeoisie are exterminated, they will shake the foundations of the world, and even then it is a question as to who is going to be exterminated.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

Germany's development from the peasant people of the 18th Century to the leading industrial nation of the 20th Century has evoked forces which ensure the salvation and renaissance of Germany. These are forces which enable the working class, even at this moment of capitulation on the part of the German bourgeoisie, to raise the flag of defence for its own interests, for the interests of its people. For months the German bourgeoisie has maligned the vanguard of the German proletariat, the Communist Party, by the assertion that it has accepted bribes from the French occupation troops. To-day, the German bourgeoisie prostrates itself before the foreign conqueror, but the German Communists, in the midst of the bayonets and machine guns of the French, are proclaiming a protest strike against the capitulation.

This protest strike will not drive the French out of the country, nor will it annul the capitulation, but it will proclaim to the whole world: "We proletarians, whom bourgeois society deems to be mere cannon fodder, take the defence of the country in our own hands." No greater security for the final victory of the German working class is possible than this deed.

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A Fair Fight?

It was Arturo Labriola, an Italian Syndicalist, who said "the capitalist system does not rest upon bayonets but upon the ignorance of the workers." So it is true that whilst in the last analysis the rule of the exploiters is based upon force, yet the workers are kept in ignorance of this fact by a thousand and one subterfuges, religious, political, cultural, etc., etc. The central fact of the class struggle, of the incessant struggle between rival economic interests, is obscured by veil upon veil of democratic and pacifistic illusions, religious abstractions, sham political conflicts, all devised for the purpose of preventing class conflicts from reaching boiling point. Thus it is maintained that political democracy furnishes means for the peaceful and legal settlement of class differences whilst the growth of tolerance and enlightenment amongst the people tends towards the fighting out of political struggles in an atmosphere of goodwill and forbearance.

At the recent elections in the Cape I have been struck by the cordial relations that seemed to exist between rival candidates, between the representatives of the Labour Party and those of the S.A.P. On nomination day and when results were declared, how touching were the expressions of regard for the rival candidate, how noble and exalted the keen desire for "a clean fight," for "a fair fight," how sincere the admiration for the "clean and fair" manner in which the other man fought. "In spite of our political differences, we each love the other on account of his beautiful eyes." Thus the representatives of Labour and of Capital—with the blessings of the Press. Who dares to speak now of class warfare, of class hatred, of poverty, of oppression? Why, only a bl—dy Bolshevik!

Seconds out of the ring for a fair fight. Against the non-existent or weak Labour Press, the great broadside of the Capitalist Press, with its huge circulation, its tremendous financial resources, its abuse, its lies and its filth. For one meeting Labour can afford to hold, they have ten, for one leaflet, fifteen; for one placard, dozens; for one miserable Ford of the workers, dozens of Rolls-Royces, Buicks, etc., etc. Through this S.A.P. candidate there are fighting the Chamber of Mines and the Chamber of Commerce with their strangle-hold upon the nation's wealth, the corrupters of the Press, the seducers of science, the pimps of art and culture.

And Labour through its leaders lays this flattering unction to its soul: "It has been a fair fight." When will Labour realise that THE GOLIATH OF CAPITAL WILL NOT BE BEATEN WITH THE JAW-BONES OF AN ASS?

True representatives of Labour should seek to dispel this false idea of tolerance and goodwill and should nurture intolerance of everything appertaining to Capitalism and a spirit of implacable class hatred. These are the driving forces of class struggles, not love and toleration of things evil, debased and tyrannical. These weaken the fighting spirit of the workers and render them the slaves of capitalist morality. Our slogan should be not "A fair fight" but "GIVE THEM HELL"! And it should be remembered that every capitalist candidate must bear responsibility for the deeds of his party and cannot avoid incurring the hatred and contempt which his party's record calls for.

It must be pointed out that this spirit of "goodwill" and "tolerance" is only shown to the workers while they are weak or servile. WHEN THEY MOVE TO THE CLASS STRUGGLE, then tanks and machine guns demonstrate the masters' affection, and the pilots of bombing aeroplanes carry their messages of goodwill. Political struggles require, as much as strikes or demonstrations, hard work, self-sacrifice, a spirit of "Let's go" that cannot be fostered by aping capitalist candidates in their dealings with one another, or using the catch phrases of capitalist morality.

Fellow-workers, THERE IS NO "FAIR FIGHT" FOR YOU, either in politics or in your unions. These men are your enemies, the representatives of your masters. This is the record of their party in whose name they speak. They are strong and relentless and hold you in contempt. You cannot win, save by fostering the spirit of proletarian hatred of everything they stand for, by fighting with all your strength, with all your fervour, and to hell with "toleration."

M. LOPES.

Profit-Politics.

France is no longer a conservative nation of small shopkeepers and peasants. With its military conquests, its command of the resources of the Ruhr and Rhineland, France has now become a big industrial power, and in the economic field has developed into a fully fledged rival and competitor of Great Britain. French commodities are invading the British market itself. No conservative tradition or deference to British desires will stand in the way if, by concluding an agreement with Soviet Russia, France can score a point in the game of international politics.—"Russian Information and Review."

The Martyrs' Memorial.

Four thousand persons assembled last Sunday afternoon at Brixton Cemetery to honour the memory of the martyrs of November 16, 1922, Taffy Long, Bertie Hull and David Lewis, incidentally also visiting the graves of Percy Fisher and Harry Spendiff, while the name of C. C. Stassen was also not forgotten on the handbills. The number present would have been greater but for the sultry and threatening atmosphere, which also is accountable for the comparatively small number in the procession when last year's huge concourse is recalled. But, remembering the May Day and July 5 turn-outs of recent years, it was encouraging to see not only the S.A.M.W.U. taking the lead again, but the S.A.E.D. and F.A. with their banner supporting it, as also the B.W.I.U., A.S.W., A.B.T.U., and A.E.U. represented, though not by banners; the S.A.L.P. was represented by an M.L.A., and the rear of the procession was brought up as usual by the one body that never misses any of these occasions, the Communists, under both the Communist Party and the Young Communist League banners.

UNION OF UNIONS.

As regards Trade Unions, we seemed to see the rudiments of a new and genuine rapprochement between the Rand organisations for matters of common interest. We hope those Trade Union elements that co-operated last Sunday will co-operate again, and with others, not only for such comparatively ceremonial occasions (although even in this regard it would be desirable for all concerned to agree on one annual Martyrs' Memorial Day and to insist on the allotment of that site and the erection of that working class cenotaph for which funds have already been collected) but also to handle the big and urgent tasks awaiting the attention of organised labour as a whole, including a general revival of interest, not so much in Trade Union routine as such, but in the class struggle of which the conduct naturally falls on the Unions.

