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*They Shall Not Die!*

# THE NEGRO WORKER

No. 4

April 1932

Vol. 2



**NOT A GUN FOR THE IMPERIALIST WAR  
MONGERS!    HANDS OFF CHINA!  
DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION!**

*Price 5 cents*

*Price 2 pence*

# What is the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers?

The Negro Workers Committee was formed in July 1930 at an international conference of Negro toilers held in Hamburg, Germany. The Committee is not a race, but a **class organization**, organizing and leading the fight in the interests of Negro workers in Africa, the West Indies and other colonies.

The aims of the Committee are as follows:

1. Abolition of Forced Labour, Peonage and Slavery.
2. Equal Pay for Equal Work — Irrespective of Race, Colour or Sex.
3. Eight Hour Day.
4. Government Relief for Unemployed, — free rent, no taxes.
5. Freedom to organize trade unions, unemployed councils and peasant committees, — right to strike.
6. Against racial barriers in trade unions and colour bar in industry.
7. Against capitalist terror — lynching, police and soldier terrorism, arrest and deportation of foreign workers.
8. Against confiscation of peasant and communal lands, against taxation of the Negro workers and peasants.
9. To promote and develop the spirit of international solidarity between the workers of all colours and nationalities.
10. To agitate and organize the Negro workers against the imperialist war in China and the intervention in Soviet Russia, in which the white capitalist exploiters intend to use black workers as cannon-fodder as they did in the last war.
11. To defend the independence of Liberia, Haiti and other Negro States and to fight for the full independence of the Negro toilers in Africa and the West Indies, and their right of self-determination in the Black Belt of U. S. A.
12. The Committee also fights against white chauvinism, (race prejudice) social-reformism and the reformist programmes of the Negro capitalist misleaders, and the missionaries, preachers and other agents of imperialism.

These misleaders, instead of organizing the Negro masses to fight for their freedom are the very ones who help the capitalists by preaching obedience, and loyalty to imperialist rule:

**Negro Workers, organize the fight against imperialism!**

**Support the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement!**

**Fight for the Freedom of the Working Class!**

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*Editors are invited to reprint articles and resolutions which appear in the "Negro Worker".*

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**Editorial Board:** George Padmore (U. S. A.), Editor-in-Chief.

Contributing Editors: J. W. Ford, Cyril Briggs, D. B. Amis (U. S. A.); O. E. Huiswood (R. I. L. U.); C. Alexander (West Indies); E. Forster Jones, E. F. Small (West Africa); G. Kouyatte (French West Africa); A. Nzula, P. G. Moloinyane (South Africa); Mansey (Congo).

Managing Editor: Max Barek (Hamburg).

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**ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF NEGRO WORKERS, 8 ROTHESOODSTR., HAMBURG, GERMANY**

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**Notice to our Readers.**

All cheques, money orders and registered letters must be made payable to:  
**The International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers:**  
8, Rothesoodstrasse, Hamburg.

# The Scottsboro Boys Shall Not be Murdered!

**To the toilers of all countries!**

The American imperialists have all preparations made for a new outrage against the working class. The burning to death by electrocution, of the eight Negro boys at Scottsboro remains fixed for **April 6th**.

The American bourgeoisie, faced on the one hand with the greatest economic crisis in its history and on the other hand with the increasing revolutionary militancy of the white and Negro toilers, is desperately trying to smash their united front in their common struggle against unemployment, wage cuts, rationalization, bourgeois class justice and white terror. The chief victims are the brutally oppressed and exploited Negro toiling masses. This is why a new wave of lynchings is sweeping over the United States.

This terror is not enough to satisfy the Negro-hating landlords and cotton-mill barons of the South. They are more than ever determined to burn to death these eight Negro boys, the youngest of whom is only 13 years old and the oldest, only 20 years. The death sentence still hangs over these boys, the sons of workers and tenant-farmers, while the representatives of the bourgeoisie — the State Supreme Court — "consider" the appeal.

The object of this execution, as of the rising class terror all over the United States, is to strike fear into the hearts of the toiling masses, both white and black; to crush out their organized protest against the active participation of American capitalism in the imperialist war already started in the Far East and in the preparations for military intervention against the Soviet Union.

These continued outrages against the toiling masses and the Negroes in the United States have resulted in a world-wide wave of indignant protests and burning condemnation among the workers of America itself and those of every other country. In the face of the open hostility and attacks of the ultra-reactionary American Federation of Labor, the social-fascists, the Negro reformist National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People and the Universal Negro Improvement Association (Garvey) which are objectively supporting this frameup, the workers of the whole world have already raised their protest under the leadership of the **International Red Aid**, the **International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers** and other revolutionary organizations.

The workers cannot put trust in the "justice" of the bourgeois courts. We have not forgotten the Mooney-Billings case, the Sacco-Vanzetti execution, the Harlan frame-ups! **It is only the mass protest actions of the working class throughout the world that can restrain the labor hating capitalists and landlords of the state of Alabama from carrying out their murder programme.**

**Mass Action and International Solidarity Must Save Them!**

**Toilers in all countries!**

**Demand the immediate, unconditional release of the Scottsboro Negro boys, including the boy sentenced to life imprisonment!**

**Down with the lynching of Negro workers in America!**

**For the united front of the Negro and white workers of the United States against the class terror of the bourgeoisie and their social-fascist and national-reformist agents! Long live the international solidarity of the toilers of all races and nationalities!**

(Signed): **Executive Committee of International Red Aid.**  
**Executive of the International Trade Union Committee**  
**of Negro Workers.**



"Democracy" for Negroes in America.

# War in the East

## Capitalists Preparing a new Slaughter.

World war has begun. The slaughter of 1914-18 is to be repeated on a still wider scale, with still more abominable methods of mass murder. China is to be partitioned by the imperialist robbers. The Soviet Union, where 160 millions of free people are building a new life, is to be attacked by the armed hordes of the capitalist Powers. The working people of every land are to be again butchered in the struggle for new sources of profit for the capitalists.

That is the meaning of the events in the Far East. The shots being fired towards the Soviet border by the Japanese troops who have conquered Manchuria, the bombs dropped by the Japanese air force into the crowded streets of Chinese Shanghai, are the first shots and bombs of a world conflict that will inevitably spread to the West.

The fall of Shanghai, betrayed by the Kuomintang, (the Chinese capitalists and landlords Government) marks a further success for Japanese imperialism, which is intent upon seizing and colonizing the whole North of China. The despatch of the entire United States fleet to the Pacific clearly shows that the U. S. A. intends to challenge the Japanese. The continuous despatch of British troops and warships is evidence of the intention of the British imperialists to share in the partition of China.

In the north the seating of the ex-Emperor of China as Emperor of the so called "State" of Manchuria, supported by Japanese bayonets, and the mobilization and financing of 100,000 White Guard Russians (the former capitalists and landlords who were chased away after the revolution in 1917) in Harbin, shows that the Japanese plans to attack the Soviets are going forward.

## New Alliances among the Imperialists.

What are the groupings of the imperialist Powers, and how do the events in the East threaten the British and European workers with new conscription, with all the horrors, slaughter, and misery of modern war?

Since the Versailles Peace Treaty, and the defeat of the intervention war on the Soviet Republic, the imperialist Powers have maintained an armed peace between themselves on the basis of an understanding to share in the robbery of Germany, of the colonies, and of China, and of preparation for a new war on the land where the workers are building Socialism.

The economic crisis has shattered the basis of this agreement and sharpened all the antagonisms of the imperialist Powers.

The factors of this understanding were:—

(1) A basic agreement between England, France, and the United States on the basis of **the robbery of Germany**. This has now been shattered by the development of the economic crisis.

(2) The agreement between England, the United States, and Japan on the basis of political and economic **exploitation of spheres of influence in China**—Japan in the North, Britain in Shanghai, and United States in the South. This has also been shattered, first, by the growth of the Chinese revolution and extension of the Soviet Districts, and, secondly, by the Japanese invasion, undertaken with the support of France, both these Powers taking advantage of the difficulties of the United States and England caused by the crisis.

(3) The agreement between England, the United States, and France to concentrate upon **the robbery of their own colonies**. This is now undermined; there is a clash between England and the United States in South America, Canada, and Egypt; a clash between England and Japan in India; between France and Italy in the Mediterranean and North Africa.

(4) **The preparation of war against the Soviet Union**. In this, while the other bases of agreement have been undermined, all the Powers are united. They are also united on the principle of the partition of China, but, when it comes to the actual partition, the antagonisms again sharpen.

The Japanese attack on China sharpens all these differences, especially between Japan and the United States, and between Japan and Britain, which regards the Yangtse Valley as its own sphere.

At the same time the contradictions sharpen on all other questions—war debts, Customs and tariffs, gold, disarmament, colonies, the Pacific, and the German question.

