

# BIG FOUR MEETING IS A VICTORY FOR PEACE MOVEMENT

THIS week the leaders of the Big Four powers have been debating momentous issues at the Geneva talks. Whether or not the talks have a successful outcome, the mere fact they are being held at all must be regarded as a triumph for the world peace movement.

It has been the core of the programme of the world peace movement that the differences between nations should be settled by negotiation, not war. I have no doubt hundreds of New Age readers have at one time or another taken the world peace petition

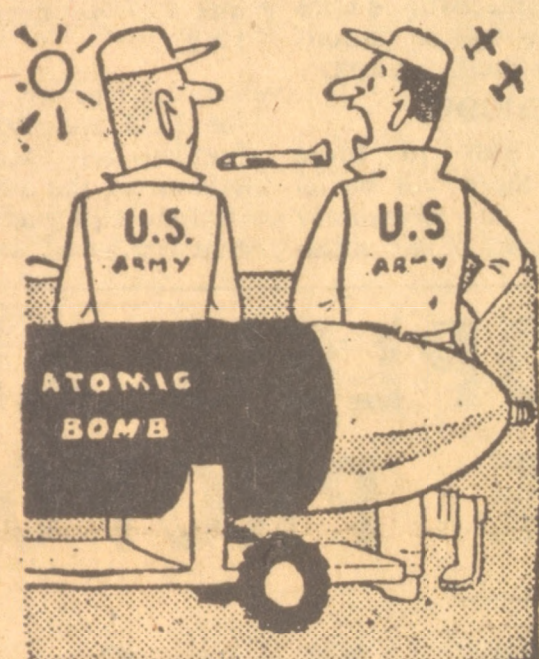
## WORLD STAGE BY SPECTATOR

from door to door—and one of the demands always contained in it has been that world problems should be settled by a meeting of the Big Five.

It is because millions of people the world over gave their backing to that demand that the present conference is being held.

### UNWILLING TO TALK

The United States has, throughout the post-war period, been unwilling to talk things over. Her attitude has been that she will only talk from a



"I don't know why, but in diplomatic bombs the Russians seem far ahead of us." —Carrefour, Paris.

"position of strength"—when she is able to dictate her own terms. She did not want the Korea peace talks, nor the Geneva talks on Indo-China. She has so far refused to accept Chou En-lai's offer to sit down and talk about the Formosa problem.

It has been the force of world opinion, the organised strength of the common man, that has overcome the arrogant might of American imperialism, and produced the spectacle of Eisenhower and Dulles taking part in a conference of the Yalta type which, only a few months ago, they were decrying as "the great betrayal".

Three main questions are at issue between the great powers—disarmament, German unification and a collective security agreement for Europe, and finally the Far East. Indications are that only the first two will be discussed in detail, with the third perhaps postponed to a later conference on another level.

### SOVIET POLICY CLEAR

On all these issues, Soviet policy has been clearly and repeatedly outlined, and the Soviet leaders have again and again asked for the opportunity to negotiate. The United States, on the other hand, has repeatedly failed to produce any alternative to the Soviet proposals and has steadfastly tried to avoid all forms of negotiation.

Even prior to the present conference the American proposals were unknown. Neither on disarmament nor on Germany had they produced any answer to the Soviet proposals except a flat negative.

The Washington correspondent of the London Times said last week: "The American brief (for the Geneva conference) is far from fully prepared; until recently, after all, Washington policy had been more concerned with reasons for not attending a four-power meeting."

### DULLES—WRECKER

And Dulles' policy is still to do what lies in his power to wreck the present talks. Hence he has on several occasions in the last month made it plain he expects nothing to emerge from the conference. He has put forward impossible demands for the restoration of "liberty" (i.e. capitalism) in Eastern Europe. He has informed the American Congress that the Soviet Union was "on the point of collapsing," and that therefore the United States should make no concessions to her. He told a Press conference, two

weeks before the conference opened, that the Soviet Union "had lost interest in the re-unification of Germany."

### PRAVDA REACTION

The Soviet newspaper Pravda reacted immediately to that one: "The aim of Dulles' lie," it said, "was to convince public opinion in the West that the Soviet Union does not want the re-unification of Germany, and then, if successful in obstructing the work of the Geneva conference, to lay the blame on the Soviet Union."