HAVE WE FORGIVEN?

And here it may justly, we think, be pointed out that, despite a few notorious exceptions, the familiar contrast between class conscious rank and file and reactionary union officials is not, on the whole, justified on the Rand, where officials have repeatedly been more "extremist," as the enemy would call it, than the rank and file. It was the absence of the great body of Trade Unionists, for instance, that was most marked on Sunday. Not that the average worker is just apathetic, or has forgotten or forgiven the monstrous crimes of the ruling class; it is fear of victimisation that keeps him back. As for the police, although they are only tools, yet we could not help thinking that Mr. Sampson's allusions to them as our "friends"—he was speaking of the S.A. Police, not those of Melbourne—jarred somewhat on an assembly which we feel sure still recalls with the very fiercest resentment the part played by those minions last year. For if ever crime cried out for punishment, the crimes of the capitalist class against the workers all over the world shall not be forgotten or forgiven, but are being recorded for eventual punishment.

Short speeches were given by Messrs. W. Price (secretary, S.A.M.W.U.), C. B. Tyler (secretary, B.W.I.U.) and H. W. Sampson, M.L.A., and a resolution was passed requesting the Government to release the nine 1922 strike prisoners still in gaol.

Dr. Abdurahman and Slavery.

The Cape Unemployment Committee has issued a leaflet showing that the Streets and Drainage Committee of the City Council, of which Dr. Abdurahman is the chairman, has applied to the Director of Prisons for the services of 150 convicts for the completion of the High Level Road from Lakeside to Kalk Bay; and that Dr. Abdurahman moved the adoption of this scheme. The wages payable would be £22,000, instead of £100,000 for non-convict (unemployed) labour, and even the £22,000 would not go to the convicts themselves, but to the Prisons Department. Dr. Abdurahman claims that this scheme will open up plots of land at from £150 to £200 per plot; but he does not say how the poor European or coloured man will be able to purchase them.

Cape Unemployment Committee.

Dr. Abdurahman has been astutely sabotaging the work of the Unemployment Committee, and is actually inducing members of the Relief Workers' Union (Unemployed) to hand over to him their union cards, which same cards he flouts against Mr. H. B. Ash, the treasurer of the Committee, in the City Council Chamber, charging him with misusing the funds! Mr. Ash is fighting a lone hand in the Council, and has no greater class conscious opponent than Dr. Abdurahman himself, and we contend that Dr. Abdurahman can be credited with having served the Government in Provincial and City Councils more efficiently than any white man could have done, owing to the fact of the colour sentiment.

A conspiracy is afoot now in the City Council (aided by the plural vote) to get rid of the "Ash" element. They have decided to reduce the Council to 28 from the present number, 42, which means, if the Provincial Council approves, that an election will be necessary in all the seats in September next. With the plural vote and a suitable Press campaign it will be utterly impossible for Labour to gain one single seat.

Whose Fault?

"The world is one welter of apparently insoluble national perplexities, of almost universal popular distresses, and of wholesale despondency before one of the blackest prospects that has ever confronted humanity."—"Cape Times."

Stresemann tells Poincare the state of Germany is his own fault. We tell the whole capitalist gang the state of the whole world is their own fault.

PRICKLY PARS.

By Son Yah.

Providence.

As God seems to be gaining in favour of late, one must be careful what one says about he, she, or it, but the "Star" remark that the escape from death of the passengers on the tram which hit the train the other day was "providential" appears to me (if I dare say it) to be humorous.

Presumably the motorman is to blame for the collision but the good, kind God of bourgeoisdom is to be thanked that no one was killed?

And yet Christians always express the wish to get to the happy home above as soon as possible.

* * *

Vindicated!

After looking at the photograph of the new peer, Lord Robert Cecil, in the "Star," it strikes me as strange, Henry, that people are still to be found who excitedly deny the Darwinian hypothesis.

* * *

Jack the Ripper.

That tenth-rate penny dreadful novelist, W. Le Queux, has produced another classic in which he "proves" (much to Langley Levy's delight) from documents supplied him by Kerensky's Government, that "Jack the Ripper" was an associate of Rasputin and, presumably, in some way connected with Lenin, Trotzky and D. Ivon Jones.

I am old enough Henry, to remember reading the newspaper accounts of the time of the "Whitechapel murders" and, since then, have read weird and wonderful stories of the mysterious murderer. In fact, me boy, I have been interested for years in this fruitful fountain of newspaper dope. Gerard, in 1914, nearly convinced me that the Kaiser and Jack the Ripper were one and the same person. Ethel Snowden, later, almost persuaded me that the Whitechapel murderer could be no other than Lunacharsky. I have had my doubts of Jimmie Green and Bunting in turn but now, after reading the story in the "Sunday Times," I feel certain that the editor of that delectable paper—Mr. Langley Levy—himself a product of Limehouse which lies near to Whitechapel, knows more about the mysterious murders than he cares to say. There is an air of relief in his method of presenting Le Queux' story that seems suspicious to me, and taking that in conjunction with his oft-expressed blood-thirsty views I have confidence in drawing my suspicions to Major Trigger's attention (I know he carefully reads every line of the "International" from which he obtains his "secret" information of Bolshevik activities on the Rand).

Of course, Henry, Langley Levy doesn't LOOK like a murderer, but then—you never know!

* * *

Emily.

Emile Nathan has discovered—after he had dined wisely—that there are Communists on the Rand but—the authorities know about it.

So there!

* * *

Liars and——

While Jannie is busy telling the Dubbs of Britain that there is no unemployment or poverty in Sunny South Africa, Mr. J. Waldie Peirson, K.C., presiding at the last meeting of the South African National Union, talks straight at the "poor whites" in the usual brutal manner of Fat's legal incubi. Says he: "The country could not afford to have so large a quantity of productive labour lying idle. The bulk of these people should be trained to be the good servants of others. They would probably do well under the control of capable and just masters, and would certainly be happier working for another man for a definite, reasonable remuneration. They obtained the latter in a town, and it was that fact which drew them there, but the towns could absorb only a limited number. The 'poor white' must give up a claim for independence on the land, desirable though that may be. It was not a degrading condition to work for others; it was the condition of the greater part of humanity."

So there you—ain't, Henry, me son. And yet Fat has commenced a strenuous Press campaign to force the Government to bring more "poor whites" from overseas. What a brutal, callous crowd they are, but still—you like it Henry, you know you do!

* * *

Twins!

Bishop Furse—who in my private opinion stands supreme as the world's heavy-weight champion of snivelling hypocrisy—has made a characteristic reply to Lord Birkenhead's filthy rectorial address on "Idealism."

