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Segregation Segregated.

Since leaving the Labour Party, we proletarians have left many other Utopias besides. Now we are presumptuous enough to perform the funeral obsequies of our dear departed plank, Segregation.

Hertzog, in the Parliamentary discussion this week on reserved seats for coloured railway passengers, again ventured the belief that segregation was the only remedy. How our discarded "revolutionary" planks are being pounced upon, to be sure. We cannot even deave them out overnight like the washing with any safety.

General Hertzog says, segregate the kaffirs! The Lord God Almighty said six million, five hundred and eighty seven thousand years ago, let the black be segregated from the white, and the vellow from the black. Let the long-leagued oceans roll between the great wall of China and the Cape of Storms, let custom, language, and religion create hatred and invincible repulsion between the devotee of Confucius and the western infidel and kaffir barbarians. What I have segregated let no man bring together!

But Capital broke down even the great wall of China, and tore up the decrees of geologic eras. It smelt cheap Chinese labour over ten thousand miles of ocean, and triumphantly hauled what the "Minighty" had segregated from its primeval segregation to the mine shaft of the Rand. And now Hertzog the politician wants to have a go at what the Almighty failed.

It is with this as with the "repudiation of the war loan." The power necessary to segregate the native is the power necessary to smash capitalism. But we have learnt that we cannot deliver any serious blow against capitalism without the co-operation of the kallir. Once co-operate with him and it is too late for artificial segregation. Strange the contradictions of our capitalist era: that ethnologic tendency, with which capitalism has tampered, which makes for the natural social apartness of white and black, can only be given fair play again by the *industrial* co-operation of white and black workers.

We are therefore compelled by capitalism to deal with the native question, not by removing it, but by recognising the native as perforce a permanent fellow worker. Capitalism, even more than our Socialism, compels us to seek for the application of the Internationalist principle to the native, or confess Internationalism, bankrupt.

Hertzog the dreamer this week expressed to a group of Afrikaners a sentiment in which we can all heartily concur: "Through friction you arrive at the truth."

The Modern Single Taxer.

Mr. Lucas' Ordinance enacting the taxation of Site Values by Municipalities has been approved by the Governor-General. More gratifying still is the news that there is a draft ordinance ready in the Administrator's pocket imposing a rate of ½d. in the pound on all land values throughout the Transvaal to provide revenue for education and roads.

The South African Party has stolen the thunder of our modern single taxer, and presumably this marks the exit of the idea from Labour and Socialist platforms.

It was pointed out a few weeks ago in these columns that this reform was desired above all by the aspiring capitalist. It has been clamoured for by Unionists and Master Builders in the press and in the Town Council. This does not say that it has not been a very necessary advance, and Mr. Lucas is to be congratulated that after years of propaganda he has at last convinced the capitalist of what is a prime necessity to his own advancement.

When Free Trade in corn was won in England through the endeavours of the manufacturing class, the first result was a big slump in wages as a result of the slump in the price of bread. The working class benefited, but the great harvest of cheaper labour was garnered in by the manufacturer. That is why Bright the Free Trade manufacturer opposed the Factory Acts. Nevertheless Cobden and Bright were reprobated for preaching this "Socialistic" reform.

If Free Trade in land results in the reduction of rents, it will only mean that the capitalist has won a victory over the landlord; for the irresistable tendency will be to depress wages to the extent of the reduction in the rent.

That is not to disparage the importance of the milestone which we are now passing. Increase of industry and the consequent increase of the working class community will be our share of the business. We have an interest in the advance of large industry and in the increase of our jobs and the increase of population. But now that the "Socialistic" character of the idea has been shed, and the moneyed interests have discovered in it a weapon in their fight with conservative landlordism, it is to be hoped that the last has been seen ofthis now commonplace proposal in the platform of working-class revolution.

Unemployment.

"Spes Bona" draws attention in this issue to the magnitude of the problem of unemployment. Rightly so, for Trades Unions as a rule have hitherto not been able to consider any but their own unemployed members. The organised workers in the mass must find machinery to deal with the unemployed in the mass. Unemployed labourers are no less their concern though unorganised. Overworked women need all the more holp because inarticulate. The women in the streets whom all shun no less than the man in the street who is a more conventional object of pity, they should all come within the concern of organised labour.

But Spes Bona is wrong in regarding unemployment a separate problem. It is the bludgeon of unemployment that drives workers to organise. The incentive to combine is also its greatest hindrance. It is antiquated to complain of egotistical incentives. Who are we to cavil at egotism?

Look not to the "nation," Parliament or any other "god outside the machine" to cure unemployment,—they roll on in the wheels of Competition more impotently than the workers; what other agency than the organised working class do you look to? Neither scoff at the Socialism which is the only cure. There will be unemployed while there is Corner House finance. The Messiah who can devise a system of robbery which robs no one is yet to come. In this fight the obstacles to the uplifting of the working class are the levers by which it does lift itself.

It all boils down to this: Those who are devoted to Labour in South Africa should bestir. A mobilisation of all the forces of Labour and Socialism is necessary to cope with the problems ahead. The time is nearly ripe when a gathering of every section of the organised workers in the Union should be held to arrive at a policy of common action.