Pravda pointed out that the true position was declared by Premier Bulganin on May 21, when he said the Soviet Union "was and remained in favour of the establishment of a united Germany" as a basic principle of Soviet foreign policy.

And this analysis was confirmed by none other than Walter Lippmann, the leading American publicist, who commented in the New York Herald Tribune two weeks ago:

### WHAT ADENAUER DOESN'T WANT

"Dr. Adenauer, and the Western Governments have agreed with him, does not want to negotiate now for German re-unification and a German peace treaty. He does not want to negotiate the momentous issues of Germany's eastern frontiers until there is a German army, until Germany has become, as she will, the leading European member of N.A.T.O."

Dulles' tactics have been a bit too much even for his President to stomach. Where Dulles has scoffed, Eisenhower has tended to take a more optimistic attitude to the Geneva talks—maybe not because the President believes any differently from his Secretary of State, but because he appreciates that the public demands a more conciliatory policy.

Thus Eisenhower told his Press conference, held in the same week as Dulles' statement to Congress, that he did not believe the Soviet Union was negotiating from weakness, and that he hoped the talks would further the prospects of world peace.

### TWO VOICES

The "London Times" correspondent, reviewing the accumulation of apparently trifling differences between Eisenhower and Dulles, said the tasks of the Geneva conference were not made any easier by "Washington's tendency to speak with two voices."

Back of the American confusion lies the same unwillingness to reach agreement with the Soviet Union—disguised in the case of Eisenhower, more open and blatant in the case of Dulles. Basically the American attitude towards the Soviet Union remains aggressive. The present conference is, in their eyes, not an opportunity to lessen international tension, but a propaganda ordeal to be endured before they proceed with the armaments race and the construction of further "positions of strength."

### HOME TRUTHS

Soviet reaction to all this shiftness and evasion has been typically forthright. Bearing the lion in his den, Mr. Khrushchov took the occasion of a celebration of American Independence Day in the American Embassy in Moscow to tell the Americans a few home truths.

He praised the statements made by Eisenhower at his Press conference, but condemned the statements of Dulles and the Western Press jackals that the



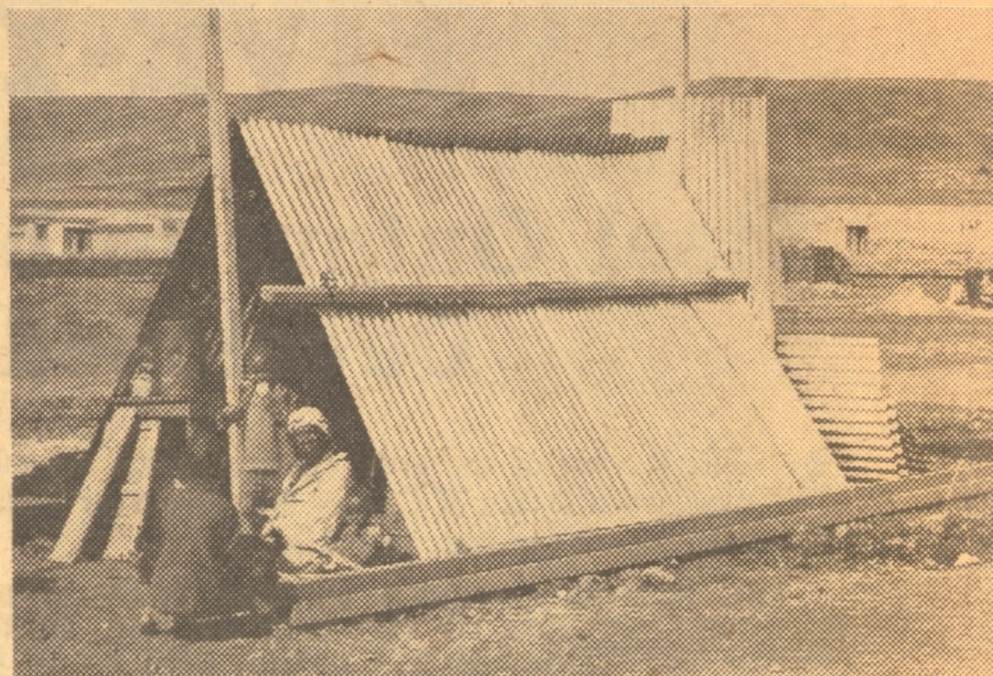
Soviet Union was going through an internal crisis and negotiating from weakness as "reading tea leaves" and a "fantasy of stupid people."

