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THE INTERNATIONAL

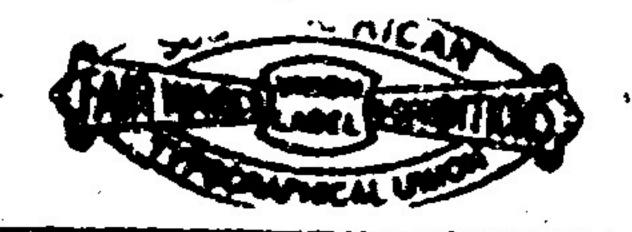
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

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Lenin on Creswell.

on 12th January last Lenin wrote a letter the workers of Europe and America conmining some useful comments on the tactical problems of the working class movement of the lay.

After showing up the 1889-1914 "Second International," and especially the Socialist lingoes of Germany, fraternisers with the German imperialist robber gang and its Wilhelm II., coupled with the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries of Russia, the Scheidemanns and Snedekums in Germany, the Renaudels in France, the Hendersons and Webbs in England' and the Gompers and Co. in America, cowardly petty traders, stuffed to the brim with the prejudices of hourgeois democracy, who but yesterday defended 'their' imperials: governments and to-day manage to rise lo a platonic protest against military interrention in Russia," he says that events in Mermany confirm that "the historic promulkanon of the question is: either the rule of Soviets or bourgeois parliamentarism" fremember that we have not got even the latter in South Arrica, where five out of seven millions of people, including the bulk of the workers, are voteless and unrepresented in Parliament), and proceeds:-

Parliamentolatry.

In our day every State, even that of the most democratic republic, is merely a tool in the hands of one class for the purpose of oppressing all the others. The proletarian state is the tool for the suppression of the bourgeoisie. Such suppression is unavoidable because of the wild, desperate, and unscrupulous resistance that manifests itself among land owners and capitalists, among the entire bourgeoisie and its hangers-on, among exploiters of whatever calibre, as soon as their overthrow begins, as soon as the expropriation of the expropriators begins to operate.

So long as capitalist property and capitalist. power find protection, a bourgeois parliament, even the most democratic in the most democratic republic, will be an instrument for he oppression of millions of workers by a 'uall group of exploiters. Socialists who are ruggling for working class emancipation must use these bourgeois parliaments as a trimunal, as their foundation for propaganda, agitation and organisation, so long as the ruggle is conducted within the boundaries of the bourgeois social order. But whenever istory has placed on the order of the day the question of the complete destruction of the system, the question of smashing and suppressing the exploiters, the question of the transformation from capitalism to Socialism at such a time to bother with bourgeois parliamentarism and bourgeois democracy, to picture to ourselves the latter as acpure abstraction, to divest it of its bourgeois character and to forget that the general franruse is of use to the bourgeois State only so ong as capitalist property is being protected -all that would be a shameless betrayal of the proletariat, a desertion to its class foes, bourgeoisie, and to become a traitor and renegade.

Labour Lieutenants.

In all civinsed countries the bourgeoisie, either by means of colonial exploitation, or by means of extorting financial gains from formerly independent but weaker nations, exploits often a population much greater than that of its own country. Here lies the economic possibility for the "super profit" of the imperialist bourgeoisie. And it is a fact that the bourgeoisie utilises these super-profit;

Printing Plant Fund.

THE I.S.L.'S GREAT EFFORT.

The League has now secured the entire ground floor of the building in which its present offices are, 54, Fox Street, corner of Maclaren Street, opposite Marshall Square, for a Head Office, committee rooms and printing works, and the installing of the plant is in hand.

All this costs money.

Now therefore is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party, as they say in the typewriting exercise.

There are men of means who are members of the I.S.L. or sympathise with it, or at least know that its cause is the cause of the world's future.

Let them consider which after all is the best investment of their funds—in real estate or businesses for themselves, only to lose value as private property when the change comes, or in COMMUNIST STOCK, which will bring, not interest or profit, but life and liberty to the whole world.

Have you faith in the Revolution? Then show it in practice. Realise the futility of 'laying up treasure on earth,' and bank on the spread of the truth which is priceless.

No amount will be refused, however large nor however small: the widow's mite, the poor man's silver, the gold saved in good times all will help to build up the SOCIALIST TEM-PLE.

