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The International

THE WORLD'S CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

THE ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (S.A. Section of the Communist International)
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To Our Readers.

In order to give a spell to the editing, printing and publishing staff, the "International" has annually since its foundation in 1915 suspended publication for one week at the Christmas season. This time, instead of suspending altogether, we publish this sheet to explain the position to our readers, and to notify them that next week a full issue will appear as usual. To-day's sheet will not be counted as one of the series making up a yearly subscription, and will be priced at one penny (bundle orders 6d. a dozen).

Many Workers are Saying—

That the success of the Swaraj or Home Rule Party in India, though open, like Social Democratic parties, to severe Communist criticism, marks an important stage in the decay of Imperialism, and that the party did the right thing in refusing to take office until the political prisoners were released, as the Labour Party in the Johannesburg Town Council is doing the right thing in preventing the Tramway Committee from carrying on until the strike victims are reinstated.

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That the Indian Government looks like invading Afghanistan as Mussolini invaded Corfu for the murder of somebody or other, and is using our old friend the "Bolshevism" cry as an extra slogan to gain English liberal support.

* * *

That that English liberal must be easily guiled indeed when without a chuckle a S.A. High Commissioner finds it possible to tell him that the first step in civilising the Bondelswarts was to teach them the "dignity of labour" for a white boss; but

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That perhaps Mr. Sol Plaatje and the other bible-punching natives with him are more gullible still when without a chuckle they accept Comrade Smuts as a patron of their "brotherhood society," and invite their brother of Village Deep, Port Elizabeth, Bulhoek and Bondelswart fame to address them on liberty, equality and fraternity for all irrespective of colour (for do we not see all colours when we are being bombed?)

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That the President of the Chamber of Mines must also have had difficulty in suppressing a chuckle when he lectured other people's newspapers for suppressing the truth and publishing lies.

* * *

That the latest recruit to despair of capitalism is the S.A. Director of Census, who says the only way to preserve the position of white workers is either to destroy it by reducing their present "extravagant" standard to Kaffir level, or else to accelerate industrial output by competing with other countries, which he says is impossible!

* * *

That Smuts confesses to an ultra-Fascist contempt of democracy when he demands fulfilment of preference "promises" which were at the time made contingent on electoral support which has been refused!

Wages! Wages!

Regarding the demand for an increase of wages from the Chamber of Mines, a meeting of all workers employed on the gold mines will be held at the Tivoli Theatre, President Street, Johannesburg, this Sunday, December 23rd, at 10.30 a.m. Come and hear what is going on, as it concerns you. The following Unions are taking part:—South African Mine Workers' Union, S.A. Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association, S.A. Reduction Workers, Building Workers' Industrial Union, Amalgamated Engineers' Union, Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers.

German Famine Relief Fund.

As the result of the invitation from Mr. Ivan Walker and other leading trade unionists published in our last issue, a well-attended non-political meeting representative of various working class and liberal elements was held on the 14th inst. at the office of the Engine Drivers' Association, No. 2, Trades Hall, Johannesburg, to consider what steps could be taken in response to the appeal of the International Workers' Relief published in our issue of the 30th ult.

Mr. Ivan Walker presided, and after he had briefly explained the object of the meeting, all present formed themselves into a GERMAN FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE for South Africa, with power to add.

An Executive was elected, including Mr. Walker as chairman and, as Treasurer, the Rev. M Ponsonby, the Deanery, De Villiers Street, assisted by Mr. E. G. Pitman, P.O. Box 4919, Johannesburg, TO WHOM CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE SENT, and APPLICATION MADE FOR SUBSCRIPTION LISTS, at once.

The full Committee meets again this (Friday) afternoon at No. 2, Trades Hall, at 5.30 p.m. ALL WILLING TO ASSIST THE MOVEMENT ARE EARNESTLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

N.B.—The Johannesburg Press, although supplied with a report of the above meeting, has failed to find space for it, which is worse even than its attitude towards the Russian Famine Fund in 1921. Indeed the "Mail" actually finds space for a wretched attack on the Fund!

A Mean Lot.