Mr. Khrushchov said the Soviet economy was "in full swing. . . I don't care whether you like it or not, but I'm telling you. It does not depend upon your wishes but upon what we do."

### "JUDGE FOR YOURSELF"

"The solidarity of our Party has never been such as it is now, and as for the unity of the people with the Party—you send people around our country, you can judge for yourself."

# SITE AND SERVICE — NEW SLUMS FOR OLD



THESE are photographs of one of the site and service schemes in the Atteridge Location area, Pretoria. Most of the families were from Mooiplaas Squatters' Camp, and this could be Mooiplaas still, except that the hills and surroundings are different, and the shacks are not as close to one another as they were in the former camp. BUT MOST OF THESE FAMILIES ARE LIVING IN SHACKS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE ONES THEY WERE ORDERED OUT OF. The same building materials have been used again, resulting in the same podokkie (picture, bottom right).

The people here seemed dispirited—or angry. There is the trader from Mooiplaas who is trying to build a permanent house on his plot. He estimated the house would cost more than £250 (picture, top right). He could get no bricks, he said, and also no cement. He has been forced to buy second-hand bricks. The large bricks cost 1s. 1d. each. £250 for a simple building like that! What on earth does the municipality think he can build for £35, he asks.

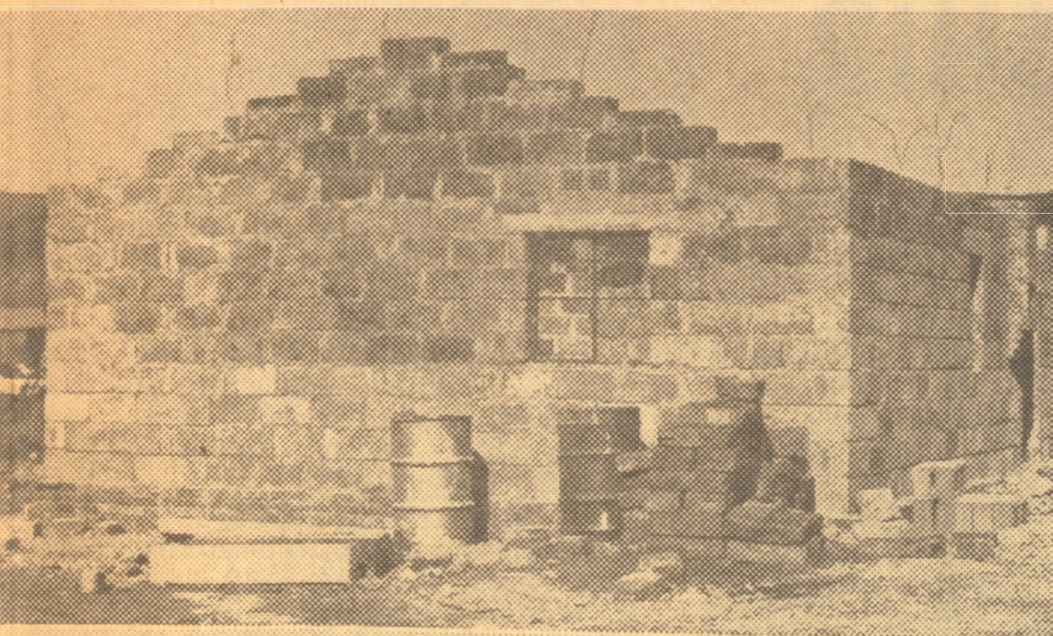
Among the families who have taken the plunge and borrowed £35 from the Pretoria City Council is the one pictured above. The loan buys some sheets of corrugated iron, some poles and a little cement. The picture shows the family settled beneath the shelter of the materials bought for £35.

Some families complained that they had paid their deposit for water and sewage but the water had not yet been turned on.

Expenses on the site and service project are more even than the people expected. "My rent account for last month," said one man, "should have been £1 10s. as I was told, but when the account came it was for £1 13s. 6d."