The need is urgent and extreme. £800 MUST BE FOUND AT ONCE.

The promised certificates, artistically designed, are expected to be ready in a few days, to bear permanent witness of what each man or woman has donated to this exhibarating Socialist enterprise.

Seize the chance. GIVE CONFIDENTLY, GIVE LIBERALLY, GIVE NOW.

proletariat in order to transform them into a reformistic, opportunistic petty bourgeois element that is afraid of the revolution.

And their Decds.

(Here follows a reference to the murder of Liebknecht and Luxemburg by Scheidemann's and Ebert's White Guard, and the travesty of a judicial enquiry into it.) During the summer of 1917, we, in Russia, lived through the "July days" when our Scheidemanns, the Mensheviki and the Social Revolutionaries, claimed for themselves the victories of the white guards over the Bolsheviki. They called it a victory of law and order when the Cassacks lynched the working man Veinoff in Petrograd for having distributed Bolshevist proclamations. We know by experience how quickly such victories of the bourgeoisie and its slaves cure the masses of their illusions about bourgeois democracy, general suffrage, and such things.

The Unconquerable Revolution.

Amongst the ruling bourgeois classes of the Entente a certain hesitation is noticeable. A part of these begin to realise that the process of distintegration among their troops, which were to support the white guards on their march towards the blackest of monarchism and feudal rule, has already begun, that further military meddling in Russian affairs will make necessary for a long time an army of millions and that this will be the surest way to quickly transplant the proletarian revolution into the countries of the

Entente. The example of the German troops of occupation in the Ukraine has been amply convincing. Another part adheres all the more closely to the idea of military intervention in Russia conjoined with an economic siege (Clemenceau) and the destruction of the Soviet Republic. The entire press serving the bourgeoisie, and that means the greater number of daily papers in England and France, which have been bought by the capitalists, predicts the immediate collapse of the Soviet power, depicts the terrors of hunger in Russia, and is sowing lies about the disorder and the insecurity of the Soviet administration.

The white guards, the supporters of the capitalists, supplied by the Entente with officers and war material, with money and reserve troops, cut hungry middle and north Russia off from the granaries of Siberia and the Don region. Amongst the workers of Petrograd, Moscow, Ivanoff Voznessensh, and other labour centres famine is, indeed, great. Never have the masses of the workers suffered such deep misery, never have they borne such terrible woe of hunger as is caused by the military intervention of the Entente, an intervention which skulks behind the hypocritical declaration; that it does not "use its own troops," notwithstanding the fact that it contributes mercenaries, material, money and officers. The masses would be unable to endure such misery did they not understand that what is at stake is the defence of Socialism in Russia and in the rest of the world.

Without a doubt, the exploiters still have power to murder or lynch the noblest leaders of the world revolution, to multiply the sufferings and trials of the workers in the occupied or conquered territories, but all the exploiters of the entire world do not possess enough power to overcome the world revolution of the proletariat destined to free human society from the yoke of capital, to emancipate mankind and to relieve it of the external menace of new and inevitable imperialist wary in the interests of capitalism.

(Perhaps we shall yet see Mr. Creswell, under an inexorable sense of duty to the Parliamentary State and Empire, and though it may "hurt me more than it hurts you," training the machine gun, like any Botha or Smuts, on the International Socialists. Ed.)

Referring to the anti-negro pogroms in the London Dock area, the "Workers' Droad-nought" says:

England? If so, do you not think that blacks might justly ask that the British should at the same time keep out of the black people's countries? Do you not know that the capitalists, and especially the British capitalists, have seized by force of arms the countries inhabited by black people, and are ruling those countries and the black inhabitants for their own profit?"

(In fact, as stated in the Contemporary Review." Article on South Africa, the British Empire is a coloured empire, 350 million out of its 430 million inhabitants being coloured.)

"Do you know that in Ireland to-day you may see some blacks in khaki amongst the British soldiers, and that these may be used against the Irish people?"

Similarly Oliver Madox Huesser in the "Daily Chronicle" of May 30 reports that black troops form part of the French army of occupation in Rhenish Prussia.

No thought there of MacFie's condemnation in the tar and feather case of "the public degradation of a white man which migh have an appreciable influence on the nativeminds." In short, a Brummer should not be thus humiliated, but a Sinn Feiner, a Humor a Socialist—what ho!

