

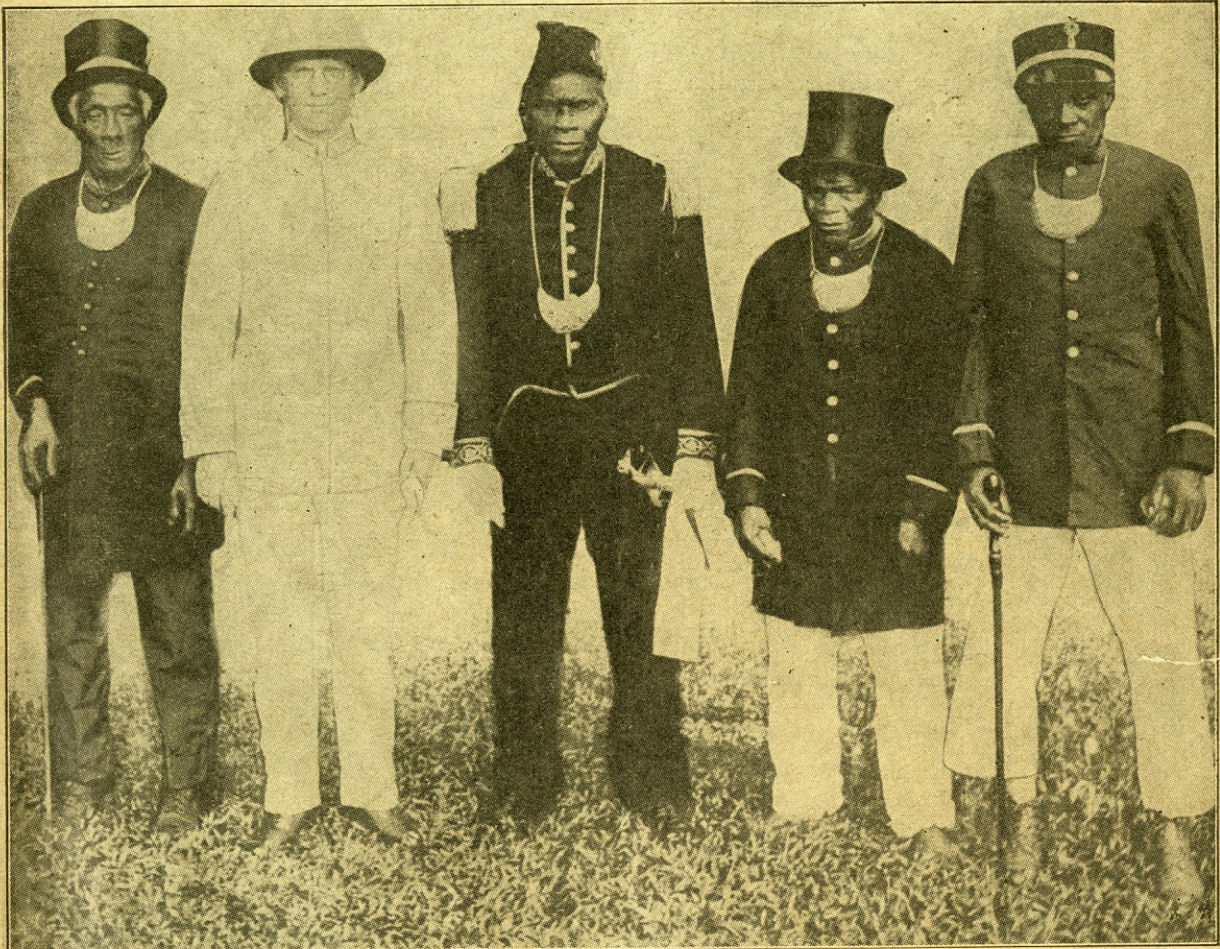
What is Empire Da,

THE NEGRO WORKER

No. 6

June 15, 1932

Vol. 2



Colonial Governor and Native Chiefs — The King's African "Monkeys"

**DOWN WITH THE WHITE IMPERIALISTS
AND THEIR BLACK AGENTS!**

**LONG LIVE THE FREEDOM OF AFRICA
AND THE COLONIES!**

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What is Empire Day?

By Geo. Padmore.

On the twenty-fourth of May every year, the British imperialists and their native lackeys in the colonies give thanks to their god that with the aid of the **Bible, rum and bullets** they have stolen India, parts of Africa and China, and have enslaved hundreds of millions of colonial toilers in these lands. **This is Empire Day.** With all the cynicism characteristic of the most arrogant, haughty and hypocritical ruling class in the world — it is also made a "great" day for rejoicing in the colonies.

With flag waving, military display and jingo songs à la Rudyard Kipling, millions of Negro, Indian, Chinese and other coloured children are compelled to dress themselves up in gaudy Lancashire cloth, and with the Union Jack — the symbol of oppression, assemble in public places and listen to the most arrogant speeches of colonial governors, missionaries and military officials.

Earl Jellicoe, Admiral-in-chief of the Fleet and president of the Empire Day Movement, in a recent address to the school children of Britain said:

"The celebration of the day brings before the people, and especially before **the young, the desirability of thinking imperially.**" (Emphasis ours — G. P.)

In this way these imperialist overlords foster national hatred and contempt for the peoples of other lands in the minds of working class children. Empire Day celebration in the schools is also made an occasion for spreading the most awful lies about the Soviet Union. The writer remembers as a village schoolboy in a Britain colony, how the European school inspector, the district-magistrate, and the parish priest used to compete with one another in telling us how the Bolsheviks hated the coloured races and that it was not for the "mighty" British Empire — "of which we must all be proud, and ready to defend with our lives", — the Soviets would overrun Africa and enslave all the blacks, even worse than the German "huns".

Furthermore, out of the starvation wages of the colonial toilers, their children are compelled to make donations to all kinds of imperialist and military campaigns — ranging from the King's birthday to Poppy Day.

When the true history of British colonial plunder comes to be written from the point of view of the oppressed and exploited nations now under the yoke of these imperialist murderers it will reveal some of the greatest rackets that the world however known.

In Africa, the West Indies, and other British possessions, the wives of the European bureaucrats, not satisfied that their men are extorting millions of dollars out of the sweat and blood of the natives, are also active in promoting their own pet rackets. In order to cover up the predatory character of their doings, these proud Anglo-Saxon dames, who by the way, are no less skillful than their husbands in

patriotic demagoguery, and as a result, have been able to put over one of the biggest swindles in Trinidad, an important naval base for the North Atlantic Fleet. Thanks to their jesuitic manoeuvres, they succeeded in getting one of the officials in the Department of Education to close up one of the oldest elementary schools supported out of public revenue and turn the building over to them in order to establish a club for sailors visiting the island. It is here the ladies of easy virtue congregate to make their contacts with the navy men. What do these people care about the fact that thousands of little black children are now denied the opportunity of learning to read and write by having their schoolbuilding taken away from them. These women, like their men, realize that the British navy is the greatest instrument which they have to keep the Negroes and other colonial peoples in subjection, so they leave no stone unturned to see that all the wants of their armed protectors are fully satisfied.

Here is another case which serves to show how Empire Day is utilized in promoting British business in the colonies.

In a circular letter sent out to the African and West Indian press, by these Empire "builders", the natives of the Empire were asked on Empire Day, 1932, and in the succeeding years, to agree to use at their tables solely the food products of British lands.

The circular advances the following reasons:

"1. In humble acknowledgment of the gracious dispensation of Providence which enables the British Empire to produce every article of food needed for human sustenance. (Emphasis ours — G. P.)

2. To aid and encourage the food producers of the Empire to develop the resources of their lands. First preference should be given to the products of the Colony. Then the products of other parts of the Empire.

The help is sought of all private house-holders and managers of all clubs, hotels and restaurants, asking them:

"1. To promise to make the meals of that day Empire meals.

2. In the case of clubs, hotels, and restaurants, to allow the fact of their promise to be published in the Press."

In addition, those who are willing and able to do so, are asked to help further by:

"(a) Giving an "Empire" lunch or dinner that day, serving only Empire food.

(b) In the case of such restaurants and stores as make special displays of food, reserving such displays for Empire products."

The circular goes on to make a direct appeal to the various imperialist agents as follows:

"1. If you are a Minister of Religion: to ask your congregation to join on Empire Day in acknowledgment to the Almighty for the great resources with which the British Empire has been blessed. (See Revelations Chapter 22, Verse 2)

2. If you are civic head of a town or village: to ask your fellow citizens by a letter to the press and/or by a reference at your Council meeting) to observe Empire Day in this way.

3. If you are of the governing body of any patriotic society: to invite its members to observe Empire Day in this way.

4. If you are head of a University, College, or School: to call the attention of students to the food resources of the Empire.

5. If you are a private citizen: to decide that in your household Empire Day meals will be on Empire food products only; to ask your neighbours to come to the same decision; to speak to the tradespeople who have your custom, urging them to stock Empire food products."

