# THE INTERNATIONAL.

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## What bars the way to Peace.

#### Vested interests in War.

Business more than usual.

It does not need more than a cursory glance at the events of our time to realise the enormous vested interests that are growing in the

- institution of war in general, and in the continuance of this war in particular. Looking nearest home, here in South Africa one would hardly believe from the external aspect of our daily avocations that anything untoward was happening in the world. Business goes on as usual, better than usual in many cases. Race meetings are held and reported, and the odds and evens as keenly debated as if on them alone the fate of Empires hung. Sports, hurling matches, football matches, as usual, watched by crowds too gay and happy to indicate any fear of foes more formidable than the opposing teams, There are no heartaching tamp, tamp, tamps of wooden legs of soldiers on the pavements, no cries of children in the street orphaned by battle; no sad widows, nor sign of war worn wounded sons,—all as happy and bright as can be expected under the deviltake-the-handmost system into which we are willy nilly ushered.

Then, if conflict there is among the nations of Our happy the earth, surely it should be the supremely lot. happy lot of a people so placed to endeavour to

view the problems of such a world conflict calmly, and to view them whole. Deriving its stock from two races each having affinites with both belligerents in the war, what people so fitted as the South African to initiate a return to peace among the peoples of Europe! We have found to our sorrow here that to take sides in the conflict has ended in disastrous internal disruption. There could be no finer way of healing that breach than to combine for the healing of the vastly mightier wound in the side of humanity.

No people could exercise greater influence among the neutral nations, short of the actual belligerents, than the people of South Africa. Wise statesmanship would throw aside the anachronous quibbles of the Colonial Office; and make insistent calls upon the United States of America, as the only great state out of the conflict, to take steps for mediation and the initiation of negotiations between the combatants. A dignified people would see that while they have not thrown their last man and their last shilling, and, to he honest, do not intend to, into the conflict, the only honourable course for us, rather than ask the people of Europe to tear themselves to for our edification, is to find some way out of pieces their valley of the shadow of death.

seven thousand miles away from even the humanity. scent of danger, suggestions of the kind are met with howls of exectation. What then prevents the voice of

humanity being raised in all parts of the world against the crime The answer is plain: PROFITS!

Apart from the fact that the Press feeds on war scares, it is also the instrument of interests with which business during war is very much more than usual. The great steel and armament works of the world are in full swing. New plant is being laid down ic all countries on a scale hitherto undreamt of to cope with the insatiate demand for munitions of war. The war must not finish before there is a prospect of a return of this capital either during; the present, or by the promise of another decent war in the near future. Dividends depend on an ample prospect of death's heads for a good long distance ahead.

America has installed vast quantities of machinery America for the making of munitions for Europe. The Tied. result is seen in the increase in the American navy just decided upon. Moreover, the press of America is endeavouring to stampede the people into a war to liberate Mexico, because for sooth, people are going hungiyen the streets of that country! Every bioscope there as in all other countries is being used to inflame the military passions of the people. And calls to peace are met with as much execration in America as in Europe. America toc is tied hand and foot.

The Co-operative Societies of Britain have Profits announced upprecedented profits since the everywhere. outbreak of war. In their case these profits go back to the consumer. But it is significant of rich harvests being garnered during the continuance of the war in all spheres of commerce. From the Chinaman at the corner shop to the great wholesaler, they all have a vested interest in the bloodshed in Europe.

Three shipping firms in Britain have just announced 50 per-cent profits. Not only do they wish the war to continue, but they have powerful instruments in the press of Britain which by hypnotising the people into frenzies of hate and fear, will see that the war does continue with a vengeance. The last man is not their business; the last shilling is a long way off.

This vested interest reaches even to the Trades Unions. The Amalgamated Socity of Engineers announces that the percentage of members on sick benefit is at the unprecedentedly low figure of 1 per cent. With the best of goodwill, there is every inducement to continue the war.

In short, every channel of public intelligence The People and education is in the control of and poisoned Hypnotized. by interests which derive huge profits from the very few exceptions, the rest of the community is But no, in a sunny land like South Africa, | hypnotized by this profits-poisoned education. Although interested in the stoppage of the war, the public mind is too vitiated by profits to see the colossal insanity of it all, and too far from its ordinary sanity to adopt obvious

means of bringing it to a speedy conclusion.

Where will The element of profit making as a factor in the continuation of the war seems to grow. It rushes the world blindly on with accelerating speed. If no other factor appears than the unreasoning, insane one of divi-

dends, we see no end to the conflict until the general smash up of the profit system itself is reached.