At present the French system, which, set up at Versailles, included the Eastern countries of Europe, has now been extended to include Japan. The agreement



### **Help the Chinese Workers Break their Imperialist Chains.**

between France and Japan, which was quite definite, is on the following basis: France supports Japan on all questions in the East and Japan supports France on all questions in Europe and the United States.

Britain is negotiating with France on the basis of no debt payments; such an agreement would be directed against the United States. Britain is also negotiating with Japan to re-establish the old alliance. This would mean that the United States endeavours to turn the point of the forces directed against it towards the Soviet Union; is trying to push Japan into war with the Soviet Union in order to make a favourable position for the United States; Japan would be exhausted by such a war, and the way would then be clear for the United States to step in.

The breakdown of the three bases for agreement indicated above increases the tendency for all the Powers to push one another into war with the Soviet Union. It is not necessary to have a united front between all the Powers before the war can commence. Such a united front can come about in the process of the war.

## Attack upon Soviets organized — East and West

The world crisis shows no improvement. The bourgeoisie is seeking the way out by an intensified offensive on the colonial peoples and the weaker countries. There is a turning point in the relations of the capitalist world to the Soviet Union. The bourgeoisie sees the Five-Year Plan carried out and that the second Five-Year Plan will also be carried out. It has no hope of any failure of these plans, therefore the pause is finished. It is now a fight to the death for the capitalist or the revolutionary way out of the crisis.

All the imperialist contradictions are sharpening, the time has now arrived when the bourgeoisie is moving towards a new division of the colonies (China, India, Africa, etc.).

The war in the Far East is thus the actual beginning of the World War. The Japanese are organizing the White Guards in Manchuria, sabotage acts are being committed under Japanese direction in the Soviet Union. The White Guards are being sent to Mongolia. Every day there is open provocation on the Chinese Eastern Railway. The Chinese section of the leadership of the C. E. R. is replaced by new members who are definitely pro-Japanese.

The main acts, however, will come from the West. Roumania and Poland are ripe for the armed attack on the Soviet Union. The Franco-Japanese Pact means that Czechoslovakia and the other countries in the French System are as much in the war as Japan.

It is, therefore, a question of moments as to when the armed attack on the U. S. S. R. will be launched.

### Geneva: Smoke-Screen for War Mongers.

To realize the full meaning of what war means today we must not only remember the blood-bath of 1914-18, but we must also remember that tremendous scientific and mechanical advances have been made since—that gas, flame, and chemical war weapons are now in the hands of every army, and that the civilian population, the big cities, the munition factories, and the transport system and the food-producing areas will be the main targets for the poisoned bombs and shells which will spread fire, poison, and disease among the whole population.

When the capitalist Press speaks of the bombing of the "village" of Kiangwan, we must remember that this is a town of 150,000 people, which has been wiped out by aeroplane bombs and gun-fire.

A most powerful weapon of the capitalists in organizing the war is the smoke-screen of "pacifism", "disarmament" and "peace" propaganda poured out by the League of Nations, the Second International, the No More War Movement, the reformist Labour and trade union leaders. This propaganda serves the purpose of concealing from the workers the real movements of the capitalists, and of distracting the workers' attention from the real fight against war, as does the type of Labour leaders who threatens to do terrible things "if the war comes".

The war is here now. The capitalist Governments are mobilizing. Ammunition is being supplied to Japan. In December and January Britain alone sent £42,000 worth of machine and quick-firing guns and high explosives, and more are leaving every day from France, Germany, Czechoslovakia and America.

Against the imperialist war, which menaces the entire working class, we must fight day by day and hour by hour. Every movement of munitions and troops should be reported to the revolutionary Press, every step of the Government towards mobilizing should be exposed. We must raise the alarm in every factory and depot, every workers' organization, every working-class home.

The imperialists plan to plunge the world into war, which they have begun in the East; they must be answered by the mass fight, day by day, against every war move.



# Under The Yoke of Imperialism

## Child Labour in China

CHINA is divided into two, the old and the new. The new China belongs to the workers and peasants, who control production for their own interests, while the old belongs to various militarists, imperialists and the Kuomintang, who rule in their own interest and subject the Chinese workers into a life of slavery.

Even the smallest child is tied to the chariot wheels of profit and high finance.

In the match factories, young children, not more than five years old, work from 12 to 14 hours per day.

Babies and infants sleep or play on the floor while their mothers work by the matchmaking machines.



**Missionary Recruiting Child Labour in French Congo.**

White phosphorous is used in these factories, and many mothers and children have been poisoned by this deadly substance.

The conditions in the silk factories are shocking in their grim reality. The workers there, of whom a vast majority are mere infants, work, eat and sleep by the sides of their benches.

### **SLEEP ON THE FLOOR**

When they finish their work at night they pull out their roll of bedding and sleep on the floor or on the stray boards that are laid across benches or on the ground in the courtyard.

Agents obtain young children from the country districts by paying the povertystricken parents about one shilling a month for the service of each child.

By employing these children in the mills and factories the agent is able to reap a profit of about 100 per cent. a month for each child.

Small children of six, seven, and eight work in these factories from 12, 14 and even 16 hours each day, and work a seven-day week.

Hundreds of young girls between the ages of eight and twelve are employed to stir cocoons placed in steaming hot water, which so scalds their hands that they are covered with big white stains and are extremely painful.

The children work the same amount of hours as the adults.

Many young girls marry at an early age, and on becoming pregnant work until confinement takes place, mostly by the side of their machines.

They continue work almost immediately and then feed their children at the breast while working.

There is no protection whatever for the children in the factories, and children who sprawl about the floor are in equal danger to those who work beside the machines.

Young female children are commonly purchased and employed as domestic servants. They begin work as soon as it is physically possible to do so.



African children on a coffee plantation in Kenya.  
Children of the plantation owner in School.

### TRAINED TO PROSTITUTION

This practice is general throughout the country and obviously lends itself to great abuse, and like the other forms of child slavery causes much human misery. Many of these children are employed in native brothels and trained into prostitution.

The apprentice system is general in such occupations as building trades, laundries, home industries, small workshops and shops.

The child is apprenticed at the earliest age possible, for a period of about five years, for which very little or no pay is received.

In the small native printing works conditions are horrible and mainly child labour is used.

In the laundries young children suffer from chilblains and resultant sores.

They have to lift very heavy articles. The work consists chiefly of the collection and the delivery of clothes, transport of washing and carry same to drying grounds, attending stoves, cleaning, ironing and doing odd jobs.

The hours of work are from dawn to dusk, and more often until late at night. Half an hour is only allowed for the mid-day meal, which generally is the only one during working hours.

In the blacksmiths' trade work it is not uncommon to see many of the apprentices, who are young children, with severe burns on their hands and bodies.

This, is due to falling asleep over their work, owing to the terribly long hours and hard manual labour.

In this trade also a seven-day week is worked.

The hours of labour worked in various trades which employ child labour can be seen by the following figures:—

Copper workers, 14 to 15 hours a day; engravers, 14 hours a day; hair dressers, 15 hours a day; iron workers, 11 hours in the day and 3 hours at night; rice hullers, 12 hours a day; shoe makers, 10 hours a day; tin workers, 16 to 18 hours a day.

### BABIES IN THE FACTORIES

They are on their feet the whole of the time, working from 14 to 16 hours each day.

In the Shanghai mills the latest report shows that out of 82,696 workers in these mills 13,062 are children under 14 years, of whom a large percentage are between the ages of five to eight years old.

Mothers work at machines with babies strapped on their backs, or lying at their feet. Thousands of these babies die in the mills and factories, and those that survive are mostly maimed and crippled for life, or else their health suffers so badly that they die at a very early age.

In every trade and industry the seven-day week is in operation. The time allowed for the one meal, the midday meal, is always inadequate.

The hygiene precautions are nil, and tuberculosis is rampant. The children suffer horrible deformities through working under terrible conditions.

Because of this wide spread use of child labour the foreign imperialists as well as the Chinese capitalists are able to coin millions of dollars profit out of the toil of these children. That is exactly one of the reasons why the British, French, American, Japanese have all their battleships in China today, ready to fly at each others throats and divide China up so that they can better exploit the workers and peasants and enslave their children.



**Workers' children on the streets of Accra, Gold Coast.  
European children in a Kindergarten.**

The workers of all countries must voice their indignation and protest against this outrage. They must refuse to allow themselves to be used as soldiers in murdering each other in the interest of these imperialist robbers. The African workers, whose lands have already been stolen by these same imperialist enslavers must unite with the Chinese masses for the overthrow of the whole system of imperialism. Only the unity of the workers of all races and colours can lead to the freedom of the oppressed peoples.

# Native Peoples under the Union Jack

By H. I. M.