These families said they had to deposit £6 15s. for their plots before they were allowed to move in. They also had to pay £5. inspection fee. Those who make use of the loan offer have to pay each month not only the £1 10s. rent, but also the repayment on the £35.

(Photos by ELI WEINBERG.)



# SITE AND SERVICE AIM IS TO "CONTROL AFRICANS"

## City Councils Adopt Verwoerd Plan

JOHANNESBURG.

THE City Council here has called for volunteers to settle the first site-and-service plots, of which 450 were declared ready for occupation at the beginning of this week.

Contained in the call for volunteers was this statement: "The one fact we must bring home to our slumdwelling or homeless Native families is that all future building of homes in Johannesburg will take place on site-and-service schemes, and that the sooner they get on to these schemes, the nearer they will be to living in a proper house."

### MOROKA RESIDENTS OPPOSE SITE-AND-SERVICE

MOROKA residents, through their Joint Action Housing Committee, have rejected the site-and-service project, despite the fact that the great majority of the members of their advisory board have up to now completely accepted the Council's plans.

The Joint Action Housing Committee, in a memorandum issued last week, says the scheme is a blatant evasion by the City Council and the Government of their housing responsibilities to the Africans in the cities. The poor are being forced to build their own homes, and by any civilised standards this is an unheard-of precedent.

The Committee rejects the principle of site-and-service and demands that the authorities build houses for the people. Further, the committee rejects completely the stringent conditions attached to the site-and-service scheme.

It enumerates these as follows:

- The proposed rental of 30s. a month for a vacant site in the veld is unreasonable and beyond the reach of the people who have been paying only 10s. a month rental up to now. The amount is an exorbitant charge for a mere piece of ground with minimum services.

- The offered loan of £35 is quite inadequate to enable anyone to construct a home, however temporary or permanent.

- That amount will buy, at today's prices, a few sheets of corrugated iron, and some poles, and families today can barely make ends meet and feed and clothe themselves, let alone buy building materials to construct their own houses.

- The period of 24 hours allowed for the demolition of a house and the erection of a shelter on a serviced site is too short. The time will

not permit families to transport their belongings and re-settle themselves properly.

● The Minister of Native Affairs, by his own statements (for example in a Native Affairs Department circular on site-and-service) regards the scheme as one to obtain effective control of the Africans in the towns. We object strongly to the regulations framed for the administration of the site-and-service schemes. To give only one example, a man who loses his job is liable to have his site permit cancelled and will have to leave the scheme. What security can there be under these conditions, for people who invest hard-earned savings in building materials?

● We object to the introduction of the lodger's permit in the new settlements, and to the screening of families before they will be permitted to get a site. The permit system forces our children from their parents and sends them out of the cities. Those in the locations have to pay to stay with their parents.

● For the reasons mentioned above we reject utterly the site-and-service scheme. We demand:

Freehold tenure;

Land be made available for those who can afford to build their own houses;

Council-built houses at reasonable rentals.

# COLOURED PEOPLE RESIST NEW APARTHEID THREATS

CAPE TOWN.

THERE is strong opposition here to the two new apartheid threats which have been made against the people of Cape Town during the past week—one directed against Coloured traffic constables, and the other wishing to impose a colour bar in the Cape Town City Hall.

Ninety-five European traffic constables have asked that the Municipal Disciplinary Code be amended so as to allow for a difference in the grading of Europeans and Non-Europeans. The Europeans allege that they are being discriminated against in that they only are employed on duty near Parliament, at important gatherings, weddings, escorts, Muizenberg duties, guards of honour, etc.

There are altogether 91 European traffic constables, 8 European traffic officers, 14 European traffic sergeants, and 15 Non-European traffic constables in Cape Town today.

### NO DISCRIMINATION

In 1946 the Cape Town municipality adopted a Staff Code which declared that there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race in municipal staff appointments or salary grades.

In the same year, due to strong pressure by Non-European and progressive Councillors that the doors be opened to Non-European ex-servicemen, the first Non-European traffic constables were appointed. This was at the time when Mr. Sam Kahn (who had

been elected to the Council as a Communist Party candidate) was Chairman of the Traffic Committee.

