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THE INTERNATIONAL

THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

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Return of Stockholm Delegate.

All subscribers to the Stockholm Conference Fund are requested to make a point of attending a conference on Sunday, the 11th inst, in the Palmerston Hotel, Commissioner St., Johannesburg at 10 a.m. The business is important and amongst other items will be the report of the delegate, Com. W. H. Andrews, financial statement, consideration of an organising tour by the delegate, and any matters affecting the relations of the League to the international working

class. There is naturally some disappointment at the failure of the attempt to bring the workers together in some neutral centre; but our comrade's visit to Britain has certainly not been unfruitful. He has been closely in touch with the various phases of the movement in Britain, and at the Inter-Allied Socialist and Labour Conference was able to make the acquaintance of many of the Continental leaders. The young and growing revolutionary movement in Britain is hardly known outside the British Isles, and our delegate has much to say of the work of the workshop committees,/labour college movement, and such organisations as the S.L.P., B.S.P.,

It is hoped that all comrades will make an effort to attend, and that those comrades and organisations who have so generously helped to finance the scheme but are unable to be present will send along any suggestions that they may wish to have discussed, and if possible appoint some local comrade to advocate their views. The notice is rather short, but the matter is urgent, as it is necessary to decide immediately whether any further use can be made of Com. Andrews' services so that he may know what steps to take to provide for himself and his family.

W.S.L., etc.

The International is not dead. Betraved by the leaders, political and industrial, the proletariat is organising in the workshops, mines, fields, factories, railways, etc., and will, in spite of leaders and governments, cross all

frontiers and fraternise once more. Down With War. Long Live the international.

DEFENCE, ETC., FUNDS. List of Donations. (More Wanted). _S.W., £2; John H., £5; A.A. £5; Burn, 5s.; G.N.,, 5s.; J.D., £5; Sto., £3; F,H., £5; W.H.H., 10s.; A.Z.B., 10s.; H.L., 10s.; L.K., 10s.; D.L.D., 10s.: E.R., £22s.; L.H.H.G., £111s.; P.G., 4s.; Max, 5s.; J.T., £1; P.D., 5s.; P.V.G., 10s.; G.H.H., £1; F.H., £2; J.C., £8 4s.; J.N. (for friend). 12s. 6d.; J.M. for R.J., £1; F.J.N., £1; B.S., £2; J.R., £1 16s.; Thi, 10s. J.D., 15s. - B.G.R., 21.

Revolution in Britain.

Johannesburg comrades welcomed Bill Andrews at West's Academy last Saturday in record fashion, for the takings, stimulated no doubt by the need for Defence Funds, eclipsed all previous figures, which is only as it should be in view of the record deficits to be wiped off, still formidable enough to demand further strenuous aid on the part of the more fortunate in the world's scramble.

Com. Andrews sketched his doings and impressions in England, remarking incidentally on the growth and progress of the movement in Capetown during his absence. After the failure of one "Inter-Allied Socialist Conference" for which our delegate reached England too late, another was arranged for February last under the auspices of the Labour Party and Trade Union Congress. How our delegate, whom the I.S.L. had been invited to send, was passed over when it came to issuing actual invitations to this conference (although his credentials were fully acknowledged) because he had in the meantime by speeches and writings proved his mettle to the distaste of Arthur Henderson and Co.: how the conference was ''packed' to endorse the official memorandum of the Pro-War Sections; how this section from Italy, although a minority, and that from France, now also a minority, got to London in good time while their opponents were hung up; how votes were caught by promising 'liberty' after "victory"; and how it was resolved to convene an International Congress likely to be similarly "selected," from belligerent countries only, each country to vote as one—these things have already been touched on in Andrews' letters from England. While the war lasts, he said, no "International" proper will get passports. The only real International will meet despite Governments, and will directly represent the workers in industries, who have the power to end the war.

