# Refuted.

over the world, is a frequent one in the sion of British subjects. mouths of the bourgeois enemies of the Soviet Union, and has been as repeatedly | your ability is only natural. refuted. Not long ago Mr. Hughes, the United States Secretary of State, brought up the same old story, basing himself on a leading article which appeared in the "Izvestia," the official organ of the Soviet Government. It was not difficult an entirely distorted and even fabricated version of the leading article in question.

Now, some British papers, headed by "The Times," have taken up the same slander: "The Times" Riga correspondent declares that:-

"Zinoviev, in the 'Pravda' of February 2, stated that the Russian Comnational."

Again, in a leading article on February 10. "The Times" mentions another speech of Zinoviev, which it says:—

"finally refutes the amiable hypothesis that there is any real distinction between the Soviet Government and the Third International, which is working for a world revolution."

pointed out that there is no statement by physical or moral reasons but for purely Zinoviev in the "Pravda" of February 2 that has any bearing on the question at 1 all. The basis for the allegation is probably the report, in the "Pravda" of February 6, of his speech to the Communist delegates at the Union Soviet Congress. In this he pointed out that the Russian Communist Party is the ruling party in the U.S.S.R., and, in another connection, that "with the support of other parties," it is also the chief party in the Communist International.

This is all very well known. But to declare on this basis that one organisation is subordinate to, or responsible for, the acts of the other is absurd and dishonest. To draw the conclusion that the Soviet Government is responsible for the activi- ditions in Germany:— received from our Continental comrades ties of the Communist International, i.e., Owing to the inflation of the mark, the in the past, that our members should give but of all the other national sections, a conscious, deliberate confusion of two their disposal whatsoever. entirely different things,

be applied with much greater justification throughout the world, inasmuch as all Federation, and it was decided by resoluto the connection between the British Gov- nations are economically interdependent. tion to ask the memberships of the respecernment and the Second International. If the reactionary forces in Germany suctive organisations to vote in favour of a For Zinoviev, the President of the Com- ceed in extending the working day and levy of 3d. per member. munist International, is and has always lowering wages, it would react to the been entirely unconnected with the Soviet | detriment of the workers in other coun-Government, while the British Prime tries. Minister occupied a prominent position in During the lock-out in the engineering the organisation of the Second Inter-trades, 1897-8, the German metal work- city, to vote in favour of financial assistnational. Of course, the Seviet Govern- ers gave financial assistance to the Amal- ance being given to the German metal ment does not make the British Govern- gamated Society of Engineers amounting workers, in accordance with the appeal ment responsible for the acts of the Second to nearly £20,000, and in the recent lock-International; or vice, versa, but the out, 1932, the International Metal- Bailot papers will be issued to branches absurdity of such a charge is no greater workers' Federation gave over 52,000 in due course, and the votes are returnthan of the analogous charge made against Swiss francs to assist the Amalgamated able not later than March 27th, 1924. the Soriet Government.

## A Mischievous Slander To the Indian Workers of South Africa.

The charge that the Soviet Government | aware, a bill before the House of Assem- | mic position of the white werker. and the Communist International are bly which vitally affects your position in identical organs, and that consequently South Africa, not to mention that it is the Soviet Government is responsible for contrary to all those principles that are what is called," Soviet propaganda" all so often claimed to be the special posses-

That you are opposing it to the best of

Yet are you opposing it effectively, do you think that you will prevent its passage through the House or prevent it from becoming law?

It is to be doubted very much. As a a bid for the support of the white workers. to show that Mr. Hughes was relying upon | white worker I realise that if this Act | of repression does become law it will very soon be the turn of the white worker to feel a further pinch from the same direction.

> What is the real reason for this socalled Class Areas Bill?

Up to the present you have failed to realise that it is of economic origin and munist Party controlled both the Soviet it is because of this lack of understanding that your present efforts are doomed to failure.

> hitherto have been considered the exclu- lest their turn soon come. sive possession of the white capitaliste of South Africa that you are to be herded like so many dangerous animals.

You are dangerous to them not for

Had you been content to remain just what you were brought out for in the first place, to be mere workers, just inferior logs in the profit machine of the Sugar Trust, nothing would have been said.

You would have remained in economic l

There is, as you are only too painfully | bondage and been a menace to the econo-

As it is, the white worker is being fooled into supporting the agitation for your segregation by reason of that threat to their wages.

That it will make no difference to them whilst the boss class retain power many of them as yet do not understand, unfortunately.

That by the way. You want as much support as can be got to prevent the passage of this measure, why not make

Here is the suggestion, approach the white workers' organisations with the definite guarantee that you intend to bring the standard of your compatriots up to the white standard of life.

Show that you intend to organise and to fight for these improved conditions. That is the only means of gaining the confidence of the white workers. Show that you are one with them in fighting the class struggle.

There will then be no reason for them It is because some of your compatriots | to fight the battles of the boss class, rather have commenced operations in those will they begin to see that it would be spheres of commerce and finance that better for them to join forces with you

> This will, of course, mean that you will have to fight the capitalist members of your own race at some time or other.

Because they are in agreement with you on this occasion it will not always be so. They are merely looking after their right to exploit you.

You will find that you will have to fight

them, anyway.

Meanwhile think over the suggestion given above.

Yours for Class Solidarity.

PLEB.

## German Famine Relief.

A.E.U. TAKES ACTION.