Furse designates Birkenhead's address as the 'doctrine of get, grab and keep."

When one remembers the same Furse's sycophantish speech at Lord Gladstone's dinner at the Carlton, and this agent of the "Peaceful Christ's" strike and war activities of 1913 and 1914 on the Rand, one may well write: "The pot calls the kettle black."

* * *

Still At It!

The parsons are going to revise the prayer book again. Why not be honest while they are about it and commence each prayer "O! God Capital!!"

* * *

Romance.

"ROMANCE OF RANDFONTEIN."—"Star" headline.

Yes! we've heard a lot about this "romance" during the J. B. Robinson case, haven't we? Senile old J.B., one foot in the grave, fighting with his dying breath for more money, money, money!!! What a fearful spectacle of the effect of capitalism on a man presumably once a human.

The Pig Market!

The mail papers this week all contain fascinating accounts of the wonderful wedding gown worn by H.R.H. Princess Maud. It was, according to the "Daily Mirror," fashioned of white georgette and covered with thousands of tiny seed pearls, and "striped" with long lines of white crystal beads, outlined with silver bugles.

The 12ft. train that fell from the shoulders was of cloth of silver, veiled with silver net, beautifully embroidered with silver threads.

Instead of the ordinary bridal veil, Princess Maud wore a cap of silver embroidered net, caught over the ears with sprigs of white heather, with a long panel of the silver net falling over her train at the back.—"Star."

And millions starve while these useless, expensive, royal parasites carry on like this in derision.

Hold my hand, Henry, I can't——!

* * *

Hurrah!

"During cross-examination he exclaimed, 'May Almighty God punish me with instant death if I am guilty,' and immediately collapsed.

"Doctors certified that his death was due to heart failure.—'Sunday Times' Special."

It isn't often nowadays that the parsons get such a hand-out as that. Hope they'll work it for all it's worth, but "God strike me dead" is a common Australian expression.

* * *

The Wedding.

Big Mary and her man (Geordie Von Wettin-Windsor) were present at the wedding of Princess Maud.

She married a millionaire, so the old lady was quite satisfied. The family is doing all right, thank you!

* * *

Legal Logic.

Mr. Justice Krause calls the colour bar as applied to machinery regulations "unreasonable, capricious, and even arbitrary."

And here is an extract from the final report of the Mining Regulations Commission of which MR. JUSTICE KRAUSE WAS CHAIRMAN:—

"The question of the employment of natives on skips, winches, and as signallers, etc., was carefully considered by the Commission, and it is of opinion that wherever the safety of life and limb is concerned only competent white persons should be employed."

* * *

Our Pet.

"On the last day but one of the voyage, the Prince took a turn in the stokehold. He wore a fireman's overalls and shovelled coal for two hours."—"The Star."

For two real hours, Henry. Fancy! When is the funeral to be?

* * *

The Cheque Frauds.

A. S. Benson, "handwriting investigator" and trained lawyer, was small potatoes in the hands of the prisoner Webb.

I wonder how long even bourgeoisdom will allow the "handwriting" and police dogs farce to be played?

* * *

Outcast.

The ex-Duke of Cumberland is dead, Henry. He was a cousin of King George but, being a German, he was patriotic to his own country during the war and his English title was taken from him.

Geordie von Wettin-Windsor knew a trick worth two of that, Henry—eh?

* * *

Capital "I."

"I ask the electors of the Cape Province to show by their vote that they approve the stand I have made for peace and restoration in Europe."—Jannie Smuts.

Y'see, Henry, Poincare, Baldwin, and all the world were watching the Cape provincial elections.

* * *

Deserter.

Jackie Fisher, British Admiral, deserted in the face of the enemy, notwithstanding a direct command from King Geordie to remain at his post. So says Winston.

It's a good job Jackie was one of them. Had he been an A.B. he would have got short shrift.

* * *

Holies.

We are taught to refer to "High Finance" with bated breath, aren't we, Henry? It's a thing we working men can never understand, isn't it? And yet idiots, of a long line of idiots, occasionally become Ministers of Finance. Again a "military genius" is a superhuman being, eh? Ludendorff is one and so is Jannie Smuts—Ludendorff because for 4½ years he successfully combatted a man power of 29 to 1 against his nation, and Jannie because with 60,000 troops he defeated 21 partly-armed miners besieged in a lavatory in Fordsburg. Now Ludendorff is defeated and captured in an hour or two, while the new S.A.P. (Smuts and Poincare) war is about to be staged—if the working class allow it. Great is (newspaper) reputation, but the fact is that history's greatest military giants have been uneducated, untrained men. Which proves that it's the backing that counts.

"MOUTHPIECES."

A Specimen of Chamber of Mines "Native" Journalism.

The "East Rand Express," a Benoni paper, recently reproduced an article from what it called "the official mouthpiece of the native organisations," apparently in an endeavour to show that the Communists, who had been unsuccessful in opposing a Mine Secretary in the Benoni Municipal elections, were equally unacceptable to the native workers. Mrs. Chapman contested a ward so "mine-bound" that the Labour Party did not even attempt it; a ward even worse than those of Springs, also left uncontested by the Labour Party, where a mine worker living on the property DARE NOT EVEN GO TO VOTE UNLESS HE IS INVITED TO DO SO BY AGENTS OF THE MINE MANAGEMENT—and we know the types that would alone receive such an invitation. It is notorious that in such constituencies the results of an election are no indication of the feelings of the workers. But we are here concerned to show that such indication is just as little afforded, in the case of native workers, by the "native" organ in question.

THE CHAMBER'S MOUTHPIECE.

This organ calls itself "Umteteli wa Bantu: the Mouthpiece of the Native Peoples"; but IT IS RUN BY THE NATIVE RECRUITING CORPORATION, having offices in the Chamber of Mines Building, where its editing and publishing are controlled. So little is this a secret that in order to arrange for an exchange copy of the paper we naturally went to this Chamber of Mines office and fixed the matter up with one of the Recruiting Corporation officials, who spoke of it as "my own paper." In short and in common parlance, "Umteteli" is, more even than the "Star," an official organ not even of the natives whom the Chamber of Mines recruits, but of the Chamber itself. True, just as Crawford writes for the "Star," so Umteteli wa Bantu is contributed to pretty frequently by native writers who are reputed to be leaders of their people; but that they should stoop to do so (no doubt not always gratuitously) is a perfectly well known and characteristic phenomenon under capitalism, and only emphasises the true nature of the paper and the necessity for "watching your (b)leaders."

