

TRIBAL NATIVES AND TRADE UNIONISM

Policy of the Rand Gold Mining Industry

Recent happenings have focussed attention on the subject of trade unionism among Native mine labourers. In view of the public interest that has been aroused, and the many misconceptions of this aspect of the gold mining industry's Native policy, the following official statement is issued by the Gold Producers' Committee of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines:

It is the opinion of the gold mining industry that trade unionism is against the best interests of tribal Natives employed on the mines. They are not yet sufficiently advanced for trade unionism, nor do they themselves want it.

Of approximately 300,000 Native mine labourers, over 290,000 are untutored tribal peasants who, between the ages of 18 and 45 years, come voluntarily to the mines seven or eight times on short terms of employment averaging between 12 and 13 months. At the end of each period of work, they return to their families and their pastoral and agricultural pursuits in the Native territories. The extent of this migration is reflected by the fact that each year there is a turnover of Native mine workers of almost 100 per cent.

These migratory labourers, whose periodic contracts are made with the approval of their tribal chiefs, come to the Witwatersrand from a number of territories and are members of a large variety of African tribes speaking different languages. About 140,000 come from the Native Reserves in the Union; about 50,000 from the High Commission Territories of Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland; about 75,000 from Portuguese East Africa south of latitude 22 degrees south; and the remainder—about 35,000—from the so-called tropical areas. Each year some 40,000 leave their kraals for the first time and their short stay on the Witwatersrand is their first direct contact with European civilization.

The culture of all these Natives is tribal and rural. Their contact with industrialism and industrial conditions is only recent, and they have little knowledge or understanding of the organization of industry. They are bound by the strongest ties to the traditions, customs and the authority of their respective tribes.

NATIONAL POLICY

The basis of the attitude of the gold mining industry to its native labour force is the principle of European trusteeship—the declared basis of South African national policy as embodied in the Native Trust Acts. In accord with this principle, the industry, in the administration and organization of its huge native labour force, seeks to preserve all that is best in Native tribal life.

In the employment, the housing, the feeding, the entertainment and recreation of these hundreds of thousands of Natives, tribal tradition and connection are fostered and respected. The organization of the compounds in which the Natives live, has as its basis the pattern of tribal organization and discipline to which the Natives are accustomed and from which they show little inclination to deviate.

The gold mining industry considers that trade unionism, as practised by Europeans, is still beyond the understanding of the tribal Native; nor can he know how to employ it as a means of promoting his advancement. He has no tradition in that respect and has no experience or appreciation of the responsibilities arising from collective presentation. No proper conduct of a trade union is possible unless the workers have that tradition and such sense of responsibility.

Were the tribal Native precipitated into a form of organization of which he has no real experience and for which he is not sufficiently advanced, he would fall an easy prey to control by alien interests—often acting from political motives—which would undermine his own tribal customs and allegiances, and his own conception of values. Conflict between the allegiance demanded by a trade union and those owed to the tribe, would tend to disrupt tribal life; a result diametrically opposed to a basic principle of national policy.

ABUSES AND IRRESPONSIBILITY

The full recognition of, and the cordial relations with, European trade unions show that the gold mining industry is not hostile to trade unionism as such. The tribal Native who works intermittently on the mines for approximately eight years between the ages of 18 and 45 is obviously in a different position from the European or urban Native who has to work throughout his lifetime. The industry considers that the introduction of trade unionism among tribal natives at their present stage of development would lead to abuses and irresponsible action.

The demand for a basic wage of 10s. a day by the African Mine Workers' Union which led to the recent strike of Native mine labourers exemplifies this serious element of irresponsibility. Had the demand succeeded, 35 of the present total of 45 producing gold mines would have been forced to close and, among all its other consequences, 240,000 Natives would have been thrown out of work.

For the detribalised Natives on the mines, comprising some 3 per cent. of the labour force and consisting mainly of Natives employed on clerical work, there is already in existence the Witwatersrand Gold Mines Native Clerks' Association which is recognised by the industry.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONS

The gold mining industry's view that the tribal Native is not sufficiently advanced to assimilate trade unionism is supported by the findings of a number of government Commissions. In 1940 a Commission appointed to inquire into the disturbances in the Copperbelt of Northern Rhodesia, considered the position of the tribal Native in relation to trade unionism. In paragraph 175 of its report, the Commission stated:

"For trades unionism, as trades unionism is generally understood by the British worker, the African worker in Northern Rhodesia is clearly not ready. The reason for this unreadiness is not far to seek. In no case has his education gone very far; in most instances it has not even begun. Further his introduction to industrialism and industrial conditions is of a very recent date, too recent to admit of his intelligent participation in the more elaborate trades-union system existing in Great Britain."

The same arguments may be applied to tribal Natives working on the Rand. In 1942 the Inter-departmental Committee on the Social, Health and Economic Conditions of Urban Natives, under the chairmanship of Mr. D. L. Smit, Secretary for Native Affairs, in

suggesting that "... Native trade unions should be registered and afforded administrative recognition..." specifically excluded the mining industry from this recommendation. The Smit Committee stressed that the Natives for the gold mines were recruited almost exclusively from reserves and tribal areas and that there was a considerable percentage of foreign Natives from tropical Africa and Mozambique. They were, however, untutored; and a danger in their organization foreseen by the Committee, was a cleavage on colour lines, a result obviously more repugnant than past cleavages along lines of class or supposed conflicts of interest.

The introduction of trade unionism for Native mine labourers was again considered, in 1943, by the Witwatersrand Mine Natives' Wages Commission which heard evidence by the gold mining industry, by various societies and individuals, by labour organizations and also by the African Mine Workers' Union and by the African National Congress.

This was a judicial Commission headed by Mr. Justice C. W. H. Lansdown, Judge-President of the Eastern Districts Division of the Supreme Court; and included Mr. H. P. Smit, Controller and Auditor-General of the Union; Mr. H. S. H. Donald, Government Mining Engineer; Mr. A. A. Moore, President of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council; and Mr. H. G. Scott, Acting President of the Native Appeal Court for the Cape Province and the Orange Free State.

In paragraph 466 of its report, the Commission agreed that the more educated and socially advanced classes of natives recognised the value of trade unionism. In the next paragraph, however, the Commission stated:

"The position of the vast body of native labourers on the gold mines of the Witwatersrand is, however, different. As a result of meetings with many of them and several native associations purporting to make representations on their behalf, the conclusion has very definitely been forced upon the Commission that they have not yet reached the stage of development which would enable them safely and usefully to employ trade unionism as a means of promoting their advancement."

The Commission found further that the tribal natives' periods of service were comparatively short and non-continuous, and a considerable proportion of them were domiciled in foreign territory. These facts in themselves, the Commission concluded, made it difficult for any trade union to operate successfully among tribal Natives: moreover, it would be impossible to find among their numbers persons who could administer and maintain the organization of a trade union.

CONTROL OF UNIONS

In any reasoned discussion of the matter it has always been accepted that the control of Native trade unions, if recognised, should be placed in the hands of persons either actively engaged in or directly connected with the industries concerned. It has similarly been accepted that no Native organization should be permitted which is used for political ends or which does not have as its principal object the representation of its members' interests on matters connected with their employment in industry.