The 'Firm-and-Just' Policy.

The account in the "Natal Mercury" of the recent S.A.R. native workers' strike at Durban is, so typical of the (to put it at the mildest) sabre-rattling basis of labour exploitation in this country that it may well be reprinted without comment, save that the demand was probably for an increase not "of" but "to" 4s. 6d. a day, and that it was not even necessary in this instance to invite or allow the unfortunate labourers to "lay their grievances before a benevolent Government" resulting in the usual Commission report turning down their main demands. We challenge the master class to describe the "constitutional method" calculated to secure that improvement in the native standard of living which they always favour on platforms.

Tuesday, when the natives ceased work in the shops, they proceeded to the Native Labour Office of the Railway in a body of some 500 and demanded an increase of 4s. 6d. per day over their present wages. They refused to return to work unless an assurance was given that their demand would be met forth-

In the afternoon, Mr. Carr, accompanied by Mr. Marwick, manager of the Municipal Native Department, met a deputation of 13 natives. They represented their case, complaining that the cost of boots and clothing had risen to such a price that they required an increase in order to meet these conditions. They also complained that they were now compelled to pay hut tax of 5s. per year.

Mr. Carr patiently explained to the deputation that the conditions to which they referred were the result of the past four years of war which was now over, and that the soldiers were returning which would mean that soarcity of clothes, etc., would gradually disappear, and prices would decrease in the course of time. He pointed out that the men had been given an increase of 5s. per month since the war began, that they had in addition been given extra rations for which the Administration, paid; that they were housed free, and that compared with the contingencies Euro-e pean people had had to meet the natives had been very well treated. With regard to their demand he told them that it was preposterous; he reminded them of the contracts they had entered into with the Railway, and of their position under the law if they persisted in the action they had taken at mid-day. . . . He warned them of the penalties for intimidation. . .

Mr. Carr and Mr. Marwick attended the compound in the evening and addressed several hundreds of natives there assembled. The whole position was explained to them again in detail. Several of the audience insisted upon their demand. When Mr. Carr and Mr. Marwick lest the meeting there were signs of dissatisfaction. Mr. Marwick had interpreted the position clearly and fully to the men. They were told that if they desired they could take the matter before the Chief Magistrate, either privately or with Mr. Carr present. They said they were afraid of being locked up. Assurance was given them that. they would neither be locked up nor anything deducted from their wages for the time lost. Mr. Carr was anxious that they should fully understand the position. The natives asked that the matter should be represented to Pretoria. It is understood that the natives continued their meeting after Mr. Carr and Mr. Marwick had left.

At 6.30 yesterday morning, CERTAIN AR-RANGEMENTS HAVING BEEN MADE OVERNIGHT WITH THE BOROUGH POLICE AND THE S.A. MOUNTED RIFLES (whose chief raison d'etre seems to be native strike breaking.—Ed.), Mr. Carr, accompanied by Mr. Marwick and Mr. McCarthy, Superintendent of the Water Police, proceeded to the workshops outside which the natives had again congregated.

Another discussion took place in which it was represented to the men that their demand could not be entertained and that if they were dissatisfied their only course was to return to work and give notice to leave

in the ordinary way. They were again warned of the possible consequences of intimida-

There was a strong force of European and native police present on the railway premises and Mr. Carr assumed a firm attitude from which the natives saw that their demand would not succeed.

At nine o'clock Mr. Percy Chief Magistrate, who had expressed a desire to address the men, arrived, and he briefly put the position before the crowd from a legal point of view. Having spoken to the natives, he said that those who wished to return to work could move to the right, and those who still desired not to work could move to the lest. There was an immediate move on the part of a small group of natives towards the workshops, but one or two, brandishing sticks, followed them and endeavoured to persuade them not to return to work. The native police were called upon to arrest these men and there was a brief scene of resistance. The whole of the natives, however, with the exception of about a dozen, gradually found their way back to work, those who were arrested being taken to the Police Court. They were severely reprimanded by the Chief Magistrate and discharged, heing sent back to work.

At lunch time a number of mounted police paraded round the rallway premises along Ordnance Road, and there was no further trouble. The authorities dealt with the matter in a most judicious manner, being prepared for emergencies. The taot with which the situation was handled, however, averted anything in the nature of serious trouble, and those who deal with the matter are to be commended upon the firm and reasonable course adopted.