To the workers, black or white, it should be obvious that PRAISE FROM SUCH AN ORGAN IS IPSO FACTO CONDEMNATION, and its condemnation praise—unless indeed, with all their experience, they still believe that the interest of the Chamber of Mines coincides with their own!

AN ENEMY OF TRADE UNIONS.

"Umteteli," for its part, makes no such stupid error. As a Chamber organ, it detests the Trade Unions. This is confirmed by a perusal of its articles on the recent proposal to admit the native mine workers to the S.A.M.W.U., and on the 1921 resolution of the Trade Union Congress favouring at any rate local option as regards coloured and native membership of Unions.

"All white and black South Africa," it wrote on the 1921 resolution, i.e., a year before the 1922 strike, "would WELCOME THE DOWNFALL OF TRADE UNIONISM as we have lately known it, and will rejoice at the admission of insecurity" implied in the resolution. "WE HOLD AN UNCONQUERABLE DISTRUST OF TRADE UNIONISM."

Again: "The S.A.M.W.U.," it wrote a couple of weeks ago, "has an unwholesome record. Its history is punctuated by disgusting events contrived by nauseating persons."

This, if you please, is the paper that calls W. H. Andrews "the foulest writer in South Africa," and passes judgment on what is or is not "a model of British journalism"! And now Mr. Boydell too, as representing "The Guardian," has earned the august "mistrust" of this Chamber organ. In short, it seems to mistrust nearly everybody. No wonder its "editor has gone on a much-needed holiday for a few weeks"!

A COMPETITOR WITH FARMERS.

It apparently "mistrusts" the farmers too. It has sometimes been put about by these Chamber of Mines apologists that the native workers' worst enemy is the white trade union; but "Umteteli," when its argument requires, is quite able also to say "THE FARMER IS THE NATIVE'S WORST ENEMY" and "against no class of employer is it more justifiable for the native to unite than against the farmer"; although to be sure it will twist again to reassure the "tremulous readers of the Mail," scared at the news of a farm labourers' union near the Western Transvaal border, by saying: "Native industrial and agricultural unions are inevitable . . . but a native farm labourers' union is at present an impossible thing, and AS UNNECESSARY AS IMPOSSIBLE. Neither Chief Isang nor his people will attempt to make capital out of a native Trade Unio—at that very time he voluntarily sent 100 of his people to Zeerust for distribution to farmers"; tipping the wink to its class, as it were, with an "of course, we don't really mean anything to endanger 'white supremacy'; WE ARE PERFECTLY 'SOUND' ON THE 'NATIVE QUESTION,' don't you know; only, as between farmer and Chamber of Mines, we are a Recruiting Corporation for the mines, we want to get 'boys' for the mines even at the expense of the farmer, and our business is to persuade them that it is better to work for the mines than for the farmers. Besides, it tickles them to hear the farmers castigated, it makes them forget their score against the mineowners. That's all."

DUST IN THE BLACK WORKERS' EYES.

The farmer knowing this would naturally in his turn "mistrust" the Native Recruiting Corporation. How much more will the white worker mistrust it. He will at once see through the whirlwind of dust which "Umteteli" endeavours to throw in the eyes of the black workers in order to discredit the S.A.M.W.U. proposal with them.

Thus it attributes to the S.A.M.W.U. in 1923, as it did to the S.A.I.F. in 1921, all sorts of "motives." The S.A.I.F. resolution was passed "with a view to seeing how the natives may be effectively muzzled"—THIS FROM THE PEOPLE WHO THEMSELVES HAD JUST "MUZZLED" the natives pretty effectively at Village Deep and Port Elizabeth and were to repeat the "gesture" at Bulhoek and G.S.W.A.! "The unions are finding the native a factor inimical to their selfish interests and to their aim to preserve the South African labour market to themselves. . . . They hope that they may succeed in transferring the exploitation of the natives from the capitalists to themselves"—and the native would of course much rather be exploited by capitalists, it's more genteel like! The S.A.M.W.U., we learn to-day, are the very men who "murdered natives" last year—though was it not Percy Fisher who, when the natives were attacked, immediately ordered the hooligans concerned (who were MUCH MORE LIKE POLICE TOOLS THAN TRADE UNION STRIKERS) to desist! "The 'bloody nigger' of 1922 is the 'black brother' of 1923"—but so far as this is so, HAS NOT ENOUGH TRANSPIRED MEANWHILE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE CHANGE?

WARNING THEM OFF!

And this parasite organ, which cynically enough contains a lot of religious matter for its dupes, plays much on the "atheism" of "Moscow," and says "It would be fatal to the natives' industrial activities to be associated with unscrupulous whites in South Africa or with blasphemous and bloody-handed Bolsheviks in Russia"—of course it doesn't like Bolsheviks, who have TRANSFERRED, not the exploitation of natives, but the RUSSIAN MINES themselves FROM THE URQHUARTS TO THE WORKERS! "The Bantu should be modest; thrifty and industrious," and "is against the subversion of constituted authority"—but he passed a resolution to haul down the British flag, didn't he!" The natives must "avoid the arrogance and unreason which have contributed so largely to the present pitiable condition of the S.A.M.W.U. . . They will realise the inevitable strangulation of the native industrialist if the white unions are permitted to work their will"—and by the way it is strange to find the "Umteteli" pot calling the "Sunday Times" kettle black for "making trouble between white and black"! The only difference between them is that the "Times" and "Mail" warn the white miners against BEING SWAMPED BY THE BLACKS, while "Umteteli" warns the black miners against BEING SWAMPED BY THE WHITES! Of course the two "warnings" neutralise each other, and in any case both are worthless and transparently dictated by the Chamber of Mines' OBVIOUS DREAD LEST CO-OPERATION OR COMMON ORGANISATION BETWEEN THE TWO SHOULD ACTUALLY COME ABOUT. As the "Mail" says, the "extremists" who want to organise the natives must be turned out of the S.A.M.W.U. "before the latter will be 'recognised' by the Chamber"; exactly; and no doubt "Umteteli" agrees. Just like the "Times" and "Mail," it also waves the "Ivon Jones" bogy; it positively loathes "Bolshevism," and loves Fascist castor oil; and it quotes with approval both a native canvasser for the S.A.P. and that noted nigrophile, Brother Pohl.

WHO ARE THE FALSE NIGROPHILES?

We have cited enough for the present to show how little respect our contemporary deserves from either black or white workers, and how on the contrary, when it advocates one policy, that is in itself good reason for them to adopt the contrary. Most of its propaganda against co-operation of white and black could be equally, or rather far more properly, levelled against Joint Councils and Dutch Reformed Conferences, and in particular against the pseudo friendship for natives of the Chamber, and "Umteteli" itself. Who believes for a moment that this paper is issued from altruistic motives, and not "with a view to seeing how the natives may be most effectively" exploited, and muzzled during the process; to "aiming at preserving control of the South African labour market for" the Chamber—the Chamber, for whom the "black brother of 1922" is really the "bloody nigger" ALL THE TIME, beloved only for the profit he produces. "IT IS FATAL FOR THE NATIVES' INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH UNSCRUPULOUS WHITES IN SOUTH AFRICA OR WITH BLASPHEMOUS AND BLOODY HANDED" MAGNATES WHETHER IN SOUTH AFRICA OR IN EUROPE; and "THE STRANGULATION OF THE NATIVE INDUSTRIALIST IS INEVITABLE IF THE CHAMBER IS PERMITTED TO WORK ITS WILL."

The miners' proposal is certainly no self-denying ordinance. Not the selfish interest of a particular section, however, but the common interest of all the working class in overthrowing the power of the Chamber and its organs—THAT IS THE "INTERESTED MOTIVE" BEHIND IT. It was said that the Communist Party organised the unemployed "for its own ends." True, for its ends were the same as those of the unemployed. So the white and the black mine workers' objectives are fundamentally the same, and the living of both is equally threatened by the Chamber. That is why they should join forces "for the preservation" (which "Umteteli" obviously grudges) "of their industrial existence."

Russian State Industries.

The Russian Soviet State is the LARGEST INDUSTRIAL OWNER IN THE WORLD. Nowhere else in the world is there so gigantic an industrial enterprise controlled by one body. Even the big trusts of the United States appear small when compared with the extent of Russian State industry, covering as it does a million workers in productive industry alone.

The stimulation of big industry that has taken place during the last year can be particularly ascribed to the following important causes:—

(1) Cheap Bread.—During 1917-1922 scarcity and dearness of bread inflicted great hardship on the industrial workers, and correspondingly hampered industrial production. During the past year bread has been abundant and cheap. According to the index of the State Planning Commission the relation of prices on October 1, 1922, to those of pre-war was expressed by the figure 1.02. ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1923, THE FIGURE WAS .46.

(2) Increased urban population.

(3) Increased Demand.—The good harvest of 1922 caused a greatly increased demand for manufactures.

(4) Increased State Credits.—The great improvement in the State finances has been used primarily for THE BENEFIT OF STATE INDUSTRY. The total value of goods bought by the State from the State industries amounted during the last year to 300,000,000 gold roubles. Apart from this about 140,000,000 to 150,000,000 gold roubles were assigned in the Budget as a subsidy for the development of different branches of State industry, chiefly coal, oil, and metal.

The result of the improved conditions is seen in the increased production during the last year. The official figures for ten months only from October 1, 1922, show a production valued, at pre-war prices, at 861 million gold roubles, while preliminary figures for the value of the total year's production amount to 1,118,000 gold roubles. This represents AN INCREASE OF THIRTY-FIVE PER CENT. on the total production of 829,000,000 gold roubles during the year 1921-22.

On the other hand, there will still be a deficit on the working of heavy industry, largely due to the high capital expenditure involved in restoration, but it will be less than during the previous year.

The increased production has had also its reflection in the increased wage of the industrial workers. WHILE ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE WAGES HAVE DECREASED OR REMAINED STATIONARY, IN RUSSIA THERE HAS BEEN DURING THE YEAR A PRONOUNCED AMELIORATION OF THE LOT OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

The latest figures show that the average wage has increased from 6.4 in October, 1922, to 12.75 goods roubles. This represents about fifty-eight per cent. of the pre-war level, a low enough figure but one greatly above that of 1921-22.

The INCREASED STATE INCOME HAS LARGELY BEEN EXPENDED IN WAGES.

It is, however, evidence of the confidence with which the position of State industry is regarded that drastic reduction of State credits is contemplated for the coming year, in spite of which it is estimated that there will be an increase of ten per cent. in output.

Patriotism or Solidarity?

The quarrel between the French and British "patriots" is throwing a good deal of needed light upon the subject of "patriotism." French patriotism is trying to strangle Germany, whilst British patriotism desires the cash value of Germany's life. The London "Spectator," speaking for the British burglar patriots, is horrified at the conduct of the burglar patriots of France. "The evaluation," it says, "in terms of hard cash of the heroic efforts which the Allies put forth during the war, according to their several capacities, has always seemed to us rather odious." That is surely delicious. Even the famous Mr. Dooley of Chicago could not beat it for sheer, effortless humour. We cannot refrain from a slight transposition of these ponderous phrases, which we believe would better represent the facts of the peace and war. "The evaluation in terms of heroic effort of the hard cash which the Allies fought for during the war, according to their several capacities, has always seemed to us rather odious."—"The Catholic Magazine" (Capetown).

* * *

Civilisation is dying of patriotism, and everybody knows it. Patriotism has become a trumpet which summons together all the most stupid and ignoble devils that can inhabit the human breast. Read the verbatim report of the Pemberton-Billing case, if you want to recall what asses patriotism can make average men. If you want to remind yourself how completely it destroys ordinary chivalry and humanity in even ardent Christians, look up a letter which the Bishop of London wrote during the war, written, not to excuse, but to justify as fine fellows, those bewildered fishermen who were too frightened to save a drowning Zeppelin crew.—"The New Statesman."

* * *

The trend of feeling prevailing amongst the French Ruhr troops with regard to the German proletariat is to be seen by the fact that French soldiers in the Ruhr area are continuing to collect funds for the German workers. As recently reported by Comrade Vaillant-Couturier in "Humanite," 33 million marks and 27 French francs were again lately collected for this purpose from French soldiers in one section of the Ruhr area. The sum is modest; but in view of the very slender pecuniary resources of the French soldier, the mere fact of the collection is in itself a significant expression of international solidarity.

Loving Your Enemies.

Comrade E. P. Beer writes from Adelaide on the 1st inst.:—In a previous letter I described the fear there is throughout Australia that the Russian wheat would capture the European wheat trade. Well, to-day's papers with large headlines are drawing attention to the fact that Russia has chartered 286 steamers for exports from Black Sea ports, of which 150 will load wheat. Recently the Press was jubilant that no such exports were possible.

Any limitation of oversea markets for Australian products will intensify the economic position that has already become so acute that one paper said "the Australians can't afford to live in Australia." Everywhere there is a super-abundance of products with prohibitive prices. Rat has nearly reached the limit of exploitation, and all the Governments contemplate an election as a way out. As if the shuffling of the cards could ensure the success of a crooked game!

* * *

(Comrade Beer encloses two Press cuttings, one a burlesque description of Russia's woes, "streets infested with murderers," "terrible experiences on the way to Riga," etc., just a lie calling for no remark; the other a protest by Billy Hughes, the ex-Premier, against British banks financing a Russo-British grain export company. What about "Empire development," then? says he; this is a smack in the face for Australia, and will not relieve cost of living, or unemployment, or British export trade stagnation, half as much as if the money had been invested in Australian wheat-growing. British financiers, he complains, seem to "prefer an alien who has sworn the destruction of their order to a kinsman and faithful ally of Britain."

Australia too will soon learn that there is neither political nor economic nexus between British finance and the colonial "democracies" in particular; it is simply a case of tie main chance.)

The "Nepmen" of Russia.

By "Anise" (Staff Writer, Federated Press, U.S.A.).

I spent to-day
Among the NEPMEN of Russia,
The NEW bourgeoisie,
The profit-makers,
In a summer hotel
Out from Moscow.

* * *

The day was not entirely
PLEASANT
It was for me a bit disgusting
To see folks spend so much time
EATING.
They were as stupid animals
As respectable bourgeoisie anywhere,
And I had grown used
To LIVING people.

* * *

And yet they had, it seemed,
A certain life,
Which was mostly kicking
At the Government.
They said: "It is true
We have COMFORT,
But it cost me 70 dollars
To hire an automobile
For a single Sunday's pleasure,
And these children's homes
Get them for NOTHING;
We never know what TAXES
Will hit us,
Or how long our comfort
Will continue;
Everything
Is terribly UNCERTAIN."

* * *

And I thought: "Uncertainty,
The terror of the workers
In every land,
Is the terror of the Nepmen here."
And they said: "When these folks
Make LAWS
To limit our rights and power
It's no use paying a lawyer
To EVADE them.
For their judges go not
By the letter of the law
But by the law's intention:
They punish you as much
For sneaking ROUND it
As for any other way
Of breaking it."

* * *

But a woman said sadly;
"The WORST
Is the way our CHILDREN leave us;
My daughter has joined
The COMMUNISTS;
It took her two years' probation;
They made it very hard,
Suspecting her
Because she was the daughter
Of a BOURGEOIS,
But she stuck to it
And lefe us,
And has no use at all
For our whole way of living."

* * *

Said a man: "The best of them go.
My youngest son has joined them:
He will accept from me nothing.
He's right; I'm a useless old fellow,
Enslaved by food and comfort.
I shall die grumbling over taxes
And the prices these Bolsheviks charge me;
But it's something to know.
That my children
Will be BUILDING
This great new country."

Moscow, July, 1923.

WHAT ABOUT RENEWING YOUR SUB. TO THE "INTERNATIONAL"?

"None so Blind," etc.

Professor Charles Sarolea, having once written a book about what he then called "Great Russia," has been indulging in the new somewhat fly-blown custom of writing "traveller's tales" about that country. It was 18 years since his last visit to Moscow, so he cannot as a sightseer estimate recent changes or improvements as compared with the latter days of Tsarism. "There are far more officials than before the war." Of course, the bulk of production and distribution is now a State concern. "There are even more beggars in the streets"; the universal dictum among old Muscovites is that there are considerably fewer. "The enormous majority of the people are in rags." An absurd exaggeration; but if "in rags" means very roughly dressed, then correct: a Russian habit. "In Germany the tourist has to look out for evidence of poverty." Let Professor Sarolea speak for himself; others find it only too palpable. "All classes have been brought down to the same dead level of poverty"; certainly equality begins with poverty, but the level is anything but "dead," it is "rising again." "A large number of free theatre seats are reserved for Bolshevist officials"; no, a small percentage are reserved for Trade Union allottees, etc.

"Petrograd," again, "is a dying town after six years of Soviet Rule." Rather say, after six years of continued threat of hostile attack, a threat which still continues and will continue for long yet. "The gambling hells point to the corruption and dissolution of the revolutionary regime." No, they point to the existence of the "Nepmen," under the "new economic policy" which, with the rest of the world still capitalist, has proved a necessary stage actually strengthening the revolutionary regime. It is from the Nepmen's ranks that the gamblers are mainly drawn, and the Government rightly makes them pay for their vices.

The Professor is evidently a snob, as everyone who resides in British middle-class circles is bound to become sooner or later. He is shocked at a countess slinging drinks! That indicates the viewpoint from which he judges Soviet Russia.

The value of his criticism, and the respect which the "observations" of a Professor deserve, are sufficiently indicated in the following: "In the republic of Anti-Christ, where even schoolboys have to make a public profession of atheism, Christian churches are taboo." That is just about the limit of grotesque mendacity about a city with more churches to the square mile than even an Australian town, and crowded at that, and with a population of whom 90 per cent. at least (including school children) are religious and practise their religion in complete freedom, as everybody knows but this Professor, who doesn't want to know.

Strike Prisoners' Release Committee.

Head—Strike Prisoners' Release Committee.

The Committee reports that the signed petitions so far received, containing 10,824 signatures, have now been forwarded to the Governor-General, and a deputation of the Committee is proceeding to Pretoria to interview the Minister while the Governor is in Pretoria.

Another Mayor's meeting was held last Friday, this time at Brakpan, when a resolution requesting the Government to release the prisoners was moved by Mr. R. B. Waterston, M.L.A., seconded by Mr. R. V. Acton, M.P.C., and supported by Councillor Price and Mr. R. Tennent (secretary, S.A.E.D. and F.A.) and carried unanimously by a very large audience. The resolution has been forwarded to the Minister of Justice.

A similar resolution was carried by last Sunday's big assembly at the Brixton Cemetery, and has also been forwarded to the authorities.

A number of resolutions by Trade Union Branches, etc., have also been sent with the petition.

High hopes are entertained of the early release of the prisoners.

Australian Labour and Salvation Army Stunts.

Salvation Army advertisements inserted in the British Press to the effect that work at good wages is guaranteed to those who immigrate to Australia have been challenged by the New South Wales Labour Council.

The Council has appointed a deputation to wait upon the Salvation Army administrators in Australia and ask just where these jobs exist. In the event of the result being unsatisfactory, the Salvation Army will be asked to cable to England requesting that the advertisements be withdrawn.

Mr. Ramsbottom, lecturing to the W.E.A., says that democracy must learn the brotherhood of man before it presumes to control foreign affairs. How then do the present controllers manage? He also says that such democratic control would really mean Press control. But is it not a commonplace of diplomatists to-day to rest their case on the "public opinion" of their respective countries, and is not the Press used to create that opinion accordingly? The point is, as always, not whether every Tom, Dick or Harry is competent to be Foreign Minister, but what class interest controls the Government, Foreign Office and Press. "Experts," as we have had repeated evidence in recent years, are simply tools in the hands of the governing interest.

