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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. 394. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 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 the "Mail" is really surpassing itself when it attributes "black unrest" down Port Elizabeth way on a Saturday by implication to a Communist Trade Unionists' meeting on the following day.

* * *

That they must leave it to the "Mail," which calls Ethiopianism "plain Bolshevism," to settle with "Umteteli Wa Bantu," which says the Bolsheviks are anti-native.

* * *

That it is up to all S.A.L.P. branches to ridicule and repudiate the dunghill crowings of some Cape Labourites and secure for South Africa its only chance by ratifying the Pact at their annual conference.

* * *

That Mr. Moore, secretary of N.U.R.A.H.S., agrees with the "International" and themselves when he says that the main achievement of the recent Railway Conference was to "place before the men the" alleged "necessity of their agreeing to a cut in wages"—and get some mugs in their name to agree accordingly.

* * *

That, in that connection, the explanation that when Hoy told a Select Committee last February a railway coach could be built cheaper in South Africa than overseas he was talking of four years ago (although he never told the Committee so, and only used the present tense) is a bit too weak even for Mugs' consumption.

* * *

That it is about on a par with an argument from the same source that natives could not be kept out of white men's jobs once they joined the S.A.M.W.U.—as if they could now!

* * *

Or with Premier Baldwin's argument that because he has resigned his directorships, etc., he is therefore a disinterested politician as regards the steel industry—or any other steal.

* * *

That the Governor-General's refusal to receive a deputation on behalf of the Strike Prisoners will not sweeten his memory after he has gone, and

* * *

That the Minister of Justice's "delay," to put it mildly, in the same matter is liable to be, shall we say, seriously "misinterpreted."

* * *

That they wonder what "Kaffir rising" (even if there ever was such a thing) could equal in savagery the brutal treatment of workers and peasants now the order of the day in Central and South-Eastern Europe at the hands of the exponents of capitalist "civilisation."

* * *

That one of the chief purposes that the British elections are serving is the exposure, beyond hope of further camouflage, of what "Freedom" of the Press really means under capitalism—an exposure which applies to the "Times," "Argus," "Mail," "Star," "Friend," "Mercury," etc., no less than to Rothermere or Beaverbook organs.

* *

That the new condition of admission of an immigrant into Kenya, viz., that his admission must be "in the interest of the natives," is just about the limit in bourgeois cant, being evidently aimed at Indians.

* * *

That the recent hint to Poincare—which he has taken—to "go slow" during the British election not only reveals a contempt for the electorate but also a capitalist combine against Labour, whose success would mean a chance for German emancipation, and is of a piece with the offers of loans by foreign financiers to Stresemann provided he remained in power—although he didn't.

* * *

That simultaneous with the recent rapid growth of the anti-Imperialist vote in South Africa comes the news of its still more rapid growth, and on a hundred times larger scale, in India, where the Swaraj manifesto said "the British are in India for selfish reasons and to exploit the country by keeping Indians subservient."

* * *

That Chicherin hasn't done with the Swiss bourgeoisie yet.

French Press to be Officially Subsidised.

Shell Oil and Standard Oil own a large portion of the French Press and it now appears that the French Government is providing 8,000,000 francs (8 million) annually for the circulation of French information abroad. The money is to be handled in a similar manner to secret service funds and not subject to public justification. So, taking it all round, the French Press will be quite reliable—won't it?

—"S.A. Review."

Help for the Starving!

The Foreign Committee of the International Workers' Relief, now provisionally established in Zurich, has issued the following manifesto over the following signatures among a number of others:—Clara Zetkin, Prof. Oesterreich, Dr. Alfons Paquet, Prof. Eltzbacher, Ernst Toller, Theodor Liebknecht, Willi Munzenberg, and others (Germany); Anatole France, Henry Barbusse, Vaillant Couturier, Andre Marty (France), Henriette Roland-Holst, Edo Fimmen, J. W. Kruyt, J. Brommert (Holland); Martin Anderson Nexo (Denmark); Z. Hoglund and others (Sweden); S. Sievertsen (Norway); J. Matthieu, Pasteel (Belgium); Prof. Forel and others (Switzerland), Smeral, Kreibich (Czecho-Slovakia); Prof. Graziadei, Misiano (Italy); Helen Crawfurd (England); Upton Sinclair, A. Davis (America).

TO THE WORKERS OF THE WHOLE WORLD!

FAMINE ON A COLOSSAL SCALE HAS BROKEN OUT OVER GERMANY. The most important and thickly populated industrial areas of Saxony, Thuringia, the Rhine district, Silesia and Berlin are without means of life.

After supporting four years of hunger in the great war and five years of want and privation since, the working class of Germany finds itself faced to-day with utter void and blank nothingness. Their former privation and malnourishment has now turned into downright, stark, inexorable famine.

MILLIONS OF GERMAN WORKERS WILL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS OR DAYS HAVE PRACTICALLY NOTHING LEFT TO EAT.

MILLIONS OF WIVES AND CHILDREN OF GERMAN WORKERS HAVE TO GO WITHOUT THE BAREST NECESSARIES OF LIFE.

The consequences of this catastrophe are unmistakable. Hundreds of thousands of children are dying, hundreds of thousands are perishing, without hope of recovery, from sickness and disease, the mothers are ailing and no longer able to nourish their children.

Amid the collapse of the German economy and break-up of the German Reich it is the workers and their families who are necessarily the heaviest sufferers; they have to make the greatest sacrifices, they are exposed to the greatest privations.

The grim famine now breaking out over Germany THREATENS TO BE MORE SERIOUS AND MORE DISASTROUS EVEN THAN THE RUSSIAN FAMINE OF 1921. But this catastrophe in Germany is due not, like that in Russia in 1921, to natural causes, it is the result of the bankruptcy of German capitalist leadership, of the collapse of German bourgeois economy. All the more urgent is the need, all the more prompt and generous should be the aid rendered by the workers of the whole world to the victims of German bourgeois policy.

The undersigned committee, which in 1921 organised, with the aid of the working people of the whole world, the great relief movement for the starving workers and peasants of Russia, now directs its most fervent and passionate appeal

to all workers, salaried men, officials, small farmers and peasants, to the producers of all lands, forthwith, without any delay, to organise a mighty relief movement for the rescue of the German workers and their families from starvation.

There is not a day, not an hour to lose. Everywhere, in every town and village, let committees be formed consisting of representatives of every calling, social grade, party and trade or union, to carry out a systematic collection of money, foodstuffs and clothing on a wide scale. The Russian proletariat BEGAN SOME WEEKS AGO ALREADY to repay, twice over, the benefits it received in 1921 from the world proletariat. To-day collections for the German workers are being made IN EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE IN RUSSIA. The workers of America, Australia, Africa and Europe dare not stand aloof. Organise quickly, send assistance at once! Send the first contributions, no matter how small, as speedily as possible to the Head Office of the International Workers' Relief. EVERY HOUR IS PRECIOUS.

The undersigned committee is convinced that to-day, as in 1921, the broad masses of the working class of the world will respond to its appeal and SPRING TO THE AID of the GERMAN WORKERS in a fraternal spirit.

The first results of the collections have reached us: the Relief Movement is already in progress. The committee has already despatched 100,000 CWTS. OF RUSSIAN GRAIN to Berlin, Saxony and Thuringia, which is being distributed free among the destitute and also among those with only a pension and generally persons of small means.

That is the first step. Further steps must be taken quickly.

COLLECT! GIVE! SHAKE UP THE PUBLIC! ORGANISE! SEND FOODSTUFFS AND MONEY to your national committee and through it to the INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' RELIEF!

LONG LIVE THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF ALL WORKERS!

Salvation!

The Salvation Army has been going great guns on the Rand the past couple of weeks. In the main the working class treats their blood-and-fire-come-to-Jesus-stunts as more or less a joke, but the remark "They do a lot of good otherwise" is quite common among the Dubbs. Of course, Henry Dubb knows precisely nothing about the starvationists and, not being given to wondering about anything, never wonders why the Starvation Army suddenly became so respectable that its "General" was received by the puppets of Fat—the Crowned Heads of Europe, and the Army activities as suddenly ceased to be attacked and sneered at by bourgeoisdom, but instead received the eulogy and recognition of "very best society." The reason has been given us by "General" Booth himself in the following rules and regulations:—

THE SALVATION ARMY SOCIAL REFORM WING.

CITY-INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOPS.

OBJECTS. These workshops are open for the relief of the unemployed and destitute, food and shelter being provided for them in exchange for work done by them, etc.

PLAN OF OPERATION.—All those applying for assistance will be placed in what is termed the first class. They must be willing to do any kind of work allotted to them. While they remain in the first class, they shall be entitled to three meals a day, and shelter for the night, and will be expected in return to cheerfully perform the work allotted to them.

Promotions will be made from this first class to the second class of all those considered eligible by the Labour Directors. They will, in addition to the food and shelter above mentioned, receive sums of money UP TO 5s. at the end of the week, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING THEMSELVES WITH TOOLS, TO GET WORK OUTSIDE.

REGULATIONS.—No smoking, drinking, bad language, or conduct calculated to demoralise will be permitted on the factory premises. No one under the influence of drink will be admitted. Anyone refusing to work, or guilty of bad conduct, will be required to leave the premises.

HOURS OF WORK.—7 a.m. to 8.30 a.m.; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Doors will be closed 5 minutes after 7, 9, and 2 p.m. Food checks will be given to all as they pass out at each meal time.

Stripped of its Lamb of God dope the Starvation Army stands revealed in the above and in its nakedness as an organisation solely and only aiming at providing capitalism with semi-slave labour, just as Barnardo's and other "homes" for boys are only recruiting agencies for Fat's cannon fodder.

The Starvation Army "officers" no doubt honestly believe they are doing "their Master's" work on earth—they are usually ignorant enough to believe anything—but the real organisers, subsidised by bourgeoisdom, have none of these illusions. They prey upon the superstitious stupidity of the masses and use unemployment, destitution and hunger as a driving force with which to further the interests of God Capital.

Let us prey!

First workman: I see the spiritualists are claiming that bloody Jannie is directly inspired by the Messiah.

Second ditto: They've got it wrong—the Messiah is inspired by Jannie!

"Get Out of that Park"!

CAPITALISTS AND THE COLOUR BAR.

Sir,—The Capitalist Press were extraordinarily emphatic in their desire to eliminate the colour barrier a few days ago, and declared their complete agreement with Justice Krause when he favoured its removal in the industrial sense. Our masters are awfully sympathetic with the native when it means cheaper labour because of their keener competition. And some natives are jubilant at the decision. These are advised to read the following to realise how superficially hypocritical the ruling class really is:—

NATIVES EXCLUDED FROM RAND PARKS. AVOIDING A SOURCE OF TROUBLE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Johannesburg, Thursday.

The Public Parks Committee in Johannesburg have decided rigidly to enforce the regulation which excludes natives from the parks in the city.

The step has been more or less dictated by the way in which natives have at all times been making a thoroughfare of Joubert Park and the nuisance which they have made of themselves, particularly at the week ends. On Sundays they have acquired a habit of moving about the park in gangs, jostling the European visitors and indulging in generally objectionable conduct.

In these conditions the Parks Committee thought they saw not only a measure of public annoyance, but a threatening source of trouble, hence their action. It is pointed out that the natives have no right to visit the park and that their exclusion, therefore, entails no injustice.

THE EMBARGO OF COURSE DOES NOT APPLY TO NATIVE MALE OR FEMALE SERVANTS AND NURSES IN THE COMPANY OF EUROPEANS.

"Cape Argus," Nov. 23.

Black and white workers should wake up. The ruling class has no love for either of you. Your emancipation can only be yours through unity.

W. GREEN.

An "Official" Labour Organ?

WE HOPE NOT.

We have seen for the first time a copy of "The Outlook," a Capetown weekly owned by an advertising company, and a "mouthpiece," to judge by the picture under the title, of two very genteel looking persons working (or resting?) respectively "by hand" and "by brain," with a leading article that quotes Latin with a grammatical error—either the editor's hand or his brain must have been at fault. However, it is evidently an organ of healthy opposition to Smuts who, with three of his colleagues in the Cabinet (Smartt, Malan and Mentz), has, it says, "lost his seat" in the Provincial elections. Still, it is apparently not in love with the Nat-Lab. pact. It objects to the "virile" propaganda of the Communists, and wonders why the City Council "allows them to hold such an important place in the city when their audiences consist mainly of natives and coloured people, who are certainly beginning to show signs of the unrest distilled by this active group"—unrest being evidently a privilege of whites only. It thinks the "International" goes too far with its plain speaking, and is against a "United Front" with the Communists on that account. Surely then it does not lie in the "Outlook's" mouth to object to Comrade Harrison standing against a Labour man—why not put it the other way round?—especially when a redistribution threw them both involuntarily from two separate constituencies into one! Besides, Labour ought to be grateful for this refutation of the capitalist tag that the S.A.L.P. is really a Labour dog with a Communist tail. Here we find the tail and the dog biting each other!

We have a good library of working class books for sale, and can recommend the editor, by studying some of them and so acquainting himself with the first elements of the Labour Movement, to acquire a wider "Outlook." At present the paper reminds us too unsavourily of the "Sunday Times."

The methods of the Amsterdam International are illustrated by a report in the League of Nations "Industrial and Labour Information" of a recent meeting of the Roumanian Trade Unions to decide on affiliation. "The speech of the President was constantly interrupted by the Communists who demanded that the letters received from organisations affiliated to the Moscow International should be read. ORDER WAS FINALLY RESTORED AFTER INTERVENTION BY THE POLICE."

The I.S.L. Press is compiling an Anthology of revolutionary and proletarian poems by various well-known authors, for publication shortly in a handy volume. Will our readers send along AT ONCE any poems, verses, songs, parodies, etc., which they may consider suitable to be included?

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The Famine in Germany.

ANOTHER CALL TO INTERNATIONAL ACTION.

At the Fourth Congress of the Communist International last year, Zinovieff remarked that the hardships through which revolutionary Russia had passed were quite likely to be repeated in other countries when their turn came. To-day, in a world of distress, with nature too still adding her quota in Japan, as before in the Volga, to the already brimming cup, amid the mass of appeals from an oppressed and persecuted working and peasant class, as well as from outraged nationalities, in every continent and well-nigh every land, amid White Terror, wholesale murder and pillage, while tens of thousands of political prisoners (nowadays treated worse, not better, than ordinary criminals) are calling from behind the bars of bourgeois dungeons, THE MOST SERIOUS AND BITTER CRY OF ALL for International Relief comes from that most battered of all the victims of capitalist ferocity and insanity, THE MASSES OF GERMANY.

FAMINE AND FREEDOM.

It is only beginning to dawn upon most of us that Germany is in the throes of a famine MORE FRIGHTFUL EVEN THAN THAT WHICH RAGED IN RUSSIA two years ago; indeed it has ONLY QUITE RECENTLY, ALMOST SUDDENLY, with the approach of the winter, reached the dimensions of a national calamity. The German famine, unlike the Russian, is DUE TO NO VAGARY OF THE SEASONS, BUT SOLELY TO THE BARBAROUS PLAY OF DELIBERATE CAPITALIST POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC OPPRESSION. Nor is it a mere coincidence that this state of affairs has arisen at the very moment when the German masses, under the heel both of the foreign conquerors (among whom Britain is also jointly responsible) and of their own internal oppressors, with the armed forces of half the world encircling and harassing them within or without, are straining at their chains in a MIGHTY ELEMENTAL EFFORT TO SECURE THE ONLY FREEDOM that in modern times promises any substantial advantage, the freedom from an exploiting class, freedom from its political rule and from its economic power; the same freedom that has already been won by the masses of Soviet Russia. On the contrary it is just this intense suffering of the German people that has created the will to be free.

