



all anti-labour and all anti-native legislation. We need not be surprised at this, because the oppressed and exploited have not even one representative in this parliament. It is useful to note that from the £17,900,000 appropriated for the Loan Funds Labour figures with £100,000 and Native Affairs with ~~£1,000,000~~ £1,000 !!! Comment is superfluous.

There is one more item which calls ~~for~~ for close attention, and that is the General Law Amendment Act. Cunningly put ~~through~~ <sup>forward</sup> by the Minister of Justice as a Defence of Democracy, and hailed as such by the bourgeois press, this Act is ~~actually~~ really a piece of Martial Law legislation. It gives the Minister dictatorial powers in all political trials. It abolishes for all political trials the jury system, and from now on all cases, classified under treason, sedition or public violence, and those under the Riotous Assemblies Act, and when the Minister thinks it desirable, will be dealt with by a judge together with two assessors appointed by the Minister and having equal rights with the judge. Thus the brutally naked Class Law of the bloody beast Capitalism, which was used by the Minister in 1922 -- in an emergency -- is now brought into operation as a constant feature, as a Law.

Thus one veil after another falls to the ground, one illusion after another is torn from those who believe in Bourgeois Democracy, in "freedom of speech", in "freedom of assembly", in "Habeas Corpus", in trial by jury, etc., etc. Capitalism on the run, Capitalism in face of the ~~approaching~~ approaching deadly combat, can no longer conceal its true colours.

O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.O.

The question of the Protectorates, which has been prominent in the columns of the press here and in Great Britain since October last (the date of General Smuts' visit to England), has now advanced just another stage in the bargaining process between the mother-country and her Dominion. It is quite obvious that so long as Hertzog hesitates to ~~subscribe~~ subscribe to a definite "general" scheme of Empire defence, Thomas ~~will hesitate~~ ~~in hesitating~~ to commit himself to a definite promise to hand over the Protectorates. Lionel Curtis and other hirelings can by an hysterical ~~appeal~~

appeal to the common sense and love of fair play of the British people give greater bargaining power to Thomas. Have not this common sense and love of fair play always been the best weapons of Imperialism ever since the conquest of India, where they are seen working at their best?

But Hertzog could not be allowed to go home with empty hands: if it were only for his participation in the Jubilee Service, he must get at least some pennyworth of sweets, and so an agreement was reached between the two old traitors (the one to labour, the other to republicanism), an agreement of the kind that says nothing and also means nothing, an agreement "to co-operate". What ~~is~~ a well-sounding and useful word co-operation is! Not only is Hitler now co-operating with the world and especially with Great Britain "to defend the world-peace, but everybody everywhere seems to be co-operating in a friendly spirit: Italy with Abyssinia, Paraguay with Bolivia, Japan with China, Great Britain with America.

In plain English the agreement does not mean a thing. The very next day after the agreement was reached, arranging for "co-operation in order to appease Native <sup>public</sup> opinion in the Protectorates", Hertzog seems to have realised that the chocolate ~~was very thin indeed and the sweetmeat of no real value,~~ ing coating was very thin indeed and the sweetmeat of no real value, so that he spoke grudgingly and suspiciously of having "no doubts, if ~~all played the game~~ all played the game" (our emphasis).

In this connection it is very significant that the "agreement was reached with Thomas on the 24th of May, following a meeting on the 23rd of the overseas Prime Ministers (including of course Hertzog) and British Ministers. Reuter's Agency adds: "In addition to the usual personnel of these conferences, the First Lord of the Admiralty, ~~the~~ the Secretaries of State for War and Air and also the three Chiefs of Staff attended. Discussion of the International situation particularly regarding defence aspects was resumed." (Our emphasis)

The agreement thus/<sup>clears</sup> ~~clears~~ the way for Great Britain on the one side to save her face when necessary before the so-called public opinion, and at the same time it gives the real bargaining power to the British War Ministries. Nothing has changed yet, unless we hear more about the historic meeting on the 23rd with the heads of the Empire war

apparatus.

We shall return to this question in a later number of "The Spark", and we shall also deal with the growing Strike movement in Southern Africa.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

The uneasiness and tension in European and International Affairs has not in the least been relieved by the "peaceful" speech of Hitler to the Reichstag of puppets in Berlin, and ~~xxxxxxx~~ by the "gesture of peacefulness and goodwill" of the other fascist Dictator, Mussolini in Geneva. They can deceive no one. The world -- we must of course exclude the ignorant and stupid -- has already learnt how to interpret these speeches of statesmen in the age of Imperialism and Fascism. It is no secret that when Hitler speaks of peace, he means that he is not yet completely ready for war, and the same applies to Mussolini in regard to Abyssinia. The decision at Geneva means a means a postponement for a few months, till the formidable Abyssinian rains are past. Meanwhile, Italy is continuing with mobilisation, ~~with~~ with the transport of troops, munitions and provisions, just as before, and negotiations will go on for a full agreement with France and Great Britain regarding the ultimate division of Abyssinia. When a concert ~~among the three Imperialist robbers~~ of the three Imperialist robbers has been arranged, the "pacification and colonisation" of Abyssinia will commence. But that will not be war. It will be "to remove slavery and barbarism, ~~and~~ to introduce Christianity and civilisation, and so get rid of a continuous threat of war." How well we know this cynical hypocrisy of Imperialist robbers, which will recur and recur again till the overthrow of Capitalism!

*Handwritten:*  
 1935  
 1935

**Collection Number: AG2722**

**WORKER'S PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1933-1935**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**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 part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa