Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

The Government has REFUSED to Release the Nine. What are you going to do about it ?

Come to the Meeting at 8, TRADES HALL, SUNDAY 16th inst., at 10.30.

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. 395. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1923. PRICE THREEPENCE

WORKERS ! Look Out for an Appeal on behalf OF THE Starving Workers of Germany.

AND KEEP YOUR ENERGIES FRESH TO SUPPORT IT.

Many Workers are Saying—

That the photograph of General Primo De Rivera, head of the military Government of Spain, which was published in last Wednesday's "Rand Daily Mail," might easily be mistaken for that of Fatty Arbuckle.

* * *

That it wouldn't be a bad idea to let the Prince of Wales when he arrives work half a dozen shifts in the bottom level of the Village Deep and then ask him for his opinion of the "dignity of labour"; but

* * *

That they fear he wouldn't last out six shifts, poor dear!

* * *

That the decision of the Johannesburg Town Council (whose majority party is quarrelling among itself) to re-confer recognition on Trade Unions is a sign of the times, and

* * *

That, although it must not be taken to mean that all is well with Labour, it should stimulate the "Back to the Union" campaign.

* * *

That Creswell's refusal to speak at a certain meeting in Germiston because Comrade Tyler (general secretary, B.W.I.U.) was also down to speak, is typical of our imperialist, flag-wagging, "constitutional," ultra-conservative "Labour leader," and

* * *

That the sooner he is put out of the Labour movement the better.

* * *

That for his strenuous efforts "on behalf of humanity" General Smuts must surely have had a seat reserved him on God's right hand (Gabriel and Moses ain't in it) and that the sooner he goes to occupy it the better they will be pleased.

* * *

That Crawford's reception by a meeting of Salt River railwaymen would go to show that the "negotiating" methods of modern orthodox Labour (b)leaders are not approved of by the rank and file of Labour when a reduction of wages is the net result.

"On Friendship."

Oliver Baldwin says he does not care if through his adhesion to the British Labour Party he loses many old friends. Of course not. For what is "friendship" to-day? In its typical forms it is simply an amenity, a semi-avowed dope, as between members of the bourgeoisie, at their "cabarets" and so on; like good manners it is extended only to those in the same class swim, and is very patently discarded by a bourgeois in his relations to a proletarian, unless perchance, as in the case of bourgeois countries' "amicable relations with Russia," there is something to be got out of it. As for the working class, it does not enjoy the conditions or facilities for such friendship, Some day the well-known Walter Crane pictures will become true to life, and then true friendship will for the first time be possible for all; but to-day the more fitting cartoon depicts the worker hammering at the chains that encircle the world To-day the working class is engaged in a struggle in which a close personal comradeship in arms may often arise as an incident; but "having friends" is no part of the things the worker lives for. The "Great Friendship" in the class-conscious Labour movement is the friendship for "the multitude," though every individual in the multitude be personally more or less repellant One may be corrupt, another servile, another venal, weak or cowardly, indeed these qualities are actually prominent among the toilers, including the non-European toilers of South Africa, and especially some of their leaders; but it is to the whole class, to whose enslavement these defects are due, that working-class friendship goes out, not as so much Miss Braddon sentimentality, but as solidarity, as a consuming love of the workers because they are workers, because they are the useful ones of the earth, because they are the victims of the very class among whom alone the other, and tinsel, friendship can flourish—the class that produces all the Fascists, all the war-lords, all the "Crusaders," all the instigators of bombings and baby-killings and prisoner-shootings, the class that is starving and crushing whole populations in every continent to-day. "Friends" among such people? Faugh!

A mass meeting of dockers at Hull last month resolved to handle no munitions destined for use against the German workers, and called for a United Labour Front in their support and a general strike against the retention of British troops in Germany.

Thumbs Down.

GOVERNMENT REFUSES ANY REMISSION OF STRIKE SENTENCES.

The Secretary, Strike Prisoners' Release Committee, care of S.A. Mine Workers' Union, Johannesburg, reports that in reply to the widely-signed petitions for the release of the remaining nine strike prisoners and the resolutions of numerous public meetings and also of Trade Unions and branches thereof, he received, on the day after Gen. Smuts' arrival in Pretoria, the following letter from the Director of Prisons, following a refusal on the part both of the Governor-General and of the Minister of Justice to receive a deputation of the committee on behalf of the prisoners:

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 22nd ultimo addressed to the Secretary to the Governor-General, I have the honour to inform you that the petition on behalf of the nine men still in prison for offences committed during the disturbances on the Witwatersrand in March, 1922, has been duly considered by the Minister of Justice, who regrets that he is unable to recommend His Royal Highness the Governor-General to grant any remission of the sentences imposed on the men in question.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

C. D. O. BATHO,
for Director of Prisons.

A full meeting of the Committee to deal with the situation will be held at the Mine Workers' Office, 8, Trades Hall, on Sunday week, Dec. 16, at 10.30 a.m. ALL INTERESTED IN THE MATTER are urgently invited to attend, whether they have previously belonged to the Committee or not, and irrespective of party, including all Trade Unionists whether or not their Unions have already appointed delegates to the Committee.

Come comrades, come rally to the aid of your fellow-workers in gaol.

Whom are You Going toBomb ?

Col. Mentz has been at great pains to disclaim having said that the Air Force increase is made in view of a native rising. Then what is it for? A white rising? Is that any better? For one thing is certain, that not one of those 100 aeroplanes donated by England is destined for commercial use; commercial aeronautics is apparently prohibited in South Africa. No, bombing from the air is by far both the cheapest and the deadliest form of warfare against masses, especially in the open country, and we know who those masses are. As for the League of Nations, bah, who cares what it says?

But even Air Forces can be controlled politically.

Australian Labour has obliged the Federal Government to withdraw a measure which meant in effect the provision of bombing planes for use against strikers. Returned soldiers took a leading part in the agitation against the proposal.

Pact, here's a chance for you to show your mettle on similar lines. But YOU'LL HAVE TO GET BUSY; if you just let drift, Smuts will just let drive at the first whisper of "unrest"—black or white.

Viscount Curzon "attributes the interruptions at his meetings to Communists, not Labourites." Sir Robert Horne's interrupters, it seems, are Labourites, not Communists. Others say "extremists." The fact is, of course, that they are all members of the working class, "incited" by the incomparably loathsome spectacle of British bourgeois hypocrisy to treat its candidates as Smuts was treated the other day by the working class of Turffontein. Willy-nilly, capitalism produces a "United Front."

"Red Revolt Plans in Prussia: table of the court covered with arms seized, proving that the Communists planned an armed revolt with arms supplied from Moscow"—how familiar it all reads, the same old yarn in every country, except that for this Prussian affair, after 15 days' search, they found only 500 rifles and a couple of machine guns, among many millions of people, which is very poor by the side of Marshall Square's gallant show, dummy machine-gun and all (vide "Daily Mail" illustration) culled from our few thousands in March last year.

"The name of the man who shot down Immelman has never been made known before." Now he's dead, we learn why: he was only a footman.

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

Trade Union Revival on the Reef.

What are the Trade Unions doing? is a question one hears frequently. The question infers that the Unions are some form of mechanical structure which operates by the manipulation of levers at the will of the officials. However, the Trade Unions are not allowing the old craft to drift over the falls without an effort to rescue.

Throughout the gold mines considerable activity is being displayed in the form of PROPAGANDA COMMITTEES, these bodies being representative of THE VARIOUS TRADES in connection with gold mining. IN THE VARIOUS CENTRES MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD, at which prominent Labour leaders deal with the conditions confronting the white workers. Judging by the discussions that follow and the ENTHUSIASM DISPLAYED it appears clearly apparent that the workers are beginning to recognise the necessity of strengthening the Trade Unions as a means whereby the deplorable conditions existing can eventually be remedied.

The value of this form of organisation, which BRINGS ALL CLASSES OF WORKERS TOGETHER, is being recognised as a distinct improvement on the old methods, and all sections of workers are convinced that it is essential to link up together if any improvement is to be gained.

