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The Profiteers Protection' Bill at the Palladium.

Mr. W. Moore, Secretary of the National Union of Railways and Harbours Servants, must have been gratified at the response made to his invitation on Sunday last by the workers of Johannesburg. The comfortable Palladium was filled to overflowing with an enthusiastic audience which cheered to the echo the salient points in the various addresses. The more revolutionary the sentiments expressed the louder and more prolonged were the cheers. The Railwaymen's Secretary, who was in the chair, was supported on the platform by representatives of most of the leading trade unions in the Transvaal. The speeches were short and to the point, which enabled the long list of speakers to the four reolutions to get through in "scheduled" time. The main resolution which was moved by Mr. M. Kentridge was as follows:---

"That this meeting of citizens of Johannesburg strongly protests against the proposed legislation embodied in the Bill to extend and amend the Public Welfare and Moratorium Act, inasmuch as (a) it violates the principles of liberty and free speech to which we are entitled under the British and South African Constitutions; (b) while ostensibly aiming at violent revolution referred to as Bolshevism it strikes at the right of the working classes to organise themselves industrially and politically for the purpose of altering and amending the present political, industrial and economic conditions; (c) it seeks by raising false issues to mislead soldiers, together with other workers, into holstering up the present competitive system, thereby preventing the inauguration of a new economic era."

He was followed by E. Shaw of the S.A. Mine Workers'-Union, who made a forcible speech, Mr. Hossack; Secretary of the Shop Assistants' Union, Mr. Walter, Post and Telegraph Union, R. Blake and C. B. Tyler, B.W.I.U., Mr. M. Mulder in Dutch, and Mr. Barnett; of the Railwaymen's Union, A. Crawford, Secretary, and D. Colraine, President, S.A.I.E., Mr. Pritchard of the telephone workers and others. The various resolutions were carried with scarcely a dissentient. D. Colraine made reference to the break-up of I.S.L., meetings by organised hooligans, and the prosecution of Comrades D. I. Jones and Greene in Maritzburg, in indignant terms. After the programme of speakers which numbered a round dozen, the chairman called on Conrade W. H. Andrews to speak on behalf of the audience. A hearty reception was given him and he emphasised the point that no law was effective unless the people acquiesced. He thought the big trade organisations and federations were able to protect their members from existing repressive laws as well as the proposed amendments. The Jewish section were also fully alive to its dangers and were moving strongly in the matter and probably would succeed in avoiding its worst features. There was one section, however, largely inarticulate, viz., the great dumb mass of the native proletariat. They were specifically aimed at in the proposed legislation. He asked his hearers who cheered for liberty and applauded the noble sentiments of the speakers whether they were prepared to demand for their weaker fellow workers the same liberty, that they had demanded for themselves? If not then the meeting was a sham and the sentiments from the platform and audience însincere. A slave at one end of the chain meant a slave at the other. We whites could not be free unless all were free. The authors of the proposed amendments

would not make their first attack on the strongest hattalions, but on the outposts, the pioneers of the movement. If the governing classes succeeded in downing such bodies as the I.S.L., then they would become emboldened by success and attack the more conservative organisations of the workers. "An injury to one is an injury to all" is a motto well-known and increasingly being acted upon on the industrial field of battle. It is equally true in the realm of thought and expression. However one may differ from the opinions of another section it is unjust, even unsafe, to attempt to stifle those opinions by force. If the opinions are foolish and not based on facts then free discussion will reveal their weakness, and they will lose support, but it does not necessarily follow because certain views are new and only held by a few and therefore are unpopular that they are wrong. All great causes started with minorities and their forcible extermination would have been a loss to the human race. He urged all in the meeting to use their influence for their own safety to assist those against whom this Bill was more immediately launched to prevent its enactment, to stand on the side of the weak and demand liberty and justice for the humblest toiler in South Africa. So would they justify their own demands for fuller liberty and make those liberties more secure when once attained. The remarks were listend to with great attention, were punctuated with applause, and on retiring from the platform our comrade received an ovation. An encouraging sign that the International Socialist propaganda is gaining ground amongst the workers.

It was decided by the meeting to requisition for a mass meeting in the Town Hall at an early date, notwithstanding the obvious hostility of the Secretary of the Federation who struck the narrow and selfish note when he warned the meeting that to raise the question of the status of the natives as workers. might undo the good the meeting had done. He pointed out that probably the white unions would be safe, and he believed certain alterations had already been made to exclude them from its provisions, and it would be as well not to get mixed up with the cause of more advanced sections of the workers who advocated the organisation of all workers irrespective of race, creed or colour. In other words, let the white workers play the part of policemen for the capitalists against the black and coloured workers, and then their masters would not apply the law to them.