The papers are busy as usual with "indications that the natives had been agitated by a certain section of Europeans"—as if it were something secret and to be ashamed of. What the I.S.L. is ashamed of is rather that it does not deserve the soft impeachment; the combustion was evidently spontaneous. It was also evidently police-fanned, to judge from the "People Say" column of "The Latest" (Durban):—

"The European railway employees felt like taking a hand in the game at the unnecessarily brutal manner in which the Water Pelice handled the strikers."

Nothing, Stable.

The paid mercenaries of capitalism, in their efforts to pervert the egoism of the wage slaves of our present system, whilst admitting the instability of everything in nature, have always held before the working class a rosy picture of the stability of capitalist class society. They will expatiate on its supposed virtues, and gloss over the glaring anomaly that a parasitical minority has the power to order the lives of a majority (who produce everything necessary to society) in such fashion as to give them a mere subsistence whilst reserving to itself an everincreasing quantity of the product of their labour.

The Socialists of the Marxian School have persistently pointed out the instability of human societies. We have repeatedly stated from the platform and in our press that this war would bring about the collapse of capitalism.

These statements have been verified by many writers in those magazines and newspapers not readily accessible to the working class but published for middle class consumption, and in published speeches of leading public men and politicians. The latest is an extract from a speech delivered by Lord Robert Cecil.

Our prediction of the early passing of our present phase of civilisation, or more correctly, our dog-eat-dog system of greed and grab, was denied by the hirelings of the system; and the mass of the working class became warped by the capitalist social superstructure, giving them the mental kinks that accept any and every statement, no matter how contradicory, dished up for their consumption by the scribes of the capitalist class.

The Roman citizen was hard to convince that such a social structure as the Roman Empire would pass away. Yet pass away did, in spite of the stremuous efforts of the ruling class to stay its downfall. By feeding the free-born citizens, by circus displays and by other barbaric methods they endeavenied to preserve the economic conditions that gave them social power; but in vain. So to-day we see every imaginable effort being made to continue our present system of exploitation. victory processions, pageants and balls, sports and illuminations, from boufires of the common or garden variety to scientific decorative electrical displays (very often advertising the more or less shoddy commodities of the patriotic individual)—vain efforts to show up the decrepit and-hollow system that tottering to its downfall.

The Roman Empire required the barbaric tribes surrounding it to give the unstable edifice the final push that brought about its debacle and ended chattel slavery. No external force is needed to end the present system of wage slavery. By the nature of it. economic basis and the development of the economic forces it has produced within itself the germ of its own destruction. In the course of its development it has evolved a class of propertiless wage slaves, who in the mass have been denied any participation in the culture of civilisation, whose lot has been suffering and wretchedness, whose portion has been a hare subsistence in return for producing the wealth of the world.

Our prediction of the collapse of this sytem has been justified. No matter what pair of the world we look to to-day we see chaos. Thus we see banking houses in their selfish interests as profit-producing concerns refusing credit to industrial and commercial capitalists and then again taking advantage of the conditions prevailing to reap their share of the plunder in profits; coal magnates raising prices which will handicap the industrial capitalists in competition in the world's markets; gold mining capitalists begging subsidies from governments to continue gold production at a profit to themselves; a rising cost of living leading to demands for higher wages which are not given, the excuse being "the economic limit has been reached"; conlusion on every side; the only bright feature being the awakening consciousness of the working class. Slowly but surely are the. masses awakening to a consciousness of their historic mission. Propertiless in a system to which their labour was necessary and essential, they are beginning to ask questions as to the why and wherefore of such an anom. aly. Such questions the hirelings of the capitalist class are making strenuous efforts to answer in the way peculiar to these prostitutes, telling half-truths and distortions in the interest of their economic masters.

The late war has shown the incompetence of the ruling class as the executive of the capitalist. It has condemned capitalism and shown the bankrupt nature of the system. Capitalism with wage slavery is doomed. The workers are gradually taking the value of the system as barren and wanting to them. The psychology is gradually being created that will impel the workers to perform the last rites and ceremonies to a society which, no matter how amended, cannot give the assurance of life to every unit and continue giving profits to a section.

J.M.G.