"BREAD AND"—SOVIETS.

It is sometimes said that Communists have nothing tangible or practical to offer; that they simply preach a Utopia which has no appeal for the ordinary masses bent over their muck-rakes, and able to think of nothing beyond their "immediate demands." But while on the one hand it may rather be said that the masses often cannot even appraise their own immediate demands but are carried away by the wave of false sophistications and worthless nostrums poured on them by the ruling class to keep them guessing, on the other hand the condition of Germany shows us that when the relations between exploiting and exploited class reach their inevitable acute crisis on a national scale, then "IMMEDIATE DEMANDS" COME TO COINCIDE WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMAND FOR COMPLETE EMANCIPATION, so much so that even such a treacherous ideal as "national" freedom melts into the insistent demand for the Communists' "theoretic" "abolition of capitalism."

That stage has been reached by the masses in Germany to-day. The "social revolution" of soap boxes is fast becoming THE ONLY PRACTICAL ISSUE before them, and is inextricably combined with the immediate need for bread upon which indeed it is after all founded in every country. Thus proletarian sympathy and common charity find their meeting point.

TO ALL MEN OF GOODWILL.

For us Communists there is thus a special reason for putting forward our utmost efforts in relief of our German comrades, for we know that without bread the proletarian masses cannot do themselves justice in the supreme struggle on which they are now entering. But those also who do not discern that struggle, even those who discern it but only wish to see them fail in it—they too can hardly find it in them to turn a deaf ear to the present appeal. The best elements of the bourgeois world, in spite of their hostility to Bolshevism, nevertheless organised relief on a world-wide scale for the famine sufferers in Russia. How much more are they bound to do so WHEN, AS IN GERMANY, THAT SUFFERING IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF THEIR OWN BLUNDERING, VINDICTIVENESS, BRUTALITY, CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL. For what decent-minded bourgeois to-day will in his honest moments deny that the conquerors have at any rate "GONE TOO FAR"? Which of them is not shocked by the outrageous cruelty of the French Government, for instance, with its black army of occupation; yes, and by the studied callousness of the British Government too which even to-day speaks as though its only interest in Germany were an interest in how much money can still be extorted from that strangled country? EVERYONE KNOWS BY NOW that the great majority of its population are without anything like enough to live on, without food or clothing or means to buy it, without prospect or hope of any of these things; that their condition has been steadily deteriorating for the last nine years and rapidly since 1922, and that this winter means for them a pitch of destitution not imagined even a year ago, when already every visitor (except, it seems, Professor Sarolea) was shocked at the impoverishment of at any rate the middle and professional and "rentier" class—being the class in which most visitors took the greatest interest. Until recently, no doubt, they were still in the habit of sneering that the working class were comparatively well off compared with these objects of their special sympathy. But to-day that sneer can no longer stand. The unheard-of unemployment alone has reduced the workers to such a degree that THE MOST VIOLENT CLASS BIAS IS SILENCED. On the working class of Germany now falls Gaunt Famine's uttermost fury. It is a question whether the starving worker of Germany, once down and out, is not more surely doomed to die than even the far-off Volga peasant. Hence, whatever our politics, whatever our class, the masses of the German people appeal with a claim that is irresistible to all "men of goodwill."

BUT FIRST TO THE WORLD'S WORKERS.

Nevertheless, it is only natural that the working class, constituting the bulk of the sufferers in Germany, look above all not to the bourgeoisie but TO THEIR FELLOW-WORKERS all over the globe to take the initiative in organising Relief. The principal international appeal on their behalf comes accordingly from the "International Workers' Relief," whose manifesto appears elsewhere in this issue, and is addressed, properly enough, to the workers of all lands.

We of the working class should understand best of all the horror of a people's suffering no less than its inevitableness. We know best of all both what misery is, and that with the break-up of capitalism country after country is liable to be plunged into like misery. OUR TURN WILL SOMEDAY COME, when we too shall look abroad for relief. One good turn deserves another; let us do our bit now, while we are still in comparative "plenty," poor as it may be.

THE RUSSIAN LEAD.

It is perhaps only natural, but inspiring all the same, to find that THE LEAD in relief of Germany HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE RUSSIAN WORKERS, with the Government machine at their disposal. In spite of their still low standard of wages, they have already contrived to despatch, by mass contributions of "mites," most substantial relief both in cash and in kind. They have done so partly out of a sense of gratitude for the aid rendered to them in their darkest hour of trial by the workers of Germany.

Russia no longer expects anything back from Germany. How much more should we, who may one day look to Germany to help us, and who in any case bear A GREAT LOAD OF GUILT FOR THE PART WE HAVE TAKEN IN BRINGING HER TO THIS PASS, come forward with a mighty effort in support of this "International Workers' Relief."

"UNSAFE FOR" HUMANITY.

It is significant, by the way, that this organisation, which for several years past has been centred in Berlin, has now been obliged to migrate to Zurich, because under the present hostile control of Germany (in marked contrast to the Soviet Government which placed its whole machinery at the service of the relief of its famishing countrymen) even Workers' Relief is no longer a safe occupation!

Fellow-workers of South Africa, in supporting this crusade we have a grand opportunity of shaking off our racial prejudices, of ENNOBLING OUR OWN "HUMAN NATURE," of increasing the world-wide solidarity of our class upon which our whole future depends.

ALL HANDS FOR SOLIDARITY!

TO THE RESCUE then, with lists and collections, not among ourselves alone, but among those in every station of life best able to contribute.

Let South Africa's contribution, in proportion to population, OUTSTRIP THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES!

Remember how highly we have appreciated overseas interest in our own struggles, and realise how OUR ASSISTANCE WILL BE APPRECIATED AND REMEMBERED, to good purpose some day, by our fellow-workers in Germany!

FORWARD FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF ALL WORKERS!

Cape Property Owners' Klondyke.

The Cape property lords have (in face of its apparent impossibility) by artificial means influenced economic forces to their own advantage.

It was very remarkable that, when a fresh valuation of property was decided upon, very little opposition was noticed.

Two hundred and sixty capitalists belong to the Chamber of Commerce of the Cape. These 260 individuals own practically the whole of the property of the Cape, and by a stroke of the pen the value of their possessions has been increased from about £30,000,000 to £40,000,000. This is a method they have adopted to dodge the Rent Act, and we find to-day the "Cape Times" and "Argus" mutually considering how much these landlords MAY raise rents

"Will rents be increased" say the headlines (What ho!), "Probable effect of the new valuation," "Question in the balance!" "Fears that some landlords may profiteer." Deary me, they are wondering whether a landlord will be justified in increasing rents in proportion to its increased VALUE or in proportion to its increased RATE.

This is certainly paving the way, and before very long we shall find a general increase in rents BASED UPON THE INCREASED VALUE, thanks to the Smuts combination in the City Council.

If they can raise rents they will be able to put a price upon their property accordingly, hence this agitation by the money-mongers' Press.

You see the trick, don't you? Then expose it and agitate against it everywhere, until you put these sharks out of business once for all. W.G.

PRICKLY PARS.

By Son Yah.

Financial Embarassment.

I remarked to George the other day, "What a lot of people are committing suicide lately on account of financial embarassment."

Replied he, "Good job that everybody financially embarassed doesn't do the same—that would mean the extinction of the race."

Happy capitalism!

* * *

Brains.

Says the "Star": "The Kroonstad mystery baffles the BEST BRAINS of the C.I.D."

Not very baffling after all, Henry.

* * *

True.

On the 6.11 a.m. (workman's special) we hear some terse comments on current incidents. The following this morning f'rinstance:—

First workman: "I see the mines are paying more wages than in 1914?"

Second workman: "Where do they get the bloody money from?"

The whole socialist philosophy is epitomised in the remark of that second miner—who was a Dutchman, by the way.

Think it over, Henry!

* * *

The Stable Government.

