

Native Labour Board and if the Board does not approve of them the Minister may be asked by it to issue an "Order" employing the wishes of the Board and overriding the conclusions of the negotiating parties!

Savage Sanctions.

Strikes are prohibited under threat of the most savage sanctions. Thus the penalty for a worker striking for a possible increase in wages of 2/6 per week will be open on conviction to a penalty of £500, imprisonment of three years, or both such penalty and imprisonment. And the draughtsmen of this atrocious law have made quite sure that there will be a conviction in each case, for the onus is on the accused worker to prove that he has not taken part in a strike. All the prosecution has to do is to allege that he has taken part in a strike.

Moreover the definition of a strike is wide enough to cover any stoppage of work, including sympathy strikes or protest actions against political repression.

What Should Be Done.

The entire trade union movement should unanimously oppose this Bill, for it is a threat to all workers, and to their established rights.

Experience has shown, however, that the methods of opposition hitherto adopted against the anti-labour legislation of the Government has had little effect, because it has usually taken the form of memoranda, written letters or deputations, which have been listened to politely but have just as politely been ignored.

...New methods of protest and opposition must be devised by the trade unions. The most important thing of all is to bring the danger of this legislation to the attention of the workers, not only at isolated branch meetings, but at the factories where the workers are assembled in numbers and where they can initiate their own methods of protest.

Resolutions signed by hundreds of workers at factory meetings should be sent to the Minister demanding the withdrawal of the Bill and insisting on the restoration of the workers' right of association and of free collective bargaining. Groups of workers should lobby their members of Parliament. Letters of protest should be written to the Press. Every device should be utilised to expose the anti-labour character of this Bill and to rouse every worker against it. Mass public opposition can yet win the freedom of collective bargaining for all workers.

Book Review.

PETER ABRAHAMS DISAPPOINTS

MR. ABRAHAMS is a Coloured writer who left South Africa some years ago and has lived in England since. During last year he decided to visit South Africa again, and this book is an account of his

visit.

The book starts somewhat melodramatically; one gets the impression that Mr. Abrahams regarded his trip as an adventure from which he might not return alive. This will no doubt

boost sales in England, but it does not impress those who have to live every day with the perils that Mr. Abrahams so boldly went forth to encounter.

Mr. Abrahams is interesting when he discusses the effects of racial oppression on the non-European peoples and the re-adjustments which were required of him in moving from South Africa to England and back again. Unfortunately he cannot sustain these topics very long or investigate them very deeply, and ~~in~~ later chapters his book degenerates into the typical visiting journalist's pot-boiler. He trots out the statistics from "Black Man's Burden" which have become

the basic equipment of visiting journalists. He informs us (sometimes inaccurately) of a few commonplaces of South African history. He reproduces the "African Drum" report on Bethal. There is nothing which is new to anyone who is reasonably well acquainted with South African affairs.

We have had, over the last few years, rather too many hastily written books which attempt to summarise South Africa in 200 pages. Basil Davidson did it about as well as it can be done, and it might be advisable for those who cannot improve on his book to maintain a discreet silence.

—A. P. O'DOWD

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