In the February monthly journal of the the Engineering and National Employers' A.E.U. the Executive Council report Federations; therefore, it is imperative, contains the following reference to con- having regard to the financial assistance

not merely those of the Russian section | German metal workers are entirely de- | financial aid to the German metal workprived of their funds, and are engaged in lers, and thus enable our comrades to not spread over the face of the earth, or, on a desperate struggle with organised capital only extricate themselves from the diffithe other hand, to make the Communist and the forces of reaction for the main- cult position in which they are placed, but International responsible for the measures | tenance of the eight-hour day, to secure | to rehabilitate their organisation in the of the Soviet Government or to put a sign higher wages and improved working con- interests of the workers of all countries. of equality between them, can only imply ditions without any financial resources at

The same accusation or confusion could would be disastrous to the metal workers tion of the International Metalworkers'

Engineering Union in their conflict with

This appeal has been endorsed by a Trade Unionism crippled in Germany organisations affiliated to the British Secspecial meeting of representatives of the

> The Executive Council have approved of this resolution, and strongly recom-

J. T. BROWNLIE, President.

# STRIKES.

series of articles now appearing in the by the Thomases, Hendersons, Clyneses the districts bordering on Ukraine is still "Star," makes the assertion that the and others of like ilk, and they are trying | the greatest topic of the day among the Liberals and Conservatives deliberately, to do something for themselves. by their parliamentary tactics, pushed the Labour Party into office in Britain.

sections of the capitalist Press which cunning work of disgruntled politicians has submitted to the authorities a memorgreeted McDonald's advent to office would and wild-eyed Bolshevists. It is all quite and um in connection with his project. seem to lend some colour to this content leasily understandable to one who knows And knowing, as he does, what keen intion, and the continued support which the condition of the workers in Britain terest they are taking in the welfare of the Labour Government has received from and the psychology of one's own fellow- the Jews, he suggests, as a way out of the the same quarter tends to confirm the countrymen. impression that even if it is overstating the case to say that it was deliberately than our local dope organs, and points out an agricultural community. placed in office by the capitalist class of Britain, it is certainly enjoying a suspicious amount of benevolent neutrality.

feature of industrial life in Britain just | ment or the public give any consideration | desjatines, a million of which is Governnow seem, however, to have upset the to their demands. calculations of these "friends" of Labour, even more angry than Ramsay McDonald | himself at the wrongheadedness of the industrial organisations in choosing this particular moment to demonstrate their discontent with existing conditions.

having voted a certain number of men necessary for them. The strikes are a be proclaimed an autonomous state under and women into Parliament labeled reaction against this fallacy. | a Jewish administration. Labour, and the wheel of fortune having placed them temporarily in charge of the state machinery, that the workers would be lulled into inaction. This has generally been the case in former periods. In that are of such vital importance in con- tative of the American "JOINT." the present case, however, the workers seem to have discovered that the fact that Mesers. McDonald, Thomas, Webb, and - others have attained ministerial dignity | there are strikes when continual knocking | so far not revealed its opinion on the with accompanying salaries has no direct bearing on the position of the mass of the workers.

The unemployed—some of them—still brings no response?" try to exist on the miserable dole. The infamous "gap" still operates. Those talist Press, voicing the feelings of its members of the commission are Piatkov who are at work are receiving less in real wages than obtained prior to the war. The housing conditions are worse than has disappointing because unemployment is Pikaar. Among the Communist leaders been the case for half a century or more, undoubtedly improving and the grave fears who are said to be supporting the scheme and all the Labour Government has been l able to do is to leave these important mat- have not been realised.

Tsurupa, Sosnowsky and others. ters to private members. J. H. Thomas frankly and brutally throws over all pretence of being an advocate of working- ism, but to the fighters for working-class | Soviet Republics this question was brought class demands and declares at Newport in the most approved bourgeois manner "that men faced with the responsibilities | there is a slight and gradual absorption of | themselves in sympathy with the project. of office and the responsibilities of the unemployed workers accounts partly for knowledge of what this great Empire the present unrest. meant could never be the indifferent pro- The feeling of hopelessness is going. pagandists they were in the past. They With every thousand absorbed in industry must remain for all time responsible poli- the fighting spirit of the workers revives, ticians, keeping only in mind the great and the capacity to carry on the struggle Royal tour on Record. The Prince may interests of the country," etc., etc.

half-starved man and his family that he other workers will continue their aggresis being well fed, housed and clothed. sive tactics and force their own leaders, The workers know that they have been both industrial and political, either to get let down, betrayed and delivered over on or get out.

Mr. Winston Churchill, in one of a bound hand and foot to the master class | Jewish State in the south of Crimea and

The "Star" and "Mail" need not! The initiator of the scheme, A. Burgin, cudgel such brains as they have to dis- | who was responsible for the arrangements .The chorus of praise from almost all cover some sinister plot in all this, or the of the Russian Agricultural Exhibition,

The "Times" gets nearer the truth that the trade union leaders have come to In his opinion the south of the Crimea the conclusion that until the men cease and the towns of Odessa, Nikolayest and work and create a crisis in a given indus- Kherson are most suitable for that pur-The epidemic of strikes which are a try neither the employers, the Govern-pose. This tract consists of 14 millions

organs of capitalism are the advocates of pure and simple parlia- territory has a population not more than mentarism and what are called constitutional methods have in season and out of season tried to persuade the workers into ment. The number of Jews in these parts the belief that if they would only trust is about a million. their elected representatives, industrial When this settlement is developed, It appears to have been hoped that and political, they would do all that is Burkin proposes that this region should

> revolutionary, says that "politics is still ments, as well as agricultural experts, are a game—no one who has watched it re- stated to be in favour of the scheme, cently over housing and other questions amongst others Dr. Rosen, the represennection with industrial peace can fail to at the door of Parliament, which is sup-

increases.

This kind of talk does not convince a! It is to be hoped that the British and

#### Significant Figures.

In 1911 there were 37,672 white workers in the mines and quarries of the Union of South Africa as compared with 23,211 in 1922 notwithstanding the fact that the value of mineral production has advanced enormously during that period.

"The earth was made for man," but some of our fellow-men seem to think that day. But then they are only unskilled it was made to produce profits for them. labourers, not unskilled horsemen like According to their thinking, moneymaking is the beginning and end of all things.

