Call to the Native Workers.



George Mason's address in the Trades city. last Thursday on Trade Unions less in the Socialist one.

George Mason came to speak of the him in the turmoil of Labour agitation. And write. indeed, his address coruscated with flashes of tervour.

In reviewing the history of the subject, the trades here. That was his outlook on however they had discovered that the inte- taking such liberties? (laughter). rests of the white worker were bound up with those of the native. They found that they into touch with intelligent native workmen. could not stop Kleinfontein Mine without They must have a strong machine behind the native co-operation. He therefore appealed movement before whites can make direct to them, and they responded almost to a appeals to natives. But they can help with man, and the mine was stopped. Then came funds. He referred to the trial of natives the Tailor's Strike in December, when in | who had led the native strike on the Van spite of much criticism from his fellow Trade | Ryn, and said that those three leaders had of the Malay tailors, resulting in a mixed deration should have helped those men and Gallagher, who were arrested in February for meeting of whites and coloured in the Old | fought their case. When the time came he Trades Hall, at which an arrangement advantageous to both sections was secured.

Had they an organised native working class with them in the January Strike not dice and higher wages in order that they all the troops in creation could have beaten | should act the policeman on the native. The them. The Government-was not born that | white section of the workers were bribed by could have put them out of the country bread to keep down the native section fighting if they had fought side by side with the native at that time. 'You can never stop industry in this country without organising the native."

native should be organised George summarily dealt with the stale nonsense purveyed in the Labour Movement on the native's mena workman in the rough and tumble of void. mine work, and dealing with native labourers kaffir was good to listen to. One had almost | effectively than anything else." a suspicion that George was a kind of Bobby

The gathering that came to listen-to his judgement as to degrees of mental capa-

But he brought arguments. Men are and the Native Question" was a unique one. | not to be judged by the amount of informa-The usual monotone of white faces in the tion they possess. Given time Oxford audience was broken by the presence of about | Education could pass a monkey through the a dozen dusky ones, representatives, more B.A. test. But a man's mental capacity must be the missionary fraud. They had told them or less, of an awakening million who may judged by the extent to which he can develop to fear God and live in peace, but behind not be ignored in the capitalist scheme, far his own faculties. And in this regard the native showed marvellous possibilities.

The founders of the British Trade Union tion insoluble. native worker as one who had discovered | Movement were men who could not read and

They were often told how great was the insight straight from the anvil of experience. directing ability which managed these mines. It was a surprize to those that were under | But the efficiency of the organisation of inthe impression that the six-men-and-a-corpo- dustry flows from the bottom upwards, not ral agitator had gone a-vegitating to find that from the top. The efficiency of the mining Mr. Sauer could not have solved the native he still burned with the old revolutionary industry rests on the efficiency of the native worker in his own sphere.

The native's mind was fresh and clear was insoluble. George Mason recalled that shortly prior to of the prejudices which from childhood bethe July 1913 strike, the Federation had cloud the mind of the white. He was cominitiated an agitation, at his own instigation, munal by instinct. Who had not seen kaffir against the coloured artisans in Johannesburg workers sitting round a pot of mealie pap. and had succeeded in ousting many from When a strange native entered the group he em incipation found an inlet into the native "tucked in" to the scoff with the rest without the native question then. In the July strike any ceremony. Who ever heard of whites discounted by the as yet unconquered colour

The lecturer urged that they should get Unionists, they had sought the co-operation | earned the gratitude of posterity. The Hewas prepared to do his utmost to organise the natives, though he were deported again.

> The white workers were fed with prejufor bread.

In response to a question as to the posiwer of the native indenture laws to prevent combination among the natives, George Ma-Before proceeding to suggest how the son said that the way to abolish a law was to put it to its absolute test. The British Trade Union Movement started in spite of cruel and repressive laws, and they were pertal capacity. The worker that is efficient for force repealed by the strength of Trade any arm of capitalist industry is doubly effi- Unionism. The same way they had made cient for Labour organisation. Coming from the Industrial Disputes Act here null and

Referring to inter-tribal prejudice, every day, George Mason's eulogy of the said that capitalism was killing that more

Burns who allowed his dominant sense of not be wasted in arguing against the preju- the House)."

when it came to a question of colour. What was needed was to get the native workers to train and organise themselves so that they could compel respect.

Most interesting contributions were made to the discussion by Comrades Dunbar, Andrews, Campbell and four or five of the natives present.

. Letanka rather humourously referred to them came the troops. Mr. Sauer on his death-bed had pronounced the native ques-

Comrade Andrews warned the natives present that the class war of rich and poor obtained among the natives as well. The wealthy native combined with the wealthy white to exploit his own race. Their business was only with the native wage earner. question had he lived to be a thousand. The same people said the poor white question

Mvataza spoke in very appreciative vein and seemed greatly impressed with the "Agitators" words. One felt sure that George Mason's militant gospel of working class heart, with consequences not to be lightly prejudice even of many Socialists.

The meeting terminated with congratulations to George Mason on his address, and an enthusiastic rendering of all three versus of the Red Flag.

The Clyde Deportations.

The Glasgow Socialist reveals the fact that the Ministry of Munitions urged that no bail be granted to Comrades Muir, Bell and publishing "The Worker." But the Crown had reckoned without the Clyde Workers Committee. Within twenty-four hours the authorities were willing to grant bail because the Clyde workers began to stop work in sympathy with the imprisoned men. By the time 15,000 men had struck work the accusedwere liberated on bail, and were expected to be tried at the Edinburgh High Courts some time in March.

No doubt the arrests and deportations from the Clyde, with the strike of Clyde workers now in progress, is the sequel to that trial.

"Gentlemen, do you really wish that out of this slaughter, which all men have indeed deplored—(continued shouts of "Order!") should emerge as its final result a Europe forming nothing but a heap of ruins— ("Quite right" from the Socialists; renewed shouts of "Order!")—drenched with tears and blood? We demand the renunciation of all plans of annexation—(assent and anproval from the Socialists)—from whatever he side they come, and in whatever shape they. are manifested. We want peace.' (The last words of the speaker were lost in the rising approval and applause of the Social Demo-Comrade Mason urged that time should crats. Great disorder in the other parts of

(Extract from speech by Herr Huise, Leider. kinship with the Universal Human to warp dice of white workers. Reason left them of the German Social Democrats in the Reichstag.)