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*A FIRST ACCOUNT OF*  
**LABOUR ORGANISATION**  
**IN**  
**SOUTH AFRICA**

*By*  
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EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION)

*and*

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(S.A. TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION)



*With a Foreword by*  
**THE HON. THOMAS BOYDELL, M.L.A.**  
(MINISTER OF LABOUR)



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## *Foreword*

In few countries has the history of Trade Unionism been so filled with Romance, Tragedy and Comedy, as in South Africa.

Many readers, not only in this country, but also in other parts of the world, will be amazed when they read in this excellent little book of the stirring times, the daring deeds and the tragic and exciting episodes connected with the growth and activities of the Labour Movement in South Africa.

For instance, in what other country, except South Africa, has a Cabinet Minister paid out in the dead of night £47,000 of the Taxpayers' money, in amounts of £300 each, to "Black-legs" for clearing out of a strike area, in order to make way for the return to work of the men on strike?

Or, in what other country have nine Trade Unionists, while taking part in a strike, been kidnapped, thrust into prison, taken out at midnight and rushed five hundred miles by train under strong escort, and then, also in the dead of night, forcibly placed on a steamer and deported six thousand miles by sea, after being provided by the Government with two pairs of socks, an undervest and pants, one overcoat and £3 in cash for pocket money?

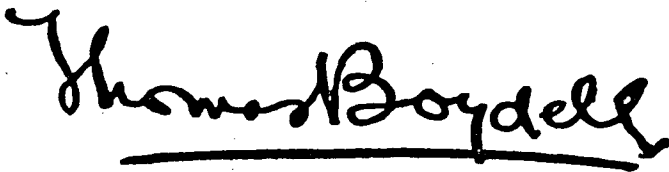
These are two of the many incidents related in this most interesting and informative little volume.

For those who want to study the history and the development of the different Trade Union and Labour Organisations in South Africa, from the early days up to date, this book will prove of great value as well as of absorbing interest. Not only are the main events recorded but additional interest is given by the inclusion of brief biographies and character sketches of many of the men and women who have played a leading part.

For the purpose of quick reference the authors have compiled a most useful chronological table, while, for those who wish to study the Union's Industrial Legislation, a special Chapter outlining South Africa's Industrial Laws will be of great assistance.

This is the first time that any serious attempt has been made to place on record a history of Trade Unionism in South Africa, and the greatest possible credit is due to Mr. Gitsham and Mr. Trembath for the thorough and comprehensive way in which they have carried out their task. The large measure of success which they have achieved has, I think, only been made possible by the fullest use being made of Mr. Trembath's storehouse of knowledge as an active participant in the Labour Movement here for some thirty years, and also to his having faithfully kept, for this period, voluminous scrap-books containing: Trade Union journals, press-cuttings, pamphlets and other essential records. To Mr. Gitsham perhaps goes the credit of taking the initiative in this self-imposed task and of providing the driving-force necessary to make the best of the material available.

The joint-authors are to be congratulated on the results of their efforts, and I am sure that the satisfaction they have experienced in being able to render such a great service to the Labour Movement in South Africa will only be excelled by the appreciation that will be shown by the many thousands who will secure for themselves a copy of this the first "History of Trade Unionism in South Africa."

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas Boydell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Minister of Labour.

13/9/1926.  
Pretoria.

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