### Jewish Autonomous State.

According to the Jewish News Agency (Ita), the question of an Autonomous Jewish people.

difficulty, to assign to them a tract of land on which they should be able to develop

ment property. The million desjatines is This is, of course, no new discovery, but | quite enough to start with. The whole one-third of what it is able to maintain even under its present state of develop-

Even Bevin, who is by no means a Many heads of Government depart-

During January the scheme was under see how these are made the playthings consideration by the Government. The between parties. Can you wonder that ["Jevcekcia" says the Jewish section has subject. A special commission has been posed to represent public opinion, and of charged with the task of going into details your municipalities and other authorities, of the scheme, and should the plan be adopted to take the necessary practical These facts notwithstanding, the capi- steps towards realising it. Among the owners, cannot conceal its chagrin, and (chairman of the Board of Concessions), refers to these disputes as all the more Kubatchov, Brande, A. Trumkin and entertained during the winter months are Trotzky, Kameney, Bukharin,

Of course it is disappointing to capital- At the last conference of the federated emancipation the present situation is dis- up in the presence of the representatives tinctly encouraging, and the fact that of the different repubics, who expressed

#### Record Breaking.

Only £13,000 for the trip. Cheapest actually need to spend his own money. How dreadful!

#### Heart Breaking.

The relief work rates in Capetown, numbering a thousand, will be reduced from 3s. 6d. to 2s. a day on Monday next, and coloured men will receive only 1s. a "the" Prince.

When piece work was invented slavery became superfluous.

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/- etc. Bundle Orders of One Dozen and over: 2/- per dozen.

Party Offices: Nos. 4 & 6, TRADES HALL, RISSIK STREET, JOHANNESBURG.

Vol. IX. FRI., MAR. 28, 1924. No. 410

#### Save the Children.

children being badly fed, housed and at the wrong end. clothed, and therefore such conferences as Capetown evoke a general and ready response. At this conference the various medical experts drew attention to the city is 80. value of giving instruction and advice to mothers and the provision of trained nurses for poor as well as rich mothers, and it was shown how great a reduction of infant mortality resulted in other countries from the adoption of these measures.

Figures were given which showed that crepancy. the Union was far behind, e.g., New Zealand in this respect, the infant mortality in South Africa among whites being 80 per 1,000 births as against 47 in New Public Health, claimed that it should be possible to reduce the South African rate to 50 per 1,000 in a few years, which would mean a saving of 1,000 lives a year, and the conference passed a resolution advocating that mothercraft centres be established in the Union and conducted ou modern methods and on uniform lines, which is admirable as far as it goes.

But the question immediately arises: Are conditions such that one should desire an extra thousand babies to grow up to manhood and womanhood in South Africa?

Other meetings are being held and less position that the young people of this country find themselves in when seeking a livelihood. We are told that there are ten thousand young white people on the will resist tooth and nail. Rand alone who can find nothing to do. There are thousands of adults throughout conditions under which thousands of poor | the only real remedy. whites live in the country and on the diamond diggings.

majority of whom are doomed beforehand to a life of misery and perhaps crime?

Any attempt to alter this system or f even to draw attention to the causes underlying the evils above mentioned is dubbed Bolshevism, Communism, etc., and those who make the attempt are dubbed enemies of society, dangerous agitators,

We want the babies healthily born and well brought up as much as the medical officers of health and their friends, but we want to start at the beginning and so to arrange matters that there is a life worth living for the babies when they grow up.

To organise elaborate machinery for the purpose of ensuring that babies shall be properly born and attended to during the first few weeks or months of their existence, and to ignore the fact that the great | groups, no matter how peaceable or unob-Instinctively the sympathy of ordinary cause of infant mortality is to be found in structive, having been practised in the decent people is enlisted immediately the the wretched conditions under which their centre of the town for the past fortnight question of child welfare is raised. Every parents have to live prior to and after the only. In the vicinity of the native humane man and woman hates to think of | birth of the children, seems to be starting | churches, however, it has gone on for

> It is notorious that the infant mortality bourhoods. In Gorbals, for instance, a poor district of Glasgow, the rate is 150 per thousand, whilst the average for the

infant mortality than the former. Their poverty and consequent bad conditions of

By all means let us have more and prepared to ensure a human life for them Zealand. Dr. Mitchell, the Secretary for brutal fact remains that it is far better for the majority of the children of the poor never to grow up than merely to reach maturity to satisfy the rapacity and lust of the ghousish exploiting class; the boys to be wage slaves, cannon fodder, or criminals, the girls to be slaves in fac- his flock, and on enquiry we find that the tories and offices and later to have the | "Army" does not intend to make any choice between being household drudges fuss because it provides special services or prostitutes.

others, THE ABOLITION OF POV- being driven off the Town Hall site! Pre-ERTY. This accomplished, the many re- sumably it will also not complain if white forms which are prattled about by Pro- worshippers at the native services are likefessional Philanthropists, Professors and wise dragooned helter-skelter away "into articles written showing the almost hope- Politicians will be easily effected. But the highways and hedges"! poverty cannot be abolished excepting by | The native societies and churches, and the overthrow of capitalism, and this the least of all their white missionary parsons. Philanthropists, Professors and Politicians | also seem quite content to see their God

ingly and with many blunders are groping | the hour when office workers were starting. Is it worth while to bring up babies, the | their way towards their emancipation,

they are hammering out on the anvit of very practical reprisals from the white The very kind people who are so solici- bitter experience through generations of workers. Yet how many of them will just tous about the infant mortality of the atrocious suffering a weapon which will snigger and chuckle to see "niggers" Union are part of that class which toler- liberate them from both mental and similarly treated! ates, if they do not actively uphold, the physical bondage. It is called working- Anyway, the incident throws a flash system of society which not only makes a class solidarity. It has been used with light on the increasingly helotising, niggerhigh infant mortality inevitable but also success in one great area of the earth's baiting, slave-driving, pogrom-loving is responsible for the seething mass of surface, and it will not be long before the feature of our "White South Africa" adult misery, poverty, vice, disease and international solidarity of the toiling mil- "civilisation," before which, if "His sercrime which is the inevitable accompani- lions of the earth will sweep poverty and vice "shows the slightest sign of giving

### Is God Mocked?

COSSACKS CHARGE BLACK WORSHIPPERS.

Last Sunday evening outside the Johannesburg Town Hall the Salvation Army were holding their usual service at about 6.30 p.m. with a congregation that included a perfectly orderly group of natives when a couple of mounted police suddenly swooped on the scene and made a baton charge on the natives in question, driving them into the road, on to the pavement and off it again until they were completely scattered and routed.

