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A New Year Resolution.

To begin 1924 by subscribing to "The International."

The International

THE WORLD'S CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

THE ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (S.A. Section of the Comi ional)
No. 4, TRADES HALL, RISSIK STREET, JOHANNESBURG.

Another One: To maintain during 1924 a monthly donation to the C.P. Press Fund.

Vol. VIII. No. 397. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1923. PRICE THREEPENCE.

Many Workers are Saying—

That Mr. Crawford's challenge to anyone to "catch him" telling a lie reminds them of the Spartans among whom not committing the crime but being found out was the offence.

* * *

That his job almost approximates to an official one when men are paid for working hours spent at his meetings, according to the "Guardian."

* * *

That his boast that "hundreds of boilermakers would improve their present position if they got Railway jobs even at the lower rates for new entrants" only repeats what is well known, that Railway jobs have always been the best in the trade—no thanks to him, except perhaps the "lower rates."

* * *

That his frequent citation of Sylvia Pankhurst, this time to the effect that Soviet concessions mean "a pledge to use the gun on workers who rebel against exploitation," reflects no credit on either her or him, and that rebels against the armed authority of either would soon feel the gun too.

* * *

That the Soviet Government is not, like Sylvia, one of those who say "Sooner let the Workers' Government crash than bend before the wind contrary to my gospel."

* * *

That anyhow the number of workers in private capital's employ in Russia is still a negligible percentage of the total of Russian workers, and that hence Trotzky's exhortation to work hard and produce more tends generally to the workers' benefit, not the concessionaires'.

* * *

That the alleged Moscow instructions to the American Workers' Party to hold "weekly shooting and sapping" practice are evidently another frame-up not "intercepted" but rather let us say "released" by the American "State Department," and remind them of the Johannesburg unemployed's stunt to cause a flutter at Marshall Square—"Bombing Practice every Sunday morning at the usual place."

* * *

That on the other hand even Ramsay MacDonald is already foreshadowing "a Labour Party far rougher in mind and temper" than the present one in Parliament.

Famine Relief.

An International Congress of all Relief Organisations and Committees concerned with the famine in Germany was convened for the Reichstag Building, Berlin, on the 2nd inst. The report is not yet to hand. It is evident from the contradictory accounts, even in the same cable paragraph, of the luxury and the misery in Berlin, that certain influences in the press agencies are concerned to belittle the misery or suppress news of it (except so far as the suffering described is that of "decayed gentlemen"). Quite possibly therefore the Congress itself was suppressed at the last moment by Gen. Seeckt. Meanwhile France has blocked the proposed American Food Loan, and just as well, for it would only have added another bondholder to Germany's back; but the need for relief effort thus becomes greater than ever. Indeed, the campaign in this country should be heavily backed by Smuts, who is so largely responsible for the distress!

The British Red Cross, it is reported, has rejected the appeal of the International Red Cross for aid to Germany on the ground that there is too much unemployment in England. That is what might be expected: we wonder how much the British Red Cross is doing to alleviate British unemployment! But it is a bourgeois body. The WORKING class responds to the call of SOLIDARITY irrespective of race, as is proved by the outstanding example of the Russian workers, the most in need themselves a year or so ago, the foremost friends in need to-day.

A Free Press!

The "Inprekorr" issues the following notice:—

The Military Commandant, General von Seeckt, has, on November 23, 1923, prohibited throughout Germany the Communist Party of Germany, the Communist Youth of Germany, and the Communist International. In this prohibition the International Press Correspondence was included. We are therefore obliged provisionally to suspend publication of the International Press Correspondence until such time as it is again possible for us to issue it as hitherto.

Battleships of Peace.

Capetown is agog with the visit of the British Naval Squadron. Bourgeoisdom is bowing down in worship of one of its bulwarks—and has succeeded in inducing some of its slaves to do likewise. The flatulent jingoism of the great war period or, rather, the remnant of it, is being fanned back to life, against the next holocaust of slaves by slaves.

Have the workers forgotten the lessons of the last war? Do they not realise its results—their post-war experiences—the wage cuts, the unemployment, the intensified exploitation, the general worsening of their conditions of life? Do they realise the even more terrible position to which a new war will bring them?

Perhaps they do not admit the possibility of a new war. Maybe they are deceived by the unctuous mouthings of Fat's flunkeys. For instance, the Archbishop, at a service yesterday in the Cathedral, attended by some six hundred bluejackets and marines, said: "It is true you have come in battleships; but you have not come on a mission of war—you have come with a message, and is not the message which you have brought the message which was brought to the world at Christmas time, a message of peace and of goodwill?" A "message of peace and goodwill" with battleships! Ye gods!

Capitalism, whilst preaching "peace and goodwill" (which simply means peaceful opportunities to exploit so many workers) is arming for war. Capitalism cannot survive in peace, nor peace under capitalism. Peace only exists as a parody of actual life. War is inevitable. It arises from the avarice of different groups of exploiters, and it can only be stopped by a united front of all the exploited themselves to smash capitalism.

C. F. GLASS.

Woolfish Economy.

The "Sunday Post" (18/11/23) tells us about the sudden death of Woolf Joel, son of Solly Joel, heir to the Barney Barnato millions.

Woolf, we are told, "despised money."

"Fortunate in the possession of a name which spelt millions, the theatrical world welcomed him with open arms. You could find 'Woolfie' almost every day and night giving luxurious lunches and dinners at various West End clubs and restaurants. His father made him a very liberal allowance, something in the region of £10,000 a year. But 'Woolfie' spent no end of money."

And note this!

"Only a few months ago he stood as a Moderate candidate in the London County Council election, Whitechapel being the district he chose."

He was a "Moderate" who stood for "ECONOMY" against "Socialist waste."

—"Forward."

Curzon's Last Kick.

The truculent attempt of the British to get at Russia through Afghanistan must have been made by Curzon on the Smutsian idea that a Labour Government, if formed, will be bound to continue a war policy (like a protection policy) launched by its predecessor; and perhaps Baldwin is clinging to office to gain time for this policy to be launched!

Whereas, unfriendly as Ramsay MacDonald is to Soviet Russia and friendly as he apparently is to Smutsian ideas, and quite possible as it is that he too may soon go down on some question of war or peace, yet we do look forward to a British Labour Government to end this perpetual threat of war on Russia and other countries.

Indeed it is hard to imagine, were we not so familiar with it (e.g. in the Bulhoek and Bondelswart affairs, not to say the bombardment of Fordsburg to get at Fisher and Spendiff) how any human being can dare to suggest bombing a whole population, or even taking hostages of it, merely because it is "suspected" that some criminals may be hiding among it (especially when the crime, murdering a British officer, was quite likely asked for). Why surely, as Mrs. 'Awkins said, you've got to catch 'em first!

It seems to be Curzon's last kick by way of revenge for the Swaraj successes and the Indian scheme of a Pan-Asiatic Federation to emancipate Asia from European economic exploitation and domination.

Curzon denies that he is demanding a rupture between Afghanistan and Russia, but he was demanding substantially the same thing six months ago, and the Russian envoy was actually withdrawn from Cabul accordingly.

