

There sprung up a system of recruiting labor for the mines which for sheer infamy is hard to beat. Native Chiefs were bribed or intimidated in collusion with the governments. Natal, Cape and Portuguese territory permitted labor recruiting agents to seduce and terrify the natives to sign away their freedom for 5 dollars a month. Natives were arrested on trumped up charges and forced to work on the roads as convicts. An elaborate system of manufacturing convicts and handing them over to employers of labor for their keep developed. Strikes among natives don't often occur, but they are soon settled when they so occur. According to the law of that Christian country any native servant who disobeys his master is a criminal, and his master can inflict punishment or call in the police if he is not strong enough to do it himself.

The white worker in Kruger's time had some protection, working a maximum of 8 hours a day, having 8 dollars a day. The whites engineered the war and fought for their masters against Kruger and got what they never looked for, a reduction in wages, which caused the strike of 1907, when the surface workers scabbed on the miners.

In most of the provinces the black man is not entitled to sit on any council for he is not, in fact, a citizen. His average wage is 36 cents a day, yet he must pay in the Transvaal 10 dollars a year, 5 dollars in the Orange Free State and 3½ dollars in Natal in direct taxes. In the Orange Free State every man and woman and in Natal every man is compelled to carry a pass, without which he can neither leave his home or his farm upon which he is engaged. A native travelling in search of work must obtain a special travelling pass: when he arrives at his destination, he must if he desires to stay there, and search for work, obtain a special pass good for 6 days; if he has not obtained employment at the expiration of his pass he is liable to two weeks' imprisonment.

The Boers lost their standing, and poverty was so acute that the Dutch Reform Church was subsidized by government grants to establish labor colonies for the poor whites in the various parts of the country. One colony in Kakamas has 5,000 of a population; they are a source of revenue to the Dutch Reform Church and much jealousy arose amongst the other Christian sects because of this monopoly of one sect, only members of that church being allowed into the colony.

When the Rand strike of 1904 broke out hundreds of the Dutch were only too glad to scab for 1 dollar a day. They helped to break the strike and the mine magnates were quick to see the value of this cheap labor.

Industrial schools were established to train young Dutchmen as miners at from one to two dollars a day. Hundreds found employment in the mines in that manner, but the supply outran the demand and the Government supplemented its philanthropic work by finding employment on the State railways at 85 cents a day.

The above is a summarised history of affairs in South Africa at the time of the Union.

The policy of capitalism, acting through the four governments, Natal, Transvaal, Orange and Cape of Good Hope, was to reduce wages and increase hours of labour.

The means by which that policy was carried out was by forcing the natives off their reserves, train them to thrift and industry and competition with the whites. Laws were passed to strengthen the Bosses. The Industrial Dispute Act provided for the establishment of a defence force under which boys between 14 and 21 were trained.

The Imperial troops were kept there after the war, the excuse being until South Africa licked her own citizen army into shape, their presence was imperative for the safety of the Union.

Who the attacking party would be was never named but substitute bosses for Union and the position becomes clear. Two thousand soldiers were rushed to the mines with maxim guns during the strike of 1913.

The Bosses resuscitated an act of Kruger of 1894, aimed against the mine owners themselves when trying to get the votes for the whites. This

Act provided that an assemblage of more than six persons in public was illegal and could be violently dispersed. Botha acted as the tool of his former enemies in using the troops and killing 22, while 250 were wounded, including men, women and children. The Commission, of course, blamed the strikers.

Yet peaceful meetings of the mine workers were broken up by mounted police armed with pick handles. The strike committee were surrounded and jailed.

During the railway strike later on in 1913, 75,000 armed men were sent to the industrial centres, martial law declared, citizens driven like sheep to jail, invalid miners by scores dragged from their homes, sometimes from their beds, and marched miles over the veldt and herded in filthy lock-ups without sufficient blankets or other conveniences. Prominent labor men were jailed without trial, nine of them deported to England. General Smuts, who has been lauded and feted by capitalist hirelings during and since the war, told the troops in the January strike of 1913: "Don't hesitate to shoot."

Therefore, workers, having nothing to hope for but much to fear from General Smuts don't be carried away with his humanitarian expressions and hope which he holds out to you in the League of Nations.

The result of the Great War has further extended the Allies' territory in Africa. The German colonies have been divided up as part of the swag. To destroy German trade the British Government decreed that 96 per cent of the exports of palm kernel nuts must be shipped to Britain from West Africa. Before the war the bulk of this went to Germany, who had the most up-to-date pressing machines. The oil expressed was sent to Holland and converted into margarine. Britain bought 1,400,000 tons of margarine from Holland in 1913.

During the war a deputation went to the British Government representing the British Chamber of Commerce, and asked for the appointment of a committee to enquire and report on the best methods of securing this German trade of West Africa. The committee was appointed, consisting of Sir George Watson, margarine manufacturer; Sir William Lever, (soap manufacturer); Sir Owen Phillips, (chairman of the Shipping Syndicate which has a monopoly of West African trade) and others.

They recommended exports of the palm kernel to Britain free, elsewhere an export tax of \$10 a ton. This is an example of who runs the government.

The poor niggers, therefore, will get 5 to 7 dollars a ton less than formerly, as a result of the Allies winning the war, and the British Margarine manufacturers have jumped the price of margarine and soap, won a signal victory in obtaining a monopoly of the palm kernels of West Africa. As a result we have the Allied countries retaliating each other with increased tariffs.

The question of the moment with the ruling classes is tariffs.

Just listen to their megaphones—Meighen and Mackenzie King in the election campaign in Canada.

Next, Ireland, and then a summary of the whole to conclude the series.

#### IN VANCOUVER CENTRE.

##### Socialist Candidate, T. O'Connor

Comrade T. O'Connor, S. P. of C. candidate for Vancouver Centre, had a joint meeting with Mayor Gale, Liberal, last Monday at the Dominion Hall. The hall holds nine hundred or a thousand people, and its seating capacity was taxed to the limit.

Speaking for an hour before Mayor Gale arrived, Comrade O'Connor outlined the industrial and political history of Canada, laying particular stress on the process of wealth production by one class and appropriation and accumulation by the other. The position of the Socialist towards Liberal and Government candidates was based on a class viewpoint. The particular group of capitalists in political power had an advantage over the group who were out, and that comprised the differences existing between the groups and parties of the capitalist class. The Socialist was opposed to both. At the present time,

when elections held the public attention, the utterances of government or Liberal candidates were of little importance to the working class. The speaker's experience and observation showed him, as a worker selling labor-power for the benefit of a master, whether in the Crows Nest Pass, in Vancouver Island coal mines, in the railroad camps of the G. T. P., packing his "home" on his back, or in any of the cities of Great Britain or elsewhere, that his condition under capitalism as a wage worker always presented the same problems. The politicians of Canada, by the increase or adjustment of tariffs—according to their viewpoint—looked towards the time when Canada would be industrially developed and advanced.

A picture of Great Britain was drawn by the speaker, showing the conditions of poverty and starvation of the working class under developed capitalism. Such catch cries as Oriental exclusion had no bearing in that country, and it had no bearing on the working class problem here. Capitalism had reached a stage now where its markets could not absorb its products. In line with that development was an enormous supply of the commodity labor power and the employing class could not buy it. They had no use for it at the present time. International conferences of nations, including the disarmaments conference now sitting at Washington were all products of the antagonisms arising out of the conditions of wealth production and distribution now existing. The workers' reward, here in Vancouver, for their activities as wage workers in past years, would be received in the bull pens of Hastings Park, the "home" of the unemployed floating population. The speeches, promises and differences, more apparent than real, of the capitalist politicians could not alter facts. They were faced with a situation now which was involving the attention of the working class, and the worse it became the more attention they would be compelled to give to it.

Mayor Gale spoke for half an hour or more, his speech being devoted mainly to the common electioneering trivialities that form the stock-in-trade of Liberal and Conservative speech-makers.

Many questions were asked and Comrade O'Connor was in particularly good form all the time.

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