A further improvement on the old methods is also being considered and is being well received, namely, the ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCILS, AND EVENTUALLY A CENTRAL EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE UNIONS to deal with questions affecting the interests of workers, thereby AVOIDING THE POSSIBILITY OF WORKING CONDITIONS BEING ESTABLISHED SECTIONALLY as in the past.

The Veld Flame.

(By L. A. Motler.)

Out there
On the edge of the compound,
Chin on knees before a charcoal fire,
Sitting, brooding, dreaming or just moping,
Black face flushed with the leaping flames,
That is Sixpence,
Sixpence from Caledon River.
Here to work in the dorp.
He lives in a tin-roofed hut,
With no fireplace,
Much less a chimney.
But it is a kia, a house, not a kraal.
We have given him the blessings of civilisation.

. . . . . .

Presently in drops a visitor.
He feels in his pocket for his card,
And his keen Shangaan eyes roam the darkness.
Out of his pocket it comes,
A pint bottle.
They sit down and are hospitable.
Jim has another card up his sleeve,
They drink this too.
Perhaps they do not really think much of it
But it was sold by a white man,
Under the nose of a blind policeman.
We have given them the blessings of civilisation.

. . . . . .

The flames flicker and glow dullishly,
The veld wind blows keen,
Two bodies, not corpses, lie with feet to the warmth.
One of them kicks the bucket,
The bucket of charcoal,
And drawing his feet in suddenly, wakes.
He pulls his companion into the hut
And rolls him on to the blankets,
Then he bars the door.
There are such people as thieves.
But you can fasten the door in houses.
Kraals have no doors
And so you cannot fasten them.
We are generous with the blessings of civilisation.

. . . . . .

Perhaps you can smell a moral to this letterpress,
But it is more likely a stronger odour.
The smell of civilisation perchance.

. . . . . .

Fire has always attracted man,
Especially savages,
Even more than civilisation.
But there are invisible fires
Inside you.
And it is more catching than civilisation.
If you have not caught it yet, be sure you will,
Boer, Briton, Bantu, Indian, or what not.
It is the fire of Communism
And will burn up the "blessings of civilisation."

German Famine Relief Campaign

Full support to the International Workers' Relief, which is organising the world campaign for relief of famine among the German workers, has been voted by the British Transport Workers' Federation (Robert Williams, secretary) and the United Building Workers' Trade Unions (George Hicks, secretary) and further Unions are about to do likewise. The International Federation of Trade Unions also had the matter on its agenda in mail week. Meanwhile the Trade Unions in practically every country on the continent are taking up the good work.

The branch of the I.W.R. in Holland is undertaking the care of a hundred children orphaned as the result of the bloody suppression of famine demonstrations by the German Government. Others please follow.

There is hardly any question now but that the Stinnes party in Germany are deliberately using starvation to club the working class into submission. Here are the percentages of pre-war wages now being paid in some of the chief trades: Building workers, 15.6 per cent.; miners, 15 to 20 per cent.; chemical workers, 21 per cent.; painters, 20 per cent. Add to this the colossal army of unemployed, and the statement that the German famine, which is practically general, is worse than the Russian, which was mainly local, becomes intelligible; and the plight of a starving industrial worker is even more hopeless than that of a peasant.

The percentage of German children that are tuberculous had risen from 5 per cent. in 1914 to 13.2 per cent. at the beginning of this year, according to official statistics.

Comrade Henriette Roland Holst, of Holland, has diverted a portion of the proceeds of her book on Russia, which was destined for support of Russian Children's Homes, to the German Famine Relief Fund.

Workers of South Africa! Build up Relief Committees, and when you read of attacks on the German workers as thirsting for another war, with Russia as ally, realise that these are just capitalist attempts to kill the relief movement and complete the starvation of working-class Germany.

Smuts as Jekyll and Hyde.

The "Guardian" compares Smuts to Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, and so does "Native Opinion". (Kingwilliamstown).

We think our contemporaries miss the point of modern bourgeois "statemanship." What they trustfully accept as "idealism" is only the necessary art of the politician to use high-sounding words as cover for foul deeds. Lloyd George is just another of the type; so is Baldwin with his "All for the unemployed." Even the late Lord Morley, for whom the "Guardian" seems to have a sneaking admiration, showed himself a determined opponent of the Labour movement. We remember a Liberal politician in England collecting Biblical texts for use in his election speeches in Cornwall; not because he was full of religious enthusiasm, but simply because that was the stuff to give his Methodist constituents.

It is only weakness to look for a "second conscience" to explain what is just so much dope. Nowadays it is just on the strength of ability as a dope artist that political preferment rests; there is actually no room for nobility in a capitalist statesman.

For the same reason let us not trust too much to the passionate hatred inspired by Smuts in particular. Eliminate him, and the same enemy remains, just as, although Lenin is as passionately loved by the Russian workers, yet when he dies they will carry on the Workers' Republic without him.

Bloody Brigands !

Read the following from last Wednesday's "Rand Daily Mail":

Nairobi, Monday.

A mounted patrol of the King's African Rifles came into contact with a party of Abyssinians in North-Eastern Uganda, and a conflict ensued.

Eight Abyssinians were killed, but the patrol escaped without suffering any casualties. The patrol captured a considerable quantity of arms and ivory.—Reuter.

The basic tenets of capitalist morality are incontinently brushed aside in the interests of big business nowadays. Note: "The patrol captured a considerable quantity of arms AND IVORY." So Mr. Fat no longer BUYS ivory but he commissions bloody brigands to steal it off the Abyssinians.

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"Preaching Equality."

Willie Rockey, M.L.A., attacked the Communists the other day for "preaching equality when there is no equality."

Surely it is the other way round. The crime of the bourgeois and the bourgeois-minded is just that they preach inequality where there is no inequality. From the bourgeois point of view there is no inequality between black and white workers when a native does white man's work. The fact that he does it means that black and white are equal for the capitalists, who value a worker simply according to the profit he makes for them; indeed if the black does the job cheaper than the white, and so makes even more profit for them, then he is in their eyes not merely equal but superior to the white. This is the "equality" which Mr. Rockey knows all about but conceals, saying, "We do not want to see blacks competing with whites"; while the Communists insist on opening the eyes of the public to it.

"Oh, but," you say, "I don't judge the native by capitalist standards; I judge him as a worker (fellow-worker, should we say?), and as a worker he is inferior to the white." This is only saying over again what the capitalist says; not another standard, but the same one. If the black worker does not successfully compete with the white worker, then there is nothing for that white worker to make a song about. But he does make a song, and he does so because black workers often do in fact successfully compete with whites: i.e., as above stated, they are the equals or rather (being cheaper) the superiors of whites. And that fact is not altered by continuing to declaim that they are unequal.

"Oh but" again "I mean personally and socially unequal." Yes, on the average they are a backward race, and Communists never pretend otherwise. The appearance of inferiority is, however, greatly accentuated by mutual ignorance, especially of language; and the actual inferiority is deliberately enhanced by the denial to them of land, of education, of houses, baths, etc., of equal rights in general, and in particular of standard wages.

This sort of manufactured inequality suits the capitalist class well enough, and is often "preached" by them (though they sometimes pretend it doesn't exist because the "colour bar" has been abolished, whereas that abolition has not equalised pay or standards); and doesn't suit the working class at all, whether white or black; for it is a deliberate means to keeping the black down—and dragging the white down. And it is because of this degrading effect that Communists "preach" against it, and in favour of common action by black and white workers, not for the purpose of merely equalising black and white, but for the purpose of overcoming the power of the capitalists to degrade—although "equal pay for equal work," and generally a removal or even mitigation of the above mentioned glaring inequalities, would also act as a stimulant to such common action, and indeed, as regards wages, if native workers got equal wages with white men they would quickly enough approximate to white men's "social" standards—and why not!

