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Contents in Brief.

Page

1. Rand Miners Turned Down. At it Again.

2. Bluffing the Blacks. Communist Education in Russia.

3. Progress of Russia. Labour Defence Council.

4. "Vote Labour." Another Plot.

The "Mail" and the Miners.
Political Prisoners in Germany.

6. Miners Demand 21 Per Cent. The Supreme Soviet Authority.

7. "Revival" of Unemployment.

Burking the Issue.

8. Labour Snobs. Y.C.L. and C.P. Notes.

Hanekom Anniversary Demonstration.

CARRIED OUT IN SPITE OF RAIN.

Last Sunday the rain came down in buckets; but in spite of this a crowd of about a hundred persons assembled at the pot where the Hanekom brothers and Smith were foully murdered two years ago The rough monument was decorated with a number of wreaths, most of them bresented by friends of the dead men. The audience stood in the pouring rain, ome with umbrellas, some without, while hey were addressed by Comrades Shall nd Roux. It was a fine example set by he Southern Suburbs and indicates that a that part of the world at any rate the forkers have neither forgotten nor fortven the Smuts' Government for the furders committed in March, 1922. The eeting closed with the singing of the Red Flag' and the "International."

"Satisfied."

The Native Bishop of Liberia, referring "suggestions" that white people in frica were trespassing on the black man's untry, said, "He personally felt that e presence of the white man in Africa the greatest blessing that ever came the whole continent."

No doubt the good bishop has a pretty od time in Liberia, and expects a better so during his visit to the United States he says the right things. Whether all flock agrees with him is, however, open uestion.

At It Again.

Minister Burton had a hot quarter of an hour at the hands of Hertzog over a telegram, and was roundly accused of—to put it mildly—misleading the House. In fact, Hertzog lashed himself into such a state of righteous indignation that he accused Burton of being guilty of a deliberate falsehood.

Colonel Creswell was also, of course, virtuously indignant, and following—at a great distance—his model Mr. Merriman, referred ponderously to the high standard of morals and veracity of the House of Commons.

Poor innocents, have they yet to learn that a wit once described a diplomat as one who lied for his country, and by altering the word country to party the same may very well be applied to parliamentarians whether in Britain, South Africa or elsewhere.

Let's Be Friends.

"Miners, now that you are efficient, we feel kindly disposed towards you," is the sum total of various reviews on the gold-mining industry appearing in the "Star's" annual supplement. How flattered you must feel at this compliment. How proud the parasites will feel at the Empire Exhibition at South Africa's wonderful display of progress! "The fact that production on the gold mines was on a higher level proves that the reorganisa--tion which followed the strike of 1922 was economically justified and sound." This from Professor Freemantle in comparing 1923 with previous years. It also proves how the Chamber of Marauders hankered after a strike, how correct it was for Smuts to allow the situation to develop and from whose point of view economics matter and to whom things are now sound. It further proves how determined the next fight must be against the blood-suckers, and with the only result worth while—Victory for the workers and rather death than a life of starvation and

To argue with a man who has renounced the use and authority of reason is like administering medicine to the dead. —Thomas Paine.

Rand Miners Turned Down by Minister.

WHAT NEXT?

The Minister of Mines and Industries has refused to appoint boards under the Act of 1909 to investigate the miners' demand for an increase, for the reason that he considered the questions involved "could be settled much more advantageously by making use of the machinery recommended by the Mining Industry Board (Brace Commission). The Minister is thus acting ILLEGALLY, because the Industrial Conciliation Bill not having yet become law the Act of 1909 is still in force and the miners have a full right to make use of its provisions. If the miners, as a next resort, decide to make use of the Brace conciliation machinery, they will have to disclose their strength as an organisation to the Chamber of Mines. Or, as the "Mail" puts it, "the S.A.M.W.U. will have to prove its claim to represent the workers in the mining industry." This is probably the object of the Minister's refusal, but it is to be hoped that the Union will see through this game. The mines which have asked for boards are the Modderfontein, Crown Mines, New State Areas and City Deep. But as all miners are requiring and are entitled to an increase of wages, the demand for the twenty-one per cent. should be extended to every mine from Randfontein to Springs. A united miners' front under the auspices of the S.A. Mine Workers' Union should be immediately created to FIGHT FOR THEIR DEMANDS. This would be the most effective answer to the cynical attitude of Minister Malan.

C.F.G.

Captain Fulford Again.

Captain Fulford, the hero of the Bokesburg assassinations in 1922, has added more laurels to his crown. With 150 horse and foot this military hero was able to round up and capture three escaped prisoners on Wynberg flats.

The "South African Review" is awarding the gallant officer the cake for this historic episode in the annals of the Cape Police.

Bluffing the Blacks.

bombings!

THE OFFICIAL "CONFERENCE."

The most illuminating part of the report is the minutes of the notorious "Native! against the Raadzaal being thus "desefavourites chosen not by the natives but by the very Government with whom they were to "confer." The result was one of conferences between white workers' "mouthpieces" and Government, resultthe i's and crossing of the t's of Government policy by the delegates, who seemed less concerned to benefit their people and more to show how grand and important they were and how they could talk and refine just like white men—capitalist white men that is, not workers. Oh! dear uc, it's their bosses they aped. And the leaders in this campaign of backing up the Government included several former or present officials of the S.A. Native britors to the Chamber of Mines' native paper and members of the so-called "Joint Council of Europeans which reflects similar Natives terests. . .

PASS LAWS.

Thus in connection with the Governi.e., in effect for bringing Cape natives under the Pass Law, we find Mesers. the yoke, almost sneering at them for demurring, with the arguments that it Dr. Roberts, one of the Commission, to of people to move forward it was neceshowever, the Government policy was eventually approved UNANIMOUSLY! A PERAGE OVER THEIR "PEERS."