When the horses come out all the punters eagerly watch the owner having the last words with the "boy." You know, Henry—giving his last instructions "to go or not to go." The Dubbs in the silver ring who "didn't see 'em go out" anxiously enquire "who was wearing spurs?"

Sli Phi (short for Sir Lionel Phillips y'know) saw Jannie off at the station.

Look for the spurs, Henry!

* * *

Why Not!

We had a great argument in the train about predikants this morning. One bloke eventually got wild and accused the other of being a blarsted Bolsheviki. "A nice one to talk about predikants you are," quoth he, "your mates in Russia murder all the ministers."

"Who have they murdered now!" asked his mate.

"I don't know his name," said the other, "but I see by a London paper—A LONDON PAPER—that they've murdered a real Archbishop."

"Well," said No. 2, "why the 'ell didn't they give 'im a monument and shut up!"

Langlaagte—didn't hear any more, but saw them "going at it" as they hurried across to the shaft.

* * *

Fat's Confessional.

"What a number of business men are appearing in the Bankruptcy Court," remarked one petit-bourgeois to another.

"What a number of Catholics are appearing at the Confessional," said another with a twinkling eye.

D'ye see it, Dubb!

* * *

Guts!

The International Conference of Industry was in full swing. The question of a world-wide Press campaign to combat Communism was being discussed. "What we want," said the magnate holding the floor, "is a real live journalist to take complete control of the organisation. We want a man who knows on which side his bread is buttered; a man who will not scruple to fight with the gloves off (hear, hear); a man who can be implicitly trusted to use every means, fair or foul, to down Communism (cheers). In short, we want a 'rara avis'—A JOURNALIST WITH GUTS." (prolonged cheers).

The South African Delegate hereupon informed the Conference that the very man would be found in Johannesburg.

Now, who did he mean? Don't all speak at once!

Watch.

Watch the man who is always grousing about the other man's racehorses, motor-cars, wealth and women—he can be bribed.

Watch the (b)leader who is always running down the working class—he wants to exploit them.

Watch the man whose conversation consists of a string of capital "I's"—he can be flattered into treachery.

Watch the man whose heart bleeds for the poor—he wants to bleed you.

Watch the man who swears he's honest—he isn't.

Watch Jannie Smute—he's . . . . . .

* * *

Cant.

The Press gang has been fairly busy lately writing up semi-sob stuff regarding the position of white workers in South Africa. It's all part of the process of getting us used to it gently, Henry. Fat's pen prostitutes know as well as Fat himself that all the tripe about "white prestige" and a "white South Africa" is adulterated dope. The white worker has outgrown his function under capitalism in South Africa. The "white" position will never be regained while the capitalist system remains. The black and coloured worker is CHEAPER than we are at present, Dubb. "Make no mistake about dat," as Jannie is fond of remarking.

* * *

God and Mammon.

A parson once received a call (from on high) from one "cure", to another and, in accepting, said, "It meant a great deal to him in his career. After PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION he had decided on acceptance."

Was it not Emerson who remarked that the prayers of a parson regarding a "call" always answered acceptance in the affirmative if there was a rise of salary attached.

Here we have one of the unsexed gentle creatures telling the faithful—I'll bet with a solemn face—first the real reason of acceptance (the "worldly" one) and, in the same breath, coming the usual "prayerful consideration" tripe.

What funny little bipeds they are!

* * *

Education.

Mr. St. John Ervine, lecturing in aid of the League of Arts at the Guildhall, London, got this off his chest: "An educated person in the real sense was a man who could read a modern newspaper without being humbugged by it."

Good for you, Ervine! but still it's a moot point whether a man who could turn a governor ball to a decimal point on a lathe isn't better educated in the "real" sense.

* * *

English Elections.

That big stiff, Winston Churchill, seems to be getting it in the neck again at Leicester this time. He was cunning enough to drop Dundee.

And after winning the war alone too!

* * *

Pretoria Air Crash.

The inquest on our two friends of the Flying Corps closed at Pretoria on Saturday. The bourgeois Lavoipierre was very complacent when he remarked in his summing up, "These things unfortunately will happen to men of their profession."

Fat adores risk—in his tools.

* * *

The Police.

The "well-known professional man" of the "Sunday Times" may, or may not, exist outside the editorial offices, but his reported arguments for placing his highly educated (and presumably therefore useless) son in the police might be quoted to show how professional men in South Africa realise the future of this country to be bound up in a big police and civil service and black labour only—as in India.

They KNOW, Henry—they KNOW.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

There is a paper called "The Newsagent, Booksellers' Review and Stationers' Gazette," which carries an article "specially written" in its issue for 13th October by one F. W. Doidge. The "specially written" stuff is on Lord Beaverbrook.

Now, F. W. Doidge, the aforesaid, is either a merry wag given to leg-pulling or he has left his sense of humour behind him when last he flitted. As witness this gem:—

"WOULD GALVANISE A GLACIER.

"Perhaps a little incident I can recall will serve to give an insight into the character of the man. Whatever he does, he does well. He plays tennis like a demon, and he dances superbly. Last year, when the season was at its height, I arrived at Deauville. It was midnight—Deauville's dizziest and most delirious hour. I was shown up to Lord Beaverbrook's bedroom. The son of the Scottish minister was in bed, deep in a book. The book was entitled 'The Life of Jesus.'"

But the idea is not exactly new. Every plutocrat and get-rich-quick man always has his life paragraphed with good sob stuff calculated to endear him to the great palpitating heart of the simple mugs of the world.

Lloyd George always solaces himself—in the Press—with a study of "The Pilgrim's Progress to a Better World." Winston Churchill sings a hymn whenever a reporter is looking. Bottomley got "converted" in Rothermere's "Sunday Pictorial." (This gave great confidence to subscribers to his Victory Bonds, and confidence is the great thing!)

Kaiser Bill used to get himself photographed with a New Testament in his fist.

But Lord Beaverbrook lying in bed—and at Deauville, too—studying the "Life of Jesus" is, after all, not so remarkable. The House of Lords opens with prayer!

—"Forward."

Grain for Europe.

The launching of the Russo-British Wheat Exporting Company has caused no little stir in business and political circles in Britain. Even the most backward and reactionary of the provincial organs of the press have grudgingly to acknowledge that the "corn bins" at which they have so long mocked are in truth a solid reality. Russia will receive for the first time adequate credits from Britain. It has been widely announced that the leading British banks are prepared to give credits at any time up to one million pounds. Those credits will enable Russia to make purchases of British goods in exchange for the grain that will be shipped from Russian ports.

Thus the "Financial News" emphasises that one advantage that will result will be that "as soon as Russia resumes her role as the chief food producer of Europe, it will be possible for us to reduce our food purchases from America, and the balance of trade will tend to turn in our favour." Further, says the "Daily News," the signing of the grain agreement is of "more ultimate significance to the masses of British unemployed than the expenditure of many millions in doles and relief work."

A Classic Workers' Revolution in Germany.

(By G. Zinoviev.)

Events in Germany are developing with the inexorableness of fate. The road which the Russian revolution required 12 years to travel, from 1906 until 1917, has been covered by the German revolution in the space of five years, from 1918 until 1923. The simple "Coalition," the "Grand Coalition," the Kornilov period (the events in Bavaria), "business ministry," personal candidatures (like the Russian Kishkin and Borishkin), then again the great coalition—an unending change of ministers. This is what happened "at the top." And down below, among the broadest masses of the people, dissatisfaction has been seething, and the struggle is flaming up which, in the near future, will decide the fate of Germany, and he who does not see this must indeed be blind.

A TURNING POINT IN HISTORY.

The approaching events will be of historical significance for the whole world. Time will prove to all that THE AUTUMN MONTHS OF 1923 HAVE BEEN A TURNING POINT, not only in the history of Germany, but IN THE HISTORY OF THE WHOLE OF HUMANITY, far beyond the boundaries of Germany. With trembling hands the German proletariat is turning THE MOST IMPORTANT PAGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD STRUGGLE OF THE WORKING CLASS. The hour has struck. A fresh chapter is beginning in the history of the proletarian world revolution.

