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THE NEGRO WORKER

Vol. 1

August 1931

No. 8



Increase the Defense of the 8 Negro Boys!

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

Price 5 cents

Price 2 pence

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Liberia and the Dirty Work of the Negro Reformists

Liberia, the so-called independent Negro Republic, is at the mercy of the International imperialist cut-throats and enslavers. And the International Labour Office with headquarters at Geneva is a part of the machinery of International capital for carrying out the policy of enslavement and dismembering the people of Liberia.

Of no less importance is the ruthless policy of American imperialism, the so-called protector of Liberia. Under the leadership of the Firestone Rubber interests, Yankee Imperialism becomes an enslaver of the people of Liberia. To her service American imperialism is bringing the intellectual and reformist Negroes, like Charles S. Johnson, a member of the Liberia Slavery Investigation Commission, and Georges S. Schuyler, a writer on the staff of a Negro bourgeois paper, who has recently made a visit to Liberia and has written a series of articles for a well known New York capitalist newspaper, in which it is shown how clearly he supports the enslavement of Liberia by American finance capital.

The First International Conference of Negro Workers held at Hamburg, Germany, in July 1930, especially called attention to the role that these Negro fakirs play in betraying the interests of the Negro toilers. The 5th World Congress of the Red International of Labour Unions held at Moscow, in August, 1930, in a resolution adopted on work among Negro workers said that the bourgeoisie in order to check the further development of the revolutionary movement of the Negro toiling masses use both, force of arms, suppress all strikes, demonstrations, uprisings and other revolutionary mass manifestations of the workers and the Negro reformists like Du Bois, Randolph and Schuyler.

And now we have a clear example of the role of the Negro reformists like Schuyler. We will print in the next issue of the NEGRO WORKER a special article on Schuyler and his trip to Liberia.

International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers.

Published by the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers. -
Address all monies, articles, letters, etc. etc. to: 8, Rothesood Strasse, Hamburg,
Germany. — J. W. Ford, Editor-in-Chief.

Workers of the World Unite!

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Imperialist Rule in British Guiana

By O. Huiswood.

The world economic crisis has struck the colonial and semi-colonial countries very hard. The Carribean colonies have felt especially the effects of the Sugar crisis. The production of sugar is the major industry of most of these colonies. The tremendous fall in sugar prices has caused an almost complete standstill of the sugar industry. This is the cause of tens of thousands of workers and farm labourers being thrown out of work, and they face actual starvation and destitution.

British Guiana is the only British colony situated on the mainland of South America. The total area of the colony is 89,464 square miles of which only about 275 square miles is under cultivation. The population is 307,784 with 57,000 in Georgetown, the capital city (1928 census) about one-fourth of the population live in the towns.

Blacks and mixed:	East Indians:	Whites:	Chinese:	Original natives:
157,922	126,964	11,302	2,810	8,786

The above figures show that the blacks and mixed are the majority of the population, it also shows that nearly half of the population are East Indians, who form the largest single racial group in the Colony.

The East Indians were brought into the colony over a period of years as pawned labourers to work on the sugar plantations. They are driven by the overseers to produce huge profits for the plantation owners for the miserable wage of from 24 to 40 cents per day.

Political Domination of the Colony

British Guiana is governed under the crown colony system. A governor appointed by the British Crown is assisted by a legislative council made up of 10 official (nominated) members and 19 unofficial members. 14 are elected and 5 nominated. In this scheme of things the Governor and the 15 nominated members, who are officials and representatives of the agricultural, commercial and shipping interests, usually Europeans. They have overriding powers over the elected members. The fiction of elective representation is kept up to fool the masses. This scheme insures the complete political domination of the colony by the British Imperialist.

The vast majority of the native population are disfranchised because he who votes is required to have an income of 300 dollars per year. A few years ago, an election was held. Out of the 86,000 adult male population, there were only 11,000 who voted. This shows that the majority of the workers do not even earn \$.300 per year and are therefore not far removed from the starvation level. Besides the money requirement there is a requirement, about "reading and writing". Since

the people who cannot read and write, in the West Indies, runs as high as 50 per cent, the landowning class use this as one more device of reducing the working-class vote to its lowest.

The constitution also requires that elected members to the Legislature must possess a certain amount of real property. This is clearly a policy to prevent the election of workers to the Legislative Council. The elected members are therefore largely the native bourgeoisie and intellectuals who cooperate with the white ruling class in the exploitation and subjection of the masses. **The native bourgeoisie are the allies of the imperialists who depend upon their support for the maintenance of Imperialist domination.**

Agriculture.