Discussion on the fate of certificates of exemption from the pass laws under the

The report of the Native Affairs Com- Bill revealed a policy, which was evimission for 1923 shows up the game of dently approved by the delegates in bluffing the blacks which constitutes the general, of establishing a sort of GOV- has received the Protectorate over the work of this and all other departments of ERNMENT-CREATED ARISTOCRACY | Central House for Communist Education the native affairs administration of the of exempted natives (especially land- at Moscow. This institution is under the Union, including the part played by lowning natives), jealous of their privil administration of the Y.C.L. of Russia natives educated enough to know better leges over the native masses, and patron- and aims at the education of able workers in saying ditto to that administration. isingly associating themselves with the for Communist society. Apart from the Thus, the Commission toured the Trans- exploiting class' "control" over the un- various theoretical classes and laborayaal and at meetings with natives at vari- exempted working natives on the specious tories the Central House has also several ous centres were met with four main ground that such control saved them from workshops (turning shop, locksmith's grievances — taxation, education, passes demoralisation (which it patently does workshop, carpenter's shop, printing and land. The Commission seems to have not) or that, for instance, insistence on shop, etc.). These workshops are comavoided touring or holding similar meet- finger prints facilitated identification and paratively well equipped, but there is ings in the industrial or urban areas; stimulated natives to learn to write! nevertheless still much lacking which probably they would have been met with ["Preserve our privileges and we will must be provided. at least four more grievances, such as agree to what restrictions you like against | School material for the scientific and wages, housing, administration of 'jus the unprivileged' seemed to be the cry-technical training of the leaders and tige," and franchise, not to mention the and this from the mouth of the same dele- students is in a very bad state. Everycolour bar, relations and competition with fgates who had urged the Cape natives to thing is lacking: scientific literature white labour, strikes, massacres and submit to Pass disabilities for the sake (natural sciences, geography, technique) of uniformity!

NO DEMOCRACY!

such a Conference ought to be chosen by Conference" summoned by the Govern- the people, all sorts of weird arguments ment and held in the Raadzaal, Pretoria, were opposed by the natives present. For last September. It will be remembered instance: "If the people elected delegates material required: that part of the Dutch Press protested the latter would only be recognised by certain sections"; "the desire to elect crated"; but our criticism is that it was delegates was due to a wish to send firesimply a conference of Government brands to the Conference"; "not every man should be entitled to vote, only natives owning £75 of property or earning £50 a year"; "EXEMPTED natives of those tame and toady pow-wows with should furnish lists of names from which which we are already familiar in the case delegates could be selected (by Government)"; "the people did not understand the responsibility attached to the election ing for the most part in just a dotting of of members"; "if the delegates returned home and told the people they must vote it would only create a disturbance"; "the people would vote against an intellectual man, they were backward, especially the chiefs and councillors, how could auch people elect proper representatives!" and so on. And so, on the motion of Mr. Thema, the question of the constitution of the Conference was shelved for a year by 19 votes to 4, and the delegates contented themselves with servile thanks to funny! The more gold produced the less National Congress, now frequent contri- the Government for "conceding them the you get is how it works out. right and freedom to participate in the discussion of the mighty native question"! always the Secretary of Native Affairs in

ACQUIESCENCE.

the regulations under the Urban Areas tion"—and all was stilled. Act before they were promulgated was Similarly during the Commission's ment Bill for a uniform Union Pass Law, baldly refused by the Chairman, and the Transvaal tour, when some more genuine delegates acquiesced. The Native Affairs native demands contrived to break Act of 1920 provided for Native Councils, through the official cordon, they were but none have ever come into being, and fobbed off with assurances that they Selope Thema, Selby Maimang, Mrs. the delegates again acquiesced in the "would receive the Government's most Chairman's explanation that there was no careful consideration"; and those who demand for them. They likewise complained that, e.g., the Natives Land acquiesced in the announcement that for Act "had brought about a form ci would diminish stock thefts and encourage the natives would be taxed—and in the cumstances to become a farm labourer, inconsequent increased taxation! That is volving also unpaid labour from his wives ask "whether in order to enable one body all they got for the transfer from Provin- and children, overcrowded locations, lack cial Councils to Union Government of the of land, the proposed native areas being sary for another to go backward . . for duty of providing funds for the expansion barren and unproductive," etc., the Coma few thousands—50,000—some of the effect of the Natives Land Act is, it seems, mitted the loyalty of the natives, repudidelegates wanted to put a burden on that any additional land required by ated any distrust on the part of the natives must henceforth be paid for; in Government, and promised to bring the this too they acquiesced.

"SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION."

If any restiveness appeared, there was (Continued at foot of next columna.)

Communist Education in

The Young Communist International

as well as writing and drawing material and apparatus for physics and chemistry.

To a suggestion that the delegates to . The Y.C.L.'s throughout the world. have been asked to help in supplyin the necessary material.

The following includes some of the

- 1. Technical literature, technical magazines with diagrams and pictures, scientific and trade literature.
 - 2. School materials—
 - (a) Text books on geography, natural science, maps, pictures on geography and ethnology, industry, economy.
 - (b) Reading books, fairy tales, drawing paper, coloured pencils, pencils, pens, diaries, india-rubbers, ink.
 - 3. Illustrated magazines of all kinde.

Shortage of Gold.

"The sold coins will not circulate but will be kent in a bank so that they cannot be drawn away to distant lands." So said Jannie Smuttie in making known to the natives the introduction of paper. How

the chair to ladle out soft soap about the Government or the Minister being ever The request that the natives should see ready to take this or that "into considera-

labourers' position to the Government's notice."

Capitalism has indeed found a grand easset in the natives of Africa—and espectally some of their "delegates"!

Progress of Russia.

INDUSTRY ON UP-GRADE.

