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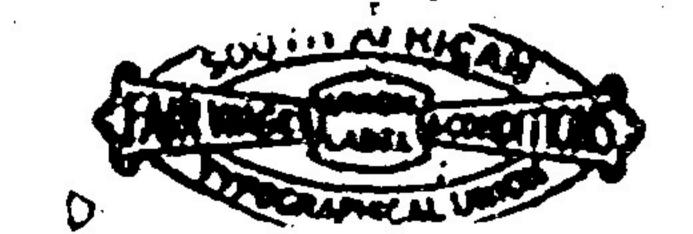
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WORKERS OF THE WORLD. DISUNITE.

NO NICCERS AT THE TRADES HALL.

By S. P. B.

The Trade Unionist delegates, at present drawn from the Engine Drivers. Miners, Ironmoulders and Typos (Johannesburg), who, under the name of the Johannesburg Trades Hall Society, own and manage the Trades Hall, Rissik Street, Johannesburg, have, through their Executive on the 13th inst., unanimously resolved that henceforth the rooms in that building shall be let FOR THE USE OF EUROPEANS ONLY. Thus the S.A.P.-cum-Nationalists, with their Native Land Acts, are not the only "segregationists." The land for the white landowners; the Trades Hall for the white artisan; and the nigger get to h-ll out of it and sebenza for both.

This ukuse enforces the prejudices of the landlord on the tenant, no matter how free from them the latter may be. 'A tenant who has no colour bar now has it imposed on him from without. And so the coloured members of the Typo Union and A.S.E., which boast that their ranks are open to all qualified, irrespective of colour, may not enter their Union offices or attend their Union meetings; they must stop outside on the mat. CAPE COLOURED TYPOS PLEASE NOTE, for you have had some doubts on this head which your General Secretary has recently been trying to allay. But now you know.

The Administrative Council of the S.A. Labour Party, again, as mentioned in the "International," seeing some non-European delegates attending our Conference on August 5, scuttled out of their meeting-room below and over to the Grand National Hotel like women who have seen a mouse or tenants who have discovered bugs. CAPE COLOURED AND NATIVE VOTERS PLEASE NOTE, for vou may have thought that, though the Trade Unions were higoted, the political Labour Party, in asking for your votes (with abolition of indentures and pass laws still in tits programme, though covered with dust), was sincere. But now vou know.

Even the Mine Workers' and Building Workers' Unions, sometimes considered as efforts at Industrial Unionism, consist of white men only. MINE BOYS AND COLOURED MASONS PLEASE NOTE. A few months ago you may have read in the "International" an article (approved and quoted in full as far off as Western America, where they also have "colour

problems") about "What Industrial Unionism involves in South Africa," showing how, whatever it may mean in all-white countries, it is worse than useless if pan-white in South Africa, for its main principle anywhere is its inclusion of all workers in an industry, irrespective of grade, race, colour or creed. But these so-called "Industrial

Unions" miss you out.

In fact, almost the whole "Labour. Movement' in South Africa, except the International Socialists', is based, consciously or unconsciously, on the absurdity that although you non-Europeans constitute 90 per cent. of the wage-earners, and do more than 90 per cent. of the work, yet the whites, not you, are "the workers," and entitled to a monopoly of the "working class movement"; and on the even more ridiculous idea that, although they could not last a day without you, you can and ought to be "segregated" off the face of the earth, so far as they are concerned. The fact is that the white artisan or contractor really refuses to acknowledge the position as a wage-earner, not of the native, but of himself! His "segregation" really only means more cheap black labour for him and his boss. There is next to nothing in common between him (as at present minded) and you workers or the genuine working class or Labour movement at all. He is (like the "Britisher first" L'abourites) a never-shall-beslave white man first and a wage-slave a long way after, if at all. In effect, he prefers to pose first as a member of the boss race, and thus (despite superficial disputes, periodically settled by "contracts"), as a snob. supervisor, flunkey and bulwark of the ruling class; and posing as that first; he can never sincerely or effectively nose as anything else, for he that is not with vou is against you; he cannot serve God and Mammon. And in this lording attitude he is supported by the servility and ignorance of von, the oppressed proletariat itself, with the exception of a few of you, who, however, not without reason, regard and treat the white workers as your bitterest enemies.

This Trades Hall resolution goes to the root of the matter. It brings to a head the most important issue in the Labour movement of South Africa. It declares uncompromising war on class war. It strikes clean at the heart of Labour unity. The cleavage, due partly to ignorance, partly to the self-interest

of Trade Union and Labour officials, partly to the subtle bribery, as described in "The Iron Heel," of the aristocracy of Labour to boycott and betray its fellow-workers, is more searching and fundamental than that on the war—so much so that at Benoni the anti-war, or rather anti-British. Nationalists deserted Andrews to vote for the 'patriotic' anti-native S.A.L.P. It is a challenge to the Socialists who recognise the class struggle; a sneering intimation to the underpaid, uneducated, unskilled toilers that they need not hope for the co-operation of the whites, who, on the contrary, will oppose their efforts at emancipation; a wilful decision by the 'trustees' of the working class movement to sell it for a "place in the sun," where they clink glasses with magnates, with the d-d niggers as their footstool. The churches (like the theatres) admit natives to their buildings; the military admit them to Flanders. But "The Workers" have not even the proverbial mustardwithout-beef sympathy with the sweating millions beneath them, though ready enough to accept their support in a white strike. The wages system for ever, they chuckle, provided ours are high and yours low; an injury to one is an injury to all—unless he's black. Down with capitalist exploitation—of "Europeans" only. Compel white scabs to join the Union, but cast into outer darkness the black scab, and with him any Trade Unionist who dares to protest (for the Mine Managers' Association is not the only blacklister!)

Fools! Do they not see that they are tools in the hands of the capitalist, who flatters and pampers them not because he doesn't want cheap black labour, but because he does; who retains them as white boss boys, trading on their silly pride, while he educates the natives eventually to oust them; who uses them not to keep the "nigger" out, but only to keep him down, and shoot him down when required.

No, they do not or will not see it. Then tear down that blasphemous legend 'Labor Omnia Vincit' over the Trades Hall galeway. And substitute 3 "All hope abandon, ye who enter here," for the solidarity of labour, the hope of the world, is by that snobbish, churlish resolution abandoned, spat upon and disowned!

P.S.—The writer having resigned the secretaryship of the Johannesburg Trades Hall Society, as a protest against the resolution, his successor is Mr. J. Gow, secretary of the S.A.LP., which endorses the resolution afresh. The new regime has opened with a revision of rents, the I.S.L. rent being raised and the rent of the Council Chamber, chiefly used by the I.S.L., being doubled.