The scene was a novel one for the Town Hall steps, this breaking up of any native years. When a native congregation comes out of church on Sunday afternoons it is given ten minutes to disperse, after which that on child welfare held on Tuesday at is greatest in poor and congested neighthe mounted Zarps are given free rein and truncheon to "perwail on" them to diskidaddle to their kayas—quite an exhilarating Sunday "police sports." In short, the slaves are allowed their weekly tot of If we compare the white mortality in | God-stuff (indoors at least), and then it South Africa with the native and coloured is "Back to your kennels, dogs!" The we find that the latter have a much higher | C.I.D., indeed, blandly inform us that the two troopers must have exceeded their instructions, for "natives are only too wellife are notoriously the cause of this dis- come to attend divine service, they are thereby kept off drink '(!); but the practice is too old-established for that story to go down. Possibly, however, the healthier babies, but not until society is Zarps mistook the Salvation Army for the Communist meeting which follows later, when they grow up. In the meantime the for natives, who used to, and ought to, attend our meetings in large numbers, have in recent times apparently been scared away from them by the police.

The Salvationist gospeller raised no protest whatever at this discriminating, segregating outrage against a portion of for natives in another "class area" of The workers need one thing above all the town, and hence does not mind their

mocked in this way by Smuts' Cossacks.

The only indignation we have discovered They are convicted, therefore, of the (except no doubt that of the hunted South Africa either out of work or on most profound ignorance or the most i boys" themselves) is that of some white relief works where they eke out a miser- despicable hypocrisy when they prate workers present, and probably they were able existence on 2s. and even 1s. per day. pious platitudes about the poor and their not typical. One of the few realistic pub-At intervals the veil is partially lifted, misery whilst at the same time refuse to lished photographs of the 1922 Rand and we get a glimpse of the appalling recognise the obvious causes and work for strike showed S.A.M.R. galloping through Rissik Street and chasing the Meanwhile the workers blindly, halt- astonished and indignant public (just at off home) into doorways and back allers. That sort of conduct all along the Reet Despite the would-be leaders of thought provoked not only boiling indignation but

ment of the capitalist system of product with it privilege, profits and power from "perfect freedom," even God must bew the knee! S.P.B.

# God. or Mammon?

THE CHOICE BEFORE NATIVE LEADERS.

native Industrial and Commercial Work- exchange of fundamental points of view? ers' Union of Africa, publishes a message It was easy enough to have a Dutch Re- M. I. KALININ.—Born 1875. At sixto the Conference of that Union from Mr. | formed Church black and white confer- | teen apprenticed at Petrograd cartridge H. Selby Msimang, now or formerly a ence, but the same natives who took part factory, where he worked two years. Reprominent official of the S.A. Native Con- in that jib.at, a black and white labour moved to Putilov works as a turner. gress and latterly also a frequent writer conference. If native workers do not want | Joined Social Democratic Party 1898; for the Chamber of Mines native paper | the help of white workers, let us have no arrested 1899; continually arrested and "Umteteli Wa Bantu." In this message | whining about it; but if they do, let them | imprisoned until revolution, in the inhe warns his fellow-workers against a in their turn approach the whites instead tervals working at various factories. "mysterious rumour" that European of lying on their backs until whites come Joined Bolsheviks 1906; elected chairman workers are showing a tendency towards and rouse them, while some of their lead- | Central Committee, Communist Party, in admitting non-Europeans into their ers make themselves at least as busy as 1919. unions. On the contrary, he says, "white | white reactionaries in deprecating any-Labour has declared an industrial war thing effective being done.

G. I. PETROVSKY.—A turner by against black labour and has called to its assistance a new body known as 'the Mr. Msimang says "to organise non-vince. Entered Briansk instrument fac-White South Africa League,' a peculiar | European workers in this country is not tory in 1896. Joined Social Democratic Ku-Klux-Klan of South Africa. . . The an easy or pleasant task." Yes, there is Party 1897. Prominent in strike moveposition between white and black workers | no money in it. But it has got to be done, | ment in 1911. Was elected by the is most precarious. . . And even if there and if it could be assisted by white trade Ukraine workers to the fourth. Duma, were signs of goodwill towards us I am | unionism it would prove an easier and | where he was an active member of the afraid it would be only to use the power | pleasanter task. Again, the very evil he | Bolshevik section of the S.D.P.; arrested of a non-European organisation in the complains of on behalf of the native work- and sent to Siberia. After March revodirection of establishing and cementing ers, viz., "the introduction of foreign lution was liberated and took part in the the dividing line between white and black."

#### MAKING MATTERS WORSE.

purposes of the "Joint Council of Europeans and natives," of which he is a member, to quite good effect when he helps, as he does by such remarks, to maintain a "precarious position" or "industrial war" between white and black labour. We do not minimise in the least the grave difficulties of inducing white labour recognition of and co-operation with black labour, but these difficulties are only increased by such distorted "warnings" as Mr. Msimang. Most rapprochements between sections of the subject masses are difficult enough of themselves—for instance, look at the complete absence of native support for the Indian Class Areas campaign, and of Indian support for any of the native crusades—without artificial difficulties being raised, or real ones ex- despair, whom he has supplied with Organised White Russian section of S.D.P. aggerated, besides. Even without isuch difficulties rapprochement is seldom spontaneous, things cannot just be "left to develop," great unifications need infinite "The usual notorious good boys are in Fought in war against Poland 1919-20, pains to build them up. WHOSE JOB, WHITES' OR BLACKS'?

But more than this. Mr. Meimang knows better than he writes. He himself, a member of the capitalist "Joint Council," has also been a party to such pioneer feelers as have so far been put forth in the burg. Shady articles, unpardonably de- Woodsow Wilson, the man who has direction of a Labour Joint Council, which have shown him that there is considerably it by Judases of our race, which after you hundreds of thousands of human beings, is more than just "mischievous rumour" in the desire on the part of a number of enlightened white as well as black workers | tations to the fetish of white supremacy." | World War he pronounced a sentence of for co-operation, and moreover, that the successful fulfilment of this desire depends partly on greater support from the native side. Indeed the whole initiative in this and behold, we may soon witness the day the cold-blooded murder of helpless women matter has come from the side of the white workers, and in the case of certain native leaders, too, attempts to lash them into some interest in the subject have been vain, there is more money on the Chamber's side!

