

The Workers Herald



THE HERALD
express the
views of
the
Industrial
Union of Africa
on all
important
matters.

BUY
THE HERALD.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

JOHANNESBURG, MARCH, 27, 1926.

50,000 Membership

The task before African proletariat is to build in Africa a mass Labour Organisation, which must command the respect of employers of labour and ultimately link up with the European working class movement in this country and abroad, for the purpose of establishing a Socialist Commonwealth which will ensure a decent living to the workers of the world irrespective of race or colour. With that object in view the National Council of the I.C.U. appeals to each and every member of the Organisation to double his or her efforts to secure 50,000 membership before the close of 1926. We have no doubt of the possibility to realise our dream. If all our members could be active in those of the Free State capital, we are confident that within six months we can secure that membership. If Bloemfontein Branch could stage regular meetings and which are being attended by thousands of workers, we consider other large centres could follow suit. We must keep up agitation everywhere that our co-workers cannot sleep. Bloemfontein workers win victory against human vampires because they have a will to win. All African workers rally to the only formidable industrial organisation whose leadership is aggressive. This is now to fall in line with other workers. Now it is high time to awake out of sleep of many decades. Hear the message in a small voice:—

Arise within the mystic veil and see
The Land God gave to you;
Land of great potentialities, with wealth and resources richly
endowed.
Oh Africa! Greater Continent,
Greater Continent, yet exploited,
Greater Continent, yet exploited,
For Godness' Sake Arise!

The Penis Mightier than the Sword.

We borrow our heading from a European poet. In modern times the Press shapes public opinion. Our exploiters control practically and as a rule they give no publicity to the groanings of men, women and children of all races. In this country how many African workers are being ill-treated on the farms, month after month, plus receiving snubshots from European farmers, but the world knows nothing about it. Take a walk into the Mine Compounds, here our kith and kin are brutally ill-treated by the captains of the mining industry. Is it not a fact that the African workers in this country are paid starvation wages and their economic lives are not better than that of convicts?

"The Workers' Herald," realising that such appalling conditions exist, has set itself to the task of advocating their removal. As a working-class journal it will continue to expose to the outside world the inhuman treatment of the subject races of South Africa and far beyond its borders. British Imperialism in Africa must be exposed and attacked vigorously.

Upon whom does this work rest? It rests solely with the "Workers' Herald," because other African journals are not strong enough to do so, for reason that they are kept going by the enemy. The "Workers' Herald" must depend entirely upon the workers. If the "Workers' Herald" support is assured, our exploiters can expect that we shall leave no stone unturned to expose their dastardly treatment of human beings. May we remind our readers here that we shall do everything in our power, even if heaven had to fall, to oppose the so-called "segregation." We can ensure the existence of this indispensable organ if each and every one of our readers will help us in doubling its circulation in 1926. You can do so by making your friend become a subscriber to "The Workers' Herald," which is destined by all means to become the mightiest sword for the oppressed peoples of Africa. Fearless in view we pledge ourselves to remain. Let the workers do their share to ensure our existence.

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Colour Bar Bill Under Fire.

BRITISH CRITICS.

This ugly "gogga" is not only kicked from pillar to post in this country, but critics in other countries, especially in Britain, are also giving it what it rightly deserves. The "Star's" London correspondent states that those newspapers in Great Britain which are most sympathetic towards the general policy of the Hertzog Government are most critical of the Colour Bar Bill. The fact is particularly noticeable in the comments of the Manchester Guardian and The Nation on the determination of General Hertzog to place the Colour Bar Bill on the Statute Book at all cost.

The Guardian, in an unusually long leader, describes the Bill as a "permanent decree of industrial servitude" for the native and the Asiatic inhabitants of South Africa. "It would be idle," the journal says, "to ignore the fear of the rising tide of colour which lies behind such legislation as this. It is that spectre, indeed, which silences too many criticisms of the wide plan for dealing, as a whole, with the native problem which General Hertzog is knowingly forging." But, because of the hopes which must all have of these plans, the production at this time of the ill-considered Colour Bar Bill seems the more deplorable. The production of such a measure, as a preliminary to securing native accord in the wider aims, can only give an ugly impression that it is the Government's intention to force the black worker out of industrial life before the alternative that must be offered him has even taken credible shape.

COURAGE TO RETRACE STEPS.

The Nation, which realises that General Hertzog is acting under pressure of the extreme sections of both the Nationalist and Labour Parties, points out, "as the colour bar applies not only to natives but also to Asiatics, General Hertzog's action must inevitably accentuate the friction between his Government and the Government of India, and increase the unrest of the Indian settlers in South Africa." The Nation hopes that General Hertzog will have the courage to retrace his steps.

MR. BARLOW'S SHOTS.

Mr. A. G. Barlow, M.L.A., has been interviewed by a representative of The Star on his arrival in Capetown for the session.