The coming Labour Movement in Britain, he said—the making of history for the next five years—is in the hands of men unknown to fame or Parliament. The Trade Unions are indeed a stumbling block, yet they contain 4.000.000 workers and are increasing. It is inside these trade unions that the new movement, hostile to Executives, Federations. "Labour Lieutenants" and long agreements, is growing, in the shape of shop stewards, works' committees, unofficial committees and so on; groups of men formed as they get together in the shops, with not more than 15 men to one steward, and delegates sent by the stewards to the Works Committees. This is how Industrial Unionism will be most rapidly brought about in England.

For instance, at the Vulcan Warks, Scuthport, there were 1,500 workers divided among 22 unions: but

in a few minutes the Works' Committee had the 1,500 out to enforce the reinstatement of a victimised comrade, Murphy, an active worker in the new movement. The Government advice to reinstate was rejected until the threat of a sympathetic down tools at Sheffield—also arranged in a few min-

utes-secured its adoption.

The towns are linking up into a National Executive which is bound to become all powerful, and the trade unions will conform to the new de facto regime, while the Labour Party will eventually break up. This is no blind movement, it is carried on by men influenced by the Plebs League and Central Labour Collège literature and economic study classes with which John Maclean's name is associated; and its purpose is nothing short of "taking over." So much so that the A.S.E. recently rejected all "Joint Control" schemes put forward by the Government and derlared it would be satisfied only with working-class control of industry. The Revolution is already afoot in Britain.

This British movement, to a man, gives its moral support to our efforts in South Africa to get into contact with the toilers, the only material for a Labour movement anywhere, and here mostly non-European. Pure white organisations only delay the evil day, though we should not unnecessarily antagonise any section. But the fact that this policy has brought persecution on itself shows that it has become

a burning question.

(And yet, as on a previous occasion, it is remarkable that the League has been unable to arrange a gathering at which the toilers, of all sections, can attend. No suitable hall has yet been found from which some sections of them are not excluded by the landlord. But we still have hopes.—Ed.)

League Conference.

Besides the above conference on the 11th, the Management Committee of the League have also decided to call a special conference of the League for Sunday, the 18th inst., at 10 a.m.

As in the past all members of the League are invited to attend with the right to take part in discussion, but

only delegates will vote.

The agenda will include reports from the M.C., Finance Committee, Press Committee, and Building and Press Fund. Special attention will be drawn to the financial position of the League.

Branches and members are requested to see that notices of motion are in at Head Office at latest by 12th inst.

The question of the Secretaryship and Editorship will be up for discresion; also the position of the M.C., and the past, present and future programme and work of the League in gonera..

Verb Sap.

Significant evidence has been given before the Strike Enquiry Commission. Several municipal witnesses declared there would have been no sanitary strike if more tact had been used; if the boys had not been sent to work in strange areas, with no certainty of extra pay for it; if their application for a rise had been more promptly dealt with; and if Councillors had not poked their noses inside the compound. However that may be, nearly every witness, when asked the cause of the strikes, says in effect: "Please, Sir, it wasn't me, Sir; it must have been agitators''—or perhaps 'provocateurs'' would have been a better word.

How much or how little the "International" knew on the subject has already been stated in these columns from time to time. M'Belle also, the secretary of the Native Congress, said he had no idea how the sanitary strike began. Makgatho, the President, first heard of it after Macfie's judgment. Msimang, a native attorney and Congress official, said, "We don't know who was responsible for the sanitary strike, we just heard of it when it started." As for the subsequent strike talk, M'Simang declined to say whether he was on the 'secret committee,' whose duty (according to another witness) was to advise, or consult with a representative meeting, as to what was to be done if a request for a ls. rise was not granted: but at any rate, he says: "We (the Congress) resolved against a strike, because we heard that there were people going about saying that on Monday, July 1, there was to be a general strike. I told the Congress about these people.". M'Belle said there were recognised leaders of the "Industrial Workers of Africa" and of the S.A. Native National Congress: but these men who wanted to strike did not consult those associations as they should have done. Certain allegations since repudiated in another place were evidently used by the Crown as a basis for cross-examination: but no one knew anything of the alleged emissaries to, or meetings in, various districts to foment a strike, although at one meeting in Johannesburg, says M'Belle, a strike, or an orranisation for one, was actually proposed, but not carried. There was no auestion of a strike on the City Deep: "the boys had not even heard of the demand for more money until they got General Botha's message of June 29; then they wanted more.