The suggestion was not well received, for the meeting had been lifted above such sordid considerations by the Brevious speakers, and with the singing of the "Red Flag," a very successful meeting terminated.

Natal Protests.

Under the auspices of the National Union of Railway and Harbour Services a big mass meeting was held last Sunday morning in His Majesty's Theatre, Durban. Great enthusiasm prevailed and on healthy lines. In connection with Minister Burton's refusal to accede to certain railways demands, a ballot of members was requested on a resolution to discontinue overtime, piece, bonus and Sunday work (except mail trains), and to work strictly to regulations until the demands are conceded (the strict regulations are habitually ignored); and it was stated that not five per cent. of the staff had got the eight hours day since Mr. Burton promised it.

Mr. A. L. Clark then moved: "We the employees of the S.A.R. and H. in mass meeting assembled, condomn the action of the Government in proposing to greatly fortify the Pubhic Welfare Act instead of repealing same as an unwarranted, intolerable and presumptu-

ous attack upon the liberties and rights of a free people. In continuing and supplementing such a measure our legislators will have grossly misread the tenour of history and the great war. We therefore pledge ourselves by every means in our power to maintain unimpaired that heritage of liberty and right for which our forefathers struggled, fought and died." He said the same measure had been fought almost to the death in Australia, where the operation of the Bill had been limited till next month when it would be with. drawn.

The resolution was carried amid loud ap-

plause.

A meeting has been called by the Mayor of Durban for to-night, on requisition from the Federation of Trades, at which the following resolutions will be put:--

"This Mass Meeting of the citizens of Durban protests in the strongest possible manner against the attempt of the Government to perpetuate the Public Welfare Act, and to force upon the people new clauses of a most Prussian and reactionary character to suppress the rights of free speech, free press, public assembly and all political and industrial combinations of the workers antagonistic to the present order.

"We further protest against the draft proposals under which all legitimate political appeals to non-white workers are construed into acts of treason and used as a net to sweep into prison all political opponents of the ruling class."

This mass meeting of the citizens of Durban demands the immediate withdrawal of the tyrannical draft clauses sought to be embodied in the Public Welfare Act, as well as

the repeal of the original act.

"We further demand the repeal of the Riotous Assemblies Act of 1914, with all similar panic strike legislation on the Statute Book which puts into the hands of magisstrates dangerous powers for the suppression of the people's political rights; and we most emphatically express our determination to conferve at any cost the rights fought for and gained by our forefathers to freely discuss any proposal no matter how unpopular it may

The Shop Assistants' Union are moving to hold a similar meeting in Maritzburg, to the disgust of the capitalist press there.

I.S.L. "Liberty" Meeting.

The Selborne Hall was engaged some weeks age by the I.S.L. for a lecture, and in view of the special attacks on liberty recently launched the subject chosen was "liberty." The letting of the hall signified the Town Council's reply to mob and police attempts to represent our meetings as outlawed, and although it was said a scheme had been discussed in certain quarters to break up the meeting, the volunteers were evidently not forthcoming, and the proceedings passed off if anything too peaceably. For the lecturers, Comrades C. E. Tyler and W. H. Andrews. and the Chairman, Comrade S. P. Bunting. found themselves preaching to the converted, and the resolutions, which were in substance those to be proposed to-night at the Durban Town Hall) meeting (as set out in another column) were carried by the large and enthusiastic audience without a single dissentient. It was remarked by many that the attendance would have been a more crowded one and included elements more suited for propaganda if the advertisements of the meeting in the capitalist press had appeared in the proper place instead of being tucked away where they would not be seen by one in a hundred. But the meeting showed how much in earnest it was by a collection of £13 odd, plus Defence Fund donations of £5 odd, and literature rales of £3 odd.

Lies upun lies.

Minister De Wet's speech in Parliament exposes the plot a little more cynically, but it exposes the lie still more. He says his legislation is based on Police Reports. We challenge him to publish the police reports in question. If they pretend that the I.S.L. has ever preached violence either to natives or to whites, or has ever held "secret meetings" with natives, or ever conducted "sinister underground propaganda," then they lie. As a matter of fact it is the I.S.L. which, slone among parties, has taken the trouble to waru the natives of the futility of any appeal by them to force, if only because of. the overwhelming advantage of the armed forces against them; and to advise them to rely solely on industrial and political organ-c isation, agitation and edheation.