Only one question is of great interest to the O.F.S. to-day, he said, and that is the native question. The natives themselves appear to be upset at the colour bar legislation, and are making their policies up with industrial questions. Bloemfontein is a centre where Kadalia can raise large audiences, and at any moment the I.C.U. may declare a strike there. General Hertzog's Bills are being eagerly awaited by both whites and blacks. The Nationalists in the O.F.S. in all the constituencies are pledged to a man behind General Hertzog's proposals, although they have not seen the draft bills. What is good enough for the Prime Minister is good enough for them, and it is the line they are taking.

AN UMBIMATUM.

"The rural Nationalists in my constituency," said Mr. Barlow, "after a meeting addressed by the leader of the S.A.P.—my opponent at the last Parliamentary election—and by Mr. Swart, organising secretary of the Nationalists, have decided that I must vote for General Hertzog's scheme of resign. I have held a pistol at my head, and received my ultimatum yesterday. I will take my own line, and I am much in favour of a National Convention."

"We cannot solve the native question without the help of the native. To-day the natives are in a state of unrest, and General Hertzog's solution has caused a solidarity among them never known before. I think the introduction of the colour bar at this stage is a pure political error. It should have been left over until next session and taken in conjunction with the proposals of the Prime Minister."

A Downright Scandal.

It may not be generally known that some Native female servants are treated worse than dogs by their European mistresses. Only the other day a young educated Native girl was hounded from pillar to post by her mistress, and finally landed in goal. Her only sin was that she laid a complaint of bad treatment and under-feeding by her European mistress. This girl had to run up and down between the Native Affairs Department and Kensington (where she was employed) for three days, but this did not help her, because she was finally arrested and lodged in goal for a whole night. The next day she came before the Magistrate, and released on bail of 10s. pending the decision of her case, which was set down as "denial of service."

We are informed that when the young girl took service the agreement made by her mother was that the first month should be considered a "trial month," and if either party should be dissatisfied, the engagement should terminate at the expiration of the first month.

As is stated above, the girl was not satisfied, and wished to terminate the engagement, but the misdeed would not release her, whereupon she laid her complaint with the Native Affairs Department, with the result above stated.

When the girl's mother reminded the misdeed about their agreement, the boss came out and called her an "educated black swine."

This is only one of hundreds of similar cases, in which the brute which lies under many a white skin comes to the surface. Yet this same white brute will tell you that he is a civilised man, and that his domination is due to his respect for all female folk. Something to boast about, indeed!

Capitalism on the Wane

The British coal crisis will be in sight after the publication of this issue, for at the beginning of May next the British nation has to decide whether the "Coalowners" will have to reduce the standard of living of the miners or that the miners have to be nationalised and thereby to ensure a living wage to the miners.

According to English papers that reach us lately and also according to Reuter reports, both sides are ready for the conflict. The question is who is going to win the battle? The miners' secretary, Mr. A. J. Cook, points out confidently that if the Government and the Coalowners started a struggle, it would be the end of capitalism. And when that happens Premier Baldwin will have to re-echo his favourite peroration, "bring peace in our time Oh Lord!" somewhere in H—L for the workers shall banish gods from the sky and capitalism from earth.

The Government's Native policy and the Colour Bar Bill have roused the whole Native population to indignation. At Bloemfontein, on the 28th February, a 10,000 strong meeting, presided over by Mr. Clements Kadalia, passed a resolution of protest against the recent wage proposals. A telegram was also dispatched to the Government and to the Wage Board.

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How Our Chiefs were Bamboozled.

WHOLE PROVINCE EXCHANGED FOR RECAPTURE OF A FEW THOUSAND CATTLE.

When the white man is told in plain words by African intellectuals of to-day that this land was secured by foul means, he generally becomes indignant. But the following, which is said to be a tracing of the original treaty between Piet Retief and Dingaan, will reveal what kind of humbug went on in the early days of the history of this country:—

DINGAAN—RETIFF TREATY.

14th February, 1838.

"Know all men by this that, whereas Piet Retief, Governor of the Dutch Emigrant South Afrikaners has taken my cattle which Siko-zella had stolen, which cattle he, the said Retief, now delivers unto me, I, Dingaan, King of the Zulus, do hereby certify and declare that I thought fit to resign unto him, the said Retief, and his countrymen (as reward of the case heretofore mentioned) the place called Port Natal together with all the land—that is to say, from Dogella to the Omsoboch River westward, and from the sea to the North as far as the land may be useful, and in my possession, which I give unto them for their everlasting property. (Here follow the signatures of Dingaan; Greyling, Goshuizen, Liebenberg and others.)

We suppose that the Dogella and Omsoboch Rivers mentioned in the treaty will be the Tugela and Umzimvubu.

It is no wonder that after signing this treaty Dingaan "saw red" and massacred Retief and his followers. To take a man's whole country "as far as the land may be useful" in return for the capture of a few thousand cattle is nothing a civilised man should be proud of. The white people must so much that this land belongs to them through conquest by arms, but the above piece of bare-faced robbery shows that even the Afrikaners have more right to be in this land because they were the real slave hunters.