To insist that there is (i.e., should be) no equality boils down to supporting the whole principle of a servant race, the whole principle of exploitation and helotage, the whole policy of keeping a section of workers "inferior" and so making them cheaper and more docile, while at the same time forcing down the "standard wage." Remember in particular, white fellow-workers, that the more you keep the nigger "in his place" as your "unequal" and deny him the rights, amenities, facilities and wages you claim for yourselves, the more you really assist him to "equalise" you to his level, and below it—while he takes your job.

Organisation.

Speaking at the Moscow exhibition, Chicherin cited the views of foreign visitors like Senator Lafolette, of U.S.A., who declared that what had astonished him most in Moscow was the spirit of ORGANISATION evident everywhere, and expressed in the increasingly organised condition of the entire society. At the same time Chicherin warned his hearers that while on the one hand there appeared to be a complete change for the better in Russian relations with foreign countries and their business circles, on the other hand, extreme reaction was raising its head. "Presently we may possibly have to rise in defence of all the revolutionary rights and liberties which the workers' and peasants' state has won for us. We must never forget for an instant that we are the sole Red Republic (or, more strictly speaking, Union of Red Republics) in a world of capitalist states, that the danger is by no means over, and that we shall still have to sacrifice much in defence of our Revolution."

The reading of "Humanite," the Paris Communist daily, is forbidden in the French army. "Humanite" thus acquires the attractiveness of forbidden fruit, and its circulation has increased among the soldiers who "in the greatest secrecy, with the joy of slaves who catch a glimpse of freedom," pass it, whole or in cuttings, from hand to hand.

Two Bishops.

The cathedral city of Bloemfontein is the type of bourgeois respectability, and Dr. Neville Talbot, Bishop of Pretoria, has been holding a ten days' mission there. In other words, he has been indulging in a narcotising stunt on a bigger scale than usual. It seems that the middle class folk belonging to the "Church of Good Society," as Upton Sinclair calls it, have been doing a lot of backsliding of late, such as holding aloof from the cannibal repast, as well as slacking in the matter of church attendance. The old dope somehow seemed to have lost its bite, so the local bishop summoned his brother of Pretoria to provide something more stimulating. That his efforts were stimulating enough is unquestionable, for all the fundamentalists in the city are now shieking wildly for his scalp, with all the fierce gusto of American Red Indians. These funny little champions of verbal inspiration and literal interpretation are inexpressibly shocked to find that the bishop treats the Book of Genesis, and indeed the whole of the Old Testament, with as scant respect as any ordinary atheist; while the fact that he holds the evolutionary doctrine of man's descent from a common ancestor with the ape has driven them to the verge of frenzied despair. Says the bishop in effect, Genesis is all bunkum, just a lot of Semitic lore scraped together by Jewish writers, late in history, to serve as religious dope and inspiration. The bishop professes much anxiety that the young should be liberated from such false dogmas as that of the Creation as well as "O'd Testament conceptions of God, some of them crudely primitive and immoral." The evolutionary world, he says, is established by evidence so overwhelming in its totality that it cannot be gainsaid. So man and the ape originated from a common ancestor, and not from the Mesopotamian dust of Eden's flower beds. Of course the world was not created in B.C. 4004 as bible margins say but, as Modern Science shows, is about 1,000 million years old. So far so good. But we should like to ask the bishop a question. If OLD TESTAMENT dope is bad for young people, what about the dope in the NEW? Is not this equally absurd, immoral, and primitive? What price for example the Incarnation which rests on Matt. I., 18, 20, 23, and Luke I., 34, 35? What can be more "crudely primitive and immoral" than this? Here you have the Holy Ghost coming upon a virgin bride, like Jupiter upon Danae in a golden cloud! Then what about the visit of the handsome male Angel Gabriel? No wonder poor Joseph had visions of the divorce court! What a time the poor chap must have had! Now how would the bishop explain the Virgin birth in terms of evolutionary law? Does he imagine that human parthenogenesis is a solid fact confirmed by scientific research?

If he rejects the Creation yarn on the ground that it is intrinsically absurd and scientifically false, why in the name of logic does he not condemn the Incarnation too? Why indeed, does he not possess the honesty of Bishop Montgomery Brown, who belongs to the Communist International, and taking his courage in both hands cast to the dogs the last shred of lying superstition; and then descend from the pinnacle of bourgeois respectability and leisure-class good taste, and give us a hand 'midst the reek and smoke of the revolutionary movement?

"SEARCHLIGHT."

Pomp and Misery.

Ay, there they are—
Nobles, and sons of nobles, patentees,
Monopolists, and stewards of this poor farm,
On whose lean sheep sit the prophetic crows.
Here is the pomp that strips the houseless orphan,
Here is the pride that breaks the desolate heart.
These are the lilies glorious as Solomon,
Who toil not, neither do they spin,—unless
It be the webs they catch poor rogues withal.
Here is the surfeit which to them who earn
The niggard wages of the earth scarce leaves
The tithe that will support them till they crawl
Back to its cold hard bosom. Here is health,
Followed by grim disease, glory by shame,
Waste by lank famine, wealth by squalid want.

. . . . . .

And, as the effect pursues the cause foregone,
Lo, giving substance to my words, behold
At once the sign and the thing signified—
A troop of cripples, beggars, and lean outcasts,
Horsed upon stumbling shapes, carted with dung,
Dragged for a day from cellars and low cabins
And rotten hiding-holes to point the moral
Of this presentment, and bring up the rear
Of painted pomp with misery!

—P. B. Shelley, "Charles the First."

An order of the day issued to the Red Army by Trotzky on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Revolution stresses the fact that the U.S.S.R. is celebrating the anniversary amidst new and terrible events which menace the peace of Europe. He declared, "More than ever we are resolved to safeguard the independence of the Soviet Union and its future. Our ardent sympathy goes out to the workers of all countries. Our efforts will be devoted to the maintenance of peace, but the military vigilance of the Soviet Government will not relax so long as there exist the rapacious desires of Imperialism."

The conservative "Spectator" declares with reference to the Anglo-Russian grain agreement: "Everyone concerned is to be congratulated on a definite step forward. The Government must seriously consider putting the present rather anomalous state of half recognition of the Moscow Government on a more definite basis. After all, the Bolshevik administration is now the senior Administration of Europe and its hold upon the country seems as firm as ever."

PRICKLY PARS.

By Sen Yah.

The Filthy Liars!!

Occasionally a young journalist, who still has some illusions left about his "profession," rushes into print in defence of his craft and makes everybody (more or less) smile. A "public" newspaper and a "public" prostitute—both of which for profit spend their whole time disseminating filth—are so much alike that one of England's biggest intellects declared that the terms were synonomous (I don't agree, Henry, because I think the observation a bitter libel on the prostitute). George declares that in Fat's college of journalism the student is caught very young and his brain inoculated with a swarm of vermin, otherwise he cannot succeed as a modern journalist . . . and one could fill a volume with the remarks of well-known and respected men and women regarding the effect of modern journalism upon the morals and character of the people. These remarks are called forth by the latest efforts of the "Rand Daily Mail," which so far exceed anything in cesspool filth which has appeared in a South African newspaper up to date that it is essential to place it on record. On Monday a week ago "public opinion" was dangerously excited by a screaming placard which averred that "the Reds" were busy inflaming the natives of this country against the whites. I bought the paper and read a blood-curdling account of the discovery by a "well-known farmer" (name and district not mentioned)—of an "Ethiopian Church" Bolshevik inciting a crowd of excited farm natives to rise and "drive the white men into the sea," and a lot more to that effect. Now listen, Henry dear, THE WHOLE "REPORT" WAS A RE-HASH OF A PASSAGE IN THE WELL-KNOWN SENSATIONAL NOVEL BY G. HEATON-NICHOLLS, "BAYETE," published almost without alteration as a fact. I challenge the "Daily Mail" to name the farmer and the "missionary" concerned and (puerile as I know it to be) I DEMAND, AS A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN OF THIS COUNTRY ENTITLED TO PROTECTION, THAT THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE, THE EDITOR, AND THE NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS, BE BROUGHT TO BOOK, AS I SHOULD BE UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES, UNDER THE LAW WHICH MAKES IT CRIMINAL TO CAUSE DISAFFECTION AMONG HIS MAJESTY'S SUBJECTS.

