

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' STRIKE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The general upsurge in the revolutionary movement throughout the world draws into the struggle ever-greater numbers of the proletarian masses. Each day brings fresh news about the struggle going on between the exploited and exploiters, about this struggle extending in scope, about the most backward sections of the working class rallying to it, and about the transfer of the proletariat from the defensive to the offensive.

The movement among the agricultural workers, evidenced lately in the S.W. Cape Province (South Africa), once again proves the general awakening of the exploited and oppressed toiling masses.

Everywhere the agricultural workers are that section of the working class which is most cruelly exploited. Simultaneously, they are the least class-conscious and most backward strata of the proletariat. In the colonial and semi-colonial countries the workers are in actual fact slaves or chattel slaves. They get miserably low wages for their heavy labours, lasting from early dawn until sunset. The white farmers in South Africa consider the farm labourers employed by them to be their own property, however, treating them worse than their working cattle. The agricultural workers in South Africa are leading a miserable, semi-starvation existence, without any hopes whatever for being able to better their conditions under the present rule of Imperialism.

Heavy taxes, laws prohibiting them from going freely from place to place, brutal punishments and even corporal punishment for the slightest offense---such is the fate of millions and millions of the South African land workers. The exploiters thought that by means of their brutal oppression they had succeeded in stamping out every desire in the hearts of the toilers for struggling to better their lives, and for complete liberation.

However, the oppressors were mistaken. We are living to-day in the great age of Revolutionary Struggle. The proletariat and the oppressed working masses, having been awakened from their long-age sleep, now took up the determined fight for their liberation, for doing away forever with all exploitation and oppression.

The farm labourers of the Cape Province have now begun to organise, putting up certain demands to the farmers, for bettering their working conditions and for increasing wages. They also demand that the farmers stop holding their labourers in a continuous state of intoxication, and that an end be put to replacing by means of alcohol the lack of energy of the exhausted workers.

Already from the very beginning the land workers are compelled to suffer from the violent pressure brought to bear by the united front of the employers, the police, judges and white chauvinists. The farmers endeavoured to disperse some of the meetings of the labourers by force, however, the latter put up due resistance and succeeded in defending their rights.

And when it was decided by two of the farmers to fire some of their most active workers, they received a reply which, truly, they had little expected: all the workers occupied on their farms declared a sympathy strike. The strikers were subject to terrible persecution. They, together with their families, driven from the farms; and when they stopped at the nearest village, the police declared them to be vagabonds

and compelled them to travel on. However, by means of police restrictions it was not possible to prevent the movement of the land workers, and the struggle is developing and extending.

The struggle of the farm labourers in the Cape Province is only the first step towards organising the struggle throughout South Africa. It should be the task of the land workers to establish strong unions, and affiliating with the Federation of Native Unions, to wage the struggle hand in hand with all other class-conscious proletarians of South Africa against the whole capitalist system.

The International Conference of Negro Workers, which will meet in London on July 1st, will even to a greater degree strengthen the will of the millions of Negro toilers to struggle. The Conference will draw up a general programme of action and demands, and will indicate the path along which the Negro working masses should tread in order to finally overthrow the yoke of Imperialism and abolish all capitalist exploitation.

A. GOLD.

TOILING MASSES OF THE VILLAGE, JOIN WITH THE WORKERS AND EXPROPRIATE THE RICH LANDOWNERS, THE CAPITALISTS AND THE PRINCES OF THE CHURCH! LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTIONARY ALLIANCE OF THE WORKING CLASS WITH THE TOILING MASSES OF THE VILLAGE!