

"STAND BY THE PONDOS"

NEW AGE

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No Buying on Dec. 5 Says Congress

JOHANNESBURG.

AS THE GOVERNMENT PREPARES FOR A SHOW-DOWN IN PONDOLAND BY MASSING A HUGE POLICE FORCE BACKED WITH PLANES, SARACENS AND ARMoured CARS, THE CONGRESS MOVEMENT HAS CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO STAND BY THE PONDOS BY BOYCOTTING ALL SHOPS AND DOING NO BUYING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5.

Spearheading the campaign is the South African Congress of Trade Unions, which issued the boycott call last Friday afternoon when the mass meeting on Pondoland planned to take place in Johannesburg over the week-end was banned by order of the Chief Magistrate.

The December 5 boycott call is being taken up by the Congresses in all main centres of the Union.

The slogan of the Newclare meeting was to have been 'Hands off Pondoland.' The magistrate's order was issued under the Riotous Assemblies Act on the grounds that the meeting in Newclare would 'seriously endanger the public peace.'

SACTU came back sharply on the ban with the retort: The Government is afraid that the people might learn from the meeting what is happening in Pondoland.

SOLIDARTY

To protest against the ban and to express support with the people of Pondoland the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions issued this call to its members and to all the people of South Africa not to buy on December 5.

"People will be asked to go to work as usual," says SACTU, "but to keep away from all shops.

"In a country where nine-tenths of the population are refused all channels to express their grievances, a withdrawal of their buying power is one of the only means of protest

left to them."

COD STATEMENT

The Congress of Democrats said the Government was trying to stop people from showing their support for the people of Pondoland in a peaceful and organised way.

"The Government must be held solely responsible if the resentment and frustration of the people takes on more drastic forms of protest."



Canadian trade unionists have backed the call for an overseas boycott of South African goods. Here are some of them on the picket line outside a liquor store in Winnipeg. The Quebec Provincial Federation of Labour has sent a strong protest to the Attorney General calling for a ban on the import of South African wines and brandies by the Liquor Commission.

ANC LEADERS HOUNDED BY POLICE

JOHANNESBURG.

The Government campaign to persecute people's leaders is being intensified day by day. Leaders of the outlawed African National Congress are being hounded at every turn. They are being arrested for incitement, endorsed out of the towns and charged under every conceivable regulation.

Mr. Peter Magano, former Volunteer-in-chief of the African National Congress in the Transvaal and a member of the provincial Executive Committee, was grabbed by a uniformed white police and a member of the Special Branch outside the hall in the Rustenburg location recently. He was shoved into the pick-up van and taken to Rustenburg police station where he was charged for failing to pay entertainment tax. Bail was fixed at £15.

Mr. Magano was a cashier at a fund-raising concert organised by him to pay the £50 fine arising from his conviction for incitement during the state of emergency.

Mr. Magano and two others, Mr. Able Tlale and April Mogoatlane, all residents of Pretoria, were endorsed out of Pretoria following their conviction for incitement. All are married men with children.

PEASANTS UNITED AGAINST BANTU AUTHORITIES

Grim Struggles in Many Areas

From M.P. Naicker

BANTU Authorities is dying . . . Slowly but surely this fraud of "self-government" for the African people is being smashed by peasants in widely separated areas . . . It is being exposed in all its nakedness for what it really is: the extension

of the rule of the sjambok to the rural areas.

In spite of long terms of imprisonment, deportations, threats and intimidation, the people are determined not to allow this system to supplant the traditional tribal democracy—a form of democracy which

has existed for centuries in which all tribesmen decide on matters affecting their tribe.

PONDOLAND

FOLLOWING on the assassination of Chief Vukayimbe Sigcau and two of his indunas, New

Age carried out an intensive investigation to ascertain the reasons for this outbreak of violence in the Flagstaff area. Hitherto all action by the tribes of Pondoland has been strictly non-violent.

After the meeting of Ngqingillili Hill was dispersed (see New Age last week) the people found that two members of their tribe had died of gunshot wounds and that four were seriously injured, two with assegai wounds. Eye-witnesses reported that these wounds were inflicted by Chief Sigcau and his indunas.

The following day the tribesmen held another meeting at which it was reported that one of the tribesmen had been beaten up and arrested by Sigcau and his indunas. This, it was alleged, was done in the presence of a large contingent of police.

TRIBESMEN ATTACK

Late that night, after the police had left, angry tribesmen attacked the Chief's kraal and released the arrested tribesman who was bound with chains and rope.