* * *

Reputation.

Billy Allen's libel action against the big sporting paper, "The Latest" (in which, OF COURSE, he failed) throws a little ray of light upon South African professional sport and journalism. The boxer, who incidentally is a man very much above the average of his profession culturally, proved how money had been obtained from him under the threat to ruin his career in the ring by adverse reports, and the whole exposure emphasised, what everyone interested knows, that South African journalism has reached such a depth of putrid infamy that decent citizens should shun it, and its purveyors, as they would a deadly viper.

* * *

The Other Side.

But if reputations and careers can be ruined by the deadly dope distilled in the lie factories called newspaper offices, so can an individual, who is prepared to do Fat's dirty work, have a scintillating reputation ready made for him by the same foul gang of intellectual prostitutes.

Thus, from time to time, a mediocre (but bloodily inhuman) individual is procured to act as thug-in-chief to Capitalism and hey, presto! in two weeks the delectable press has made him or her into a "world-genius," a "great statesman," a "military giant," a "world-renowned philosopher," or what not.

PRESS EULOGY IS A CERTAIN HALL-MARK OF INFERIORITY ALLIED TO UNSCRUPULOUS AND UNASHAMED FILTH IN THE INDIVIDUAL EULOGISED.

* * *

Palmistry.

Johannesburg Municipality contemplates spending a million or so upon a new power plant.

"The pact" inside the Council shows signs of wear and tear but, don't get alarmed, Henry, it will be all right again after the smear of anti-friction grease has been, more or less, equally applied.

* * *

Lice.

Nathaniel Rothschild has bequeathed his wonderful collection of lice and fleas to the British Museum, and has willed £10,000 to be applied to paying a curator to look after them. The nation is grateful and Langley-Levy is enraptured. The Rothschild family has been collecting these homely parasites for years, we are told. Rothschild (millionaire) expert on parasites (and one himself) seems to have been a well-meaning chap.

He committed suicide by the refined method of sticking himself in the throat.

R.I.P. (Rent, Interest and Profit).

* * *

Poor Dears!

"A Russian Princess desires a position as saleswoman in exclusive dressmaking establishment."—"The Times."

I've heard about these "exclusive establishments" before, Henry—there are some in Johannesburg.

* * *

Agreed.

Have you noticed that Lloyd George, Birkenhead, Winnie Churchill, Baldwin, and the rest of the variety gang now performing in Great Britain are all agreed on one point, Henry?

They are against labour.

A Land Deal.

It would be interesting to know by what means the farmers around Graaff-Reinet were induced to part with their land to the "home-builder" I. W. Schlesinger—who appears to be in the running for elevation "when the prince comes."

How about a new Marquisate of Fordsburg, and throw it open for competition in bourgeois virtue between Schlesinger, Kroomer and Jimmie?

* * *

Beer and Sawdust.

Did you ever meet the thirsty old soldier in a tavern who, dipping his finger in beer, would sketch in the sawdust the enemy's position and the way to win the war? I am reminded of the old chap by the following, regarding the great soldier Jannie Smuts:—

"He frequently, when in East Africa, and discussing the strategy of the Allied armies in Europe, pointed out to his staff the 'way round.' 'They are too strong here,' he would say, 'we must get round this way somehow,' indicating with downturned forefinger—you know the gesture—the point on the map where the Balkan States cluster."—"The Star."

Now, Henry, if Jannie had shown his staff how to beat Von Lettow-Vorbeck in East Africa, that campaign could not be added to his sequence of failures, but like all incompetents he knew how to do the other man's job but failed miserably to do his own

Everybody knows that the East African campaign was an officers' boozing expedition, and the "clean-up" at Dar-es-Salaam, after the Armistice, took in several acres of empty whisky cases.

* * *

Swine.

"There is no material alteration to report in this section."—"The Star."

In consequence, Henry, my Society Notes will not appear this week.

* * *

A Bloody Confession.

"It being felt that fresh blood is required, reorganisation is taking place in the Kimberley branch of the S.A.P."—"The Star."

I warned you long ago, Dubb, that the Imperial Conference wasn't meeting for nothing, and Jannie is back now so—look out.

* * *

Basutos and Locusts.

A year or more ago, Henry, I advised you to watch Basutoland. That was when Fat's press was "boosting" the Basutos' alleged impatience with their form of (more or less) self-government. Now we learn, from the same tainted source, that if there were no Basutos there would be no locusts.

What is it?—Oil, diamonds, gold or what?

Maybe, after all, it's only that the Chamber of Crimes is short of native labour, or that some "home builder" has an eye on Basutoland.

Anyway, look out for the usual rebellion!

* * *

Choose.

Either the London "Times" or Dr. Hertz is a deliberate liar. The "Times" says the Bolshevik Government of Russia is persecuting the Jews, and the Chief Rabbi implores his co-religionists to do everything humanly possible to keep the Russian Government in power, AS IT IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR JEWRY IN RUSSIA.

Which would you rather believe, Henry dear?

* * *

The Useful Art.

The sub-leader of "The Star" of the 27th inst. is headed

"THE SCIENTIFIC SIDE OF LYING,"

in which three types of liars are noted by the Editor of that journal of truth. Says he "inter alia": "The third type includes those who lie from uncontrolled self-instinct—fear, vindictiveness, the wish to get on, and the like." We'll take his word for it, Henry, and if you are interested in an expert's views on the subject, get the "Star" of the 27th and cut the article in question out for future reference.

Trades & Labour Councils in Britain.

At a Conference on the Future of Trades Councils, convened under the auspices of the Labour Research Department and the Leeds Trades Council, held at Leeds on September 29, Mr. R. Page Arnot, the Secretary of the Labour Research Department, said that the opinion had been expressed that Trades Councils were rather an obsolete form of organisation. He did not agree with that point of view, but he felt that behind it there were certain facts that had to be met, and if the Trades Councils of the country did not begin to think things out afresh they would become obsolete. Trades Councils were of fundamental importance to the Trade Union movement of the country, for two main reasons. First, because they were the only bodies who could claim to represent the whole of the working-class movement; and, secondly, because when the Unions had reached that sort of crisis that had overtaken the British movement to-day, it WAS FROM THE TRADES COUNCILS THAT THEY WOULD GET THE RE-CREATING IMPULSE THROUGH THE MOVEMENT. The Councils, however, should keep their autonomy, and should not become sectionalised. In conclusion, Mr. Arnot expressed the belief that the Councils should accept affiliation not only from Trade Union branches, but from workshop committees, the unemployed, the Communists, the I.L.P., and kindred bodies. Trades Councils also should be readmitted to the National Trades Union Congress.

To General Smuts, P.C.

Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa.

Sir,—Since landing again in your native country, the cartoon which appeared in the "Sunday Times" of Johannesburg last Sunday has no doubt been brought to your notice In it you are depicted stepping from the gangway of a ship, carefully guarding under your "good right arm" a bulky volume of press cuttings, and followed by an intellectual (?) looking bluejacket bearing aloft a huge sack labelled "Universal Praise." The cartoonist evidently knows you more intimately than we had supposed, and I trust you duly appreciated—and maybe suitably rewarded—his lick-spittle effort, never forgetting, however, that his masters (and yours) may some day issue different instructions, when the same commercial talent which to-day pleases you may be used to create another reputation upon no firmer a foundation than your present own. Under the cartoon all who care may read the legend:—

"WHEN JANNIE COMES MARCHING HOME.

"To-morrow morning General Smuts will once more walk on South African soil. After tackling big international complications—winning world-wide appreciation by his statesmanship—he will find himself faced once more by the small irritations of South African politics."