Because tribal Natives on the gold mines are insufficiently advanced to manage their own trade unions it follows that the control of such unions would fall, inevitably, to persons not connected with the industry.

As far as is known, the self-styled African Mine Workers' Union is directed by persons who are not employed on the gold mines and the union is not representative of the vast body of tribal Natives in the industry.

In the recent strike it was immediately apparent that this was no sporadic movement, but was the beginning of a general strike organised and directed from outside the industry by the African Mine Workers' Union—which claimed to represent the strikers—and that union's supporters.

Daily Dispatch
16/11/46

INTERESTS SAFEGUARDED

It is essential that the Natives employed in the gold mining industry have some organized body to supervise their general welfare, to see that the terms and conditions of employment are fairly carried out, and through whom contact with their tribes and homes may be maintained. These duties are carried out by the organizations responsible for their recruitment—the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd. and the Native Recruiting Corporation, Limited. A special department was created at the inception of the Native Recruiting Corporation, Limited, in 1912, and has always been controlled by men who, because of their intimate knowledge with Native peoples and their knowledge of Native languages and customs, are especially fitted for the work.

Inspectors of this department regularly visit mine compounds and, in collaboration with compound managers, investigate complaints and satisfy themselves that every attention is given to the material comfort and well-being of the Native workers. The industry does not suggest that the existing arrangements for safeguarding the interests of Native mine workers are final, or incapable of improvement. Changes in detail are made in the light of experience, as they have always been in the past, and there is every reason to suppose that they will similarly be made in the future.

NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

The industry emphasizes that it is the special function of the Native Affairs Department to care for Native interests and to represent Native views to others. Ever since the passing of the Native Labour Regulation Act in 1911, the Governor-General has appointed inspectors whose duty it is to enquire into, redress, or otherwise report to the Director of Native Labour any grievance complained of by Native workers. These inspectors pay weekly visits to all mine compounds.

It was suggested by the Lansdown Commission (paragraph 473) that "... a scheme better designed to meet the present conditions of the native workers on the Witwatersrand mines would be to appoint as welfare officers working under and subject to the control of the Department of Native Affairs in consultation with the men of sound knowledge of the native mentality, speaking one or more of the native languages and preferably with experience of underground conditions, whose duty it would be to move about regularly amongst the mine workers; to hold at convenient times meetings with them or their chosen representatives at which the collective voice of the whole body of the native workers of the mine might find expression; and to present to the Department of Native Affairs and to the mine managements any matters of interest or importance which might be agitating the minds of the men."

The gold mining industry considers that this recommendation should be implemented. Natives are traditionally conservative, and it is the considered view of the gold mining industry that step-by-step progress on the lines understood by the Natives is a practical method of advancing their relationship with their employers, whether that development takes place under the authority of the employer or of the Government. A trade union organization would be outside the comprehension of all but a few of the educated Natives of the urban type; it would be not only useless, but detrimental, to the ordinary mine Native in his present stage of development. 1218

It is clear that the union is connected with and has the support of Communist influences. Members of the Communist Party, by whom the union was actively assisted in the recent strike, took part in the distribution in mine compounds of provocative pamphlets and other literature. The question of permitting outside bodies to participate in the management of Native trade unions was dealt with in paragraph 467 of its report stated that:

"The Commission which has met representatives of those bodies which would essay the task of constituting, maintaining and controlling trade unionism amongst the mine natives, is of opinion that the public interests would definitely be negative the delegation of such powers to any of those bodies. When the time comes that the mine labourers of the Witwatersrand are capable of benefiting by any trade union organization, the movement must, in the general public interests, be constituted and managed by those labourers themselves and under the guidance, instruction and influence of the Department of Labour and Native Affairs."

The Lansdown Commission stated, in paragraph 458 of its report, that no movement for a trade union had come from the mine Native labourers themselves, the vast bulk of whom knew nothing about trade unions and were not concerned to become members of any society. This statement is equally true to-day. There is still no general movement among tribal Natives for a trade union. During the recent strike, a majority of Natives on many of the mines affected were unconcerned with the activities of the African Mine Workers' Union and were forcibly prevented, by others, from proceeding to work which they were otherwise prepared to do.

FIFTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE

If trade unionism is an unsuitable medium for the representation of the gold mines, what is the alternative? Avenues already exist, and have existed for many years, through which Native employees of the gold mining industry can present their views to the managements. The procedure has been developed, in accord with the principle of European trusteeship, by officials with special knowledge of Native customs and language and mining conditions. The industry has, from its inception, promoted the welfare of these workers and apart from the initial period when conditions were inevitably primitive, can point to over half-a-century of progressive success in this field. All matters affecting Native employees as mine residents are under the immediate supervision of the compound manager on each mine. The compounds were described by the Witwatersrand Mine Natives' Wages Commission of 1913 as "efficiently managed by men of experience and with sympathetic consideration for the welfare and comfort of the inhabitants." Every Native employee may go direct to the compound manager, who is always ready to listen to grievances without their passing through formal channels.

The organization of the compound is based on the tribal organization to which the Native is accustomed. The tribal pattern is the Chief, the Induna, the headman and the kraal head. In the mine compound the pattern is the compound manager, the Induna, the tribal representative—called the Isibonda—and the room head-boy, who takes the position of the kraal head. It is a general custom in the mine compounds for the occupants of each room to elect one of their number as their spokesman and intermediary with the Isibonda. He is elected to represent a number of members of any particular tribe, varying from 80 to 300. In certain instances the Isibonda is appointed by the compound manager. The highest Native authority in the compound is the chief Induna, who is directly responsible to the Compound manager and is required to ensure that all matters concerning the welfare of the Natives receive due attention. In

AFRICAN Mine Workers Strike

AFRICAN MINE WORKERS STRIKE - NOTES.

Mr. Rheinallt Jones feels that a special board should be set up for the mining industry including both gold and coal mines. This Board should not be a wage board nor an industrial council but should be constituted with an independent chairman with representatives of the Chamber of Mines and unofficial representatives of Native trades. The Chairman might be part-time or full-time. This is necessitated I think by the present composition and nature of the mining labour force?

Seggah
Admin board

STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON C.I.D. RAIDS

ACTION DIVORCED FROM POLITICS

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Lawrence, said in an interview with the correspondent of The Star in Durban to-day that the raids carried out by the C.I.D. in several cities and towns of the Union on Saturday were not aimed at the Communist Party as such and the action of the police was entirely divorced from any political consideration.

The Minister said that he was not yet in a position to add anything to the statement he made in Pretoria yesterday though he would like to emphasise that the action of the police was considered necessary to explore the avenues of investigation which had been indicated by evidence already in possession of the police.

"The public will, I am sure, appreciate that it would be quite improper to say anything further at this stage with the possibility of criminal action having to be taken. At the proper time, however, I shall be glad to make a full statement, which the public is entitled to expect."

INTERVIEW YESTERDAY

In his statement in Pretoria yesterday Mr. Lawrence told a Sapa correspondent that the raids were carried out as a result of evidence acquired by the Government during the strike of native mine workers.

After emphasising that he was unable to make a full statement at the present time, Mr. Lawrence said that the activities of the police were confined to following up information in their possession about the recent strike. That strike had led to violence, and in the interests of public security it was essential to explore all the avenues of investigation suggested by the evidence already available.