What cynicism! There is hardly any part of the world where there is more misery, squalor and starvation than in the black colonies.

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In the midst of all the widespread misery and unemployment, due to the economic crisis of world capitalism, these imperialist parasites are only concerned with extorting taxes out of the Negro workers and peasants, in order to enable a handful of European bureaucrats to equander millions of pounds upon their idle women.

Empire Day—is only one of the many "national" celebrations promoted by the British imperialist officials to foster patriotism and loyalty among the workers and their children in England as well as in the colonies, in order to enable the ruling class of England to continue to carry on their regime of hunger, starvation, plunder and annexation, wholesale slaughter of defenceless natives, lust, profit and bloodshed, which has been the historic policy of the so-called British Empire from the slave raiding days of Elizabeth to the forced labour regime of George V.

See page 12 — How The British Empire Was Built.

The War Danger

South Africa and the Imperialist War

By T. Jackson (Johannesburg).

The Anglo-Boer imperialist rulers of South Africa had gained a certain cheap "notoriety" through their opposition of the creation of black armies in Africa, especially does it show this opposition towards the black army of French imperialism, while glossing over the existence of the King's African Rifles in East-Africa and the West African Frontier Force, two native armies of British imperialism, which African children in the schools are taught to admire and feel proud of.

The reason for this policy and attitude of the South African slave holders is quite understandable. A black army in South Africa would cause the bourgeoisie sleepless nights. They can only feel a certain amount of "security" while the natives are completely unarmed and defenceless. But this is only one side of the question. The other side is, that this policy lulls the vigilance of the revolutionaries in the struggle against imperialist war. South African natives have participated in every war of the imperialists in recent times to a greater or lesser extent, in one way or another. This participation was especially significant during the War of 1914—1918.

It is an incident in this connection that has impelled me to write this article for the benefit of the readers of the "NEGRO WORKER" because it exposes the despicable role of the African lackeys, better known as "good boy" reformists in South Africa in the service of British imperialism. The incident I have in mind is the foundering of the "Mendi", a British steamer in the English Channel, on February 21st, 1917, with 800 African workers bound for the battle fields of France, an incident, "immortalised in song" by middle-class Negro composers in South Africa and around which, the imperialists with the aid of their black agents, especially the parsons have spread a halo of mystic glamour taking good care in hiding the ugly reality of African workers and peasants dying in the cause of their bloody capitalist enslavers.

For fifteen years the imperialists forgot all about the widows and dependants of the men who went down in the "Mendi". But on February 21st this year, they staged a huge memorial service in the "Bantu Sports Ground" in Johannesburg, attended by the "respectable" citizens of the city from the white Mayor and Bishops down to the native parsons, and underpaid teachers, who brought native boy scouts and girl guides and all the reformist misleaders whom they could mobilize for the occasion. It is interesting to give quotations from the speeches of the white citizens which were very "nice" indeed—and then to ask the question, why is it that these arrogant people whose usual references to the native people

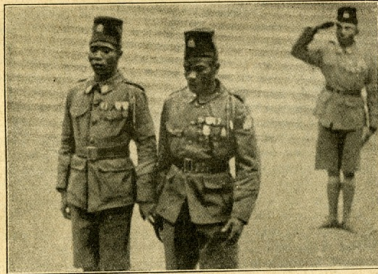
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of South Africa are of the most insulting, humiliating and revolting nature, thought fit to make such "nice" speeches on this occasion? When we keep in mind the fact that heavy war clouds are hovering over the East and West, that war has already started in the East in China and Manchuria, we will understand why these jingoists made such speeches on February 21st.

For example, the Mayor of Johannesburg said: "It was not adventure for those natives to go to Europe. They went to South West Africa (the German Territory, T. J.) and endured the extreme heat and thirst of the desert, and they went to East Africa and ran the risks of malaria and other diseases. Perhaps white people forget as the years go by, that natives died for the Empire in the Great War."

White people (read white imperialists) forget, but the experience will be valuable for the Negro workers who don't need to go to France or for that matter China, for their greatest enemies are the very South African capitalists whose spokesman was the Mayor. How did these people meet their death?

Dr. Lewis E. Hertslet, the medical officer in charge of the Africans on the "Mendi" at the time of the incident say his hypocritical tribute: "Never will I forget the courage and bravery shown by that band of African manhood in the face



African soldiers — Cannon-fodder for imperialist war

of death. The men were calm and composed. Each man got his life belt, they all went on deck with an orderliness which might have surprised orderly seamen. The weather was extremely cold. The life boats were small and could not take all those who could reach them."

"The life boats were small and the weather was extremely cold"—615 Africans perished, drowned like rats for the "greater glory" of the British Slave Empire and capitalist Civilization, or it is — "syphilisation"! Thousands of other Africans perished from cold and exposure in the labour battalions in France, hundreds in the Cape Coloured Corps in the blazing heat of the desert in Palestine. Yet nothing is ever said about them, much less done for their dependants.

Finally, let me quote from the message of Mayor T. E. Leifeldt, D. S. O., a highly placed official of the South Africa Defence Force, whose first duty, by the way, is suppression of native revolts. "Exclusive of those who served in Europe, some 40,000 natives served in South West and East Africa. They were unarmed and very often found themselves under the fire of the enemy. Many lost their lives in German East Africa in 1917, when the whole force had to make its way

through many miles of mud and water to Kilwa and the sea coast. Where pluck and daring called for, it was never lacking in these men."

This chief recruiting agent of the Chamber of Mines concludes: "While the loss of these men is today brought to tearful memory we are proud of them. They perished doing their duty, serving King and Country." What hypocrisy!

The imperialists know their job and their "good boys". For would you believe, the native lickspittles who were present, instead of denouncing the cynical speeches of these white exploiters, were moved to tears. Smarming under a sense of humiliation at the daily insults hurled at them and their race in South Africa they would sell their small souls to hear such "nice" speeches from their masters. But for the toiling masses whose fathers, sons and brothers perished in Europe, West and East Africa, deceived by these same imperialists that they were engaged in a war for "democracy" and "to end all wars" such sloppy sentimentalism has no meaning.

The "NEGRO WORKER" has pointed out time and again that the imperialists intend to make even greater use of the Negro workers and peasants as cannon fodder in the coming world war. That all this sudden concern for the "Mendi" victims after 15 years of silence is merely part of the campaign to again mobilize the Africans for slaughter is clear. To expose these manoeuvres; to mobilize the masses against the imperialist war of intervention, for the defence of the U. S. S. R., and to intensify the struggle against the South African and British Government of hunger and oppression, against the whole catalogue of slave laws under which the native toiling masses suffer, against the treachery and cowardice of the national reformists and "good boys", for national liberation and social emancipation is the task of all sincere revolutionists in Africa.

Down with Imperialist War!

Defend the U. S. S. R. and the Chinese Soviets!

Long live the Federation of Independent South African Native Republics!

Liberia and the Labour Problem

By Kolliselleh T a m b a.

(Secretary, Liberia Workers' Progressive Association.)

If ever there is any country wherein the workers, and hence the real pillars of the economic structure, are left wholly unprotected; if ever there is any Government wherein the right of the poor class of the working masses is actually sacrificed upon the altar of bribery; if ever there is a nation whose "leaders" that is to say, the official class, are chronically apathetic, — such a country is Liberia.

Official Strike Breakers.

In the year 1928 the boat crew of Monrovia struck and declared that they would consent to work for the foreign steamship agencies and merchantile firms only upon the condition that they are paid 4/- each per round trip. They held fast for about two weeks — a condition which came nigh being unbearable for the firms and steamship agencies who regard the services of the crew indispensable, but who will not pay them the deserved wages. It is strongly believed that the firms would have ultimately agreed to pay the crew the wages thus demanded; but in consequence of certain sinister official activities, these poor and helpless workers were made to feel that the government would not support any such movement,

and thereby were compelled to return shamefully to the old jobs under the old regime of receiving only 1/6 each per round trip.

Forced Labour For Firestone.

Again, when the Firestone Plantations Company first came to Liberia, they proposed to pay their labourers who are recruited forcibly by governmental orders — the sum of 4/- each per day, quite 300% more than the ordinary wages earned by unskilled workers in Liberia. This system or proposal was flatfootedly opposed by the officials, on the ground that it would be detrimental to the interest of the government which at the time knew nothing about paying labourers, and they assured the Company that labour would be easily procured without spending such a "heavy" sum of money. It should be here remembered that at this period forced labour was in its bloom in Liberia. The point is, Firestone Company would have induced every man to work on the rubber plantations, and there would remain not sufficient natives in the Hinterland to be coercively



Forced labour on Firestone plantation in Liberia. Natives bringing in raw rubber

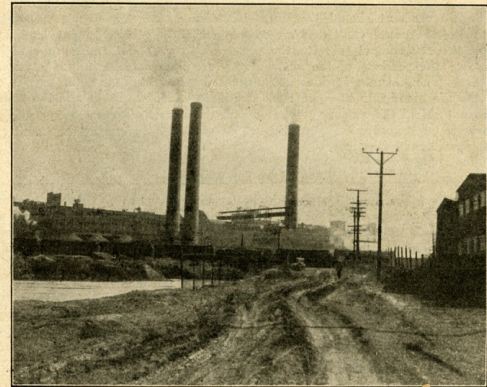
made to work on government or public roads and private farms of officials without pay.

