

ists from responsible positions.

After disposing of the revolutionary elements in the Union, Clements Kadalie and Co. exerted all efforts to transform the ICU from a class struggle proletarian organisation into a tool of class collaboration. Kadalie, and the rest of the reformist clique, refused to send representatives to the Brussels Conference of Oppressed Peoples on the pretext that it was a "bolshevist outfit". Kadalie protested his loyalty to the English King, opposing strikes as a method of fighting the employers, and urging peaceful ways for the settlement of conflicts. This did not end the treacherous activity of Kadalie. He got the ICU to join the Amsterdam International and invited reformist trade union officials from England to come as his advisers, whilst upon every possible occasion he declares that his Union and himself have nothing whatever to do with Communism.

It stands to reason that the severe economic and political conditions of the black workers represented by the ICU do not furnish favourable ground for the blossoms of reformism. The policy of class harmony cannot find any response amongst the masses which are eking out an existence of semi-starvation. Therefore, the reactionary policy of Kadalie & Co. does not indicate any process of decline in the sentiments of the native and coloured workers, having no solid basis of support.

Parallel to the ICU of the native and coloured workers, there are two trade union organisations of the white workers : the South African Trade Union Congress (15-20,000 members) and the Federation of Labour Unions of Cape Province (11,000 members).

The trade unions of the white workers, which had persistently refused to have any dealings with the organisations of the native workers, are now compelled to alter somewhat their policies. Now they cannot afford to ignore the existing organisation of the native workers which is many times stronger than their own. The South African Trade Union Congress, which had repeatedly declined all proposals and advances made by the ICU, at its session in April 1927 "condescended" for the first

time in the history of the South African trade union movement to discuss the question of collaboration with the ICU, and even to send back a telegram of greetings. It is true, the framing of practical measures for the establishment of collaboration with the ICU was postponed until the establishment of contact between the South African Trade Union Congress and the Federation of Labour Unions of Cap^e Province. Finally, such contact was established, in order to coordinate and harmonise the activities of both organisations of the white workers there was formed in 1927 the "United Trade Union Committee". Nevertheless there was little gained by this to the unity of the trade union movement. At one of its meetings, or rather, as the result of several meetings, the United Committee passed a resolution in which it recommended the South African Trade Union Congress NOT TO AMALGAMATE WITH THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS' UNION, BUT TO CONVENE FROM TIME TO TIME JOINT MEETINGS OF THE TWO BODIES. The last session of the South African Trade Union Congress, which met in April, 1928, accepted the recommendation of the United Trade Union Committee.

Thus, the question of unity of the South African trade union movement, which is of such momentous importance to the successful struggle of the working class in South Africa, has been shelved once again. To be sure, there is nothing surprising or unexpected in this. It is easy to understand that the Trade Union Congress of the white workers, with its lingering racial prejudices and with its membership of barely 20,000, has hesitated to take in a force of 100,000 native and coloured workers, extending to the latter the same rights as to the white members. Furthermore, it should be remembered that at the head of the trade unions of the white workers, with few exceptions, are reformist leaders who have deliberately obstructed the tactics of the united front and have betrayed the interests of the workers upon numerous occasions.

A particularly stubborn struggle against unity of the trade union movement is waged by the South African Labour Party, which has been consistently following an outspoken imperialist and anti-native policy.

Not only does the Labour Party refuse admission to native and coloured workers, but it also urges that they shall be debarred from the white trade unions.

Under such involved conditions the only organisation in South Africa which advocates consistently the militant class struggle policy is the young Communist Party. In spite of all the difficulties and obstacles, the Party carried on an energetic campaign against national and class prejudices, against the treacherous tactics of the reformists, for unity of the trade unions, and for One Trade Union International. It is true, the activity of the Communists in the labour movement of South Africa is considerably handicapped by the high-handed action of the reformists. Nevertheless the Party, by persistent propaganda and agitation for the native rights in the trade unions and for the amalgamation of the white and coloured trade unions, is gradually winning over the best elements of the working class. If so far the efforts to establish collaboration between the white and coloured trade unions have not been crowned with success owing to a number of reasons (the lingering prejudices of the white workers, the high-handed action of the reformists, etc.), it may be expected that the laws of capitalist development and the revolutionising factors will bring to the natural result in the end. Already now we are witnessing the increasing offensive of the capitalists against the white workers, and the rapid growth of the large cadres of "white paupers". The gulf between the white workers and the bourgeoisie is widened day by day, whilst the growing precariousness of the economic conditions of the white workers is beginning to consolidate the whole of the working class into an united front, irrespective of race and colour.

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BRIEF NEWS

Johannesburg, South Africa,
August 30, 1928.

MOZAMBIQUE CONVENTION AGREEMENT

It is stated that the delegates who are negotiating the Mozambique Convention have agreed to fix the contract of mine labourers at

eighteen months.

It is also believed that an agreement has been reached in the matter of deferred payment.

NEW MINERS' UNION ORGANISED IN AMERICA ; NEGRO, VICE PRESIDENT

Pittsburg, Sept. 10, 1928.

At the organisation of the new Miners' Union by the left wing of U.S.A., as a result of the betrayal, and defunct leadership of the Lewis gang of the old miners' union, a new militant programme was adopted ; John Watt was elected President, and Frank Boyce, a Negro miner, was elected Vice-President.

SOCIALISTS FORM COTTON COMPANY FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF NATIVES
IN AFRICA

Brussels, Aug. 30, 1928.

Under the management of Jules Mathieur, a socialist member of Parliament in Belgium, the socialists have founded a cotton company, in Ruanda-Urundi and the Congo in Africa. The socialists have now entered into competition with imperialists for the exploitation of the resources and native labour of Africa.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA NOMINATES NEGROES ON PARTY TICKET

IN MANY STATES

New York, Sept. 1, 1928.

The Communist Party of America has succeeded in placing its ticket on the ballots for the coming elections in 20 States, many in the South, where Negroes are showing great interest in the Party platform, which comes out strong against abusive practices against Negroes in America. In nearly every State where the party has a ticket Negroes are nominate on the ticket.

The following demands are included in the party platform :

1. - Abolition of the whole system of race discrimination. Full racial, political and social equality for the Negro race.

2. - Abolition of all laws which result in segregation of Ne-

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