He was in the same hut as the Chief and three of his indunas. The Chief and his indunas were killed by the angry tribesmen when they saw their compatriot badly injured, with weals all over his body and a big gash on his head.

No one appears to know where the released tribesman is or how he is faring.

The area is now under police rule and a reign of terror has been unleashed. The brunt of the police attacks is being borne by the women, as most men do not go into the open during the day, fearing that they will be arrested on sight.



Strong police parties are dotted throughout Pondoland in preparation for the coming showdown. Here is a police camp on the outskirts of Bizana.

(Continued on page 3)

WANTED - A ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

When is this Nationalist Government going to meet the real leaders of the African people instead of banning and deporting them because they speak up for the people's rights?

When is the Government going to realise that South Africa is a multi-racial country?

In this New Age is the Nationalist Government not prepared to call a round-table conference together with the real African leaders and pave the way to a new, peaceful South Africa where all peoples will feel at home and live without fear for generations to come?

Let us have a civilised South Africa with respect for manhood!

ZWELAKE S. XAMLASHE

Langa, Cape.



De Wet Nel in a blue haze looking for white reds.

CRISIS IN PONDOLAND

THE Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr. de Wet Nel, claims to have "incontestable" evidence that White Communists are at the root of the troubles in Pondoland. He says he even knows their names.

"The sole source of incitement to riot among the Bantu is communism," he said last week. To deal with the situation, he is issuing a Proclamation giving African chiefs immediate powers to arrest the White Communist agitators and hand them over to the police. The Proclamation would also provide for the formation of a Bantu Home Guard in Pondoland.

One wonders why he has not already arrested the White Communists who are to blame for everything. He accuses them of terrible things:

"They do not hesitate to incite the Bantu to commit violence, even murder, and to exploit them financially at the same time."

Also to blame, says Mr. de Wet Nel, are the press, who have given the communist campaign their support.

We have no hesitation in saying that Mr. de Wet Nel is talking nonsense and he knows it. But his remarks are not the less sinister for that.

What it means is that the Government is going to take absolutely no action to remedy the real grievances of the African people in Pondoland and the other reserves where there have been continual disturbances ever since Bantu Authorities were introduced.

Following the principle enunciated by Verwoerd that any concessions to the people only encourage them to ask for more, there will be no relaxation of the Bantu Authorities system. Instead, we can expect renewed persecution of the so-called white communist agitators and of the press, possibly as a prelude to the rumoured Preventive Detention Bill and the Bill to control publications due to be introduced next session.

Above all, a campaign of terror is to be unleashed in the reserves themselves. One of the main grievances of the people is that they have been subjected to violence by the chiefs' bodyguards, against whose excesses they have no redress whatsoever. Now, apparently, these bodyguards are to be armed. The Government is determined to drive all opposition into the ground by brute force.

These strong-arm tactics will not pacify the reserves. On the contrary, they are the best guarantee that conditions of unrest and violence will continue to rule there. Sten guns and Saracens are no substitute for democracy. The wishes of the people must be taken into account.

At the moment the people of Pondoland are fighting their brave battle for justice isolated and alone. Elsewhere in the country the people seem sunk in apathy. This way lies defeat.

A duty rests on all democrats in all centres to rally to the assistance of the hard-pressed Pondo people. Public opinion must be roused to prevent the Government from implementing its vicious plans of reprisal and to insist on the reforms which are essential if peace is to be restored to these troubled areas.

**HANDS OFF THE PONDO PEOPLE!
AWAY WITH BANTU AUTHORITIES!
FORWARD TO EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL AND THE
FULL RIGHT OF ALL TO TAKE PART IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY!**

BIGGEST EVER DONATION FROM LONDON

OUR London friends have excelled themselves this time by sending us the biggest single donation ever. An amount of £125 was raised at a party where Sam Kahn made the appeal, Alfred Hutchinson was the guest of honour and among the guests were Mr. Mainza Chona of Northern Rhodesia and Mr. Paul Mashonga of Southern Rhodesia. This is the nicest gift we could have got from them. Our thanks go to all those on the committee who helped organise the party and also to the contributors, each and every one of them.

Then from Durban we hear that one of our sellers donated his commission of 14/10d. to the paper. He did this because we sent New Age to Durban by air so that it could get to the Currie's Fountain centenary meeting on time. His donation was to cover the additional transport costs. Thank you very much. Sixpence.