It is a lie that the I.S.II. go about preaching a change of Government or seciety by the method of shoeting your opponents; and shose who say this know it is a lie. We are not sentimentalists, and quite recognise the necessity of the Russian Government defending itself against malignant attacks by force of arms. And we recognise with some shaine how the whole Labour movement of the world is indebted to those brave defenders while wo. . sit comfortably in peace with nothing worse than occasional thugs or arrests to trouble us. But the resort to arms is of no avail as things stand in South Africa, it is ideas that must be devolutionised to the point of capture of edutrol, including control of the forces, and then violence will be required if

at all only against rebels. It is not violence they fear, these ruling class liars, whether native violence or "Bolshevisi" violence. That is a blind, and a gross piece of hypeerisy to boot from men whose hands are dripping with econolicity in the most violent and sanguinary outrage in history. What they fear is only the Labour Movement, the power of the organised workers. The "treason" they attack is treason against the cheap coloured labour on which capitalism is built in this country, indeed in the whole world. Native violence, if it ever occurs in modern times and industrial centres, is the violence of men and women deliberately goaded and provoked to violence in order to give an excuse to "keep them in their place." When a fool sits on a safety valve, is the explosion the fault of the forces of nature creating the steam, or the fault of the fool? Those who resist the natural and historic emancipation of Labour from the chains of capitalism—they are the traitors and anarchists, they are "apostles of violence." They think that through a tame Bench they can get all propaganda declared to mean incitement to violence: but some people are too clever. They make a special point of this country's inflammable condition due to the presence of a servile native population; but if so, why is exactly similar legis,

among the working class? Our propaganda cannot be driven underground, ner can the high mission of Labour be retarded, rather it will be accelerated, by the threats in this Bill. It is aimed at the I.S.L. as pioneers in the Labour movement in this country. It is for the main hody . to realise that if we fall, they fall; and in particular, that the more cheap and docile native labour remains, the more the quantity and living standard of white labour shrinks; and to rally to the defeat of this legislation accordingly by all available means. For Government violence, which dare not face argument or debate and therefore tries to suppress them, must be defeated by the inevitable niarch of the idea of liberty which can alone he realised by the emancipation of the working class.

lation brought forward in other countries

where there is no native population, but

where there is a growing class consciousness

We much regret to record the sudden death last night, from pneumonia, of Mrs. E. H. Becker, formerly Miss Gemmell, a foundation member of the League like her husband, whom she leaves with one child of a few months old.

Australia Waking Up.

FREMANTLE FOR FREEDOM.

Exchanges from Australia give prominence to the Fremantle (W.A.) fight against Government-aided scabbery. The Waterside Workers' Union men have during the past two years been compelled to allow themselves like their British comrades to be labelled and numbered like registered dogs and forced to take second place to scabs before they were allowed to work. If they were known to be strong industrial unionists they were refused registration and not allowed to work. The slightest protest by word or otherwise was punished under the cloak of the patriotic madness by savage sentences at the hands of capitalist magistrates. Starved, kicked and humiliated for two years they have at last asserted themselves and refused to load certain ships which were infected with influenza unless certain precautionary measures were taken and indemnities guaranteed to their families and dependents in the event of sickness or death of the breadwinner. This was brutally refused by the Government, and when the coal lumpers struck "Loyalists" were sent to take the union men's places, and backed up by both the W.A. State Government and the Federal Government. Admiral Clarkson also helped his friends the capitalists by refusing to allow ships to bring cargo to Fremantle unless it was handled by "Loyalist" scabs. The men, however, assisted by the workers of the town and many returned soldiers, heat off the seabs, and police and the wharves clear. Some desperate fighting took place, but the people forced the police from their barricades, many strikers being wounded and one killed in the process. Ball cartridges were served out to the police, but a conference at this stage was arranged and the scabs were removed. At a meeting in the Trades Hall later on 500 returned soldiers pledged themselves. "to defend the rights of the people against the tyranny of the Government and to avenge the blood of a wounded comrade." . "They must marshal their forces and fight the capitalists," said the president of the Australian Labour Federation, a returned soldier, "the returned men were in the fight for the rights of the worker to the bitter end. They would know how to meet the loaded rifles and bayonets used by the Government to crush the workers." The next day further attempts by the Government and the shipping combine were made to get "loyalist" scabs on the wharves, but without success, returned soldiers secured the "Loyalists" and "escorted" them out of the town. The Transport Workers' Federation (Sydney) is backing up the Fremantle men, and as it is in constant communication with the Transport Workers' Federation of Great Britain, the movement may become International if the Government and its friends the shipping combine prove obdurate. As the matter now. stands the Fremantle Waterside Workers, -backed up by organised labour in Western Australia and the Naval Reserve, who refused to support capitalists and scabs, won the day, and the State and Federal Governments with the shipping ring are now forced to grant that measure of consideration which "they had previously refused. The lesson to learn, says the Sydney "Socialist," is the value of industrial solidarity and what organised labour is capable of doing when it is sufficiently courageous to stand up and take. the wealth it has created and establish the conditions of life and labour for which it stands.