61 per cent of the total export is sugar (1930) and over 40 per cent of the wage earners depend directly or indirectly upon the sugar industry for a livelihood. This shows the appalling misery and situation which the toiling masses face, now that sugar production, the main industry in British Guiana, is at a standstill.

In 1930 there were 32 sugar plantations with a cultivated area of 57,625 acres. The export of sugar in 1928 was 114,689 tons valued £ 1,692,639. Of the by-products of sugar 2,536,628 gallons of molasses and 1,109,485 gallons of rum were exported. The capital investment in the sugar industry is about £ 4,000,000.

About 44,359 acres are under rice cultivation. The export of rice in 1928 was 18,083 tons valued at £ 232,114. There are about 131 rice mills in operation. The production of rice is carried on mainly by small East Indian peasant proprietors. Of the other crops such as coffee, coconuts, etc. 52,863 acres are under cultivation.

Industry

The small industries of British Guiana comprise the following:

a) Diamond — the export of diamonds in 1928 was 132,482 carats valued at £ 232,114.

b) Gold — the export of gold in 1928 was valued at £ 15,864.

c) Bauxite (aluminium ore) — the export of this mineral in 1929 was 182,692 tons. This industry is operated by the Northern Aluminium Company of America which is under the control of the Andrew Mellon interests. The capital investment in the industry is about £ 1,000,000.

Besides these, there are many small industrial undertakings and factories for the manufactory of soap, matches, shoes, etc. In 1928 41% of the trade was with Great Britain, 30% with Canada and 9% with the United States.

Class Differentiation.

It is important to note that class groupings are sharply drawn among the native population. There exists a rigid colour caste system, deliberately fostered by the imperialists in order to divide the mulattoes and blacks and to maintain the exploitation and subjugation of the native masses.

The working class in the colony is composed of the blacks and East Indians while in the main the whites and mulattoes are the officials, the bourgeoisie, government employers, etc.

The sugar industry is in the main controlled by the British capital, while mining is in the hands of the white and native bourgeoisie and agriculture and small manufacturing is controlled by native and East Indians bourgeoisie.

The Situation of the Working Class.

The majority of the toiling population are Negroes and East Indians. The East Indians represent the bulk of the labour force on the sugar plantations and rice fields, while the city, mining and forest labourers are largely Negroes.

In 1928, there were 37,108 adult East Indians and 18,332 children on the plantations. Besides, there were also 71,524 East Indians, largely poor farmers and workers engaged in the production of rice and other crops.

On the plantations, these workers toil under the most miserable and degrading conditions receiving from 24 to 40 cents for a long day of hard toil under the broiling sun. They are housed in company owned shacks which are even unfit as dog kennels, living in squalor, degradation and disease. Chained to the land, driven by the overseers, these workers are most frightfully exploited and oppressed.

The conditions of the city workers is little better than that of the plantation labourers. The miners, dockers and other industrial workers, who are subjected to the most brutal exploitation, receive the miserable wage of about 60 cents per day. They are forced to live in the most unsanitary disease-breeding hovels for which the landlords charge very high rentals. The living condition of these toilers is not far removed from actual pauperism. Poverty, starvation and destitution is the lot of these masses out of whose blood is squeezed superprofits by the imperialists and land owning parasites.

The unemployment situation caused by the drop in sugar-production is causing the greatest hardship and misery. In spite of the misery of the thousands of starving unemployed, the Government and employers are doing nothing to extend any relief to the masses. The Governor bluntly stating that: "he was not prepared to give relief or start a dole system".

Tasks of the Workers.

It was only the recent unemployed demonstrations led by the British Guiana Labour Union, that forced both the "Labour" Government and the local ruling class to come forward with certain fake "relief" schemes. But these "relief" schemes are clearly designed to fool the masses and prevent their revolt against the unbearable hardships.

In the present situation the tasks of the toiling masses in British Guiana is to intensify the struggle against unemployment, wage cuts and exploitation. In order to wage a successful struggle against the landowners and employers, it is necessary to build strong, militant unions of the city and plantation workers, which will carry on a determined fight against the Imperialists, for the betterment of the condition of the masses, and for national and social independence.

In this struggle of the masses in British Guiana, the International revolutionary movement particularly the British Minority Movement must give every assistance possible.

