

IS THERE COMPULSORY LABOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA AT THE PRESENT TIME ?

In the Labour Office Report the following principle is suggested to cover a variety of forms of "legal indirect compulsion."

"Taxation, vagrancy or 'pass' laws, the deprivation of lands, the restriction of lands cultivation or cattle-owning, and other measures, when adopted with the intention of forcing workers into employment, are methods of instituting forced labour for private employers, and should be condemned equally with the direct form of compulsion for this purpose."

The saving clause "when adopted with the intention of forcing workers into employment" may be found to cover all existing agencies in South Africa even though they are of the nature specified in the above paragraph and are actually having the effect of compelling labour. What are these agencies ?

INDIRECT COMPULSION BY DEPRIVATION AND RESTRICTION OF LAND.

In the Union of South Africa roughly speaking a million and a half Europeans own 87 per cent of the land, while five million Natives own the balance. Efforts on the part of the Natives to rectify this disparity are in great measure defeated by the operation of the 1913 *Natives Land Act* which makes it illegal, with certain limited exceptions, for Whites or Blacks to purchase or even to hire land in each other's areas. This limitation, as the population increases, compels men to leave the more congested areas of the reserves for work, and prohibits many of those who have already left from returning. These men form a proletariat, obliged to accept what wages and conditions they can get on the mines, on the farms or in the towns.

It is too late now to go into the question of the justice or the reverse of the numerous Kafir wars which make up so large a part of South African history. It is sufficient to say, in the present connection, that the net result