The insinuation lying in that specious example of Limehouse journalism is that you are indeed a genius in statecraft such as our long-suffering world has never before seen. It would be absurd for you and me to enter into a discussion of statecraft. We both know Machiavelli intimately and well, as we also both know—you by actual hard-cash experience, and I by painful study and stolen research—the origin and the function of the State; so that we may dismiss this subject in shorthand, so to speak, by merely remarking in passing that THE STATE IS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CAPITALIST CLASS, THE MEMBERS AND SERVANTS OF WHICH, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER AND COMMON HANGMAN, ARE MERELY SERVANTS WHO DRAW THEIR SALARIES AND ENJOY THEIR EMOLUMENTS AND PRIVILEGES ONLY SO LONG AS THEY DO THE WILL OF THE REAL OWNERS OF THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH AND THE BODIES AND SOULS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.

It is not of that I wish to speak. It is of your own much-press-vaunted successful career as a public man; and I use the term "public man" in its popular sense, which is by no means its true sense, because I admit that as a "public man" in the real sense you are indeed, General, a real success. But in the other sense I can find not a little of evidence to support the claims of your masters, scribes and pharisees. On the contrary, look at your career however I may, I see nothing but a record of failure and bungling almost unparalleled in any "life" I have had the leisure to study. At college you were an atheist, it was incompatible with your ambition as a "careerist," and you learned to mouth texts and biblical quotations instead; thus bearing out the Shakespearean remark anent the Devil quoting scripture for his own purpose. Thus as a freethinker you were a failure—it takes moral courage to hold anti-religious views in a backward country such as ours.

As Secretary to Rhodes I think you scored your only success. You were undoubtedly useful to that unscrupulous freebooter and he, on the other hand, was undoubtedly useful to you. From him, no doubt, you learned much of that which has since been so useful to you personally and so ruinous to your country and countrymen, and through him you became State Attorney of the Transvaal, at a time when he and his fellow-conspirators were plotting to overthrow the happy little Boer Republic. You were a General in the Boer Army during the Anglo-Boer war, but you had only the suspicion and distrust of your commandants—as witness the opposition you met with in the field when you first accepted service under British Imperialism in 1902, the terms of which were that you should personally visit the "bitter-enders" and persuade them to come in under the glorious folds of the Union Jack. After Vereeniging you still had a hankering after your own people. Whatever the motive it would be hard for any ordinary man to fathom but, failing to come to terms with Milner, you refused to serve under that imperialist, and produced your famous book on "100 Years of British Oppression"—much to your present-day regret. Thus from 1899 to 1903 everything you attempted failed, and it appeared as though the name of Jannie Smuts would never be known outside the backveld. However, you stuck to it, and after your famous anti-Chinese speech in the Transvaal Parliament in which you declared that "any statesman with the interests of South Africa at heart who would allow a gang of cosmopolitan financiers to exploit our mineral wealth and leave us only filled graveyards and hideous mine-dumps as a legacy, would be a criminal," you did that very thing and "went over" to the mine magnates and British Imperialism, thus again registering yourself a complete failure as a Dutch-Afrikander patriot.

From then onwards you were marked out by the Corner House, and its ramifications of interests throughout the world, as a man for whom a career and reputation must be made. You had sufficient sense to hide your ignorance, you were safe and dependable, and—having no fear of a hereafter—you never hesitated to order destruction of human life when your masters' interests were at stake. In short, you were a man after Fat's own heart and his world-press began to play a fountain of scintillating eulogy upon your personality, and quickly manufactured for you a reputation of successful statesmanship in the eyes of the unthinking masses. And yet you and I and many others know you to be a complete failure. In everything you have attempted—except perhaps Bulhoek and Fordsburg (and of them you are yourself rather ashamed)—you have failed. As witness:—

Item: You failed at Kleinfontein in 1913, and paid £45,000 of public money to pay the private debt of the Chamber of Mines in the price of compensation to strike-breakers.

Item: You failed in your attempted suppression of the Indians of Natal in the same year.

Item: You blundered over the deportations in 1914, and from that date your name has been execrated by both Boer and Briton throughout the Transvaal.

Item: You failed when you shot Japie Fourie, as witness the huge Dutch demonstration announced on the very day this letter is being penned.

Item: You blundered murderously in shooting unarmed natives in batches at Premier Mine and Koffyfontein.

Item: Village Deep, Port Elizabeth, Bulhoek, Johannesburg Power Station—all machine-gun failures.

Item: Hanekoms, Dowse, Smith, Van Wijk, Stassen, Long, Hull, Lewis—records of failure as time shows, and will show.

Regarding your wider activities:—

Item: You failed as a General in German East in spite of all things being overwhelmingly in your favour. Your failure here was so miserable that tons of Corner House Press Whitewash were used up to cover your frustration.

Item: You failed as mediator in Ireland and became a laughing-stock wherever Irishmen gather together, in or out of Ireland.

Item: You failed as Aerial Defence of London organiser and were quickly superseded because you knew absolutely nothing about the job.

Item: You have consistently failed to obtain a Commercial Treaty with Mozambique.

Item: You failed to get Rhodesia into the Union. Confidential: the Rhodesians didn't trust you.

Item: You failed at the toenadering conference.

Item: You failed to form an alliance with Labour.

Item: You failed to face your unemployed, and you have failed to find any real relief for them. To cover your failure you blatantly declared in Britain that there were no unemployed in South Africa.

Item: You failed to do anything but attempt to bully the Indian representative at the Imperial Conference, thus paving the way for another crisis and another failure.

Item: You are a laughing-stock for acting as the mouthpiece of Baldwin and the Steel Ring, by reading the speech prepared by them for you on the Ruhr question.

In short, you are so colossal a failure that volumes could be written on the things you have failed to accomplish. Tell me, my dear Smuts, anything of moment you have attempted to do and succeeded in doing, except to amass wealth for yourself and bring your country under the heel of that "gang of cosmopolitan financiers who will leave us only filled graveyards and hideous mine-dumps as a legacy." No, sir, you stand in my, and millions of others', eyes only as a personification of force and killing and a living example of the truth of the business adage:

"IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE."

HARRY HAYNES.

The German Revolution and Its Enemies.

(By G. Zinoviev.)

The German working class is marching forward to the seizure of power. The only political party in Germany on the up-grade is the Communist Party, which is growing in strength and numbers daily, despite all persecution. All other political parties are on the down-grade, they are losing influence, dying out.

ALWAYS SOME EXCUSE.

A much "respected" German Menshevik (P. Hertz) recently wrote in "Der Sozialistische Bote": "As Social Democracy, even together with Communism, comprises a section of the working class only, whilst a considerable section of proletarian intellectuals and non-propertied middle class elements are in the bourgeois camp, the socialist labour movement in Germany is not in a position, even from the purely numerical point of view, to seize power."

This "profound" sentence is worthy of a Menshevik. Every Menshevik with any respect for himself always has a stock of a thousand and one reasons upon which he can draw when he wants to strike a blow against Revolution. Even if we present to him 99 per cent of the members organised in the social democratic party, all knowing the Erfurt programme and Kautsky's complete works by heart, he will still demand that the remaining one per cent. first be called upon to settle, by means of a general, direct, and secret ballot, what "Revolution" really is, if it is necessary at the present juncture, and what is to be preferred: the constitutional assembly or the proletarian dictatorship.

COMMUNISTS NOW LEAD THE LABOUR MOVEMENT.

In reality the 20 million German proletarians have already passed through a school of organisation more than sufficing to enable them to carry through their Revolution. And they will carry it through. The whole import of the events which have taken place within the working class, beginning with the conquest of the factory councils by the Communists, and continuing with the election to the metal workers' conference, with the August strike of this year, and all the other various complications of the struggle, consists of the fact that the German working class has bestowed the leadership of the movement upon the Communist Party.

TREACHERY OF THE "SECOND."

The more violent the struggle of the German working class under the leadership of the German Communist Party, the nearer the German proletariat approaches to victory, the more obvious does the treachery of international Menshevist policy become, and the more clearly can we recognise the diabolical plans of the leaders of the Second International against the German Revolution.

WHO ARE "LABOUR'S" FRIENDS?