And all this is described as "Russia," if you please, "stirring up trouble in the East"! The British way of allaying "trouble" and bringing people (like the Mahsuds) "to terms," however, failing corruption, is by force of arms; and probably the present threat is made in order to bring Moscow to terms in the Anglo-Russian negotiations now admittedly proceeding, and perhaps being expedited in order to forestal the Labour Government, and also the U.S.A., which still refuses recognition not, as we had been led to suppose, on the ground of "atrocities" (these must have been just Northcliffian "propaganda lies" after all), but because "the U.S.A. cannot be a party to remission of debts"—although France, for instance, in effect repudiates hers, and without Russia's good reason for doing so, while Russia still, as at Genoa and the Hague, is quite prepared to discuss admission of liability if set off by an Allied admission in respect of the Koltchak and similar campaigns.

By the way, what gall and wormwood it must be for poor Chilvers to see his "Mail"—no doubt "favoured with instructions"—pleading for recognition of the Bolsheviks!

"Fair and Reasonable."

A meeting convened by the leading Trade Unions on the Rand was held at the Tivoli Theatre, Johannesburg, last Sunday, with the object of gaining publicity for a demand shortly to be put before the Chamber of Mines for higher wages. It was pointed out, on the authority of the Director of Census, that the cost of living was now 30.8 per cent. above 1914. In March last, when the figure was 27.85, it was computed that to equal the 1914 purchasing power of £26, £33 4s. would be required; to-day it would be £34. Put in another way, the spending value of £6 to-day in comparison with 1914 is £4 14s. The plight of the man who is getting only 15s. a day is thus easily deduced. Yet the employers refuse a rise to white men—they are paying more native wages. In other countries wages have gone up in step with cost of living, in South Africa they go down, though the tonnage produced per European worker has risen from 950 in 1909 to 1,435 in in 1922. This state of affairs had largely contributed to the record insolvencies of recent months.

In these circumstances, if "peace" or "conciliation" was to be entertained, it must be on the basis of a "fair and reasonable" adjustment in accord with these conditions. Only thus could "extremism" be prevented.

In this spirit the promoters had invited the Rand M.L.A.'s of all parties to attend, and several accepted, mostly S.A.P. From the point of view of the bourgeois interest they stood for, these M.L.A.'s all agreed how nice it would be if we were all comfortably off and so good customers of the shopkeepers. Mr. Rockey, M.L.A., indeed, seemed dubious as to whether the "wukkahs" really had anything to grouse about, for he asked whether there were any in the hall who "really could not come out on their present wage." Mr. Webber, M.L.A., said no doubt the views of the "men," with which he admitted he was less familiar than with those of the Chamber of Mines, would receive "fair" consideration at the hands of the latter if "fairly and reasonably put," but he would make no promises, for everything turned on whether the mines could "afford" any increase; in other words, profits and dividends came first.

There is no such thing as "coming out" on a certain figure. Mr. Rockey cannot "come out" without a motor-car to take him back from the Tivoli the hundred yards or so to the Rand Club. We used to speak of a "living" or "minimum" wage, but Germany (not to speak of South Africa white and native) have shown us that the standard of living on which a man "can come out" can still be lowered ad libitum; and the present state of Germany is not abnormal, it is a normal, typical efflorescence of Capitalism, it is what will be the fate of us all soon. The "standard wage" is really the wage of the cheapest worker in the world.

Nor is there any sense in speaking of what an industry can "afford." That is only begging the question. The lower the wages bill, the higher the dividends and vice versa. High wages are not a "luxury" that capitalist industry treats itself to when times are good; they are always the antagonist to "good times," they are always a bugbear to the employer, and he must always strive to keep them down, for profits and dividends, not the life of the working class, come first.

Let us get all we can, even if we must stoop to conquer it. Let us take the "longer grass over there" the lady offered the tramp to eat; but let the truth gnaw all the time at our soul, that there is no "conciliation" possible between the capitalist and the working class claims. The ideas of neither side can possibly be "fair" and "reasonable" to the other. Prosperity for the exploiters is at the cost of poverty for the exploited—and slaughter too, to which these M.L.A.'s were parties last year. Conciliation—with victimisation! Peace—with the Iron Heel! Reason—with the Big Stick! No: it must always be a tug-of-war, until the exploiters are pulled over and the field is cleared at last for the establishment of a really "fair and reasonable" order of society.

Poland's Turn Coming.

(From a Manifesto by the Executive of the C.I.)

The recent big strikes in all parts of Poland, the strikes of the miners, the textile workers, the railwaymen, the postal servants, the general strike in Upper Silesia, in Galicia and Warsaw, and finally the bloody struggles in Cracow, Tarnov, Borislav—draw the attention of the international proletariat to the Polish Section of the proletarian fighting front.

The proletarian revolution of Germany has certainly influenced the workers' struggles in Poland. What an impetus must have been and has been given to the movement of the exploited in all countries by the revolutionary struggle of the German proletariat! The alternative before it is: REVOLUTION OR SLAVERY AND BARBARISM.

The savage terror of the Dmovsky-Korfanty government, the militarisation of the railwaymen, the field courts-martial against strikers, all this has shown what crimes the bourgeoisie is capable of in the struggle for its profits. It has shown to the wide masses of the working class that they must overthrow this government of junkers and capitalists IF THEY DO NOT WANT TO PERISH OF HUNGER, that they must struggle for the establishment of a workers' and peasants' government.

But this slogan is NO LONGER A MERE THEORY. The experiences of the last few weeks have shown that this is not an unattainable aim, and that it MIGHT HAVE BEEN REALISED IN THIS STRUGGLE. It has become evident how weak the bourgeoisie is in Poland, and HOW GREAT ARE THE RESERVES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES.

Upper Silesia, the stronghold of Polish nationalism and of bourgeois influence on the working class, entered the struggle allied with German-Polish capitalism. When the Polish Government hastened to the assistance of the German coal magnates with police forces and soldiery, Korfanty's former rebels advanced under the red banner and under Communist leadership against the soldiers of the Government.

In Cracow the Polish and Ukrainian peasants in uniform went over to the workers and gave to the proletariat the weapons which the bourgeoisie had intended for use against them.

From the Cracow events the Polish working class must learn how to make the slogan of the DISARMAMENT OF THE BOURGEOISIE AND THE ARMAMENT OF THE WORKERS A REALITY.

As for the Polish "Socialist" Party, it was only when the Government introduced field courts-martial against the strikers that the indignation of the entire working class compelled the leaders of the P.S.P. to issue the slogan of the general strike, and it was only with gnashed teeth that they joined the movement. And when in Cracow the soldiers went over to the people, they hastened to the assistance of this very Government FOR FEAR THAT IT MIGHT BE OVERTHROWN BY THE MASSES IN THE STREETS AND NOT BY PARLIAMENTARY BARGAINING! In Warsaw they gave the order to retreat when Cracow rose in rebellion. The leaders of the

(Continued at foot of next column.)

