

“Our Fellow Workers, the Natives.”

Chas. Dones, of the Management Committee, discoursed last Sunday to good effect at the Trades Hall on the above topic. The speaker, following the lines now made familiar in the “International,” added a good deal of original form and illustration of his own. “Organise and educate” is a more practical thing applied to natives than to white workers in South Africa. At the very first of a series of gatherings of natives to study the working-class movement the point was seized: asked what they wanted, they replied “Si funa konke”—“we want everything.” What White Union ever aimed so high or so true? “Jim Sixpence to tea” indeed! Why plenty of Johannesburg hosts would never ask a single one of that (white) audience to tea; every man in the audience itself can think of plenty of whites he would not ask to tea; but few are above asking Jim Sixpence to bring them tea into their bedrooms! As for “education,” the blacks without it have a better chance of gripping essentials than the whites with it. To understand the servile position of your class shows more real education than all the classics and mathematics. The I.S.L. could unfortunately not take the credit of having incited Tarry’s natives to strike, but who said German gold? Com. Dones’ first appearance should encourage him to make an early reappearance.

S.P.B.