As a result of the opposition, Firestone Company began to pay their labourers at the rate of 22 and 24 cents per diem for ordinary labourers and headmen respectively. This small wages is all consumed by each labourer in food, which must be bought from the Firestone Store at Du. No. 1, at the rate of 6 cents per cigarette cup of rice, and at 1/- per lb. of stockfish. The African worker cannot live without rice. Consequently, sometimes at the end of the month each labourer ascertains that he has not more than 5/- or even less. The Government apparently sanctions this inhumane practice, because the Company is "generous" in lending occasional financial assistance to Government officials whenever they ask for it. It is to be pitied, however, that the Government loses sight of the very important fact that, the bulk of its revenue, nearly 98% of the whole lot, is directly from hut tax exactions from the natives who constitute the majority of Firestone's labour group.

Oppressive Taxation.

Workers in Liberia are given no consideration, whether or not they are working for the government itself. Their wages are incredibly small, and yet, even that is withheld for about 8 to 10 consecutive months, except the recently formed sanitary group. There have, in consequence of this starving laxity in payment, occurred in the City of Monrovia incidents where police men fell fainted in the streets as a result of hunger — some of them not eating for days, except raw cassava which is not hard to find — because they have no money to pay for rice or the food required to keep them upon their feet. Despite this wretched condition of the workers (natives) the government uncompromisingly insists that they pay their taxes, even if doing so they have to pawn their clothes.

Another reason why some of the natives cannot pay their taxes is that the capitalists (firms) absolutely refuse to buy piassava which is the only source of revenue for certain sections of the country; and also because said firms offer only 3 to 4 cents for a pound of coffee — a fact which causes many of the coffee owning natives to store up their coffee until such time as they will be offered better prices, so that after paying the taxes they themselves might have money left for their up-keep. On the other hand, there are some of the toilers who live exclusively on serving as stevedores on board of cargo steamers which at call Liberian ports very seldom. Upon their return from such services, during which they earn each, sometimes, about 70/- or less, some four or five different taxes are exacted from them by the Government, so that any one who is unfortunate enough in not getting employment on board of another vessel shortly after his



Firestone factory at Akron, Ohio, U. S. A. where Liberian rubber is manufactured into motor car tyres

return home is forced to starve. It must be understood that the taxes just referred to are not inclusive of hut taxes: They are, light taxes, poll taxes, Headmoney, etc.

Punitive Expedition Against Kru.

This is what makes the payment of hut tax for the Kru people extremely inconvenient at times. Consequently, during the year 1931, when the Kru people were actually exhausted and destitute of money, they asked the government for a sort of moratorium, in order that by working ships they might in a couple of months try to pay their taxes; and they candidly informed the government that money was not available at the exacting period. Their request was misinterpreted, and they were proclaimed "rebellious", "recalcitrant", and what not; hence, a punitive expedition was despatched on the Kru Coast on the 20th of May, 1931, which committed all the atrocities of which it is sorrowful to hear.

In other sections of the country the toilers live on and by rice; that is to say, rice is their principal food, their only source of income. But the officials who are sent to these sections render conditions so intolerable for these poor workers that they too cannot readily pay their taxes. It has been conclusively proved, not quite 10 months ago, where a certain District Commissioner extorted £ 225.0.0 worth of clean rice from the peasants. How can these toiling, poor and helpless people be expected to make prompt payment when such enormous sums are extorted from them without due cause? This matter was brought to the judicial notice of the government, and up to the present nothing effective has been done in the way of redress.

Government to Blame.

The Government should therefore be blamed for this whole topsy-turvy condition of the country. The firms complain that they have to pay high duties, and are thereby compelled to raise the prices of their goods, and to pay little or nothing for the produce of the natives who are handicapped in the payment of their taxes. The government does not protect the interest of the toiling masses, who inject the life blood into it, against the obstinate will of capitalists in the country; it does not shield the already exploited and exhausted workers against the graft and avarice of its officials. Thus the whole economic system of the country has become practically hopeless!

A Call to the Workers.

It is for the most effectual betterment of this wretched condition of the working masses that a branch of the International Trade Union Committee is being formed in our country, known as the **Liberia Workers' Progressive Association**. The organization will not concern itself with the squabbles of the politicians and their agents. Its aim is to create conditions under which the Liberian workers and in the long run, the African toiling mass as a whole might improve their economic condition and not starve to death. To the workers of Liberia, therefore, we appeal for whole-hearted cooperation and support. Remember that nothing will ameliorate your hopeless condition but the speedy formation and maintenance of an indissoluble working class organization. Be united! Be earnest! Be enduring! Your safety lies in unity of purpose and unity of action.

Fellow Workers of Liberia, a new day has arrived: Unite under the banner of the **Workers' Progressive Association!**

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Scottsboro Campaign in Europe

By B. J. (Hamburg).

The Scottsboro case has reached a new stage. Thanks to the tremendous wave of mass protest and indignation in all countries of the world, the United States Supreme Court in its session of May 31st was forced to agree to the demand forwarded by the International Labour Defense attorneys calling for a review of the Scottsboro lynch verdicts.

This decision to review the sentences is a tremendous partial victory for the revolutionary working class and a smashing defeat for the traitorous activities of the Negro reformists. During the past 14 months, millions of Negro and white workers throughout the world have rallied to the world-wide mass fight against the lynch verdicts and for the freedom of the innocent Scottsboro boys. Their protests have rung from one end of the world to the other. Scores of demon-



Mrs. Ada Wright and J. Louis Engdahl, Secretary of the I. L. D. (U. S. A.) in Europe

strations have been held before the American Consulates by workers in Europe, South Africa and Latin America protesting the sentence.

This partial victory again proves the effectiveness of mass pressure on the bosses' courts to stop the bloody hands of the ruling class. This is the third time that the revolutionary workers have forced the lynch courts to postpone the carrying out of their plans to massacre these innocent working class youths as an additional act of terror against the Negro toilers and the whole working class. The decision of the Supreme Court to review the verdicts automatically stays the execution which had been set for June 24 of seven of the nine boys.

In order to strengthen the campaign in Europe the workers of Germany, through the International Labour Defense have invited Mrs. Ada Wright, the mother of two of the Scottsboro victims, to tour the continent.

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This Negro working class mother, (a woman, bent by a life of hard toil, exhausted from the day-in-day-out campaign for her boys, and yet inspired by an unshakably strong confidence in the strength and might of international working class solidarity) has received a tremendous ovation from the workers and revolutionary intellectuals wherever she appeared.

In **Hamburg** her presence in the mass meetings, convened by the Red Aid aroused the strongest sympathy, and the fact that she was forbidden by the "socialist" controlled police authorities to speak only served to increase the indignation of the workers against capitalist terror. They realized how the American and German imperialists were working together against the interests of the working class, — white as well as black.

Mrs. Wright was also enthusiastically received, along with J. Louis Engdahl, the Secretary of the American section of the International Labour Defense, in many other German cities: How popular this campaign is among the German working class can best be seen from the fact that all meetings were attended by many working class children, who, on their own initiative, had decided to join in the defense for their young black class brothers. Many of them wrote letters to President Hoover. One of these letters, read at a meeting is as follows:

"Dear President Hoover: — In America everything is said to be so beautiful, as my uncle has very often told me, and as we have been taught in the schools, that there is much more freedom in your country than there is here in Germany.

Dear President, my father has read to me from the newspapers, that you are going to permit the Negro children to be put to death. That would not be good from you. What have these children done? The police here in Germany is very severe with us. But they do not put children to death. Let the poor Negro children live, because their fathers and mothers will shed many tears for them. We here in Germany would be glad to hear that you are for justice. If I should happen to come to America, then I shall visit you. Please write me if you have received my letter."



Scottsboro protest meeting of German and African workers in Berlin. X Comrade J. Bile, revolutionary leader of the Cameroon workers, West Africa.

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In **Berlin** tens of thousands of workers turned out to express their sympathy with Mrs. Wright and to pledge their support to carry on the campaign until the boys are free. Among the speakers was comrade J. Bile, the Secretary of the League for the Defense of the African Race from Cameroon, West Africa.

From Berlin Mrs. Wright proceeded to **Vienna**, where she was received with equal enthusiasm by the Austrian workers, who were so indignant over the outrage that they stoned a motor car of Merritt Swift, First Secretary of the American Legation in this city, when he visited a ceremony arranged on behalf of George Washington, — the slave owner and "father" of the American bourgeoisie. The workers shouted slogans denouncing the American lynch courts and demanding the immediate release of the innocent working class lads.

Eight young workers, made up to represent the boys who were sentenced to death at the mock trial at Scottsboro, Ala., shouted in chorus: "Free the young Negroes!" "Down with Class Justice!" "Down with the Scottsboro lynchers!" and "The Socialists of Vienna are supporting the murderous United States government!"

Leaflets were distributed urging the workers to drive out the diplomatic representatives of the murderous United States lynch government.

Municipal guards attacked the demonstration and arrested 15 young workers. The workers militantly fought back.

In **Budapest**, Hungary, the campaign has likewise received new inspiration through the tour of Mrs. Wright.

Hungarian workers demonstrated before the United States Legation in Budapest. The police, acting under the orders of American imperialism, attacked the demonstration and arrested ten young workers.

The **Scottsboro Campaign in Switzerland** is more than a year old. It started almost immediately with the beginning of the struggle in the United States. Repeated waves of protest, as the date of execution has been postponed from July 10th, last year, to April 6th, to May 13th, and now to June 24th have mounted higher and higher, but it received new impetus from the tour of the Scottsboro Mother. Scottsboro became to Switzerland a living reality.

Mrs. Wright is now going to **tour England**. The workers of this country, white and coloured, who have already been aroused to strongest protest against the Alabama lynchings by the campaign jointly conducted under the auspices of the English Section of the International Labour Defense and the **Negro Welfare Association of London**, will no doubt give her the warmest and most sympathetic reception. The British working class knows through first hand knowledge of what outrages against oppressed, exploited races a de-humanised imperialist ruling class is capable of. They need not to go as far as U. S. A. to learn all about it. They only need to think of the life of misery, humiliation and oppression which the colonial toilers are leading right in the glorious British Empire. Therefore, Mrs. Wright can be sure of the strongest active support of her case on the part of the British working class. During these months of unrelenting, combined struggle of the international proletariat the Scottsboro case has truly become the **symbol of the bloody regime of terror and oppression conducted on a world wide scale, where ever capitalism rules**. The Scottsboro case has also become the test-stone of the strength of international working class solidarity.

Therefore, while registering the latest decision of the U. S. A. Supreme Court as a special victory, the working class must not be deceived into relaxing our vigilance. We must constantly keep in mind the case of Sacco and Vanzetti.

The mass fight must be strengthened one-hundred fold. From this partial victory, we must go forward: to **complete victory, for the unconditional release of all nine of the Scottsboro boys, for the smashing of the lynch practices of the bosses' court and the frightful national oppression of the Negro masses, and all colonial peoples.**

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Under The Yoke of Imperialism

How the British Empire Was Built

Behind all the twaddle about the glorious British Empire stands the grim deeds of slavery, forced labour, opium smuggling, sweated factory labour, and "punitive" expeditions, the narrating of which would make volumes. However, let us briefly recall some historic facts about how the Empire was really built and how it is maintained:

African Slavery.

It was built by white slavery, followed by Negro slavery in the West Indies, Virginia, etc., on the sugar, tobacco, rice and cotton plantations. The white slaves were Irish peasants who were transported in thousands after being driven from their land by British invaders.



Child labour in Kenya, British East Africa

In the "New World", the American natives had died out under the harsh treatment. It was discovered that "Negroes were very good merchandise", and so Admiral John Hawkins carried across the Atlantic the first boat load of bludgeoned and chained African Negroes, torn from their homes, families killed, condemned to life-long slavery—sailing on the good ship "Jesus". Queen Elizabeth knighted Hawkins.

No less than 8,000,000 negroes were thus sold in America and no less than 40,000,000 perished in the slave wars or in the Atlantic passage.

Forced Labour.

Virtual slavery (indentured labour) is still the basis of the Empire in Malaysia (rubber), Polynesia (cotton, copra), Nigeria (rubber, nuts, etc.). The exploitation of these once free natives supplies the profits for (among others) the notorious Unilever Combine which monopolises the soap and margarine trade.

The children in school will not be told of the fact that in India 37,972 children work in factories and 10,265 in mills (1930 figures); of the fact that in Bombay

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18 children to every 100 died in their first year of life (1929); that out of 1,735,199 born in India in one year 1,095,736 died (1929); that the women who work in the mines in India earn 2.8 rupees (3s. 8d.) for a week of 48 hours.

No end to tales can be told of the suppression and exploitation through which the Imperialists maintain their bloody rule of profit over the struggling masses of the colonial countries and draw strength to exploit the workers here at home.

After a series of wars with the Dutch, the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) gave a complete monopoly of the slave trade to Britain. In 1788 they commenced to ship convicts to Botany Bay, and when the supply of convicts ran short, the notorious "Press Gang" rounded up young men. By the 1840's they'd got their claws on India, Australia, and New Zealand and were looking for more.

Opium Trade in China.

After the Chinese had objected to British merchants smuggling opium into China, the "Empire" builders "civilized" them in the course of two wars (1846 and '58), and the British Empire expanded with the addition of Hong-Kong, Kowloon and indemnities for over £5,000,000. The same treaties forced the Chinese to "recognize the opium trade and permit the propagation and practice of Christianity".

Terror in India.

The Indian mutiny of 1857 (all opposition by oppressed peoples to Imperialist domination is "mutiny") was the occasion of bloody repression and terror. More "civilizing" influence!

A firm hand was necessary. A mutiny of Sepoys in Meerut provided the opportunity. Russell, the "Times" correspondent in India, writes that an officer of Havelock's advance guard reported to him that—

the executions of natives were indiscriminate to a degree. In two days forty-two men were executed on the roadside, and a batch of twelve men were executed because their faces were "turned the wrong way"

when they were met on the march. All the villages in his front were burned when he halted. These "severities" could not have been justified by the Cawnpore massacre, because they took place before...

In 1882, after the Khedive of Egypt had pawned that country to the British Bondholders, Egypt was occupied to "guarantee payment"—from the peasants. 1898 saw the war of the Sudan when Kitchener made a name as a "clever General" by planting his guns on a hill and blowing up the defenceless natives from safe gun range. Then in 1900 the Boer Republics were pinched, after another bloody campaign.

Child Labour.

Every stone in this Empire has been laid in blood, and in every corner there are the most terrible conditions, particularly among the children and youth.

According to the British Foreign Office, Cmd 2446, 1924, children of six and seven years in China work 13 hours a day, mostly standing, in cotton mills and earn 6d. a day. In the match factories, where white phosphorous is used, the proportion of child labour is—

British owned factories, 17 per cent., in Chinese owned, 13 per cent.; and in Japanese owned, 5.6 per cent.

In Kenya Colony (East Africa) the Government Department for Native affairs issued a document which instructed the Native chiefs and headmen, who were just their agents, "to exercise all lawful and proper influence (!?) to induce young men to go into the labour market... women and children should be encouraged to go out for such labour as they can perform". Following this 70,000 women and

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150,000 children were assigned to European farms. This is merely one of the many examples of the forced juvenile and child labour which makes the Empire what it is.

These facts should serve to remind the white workers of England that they have a great obligation toward the colonial peoples in supporting their struggles for freedom from the yoke of British imperialism.

"Negro Worker" Banned by Imperialists

By A. R. (Trinidad).

Governor Hollis, the Mussolini of Trinidad, in his effort to discourage and suppress the organization of Trade Unions in the British West Indies, has by an order in Council under the Seditious Publication Law, an ordinance enacted during the last imperialist war prohibited the importation and circulation of **The NEGRO WORKER**, the official organ of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers.

The "**Negro Worker**" deals with the problems confronting the working class and the black toilers particularly in the struggle against starvation, imperialist war and capitalist robbery, looting and oppression of the colonial masses.

Trinidad is one of the largest colonies of British imperialism in the West Indies. It is a few miles off the coast of Venezuela, South America. Like most of the West Indies islands it has suffered from a chronic economic crisis, now tremendously intensified by the world economic crisis of capitalism.

There is a great deal of discontent and unrest in the island owing to the crisis in the sugar, oil, and cocoa industries, where thousands of workers have been unemployed during the last eighteen months. During the present sugar crop, the sugar estates, most of which are owned by British capitalists, are employing children at wages between five and seven and a half pence per day, instead of the adult worker which they used to employ at wages between 1/6 and 2/- per day.

Unemployment has grown by leaps and bounds. Suffering is widespread. While the British Government has been forced to pay an insignificant dole to unemployed workers in England, the dole is denied to the colonial masses in this island. Destitute workers crowd the streets, begging charity from the diminishing tourist trade. Every night hundreds of homeless workers can be found sleeping on the sidewalks. Suicides of unemployed workers and ruined peasants are greatly on the increase. Prostitution is rife, as hundreds of working class girls are forced to sell their bodies for the price of a meal. Foreclosures of peasant holdings and the sale of homes for back taxes are daily announced in the capitalist press.