#### NATIVE MOVE AWAITED.

but are not the native unions equally so? of labour into one great homogeneous Which of them has ever attempted an whole." approach to the white unions (choosing | Well, the test for this task is that those | not just the most reactionary but the most lentrusted with it cannot serve two masters, advanced of them) with a view to a con- the Chamber of Mines and the workers. ference on matters of mutual concern,

The "Workers' Herald," organ of the | common interest or reciprocal need for an

labour into our market at a wage far below revolutionary wars. Was a delegate to our standard" with a consequent "influx | Brest-Litovsk in 1918. President of Allof redundant labour in the industrial Ukraine Central Executive Committee. MAKING MATTERS WORSE.

Mr. Msimang is no doubt serving the of pay to a level bordering upon starvation. N. NARIMANOV.—Born in Tiflis in tion,"—this is just what white workers 1870. Worked ten years as an elementoo complain of. There is thus every reason for the two forces to come together, and we look to native leaders too to show ment during his university career. Im some initiative in this direction instead of prisoned seven months and exiled from preaching the Chamber of Mines foul-the- Caucasus. Active at Baku and Astrakan. nest gospel of "never the twain shall In 1919 became director of the Eastern meet," just as we look to white workers | Departments of the people's commissariats to recognise that their future, dark if they for foreign affairs. Represented Azercontinue isolated, becomes brilliant as soon | bairjan at Genoa conference. as they will accept their mission to lead the entire African Labour movement, white and black, to victory. "JUDAS JOURNALISM."

> In a leading article on "The Future of Black Trade Unionism," the "Workers' Herald' says: "The enemy has hired a good few of our kith and kin who are in various regiments and became an officer. modern Press ammunition for the purpose of fighting their own, while he enjoys the spoils of our cheap and abundant labour." of All-Russian Commissariat for War. evidence everywhere with their servile contributions," says another article in the same paper... "The leading spirit among these is a weekly journal called 'Umteteli Woodrow Wilson's Departure. Wa Bantu,' controlled by white plutocrats, capitalist bourgeoisie of Johanneshave read you come to the conclusion that no more.

"And the game is up," continues the leading article, "these disgruntled men are now being discredited by their own, when they shall repent and declare 'I have betrayed an innocent man'."

field for those of you who may he entrusted with the noble task of bringing. Agreed, the white unions are backward, about the coming together of all classes

### Workers on Top.

four chairmen of the Central Executive Committee (Parliament) of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics are described as follows:—

R.S.F.S.D.

tary teacher and became a medical student. Joined the revolutionary move

#### WHITE RUSSIA.

A. G. CHERVIAKOV.—Born Minsk 1892. Of peasant origin, his grandfather having been a serf in the Minsk province. Became an elementary teacher. Mobilised in Czar's army in 1915; served in Seriously wounded in 1918 in Red Army. Became director of educational department and was elected chairman of White Russian Central Executive Committee.

void of any clarity of thought, are sent to been responsible for the violent death of

they are nothing but hypocritical incan-By dragging the United States into the death upon hosts of men who had committed no wrong. By his co-authorship of the Versailles peace treaty he assisted in and children in Central Europe.

Mr. Msimang says in his message, "I Our profit patriots may have cause to am ready to offer you my co-operation, or mourn Mr. Wilson's death—they are used lif need be, to stand aside and open a wider to playing comedius -his demise has been no loss to us. Lut if the survivors of his war and peace victims had to write his epitaph it certainly would be no eulogy. We know of no generous action of his that might plead in his favour.—"St. Louis Labor."

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

### WHITE CHILD SLAVES.

schemes, schools of industry, and a deter- to effect anything beneficial to the rising mined attack on free secondary education | generation which leaves out of account | in the Transvaal, the local Press is just | the fact that there is at present a glut in now busy working, up a campaign in the adult labour market, and that the London, is to be congratulated on bringfavour of the increased use of child labour addition of thousands of young men and in industry.

The Chamber of Commerce has benevolently considered the future of the children of the workers and has prepared a youths." The details have not vet been l made public, but from hints that have l appeared and from what one knows of the outlook of the class represented in Chambers of Commerce, there is little will turn out to be simply a scheme to bind boys to a certain employer at a mere nominal wage for a definite period and with little prospect of learning anything l which can be dignified by the name of a trade or profession.

scheme as being conceived on perfectly "sound" lines we have learned what to young people into the capitalist tread- primarily depends on the AGE of the expect. "Sound" from the employers' point of riew is what is meant.

a problem, but any system of apprentice- when anyone proposes to abolish it.

Under the guise of apprenticeship ship or of industrial education will fail women is only making the position more Assembly this week, but as such a measure acute.

ployed will be a very pleasant thing for agreeing to such a scheme in principle the scheme for the "apprenticeship of white the boss class. It will be a perpetual capitalist politicians will place all sorts menace to the standard of skilled labour in the same way as the native is the de- isation. ciding factor in the payment for unskilled tage of curbing any tendency of trade Bezuidenhout Valley. doubt that the so-called apprenticeship unions to reassert themselves and to re- He pointed out the cost of old age penrears.

When the capitalist Press refers to a sixth standard; trade schools for those age pension. who can; a wholesale drafting of the But as the right to an old-age pension mills, there to be sweated, starved and applicant it is difficult to see what bearstunted to produce more profits for Midas. | ing the number of poor whites has on the With ten thousand juveniles unem- It is a glorious system, and our Labour | question. He quite rightly pointed out ployed on the Rand there is undoubtedly friends shriek Bolshevik and extremist that the coloured population should also

LIVES SACRIFICED THROUGH TRADE UNION WEAKNESS.