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Real Trade Union Congress

On Easter Day the proletarian delegates from all parts of South Africa will assemble at the "Workers Hall," 14, Market Street, Johannesburg, under the auspices of the I.C.U. It will be the Sixth Annual Conference of that organisation of the African workers. This year's Conference was to take place in Bloemfontein, but the National Council of the Organisation owing to unforeseen circumstances were obliged to transfer the venue of the Conference from Bloemfontein to Johannesburg.

Under the Pact regime, this will be the second Conference of the I.C.U. to be held. Last year's Conference considered many important public matters affecting the welfare of the African workers, and some of the resolutions adopted at that Conference, it was thought in some quarters, were drafted for the blacks by white communists. The Colour Bar Bill, the civilised labour policy of the Government, Colonel Collins' Masters and Servants Act Amendment Bill, Pass Laws, and many other obnoxious measures were trenchantly criticised by some of the militant delegates of that Congress. Then the peroration of the National Secretary's report to the Congress: "We are aiming at the building up in Africa of a National Labour Organisation of the aboriginals of the land through which we shall break the wall of white autocracy and capitalism. We must prevent the exploitation of our people in the mines and the farms and to obtain increased wages for them. We shall not rest there, we will open the gates of the Houses of Legislature for our posterity to participate, now under the control of white oligarchy, and from this step we shall claim equality of purpose with the workers of the world to overthrow the capitalistic system of Government and to usher in a co-operative Commonwealth one, a system of Government which is not foreign to the aboriginals of Africa." Indeed, it was an eye-opener to the European mind, particularly the employing class, to realise that a new awakening on the working class lines was slowly but surely gaining ground amongst the real workers of Africa.

As we have indicated above, we are still passing through the second year of the Pact Government. The future of the African masses is to-day more threatened than it was last year by the ruling class. The Pact Government is bent on segregation of the seven million blacks of this country. Perhaps before or after the publication of this issue Segregation Bills will be laid on the table in Parliament. The first instalment of this "Segregation Policy" is the Colour Bar Bill which has already received the blessing of the House of Assembly by an increased majority. Here we are condemned for ever as hewers of wood and drawers of water in the land of our birth. We trust that the delegates at this forthcoming Conference, which will be the most representative one ever held by the I.C.U., will boldly ask the Colour Bar Bill's advocates and Segregationists, with whose authority they impose such restrictions upon other of God's people. We thought that the "divine rights of the Kings" were totally abolished in the so-called British Empire with the Cromwellian era. The delegates must have full mandate from their respective constituencies to inform the "divine righters" that they were pursuing a policy that was dangerous and suicidal to themselves which will eventually shake the very existence of the capitalistic governments of the world.

The real Workers Conference must make a lead to the country. In our last issue we made suggestions for the creation of a political National Assembly. Up to now our political leaders have made no response. We are confident that they will make no move at all because they have no courage. The proletarian Conference must therefore grasp this opportunity. If our leaders cannot initiate the proposed National Assembly, the I.C.U. must create within itself a Political Secretariat that will watch and safeguard the political interests of the masses. The Organisation must get developed in such a way that its influence will be felt nationally. To cope with the political situation experienced leaders must be invited to fall in line with the proletarian movement. For this matter we consider that men like Dr. Abdurahman, M.P.C., who has already been converted to our way of thinking, that industrial organisation was the only formidable weapon against class legislation, ought to be invited to join our political secretariat. We know of many more Non-European of higher calibre who must be recruited at all cost into the proletarian march. It is hoped that the Indian workers, particularly in Natal, will not stand aloof. We invite them to attend our forthcoming Conference. Selfishness must be put aside, we want real leaders who will move with the times.

Percino takes the "K" out of Kina.

After having consolidated our forces locally and nationally, we must visualise our dream at the forthcoming Conference. The delegates must understand that our infant movement is a wing of the World Labour Movement and it was time that we took special interest in the International Labour Movement. We should denounce the selfishness of the white workers of South Africa and above all we should approach them with a view to bridge the demarcation that now exists between us to the detriment of all. Both the Indian Trade Union Congress and the American Negro Labour Congress we must fraternise with and in furtherance of our objective the British Labour Movement must also be approached for fraternisation.

Realising that the road to new Jerusalem is a long one, perhaps J. H. Harley, M.A., will infuse the delegates to this forthcoming Congress with courage: "The road from slavery to freedom is always a toilsome road in every part of human history, but sustained by all that is best in the new gospel, the workman may well claim that he makes his way along the onward path with ultimate certainty of success."

CIVILISED STANDARD.

With human beings, and this must equally apply as well to the animal world, the right to live is the fundamental principle upon which Society is built. Take away the right to live of any person or animal, then of a certainty you must expect a bloody conflict. With the African Natives, in their primitive life, this axiom was involuntarily observed, because every person was voluntarily obliged to obtain the best of the land. Kings and subjects had to share the land in common and everyone also shared in tilling the land.