In his speech before the Union Soviet | been reduced to 16,500 in 1918, have now Congress, the acting chairman of the 42,250 in working order, and the freight in London and was brought into existence People's Commissaries, L. B. Kamenev, has reached 45 per cent. of pre-war figures. | "to assist trade unionists throughout the gave some interesting figures showing the development of the Soviet Republics dur- itself in the number of workers engaged in ing 1923. He said: "We have built up | industry which have now reached the figure | ties," passed the following resolution on an entirely new type of state, and there is 1.450,000, or 60 per cent. of the pre-war February 14th: no longer any question as to who it is that | figure. possesses political power. Were any pretenders to appear, they would be met by the masses, the millions of workers and peasants, perhaps not even with hostility but merely with derision.

us, we are faced with a serious economic problem—that of building up a socialist to profoundly affect the economic position economy. Upon the way in which this in the Soviet Republics. problem is solved depends the fate of our le state."

Referring to the new economic policy, he pointed out that this departure from military communism was designed mainly to bring the eighteen million peasant pro- tion 300 million are in chervontzi and 50 serving a seven-year sentence, and two ducers into closer relationship with the millions only in Soviet roubles, and pro- others sentenced to five years' imprisonnationalised industries of the towns, and quoted figures to illustrate the success of this policy.

AGRICULTURE.

He said the total area under cultivation in 1923 was 164,700,000 acres as against 137,700,000 in 1922.

During 1923 cattle had increased by four million head, and horses by one million.

There was a marked increase in the production of textile raw material, flax, hemp and cotton.

The area under cultivation was 75 per cent:, and the agricultural production 65 per cent. of pre-war figures.

INDUSTRY.

in gold roubles at pre-war prices was given as follows:—Year 1921, 1,300,000,000; 1922, 1,900,000,000; 1923, 2,410,000,000, as compared with the figure of 6,725.000,000 for 1913.

The output of the main branches of industry has been steadily increasing.

Comparing 1921 with 1923, coal has increased from 7,450,000 to 10,370,000, oil from 3,600,000 to 5,100,000, textile fabric the Workers' and Peasants' Union against committees in various German centres, 157,850,000 to 585,200,000.

The coal position in the Donetz basin has so improved that the Government will shortly consider the question of exporting. I

During the year iron output has increased 150 per cent., cast iron 100, leather 37, rubber 42, paper 104, matches 95 and chemicals 63 per cent.

TRANSPORT.

ing mileage of 41,580 miles which had workers and peasants."

Naturally this increase of activity shows | world when persecuted by capitalist gov-

During the year a beginning was made in the exportation of grain, and 650,000 tons were exported. The Government is preparing for an export of 4,000,000 tons Prime Minister to obtain an extension to this year, which if accomplished will still "But if no political problems confront | be only twenty-five per cent: of pre-war figures but will still be important enough

CURRENCY.

made the remarkable announcement that sentences, two (Erasmus and Vilioen) of the 366 million gold roubles in circula- serving 10-year sentences, one (Coetzee) ceeded: "The victory of the chervonetz is ment each." a brilliant refutation of the theory that The Council has further appointed a the workers and peasants who have at special committee to investigate the activitended no universities and have had no ties of the British Fascisti, Crusaders and lessons in the science of finance would be similar bodies. The results of the investiunable to place their state on a sound basis. gation will be laid before the General The whole of bourgeois Europe had said Council of the British Trade Union Con-'Yes, the workers and peasants can fight, gress "in order that the entire strength they can overthrow thrones and occupy of the British trade unions may be effecbanks, but they know nothing about finan- | tively mobilised to secure the Labour cial policy.' But to-day Soviet Russia, movement of the British Isles against such alone of the Continental Powers, had re- attacks as have been launched against the stored her currency to a sound financial trades unionists of other countries by basis. They may not recognise us de jure, bodies of the character specified." but they recognise our notes signed by Sckolnikov."

The total state expenditure for the year In the sphere of industry the production is estimated at 1,750 million gold roubles, or only one-third of the expenditure of Czarist Governments.

> "During the last year," concluded mouetary system, transport, etc., for a burg and Munchen Gladbach. the growth of capitalism, and for the and is feeding 20,000 people daily. struction.

"The general well-being of the people has increased. Our nationalised industry has grown at the expense of the small W.I.R. children passed the Dutch bounbourgeois elements. We have laid the foundations for Socialism by fostering close | are carefully prepared in the houses of relations between workers and peasants. Jour Dutch fellow-workers in spite of the The railways, which in 1914 had a work- | We are forming the union, the bloc of the

"HOME" DEFENCE.

The "Labour" Government of Britain is reported to have introduced a Bill providing for an auxiliary air force. authorises the formation of county assor Bloody revolution never! Arm the work- comrades in foreign countries. ciations for "home defence."

We may expect, therefore, that in times of industrial trouble that this force will emulate the exploits of the South African Air Force on the Rand in 1922 and in the Bondelswarts massacre.

to-do generally start bombing the striking | slavery.

workers of the towns, it will be interesting to remember that it was Ramsay Mc | Tchecoslovakia. So far several thousand Donald's "Labour" Government which children of German unemployed parents provided for their training and equipment. have found homes in the houses of our of making a shambles of a workers' demon- | "Westminster Gazette." When the sons of farmers and the well- stration and driving them back to their A film depicting German famine scenes

Strike Prisoners.

LABOUR DEFENCE COUNCIL TAKES ACTION.

This body, which has its headquarters ernments for their working-class activi-

"That the Labour Desence Council trusts that the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, as Colonial Secretary in Britain's first Labour Government, will feel justified in all political prisoners sentenced for their participation in the recent Labour dispute on the Rand of the amnesty under which many have already been released.

"The Council is informed that eight men are still in prison: three (Saunders, Dealing with the currency, Kamenev Lategan and Garnsworthy) serving life

Workers' Relief.

The latest news of the German campaign of the Workers' International Re-Kamenev, "we have strengthened all our lief is that the W.I.R. has increased its positions. We may say quite safely that relief by 30 per cent. with six new soup. during the past year we have laid the kitchens providing 4,000 meals daily, at foundations in industry, export trade, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Crefeld, Essen. Duis-

well-ordered, systematic, daily advance of The W.I.R. has close on a hundred strengthening of the basis for Socialist con- South African soup kitchen in Germany would cost £6 a day to maintain. Can We do it?)