It is rumoured that on the recommendation of the Government's S.A.I.F.-cum-Charaber of Mines "Industrial Advisory Board" a Commission is likely to be appointed to enquire into the question of assisting "nonpayable" gold mines, and also the position of native workers on gold mines. The family party will probably consist of the chairman and secretary of the Chamber and Federation respectively, with a Government official as chairman. As our late Com. H. C. Hanscomb would have said, "How nice!"

Produce More.

The hirelings of the capitalist class have been very busy recently trotting out the fallacy of the need for increased production of commodities. Whether labour leaders, newspaper editors, political mountebanks or professors of political economy, they are all tuned to the one pitch in their endeavour to dope the workers in the interests of their commomic masters.

Many of these advocates must know the fallacy of their shibboleths, but consciously lend themselves to the advocacy of a policy of deception. They must know that the imdustrial crises of the nineteenth century, in fact since the inauguration of our present capitalistic industrial system, have been caused by over production, indiscriminate production for the world's markets eventually leading to a glut of those markets and compelling the industrial capitalists to restrict the output of commodities; which they do by putting the workers on short time or closing down their works, thus throwing a vast mass of workers out of employment with the inevitable result of poverty and starvation.

The orthodox economists have never made an honest effort to probe to the root cause of these crises. They have been insincere in their writings and teachings and shown themselves more apologists for the present system without that honesty of purpose that animaed the early economists, such as Adam Smith, Ricardo, Sir Wm. Petty and others of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century. Following the lead of Prof. Stanley Jevons, these modern so-called economists have gone off at as great a tangent as he did when he endeavoured to show that the cause of these crises could be traced to spots on the sun.

Such crises are peculiar to our present system. No other system of society had poverty and starvation as the result of over-production. They had famine when nature failed to respond to their labour, but it has been left to our present hoasted phase of civilisation to have a glut of everything necessary to satisfy the needs of humanity and yet compel that portion of society that was primarily responsible for the production of these necessaries to go without.

Not only are these crises peculiar to and inherent in our industrial system of production for profit, but all efforts to eliminate them are doomed to failure while this system lasts. The capitalist class have made many efforts to reduce the anarchy of the system to a minimum by the formation of trusts and combines to eliminate competition and regulate supply and demand, but all have been failures and necessarily must be under a system where the capitalist is compelled to stop producing if he cannot do it at a profit.

There is no possibility of eliminating the existing anarchy short of collective ownership of the means of production and distribution. This collective ownership will produce for use and not as at present for prefit; eliminating the wage system, it will be co-partnership in production and use. That will solve the poverty question which is ever present, and will ever be present whilst our present system lats.

J.M.G.

Durban Railwaymen work to "Regulations."

The Durban railway men are adopting scientific methods in fighting the capitalist railway administration. Without starving themselves and by keeping within the regulations they are making the bosses understand who run the railways. Incidentally they are proving the hollowness of the elaborate regulations and the hypocrisy of the Safety First gag. If the miners on the Rand worked strictly to the mining regulations for a month it would become clear that these regulations are mere window dressing, and not intended to be carried out when they in any way retard output, at the same time they are a protection to the companies if any accident happens, as they can plead that the regulations have been broken by the mine worker who has to bear the brunt of the prosecution.

Gallant Little Belgium."

"Panda, Likasi, Belgian Congo.

in the Secretary, S.A.I.F.

Dear Sir,-We, the undersigned, are forvarding this summary of the conditions of about and living obtaining here, to be cirulated to all Unions affiliated to the Federaand to warn men not to accept employment here unless at ligher wages. Boarding costs, £11 10s. per month and other living expenses are equally exorbitant; the food is bad and there is no variety, so that one has to have a good digesion to keep fit. Fever is very prevalent, and in can work for twelve months without being haid up for a few weeks at the hospital with malaria or blackwater, which are the fevers most prevalent. There is also a lot of time lost through wet weather; it often rains for a whole month on end, and wet clothes mean plackwater. Thus you see from the above that workman need think of accepting employment here under 35s. for an eight-hour day, and should not sign any agreement unless he is paid in English money or its amivalent in francs. The present rate of exhange is 314 francs to the £, and in all probsinglety it will go higher.

