

# THE NEGRO MOVEMENT.

## Dingaan's Day in Cape Town.

By Molly Wolton.

Dingaan's Day, December 16, the anniversary of the day when, in 1838, the Zulus in Natal and Zululand, after a courageous and desperate resistance, were defeated by the combined forces of the Dutch and British, has in the last few years been observed by the Negro workers of South Africa, under the leadership of the Communist Party, as an anti-imperialist national liberation day, a day of mass demonstrations and strikes against Dutch and British oppression and tyranny.

The preparations by the Party for Dingaan's day 1931 were closely linked up with the development of mass work around the factories, docks, among the agricultural workers and share croppers in the Cape.

In contradistinction to former years when Dingaan's Day was made an isolated event of burning passes, this year the Party here in the Cape carried out systematic work among the Dock workers, linking up the Dingaan's Day Campaign with the grievances existing among the Dock workers, such as short time, bribery and corruption in securing jobs, favouritism, rationalisation measures resulting in more unemployment and greater intensification of labour etc. In the Tobacco and Clothing Industries (where we have red Unions), Dingaan's Day was placed as a day of struggle which these workers have to support if they want to improve their standard of living. In the Government Railway Shops, where the workers are working short time, and where the previous privileges which they enjoyed, such as travelling facilities, are being taken away from them, this was pointed out to be part and parcel of the ruling class policy to shift the burden of the crisis on the shoulders of the workers, black and white, in the above works where the bulk of the workers are Europeans (all the skilled workers) and where the Government's policy of displacing native labour by poor white at a slightly higher rate is causing great dissatisfaction among the native workers. There we pointed out that only by a policy of militant action on the part of Black and White could they stop the worsening of their conditions, also that the white workers have to support the struggle for National Independence of the native masses. Already now they must begin to dissociate themselves from the Imperialist policy of the Rulers. In the native locations around Cape Town, where the Municipality is harrasing and persecuting the residents, imposing high rents and imprisoning the people for non-payment of same, also forcibly ejecting residents from one location to another where rents and train fares are twice as high, the C.P. carried on an agitation round these demands for non-payment of rent and taxes, for right of residence etc., thus linking up the daily struggles of the masses with our higher political aims.

The C.P. also carried on an agitation for non-contributory social insurance for the unemployed with a definite appeal to them, not to pay rents and taxes.

Definite successes were recorded this year. We had mass meetings and demonstrations in the locations around **Cape Town**, a tremendous mass rally in Cape town, the biggest since the Seamen's strike of 1925, composed of black and white workers (predominantly black), Native and European speakers putting forward the policy of our Party, a procession through the streets with banners, and slogans carried by white and Black and a further mass meeting on the Parade. During the whole of this campaign we had to carry on a relentless struggle against the national reformist Prof. Thaele, exposing his counter-revolutionary role and showing the masses that only the C.P. and the Red Unions can lead the masses in their struggles against Imperialism.

Thousands of leaflets were distributed in the factories, also about 3,000 leaflets were sent to such places as Middleburg, Cradock, Port Elizabeth, Worcester etc., urging them to protest in mass demonstrations and strikes against oppression.

During the whole campaign we popularised the successes of Socialist construction in the U.S.S.R. and the improved conditions of the workers in the Soviet Union.

Although many weaknesses were present in our campaign, we can definitely say that it was a turn along the lines of Bolshevik mass work. All prerequisites exist in the Cape Province to build up a strong Party, the A.F.T.U. (African Federation of Trade Unions) and the other mass organisations. Only by consistently carrying out the line of the Comintern, and by a relentless fight against remnants of Buntingism, white chauvinism and opportunism can we achieve these tasks.