The hope of the world. But that seems a distant prospect, with gore all the way. There is another factor that will save humanity: the International co-operation of

the working class. The anti-war section of the German Socialists is gathering strength with a fine disregard for the shortcomings of the Socialist parties of other countries. The attitude of the Independent Labour Party, as indicated in our news notes, is likewise gaining ground among the British Trade Unions. The Italian Socialists are solid for the International. Here in our little corner of the globe we are doing our duty to them. When the Elections are over, and that vested interest in blood vanishes, the Imperialist opposition to us will assume its true proportions and decline, while we can confidently look forward to a growing sense among Labour men of the reality of International Socialism as the only hope of the world in its present dark hour.

## The International Movement.

Comrades J. A. Clark and A. F. Crisp kept the Market Square meeting going last Sunday afternoon, under the auspices of the International Socialist League. There is a welcome addition to the speakers list as a result of the formation of the "International." And these new speakers were listened to with keen interest.

and Clark ad-Comrades Andrews dressed a large gathering of close on a thousnd people in front of the Town Hall in the evening. Comrade Dunbar in his usual adroit fashion acted as chairman. There was a change from the usual egg. throwing tactics. Interruptions were to be expected. But the hulk of the audience listened appreciatively. The ever new and fascinating message of Internationalism and the class struggle were dwelt on by both speakers. As showing the complete diversity of interests between the exploiting and working class in all countries, Andrews referred to the proposed imposition of an idemnity on Germany. This would be all very fine for the ruling classes of Britain. But that Indemnity would have to be paid in goods. This would keep the German workers busy. But the British workmen would bethrown out of work. The Red Flag was sung warmly at the close. A counter attempt at Rule Britinania getting stuck somewhere about the word .. "slaves."

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Rosa Luxemborg was sent to prison by the German authorities some time ago. after the first issue of a magazine which she started with the brilliant journalist Franz Mehring. The name of the magazine was ' the International." The first issue was suppressed by the Censor. In an article appearing in that issue we find corroboration of all that we have maintained in the pamphet on The Labour Party's duty on the War. We said then, that "the Labour or democratic principle and the Imperialist principle cannot subsist in the one policy. The answers to these questions are mevitably those of Imperialism versus Stellalism."

What does Rosa Luxemborg say in

Germany:--

in history. Socialism or Imperialism—this is the alternative which summed up the political life of the various Labour parties of the world during the past decade. With the outbreak of war the word became flesh: the alternative changed from a historical tendency to a political situation. Face to face with this alternative as a fact the social democracy, which had been the first to recognise it and bring it to the conciousness of the working class, struck its sails and without a struggle conceded victory to Imperialism."

O O

With great irony Rosa Luxemborg castigates the "see it through" party of her own community in the following words:-'In plain language this means: The proletariat has not one sundamental principle as scientific socialism heretofore maintained, but two, one for peace, and another for war. In time of peace, we are tossuppose, the workers are to take cognizance of the class-struggle within the nation and of international solidarity in relation to other countries; in time of war, on the other hand, class-solidarity becomes the dominant feature of International affairs and the struggle against the workers of other countries dominates the proletarian view of foreign relations.

To the great historic appeal of the communist manifesto is added an important amendment and it reads now according to Kautsky's revision: 'Workers of all lands unite in peace and cut one anothers throats in war!' Today, 'Down with the Russians and French!'

To-morrow, "We are brothers all!" For, as Kautsky says in Die Neue Zeit, the International is 'essentially an instrument of peace,' but 'no effective agent in war."

**O** O

She has since been justified in her criticism. For Kautsky, Bernstein, and many other famous German leaders who at first condoned the "see it through" policy have since come over to the anti-war side.

More than that, the pro-war party it-

selt is travelling towards a saner attitude than any other "see it through" socialist party.

The enlightened character of even the pro-war majority of the Social Democrats comes out in a recent demand made by them to the German Government. This document urges on their Government to give up all ideas of Conquest in the prosecution of the war. Only thus can peace become possible, they say,—

"The propaganda in favour of the annexation schemes has already, as with the lashes of a whip, roused Germany's opponents to continue the struggle, and it contributes in a fatal way to the prolongation of the war. We know ourselves that the annexation plans announced in the hostile States have likewise increased our strength of resistance."

This is the German "see it through" Party. We appealed in vain for a crumb of this saving enlightenment from the Creswellian Party here.

There are indications, says "Forward," of a definite split in the Social Democrats of Germany on the war question. The situation among the Greek socialists is uncertain. There have been expulsions, but it is not clear which side is in the majority. In the Italian Socialist party, so strong is the International Socialist majority, that they were able to expel 45 prominent pro-war members recently.

There are several officials of Trades Unions heart and soul with the principles of the League, but dare not express themselves openly. We have wage slavery within the Trades Union movement. Trades Unionism in South Africa is a living illustration of Tolstoy's aphorism that to conquer violence by violence only substitutes one tyranny for another. There will be no case against Corner House victimization after this.

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## How to write leading Articles and London letters.