While we're handing out

laurels, we must thank all those anonymous donors who send in their 2/6 and 5/- postal orders. Because these are sent anonymously, we cannot even post them their receipts. But we want to acknowledge our thanks to them through this column. They, and all our other generous friends, are the life-blood of our paper.

Last Week's Donations:

London:
New Age Committee £125.
Port Elizabeth:
Friend £1.11, Doc £1, Ran £1, Babs 10.6d., P.R.V. £1, Worker's Friend £7, Wagon £10, Chips £1, Sister £1, Medico £1, E.D.R. £2, Anon 10s.
Johannesburg:
Steel £5, D.T. £3, T. £2, J. £1.10, Anon 10s., Doctor, in memory of Lionel £1, Good friend £60.
Cape Town:
Nick 10s., R.M. £1.1, E.T.L. 19s., Cars £3, G.S. £1, Jumble 3s., I.M.—"For freedom" 5s., Music makers £8.10.
TOTAL: £240 19s. 6d.

Capitalism Not Wanted in Basutoland

At present when Basutoland is achieving a self-rule form of government, the Basuto have shown great interest in the progress of the nation. But there are moves to foil their attempts in Molehshoek.

There is a Mr. X in Molehshoek who is one of the biggest capitalists who opposed the granting of a garage and carpentry licence to those Basutos wishing to develop and improve themselves in business.

It is the intention of the British Government that Basuto should be given first preference as far as business and other matters are concerned.

Is it fitting then that such a prosperous businessman should have lodged an opposition against those Basuto who want to start their first step in business?

It should have been Mr. X's duty to help these Basutos, who made him what he is now, by offering them just one of his own licences. If this man wants to be a capitalist, it is better for him to go and join other capitalists outside this country because in this country we oppose capitalism.

A. S. MAKHELE

President, Basutoland
Congress Party,
Molehshoek District.

Need For Unity in S.W.A.

Now is not the time to be a Herero, or Ovambo or Nama in South West Africa. No, we want unity at all costs, South West Africa for all Africans.

There are new ideas alive on the continent. The move towards independence is taken for granted; the talk is all of anti-tribalism and of the need to submerge national differences and personality issues in the interests of uniting South West Africans.

Peace for all.

The Luderitz Branch Secretary
of the South West Africa
People's Organisation.

"ROAD TO GHANA" BANNED

"The Road to Ghana," by Alfred Hutchinson, is one of more than 300 books and periodicals whose importation into South Africa was prohibited under the Customs Act by order of the Minister of the Interior published in the Government Gazette last week.

NEW AGE LETTER BOX

ANTI-COMMUNISTS PLAY GOVERNMENT'S GAME

In recent weeks the newspapers have been splashing headlines about Mr. Duncan and to many he may seem a hero because he defied the attempts of the Government to intimidate him.

But very few of us have really got the facts straight about Mr. Duncan and his actions preceding his detention. In the fortnightly "Contact" of which Mr. Duncan is the editor there appeared on July 30 an article "New Communist Party Formed." In this article Mr. Duncan deals with various other organisations, and it is written as if to praise the rise of political activity, but we know what the real aim was.

In a later copy of the same paper we find a similar article "Red Paper," about a roneod newspaper "Spark." In the issue of "Contact" dated August 27 is a letter from a certain Mr. K. Hendrickse, who attacks Russian foreign policy and in conclusion says: "We demand that Spark answer. But not only the Spark,

for the obligation of replying rests also upon those who ran New Age and Liberation and those who ran Fighting Talk and many of those in the Congress of Democrats."

My point, sir, is to point out that the attitude of Mr. Duncan, Mr. Hendrickse and others like them towards the liberation movement as a whole is to play the game of the cops. No matter how much we differ with the commies, we differ less with them than we do with the cops. To ally oneself with the cops is criminal, especially for one who calls himself a freedom fighter.

New Age has failed to attack these two-timers and I demand such an attack. To Mr. H. I wish to say: no matter how wrong the USSR was in Hungary, no matter how wrong Stalin was, Russia today is the only major power that is prepared to help, to the bitter end, the Black man in his struggle for liberation.

The commies in this country have stood four-square behind the people's struggle. Many of them, unlike Messrs D. and H., were detained with us for 5 months. How can anybody who is genuinely in the struggle go out of his way to call the leaders of the people names as these two gents did?
N.N.

Crawford, Cape Town.

