FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND?

"Tis done, the great transaction's done," as the old soul-singing hymn said. Not only has the Pact beaten Smiths (which was all we immediately cared about) but it has appropriated the spoils of victory, and all the officers have been nosing around for their share of the swag. (It was always the officers, not the rank and file, that got the best of the war loot.) They say it was quite remarkable at last Sunday's Labour Party dinner, how the leaders were so gentle after all was most (if not all) of the opposition to the Cabinet proposal, as though each delegate said to himself: "If I eat them again, I end up on the back of Creswell and Bovell, who are to control the patroonage and will leave me out in the cold." 

And so they plumped for leaves and quarters first for the chiefs (who, to be sure, but been the principal proponents in the Cause), then for selected satellites, and then—a fat lot the five hundred, not to say the five hundred thousand, or five millions better said? Creswell and Bovell, even if they give away a cool thou' of their secret Party funds (what a hope!) will still ski free at last from sensationalist, and wake up daily to ham and egg for breakfast; while the captains and the lieutenant's and the favourites will be suitably "recognised" with secretarieships or inspectorships and other appropriate titular in this traditional style, as already practiced by Labour too in the Johannesburg Town Council. Cabinets or forests, it's all the same.

But what about Smith, and Van der Merwe, and Sixpence? What are they going to get out of the miracle? Twelve basketsful of bombs again from the Minister of Labour and Defence (with head-quarters at the Rand Club still) if they strike too violently, as one of the capitalist papers infers from that combined office, "Law and order" maintained, by the doings of former revolutionaries with extra severity to show that "Labour" can "rule" with the best! Jettison of Party "fads and fancies" in the great cause of "the nation," just as J. H. Thomas has succinctly sunk his "soap-box propaganda" of earlier days in favour of the great cause of the Hempish! Cheaper cablegrams for Reuter and the Stock Exchange, perhaps our own trade of Posts and Telegraphs! In the name of commonsense, what do all those devoted men and women who worked so hard or voted so "straight" in the Election expect to get out of it?

Look at the Labour and Socialists Govt. in Europe, and ask whether one of these has ever attempted the rigours of capitalist control, or humanised its single step nearer emancipation? German Social-Democracy with schmuck Ebert, butcher Noske, Herriot, who already emulating Poincarts in his treatment of social France, Italy under a tyrant "Socialist" who has also shed his "fads and fancies": MacDonald and Co., whose principal achievement has been to salami the King, boost the Empire, threaten the subject races and squash Communist meetings—and no promise or hope of better! And note that none of Labour's leaders at all are really "on Labour" as being of the character they are, they all depend directly or indirectly on Coalition with some capitalist group. By all means take this chance, England, to contrast the contrast between their retrogression in, "their own countries" and their fellow-workers' amazing progress in Russia, and will act accordingly. But what awful vacuum now !

The Pact was a necessary step perhaps the Coalition is necessary too. But both are only stages in the unmasking of those last stronghold of capitalist power, the "bourgeois". The "bourgeois" have ordered their overthrow and the setting of the stage for Communism. These Cabinet "jobs", too, are but "instruments of destruction." Speed the day! - S.P.P.

Workers or Petite Bourgeoisie.

Dear Comrade Editor,—I was much interested but not convinced by your article on my letter of last week. My point was not why the representatives drawn from Trade Union channels have been a failure but that they HAVE been intellectually and morally, municipally, provincially and nationally, at least as far as South Africa is concerned; the reason being to my mind that immediately they entered the parliamentary body they cease to be responsible to their Trade Union and outside their Union's control and 'impossible to the general unionists themselves. How a body like a limited company has neither a body to kick nor a soul to save. Since writing you last, events, or rather an event, has happened of momentous consequence to the working-class. The Labour Party has ceased to exist, and in its place we have a "Creswell-Boydell Party." The hour of their victory will no doubt prove the hour of their defeat. Provided the Communist Party can adjust itself to the new conditions and profit (hateful word) by the avaricious blunders of the S.A.P. leaders. A first essential is a strong educational propaganda along the Reef, the condition of possible success. An increase in number of "International" sales and other Socialist literature. It will not be long before the new *Minister of Defence* will show he is a soldier first and a "bourgeois" representative after (very much after), nor for Slim Jannie to make the "Creswell-Boydell Party" declare itself permanently part of the Nationalist group or win its defeat, which is unthinkible with the pretensions and secretaries tricking out. The unemployed are sure to be disappointed, and the employer will find his position very trying if any improved, with the "Daily Mail" playing up for Government support, leaving the "Star" to enjoy the patronage of the Chamber of Mines. As Jannie promised us at Ladysmith if the

(Continued next column.)

Young Communist Notes.

The Y.C.L. of the Witwatersrand held a Conference at No. 4, Trades Hall, on Sunday last, at which there was a large attendance. Many matters of policy affecting the young workers of South Africa were discussed, which had to be extended to Monday evening to dispose of the business.

Lest We Forget.

THE 1913 VICTIMS.

On this Sunday, July 6th, a memorial meeting will be held at the graves of the, strike victims of 1913. Assemble at the Trades Hall at 3.30 p.m. Meeting in Johnes and Co.'s Gymnasium at 4.30 p.m.

All class conscious workers are urged to attend and pay their respects to the martyrs to capitalism.

Deaths.

We regret to announce the death of an old fighter in the advanced Labour movement, Comrade Tommy Shorter fell from a headboard, on June 30th, on the last day of the capitulated Mines, while working as a timberman, and was killed. He was buried at Krugersdorp Cemetery on the following day. His remains were at last being laid to rest in last resting place by many of his old comrades and fellow-workers, and Comrade W. H. Andrews made the funeral oration over the grave.

The sympathy of all Communists and anarchists goes out to the widow and two children.

Also that Comrade A. Goldstein, who has long been associated with the Communist movement, died suddenly on June 16th, his death, unfortunately, not being notified to the office in time to allow of Comrades being present at his funeral.

Nationalist Party gets into power, we would see the biggest row we have ever seen, Jannie will see to that. The local and provincial section of the S.A.P. must join to the fight. Now is the time to prepare for a real Workers’ Party, seating as all Parties do off the blunders of their enemies. To quote from M. L. D. "Reform, Factories and Workshops": "The present industrial system, based upon a permanent specialisation of functions, already bears in itself the germs of its proper ruin. The industrial crisis, which grows more acute and protracted, and are rendered still worse and still more acute by the armaments and wars implied by the present system, are rendering its maintenance increasingly difficult. The workers plainly manifest their intention to support no longer patiently the misery occasioned by each crisis. And each crisis adds a piece to the pieces of its own destruction. That is the present institutions of individual prosperity and production will be shaken to their foundations, with such internal struggles as will depend upon the more or less good sense of the parties in power."

J. P. ANDERSON.

Endebelle, July 1st, 1924.

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