To-day it is no longer possible for the German proletariat to seize power too soon—in the historical sense of the word. The objective prerequisites for the victory of the German revolution have long since matured. And the war of 1914-18, as well as all the events connected with the war and the Versailles Peace, created the remaining pre requisites for the real victory of the proletarian revolution in Germany.

THE GREAT PROLETARIAN MAJORITY—RED.

In Germany we find 4½ million "independent," 3[illegible] million semi-proletarians, 3¼ million employes, and 22¾ million workers. The number of workers, even apart from the "employes" and the semi-proletarian elements, is twice as large as that of all the other groups put together.

The social basis of the coming revolution may be plainly seen. In the cities the workers are in the absolute majority. Up to now the working class in Germany has co-operated in one way or another with the counter-revolutionary German Social Democracy. So long as this gigantic class wandered along the path of "peace," in the attempt to avoid revolution and to secure its morsel of bread without civil war, so long could the German bourgeoisie sleep in peace. The whole essence of the "present moment" lies in the fact that the moment has come in which this gigantic class has arrived at the conviction that there is no possibility of avoiding the inevitable; that there is NO OTHER WAY OF SAVING THE COUNTRY AND THE WORKING CLASS than by revolution. From the moment the working class of Germany TURNED ITS BACK ON SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, AND TURNED TO THE COMMUNISTS, from this moment Germany's destiny was decided. Small delays are possible. This or that variation in the order of the programme of the coming events in Germany is also possible, but only within very narrow limits.

MATERIAL RESOURCES AT THE WORKERS' DISPOSAL.

The 22 million workers form the core of the international proletariat; they represent THE WORKING CAPITAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTION. . . . But the main point is that the German revolution has at its disposal a mighty industrial basis. German industry has mighty powers at its disposal. In this sense the pronouncement of Comrade Lenin, when he predicted that in Europe (especially in such European countries as Germany) it will be more difficult to begin the proletarian revolution, but much easier to continue it and bring it to a conclusion, still holds true. The German proletariat is superior in numbers, both in city industry and in agriculture. Technics have advanced in Germany as in no other country. The kernel of qualified workers, ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY TAKE A POSITION AT THE HEAD OF SOCIALIST ECONOMICS, is nowhere so compact as in Germany.

RURAL WORKERS ON OUR SIDE.

The main work connected with rendering the landowning and large farming counter-revolution harmless (to speak more exactly, the work of annihilating it), will be carried out in the villages (unlike the experience of Russia, where the town workers had to do most of the fighting) BY THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS THEMSELVES. The great masses of these are ALREADY IN SYMPATHY WITH THE COMMUNISTS. The German large farmers—in reality small landowners, are naturally excellently organised. They will attempt to oppose a furious resistance to the proletarian regime. But anyone bearing in mind the proportions of the above figures (7 million workers, 1½ million semi-proletarians, 200,000 "employes," 1½ million land owners and large farmers) cannot be in doubt as to which side will carry off the victory.

DECISIVE ROLE OF PETTY BOURGEOIS.

The German revolution will be A CLASSIC PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION. This does not, however, mean that the whole remainder of Germany's population will form a "reactionary mass." On the contrary! The new and distinguishing characteristic of the German proletarian revolution will consist precisely in the special role played in it by the "petty bourgeois masses," officials, lower and medium employes, small traders, etc. It may even be said that that SAME ROLE WHICH WAS PLAYED IN THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION BY THE WAR-WEARY PEASANTRY, WILL BE PLAYED IN THE GERMAN REVOLUTION BY THE BROAD STRATA OF THE CITY BOURGEOISIE, exhausted by the devastation, and brought to the verge of economic ruin by the developments of capitalism. There are already a number of employes, lower officials, etc., who take part in the illegal factory council meetings held under the leadership of the German Communist Party. THE UNIQUE FEATURE IN THE GERMAN REVOLUTION IS THE PART PLAYED BY THE PETTY BOURGEOISIE OF THE CITIES.

MARXIAN THEORY COMES TRUE.

The classic proletarian character of the revolution—and a more favourable attitude of the city petty bourgeoisie towards the revolutionary proletariat—are these two things consistent? Is there no inner contradiction in this? By no means.

The attitude of the German city petty bourgeoisie results in the first place from the BRUTAL POLICY OF THE ENTENTE, which has done every possible thing calculated to drive this stratum of the population into despair and indignation, and in the second place by the EXTREME NARROW-MINDEDNESS of the class policy pursued by the GERMAN BIG BOURGEOISIE, which, caring nothing for the morrow, has, by its whole policy, driven the great masses of the city petty bourgeoisie to the brink of economic ruin. As Marxists we were also theoretically aware that big capital disintegrates and annihilates the petty bourgeoisie of the towns by the process of proletarianising a large section of this bourgeoisie. This process may be most clearly observed when it takes place in a large state—and we are SEEING IT FOR THE FIRST TIME on such a large scale in Germany.

The fact that the owner of a cigarette shop in Berlin closed his shop, and displayed a notice that his business having been ruined by the high prices and the depreciation of the mark he was SHUTTING UP SHOP AND GOING OVER TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY, is not an anecdote but a characteristic symbol.

ROOM FOR "FORBEARANCE"—AFTER VICTORY.

Bearing in mind the tremendous importance of establishing satisfactory relations between town and country on the one hand, and between the proletariat and the city petty bourgeoisie on the other, the German proletarian revolution is hardly likely to proceed to a too hasty nationalisation of trade and small industry, of small landed property, etc. Unless the resistance offered by the small and medium property owners forces the proletarian Government in Germany to resort to extreme measures in the interests of the defence of the revolution, this Government will doubtless pursue a correct, cautious, and considerate policy with regard to these strata of society.

Because the proletarian revolution in Germany is built on such a firm foundation, precisely because the proletariat will so preponderate in the German revolution, will it be able to allow itself THE LUXURY OF AVOIDING ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT REPEL THE PETTY BOURGEOISIE. Just because in Germany to-day, the material prerequisites for the carrying out of a whole series of great economic measures of a socialist character are already mature, the German proletariat, at least at first, will not brutally brush aside the vital interests of the city petty bourgeoisie.

"THE WORLD'S GREAT AGE."

What miracles of energy the 20 million steeled, educated, and organised proletarians of Germany will perform when they step forward into decisive battle for Socialism, this is something of which to-day we cannot even form an idea.

First Aid to German Workers.

THE EXAMPLE SET BY RUSSIA.

Within the last few days cable messages from Germany have appeared in our Press pointing to the large sums already contributed for German relief by Germans in South Africa. We are glad to hear it, and hope these sums have been fairly distributed among those sections of the population, irrespective of class politics, who stand most in need of help. (In Germany itself the bourgeoisie and Government are doing very little indeed for the people except declaring Martial Law and pointing guns at them, and it is significant that the famine is most acute where the Workers' Governments are in office, showing that the hunger blockade has been deliberately imposed on them.) But the appeal now being broadcast through the world is not an appeal to Germans only: rather it is an appeal to all other nationalities. In this sense it has been taken, and responded to with marvellous promptitude, by the masses of Russia.

"HE GIVES TWICE . . ."

Within three days of the receipt in Russia of news of the grave turn of affairs among the German masses, Relief Committees in Russia had guaranteed the cost of immediate purchases of supplies, and free distributions of bread to the unemployed (who are counted by millions to-day) were forthwith taken in hand in Dresden, Leipzig and other towns, quickly followed by relief operations in Weimar and other Thuringian towns, where the work enjoyed the support of a "Workers' Government," and was also assisted by the existing working class co-operative societies, which ground the corn and turned it into bread. Eating houses and creches have been established, as also a system of rationing.

A SHOWER OF JEWELS.