Meditate on Xmas Day

On the 25th December all freedom-loving people should pause and meditate in silent prayer to venerate the sons of Africa who died a martyr's death for the Christian cause of equality not baasskap, justice not job reservation, fraternity and love not apartheid and Bantustans. On that date Jesus will be born again and Jesus means nothing save equality, justice, fraternity and love. This date is commemorative of these four blessings and it will surely revitalise and encourage us to fight to the bitter end against the horrors of apartheid which have led to bloodshed even to the once tranquil rural areas (reserves).

BITTER CHRISTIAN
Maseru, Basutoland.

Unity Movement Moribund

A friend showed me something from New Age of Mr. Ramsdale's reasons for dissociating himself from the National Anti-CAD and NEUM.

Since 1952 these organisations have been infested with political careerism and opportunism and downright racialism. The sooner the oppressed realise that these organisations are moribund, politically, the better.

The main bone of contention of the political pedagogues and their sycophants in these organisations is the fight for the 11th point—never discussed at NEUM conferences—which is the fight for principalships in segregated Coloured schools, and not principles.

Hence the calculated and studious avoidance of active political intervention for many years and the sophistry and intellectual esotericism of a Rover and a Roamer in "The Torch."

G. H. GOOL
Claremont.

Peasants Fight Bantu Authorities

(Continued from page 1)

Since the attack on Sigcau's kraal the people have extended their attacks against other supporters of Bantu Authorities. Several kraals have been burnt.

MEETING

In the meantime, at the much publicised meeting between the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Leibrandt, and the tribesmen of Imbizi Location, the people once again rejected Bantu Authorities and called on Mr. Leibrandt to tell the Government that they want this Act of Parliament repealed.

This meeting was not called at the request of the people, as claimed in the press. Tribesmen say that the meeting was called by their Chief who supports the Government.

Bizana is still engulfed in an angry silence. After four weeks the boycott of the town is still complete, a tribute to the determination and unity of the people. Every effort to break the boycott has failed.

EMPANGENI

THE tribesmen of Empangeni in the Zululand area won a resounding victory against Bantu Authorities two weeks ago when at a meeting of tribesmen the Chief Bantu Commissioner for the area departed without being able to make the people accept an "offer" of £3,000 to assist in the development of the so-called betterment schemes for the area.

The meeting followed on the widespread disturbances in the area in which five sugar cane plantations were burnt. (See New Age, November 11.) The Chief Commissioner received reports from ten indunas whom he had sent into the area charged with the task of ascertaining whether the people accepted Bantu Authorities and whether they accepted Chief Sikakane or Chief Zungu as their Chief.

Nine indunas reported to the meeting that the people rejected Bantu Authorities and demanded that Chief Zungu, the rightful heir to the Chieftaincy, be appointed as their Chief. The tenth supported the scheme and Chief Sikakane.

REPRISALS

On hearing these reports the chief Native Commissioner, according to tribesmen interviewed by New Age, told the gathering that he would not now be able to give them £3,000 which he had brought with him to assist the people in the so-called betterment schemes. He would now have to take the money back to his Department to be given to those who accepted the Government's policy.

He also told the meeting that the Government had arranged to make available 1,000 acres of arable land for the people. But now this would not be given to them.

The people are now awaiting the decision of the Chief Bantu Commissioner on the question of Chieftainship.

In the meantime members of the tribe who are cane farmers allege that their cane quotas have been cut. They have, however, been assured by Chief Sikakane that they can cultivate their cane as their quotas will be restored.

NONGOMA

THE struggle against the so-called betterment scheme in the Thogazi District of Nongoma, which began with the cutting of Govern-

ment-laid fences in 1958, entered a new phase when 12 tribesmen were found guilty and sentenced to two months imprisonment or £20 for refusing to move after being served with removal notices by the Native Commissioner of the area.

The area is seething with anger for, apart from these arrests, most of the people have done no ploughing since 1958 as fences have been laid across their lands.

Tribesmen interviewed by New Age state that Paramount Chief Cyprian, after one meeting with a deputation of tribesmen, asked them to call again the following day. When the deputation returned, however, they found that Chief Cyprian was not available and that he had sent one of his indunas to interview them.

The members of the deputation refused to have any discussions with the induna and demanded to meet Cyprian.

At the time of going to press the Paramount Chief had not yet indicated whether he would meet a delegation.

Pan-African Sports Meet

The sports circles in Africa have decided to hold the first Pan-African sports meet at the end of 1961 or the beginning of 1962, according to a report from Accra.