By F. J. N.

As there are a mumber of young men leaving our elemenary schools who have passed the Fifth Standard with credit to themselves and now wish to earn a living and it the same time make a mark in the world, we suggest Jingo journalism as a good opening for their falents. It may seem a difficult task to write an average leading article, but we can assure them that judging by the sp.ci un we read day after day it is by no means so difficult as it looks. Given a fount::in pen and a spelling book, the flimsies as they come in from the cable agencies, and a faculty for what we may call "expansive paraphase", there should be no great expenditure of brain power involved in concucting a leading article that will command the approbation of the average office boy as he rides to town in the suburban train. A gift of prophecy is also a good thing to have. You cannot make mistakes in this direction, for nobody cares what you said three weeks ago. It your prohecy was wrong your readers forget it. If it happened to be right you take care that they do not. With this equipment there should be no diffic... y in r. ling off columns of stuff such as the following:—

THE SITUATION IN EUROPE

The cable news now arriving does not throw any lurid light upon the situation but this silence is in itself significant as it suggests that there is more going on in the

background than we wot of. It is evident that the present strain cannot be kept up for long and when the preparations of the Allies are complete something is bound to happen. It is too early yet to say whether the Russian offensive is strengthening or the German offensive is weakening, but one or the other will be apparent shortly and the whole aspect of affairs will then be changed. Which side will have the advantage time alone will tell, but Lord Kitchener's grim silence on this point leads us to hope for the best. But whatever happens we must set our teeth with the stern determination to see it through, as civilization in Europe, indeed in the whole civilized world depends upon our efforts in this direction. Some military writers display a tendercy to make light of the Russian reserves and to think that the German effort in the east has attained its apogee. [By the way, if you can sling a word like "apogee" in once every ten lines, you will acquire a reputation for profound learning -for few people will check you by a reference to the dictionary]. This must not be too rashly assumed as a cautious and candid consideration of the situation leads to the conclusion that Germany may have resources which have not yet become apparent and which may give a totally different aspect to this kaleidoscopic war. Nothing they can do however will prevent the results of the continued attrition becoming evident at an early date, and if the war is not concluded before the winter sets in it will be continued into the spring with disastrous results.

On the other side of the Atlantic America continues to sit on the fence not-withstanding the provocation she has received. Public opinion in the States is

however slowly hardening and when the process is complete it will bode ill for the Kaiser and his advisers, What form American action will take it is not clear at present, though it will become more and more so as time goes by. Roumania's attitude remains somewhat obscure, but there is no reason to doubt her final decision. Greece appears to be allowing . her unique chance to slip by. It will never return and she has only herself to blame if she has no voice in the final settlement. On the whole then, and taking all these considerations into account the situation is distinctly brighter than when we commenced to write this article. It is remarkable how applied and profound thinking will eviscerate the points of a difficult situation, we leel confident that the Rubicon has been passed and that the allied arms are now on their way to that victory which will for ever free the world from the risk of entering upon such another conflagration as that through which we are passing at present.

**9 0 9** 

That's the way it's done—you may call it Parvum in Multo. It cannot be difficult to do judging by the number of young men in all parts of the world who are getting a living by it.

None so blind as those who will not see. Labour men are still harping on the deportations. Is the war right and just? Is it right that millions of the working class should be slaughtered? Then all that Smuts has done in South Africa is right. You cannot gather votes from the million martyrs in Europe and from Smut's martyrs in South Africa as well.

## The Two John Wares.

ohn Ware appeals for a hearing for Sir Thomas Smartt, a his row dy meeting. After the Mayfair Meeting, when Andews and Clarke were howled down, he complimented the rowdies, and said You've done very well boys"!!!

#### DO IT NOW.

If you feel that we are doing the work that matters fill in this form and send your subscription to "The International" and to the lunds of the League. Have you friends who should read "The International"? Send us a list of their names and addresses.

To the Secretary, International Socialist League, Box 4179, Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,—
Enclosed find my subscription, 5s., for one year, post free, to "The International." Also a donation of £: s. d. to the funds of the League.

Name

Full Address

## To the last man.

To the last man and to the last shilling,
We'll see it through,—if talk counts for anything,
To the last shilling and to the last man
We'll smash the Germans,—if blatherskyte can.

Many a last man and many a last shilling
Will pay the blood price of my seat,—THEY'RE willing.
And many a wisie's lost goodman,—well dammit,
I can't let four hundred a year go forfeit.

Half my employes are killed or are killing,
The rest have remained to pay the last shilling.

My wife's brother's cousin is in the Contingent.—
I think I should be a mimber of Parliment.

To the last man and to the last shilling;
Thirty nine men out of forty eight—missing.
Labour's Lost Legion to die for their country went.
NOW will you make me a mimber of Parliment!