In the great Opera House at Moscow, Clara Zetkin last month addressed an enormous concourse on behalf of the German Famine Relief Fund. Remarkable enthusiasm prevailed, such enthusiasm as can be met with only in revolutionary Russia, and exceptional even there. Women (NEP-women no doubt) tore rings from their ears and fingers, necklaces from their necks, kerchiefs from their heads, and flung them in a heap for the starving workers of Germany. The Russian Trade Unions have taken over the charge of the Children's Homes hitherto conducted in Russia by the International Workers' Relief in order to leave the latter a freer hand to minister to the women and children of the German workers.

THE CORNUCOPIA OF THE EAST.

While well-wishers at this distance are asked to send money rather than foodstuffs, Russia, slowly resuming her old position as the granary of Europe, is in a position to deliver the actual goods as well.

The first relief ship, with 1,500 tons of Russian rye, reached Hamburg on 22nd October, followed a day later by another with 7,000 tons of wheat, while two more Russian corn ships sailed into Lubeck and Kiel, and five more were on the way in mail week. All this was made possible by the contributions of Russian workers and peasants. In town and country a spirit of emulation is abroad to see which unit can accomplish the most in proof that the solidarity of the Russian workers and peasants with those of other lands is no empty boast. What a marvellous change from even a year ago; indeed, when ever before the revolution had Russia thus figured as a benefactor?

OTHERS PLEASE COPY.

But this prompt assistance from Russia is considered in part as an advance to be repaid out of contributions to be received from other countries. As a matter of fact, relief committees are already afoot in England, America, France, Holland, Czecho-Slovakia and Switzerland and by this time other countries as well. This is no Germans' affair in particular. Starvation in Germany is a menace to us all, and it is for us all to combat it. A victory over the German famine means a victory over the oppressors of the German working class; but those oppressors include "Huns" of every nationality, Poincare included. The German workers are struggling not only against their own poverty, enslavement and extinction but against forces responsible for these things all over the world. It is for us, workers of all lands, to help them; it is our fight, it is an international struggle.

FRUSTRATE THEIR KNAVISH TRICKS.

Let us not forget the high hopes entertained by the world bourgeoisie in 1921 that the Russian famine would entail the collapse of the workers' rule. Now that the cry is no longer "Help for starving Russia" but "Help for the German proletariat" we shall not be unmindful of the motives of those who we may be sure will again endeavour to kill the movement, either by belittling the distress or by attributing ulterior motives to its relief. The same generosity which was nevertheless displayed in Russia's behalf then is looked for in Germany's now. Only thus can the design of International High Finance, to starve out the German proletariat, be frustrated.

We trust that the Labour and liberal elements of South Africa will shortly take appropriate action. In the meantime we will gladly receive the name of anyone willing to assist in any way, to be handed over to any Relief Committee that may eventually be formed.

A United Front Government.

APPEAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORMATION OF THE WORKERS' GOVERNMENT IN SAXONY.

To the Party!

Party Comrades!

The Central has sanctioned the entrance of three of its members, Comrades Bottcher, Brandler and Heckert into the Saxon Government. Opposed to the working population there stands the firm bloc of Great Capital, of the great landlords and of the monarchist generals. The great capitalist-military dictatorship for the bloody suppression and bludgeoning of the working class is on the march.

The Communist members of the Saxon Government are instructed by the Party to organise and to lead the energetic defence of the working class against the threatening serious dangers on the broadest basis along with the social democratic members of the Government.

The Communist representatives of this Government are under the constant supervision and control of the Party. The entry of our Party comrades into the Saxon Government is not the outcome of the usual Parliamentary bargaining. It is in line with the determined will of the working masses to meet the attack of large Capital with a firm, proletarian fighting front.

For the Party, this occasion must serve as a stimulus to realise throughout the whole Republic the broadest proletarian fighting front and to organise the mass-defence of the working class.

The Government of proletarian defence in Saxony is a signal for the whole of the German working class. It requires the support of the working class throughout Germany.

The attempt, first undertaken in Saxony, to form, in the hour of greatest danger, a joint Government with the Left Social Democrats and to organise the proletarian defence, will be successful if the party mobilises the working class in the whole of the republic and arrays it as a proletarian United Front against the class enemy.

[illegible]in, October 10, 1923.

Central of the Communist Party of Germany
(Section of the Communist International).

[illegible] RENEWING YOUR SUB. [illegible] INTERNATIONAL"!

The Worker and the Law.

The Code of Civil Procedure, adopted at the last session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, came into force on September 1. From the point of view of the workers this Code is of extreme importance.

The keynote of the Code is given by paragraph 5, which states:—

> The courts must make every effort to find out the real relations between the rival parties, rendering active assistance to workers appearing before them, so as to protect their legal rights and interests and to prevent their ignorance of the laws or similar circumstances being used to their detriment.

In the administration of the law the courts are strictly impartial. If a worker is found guilty, or if he cannot substantiate his case, his claim is not upheld. The Code, however, aims at leaving him at no disadvantage simply because he cannot state his case clearly or because he cannot engage a clever counsel in his defence.

Other paragraphs develop this principle. Representatives of a trade union are empowered to appear at court on behalf of the members of their union on an equal footing with professional advocates. In cases of claims for wages or means of support, no court fees are to be charged. If the judges consider that workers before the court are not in a position to pay, they may excuse them all fees in any case.

"All for the Unemployed."

This is Mr. Baldwin's election slogan. Here is a sample of how it is to be done.

Among the magnificent schemes for "helping the unemployed" announced by Sir Montagu Barlow, the Labour Minister, the other day, was a State guarantee of the interest upon £1,000,000 to be given to the Tata Company of Bombay for the extension of their textile factories.

Splendid news this for the unemployed textile operatives of Britain! Here is the British Government guaranteeing a gang who are already making 290 per cent. profit in India out of cheap labour, freed from the protection of our Factory Acts. And here is the British Government actually assisting these cheap labour exploiters to further compete with our home producers. And Barlow calls the ramp "helping the British unemployed."

Now, can you beat it?

—"Forward."

The Revolutionary Youth of the Far East.

The Young Communist International is making gigantic strides ahead in Eastern Asia. Already strongly organised Young Communist Leagues exist in China, Korea, Mongolia and Japan.

In China the youth league fights against the reactionary Peking Government and especially against the Y.M.C.A., the tool of American imperialism in China. An Anti-Christian Young Men's Association was formed in March, 1922, and carried on propaganda against the Y.M.C.A. which was holding a world congress in Peking.

In Korea the Y.C.L. is helping the Korean nationalists in their struggle against Japanese imperialism. This is no light task, for the Japanese bourgeoisie is totally unscrupulous in the methods it employs.

In Japan itself the task is even more difficult, and here as well as in Korea the Y.C.L. has been forced underground. Nevertheless it is growing.

"The Revolutionary Youth League of Mongolia"—to quote from an article in "The International of Youth"—"consisted of thirty members in the beginning, but at the time of the Congress it had three hundred members. After the Congress the League conducted a great propaganda among the young shepherds in the vast Mongolian plains, and at the time of its first national conference in June, 1922, there were over one thousand members. At this conference it joined the Young Communist International. Now, in 1923, it has over two thousand members.

"The Congress of the Far Eastern Revolutionary Youth has given an impetus to the revolutionary youth movement in Japan, China, Korea and Mongolia, as the rapid developments the following year have proved. West and East alike are united under the banner of the Young Communist International. The factory worker in New York or Chicago, London or Paris, Berlin or Rome, and the young Mongolian shepherd on the solitary plains of the Far East, or the young Korean peasant, are comrades, working side by side for the freedom of the working class of the world."

When shall we be able to add to this: "and the young South African native"?

WHY NOT GIVE YOUR PRINTING ORDERS TO THE I.S.L. PRESS?

Question!

"What would the Kaiser have thought early in 1914," queries a Sunday paper, "if he could have foreseen the sale of German marks in the London streets at 2d. a hundred thousand!"

And what should we have thought if we could have foreseen that thousands of British heroes of the war would have found the occupation of selling them in this way the only barrier between them and starvation?

—Labour Press Service.

Russia's Economic Future.

(By C. G. Rakovsky, Official Agent of the U.S.S.R. in Great Britain.)

SOME GOOD POINTS.

Russia, prior to the war, exported annually more than twelve million tons of grain. Up to the time of the harvest of the present year there has been exported some 810,000 tons of grain. Taking into account existing stocks from the last harvest, the U.S.S.R. in the coming period will be able to export abroad from 3,250,000 to over 4,000,000 tons of grain. It is already known that an agreement has been signed with Great Britain for the export of a million tons.

Turning now to our industries, their production may be characterised by the following figures. In 1920 the output was valued at 511,000,000 gold roubles, in 1921 at 528,000,000, in 1922 at 829,000,000; and in 1923 at 1,118,000,000.

We are advancing rapidly to the creation of a balanced State budget. To this end enormous economies have been effected in State accounts. Our army, which numbered 5,000,000 men in January, 1921, was reduced to 1,600,000 in January, 1922, and to 600,000 in January, 1923. Corresponding reductions were made in all the State apparatus, the number of Soviet workers being greatly cut down, a process which is still continuing.

THE OTHER SIDE.

We are not, however, ourselves so carried away by excessive optimism as not to be aware of the great gaps still existing in our economic structure. I will here indicate some of these.

Beginning with our finance, it must be mentioned that of the total 170,000,000 gold roubles of estimated expenditure in September, 1923, only 110,000,000 are covered by ordinary State receipts. 15,000,000 are covered by emissions, while the remaining 45,000,000 are covered by various credit operations, by the six per cent. internal gold loan, and by the bread loans, which are making gradual progress. Our chervonetz occupies an honoured position along with the dollar and pound sterling, thanks only to the extremely limited quantities which have been issued, and because there still exists the Soviet rouble, which has so heroically endured blockade and intervention and which is still the ordinary currency of the country. In some degree, the chervonetz exists at the expense of the Soviet rouble. And although, for the financial year from October 1, 1922, to September 30, 1923, the yield from State taxes has increased more than sevenfold, in comparison with the previous year, it is not a matter for inordinate jubilation, seeing that increase in taxes is at the expense of the buying power of our population, and we must regret that our taxes are too heavy a burden both on peasants and on workers, on agriculture as on trade and industry.

Industry still remains our weakest spot. Its products are too costly, the relation between agricultural and industrial prices being four to five times as great as before the war. Industrial goods are too dear for the peasants, and their grain is valued too cheaply in our markets.

Finally, I have to mention that the strict economy which we are introducing in the State accounts has as its consequence, not only a restriction in the unproductive staffs of State officials, but unfortunately also a restriction in the carrying out of the cultural tasks of the State, in particular a restriction in the number of schools, which cannot in any way be regarded as normal.

LACK OF CAPITAL.

Then there is the absence of circulating capital for our industry, the absence of credit capital for the peasants, the absence of any chance for the State to conclude loans which would allow it to restore order in its finances.

Naturally, not possessing capital, industry is forced to sell dear; not possessing loans, the State is forced to increase the taxes; and not possessing credits, the peasant is forced to curtail his needs.

The absence of capital and credits compels the State in its trade policy to enact the most cruel restrictions. We cannot afford to import all we require. Meanwhile, the needs of our industry and economy, which we ought to have satisfied by the import of goods from abroad, are huge and insistent. They are to be reckoned in milliards of gold roubles. The Union of Soviet Republics might give work to thousands of workers abroad if between it and the capitalist States there were restored normal political and economic relations.

They err who say that the cause of this lies at the door of the internal organisation of Russia. Our internal economic organisation is sufficiently pliant, while retaining the fundamental conquests of the great November revolution—nationalisation of the land, control of industry by the State, complete labour legislation, State monopoly of trade, State control of the whole economic life of the country—yet to be able to adapt itself to the conditions of the international capitalist market.

Foiled Again, ha, ha!

Some time ago we read of a prosecution instituted in America against the promoters of the Russo-American Colony "Kuzbas," about which information has from time to time been published in "The International." The charge was one of "fraud and petty larceny," the complainants being some members of the colony who had been disappointed with the conditions they found there (although every colonist was told the truth about them) and who on returning to Russia fell into the hands of political elements only too anxious to exploit their disgruntlement. The "larceny" was supposed to consist in the Kuzbas Organisation Committee having taken subscriptions for the enterprise on false statements about it. THE CHARGES HAVE NOW BEEN DISMISSED.

"As long as the idea of industrial management, control and production by and of the workers persists," says the "Kuzbas Bulletin," "Kuzbas will stand as the first effort on a wide basis to realise that idea. Kuzbas is dynamic. Kuzbas is proletarian history. Kuzbas is the collaboration of the socially-minded engineer and the intelligent worker. No district attorney can gaol a project of the character of Kuzbas."

French Imperialism and the Prospects in Germany.

(By Karl Radek.)

M. Poincare knows perfectly well that what is going on in Germany is the complete disintegration of an economic system from which he has expected reparation payments. Economic ruin such as this leads to revolution. M. Poincare must consider his relations towards the German revolution.

He is the representative of the rich farmers who do not want to pay any fresh taxes, he is the representative of masses of annuitants who bought the war loans and the 100 milliard franc loans for the restoration of the North, etc. What he needs is money, and again money. But if he cannot get money, he must at least produce pledges. What kind of pledges? Real tangible ones. Such pledges are: the Saar area, the Rhine province, and the Ruhr basin. Thus it is impossible for Poincare to grant any concession, and thus the fate of every "fulfilment" cabinet in Germany is sealed. But, this being the case, the question arises: What next?

PROFITING BY CIVIL WAR.

The bankruptcy of the Stresemann cabinet, which formed a buffer between open counter-revolution and open revolution, signifies civil war. And now M. Poincare replies: We are not afraid of anarchy. What does this mean? Let the Whites fight with the Reds, the Reds with the Whites, and mutually weaken each other. Germany will then cease to exist as a political factor. The spectre of Hohenzollern rule, having a paralysing effect upon the powers of the revolutionary working masses, would leave him a free field for action. If he occupies Germany, he will destroy her centralisation, create a German federation in which Catholic Bavaria holds the ascendancy, and take the control of German industry into his own hands.

AND IF THE REDS WIN!

But what will he do in the case of a Red victory? In this case his position is ten times worse. The fear of revolution would no doubt stimulate the international bourgeoisie to action, but a German revolution would impart fresh courage to the working masses of France, England, and America. Although M. Poincare boasts of the firmness and stability of law and order in France, he is fully aware that it will be no easy task to convince the grandchildren of the Paris communards, who are working in the munition factories of France, and who hold the railways and technical troops in their hands, that they are performing a good work in helping M. Poincare.

A SPLIT-UP GERMANY?

M. Poincare, when considering this possibility, consoles himself with the idea that South Germany, agrarian, Catholic, and separatist, will split off from the Red North. Germany, broken up into weak and semi-independent states, will not be in a position to feed herself: one section of the population will starve, another section will emigrate to South America and the British colonies.

A MARCH ON BERLIN?

If the revolution wins and Poincare mobilises a mighty army against it and draws his eastern vassals into the struggle, it is possible that he would succeed in occupying Germany, and crushing the German revolution for the moment. But this would be a Pyrrhic victory. Poland is a composite state, its eastern districts are populated by Ukrainians, White Russians, and Lithuanians, who hate the Polish landowners; it has a powerful labour movement; it is a young state without a strong state apparatus. Czecho-Slovakia is occupied with a number of acute national questions, has a factory proletariat of three millions out of a total population of twelve millions, and has no territorial claims on Germany. M. Poincare's command to march against Germany would signify for these countries that they place their existence at stake. The more so that not only Soviet Russia, but no Russia of whatever constitution could look calmly on whilst the French frontier was pushed forward to the Beresina. And the position of the French army in Germany! Germany, which might be occupied if thus taken by surprise, would begin to fight against the French occupation. The German population is well educated, the percentage of Germans speaking the French language is very considerable, and intercourse between soldiery and population would constitute the greatest dangers. A modern army requires an extremely delicate communication apparatus. This apparatus would be destroyed by partisan troops. These partisan troops would comprise not merely hundreds of thousands, but hundreds of thousands. They would combine the fearlessness of the proletarian fighter with the science of war. The French army would feel the ground shaking beneath its feet. And behind it? Behind it would lie a country, forced to exert itself economically to the utmost, and to give its sons, while conscious at the same time that the cause for which these efforts are made is hopeless from the beginning, that it is impossible to keep a people of several tens of millions in slavery when it refuses to bear a foreign yoke. The Communist Party of France, at present still comparatively weak, would then become the centre of the revolutionary movement. And behind the French army there is again that island the rulers of which know that every loss to France is an advantage to them: England, which is contending against France for the hegemony over Europe.