The aboriginal race of Australia are among the most exploited subject peoples in the world. Not only are inhuman exploitation, forced labour and actual slavery, forced upon the Aborigines, but a campaign of mass physical extermination is being and has been carried on against them, until to-day less than 60,000 full bloods have survived the murder drive-out of the million or more who inhabited Australia less than one and a half centuries ago.

Such gentle British colonising 'devices' as "Abo shooting hunts", poisoning of the only water holes in the desert country, cyanide in the meat, and strychnine in the flour, police shooting parties, burning the bush over the heads of the tribes, segregating the sexes, kidnapping the children — particularly females — and putting them to work hundreds of miles away from their race and parents, killing off the game on the territory inhabited by Aborigines, thus starving them to death, arresting without any warrant, or for that matter any cause whatever, the most virile men in the tribes (after killing off the aged and infirm) and forcing the arrested to work **with chains around their necks** on Government roads and for station owners, issuing licences to any capitalist desiring to employ "unlimited numbers of native **without pay** for an indefinite period", setting up organizations of crawlers and kidnappers, known as "Aborigines Protection Boards" to enslave the remaining members of the tribes and "Mission Stations" under dope-peddlers to muster the youth so that they can be sold into slavery — such truly British methods were used, and are still being used to enslave the Australian aborigines and totally to exterminate the race so that the crimes of the British and Australian imperialists may be covered up.

The Aborigines have no political, social, or economic rights, and no right to hold property; they are denied education or to have schools, intellectuals from among the Aborigines are not allowed to practise their profession; the tribal customs and arts are stifled; wages are not to be paid to Aboriginal workers except to the amount of 5/- per week (the Labour Government takes 2/- of this amount), and no wages at all to be paid by holders of licences. Although subject to all the penalties of the capitalist criminal code in the courts of justice (!) Aborigines have no status therein, and their evidence is inadmissible in "mixed" cases. Police accusers have the right (and exercise it) to beat and even shoot the accused until they "plead guilty" to whatever crime the police desire to fasten on them.

Persons who expose the maltreatment of aborigines, or who discover the burnt remains of whole tribes, and demand inquiries, are officially threatened with death, and transported (Rev. E. R. B. Gribble, 1926 massacre). When inquiries are held into police murders of aborigines (and the inquiries are remarkably few), **police only** are put on the Enquiry Commission (Exposure of Constable Murray, 1928-1929), and always find the massacres "justified" because the victims "did not stop when the King's name was called out to them" — this, despite the fact that they cannot understand English.

The women of the aboriginal race are subjected to terrifying experiences — there is no protection for them, despite the "ordinances" that appear on the statute books. Not only are they the legitimate prey of the station owners, government officials, but the so-called "protectors of the aborigines" the police have been proved to have raped the women without any action being taken. The tribal natives who object to this practice are murdered for their objections, but **should one native be successful** in preventing his own murder and killing the

station owner, then "drastic steps" are taken, not only against him, but against the whole tribe, which is thereupon exterminated by an infuriated mob led by the mounted constable "protectors" of the aborigines. Mothers or fathers have no right to their own children, and police, Aborigines Protection Boards rats, or others appointed, may kidnap them at any time, in any place, without the knowledge of the parents, and hire the children out as slaves, gaol them on fake charges, or put them in "Homes" of correction. This happens every day in all parts of Australia, not only to full blooded aborigines, but to half castes as well.

Aborigines (full or half caste) who take part in politics are subject to the vilest of terror, denied the right to live, and threatened with having their children taken from them, and they themselves with being gaoled for "cattle stealing" or any other charge that may be considered necessary.



**Forced labour in British West Africa.**

In New South Wales the scale of rations of Aborigines is 3/10d per week for adults, 1/10d for children — little more than half that granted to whites to make their standard of living considerably lower than that of other unemployed workers, and is part of the drive to exterminate the race.

Hitherto the conditions of the Aborigines have not received any attention from workers in the revolutionary movement, and the rank and file organization set up by the aborigines was allowed to be broken up by the Aborigines Protection Boards, the missionaries and the police, but, henceforth, **no struggle of the white workers must be permitted without the demands of the aborigines being championed, no political campaigns without political programmes applicable to our fellow exploited — the aborigines — being formulated.**

The white workers in the trade Unions, and in other mass organizations, the militant intellectuals, scientists, and humanitarians, must all unite with the revolutionary movement in a common fighting front against murderous, rapacious British imperialism, and help win back for the natives of Australia, part of their native country and common rights as human beings.



One Example of French "civilization": Flogging a strike leader in Dakar.

# The Anti-Imperialist Movement

## Capitalist Terror in South Africa

By Bransley R. Ndobé.

Secretary of the Independent African National Congress.

I am writing from **Basutoland**, a British Native Territory where I have been exiled by the South African Nationalist Party of Hertzog and Pirow under the Immigration Act which declares me as an "undesirable" inhabitant of the Union of South Africa. I am giving a brief account which lead to my deportation for the benefit of the readers of the "Negro Worker" in America and the West Indies, so that they may know how the Africans are persecuted.

### Negroes Murdered With Impunity.

In 1927 I became interested and took part in the struggle for the uplifting of the African toilers who are suffering bitter oppression. The African native is treated worse than a dog. He is discriminated, hated, and despised in every walk of life in the land of his fore-fathers from the time of landing of the first white imperialist. Up to now the African is still haunted with a rifle. When a white capitalist or landlord murders a Kaffir, it is not considered a serious crime, as the charge of murder is always reduced to culpable homicide or common assault. The murderer gets off with a small fine of 50 £ or six weeks, and so, the killing of Kaffirs (natives) goes on every day, especially on the farms of the Dutch landlords.

In 1927 at a place called Paarl which is about 36 miles from Cape Town a Dutch Constable killed three natives with a revolver for no reason other than a quarrel over a coloured girl. Myself and two others organized a meeting of protest, with the result, that each of us was put in gaol for three months under an Act of 1927 known as the Native Administration Act, Section 9. This was the first time that I personally experienced capitalist terror.

### Police Raids in Durban.

In June 1929, while General Smuts, the leader of the South African Party—the party of the industrial bourgeoisie, which has shed a lot of blood during its regime, — was busy making speeches in England on the African question the black masses were making themselves heard.

The centre of the agitation was in the city of **Durban**. At that time the **Industrial and Commercial Union** started a boycott on the Municipal Native beer-halls. The movement led to raids upon these beer-halls and to severe reprisals from the officials, aided by white fascist bands. At the time of these happenings I was in Cape Town, where the masses were agitating against the attitude of the government and their black and white agents. As the result of this campaign myself and four other comrades were arrested under the excuse that we were promoting hostility between the Europeans (the capitalists — Ed.) and the Natives, under the Native Administration Act. However, before the court all the other comrades were acquitted. I was the only one who was found "guilty" and was given 18 months suspended sentence.

What is "good behaviour" for the imperialists? Submitting to their bloody oppression. Following these beer-hall riots, the Government introduced a bill

authorising the minister of Justice, **Pirow**, the South African Mussolini, to deal with "seditious" propaganda. Apparently, before the bill was enacted, another even more serious incident occurred at Durban in October, when 12,000 African workers flatly refused to pay poll tax.

Urged on by the ultra-reactionary Afrikaners, **Pirow** finally decided to raid the native compounds and in the latter part of November wholesale raids were carried out by the armed forces of the state with the aid of gas-masks and tear gas-bombs. Over 600 natives were arrested. These raids had the effect of driving over some of the reformist Native leaders into the militant campaign. **Pirow** wanted to increase European fears so as to enable his party to railroad through Parliament legislation, depriving the Africans of the freedom of speech, assembly and of the right to organize. In this he succeeded.



Conference Group of the South Africa National Congress.

#### Anti-Labor Laws.

For in 1930 the Riotous Assemblies Amendment Act was placed in the Statute Book. Ever since **Pirow** has acted as the worst type of torturer and executioner of the native peoples and revolutionary white workers.

Already ten persons have been dealt with under the Riotous Assemblies Act, seven being African natives. They are: Kadalie (Independent S. L. P.), Champion (I. C. U. base Natal), Tonyeni (Independent A. N. C.), Pluatjie (Independent A. N. C.), Ndobe (Independent A. N. C.), Leepile (Independent A. N. C.), Malkinson, Becker and Eddie Roux (white communist leaders). The last mentioned is still before the courts law. Roux was also recently imprisoned for a period of two months' hard labour, for defying the order of the dictator **Pirow** who ordered him not to be present in Durban for a period of a year within 7 days after receipt of the order. This shows that the white revolutionists are fighting and suffering for the Africans while some of the so-called big Negroes especially Professors Thaele and Jabavu are licking **Pirow's** boots.

On the 6th November 1931 another damnable law has been gazetted, called the **Natal Native Code**. This gives the Minister of Native Affairs, another torturer by the name of **Jansen**, one of the chief lackeys of **Pirow**, the right to



imprison a native "agitator", i. e. one who demands equal rights for natives with Europeans, to a period of three months, without trial. Persons arrested under this law shall have no right to protest. This is how the much boasted about British democracy operates in South Africa.

The **Urban Areas Act** has also been amended and the 1930 amendment compels African women to carry passes and also deals with the prohibition of meetings. The enforcement of this law has also led to the imprisonment of some members of the Independent A. N. C. at Middlebury Cape, which was very much resented by the masses who stormed the magistrate court, and other public buildings.

### **Appeal For International Solidarity.**

We want the workers in England, America and the whole world to know that every attempt on the part of the Africans to organize for better conditions is being met with police violence and imperialist terror of the vilest form. Not only this: The government has on its side a big force of African agents and reformist lackeys, whom the officials called "good boys". These black traitors are paid by the capitalists to side track the masses from following a revolutionary way out of their misery, which is the only road to emancipation. We are faced with a complete state of illegality. The Nationalist government has departed from all pretense of bourgeois "justice". It is an open fascist dictatorship, headed by two ignorant Dutch men, Hertzog and Pirow.

One world about the church: The churches such as the Dutch Reformed and the Roman Catholics are bitter enemies of the African toilers and they are also working hand in hand with the government. They do all that lies within their power to feed the masses with all sorts of lies that they should pin their faith to the skies, while the white British and Dutch capitalists and landlords reduce us to slaves.

Comrades, your black brothers in South Africa need your aid. Do not forget that your struggles are bound up with ours. The emancipation of the toilers in England and the other capitalist countries can never be achieved without the freedom of the colonials and other oppressed peoples. That is why we appeal to the revolutionary proletariat in England and America to support our struggles. The masses are prepared to carry on the struggles beneath ground and above ground, until we have overthrown the imperialists.

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## **Negro Misleaders in South Africa**

By T. J a c k s o n. (South Africa.)

Professor D. D. T. Jabavu spent the month of December 1931 in London, bringing before his English "friends the wishes, desires and just aspirations of the Non-European Conference of January 1931", of which he was the President. Like Gandhi, Jabavu, went forth to London as "ambassador" of the whole Bantu nation. He went to warn his British "friends" that if they did not assist the Non-European Conference then the communists will win out. He told them that, "the natives love their British masters (damn the Boers) and are happy to be under the Union Jack." Thus by a skilful utilization of timid threats and lying insinuations "our" Professor hopes to gain the sympathy of his English "friends". The real history of the events that led him to undertake this trip to England are revealed in his speeches. From them it is quite plain that Jabavu's "British-loving and happy-under the-Union-Jack" natives are indignant at the oppression

and misery under which they live. This black lackey of British imperialism tries his best to make out that the British are not responsible for this sad state of affairs of the natives. That only the Hertzog Government is responsible. He forgets however to mention that the Hertzog Government is nothing out the agent of British imperialism in South Africa.

Now we in South Africa have taken the activities of too many of these petit-bourgeois Negro reformists to be so openly treacherous that we have failed to expose them to the masses of toiling Negro workers, who may be still under illusions as to the true character of some of their "big Bantu leaders". We must confess that this mistake flows out of our general underestimation of the role of these "good-by" reformists. This in spite of the fact that these reactionaries are constantly betraying the struggles of the masses. This mistake needs to be remedied.

Professor D. D. T. Jabavu, B. A. etc. (London) is one of the "big leaders of our race". He is a "highly educated and cultured gentleman", professor of Bantu languages at the only Negro College in South Africa, "our representative" at a host of international conferences, in Palestine, Jerusalem etc., missionaries and otherwise, President of the S.A. Native Farmers Association, S.A. native Teachers Federation, the S.A. Non-European Conference etc. Author of many weighty books (in the physical as well as moral sense) dealing with the so-called native Question, the best known of which is the "Black Problem". He wields a tremendous influence among the Negro Youth and petit-bourgeois intellectuals and through them his influence penetrates further into the masses.

However, we are only interested in him now as the president of the Non-European Conference, a body which unites all the "good-boy reformists" of South Africa. Under the pressure of the economic and agrarian crisis, and the imperialists offensive, the radicalization of the toiling masses has grown tremendously. In the place of petitions and humble appeals to the Government, the toiling masses have to an ever-increasing extent resorted to direct action. The Communists and other revolutionary elements, in the face of the most virulent and lying slanders of the "good boys" headed by Jabavu and another professor by the name of Thaele are increasing their influence and organization, among the workers and peasants. On the other hand, the reformists are not gaining any "reforms" with which to delude the masses. The Hertzog Government has met their pitiful appeals with a deaf ear. Anti-native legislation is gaining in volume. **The Hertzog Native Bills, Pirow's native Service (read slave) Contract Bill, Jansen's Pass Law for Native women, Creswell's Civilized Labour Policy** etc. — are all directed towards the perpetuation of the enslavement of the Natives of South Africa to British and Boer imperialism. Too cowardly to call upon the masses to revolt against this increasing flood of repression, on the one hand, and frightened by the growing revolutionary demonstrations against the pass laws and other infernal laws of the S. A. Government during 1929 and especially in December 1930, on the other hand, the Non-European Conference headed by Jabavu hastened to meet in January 1931 to deal mainly with the question of the pass laws and the movement against them. We must emphasise that there is no other single law in the whole oppressive regime of the South Africa against which there is so much common hatred of all Negroes high und low, — rich and poor as the pass laws. In this Conference all the leading reformist organizations and leaders were represented, united through fear of activity in relation to the mass movements led by the communists and other revolutionary elements. The thing that most kept this heterogenous mass of selfseeking politicians together, is their common hatred, for the communists who were setting too hot a pace for our reactionary "friends".

In view of the response of the masses to the call of the communists and other revolutionaries for mass action against the passes and Hertzog's native Bills, the reformists did not have the guts to openly oppose direct action. Rather a lot of "left" phrase-mongering and hollow threats were indulged in by the Motes and Kadalies. Professor Jabavu cunningly encouraged this, of course, always taking care that the main fire of the criticism was directed against the Boer Government as the "villain of the piece", his British imperialist masters being held up as the "friends" of the natives who did not agree with the policy of Hertzog. Therefore, the native must appeal to the British people. Through this manoeuvre it was decided to send a deputation to England to carry out this appeal. The reactionary, Jabavu, is now doing this work. However this is not all.



Professor Jabavu

It was necessary to show the toiling masses of Negro workers who had taken action on Dingaan's Day that their action was justified, but at the same time something had to be done to kill the campaign of the Communists who were urging further and wider action against these laws. Therefore, the Conference, with a lot of demagoguery passed a resolution for the burning of the passes, not immediately but in 1934, when all "the peaceful channels for the solution of this important question had been tried". This most "revolutionary decision" of the arch-reactionaries of Negro reformism in South Africa received the widest publicity in the bourgeois press and was approved of by all sections of the capitalists — Boer as well as British. The leaders "had vindicated their honesty as true fighters for Bantu freedom" wrote the capitalist oppressors. The same bourgeois press that boycotted the decisions of the October 1930 Anti-Pass Congress which laid down the campaign that led to the now historic events of Dingaan's Day 1930 could see clearly that the Non-European Conference was their best friend and therefore needed and deserved their support in the treacherous campaign to deceive the masses.

Confusion and hesitation become wide spread. Dingaan's Day of 1931 did not show the revolutionary fire of 1929 and 1930. This has brought rejoicing in the camp of the reactionaries. But we shall expose these arch-traitors. We have done it before. Thaele, the leader of the Cape African Congress knows it, and Jabavu will learn as soon as he comes back, that the Negro toiling masses are not the fools that he and his friends think that they are. It is not the first time that these traitors have sold the masses out in this manner to their European masters.

How many deputations have not been sent to England already under the same auspices? The Negro workers of South Africa will remember that in 1913, in order to misdirect the protest and indignation of the masses against the **Natives' Land Act of 1913** which expropriated whole districts of native farmers of the means of existence, these same reactionaries sent a deputation to see

King George in London who, they assured the native farmers, would settle matters in their favour. In 1919, again, in order to crush the mass strike movement of the workers arising out of the post-war conditions, a second deputation, sailed to England and again succeeded in deceiving the toiling masses with cries of "democracy and self-determination" of oppressed peoples who had fought to defend the Empire. Now again, these black licksplittles are out to play the same stunt. It is the task for all true revolutionaries and sincere anti-imperialist fighters to systematically and painstakingly expose the role of these traitors.

The revolutionaries must make plain to the masses that the **Jabavus and Thaeles**, the **Abdurahmans and Kadalies** are not so naive as not to know that the British Government fully supports the policy of Hertzog. That the S.A. Government is nothing but the agent of British imperialism. That Hertzog himself has recently come out openly against Dutch republicanism in favour of co-operation with British capitalism. The English "friends" that Jabavu speaks of are none other than the some British imperialist robbers and swindlers who have stolen the major part of Africa from the Africans of whom they have made slaves to work on their plantations and mines. They are same British capitalists whose policy of plunder and murder in India stinks with a suffocating stench in the noses of all true lovers of oppressed humanity. The attempt of Jabavu to oppose the policy of Hertzog to that of the British Government is nothing but a cunning manouvre, a slimy hypocritical gesture, depending entirely on the cry that "if the British does not interfere quickly then the communists will win out".

The latest press reports which have arrived here from America state that **Jabavu** is now in that country to speak at the Students' Volunteer Convention in Buffalo. Already our worthy professor has begun to play his slavish role and to reveal his true sycophantic character before his white American friends. The Negro press states that at a meeting held in New York City under the joint auspices of the Federal Councils Commissions on International Justice and Goodwill and on the Church and Race Relations he told his audience that "although the Africans are not rich, they do not starve. For those who have give those who have not got. And furthermore, the African peoples are not as barbarious as some people think, because they are more obedient to law and order than any other peoples".

What stupidity! What childish hypocrisy! One can hardly imagine a more assinine statement by a man who prides himself with the title, "professor". Jabavu has not a word to say about the misery, the poverty and starvation among the native masses. He does not express a word of condemnation against his imperialist masters who have stolen our land and enslaved us on their reserves and in their compounds and have enacted the most brutal anti-labour and racial laws to be found in any part of the world in order to maintain their imperialist robber policy.

Jabavu knows perfectly well that the condition of the Negro workers can only be solved by a drastic change, a revolutionary re-adjustment of the injustices against the Negro toiling masses, which cry out ever more loudly with the passing of every day, for correction. In his book, the "Black Problem", Jabavu analyses these ills quite competently and comes to the conclusion that the Bantu people in the country of their own birth are nothing but "political pariahs and landless helots". But to think that the Jabavus and Thaeles were even capable of fighting for Bantu freedom would be a serious error. Their interests lie in a different direction. What they want is merely a bigger portion of the spoils derived from the exploitation of the Negro workers. More jobs in the civil service, more facilities in trading, representatives in Parliament and the Provincial councils etc. — all good and proper — but not for the toiling

masses on the farms and plantations, in the mines and factories. For these they have no time.

From this it is quite plain that the only forces capable of waging a consistent fight against oppression and imperialist robbery in South Africa are the Negro and white revolutionary workers and poor peasants. Their interests are incompatible with the interests of imperialism. To live they must fight against the robbers who have stolen their land. They are the irreconcilable enemies of oppression, the true fighters for liberation. Let our "educated and cultured" professors know that we revolutionary workers shall expose their treacheries, their traffic in human misery, their stinking hypocrisy and cowardice to the masses who are building their militant organizations which are leading the fight for the liberation of the Bantus from imperialism, for land and a decent life, for freedom, for a South African Native Independent Republic, for a toilers' Government.

## Self-Determination for the West-Indies

A well attended meeting of white and coloured workers, as well as colonial students took place in London on February 25th, under the auspices of the NEGRO WELFARE ASSOCIATION, at Charter Hall, 59 Cromer Street. Comrade Arnold Ward, the secretary of the Association, presided.

The chief speaker of the occasion was Captain A. A. Cipriani, the president of the Trinidad Labor Party. After his speech the following resolution was adopted:

"This meeting of British and colonial workers sends its fraternal greetings to the oppressed workers and peasants of the West Indies and pledges itself to fight side by side for the overthrow of British Imperialism not only in the West Indies but throughout the world.

This meeting also realises that the same National Government which is responsible for the brutal oppression of the colonies is the same government which is carrying on an unprecedented attack upon the standard of living of the workers in Great Britain.

We also realize that no hope can be placed in the Labour Party who, after promising self government to the people of the West Indies, carried on, when they came into power, a policy of 'continuity' which equalled in its severity that of any of its predecessors.

This meeting therefore realizes that only when the workers and peasants are organized on a class basis and prepared by revolutionary action to overthrow their imperialist oppressors, will they ever achieve the freedom of the West Indian Islands from foreign domination."

The INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF NEGRO WORKERS pledges its fullest support to the West Indian masses in their struggles against British imperialism, which can only be successfully carried out by building up a strong revolutionary labour movement. To do this, the West Indian workers must free themselves from the influence of their reformist leaders, who are the agents of the imperialists.

# The Labour Movement

## Appeal to the Negro Seamen and Dockers!

**Comrades! Oppressed and Exploited Negro Class Brothers!**

The **International of Seamen and Harbour Workers** greets you and appeals to you to organize within the ranks of the revolutionary water transport proletariat to fight against the terrible exploitation and robbery imposed upon you by the capitalists, the shipowners, the lighterage companies, as well as their white and black agents—the headmen, the stevedore-bosses, the foremen and managers, and all other betrayers of the Negro workers and dockers.

### I. What is the I. S. H.?

The I. S. H. is the only water transport international which fights for all seamen, stevedores, boatmen and fishermen, irrespective of race, colour or nationality.

In order to bring about the greatest unity between the white, black and yellow water transport workers and to establish a united fighting front against the offensive of the capitalists, the I. S. H. will hold a great world congress in the port of Hamburg, beginning on May 20th 1932.

At this congress delegates will come from every capitalist country as well as the colonies, and will draw up a fighting program for the struggle against wage cuts, long hours, bad working conditions, unemployment and starvation, as well as the new imperialist war and intervention against the Soviet Union which has already started in the East.

Because the Negro workers in Africa, England, France, America, and the West Indies are among the worst paid and treated slaves of the shipowners and other capitalists, the I. S. H. is especially inviting all Negro seamen, dock workers, fishermen and boatmen to elect delegates and to send them to the Congress on May 20th. This, in brief is the program of the I. S. H. which gives its fullest support and assistance to the Negro seamen, dockers and other water transport workers, wherever they may happen to live.

### II. The Seamen are treated like Slaves.

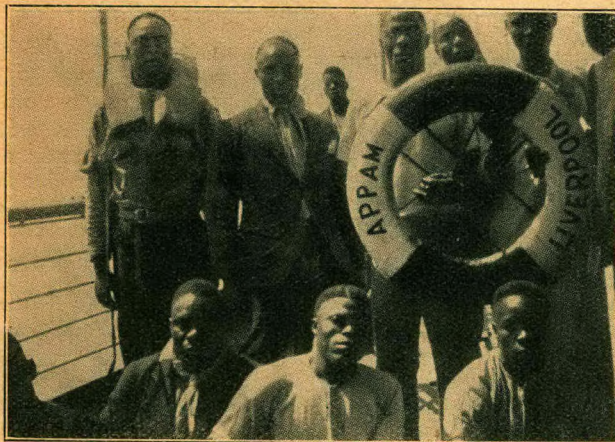
Comrades! We all know of the terrible conditions which are imposed upon the workers at sea and especially upon the sailors and dockers of the coloured races. This regime of enslavement is getting worse from day to day. Unemployment and starvation, that is the fate of many thousands of Negro sailors and dockers who are standing in lines before the docks and registering offices of the shipping companies waiting for a job. And those few who finally succeed to find work are forced to make longer and longer hours for wages which the bosses are cutting down every month.

Comrades! Why have the conditions of the seamen and dockers become so bad? At present, all capitalist countries of Europe and America are undergoing a terrible crisis. This has caused the laying up of many thousands of ships, because there are no cargoes to be transported. And in order to be able to continue distributing great profits to the shareholders and directors, and paying high salaries to the agents and the other officials of the shipping companies, these capitalist robbers are cutting down the wages of the workers and are lowering their standard of life.

### III. The Policy of "Divide and Rule".

In order to be able to carry out this policy of worsening the conditions of life of the sailors and dockers, the employers, and their agents, the reactionary trade union leaders of America, England and France, are fostering race hatred among the white sailors and dockers against their coloured class brothers. In this way the Negro workers become the victims of the worst forms of discrimination; the bosses give them the heaviest and dirtiest work, and pay them lower wages than to the white workers. The Negro sailors are put in the most dirtiest and overcrowded parts of the ships. They are being given the worst food and they are forced to work under the most terrible conditions.

The **International of Seamen and Harbour Workers** also calls upon all white workers, who are conscious of their duty to their class brothers, to join hands with their coloured brothers in America and in the colonies and together with them fight against the policy of "divide and rule" of the bosses; fight against unemployment, against wage cuts and the lengthening of working hours. Only the united front of all seamen and dockers irrespective of colour, nationality or race, can improve the living conditions of the working class.



