

# "Could you feed your family on £1 per month?"

## C.O.D. Asks Europeans

"COULD YOU FEED YOUR FAMILY ON £1 PER MONTH?" IS THE TITLE OF A LEAFLET ISSUED LAST WEEK BY THE CLAREMONT BRANCH OF THE CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS, REFERRING TO THE CASE OF THE FARM LABOURER, MLONGE TEMBENI, CONVICTED OF STEALING SHEEP. GIVING EVIDENCE, TEMBENI SAID HE STOLE THE SHEEP BECAUSE HIS WIFE AND SIX CHILDREN WERE STARVING. HE WAS PAID £1 PER MONTH BY THE FARMER, PLUS A WEEKLY TIN OF MEALIES.

TEN THOUSAND COPIES OF THE LEAFLET WERE DISTRIBUTED IN CAPE TOWN LAST WEEK, MAINLY TO EUROPEANS.

"Unfortunately this is not an isolated example of the near slavery that is practised in our country," states the leaflet. "The

official Year Book reveals that cash wages in some areas are even lower—16s. 2d. per month. There are tens and tens of thousands of

Tembenis, in and out of farm gaols, who suffer the same inhuman exploitation. The big farmers grow rich on their labour while we townsmen pay exorbitant prices for our food."

Tembeni was paid the miserable wage of £1 a month. But

CAPE TOWN.

"take him to Langa and have him deported from Cape Town" if he did not keep quiet.

B. A.'s wife has left him, because he could not support her. His children are being brought up by his wife's family. The wife of his co-worker on the farm (or should it be co-slave?) has managed to keep her husband and four children alive with her earnings.

Investigating the position of farm workers on the Cape Flats in some more detail, 'New Age' found the following: Mrs. M. J. of Nyanga, 52 years old, during the summer season works from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on a farm, weeding the land, at a wage of £1 a week. Of this, 2s. 6d. goes on bus fare.

"If we complain about the pay, we are told to clear off," she said.

### ON KNEES ALL DAY

"It is very hard work," said another African woman, also a farm labourer in the summer months. "We are on our knees all day, and all we get is £1 a week and a cup of coffee at 4 o'clock."

This woman used to work in a factory in Paarl, but finds it impossible to obtain similar employment in Cape Town as there are hardly any openings here for African women factory workers. Compare her earnings with the average earnings of Coloured factory women workers in the Peninsula—£2 10s. for a 46-hour week!

"If you are a day worker on the farms, you earn 4s. a day," Mrs. P. M. told 'New Age'. "You can't do anything with 4s. a day. When I'm out charring, I get 10s. 6d. a day. But charring jobs are not so plentiful and I am compelled to work on the farms."

## They Trembled in the Cold



DURBAN.

PAULA CHINAMAH and her husband trembled in the cold as a Corporation official, protected by the police, demolished their house.

Their nine children watched, bewildered, as their home fell to pieces.

Then the officers of the Durban Corporation and the South African Police left them to seek comfort from the rain.

Three days later I saw the Chinamahs, eleven of them, living in a single torn tent. In there the family possessions stood: a dresser, two beds, a lamp on a chair, brown paper covering the floor of soft sand. Cooking utensils were outside, in a small uninhabitable room.

### BEGAN IN 1949

The misery of the Chinamah family began with the riots in 1949. Their home and belongings at Cato Manor were burnt to the ground. They fled to a relative in town where overcrowding would not permit them to live any longer.

Ever since the riots their efforts to find a new home have failed. For Mr. Chinamah, being a worker, suffers the poverty which is the lot of most Indians. Thus there was no money for goodwill or a bribe to secure another place in which to live, and, anyway, the numerous regulations of this city and the laws of the country will not allow the Chinamahs to live where there is place.

So the Chinamahs, several months ago, were overjoyed with the offer to live among other tenants on

Indian-owned land at Merebank.

### IT WAS DEMOLISHED

They put up their corrugated iron house. A few weeks later it was demolished on orders from the Corporation.

The Chinamahs appealed to the authorities for help for accommodation in a housing scheme or anywhere else. Their appeals were rejected with the usual callousness.

It was July and the cold becoming sharp. The corrugated irons and planks were lying flat on the ground. Mr. Chinamah and his children nailed them together for the second time.

### "PULL IT DOWN"

Last Sunday again the Corporation officer arrived. It was raining. "Pull down this place," he ordered. The Chinamahs begged for more time. Then they stood and did not obey. The officer went away, returned with the police, and the house was struck down.

Now the Chinamahs live in the tent, and they cannot even use their corrugated iron sheets to protect themselves from the cold of winter because the structure will not be in conformity with the city by-laws.

And tomorrow, or the next day, another officer might arrive, pull down the tent and drive the Chinamahs off the land they have leased, which acts they have the legal right to commit.

J.A.

## ATTACK ON TEXTILE WORKERS' WAGES

### But Unity Wins Randfontein Increase

JOHANNESBURG.