* * *

The "Sunday Times" has got news of another musician who "escaped from the Bolsheviks" last year, and is now creating a furore in New York. He is only 18 years old. WHERE DID HE LEARN TO PLAY? Why, presumably in "barbarous" Russia! No doubt he is a product of "Bolshevism," and is now touring the world as most artists do, and certainly without hindrance on the part of the Soviets. Mr. Chilvers can put that in his pipe and smoke it.

Professorial Politicians.

"I chatter over stony ways . . . I chatter, chatter as I flow."—The Brook.

The more complete "segregation" is, the more impossible it is; and the more partial, the more useless. Thus far we agree with Prof. Brookes, whose paper on the subject read before the recent D.R.C.-cum-native conference is now reprinted. In these circumstances there is really nothing more to say on the matter, but Mr. Brookes "goes on," if not "for ever." Doing so, he for once, although a Professor, sticks to his last, "Politics"; but he suffers from a too exclusively South African view of politics, and especially, being a professor, from the bourgeois refusal to even imagine any other politics or social system but the bourgeois one.

GOD-GIVEN SERVANTS TO "US."

And so we get from him too, for the blacks, something not very different from the bland pronouncement of the Chancellor of the Church Diocese of Johannesburg, Mr. Waldie Pierson, for the whites (BLACK AND WHITE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT NOWADAYS), viz., that "the bulk of the poor whites should be trained TO BE THE GOOD SERVANTS OF OTHERS. They must give up a claim for independence on the land. It is not a degrading condition to work for others; it is the condition of the greater part of humanity"—i.e., to work for US, the smaller and ever decreasing part of humanity. (Thankee, sir, most kindly; but that is just why those parts of the world where this working for the few is still the regime are in such a "welter of decay and dissatisfaction.") Similarly our Professor also enlists celestial support for the same regime. "It is God that put blacks and whites together in South Africa," he artlessly observes. Why not also in Australia, then, a large part of which enjoys a similar climate; and why not in a hundred other parts of the world where the same delectable result might ensue? For why did God do this? BECAUSE HE THEREBY ENABLED "US"—EUROPEANS TO LIVE "THE GOOD LIFE" (useful people to quote, those unctuous old Greek philosophers who also had to justify helotry and slavery) while the natives are "necessary" to "us" and willing to work for "us" (even the white worker and his wife, he says, would not like to do without a Kaffir servant). HOW NICE! as our late Comrade Hanscombe used to say. And yet what a triumph of dope that THIS "WHITE SOUTH AFRICA" GOD is actually preached among the said natives themselves, just as the landlords' god is preached among Mr. Waldie Pierson's poor whites, with stunning success!

PARISH PUMP SEGREGATION.

Professor Brookes alludes darkly to a whole crop of questions making up "the native problem" (for "us"), but does not specify any of them except the world-shaking lower middle class question of natives on trams! However, he does also speak of "the problem of colour competition" (chiefly, we presume, competition with the white worker) and is provincial enough, being a "true South African," to say that complete segregation (if only it were possible) IN THIS LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD would solve that problem! As if colour competition as competition, i.e., cheap labour competition, were not the normal condition under capitalism all over the world, and not only between white and coloured but between white and white and between coloured and coloured! Why, even taking the African continent only and ignoring the rest of the world, does he really think "segregation" in this shank-end could appreciably lessen the "competition" of the other hundred million Africans? THE CHEAP LABOURER COMPETES NOT JUST WITH HIS NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR, BUT WITH HIS FELLOW-WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE.

Mr. Brookes' remedy is to have some all-white areas, some all-black areas, and some neutral areas "where the free play of (capitalist) economic forces would be allowed." Again, How nice! But (subject to Col. Creswell's well-known arguments) where in the capitalist world is that free play not "allowed" now, and where does he imagine it ever will be "not allowed"? And is it not just this that causes the trouble? Anyway, you can't abolish it in one parish and retain it in the next; YOU MUST ABOLISH IT ALTOGETHER FROM THE WORLD.

ONLY A BOURGEOIS PROBLEM.

Again, he evidently grudges the black any such "black areas," for he is against increasing these because they bring land now producing "for exchange" back to "production for subsistence." Is native production only for subsistence? What about the "black areas" where rubber is produced under the conditions described by Mr. E. D. Morel, for instance? Anyhow, all the talk nowadays, including Mr. Brookes' own, is in favour of "improving native agriculture" so that it may produce no longer for subsistence but for exchange; i.e., for profit (though usually not the producer's own profit). But why grudge production for subsistence? Is production to be approved only in so far as it is for profit?

That of course is the bourgeois postulate; and it is because of its bourgeois postulates that bourgeois talk of solving the "native problem" is only so much floundering. Only with a system of production for use, production by the whole producing population for the use of the whole producing population, of the whole world eventually, and only with the elimination of the entire regime of profit for a small class (called "us"), will this "crop of problems" disappear—"colour" competition, miscegenation (a result of the master and servant division of society), land grabbing and land hunger, cheap and dear labour, inequality of standard of civilisation (for socialism will not tolerate a settled state of barbarism-in-perpetuity for the bulk of the workers)—yes, we shall even have no tramriders' problem.

Incidentally Professor Brookes' scheme compels him to fly in the face of a very popular slogan. Echoing some farmer elements, he wants the blacks to monopolise agricultural work, while "the destiny of the poor white is in urban areas and in industries." But we thought the accepted bourgeois solution of the "poor white problem" was to "put 'em on the land"!

The Import of Events in Bulgaria.

(By G. Zinoviev.)

When the first reports arrived regarding the September insurrection in Bulgaria, it almost appeared as if the Bulgarian Communists, who were too late in taking action in June, had been too hasty in September. But it has now been ascertained that they found themselves in the dilemma of either succumbing without a struggle beneath the blows of Zankoff's savage persecution, or of exposing themselves to the possibility of a serious defeat by refusing to back out of fight at the moment when the Fascist Government had resolved upon the annihilation of the Communist Party. Our Bulgarian brother party chose the latter course. And this was the right course, so far as it is possible to judge it from a distance. It did not carry off a direct victory. It suffered heavy losses, but it did not give way without a struggle. It showed not only the workers, but also the peasantry, that it is ready to place itself at the head of all the revolutionary forces in the country for the purpose of emancipating the country from the yoke of the bourgeoisie. All reports reaching us from Bulgaria go to show that the Bulgarian Communist Party, despite the severe defeat, has gained greatly in revolutionary prestige, especially in the villages. The September defeat is one of those defeats bearing within them the inevitability of the coming victory.