Polish Socialists are AFRAID OF THE WORKERS' VICTORY, THEY ARE AFRAID OF THE WORKERS' AND PEASANTS' REVOLUTION.

Workers! Profit by the lesson drawn from the events in Poland and Germany! Down with the Judases! Rally under the banner of the Communist International! Prepare for new struggles! Profit by the recent great events! Rally the wide masses to the banner of Communism!

ALL HONOUR TO THOSE WHO FELL IN CRACOW!

LONG LIVE THE POLISH REVOLUTION!

THE INTERNATIONAL.
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South African Labour in 1923.

The Labour movement has more stirring anniversaries to celebrate than the reputed birthday of Jesus Christ or the end and beginning of a calendar year; but a retrospect of some salient points in the last twelve months of its history in South Africa can do no harm to-day.

A YEAR'S SURVEY.

Its progress in this period has been of "objective" rather than "subjective" value. Class consciousness and revolutionary grasp of the situation have not rapidly progressed despite the object lessons and the high-strung feelings of 1922. Our memories as a class are proverbially short; and 1923 has witnessed both comparative indifference to the bloody memories of last year's outrages and a widespread revival of "conciliation" and "negotiation" talk; indeed, to-day it is even claimed as a triumph when a labour leader assists in piloting through a reduction of wages. Trade Unions have not materially revived, though no longer declining; native workers' organisation is less prominent than ever, "leaders" being habitually bought by the other side or fobbed off with religious dope. Victimisation and unemployment, and therefore also fear of them, are operating as powerfully as ever.

THE PACT.

The advances that have been made have been almost unconscious. Perhaps the most significant is the Labour-Nationalist Pact, looked at as a tactic aiming at the overthrow of the orthodox colonial imperialist government. Certainly if it is only, as has been suggested, inspired by personal jealousy or hatred of Smuts (sanguinary though his record has been), it is not of much account; but in the hands of a "Left" S.A. Labour Party it may be a powerful aid towards the social revolution: and it is only "infantile sickness" to contend, with the Cape Labour Die Hards, that the pact is a dishonouring compromise between parties having nothing in common.

INDUSTRIAL UNION.

In the Trade Union sphere, a sincere and distinct groping towards a new and better unity, under honest control, is taking shape; still in the air perhaps, with only tentative suggestions of Trades Councils as the unit, and still regarding the non-European worker as something to be dealt with "afterwards," but in Trade Union matters the organisational change is not the first but the last event in order of time. This movement again depends on the temper of its controllers; if it is led by those who wish to conform to the face of the slowest, or even of the average man, it will lead nowhere; but in the hands of leaders who will lead there is no reason why another year should not see important results.

GETTING THE BLACK WORKERS.

It is when the outlook is extended to cover the native proletariat that the signs of the times become more intriguing. The plain lesson of the 1922 strike, that the whole working class must be organised, including the blacks, because they, in increasing measure, are producing the boss' profits, enabling him in increasing measure to flout the white workers—this has not yet gone home. Passionate prejudice still reigns in many quarters, and is countered by only pious opinion in others, while among the natives the activity of the capitalists has been more intense than ever, and when the white workers do decide to act according to their obvious interest and duty, they will find an almost equally passionate prejudice, countered by an almost as pious opinion, has been carefully nursed against them by the bourgeois agencies, including the Churches. Nevertheless, the proposal to organise the native mine workers marks a very important milestone in the history of S.A. Labour, whether it is carried this year, next or later.

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT.

In the S.A. Communist movement the most important event of the year has been the rapid growth, in effectiveness as well as numbers, of the Young Communist League on the Rand. The Communist Youth Movement originated during the war as the first international mass body exposing the war objectives from a proletarian standpoint, and it has the advantage of freedom from the pre-war traditions, Social Democratic and otherwise, which still mar many an adult section of the Communist International; it has grown up only in the school of the Third International, i.e., only in a revolutionary and not in a reformist atmosphere. To the Young Communists in every land the class-conscious workers may look for the clear outlook, the pluck and the dash which are essential in the fight with capital. The Y.C.L. is carrying young workers through what is the most critical of the seven ages of man in a capitalist regime, and guarantees perpetual youth to the whole movement. It must also throw its characteristic energy into that most important and most difficult of our tasks, the development of the Labour movement among the native workers.

IN THE SHADOW OF EUROPE.

South African affairs have been overshadowed during the year by those of oversea; in other words, South Africa finds itself, both on the capi-

(Continued at foot of next column.)

talist and on the Labour side, more and more involved in European affairs. Just as the recent Provincial elections were really a fight for British Imperialism—resulting in a significant defeat of the Imperialist party—so the Labour movement, with its unemployment, its intensified victimisation of the stalwarts and corruption of the weak-kneed, and also its none the less renewed assurance that its slogans are not "ideals" merely but practical plans, looks for fellow feeling, for parallels on a greater scale to local experiences, and for inspiration, to the great progress going on in Britain, to the life and death struggle of the working class in Germany and to the continued and increasing success, power and stability of the Soviet Federation. Our unemployment—is it not connected with the "coolie level" of Germany? Our strike prisoners—is not their punishment prolonged in conformity with the White Terror in Europe? Our 1922 "Putsch," is it not of a piece with the struggles of the German workers, repeatedly shot down, yet now nearer than ever to victory? Our certainty of victory, is it not fortified by the glorious spectacle of Labour All Victorious in Moscow?

It is when we thus consider our function in the one world movement that we best realise the nature and magnitude of the tasks before us for 1924.

The "Guardian's" "Political Ventriloquism."

A few weeks ago our Durban Labour (more or less) contemporary gained the odium of the "Rand Daily Mail" and "Sunday Times" for an excellent leaderette in support of the proposal to organise native mine workers. "It is stated that the S.A.M.W.U. are about to organise the native mine workers on trade union lines," said the "Guardian." "It is not before time. Too long have the lower castes of workers been allowed to be the pawns of the masters. . . . Too long have the white workers ignored and despised the lower castes . . . We are of the deliberate opinion that every worker in an industry should be a member of the trade union covering that industry . . . down to the native piccanin who runs messages for the native gangs . . . We wish the S.A. M.W.U. success in their task."

That was on 12th October last. Since then the "Guardian" has not merely had no more to say on the matter, it has apparently slewed right round. Contrast its present way of referring to it (issue of the 14th inst.):

"Some time ago a good deal was made of an attempt by several members of a Johannesburg branch of the Mine Workers' Union to organise native workers and admit them to the S.A. M.W.U. OF COURSE, nothing has been done in the matter at all. . . . This SINISTER SUGGESTION, however, keeps on appearing in the papers, as though it were an accomplished fact, and it goes out to the country as the effect of Bolshevism in the unions. No more DESPICABLE method of getting at the union could be used, and every decent man will RESENT THE INSINUATION of the PRESS."