KILLED on the mines by accidents. discussed "Stop order" system on the House as soon as it was presented, and which is the highest record since 1917. mines, the British Empire Labour Con-The "Indicator," commenting in its serence, and the appointment of a dele-March issue on these figures: points out gate to the International Labour Conferthat from the latter date up to and in- ence of the League of Nations. cluding the year 1921 the accident and death rates were records of improved safety conditions, and that this period coincided with the period of maximum influence, or "interference" as it is called. of the trade unions. In 1916, the accident 1 death rate was 3.16, which improved to 2.64 in 1917, while in 1921, the date of l the maximum power of the unions, the death rate was reduced to 2.28.

that even the Government Mining Inspectors, who are by no means anxious to criticise the powerful mining combine.

The Brakpan Inspector, in his report, Nations' fake alone. save that inatives of inferior physique and intellect have been chosen to look after and operate safety devices, on the proper working of which the safety of persons depended.

Mr. Hutton, Inspector of Mines, Germisson, reports: "Of the East Rand Pro- by the managers and their efficials." prietary Mines it must be recorded that of this department, thus revealing a most unsatisfactory state of affairs, for which the management must be responsible.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

#### The Rand Shambles. Trade Unions and Geneva.

tatives of twelve of the leading unions of Finance that the result of the enquire took place in the Trades Hall, and we During 1923 there were 511 employees | understand the agenda included the much-

> It is regrettable that the leaders of through the support and votes of the trades unionism are willing to waste their time in giving the appearance of reality to the sham League of Nations.

ignore any so-called Labour Conference. to a large extent hitherto. international or other, which is convened and paid for by the enemy of the workers, the capitalist governments.

If the tame Labour leaders of the Cham-So alarming has the situation become ber of Mines care to masquerade in Europe as representatives of South African labour let them do so, but until the workers here are prepared to affiliate with the real have been compelled to draw attention to fighting Intrenational of Labour Unions it would be better to leave the League of

> BUT HAVE WE RECEIVED YOUR | the principle of Rosseau, the principles: SUBSCRIPTION LATELY?

These are extracts from the report of a large number of contraventions of the the Government Mining Engineer for regulations have been disclosed during in- 1922 (see pages 47 and 49). If reference vestigations into accidents, and by officers is made to the previous year's report it will be found that this lack of discipline to think they are living in the time !! is ascribed to trade union interierence: trade union interference has largely van-After making every allowance for the diffi- ished while indiscipline remains, and reculties with which the mine has to conference to the chart on page 37 of the 1922 tend, it must still be recorded that the report portrays graphically that the rears this assembly of Rip van Winkles contraventions are almost entirely due to of so-called trade union interference were lack of discipline and disregard of the law the years with the lowest accident death rate.

### Old Age Pensions.

If there is one "reform" which Communists as well as Socialists can give their hearty support to, it is the establishment l of a national old-age pension scheme, and Mr. Stewart, the Labour member for East ing the matter forward in the House : l of justice to the veterans of industry in-Of course a reservoir of skilled unem- volves finance we may expect that whilst of obstacles in the way of its actual real-

An indication of the obstructive tacticwork. Further, it will have the advan- to be adopted was given by Mr. Blackwell.

cover what has been filched from the sions in Australia, which amounted to £! workers during the past two or three per head of the population per annum. and then went on to argue that as South Hail! capitalist philanthropy. Appren- Africa had a much larger poor white tices at a beggarly pittance; schools of population than Australia therefore a industry for children who cannot pass the greater proportion would claim the old-

be considered, but probably was mere I terested in proving that a scheme would be a huge expense than he was with the demands of strict justice to all sections: the population.

The net effect of Mr. Stewart's action On Sunday last a meeting of represen- was to obtain a promise from the Minister which had been instituted by the Government would be laid on the table of the that a Commission would be appointed : go into the whole question.

It is up to the Labour members, will are in their present position main; working class, to push this matter, which more vitally affects the lives of the workers than the patriotic and imperialis: The most dignified policy would be to stunts which have engaged their attention

### God's Principle.

The Kerkraad of the Dutch Reimin Church at Frankfort. O.F.S.. sees 122 revolution in the proposal to enfranchise women in South Africa, and calls upon the Synod of the Church to protest against the measure now before the House of Assembly. These specimens of prehisteric. EXCUSE OUR INTERRUPTION, prejudice claim "that the measure voices the French Revolution of place. authority in the hands of the massis against the principle of the Bible that it powers that be are ordained of God: God: ordaining that he is head of main man is the head of woman.

> These antedilurian backreldiers appear Abraham, or is it that ther have assime lated the 'principles' of the native of the kraals, who undoubtedit will heartily subscribe to the 'principles

READ AND PASS ALONG TO YOUR MATE

## HERENIGING.

place on Monday evening in the Trades led by Creswell, persistently urged the Hall, Johannesburg, between members of elimination of what they used to call the the S.A.L.P. and representatives of Trade Trade Union block vote. Unions. The meeting was convened with the object of inducing the workers' industrial organisations to become more closely moved from the path of the controllers of annual meeting of the Chamber of Shipassociated with the Labour Party.

The degree of success of the attempt has interest therein. not transpired. - That the S.A.L.P. has degenerated into an organisation through and by means of which individuals' ambi- elements have been only too successful, tions to hold public office have been able and the working-class section of the party | the number of shipping companies that to gratify their ambitions has long ago see the necessity of reviving the old have gone into liquidation, by the numbeen clear. Since the beginning of the arrangement or a modification thereof if ber of companies that pay no dividend at war the trade unions have not been possible. officially connected with it, and with the A strong working-class party is undoubtgreat proportion of Dutch workers now in edly required, and in fact is inevitable in the absence of organised Labour from the doubtful. S.A.L.P. councils has not increased its power nor improved its status, and there cies are not attractive to the Dutch secis at present no comparison between the representative character of the S.A.L.P. and the British Labour Party, on which the former was originally modelled. The the coloured population than the S.A.P. latter, with all its faults, is in much closer itself. We are quite prepared to believe touch with the workers than its South that there is a more advanced wing which African namesake.

the right to nominate candidates for elec- | may be an indication that it is beginning tion, paying, of course, their expenses, to assert itself and to demand that a which acts as some check on the pure Labour Party cannot function as such carpet-bagger and professional politician. without the whole-hearted support of at In South Africa prior to 1914 the same least a considerable proportion of the condition obtained to the discontent of the genuine workers of the country.