But with the advent of the European civilisation and Christianity, the Africans were robbed of their fertile lands. Instead of making the best of their land for their own good, they were hired to open up big forests for the foreign adventurer to build up his home. The pioneer work was done by both black and white, and later it was found that the black, instead of depending upon his soil, was obliged to become a wage slave of this foreign adventurer. These men, who brought Christianity and civilisation to the barbaric blacks, imposed upon the latter all forms of taxation for the upkeep of the former. This taxation was extended to the territories as well, thus we found the exodus of Africans into towns to work for wages to meet the so-called civilised requirements. In this way thousands of the blacks became debilitated and their mode of living corresponded with that of the European.

Now, seeing that many urban Natives have risen to the level, or almost to the level of the average European, down comes another law that banishes them from the towns. The position, therefore, boils down to this: On the land they have no right because they have no land. In the towns they are debarred because the Europeans fear their industrial competition. Where to now? The locations to which they are being transferred under the Urban Areas Act, which is the forerunner of segregation, are badly laid out, the houses being cement-floored ramshackles, slits taking the place of streets, and no lights whatever. Here also is where the brutality of officialdom comes into play.

The workers of Bloemfontein, ably led by their energetic Provincial Secretary, Comrade Alex P. Maduna, who can be described as desirous of obtaining a living wage for themselves and their families, ought to be congratulated by every decent and fair-minded citizen of South Africa. Those who stand for a civilised standard of life should welcome the Bloemfontein situation as created by the I.C.U., because here in reality we see men and women who are willing to work who rightly claim the opportunity to live up to a decent and civilised mode of life. Who can deny any person this opportunity? The Labour Party, whose doctrine is "Live and let live," should be the first to give the Natives of Bloemfontein their whole-hearted support.

Not a word of support or opposition comes from the Labour Party of white Trade Unionists, but the capitalist newspapers have declared their opposition to the demand of the workers. The Bloemfontein "Friend," whose Editor was Chairman of the recent Native Wage Commission of that city, has made itself notorious in opposition to the demands of the workers. We consider in this instance that the Town Council of Bloemfontein made a serious blunder to have appointed Mr. MacKenzie, Editor of the "Friend," an interested party in the question, to act as Chairman. It is not a wonder that Mr. MacKenzie should have opposed the admission of the National Secretary of the I.C.U. to the personnel of the Commission, because he knew that the latter possessed some considerable knowledge of the economic position of the Native workers, which perhaps the Native representatives, and we may be permitted to say that perhaps some of the European representatives on that Commission also lacked. In fact, The Friend Newspaper, Ltd., employs a large number of Natives, whose wages are in the neighbourhood of 2s. and 3s. a day. Thus its Editor, who acted as Chairman of the Commission, opposed a minimum of 3s. 6d. per day, for that would interfere with his fat salary, which he enjoys at the expense of the Native workers. We cannot understand why a large number of people cannot realise that the very complexities of modern life, which the white man has introduced to this continent, places the needs and comforts of the workers at the mercy of a multitude of the lion-like persons, make the Trade Union so potent for good or ill. When an attempt is being made by the Native workers to better their conditions of labour, the white capitalist Press, as the Bloemfontein "Friend" is, rushes to prejudice the public mind that it is only the work of "Native agitators." It cannot be realised that a strike of the African workers, run on purely trade union lines, could bring disaster to many thousands. It is this want of understanding that was a fruitful cause of delay in the settlement of the demands of the Bloemfontein Native workers. It is well known to us in this country that a labour leader (no matter what his colour may be) is invariably blackballed and placed under police surveillance. This is only playing with fire, as General Smuts found out to his cost. It was the same labour leaders whom he deported in 1914 who eventually were the cause of his downfall.

The Native workers are now looking to the Wage Board to act in the spirit of the Wages Act. The policy of the Pact Government is to build up in South Africa a civilised nation, and we do trust that the Government itself ought to appreciate the attempts of the I.C.U. to lead the bulk of the citizens of this country, who during the Smuts regime were denied this opportunity to a state of civilised beings. We think that in this move for a civilised standard of life, both black and white workers should join hands and approach the greedy capitalists with a united front. Only in this manner can the working classes of South Africa hope to eliminate exploitation. But so long as the working classes are divided, so long will they form a stepping stone for capitalism.

Percine users have that distinguished appearance.

MORE "PARENTAL CONTROL"

In front of the Economic and Wage Committee, H. S. Cooke, Director of Native Labour, informed the Committee that the Native Affairs Department held the position of "parental control" over the Natives.

After perusing this article, we doubt whether the Minister of Native Affairs himself will support that statement.

On February 18th Mr. Clements Kadalic, National Secretary of the I.C.U., and Mr. H. D. Tyamzashie, Provincial Secretary, interviewed Major Cooke. The purpose of the interview was a complaint against the Complaints Officer (Johannesburg) who did not handle complaints laid by Natives in a proper manner. The particular case complained of was that of a Native young man whose mistress wrongly charged her with desertion of service, and the I.C.U. complaint Major Cooke said that the girl was charged before the Magistrate, but had estraited bail.

Now, this girl was defended by Mr. Benson (of Benson and Suits), and upon being written to enquire the case Mr. Benson replied that in accordance with instructions, he cross-examined Mrs. Iverson (the girl's mistress) in order to show—

- (a) That the girl (Victoria) had been engaged for the month on trial and no longer.
- (b) That before the month terminated Victoria had informed her mistress that she intended to leave at the end of the month.
- (c) That Mrs. Iverson accepted this position.
- (d) That Victoria's wages were not paid on due date.

The Magistrate, Mr. Benson continued, expressed himself as very dissatisfied with Mrs. Iverson's evidence, and the accused was discharged without even being placed upon her defence.

In our opinion, said Mr. Benson, it is quite clear that an impartial person could have investigated the facts of this case, without coming to the conclusion that Mrs. Iverson had trumped up the charge.

Now, if ever there was a clear and unassailable judgment against a Government official, it is the above, coming as it does from a European solicitor of high standing, who could possibly not be influenced by either the I.C.U. or the Native Affairs Department.

The most scandalous position of affairs at the Complaints Office is the contention that whenever a Native is dismissed without notice, and his employer refuses to pay in lieu of notice, the Native is told that his is a "civil case," and that he should consult a lawyer. On the other hand, if the Native leaves his service without notice, he is hounded and prosecuted criminally for desertion, as is shown in the above case defended by Mr. Benson.

How this state of affairs can be tolerated in a civilised country is past understanding, and in spite of all these irregularities, when Native leaders voice their protest they are called "agitators" who foment trouble.

Since writing the above Major Cooke has written Mr. Kadalic an official letter admitting that his office was erroneously found guilty in regard to the case of Victoria, but the Juppens & Co. case, and he was glad to know that the facts in this case were as depicted in the I.C.U.

Yes, we are also glad of this, but we would be most glad to know where the Complaints Officer was when Major Cooke was so "erroneously informed." The Complaints Officer was the right person from whom Major Cooke should have sought information, because the I.C.U. in the first instance had contended that Victoria's case was allowed to drift to the Courts owing to not having been properly handled by the Complaints Officer.

In conclusion Major Cooke said that he was glad to note the view expressed in the concluding paragraph of the I.C.U. letter.

Now, this is the "concluding paragraph" of the I.C.U. letter to Major Cooke: "In conclusion, I may add a rider to the effect that during the time Mr. Clifford was acting (as Complaints Officer) the Natives were generally all satisfied with the treatment they received from the Complaints Office. And, furthermore, if a Native is liable to criminal prosecution for desertion or breach of contract, then the Native Affairs Department should also be empowered to prosecute employers who dismiss Natives without notice or pay."

Major Cooke's glad of this view. We honestly congratulate him, and hope that he will influence the Government to empower the Native Affairs Department to provide adequate machinery for the protection of Natives.

Colour Bar Bill Smacked in the face.

Hats off to the Union Senate, because, like the Appellate Court of the Union, it has vindicated that moral justice of the British nation still exists in this Dominion! By 22 votes to 12 it has rejected the Colour Bar Bill again. Thus it has brought relief to millions of inarticulate and voteless people of South Africa. This is the news that has reached us as we were going to press.

The people of this great Dominion of the British Empire were about to lose faith in the white man's Christian principles and civilisation. Our Senate has again acted with unquestionable courage in the way they did last session. We trust that our Government will accept this defeat acquiescently, which by all means will enhance their reputation with the aboriginals of the land. To force the sitting of both Houses of Parliament, and reintroduce this un-Christian-

like measure, thereby to find its way on to the Statute-book by the Pact majority, will, in our opinion, increase the difficulties of the Government to pilot its Native Policy. If the Government desires to place the Colour Bar on the Statute-book of this country, let them dissolve Parliament and put the issue before the electorate. Anyhow, we are satisfied that our Senators acted as Christian gentlemen in smacking the Colour Barists in their sinistral faces.

Mr. Luitas, Chairman of the Wage Board, says that the aims of the Board would be the securing and safeguarding of a civilised standard of living for all classes of workers, irrespective of race or colour. This is all very good! But what about the many restrictions embodied in the Colour Bar Bill?

"An authority on crime" says that all men are human, but if we should get rid of our human cattle, then we should be wise with mongrel epitaphs!

ISHUMI LE NTI (SIO) LIYA KUNIKWA NAKUBANIMA

Ono kubonisa ukuba... Wilson, owona... Ulunguyisi okanye... uhlabululike... 1/6 (Postal Order)...

The I.C.U. National Secretary at Maritzburg.

NATAL RALLYING TO THE BANNER. SLASHES AT A CAPITALIST NEWSPAPER.

Despite every effort that was made by the "Times of Natal" and the Town Council to prevent the National Secretary of the I.C.U. from addressing a meeting of workers at Pietermaritzburg on the 14th March last, the faithful proletarian ambassador scored a big victory in the capital of Natal by addressing a large audience of African and Indian workers in the Market Square both in the morning and the afternoon.

A crowd of some two thousand natives congregated on the Market Square yesterday afternoon to listen to the farewell address of Mr. Clements Kadali, the I.C.U. official who of late has been prominent in connection with the Bloemfontein Native unrest and in other directions. The platform from which the natives were addressed was one of the auctioneers' stands.