On the bosses' side little more seened to be known. Mr. Cooke, of the Native Affairs Department, says: The strike was somewhat the result of the Power Strike; there was a certai amount of spontaneity in the demand, and probably also some propa-. ganda." Referring to the leastet circonlated by the I.W.A., that sort of thing, he thought, contributed "to create an atmosphere susceptible to in-Huences such as strike propaganda. Mr. Wallers said the Chamber of Mines thought the recent unrest was due to outside agitation. Mr. Berg, Inspector in the N.A. Dept., says there was some instigation, the cry man sor perrot like. A compound manther, seked if any boys refused to go well verlied: We didn't give Line the Manager we pushed them the Manager of the Walls was browning—the result

of agitation by a few people." Another, almost as positive (although a boy from the same property declared that 'no one came to the mine, or, at the mine, spoke about going on strike") said: "I was told that skibengas-agitators-had been at the compound for the last month or six weeks." Unfortunately next to no particulars are given.

Only Saul M'Sane and the Rev. H: W. Goodwin deign to offer obvious explanations. The former said: "The present movement is of slow growth, and contained signs of a national awakening, due to the way in which the native has been treated in the past. The latter round ly attributes the whole trouble to Macfie's judgment—which certainly was enough to account for nearly every-Hung except the sanitary strike it-

Perhaps all the witnesses are right. There was tinder there, but it was not altogether a case of self-ignition. Something more was wanted, which the inquiry has hardly disclosed.

According to the "Pretoria News" everyone knows now that the 19141 strike was engineered by the Government. We have, however, no information to warrant the suggestion of an analogy.

66 Blessed are the Meek"

A comrade writing to me some time ago from a Karoo town stated that a great many of the people he spoke to were in favour of Socialism, the one trouble, however, being the so-called extreme policy of the Socialists. As the comrade in question is a staunch revolutionary socialist it is no doubt his vigorous preaching of the classwar that has troubled his hearers. There are a few persons of this type to be met in labour and socialist parties to whom the class war is anathema. When pressed they will admit that "there is a conflict of interests." but they refuse to admit that only by waging the class war can the workers be emancipated. Marx and his followers have toiled for these people in vain. He addressed his appeal to the workers and bade them unite. They appeal to the master class to be fair. etc. He showed that the path to the Socialist Commonwealth was through the class struggle. They maintain that the workers can only be freed by the workers gently following the labour leaders (?) down the primrose path of social peace. Their hearts (bless them) have been greatly troubled by the misery and poverty seen all around them: but things can be improved under capitalism if both sides would only be reasonable." They always profess to admire the ideal of the Socialist Commonwealth; but "your class war men are so hasty and unreasonable." These persons are generally in labour parties (so-called) earnestly discussing the woes of the workers, which they have no doubt would be abolished once their party attained nower. They are generally very self-satisfied, and imagine that they have been appointed by God to lead the workers into the land of promise. That the workers do not need audance so much as education does not strike them. Men of this type conf etitle the main strength of political and build union miclouders. They help to supplie the spirit of revolt in the

workers, a state of affairs which generally leads to a betrayal of the workers.

Should a militant section of the workers go on strike these men are on the scene at once. With a neverending talk of social peace and social duty they seek to impress the middle and upper classes with the fact that they are reasonable and law-abiding citizens. They generally seek to lure the workers into the bogs of arbitration and conciliation boards. When this result is obtained the labour-fakir responsible is applauded by the capitalist press and a good sum of money is forthcoming for his pet scheme.