ENEMY, BEWARE!

The German revolution is menaced by mighty dangers, but it is unchaining mighty powers, and though much suffering may be entailed, these powers will enable it to make any hand tremble which is raised against it.

The E.C.C.I. to the Workers of Japan and the Workers of all Countries.

The earthquake has caused Japan no less damage than the great war has to the countries of Europe.

The dead were not yet buried, before the imperialist Government of Japan made it plain to the whole world that class warfare cannot cease in a capitalist state of society, not even under such circumstances as these. In the first place, hundreds of Coreans were arrested and murdered. Tens of thousands of Coreans were imprisoned in concentration camps. The population of Corea was practically outlawed. Japanese workers who have ventured to express their dissatisfaction with the existing state of affairs have been shot as "Coreans."

The telegraph reports that the most prominent Socialist leader of Japan, Comrade Sakay, has been murdered for "attempting to escape." His family has been brutally slaughtered. Those who recollect the circumstances attending the murder of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, those who have not forgotten the vengeance wreaked on the Bavarian, Hungarian, and Polish Communists, will not doubt for a moment that the notorious "attempt at escape" is in this case again a mere pretext for simple murder.

How long will the working masses of Japan tolerate the yoke of the Japanese imperialist Government? Is not the Japanese Government shooting down thousands of workers and peasants at the present time? Truly the Japanese workers have nothing to lose but their chains!

The Communist International calls upon the Japanese workers, regardless of party, to form a United Committee of Action, to establish the United Front against the imperialist Government. From now onwards the imperialist Government of Japan is not to have a moment's peace! The just indignation of the working masses of Japan must be expressed in an organised struggle against the present regime. The working masses of Japan, and of the whole world, must learn that the Japanese bourgeoisie is trying to reconstitute its power by sucking the blood of the workers, by squeezing the last drop out of those who have survived the catastrophe!

The Underground Manager of the Crown Mines has a scheme for training boss boys in mining. "The native who passes this test," says "The Reef," "is in every way efficient." Well then, white miners, is he to cut you out of your job by taking less money, or isn't it better that he be organised to claim the same money as you?

The R.I.L.U.'s Appeal for the Japanese Proletariat.

The position of the Japanese workers was always a very arduous one. They were brutally exploited by employers, by the capitalists, they were suppressed and kept under by the Government of the Mikado. They were compelled to suffer hunger and to endure continuous repressions on the part of the bourgeoisie.

The position of the Japanese workers is now even more difficult. An unparalleled natural catastrophe has destroyed the industry of Japan. It has destroyed those meagre means of existence which constituted the wages of the workers.

Many Japanese workers have died, many others have been crippled and wounded, many are without work, without a roof to cover them, doomed to death from starvation on account of the lack of foodstuffs. And the Japanese bourgeoisie is organising itself, it is gathering together all the forces of reaction in order to be able to transfer the whole burden of restoring the destroyed Japanese industry on to the Japanese proletariat.

Workers of all countries, working people of the world, do not forget your suffering brothers in Japan, help them, collect funds for them—but now, immediately. In Japan, thousands of workers, thousands of brothers belonging to the great international family of toilers, are perishing.

The Red International of Labour Unions calls its organisations to immediately open a campaign for the collection of funds for the suffering and needy Japanese workers. As a first contribution the Executive Bureau of the R.I.L.U. gives 15.000 gold roubles.

Workers of all countries, support your brothers in Japan!

The Executive Bureau will notify in what manner the money is to be remitted.

Rich Germans—and Starving Ones.

While, on the one hand, world-wide appeals are being made on behalf of the starving people of Germany, it transpires on the other that the American banks are full of German gold, sent to America by Germans like Stinnes, who have made huge fortunes.

Britain and France were afraid either to compel the German Government to take these fortunes, or to take them direct. You see, they were private fortunes and therefore sacrosanct. If the Allies had touched them, they would have set an example which the masses of England and France might have insisted upon being followed in those countries. Hence German Big Finance gets away with the swag, while the German Government has no money to pay reparations; is unable, even, to feed its starving people. —"S.A. Review."

COMMUNIST PARTY NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

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

Next Wednesday, December 5, Branch meeting, 8 p.m.

* * *

CAPETOWN BRANCH.

Now we have got firmly established in our new hall (145, Long Street, upstairs) we are in the position of being able to run a fine series of lectures on social and economic questions. We usually have a fair gathering of the general public, but like Oliver Twist we want still more.

It is very essential that all students should attend in order to obtain a fair grasp of current political events.

Questions and discussion are invited. Readers of "The International" in the Cape please note: Thursdays at 8 p.m., 145, Long Street, upstairs.

The current syllabus is as follows:—

November 15: W. Green, Labour the Creator.
November 22: M. Lopes, The International of Labour.
November 29: S. Buirski, The "Soviet" Menace of Europe.
December 6: H. Pereira, The Danger of Press and Pulpit.

Also a social and dance is held at a nominal charge every Friday at 8 p.m.

Sunday night meetings are held at the foot of Adderley Street at 8 p.m. In case of inclement weather meetings will be held at above hall.

Branch meetings at which new members may be enrolled every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

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YOUNG COMMUNIST NOTES.

HIKING SECTION: It has been decided to hold the next hike on December 9, the previous arrangement for December 16 being cancelled.

Meet at Trades Hall, Rissik Street, at 8 a.m., proceed "down south" via Eloff Street, Turffontein and Forest Hill.

All welcome! Bring your own lunch.

Workers of the Jewish World, Unite.

We have been asked to insert the following notice:—

To the Jewish unorganised shop assistants and clerks of the Witwatersrand.

Your position is getting worse daily. Your wages are going down and your hours of work are going up. You submit to all the demands of your bosses, because the shadow of unemployment is threatening you. You are helpless.

Why?

Because you are unorganised.

And only in organisation and unity lies the strength of all wage-earners.

Many of you have not hitherto been associated with the labour movement. You have been holding aloof, often even identifying yourselves with your masters, thus betraying your class. Bitter experience and suffering has shown you the danger to yourselves of such an attitude. You have realised that your salvation lies with your class.

Everyone of you must belong to a Trade Union. If there does not yet exist one that you can join it can and must be formed immediately.

With the object of organising all the Jewish workers who do not at present belong to any Union, the Jewish Socialist Society is convening a meeting of all Jewish workers at the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on Sunday, December 9th, 1923, at 8 p.m., which we ask you all to attend. Remember, if you remain unorganised your position will grow still worse than it is. Your masters are united. Capitalism is relentless; it will sap your strength, and will not be satisfied until it brings down your standard of living to the very lowest.

You must protect yourselves by organisation: you will find your strength in union.

Come to the meeting Sunday, December 9th, at 8 p.m. in the Trades Hall, Rissik Street, Johannesburg.

Jewish Socialist Society "Poalei Zion."

(Would any objection be raised to our extending the invitation to "Gentiles"?—Ed.)

A "fair wage clause" is condemned by Grahamstown Municipal Councillors as being "Bolshevik." If that is what "Bolshevism" means (as, among other things, it is) then where, O Langley Levy, is thy sting, and where, Chilvers, thy victory?

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.

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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