THIS year is crisis year for the workers in South Africa's textile industry where employers have launched a full-scale attack against existing wage standards.

Employers have openly admitted that they find wage levels too high for the Non-European workers. From an industry originally based on White labour, the textile industry has today developed into one of predominantly African workers in all centres except Durban and the Western Cape.

The employers' present attack on the workers' wage standards is not unconnected with the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act which employers hope has tied the hands of the workers.

In the worsted mills in the industry no agreement has been in operation for one year now.

In the blanket section employers are proposing a twenty-five per cent cut in wages. Canvas workers last year took a wage cut of 33 per cent.

### NO CONCESSIONS

In negotiations for a new agreement now under way employers are conceding no wage increases at all. They are pressing for a reduction in the basic wage, and the introduction of an attendance bonus.

At the last meeting of the conciliation board for the worsted section in the industry, it was decided that the question of wages be left over for regional discussion.

But Randfontein Textiles, a worsted factory employing 375 workers took swift and united protest action for higher wages last week and the workers won immediate wage increases of 4s. 3d., 3s. 9d. and 3s. 6d.

Present negotiations on the Conciliation Board affect not only the workers at Randfontein Textiles, but textile workers all over the

country, especially 1,000 workers in Worcester, and factories in Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth and Standerton.

Already in Durban blanket factories, there are demands from the ranks of the workers for general meetings against the proposed wage cuts.

### JO'BURG RALLY

A rally of Witwatersrand textile workers has been called for August 27 in the Johannesburg Trades Hall and this will be the first of rallies of textile workers all over the country to demonstrate against the refusal to increase wages in the worsted, flock, felt, shoulder pad, canvas and kaffir-sheeting sections of the industry and threatened wage cuts in the blanket section.

This is the first central rally of textile workers ever organised and special transport will bring workers to the rally from Randfontein, Nigel, Springs and Benoni.

UNITED STATES First Army recently issued a pamphlet entitled "How to Spot a Communist." One of the signs of a Communist, the pamphlet said, was the language he used, and it recommended that any serviceman using the terms "progressive," "reactionary," "imperialism," "colonialism," "chauvinism," be closely watched and treated as a Communist or fellow-traveller.

## SHORT STORY COMPETITION



The three judges in the 'New Age' short story competition, from left to right, Mr. Uys Krige, Dr. R. E. van der Ross and Mr. Jack Cope, discuss the merits of one of the 32 entries. The judges hope to announce the results and to issue their report by the end of this month.

## SPORTS COMMENTRY

By JACKIE DORASAMY

### The Real Reason the Lions Win

**SHOCKED, bewildered, dazed and confused, South Africa's rugby experts are holding a thousand post mortems at the hurt given their supremacy in this field by the British Lions with varied results. But all of them have missed the real reason for this defeat, although it stands out as clearly as Everest.**

I put South Africa's defeat to its failure to use the vast wealth of black talent around it. South Africa must not be deceived by victories like those she gained over England in cricket recently and feel quite content with the present position. England's failure in the last two tests do not prove South Africa's power in world cricket so much as the fact that England is slipping.

The defeat by the Lions, the country's poorness in international boxing and her limitations in soccer should convince the whites that the basic defect in their sporting armour is the colour bar.

#### WORLD POWER?

By the time this appears in print the cricket test series between the White Springboks and England will have been decided. Quite illogically a victory for South Africa will prompt her sentimental writers to place her among the champions in the sport. Let the South Africans, to whom logic is as malleable as putty in the context of black-white relationships, not run away with this silly idea.

South Africa cannot lay claim to any such honour in world cricket because she has not tested her strength against India, Pakistan and the West Indies.

#### EMPIRE SHOT FOR TULI

Now comes the news that Peter Keenan, the British and Empire Bantamweight Champion, will defend his Empire title against Jake Tuli, former holder of the Empire flyweight championship. Tuli, who must be one of the most feared and avoided fighters in the world, deserves a shot at Keenan's title, although he would have been much happier if the holder of the Empire flyweight title, Dai Dower, who ironically complains of a dearth of challengers, had been as sporting as Keenan.

If Tuli can put on that extra bit of weight comfortably, without unnecessarily fattening himself,

Keenan would have to do his very best to keep the title. In the Cohen fight it was lack of bantamweight strength which went against him most. His speed, punching and timing are still very much in Empire class, but what stands between him and the title is the weight factor.

#### SOUTHERNS WILL WIN

Many unkind things are being said and written about Natal Indian football since the Indians were beaten 5-0 by the Africans for the Singh Cup. Southern Natal's defeat in the last Sam China Cup Tournament by Transvaal seems to give greater weight to this unwitting demoralising campaign.

Many people in Natal are of the opinion that Natal soccer has degenerated to the extent where they will not be considered serious challengers for the Cup. These people seem to forget that although Natal Indians lost heavily to the Natal Africans, they were not altogether outclassed and that if they had been the equals of the Africans physically they may have added another year to their three-year record retention of the Singh Trophy.