With the "Guardian's" accompanying criticism of the consistency and "honesty" and "two voices" of the S.A.P. we quite agree; but what about the "Guardian's" own mote, or rather beam? The "Guardian" was one of the first to announce that "the S.A.M.W.U. ARE ABOUT TO organise the native mineworkers," etc. But when the capitalist Press takes it up, it is a "sinister suggestion." It was a very healthy suggestion only two months before! "OF COURSE nothing has been done"; why "of course"? "Despicable method"; can anything be more despicable than the "Guardian's" own apparent recantation of its former "making a good deal of" the scheme? "Will resent the insinuation"; but it is hard to resist an "insinuation" that the "Guardian," finding some of its Transvaal readers up in arms against that October article, is trying to cover a disgraceful retreat by a show of virtuous indignation over an inaccuracy, which the "Guardian" itself was the first to commit, as to precisely how far the proposal has actually progressed up to date. If it was such a good and urgent proposal ("IT IS NOT BEFORE TIME . . TOO LONG HAVE THE WORKERS," etc., etc.), why is it "sinister," "despicable," or an "insinuation" to be "resented," to make out that the decision has already been taken?

"What do the S.A.P. want"? concludes the "Guardian." "They tell the natives in Capetown that the Trade Unionists shut the door on them, and the Europeans in the Transvaal that the white Trade Unionists are trying to organise the natives. These very 'honest' politicians who talk with two voices, experts in political ventriloquism, should be very careful not to speak too loudly with the false voice," etc.

"What do the S.A.L.P. want?" we ask in turn. They too are apt to face North by South on the matter. Let them lay their unflattering unction to their own soul.

Taking Them In.

Another appeal for Dr. Barnardo's Homes has just been circulated broadcast throughout South Africa. "We give the destitute children," it says, "a new environment, build up healthy bodies and minds, train them and place them out in the Motherland and in the Dominions, as useful, industrious, resourceful, PATRIOTIC, WELL-DISCIPLINED AND GOD-FEARING citizens. IT IS A GOOD INVESTMENT, for the children are the Nation's and indeed THE EMPIRE'S GREATEST ASSET." Of course; cheap labour and willing bomb-fodder. No wonder the appeal concludes: "I was a stranger and ye TOOK ME IN."

Russia's International Position.

(An interview with G. V. Chicherin, People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, on the sixth anniversary of the Soviet Revolution.)

The sixth anniversary of the November Revolution comes at a moment of serious international complications, which once more hold a threat for our security. The relative equilibrium which existed in international affairs has been very considerably shaken, and as a result we cannot foresee what new alliances and what new factors may come into play among the capitalist countries hostile to our Republic. Moreover, it is precisely at this moment that there are coming into power in Germany the very generals who have incessantly maintained with untiring constancy that the chief aim of the West must be a crusade against Soviet Russia.

STABILISATION THROUGH THE ECONOMIC NEXUS.

One of the chief factors which tend to diminish the strength of the world combinations hostile to us is our economic connection with other countries, and with important and influential groups in these countries. This was already pointed out by Lenin during the first and most difficult period of our existence. Even while German militarists, surrounding the Kaiser, were only putting off the occupation of the whole of Soviet Russia on military grounds, our diplomacy in Berlin had already begun the work of developing economic connections with Germany, the fruits of which have been seen during the last few years. Similar attempts were also made by us to establish relations with the Entente countries. In the spring of 1918 we drew up a detailed plan of possible concessions and of other methods of attracting foreign capital. All these plans had to be laid on one side when the Entente put into practice its plans for military intervention by means of which it hoped to subdue the Soviet Republics and to transform them into mere colonies. When, however, they found that this nut was too hard to crack, the system of creating economic connections again came to the fore, and it became a growing factor in stabilising our relations with the West, and consequently our international position in general.

THE NEW LAMP IN THE HAND.

Since in Britain industrial capital is the ruling power, she was more ready to conclude an agreement with us, it being more profitable for her business men to obtain new profits than to remain inactive in the hope of receiving old debts. In France, on the other hand, the forces of industrial capital, although rapidly growing, have not yet sufficient influence to direct the policy of the country. In the main, therefore, ruling interests have been more concerned about obtaining o debts than about establishing relations whi would have yielded her future profits.

THE "COLONIAL" FALLACY.

The history of our diplomacy during the la two years is in the main the history of the evol tion of our economic relations with oth countries. It may be characterised thus. C the part of the capitalist powers it started with misunderstanding. They thought that the estal lishment of economic relations with us woul mean peaceful penetration of the kind which being practised, for instance, in Morocco—tha is to say, the gradual establishment of th supremacy of foreign capital in the Soviet Repul lics. This was the meaning of Lloyd George formula of taming the Bolsheviks by means c trade. This was the attempt made at Genoa.

NOTHING DOING EXCEPT AS EQUALS.

In 1922, however, these dreams came to definite end, and the capitalist powers became con vinced that they could not penetrate into Sovie Russia without the consent of the Soviet authori ties. It is said that Philip of Macedon was o the opinion that an ass laden with gold could fin its way through the walls of any guarded town Experience has proved to the present possessor of the world's gold that their asses are not abl to cross the borders of the Soviet Republics with out overthrowing the Soviet power, which i guided in its policy exclusively by the interests c the workers and the restoration on an independent basis of the economic life of the country. This was made still clearer in the second half of the current year, particularly at the Agricultural Exhibition, which was visited by a remarkable number of foreign industrialists from all countries, and which proved that we have now entered upon the third stage of economic relations with the capitalist world in which we are recognised as equals. And in all our recent dealings with the big capitalist powers we further confirmed this fact.

A BUFFER POLICY.

But just as economic interest in the Soviet Republic is spreading very rapidly in all the big capitalist countries, the international horizon is again becoming clouded with a presage of disturbing events. We recognise these new dangers, but we shall guard very carefully our economic connections which are of value both to us and to the other side, and which will undoubtedly play an important role in diminishing the coming dangers.

The German Revolution.

ITS FOREIGN POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES. (By G. Zinoviev.)

The foreign political difficulties are the Achilles' heel of the German revolution.

The proletarian revolution in Germany, from its first steps onward, is of GREATER INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE THAN EVEN THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION. Germany is a more developed country than Russia, Germany is in the centre of Europe. The fate of the Germany of to-day is closely bound up with the fate of France. The proletarian upheaval in Berlin is bound almost automatically to call forth this or that intervention from Paris, the main centre of present-day international reaction. Germany possesses a mighty proletariat, one which only needs to stir its great limbs in order to upset the balance of any other country venturing to make war on revolutionary Germany. THE MIGHTY POWER OF THE GERMAN PROLETARIAT MAY SERVE TO SECURE PEACE FOR THE WHOLE OF EUROPE. The German generals are anxious for a war of revenge, the German workers are anxious for peace.

Again, the German revolution begins at a time when the Communist International has already existed for about 5 years, when the Communist movement has spread over the whole world, and when the Communists have become a great power in the decisive countries of Europe. "Organisatory experience" has been gained by both parties, BY THE INTERNATIONAL BOURGEOISIE AND THE INTERNATIONAL PROLETARIAT ALIKE. The struggle will therefore be the more determined.

ENGLAND.