We hear a lot about social duty and social peace nowadays. Let us discuss these two red herrings. Labour is sold in the open market like hairpins or grand pianos, but this fact is overlooked when a strike occurs. A merchant, If he does not get his price for an article he is selling, keeps it in his store. If the worker cannot get a sufficient remuneration to live on and withholds his labour until he can get a better price (an action he can only take collectively and only for a short time) where is the difference? He is entitled to withhold it. Where does the social duty come in when a dispute is on between master and slaves? But of course the social duty of the workers is to submit quietly to exploitation and not to disturb the "public" with strikes, etc., especially in war-time when we are all "making snug"—I mean "seeing the war through," but let it stand.

Another bogev is the "inconvenience of the public." In every town, in every country there are thousands of men, women and children ruthlessly exploited in the wage system. Everywhere where capitalism has taken root there are thousands of men, women and children living in helpless misery and poverty. Men, women and children living in slums of indescribable filth and degradation, slowly dying for want of food, clothing and shelter. But this does not inconvenience "the public," because, like pigs on a farm, they are kept apart from the rest of the community. These facts make this plain: that no society which consciously or otherwise tolerates such a state of affairs can expect the workers to entertain any idea of social duty or to consider its convenience in any way.

The pratings of our labour-fakirs would lead us to think that the primary necessity for the worker is "social peace. But peace is not the enduring and passionate desire of the wageearners. It is Freedom and Justice they require, and they cannot find it in capitalism. They do not want peace so long as wage-slavery prevails. To accept peace under capitalism would be peace with dishonour. For the workers to desire social peace whilst yet they remain in the bondage of the wage system, whilst yet the great part of their class is living a life no better than that of cattle, is to surrender their manhood. "There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life."

Blessed are the militant workers. for they shall lead us into the land of promise and establish the Kingdom of our dreams.

M. LOPES.

Half Truths.

When a new departure in thought or a new scientific fact is discovered, its acceptance or rejection in a class society depends upon how far these ideas or facts meet the needs of the possessing class or otherwise. The clearness of the new thought, or its obscurity, never determines its use to society, the determining factor being to what extent it may be suied to the interests of the class in control of the economic forces, or be used to create the fallacies that obscure the vision of the dispossessed. So with scientific truths: should they be in conflict with the social ideas of the class in possession, the intellectual hireling's get busy in the interests of their economic masters and rive us those half-truths that are a distortion of the facts of science, misleading the superficial enquirer who is content to accept the views on these subjects put-forward by the paid apologists of the system.

Biology is one of the sciences that has been presented by these apologists for general consumption as a half truth. They mix up biology and sociology into a tangled skein impossible to unravel, leaving the enquirer after truth in a state of confusion, unable. to obtain an intelligent grasp of the history of human societies of the past, and incapable of understanding the social problems of our present form of

society.

Biology as taught by capitalistic hirelings is the one and only factor that has raised man from the brute. It is made to explain all the varied phases of societies that have come and gone, forgetting, or ignoring, the technical process that has been the basis of the entire development of mankind. It is called in to justify the enslaving of sections of humanity, on the ground of inferiority, with never a thought of the economic causes which alone make it possible to have a subject class.

Biologically mankind differs from all other animals. This biological difference singled out the human race and gave it a line of development impossible to any other animal that has existed. It was an essential factor that made possible the economic process that has been the root cause of all the varying changes in human so-

cieties.

To try and explain the phenomena of changing phases of societies, with economic classes, by biological laws is to be blind to the undoubted fact that there is in reality no fundamental difference in natural ability betwen individuals or races. The apparent differences that distinguish men of different professions, or the unskilled labourer from the professor, are not biological but economic. the environment created by the economic factor. The division of labour carried on in different environments has created an abves between them, thus producing a differentiation caused by the economic factor and not by the biological.

The peculiar methods of the intellectual proletariat in dealing with the problems of human society are typified in a lecture recently delivered by Professor H. B. Fantham, M.A., D.Sc., F.Z.S. The evolution of mankind is solely attributed in this lecture to man's conscionsness of a sense of freedom. "Man was separated from other

animals by the possession of consciousness," says the professor. But is man the sole possessor of such a quality? Would it not be more in accordance with the facts to say man possessed the highest form of consciousness, a consciousness different in degree only from the same faculty common to the higher animals?

The higher form of consciousness possessed by man enabled him to reason more correctly, giving him more power in his struggle with nature and his enemies. It is the biological factor without which the perfecting of tools for producing the essentials of life, and arms of defence to overcome his enemies, would have been impossible. Yet the recognition of this factor explains nothing of the varying phases of societies of the past; it gives no clue to the conflicting ideas that have always found expression in class societies.

Man, owing to his biological superiority in consciousness, has made his own history. His history is a perpetual struggle for existence in which race, climatic conditions, and the material needs of sustenance are the basis. The environment is but the reflex of these material conditions, and has ever varied in conformity with them. These material conditions are the factors that explain the evolution of man. The technical advance revolutionismg the means of production creates new economic classes, requiring new laws in keeping with the new productive forces, and moulding the whole of the political institutions so as to give power to the class in control of the economic forces. The half truth that the biological factor "consciousness" is the root cause of the "evolution of man' is clearly shown by an understanding of what consciousness is and whence derived. Professor Fan. tham accepts Kant as an authority on consciousness. Consciousness according to Kant is the still small voice that whispers the word of warning to the individual about to commit some act not in conformity to the moral code prevailing in society: an innate consciousness of right and wrong. Yet the Professor denies this when he says" mental qualities have to be acquired by each generation afresh."

This confusion of idas is typical of professors and other apologists of the system, one time stating consciousness to be innate, another time that it is acquired from the environment. When analysed, consciousness is found incapable of giving expression to anything except what is acquired by and from environment; and human consciousness is but the feeling or expres-

sion of the mental faculties.

The higher mentality of man, giving him an intelligent reasoning consciousness of his material surroundings, was but the point of departure. The guiding and controlling force was his material surroundings, the greatest of which was the economic, that is the providing of the necessaries of life, food, shelter and clothing. His struggle with nature still further developed his mental power, and has given expression to the ideology, on a grander ecale, of art, literature and ecience, an ideology that has its foundations in the material conditions of society; and of these the economic has always dominated. J.M.G.

Shop Stewards and the S.A.I.F.

Those who have followed the trend of events in the trade union world in Great Britain during the last four years have in the general collapse of political and trade union officialdom observed a reaction amongst the rank and file. It has several phases of expression. The most dramatic is undoubtedly what is known as the shop stewards or workers' committee niovement, a lucid account of which is given in J. T. Murphy's pamphlet, published by the Sheffield Workers' Committee. The latest example of the effectiveness of this form of association is seen in the Birmingham-Coventry stoppage against the policy of militarising industry. The movement has grown up in spite of the executives and paid officials, and is hostile to all permanent agreements between executives and employers. It has been found necessary because the workers have been repeatedly handed over, bound hand and foot, to the employing class, particularly during the war, in the name of patriotism.

It is obvious that the S.A.I.F. is alive to the danger of the workers demanding a more direct mode of action than is provided by the present form of organisation. In order to keep power in the hands of those who manipulate the power and purse of the trade unions for their own benefit a very cunning scheme has been set out in a leaslet issued by the Federation, entitled "Draft rules for Shop Stewards on Mines and Workshops." The essence of the British movement is its democratic basis and the source of its power the workshop or mine. The stewards are elected directly by the workers on the job, and are not in any way subject to endorsement by officialdom. The S.A.I.F. scheme shows the cloven hoof of officialdom in the first paragraph of the memorandum which provides that "Each union shall appoint one or more shop stewards," etc., etc., and later under "meetings" we find they are subject to endorsement by

the Federation officials. An officer unknown to the movement in Britain is the "Federation" steward. His function clearly is to act as the agent of the Federation, and to prevent freedom of action in the shops and mines. The purpose of the committees of stewards is, e.g., to see that all agreements entered into between employees and employers are kept and to deal with questions of demarcation. The Federation Steward is compensated if victimised, but not the shop stewards. It is quite clearly a bogus organisation designed to sidetrack any real works committee organisation in South Africa, and the workers would do well to examine the proposals carefully before committing themselves to it. The shop steward and unofficial committee movement in Britain is designed to organise the workers on class lines against official reactionaries. The S.A.I.F. has quits a different object.