When the German Communist Party—anticipating a general struggle against Fascism—attempted to arrange an anti-Fascist day during the past summer, this demonstration was prohibited by the German Social Democrats of the Second International. Everyone knows that Gessler, the black Minister for War, is the right-hand man of the Social Democrat Ebert, and that General Seeckt belongs in reality to the coalition bloc which includes the leaders of the Social Democratic Party; everyone knows that the nationalist upheaval in Bavaria is in point of fact the result of the "activity" of the social democratic leaders; everyone knows that for years the S.D.P. and the German nationalist bourgeoisie have been expressly co-operating against the German working class. But none the less the German Social Democrats are crying from the housetops the news of the alleged alliance between Communists and Nationalists!

THE CUNNING LEGEND OF THE "ALLIANCE" BETWEEN COMMUNISTS AND NATIONAL SOCIALISTS.

Despite all "differences of opinion" with Poincare, both German and French Social Democrats hold him to be the Messiah, the future redeemer of Germany and the whole of Europe from the "terrors of the Bolshevist dictatorship." The French and the German Social Democrats, as well as the leaders of the Second International, want to be able to say to the French soldiers, on the day after the victory of the German proletariat: That which is now happening in German is no Proletarian Revolution, it is a nationalist movement, that is, a kind of monstrous hybrid between Nationalism and Communism, that is, the preparation for a war of revenge against France, etc. The same traitorous role which was played in the year 1914 by the slogan of "defence of the fatherland" in the imperialist war, is now to be played by the legend of the alleged alliance between Communism and Nationalism. Every effort is being made to discredit the great Proletarian Revolution in Germany in advance. Its true import is already being distorted, lies and slanders are already being spread abroad about it, just as they were spread years ago about the Russian Revolution.

ASKING FOR WAR.

In the French "Socialist" Press, the mighty movement of the German proletariat is represented as a turgid flood of Nationalism. The "alliance" between German Communists and German Fascists (!) is the constant subject of speech and writing. This poisonous lie makes its way from the columns of the "Socialist" press into the bourgeois press with its hundred tongues, and is carried into the villages and into the barracks.

Poincare may well be satisfied with his servants. The legend thus fabricated by the leaders of the Second International is nothing more nor less than a preparation for the overthrow of the German proletarian revolution by international imperialism, nothing more nor less than a moral justification of the new imperialist war already in course of preparation, a war which will be directed against the German revolution and against any allies of this revolution. This must be known to the workers of the whole world.

ENLIST THE PATRIOTS!

The German Communists are not only justified in removing from the influence of the bourgeois Nationalists all those non-propertied sections who have been following the Fascists from motives of just or unjust hate of the Entente oppressors, but it is absolutely their duty to do so.

Was the Paris Commune not right in attempting to mobilise against the Prussians that section of the town and country petty bourgeoisie which followed the Commune out of hate of the foreign oppressors and of the French bourgeoisie which had sold France wholesale and retail?

Had the proletarian revolution in Russia, in the years 1917/1919/1920, not the moral right to mobilise against English, French and German imperialism all those strata of the population who were mainly influenced by their hostility to intervention when they offered their aid to the Red Army?

A WAR OF INDEPENDENCE?

And the war of revenge? Is there perhaps a grain of truth in this? Is the German revolution really preparing for war?

(Continued at foot of next column.)

Everything depends on the attitude taken by the European imperialist bourgeoisie itself. If Poincare and Co. lead their troops against the German revolution, there is no doubt whatever but that they will sooner or later bring about a war of independence on the part of Socialist Germany against bourgeois intervention. Messieurs Grumbach and Frossard the renegade may inform their patron Poincare: The more brutal and base the form of foreign bourgeois intervention against the German revolution, the greater will be the storm of protest which it will raise, and the sooner will every living force in the country gather round the working class in the common endeavour to repel the foreign oppressor, and to defend the Socialist Fatherland to the last drop of blood.

THE BOURGEOISIE FOR WAR: THE REVOLUTION FOR PEACE.

But the revolution signifies peace; so say the German Communists. The German working class, led by the Communist Party, desires peace. When Communist speakers tell overcrowded meetings of workers in Germany that they will save Germany from war if they seize power, as they could then, in the last resort, buy their freedom from the Entente at the expense of the expropriated German bourgeoisie, these declarations are received with thunders of applause. When Communist speakers declare that Germany will enter into an alliance with the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, and that the peace of the whole of Europe will be secured by this alliance, this arouses even greater enthusiasm.

The working class in Germany wants peace. The German and French bourgeoisie want war. And the German and French Social Democratic Parties both aid their own bourgeoisie. That is the essence of the question at issue.

Sketches from a German Prison.

The massive iron gates of the Sonnenburg Gaol are thrown open. An "arrival." . . . A nineteen year old child of the proletariat, of slender build, with large, wistful eyes, passes through the prison portal. His feet are fettered. The chains rattle as he walks.

The officious movements of the zealous warders indicate that the "case" is something out of the usual. They hasten to take the "life sentence" into custody.

"Mr. Chief Warder, take those chains from Prisoner X's feet," exclaims the harsh voice of the Governor.

The prison clock strikes eleven, and immediately the little bell of the chapel begins to toll monotonously. A dead comrade, another "life sentence" paid the final penalty, and four of his comrades carry him forth into freedom, to his last rest. . . .

Seized by an anxious premonition, the youthful newcomer glances up to the barred windows of his eternal prison. Is he to remain here for ever, to be brutalised, and finally to perish like a dog . . . like the one they were now carrying out . . .?

They would carry him out too . . . him too . . that was certain.

He begins to count rapidly—one, two, three . . . twenty years! A shriek bursts from his young throat, and is re-echoed by the wails of the gaol.

He leaps wildly forward—towards the gate.

Abruptly he stops and falls forward over the coffin of his dead comrade, his body pierced by two bullets.

"Shot while attempting to escape!"

From the window of the isolation wing a voice shrieked "Beasts!"

The chapel bell ceases tolling. . . .

Two prisoners less. . . .

* * *

On the landing above, in a roomy, sunny cell, is situated "Flight Lieutenant" Schauer, traitor to his country in the pay of French capital, and captain of Fascisti in the service of Hitler.

He had attempted to break prison with his comrade Techow, the murderer of Rathenau, but was discovered.

Something had to be done to "punish" him, and so he was given—14 days' simple imprisonment!

But the prison doctor decided otherwise, and protected his comrade in political views from punishment of every kind.

He sent him to hospital to recover his health.

* * *

"Political B" is kept in a cell in the Solitary Wing.

His cell is 18 cubic metres large and 1½ metres wide. He paces backwards and forwards. He has been on hunger strike for three days, and is determined not to give way.

The cell door is opened. Governor Zechlin appears in person. "Will you take nourishment now?" he asks.

A threefold "No!" strikes the Governor like a whip.

Above the cell door hang pictures of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. He had not taken them down and will not take them down.

The Governor flies into a fury. . . . "You wretched creature, that rubbish is still on your wall. Take them down at once. You are allowed only photographs of your relatives on your walls."

Comrade B. suppresses his rising anger with difficulty. He replies proudly with a contemptuous smile:

"I shall not take those pictures down. They are mine—our dearest relatives!"

The Governor retires.

After three more days of close confinement, our comrade is taken to the prison hospital.

But the pictures of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg remain a long time after to decorate the walls of the narrow cell in Sonnenburg Gaol

According to Marx: "The religious world is merely a reflex of the world in reality. In a society of producers where general social production is perpetually related to the production of commodity values, where this and that kind of individual work is referred to as the equivalent of human (collective) work, Christianity with its cult of abstract humanity, in its bourgeois forms of Protestantism, Deism, etc., is the corresponding religious form."

"Spiritual Fascism"

"The most noble order of crusaders," which recently held a show at Westminster Abbey, announces that it is out to fight "the movements which have undoubtedly one common objective, the disruption of the British Empire as the chief preliminary to world revolution and the destruction of human society as at present constituted." This fight it has the blasphemous effrontery to call "hatred of evil," "charity," "brotherhood," and "spirit of service to humanity." If it is all that, is it not strange to find the order confessing, or boasting, that "from the nature and methods of the evil forces it is called upon to combat, and the necessity, therefore, which it is under for concealing its activities, the "order of crusaders" is in essence a secret society"?

What, secrecy for "charity," "brotherhood," "service"? Most unusual! "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works" is the accepted text of bourgeois "charity," much more so than the one about "thine alms being in secret" (even for "recompense"); and the "distinguished" company at Westminster shows that this Most Noble Order is very much a bourgeois affair.

The "Star" calls it Spiritual Fascism, and that it is: "Fascism" unquestionably, and "spiritual" because the English bourgeoisie always call in God and don sanctimonious halos (as even Mussolini would scorn to do) when they have any particularly dirty work on hand.

The "most noble order of crusaders" is evidently a gang of hooligans out to oppose the working class not by the "constitutional means" which they (dutifully echoed by most "Labour" leaders) always declare to be the only admissible means, but by those secret, sinister, underground, filthy methods which we see for instance in Italy and Germany to-day, and which are in themselves proof of the moral and intellectual bankruptcy of capitalism.

Capitalism notoriously rests on force; but to exercise that force against the workers it has hitherto succeeded in bribing and cajoling great masses of the workers themselves. This is becoming too dangerous to-day, for the workers have begun to see through the game, and so specially selected Fascists, Ku Klux Klans, White Leaguers, White Guards, and such vermin of the night and the sewer, with bishops and priests to canonise them as a foetid person drenches him or herself with scent, are being more and more relied on (as auxiliaries to Air Forces which themselves are replacing armies) to support the rule of capitalist property in every land.

Mr. Fred Rowland, O.B.E., of the S.A. Red Cross Society (how that name has come to be profaned) writes admiringly of the "order," and expects that "it should not be long before South Africa too has its 'conclave.'" "Greed, selfishness and suspicion," he says, "undermine the very fabric of society and leave behind desolation and misery." We agree, and the state of the world proves it to the hilt. That is just why the working class of the world is called upon to revolutionise "human society as at present constituted"—including the British Empire—and to abolish its present basis of "greed, selfishness and suspicion" in favour of real "charity, brotherhood and service."

"The Communists are, practically, the most progressive and resolute section of the working class of all countries"; and for their part, unlike these clandestine "crusaders," they "disdain to conceal their views and aims." What is more, they will see to it that the crusaders shall after all be compelled to come out into the open with theirs. Big Australian demonstrations have already voiced the demand that the "Anglo-Saxon Klan" in Sydney be liquidated.

The Father to the Thought.

Mr. Leslie Urquhart has come all the way to South Africa to tell us that there is no Communism in Russia, and this he calls "first-hand information." "The State," he says, "cannot run everything." Of course it depends on the sort of state; certainly the capitalist state cannot, but the workers' state, being actually the producers and distributors organised, is equally certainly learning to run production and distribution, and all that Mr. Urquhart can say is that it has a lot to learn still. "Costs of production have increased"—as everywhere. "They need foreign capital"—and will throughout the period of other countries' transition to a Workers' Government. That is, of course, the main answer to all these shallow critics: Communism goes as far in Russia as it can while the rest of the world remains in the grip of the capitalist class. Let Germany follow Russia and Poland be neutralised, and Mr. Urquhart will begin to look particularly silly; and let the other countries fall into line, and there will be not much "perpetuity" about the rights conceded to capitalists either in Russia or anywhere else.

Engels writes, in reference to the French revolution: "Christianity has entered upon its last phase. It has forfeited its ability to serve henceforth as the ideological cloak of any kind of progressive class. Ie becomes more and more the monopoly of the ruling class who use it as a means of power, with the help of which they hold down the lower classes."

The death, recently announced, of John Maclean, of Glasgow, was undoubtedly accelerated by his various terms of imprisonment for the cause, to which he was thus a true martyr.

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

Zero Hour in Germany.

THE WORKERS' OUTLOOK.

(By C. M. Roebuck in the "Labour Monthly.")

It is zero hour in Germany. The battlefield of civil war has been prepared, as no other country in the world has yet seen it prepared, and the opposing armies—the workers and the bourgeoisie—are each waiting for a move from the other before throwing their forces into the conflict. At such a moment two main factors decide the day—which side has the strongest nerves (discipline), and which side utilises every moment of respite for the maximum effort to organise and consolidate its forces (generalship).

In this respect the proletariat is moving forward and developing with inconceivable rapidity. Not only is allegiance being transferred from Social Democrats to Communists, from trade union leaders to leaders of the factory councils (now being more and more widely transformed into Soviets—i.e., councils of delegates from factories); not only are proletarian centuries, in spite of all the violence of the Fascisti and the prohibitions of the Government, being hastily organised wherever there are factories to teach the lesson of the class struggle; but in two of the greatest industrial areas of Germany—Saxony and Thuringia—the working masses have united, irrespective of party, to vindicate their rights and to defend Republican institutions, and have forced a similar coalition upon the Social Democratic organisation. Heckert and Boettcher, two of the best-known members of the Central Committee of the K.P.D., are now Cabinet Ministers in Saxony, in a Government relying as much upon the Factory Councils' Congress as upon the Diet. In Berlin it is generally expected that the Social Democrat district executive will be entirely replaced in the next week or two, and the editorial staff of "Vorwaerts" also, by definitely Left Wing representatives. A sign of the times is the rapid increase in membership of the Communist Party, which now has probably not less than 400,000 members, because it is above all the programme, the watchwords, and the tactics of the K.P.D. which have found abundant justification in the eyes of the German workers during the last few months.

Most striking and significant is the fact that, just as happened in Russia in 1917, the ferment among the masses has reached such dimensions as to seize the imagination, as it were in spite of themselves, of all the bourgeois journalists who take the trouble to ponder over the meaning of present events, with the result that they write more clearly revolutionary and Marxist accounts of what they see than many a Marxist would—or could!

If the Fascist army strikes, or even if it succeeds in provoking hunger disorders (ITS PRESENT TACTICS), which may inevitably involve the whole of the workers in the defence and support of the section attacked, the proletarian army will be ready for it. On the other hand, if, owing to the "indiscretion" of some local Fascisti (as, for example, the seizure of Kustrin at the beginning of October), a local situation arises which requires prompt action, the working class has learned its lesson of revolutionary discipline and tactics so well that it will not be needlessly provoked into a general engagement.

But a general engagement, when it comes, will involve consideration of more factors than those at present involved in the internal politics of Germany. Suppose, for example, that a civil war is in progress, and a Workers' Government fully established in a considerable area of Germany, with a chance of military success; and that suddenly one of Germany's eastern neighbours—particularly Poland—thinks fit to take the field against her, allured by the bait of East Prussia. A grave responsibility will fall upon the British workers, who proved able to exert considerable pressure upon Poland in the years 1920-1922 in order to restrain the martial ardour of her reactionary landowners; but a much greater responsibility will fall upon the Russian workers, who, besides being the nearest, are also directly interested in seeing that Germany is not made fit for autocracy once more.

The other and more pressing danger is that Great Britain may be involved as the result of the machinations of the British Government. One possible alternative is that, on some pretext or other, the French troops will be ordered to advance, and that then, as in 1914, in spite of all the assurances of ministerial liars, there will turn out to be some unwritten "honourable understanding" that the British Navy occupies the North Sea and Baltic ports and lands expeditionary forces. The other, and still more probable, eventuality is that the British forces now on the Rhine may be sent (as even the "Daily Express" points out) at any moment to SHOOT DOWN OR BAYONET GERMAN UNEMPLOYED OR FACTORY WORKERS, whether in a hunger riot or in a violent and "unlawful" effort to protect themselves against Fascist violence. And in this case experience in Russia has shewn us how easily the simple restoration of "order" develops into the Restoration—without any order, but with the capital letter.

If the German workers are forced down for a generation into the position of slaves of the Iron Heel of Fascist-Stinnesism, a deadly blow will be struck at the economic, and almost immediately at the political, position of the British worker. A year after the crushing of the German workers we should expect to find, not only a grand concerted attack upon Socialist Soviet Russia, but also a Government of unchecked and bigoted Die-Hards at Downing Street. Against that consummation the British worker would be glad of an opportunity to strike a blow in good time. The only opportunity he will have will be when he strikes it on behalf of his German comrades.