Bloody Suppression of Native Rising in the Belgian Congo

By MANSY.

The unbearable conditions of life of the Negro masses in Africa and particularly in the Belgian Congo, are driving the masses to a struggle against the colonisers. The Developing world economic crisis has also hit this slave colony of Belgian imperialism very hard. There have been many bankruptcies, and drop in production in many plants.

Negroes Terribly Exploited.

There has been a general slowing down of the industrial and commercial life of the whole of the Belgian Congo. As a result of this crisis, a great number of the toiling Negroes are out of work. Thousands of black working men and working women from Guiana and the Congo, work in the enterprises of the colonisers. Besides this, raw material and fruit is gotten and carried on in a great section of the areas. The large reserves of raw materials and great number of enterprises demand labour hands. The imperialists take all measures to force the native workers to work on their plantations and enterprises. In the majority of cases they use fire arms for this purpose. The black overseers, who are used by the exploiters, resort to force and fraud and compel the workers to work almost for nothing. The work at the enterprises is carried on under extremely hard conditions. On the average they work from 11 to 12 hours per day. In those enterprises where the equipment is old and out of date, the work is less intensive, but the length of the working day is 14 hours. The Negroes have to pay taxes in ready cash to the Belgian colonisers. This applies to those who work in the enterprises as well as those living in the villages and settlements.

The present of the Belgian Congo is like the past. The Belgian Congo was conquered by fire and sword. At the time of the rising in 1920-21, armed forces of Belgian imperialism levelled to the ground and destroyed thousands of settlements in the Busara area. This was done in order to suppress the rebels.

In 1928 the "mutiny" in North Rounda was drowned in blood and strangled by means of a wild orgy of massacres. The soldiers and gendarmeries burnt more than a thousand peasants huts.

British Soap Company Exploits Natives

The rising extended to the Kuango area, on the border of Kuila, where the margarine and soap enterprises of Lord Leverhulme are concentrated.

These most frightful conditions and acts of the colonizers forced the Negro masses to loose their patience. They took up arms to fight for their emancipation. Armed with spears, arrows, stone and rifles, they rose against the punitive expeditions of Belgian imperialists who demanded from them payment of taxes in full. The rising spread over the whole area. Additional armed forces were sent against the rebels. The "mausers" began to speak. The streets of the mutinous villages and settlements were covered with killed and wounded blacks. The whites had only two wounded. But the violent onrush of the natives forced the soldiers of the colonizers to retreat.

Uprising Spread.

Military re-inforcements were sent twice to the place of the rising. These expeditions suppressed with wild cruelty the rebels. But in spite of this, the rising was not suppressed. It spread further. The rebels set fire to the station points at Pikuzu and Kazengu. The soldiers who were at first compelled to retreat and return with considerable reinforcements. Bloody terror raged in the area of rising. Machine guns swept everything before them. On the borders of the areas of rising huge military forces were concentrated. Two objects were aimed at by the imperialists: In the first place to prevent new districts from joining the rising, and in the second to prevent the retreat of anyone in the mutinous area of Kuango.

Imperialists Plan Mass Murder.

The plan of the colonizers-hunters is to close up the rebels on a small area, to isolate them from other districts and to carry out a mass butchery and thereby put an end to the "mutiny".

The attitude of the "motherland" to these bloody events is exceedingly characteristic. The question was raised in parliament by one of the senators, as to what was going on in the Belgian Congo and whether it would not be better if the government were to take up a more moderate policy in the suppression of the rebels in Kuango. The colonial Minister Crockett replied to this question as follows: "Some times it is necessary . . . to avoid something worse."

Role of so-called Socialists.

The declaration provoked not the slightest protest on the part of the senators of all shades, including also the social democrats, (so-called socialists) who gave this minister an almost enthusiastic reception.

The pretty words "it is sometimes necessary" mean that the government has decided to drown in blood the rising of Negroes, whom they systematically plunder, rob, exploit and kill. This in its turn means that the soldiers of the imperialists will, during all this time, suppress and re-establish imperialist order and that the blood of the Negro masses will flow still more, that hundreds and thousands, when they run away to the forests to save themselves from the bullets of the white colonizers, will be in danger of destruction from wild beasts, hunger and fever. That is what these words "it is sometimes necessary" calmly, pronounced, in parliament, by the Colonial Minister mean. It means rule by blood and iron. The members of the assembly have the same interests in this as the colonial banditism.