Even if England should decide to employ the blockade against proletarian Germany, this blockade WILL NOT POSSESS ANY DECISIVE SIGNIFICANCE. And the England of to-day is not capable of putting a great continental army in the field against the German revolution.

FRANCE.

Should France be seized with the idea of occupying revolutionary Germany on any great scale, she would require hundreds of thousands of men for this purpose (probably no fewer than a million). This army would finally be overtaken by a like fate to that of the army of Wilhelm II. during the occupation of revolutionary Ukraine. In such a war the decisive factor would doubtless be the trend of feeling of the troops. And in such a war the moral preponderance would be entirely on the side of proletarian Germany and its allies. The idea cherished by some leaders of the French bourgeoisie, of crushing the German revolution with the aid of black troops only, would be a perfectly hopeless undertaking. BLACK WORKERS, OF WHOM SOME THOUSANDS ARE EMPLOYED IN THE HARDEST MUNICIPAL WORK IN PARIS, ARE ALREADY TAKING PART IN THE ECONOMIC STRIKES, SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE COMMUNIST WORKERS.

POLAND.

Should that section of the Polish bourgeoisie which is most inclined for adventures actually agree to play the role of hangman of the German revolution, IT WOULD SIGN ITS OWN DEATH WARRANT BY SO DOING. The sinister inheritance of nationalist feeling, still influencing wide masses of the Polish proletariat, will be swept away most rapidly by precisely the proletarian revolution in Germany. The Polish bourgeoisie are oppressing the Ukrainians, the Lithuanians, the Germans, and the Jews. As soon as the Polish bourgeoisie stirs as much as a finger towards beginning a war of conquest against the German revolution (or against Soviet Russia), it will speedily be convinced that it has been standing on the crust of a volcano, and it will find that the "national question" in Poland is more difficult to solve than ever. . . .

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

The nationality problems of Czecho-Slovakia are again a stumbling block in the way of all united counter-revolutionary action on the part of its bourgeoisie. It is, besides, not impossible that even among the bourgeoisie people may be found capable of grasping the fact that a White Germany would signify a serious danger to the Czecho-Slovakian State, and that Soviet Germany would at least not threaten the existence of Czecho-Slovakia. The powerful Czecho-Slovakia proletariat, headed by the Communist Party, will prove capable of fulfilling its historical mission.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

A victorious proletarian revolution in Germany would probably be the signal for a great movement in Austria for affiliation with Germany. The Austrian workers would be able to play a not unimportant part against the Bavarian Fascisti, who, it is now perfectly clear, are going to form the German Vendee. Reactionary Hungary has already reached such a stage of internal crisis that it no longer comes in question as an active power for the suppression of the German revolution or for war against the allies of Soviet Germany.

A BREST-LITOVSK?

To purchase peace, the withdrawal of troops from the Ruhr area, etc., it MAY BE THAT THE GERMAN REVOLUTION HAS ALSO TO UNDERGO ITS BREST-LITOVSK. The millions of people entering the revolution do not want war, but peace, however high the price at which it is bought. Should the international bourgeoisie attempt immediate open war against the German proletarian revolution, it is possible that foreign imperialism may win initial successes. But its final and speedy defeat is inevitable. The 60 millions of the German people, led by a proletarian government, will be able to repulse the foreign conquerors, and the German proletarian revolution, despite all obstacles, WILL BE VICTORIOUS.

A Glimpse at Soviet Russia.

(By W. H. Andrews.)

THE RETURN JOURNEY.

There is no railway from Sebastopol to Yalta. The rich patrons of former days probably preferred to keep out the "common herd." Good passenger steamers run from Batoum via Yalta and Sebastopol to Odessa, and after waiting more or less patiently all night on the mole or breakwater for one of these steamers, which was booked to depart at midnight, we left, crowded with passengers, at 7 a.m. for Sebastopol.

The crowd on board were representative of every class and nationality bordering on the Black Sea, and sprawled about the crowded decks with their impedimenta contentedly eating the food they had brought and basking in the sun. Everyone had the wherewithal to make tea, and, as at all Russian railway stations, so on the ship a constant supply of boiling water is available. Tea-making and drinking formed an important occupation during the journey.

The approach to Sebastopol from the sea is more picturesque than from the land. An imposing landing place (on the left of which is the great Workers' House or union offices) leads to a pleasant square from which boulevards and well-kept streets radiate. The town is clean, well built and attractive, and among other things contains a marvellous panorama of the fighting round the town during the siege by the French and English.

ODESSA.

After a couple of hours in Sebastopol the boat proceeded to Odessa. There are many factories at Odessa, among others a big jute mill which was running at full speed, the weaving sheds working two shifts. They were making bags to carry the Russian grain which is being exported. The factory is running 4,822 spindles and 440 looms. The workers have the usual recreation hall, theatre, library and playing grounds, and I had the pleasure of saying a few words to the on-coming shift which naturally had to be translated. There is a spotlessly-kept hospital attached, including a maternity section—but this is taken for granted in every considerable Russian factory. The municipal electric power and light stations, the waterworks and abattoirs were inspected, and are in a first-class state of efficiency, in fact, although Odessa has lost a considerable number of its inhabitants owing to it exposed position near the frontier, the normal life of the city is rapidly returning. Here I attended a great mass meeting of workers to hear Botemkin's report on the German situation. Perhaps the most interesting sight was the parade of several thousands of Communist workers near the old Duma buildings, now the Odessa Soviet headquarters. Everyone was armed, and a proportion mounted, but all were in civilian clothes, and were to march a good many miles to the camp where they would be trained for a few weeks. Only one-third of the male membership goes into field training at a time, for obvious reasons in what is practically a border town.

KIEV.

Kiev, one of Russia's ancient capitals, lies on the road to Moscow, and a few very interesting days were spent here. In the heart of Ukrainia, the city was one of the most fought-over places in Russia. The number of governments that the city passed under during the war and revolution is a bye-word. At one time no less than three governments were in different parts of the town at one time. Its hilly character explains how this was possible. A noble view of the Dnieper and the forest land beyond is obtained from the public gardens on the hill-top, a notable feature of which is a great statue of Vladimir erected on the spot where he watched the Russian people being baptised in the river on their conversion to Christianity. Probably such conversion was more in response to royal command than to intellectual conviction. The damage to the city, although considerable, is astonishingly small considering the incessant fighting which went on in and around it. Here is one of the most famous Russian universities, a great theatre, banks and business houses on wide well-kept streets and boulevards.

The Soviet house, standing back from the main street, has been entirely redecorated inside with revolutionary Soviet designs, and is suggestive, from its foundation to the Soviet star on the spire, of the rule of the workers. Kiev, owing to its hilly situation and the generous scale of its lay-out and its history, is one of the most attractive towns to a visitor in Russia.

A rapid and very comfortable run of 24 hours and I was once more in the noise and bustle of Moscow streets which more than at any time is now the heart and pulse of the Soviet Federation of Socialist Republics.

If Governments do not burn people for heresy to-day, they do much worse. European Governments have deliberately starved millions to death, not for any crime, but merely to compel the survivors to do their will. Persecution for political and economic ends has attained horrible proportions, undreamt of in the days of religious wars.

—"Catholic Magazine" (Capetown).

The Communist International must anticipate the following possibilities:—

1. A Liberal Workers' Government, such as existed in Australia, and is likely to be formed in Great Britain in the near future.
2. A Social Democratic "Workers' Government" (Germany).
3. A Workers' and Peasants' Government—such possibilities exist in the Balkans, in Czecho-Slovakia, etc.
4. A Workers' Government in which Communists participate.
5. A real proletarian Workers' Government which the Communist Party alone can embody in a pure form.—From a resolution of the 4th C.I. Congress, November, 1922.

New Life for British Trade Councils.

The Trades Councils Conference at Birmingham last month, representing 750,000 workers (including a delegate from the Indian Trades Union Congress) resolved:

(1) To urge upon the General Council of the Trades Union Congress the necessity for organising a nation-wide protest campaign against the dismemberment and destruction of the German Republic.

(2) To urge the International Federation of Trade Unions and all working-class Internationals to call an all-in conference to devise a common scheme of resistance to capitalism's assault.

(3) To urge all Trades Councils to set up a Committee with a view to the effective re-establishment of the Councils of Action.

A resolution was also adopted setting forth the true functions of Trades Councils much on the lines of Harry Pollitt's article in our issue of the 14th inst.; and pointing the necessity of a United Working Class Front.

A Bourgeois Economist's Admission.

Professor J. M. Keynes, speaking at the 1923 Liberal Summer School at Cambridge, said:—

"The absurdity of labour being from time to time totally unemployed, in spite of everyone wanting more goods, can only be due to a muddle, which would be remediable if we would only think and act clearly. The most serious charge which can be brought against the system of private enterprise in business and of Capitalistic investment as it exists to-day is that it has failed so far to deal with this muddle. Indeed, Socialists might, I think, have pushed home this charge more powerfully than they have, inasmuch as THE MAIN PART OF THIS MUDDLE IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE PECULIARITIES OF THE EXISTING ECONOMIC ORGANISATION OF SOCIETY.

The Great Famine in Germany.

An Appeal by the German Famine Relief Committee (South Africa.)

"A terrible famine has broken out in Germany. The calamity menacing the population of that country promises to be even more disastrous than that in Russia in 1921.

"The 'INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' RELIEF' Society, which in 1921, with the help of the workers of the world, organised relief for the famine-stricken peasantry and workers of Russia, to-day addresses an impassioned appeal to all the working people of the world to open immediately a great Relief campaign on a wide scale for the benefit of the German workers and their families.

"There is not a day to be lost."

* * *

Such is the situation set forth in a manifesto received from the "International Workers' Relief," of 11 Unter Den Linden, Berlin, signed by, among others, Anatole France, Edo Fimmen, Anderson Nexo, Maximilian Harden, Prof. Einstein, Ernst Toller, Maxim Gorki, Prof. Forel, Prof. Graziadei, Upton Sinclair, Helen Crawford and E. Whitehead, appealing for international aid to combat the desperate distress in Germany this winter.

* * *

In response to this appeal, relief committees have been formed in many countries, including Great Britain, where Robt. Smillie, the miners' leader, Robt. Williams (Transport Workers), Geo. Hicks (Building Workers), Geo. Lansbury and other Labour leaders have joined in the campaign. Relief has also been undertaken on a large scale in Holland.

As the result of an invitation by well-known Trade Unionists in Johannesburg, a GERMAN FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE for South Africa has also been formed, on non-political lines, and now invites generous contributions in money and kind.

According to bulletins issued by the International Workers' Relief, many millions are without the barest necessaries of food and clothing, especially in the towns—and town dwellers are worse off than country dwellers in time of famine. There is food, but the masses cannot afford it: that is the position. Even bread is an article of luxury. In one week in October a worker earned 600 million marks whereas one loaf of bread alone cost 480 million. Many workers are so weak that they cannot walk to work, and they cannot afford the train or tram fare. Milk is absolutely unobtainable for even the infants of the working class. Mothers are unable to nurse their children, who are growing up sickly, deformed and degenerate. The population of Germany, impoverished in physique for the past nine years, now falls an easy prey to disease, which is rampant. Tuberculosis and scurvy stalk the land. Medicines and medical treatment are beyond the means of all but the few. Hunger riots are inevitable.

* * *

The I.W.R. has already distributed many thousands of tons of foodstuffs, opened soup kitchens, creches, welfare bureaux, etc., in many towns. It is to further this good work that the present appeal is made.

Men of goodwill, in town and country, help the starving. He gives twice who gives quickly.

Contributions should be sent to the Treasurer, Box 4949 (Phone 2079), or may be handed in for him at No. 2, Trades Hall, Rissik Street, Johannesburg.

THE GERMAN FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE.

IVAN L. WALKER, Box 1248, Johannesburg, Chairman.

MAURICE BONSONBY, The Deanery, De Villiers Street, Johannesburg, Treasurer.

Flashlights on the German Situation.

(By G. Zinoviev.)

When the Berlin organisation of the German S.P. demanded that the central organ of the party, the "Vorwaerts," be changed from a yellow newspaper into a red one, the Right and "Left" leaders of the German S.P. came together and passed a wise resolution to the effect that THE MORNING EDITION OF THE "VORWAERTS" BE EDITED AS BEFORE BY THE RIGHT, BUT THE EVENING EDITION BY THE LEFT!! In other words: in the morning the central party of the organ will openly defend the bourgeoisie and the White generals, in the evening it will do the same with a certain amount of circumlocution.

* * *

The main forces of the German workers have not yet participated in the struggle; the many millions of the powerful troops of the German proletariat have not yet been led into battle. The action taken by the workers in various towns, often enough without the agreement of the German C.P., are striking proofs of the charged atmosphere. The urgent desire of the workers to obtain possession of weapons is now beginning to assume a mass character. The decisive struggles are postponed for a season. But they are approaching none the less inevitably. THE MORE ILLUSIONS THE AVERAGE WORKER LOSES DURING THE PRESENT PERIOD, THE BETTER FOR THE REVOLUTION. Our chief political task at the present time consists in finally liquidating the influence possessed by the German Social Democratic Party, Right and "Left" alike, and thereby clearing the path for the victory of the workers.

* * *

Germany is not Italy. German Fascism, even when supported by German Social Democracy, is incapable of solving the elementary and unavoidable tasks confronting Germany. The international situation of Germany has not been improved as a result of the "patriotic" bourgeoisie and Social Democracy having played the "independent" Rhineland republic into the hands of M. Poincare. The international knot is being drawn tighter and tighter. The economic situation of Germany has not improved, but has become worse, and will continue to become worse from day to day. The basic factors of revolution continue to work their effects.

The British Communists' Election Programme.

In every constituency where an organisation of the C.P.G.B. existed, the Communists threw all their weight into the United Labour campaign and used all their influence to make it a class campaign. In six of the above constituencies the Communists stood as Labour candidates. This was possible under the constitution of the British Labour Party, and it was also possible at the same time to criticise the official Labour Party programme and put forward a Communist programme. The latter included:

The State to control all land and factories, to organise production so as to provide employment for all and produce what was needed.

Workers' Control Commission in every factory. Confiscation of all idle factories and land.

State direction of export and import trade, of credits and banks.

Capital levy, not to redeem debt but for social purposes.

Incomes in excess of a living standard to be taxed to their full value.

National minimum wage of £1 a week. Full maintenance of unemployed, sick and aged workers. Six hour day. Housing for all. Fulfilment of war pledges re pensions, etc.

Full recognition of and trade with Russia.

No intervention in Germany and immediate withdrawal of British troops.

No loans to governments oppressing workers.

Repudiation of Treaty of Versailles and cancellation of war debts and indemnities.

International conference of Governments, including Russia, to settle all questions affecting the peace of the world.

Total disarmament. No credits for armaments or war.

Empire: Complete liberation from British Dominion of all subject races.

Pariahs of the Colonies, Unite!

The First International Peasants' Conference, held a short time ago in Moscow, addressed the following appeal to the peasants of the colonial countries:—

"Peasants of the Colonies, you slaves who, in your millions in the fields and forests, bear the DOUBLE YOKE laid upon you by foreign capitalism and by the rulers of your own countries! The International Agricultural Conference, meeting for the first time in Moscow for the purpose of organising the STRUGGLE OF THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, makes this appeal to your class consciousness. You are suffering even more than the rural population of the mother countries from poverty and long working hours. Often you are compelled to perform forced labour, and are weighed down by intolerable burdens. You are overburdened with taxation. Exploiting capitalism keeps you in ignorance, and decimates your race with alcohol and opium. The disgraceful native policy of capitalist Imperialism deprives you of every personal liberty, of every political and social right. You are worse off than animals. But Capitalism is not satisfied with thus plunging you into misery. It tears you from your huts and fields, that you may serve as cannon fodder in murderous wars AGAINST OTHER NATIVES of colonial countries, or AGAINST THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS OF THE MOTHER COUNTRIES. Pariahs of the colonies, unite! Organise yourselves! Join your forces to ours! Let us fight together for our emancipation! Long live the emancipation of the natives of the colonies! Long live the International of the workers! Long live the International Peasants' Council!"

Killing No Murder

(Provided You Kill a Communist, not a Policeman.)

The trial of Conradi in Switzerland for the murder of the Soviet envoy Vorowsky at Lausanne last May easily beat the worst that was said (even if it were true) about the trial of Tikhon or the Russian Social Revolutionaries, and showed the Swiss Government in open support of Conradi. Already before the murder that Government had refused the protection asked in view of the Press incitements to murder the Soviet delegation. And after the murder "the trial was so arranged that Vorowsky, the dead man, and Russia, the Workers' Republic, should be the accused." In the indictment itself it was Russia, not Conradi, that was denounced. Vorowsky was called the curse of humanity, and the murderers extolled by the prosecutor himself as heroes. The scum of the "refugee" Russian Whites gave "evidence" against—Russia! The judge had one of the lawyers appearing on behalf of Russian interests removed when he made a protest. In spite of all this the jury found Conradi guilty by 5 votes to 4, but in Swiss law this means acquittal—and full licence to anybody to do it again.

Polunin, the accomplice of Conradi, had no hesitation in declaring in Court: "The only regret I have is that I did not kill Vorowsky myself, but I am ready to kill another Bolshevik." "Acquittal," says a memorandum for the defence, "will be a very powerful weapon for anti-Bolshevik, and particularly for terrorist, propaganda."

Thus have the murderers of Jaures also gone scot-free, of Rosa Luxembourg, Karl Liebknecht, Kurt Eisner, and scores, hundreds, of more "unknown warriors" foully slain in cold blood at the hands of Fascists in the most civilised countries, for the sole reason that they had championed the workers' cause.

"Class and selfish interests" as Ramsay Macdonald says, "have thrown off even the appearance of decency."

A writer in the "Catholic Magazine" (Capetown), in an article on "Why the Bondelswarts rebelled," points out that in 1914 the Union Government, before even Parliament had sanctioned the G.S.W. campaign, enlisted and armed Abraham Morris (recently sentenced for fighting whites), and a number of his people, to fight German whites, and eventually allied itself openly with the Bondelswarts against another white nation in South Africa. After the defeat of the Germans, Lord Buxton and Sir Howard Gorges promised the Bondelswarts all sorts of freedom and liberty. The execution of these promises, however, took the form of the usual South African native "policy" of repression.

British capitalists opened 75 jute mills in India, paid the operatives there 3/- a week wages, and then said they would protect the jute workers in Dundee by raising the tariff on imported goods.—Mr. Saklatvala, ex-M.P.

* * *

Class hatred! I say God help the rich if ever the day should come when the workers hate them one-hundredth part as much as they hate the working men on whom they live.—Jerome K. Jerome.

* * *

What would you have me to do? Go to the wars, would you, where a man may serve seven years for the loss of a leg, and have not money in the end to buy a wooden one?—Shakespeare.

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

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

Murder Though the Earth Quake.

The cables report a "Japanese Imperial Rescript" which "rejoices that our authorities and people worked splendidly together" at the time of the earthquake, "thus affording a striking commentary on the doctrine of co-existence" (is this the Jap for "One King, one Flag, one Empire"?) "which is the inheritance of our people."

Well, our information from the working-class side is different, but describes just the sort of thing that usually is concealed by such glowing imperial phrases.

The Executive Committee of the Y.C.I. issues the following statement:

In the first days of the fearful misfortune of the Japanese people, in the first days of the terrible earthquake, which caused many hundreds of thousands of workers to perish, the Japanese Government, the government of the Samurai, of the land-owners and capitalists, instead of affording help to the Japanese masses in their misfortune, PROCLAIMED THE WHITE TERROR and organised a cruel mass SLAUGHTER OF THE LEADERS OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT.

Among others, there was murdered the Secretary of the Central Bureau of the Japanese Communist Youth League, Comrade Eschutora Kawai. This cruel act of murder, carried out with an unheard of cynicism, was already prepared in the month of August, long before the earthquake, for the Japanese Government got into touch with criminal bandit elements and organised these into black bands for the suppression of the DEMONSTRATION PLANNED FOR THE 2nd SEPTEMBER on the occasion of the 9th International Youth Day. The chief of this bandit organisation created by the Government was the notorious criminal Yamagutschi, who has now been again arrested on account of robbery.

On the 30th August, only a few days before the 2nd September, the Japanese Government had a provocatory announcement published in its press regarding the "conspiracy of the Communist Youth International" and as to its action for the 2nd September.

This provocatory announcement, which set forth the peaceable demonstration planned to celebrate the international solidarity of the working youth to be a conspiracy, had for its object the preparation of public opinion for the violent suppression of this demonstration.

On September 2, Japan was not shaken by the "conspiracy of the Communist Youth International," but by the fearful and unheard-of earthquake. DURING THE EARTHQUAKE, in the days of the most terrible misery of the Japanese masses, the Government, in alliance with its bandits, carried out their cruel and dastardly plan and TORTURED THE LEADERS OF THE WORKING YOUTH to death.

At the same time the Soviet ship "Lenin," which brought a cargo of corn for the Japanese working masses, was refused permission to unload.

THE JAPANESE WORKING YOUTH WILL NEVER FORGET THAT THE GOVERNMENT, IN THE DAYS OF THE MOST TERRIBLE MISERY OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE—INSTEAD OF PROVIDING FOOD FOR THE STARVING AND PERISHING MASSES—CONSIDERED IT ITS TASK TO MURDER IN A MOST CRUEL MANNER THE LEADERS OF THE JAPANESE WORKING YOUTH.

Trying to Buy Whole Peoples.

Loucheur declared that, should a revolution break out in the unoccupied territory of Germany, France would refrain from any interference in the internal affairs of Germany, but that the French troops "would probably maintain order in the occupied territory."

Poincare gives a different reply to the question as to what France would do in the case of a German revolution, for he has signed an agreement with the Little Entente and with Poland, in accordance with which these states are granted a loan of 1,200 million francs for the financing of military preparations in their armies.

What else does this loan signify than the preparation for a fresh European war? Would France thrust these milliards into the tattered pockets of the petty states of the Little Entente, if French imperialism were not anxious to drive these states into conflict with the German revolution?

A fresh European war is as unpopular in France as among the other nations of Europe. But Poincare keeps France hypnotised by holding the German danger over its head, and is squandering the substance of the people for fresh war adventures which, he asserts, secure the present peace to the citizens of France. The means thus obtained are then employed to buy up Senegalese negroes, Czecho-Slovakians, Poles, and other mercenaries, with whose help French imperialism maintains its position of power.

Never before was there a more open and cynical system of hiring mercenaries than there is to-day. In former times, single persons or troops were bought for this hireling service, but to-day the French Exchange, aided by the European "democratic" stock-jobbers, buys up wholesale the lives of whole populations.

But it is impossible to buy over whole peoples. The utmost which can be done is to buy the traitorous governments and to induce these to promise to deceive their own peoples. But it is difficult to deceive whole peoples, especially when the masses are beginning to think seriously about the events going on around them.

It is probable the working population of Czecho-Slovakia and Poland will not be willing to betray the German proletariat, and its refusal to act against the German revolution will utterly upset the calculations of French imperialism which is working to-day for the preparation of a fresh carnage among the peoples.

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NewYear's Gifts.

A unique collection of Russian handicraft goods, including some very attractive examples of peasant art, is on sale at No. 4, Trades Hall, at reduced prices.

* * *

The B.E.S.L., we had always understood, was out to do something for returned soldiers; but we find the Rev. Mr. Paget, at Benoni, complaining that it does not get enough money OUT OF them!

It has been computed by some political arithmetician that, if every man and woman would work for four hours each day on something useful, labour would produce sufficient to procure all the necessaries and comforts of life, want and misery would be banished out of the world, and the rest of the twenty-four hours might be leisure and pleasure.—Benjamin Franklin, 1784.

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From Issue No. 401 the "International" will be published in the form obtaining up to 1920 (crown quarto, 8 pp.).

COMMUNIST PARTY NOTES.

CAPETOWN BRANCH.

The "Outlook," the anti-pact, "unofficial" Labour Party organ of the Cape, backed by Mr. Lomax, M.P.C., recently indulged in some petty abuse of the "International" and of the Cape Communists, suggesting that the latter's immemorial meetings at the foot of Adderley Street ought to be suppressed; and more recently it has been gloating over the fact that Comrade Harrison forfeited his election deposit. Just what one expects of that type of "Labourite," but attributable in particular, it seems, to some very proper Communist criticisms of Cape Labour election tactics (to which the "Guardian" also replied as best it could).

Incidentally, Mr. V. Rudolph, now mentioned as the leader of the anti-Pact schism in the Cape Labour ranks, had already tried his hand at "schism" when in the Capetown Central Branch of the Labour Party he opposed the municipal candidature of Comrade W Green to which in the Cape Unemployment Committee, of which he was also a member, he had consented; and he was found actively supporting Comrade Green's opponent, a fellow-Roman Catholic, we are told. Mr. Rudolph is now assistant editor of the "Outlook."

Now, ENCOURAGED PERHAPS BY THE "OUTLOOK," the police have served a summons on that tried veteran of anti-Socialist prosecutions, Comrade W. H. Harrison, for contravening the "Lord's Day Observance Act," by selling or offering for sale an "International" on a Sunday. Since the recent decision against that practice, the "International" on Sundays at the Cape has been given out gratis and a collection taken for party funds, and it has been announced from the platform that the paper was not for sale. This was done on the 9th inst., when a detective took the paper and paid Comrade Harrison 3d. which went to the collection. Often the recipient of the paper pays nothing or a penny or a sixpence.

The case comes on to-day, and Mr. Lomax, now of the "Outlook," who defended in the last case, is considered barred from defending this time, if indeed he cannot be said to be concerned in the prosecution!

The bluejackets, whose visit is on, have in the past always let themselves go in Capetown, and NO COLOUR BAR for them or the Tommies; they have invaded the coloured and native districts in crowds. Girls have been dragged from their homes, and NO PROSECUTIONS FOR THIS; oh no. Newspapers must not be sold on a Sunday, but . . . Meanwhile the officers are invited to a public beano at the City Hall, and all the snobs will be there at thirty bob a time.

There is more work in France to-day than the French worker can cope with, and besides Italians, Poles, etc., there are already very large numbers of African native workers, recruited out of the Algerian and Tunisian regiments into industry. It is not difficult to see what purpose these workers are expected to serve in the campaign to reduce wages; but it may well be that they will soon be found among the foremost fighters for their class.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS . . .!

While every other European currency, including our own, continues to fall in value, the new Soviet currency goes on rising; and still the Government refuses to go boldly out for trade with Russia. Are they blind—or merely stupid?—"John Bull."

No. 28 now ready:

The Communist International Magazine (Articles by Zinoviev, Palme Dutt, Souvarine, etc.) ... 1 0
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Notice is hereby given that the business of General Dealers, carried on in co-partnership by Max Blieden, John Blieden and Louis Caplan at Eloff Station, Transvaal, under the style or firm of Blieden and Caplan, will be dissolved as from the 1st January, 1924, and that the said Business will in future be carried on by the said Max Blieden and Louis Caplan under the same style.

Eloff, 10th December, 1923.

J. BACHARACH,
Agent for Blieden and Caplan.

14/21/28.

Notice is hereby given that the General Dealer's and Tea Room Business carried on by Solomon Sachs at 10, Fox Street, Johannesburg, has been transferred to Ebrahim Sally as from 1st December, 1923.

14/21/28.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the General Dealer's Business carried on by Israel Winer on Stand No. 93, 34, Beit Street, Doornfontein, Johannesburg, has been abandoned as from the 1st December, 1923.

7/14/21.

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