The majority of workmen employed here are Belgians, Italians, Greeks, and the greater portion of them have arrived here on three tears' contract at a rate of 25 francs per integration, from which is deducted 5 francs to refund their passage money; you can thus see that sort of men are here. There is no union, with but little success up to now. At Elizameth wille a big strike of chiefly British workers has been declared, with what success we can't say, as all letters and wires are consored and news has to be conveyed by perment Proclamation that freedom is at a dis-

count.

For the truth of the above, we the under-

agned, give our word of honour.

Here follow the signatures of two members 1.S.E. Germiston Branch, one member 1.S.E. Jeppe Branch, one Branch not menioned and one other person.)

P.S.—If you reply, be careful how you word your letter, as the company reads all correspondence.

The enclosed Proclamation was stolen off

wice board:—

DECREE.

The Vice-Governor-General of Katanga, considering the Royal Decree of July 28th, 1915, regarding the Government of the Colony, and the decree of December 19th, 1896, constituting the criminal code of the Belgian Congo, considering the urgency, orders:

Article 1. Any person contravening the following regulations will be imprisoned for a terms of from one month to two years, or will have to pay a penalty of from 50.00 to 1.000 francs, and may receive one or both of these punishments:

1. A person who, as agitator, co-agitator or accomplice, who attempts to force the increase or decrease of salaries, interrupt the free working of industries or work, commit violence, clame or threaten, pronounce any penalties, prohibit, interdict, proscribe or use any means of pressure or intimidation either against those who work or those controlling the work.

2. Those who disturb the peace of mana-

gers, employees or workmen-

A. By organising noisy gatherings or making a disturbance near the buildings in which work is going on, or near the living place of the managers.

B. By using any means to intimidate the managers, staff or workmen when going to or coming from their work.

- C. By causing explosion, or similar disturbance, near the buildings where work is going on in the quarters occupied by managers, staff or workmen.
- D. By destroying fences or any parts of buildings or yards where work is going on, or habitations and grounds, in whole or part, occupied by managers, staff or workmen.
- B. By destroying or making unfit for their proper use, tools of work, commerce or industry, or destroying in any manner

the installations, private electric, telegraphic or railway lines, mines or quarries used for the work.

Article 2. The head of the Justice Service is charged with the execution of this decree, which will start on to-day's date.

Elizabethville, May 15, 1919. (Sgd.) TOMBEUR.

Likasi, May 15, 1919, The Commissioner of Police, (Sgd.) Gilmore."

The Great Massacre.

At the I.L.P. Conference in April, Mrs. Philip Snowden protested against "a continuation of the war as serious and as monstrous as the shooting of prisoners after they have

given themselves up."

She quoted from Lord Robert Cecil's speech in the House of Commons a week before the passage in which he gave the statement of a lady recentl yreturned from Czecho-Slovakia that "out of a population of about 12,000,000, 5,000,000 were seriously underfed; and the statement of a man who had recently been through Bavaria and who gave it as his judgment that almost all the children were tuberculous as a consequence of the distress."

Speaking of her own experience, Mrs. Snow-den told the delegates the first shock she received was at the Berne Conference, in the appearance of the German delegates, "most of whom we had known as tall, strong, well-set-up figures. We saw them shrunken, with limbs quivering and skins dried, evidence of the lack of nourishment which they had en-

dured for so many years."

She was told that it would not be a question of rationing food in Munich soon. In six weeks' time there would not be an ounce of food from one end of Munich to the other. "And now," she said, "the Allies have reestablished the blockade until Bavaria returns to a state of order!"

She told of the children taken in relays by the Swiss from Vienna to be fed. They were in a state of advanced tuberculosis through destitution. In Italy, she was informed, there were clothes to be exported to Austria, but they could not be exported because the Allies forbade it, and the newly-born babies in Vienna had to be wrapped in newspapers because there were no warm clothes.

Miss Wallhead seconded the resolution. She told of a horse that dropped dead in the streets of Berlin, and of women who took slices from the dead animal for food. "Surely," she cried, "the men who are sitting in Paris will be handed down to posterity as murderers."

Rentgade "Labour."

The hoasted Queensland Labour Government, not being based on scientific socialism, completely betrayed its trust in connection with the recent Brisbane "disturbances." A week before, the Irish Association received police portection for the bearer of a Sinn Fein flag, it having been rumoured that soldiers. would attempt interference with their procession. But the display of the "Red Flag" in the Labour demonstration was verboten, and a mob attack on it was connived at. As the result of press clamour the police handed to the military the names of only the Russians and members of the One Big Union Propaganda League, who were arrested for deportation, the members of the League being sentenced to six months each. Others equally concerned in the carrying of the flag were left alone. Official "Labour" prejudice against the "foreigners" ran riot; which is not remarkable, says a writer in "The Socialist," seeing that they have been sedulously treated to a policy of "the cultivation of an Australian national sentiment, based on racial purity"; and the Acting Premier issued instructions, that no Russians were to be taken on for Government work. "The future will vet show," says the same writer, "that 'Lahour Governments in Australia will repress any attempt on the part of the workers to gair control with the same ferocity displayed by Kerensky, Ebert, Schiedemann and their kind."

