Round the World.

The French Communist Party recently called a public meeting at Valenciennes to protest against the rise in the cost of living—which, by the way, is now admitted all over the world. The police prohibited the meeting and mobilised with half-a-dozen tanks to enforce the demonstration. The tanks were stationed in several places, at the cost of severe casualties, none fatal, and held their meeting. This victory is considered by "Humanité" to be one of the most glorious episodes in the history of the party.

Similarly in Paris a meeting of Government and municipal employees was called to demand a rise in wages. This meeting too was prohibited, but again the demonstrators broke the cordon and held a demonstration at which all the leading Communists were present.

The effect of Fascism is not along a continuous path of roses, indeed there are signs of its ending in some countries before it has even begun in others. Spain, we learn, is tiring of the Rivera régime, and from Italy comes news of a working-class breakaway even within the Fascist ranks on the subject of the reintegration of education to the clergy. The reply has been the usual destruction of Trade Union offices and workmen's houses, even when these came under the Fascist organisation. But such riots in the lute are not likely to be mended.

In Belgium the entire working class, except the Social Democratic leaders, who are keeping silent, is agitating against a threatened repeal of the Eight Hours' Day.

The recent refusal of President Coolidge to recognise Soviet Russia has been so much modified by a reply received by him from the Soviet Foreign Office that he has already decided henceforth to entertain "more normal relations" with the Russian Government.

The League of Nations has invited Soviet Russia to take part at a Congress at Geneva to consider the extension of the Washington Treaty. Chicherin has replied accepting, without prejudice to the Soviet Government's previously expressed attitude towards the League of Nations, and conditionally on the Congress being held outside Switzerland—this in view of the Swiss Government's complicity in the murder of Vorovsky and acquittal of Couraud.

Food for Fascism.

The fundamental error of patriots, "White South Africa" escalots, and objectors to relief of "baby-killing Huns," is of course their failure or refusal to recognise the true division of modern society into exploiting and exploited classes rather than according to race. The patriots persuaded themselves that because fighting the "enemy" was to the benefit of English capitalists, it was therefore the affair of all Englishmen. The White South Africa escalots imagine that the cheap competitor is an enemy because he is of another race, binding-themselves to the fact that the enemy is the capitalist who exploits white and black alike and keeps the two hostile to each other. The critics of German relief pretend that the German masses, who were swept into the fighting line for their masters in exactly the same way as the French and English and American masses were, were therefore parties to their masters' orders to sink ships or drop bombs. They might as well say that Tommy Atkins was responsible for the war.

Nothing but confusion and contradiction dogs the steps of those who talk in terms of race or nation and close their eyes to the central fact of the international class struggle that cuts through every nation and race. Ignoring it, the patriots will continue to starve, the White South Africans to starve, the anti-Germans to enforce the protests, the Fascists to exploit, and all will become the tools in the hands of those last products of decaying capitalism, those worst enemies of society, the Fascists.

German Famine Relief Committee.

The Committee began public operations yesterday with a collection among the business houses in Johannesburg, with, as we learn on going to press, most gratifying results, and next to no trace of the hostile propaganda of the press.

For this Sunday's house-to-house collection more volunteers are still required. Will all willing to help please attend on that morning, the 27th inst., at 9 a.m., at the Grand Hotel, Plein Street, to receive instructions.