It is this problem—the problem of mobilising Labour resistance to any support of German Fascism, of securing the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Germany, of organising material support of the German workers—that demands the immediate and undivided attention of the political and industrial organisations of the British and Colonial working class.

Labour Rebukes Labour.

The British "Labour Magazine," which says "the problem of admitting natives to the unions will have to be faced," and advises "preparing to meet the situation rather than allow matters to drift until they get more threatening," is "the official monthly journal of the British Labour movement," a perfectly orthodox organ of the "Second International." It should therefore be listened to by local Labour leaders, unless indeed they contemplate using the British Empire Labour Conference they are reported to have fathered for the purpose of convincing the British party that it is wrong—as Smuts claims to have partly convinced the "Imperial Conference" that the South African (i.e., the S.A. bourgeois) view of the "Indian problem" is correct.

But we must confess that we hardly dare to expect much of a party whose leader, at one of the excellent "Trades and Labour Council" propaganda meetings on the Reef referred to elsewhere in this issue, after being announced, with another, to speak, refused to do so, and immediately left the meeting, on finding that the other speaker was a Communist!

Incidentally that meeting, held at Germiston on the 30th ult. and well attended, atoned for the failure of the Mayor's meeting the night before (due it seems to inadequate advertisement) by passing a resolution calling on the Government to release the strike prisoners still in gaol.

The rank and file of the German Social Democrats are behind the Communists, but the Social Democrat leaders, in the midst of the crisis, can do nothing better than conduct a furious campaign, side by side with the Fascists, in opposition to the Communist Ministers in Saxony, the only effect being to prolong the reactionary dictatorship. Despite all the lessons of the time, the Social Democratic Party as such is still the chief prop of reaction in Europe to-day. Meanwhile the plodding advance of the Communist propaganda, together with the object lesson of events, is convincing large masses hitherto unconnected with any Labour party that the enemies of the German people are not only "the French" but the implacable, soulless, organised, grinding bourgeoisie of Germany itself.

"Cupidity" is the name given by the virtuous "Mail" to the motive leading a number of native boys, who had opened a gate for a motorist, to scramble for the coin thrown them for their services. If it is "cupidity" to try to recover even one well-earned tickey among so many, what even lower depths of avarice are involved in claiming your own individual wage—or fat screw as "Mail" scribe?

Opium for the People.

"Religion is a sort of spiritual oppression which burdens the masses of the people everywhere who, through perpetual work for others, through want, and through destitution, are suppressed. The helplessness of the exploited in the struggle with the exploiters leads inevitably to a belief in a better future life, just as the helplessness of the savage in his struggle with nature leads to a belief in gods, devils, and miracles. Religion teaches those who are doomed to suffering and to want through their whole lives to be patient and submissive in this life on earth, with the consolation of a reward to come in heaven. But those who live from the work of others are exhorted by religion to become charitable, benevolent, thus buying a cheap ticket to heavenly bliss. Religion is opium for the people. Religion is a kind of spiritual liquor in which the slaves of capital may drown their human woes, their demands for a life worthy of human beings.

"But the slave who is conscious of his slavery and who raises himself to struggle for his liberation is already half-way out of slavery. The self-possessed worker of our time, educated in the great industrial factory, familiar with the life of the city, throws off the darkness which serves priests and bourgeois hypocrisy, in order to create for himself a better life here on earth. The proletarian of our time becomes an adherent of socialism, calls science to his aid to lead his struggle against religious darkness, becomes liberated from the belief in a future life by the active struggle for a better life on earth." —N. Lenin

Russia and Germany.

In the course of a speech at a conference of the political education workers in the Red Army and Fleet, Trotzky pointed out that, however great might be the desire of the Allied governing classes to suppress a successful workers' revolution in Germany, none of the Great Powers had sufficient available forces to do so. The only country which could really interfere was Poland, but, in view of the fact that Poland would thus be in the position of a wedge between a revolutionary Germany and the Soviet Union, her government will undoubtedly think long and carefully before deciding upon an active policy against a German revolution. "The Soviet Union has always under the greatest provocation pursued a policy making for peace, and if Poland should strive for peace also then there can be no doubt that neither we nor Poland will intervene with our armed forces in the German revolution." At the same time Trotzky emphasised the fact that Russia must supply Germany with grain, without which no regular trade relations could be continued.

COMMUNIST PARTY NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

Next Wednesday's lecture will be held at 8 p.m. in No. 4, Trades Hall. Comrade Stewart will address the meeting. All welcome! Bring your friends.

After this meeting the lectures will be suspended until after the Christmas and New Year holidays.

* * *

YOUNG COMMUNIST NOTES.

YOUNG WORKERS' SPORTING ASSOCIATION.

BOXING SECTION: A definite start has now been made with this section, and the first meeting will take place at 18a, Lovers' Walk, Fordsburg, on Sunday, December 23, at 10 a.m. All young workers interested please roll up. Gloves provided.

FOOTBALL SECTION (SOCCER): A meeting of this section will be called for the end of February next. In the meanwhile young workers wishing to join are asked not to make any arrangements which will prevent them playing for the Y.W.S.A.

HIKING SECTION: Hike this Sunday, Dec. 9. 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.

* * *

Y.C.L. BANNER NOT WANTED.

The Benoni and Johannesburg branches of the Y.C.L. held an impromptu picnic at Boksburg Lake last Sunday, taking their banner with them. Mr. Baker, Boksburg town councillor, was annoyed at seeing the banner in what he considered his own preserve. A policeman, acting under instructions from the councillor, ordered the Young Communists to take the banner down and alleged that they were breaking a municipal by-law, and would be guilty of an offence if they did not obey. The picnic party refused to comply and asked to be shown the by law. The policeman departed (apparently to look up the municipal minute book) and returned after some considerable time saying that he could not find any legal enactment which would cover the case. Much to the disgruntlement of Mr. Baker, the banner remained flying until the party left the lake.

At the station more trouble occurred. Certain individuals tried (unsuccessfully) to prevent the singing of revolutionary songs, and the Young Communists were again threatened with the law, this time on a charge of "causing a disturbance in a public place."

What's wrong with Boksburg?

* * *

The Johannesburg branch of the Y.C.L. meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m., in 4, Trades Hall. Young workers, roll up!

* * *

The Y.C.L. will hold an open-air meeting this Saturday, December 8, at Brakpan.

A Protest.

The Jewish Socialist Society "Paolei Zion" has written taking exception to our headline and editorial footnote to its notice in last week's "International" of a meeting of Jewish workers to be held at the Trades Hall this Sunday evening, of which a further advertisement appears in this issue.

The point involved, as it appeared to us, has been matter of controversy between the C.P. and the J.S.S. (P.Z.), as also between the Comintern and the Bund, for years past. We have always deprecated turning this paper into a cockpit, partly for reasons of space, and so do not feel able to publish either the Society's letter or any reply we should make to it if published. At the same time, while not admitting that we outstepped the bounds of editorial courtesy, we cannot think our few words will harm the cause of the meeting in question. On the contrary, the net result will be to boost it.

BIRTHDAY.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Schneider invite all Comrades and friends to a party at 193, President Street, on Sunday next, 9th December, at 3 p.m., to celebrate the thirteenth birthday of their second son, Rubin Schneider.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the General Dealer's Business carried on by Israel Winer on Stand No. 33, 34, Beit Street, Doornfontein, Johannesburg, has been abandoned as from the 1st December, 1923.

7/14/21.

A MASS MEETING

Of all Jewish Unorganised Workers, Shop Assistants and Clerks will be held at the

Trades Hall, Rissik Street,

THIS SUNDAY

(9th Dec., at 8 p.m.)

Meeting convened by Jewish Socialist Society, "Poalei Zion."

ALL JEWISH UNORGANISED ARE URGED TO ATTEND.

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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