We understand that a meeting took purely political section of the party which,

This difficulty has long ago been re- Sir Frederick Lewis, speaking at the the party, and the unions as such have ping (Britain) said: taken no part in its activities and little | "All this irrelevant talk about millions"

It now seems that the anti-trade-union

industry who belong to the Nationalist South Africa as elsewhere, but that it can Party the return to the position obtaining | be built up within the narrow race prejuprior to 1914 seems difficult. Certainly diced limits of the present party. is

Its war record and imperialist tendention, and its violent anti-native and coloured sentiments and policy makes it appear more reactionary in the eyes of is dissatisfied with the rather fossilised The great British affiliated unions have leadership, and the meeting referred to

### Civilisation.

Viscount Cecil, in a broadcasted speech on the terrors of modern warfare, said:

"It is not yet known what would be the effect of a mass air attack with poison bombs on a town, for it has never been tried, thank heaven, but it would seem as mous impetus to the number of non-party Ireland) for the years 1918-1923: though such an attack would be infinitely workers who have been attracted to the horrible."

To-day, after the war which was fought "to make things safe for democracy," there are only 100,000 fewer armed men! in Europe than in 1914.

which killed directly, or choked and de- sands of applications continue to pour in stroyed the lungs, or disabled only for a every day.—"Information and Review." time. Above all there was mustard gas, really a liquid giving off gas, which, if breathed in any quantity, removed the internal skin of the lungs, and if it fell on any part of the body created a festering sore.

#### NO DEFENCE POSSIBLE.

"If you are not satisfied with these," ! Lord Cecil went on, "you may mix them together so as first to\_disable a man and then kill him. Some people say that since the war new forms of gas have been discovered, even more terrible than those previously used."

All authorities seemed to be agreed that no defence, properly so called, was possible. The only resource was a counterattack, so that if London were devastated by explosives and poison all we could do would be to devastate the capital of the enemy country.

A very cheerful prospect indeed.

### A Growing Party.

The general strengthening of the internal and foreign position of the Soviet Union has been accompanied by an increase in the prestige and power of the Russian Communist Party. With the death of Lenin there has been an enor-Party.

In February 7th it was decided to open a three months' campaign to recruit 100,000 fresh members of picked workers straight from the workshop.

By February 15th 81,000 factory work-Poison gas had several forms—gas ers had already been enrolled, and thou-

#### Russian Trade Unions.

During the year 1923 the membership of Russian Trade Unions has increased from 4,556,000 to 5,541,000.

The greatest increase has taken place 'in the Ukraine and the northern area.

In industrial undertakings the increase has been 34.3 per cent.

#### Labour Conditions.

the R.S.F.S.F. who keep a sharp watch monopoly in this country is the monopoly on private enterprises where most of the of 'big credits.'"-President Wilson in infringements of the labour laws occur. "New Freedom."

four to six hours per day, and they have see that Usury is become a dominating a month's holiday each year.

### The Poor Capitalists.

Our local Press is not alone in its frantic efforts to prove that capitalists, mining and otherwise, are philanthropists and get very little out of the industries they control.

being made by shipowners is pure nonsense.

"That is shown," he continued, "by all, and by the fact that those companies which are able to continue payment of dividends are only able to do so out of accumulation and reserves built up in good times."

£244 FOR £50.

"Gone into liquidation" suggests hardhit shareholders, but a different idea is conveyed by the figures of the Kestell Steamship Co., Ltd., Cardiff, which went into voluntary liquidation in May last.

The accounts showed losses for 1922 and 1923, but the liquidator's figures, published in the "Western Mail" recently, reveal that for every £50 of original capital subscribed in 1915 the shareholders have received dividends totalling £75 (150 per cent., equal to 183 per cent. per annum), free of income tax. In 1919 300 per cent. was distributed in bonus shares.

The capital funds have now been distributed at the rate of £169 3s. 2d. for every original £50 share. So that each original shareholder has had a total return of £244 3s. 2d. per £50 invested.

#### Tobacco Profits.

Here are the net trading profits of the British Tobacco Trust (the Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain and

1918	• • •	 	 • • •	£3,918,749
1919		 • • •	 • • •	4,949,145
				6,940,451
1921				6,967,489
				7,402,678
				8,043,131

### The Real Conspirators.

." Some of the biggest men in the United States, in the fields of commerce and manufacture, are afraid of somebody, are afraid of something. They know that there is a power somewhere so organised, so subtle, so watchful, so interlocked, iso pervasive, that they had better not speak above their breath when they speak in condemnation. The 'Control of Credit' has become dangerously centralised. It is the mere truth to say that the financial resources of this country (U.S.A.) are not at the command of those who do not submit to the dictation and domination of There are 1,003 Labour inspectors in small groups c' cipitalists. The great

The legal hours for juvenile workers are | One need not be a "credit crank" to issue in our politics.

### Lady Astor on Lies.

According to Lady Astor, "Socialism is based on two lies: one that all men are born economically equal; and the other that Christ's teaching should be regarded literally."

phemy, to suggest that a peeress of the "We all came into the world with held the field since May, 1922. nothing !!

'As to her theological point, we had always been under the impression that modern Socialism was based on Marx and economic determinism, nor can we call to mind ever having encountered the theory of surplus value in the gospels. Our memory sadly misgives us if Marx ever told us to offer our cheek to the smiter, to love our enemies, to be poor and blessed, or to render unto Caesar the things he demanded: But if Marx said nothing of all both political and industrial, is so great this, he did say: "Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communistic revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win."