There is an agitation for freedom and Federation. The British Labour Party, had promised self government to these islands, but when it came into power and was asked to fulfil its promise, instead of redeeming its pledge, appointed a Commission which is expected to leave England some time this autumn to merely enquire into the advisability of Federation.

The Trinidad Working Men's Association, the leaders of which have been fooled by all kind of promises by the British reformist labor politicians like J. H. Thomas, Lord Passfield, Arthur Henderson, in order to get their support, are beginning to realize that the Labour Party, despite its name "labour" is as imperialistic as the Tories and will never support the struggles of the colonial

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peoples for self-determination. The Association is the only organized workers' movement in Trinidad.

The "**NEGRO WORKER**" which has a wide circulation in the West Indies, is the only working class paper which exposes the exploitation and oppression of the masses, and its suppression is intended to isolate the struggles of the West Indian workers and peasants and to prevent advanced political ideas from penetrating in these islands. But Governor Hollis and his masters at the Colonial Office must realize that it is as impossible to prevent revolutionary ideas penetrating in to the colonies, as it was futile when the proverbial King Canute sat on the beach and attempted to prevent the waves coming in.

Down With British Imperialism!

Long Live The Free Federated West Indies!

Long Live The "NEGRO WORKER"!



Natives cutting sugar cane on a British plantation in Trinidad at 1/6 per day from sunrise to sunset

Colonial Dictators

The answer given by Sir Philip Cundiffe Lister, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the House of Commons on June 1st to the question why the "**Negro Worker**" was banned from Trinidad is of tremendous political importance as it shows to the colonial peoples that Crown Colony Governors are officially vested with the power of absolute dictators.

The Secretary of State, in reply to Mr. Wallhead (I.L.P., Merthyr-Tydfil) said that the action of the Governor in Trinidad was a matter within the Governor's discretion, and there was no reason to question the propriety of his action.

Mr. Maxton then asked why the Governor of that colony was being allowed

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to act differently from the Governors of any other colony, and why should the Negroes of this island be denied the right to organize in trade unions?

The Negroes were not denied the right to organize in trade unions, replied Sir Philip. The Governor was the right person to decide whether documents issued from alien sources outside the island were to be allowed inside the island.

In reply to a further question as to whether any international organization, which did not happen to have its headquarters in the island, was to be regarded as alien, Sir Philip replied that in point of law any organization which was outside Great Britain would be an alien organization.



"Dictator" Cunniff Lister, Secretary of State for the Colonies

A REPLY

As soon as the action of Cunniff Lister became known, the Negro workers in England held a meeting under the auspices of the Negro Welfare Association in London and issued the following statement to the press which exposes the lying hypocrisy about British democracy in the colonies.

This statement reveals the vile slavery of Negroes in various parts of the Empire.

"Whether or not Negroes are denied the right to organize in Trinidad, it is a fact that in almost every other colony of the British Empire, Negroes, when they attempt to organize, are beaten up, arrested and shot.

"In Kenya, for instance, when the workers tried to organize in a trade union nearly six years ago, the union was broken up, many workers shot down.

"In Kenya, for instance, when the workers tried to organize in a trade union nearly six years ago, the union was broken up, many workers shot down.

"Now in Kenya there is an Ordinance prohibiting more than five workers from meeting together.

"In Gambia, in West Africa, when the workers organized in a trade union and went on strike against lower wages troops were brought out and the Government took every means to suppress the union. In Sierra Leone, when the rail-workers organized a union and went on strike to demand better conditions, the Government treated it as a mutiny, beat up hundreds of workers, flung others into jail and prohibited any strike whatsoever on the railways.

"In Nigeria, when the women of Southern Provinces demonstrated against higher taxation, in November, 1929, troops opened fire on them in several areas, killing and drowning over a hundred.

"In Uganda no organization, even under the cover of religious objects, is allowed.

"In South Africa there exists a Masters and Servants Act, which makes militant trade unionism practically illegal. Leaders are deported from one part of the country to the other at the will of Government, under the Riotous Assemblies act.

"In many other of the African colonies similar Masters and Servants Acts exist, which make any trade union organization impossible.

"In the West Indies the unions that exist are only under the direct control of the Government. In Jamaica, for instance, only a short time ago a worker, for

daring to republish an article from the "Negro Worker", was imprisoned for three months.

"Further it is a well-known fact that not only is the "Negro Worker" banned from Negro colonies of Africa but most other publications of a militant nature published here in Britain.

"It was only two years ago the International Conference of Negro Workers was prohibited from being held in Britain.

"Finally Cunniff-Lister asserts that any organization outside Britain was considered an alien organization.

"Actually the Government treat all Negroes whether born in England or not as aliens if they want to get employment as seamen. They are forced to carry what are called alien registration cards, which makes it difficult if not impossible for them to get employment."



Unemployed West African worker and her children. They get no social insurance from the Government. Employed and unemployed are taxed

How Negroes Live in America

According to the census of 1920 more than 1,200,000 Negroes are occupied in agriculture. The enormous majority are employed in gathering sugar-cane, cotton, fruits and vegetables. Among these agricultural workers there are thousands of women, and children — 6 or 7 years old.

The standard of life of the tenant-farmers and the agricultural labourers is nearly the same.

Mortality, caused in the villages by illnesses due to malnutrition, was 38% in 1911, and rose to 65% in 1915.

The Department of Agriculture indicated in April 1928 the wages paid to the agricultural workers in the various States. The monthly wage, including food and living quarters, in the Northern States near the Atlantic Coast where there are mostly white workers, is about 40—55 dollars and rises to about 53 dollars in the Western States. In the South, however, wages are never higher than 24 dollars per month. In South Carolina and in Georgia it is about 20 dollars; in the States of Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana where there are mostly Negro workers the wage is about 21 to 22 dollars. In 8 Southern States it is a little more than 25 dollars. These figures taken as a whole, form a correct indication of the standard of life of the Negro peasants in the South.

The dollar is worth much more in the South than in the North. The "Negro Year Book" for 1927 writes that the income for a family with three children



Typical Negro homes in the Southern States of America

varies in the industrial centres of the North from 2160 dollars to 2620 dollars per year. With this budget food should cost from 65 to 95 dollars a month. This — the document states — allows for "a hygienic and decent living". The monthly wages of an agricultural worker in the South reached in April 1928 an average of 35 dollars — not including food and living quarters. 420 dollars a year. This is far from "hygienic" and "decent".

This is why a Negro family cannot have enough to eat unless the women and also the little children of 6—7 years old do not join in the army of the workers.

An investigation was made into the conditions prevailing along the Gulf Stream Coast. Here 50% of the Negro workers earn — not including food and living quarters — from 1 to 7 dollars a week (of them only 20% earn 7 dollars). As regards children of 322 children who were examined in Maryland, 26 were younger than 8 years old, 65 of them were 8—10 years old, 77: 11 years old. The remainder were a little more than 12 years old. The women and children do piece work, mostly seasonal work.

It is necessary to visit a Negro village in the South in order to have an idea of the life led by the great mass of Negro toilers in America.

Generally the Negro quarters are at the far end of the village. There the streets are very narrow. The small wooden huts are so shaky, and worm eaten that one can only wonder how they manage to keep up. There are no electric lights in the villages, and of course, no watersupply.

The Negro quarters in the villages — states the official report on the investigation — have a very miserable appearance. They are often to be found near the railways or in distant localities and near marshlands. Even if the Negro quarters are situated near the centre of a town the streets are very rarely mended or paved. However, notwithstanding the bad conditions of the roads, notwithstanding the general poverty of the small grey huts, — the small well-kept gardens, attached to all this huts lend them a gay aspect.

Most of the houses are one-storied and have three rooms. Instead of a foundation they are built on large stones or wooden blocks. They are heated by small stoves. In some places only two houses out of hundred had water supply or water drains.

Today America is in the greatest economic crisis which the country has ever experienced. There are more than 12 millions Negro and white workers unemployed. The Negro workers, especially in the South, are the greatest sufferers, for added to their economic misery, is the worst forms of racial oppression. Negroes who dare to demand social relief are immediately attacked by the capitalists and landlords who either lynch them or drive them away from the village. Nevertheless, the Negroes are waking up and uniting with the starving white workers and poor peasants in fighting for the social rights, for relief for the unemployed and non-payment of rent and taxes.

In the Land of Socialism

A Brotherhood of Nationalities

By M. J. O'gin.

As you travel through the Soviet Union you realize it isn't Russia. Soviet Russia is only one part of the Union; the others are "national republics" and "autonomous regions". In Russia proper, with a population of about 78 million, the language is Russian. In the other republics and regions, with a population of over 82 million, the languages vary according to the local population. You travel in a Russian train and suddenly you find yourself at a "foreign" station. The signs, the posters, the newspapers on the stands, the books, — all are in a non-Russian language. It is Soviet — but it is not Russia. The local language — Ukrainian or Bashkir, Usbek or Georgian, Marian or Tartar — is the language of the administration, of the educational system from grammar school to academy of science, of poetry and fiction, the theatre and the movie, and even the Red Army.