The chair was taken by Mr. Champion, a Native, who introduced the chief speaker in a lengthy harangue, in which he stated that the Press knew nothing about the "science of economics," and that Kadali would be able to put them right.

Natal's white people had departed from the principles of British justice and fair play, he said, in condemning a man before they knew what he was going to say. Natal boasted of freedom of speech, but they had the Town Council passing a resolution calling upon the authorities to interfere with the freedom of one of their leaders.

"The Editor of the 'Times of Natal' instead of getting first-hand information, had accepted hearsay and taken a prominent part in attempting to muzzle Mr. Kadali. Mr. Kadali opened his address conventionally. His platform, he said, was at least one stage removed from the soap boxes of the Hyde Park speakers.

"I am pleased, I am more than pleased, to see a gathering such as this at Maritzburg. After the miserable treatment in the Press during the week on last Saturday's meeting, I will now perhaps get to know each other better. The Editor of the 'Times of Natal' will get to know me better also. He has painted me as a bloodthirsty disturber, travelling about the land preaching agitation, and for his own selfish motives has pictured me as fomenting trouble.

"Mr. Champion and I know, of course, that men like Robert Owen, a century or two ago, were pictured in England as agitators. We were pictured in the 18th and in the latter part of the 19th century white workers in Great Britain were economic slaves. The color workers in Lancashire were earning 4s. 6d. per week and similar conditions obtained in London.

"We know that the working men of those times had no thought of his own, and that some time in the history of that land men were debarred from moving about from place to place without a pass. We also know that it was impossible for the children of the working classes to attend school—the school children had to be the sons and daughters of Lord So-and-so.

great man, and now General Smuts is regarded as a great man. They were great, these gentlemen, and as far as the white people were concerned, and as far as one section of the white people were concerned. I was told by an influential Englishman in Johannesburg recently that there is no peace in this country. We do not trust the Dutchman.

"I want to see a contented people in South Africa. Do you know what David Livingstone said in a letter to a friend in Scotland while travelling in this so-called 'Dark Continent'? He said 'he had seen people sleeping with one eye open for their enemies.' I want to see the people of South Africa sleeping with both eyes shut, because what David Livingstone saw, is so it is so in South Africa, and especially so in Natal. The white people distrust the Indians and the Indians distrust the Europeans, and we want to do away with it all.

"That is what I am preaching, and they call me an agitator. If that is agitation, then I am proud of the term. Another shame and disgrace. The 'Guardian' is supposed to be a Labour Party paper, but is it so? There is no Indian or black man in the Labour Party, so it cannot be a Labour Party. The members of such a party should be people of black, white or green races, whether they live on earth or in Heaven.

"CLASS AREAS. The speaker went on to refer to the introduction in Parliament of the Class Areas Bill, a Bill which he stigmatised as a disgrace to the Labour Party. Why these people should be so hypocritical as to call themselves supporters of Labour is beyond me.

"If the other people have failed to carry out the true policy of a Labour Party it belongs to us to try and do it. Our political representatives have failed miserably and are maintaining the racial question as a stone to hurl at each other. We know that the human soul belongs to one family and we are trying to live at peace with our neighbours. They say that we are disturbing the peace of the country, but our activities are welcomed by every right-minded person.

"Mr. Kadali went on to speak of the unfairness of bringing Natives to a court of justice simply because they were not given enough pay to maintain their wives and children properly, and in desperation broke the white man's law. And on Sunday mornings, when there is no money in the house, they breakfast on mealie pap. Next they go to church and pray, and I know there must be thousands of Natives going to church and pray when their stomachs are empty.

"The Natives try to dress well after the fashion of the whites, but they cannot afford to do it. If the workers were earning sufficient pay, my wife would dress as well as anyone. If I were the Editor of the 'Times of Natal,' earning £100 per month, I would buy myself a motor car and dress my wife well. Daniel and Abraham and the rest of the prophets will not help you. St. Mary or Augustine will not help you. The Europeans will tell you that God helps those who help themselves. Praying won't do you any good. You cannot pray all week.

"We Natives have been praying, praying, ever since the Gospel came to South Africa. We have been calling on the prophets, but they have not helped us. The workers of Maritzburg must get into the I.C.U. organisation. My Indian friends will be glad to hear that Dr. Abdurahman will join the Labour movement when he returns to South Africa. The I.C.U. is strong in the Cape, and we are negotiating constitutionally.

"BRAINS NOT BRAVING. Do not hit the white people with your sticks, that is only for savages. People with brains fight with statistics, so fight, my people, with brains. Are you perhaps the people that the Prophet spoke of because you have eyes that cannot see and ears that cannot hear? Your very existence is being challenged, and I want you to join the I.C.U. The policy of the present Government is to get unskilled labour, and they say to the Natives, 'you are a danger to the white workers, and you must get low pay.' The Editor of the 'Times of Natal' says that I am working to do away with the white man. I am not such a fool. I have better brains than that Editor, because I know that Maritzburg does not belong to the white or to the black man, but to everyone.

illiant activity leads to stronger organisation and finally to freedom. It is us to us. We hold our social destiny in our own hands. The old conceptions of racialism and insularity must be swept out on one side. The new race leadership must replace the old leadership, and thus march the dumb, voiceless millions of our race to freedom.

Old Race Leadership.

(By THOMAS MBEKI)

The Pact Government leaves a trail behind it as bloody as that of its predecessor, and a record of cruelty and injustice just as black. The patchwork Pact Government with its antagonistic groups and conflicting interests will only be, as indeed it was intended to be, a stop-gap administration.

It is obvious even to the meanest intelligence that the 'Native Policy' of the Government is but the perpetuation of congestion, a condemnation to perpetual serfdom. Truly so. But the old bowing-kneeling type of leaders would have us believe that "things are improving." In spite of the fact that new obnoxious laws are daily legislated against us. And along the Reef there are to-day more than 4,000 unemployed Africans, and denied the opportunity to labour, and are thrown upon the streets to starve or to become criminals.

We are free to face with a very serious position. The migration of Jews to Babylonia in Bible times, whence they spread to Persia, is a typical instance of our position in this country.

Of course, according to the moral ethics of the old type of Native leadership whether our race is "blotted out" of existence or not it is a matter of secondary importance. Right away, we must understand, that these bent and twisted innocent nature of Van Riebeeck times of Native leaders, were fit only for the Bible and Catherian days.

"These are the days of democracy and self-determination; and therefore the new African wants to look at things from a broader point of view. We have as a people, it is true, given much of our zeal to foreign 'doping doctrines,' and vastly more of our substance for the profligate. The gentleman with his doctrines is on his way to something, perhaps the 'round-collar gentleman' is also trying to point you to something, but this ago ushers in, a spirit to lay hold on something.

It goes without saying that the old fellow with his hundred-years-old methods must go. However, it is rather unfortunate that the Omnipotent destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, perhaps those cities should have been fertile fields for the propaganda of the reactionaries.

The new age beckons for new leadership, with firmness, courage, manliness and aggressiveness—and denouncing compromise and cowardice. The abject crawling and pleading of the reactionaries have availed the cause nothing. Their silly talks about the co-operation of the blacks and the 'Corner House' failed to stop the Botha-Smuts anti-Native legislations, equally failed to stop the mad rush of Tselman Roos and Co. to 'sauce the nigger.'

Having failed in season and out of season to understand the conditions, they are totally incapable of leading us. Frightened of the struggle they have become instruments of the ruling powers in dividing our ranks, apologising for their difficulties. They are without vision, and without the will to lead us out of the slump.

The new man now takes the helm. It is now our future at stake. Their future is in the grave. And if the new African imbuing the spirit of liberty, is willing to suffer martyrdom for the cause, certainly the very least that the old reactionary can do is to stay in the background for his remaining years of life or die a natural death without struggles, attempting to hamper those who take means to effect ends which he failed to effect during the last 300 years.

The old methods, ideas and policies have been proved to be no use in pressing forward for the immediate needs of the African worker. We cannot remain in the wilderness of despotism with poverty, degradation and humiliation in which the masses of Africa are swamped by the incapacity and unwillingness of the ruling powers to put into practice the principles of democracy. To be content with such horrors, or too fainthearted to take action to remove them, we should deserve to be executed by our children. Nobody with more than an idiot's power of counting over three, and seeing the relationship of things would fail to realise that we have gone to a partition of the ways. One way, the way of inaction, leads away to slavery. The other, the way of (Continued at foot previous column.)

Maritzburg Mustage as the I.C.U.

(By Tembikilo Kofi).

We sons of Africa, now awakened To the glories of our land, Know how rich, kind Nature, made us, Bounties strown on every hand.

We have welcomed foreign strangers, Helped them build their farm and town; But they now upon us frown.

We were taught that we were heathens, Knowing not the way to live, And we took their word for gospel, But we find they'd naught to give.

We received their high professions, Sat in reverence, at their feet, Nursed their babes and sang their praises, Now the dew has turned to sleet.

We were told, in terms most pious, Freedom lanes should be our lot; Laws be weighed by 'blindfold justice' But, we find it all a plot.

Our awakening, as from nightmare, Disillusioned, and distressed; Leaves us staggering, weak and wrenny, But with hope that swells the breast.

Nature, rich in springs of wisdom, Calls us to her founts to drink; We will follow where she leads us, Teaching us the way to think.

Nature teaches us the lesson, Born of simple common sense, That we helped to build the country; But have had no recompense.

Nature in her voice resounding, Calls upon all those who mull; Bind together, act like brothers, Men of Africa, sons of toil!

We are building up a union, With which we hope to save the land, I.C.U. are its initials; In its ranks we take our stand.

We shall render General Hertzog All the help that we can give; To save our country from the clutches of a slave, Make it so that all may live.

In the words of General Hertzog, 'Sweated labour is a curse,' And, South Africa must be rescued, 'Till she sinks from hind to worse.

