

DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN STORIA E SCIENZE FILOSOFICO-SOCIALI

Anarchism, anti-militarism and the British Empire

MID-APRIL 1942

11

Labour in Kenya

land rights on the holdings of their clans suddenly found themselves homeless and with no land on which they could cultivate in their own right."

The European settlers under the protection of the Colonial Office thus drove the Africans off the best land, and were then only able to cultivate a mere 12 per cent. of it. It is a bitter irony that they now compel the natives to labour on the farms which they once possessed.

Politicians and Compulsion

Before going on to discuss the question of forced labour itself in its general aspects, it may be worth while to look at some of the opinions which have been expressed on the subject. Conservatives, Liberals, and Labour leaders are all agreed, in theory, that forced labour is to be absolutely con-

Soviet Union's use of forced prison labour for building the canals and roads and railways of the Five Year Plan, declared in *Iszvestia* on 19th February 1931, that "Socialism generally, and contemporary Communism in particular, have always demanded that labour shall be obligatory for every member of society."

Anarchists, on the other hand, have always held that the work of producing the means of life and those things which are desirable for comfort and culture is a natural and pleasurable activity of man, requiring no compulsion or special reward. The need for remuneration and/or compulsion only enters in when liberty of action is arbitrarily limited, when the majority are excluded from free access to the means of life, and so are compelled to sell their labour to those who have a monopoly of control, in

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Edificio B, aula dipartimentale, IV piano

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