Mr. G. C. Gibbs, secretary of the Municipal Workers' Association, told New Age that his association is protesting strongly against this attempt to divide traffic constables on racial lines.

"We stand for no differentiation at all in conditions of employment in the City Council," said Mr. Gibbs.

### S.A.C.P.O. STATEMENT

Also voicing its strong condemnation, the Cape Western Region of the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation calls upon the City Council to reiterate its stand of no apartheid in employment in the City Council.

"S.A.C.P.O. further feels that the 'reasons' advanced by the white members of the traffic department are at best an abdication to racialism and apartheid, an attitude which must be strongly condemned as wrong, both from a moral and efficiency point of view.

"We call upon the Non-European members of the Council to state their stand on this matter and, finally, pledge support to those traffic constables whose rights are being threatened."

Mr. Sam Kahn told New Age:

"The Non-European traffic constables have acquitted themselves with outstanding distinction and have proved their worth. To use against them the fact that, against their will, they are not allowed to perform certain duties, in order to impose vicious race discrimination against them, is a grotesque example of the depth to which

colour prejudice drives even European workers.

"It is a monstrous proposal, absolutely subversive of efficiency and good discipline, to put experienced and able Non-Europeans under Europeans, simply on the grounds of the latter's 'superior' colour," said Mr. Kahn.

### CITY HALL APARTHEID

First public news of the intention to impose apartheid in the Cape Town City Hall was contained in Die Burger last week which reported on a meeting of the committee appointed to undertake the building of the new Cape Town Civic Centre on the foreshore. The Town Clerk, Mr. M. B. Williams, is reported to have told the Committee that the apartheid principle would be one of the most important aspects in the new building.

According to Die Burger, the new Civic Centre will be for Europeans Only while the present City Hall will be for Non-Europeans. In the meanwhile, it is proposed that the Old Drill Hall be used for Non-Europeans, and the City Hall be reserved for Europeans Only.

"We feel that the City Council is now openly becoming the ally of the Provincial Administration in their application of apartheid, and S.A.C.P.O. reiterates its condemnation of this retrograde step," states the S.A.C.P.O. executive.

Declaring that they hold all Councillors collectively responsible for this betrayal of rights, the statement adds:

"S.A.C.P.O. is unpleasantly disturbed by the lack of a positive lead on the part of the Coloured councillors in office at the moment, and calls upon them to dissociate themselves from this step, openly and forcefully voicing their disapproval of the idea."

# BULLDOZERS FLATTEN KLERKSDORP HOUSES

JOHANNESBURG.

BULLDOZERS were brought in last week to flatten the houses of two residents in the Klerksdorp Location, those of James Brown and Simon Tsuela. Municipal officials watched as teams of municipal workers and then the bulldozers razed the homes of these families to the ground.

This was a sequel to the long-drawn-out and intense battle that has been waged by Klerksdorp Old Location residents against their removal to the new Jouberton Location.

In a series of court actions the residents contested the removal scheme and also the compensation offered by the Minister of Native Affairs. The case against the ministerial fixing of compensation was lost recently at Bloemfontein when the case was heard by the Appellate Division.

Brown has had to accept the compensation offered him—£238 12s. 2d.—though he says his eight-roomed house is worth nothing less than £500.

By leaving their properties in the Old Location and moving into the Jouberton locations these Klerksdorp residents, in a location established in the days of the old Republic, are also losing their right to freehold tenure.

This is not the first time the Klerksdorp municipality has called in bulldozers to demolish houses in the Old Location. One resident, Job Machoane, asked to be allowed to build his own house in Jouberton, and he had submitted plans and started making bricks when an ejection order was served on him and two police armed with sten guns were called in while his house was pulled to the ground by a bulldozer.

"EUROPEAN EXPANSION"

Plans to remove the Old Location started as far back as 1947. The reason for the removal is stated to be the needs of European expansion. Total compensation offered for the entire location is no more than £3,000. The Old Location is about one mile from the centre of the town, while Jouberton is four and a half miles out.

# DISMISSED UNITED TOBACCO WORKERS FACE GREAT HARDSHIP

## CAPE TOWN.

About 300 to 350 tobacco workers and their families in the Cape Peninsula are suffering great hardships—through no fault of their own. They are amongst the workers who were dismissed by the United Tobacco Company because their factory in Observatory is closing down.