Only Communist Voice Protest.

It was only the Communist Party of Belgium, acting in cooperation with the workers, that came out openly in solidarity with their black comrades from the Congo. Special leaflets were issued explaining the events in Belgian Congo. A number of demonstrations and meetings were organized. The demonstration in Serenga was especially successful.

The communist deputy in parliament, Jacquematte protested in parliament in the name of the revolutionary proletariat against the Congo butchery. This speech had its effect. The bourgeoisie and especially the social-democratic press at first organized a conspiracy of silence in regards to the events which were taking place, but after the speech of Jacquematte small reports began to appear in the press about the character of the rising, also the number of killed etc. In the official press 160 Negroes were reported as killed, but in a foot note it is stated that the official number of killed are given as only 86. In reality the number of Negroes killed does not conform to the figure of 116 by far. This for instance, the "Soir" which printed a bulletin on the "Victory" describes a butchery in the neighborhood of a certain warehouse as a result of which more than 100 Negroes perished.

Hundreds of New Negro Rebels Rise.

The band of lying and slanderous Belgian colonizers does not wish to give a true account of the events in Belgian Congo. The history of the last years is one of the most bitter struggles against the colonizers on the part of the native masses in the settlements and towns.

The Belgian bourgeoisie is incapable of destroying the revolutionary movement. In the place of every rebel tortured to death, tens and hundreds of new ones arise. Many toiling Negroes know of the Soviet Union. They know also that in the Soviet Union the working class is the master of the means of production, that the working class overthrew the capitalists and the landlords and the national peoples inhabiting the Soviet Union have all attained tremendous achievements in the way of the growth of culture and economic development.

Only Way to Freedom. — Fight to Destroy Imperialism.

The Belgian colonizers are trying to keep under their yoke the toiling Negro population of the colonies. But the sea of lies will not deceive the native masses. On the basis of their bitter experience they know very well what the imperialist beasts of prey are. They see with their own eyes the horrors of capitalist "civilisation", they feel the ever growing oppression of rotting capitalism, which before its inevitable end is trying to tie the noose still tighter around the neck of the oppressed people of Belgian Congo, and is trying by way of increased exploitation, to delay its fall.

Under the leadership and with the assistance of the revolutionary proletariat the Negro toilers will fight for the overthrow of the rule of Belgian imperialism, and will win.

Capitalism a Menace

By Arthur S. Gray.

Capital which is used to sway the scales of justices, or to legislate against the poor, or to invade territories of backward peoples is an able description and cannot be defended by those seeking freedom from such oppression. It is the principle of capitalism that is opposed by Communist defenders.

The mere **saving** of one's honest earnings has never been opposed or resented by the most pronounced Communist thinker, but the accumulated **profits** of another's labour has and will forever be attacked by the class-conscious workers. Capitalism was not created by individual saving and for anyone to make such a stupid comparison is positively childish and stupid.

In Russia we are told that the **workers** have first consideration in all matters of a political and economic nature, such a policy will protect the **weak** who most certainly need protection — if any is to be provided. In capitalist communities just the reverse is the condition: the wealthy dominate, dictate, and control all public matters to the despair of the poor, and uneducated masses. Charity is dispensed by these parasites — yes! But who wants a bone or a crust, when they are entitled to the wealth which their own labour produced. There are some workers that may wish to remain in this "beggar" state, but those who have been aroused to a consciousness of the class struggle want to end this vicious exploitation of the working class.

Any nation whose wealth does not belong to the people, is a state that is not controlled by the people; and to pretend that such communities are the peoples governments is rank hypocrisy and deceit. In Russia, the workers are given an opportunity to **work**, because the state is dependent upon such income for its existence and progress; but in the United States you have little opportunity to secure employment — and they throw you in jail for vagrancy, if you fail to land a JOB.

As long as such intense misery and suffering prevails, as the records of this country reveal, wealth that has been amassed to the extent of the Rockefellers, Carnegie, Ford, Mellon, etc., should be confiscated by the state to relieve the nation wide depression of the masses. Can any of these millionaires dispose of such vast amount during their lifetime — normally? Then why not conscript such enormous savings to minimize the agonies of others, as man-power was conscripted during the war periods to "save civilisation"?