> On 4th February the second party of dary. The new homes for the children unemployment and other unfavourable conditions prevailing in Holland also.

Other groups of children have been sent abroad as follows: 120 to Switzerland on 12th February, and a similar number to Austria on 15th February. About the middle of February 100 children went to

ers? no liberal Labour pacifist would! So far the best collections have been in dream of such a thing. But it hastens as Russia, Holland and America, but the one of its first acts to create a weapon and British campaign is being energetically place it in the hands of the white guard pushed and is supported by such organs section of the population for the purpose as the "Manchester Guardian" and

is expected shortly in South Africa.

THE INTERNATIONAL, Official Organ of THE COMMUNIST PARTY (S.A. Section of the Communist International).

(Secretary-Editor, W. H. Andrewe.) Annual Subscription, 10/-; half-yearly, 5/-Bundle Orders of One Dozen and over: 2/- per dozen.

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"Vote Labour."

The panacea for all ills that the workers remark from a Labour speaker made with you vote Labour at the last election?" Well, the British workers in considerable numbers have taken that advice, and a Labour Ministry now holds office in Westminster, and it is one of life's little ironies that almost before the Government was I formed it was faced by that bete noir of Labour politicians—a national strike.

The Associated Engine Drivers and Firemen held up the British railways for a week in defiance both of the pleadings of political Labour and the threatenings of the politicians who have captured the officials' positions in the unions.

No sooner were the railwaymen disposed of by persuading them to accept the proposed reductions by instalments than a more threatening situation arose. transport workers struck all over Britain for a rise of wages and the Labour Ministry found it more difficult to perhad been the case with the drivers and firemen. However, they were eventually they will have betrayed. manoeuvred back to work for half the in- Since writing the above it has been years at these respective occupations at crease they had demanded and the promise announced that McDonald's Government the salaries "enjoyed" by the profesof the balance at a later date, and the has decided NOT to introduce a Miners' sionals would be a valuable education for which it utilised to prove that a Labour leave the miners and coal masters to fight white guards. Ministry could be as loyal to the monarchy | it out. and as imperialistic in its policy as its | We may expect that every effort will be Liberal or Tory predecessors.

Bills.

Being defeated on a matter of procedure, McDonald decided to take up all private members' time for March, thus automatically preventing the second reading on the 21st March of the Miners' Mini- c ber's Bill.

Meanwhile the Miners' Delegate Conference deferred taking a ballot of its members on the question of calling a general strike pending the fate of the Bill. This places McDonald's Government on the horns of a dilemma.

To ward off the strike ballot which would in all probability be decided upon on March 26th and be overwhelmingly in favour of a strike, the Government, it is said, proposes to introduce the Miners' Bill at the end of the financial year.

As the Miners' National Agreement expires on April 17th it is probable that the | European countries, forming branches of Miners' Federation will not wait for the the Communist Party. Bill. Even if that is done it is extremely. The director of the Government Intelliimprobable that a Bill satisfactory to the gence Bureau, Colonel Kays, gave eviminers can be carried through the House, dence of a meeting of Indians in Moscow, and consequently it would appear that the and letters, pamphlets, circulars and news-Government is faced by two alternatives: are heir to has been repeatedly stated by either to introduce a genuine Minimum Labour politicans to be "Vote Labour." | Wage Bill, which may mean defeat and, We have heard it in Britain and during if so, go to the country on this frankly the Labour parliamentarians had no other | proper and honourable course, or to allow advice to offer. One has often heard the the miners to strike and thus bring on a first-class crisis.

bine to turn the Government out.

Then either a capitalist coalition Gov-I side as it did in Russia. ernment will be formed or if the workers are considered sufficiently disillusioned and bitter, an appeal to the country might be made in the hope of a smashing defeat l of the Labour Party.

We hope Mr. McDonald and his friends will take the more resolute and honourbale course and throw down the gauntlet to meetings are repeatedly summoned for his quandem friends the Liberals and technical breaches of antiquated obstrucmake a direct appeal to the only real source of strength for a Labour Govern- | the licence allowed to the sons of the wellment-the working men and women of to-do. A week ago the students of the Britain.

We do not desire to see the Labour Government and Party in Britain humiliated as the German Social-Democrats have been, but if they follow the same tactics of leaning for support more on the petit suade them to be quiet whilst their new bourgeoisie than on the workers such traffic, he, poor man, not daring to prorulers got accustomed to big Ministerial humiliation is inevitable, and they will salaries and newly-found importance than earn the contempt alike of those whose favour they court and the workers whem

Government secured a breathing space Minimum Wage Bill, and is prepared to these young jackanapes and potential

made by the Government to trick the men Abdurahman complains that there is no It bullied the Indian Nationalist Party, linto accepting some compromise which will arrangement for him to see the coloured flattered the Egyptians, and made it clear | leave them very little better off than they | people. What cruel ostracism to deprive that it was "sound" on the army, navy are at present, but the miners in future them of such a delightful vision as seeing and air forces. It shielded itself from the will have very little faith in the argument a real blue-blooded prince. They can charge of breaking its election pledges to that industrial warfare can be avoided by have one satisfaction, anyway, of contripensioners, miners, and other classes of leaving the matter in the hands of Par- buting their municipal share for the enworkers who had been led to believe that liament, and will see the necessity of joyment of other people, and when that a Labour Government would see them making their industrial organisation so lesson of exploitation is sufficiently learns righted by making these matters of vital powerful that they can force legislation in by them, they may even inform Dr. interest to the workers' private members' their favour, in which event it will not Abdurahman that such royal parasites much matter what the political complexion | they have no interest to see. of the Government of the day may be.

owned Labour Press in South Africa. Send held improbable. It is an age of revolumum Wage Bill, which was a private mem- | your printing there. 'Phone 3561, corner | tions, in which everything may be looked Maclaren and Fox Streets, Johannesburg. I for.—Thomas Paine.

