THE NEGRO MOVEMENT

Dingaan’s Day in Cape Town.

By Molly Wolton.

Dingaan’s Day, December 16, the anniversary of the day when, in 1838, the Zulus in Natal and Zululand launched a courageous and desperate resistance defeated by the combined forces of the British and Dutch, has for the past few years been observed by the Negro workers of South Africa, under the leadership of the Communist Party, as an anti-imperialist national liberation day, a day of mass demonstrations and strikes against Dutch and British oppression and tyranny.

The preparations by the Party for Dingaan’s day 1931 were closely linked up with the development of mass work around the factories, docks, among the agricultural workers and share croppers in the Cape.

In contradistinction to former years when Dingaan’s Day was made an isolated event of burning passes, this year the Party here in the Cape carried out systematic work among the Dock workers, linking up the Dingaan’s Day Campaign with the grievances existing among the Dock workers, such as short time, bribery and corruption in securing jobs, favouritism, rationalisation measures resulting in more unemployment and greater intensification of labour etc. In the meantime, and in the meantime, where we have red Unions), Dingaan’s Day was placed as a day of struggle which these workers have to support if they want to improve their standard of living. In the Government Railway Shops, where the workers are working short time, and where the previous privileges which they enjoyed, such as travelling facilities, are being taken away from them, this was pointed out to be part and parcel of the ruling class policy to shift the burden of the crisis on the shoulders of the workers, black and white, in the above works where the bulk of the workers are Europeans (all the skilled workers) and where the Government’s policy of displacing native labour by poor white at a slightly higher rate is causing great dissatisfaction among the native workers. There we pointed out that only by a policy of militant action on the part of Black and White could they stop the worsening of their conditions, also that the white workers have to support the struggle for National Independence of the native masses. Already now they must begin to dissociate themselves from the Imperialist policy of the Rulers. In the native locations around Cape Town, where the Municipality is harassing and persecuting the residents, imposing fines, etc., this means payment of same, also forcibly ejecting residents from one location to another where rents and train fares are twice as high, the C.P. carried on an agitation round these demands for non-payment of rent and taxes, for right of residence etc., thus linking up the daily struggles of the masses with our higher political aims.

The C.P. also carried on an agitation for non-contributory social insurance for the unemployed with a definite appeal to them, not to pay rents and taxes.

In its whole history, in its whole activity, not only in Russia but also in the international arena, in the course of many years, the leadership of Lenin and Leninism as consistent revolutionary Marxism of the epoch of imperialism and the proletarian revolution, was prepared, from the first days of the imperialist world to occupy a correct position, determined to break with the II. International which had gone off to the side of the bourgeoisie and the bourgeois governments and to take the initiative for the organisation of the Communist International.

And the whole history of the Comintern is the history of the Bolshevization of its sections, of the organic appropriation of the programmatic political and organisational principles of Leninism by the latter, both in the experiences of their own struggles as well as in the experiences of the international labour movement as a whole, in the first place however of the movement in that country where, under the leadership of the Leninist Party, the proletariat has had power in its hands for fourteen years and is successfully building up the socialist society.
Definite successes were recorded this year. We had mass meetings and demonstrations in the locations around Cape Town, a tremendous mass rally in Cape Town, the biggest since the Seamen's strike of 1925, composed of black and white workers (predominantly black), Native and European speakers putting forward the policy of our Party, a procession through the streets with banners, and slogans carried by whites and blacks and a further mass meeting on the Parade. During the whole of this campaign we had to carry on a relentless struggle against the national reformist Prof. Thaele, exposing his counter-revolutionary role and showing the masses that only the C.P. and the Red Unions can lead the masses in their struggles against Imperialism.

Thousands of leaflets were distributed in the factories, also about 3,000 leaflets were sent to such places as Middleburg, Cradock, Port Elizabeth, Worcester etc., urging them to protest in mass demonstrations and strikes against oppression.

During the whole year, the success of Socialist construction in the U.S.S.R. and the improved conditions of the workers in the Soviet Union.

Although many weaknesses were present in our campaign, we can definitely say that it was a turn along the lines of Bolshevik economics. All the organized in the Province to build up a strong Party, the A.F.T.U. (African Federation of Trade Unions) and the other mass organisations. Only by consistently carrying out the line of the Commintern, and by a relentless fight against remnants of Buntingism, white chauvinism and opportunism can we achieve these tasks.