There should be no hesitation in the minds of Negro workers as to what course to pursue in this struggle, and particularly so by those who are advocating

the overthrow of Imperialism in Africa, for all forms of Imperialism feed upon the support of capitalism. In America we find that capitalism condones lynching, jim-crowism, and all forms of race distinction. And in conclusion, I firmly believe that **communism** in its crudest state is more beneficial to the Negro **worker** than **capitalism** will ever be in its most modified form.

Editor's Note:

The above article by Arthur S. Gray, appeared in the "Negro World" of July, 25, 1931, the official organ of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, generally referred to as the Garvey Movement. We publish this in order to expose the "left" manoeuvres of the Negro petty-bourgeois national-reformists.

Mr. Gray is one of the chief supporters and ideological leaders of the "Back To Africa" Movement. Despite all of his "left" phrases that **Communism** in its crudest state is more beneficial to the Negro **worker** than **capitalism** will ever be in its most modified form. Mr. Gray still supports Marcus Garvey, who has been exposed over and over again as one of the greatest lackeys and defenders of capitalism, and a fakir who will stop short of nothing to utilize the oppression of the toiling masses of his race, to swindle them of their hard earnings in order to support all kinds of bogus schemes. Why does Mr. Gray come out in his attacks against capitalism? He realizes that the world economic crisis is undermining the very foundations of capitalism. He knows that the workers of the Soviet Union are achieving great victories in the building up of Socialism, and that the working class throughout the world and the toiling colonial masses in China, in India, in Africa, are carrying on a determined struggle against imperialist domination. Because of these facts, Mr. Gray realizes that the Negro bourgeois reformists are no longer able to befuddle and mislead the Negro masses, and that in order to maintain whatever little prestige he enjoys among the Negro workers in America it is necessary for him to adopt a more left-demagogic attitude about the evils of capitalism. We want to say to Mr. Gray and other "left" Negro politicians inside and outside of the Garvey Movement that the only way that they can prove their sincerity and loyalty to the oppressed millions of their race is by breaking away from Garveyism and all other brands of Negro petty-bourgeois reformism, and actively supporting the revolutionary class struggle of the Negro workers and the national-liberation movements of their black brothers in the colonies for Freedom and Self-Determination. This can only be done by striving for the unity of workers of all colours and all oppressed peoples on the basis of the programme of militant class struggle, represented by the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers.

G. P.

What must be done in British Guiana

An open letter.

(Issued by the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers.)

To all Workers of British Guiana.

Comrades!

Today the entire capitalist world is in the grips of a frightful economic crisis. Nearly 40 million workers in Europe, America and other countries are unemployed and are walking the streets from place to place searching in vain for work. The present economic crisis is painfully affecting the workers and peasants in the capitalist countries but is hitting all the more strongly the toilers of the colonies and semi-colonies where it is difficult to get exact figures of the great number of

colonial people affected by unemployment. The employers attempt to place the whole burden of the crisis on the backs of the already poverty stricken workers and peasants through wholesale dismissals and reductions in wages.

The crisis in the sugar industry has hit British Guiana the slave colony of British imperialism especially hard and has thrown thousands of industrial and agricultural workers completely out of work. Sugar represents 61% of the total exports of the country and 30 to 50% of wage workers depend directly or indirectly upon the sugar industry. This shows the extent of the poverty of the masses in the present time when the sugar industry is in a state of complete standstill. Thousands of workers, men and women, who formerly merely eked out a miserable existence are at present entirely without any means of livelihood, and are quite destitute.

I. Unemployment and Starvation.

The major question facing the toiling masses of British Guiana is the unemployment situation. And what are the Government and the employers doing to relieve this terrible condition of the masses? Various fake relief schemes have been proposed. But these so-called "relief" schemes are only put forward to fool the masses and to create the illusion that the ruling class is ready to aid them.

Under the mask of assisting the unemployed the "Labour" government has granted a loan of £ 162,000 to British Guiana. But the real object of this loan consists not in assisting the unemployed but in trying to assist the European sugar planters to overcome their crisis and prevent the total loss of their investments, amounting to millions of pounds. The governor knows that this so-called relief scheme is a fake and in order to prevent the workers from organizing for struggle he proposes that the British Guiana Labour Union organize a "trade depot" in which the workers can display certain products of their labour, and also that it "collect the unemployment statistics". He also calls upon the masses to go "back to the land". This is a direct mockery of the starving masses, who demand the right to work or immediate relief. But on the demands made by the Union for immediate financial assistance to the unemployed, the Governor replied that this question has to be discussed with other officials and that "he was not prepared to give relief or start a dole system".