Mr. Lawrence refuted a suggestion that the raids were "anti-Red" activity by the Government. The police, he said, were merely carrying out their duty under the law as they were required to do in any case where the information available called for further investigation.

"It will be appreciated that as the whole matter is sub-judice it would be improper for me to say anything more at the present time," he added.

EAST RAND

Documents were seized at 17 of 25 premises searched by the police at Brakpan, Springs and Nigel on Saturday, it was learnt to-day. Two European premises were searched at Geduld, Springs. The remainder—nine at Springs, 10 at Brakpan and two at Nigel—were occupied by natives.

Searches were also carried out in Cape Town, Pretoria, Durban, Maritzburg, Port Elizabeth and East London.

The Springbok Legion issued a statement to-day that its headquarters are mystified by events in Cape Town at the week-end. The national headquarters this morning, on learning that the Minister of Justice, Mr. Lawrence, was in the Eastern Cape, requested an interview with the Acting Prime Minister. Mr. Hofmeyr intimated that he could not grant an interview before the matter had been discussed with Mr. Lawrence. A legion deputation will interview Mr. Lawrence on his return.

Star

83-9-46

Seven Charged Under Riotous Assemblies Act

Seven alleged members of the district committee of the Communist Party in Johannesburg appeared before Mr. C. Cloete in the Magistrate's Court on Saturday on a charge under the Riotous Assemblies Act.

No evidence was led, the hearing being adjourned to August 26. Bail was fixed at £100 each.

The accused people are Mrs. Hilda Bernstein (Miss Hilda Watts), of Reading Court, Hillbrow, and her husband Lionel Bernstein, of the same address; Abram Fischer, aged 38, an advocate, William John Roberts, Michael Allen Harmel, a journalist, Edwin Mafutsanayana, a native, and Jaydem Nasit Singh, an Indian.

Mr. Franz Boshoff appeared for the defence.

Kand Daily Mail
26-8-46

Several Hundred More Police Sent to Rand

SEVERAL hundred policemen, including eight more officers, reinforced the police in Johannesburg and on the East Rand yesterday. They have been sent from other centres of the Union to ensure that the Rand police are able to meet any developments in the strike position, and to enable the policemen who have been on duty since Monday to secure longer periods of rest.

Last night the men were posted to their stations, and, to accommodate the overflow, the police have taken over an Air Force camp at Benoni.

With trouble flaring up suddenly at different parts of the Rand, the local force has been able to snatch only short periods of rest. The police have had to go at times without meals, eating compound bread and bully beef instead.

Smuts Blames Agitators For Strike

THE native mineworkers' strike on the Witwatersrand was not the result of legitimate grievances but was caused by agitators, declared the Prime Minister, General Smuts, when he addressed the Transvaal Head Committee of the United Party in Pretoria yesterday.

Agitators were attempting to lead the native and the country to destruction, and they had secretly distributed pamphlets and incited the natives. The natives had, therefore, to be protected from these agitators.

The wages and working conditions of native mine labourers had been fully investigated by the Lansdown Commission, and the Government had carried out practically in full the Commission's recommendations.

The Government was taking steps to see that this position, in which the natives were being incited by agitators, was put right.

POLICE ATTACK ARMED COLUMNS MARCHING TOWARDS CITY

R.D.M.

15-8-46

Natives Dispersed After Running Fight

TWO columns of native strikers—one from the East Rand and one from Germiston—tried to march on Johannesburg yesterday, but were intercepted by the police and clashes occurred.

In the one case about 4,000 natives from the Simmer and Jack Mine, armed with sticks, stones, steel balls, knives, iron bars, and other weapons, began a march to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association's compound in Johannesburg, where they intended to demonstrate in support of their claims for an increased wage. A police officer said that he had never seen a body of natives so heavily armed with so great a variety of weapons.

Although natives went back to work on four of the mines affected by the strike, others came out on strike at four more properties, so that ten mines are still involved. No accurate figure of the number of strikers is available.

The column of natives from Simmer and Jack was intercepted on the veld between No 5 Compound, City Deep, and the Roserville Pan by two forces of police who had been rushed from the Nourse Mines compound, where there had been disturbances.

When the strikers saw the troop-carriers, they scattered in all directions. One body of police charged the main group of strikers, while the rest, remaining in their transport, were rushed to the east to intercept the rear end of the column.

Most of the natives escaped, but there were a number of individual encounters between police and strikers, and many natives hiding in holes in the vicinity were rounded up.

800 Cornered

The second body of police cornered about 800 natives in the angle formed by a deep donga and an old ash dump to the east of the compound. Some natives risked the jump into the donga, while others tried unsuccessfully to climb the crumbling sides of

the dump. Eventually the whole group indicated its willingness to surrender, the natives putting up their hands and shouting to the police.

They were gathered together in one place and made to sit down on the veld. Major Kriek addressed the crowd, telling them that they were very foolish to attempt to gain their ends by violent means. He warned them that if there was any further trouble they could expect very rough treatment. He then advised them to return without delay to their compounds.

Within a few minutes of the order to disperse being given, all that could be seen were the backs of running natives disappearing over the eastern horizon.

Some policemen were hit by

stones and other missiles in this encounter, and four badly wounded strikers were removed in mine ambulances

Natives Routed

When 500 strikers from the Van Ryn Estates Mine set out from Benoni yesterday morning on a march to Johannesburg "to see the Chamber of Mines," they were met by the police near Elandsfontein. A fight ensued, in which the natives were routed and sent scurrying over the veld towards their compound.

The police used batons, and a number of natives were injured but none seriously.

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Police Attack Columns

The trouble started before dawn when a body of police under Chief Inspector D G Coetzee, the District Commandant, and Inspector T A. Louw visited the compound and offered to escort to work any natives who wished to go. Some natives paraded in the yard, but declined to go any further.

The police went to several rooms and tried to arrest those who still refused to return to work. This caused a sudden stampede from the other rooms, about 3,000 natives rushing through the gates. One native, who fell, was trampled on and injured. Most of the strikers assembled on a stone dump in front of the compound. Others scattered in groups over the property.

It was at this stage that the police were informed of the march to Johannesburg. Leaving reinforcements from Boksburg at the compound, 120 police, under Major Coetzee and Captain Louw, went by car and truck along the new northern road from Benoni to Johannesburg and overtook the natives.

The strikers, many of whom had sticks, adopted a truculent

attitude. Their tone changed when a party of police suddenly appeared behind them and they realised they were surrounded. As they rushed out of the trap, the police converged on them and a running fight ensued all the way back to Benoni. Near the Homestead Dam racing figures dotted the veld.

The strike continued at Modder B, where about 1,500 natives, after intimating that they were prepared to resume duty, were sent underground but declined to work.

A large percentage of natives at Modder East, which had been unaffected by the strike, refused to leave their compound yesterday morning. They ignored requests to proceed to work and remained passive.

After being addressed by the manager, the natives at Brakpan Mines, with the exception of 200, resumed work.

At Van Dyk the strike still continued. A strong body of police visited Vlakkfontein during the afternoon, and persuaded the natives to resume work. As at Brakpan Mines, a number of suspected ring leaders were arrested.

