the uprising in Kenya, where the black masses, denied access to all land which can be profitably cultivated, are in a position of extreme poverty. The savage attacks upon the workers of Gambia, West Africa, whose only "crime" was that they sought to organise themselves; French Equatorial Africa, a sea of blood from the millions of black men and women done to death by the robber-seeking exploiters and reeking with the stenching of tens of thousands or more who have died of starvation; Nigeria with its bleeding carcasses still lying on the ground; Haiti, groaning under the iron heel of American Imperialism; millions of Negroes in Latin-America, living in virtual slavery; the "independent" Republic of Liberia, forced by American Imperialism to enslave millions of natives. This is the picture which will cover every wall of the hall in which the International Conference of Negro Workers will be held. We cannot measure the significance of this.

But there is more, recent events show that world economy is rapidly entering a period of profound crisis. In the "mother" countries every effort will be made to place the burden of this crisis upon the backs of the most exploited sections of their "own" working class and the already inhumanly exploited and oppressed masses of the colonies. For the Negro masses this will not only mean the passage of "native Bills" in South Africa, which lead directly to an intensification of their exploitation and oppression, a bloody reign of terror in East and West Africa; the ruthless attempt to stamp out every vestige of revolt in Haiti as well as in the Metropolitan centres; and a tremendous worsening of the living conditions. Social-Fascism and the Fascist organisations such as the American Legion, and the Ku Klux Klan, will be made to understand that insofar as Negroes are concerned it is "open season." We will witness an increased utilisation of the theory of inherent inferiority of colored peoples to broaden the base of the exploitation and oppression of the Negro masses and to quash any tendencies which the white class-conscious workers may exhibit to accept the racial struggles of the Negro masses as an integral part of the struggle against World Imperialism. This will be the economic and political situation of the world when the Negro workers are called into session in London.

More and more clearly will "Labor" Governments and Social-Democrats have exposed themselves as the enemies of these black workers. More clearly will the treacherous Negro reformists have proved their alliance with the enemies of the Negro masses. More clearly will imperialism have disclosed the fact that it views war,—war against the Soviet Union, the Fatherland of the toiling masses of the world, regardless of race and color,—as a way out of its dilemma. The process of militarisation in the colonies will have shown to the black masses the role to be assigned to them in this gigantic conflict, the necessity for organised, revolutionary leadership will be apparent. The slogan of democracy for all people around which the 1914 imperialist war was fought, and the "rewards" accorded the Negro masses at the conclusion of this blood-bath will be paraded. The use to be made of these and similar slogans in the near future will be made known. These are "signs of the times" which will not be forgotten by those whose hands the leadership of this conference has been committed. These are but a few of the factors which show that the International Conference of Negro workers will be a gathering of tremendous significance.

William Wilson.

SOUTH-AFRICA: REFORMISTS BETRAY STRIKE.

Although the South African Trade Union Congress is not affiliated to the Amsterdam International, its reformist and treacherous character certainly makes it eligible for a place in this international scab corporation. Completely ignoring the millions of native and colored
workers, the Trade Union Congress embraces only white workers. It upholds the privileged position of the white workers, thus helping the capitalist class to divide the ranks of the working class movement, fostering race hatred and white chauvinism. The true nature of South African Reformism was seen especially during the strike of the colored mattress workers last November.

The Mattress Workers' Union is a militant organisation affiliated to the RILU through the Non-European Trade Union Federation. Like the whole Federation, this organisation has supported a revolutionary class platform since it was organised and has ever since pushed forward the tactics of the united front to fight the employing class. An agreement of Friendship and Mutual Support was soon closed with the Furniture Makers' Union, a reformist organisation of white workers. The class union made clear that it really meant business. When the white workers came out in Johannesburg last October, the colored mattress workers took part in the white workers' meeting and declared from the platform that they were prepared to call a solidarity strike as soon as necessary. This fine demonstration of class solidarity by the workers of another race had its influence and the strike was won after a short bout.

This victory was instrumental in raising the class consciousness of all the workers for it was evident at last that the "color bar" which had always divided them, had been broken down. But these hopes proved all too premature. Far from any class consciousness, the reformists hadn't even the decency or the desire to carry out the obligations they had undertaken. On November 18th, the colored mattress workers called a strike when the employers refused to pay them the rates fixed by the Wages Board. The employers claimed that these wage rates applied only to the white workers. All the strikers were arrested at the first General Meeting, for South African law lays down that it is a criminal offense for any native worker to leave his job before the termination of his contract (strikes being brought under this ruling). One would have expected that the Furniture Makers' Union should have welcomed an opportunity of helping a union which only recently had rendered such invaluable support. As an affiliated body to the Trade Union Congress, it should have raised the question in the TU centre of organising a campaign of protest against the continuance of the present slave laws.

