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WAKE UP, WHITE WORKERS!

THE ONCOMING NATIVE PROLETARIAT.

Never has there been such vindication of the class war fight of "The International" for the solidarity of labour irrespective of colour, waged insistently by us for the last two years, as came from the mouths of capitalists this week. The South African National Union met on Tuesday at the Carlton Hotel, and in its ninth annual report appeared sentiments which might easily have been echoes from "The International." This National Union is a body formed to encourage the growth of industries in South Africa. The report said inter alia:—

"The public mind has been so concentrated upon the actual fighting of the whole forces in the field that it has been apt to regard the Indians, and our coloured and native men, as merely pawns on the chess board, who will fall back into their old position once the war is over. No idea can be more fallacious.

The days of indentured labour are numbered."

Industrial Capital is always revolutionary in the days of its youth. Lisen to its philosophic radicalism. It will hardly suit the purpose of the old hoss, the Chamber of Mines, which has little to gain by the extension of civil rights to the natives:—

"A vital modification of the industrial situation in favour of the coloured people is sure to be followed by social and political changes in the same direction | Been reading Karl Marx.] The whites will more and more tend to become an 'overseer' class, [police boys], and Mr. Merriman's characterisation of the blacks as the real working-man will be on the road to realisation. It only needs the continued locking-up of the land and repression of local industries to make this situation acute, and to make South Africa take its place in the Empire alongside of India instead of beside Australia."

The report draws attention to another remarkable development affecting the "poor whites" (the "white trash" of like economic conditions in the Southern States of America, as Sen-Yah has pointed out):—

"In other countries the unemployed and unemployables have flocked to the colours and have been made men thereby. The 'poor white' has been left unaffected by the war. Even the educational revival.

passes him by. Standard IV. at 16 is the summit of the ambition which his surroundings will admit. Hence the danger is that he may recede behind the advancing line of the non-European population."

So we see that the I.S.L. has not been a whit premature in its propaganda. In fact we have leeway to make up. The choice is even now being offered to the white workers of becoming police boys for the capitalists or of standing shoulder to shoulder with the native proletariat in its emancipating march. So long as the Federation refuses to bring the native worker within its purview, gracious concessions to white mechanics from the Chamber of Mines are nothing but lures to buy them out from the class struggle. The lavish interviews granted the Federation Secretary in the "Star" columns indicate that Wallers has discovered that the way of concession to white mechanics is the way of safety to the Chamber of Mines; for thus is the Federation being lifted high and dry above the mightier, broader currents of the teeming myriads of the bottom proletariat.

The only hope is that the Conference of Industrial Workers, which we see is being called together by a few prominent Trade Unionists on September 2nd, will become another Leeds Conference of rank and file men. If so, it will save the white workers of this country from being degraded into a police boy class. It will ensure for them a place in the ranks of those, irrespective of race or colour, privileged to unite together for the emancipation of the workers in South Africa.

As a sign of how the wind blows, it is said that the Benoni delegates at a recent S.A.L.P. Council meeting were roundly accused by their fellow delegates with being rank Internationals. Those 355 votes given to Comrade Andrews were of a high voltage, though the volume might not have been so showy as Kuper's.

Tramwaymen spoofed again.

The Tramwaymen put in demands for increases for all grades; and the Council has replied with an offer that ignores the lower paid, and piles on more privileges on the top grades. How long are the Tramwaymen going to tolerate this mean conspiracy to split their ranks by concessions to the higher paid at the expense of the new men? The Executive of the Union, mostly men of top pay, have resigned in a funk, although not long ago a scratch meeting put them in affice for the duration of the war. Meaner than all, the Council has endeavoured to put the tram riders up against the men by increasing fares. And the game of "'suspensions" for petty offences un tale telling evidence is still rife on the trams. This is about, the meanest part of the whole mean employ. The Tramwaymen should first learn that their self-respect is of more worth than. all increases in pay The first thing they should agitate for is the abolition of "suspensions." so that they may feel a bit more like men once again, instead of being the trembling slaves of every martinet inspector that comes along.

Let them ask why are they so defenceless against this "suspension" system, that strikes at their stomach, and "suspends" their manhood. Why? Because the grade system splits up their ranks and prevents them uniting. ABOLISH THE GRADE SYSTEM BOYS! and be self-respecting men once more.

The diagrams showing the recent great retreat of the Russians on the Eastern Front show that the Russian army fell back in Galacia to a line approximating with the boundary. It is evidently part of their "no annexations" policy, and their determination to fight for no foreign or home capitalism.

The Chamber of Mines has made various concessions to white mechanics, the most important being the forty-eight hour week. The wage concessions come to very little, and with the play on war bonus schemes are intricate even to the men involved. Where these concessions lose their significance is in fact that they are sectional. All working class victories are such only in so far as they increase the unity of the workers.