W.H.A.

JEWISH SPEAKING BRANCH

LECTURE.—Comrade I. Kessler will be the lectures on Sunday next, August 4, in the Palmerston Hall, commencing at 8 p.m.

The "Geweld" Case.

The concluding portions of the Crown case, which closed on Monday, have been comparatively uneventful. Informer Philemon described a few more meetings in May and June, with much alleged reference to striking at each; and also a meeting at Vrededorp on July 7th (the day after our white comrades were arrested) at which native speakers ignored or disclaimed the strike, denied that the Socialists had "told them to do things," and repudiated "those who on their way home destroy other people's things." As part of his "trapping," witness gave a false occupation when joining the

A number of "exhibits," consisting of miscellaneous papers found on the white accused's premises, were put in. The exhibits included "The International" for 16th November, 1st March

and 10th May last.

Divers policemen and compound managers described threatening scenes on various mines at the beginning of July, and the steps taken to "subdue" the native workers, this being done in some cases by one or two whites. About 400 military arrived later. The cry was. "Why should the white men get 15s. or £1 a day and we only 1s. 3d.?" There would have been violence but for the police, who rounded the boys up. Sticks, etc., are always

found in compounds.

Mr. Whitehead, of the Native Affairs Department, cross-examined by Mr. Ritch, said: "I first saw Luke when I took his affidavit and read it to him. About the first week in June I had requested the Chief Pass Officer to issue a registration certificate to Luke for official purposes. I personally did not know him, but I knew he had applied at our office for appointment as an interpreter, and had heard about him. Registration certificates are issued to natives of approved good character and education above the average. As soon as Luke's reports were made and committed to writing by Dawe, Dawe always brought the MS. to me. On June 8th and pefore, I knew that Luke was engaged on this work. I did not know whether he took notes. I read the affidavit to him in English; Dawe interpreted in Zulu. I told the boy what I was there for. I did not suppose he could not speak English; I didn't know to what extent he could. It never occurred to me to ascertain whether he could write. I do not remember the words "bona-fide" or "oust" in the affidavit. I did not ask him to sign because we are accustomed to having native affidavits made by touching the pen. It never occurred to me that a boy who had applied for a registration certificate and got it could write his name. It did not occur to me to ask Luke whether the Makgatho at whose house at Sophiatown he said a meeting had been held on June 8 was the President of the Congress, whom I know and who lives at Pretoria.

Mr. King said his boys always spoke

to him in English.

A compound manager refused to answer a question whether some of his boys were sjamboked, or whether a boy who says the witness sjamboked him, and shows weals, is speaking the truth. He de-

nied that he (witness) sjamboked natives at his office or kept some boys without food for a week or nine days.

Detective Hoffman said that at the meeting on the Market Place at Newtown some natives said "We do not want King George's flag, we want our own flag," and proceeded to tear a Union Jack on the platform to shreds (and wear the shreds), while others, a group of about 20, threw stones at a motor car believed to contain Mr. Taberer, at cabs, and at a tram full of women and children. All this occurred after the business of this meeting was over. The pieces of flag taken away were red—"the Labour colour."

Nixon, a "Mail" reporter, said that after the Vrededorp meeting on July 7th was abandoned, there was a "hostile crowd." The police trotted their horses along the road and charged them. The talk at the meeting had been "the usual Socialistic propaganda"—

"we want more wages," etc.

A policeman describing that meeting said that accused Mvabasa exhorted the natives to keep quiet, go away,

and leave the police alone.

Sergt. Bland, the first white witness to describe any indoor meeting, said? that on June 19th, at Ebenezer Hall, Tinker said: "If the natives knew their force, they could destroy Johannesburg in a day or stop the mines in an hour; but to do that they would have to organise and all come out on strike, for which 20,000 men were necessary. Let them go home and organise, and tell the other boys to come out; if they meant to come out on Saturday, the 29th, they must be quick. The strike was not for 1s. a day but for Africa which they deserved." Hanscombe described "affairs between white and black in America."

H. M. Taberer, General Manager of the Native Recruiting Corporation and "expert" on natives, said that from about 20th June there was a feeling of unrest especially in Central Johannesburg and adjacent mines. It seemed to arise from the natives "suddenly desiring an increase of their wages." This unrest was certainly intensified

after MacFie's judgment.

"What," asked the Court, "has been the effect on the native mind of socialist propaganda during the last 18 months?" "I could not tell you," said the witness. "I cannot say that there is at this present moment any great result of it. The trouble lately has been for an increase of wages. That is not a spontaneous desire among the natives I have to do with so I am told by natives on the mines. do not think socialist propaganda has as yet made itself greatly felt. This desire for 1s. was disturbing because they coupled it with the idea of a strike. Last week I had to go out to a place where they struck. They behaved very well. I found what they wanted was the 1s."

The manager of the Palace Steam Laundry said his natives struck because their mealie meal had run short. There was no violence.

None of the natives mentioned as committing acts of violence were stated to have belonged to the I.W.A. or attended its meetings; nor did Mr. Dawe give evidence; nor has any evidence whatsoever in support of the "German gold" insinuation been forthcoming.

Industrial Unrest & Enemy Gold

To judge by Cabinet Ministers' speeches in recent months, the Government enquiries into Rand industrial unrest, now pending, may quite likely "find" that the main cause of the "trouble" is German gold. An old cry of the capitalist class in time of war! The Russian ruling class raised it in 1905. At the end of January in that year, a commission, known as the Shidlovsky Commission, was appointed "to investigate the causes of labour unrest in Petrograd and its suburbs and to find means of avoiding them in future." ("Where have we heard that phrase before? It's somehow familiar to us.") Representatives of capital and labour were to participate in the commission. The working men of Petrograd demanded that their representatives he freely elected, that their number on the commission be equal to that of the representatives of capital, that the sessions of the commission be pubslic. that freedom of speech be granted to the labour representatives, and that the working men arrested on January 9, known as "Bloody Sunday," be released: for though the Tsar had "forgiven' them for their guilt the prisons were still full. These demands were rejected, and the working men decided to boycott the Commission. A vigorous agitation was carried on in the factories of Petrograd, which added much to the political enlightenment of the working population. Soon the commission itself was abandoned. The Government tacitly admitted that it had no means of appeasing labour.

Then the Holy Synod issued a circufar stating that the Labour Movement in Russia was supported by Japanese money. This was a keynote for the reactionary press, which attacked the revolutionary movement as a "conspiracy against Russia, initiated by Russia's enemies, and carried out by non-Russian inhabitants of the country." The fact that this "civilised" outery of "enemy gold" was adopted as early as 1905 in Russia while the "Allies" have only taken it up twelve years later goes to show that Russia was then already ripe for working class dictatorship. At any rate, this "German gold" cry is no new method to beat the workers. If the capitalist class saw the slightest chance of beating them by putting it about that in. fantile paralysis was due to white men's agitation among the black. they would do it without any hesitation. It is time for the workers to open their eves and refuse to be blackmailed any longer. Let them organise in their various industries to take control, to get rid of the capitalist system, and to instal the Socialist Commonwealth.

S. BARLIN.

BENONI BRANCH.

MEMBERS' MEETING.—A meeting of the Benoni comrades is to be held on Thursday next, the 8th inst., at 123, Mowbray Avenue, commencing at 7.30. In view of the forthcoming conferences, a large muster is expected.

Frinted b the U. P. & P. Oo., I. for the I.S.L. Box 4179, Johnnes