The dismissals started in May and about 600 workers have already been paid off. By the end of this month, when the final dismissals take place, another 100 workers will be unemployed.

The Cigarette and Tobacco Workers' Union, its secretary, Mr. A. Calmeyr, told New Age, is doing its utmost to find employment for the workers. "But it is a very difficult task in view of the present conditions prevailing in industry. There seems to be a general slackness, and it is hard to place experienced factory workers. Employers prefer learners. Also a large number of workers have their age to contend with, especially those who have worked for U.T.C. for 20 years and over."

About one-quarter of the workers concerned are Europeans, the rest Coloured. Males make up about 60 per cent of the total, and the experience of the union to date has been that the European men are more easily placed in jobs than the Coloureds.

The unemployed workers are at present drawing unemployment benefits, which are about one-third of their previous salaries. During the first three months of their unemployment, the Labour Department must offer them suitable employment—by which is meant work similar to that which they did before, at a similar wage. After the first three months, workers must take any job the Labour Department offers them, or else forfeit their unemployment pay. The workers have not yet had to face this contingency, their dismissals dating from the middle of May.

A New Age representative, who visited a number of affected workers over the last week, Coloured and European, found much evidence of distress and concern for the future.



Mr. Reginald Karstens, married, with a wife and four children, the eldest 12 and the youngest 5, worked for 9½ years at the factory. The only breadwinner in the family, Mr. Karstens earned £5 10s. a week. At present he draws £2 7s. 3d. a week unemployment pay.

Mr. Karstens, who is 38 years old, told New Age that he has found that "age goes against" him. "I will take on anything because I have a family to look after, but so far nothing has come of all my applications," he said.

Mrs. Karstens confirmed that it was not "easy to manage."

### "IT'S VERY HARD..."

"We've got to scrape along on the couple of pence we get," she said. "It's very hard to make ends meet. Rent is £5 15s. a month, which takes a big slice out of our income. When my husband was working, we just managed. Whatever we were able to save, never lasted long, because as soon as the kids needed anything, the money just went."

Mr. Karstens said the closing of the factory came as a big shock to him. "We only got three weeks' notice—no previous warning at all."

### AFTER 28 YEARS

Also in very distressed circumstances is one of the European workers interviewed, Miss Ada Hanslo, 53 years old. Miss Hanslo had worked for U.T.C. for almost 28 years. On her salary of £5 13s. 9d. a week, she had supported her sister and her 88-year-old bedridden mother. Now she gets £2 7s. 3d. unemployment pay a week.

Her sister had also worked at U.T.C. for over 20 years until a few years ago, when she left to look after their mother. Rent is £6 12s. a month, and there are a

lot of extra costs in caring for the invalid—1/6 a day in milk alone for the old lady, and a packet of tablets lasting about 5 days, costs 8/6, to mention only a few of the extras. Old Mrs. Hanslo's pension of £10 10s. a month therefore does not go very far.

The Karstens family (top) are anxiously hoping that their father will soon find work. Stella Charles (pictured above with her daughter, Gail) is also looking for work.

Miss Hanslo has been busy looking for work but without success. She was offered a job in one of the big bazaars, but at a wage of £3 2s. 6d. a week. After taking off the bus fare, what would be over? she asked.

On leaving U.T.C., Miss Hanslo got a cheque for £196, from the Provident Fund, to which she had contributed for many years. But if she had worked with the same firm for two years more, she would have been entitled to a pension of £500.

"With £500 I would have had a comfortable nest egg," she said. "But as it is, my money is just dwindling. My sister and I have to go short, and our health is suffering because of it."

### ALWAYS IN FEAR

The closing of the factory came as a shock, she said. "But then, we old hands have always lived in fear of being paid off. I've seen others who are paid off without warning, when they near pension age.

"I would like a nice little job, where I don't have to slog and slave!"

In a similar position is Miss Eva Paulse, 54 years old, who had worked for the firm for 24 years. She has no dependants. But then, neither has she anyone to support her, and the £1 18s. 6d. a week she draws in unemployment pay goes all too quickly.

