

THE THREATENED BAN IN SOUTH AFRICA

In September the **LABOUR MONTHLY** published details of a threatened ban on working-class literature, including the **LABOUR MONTHLY**, in South Africa. News has since come through that the Government has now succeeded in legalising this ban. Without any opposition, even from the Labour members, either in the Lower House or in the Senate itself, a Bill to amend the Customs Act was passed so that instead of the clause reading as we gave it in September empowering the Government to seize "objectionable and indecent literature," the clause now reads "objectionable in any way whatsoever."

The **LABOUR MONTHLY** understands that a deputation representing the Trades and Labour Council (the South African T.U.C.), the Labour Party and the Communist Party, sponsored by the Citizens' Rights Committee, has lodged a protest with the Minister of the Interior.

In answer to the deputation's requirement that the Minister should give an undertaking not to bring working-class literature under this ban, Mr. Hofmeyer, the said Minister, answered that owing to "the peculiar race question" no such undertaking could be given. Readers will realise that this "peculiar race question" signifies nothing but a situation in which all Bantu peoples are exploited down to the most extreme depths of poverty and are denied all equality whatsoever with the white peoples for the greater profit of the white capitalists. The latter's Government, therefore, will make every effort to prevent any exposure of this system from reaching the ears of these Bantu peoples.

Consequently in the interest of the rights and freedom of all peoples, whatever their colour, readers are urged to do all in their power to prevent this threatened ban which, though up to the time of writing has not yet been brought into operation, from being imposed. The deputation has served to expose the Government's purpose, but readers however will realise that this is not enough. Every effort should be made by all readers, especially in South Africa, to send themselves a letter of protest, or get their organisation also to pass a resolution of protest.

The **LABOUR MONTHLY** also appeals particularly to its English and American readers to do likewise, as experience has shown that protests from organisations outside the country concerned have particular effect.

THE LABOUR PARTY PREPARES FOR WAR

By R. F. ANDREWS

These kings defile us with their powder,
We want no war within the land ;
Let soldiers strike : for peace call louder,
Lay down arms, and join hand in hand.
But should these vile monsters still determine
"Heroes" to make us in despite,
They'll know full soon the kind of vermin
Our bullets hit in this last fight.

THE Labour Party has forgotten that fifth verse of the *International*, which once tens of thousands of its children sang in the Socialist Sunday Schools. Dead and buried, too (for the Labour Party), is the resolution of the Basle International Socialist Congress against War of 1912, which said the same thing as the international workers' hymn, in more carefully chosen words. Dead and buried is that resolution of the Hague World Peace Congress of December, 1922, for which the Labour Party delegation voted unanimously, and according to which (we read in the Party Executive report to the Annual Conference in 1923) : "The Labour Movement itself must oppose all wars which may threaten to break out in the future with all the means at its disposal, and prevent the actual outbreak of such wars by proclaiming and carrying out a General Strike." Dead and buried is even the lip service paid to working-class internationalism in that resolution of the foundation Congress of the Labour and Socialist International at Hamburg (May, 1923), for which the Labour Party Executive reported that its delegation voted as "one delegation seeking common agreement," and which declared :

This struggle of the international working class against imperialist policy will be most effective if Labour everywhere fights against the imperialism and capitalism of its own country, with all Parliamentary and extra-Parliamentary means at its disposal for the class struggle. . . . The first requirement of this struggle is that the Labour and Socialist Parties of all countries refuse all support to an imperialist war, and that their Parliamentary representatives in accordance with this attitude, withhold their consent to military or war credits having imperialist objects.

And even the resolution of last year's Labour Party Conference at Hastings—which only declared that the deepening of imperialist and capitalist rivalries is "a direct cause" of war, which made no mention of the unpleasant duty described in that forgotten verse of the *International* : but which did declare that "the working class of any country