The Bulgarian Communist Party, having corrected its doctrinary error, has opened out the path for victory in the near future. In a country like Bulgaria it is impossible for any single regime to rule in opposition to a peasantry with a revolutionary ideology, a peasantry which has recognised the necessity of joining forces with the workers and their Communist Party. A period of intense partisan war is beginning; this will spread steadily, and end with the victory of the workers and peasants.

The Bulgarian events in June-September, 1923, are of profound significance, not only for Bulgaria, but for the general estimate of the importance of the peasantry. Together with a working class led by the Communist Party, the peasantry is everything. Without the working class, and endeavouring to take up an intermediate "independent" position between the bourgeoisie and the working class, the peasantry is nothing. And every such endeavour leads to the open dictatorship of unbounded landowning reaction. Peasants of all countries, learn a lesson from the sufferings of Bulgaria! The experience gained in Bulgaria must become the property of the active section of the peasantry of the whole world. The Communists must utilise this experience for opening the eyes of the peasants whom the bourgeois and petty bourgeois parties make use of demagogically for their own ends.

Class elements essentially hostile to the peasantry invariably try to gain a hold over the peasants, and the Communists must reply to this with intense propaganda for the workers' and peasants' government, and must make it clear to the active section of the peasantry of the whole world that the peasantry can only defend its real interests when allied to the working people of the towns. This is the import of the Bulgarian events.

This lesson is extremely difficult, and has been dearly bought. May it be of service to the Communist Parties of the whole world.

The Great Secret.

The wonderful Dundonald war "secret" now published by the delectable Winston Churchill "for the first time" was fully discussed by the leading British Socialist papers during the war. The "secret" only serves to show what dirty, murderous dogs the capitalists and militarists are, but when Winston mentions the fraudulent activities of the Admiral Dundonald, it brands himself (Winston) as even beneath the filth of British bourgeoisdom—if that is possible.

For a man belonging to a family with the Churchill history to attempt to politely blacken the character of another man's ancestry is about the Irish limit.

Our noble and governing families are a sorry lot, but the Churchills are the sorriest of them all, and time seems to bring no change.

The British Labour Party is challenging Marx with its programme of nationalisation, etc., without a proletarian dictatorship. "A commonwealth co-operative service, scientific organisation of industry and control of public utilities" without the necessary condition of a workers' government or any muzzling of the bourgeoisie! Nationalisation of land without confiscation of land! Well, well. Experience teaches.

* * *

Mr. Sampson, speaking at the graves of the executed strikers last Sunday, declared that he would use his last breath to get the Government out of office (we hope lungs will be enough) and would, to that end, "make a Pact with the devil himself." But with the Communists? Oh, hang it, come, I say you know!

COMMUNIST PARTY NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

Next Wednesday, November 28, Comrade Neppe will take up his lecture on "The Ants' Republic"

Members are asked to bring their friends to these discussions.

The Branch Executive meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. sharp at No. 4, Trades Hall.

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YOUNG COMMUNIST NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

At its meeting last Tuesday the Johannesburg branch of the Y.C.L. discussed "the necessity of bringing the native youth within the Young Communist movement." The following resolution was adopted: "The main task of the Y.C.L. of South Africa is the organisation of the native youth."

Next Tuesday (November 27) the question of "ways and means" will be discussed.

* * *

BENONI BRANCH.

A Social and Dance will be held next Wednesday, November 28, at 8 p.m., at the New Banqueting Hall, Municipal Buildings, Benoni. Tickets, 1/6, including refreshments.

PUBLIC MEETING.

The Benoni branch of the Y.C.L. will hold an open-air meeting to-morrow (Saturday, November 24), "to support and further the propaganda regarding the release of the nine strike prisoners still in gaol."

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YOUNG WORKERS' SPORTING ASSOCIATION.

HIKING SECTION: A hike will take place on Sunday, December 16. Details later.

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Comrade W. Ogterop writes: "What has been the attitude of the children in Johannesburg towards the Armistice Day service? In Benoni, I am proud to say, splendid, the leaflets having left, it seems, a permanent impression on the school children here. Not one of the children of the Benoni schools would stop for the service. This angered the teachers, who told the children that they had no manners."

Trade Unionists, and especially "Red" Trade Unionists, are invited to attend a meeting at No. 4, Trades Hall, this Sunday morning, November 25, at 10.30 a.m. to consider the following agenda:—

Formation of Trades and Labour Councils.
"Back to the Unions."
Trade Union Congress.
Present Position re Organisation of Non-European Workers.

Nos. 26 and 27 (double number) now on Sale.
Price 1/-, postage 2d. extra.
"THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL."
Organ of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, edited by G. Zinoviev and K. Radek.
PRINCIPAL CONTENTS:
Karl Radek: The World Political Situation.
I. Amter: Black Victims of Imperialism.
G. Zinoviev: Lessons of the Bulgarian Coup d'Etat.
K. Radek: The Coup d'Etat in Bulgaria and the Communist Party.
Collapse of the World of Webb.
Politicus: The New Owenites.
Torture of Prisoners (photograph), etc.
The Communist Party (S.A.), Literature Department, 4, Trades Hall, Johannesburg.

THE JUNIOR LABOUR PARTY.

We are asked to announce that a Junior Labour Party has been formed with headquarters at Verona House, corner of Plein and Twist Streets, Johannesburg. It is proposed "to attract young people by means of dances, etc.," and thus win them away from the Junior S.A.P. With this object in view a dance is being held at the Norwegian Hall, De Villiers Street, on December 5.

The Von Brandis branch is the only branch of the J.L.P. at present in existence. It meets every Monday night in Room 3, Verona House.

REGISTRATION OF BUSINESSES ACT, 1909.

Notice is hereby given that the business of Grain Brokers and General Dealers, carried on in co-partnership by Harry Sallis, Mannie Sallis and Shaie Sallis at 69 and 70, Sacke's Buildings, Johannesburg, under the style or firm of H. Sallis, will be dissolved as from the 19th November, 1923, and that the said business will in future be carried on by the said Harry Sallis under the style of H. Sallis.

Johannesburg, 17th November, 1923.

EPHRAIM GLUCKMANN,
Solicitor for H. Sallis.
40, Asher's Buildings,
Joubert Street, Johannesburg.
16/23/30.

All persons having claims against the late Adelaide Hermandine Georgine Hansen (born Olsen) and surviving spouse, August Christian Hansen or their estate are called upon to lodge their claims with the undersigned within one month from the date of publication hereof.

A. C. HANSEN, Executor Testamentary,
60, Auret St., Jeppe, Johannesburg.

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.

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