Violence or Provocateurs?

The bomb outrages in America may have been officially arranged in order to make "the public" think they are the inevitable outcome of revolutionary Socialism. Remember the Mooney and other frame-ups.

In India similar violence unexpectedly broke out in conjunction with the Passive Resistance or Civil Disobodience movement to such an extent that Gandhi had to call the mevement off for the time being. Here is the

"Satyagraha" vow:

"Being conscientiously of opinion that the Bills known as the Indian Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill No. I., of 1919, and the Criminal Law (Emergency Powers) Bill No. II., of 1919, are unjust, subversive of the principles of liberty and justice, and destructive of the elementary rights of individuals on which the safety of the community itself is based, we solemnly affirm that, in the event of these Bills becoming law, and until they are withdrawn, we shall refuse civilly to obey these laws and such other laws as a Committee to be hereafter appointed may think fit, and we further affirm that in this struggle we will faithfully follow truth and refrain from violence to life, person or preperty."

That does not look like breeding lawlessness and violence: and Gandhi's insinuation is unmistakeable when he said: "In my opinion there were clever men behind the lawless doeds, and they showed concerted action. ... I am convinced that Satyagraha had nothing to do with the violence of the mob: it has neither been the cause nor the occasion of the upheaval... In South Africa, several thousands of indentured Indians struck work. Whilst the strike was going on a strike of European miners, railway employees, etc., was declared. . . . For fear of our strike being classed with the strike of Europeans in which methods of violence and the use of arms found a prominent place, ours was suspended and Satyagraha from that moment came to be recognised as . . . in the words of General Smuts, a constitutional movement."

A Mr. Horniman also spoke of "the way in which our movement has been utilised and corrupted by unscrupulous elements."—From

"Indian Opinion."

66 Sinister Disasfection."

A conference of Government native employees in the Orange Free State was held in Bloemfontein a few days ago with a view to the formation of a union. This conference was held in compliance with the advice of Mr. Smithers, representative of the Civil Service Union on the Public Service Commission of Inquiry.

Mr. Beckwith, local secretary of Civil Servants' Association, who attended on special invitation, said that he had already given the chairman a copy of the constitution of the Civil Servants' Association, which could

always serve as a guide.

The chairman, in reply, said Mr. Smithers, at the time an inquiry was held on the question of war bonuses, had told the native deputation that it would be better for general grievances to form an association, which could then be on the same footing as other associations.

It was resolved: "That this meeting of the Orange Free State native and coloured employees in the Government service of the Orange Free State Province resolves to acquaint the Government of its formation, and respectfully requests the Government to recognise it, and, further, that its objects are: (a) To promote, advance, and protect the intere of its members; (b) to establish branch associations for the benefit of its members; and (c) to give support to any scheme calculated to give support to its members."

Those fellows had better prepare to be pro-

The following advertisement appeared in the "Daily News" of January 25 last:

"Wanted: Discharged young soldier (one with foot off may suit) to assist in light trade; must be able to stand without crutches for an hour or two; hours, 9 to 7; wages 15s.

(per week)."

Strike News.

The news from Canada and France needs me further comment at present except this: that if the trouble is high cost of living, the demand for shorter hours, though evidencing perhaps greater intelligence than a demand for more pay, is less appropriate. The cables are therefore probably concealing more farreaching sims in both cases.

PARADISE REGAINED?

The "Populaire," of March 27th, reports important strikes and meetings of the Belgian workers demanding (1) Recognition of their right to form Trade Unions; (2) the limitation of the working day to eight hours; (3) a minimum wage. Of course, the bourgeois press and employers denounce the workers as defeatists and as wishing to ruin Belgian industry! Why can't they just enjoy the blessings of victory?

"VICTORY" AS STRIKE BREAKER.

A general strike began in the Ruhr district on April 1, the demands of the miners being a six hour day and higher wages. The German Government has refused the demands on the ground that coal has to be exported in order to pay for the food to be supplied by the Allies, and it has also informed the strikers that:

in conformity with the terms imposed by the Allies in the Brussels Conference, the Imperial Ministry of Food is forbidden to allow a simple point of food to enter districts in

which a strike is in progress.

"JUST AND FIRM."

In Essen last week 400 strikers' delegates were meeting, when they were suddinly surrounded by Government troops and either killed or arrested.—("Lahour Leader," April 24.)

THE STRIKE POLITICAL.

In view of the "news" of immense demonstrations in Rome and elsewhere in support of Orlando's policy of "grab," it is as well to recall the fact that the latest reports from Socialist sources indicate serious general strikes at Milan, Turin, Bologna, Genoa, Florence, etc., with a definitely political object, i.e., the repudiation of the Italian Imperialist policy which is delaying peace "in accordance with the demands of the proletariat."

No copy of "Avanti" later than April 13 has been received. It appears that shortly after that date the offices and plant of that paper were completely wrecked by a "mob."

SEATTLE.

Th cables told us how an alarming and sinister attempt at violent Bolshevik revolution had been suppressed and the State saved (compare Smuts on our 1914 strikes).

The facts are (says the April "Industrial Union News," Detroit) that a general strike of all Trade Unions was called on February 6, in sympathy with the ship yard workers, who went out on strike January 21, for an increase in wages. However inopportune this strike was, the strikers certainly did not contemplate any revolution, or expect any other result than to force a settlement of the ship yard strike. The cry of the capitalist owned press bf "Revolution," "Bolshevist conspirators," "Anarchists," etc., was only an attempt to intimidate the strikers and stampedo them back to work, also to misrepresent their aims, with the hope that they would receive no support from outside workers, in case they would be able to hold out any length of time.

(But why do 'outside workers' allow them-

belves to be so easily manipulated?)

Even the school children voted to, and did go on strike. One thing that appeared remarkable, and was commented on, was the olosing, and remaining closed to the last day,

. of all Japanese business houses.

A great deal of military display was made by Marfor Hanson and Chief of Police Warren, but was not at all necessary, as the ship fard workers to the number of about 30,000, who were on strike, had conducted themselves in a remarkably orderly manner. In fact the strikers had agreed among themselves, beforehand, not to congregate, or to do anything that would give the powers that be an opportunity to club or shoot them down. During the day, the strikers would come down town and with smiles view the

aute trucks mounted with machine guns barricaded with sand bags, also the many special policemen, both mounted and afoot. But after sundown the streets were almost deserted.

As there was no great crowd to congregate, there was no opportunity for the agent provocateur or the police spy to get in their dirty work, and no excuse to start trouble by those who would have liked to have gotten a crack, as they expressed it, at the "Bolsheviks." So the general strike ended without any heads being cracked, loss of life and no bloodshed. And up to date no violence or disturbance of any kind is in evidence, although the ship yard strike is still on.

Arms and the Man.

There has been much discussion in Western Canada regarding the message of encouragement sent by the Trades and Labour Convention at Calgary to the Spartacans and the Soviet Government of Russia. This message has been used to stir up ill-will between organised Labour and the Great War Veterans' Association. Some branches of the G.W.V.A. have been induced to demand the deportation of two Labour men in British Columbia. But an ex-private, Thomas O'Connor, says in the "Federationist":---

"It is, however, a difficult thing to fool all the soldiers all the time, and the men who were wage-slaves before they enlisted view with suspicion the efforts of their mercenary leaders, who would set them at loggerheads with Labour, and then deliver them into the rapacious maw of their implacable enemy, the Capitalist. The hireling is making hav while the sun shines; but, his crimes against me working class are being recorded in the book? of judgment by the returned men, who well know that their only friends are their fellowworkers, and that though the employer now greets them with honeved words and finances their clubs and organisations, his action is dictated solely by his desire to cause disruption in the ranks of Labour, and to banish into the dim and distant future the dreaded solidarity of the exploited."

The other day some wiseacres at Benoni said Bolshevism might be all very well at Johannesburg, but not at Benoni. In June, 1913, the talk at first was that the strike might be all very well at Benoni but not in Johannesburg. General Botha says Socialism may be all right for England but "not in South Africa because of our native population." In England fools say it may Russia, but not England, although there are no natives in England. In America the Dubbs say: Soviets for Europe perhaps, but free America doesn't want them—and then Winnipeg breaks out. The upshot is that the New Order is all right for the masses in every country in the world, but for the capitalists. so they think at least—nowhere.

Forty empty seats greeted Wilson when he faced the Italian Chamber of Deputies last night (January 3rd) and heard himself acclaimed as the prophet of enduring peace and justice among peoples.

They were the seats made vacant by demities of the Socialist party in protest against the presence of American and Entente armies in Russia and against the prosecution of Socialist and labour leaders in the United States. . . .