We Africans therefore are determined, Forthwith, to ask for better pay, Surely this can't be denied us, Our position—equal partners, And we'll take the job in hand.

We shall show by workmen's councils, How to banish sweated ill; How to raise the blackman's status, How to conquer strife that kills.

Pacefully, let it be noted, We shall win our 'day' and 'say,' Though we're met with guns and sabres, We shall provoke no senseless fray.

Nature says in every language, To her myriad tolling sons That to find emancipation, Can be done in spite of guns.

and Wage Commission that the position of 'control'...

Secretary of State had an interview with the Minister of Education...

Mr. Benson of the Department of Education had an interview with the Minister of Education...

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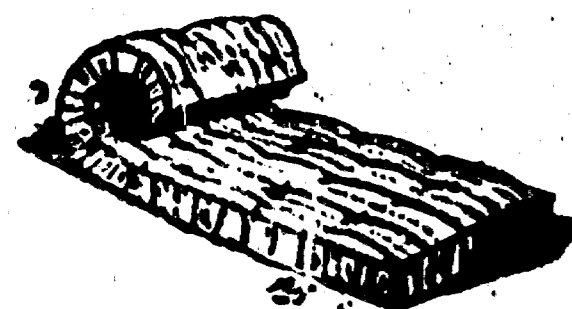
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THE NATIONAL LEVY, 1925.

(Continued.)

To SHAPE OUR DESTINY.

Table with names and amounts for the National Levy 1925, including Johannesburg, Dorah Mokone, David N'Kumbuzi, etc.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL WISHES TO IMPRESS UPON MEMBERS THE NECESSITY FOR RESPONDING TO THE NATIONAL LEVY BEFORE THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN APRIL, 1925.

Political Turncoats.

Some old fellows who should now be counting chickens on their farms, or chewing vacuum in Honolulu, still persist in dabbling in politics.

Sports News.

THE NEGRO RACE HOLDING THEIR OWN WITH EUROPEANS IN THE BOXING RING.

Bill Richmond ex-slave, Peter Jackson, Sam Langford, Joe Jeunette, Jack Johnson, Sam McVey, Jack Blackburn, Joe Walcott, Joe Gans, George Dixon, George Günther, Molyneux, Happy Harry Sallars, (Frank Craig, the Coffee Cooler), Peter Felix, Pancho Villa, Tiger Flowers, Harry Wills. These are the Blackies who made brilliant boxing history and brought the Negro race to fame in the boxing ring.

other, never allowed to see the outside world. My firm opinion about these compounds is that they are nothing more or less than lunatic asylums.

For the benefit of readers of this paper and to enlighten and prove that all the above-mentioned boxers had brains, I will give some of their records. Take for instance Jack Johnson who fought and defeated the European champion, Tommy Burns. Jack Johnson simply played with him and when in the thirtieth round the police stepped in and stopped the fight.

Correspondence.

The Editor of the "Workers' Herald." Sir,—Kindly permit me space in your valuable paper to mention that at last there has been a revival in tennis circles among the Coloured People.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Owing to machinery breakdown, and the delay caused by the erection of a new Linotype machine, our printers were greatly handicapped in the timely publication of this issue.

Kangelani ke Umsebensi Wama India.

Sihlala sibonisa kule mhlathi ukuba umanyano ngamiandla. Namhlanje ama-India ayicacisele inyaniso yalonto. U Dr. Malan, umfo lo wangenisa i bili ekohlakelayo yama India uvumile ukuba ibili le mayituyelwe kwi Komiti e ketiweyo ka Rulumente.

Kakaloku ke, mzi ka Nty lom-cimbi woku manyana ubalulekile.

Kakaloku ke, mzi ka Nty lom-cimbi woku manyana ubalulekile kakulu, kwaye ke umzi jikelele uyatshiswa yile miteto ka Rulumente.

Palamente Noka Kadalie.

Kaloku e Palamente xa sokuba thuntu eteta kakubi ngomye akana kusuke lwa ngokwase mtiweni kuba ukuselwe ngokubako kwake kakati apo e Palamente.

I Cala le I.C.U. e Tekwini Kufuneka Abafundi be Pepa

Onko amalungu e I.C.U. kanye nalabo abazwelana nomutshi ngumsebenzi abahlolile nabobala babant-sundu luya celwa ukuba babonakalise ubantu, bube ngokutumela umnikelo wabo wecala ku NOBHALA WE KOMITI, 11, Leopold Street, Durban.

IMIVUZO E BLOEMFONTEIN.

Apu kweli lakwa Tsallitara kuyazi abayigxanga yemivuzo, Oku Madun- u Alex, yenu ongu Nobhala onkululekwe, kubonakala okokuba uzimisele ukuba bonisa abelungu infanekiso zabo kufi midaka.

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ABANTU.

U-Professor Jas. S. E... Abantu... Abantu... Abantu...

IZITUNYA ZE K...

I Komati ne dani... Izitunya... Izitunya... Izitunya...

