

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

ACCESSION No 2277/25

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CLASS No

DEFEND THE
RIGHTS OF OUR
WORKMATES
UP NORTH.

Universal Printing Works, 9 Bond St., Durban.



DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF OUR WORKMATES UP NORTH

Facing death up North daily on our behalf are almost two hundred European employees of Dunlop (S.A.), Ltd., who receive no allowance whatsoever from their millionaire employers.

For Dunlop (S.A.), Ltd., do not supplement the military pay of their unmarried workers who have donned khaki.

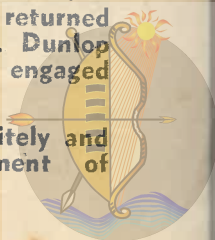
These soldier rubber workers gave an express mandate to the Natal Rubber Workers' Union to protect their wage standards and working conditions whilst they were in the fighting line.

It is to carry out their bounden duty to these men and to themselves that the five hundred rubber workers at Dunlop (S.A.), Ltd., chose on Tuesday the difficult path of struggle and sacrifice entailed in a strike.

The employers immediately issued to the Press statements which in a most unscrupulous manner distorted the true facts.

For the Natal Rubber Workers' Union has consistently fought for the employment of returned soldiers at living wages, though Messrs. Dunlop (S.A.), Ltd., have, on the other hand, engaged very few indeed.

The strikers, without exception, definitely and emphatically support the re-employment of



returned soldiers. The strike was called to safeguard the interests of these very men.

The workers who are out on strike have asked only that :

(a) Their trade union, the Natal Rubber Workers' Union, which is the sole registered and officially recognised union for the rubber industry in Natal, be given the same facilities in the factory as those given to the unregistered Company "union."

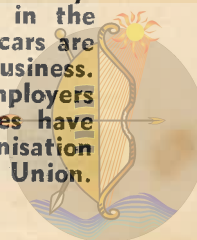
(b) That the thirteen dismissed workers be reinstated—not necessarily in the giant tyre section, but in any job that provides working conditions and wages no worse than those previously enjoyed by them.

(c) That a retrenchment committee be set up with equal representation of employees and employers.

WHAT IS THIS COMPANY UNION ?

It is an unregistered "union" (known as the Dunlop Employees' Union) set up in the factory in opposition to the Natal Rubber Workers' Union—the legally registered organisation.

The organiser of the Company "union" is paid by the employers. He has the run of the factory. All its typing and clerical work is done in the firm's office. Dunlop (S.A.), Ltd., motor cars are used by the organiser for the "union's" business. Every possible facility is given by the employers to the Company "union." These facilities have always been refused to the democratic organisation of the workers, the Natal Rubber Workers' Union.



Strenuous efforts are made to persuade the workers to join this unregistered Company "union." Many workers fear dismissal if they do not enrol.

A large number of European and all the non-European workers refused to join the Company "union." Over 150 members of the official Natal Rubber Workers' Union were dismissed within a few months.

The dismissed workers were replaced in many instances by cheaper Native labour.

THE SOLE AND ONLY OBJECT FOR THE CALLING OF THIS STRIKE IS THE FORMATION OF THE COMPANY "UNION."

The workers, European and non-European, are convinced that this is an attack upon their vital democratic rights in order to prevent them from improving their wages and conditions in the future, and in order to destroy now that which they have gained in the past.

Our workmates up North are fighting for democracy and for a better, happier life.

We are defending their ideals on the Home Front!

**STRIKE COMMITTEE,
Natal Rubber Workers' Union.**

P.S.—The local committee of the Trades and Labour Council, representing 32 trade unions, has pledged its full support to our strike.