Fearing the growing wrath of the masses and their readiness to fight against unemployment and the starvation policy, carried through by the capitalists and the owners of the plantations and the government, the governor declared to a delegation of the Trade Union his indignation with the workers' street demonstrations with banners insofar as this "may create excitement and lead to unpleasantness". The governor knows full well, that it is only in the organization of the forces of the workers that a means for assisting thousands of starving men, women and children can be found. Consequently he and other supreme rulers are trying to keep the workers in fear, to terrorise the masses and to compel them to silently suffer privation.

While both the unemployed and the partially employed are compelled to roam about without work and without means, the greedy landlords are demanding from them payment of rent, and are depriving those workers who are penniless of their last cent. The last proposal of the landlords to allow the tenants only five days in which to pay their indebtedness for rent shows clearly the offensive they are preparing against the unemployed.

While on the one hand the workers and peasants are living in misery, squalor and degradation, receiving a mere pittance of their toil when they are employed, while they are compelled to live in frightful hovels, we see on the other hand

the officials and the employers, whites and natives living in luxury, receiving huge salaries and making colossal profits at the expense of the toiling masses.

II. What must be done?

Fellow Workers! the immediate task before the toiling masses of British Guiana is to **organize and struggle against capitalist exploitation!**

Every worker in British Guiana must know that only through organization can an effective struggle be carried and the unemployed and employed workers secure better conditions. The capitalist government and the employers will never voluntarily grant any of the demands of the workers or give relief to the unemployed unless forced by the organized might of the working class. The working class of British Guiana has had a number of strike experiences. You know too well that the small concessions you were able to wring from the employers in the past were due to the determined strike struggles you so bravely waged. Only on the basis of the programme of class struggle which was drawn up at the First International Trade Union Congress of Negro Workers, held in Hamburg, Germany, July 1930, which was attended by a delegate from the West Indies, can a real effective struggle be waged against capitalist exploitation and slavery.

III. The British Guiana Labour Union.

The British Guiana Labour Union has in the past led a number of demonstrations and strike struggles of the workers for the improvement of their degrading conditions. Despite the many shortcomings of the Union it is the only force rallying the workers in demonstrations and meetings against unemployment. But the political mistakes for the leadership consists in this, that it did not understand that a successful struggle for an improvement in the conditions of the masses cannot be carried on by way of appeals directed to the government and the employers but only by way of uniting the workers on the basis of an active fighting and decisive class struggle programme, and this mistake has prevented the Union from becoming a strong fighting organization. In view of the fact that the Union during the last period took no part in the daily struggles of the workers, that it did not fight for their daily demands, the condition of the Union is now exceedingly bad and the number of its members exceedingly small.

Fellow workers! You must sharply watch all the intrigues of the capitalists and the government who by means of the formation of trade depots supposedly to aid the unemployed, but, in reality, with the idea of obtaining cheaper labour and bigger profits, are really trying to deceive you.

Equally harmful are also the proposals of certain leaders of the Union to try and organize laundries and bakeries since such things simply result in the weakening of the fight of the workers against capitalism with its system of exploitation and oppression.

The workers must guard against also another danger and that is the penetration into the Union of politicians and such so-called leaders who will in the long run go over to the side of the employers and betray the workers. The workers must profit by the experience of the past, when similar elements used all their efforts to destroy the Union a few years ago. Only a class-conscious proletarian leadership is capable of leading the workers in an active fight against the imperialist parasites and their supporters who suck the life blood out of the workers.

To wage a successful campaign against unemployment and exploitation it is necessary to create a strong organization. Therefore, the primary task before the workers is the building of the union. With this object it is necessary to

develop a mass recruiting campaign among the Railway workers, the dock workers and seamen, the mechanics, domestic workers, the miners and the day labourers. All these workers should be drawn into the union on the basis of their immediate demands, which should be linked up with the general class demands:

- 1) The right to organize and strike; 2) freedom of assembly speech and labour press; 3) equal pay for equal work; regardless of nationality, colour of the skin, sex and age; 4) An 8-hour day; 5) a minimum wage for all workers; 6) two week's annual holiday with pay; 7) the introduction of a workmen's compensation law and social insurance; 8) maternity insurance; 9) repeal of the "masters and servants" ordinance; 10) federation with the West Indies and the right of self-determination.

IV. Organize the agricultural Workers.

The majority of workers in British Guiana are agricultural workers and they more than any other group of the proletariat feel the brunt of the agrarian crisis. These plantation workers are subjected to still greater exploitation and live in still greater poverty than the town workers. A large majority of these workers are East Indians who are tied to the land and are working under the most frightful exploitation and oppression. In the past these Indian workers have on a number of occasions been in open rebellion against the ruling class, and have fought bravely against the slave conditions on the plantation. It is of utmost importance that the union pay special attention to drawing these workers into the common struggle against the landowners and begin active organizational work among them.

The union should call joint meetings of the natives and East Indian agricultural workers pointing out to them the necessity and importance of organizing an agricultural workers' union. **At these meetings special committees should be elected by the workers and charged with the task of drawing up a programme for organization and agitation, and to carry out the work necessary for organizing a union.** The following demands should be included in the programme of action:

- 1) The right to organize and strike; 2) A minimum wage and 8-hour day; 3) Women and youth must be given equal pay with the men; 4 Abolition of child labour on the plantations for children under 14 years of age; 5) Free rent for workers housed in company owned houses; 6) Exemption from taxes for agricultural workers; 7) Free grant of land to unemployed agricultural workers.

5. Organize the Unemployed.

Since the burning question before the toiling masses of British Guiana to day is the question of unemployment, one of the immediate tasks of the union must be the organization of the unemployed workers and the mobilization of the employed workers for a joint struggle for the demands of the unemployed. A special campaign should be waged among the Indian workers to draw them into the fight against unemployment.

The British Guiana labour Union should call a series of meetings of all the unemployed. The meetings should be advertised as widely as possible. The leading members of the union should explain the purpose of the meeting and call upon the rank and file to elect from their midst committees of action. One of the immediate tasks of the Committees must be the organizational of unemployed Councils composed of both native and Indian workers. The Committee must draw up a programme of action which should include the following points:

- 1) Immediate financial relief for the unemployed and their families; 2) The funds for relief to be provided by especial tax levied on the business enterprises and capitalist and by cutting down the high salaries of the officials and by withdrawing the special bonus recently granted to the higher grades of the civil

services; 3) No rent to be paid by the unemployed; 4) Food clothing and medical attention for the children of the unemployed free of charge.

These demands must be confirmed by a general meeting of unemployed. The Committee must call upon the unemployed to march to the Government house in order to present a petition containing these demands to the Governor and the Legislative Council. All the unemployed men, women and children should participate in the demonstration. The employed workers should participate in the demonstration and thereby show their class solidarity with the unemployed. The employed workers must recognize the fact that the employers always play off one group of workers against the other, holding the unemployed army as a threat over the heads of the employed workers. The employed must remember that to-day they are working, but tomorrow they too may be forced to walk the streets in search of work. Only the joint struggle of the employed and unemployed on the basis of their common class interests can prevent the bosses from further lowering the standard of living of the working class.

6. A call to the workers.

Fellow Workers! Only upon a programme of action as outlined above can the workers engage in a real struggle to better their conditions and build strong and effective fighting unions. In this fight many so-called "friends" of labour will come forward with the propaganda of the unemployers urging "Labour and Capital to work together much in the manner of the two blades of a scissors". Politicians and lawyers of all shades will "join" the union in order to further their own selfish interests and later betray the workers. Fellow workers beware of these tools of the capitalists, and imperialists! Bitter experience has taught the proletariat of the whole world that the only way they can get anything from the capitalists is through struggle and the mass organization of the workers.

Working men and women British Guiana! Organize and build your unions. Organize unemployed Councils. The Negro and White class-conscious workers of America, England, and other parts of the world are with you and will support your struggles. Fight against the imperialist exploiters! Demand federation with the West Indies and the right of self-determination! Refuse to let your wives and children starve while the capitalists and landlords and their families live in luxury.

Demonstrate on the streets and before the Legislative Council and demand food, work and the right to human Existence.

With Fraternally greetings!

International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers.

Against White Terror

The International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers has issued protest against the imprisonment and for the release of the African comrade, Kouyattee, who was arrested for his activities in the Anti-War Demonstrations on August 1st at Marseilles and sentenced to 45 days imprisonment.

The protest points out how French imperialism has been one of the leading imperialist powers in the war intervention plans against the Soviet Union. It points out the many cases of the brutal suppression of the revolutionary movements in the colonies by French imperialism and particularly the blood baths and oppression of the Negroes of the Black colonies of France.