It was pointed out to Lazzari that the French and British Socialists thought it good politics to support the Wilson programme up to the time when its rejection by the imperialists should reveal its futility.

Caroti answered:

"It is natural for them to do that; it fits in with their tactics of compremise. But the Italian Socialists are Bolshevik; they have never supported the war, nor their government. Now our government pretends to endorse the 14 points but we Socialists will make no such pretence. We support the workers of the world, and will deal with no others."--"The N.Y. Call."

Comrade Lopes of the Industrial Socialist League, Cape Town, has sent a subscription list to the M.C. asking support for the local comrades who are undergoing trial for publishing "The Bolshevist.". The M.C. has voted £5 from our Defence Fund, and any comrades who desire to assist can send their donations to the office.

League Notes.

FREE SPEECH DEFENCE FUND.

Already acknowledged, £61 6s. 9d. Lin 433: SG, 5s.; CS, 2s. 6d.; JML, 5s.; BG 5s.; ST, 5s.; JG, 5s. List 336: JJH, 2s. 6d. BC, 2s. 6d.; LC, 2s. 6d.; LM, 10s.; H, 1a. JC, 2s. 6d.; HL, 2s. 6d.; WC, 2s. 6d.; AS 2s. 6d.; S, 5s.; ML, 4s.; S, 2s. 6d.; JB, 2s 6d.; JS, 2s. 6d.; MS, 2s. 3d GA, 2s. 6d.; JL, 2s. 6d.; WW, 5s.; JM, 2s. SM, 2s.; JL, 2s. 6d.; BG, 2s. 6d.; HK, 1s.; BZ, 21s.; JB, 2s. 6d.; DP, 5s.; S, 5s.; JP, 5s.; GS, 2s. 6d.; IF, 2s. 6d.; JW, 5s.; SDF, Cape Town, 100s. List 499: HPS, 5s. 8d. PM, 5s. 6d.; S, 5s.; ASB, 5s.; NG, 5g. Friend, 1s. 6d.; Friend, 2s. 6d. List 46? MM, 10s.; JL, 21s.; FWF, 23s. 6d.; AA 40s.; GA. 10s. List 11: SGS, 2s. 6d.; CJ 2s. Gd.; WF, 2s 6d.; H, 2s. 6d.; SAMWI Jeppes, 63s. List 82: AF, 2s. 6d.; JN, 20s.

10,000 Shilling Fund. — The Committee charged with the management of this fund have books of 1s. stamps which can be obtained at the Office. It is considered neces sary that the League should own its own printing plant and money is urgently needed for the purpose. The stamps constitute a convenient method of raising the funds but at the same time any sympathiser who is willing to donate larger amounts or supply money on loan is invited to communicate with the secretary at the Office of the League when he will be supplied with all necessar; information.

Comrades are urged to take parcels of the "International" C.O.D. to sell at any convenient place and time. Having temporarily. stopped our open air public meetings it is all the more essential that the literature should be distributed and the workers reached by that means.

The following pamphlets can now be obtain ed at the head office, C.W.O.:--Evolution of Industry, 6d., by McLaine. Trades Unionism at the Cross Roads, 3d., by McLaine.

Socalism and the Survival of the Fittest, 3d by J. Connell.

Truth about Russia, 6d., by A. Ransome. The War after the War, 4de, by J. McLean. Wage-Labour and Capital, 6d., by Marx. Burning Question of Trades Unionism, 4d., by

De Leon. Reform or Revolution, 4d., by De Leon. Socialism Made Easy, 6d., by Connolly. Value, Price and Profit, 9d., by Marx. Through Dictatorship to Democracy, 6d., by Klara Zetkin.

The Workers' Revolution in Russia, Dutch and English, 6d.

Postage, 1d. extra:

The Butcher's and General Dealer's Bus. ness carried on at Stand 1467, Primrose Town. ship by INTERNATIONAL CASH BUTCH. ERY (Elias Prag) has been joined by SOLO. MON SCHRODER as partner of the said ELIAS PRAG, as from 21st May, 1919.

Creditors and Debtors in the Estate of the late WILLIAM SUGDEN No. 33376 are called-upon to lodge their claims with and pay their debts to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of publication hereof. S. P. BUNTING.

for Executrix

104, Commissioner Street, Johannesburg.

This paper will be posted for four weeks only (a) to subscribers whose subscriptions have expired, from date of expi.; (b) to persons recommended as likely subscribers.

To ensure receipt of paper theresites Postal Order for 5s., being one year's subscription post free, must be sent during the four weeks to the "International," Box 4179. Johannesburg.

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