

are represented. However, the black workers are dissatisfied with their representative. They feel he has been intimidated and is too afraid of victimisation. On one occasion he has reported back to the workers incorrectly. The workers will not raise this problem again until they have elected a new representative who has their interests at heart.

However, it appears as if it is not only the spokesman's fault that the workers are badly represented. The system of satisfying workers' grievances is itself inadequate. James Radebe told us that their spokesman has no influence in the decisions made by the Staff Association. No matter who they elect to represent them on the Staff Association they will still have little say in matters affecting their own lives.

The strength of the railway workers should lie in their own unity. But the question of six months or three months leave does not directly affect those workers who live permanently in Cape Town. They are not prepared to run the risk of victimisation for the problems of their fellow workers. Bosses try to use the division between urban and contract workers for their own benefit. However, as is shown in the article on the Durban strikes, the workers cannot hope to achieve anything unless they stand together at all times.

James Radebe told us that workers were too scared to lose what few privileges they had. They were too worried about their own problems to act in the interests of all the workers, together.

There seem to be three problems which seriously affect railway workers.

Firstly, their elected representative is unreliable and ineffectual. This points to the importance of workers' electing representatives who hold their interests at heart.

Secondly, the system of representation will not satisfy the workers' grievances. For this reason workers cannot rely on the forms of representation they are now granted, they can only rely on their own unity.

Finally, the railway bosses are exploiting the divisions between workers. As long as they are allowed to do this, the workers will not have strength.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

The Workmen's Compensation Act is the law which gives some protection to workers injured in an accident at work. It allows

- 1) payment to a worker while he is off work
- 2) payment to a worker who has been permanently harmed
- 3) payment to the dependants of a worker who has been killed
- 4) payment of the burial expenses of a worker who has been killed
- 5) payment of the medical expenses of workers injured.

The employer is meant to report all accidents, and money is set aside for workers falling into one of the five groups above. The worker should claim this money, either through the employer or through the Advice Bureau, who will write to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, who keeps all the money.

Recently the government published a list of all the workers who have money owing to them, waiting for them at the Commissioner's office. The following are some of the Cape Town workers for whom there is a lot of money, together with their addresses from the time of the accident. If you know any of these people, tell them to go along to the Advice Bureau, so that a letter can be sent off to get their money.

Michael Dlisani (NIN 3941227), c/o Hygienic Dist Co, Eden Rd, Observatory R84.
Notyaty Tshezi (NIN 1953051), c/o Aer Marine Stevedoring, P.O. Box 2790,
 Cape Town - R26,25

Qulwana Butshi (NIN 4709010), c/o Table Bay Stevedores, P.O. Box 3270, Cape
 Town - R113,90.

UNITY IS STRENGTH!

Some years ago Port Elizabeth's workers were the best organised in the country. They had many strong trade unions which led them in the struggle for higher wages. Today there are no strong trade unions left. And recent attempts by workers to organise here have come up against two problems:

- i) informers
- ii) lack of solidarity.

We will not deal with informers here. The workers know how to deal with them. These disgusting gentlemen are pathetic creatures, whose importance will last only as long as they are useful to the authorities - after that, they are cast aside, to be ignored by all decent men. How sad that in their greed for money they can betray their fellow workers - and yet not see that they are merely being used as tools by their oppressors.

But the same reasons which drive men to become informers, are at work to break down the solidarity - the unity - of the workers. Instead of acting together, the workers in Port Elizabeth are each pushing their own wheelbarrow. Instead of acting like one man in getting better conditions, each man acts alone and separately, hoping that he, at least, will better himself, even if the other workers are left behind.

Of course, this cannot be said of the mass of workers - who require only leadership and training to realise what steps they must take together. It is time, however, that the need for solidarity was realised, and an end made to the selfish individualism of so many workers in this city.

THE EASTERN CAPE MUST NOT LAG BEHIND.

Early in 1921, one of the first examples of workers' organisation occurred right in this city. Just on the koppie near Livingstone Hospital, the great leader Clements Kadalie addressed thousands of workers to press for higher wages. This was one of the first occasions when unskilled workers in South Africa came together to decide their own future.

Much has happened since that day in 1921. But who can honestly say the workers of Port Elizabeth have advanced much since then? If your wages are higher, it is mainly due to the rise in the cost of living! Have the lessons that Kadalie taught the workers 54 years ago all been forgotten?

It is time for you, the workers, to start building up the same kind of solidarity that your fathers and grandfathers built up in this very city all those years ago. Without this solidarity, without this unity, you will spend the rest of your days as a slave to your wage.

The employers and the authorities have cleverly used their vast supplies of money not only to buy informers, but also to buy some workers into silence. Workers see that only the servile and obedient workers get promotion - and so a deadly silence falls on the factory. Each man competes with his comrades, each seeking his own advancement.

This is exactly what the employers and the authorities want. While the workers are competing between each other - who is to get this job? who is to get the wage increase? who is to be promoted? - they have no time to fight against the employer!

Clements Kadalie and every other union leader made one point above all others - be united! Act together! There is no place for disunity between the workers! For unless the workers advance together, they do not advance at all.