Three arguments have been put forward locally against S.A. relief for the German Famine:

(1) There is unemployment in South Africa, therefore it is "preposterous" to send money abroad. But it is not thought preposterous to send money for the Barnardo Homes or the Wembley Exhibition or the Japanese earthquake or an Olympic tour or a wedding present for a Princess. Besides, Smuts says there is no unemployment here. Anyway, because hunger is not relieved here is it not to be relieved anywhere? Crabbing or killing relief for Germany does not produce more local relief. Charity does not begin at home merely because it ends abroad. All this is simply so much "elder brother" croaking and dog-in-the-manger barking. Besides, there is plenty of money, somewhere, for both local and German reliefs, and if the G.F.R. Committee raises only a small part of the sum collected for local objects it will be pleased, although the hunger here is small indeed compared to that in Germany. Moreover, as starvation wages in Germany help to bring starvation wages here too (if indeed they are not already responsible for much of the local and world-wide unemployment) it will pay even South African workers and workless to mitigate them. If the German workers go under, the workers of all the world will soon follow.

(2) It is the German capitalists who ought to do the relieving. The Americans offering a 70 million dollar loan, or the Dutch sending food trains to Germany, evidently do not think so. However, certainly capitalists ought to relieve their own victims, who made them rich. But that is true in every country. The capitalists of South Africa ought to relieve the unemployed of South Africa. But they don't do it, and only the Social Revolution can make them disgorge their booty for this or any other purpose.

(3) The "Germans" deserve nothing because they killed women and children. Then neither do the Union Air Force or the Indian Army on the Afghan frontier deserve anything. That is warfare everywhere nowadays. But the guilty parties are the surfeited war lords, not the cannon fodder now starving. And in Germany such baby-killing has practically stopped, whereas the British Empire is carrying on gaily with it still.

The winning number for the table is B105.

Comrade Andrews in Britain.

ON THE STUMP IN THE ELECTIONS.

Comrade Andrews writes that he arrived in Britain from Russia on November 21, and was soon travelling round various constituencies in which Communists were standing for election. "I spent a few days with Wm. Paul at the Rusholme Division of Manchester, and with Miss Wilkinson at Ashton-under-Lyne. On November 28 I arrived at Glasgow, and went to two meetings for Ferguson (Kelvingrove). On the 29th and 30th I go to Motherwell, for Newbold; then to Kelvingrove again, thence to Dundee for two days with Gallacher, and the day before the poll to a rally in London. The constituencies are enormous, 35 to 37 thousand voters, and many committees are necessary. Tom Mann is here and is as vigorous as ever. The Labour Party has endorsed Wm. Paul and Miss Wilkinson and refused Ferguson. They had to give way in Manchester to local Labour Party pressure, only yielding after a deputation was sent to London. It seems rather strange to be supporting Labour candidates, although they are members of the C.P.! I am quite well but shall be glad when this is over. We have had fog, frost and snow, skating, etc., etc., but packed meetings notwithstanding."

At Rusholme, Wm. Paul came third with 5,366 votes. At Ashton-under-Lyne Miss Wilkinson was third with 6,208. At Kelvingrove Ferguson got 10,021 against 11,025 for the Conservative. At Motherwell Newbold had 8,712 votes against 9,793 for the "Independent Conservative." At Dundee Gallacher came last with 10,380 in a two-member contest.

In London the Communist candidates were:—Battersea: N. Saklatvala, who polled 12,341 against the Liberal's 12,572. Bethnal Green, S.W.: J. J. Vaughan, second with 5,251 to the Liberal's 5,735. There were two others standing whom Comrade Andrews could not visit:—Gloucester: M. Phillips Price, with 8,327 against 8,630 for the Conservative; and Greenock: A. Geddes, 10,335 to the Liberal's 16,337.

Christmas Presents.

A unique collection of Russian handicraft goods, including some very attractive examples of peasant art, is on sale at No. 4, Trades Hall, at reduced prices.

Notice is hereby given that the business of General Dealers, carried on in co-partnership by Max Blieden, John Blieden and Louis Caplan at Eloff Station, Transvaal, under the style or firm of Blieden and Caplan, will be dissolved as from the 1st January, 1924, and that the said Business will in future be carried on by the said Max Blieden and Louis Caplan under the same style.

Eloff, 10th December, 1923.

J. BACHARACH,
Agent for Blieden and Caplan.

14/21/28.

Notice is hereby given that the General Dealer's and Tea Room Business carried on by Solomon Sachs at 10, Fox Street, Johannesburg, has been transferred to Ebrahim Sally as from 1st December, 1923.

14/21/28.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the General Dealer's Business carried on by Israel Winer on Stand No. 93, 34, Beit Street, Doornfontein, Johannesburg, has been abandoned as from the 1st December, 1923.

7/14/21.

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