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Many Natives Return Underground

Major Kriek, after consulting with the Labour Adviser to the Chamber of Mines, Mr. J. Lawrence, then had all the Basutos and Pondos confined to their rooms. Several clashes between the police and the natives occurred, the natives being well armed with stones and other missiles.

While police were escorting peaceful natives to the shafts, other natives broke the windows of rooms which faced the road and escaped. The police were showered with stones, and, when they counter-attacked, several hundred natives fled over the veld towards a tall stone dump, which they climbed. They were left under the guard of a native police picket.

When all the natives willing to work—numbering about 4,000—were underground, the police began to clear each room of malcontents, driving them in sections to the centre of the compound and taking from them their weapons.

More fighting occurred at this stage, and several natives who were found to be in possession of knives, bayonets and other dangerous weapons were arrested. A large number of natives were seriously injured in clashes with the police, several police received light injuries, and a compound official was seriously cut on the fingers with a bayonet.

Mr. Lawrence, through an interpreter, addressed the strikers in the compound square, telling them that they were breaking their contracts by striking, and that they were behaving foolishly in adopting violent means of achieving their demands. He gave them a further half-hour in which to dress and proceed to the shaft heads, and warned them that, if they did not do so, the police would not only deal with them seriously, but might counter any offensive movements with rifle fire.

Before the half-hour was up most of the strikers had proceeded to the shaft heads, but many indicated that they were not prepared to work once they got underground.

Several hundred natives at No. 2 shaft refused to go underground, and said that, if they were compelled to do so, they would not only attack the peaceful natives who had preceded them, but would set fire to the mine. Police surrounded the shaft, and arrested three ringleaders, after which the

remainder of the natives went underground without further trouble.

The police were dealing with a number of threatening strikers at the Nourse Mines west compound when news of the march on Johannesburg from Simmer and Jack was received, and the police left to deal with this.

MANY NATIVES GO UNDERGROUND AFTER POLICE ACTION

MORE than 6,000 natives refused to go underground at the main compound, Nourse Mines, at 5 a.m. yesterday, and a strong force of police under the District Commandant, Major J. C. Kriek, was sent there.

The police formed up outside the compound, and mine police went in, knocking on the doors and telling the natives that they had half an hour in which to make up their minds whether they would go on shift.

When the half-hour had elapsed, the natives gave no indication that they were willing to work. Twenty-five constables, armed with rifles and bayonets, formed up in the courtyard of the compound. Other European and native police armed with batons were posted outside the natives' rooms

Spokesmen of the strikers had indicated that, while the Basutos and Pondos were not prepared to work, the Shangaans and other tribes were only prevented from going underground by intimidation by their fellow workers.

Police escorted these natives from their rooms, and, after a few agitators among them had been dealt with, the remainder proceeded to the shaft heads

SHOUTED INSULTS

Meanwhile the recalcitrant Basutos and Pondos had taken up a threatening attitude at their end of the compound and were singing, whistling, dancing, and shouting insults at the police and the natives who wished to go on shift. They threatened these natives with violence when they returned from the shafts in the afternoon.

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MINERS"

13,000 Back at Work on Reef Mines

AFTER the incidents at West Springs and the Sub-Nigel Mine on Tuesday, all was quiet on the Far East Rand yesterday

The native mineworkers who came out on strike at West Springs, Sub-Nigel, Vlakkfontein and Marievale — totalling about 13,000 — returned to work yesterday morning.

No trouble was experienced on any of the other 10 mines in the Springs and Nigel areas.

At Rose Deep Germiston, the strikers started to return to the mine compound at about 8.30 a.m. Before many had entered through the gate a lorry loaded with police arrived, and the natives ran away in the direction of the mine dumps. Shortly afterwards the police left and in twos and threes the natives started to return.

The West Rand remains unaffected by the strike, and work on the mines there is proceeding normally

—BOOTS

R. D. M. 15-8-46

Native Unions Say They Will Strike To-day

THE strike committee of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions stated early this morning that, in sympathy with the native mineworkers, the Council had decided to call a general strike of native workers from to-day.

"The general strike is called to demand that the authorities cease their violence against the miners and negotiate with their representatives, and in support of the general demand for 10s. a day minimum for all workers and recognition of African trade unions," declared the statement.

"After receiving a deputation from Johannesburg City Council, headed by the Mayor, Mrs. J. McPherson, and including Councillors B. Weinbren, C. Legum and A. E. P. Robinson, on the question of the maintenance of essential services, the strike committee has decided that, in the interests of public health, a skeleton staff should be retained to maintain hospital, water, and sanitation services."

If the Council of Non-European Trade Unions implements its threat to strike to-day, about 120,000 natives may be involved. It will seriously disrupt business activity in the city and bring some concerns to a standstill.

The principal unions affected are the commercial and distributive employees, municipal, clothing, building and brick and tile workers. It was stated yesterday that the unions were considering linking any possible strike measure with the campaign for throwing away passes.

In an interview, Mr. Colin Legum pointed out that a strike of native municipal employees would have a serious effect on the city. Cleansing, sewage, transport and other services would be affected, and the health of the population was bound to suffer.

It was impossible for the city to function properly without these services, and, in view of the strike threat, the General Purposes Committee had appointed an emergency committee to negotiate with representatives of the native trade unions to maintain a skeleton staff to keep these vital services going.

The Council has about 16,000 natives in its employ, approximately 9,000 of whom are engaged on essential services.

CUTHBERT'S

R. D. M. 15-8-46

SEQUEL TO NATIVE MINE STRIKE; 66 IN COURT

JOHAN MARKS, aged 43, a non-European school teacher of Newclare, Bennie Sischy, aged 21, a European commercial traveller, and two natives, Meshack Motovagae and Horatius Mabandea, appeared before Mr. M. Isaacs in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the strike of native mineworkers on the Rand.

They were charged under the Riotous Assembly Act with inciting native mineworkers to stop work. Full details of the charge have not yet been drafted. They were remanded until August 22. An application for their release on bail was refused.

Sixty-two natives were charged with contravening section 19 of the Labour Regulations Act by refusing to start work on the mines on Tuesday. They were remanded until August 28 and released on bail of £1 on condition of good behaviour. The magistrate warned them not to influence other natives to stop work. If they did they would be arrested immediately. In opposing bail for Marks, the public prosecutor, Mr. D. O. Vermooten, said that his release would prejudice the police investigations.

PRESIDENT OF AFRICAN MINEWORKERS' UNION

Marks was arrested yesterday as president of the African Mineworkers Union. He had issued a pamphlet calling on all the mineworkers on the Reef to strike, with the result that 40,000 to 50,000 natives went on strike.

There was evidence that an attempt was to be made yesterday to bring the other 250,000 native mineworkers out on strike, and that his union was sponsoring and launching that attempt.

Mr. J. Levitan, for the defence, said that the mineworkers offices were seized and searched on Tuesday, and documents were impounded by the police. Apprehension of danger in the future could not prejudice Marks's right to bail.

REFUSED BAIL

Marks was refused bail, but leave was given to renew his applications when the police investigations had been completed.

Sischy, Meshak and Horatius were also granted to re-apply for bail as soon as the police investigations had been completed.

NATIVES STONE POLICE IN CLASH AT ROBINSON DEEP

A CLASH between the police and nearly 5,000 natives who have been on strike since Monday occurred at Chris Shaft, Robinson Deep, yesterday morning. The police were stoned, and several were slightly injured. One native was removed to hospital.

During the night mine officials entered the compound and told the strikers that they must return to work. When there was no attempt to comply, 290 policemen,

under the command of Captain J. Taillard, of Marshall Square, were sent there. The police stood by outside the compound until morning, and when there was still no move by the natives to go on duty the police were ordered into the compound to clear the rooms.

When the Pondos saw the police they leaned out of their doors laughing, jeering and hurling insults.

A detachment armed with rifles with fixed bayonets and revolvers appeared. The attitude of the Pondos changed and they returned to their rooms.

HAD TO USE FORCE

After all the police had been drawn up in the compound they were ordered to clear the rooms. Many of the natives adopted a defiant attitude, and in some instances the police were compelled to use force. Hundreds of natives streamed out of the compound gates.

Forming up in a semi-circle they hurled stones at the police, several of whom were hit. Two cars were badly damaged, the policemen taking shelter behind the vehicles. As soon as there was a lull, they formed up and charged. The stone-throwers scattered.

In the meantime the balance of the natives in the compound adopted a passive attitude and came out into the open without any further trouble. The stone-throwers, however, had returned to the attack by then, and strikers and policemen were injured.

AFRAID OF AGITATORS

The position outside the compound looked serious, and the police sent an armed detachment to stop any further exit of the natives. Half of the natives were still in the compound, and shortly afterwards they reported that they were willing to return to work, but were afraid of being attacked on the way to the shaft by agitators.

When the armed police appeared outside the compound gates the stone-throwers again fled. This time they made for three loose-stone dumps a few hundred yards away. They climbed to the sum-

mit, gathered stones and awaited developments. The less bold ran to the sand dumps further away and squatted on the top.

When the strikers on the stone dumps saw that the police were taking no further action, many of them came down to jeer and shout. Police patrols were sent to the area. The natives immediately scrambled back on to the dumps and remained there, hurling stones at the patrols.

At about 10 o'clock the natives started to come down in twos and threes. Many, however, still remained on top of the dumps.

Later the compound manager, with a senior police officer, met a large body of strikers who had congregated near a stand in the nearby sports field. After a discussion which lasted nearly an hour, he persuaded the natives to return to the compound for lunch. They refused, however, to go on shift.

Nearly 3,000 natives who went on strike at Turf Shaft, Robinson Deep, on Tuesday were also addressed early yesterday morning by mine officials. They were hesitant at first about returning to work, but shortly afterwards they went to the cages.

WITH A

R. P. M. 15-8-46

**NATIVE MINE UNION
SECRETARY**

James Majora, a native, secretary of the African Mineworkers' Union, for whose arrest a warrant was issued some days ago, surrendered himself to the police to-day.

Star

21-8-46

STRIKE SHOWED NEED FOR NEW NEGOTIATING CHANNELS—*de Vries*

THE recent strike of native mineworkers is definite proof of the necessity for more suitable channels through which native trade unions may conduct negotiations, said Mr. W. J. de Vries, secretary of the South African Trades and Labour Council, in an interview with the "Rand Daily Mail" yesterday.

Opinion was still divided about the extent to which native trade unions should be recognised, and about the measure of Government control which should be imposed when recognition came, but the present disorganised state of the native worker, not only on the mines but in industry as a whole, was one which could lead to endless trouble.

Had the African Mineworkers' Union been afforded the opportunity of making representations the recent strike might never have taken place.

It had been reported that the Chamber of Mines had refused to hear any representations from the union's officials, and that they did not recognise the union as a body representative of the native mineworkers. Deprived of any means of conducting negotiations, the native miners had no alternative but to go on strike in order to secure attention.

Asked to what extent agitators were responsible for the strike, Mr. de Vries said that his executive committee was still collating evidence on this subject, and he preferred not to make any statement.

He pointed out, however, that as long as native trade unions remained unrecognised, neither the Government nor the European trade union movement had any power to ensure that non-European trade unions were organised by suitable people.

Rand Daily Mail

22-8-46

4,000 STRIKERS TRY TO MARCH ON JOHANNESBURG

Four Ministers Will Deal With Dispute

THE Prime Minister, General Smuts, has appointed a Cabinet sub-committee to deal with the native miners' strike.

The committee consists of the Minister of Mines, Mr. S. F. Waterman; the Minister of Labour, Dr. Colin Steyn; the Minister of Justice, Mr. B. G. Lawrence, and the Minister of Native Affairs, Major Piet van der Byl.

The Government is giving urgent attention to the strike. The Cabinet sub-committee was in communication throughout yesterday with the mine owners, and also with the native miners through the Native Commissioners of the Department of Native Affairs.

Natives Armed with Knives, Iron Bars, Choppers Police Use Batons to Force Them Back; Many Hurt

ARMED with choppers, iron bars, knives and an assortment of other dangerous weapons, 4,000 native strikers, forming a six-mile-long procession, attempted to march on Johannesburg from West Springs yesterday afternoon.

They were intercepted by the police near Brakpan. When they refused to turn back they were attacked by the police. Three of them were seriously injured and scores received minor injuries.

Four natives were killed, eight were shot, a large number were injured, and nine policemen were hurt as a result of clashes between the police and the strikers yesterday.

Detectives from Marshall Square, after seizing documents from the African Mineworkers' Union, yesterday arrested its president, J. B. Marx, under the Riotous Assemblies Act in connection with the strike. Subsequently several employees of the union were arrested.

Other arrests included those of Ben Siche, an alleged Communist, and two Indians at Krugersdorp. They will appear in court to-day.

Thirteen Rand mines are now affected by the strike. On some mines where work had partly stopped on Monday additional compounds became involved yesterday.

The clash between 300 policemen and the strikers who intended to march from the West Springs Mine to Johannesburg took place on the Springs-Alberton Road, near the Witpoort shaft of the Brakpan Mine. The purpose of the march is not known.

With few exceptions the strikers armed themselves with sticks, iron bars, choppers, knives and other dangerous weapons. All available policemen on the East Rand and in Johannesburg were ordered to intercept them, and the way and drive them back to their compound.

The natives were overtaken by the East Rand police under the command of the District Commandant of Springs, Major J. J. du Toit. He drove on ahead of them to await reinforcements, including 20 armed men, from Johannesburg under the District Commandant, Major J. C. Kriek.

Refused to Halt

After the two police contingents had linked up, the natives were ordered to stop and return to their compound. They ignored the order, and, adopting a threatening attitude, forced their way forward.

The police placed cordons on either side of the road, leaving the road free for normal traffic. The strikers sat down, and there were castles and threats. Then acting on instructions from Pretoria, the police drew their batons and charged.

One policeman had his rifle, with a fixed bayonet, snatched out of his hands by a striker, who stabbed him in the thigh. The police used their batons freely to drive the natives back, and many strikers dropped to the ground or fled with bleeding heads.

The main group of strikers took to their heels and raced through the wire fences on either side of the road, leaving their blankets on the wire and their weapons on the ground.