Another

Eight Indians who are alleged to be Bolshevik agents are standing their trial at Cawnpore—four of them (including Comrade Roy) no doubt to the great regret of the Indian authorities are out of India —on a charge of "conspiracy to establish an organisation of the Communist International throughout India."

In other words, they are charged with what is perfectly legal, even in most

papers—presumably Communistic were exhibited in court.

How very terrible it all sounds, but really there is no neel (unfortunately) for and after the 1922 upheaval on the Rand | working-class issue which seems to be the the good, kind, paternal Government of India to lie awake o' nights. The Bolsheviks are not yet descending the defiles of the Hymalayas. The true revolutiona scarcely concealed sneer, "Why didn't In the latter event, however, the aries at present are the capitalists, Euromeasures taken to terminate the strike pean and Indian alike, who are rapidly will probably be such as to enrage the proletarianising the Indian workers and workers, whilst not drastic enough to peasants. When they have gone a cersatisfy the capitalist parties who will com- tain length, Bolshevism will grow on Indian soil without any forcing from out-

Obstruction.

Capetown comrades point out that whilst Communists who hold, open-air tion laws, there is scarcely any limit to S.A. College were allowed to collect crowds of idlers who watched such antics as scrubbing the pavements of Adderley Street with a tooth-brush and a tumbler of water, standing beside the policeman on point duty and with white gauntlets mimicking the officer as he directed the test as he very quickly would have done had the offender been a working man.

Others attempted to ape the shoeblacks. Our correspondent suggests that a few

Referring to the visit of young "Wales," we are informed that Dr..

From what we now see, nothing of THE I.S.L. PRESS: the only party- reform in the political world ought to be

Beware!

THE "MAIL" AND THE MINERS.

ing paper has evidently had a few bad revised. nights lately dreaming of Bolshies. In It made the miners' wages dependent the Wednesday issue he fulminates against on the profits of the industry, an iniquifanatics, disordered enthusiasts, and refers tous principle now introduced into the to an iconoclastic section of M.P.'s hail- miners' wages on the Rand and which, ing from Clydeside. He goes on to liken as in Britain, will result in increased prothe "Lowland Bolsheviks" to the Grand fits to the mine owners and slavery for Inquisitor, and hints darkly of racks, the mine workers. In the case of the Government officials. They obtain neither saws, thumbscrews, gibbets and the bon- British miners the average wage per shift charity nor official poor relief fire as the favourite weapons of these in September, 1923, was 10/7, but, as is "irresponsible firebrands," and warns | well known, averages are deceptive, and | Landtag, says the political prisoners in Ramsay McDonald to "beware" in the on investigation it is discovered that the the camp at Munster are confined behind most approved stage villain manner. All earnings vary and in big areas are as low barbed wire and without adequate food or this is amusing rather than informative, as 7/8 and 8/7 per shift. but worse is to come.

start" is written it will surprise no one to learn that they were engineered by a group of disgruntled faction-leaders and trade-union agitators, etc., etc.

These miserable agitators, ghouls, etc., are then the cause of the series of great national strikes which have occurred or are impending. The rather conservative and exclusive Engine Drivers' and Firemen, who have been called the elite of the railway workers, and who held up the British railways despite Labour Minister J. H. Thomas dubbing them scabs, were stampeded by fanatics and disordered enthusiasts in the opinion of the "Mail" man; and also the great employing 6,000 colliers in South Wales, To dockers' strike, which ended in the victory of the men after only five days' stoppage, was the work of miserable agitators and ghouls.

The only comment on these ravings seems to be that it is a pity we have not paid dividends of 25 per cent. up to 1919, the reservoir for Communist elements. a larger number of such so-called dis- distributed bonus shares of 100 per cent., Germany is again in the condition she gruntled faction leaders and trade-union and then paid 121 per cent. on the doubled was in during the Thirty Years' War. agitators here and elsewhere.

The truth is, of course, that the labour conditions of the workers in Britain have 1921 and a similar amount in 1922. | country, plundering the villages, outbeen brought to such a low level during. The official returns of the mines depart- raging women and children, maltreating the last three years that a reaction against ment show that during the quarter ending | all freedom-loving elements, mobbing the the brutal tyranny of the boss class was September 30th, 1923, while £2,896,445 | radical intelligentsia, and trampling upon inevitable, and, as in the case of the represented the nett profits for the German culture with the barbaric joy of Southampton men, strikes take place THREE MONTHS, there was a sum not Vandals. even against the wishes of the Labour included in this amount of £1,531,347 on I it is to help such victims of militarism leaders both political and industrial.

the ravings of the "Mail" appear even dividends this one company paid more national Red Aid Organisations. more grotesque.

on the causes underlying the miners' dis- lutely nothing to the working of the in- Union Capitalism and the pute, points out that "if there is a dustry. national coal strike it will not be because the issue has suddenly arisen or/because the miners have allowed no time for discussion."

of 1921 was forced on the men-mainly men are jockeyed into strikes by a group | would not only "tolerate" but would through the treachery of J. H. Thomas on lof disgruntled faction leaders and consider the French occupation desirable, Black Friday—it has been clear that the agitators.

The leader writer of the Rand morn- terms of that compact would have to be

It is suggested that when the "secret | the miners only worked an average of five | the authorities, and their relatives are history of the big strikes which have days per week, and as all the men did not absolutely without means and cannot help crippled McDonald's activities at the very | work even these five days an idea of the | them. scandalously low wages prevalent in the The French, it is said, never treated industry will be obtained. the German prisoners so infamously as

> than in 1914. On the other hand, the citizens. General Von Seeckt is not conmine owners have, as on the Rand, fining his attentions to Communists but pocketed enormous profits.

> The "Economist" of October 13th, the November revolution. 1923, showed that the NETT profits of | Democrats, republican officers, radical ing June, 1923, was the comfortable sum the war was 1/51d.

> paid dividends of 17.9 and 16.7 per cent. in 1291-2 and 1922-3 respectively, after and Blind Soldiers of the World War paying in 1913 a bonus of 50 per cent. in were arrested and shipped to the prisonshares to the lucky shareholders.

account of royalties.

than SIX MILLION POUNDS to owners The Labour Press Service, commenting of royalties, persons who contribute abso-

Yet the workers are asked to continue to exist on in many cases starvatino wages, and the "Mail" has the audacity to argue in the face of such facts and figures | That a member of the British Empire Ever since the notorious "agreement" that the miners, dock workers and railway to suit its own grasping business instinct

The White Worker a Capitalist.

pointing out that compared with the comparing your condition with that of of the "Star" has to say on the effect of native worker the white is in reality a workers of past generations. The fact the French move: "The coal trade recapitalist. In a tone of reproof the fact of wour life have slaved away the best period ceived a fillip that was badly needed. Subthat you possess perhaps a dwelling house other infirmities in the course of "hoard- the effects of a great revival in the texand sticks of furniture is drummed into ing" and that your house is generally tile industries of France and Belgium your head. It is at times indicated that heavily mortgaged and your furniture which was largely the result of currency a constitution which allows such possi- bought on the hire purchase swindle is not and other conditions brought about by bility is a grand thing, and it is aimed to mentioned.

of your life, have contracted phthisis and sequently, the wool trade began to feel

Political Prisoners in Germany.

INHUMAN TREATMENT UNDER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

The Central Committee of the International Red Aid writes as follows:--

In the midst of all the suffering in Germany, the political prisoners and their families suffer most of all. They are discriminated against by the bourgeois philauthropic associations, and by the German charity nor official poor relief.

Ivan Katz, member of the Prussian clothing, and are exposed to typhus and It has further to be borne in mind that certain death. Nothing is provided by

> Real wages are at a much lower level the German military are treating German is arresting anyone who even smells of

the British coal owners for the year end- trade union officials, liberal editors, pacisfists, radical teachers, all are being of £24,572,585, representing a profit of arrested. Recently in the Hanover dis-13/21 per ton. The profit per ton prior to tricts alone the chairman of the Tobacco Workers' Union, the district chairman of the League of Nature Lovers, the national The Tredegar iron and coal company, chairman of the Tenants' Protection League, and the chairman of the local cartel of the National League of Crippled ers' camp at Munster. The charge was The United National Collieries, Ltd., that their organisations MIGHT become

capital, following this up with 10 per Under the leadership of Prussian generale, cent. dividend (really 20 per cent.) in hordes of soldiers are overrunning the

that the appeal is made by the Inter-In the case of the British coal miners | So that besides the huge profits and national Workers' Relief and the Inter-

Ruhr.

is admitted by the "Star" annual supplement in a survey of Finance, Commerce and Mining of 1923. Business is business, of course, and betrayal of "Mother Country' is with this motto clearly justi-The capitalist Press is very fond of inspire in you a feeling of thankfulness in fiable. This is what the bright luminary .- the Ruhr occupation."

Miners Demand 21 Per Cent.

THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

the "request" of a section of the marvel that it did not close down years | Soviet Socialist Republics. gold miners for a twenty-one per cent. before when the industry was less prosper- There were 1,500 delegates with full increase in wages. The S.A.M.W.U. ous than in 1921, when wages were almost voting powers and 584 in a consultative is utilising the machinery of the if not as high, and when the volume of capacity. Transvaal Industrial Disputes Act (1909) white labour (relatively dearer) employed lows: for the purpose of ventilating its viewpoint on the mines was far greater. and establishing the justice of its claim | What would be the result of the granta certified list of its membership.

doubt that any attempt to raise them would simply mean the closing down of |... part of the industry."

Chamber of Mines' figures.

£5,668,429, and in 1923 to £8,411,971. so many workers jobs. Very well, then. (Ukraine), Narimanov (Trans-Caucasia), Thus dividends paid in 1923 were increased to the tune of a million and a this financial interlocking to pooling of The Union controls the army, foreign quarter sterling over and above those paid profits, so that a decent wage can be paid policy, foreign trade, rights of citizenship in 1921. And it must be remembered to miners on all properties, high-grade and and of residence, concession rights, largethat dividends do not represent the full risk to live and limb is equal on all mines te. profits, represented by watered shares, and irrespective of grade. the amounts placed in reserve and sinking | The mine-owners haven't a leg to stand funds and the several other funds legally on, and on their own figures (which cannot a provided for the purposes of business lie, if the compilers can) the miners', camouflage were added, the increased pro- representatives can win their case hands fits over the 1921 figure would be shown as down. Solly Joel, Li Phi and Co. natur-1 considerably larger.

in 1923 as against 1921, according to . Chamber of Mines' figures, is £1,548,098; "working costs" is only another expression for "wages." Hence we see that this saving in wages represents the increased saving in mass representation and a quarter dividends, with very tangible result. The miners will, of It will be seen that the wishes of a further quarter of a million besides. course, justify their claim, and this in turn national minorities have been carefully These figures at once raise the question: will have the useful effect of evoking the safeguarded; whilst the ultimate decision "Why was it only at the end of 1921 that sympathy of the other sections of the in case of dispute rests with the great contract which was it only at the end of 1921 that sympathy of the other sections of the in case of dispute rests with the great contract which is the sympathy of the other sections of the in case of dispute rests with the great contract which is the sympathy of the other sections of the in case of dispute rests with the great contract which is the sympathy of the other sections. the Chamber discovered the necessity for workers. But if they intend to have the gress of Soviet delegates democratically drastic retrenchment and wage cuts to twenty-one per cent. THEY WILL elected by the whole of the workers, post arasur remembers. For if the in- HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT. They will sants and soldiers. dustry was in a critical position owing to have to be in a position to use the big. Those who have criticised the Soviet dustry was in a circum Pour despite which stick. Whilst right is might, IT WILL Power for not being democratic and at all the high wages paid in 1921, despite which HAVE TO DE DIGITED DIE TO DE DIGITED DE LA CONTRE DEL CONTRE DE LA CONTRE DE LA CONTRE DE LA CONTRE DEL CONTRE DE LA CONTRE DE tne night wages paid in 1022, deep that HAVE TO BE BACKED BY REAL times amenable to the will of the people dividends amounted to considerably over MICHT the might of DO NECE TO BE BACKED BY REAL times amenable to the will of the people dividends amounted to the will of the people seven millions sterling; if a reversion to MIGHT—the might of ORGANISA—would do well to carefully study this the · something approximating the wages paid TION. in that year will result, as Sli Phi says,

of Trades Unionism on the Rand is dustry," then it is surely the greatest and autonomous regions in the Union of

for an increase. The Brace conciliation ing of the demand of the miners for a machinery is ruled out because the twenty-one per cent. increase? It would S.A.M.W.U. has hitherto refused to be simply mean that a portion of the intray its strength, and rightly so, to the creased one and a quarter millions profits Chamber of Mines, the enemy, by giving of 1923, stolen from the miners by force in 1922, would be returned to them. It would mean that instead of the mining are busily at work attempting to prove get seven millions odd. But surely on that the claim for increased wages is not justified in the light of the present posi-justified in the light of the present posi-justified in the light of the present posi-justified in a condition of "payability"! ist Republics. tion of the industry. The "Rand Daily Where is the captain of industry who The secretary of the congress, Com. A. Mail" last Monday quotes Sir Lionel would close down a concern which was Yenukidze, in presenting the constitution.

lif increased wages have to be paid is very separate republics constituting the union. old. Furthermore, it is an empty threat. Its main features are as follows:—The Whilst not agreeing that the workers The low-grade mines argument will, of Central Executive Committee of the should base their claim to a certain stan-course, be again introduced, but the U.S.S.R. is elected by the Union Congress dard of living on the degree of "pay- remedy, i.e., pooling of profits, has been and is divided into two chambers: (1) The ability" of the mines, in other words on advanced by the miners' representatives Federal Council consisting of 414 members an admission of the right of the mine- time and again in their negotiations with in proportion to the population of the variowners to dividends, but rather on an the Chamber, and it still holds good. ous republics, and (2) the Council of understanding of the fact that they are Everybody knows there are low-grade Nationalities consisting of 100 members on the producers of all the wealth, that with mines which have a lesser profit-producing the basis of five members for each republic out them no wealth can be produced, and capacity than others. These have in the or autonomous region. that therefore they are entitled to a stan- past been enabled to survive only through The presidium of the Union Central dard of life based on the full product of the fact of their being interlocked with, Executive Committee consists of 21 memtheir labour, we can nevertheless profit-and thus financed by, the larger and more ably examine the justice or otherwise of profitable concerns. Why have the mine- cil, seven the Council of Nationalities, and the miners' claim on the basis of official magnates been so anxious to ensure the seven elected by the two Councils in joint survival of the low-grade mines? Simply session. In 1921 the dividends of the gold mines for the purpose of speculative share maniamounted to £7,163,941, in 1922 to pulation—not because they desired to give C.E.C.: Kalinin (R.S.F.S.R.), Petrovsky

ally object to disgorging any portion of The actual saving in "working costs" wealth is insected in the saving in "working costs" wealth is insected in the same any portion to not any fear of having to close down the lindustry, which dictates their refusal to increase the miners' wages.

The Conciliation Boards will produce no lative body of the Union.

Supreme Soviet Authority.

SECOND UNION CONGRESS OF SOVIETS.

Over two thousand delegates met in The most noteworthy sign of the revival in "the closing down of part of the in- Moscow representing the various republics

The national representation was as fel-

	Per	cent.
Russians · · · · · · · · · ·		61
Merainians		. 12
White Russians		بئه .
Turco Tartars · · · · · ·	•••	 5
Caucasians ··· ··· ···		•
Jews Lithuanians and Esthonians		3
Various	• • • •	. J
ocus delemente 90 mer c	ent.	wei

Of the delegates 90 per cent. were The spokesmen of the gold-mining mag- magnates getting dividends amounting to Communists and 10 per cent. non-party, nates, and particularly their Press organs, eight and a half millions they would only and 66 present were workers or peasants.

Phillips' remark that "the wages paid are grinding our seven million pounds sterling said that its aim was to assure the interfair, while the mines can prove beyond all in profits annually! This threat of closing down the mines fringing the the sovereignty of the

bers, seven representing the Federal Coun-

There are four chairmen of the Union

telegraphe, and railways.

The constituent republics control education, administration of justice and public health, and generally all local affairs.

LEGISLATION. No Union measure can receive the force of law until it has been passed by both the Federal Council and Council of Nation alities.

Should they disagree a joint session of the two bodies must be held.

In the last resort, at the request of either body, the question must be referred to the Union Soviet Congress, the highest legis

latest contribution to the art or science i C. F. GLASS. constitution building.

The "Revival" of Unemployment.

sive in the Cape. The Unemployed, Re- | unemployed?" And it came to pass! lief and General Workers' Union is again | This council of money-bags decided to the conditions which she seemingly with on the move, and members are enroling in greater numbers than ever.

Thanks to the decision of the Government, i.e., "that they will only contribute! 2/- per day to European married and 1/to coloured married" (oh, no, there is no "colour bar"), the relief workers and the actual unemployed will have to fight that it was compelled to sack 90 men like blazes if they want to exist. Is it engaged in road-making. Still, the Relief force" on this occasion is the British Govreally necessary that the unemployed Workers' Union got a move on and inshould live? It almost appears as though duced the council to keep them for these men would be performing a service to society if they would all commit a mass meeting on Sunday last to join suicide.

Our City Council here consists of all the money-bags of the town; as a matter of fact, it is the executive council for the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber consists of 270 members, the executive council (City Council) consists of 42. They contemplating a reduction of 28 as there are one or two dissentient elements, and they hope, with the aid of that democratic institution called the "plural vote," to warning to the powers that he that nothing machinery has a firm hold to-day even eliminate the disorder.

The taxable property of Capetown is over £40,000,000, and it is only when the relief workers require another shilling a day on their wages that we realise how poor" our masters really are.

to "get at" this during last week, but speeding up will be carried on until there the City Councillors played possum. In is no one left but overseers, and then the

The Council were in a difficulty as they wanted to do the Prince in right royal fashion, and it would cost money, agreeing | The office is No. 6, Church Square, that £8,000 would be quite little enough. | Capetown, and the hon. secretary is W. But where was the money to come from? Green.

The unemployed are again on the offen- | Well, some wag suggested "Why not the |

1924 from £6,500 to £1;000. £40,000,000 was thus saved.

This is a kind of sub-committee of the executive council of the Chamber. It is also very hard up for cash, so hard up the union, and members are eager to join and pay their 6d. per month. A deputation is shortly to interview the Government to make a special effort to get the latest decision revised and would like the assistance of the Rand men again before Parliament closes.

The Unemployed Committee is determined to get these men employment at full rates and no bunkum, and gives The Unemployed Committee attempted facture the unfit, and the scheme of ownership and control. not in a union are invited to join a real live body.

the general secretary of the S.A.I.F., has the Government Part Appropriation Bill, secretaries inviting them to appoint dele- Langlaagte, criticised the refusal of the gates to attend a Trade Union Congress Minister of Mines to grant a Conciliation in Pretoria in April.

unions or branches of unions who declare lective bargaining which Sir Evelyn their own individual gains? And whatfor the Amsterdam or Yellow Inter- Wallers used to advocate had been abannational as against the Moscow or Red doned since the 1922 strike." International of Labour Unions will be allowed to send delegates.

considerable body of organised workers in when Labour is well organised and aggres- advantages—many of us do likewise. To South Africa affiliated to the R.I.L.U., sive, but when owing to depression and use a Biblical phrase, we "hate the sin it can equally be said that no decided wholesale unemployment Capitalism is in and love the sinner "until conditions perleanings are noticeable in the direction of the saddle, collective bargaining is out of mit us to alter it, but apparently Mrs. Amsterdam, and it is not at all likely that fashion. "Take the conditions I impose, | Naidu does not, she merely hurls epithets the Amsterdam coffers will be very much you dog, or you can starve and ret," is or cultured phrases against certain condiswollen as a result of the tickeys contri- the attitude of the boss class to the tions which happen to oppress the Indian buted by the unions who attend Mr. Craw- workers now. ford's conference.

is probably that a delegate for Geneva is not again be fooled by conciliation boards about to be appointed by the Government and collective bargaining experts, but will to "represent" the workers on that use their power to wrest from the gang shadow of a sham, the International which is now ruthlessly oppressing them | EXCUSE OUR INTERRUPTION, Labour Conference of the League of the power which possession of the means BUT HAVE WE RECEIVED YOUR Nations.

miners for increased wages, and remarked The circular is emphatic that only those that "it seemed that the principle of col-

of life gives them.

Burking the Issue.

Mrs. Naidu, like most sentimental patriots, has only the powers of limited reasoning when it comes to an analysis of reduce the relief worker estimates for the Socialists unreservedly deplores. The Tyrants and monsters of aggression, according to her, exist either in the form The Divisional Council is just as bad. of governments or individuals who impose such tyranny because of the brute force within them instead of their rightful duty to exercise a form of charity and benevolence to a subject people. The said "brute existing universal system of industry in another fortnight. The men decided at which conquest by force is the factor compelling submission of all subject classes of the world, and if those forces were withdrawn from India similar forces from other countries would for the same reasons replace them. Gandhi, too, like our present visitor, flouts the law of evolution with his suggested remedy of a reversion to the primitive forms of Indian life and industry, re-establishing the hand-loom and other domestic burdens incapable of supplying the modern demands of the people. Profit production by the aid of less will suit. In two weeks' time the of the Indian people. This form of pro-Government scheme of 2/- and 1/- comes | duction has proved its usefulness in the into operation. Up to now the councils, evolutionary process of industry in which city and divisional, are sitting tight. The | many new scientific developments have Government also suggest piecework and played a prominent part, and which has the sacking of unfit and men over 55. Of made production a social and universal course the piecework is arranged to manu- machine. All that is lacking is social

Mrs. Naidu, however, does not so effect, they said "We are not having any." Government will have nothing to pay. of capitalist production. Her only desire They decided to chase the Government. Well, we are on the look out. All men is that such machinery shall be in the hands of the Indian people. The sins of the exploiter and oppressor, though, are not confined to any particular people either Oriental or European, nor are our ethical standards which, according to the Marxian material conception of history, are determined largely by economic sur-Beating a Dead Horse. Collective Bargaining. believe that India would again produce a dominating class, and simultaneously a Mr. A. Crawford, who still calls himself | Speaking in the House of Assembly on subject people. There is no alternative under the present system, in fact those divisions exist to-day both in India and sent a circular letter to all trade union Mr. Christie, the Labour member for South Africa. Mrs. Naidu's natural gifts and abilities were developed at the expense of the producing classes; then how Board to consider the demand of the does she blame those on similar missions of economic conquest when she and others so privileged use the same machinery for ever may be her nationalist opinions, the irony of the situation is that she has used Of course! What else does Mr. Christie | those advantages to develop a European expect. Collective bargaining is beloved culture. We do not blame her or her Although unfortunately there is no of the capitalists and tame Labour leaders | wealthy fellow-citizens for taking those people. She does not see, or will not The wheel will turn, however, and admit, that such conditions are but the The explanation of this attempt to gal-sooner or later Labour will have reorgan-reflex of the present economic system, with vanise some life into the defunct S.A.I.F. ised, and it is to be hoped the workers will proletarian sufferer in every country of the world.

WILFRID H. HARRISON.

SUBSCRIPTION LATELY?