THE WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS

Economic Crisis in Canada Deepens.

By Sam Carr (Toronto).

Canada entered the new year with a record of decline in every important section of national economy. Life has exposed the "prosperity" of the past year. The general level of prices has fallen, industrial production has declined, unemployment has increased, and the cost of living has risen. The government has been unable to cope with the situation, and the people have lost confidence in their leaders.

Some recently published statistics show the trend of Canadian economic activity. All the important indices are declining, and the general level of prices has fallen. The cost of living has risen, and unemployment has increased. The government has been unable to cope with the situation, and the people have lost confidence in their leaders.

The automobile industry is one of the most important in the country, suffered heavily. During the first 11 months of 1931, the production of passenger cars and trucks declined 45%, throwing thousands of automobile workers into the army of unemployed and resulting in a general forcing down of the standard of living of the automobile workers of Canada.

The Newpoint industry of Canada, the greatest export industry of this country, went down together with all others. In the course of the first 11 months of 1931 — 2,063,121 tons of newspaper was produced as compared with 2,313,068 tons during the corresponding period in 1930. Operations have averaged 55% of the rated capacity of the mills against 70% in 1930.

The building industry is showing a tremendous decline, resulting in mass unemployment among building trades workers. The total of construction contracts for all Canada in the last month of 1931 was $1,337,500 dollars, the smallest monthly record in the past decade.

The figures of car-loading already given above indicate the situation in the mining industry of Canada. With the exception of a certain increase in gold-production, all other fields of mining show a continuous decline. While the statistics for all available countries show a decline of 13% in coal production, Canada takes the lead with a 20% decline in coal output. The output of nickel (of which Canada is the major source in the world) declined by over one third of the production, copper output went down by 4% and the output of zinc by 12%. The mining industry also suffered a decline in production of more than 33%.

In volume, imports during the last year fell by about 5% and exports by nearly 20%. Here the policy of the conservative government for higher tariffs resulted in a working of the devastation of Canada on the world market. The bulk of the Canadian and other exports are destined for America and the Canadian trade deficit increased by several million dollars.

As a result of the economic situation in the country — the growth of political reaction (vicious attacks against revolutionary movement, outlawing of C.P. etc.) and the obvious impotence of the government of Mr. Bennett to cope with the worsening situation, greater sections of the population lose confidence in the present economic system. The government is fighting to hold on to power, quite oblivious of the fact that the lack of faith in the system of capitalism brings "sunshine columns" in leading capitalist newspapers, which elevate the sale of a few thousand dresses, the export of more turkeys, or the employment of a few more workers in a cigar factory, to signs of general economic revival. The Prime Minister works overtime on pronouncing the coming prosperity whilst the only accomplishment he receives is the further closing of important shops, decreasing employment, bankruptcy of hundreds of municipalities and the prospective liquidation of the Trans Canadian railway project, meaning that the workers will swell further the rapidly growing army of unemployed and destitute.

The leading financiers of the country feel that something drastic must be done to maintain the faith in capitalism. So we have Sir John Aird, President of the Bank of Canada, and the Premier of Ontario, advocating the liquidation of the capitalistic system, defending it by boasting that it goes hand in hand with democracy (?!) and taking for it the credit of all progress humanity made during the last century.

That the leaders of the Canadian financial and economic system can no longer afford to limit themselves to empty phrases about coming prosperity is indicated by a recent speech of Sir Herbert Holt, President of one of the richest banks in the world, the Royal Bank of Canada and himself the richest capitalist in the country. He declared:

"The enemies of the capitalist system may rejoice at the weakening destruction of the system, but that is no reason why believers in the present order of society should make things deliberately worse by exaggerating the extent to which dislocation and destruction have gone.

The general framework is no longer intact, as it was two years ago and it is urgent that the (capitalists) should be warned. The evidences of decay, but they are not yet so serious as to warrant the conclusion that nothing can be done."

The above statement needs no comment. The crisis is deepening. The dissatisfaction of the masses rapidly increases. The Communist Party will not only resist all attacks upon its present existence, but it will reorganise the ranks under the new conditions of illegal existence and lead the Canadian workers in the struggle against the system of starvation, exploitation and destruction.