They ran through ditches, plantations and plot holdings and many hid in backyards and out-buildings. One hid behind a pig in a pigsty.

The police followed up their advantage and fanning out drove the natives back along the Springs Road. Ambulances were summoned, and within a short period the police had cleared a considerable area. Reports were received that the natives were making straight for their compound and had decided to return to work.

When the police cleared the

MINES FEED STRIKERS

The mine authorities have continued to feed the natives in their compounds on all the mines affected by the strike.

This treatment, it is stated, has served to moderate considerably the behaviour of the more sober type of striker, who would otherwise have been compelled to conduct forays in the neighbourhood to obtain food.

The New Kleinfontein and Sub-Nigel Mines, which had a total strike yesterday, had now almost returned to normal. The main compound in each case had returned to work, and other natives were going back quietly.

At West Springs, one compound had returned, and there was still one out.

At Rose Deep an attempt to lure the natives out on strike yesterday was averted after addresses by mine officials.

The striking natives are estimated between 5,000 and 10,000, the statement concluded



POLICE ASSIST INJURED AFTER STRIKE CLASH: Many strikers were injured when they clashed with the police while marching from West Springs to Johannesburg yesterday. The photograph shows some of the policemen returning to their vehicles after the fight. On the way back injured natives were assisted to waiting ambulances.

Communists are Among Forces Behind Strikes

THE forces behind the strike are now becoming apparent. Prominent among them is the Communist Party. The Johannesburg District Committee yesterday expressed its full support of the actions of the African Mineworkers' Union in calling the strike, and called on the labour movement as a whole to do likewise.

A prominent member of the Communist Party is known to have acted as adviser to the officials of the African Mineworkers' Union for a considerable time.

According to a "Strike Bulletin" published by the African Mineworkers' Union yesterday, a resolution of sympathy and encouragement has been passed by the Passive Resistance Council of the Transvaal Indian Congress. At a meeting in the Resistance Hall, Durban, a similar resolution was passed, and £100 was collected for strike funds.

CIRCULAR FROM STUDENTS

Members of the public have also received circular letters from the South African Federation of Progressive Students, which has its headquarters at the University of the Witwatersrand, asking them for donations in aid of the African Mineworkers' Strike Fund. The letters add that the federation has decided to render technical and financial assistance to the strikers wherever possible, and that the outbreak of the strike has made this more necessary than ever. Its members have also decided to perform clerical work in the union's offices if necessary.

Mr. A. P. O'Dowd, vice-president of the Federation, told the "Rand Daily Mail" yesterday that a member of his committee attended the meetings of the union's fund-raising committee, and that efforts to raise funds had been made since the beginning of the year, but without much success.

Asked whether his organization intended to take any active part in the present strike, he stated that his committee had not yet met to discuss the question, but that it was quite possible that it would do so.

18 NATIVE UNIONS THREATEN GENERAL STRIKE

DETECTIVES ARREST MARX AT MEETING

THE 18 native trade unions affiliated to the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions decided at a meeting yesterday afternoon that they would all go on strike within 48 hours in sympathy with the native mineworkers.

Senator H. M. Bamer, Native Representative in the Senate, was present.

Several dramatic incidents at the meeting included the arrest by detectives of J. B. Marx, president of the African Mineworkers' Union.

The meeting was debating two resolutions—whether all the native unions should go on strike immediately, or whether the Chamber of Mines should be given until Friday to open negotiations with the native mineworkers before a general strike was called—when news was received that the offices of the German Workers' Union had been raided by the police, and all printing and duplicating machinery removed.

ARRESTED OUTSIDE

Five minutes later detectives came to the door and called for Marx, who was arrested outside the building. As soon as this became known to the meeting, it was decided by an overwhelming majority that a general strike of native workers should be called within 48 hours.

The police yesterday raided the offices of the African Mineworkers' Union, and seized pamphlets, books and the card index system.

Senator Bamer and Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, Native Representative in the House of Assembly, called at the offices of the South African Trades and Labour Council yesterday morning to protest against the police raid on the offices of the African Mineworkers' Union, and to solicit the help of European trade unions. A meeting of the Council will be held to discuss the matter.

The African Mineworkers' Union is not affiliated to the South African Trades and Labour Council.

More Natives Stop Work at City Mines

MORE natives on mines in the Johannesburg area already affected by the strike refused to go on duty yesterday.

At the Robinson Deep mine only 600 of the 2,500 natives at the Turf compound went on shift yesterday morning. A total of 4,500 natives at the Chris compound, who went on strike on Monday, again refused to work.

Strong detachments of police visited these compounds early yesterday morning and made 36 arrests at the Turf, and 24 at the Chris, compound.

Altogether 2,400 natives at No. 5 shaft, City Deep, did not go on shift yesterday morning, and the strike continued at No. 1 and 4 shafts. On Monday the workers of No. 1 shaft, after being driven out of their compound, went underground, where they led a "sit-down" strike.

All the natives on Nourma Mines refused to work yesterday. On Monday a few hundred went underground.

PAMPHLETS SHOWERED FROM CAR

Handfuls of pamphlets were showered from a car which toured several mines in the Springs district yesterday. The pamphlets urged the natives to go on strike. Four natives were arrested on the Springs Mines property.



POLICE CLASH WITH STRIKERS: Police yesterday intercepted a column of native strikers six miles long, 4,000 strong and armed with dangerous weapons, which was marching from West Springs to Johannesburg. A fight took place outside Brakpan where a number of the strikers were injured. The photograph shows police "debussing" from troop-carriers to join the attack.

Eight Natives Wounded, Four Trampled to Death at Sub-Nigel

STRIKERS yesterday clashed with the police at the Betty shaft of the Sub-Nigel Mine. The police opened fire, and eight natives were wounded. Four were trampled to death when the strikers fled in panic.

Trouble had been brewing since Monday morning, when about 2,000 natives at the shaft went on strike, and 14 policemen were sent there. They made seven arrests, but the strikers adopted a threatening attitude, and the police were forced to release their prisoners and withdraw.

Mine officials held a meeting on Monday afternoon. The natives refused to listen, and there were castles and shouting.

Subsequently Major J. J. du Toit, the District Commandant of Springs, went to the mine with 100 policemen. The natives were still in a dangerous mood, and he was forced to withdraw his men when it became dark.

Yesterday morning the strikers left their compound and gathered on a loose-stone embankment about 200 yards away. A number of natives who were willing to work attempted to go on duty, but were stoned and driven back.

Some distance away, Major Du Toit sent in his unarmed policemen to surround the strikers and drive them back to their compound. The natives picked up stones from the embankment and hurled them at the police.

Eight policemen were injured, and the air became so thick with flying stones that the armed policemen were ordered forward. They fired 12 rounds, selecting individual targets. Eight natives were struck by bullets.

Panic immediately ensued among the strikers. They fled towards the compound gates, and it was at this stage that four were trampled to death. Eighty-three were slightly injured.

Shortly afterwards it was found that all the natives, irrespective of their shift, wished to go underground. The cages worked overtime to lower them.

The police seized three truck-loads of weapons, such as sticks and found the natives heavily armed with daggers, steel balls, iron pins and knives, which the strikers had had in their possession.