Parliment, Parliment, Profits and Press;
Politics, Parsons, it pays them well; Yes,
For THESE must men die, and Comrades go killing
To the last man and to the last shilling.

M.H.F.

## Andrews to be Expelled.

There seems to be no sanctuary lest from the persecution of the Labour Party. Comrade Andrews has received a letter from the Party secretary informing him that at the next meeting of their Administrative Council the matter of his expulsion from the Party will be under consideration and giving him an opportunity of being heard in his defence.

Andrews resigned from the Party a month ago, prior to announcing his intention of pursuing his Candidature for the Georgetown Division. He has replied to the Executive expressing surprise at their action in challenging his right as a citizen of the Union to stand for Parliament; and advising them, "before engaging in the excommunication business to read the Jackdaw of Rheims."

Old friendships and comradeship in the cause are maudlin things now for the Labour Party managers compared with the necessity of putting themselves right with the "Star" reading public.

## South African Peace

A South African Peace and Arbitration Society has been formed in the Cape. The aim of the Society as defined in its Constitution shall be

"to educate public opinion into the acceptance of the principle that war and the consequent destruction of human life is a barbarous method of settling disputes between nations and to enthrone in place thereof the idea that personal service in the desence, preservation and strengtening of human life, as something sacred and divine, is essential to a right use of life and to a proper conception of our personal, social, political and international relationships.".

'A long list of "objects" follow,—International Courts, abolition of secret treaties, reduction of armaments, League of Peace, opposition to compulsory military

service etc. We hope that the enlightened sponsers of this society will graduate from desiring reason and fraternity supreme in international relations; to desiring reason and fraternity suprême in the internal conditions of a country, If they are logical, they will soon rebel against the System which sets profits above humanity. Perhaps then they will discover that the abofition of that system is the key to all the rest of their aims.

We are told that when Jehovah created the world he saw that it was good. What would he say now?

## Georgetown Notes.

The Wit. Deep Recreation Committee has refused to allow Comrade Andrews the use of the Recreation Hall for an election meeting. Other candidates are not barred.

After delaying a couple of weeks the Knights Central has imposed £50 deposit as the terms on which they will allow the Mine Recreation Hall to Andrews, and Knights Central require £25. The only mine in the Division which has lent its Hall unconditionally to Andrews is the Witwatersrand. The Dutch Church also refuses to let the Goede Hoop Zaal; so to the public and those comrades who are asking why Andrews is not addressing more meetings the following facts may be interesting.

The only hall in Georgetown proper, the Eendracht Zaal, is refused to our candidate. The Wit. Deep also refused to let its recreation room.

Knights Deep requires £25 deposit. Knights Central goes one better and demands £50.

The only Hall let unconditionally is the Witwatersrand, where the meeting was held last Wednesday.

It is evidently intended to force our speakers into the open air, where it is easier for cowardly Jingoes to throw abuse and missiles.

7.44

What is War? Was the question recently put to the sculptors of New York. Only one of the hundred and fifty pieces sent in as a response to the question glorified battle. A large number depicted woman's suffering.

## The Candidates.

Comrades Andrews and Clark held a meeting on the Witwatersrand Gold Mine on Wedesday evening, Sidney van Lingen in the chair. There was a good attendance for a mine gathering: over a hundred. They gave the speakers a very fair hearing, after insisting on "God save the King" for a start. The meeting can be accounted one of the most successful, in that Andrews and Clarke were allowed to give them "some good stuff."

The Cape Labourites have issued a Manifesto pledging themselves to agitate for the franchise for all civilized men, white and coloured, throughout the Union. This Manifesto has not been endorsed by the Executive of the Party; and is against the Party constitution. As the Manifesto, will. Vrededorp: bring votes in the Cape, there is no likeli-

#### BRANCH NOTICES.

JOHANNESBURG CENTRAL BRANCH The old Commissioner Street Branch of the S.A.L.P. came together on Tuesday last to observe its own funeral obsequies and get born again as the Johannesburg Central Branch of the International Socia-'list'League. The operation was performed without a hitch. Various letters of resignation were read from pro-war members of the Branch. Also letters from the Labour Party in regard to the proposed dissolution of the Branch.

S. P. Bunting was elected chairman of the new Branch. A. Alper, vice chairman, M. I. Isaacson, Treasurer, and Tom Ward, secretary, with John Campbell as Organiser, a new office discovered and proposed by himself!

Comrades Rabb, Alper, and Clingman wêre appointed délégatés to the Delegates Meeting, and a good Executive was appointed. It was decided that the books, assets and liabilities of the old branch be faken over. With its war-on-war chairman and secretary there is no fear of the new Branch flinching from its new responsibilities.

The lady comrades of the League are organising a Cinderella Dance to be held at Prof. West's Academy, Pritchard Street, Johannesburg, on October 27th. