God or Mammon?

THE CHOICE BEFORE NATIVE LEADERS.

The "Workers' Herald," organ of the native Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union of Africa, publishes a message to the Conference of that Union from Mr. H. Selby Msimang, now or formerly a prominent leader of the S.A. Native Workers' Union and latterly also a frequent writer for the Chamber of Mines native paper "Umteteli Wa Bantu." In this message he warns his fellow-workers against a "two-fold court the whites in the direction of establishing and cementing the dividing line between white and black."

MAKING MATTERS WORSE.

Mr. Msimang does not gloss over the pernicious purposes of the "Joint Council of Europeans and natives," of which he is a member, to quite good effect when he helps, as he does by such remarks, to maintain a "two-fold war" between white and black labour. We do not minimise in the least the grave difficulties of inducing white labour recognition and co-operation with black labour. But these difficulties are only increased by such distorted "warnings" as Mr. Msimang. Most rapprochements between sections of the subject masses are difficult enough of themselves—for instance, look at the complete absence of native support for the Indian Class Areas campaign. "No support for any of the native crusades—without artificial difficulties being raised, or real ones exaggerated, besides. Even without the artificial encouragement of soldiers' speechless, tame, clean-cut bears, these have just been the 'right to develop,' great unifications need infinite pains to build them up."

WHOSE JOB, WHITES OR BLACKS?

Mr. Msimang knows better than he writes. He himself, a member of the capitalist "Joint Council," has also been a party to such pious feelers as have so far been put forth in the direction of a "Joint Council," which have shown him that there is considerably more than just "mischievous rumour" in the desire on the part of a number of enlightened English black workers for co-operation, and moreover, that the successful fulfilment of this desire depends partly on greater support from the native side. Indeed the whole initiative in this matter has come from the side of the white workers, and in the case of certain native leaders, too, attempts to lash them into some interest in the subject have been vain. There is more money on the Chamber's side!

NATIVE MOVE AWAITED.

Agreed, the white unions are backward, but not to such an extent that there is no! Which of them has ever attempted an approach to the white unions (choosing not just the most reactionary but the most advanced of them) with a view to a "conference on matters of mutual concern, common interest or reciprocal need for an exchange of fundamental points of view?" It was easy enough to have a Dutch Reformed Church black and white conference, but the same natives who took part in that jib at the Dutch and white labour conference. If native workers do not want the help of white workers, let us have no whining about it; but if they do, let them in their turn approach the whites instead of on the backs until white come androuse them, while some of their leaders make themselves at least as busy as white reactionaries in depreciating anything effective being done.

COME TOGETHER!

Mr. Msimang says: "to organise non-European workers in this country is not an easy or pleasant task. Yes, there is no money in it. But it has got to be done, and if it could be assisted by white trade unionism it would prove an easier and pleasanter task. Again, the very evil he complains of on behalf of the native workers, viz., "the introduction of foreign labour into our market at a wage far below our standard with a consequent influx of white labour into the industries which tends to reduce the standard of pay to a level bordering upon starvation,"—this is just what white workers have complained of. Why can the people not suffer from the two forces to come together, and we look to native leaders to show some initiative in this direction instead of preaching the Chamber of Mines fool-the-fool idea on the natives?"—Judas and the twain shall not meet," just as we look to white workers to recognise that their future, dark if they continue isolated, becomes brilliant as soon as they will accept their mission to lead the entire African Labour movement, white and black, to victory.

JUDAS JOURNAL.

In a leading article on "The Future of Black Trade Unionism," the "Workers' Herald" says: "The enemy has hired a good few of our kith and kin who are in their position, whose names are supplied with modern Pruss ammunition for the purpose of fighting 'their own,' while he enjoys the spoils of our cheap and abundant labour."

"There are usually good boys who are in evidence everywhere with their service contributions," says another article in the same paper. "The leading spirit among things is a weekly paper called 'Umteteli Wa Bantu,' controlled by white pluto-crats, capitalist bourgeoisie of Johannesburg. Shady articles, unapologetically devoid of any clarity of thought, are sent to the Judases in the South and which after you have read you come to the conclusion that they are nothing but hypocritical incantations to the fetish of white supremacy."

And the latter is not untypical of leading articles, "these disgruntled men are now being discredited by their own, and behold, we may soon witness the day when they shall turn to us and declare 'I have betrayed an innocent man.'"

Mr. Msimang says in his message, "I am ready to offer you my co-operation, or if need be, I stand aside and open a wider field for those who have been supplied with the noble task of bringing about the coming together of all classes of African labour into one great homogeneous whole."

Well, the test for this task is that those entrusted with it cannot serve two masters, the Chamber of Mines and the workers. S.P.B.

Workers on Top.

The four chairman of the Central Executive Committee (Parliament) of the Union of South African Republics are described as follows. —

R.S.F.S.D. M. I. KALININ. —Born 1875. At sixteen apprenticed at Petrograd cartridge factory, where he worked two years. Removed to Kutolov works as a turner. Joined Social Democratic Party; arrested 1889; continually arrested and imprisoned until 1899, in the intervals he worked at other factories. Joined Bolsheviks 1906; elected chairman Central Committee, Communist Party, in 1919.

UKRAINE.

G. I. PETROVSKY.—A turner by trade. Born 1877 in Exeterinovsk province. Entered Briansk instrument factory in 1896. Joined Social Democratic Party 1897. Prominent in strike movement in 1911. Was elected by the Ukrahd workers to the fourth, Duma, where he was an active member of the Bolsheviks. Sent the Duma to the races and sent to Siberia. After March revolution was liberalised and took part in the revolutionary movement. Was a delegate to Brest-Litovsk Peace in 1918. Pressed for All Ukraine Central Executive Committee.

TRANS-Caucasia.

N. NARIMANOV.—Born in Tiflis in 1870. Worked ten years as an elementary teacher and became a medical student. Joined the revolutionary movement during his university career. Imprisoned seven months and exiled from Caucasus. Active at Baku and Astrakhan. In 1913 became director of the Eastern Departments of the people's commissariats for foreign affairs. Represented Azerbaidar at Genoa conference.

WHITE RUSSIA.

A. G. CHERVIKOV.—Born Minsk 1892. Of peasant origin, his grandfather having been a serf in the Minsk province. Became an elementary teacher. Mobilised in Chaar's army in 1916; became an officer, an organiser of the White Russian section of S.D.P. Seriously wounded in 1918 in Red Army. Became director of educational department of White-Russian army. Fought in war against Poland 1919-20, and was elected chairman of White Russian Central Executive Committee.

Woodrow Wilson's Departure.

Woodrow Wilson, the man who has been responsible for the violent death of thousands of human beings, is no more.

By dragging the United States into the World War he pronounced a sentence of death upon hosts of men who had committed no wrong. And to call upon the Versailles peace treaty he asserted in the cold-blooded murder of helpless women and children in Central Europe.

Our profit patriots may have cause to mourn. Mr. Woodrow, the man whose pipe was to "play coming—" his demise has been no loss to us. But if the survivors of his war and peace victims had to write his obituary he could only write it with lips marshalled and say: "We know of no generous action of his that might plead in his favour—" St. Louis Labor."