It points out how the French have imprisoned and beheaded the revolutionaries of Indo-China because of their activities in the Anti-imperialist and liberation struggle of Indo-China.

It points out how the "Socialists" of France, to the applause of Social Democracy as a whole, have been hand in hand with French imperialism in murdering the people and suppressing the movements of the colonial peoples of French imperialism and particularly in Africa.

It further points out how comrade Kouyattee won the renewed hatred of the French imperialists and the reformists by his complete exposure of the role of the latter to the colonial seamen, at a recent meeting in Marseilles and won over 70 colonial seamen away from them over to the International Seamen's Club.

It also points out how French imperialism used hundreds of thousands of black troops as cannon-fodder in the imperialist war of 1914-18, and their plans to use black troops as cannon-fodder in the coming war, not only against the U. S. S. R. but also, (in case of revolutionary out breaks) against the revolutionary movements of the workers. At the same time we point out how French imperialism is using the Negro lackey, Diagne, a member of the present French Government, as they did in the world war, to draw Negroes into the Service of French imperialism against the interests of the black masses.

Comrade Kouyattee, since leaving Darkar and coming to French, has long been a battler against imperialism and French imperialism in particular, for the liberation of the blacks of Africa and for the Unity of the black and white workers. He took an active part in the Frankfort Congress of the League Against Imperialism in 1929 and recently attended the June Executive Sessions of the League Against Imperialism at Berlin, where he made a brilliant exposure of the murderous role of French imperialism in the Colonies.

He is an active leader in the work and organization of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, and as Secretary of the League for the Defence of the Negro Race has carried on a militant fight in Paris against the Negro reformists and for the **workers and peasants** to play the leading role in the Negro Liberation movement.

The protest points out that by arresting the most active workers that are helping to organize the fight against imperialism and expose the atrocities committed against the Negro masses, French imperialism hopes to stop the rising revolutionary movement of the Negro masses.

French imperialism used this method in 1927 when they arrested comrade Lanime Senghor, a Negro worker from Equatorial Africa for his attendance at they Brussel Congress of the Anti-imperialist League. Comrade Senghor was allowed to rot in prison.

It is for the reasons of the significance of the terrible conditions of the Negro toilers under imperialism and the struggles that are developing, which comrade Kouyattee symbolizes, that the International Trade Union Committee energetically protests against his imprisonment calls upon the international working class to join with us in calling a halt to the ruthless exploitation and oppression of the Negro toilers!

International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers.

WORKERS CORRESPONDENCE

To Other Workers thru:
"The Negro Worker".

Johannesburg, July 15th, 1931.

Dear Comrades,

Here in our country, as the crisis of capitalism deepens the capitalists impose new laws on the backs of the masses.

Six or seven years ago, the Dutch Government of South Africa, in addition to the badge of slavery (passes, etc.) imposed upon the Negro women the Curfew Regulation which meant that they could not be out after 9 P.M. It went on for several weeks and was finally stopped.

To day the government has been forced by the crisis to re-impose it. The excuse is that it operates for the "undesirables", when in fact it is meant to meet the expenditures caused by the crisis.

The reformist organizations such as the African National Congress and the three sections of the I. C. U. have helped the carrying out of these measures. It is notable that they refused to participate, in fact were against the Pass Burning Campaign last year which was lead by the Communist Party and the Revolutionary Trade Unions.

These bodies have recently sent deputations to the Department of Native Affairs Pretoria to consult the minister of the Native Affairs, and they returned however, unsuccessful in their efforts which of course proved the opportunistic tendencies of these leaders.

Meanwhile, they are touring the country with objects of collecting funds to contest these cases in the supreme courts of the bourgeois the imposers of this very Act.

The Communist Party of South Africa is holding a series of meeting in all towns and Locations asking men and women to take the streets on August the 1st. From 9-30, p. m. as a demonstration of their hatred for the passes.

This struggle is being linked up with the men's struggle; reformists leaders are being denounced from every platform as betrayers of the working class and the servant of the bourgeois class. Workers are rallying to the red banner which is the banner of honour. In conclusion, let me say:

Down with Capitalism!

Down with unemployment!

Up with the revolutionary movements,

Long live the U. S. S. R. the 1st workers state and the only friend of the working class the oppressed slaves of the world.

Fraternally,

J. S.

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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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