The Labour Town Councillors who, in obvious alarm for their votes at next election, have been cutting such despicable figures running away from their Botha-Smuts resolution, might take note that, according to the "Call," Labour representatives on local bodies and municipalities all over Britain are repudiating the peace terms, and in particular, the Labour Group on the London County Council have decided to take no part in the Peace celebrations being organised by the Council.

Small proprietors plead against the Socialisation of houses. Socialism will make a point of securing the best available housing for all, not depriving people of it, but using all unused accommodation meanwhile. And why not? If the War Office can billet soldiers at your house, why may not the Governments of Russia and Hungary quarter working men there?

From A Moscow Diary.

(By Arthur Ransome in the "New Statesman.").

February 22nd.

This morning I drove to the Dielovoi Dvor, the big house on the Varvarskaya Square which is occupied by the central organisation of the textile industry. The head of this organisation is Nogin, an extremely capable, energetic Russian.

The "Centro-Textile" is the actual centre of the economic life of Russia, because, since textiles are the chief materials of exchange between the towns and the villages, on its success depends the prosperity of everything else. The textile industry is, in any case, the most important of all Russian industries. Before the war it employed 500,000 workmen, and Nogin said that in spite of the disorganisation of the war and of the revolution 400,000 are employed to-day.

In the old days a roll of material might have gone through one process at Jaroslav, another at Moscow and a third at Tula, and finally come back to Jaroslav to be finished, simply because the different factories which worked upon it, though widely scattered, happened to be under one control. Nationalisation has made possible the rational regrouping of factories so that the complete process is carried out in one place, consequently saving transport. There are twenty-three complete groups of this kind and in the textile industry generally about fifty groups in all.

There has been a similar concentration of control. In the old days there were hundreds of different competitive firms with their buildings and offices in Ilyinka, Varvarka and Nikolskaya. The Chinese town was a mass of little offices of different textile firms. The whole of that mass of struggling competitive units of direction had now been concentrated in the house in which we were talking. The control of the workers had been carried through in such a way that the technical experts had proper weight. There were periodical conferences of elected representatives of all the factories, and Nogin helieved that the system of combined elective workmen's and appointed experts' representation could hardly be improved upon.

Nationalisation had had the effect of standardising the output. Formerly an infinite variety of slightly different stuffs were produced, the variations being often merely for the sake of being different in the competitive trade. Useless varieties had now been done away with, with the result of greater economy in production.

Here, as in other things, the isolation of the revolution had the effect of teaching the Russians that they were less dependent upon the outside world than they had been in the habit of supposing. He asked me if I knew it had been considered impossible to combine Hax and cotton in such a way that the mixture could be worked in machines intended for cotton only. They had an infinite supply of flax, much of which in the old days had been exported. Investigations carried on for the Centro-Textile by two professors, the brothors Chilikin, had ended in the discovery of three different processes for the cottonising of · flax in such a way that they could now mix not only a small percentage of their flax with cotton and use the old machines, but were actually using 50 per cent. flax and had already produced material experimentally with as much as 75 per cent.

I asked about the fate of the old textile manufacturers and was told that though many had gone abroad many were working in the nationalised factories. The engineering staff, which mostly struck work at the beginning of the revolution, had almost without exception returned, the younger engineers in particular realising the new possibilities opening before the industry, the continual need of new improvements, and the immediate welcome given to originality of any kind.

After leaving Rykov I went to see Krestinsky, the Commissar of Finance. In connection with the Extraordinary Tax on Property, he admitted that capitalism and profiteering were

hard things to root out, saying that they had great difficulty in getting at what he called "the new bourgeoisie," namely, the speculators who have made fortunes since the revolution by selling scarce food products at fantastic prices. It was difficult to tax them because they carried on their operations secretly and it was next to impossible to find out who they were. They did not bank their money, and though an attempt had been made to get at them through the house-committees, it was found that even these committees were unable to detect them. They will, however, be made to disgorge their illgotten gains when the measure first proposed by Sokolnikov last summer is put into practice. This is a general exchange of new money for old, after which the old will be declared invalid. "Of course," said Krestinsky, "they will cheat in every possible way, scattering out the money amongst a number of friends and relations. But something will have to be done in cleaning them up, and that process will be completed by a second exchange of money later on."

They did not expect the notes of the first exchange to circulate abroad, but the notes of the second would carry with them State obligations and they expected them to go into general courrency. He added, smiling, that the words "Proletariat of all Lands, units," were to appear on the notes in 8 languages.