### Left Out.

Many have asked, why such veteran fighters for the workers as George Lausbury and Bob Smillie have not been given League or any other organisation. places in the Cabinet of Great Britain.

follows:---

Ministry, but not in the Cabinet. very properly refused to accept without a voice in decisions. The exclusion of Lansbury from the Cabinet, while ing young workers" of South Africa. seats were being offered to all kinds of Conservatives and Liberals, is an insult to the working-class movement.

Smillie was offered a particular department in the Cabinet. But it is well known! that his health would make it impossible a department. Thus the offer was, in but to decline. The fact that his health, worn down in the struggles for the workers, prevented him from undertaking the J heavy work of a department, was no justification for refusing a place in the Cabinet to this veteran fighter, for whom a position could easily have been found.

productive classes do now support, not to fight for their emancipation. likely subscribers. only themselves, but every unproductive member of society. They only are productive members of society who apply their own hands either to the cultivation of the earth itself or to the preparing or appropriating of the produce of the earth to the uses of life.—John Gray.

### A Junior Labour Party.

The idea of a youth section of the S.A.L.P. has been in the air for some time, and there are growing indications | Wednesday, 2nd April, at 8 p.m. at No. that something tangible is about to 4, Trades Hall. All members are specimaterialise. Already there are a few ally urged to attend, as the chief matter Possibly her ladyship would consider it junior Labour groups scattered about, but for consideration is the May Day Celethe height of indelicacy, not to say blas- these have not yet been organised under brations. one central administration. However, it realm entered this world without so much seems that steps are being taken to introas a shift to veil her nakedness. And evi- duce the necessary centralisation, and dently poor old Job is not to be taken also to obtain recognition for the J.L.P. literally when he declares: "Naked I from the S.A.L.P. itself. The upshot will morning, March 30th, at 11 o'clock, in came and out of my mother's womb, and probably be that in the near future there Room 8, Trades Hall. All interested are naked shall I return thither "! Has Lady | will be two organisations of the working- | invited to attend. Astor never heard that beautiful song: class youth in place of the one which has

> What is the attitude of the Y.C.L. in or, on the other hand, will it prove an London, W.C. 1. aid to this development?

First of all it must be stated that the apathy which exists to-day in all sections of the South African Labour movement, that any new movement is weicome, howlever tame and lacking in clarity it may be. If the J.L.P. can succeed in rallying good audience. Questions were asked and fall those young workers whose parents vote Labour, if it can succeed in getting under the general chairmanship of Mr. them interested in politics, then it will have accomplished a mighty task. But there is no royal road to the masses whether young or old, and the Junior Labour Party will have to travel the same difficult path as the Young Communist

The Y.C.L. possesses the inestimable The statement has been made by the advantage of being part of an inter-Press that they were offered seats in the | national organisation which has proved Cabinet but refused. This is one of those lits worth on more than one occasion, and half-truths which are worse than lies, and I to-day stands out as the leader of the the "Workers' Weekly," organ of the young workers of all countries—the Young C.P. of Great Britain, gives the facts as Communist International. Apart from theoretical clarity, it is the boast of Com-"the only organisation of the live, think-

#### What to Read.

"The Fundamental Problems of the March, 1924. Young Communist Movement." Price, EPHRAIM GLUCKMANN, 9d.—This booklet gives in a clear and concise form the principles on which the 38/40, Asher's Buildings, for him to undertake the routine work of Young Communist Leagues are founded. It is not mere theory: it is a practical exeffect, one which he had no alternative position of practical politics. He who has not read this book cannot speak with authority on the Young Communist movement, either for or against.

"The Child of the Worker." Price, Maclaren and Fox Streets, Johannesburg. 6d.—This pamphlet presents in a graphic way the position of the worker's child | This paper will be posted FOR FOUR under capitalism. It shows how capital- WEEKS ONLY (a) to subscribers whose ism stunts the mental and physical de subscriptions have expired It is from human labour that every velopment of children and indicates how from date of expiry; (b) to description of wealth proceeds, and the the children themselves can be organised persons recommended as

Both these works can be obtained from the Y.C.L., P.O. Box 7599, Johannesburg, or 145, Long Street, Capetown.

The Germiston Y.C.L. announces a pienie for Good Friday. Details later.

### Communist Party Notes.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

The menthly meeting takes place next

#### STRIKE PRISONERS' RELEASE COMMITTEE.

A meeting will be held this Sunday

#### LITERATURE.

We have received from the Socialist view of this new orientation of political Party of Great Britain a copy of the forces! Is the J.L.P. to be regarded as booklet, "Socialism and Religion," which an organisation likely to retard the poli- can be obtained for 6d., post free, from tical development of the working youth, the party office, 17, Mount Pleasant,

#### PRETORIA.

The comrades in Pretoria organised a successful meeting in the Town Hall last Friday evening. Comrade W. H. Andrews gave a lecture on Russia under the Soviete, which was listened to attentively by a answered at the end of the address, and E. Riley a pleasant and interesting evening was spent.

#### YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE.

The seventh quarterly general meeting of the Johannesburg Y.C.L. will be held this Tuesday, 1st April, at 8 p.m., at 4, Trades Hall. Business includes: Reports by chairman, secretary and treasurer, as well as other reports; general review of the work of the past three months; election of E.C. All members of the Johannesburg Branch are expected to be present, and members of the Benoni and Germiston Branches are also invited.

Lansbury was offered a seat in the munists all over the world that they work NOTICE is hereby given that the He twice as hard as anyone else, and this will General Dealer's, Chemist's and Drugthis also prove true in this country (we hope), gist's Businesses carried on by FRANCES attempt to involve him in responsibility and ensure that the Y.C.L. continue to be ALICE IRVINE at the corner of Joubert and Kerk Streets, Johannesburg, has been sold and transferred together with all the assets of the said businesses to IRVINE LIMITED.

Dated at Johannesburg, this 24th

Attorney for the Parties.

Joubert Street, Johannesburg.

28/4/11

THE I.S.L. PRESS: the only partyowned Labour Press in South Africa. Send your printing there. 'Phone 3561, corner



Printed by the I.S.L. Press, 54. Fox St., Marshall Square, and published by the Communist Party of South Africa, No. 4, Trades Hall, Rissik Street.