### BABY TO SUPPORT

Stella Charles is another of the unemployed. She is 26 years old, has a young baby to support and also helped support the family. She draws the same unemployment pay as Miss Paulse and her story, too, is that "it is very hard to manage."

Kenneth McDaniel, 40 years old, with wife and two children, worked for U.T.C. for 8 years. He is looking for work as a driver, "but will take anything, because we can't come out only on the wife's earnings."

Said Mrs. McDaniel, "We cannot do without a man's wages. The couple of pennies my husband had, are gone already."

N.S.



Miss Ada Hanslo, Mr. Kenneth McDaniel and Miss Eva Paulse are workers who face hardship with the closing of the United Tobacco Company's factory in Observatory.

## SACKED FOR A SONG

### Workers Allege Illegal Lock-out

#### JOHANNESBURG.

THIRTY-TWO spirited Coloured, African and Indian workers were locked out of their factory last week because for two weeks they had been singing "Higher wages, higher wages; We are Hungry."

This song, to the tune of Mayibuye, was composed by one of the young women workers in the factory, and the workers had taken to singing it persistently while they worked, to support the claim they had put up to their employer for an increase in wages.

These workers were the staff of Peanut Products, Fordsburg, and last week was the second time their employer locked them out. Though a small factory, the workers—here of all races have stood firm and absolutely united, all groups refusing to permit the victimisation of any other.

The basic wage of some of the women workers at this factory is 19s. 9d. Together with their cost of living allowance these workers earn £1 9s. 6d. a week. A woman worker who has worked in the factory for six years earns £2 2s. 6d. a week, and a man who has worked there for 12 years earns £2 13s. 6d.

#### HAVE TO ASK

The workers get 2s. 6d. rise in their wages a year and "even then

we have to go and ask for it," a worker told NewAge.

A Coloured woman worker said: "We have to work like mules—not like horses, like mules!"

The morning of the singing episode the employer singled out three women and gave them notice. The entire factory stopped work and went to the office to ask why the three had been dismissed. The employer said, "I've had enough of that song," and ordered all the workers to take off their aprons and leave the factory.

Subsequently the employer refused to discuss the matter with the union and paid the workers off.

Since the lock-out this employer seems to have become wise to the Government's new labour legislation and he has now taken on an entirely African staff, as Coloured workers can join registered unions and use conciliation machinery.

The 32 workers who were locked-out are to institute a prosecution against the employer for an illegal lock-out.

## Distributive Workers' Union Revived

#### PORT ELIZABETH.

THE local organiser of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, Miss D. Telling, reported to a well-attended S.A.C.T.U. meeting here recently that she had revived the Distributive Workers' Union, which had long been defunct.

The main task before the committee, it was felt, was to organise workers in factories where unions do not yet exist, particularly in the motor industry.

The Freedom Charter was warmly received, and the meeting resolved to take the Charter to the people. Already the strongest African union in Port Elizabeth, the Food and Canning Workers', is making preparations for a record meeting at Korsten at which the Charter will

be presented to the people, the organising secretary of the union, Mr. B. M. Pendla, told our local representative.

Mr. Pendla also spoke of the "indelible impression of the new South Africa" which he carried away with him from the historic Kliptown rally. Commenting on the police raid, he said: "I felt highly honoured when Swart's boys had to mount guard when I went to the toilet room."

## LET LIFE BE YOUR INSPIRATION

We live in a country where drama, tragedy, pathos, humour and farce constantly rub shoulders—rich material for the writer's pen. There is no lack of incidents or characters, from the past and the present, around which to write a good short story.

Why not try your hand at dramatising your experiences or your feelings? Let life itself be your raw material.

ENTER NOW  
FOR OUR

NEW AGE SHORT STORY  
COMPETITION

ONLY TEN MORE DAYS  
YOUR LAST CHANCE!

All entries must be in by  
MONDAY, 1st AUGUST

FIRST PRIZE - - - - £10

SECOND PRIZE - - - - £5

■ The story must be between two and three thousand words long and have a South African background.

■ Judges: UYS KRIGE, JACK COPE, R. VAN DER ROSS

**Collection Number: AG2887**

**Collection Name: Publications, New Age, 1954-1962**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

*Location:* Johannesburg

©2016

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.