Handwritten notes: "Land of air", "oil", "14-8-46"

NATIVE MINE STRIKE LIKELY TO PETER OUT

All Mines Expected to be Working Normally To-day

THERE is every prospect that all Rand mines will be working normally to-day. Of the three mines that were still involved in the strike, Nourse Mines and City Deep returned to work yesterday, and the natives at the Chris Shaft, Robinson Deep, are expected to go underground early this morning.

Five thousand natives at the main compound at City Deep were involved in a fight with the police yesterday and afterwards went underground readily. At No. 5 compound, 2,600 resumed duty after they had been addressed by mine officials in the presence of 400 police.

Following their clash with the police on Wednesday, all the native workers at Nourse Mines ceased their strike yesterday.

At noon the police chased native strikers at the Chris Shaft, Robinson Deep, off nearby dumps. They surrendered, and said that they would return to work.

The strikers who remained in their compound were addressed by officials, and the response indicated that there is every likelihood that they, too, will return to work. Several Europeans and natives who are alleged to have distributed pamphlets in various parts of Johannesburg were arrested by the police.

All was quiet on the East Rand after the police had dealt with an underground "sit-down" strike at Nigel, and with truculent strikers at Van Dyk.

(Labour will interview Ministers—Page 4.)

POLICE CLEAR MINE DUMPS OF STRIKERS

Police were sent to the Robinson Deep yesterday when many of the strikers at the Chris Compound took up positions on nearby dumps.

Groups of police were posted at vantage points, and a force was sent to clear the strikers off the dumps. When the police reached the dumps, the natives ran down and surrendered.

They were sent to an area near the compound and were addressed by their officials. The natives said that they wanted to return to work immediately, as they had "had enough."

They will go on duty to-day.

Police go 1,000 feet Underground to End "Sit-Down" Strike

MORE than 40 policemen went 1,000 feet underground in the Nigel Gold Mine yesterday to deal with 1,000 natives who were staging a "sit-down" strike. This is the first time in South African history that the police have been compelled to take such action.

Yesterday morning the natives went on shift as usual, and there was no indication that they did not intend to work. When they got to their stopes, however, they sat down and refused to perform their tasks.

Mine officials were unable to change their attitude, and called in police assistance. The acting station commander at Nigel, Sergeant Du Plessis, with 40 men, hurried to the mine.

Sergeant Du Plessis

decided to go underground to investigate the position, and found that the natives were in a truculent mood. A fight developed in the stopes. Because of the limited space, the numerical inferiority of the police did not tell against them, and they were able to take command of the position.

They drove the natives up stope by stope, level by level, until they reached the surface. A hundred and twenty police had meanwhile been sent from Springs. The natives were gathered together and addressed by police officials and the local native commissioner.

Afterwards the strikers indicated their intention of resuming work. They were sent underground, and no further trouble occurred.

Three Europeans, 19 Natives Arrested in City

Three Europeans and 19 natives were arrested by the Johannesburg police yesterday on allegations of having distributed pamphlets in a number of non-European areas. Arrests were also made in Krugersdorp, and the police have issued warrants for the detention of Chinese, Indians and coloured men.

The Europeans, six natives and two native women were arrested at Newlands.

Five natives who are alleged to have broadcast from a van at Alexandra Township and to have urged all natives to strike were taken into custody. It is alleged that they also distributed pamphlets, a large number of which were seized by the police.

Arrests were made in Orlando, Jeppe, the central areas and other places.

Call for General Native Strike Fails

THE strike called by the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions did not materialise yesterday.

Not only were the essential services of the city unaffected, but many municipal natives were not even aware of the strike decision and declared that they had no intention of coming out in sympathy with the native mine-workers.

The City Council, however, took all precautions to meet any strike measures, and yesterday morning its Emergency Committee met representatives of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions, which agreed in principle to maintain essential services.

The Emergency Committee will meet Dr. Colin Steyn, Minister of Labour, to-day to put before him the Council's plans in the event of a strike.

NO DISTURBANCES
It had been stated that the strike threat by native unions would involve about 120,000 natives in Johannesburg, but there was no report of any commercial or industrial disturbance, and the city went about its business without hindrance.

Some City Councillors, who were interviewed yesterday, considered that the unions had "badly overcalled their hand." In the event of a strike, councillors would call a special meeting to devise measures to deal with it and to take drastic action if necessary.

Attempts may be made to-day to cause trouble, but precautions have been taken. The police are also keeping a close watch and will deal vigorously with any troublemakers.

The African Municipal Workers' Union is reported to have about 4,000 members, but councillors consider this a very optimistic estimate. Many of the natives employed by the City Engineers' Department, which is responsible for most of the essential services of the city, were yesterday completely unaware of the decision to strike.

According to rumours yesterday afternoon, attempts were being made to induce the natives to take action, but reports that the trouble had been quelled on the mines and that strikers had returned to work in thousands nullified them. Pamphlets were

still being distributed yesterday morning, but little notice was taken of them by the majority of natives.

Many printing works where it was suspected that pamphlets were being printed were raided by the police.

Meeting of Natives Banned

A MASS meeting called by native trade unions on the Newtown Market Square at noon yesterday was banned by order of the Chief Magistrate under the Riotous Assemblies Act.

A few hundred natives gathered, only to find that large squads of police had been posted on all sides of the square. Miss Hilda Watts, a Communist City Councillor, talked to some natives, but when she was about to address the meeting she was approached by Major J. A. C. Reay, Divisional Criminal Investigation Officer for the Witwatersrand, who informed her that the meeting had been banned.

When Miss Watts protested, she was interviewed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police for the Witwatersrand, Colonel E. V. H. Miskdal, who told her that her continued presence would only lead to trouble. He advised her to leave immediately, and warned her that, if the meeting did not immediately disperse, the police would charge the crowd.

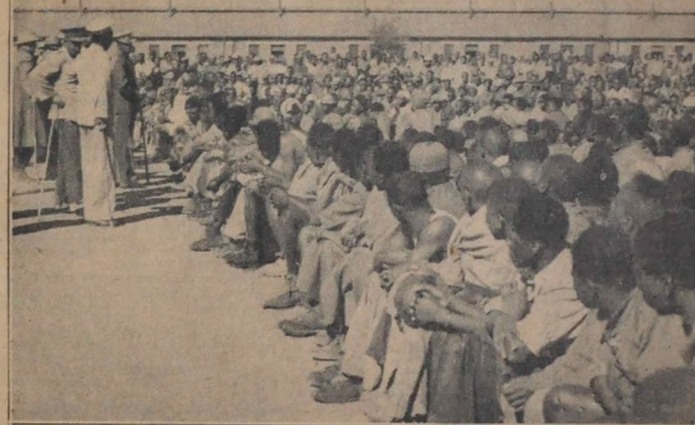
Miss Watts was then escorted to her car, and within a few minutes native trade union organisers and Communists persuaded the meeting to disperse. Most of the police left, but a small detachment remained to see that there were no further attempts to hold a meeting.

Agitators Try to Cause Benoni Steel Strike

Attempts to induce natives employed at the Dunsu Iron and Steel Works Benoni, to go on strike were made yesterday by a number of natives not employed by the firm, who intercepted them between the location and the plant.