Tsarist Imperialism

Under the Tsar all minority nationalities were oppressed, robbed, deprived of the right to use their native tongue, deprived of culture. They were considered "aliens" though they were natives. The capitalists of Russia proper ("Great



In the only country where all races are equal. Chinese children in the Soviet Union

Russia") used the outlying districts inhabited by non-Russians as they use colonies in foreign lands: they took their raw materials, they grabbed their most fertile lands, they turned the native toilers into slaves. No schools were allowed in the tongue of the local population; no newspapers or books. The national districts were sources of **super profits** for the ruling Great-Russian capitalists and landlords.

The Bolshevik Revolution broke the power of the capitalists and with it abolished national exploitation. Every nationality was given freedom to form its own Soviet republic. Each state is independent in local affairs.



No more imperialism for them. A group of former oppressed nation in Asiatic Russia

The New Freedom.

The Soviet government is investing huge sums of money in building factories and railroads in those regions, in improving agriculture, in developing higher economic and cultural standards. Proportionately greater investments were made in the upbuilding of these districts than in Russia proper.

Hand in hand with industrial and agricultural progress has gone progress in housing, in sanitation, in culture. A new life is stirring within those regions where only a few short years ago poverty and superstition reigned supreme. The library and the reading room, the movie and the radio made their appearance among the masses. Books are published now and school is taught in the U.S.S.R. in **seventy languages**. The increase in cultural activities may be seen from the

following: the number of books published by the small native republics in 1928 was 2,721,900 copies; in 1930, 11,650,000, — an increase of over 400%.

Women Emancipated.

Together with the political and economic advance came the emancipation of women: in Kasakhstan, where, under the Tsar, 99% of the natives were illiterate, 24% of the judges and 21% of the members of the local Soviets are women.

The native tongue had to be developed in many regions. A written language had to be invented where there was one. This was done, not because of nationalism but because the native tongue was the instrument best adapted to lift the masses out of the mire and to make them participate in the up-building of the country. The national republics speak 70 tongues, but the meaning is one: building socialism.

No Jim-Crowism.

Anybody traveling through the Soviet Union cannot fail to compare the situation of the natives in the "national republics" with the situation of the Negro masses in the United States or in the colonies. Here Jim Crowism is upheld by all the forces of the state; there—full equality, economic, political and social, of all colors, races, nationalities, upheld and cultivated by the proletarian state. Here, semi-slavery for Negro workers, worse pay for equal work, lynch law for an attempt to fight oppression; there—special attention and particular care for the needs and requirements of the local population. Here, Scottsboro; there, representatives of the native republics sit in the Kremlin at the session of the All-Union Soviet Congresses.

Socialism—The Road to Freedom.

The road to freedom and equality for the exploited Negro masses is the road indicated by the experience of the Soviet workers; it is—a united struggle of Negro and white workers, of Negro and white farmers, against their exploiters, a struggle for a Socialist Soviet Republic.

(Reprinted from: "Soviet Russia today".)



**Down With The Slave Drivers!
Long Live The Freedom of Africa!**

World Congress of Seamen

The first world congress of seamen, dockers and other water transport workers took place in Altona, Hamburg on May 20th-23rd.

There were about 193 delegates from 29 different countries. Many delegates directly from the colonies and semi-colonies, — South and Central America, Africa, India, etc. — were either detained on their way or unable to obtain passports.

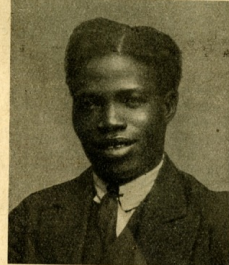
Nevertheless, the congress showed a very enthusiastic fighting spirit and can truly be said to mark a step forward in establishing a united front among the water transport workers of the world against wage cuts, lengthening of the working day, unemployment, the imperialist war danger and the intervention against Soviet Russia.

These facts should serve to remind the white workers of England that they have a great obligation toward the colonial peoples in supporting their struggles for freedom from the yoke of British imperialism.

Great Ovation for Scottsboro Mother.

As soon as the Congress was declared open, the delegates and visitors gave Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the Scottsboro boys, a tremendous ovation and on the motion of George Padmore, the Secretary of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, elected her an honorary member of the Congress presidium.

Mrs. Wright and J. Louis Engdahl, the secretary of the I.L.D. afterwards addressed the Congress, telling the story of how the 9 little Negro boys were framed up by American ruling class justice.



Comrade G. Kouyaté, African revolutionary leader from the Sudan

A resolution of protest demanding the freedom of the boys was unanimously adopted. The delegates also pledged to carry the struggle for the liberation of the Negroes into every ship and harbour where defense committees will be organized. A resolution calling for the liberation of Tom Mooney and other political prisoners in the U.S.A. was introduced by Geo Minck, of the Marine Workers Union, and adopted.

The United Front.

- The Congress agenda covered three points:
- (1) organization of a united action front against the shipowners' offensive;
 - (2) struggle against the developing imperialist war; and
 - (3) how to assist the organization of colonial workers.

The first point was dealt with by comrade A. Walter, the secretary of the

I.S.H., who delivered the official report. After reviewing the general world economic situation, he outlined the political and organizational tactics to be adopted by the water transport workers in the colonies and the capitalist countries in building up a world wide fighting organization which alone will enable them to defeat the shipowners and their agents, the reformist leaders of the International Transport Federation.

About 80 delegates spoke on this question. They related their experiences in various strike struggles. They all adopted the program of the Congress and pledged themselves to continue their struggle on their return to their respective countries, in order to guarantee greater and greater victory along the whole capitalist front.

The War Danger.

Comrade T. Ray, a representative of the Marine Workers' Union of America, reported on the struggle against imperialist war. He pointed out that this struggle was part and parcel of the struggle of the seamen against the offensive of the bosses on wages, hours and working conditions. That in order to successfully struggle against imperialist war and for the defense of the Soviet Union it was necessary for all seamen and transport workers to carry on a day-to-day struggle against capitalist offensive, and to refuse to transport ammunition for the Japanese and other imperialist powers.

Colonial Work.

Comrade G. Kouyaté, the leader of the Seamen's Federation in France, himself a native of the Sudan, made the colonial report. Despite the limited time at his disposal, comrade Kouyaté reviewed the activities of the I.S.H. and its adherents in their work among the colonial seamen in Europe. He emphasized the importance of organizing the coloured seamen as an integral part of the united front of all water transport workers for joint struggle against the imperialists.



Comrade H. O'Connell of British Guiana, leader of the Colonial seamen in England

The scant treatment given to the colonial question by the congress, due to lack of time afforded the official reporter as well as the colonial delegates; reflected the greatest short-coming in the whole congress. It indicates the tremendous underestimation of this problem which still prevails in the ranks of the I.S.H. and its sections. After the report of comrade Kouyaté, only two colonial delegates had the opportunity of discussing the important questions raised at the congress.

Comrade H. O'Connell, a Negro seaman from Cardiff, in a very interesting speech pointed out how, with the proper methods of work, and the putting forward of concrete demands, the S. M. M. was at one time able to rally more than 500 Negro, Arab and Somali seamen under its banner. But due to political confusion and opportunist tactics which later developed, the colonial seamen drifted away from the organization. He stated that the

objective situation among the colonial seamen in England demanded that immediate steps be taken organize this section of the water transport workers who are willing to unite in common struggle with their fellow British workers for better conditions.

Comrade Padmore, in the name of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, greeted the congress on behalf of the Negro transport workers in the colonies and pledged support to the I.S.H. in carrying out its decisions, especially among Negro workers. He emphasized that it is the task of the I.S.H. and its affiliated sections to give the Negro workers active help in breaking through the barriers set up by imperialist, terror and reformist treachery to strengthen their already existing organizations and to create new ones in the colonies. He pointed out that in view of the policy of the shipowners, the reformist trade union leaders and the state apparatus to repatriate the colonial seamen in Europe back to Africa and the West Indies, the question of organizing these workers becomes a burning issue before the I.S.H. and its sections. It is the task of the advanced water proletariat in Europe and America to take the initiative of drawing these workers into their ranks and fighting their every day battles. It is only by putting forth concrete demands that will enable them to raise their standard of living, will be able to win their confidence and consolidate the united front between the white and the coloured workers.

In conclusion, comrade Padmore assured the Congress that the Negro workers were already taking up the counter-offensive against the capitalists as recent strike struggles in Durban and Port Elizabeth in South Africa show. These strikes were defeated by the capitalists who used the white workers as strike breakers, thanks to the treachery of the reformist labour leaders in Africa.

Therefore the immediate task which stands before the I.S.H. and its sections is to make a sharp orientation towards the colonies and to resolutely put into effect the colonial resolution which was adopted by the congress calling for the immediate launching of a campaign to organize the coloured seamen, not only in the metropolis, but in the colonies.

Negro Worker Nominated for Vice President

More than fifty years ago, a Negro worker by the name of Forsch — his first name has not been recorded — was lynched in the small town of Gainesville, Ga. The excuse given was the usual lying charge of "getting fresh with a white woman".

The grandson of this Negro worker was put forward by the Communist Party as its candidate for the vice-presidency, to serve with William E. Foster, presidential nominee, as one of the two chief standard-bearers of his Party in its election campaign at a monster convention of over 1,200 delegates in Chicago on May 30. This is the first time in the political history of America that a Negro has ever been nominated for vice-president.

The name under which the candidate for the vice-presidency on the ticket of the Communist Party will be known to the voters is James W. Ford. How he got this name is a story in itself.

Lymon Forsch, son of the Forsch who was lynched in Georgia, began working for the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company in Pratt City, Ala., in the 1890's. When he got his first pay-envelope, he found that the name had been changed to "Ford". He appealed to the foreman, "Keep that name", said the white foreman. "It don't matter about a nigger's name nohow."

Today the grandson of a man who was lynched "to show niggers their place", the son of a laborer whose name was changed because "it don't matter about a nigger's name nohow", has been brought by a wave of working-class solidarity, of working-class resentment against Jim-Crow and lynching, to the position of candidate for vice-president of the United States.

His Early Life.

James W. Ford was born at Pratt City, Ala., near Birmingham, on December 22, 1893. His father, Lymon Forsch, had been for years a farm-hand at Gainesville, Ga., a farming community about 50 miles from Atlanta. His mother had been Nancy Reynolds.



Comrade J. W. Ford, former editor of the "Negro Worker". American Negro leader

The father of Lymon Forsch was a railroad track-walker. When the grand-father was lynched, the family was driven out, and migrated to Pratt City, a mining town. Here Lymon Forsch worked as a coal miner and steel worker. Later the family moved to Ensley, Ala.

There were three in the Forsch family — James, who was the oldest, and two sisters. Nancy Forsch worked as a washwoman and cleaning woman in order to keep her children in school. But at 14 years of age young James was forced to go to work. First he got a job as a waterboy on the railroad tracks, earning 50 cents a day. Then he worked in a blacksmith shop as helper, later as a steamhammer operator and machinists' helper. By saving his money he was able to finish high school, and complete three years at Fisk University, Nashville.

In the War.

In 1917, James Ford left Fisk University to join the army. He entered the 325th signal corps, connected with the 92nd division. He became expert as a radio and telegraph operator. In France he was sent first to an American radio school, where he was Jim-Crowed and refused admission. Then he attempted a French radio school. As a sergeant, he served at the front for the 86th brigade of the 92nd division. He organized a protest against Captain Felsenheld, for statements to the effect that Negroes are inferior, brutish, etc. This protest resulted in the removal of Felsenheld. When one of the men in the outfit was framed on the charge of "raping" a Frenchwoman, Ford was instrumental in calling a meeting of protest which frightened the army authorities out of proceeding with the frame-up.

While in the army, Ford took an active part in the fight against the Jim-Crowing and persecution of the Negro troops.

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Revolutionary Fighter.

Ford first joined the Communist Party in 1926. His devotion to the working-class, his tireless efforts in the organizing of workers, Negro and white, his leadership in the struggle against segregation and Jim-Crow, led to his early recognition as one of the most capable men in the Party. He rose rapidly to a position of leadership. In the spring of 1928, he was one of the delegates elected to attend the Fourth World Congress of the Red International of Labor Unions to which he was elected a member of the Executive.

He was the chief organizer of the First International Conference of Negro workers and former secretary of the International Trade Union Committee.

James Ford is today a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. He is the director of the Negro bureau of the Trade Union Unity League, a Federation of left-wing unions and groups composed of Negro and white workers.

The Labour Movement

The World Situation and the Negro

By Cyril Briggs (New York.)

This is the first of a series of articles analysing the effects of the present world crisis on the Negro masses in America, Africa and the West Indies, by Cyril Briggs, the well known Negro revolutionary journalist, and contributing editor to the "NEGRO WORKER".

These articles do not only review the present situation in which the Negro masses find themselves in but, most important of all, they show the Negro toilers of America and the colonies the only way in which they can win national freedom and social emancipation. Study these articles, discuss them with your friends, and write us your opinions. — Ed.

The Struggle Between Two Systems.

A world-wide struggle is raging today between two systems of society. This struggle affects every country, every group, every individual without a single exception. This struggle is between capitalism and communism.

Already this struggle has resulted in radically changed conditions of life for nearly two hundred and fifty million of the world's population. Communism has triumphed over more than one-sixth of the earth. It has won other millions of adherents in that part of the world still ruled by capitalism. Today, its threat to capitalism is greater than ever.

Communism, rising to state power in the former Czarist empire, has succeeded in winning the masses of workers and peasants to its support. According to the right of self-determination to the national minorities formerly suppressed and persecuted by Czarist capitalism, Communism has built up a federation of states known as the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. It has solved unemployment. It has solved the national question. For the first time in the history of Russia, its more than 150 racial groups, colored and white, are working together in perfect harmony, recognized equality and good-will. The Soviet Union takes in one-sixth of the earth, and has a population of 160,000,000.

In China, more than one-sixth of the country has broken away from the grip of the foreign imperialists. The workers and peasants of Soviet China have

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within the past 12 months successfully withstood three major attacks at the hands of Kuomintang China, of the Chinese landowners, bankers and merchants. The Kuomintang militarists were armed and egged on by the imperialist governments of the United States, France, Japan, and England. Kuomintang China is today shaken to its depths by the rising mass anger against the Japanese seizure of Manchuria, and the failure of the Kuomintang leaders to resist that seizure. Demonstrations of angry workers, students and peasants are occurring throughout the breadth of Kuomintang China. The wrath of the masses is directed against the Kuomintang leaders as well as against the imperialists. On December 9th, workers and students in the city of Shanghai stormed the Kuomintang headquarters, disarmed army officers of the Nanking government of the Kuomintang, Nanking soldiers ordered to fire on the demonstrators, refused and fraternized with the workers and students.

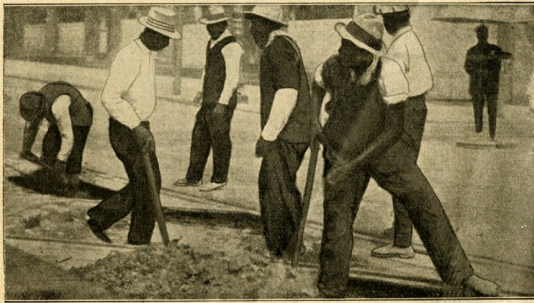
In Germany and Poland, the masses are admittedly on the brink of a revolution against the capitalist dictatorship and for the establishment of a Soviet Germany. In Africa, in India, the colonial revolt is sweeping on. The Belgian imperialists were recently forced to reinforce their army of occupation in the Congo State with 4500 additional troops, in the attempt to suppress a serious uprising of the Congo masses.

The world economic crisis of capitalism and the efforts of the capitalists to solve the crisis at the expense of the home workers and colonial masses have tremendously accelerated the revolutionary movement in the imperialist home countries and in the colonies. Even noted British bourgeois economists like Sir George Paish, predict a general smash-up of capitalism within a short time.

How does the struggle between capitalism and communism affect the Negro masses, oppressed today throughout the capitalist world?

The World Crisis of Capitalism.

In the world struggle between capitalism and communism, the pendulum has definitely swung in favor of communism within the past three years.



Negro workers in the U.S.A. They do the hardest work for the smallest wages

Four years ago, the capitalists and their prostitute writers were gaily ridiculing the Soviet Five Year Plan for the building up of socialist industry and the collectivization of agriculture. Today, the capitalists and their agents are shrieking in wild alarm at what they call the "red trade menace". Four years ago, capitalism, in a period of temporary stabilization, was ridiculing the prospect of the world proletarian revolution for the overthrow of capitalism and imperialist oppression. Today, the imperialist murderers of Negro and white workers are trembling before the world-wide revolutionary upsurge of the working-class and the colonial masses.

What has happened in the last three years to cause these significant changes in the world situation and the resultant alarm of the imperialists? These are: the tremendous success of socialist construction in the Soviet Union, on the one hand, and on the other the terrific world economic crisis which is gripping at the vitals of the entire capitalist system. Arising out of these two factors, and at the same time further affecting these factors, is the tremendous revolutionary upsurge of the working class in the imperialist countries and of the toiling masses in the colonial countries.

At precisely this time, when capitalist industry is almost at a standstill, with most of the factories closed down or on part time, with over 40,000,000 unemployed workers in the capitalist countries (12,000,000 in the United States alone), and other millions on part time, with wages being slashed right and left, the workers of the Soviet Union are proving that the working-class, led by its revolutionary vanguard, the Communist Party, can build up a successful socialist industry, can abolish unemployment, can raise the standard of living of the masses. Giant factories are roaring into action in the Soviet Union. Agriculture is being rapidly collectivized. Ten million peasant families are now living on the collective farms. The standard of living of the entire Soviet peasantry has been raised at a time when the farmers and poor farmers of the capitalist countries have been ruined as a result of the bankers, landowners and speculators.