A preparatory committee has been set up in Accra, capital of Ghana.

The entries include football, track and field events, boxing, swimming, diving, archery, regatta, basketball and traditional folk sports items of the African countries.

Besides sportsmen from the African countries, Negro athletes from the United States, Latin America and Europe will be invited to take part.

Store Boycott Spreads To Engcobo

PORT ELIZABETH.

ABOUT 500 men and women from the Baziya location demonstrated at Engcobo last Friday when they came to attend the trial of a number of men charged with holding an illegal meeting of more than 10 people.

The people marched quietly through the streets and as they headed for the Magistrate's Court traders in the business area and members of the public lined the streets to watch the procession. It was the first time in the history of the town that a demonstration with a political background had ever been staged.

The news had already quickly spread that on this day the people would boycott the shops in the town. New Age learns that the traders were extremely worried in case the one-day boycott of their shops dragged on into an indefinite boycott as in Bizana.

The people in this area have been waging a continuous struggle against the BAD authorities for a number of years. Two of their most popular leaders—Bangilizwe Joyi and Twalimfene Joyi—have been in

exile for more than a year.

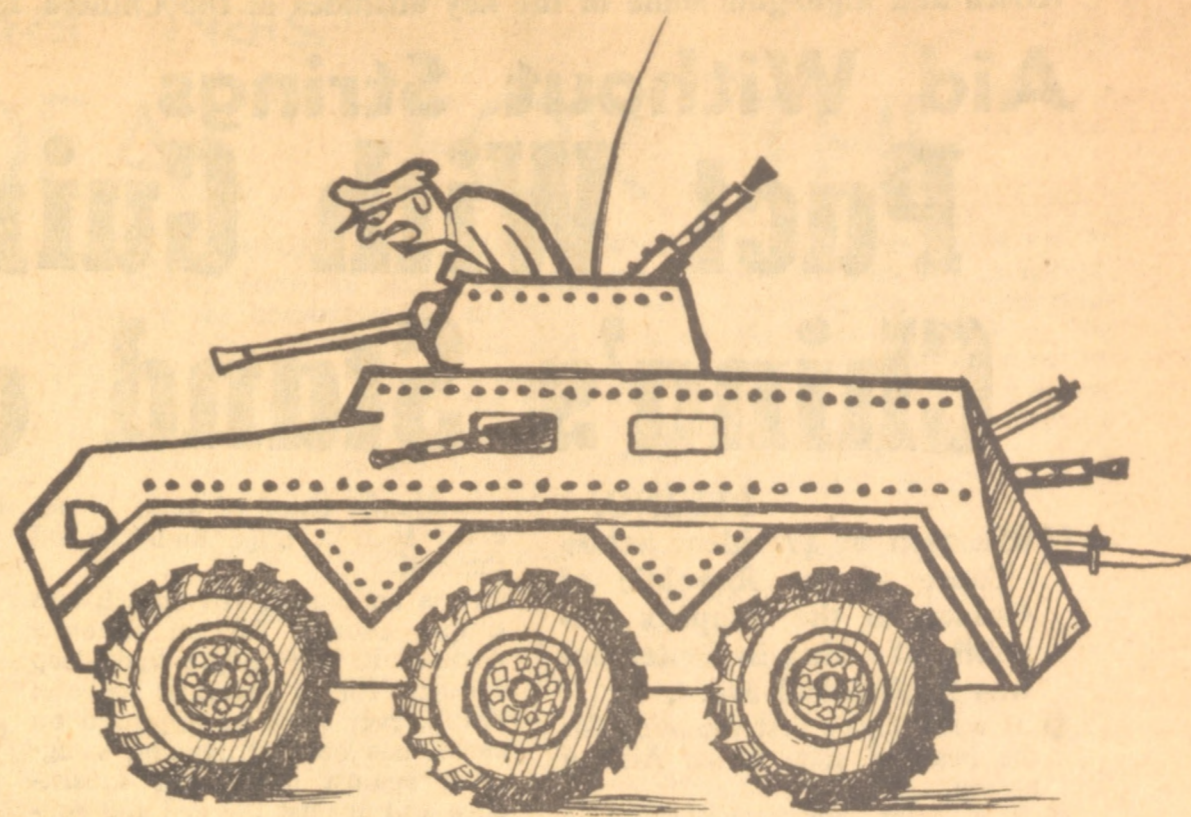
RETURN THE BANISHED

A new cry is ringing throughout Tembuland for the return of the banished leaders. The people declare there will be no peace until the four men in Sabata's Regional Bantu Authority area—the two mentioned above and Nkosiyané and Mr. Gregor Ngolombane—have been returned.