On being notified of what was taking place, a party of police was sent out and succeeded in locating the agitators. Several were detained for questioning and the others warned to leave the area.

There were no further efforts at interference.



LISTENING TO ADVICE: Native mine workers, who were on strike at City Deep Mine yesterday morning, are addressed by police interpreters, who advised them to return to work peacefully. The natives went underground immediately afterwards.

STRIKERS THREATEN NATIVES; POLICE INTERVENE

FINAL act in the termination of the strike of native mine-workers in the Near East Rand area was staged in No. 2 compound of the Van Dyk Mine yesterday, when there was a clash between the police and about 1,000 truculent strikers who threatened 800 Shangaans when they announced that they were ready to resume work.

The aggressive elements had weapons, which included sticks, knob-keries, choppers, knives and skewers.

For more than an hour the compound officials had urged the natives to go underground. When 400 police arrived in 20 trucks and troop-carriers under the joint command of Chief Inspectors D. G. Coetzee and J. J. du Toit the District Commandants for the East Rand, the natives who were ready for work were allowed to leave.

After five minutes grace, the police proceeded to clear the rooms. In the melee a policeman had his right shoulder dislocated, and a native who attempted to stab a constable was felled. A general riot developed, with 1,000 natives careering wildly for the entrance.

Continued in Page 4.

Strike at City Deep Stopped

MORE than 50 natives and two policemen were slightly injured in a clash between 400 policemen and 5,000 strikers at the main compound at City Deep early yesterday morning.

During the night the strikers were told by mine officials that they were expected to return to work. Few responded, and most of those who did so refused at first to go underground on their arrival at the shaft heads. Others tried to dash into the veld, but were driven back.

Once underground they refused to work and prevented other natives from being sent down. They also attacked underground police. When they were told that there was a strong force of police at the shaft heads, they hurried to work.

After the first few batches of 50 natives had left the compound a group of Basutos, who had been holding a war dance, attempted to storm the gates. About 300 dashed out before the police could stop them. The balance returned to the compound and prevented any other natives leaving.

The District Commandant, Major J. C. Kriek, ordered his men to drive the natives back to their rooms. There was a general stampede, and the police used their batons freely.

Not long afterwards the natives came to the gates and offered to return to work. They were marched out and, in a happy mood, went underground. During the disturbances a small crowd of natives from George Goch marched towards the City Deep. They were intercepted and chased back by the police.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 Strikers Threaten Natives

As the gates had been closed, the natives formed a tightly-packed and subdued mass. When asked whether they wished to persist with the strike, they all declared that they were prepared to go underground, and left shortly afterwards for the shafts.

About 130 natives, who had been slightly injured, were kept on the surface for treatment.

The situation at No. 1 compound, Van Dyk, which was dealt with first, proved easier to handle. About an hour before the police appeared, Mr. V. C. Robinson, the acting General Manager, addressed the 4,200 natives housed there. There was an immediate response from about 2,500 Shangaans and Basutos.

They were keen to work, they said, but the Pondos and others had threatened to kill them if they did. As if in proof of their statement, Pondos began to leave the compound and took positions on the roads outside. With the arrival of the police, however, they trooped back, changed into working clothes, and went to the shaft heads.

Hardly a single xaverer remained when the police inspected the rooms. One, who dashed out brandishing a lamp in one hand and a long knife in the other, was overpowered and disarmed.

By early afternoon Van Dyk was back to normal.

In the Benoni area all the natives at Van Ryan Estates, Modder B and Modder East were ready for work at the regular hour. Although the police were present at Van Ryan Estates as a precaution after Wednesday's attempted march on Johannesburg, there was no need to intervene.

STRIKE THREAT ISSUED IN PRETORIA

A meeting of the Joint Committee of African Trade Unions has resolved that all African workers in Pretoria will go on strike on Monday.

More than 10,000 natives may be involved if the strike threat is carried out, 1,800 of them being employed by the City Council.

Police Headquarters stated yesterday that police precautions are well advanced, and that any violence will be dealt with drastically.

R.D.M. 16-8-46

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1946.

STRIKERS

IN

ARMS

Two days of the native mine strike show some native miners dead; many injured; some policemen injured. None of the organisers of the strike, or of the European Communists who are supporting it, has so far been either killed or injured.

It has also been proved that this is not a labour dispute in the ordinary sense of the term. It is more like a war. The strikers are not so much concerned to persuade other miners not to go to work as to prevent them by force from doing so. It appears that very many of the native mine workers do not feel that they have any grievances, and want to continue their labours as before. These men have been intimidated and assaulted. There is no question of "peaceful persuasion." The character of the strike is also to be deduced from the facts:

That strikers at Springs "were armed with knives, mallets, sledge-hammers, iron pins, steel balls and sticks."

And that, when four thousand natives attempted to march on Johannesburg, the police, who dispersed them, took three tons of miscellaneous but dangerous weapons from them.

We do not see what else could have been expected. The mine natives are as raw as any to be found in Africa. They come from their kraals in the Union or other countries and go back to them after a few months' work. The actual turnover of labour on the mines is nearly 100 per cent. in normal years. How can such people know anything of trade union procedure or the orderly conduct of strikes? And how can they be anything but pawns in the hands of anybody

~~who tells them they have a~~
grievance and offers them the hope of getting twice as much as they are receiving now?

We should like the average Johannesburg citizen to consider what would have happened if those four thousand natives from Springs, all of them armed with some weapon or other, had not been intercepted by the police, who, incidentally, deserve the gratitude of the public for their courageous and skilful behaviour in this difficult affair. The city might not have presented a very pretty picture.

We also hope that the Cabinet Sub-committee which is handling the matter will not be weak in dealing with it. Nothing must be given to violence or to threats. If there is weakness now there will be much worse trouble later. A strike in the conventional sense of the term is one thing. This is something else.

29.8.42

6

Trade Unions Support Proposed Wage Increase

THE South African Trades and Labour Council may recommend to the Wage Board that the scale of wages for native unskilled labour, as laid down in the Board's recommendations, should be increased.

Johannesburg City Council has objected that this scale is too high, but trade union circles disagree with this view.

Mr. W. J. de Vries, secretary of the South African Trades and Labour Council, in an interview with a "Rand Daily Mail" reporter yesterday, said that his council felt that the raising of the economic status of the native was a step in the right direction. It was essential, too, for post-war reconstruction when the native would play a more important part than hitherto.

With the expansion of Union industries more native labour was being employed. At present native unskilled labour was obtained at an average wage of £1 ls. a week. The Trades and Labour Council felt that this could be doubled or even raised to £2 10s. with advantage to the country as a whole.

MORE SPENDING POWER

"It would enable the native to place himself on a better footing, instead of going round in rags and tatters," said Mr. de Vries. "Moreover, increasing the wages of the native means more spending power, and more spending power means better markets.

"It has to be realised that after the war there will be little opportunity of markets beyond Africa. It is our duty to create those markets on the African continent. By raising the economic status of the native we enable him to purchase boots, clothes and other necessities, and thus open up substantial avenues of trade to manufacturers.

Moreover it will enable many factories to continue after the war. Without these avenues of

trade they would have to close down. Raising the wages of native unskilled labour in South Africa is therefore a progressive step from which all sections of the community will benefit."

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