Unemployed African Seamen Deported from Liverpool.

### IV. Betrayal of the Reformist Leaders in America.

The Negro dockers in America are in the disadvantage as far as their jobs are concerned in the most unjust manner, and they are ordinarily receiving lower wages than those given to the white workers. The recent long and bitter strike of the dockers in New Orleans against a wage cut of 15 cents (the great majority of the strikers were Negroes) has been completely betrayed by the treacherous leaders of the "International Longshoremen Association", who forced the strikers back to work.

The reactionary trade unions of the American Federation of Labour which are controlled by the worst bureaucrats, refuse to accept Negroes in their ranks and when compelled to do so they organize them in separate local groups, with the object of selling them to the bosses and using them as strike breakers against the white workers. This is especially true for the International Union of Sailors in America and the International Longshoremen Association.

## V. Africa and the West Indies.

The conditions imposed upon the Negro seamen and dockers in Africa and the West Indies are yet worse than in America. They are being robbed and exploited by the shipping companies and the European imperialist exploiters in the most brutal fashion. For instance, the companies of **Elder-Dempster, John Holt, United Africa, Woermann** as well as the American, Dutch and French companies in West Africa are not only paying to the native sailors and dockers in Dakar, Bathurst, Freetown, Monrovia, Gold Coast, Nigeria, Cape Town, Durban etc. the miserable pay of 9d to 1/- sh. per day, but the officers and headmen are forcing them to work like slaves, any time they like—15 to 20 hours a day. The men are even forced to remain on board and to work after their shift is finished. When the workers protest and try to organize they are ill treated by the officers, the foremen and headmen who beat them up and stop their pay.

The same situation also prevails in Kingston, Jamaica; in Port of Spain, Trinidad; in Georgetown, British Guiana; Bridgetown, Barbados; as well as in Haiti, Panama and the other ports of the West Indies and South America.

At the very moment when the workers are confronted with all these brutal acts of oppression, the leaders of the reformist unions have turned their backs to the Negro workers and are openly helping the imperialists to press their yoke tighter and tighter round the neck of the colonial Negroes.

For instance, the reformist leaders of Sailors' Union of France declare about the colonial workers: "We refuse to regard the natives from the colonies as French citizens who have the right to work on French ships."

And in the same way the English Naional Seamen's Union, which is under the leadership of the worst fakers, is carrying on a most shameless propoganda of lies and slanders in its journal, "**The Seaman**" against the coloured seamen on board of British vessels and in the ports of London, Liverpool, Cardiff, South



Officers and crew on a Soviet Russian ship in Hamburg.

Wales, Bristol. The leaders of this Negro-bacting Union are just out to create trouble in the English ports by inciting the white sailors against the Negro sailors, and in general, to chase all coloured seamen off British ships.

Instead of propagating the solidarity of the white and coloured workers, these reformist bootlickers of the shipowners are helping the capitalists to split up the



ranks of the seamen and dockers. They are the very ones calling upon the governments to drive the coloured workers out of Europe—back to the colonies.

#### **VI. Negro Workers! Join the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement!**

Negro seamen and dockers! Only the revolutionary I.S.H. and its affiliated sections like the **Marine Workers Industrial Union in America**, the **Seamen's Minority Movement in England**, the **C. G. T. U. in France**, the **African Federation of Trade Unions in South Africa**, and the **International Seamen's Clubs**, which are supporting the program of the **INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF NEGRO WORKERS** admit the coloured water transport workers and dockers into their ranks on the basis of complete economic, social and political equality. It is for that reason that we are urging upon all Negro and coloured seamen and harbour workers to join the revolutionary trade union movement as well as the



**Negro stevedores in a West Indian port.  
Their wages are 40 cents per day of 10 hours.**

ship- and dock-committees which are under the leadership of the I.S.H., and to fight shoulder to shoulder with their class conscious white brothers for better working conditions.

Comrades, we have had an excellent example before us. The sailors of the British Navy at Invergordon who are after all better paid than the coloured seamen, organized and won a fight against wage cuts. It is only by organizing ourselves and fighting that we can march towards victory over capitalism which is the common enemy of all workers. It is only within the ranks of the revolutionary trade union movement that the masses of Negro slaves will be able to throw off the yoke imposed on them by the American, English, French, and Belgian Imperialists and other imperialist robbers and to gain their national freedom and social emancipation side by side with the oppressed Chinese and Indian workers.

#### **VII. Comrades and oppressed and exploited black brothers!**

Before concluding, some words of warning! In the degree in which the world economic crisis is sharpening, the imperialist powers, especially America, England, France, Belgium, understand that the only way out of their difficulties for them

is to further worsen the condition of the workers and to prepare for war in order to re-divide up China, Africa and the other colonial countries. And at the same time all these robber states are planning a combined attack against the Soviet Union, the only country ruled by the working class, the only country which is constructing a new socialist regime, free from exploitation, oppression, race hatred and unemployment. When this war will break out (and already the Japanese imperialists are conducting the war in China, with the aid of the English, American, French and Belgian imperialists) than the war-mongers and trade union misleaders who are today cutting down your wages and are throwing you on the street to starve will call upon you to fight for them, to help in the transportation of soldiers, to load and unload ammunition and armes destined to massacre your class brothers in the East. Comrades! You must refuse to make yourself the agents of the imperialist murderers of these capitalist slave traders; you must follow the example of the Russian workers who, in 1917, transformed the war of "their" capitalist class into the civil war, and have taken the power in their hands.

### VIII. Negro Seamen and Dockers, Wake Up!

Let us unite and fight:

1. Against discrimination of Negroes, fostered by the war mongers and capitalists with the aid of their reactionary trade union agents and spies.
2. For equal pay for all workers, irrespective of race, colour, or nationality.
3. For benefit for all unemployed seamen and dockers, at the expense of the government and the capitalist companies.
4. Join the ranks of the Minority Movement of the English sailors, the Marine Workers Industrial Union in America and the C. G. T. U. in France!
5. Organize revolutionary ship and dock groups!
6. Join the ship and dock committees of the International Seamen and Harbour Workers Union which are fighting for the following demands on behalf of the Negro seamen and the sailors of other races and colours;
  - a) Equal pay for equal work for colonial and white sailors.
  - b) Increase of the wages of the seamen and dockers from the colonial and semi-colonial countries.
  - c) Three shift system for the men on deck and 4 shifts for the men under deck; seven hours' day during the watch.
  - d) One free day on shore for every sunday spent on the journey.
  - e) Social insurance at the expense of the capitalists and the State.
  - f) Unemployment benefit; free food, cloths, shelter for the unemployed.
  - g) Double pay for overtime work.
  - h) Against the system of robbery through "dashes" and "pay offs" to headmen, boss stevedores.
  - i) Equal rights for colonial and white seamen in signing on; and registering at the employment office; down with the P. C. 5 in England.
  - j) For the right to organize and the freedom of meeting and speech; against the arrest and deportation of foreign born seamen.
  - k) For the complete freedom to go ashore on foreign ports.
  - l) For the fight against reactionary legislation for seamen and their trade unions!

Negro workers, defend the Soviet Union which is the fatherland of the working class! Hands off China!

**All delegates to Hamburg on May 20th!**

# The Economic Crisis and the Negro Workers

By O. E. Huiswood.

## Editor's Note:

This is the concluding part of the report of comrade **O. E. Huiswood**, Chairman of the Negro Trade Union Committee of the Red International of Labour Unions, made at the recent plenum of this organization. The first part, dealing with the effects of the capitalist crisis and the tremendous growth of unemployment among the Negro toiling masses in Africa, America and the West Indies appeared in the March issue of the "**Negro Worker**".

In this section of the report, comrade **Huiswood** reviews the counter-offensive of the Negro workers against the imperialists by means of strike struggles against wage cuts, demonstrations against unemployment and taxation leading to open revolts in the Congo and Equatorial Africa.

## The Struggle Against Taxation and Terror.

The most important development in the recent period is the struggle of the native masses, particularly South Africa, West Africa, and the Belgian Congo, against the policy of increased taxation. Last year in South Africa alone, about 40,000 natives were jailed for being on the streets after prohibited hours. This alone shows that greater numbers of natives are violating the pass laws instituted by the bourgeoisie and landlords in order to prevent the workers from organizing. Daily drives are being launched on the part of the police for the purpose of collecting taxes from the natives. With the result that from 300 to 1200 natives are being held up every day for taxes. Besides, a new ordinance has been enacted to the effect that every native in South Africa must carry a poll tax receipt dating from the year 1925, and any failure to produce this receipt means immediate imprisonment or deportation. This indicates the increasing terror which is being spread among the natives in South Africa.

Throughout **West Africa** we can also see an increase of income tax, of poll tax etc. Beginning with the revolt in 1929 when 30,000 native women in Nigeria revolted against the imposition of taxation and organized tremendous demonstrations, we have witnessed other demonstrations against taxation. For instance, in the protectorate of Sierra Leone, hundreds of natives, led by an armed battalion, invaded the Kambia district and engaged in a struggle against the European officials who attempted to enforce the payment of hut taxes among the peasants. At Cape Coast in October of last year a tremendous demonstration of natives took place against income tax, which ended in the stoning of police barracks. In Sekondi there was also a tremendous demonstration of natives against this some form of taxation. Mass demonstrations are occurring in different parts of West Africa quite often at the present time against the increase of taxation, hunger and unemployment.

In the **Belgian Congo** the imperialists, faced with a budget deficit of 130 million francs are imposing new taxation upon the natives and have also, passed an ordinance to the effect that the price of cotton, which was formerly 1 franc 20 centimes per lb. is to be reduced to 60 centimes. Today the price of agricultural produce is 50% of what it was a year ago, resulting in the closing of many commercial centers and trading stations. This has given rise to mass unemployment and unrest among the toiling population. From the month of July up until the present time open rebellion has been going on. When the revolt is suppressed in one territory, it breaks out in another. In spite of the most brutal terror employed by the imperialists, the anti-imperialist movement continues to draw in ever wider masses.

In the developing struggles of the masses of **South Africa** against the offensive of the capitalists, the black and white masses are beginning to unite and take up the counter-offensive. A number of strikes have recently taken place, especially among the garment workers. In this industry we have the following situation: On the one side we have a number of native unions which are affiliated to the African Federation of Trade Unions, which is a section of the R. I. L. U., and on the other hand, we have some independent unions. But the bulk of the workers are in exclusively white unions affiliated to the reactionary Labour Council.

In spite of the terror of the police, in the splitting tactics of the reformists in Cape Town and the attacks of the Labour Department, the revolutionary Garment Workers' Union was not only able to fight back the attempted wage cut of from 10 to 15 shillings, but it was also able to win certain demands in a counter offensive against the employers. Nevertheless there is a theory among some of our comrades in South Africa that in the present period it is impossible to develop independent strike leadership, that we do not have the necessary organizational strength for the development of independent strike leadership, and that we must have a combination with the reformists in an attempt to win any of our demands from the bosses. These false theories must be strongly combatted.

Another very important struggle in the recent period was the strike of the native workers in Durban last December against the pass law which involved about 6,000 workers. May Day 1931 was the first time in the history of South African labor movement that white and black workers came out together in a strong united front, struck, and demonstrated against the capitalists.

In a strike of the garment workers in Johannesburg a few months ago we witnessed the reformist leadership calling the workers out on strike but after the workers left the shops the leaders concluded a secret agreement with the bosses and withdrew the strike demands. The reformist leaders openly betrayed the workers by excluding the native workers from membership in this union; and from joint struggle with the white workers, thereby carrying out the imperialists policy of splitting up the working class.

In South Africa we have had for a long period up until the last few months the following disgraceful opportunist situation: A number of members of the Communist Party held responsible posts in certain independent white unions. Despite the fact that there were many possibilities to draw these white unions closer to the African Federation of Trade Unions in joint struggle, these opportunists held the theory that the time was not ripe to affiliate the white unions to the Federation. The result, was, that within these white unions the comrades carried out a complete reformist policy of isolating these organizations from the general revolutionary trade union movement. Now of course most of these elements have been expelled. This now open up possibilities are for our revolutionary trade union movement to develop, and to attract the rank and file white workers who have shown since May 1st their readiness to struggle alongside of the native workers against the common enemy the South African bourgeoisie.

In the **West Indies** we have also had a number of struggles recently, particularly in **Haiti** where in the last few months no less than 5 strikes occurred: in the lumber, coffee and transport industries. In all of these strikes, the workers were successful in winning their demands.

### **Activities of the Negro Reformists.**

There is one thing that must be taken into consideration and that is the class character of the recent struggles of the Negro masses which is exemplified particularly in the strikes in South Africa of white and black and secondly in the growing movement of joint action between Negro and white workers in the United States.

As a result of the increasing spirit of unrest among the Negro workers, we see the role of the Negro reformists who are openly going over into the camp of the imperialists, aiding the white capitalist exploiters in their attempt to suppress the revolts of the Negro masses. Our revolutionary movement has not sufficiently combatted or taken energetic steps to expose these Negro reformists.

In the **United States** this treachery has been exemplified, first of all, by wide sections of the Negro press in the Scottsboro case joining with the lynchers in attacking the International Labor Defense, the Communists and the revolutionary trade union movement. And secondly, the development within the labor movement of black social-fascism as shown by Randolph in the Pullman Porters Union who uses "left" phrases with a socialist tinge, but is trying to drag the Negro workers into the camp of the white social fascists—the American Federation of Labor, aiding Green to Jim Crow the black workers thereby openly betraying.

In **South Africa** we have seen the complete surrender of Kadalie and Champion to the British and Dutch imperialists and their fascist dictator, **Pirow**, while the "good boys" like professors Thaele and Jabavu are nothing else but black traitors and judases—the greatest enemies of the native toiling masses.

We must expose and fight more than ever against the policy of the Negro reformists, the black agents of the imperialist robbers.

### The Tasks Before Us.

Comrades, in conclusion I want to say that the Negro revolutionary trade union movement, particularly in South Africa, which is still a young section of the R. I. L. U., with 5000 members, has started to make a turn in its work.

Formerly it concentrated mainly in the light industry and was able to draw to it the natives in the clothing, furniture, tobacco and laundry industries. Now it is beginning to give attention to the mining industry and transport workers.

Groups are being organized in these basic industries prior to building of unions.

There are certain definite shortcomings of the African Federation of Trade Unions especially regarding a clear policy, a clear program of struggle, the development of cadres and the development of conscious leadership for our movement. Nevertheless we see already in the last few months a turn towards the line laid down by the 5th Congress to organize the majority of the working class into the African Federation of Labor. The task before us particularly in the African colonies is to consolidate the influence that we have, not only in South Africa but among the workers in Sierra Leone and in the other sections, to organize the workers to begin actually on the task of forming strong trade unions in these sections so that we may draw them into the orbit of the revolutionary movement.

In order to carry out this task we must put into effect the decisions of the 5th Congress of the R. I. L. U. The National Sections of the R. I. L. U. must make a racial change in their activities among the colonial workers. The question of organizing the Negro workers together with the white workers in the struggle against imperialism and to draw them into the revolutionary unions, this is the task which confronts the national sections of the R. I. L. U.

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THE  
FISHES  
GET  
WHAT THE WORKERS CHILDREN WANT

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# Capitalists Gone Crazy

At the present time the number of unemployed in the whole world has reached about 40 millions. When we add to this number the families of the unemployed, we may state without exaggeration that — quite apart from the starving millions in the colonies, in India, Africa and China—there are 100 millions of human beings condemned to starvation rations at the present time by capitalism. At the same time news comes from every part of the world showing that the ruling class, in order to avoid the consequences of over-production (the lessening of their profits), are actually proceeding to destroy the reserves of goods. To-day it is nothing new when coffee is thrown into the sea, and wheat used as fuel for locomotives. The following report comes from New York:

"In order to raise prices, the producers are destroying enormous quantities of milk, vegetables, fruit, and other food. Every week the milk suppliers pour hundreds of thousands of gallons of milk into the rivers. This is being done to such an extent that the Health Office in New York has issued a proclamation stating that 'the fish will die off if milk is thrown into the rivers in such quantities'. The state of California too reports that tremendous quantities of milk are being thrown into the rivers. At the same time we hear from Ketchikan Bay, Alaska, that the canning factories here have destroyed 40,000 salmon. From Los Angeles comes the report that thousands of fruit trees are being felled, in order to lessen the fruit crops."

While all of this food is being destroyed by the capitalists in America, millions of Negroes and white workers are starving to death in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, and other cities. So in order to prevent the starving black and white unemployed from organizing, the exploiters are deporting the foreign born white workers back to Europe and are planning to round up the Negroes and send them South. In the face of this widespread misery only the Communists and the revolutionary trade unions, the so-called "Reds", are organizing the black and white masses and leading them in struggle for bread, work, and unemployed relief.

The "big" Negro leaders, like de Priest, Kelly Miller, R. R. Morton, Du Bois, Garvey, and especially the preachers, have not only deserted the toilers of their own race, but are actually aiding the capitalists and their state and municipal governments in suppressing the movement of the unemployed by police terror and open murder. Furthermore, these reformist fakers, are the very ones who will tell the workers that they should go and fight in the new world war, which has already started.