The world economic crisis of capitalism is now about to enter its fourth year. There is no sign of a let-up in the crisis. On the contrary, it is constantly sharpening at a terrific rate. The world capitalist system is shaken to its very foundations. The gold standard has already collapsed in over 34 capitalist countries, including Germany, Japan and most of the British Empire. Inflation of the currency is proceeding at a rapid rate, further adding to the robbery and mass misery of the working-class. Banks are crashing throughout the capitalist world. In the United States, alone, 2,342 banks had failed up to October last according to the report of J. W. Pole, Controller of the Currency. William Philip Sims, foreign editor of the United Press, says:

"An entire world, more than half of which is in, or bordering on revolution or war, the rest being in a state of nervous uncertainty of what may happen."

The attempts of the capitalists to get out of the crisis at the expense of the toiling masses, and especially at the expense of the Negro and colonial masses, are serving to bring new sections of the working-class into the struggle against imperialism. In China, there is a tremendous upsurge of the masses, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, and the Central Soviet government of China, against the imperialists and the Kuomintang tools. In India, the masses are fighting British imperialism. In Africa, the masses are entering the anti-imperialist struggle, Germany is on the verge of the proletarian revolution.

(To be continued.)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Twelve Years of the League of Nations

By L. Volinsky

For twelve years the imperialists, through the League of Nations, have not stopped "preparing" for disarmament. But on not one day of these twelve years have the guns been silent.

Below we give a short, but by no means complete, chronological catalogue of wars, interventions and colonial punitive expeditions, which took place throughout the "peaceful" post-Versailles years.

What a wonderful supplement to the pacifist blather of Briand, Cecil, Benesch, Boncour, Henderson, Vandervelde, and all the treacherous gang of the Second International!

— 1919 —

Military terror on the part of British imperialists against the uprising in Ireland (it lasted three years), Egypt, India (Amritsar massacre); punitive expeditions of Japanese imperialism in Korea; suppression of the Hungarian Soviet Republic with the aid of Rumanian, Czecho Slovakian, and French intervention; the suppression of the uprising in Northern Bessarabia by the Rumanian occupationists.

— 1920 —

March of the Pilsudski forces on Kiev; the seizure of Vilna by the forces of the Polish general, Zeligowski; French militarists carry through their first suppression of the rebelling masses in Syria; advance of the British forces in Egypt and Ireland.

— 1921 —

Continuation of the British terror in Ireland and Egypt.

— 1922 —

War between Greece and Turkey; suppression of uprising in India; intervention of U.S.A. in Brazil; French imperialists again restores "order" in "independent" Syria.

— 1923 —

Occupation of the Ruhr by French troops; attempt by Italy to seize the island of Corfu; the capture of Memel by Lithuania.

— 1924 —

British forces ruthlessly attack insurgents in India and in the Sudan, Egypt; war between the Nejd, Arabia, and the Hejaz, Arabia; war of Italy in the Levant; second intervention of U.S.A. in Brazil; England organizes rebellion in Afghanistan; suppression of uprising among Indian peasants in Peru; intervention of U.S.A. in Cuba; Rumanian occupationists suppress the Tartar-Burnak uprising in Bessarabia; beginning of the war of French and Spanish imperialism in Morocco.

— 1925 —

The French social fascist, Governor-General Varenne, puts down uprising in Indo-China; intervention of U.S.A. in Chile; merciless punitive expedition of French imperialism in Syria.

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— 1926 —

Intervention of U.S.A. in Nicaragua begins (continuing to this day); continuation of French intervention in Syria; a new war between the Nejd and the Hejaz; Dutch imperialists suppress uprising in the island of Java; Japanese imperialism perpetrates acts of terror among the rebelling masses in Korea.

— 1927 —

Dutch forces suppress insurrection in the Island of Sumatra; fall of the Canton Commune by the attack of the Kuomintang and imperialist intervention; an English squadron of bombthrowers again subdues the Sudan.

— 1928 —

Suppression by British forces of the uprising in the Island of Cyprus; punitive expedition of the French in the Congo; intervention of U.S.A. in Columbia.

— 1929 —

U.S.A. organizes "revolution" in Mexico; New Zealand, on the order of England, suppresses insurrection in Samoa; India becomes arena of raging terror; British forces restore "order" in insurrectionary Palestine and Nigeria; Italy sends punitive expedition to Tripoli; tanks and bombthrowers of the French colonial authorities suppress uprising in Yen-Bai and in many parts of Indo-China.

— 1930 —

Intervention of U.S.A. in Haiti; "pacification" of West Ukraine and West White Russia; continuation of war in Indo-China; British imperialists again suppress revolutions in the Sudan, Nigeria, South Africa, and Iraq; Japan puts down insurrection in Formosa.

— 1931 —

Intervention of U.S.A. in Peru, Honduras, Chile, and Salvador; punitive expedition to the Belgian Congo; executions and mass shooting in India and Indo-China; hostilities between Bolivia and Paraguay; state of martial law in occupied Bessarabia; invasion of French forces in South China and air bombardment of Lungchow; French tanks and machine guns "regulate" elections in Syria; Japanese imperialist forces invade Manchuria.

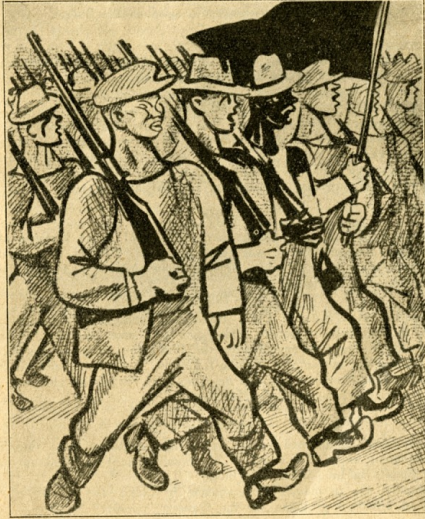
— 1932 —

"Disarmament" conference opens under the salute of guns thundering on flaming Shanghai; under the crash of air bombardment of Nanking, under the whistle of bullets in Indo-China and India.

And finally, the permanent intervention in China.

What an effective prologue for the Geneva "pacifist" farce!

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*Down With Hunger, Taxation and War!
Long Live International Working Class Solidarity!*

What is the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers?

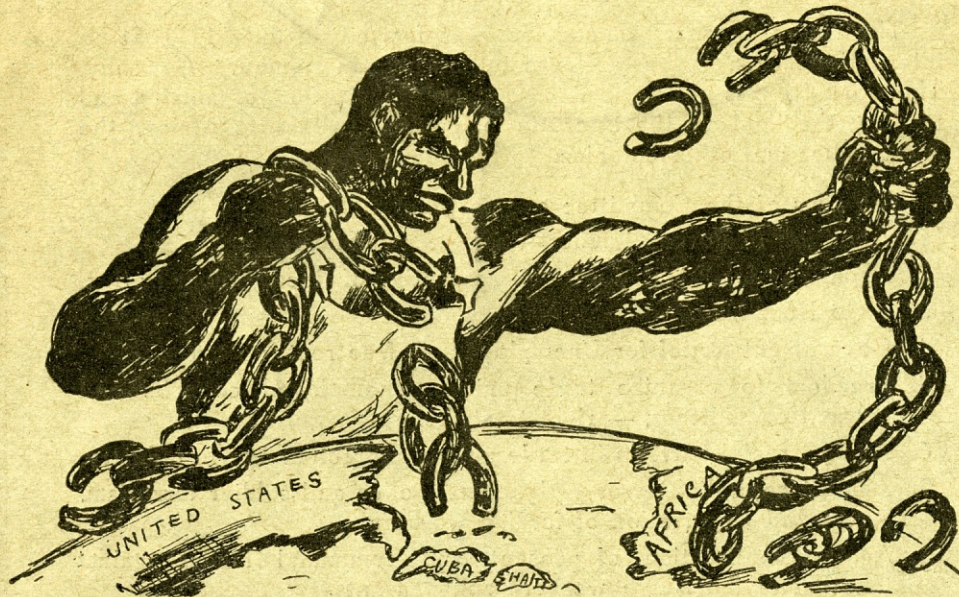
The Negro Workers Committee was formed in July 1930 at an international conference of Negro toilers held in Hamburg, Germany. The Committee is not a race, but a class organization, organizing and leading the fight in the interests of Negro workers in Africa, the West Indies and other colonies.

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!**



AFTER READING THE "NEGRO WORKER"

Don't be selfish! Pass it on to a fellow-worker!

Tell all your friends about us! Send us their names!

We will send them a free copy.

**By building the "NEGRO WORKER" you help in
strengthening the fight for our Emancipation!**

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