Their defeat in the last Sam China Cup was more the fault of the selectors than the players; senility was a feature of the last team. Fortunately selectors have taken the wiser view of introducing new names to the Natal team. These younger men, particularly Cousy Govender, Thiripath Naidoo, Boya Govender and Tommy Naidoo, are a credit to the selectors.

I have seen the Transvaal team in action, and cannot appreciate the perfect labelling given them by many Natalians and over-sentimental Transvaalers. Only three of their men, Links Padayachee, Moosa Ismail and Terrence Thomas seem to measure up to provincial standards. Natal's fast moving, youthful and fire-spitting

forward line which needs no encouragement in front of goal is certain to win the Sam China Cup.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN RECORD

Down in Germiston the other day I met quiet, impeccably dressed shopowner-cum-record shop manager, P. S. "Thumbi" Govender. Govender, who manages for a Johannesburg record dealer by day and serves in his own general dealers in Germiston in the evening, is better known as a former crack Transvaal right-winger. Solly Asvat and Papa Moodley, two outstanding contemporaries of Govender in the Transvaal provincial side, rate him as one of the greatest wingers ever. Govender, with his two other brothers, shares probably a unique record; they were selected for the Springbok Indian side against All India in 1934, and with three other team-mates from the Germiston Green's, created what is perhaps a never-before-heard-of team record. Six of the Green's players held berths in the Springbok side at one time that year!

#### POOR WOLVES

The mighty Wolves were crushed by Spartak of Moscow 3-0. They were "outplayed, outpaced and outmanoeuvred" and "there might have been 10 goals at least" in Spartak's favour.

Russia, which is becoming increasingly sports-minded and is fast gaining supremacy in every field hitherto dominated by England and America, has the right attitude towards sport. Their gymnasias, stadia, equipment, training facilities, etc., must rank as one of the finest in the world. The difference between Russian and English soccer is that while the latter play mostly for the financial rewards the Russians play for sheer love and exercise.

#### Troops Withdrawn

LONDON.

Marshal Zhukov, the Soviet Defence Minister, announced in Moscow recently that all Soviet occupation troops would be withdrawn from Austria by October 1, 25 days before the time limit set by the peace treaty.

## ARMED POLICE USED TO HALT FARM WORKERS' STRIKE

JOHANNESBURG.

In a work stoppage on the Nelspruit estate of Messrs. H. L. Hall & Son, largest fruit farm in the Eastern Transvaal and one of the largest in the whole country, armed police were brought in from Sabie, Machadadorp, White River, Barber-ton and Nelspruit, to drive back to work about 3,000 African workers who struck on Monday, August 8.

To workers who took fright at the sight of the large police force and tried to evade returning to work by running away from the compounds and the estate, the police are alleged to have said: "If you run away we'll shoot."

The police went from house to house in two large compounds, Matuffin and Good House, where about 3,000 workers struck, carried out a search and piled workers into police vans to drive them back to the fruit orchards.

The workers were then asked if they would return to work. A large number refused.

In one batch, 180 workers were

brought to court under the Masters and Servants Act and fined £1 (or three days). Six workers remain in the cells to be tried on August 25.

There is clearly serious unrest on this estate because seven months ago, in January, there was a similar work stoppage. There are eight compounds altogether on the Hall estates, and men, women and children work in the orchards and vegetable gardens.

African men are paid £2 10s. every five weeks; women £1 17s. 6d. and juveniles £1.

All workers are paid every five weeks and this is one of their deepest grievances. Some youngsters who work in the transporting of vegetables and fruit are only 11 and 12 years old.

Tractor drivers are paid only £4 a month.

A number of workers say they were hit in the police search of workers' homes to drive them back to work.

The S.A. Congress of Trade Unions sent an organiser to the area during the stoppage. The workers, he told New Age, have very serious problems and only genuine trade union organisation will set the matter right.

### Toymakers Picket Exhibition

JOHANNESBURG.

The Toymakers' Union picketed an exhibition of the Toymakers' Association last week, carrying posters "Workers demand a living wage" and "Support S.A. Industry but no starvation wages."

The exhibition was opened by the Secretary for Commerce and Industries, Mr. D. de Waal Meyer, and those who entered the exhibition were handed a leaflet: "The Secret Behind the Toy-making industry."

Issued by the Transvaal Local Committee of SACTU the leaflet pointed out that while South African toys compare favourably with those made overseas, the majority of workers in the industry are not covered by any wage regulating machinery and earn wages as low as 25s. a week for women and £2 a week for men.

### Congress Members Ejected

PORT ELIZABETH.

Three executive members of the Hankey A.N.C. Branch, near P.E., have been served with 30 days notice to leave the Hankey municipal location and urban area.

Mr. John Speelman, the chairman of the branch, told our reporter that when he sought reasons for his ejection he was told that it was for his participation in the A.N.C. schools' boycott campaign, which is hitting Verwoerd's schools a hard blow.

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