In Matanzima's Emigrant Tembuland Region the same cry has been taken up. People in Cala demand the return of J. Tyaliti and Alex Tikana. The former is in the Louis Trichardt district with Joyi, while the latter is at Frenchdale together with Khumani Ganyile.

At Cala, Matanzima's messengers of the Bush Court attached two head of cattle from the homes of the women who were sentenced at the Cofimvaba Magistrate's Court to 7 days or £1 for contempt of court because they failed to appear before the Bantu Authority. The messengers were accompanied by a group of armed men whom Kaiser Matanzima has mustered round him to intimidate opposition.

The people disregarded an order by Matanzima to brew beer and slaughter stock when he came to instal his stooge in the Mnxe location.



"YOU FIRED AT ME!"

Black and White Together

5,000 Leather Workers on Strike

DURBAN.

NATAL leather workers created history when over 5,000 workers—African, Indian, Coloured and European—went out on strike last week in support of a demand for higher wages.

Both the Natal Indian Congress and the South African Congress of Trade Unions, in letters addressed to the workers, congratulate them on their solidarity and offer their fullest support and sympathy.

The strike was sparked off by a decision of the National Industrial Council offering only a seven and a half per cent increase in the cost of living allowance in spite of

strong opposition from the Natal branches of the Union.

The Natal delegation made it clear at the meeting of the Industrial Council that they could not accept such a miserly increase, but the Transvaal and Cape unions supported the employers against the Natal workers.

The National leadership has gone further and claims that the strike is illegal.

DISSATISFACTION

This is exactly what the employers and the Department of Labour have been saying to the workers, said one worker interviewed by New Age.

There has been dissatisfaction with the union leadership for some time.

"This strike and the attitude adopted by the National Union will undoubtedly make us decide to break completely with the National Union," said the worker.

The strike, which covers leather workers in Pinetown, Pietermaritzburg and Durban, is almost a week old at the time of writing, and all indications are that the workers will not give in.

SETTLEMENT

In the meantime the Bata Shoe

Cars Searched at New Brighton

PORT ELIZABETH.

In the last two weeks the police have been stopping every car that enters New Brighton for a thorough search. Some cars have been stopped on the streets in town.

Amongst the cars stopped this week was a Provincial Administration car which was taking a staff nurse to a number of maternity cases at New Brighton. In the car were sterilised bags which the nurse was to have used. The police could not be persuaded to let her go in spite of the fact that the nurse was in full uniform.

Eye-witnesses said the sterilised bags were thrown out on to the ground, and later New Age was informed by a doctor that once they had been placed on the ground they could no longer be used for nursing such cases as they would have been contaminated.

After the search the driver had to take the nurse back to the hospital and the patients did not receive the attention they required.

Company, employing the largest number of workers, has settled the dispute with its employees. They have offered increases of between 7/6d, and £1 per week and this offer has been accepted. The offer of another, smaller shoe company—The Fidelity Shoe Co.—of a 20 per cent increase all round has also been accepted.

The Industrial Council for the Leather Industry is meeting during the coming week-end and indications are that some settlement may be reached. If this does not materialise, however, the workers in factories where settlements have been effected are likely to walk out in sympathy with those on strike.

89 Building Workers Sacked

From B. Lipman

DURBAN.

EIGHTY-NINE building workers at Kwa Mashu, all members of the African Municipal Workers' Union, have been dismissed as the result of a complaint that they laid after being forced to work in the rain on November 8.

On November 9, when they told the compound manager of their grievance, he said: "When you sing you must all sing together, but when you speak you must select spokesmen, otherwise I cannot hear properly and understand."

As a result two men spoke for the entire group. On the way back to work the foreman threatened the two spokesmen with dismissal, and on November 11 this was put into effect. As the result of this victimisation the remaining workers asked for a second meeting with the compound manager, who told them that those in sympathy with their dismissed comrades would also be fired.

In addition to losing their jobs, these workers have reported to the organiser of their union, Mr. Memory Vakalisa, that before their dismissal they received short pay for the rainy day, which is against customary procedure.

The City Engineer's Department has since said that the two men were dismissed for incompetence! Mr. Rowley Arenstein, who is appearing for them, has sent an urgent letter to the Town Clerk asking for an immediate inquiry into the matter.

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