But the reformists had no intention of doing this for they were all too busy scabbing at the factories involved in the dispute. Of course, this piece of treachery only embittered the colored workers and unfortunately increased racial antagonism. We cannot pass over the blunders committed by the "South African Worker", the paper of the CP, in an article exposing the treachery of the reformists. The whole article speaks about the white workers and not about the reformists, which simply gives emphasis to racial distinctions, completely ignoring the ideological side of the question. This can only play into the hands of the employers who will continue to keep the white and the colored workers at loggerheads simply to be able to exploit both. It is high time that things were made clear in the ranks of the class conscious workers. We must make clear that the present treachery of working class interests has its roots in reformism, and not because the workers happen to be white, for we see the reformists betraying their fellow-workers in all parts of the world, in Europe, Africa, and Asia, wherever you have class conscious and reformist workers belonging to the same place and even to the same nation. To bring home the true situation to the workers will be all the easier since there are many white workers in South Africa who are struggling jointly with the colored workers.

Why, the recent piece of treachery even prompted several officials to leave their jobs in the Furniture Makers' Union. The Mattress Workers' Union, and, indeed, all the organisations affiliated to the Trade Union Federation must now raise the question of organising class unions which would unite all the workers irrespective of color, race or religion.
The Federation as a whole and each one of its affiliated unions should now push forward educational activities to raise the class consciousness of the members and familiarise them better with the international labor movement. Our Negro comrades will then realise that no matter where you look the class conscious workers are struggling against the reformists. Everywhere the reformist leaders are becoming the open agents of the capitalists; the reformist unions are turning into fascist organisations. In South Africa the racial problem overshadows the class struggle and it is up to our unions to clear the atmosphere. Every native worker should realise that the Kadalies, the Andrews and the Ballingers, for example are working against the working class interests, that they are directly supporting the capitalist class although they use different methods to achieve this. South Africa stands on the eve of a serious wave of class struggles, and a correct lead can only be given if we have a clear working class policy.

J. REED

HOW THE INFLUENCE OF THE AMSTERDAM INTERNATIONAL IS PENETRATING INTO INDONESIA

Every revolutionary worker knows exactly the basic differences between the Amsterdam International and the RILU. The first advocates class-collaboration; the second upholds the class struggle. The RILU being the true supporter and guide of the oppressed and colonised workers, enjoys the warmest sympathy of the revolutionary trade unions in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, as it is shown by the fact that revolutionary trade unions of most of the colonial countries are affiliated to that revolutionary world workers' organisation.

The Indonesian Red Labor Secretariat was affiliated to the RILU from the beginning of 1921, and under the leadership of the RILU it extended its influence rapidly among the Indonesian workers and overwhelmed considerably the influence of other unions, which were led by nationalist parties and the Social-Democratic Party.

The difference between the Amsterdam International and the RILU is seen in that the RILU comes to the aid of the colonial workers when they are engaged in the hottest fight against their oppressors the imperialists, while the A.I. acts always to the contrary. Its "help" consists in bringing the organisations of the colonised workers under the influence of its masters, the imperialists. It pretends to act on behalf of the colonised workers, when their revolutionary organisations are already destroyed and the leaders already massacred by the imperialists or by the counter-revolutionary native bourgeoisie.

In China the Amsterdam International refused to give any support to the struggling Chinese toiling masses, but when the Kuomintang generals had massacred the militant workers and replaced their unions with the counter-revolutionary Kuomintang Unions, the Amsterdam International began to flirt with the Kuomintang trade unions, which were established by Chiang Kai-shek at the point of the bayonet.

At the present moment the same tactic is applied by the Amsterdam International to pacify the Indonesian workers organisations, but with the difference that this time the huckeys of Imperialism are acting very cunningly.

For more than a decade in Indonesia the social-imperialists had tried to get a foothold among the native working class, but all attempts were fruitless due to the activities of the Communist Party of Indonesia, which ruthlessly unmasked the treacherous intentions of the reformists.

Before the uprising in 1926 it could but attract the thin upper strata of the Indonesia working class of which most are white workers. But after the uprising it succeeded with the help of the authorities also to organise a small part of the native railroad workers.