The crisis is certainly teaching the Negro workers who are their friends and who their enemies.

## Unemployed!

Organise and demand free food, clothes  
and rent from the capitalist governments.

# Stop the Scottsboro Murder

By O. Huiswood.

American Imperialism is preparing a fresh crime against the working class. The electrocution of the eight Scottsboro boys, innocent victims of a dastardly frame up instigated by the southern ruling class, is fixed for April 6th.

For eight long months these boys have been mentally and physically tortured in the death cell. They were deliberately placed so that they could constantly view the electric chair. This was calculated to intimidate them, to break down their morale and to force them to "confess" to the framed up charge of raping two white prostitutes.

The Supreme Court of the state of Alabama went through the farcical procedure of hearing the plea for a new trial. At the trial the Negroes were Jim-Crowed and not even permitted to enter the courtroom. Nevertheless, hundreds of Negro workers demonstrating their solidarity with the boys by crowded about the doors and windows of the court to listen to the attorneys defending the boys.

With the date of execution drawing nearer and nearer the Supreme Court still has the case under "advise". The southern bourgeoisie will leave no stone unturned to send these boys to their death. Only the working class can snatch these children from the clutches of the hangman.

The American bourgeoisie faced with the greatest economic crisis on the one hand and the growing solidarity of the Negro and white workers under the fighting leadership of the Communist Party and the Red Trade Unions on the other is trying with the help of the social fascist trade union bureaucrats and the Negro reformists to carry out the most brutal attacks upon the working class.

As the crisis deepens the militancy of the workers is reflected in mass demonstrations and in strike struggles which the bosses attempt to crush in terror and blood.

In this savage offensive of the bosses to get out of the crisis, the Negro toilers are the worst sufferers. Every attempt of the Negro masses to resist the ever tightening yoke of oppression is met with the lynch rope, burning at the stake and the chain gang in order to break their spirit of resistance and to keep them the underdogs and social outcasts in capitalist society.

One of the chief weapons of this offensive is inciting the white workers against the black, and the blacks against the foreign born, in order to misdirect their struggles from class lines into racial antagonisms, and thereby smash the United front of the working class in common struggle against unemployment, wage cuts, lengthening of hours and for the overthrow of the capitalist system.

The chief victims of the capitalist offensive are the brutally oppressed and exploited Negro toiling masses. That is why a new wave of lynching and mob terror is sweeping over the length and breadth of the United States. In 1930 over 40 Negroes were lynched. In 1931, 79 known lynchings and murders of Negro workers took place. And already in the first two months of 1932 more than ten Negroes have been made the victims of the lynching mobs.

In the Black Belt of the South, American "democracy" enslaves millions of Negro toilers, share croppers, poor farmers and agricultural laborers, who are subjected to a most cruel system of semi-slave exploitation. Chained to the land, they are the victims of peonage, the convict lease and chain-gang system, they are deprived of all rights, disfranchised, Jim-Crowed and segregated into special ghettos.

Not satisfied with this, the landlords and capitalists, foaming with rage and fear at the increasing number of demonstrations of solidarity between the black and white unemployed workers and starving farmers which have taken place during recent months are mobilizing their forces of reaction headed by the Ku



Klux Klan, the Black Shirts, etc., to stage new outrages against the Negro workers.

Suffice it to note a few cases of the brutal lynch terror launched against the Negro workers in the recent period. In Salisbury, Maryland, **Mathew Williams** lying at the point of death in a hospital was lynched and his body dragged through the streets of the Negro section. In Montgomery, Alabama, two unemployed Negro workers are in the death house awaiting electrocution on the charge of having stolen a silver half dollar. In Winston-Salem, North Carolina, **John Moore** a Negro worker is sentenced to death for having stolen a pair of shoes. In Maryland, **Orphan Jones** a 60 year old Negro farm laborer is condemned to death on a frame up charge of murdering his employers.

Hardly a day passes without some outrage being committed against unarmed and defenceless Negro workers and peasants.

The purpose of all this is to strike terror into the hearts of the Negro masses and to crush their growing militancy. But in order to do this and hereby cover up their class interests the capitalists and the landlords resort to the vilest demagoguery, by exploiting the backwardness of the white southern toiling masses by appealing to them to defend Anglo-Saxon "superiority" and white "womanhood".

Through these methods of deception, the white ruling class of the South is able to keep the Negro toiling masses at the lowest level of starvation, so that they in turn can be used to undercut the already miserable existence of the white workers.

Of particular significance and importance is the role played by the Negro reformists to turn the militant struggles of the Negro masses into channels harmless to the Imperialists.

Their open betrayal of the interests of the Negro masses, their close alliance with the white bourgeoisie to suppress the growing revolts of the Negro workers is glaringly revealed in the Scottsboro case. The tremendous mass movement developed in defence of the Scottsboro boys, served to bring to the fore the reformist leaders of the N. A. A. C. P. whose role was to serve as a shield for the white ruling class lynchers, whose murderous intentions were thwarted by the wide mass protest movement of the working class. Their attempt to get a hold of the legal defence, to spread confusion among the Negro masses, thereby isolating the revolutionaries was but a means to prepare the way for the white slave drivers to carry out their plans of legally lynching the innocent boys. It was only the tremendous mass pressure of the working class, which prevented the realization of these manouvres of the Negro reformists who are the chief props of the boss class lynchers.

The American working class has had sufficient experience in bourgeois class justice. We can not forget the Sacco-Vanzetti case. Only the organized might of the working class can rescue these eight young class victims from the clutches of the capitalist murderers. Only the mass protest movement of the world proletariat in support of the united struggle of the Negro and white workers of America can smash this attempt at bloody lynch justice.

Only the immediate mass protest action of the international working class can stop the bloody fascist hands of the capitalists and landlords of the state of Alabama from carrying out their cold-blooded legal murder on April 6.

Proletarians of all countries! Demand the immediate unconditional release of the nine Scottsboro boys.

White and Negro workers! Organize mass defence to smash the rising lynch attacks against the Negroes.

Demonstrate your solidarity with the black and white workers of the U. S. A. against the terror and attacks of the bourgeoisie and their Social Fascist and National Reformist Agents.

Down with capitalist lynch justice! Death to the lynchers!

# Solidarity Between Black and White Workers

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One of the finest expressions of class solidarity between the Negro and white workers in America recently took place in New York City.

At a tremendous mass meeting of over 15,000 workers, organized by the **International Labour Defense** and the **League of Struggle for Negro Rights** to protest against the attempt of the capitalists to murder the Scottsboro boys and against the imprisonment of Tom Mooney and other class war prisoners, Mrs. Mary Mooney, the 85 years old mother of comrade Mooney, told the audience:

**"Nobody can understand better than I how the mothers of the Scottsboro boys must feel. My heart bleeds for them. Like them I am a mother who heard her innocent son sentenced to death, framed up by the courts of the ruling class. I feel a deep bond of sympathy with them."**

The black workers not only in America, but also in Africa and other colonies are realizing as never before their common class interests with the white workers and oppressed peoples of China, India, etc.; and the absolute necessity of uniting against all of their enslavers. Only such a bond of international working class solidarity can free Mooney and all other class war prisoners and save the lives of the Scottsboro boys.



**They Shall Not Die!**

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***Labour with a White Skin cannot Emancipate itself, where Labour with a Black Skin is Branded! — Marx.***

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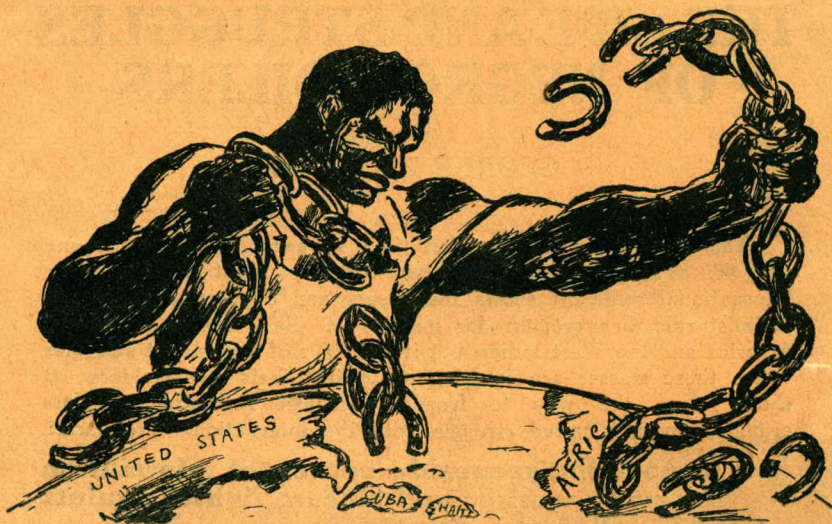
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