Speaking of the recent visit of a Ukrainian Mission to London to secure military action by the Allies against the Russian Government. the "S.A. Review" says: "The section of the Ukrainian people(that is, the wealthy section) represented by the Mission, were always pro-German, and were the first in the Russian Empire to go over entirely to Germany (this was before the Lenin regime began)..." and the "Review" publishes a photograph of Storopadski conversing with the Kaiser. "What becomes then of the repeated asseverations in the Big Finance press that in attacking the Russian Government the Allies are protecting the elements that assisted them during the war'?'

No Revolution ever rises above the intellectual level of those who make it, and little is gained when one false notion supplants another. But we must some day, at last and for ever, cross the line between Nonsense and Common Sense. And on that day we shall pass from Class Paternalism, originally derived from fetish fiction in times of universal ignorance, to Human Brotherhood in accordance with the nature of things and our growing knowledge of it; from Political Government to Industrial Administration; from Competition in Individualism to Individuality in Co-operation; from War and Despotism, in any form, to Peace and Liberty.—Carlyle.

Governments are instituted amongst menderiving their just powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles and organising its powers in such forms as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.—American Declaration of Independence.

This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Wherever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it.—President Lincoln.

The capitalist class perceives correctly that all the weapons which it forged against feudalism turn their edges against itself; that all the means of education which it brought forth rebel against its own civilisation.

It understands that all its so-called citizens' rights and progressive organs assail and menace its class rule, both in its social foundation and political superstructure.—Marx.

The working-class cannot simply lay hold of the ready made State machinery and wield it for its own purposes.—Marx.

Emancipation.

(Tune of "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the Boys.")
There's a cry rings round the world,
There's a crimson flag unfurled,
Bearing tidings of good hope and peace to all,
In every land 'tis heard
And each human heart is stirred
'Gainst the tyranny that doth the world en-

Chorus:

thral.

Sons of Africa, arise ye
Live no longer as the slave,
Underneath the banner red, swear no enemy
to dread.

Till from greed and graft our sunny land we save.

From the broad Zambesi's roar,
To Agulhas' rocky shore,
Fling the message far and wide throughout
the land
Yes "all one people we!"

But that people must be free,
From the cunning, cruel, greedy, grafting
Band.

Whether black or brown or white With one heart we all unite, And its blood streams red proclaim our brotherhood,

High to heaven our hands we raise, And we warn our enemies, We'll redeem the days of evil, bread for blood.

By the burdens that we bear,
By the sorrows that we share,
By our Martyred dead, whose blood has
stained our soil,
We pledge ourselves to stand,
And redeem our sunny land,

From the tyrant hands of those who do not toil.

MAC.

Writing in the "Isvestia," Tchitcherine, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Soviet Republic, says, apropos of the Peace Treaty:—

Concerning the questions of conscription and disarmament, the solution offered by the Ruling Class is a new manoeuvre meant to strengthen the power of capital. Conscription has prepared the working masses for the Revolution. The workers have made use of the weapons that were put in their hands to threaten their masters. The Ruling Class, therefore, desires to go back to the system of a voluntary army, and to replace the huge armies, drawn from the mass of the people, by a system of "White Guards."

As put forward and conceived by the Versailles Treaty, disarmament is a further proof of the desire of the master class, not only to keep up divisions between peoples, but also to make more sure and more violent its present detestable rule.

The British "National Party" has sent out an appeal in the name of Lord Ampthill, General Page Croft and Lord Leconfield for funds "to counter the growing Bolshevik movement in this country." They say: "If sufficient donations are forthcoming, we can see our way to engage some thirty first-class working-men speakers, who could carry on a continuous campaign. . . To employ one of these speakers for a year would cost £300, and we should be very grateful if you could assist us to provide one speaker or make a contribution towards the expenses."

The Industrial Workers of Africa, the native workers' organisation round which the prosecution of several I.S.L. members and native leaders turned last year, has weathered that shock, and in addition to enrolling fresh members here has been organising at Cape Town, where with the assistance, it would appear from the dodger, of the Industrial Socialist League, it held a meeting for native workers on the 10th inst. It is having to combat abysmal ignorance on the part of many, and is of course being dogged as here by detectives, but quiet propaganda is being made, and further meetings addressed by well-known native labour leaders are planned.

