

Vol. N2.55
We are treated under criminal law instead of industrial laws -

Status - masters and servants act -
and servants act - Natives charged under Masters
under in. Indians members of same trade union
Attribute criminal motives in
Natal Mercury 16/12/42 - 149 Indians 290 Natives.
Struck

Undated

The African National Congress has not come forward in order to discuss the War Emergencies Act and the ban on strikes which the Government has recently imposed. Congress, however urges very strongly on the Government the urgent necessity of granting legal recognition to the African trade Unions under the Industrial Conciliation Act and thus afford the African workers a recognised statutory machinery for the ventilation of their grievances and the protection of their interests.

without indicating their ill-effects upon society. But to pretend there would be hypocrisy if the laws are bad and are detrimental to society all honest and sincere people must open advocate their abolition. They will thus be educating and leading public opinion.

One cannot wait for public opinion to be ready for reforms one must lead public opinion to see ^{the} need for reforms by stating the case to its final and logical conclusions no matter whose interests it affects.

Sixthly. Many of the publications of the Institute you refer to are contributions by individuals who are not executive officials of the Institute and most of them are academic analyses of problems without ^{any} specific recommendations or recommendations affecting policy.

Seventhly. If "It has been up to now the consistently maintained policy of the Council of the Institute not to pass resolutions on matters concerning which there is active political agitation"; "It is not incongruous to add the suggestion that your Congress ~~should~~ ^{has declared its policy} should affiliate to the Institute";

Seventhly. I wish to assure that my Congress has an open mind and would be prepared to affiliate and be a member of a Board of Advisors of the Institute were to concentrate on research and leave "matters concerning which there is active political agitation" to the African National Congress and other organizations that are willing to take the risk. ^{with but regard}

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(?)

We have talked of many questions now I would like to touch upon Trade Unions. The African worker has claim upon the African National Congress to concern itself with his status. He is, should be, and must be a member of Congress which must champion his cause politically. Every member of Congress generally speaking are workers and should as far as possible become members of some trade unions. Our organisation in Congress must if they can assist the organiser of Trade Union.

The African as a citizen is denied political rights and as a worker denied economic rights. In otherwords the African is exploited and oppressed, politically and economically. The struggle is one. It is a mass-liberation movement with one objective freedom from all kinds of oppressions, restrictions and exploitations.

If our workers can be recognised as full fledged members with trade unions of their industry good and well. If, however, they are not so recognised they must organise into a strong, parallel trade union for whose recognition we must press for. We must press for the recognition and registration of African Trade Union under the Industrial Conciliation.

Some people may tell you of a better approach to these problems in America, Australia or in New Zealand. However, for the African worker at present that would be merely compromising the issue. He must be brought under and recognised as well as regulated under the Industrial legislation now operating for recognised African Trade Unions. There will then be time enough for him to know whether he can improve his industrial position further by agitating for introduction of legislation similar to that of countries I have just mentioned.

THE ORGANISATION ITSELF.

The organisation has never stood on sounder business and organisational basis than at present. There was never more enthusiasm for the African National Congress among old and young, men and women, ministers, teachers and people of all classes.

Our Provinces, most of them, have excelled themselves and are in a better position organisationally and financially. Every thing promises great progress for the coming year..

I urge every member of Congress to become an organiser of Congress. Our slogan must be 'every member must enrol ten new members for Congress'

FUNDS FOR CONGRESS.

No organisation can hope to make any progress without funds. Its most promising men are snatched by organisations that can offer them good remuneration for service rendered. In our present annual fee we cannot hope to begin to maintain the organisation.

In order to avoid indiscriminate collection lists and unauthorised money-raising schemes we, regulate our levies throughout the country. Certain areas and certain persons must pay certain levies over and above annual subscription fees. All collections and money-raising schemes must be reported and approved by the Congress Headquarters. The sums raised must also be reported.

Other details are more domestic

CONGRESS ANNIVERSARY.

Congress will be 34 years old on January 8th, 1946 and I suggest that we must plan for Congress Anniversary. During the period chosen the people will be educated on the aims and objects of Congress and what it has tried to do. Above all we must endeavour to raise funds so that we may carry out our programme in the future without embarrassment.

ECONOMIC FUTURE.

We cannot build a nation or race of hundry people. We cannot succeed as a race if we believe in forever giving our earnings to other people and being satisfied only in being delivery boys while the country acknowledges the African to be the biggest cash customer in South Africa.

Our economic future depends in our putting trust in one another and pooling our resources. Putting together our resources must amount to something because during the last month or so I have heard of three Native Bank and Insurance Scheme to be promoted by Europeans on Native

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