The World Industrial Situation.

An important meeting was held on Wednesday at the Selborne Hall, Johannesburg (more working class meeting places being still considered barred by mob law): as important, that is, for Socialism, as any South African propaganda meeting for semi-middle-class whites can be. For such they seemed to be, the many new faces, though for that matter a couple of non-Europeans sustained the proletariat principle, resulting in one man leaving in dudgeon because he had "thought it was a white man's meeting." The question has to be gonstantly considered afresh how far the economic standing of such audiences vincapacitates them from taking the proletarian viewpoint. But the, "calinness" of the meeting which disconcerts the "Mail" shows that that viewpoint cannot be combatted by words or arguments, nor, in the long run, even

by bludgeons. W. H. Andrews, dealing with the admitted "last state worse than the first" of the world, conquering or conquered, as the result of war under the profit system—the most awful spectacle in history, as Smuts said-réviewed some proposed remedies. Appeals to the possessing class to do their duty by the dispossessed are of course jutile: they understand only the converse process, patriotism for them means "profiteering as usual." Mr. Creswell says "give me 15 or 20 Labour Party M.L.A.'s, not a bloody revolution "-after oceans of bloodshed for the capitalists! The same canting party, too, that can't stand up against the daily papers and would now like to welcome the blood-shedders of Commissioner Street after all, with elections near! The "Mail" and Workers Educational Association professors say "Produce more," when production has been increased past belief, and overproduction is in fact at the root of. our troubles! Socialism insists on the recognition, not the concealment these others practise, of the sleepless class struggle between owner and worker, and the necessity of sweeping such a system away if slavery is not to be aggravated. Chamber of Mines patriotism does not employ one white soldier where a black man is cheaper. The Southern States of America are having to organise whites and blacke alongside one another. Still more in Africa, if raco persists in struggling against race, the future must lie with the overwhelming majority. Capitalism pits black against white, women against men, children against adults, unskilled against skilled, and vice versa, to the detriment of both, unless the workers insist on uniting despite such "bars" of colour, sex, age and grade. / The low wage to Kaffirs is the cause of the low wage to "peor whites." Force up both, or rather, run industry for all the workers and no

sit idle all that time might mean ruin. Colin Wade said a collection to pay for the hall would have been unnecessary in Russia, where halls are free to the workers' movement. Seventy thousand school-less children. exclusive of native children, is our record in this country: but seventy thousand new schools a year in Russia! Indeed, if capitalism were not running the schools in other countries it would have collapsed before now. What we have to preach to grown-ups here ought to be being taught in schools. Leisure, so necessary a tool of administrators, is the desert of the workers alone. As for the "Labour Party," it rules Germany to-day. Creswell is our local Scheidemann, and Scheidemann is shooting down workers in every town. Either these people fail to understand the problem or they are wilfully acting for the capitalists. All such "Labour" governments must be governments of lying hypocrites. Let those who said to the War-on-Warites "we are with you after the war" join up now (unless the 23 wars since the armistice stand in the way): let them refuse to transport troops or manufacture munitions, and "produce more" useful things. The capitalists dare not take Smuts' and the "Mail's" tip—they dare not leave Russia,

others. The "Mail" suggests watching the

Russian experiment for ten years: but to

lest militant Socialism follow up their retreat; and yet they cannot kill the Socialist ideawhich in turn cannot just be tested inside a fence for ten years. As for the press, its seventh hand "news of Russia" often emanates from purchasers of cheap concessions from Kerensky. The press suppresses abundantly available information, and has never dared to criticise the Soviet constitution intelligently. It is equivocal: for instance, it is only British conscripts, not volunteers, that are being withdrawn from Russia. In both Hamburg and Buda-Pesth disturbances have been repressed by the Government: but in Hamburg the headlines say "Order restored"-by the Labour Party: in Buda-Pesth they say "Red Terror"—by the Soviet. (It will soon be a "Green Terror," for Hungary is busy producing more food per square mile than any other country in the world, with everyone working, at a "maximum wage.") Is it just sporadic strikes or discontent at delayed pensions as reported, or is not the whole world in an uproar? Now that the censorship is lifted, let the press at least try to tell some of the truth and give a clear picture of the prevailing currents everywhere. Five years ago capitalism gambled on the war to smash Socialism; later it tried in vain to stop the war, and now it is admittedly on the point of collapse. Already in 1917 the "Times!" and Sidney Webb agreed that prewar Trade Union conditions could never be restored; and now they dare not give in to even, "Labour" demands, Russia stands in the way. To-day the world is not good enough to live in. It is every patriot's duty to help burst the system which chokes all ideas; and it must be done by organised attack, for privateering only weakens the army. Do we want the disgrace of waiting until missionaries come from Russia to save us??

T. P. Tinker said he was well satisfied with the world industrial situation, while the bosses find it rotten. The so-called peace is just a veneer over the class struggle. The scope of all the strikes all over the world is largely identical—for control of production, release of political prisoners, stopping the war against Russia. Wilhelm and his ilk will be tried—but by the workers: he knows too much for the others to venture it. Rockefeller, for instance, has never been punished for pouring oil on the strikers' tents at Ludlow and burning them out: nor Asquith for Featherstone, nor Botha and Smuts for Commissioner Street--if Labour should now welcome these men, it would play the renegade to the martyrs whose graves we re-visited a fortnight ago-shame on the Railwaymen's Union for attending the welcome meeting on Monday! Victory means that jobs leave British for German shipyards, and France pays double what Germany pays in taxes: all which will hasten the revolution in France and Britain. The Red Flag recalled Cadorna and confronted Wilson in Paris and Rome. The capitalist coalition is out to strafe British workers no less than others: but the tip is given out here to placate the white workers. pro. tem. (and the S.A.I.F. is too busy being placated to attend the Amsterdam International). But taking it all round, things are moving too fast for them.

The next meeting at the Selborne Hall will be held on Wednesday, August 27th.

It was recently stated by an American officer that the U.S.A. authorities had forged Russian money. Now a German paper says the Russian Government are forging foreign bank notes. Stone-casters forward, please.

The Johannesburg Trades Hall Society is still not prepared to let its hall for I.S.L. meetings, although coloured men have met there several times recently under other auspices, and "the war is over."

How the Bourgeoisie precipitate the fall of their own system: "In every stock-job-bing swindle everyone knows that some time or other the crash must come, but everyone hopes that it may fall on the head of his neighbour, after he himself has caught the shower of gold and placed it in safety. Apres moi le deluge! (after me the deluge) is the watchword of every capitalist, and of every capitalist nation."—Karl Marx.

League Notes.

FREE SPEECH DEPENCE FUND.

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Holders of subscription lists are earnestly requested by the Management Committee to return them at the earliest possible moment with the money subscribed, as the calls on the fund are very considerable and urgent.

LITERATURE.

There has been a fair response to our suggestion that comrades should take weekly bundles of "Internationals" to sell at any convenient time and place. Our circulation has gone up accordingly. We would urge those who have not yet tried this method of propaganda to send in their orders at once and help on the good work.

The following books and pamphlets can now be obtained at the head office, C.W.O.:—
Evolution of Industry, 6d., by McLaine.
Trades Unionism at the Cross Roads, 3d., by McLaine.
McLaine.

Scientific Socialism, 6d., by Wm. Paul. Burning Question of Trades Unionism, 4d., by De Leon.

Reform or Revolution, 4d., by De Leon.
Socialism Made Easy, 6d., by Connolly.
The Workers' Revolution in Russia, Dutch, and English, 6d.

Industrial Unionism, 6d., by E. L. Pratt. Socialist Song Book, with music, 1s. 6d. Landmarks of Scientific Socialism, 6s.. Engels.

Chants of Labour, with music, In. 6d., by Ed. Carpenter.
Postage, 1d. extra.

We understand that the Johannesburg Town Council has given out a contract for leather goods to the Silverton Factory, nem. con., notwithstanding the labour conditions there as exposed in the "International," with which every Labour member, at least of the Council has or ought to have acquainted himself, including Mr. M. J. Green, who was prominent at a Leather Workers' meeting only last Monday.

The capitalist powers have never declared war on Soviet Russia because war implies a possibility of peace, and they realise that peace between Capitalism and Socialism is impossible.

The General Dealer's Business carried on by JACOB NEPPE, trading as J. NEPPE & Co., on Stands 40 and 42, Marshallstown, will be transferred to Stands 20 and 29, Marshallstown, from 1st August, 1919.

25-1-8

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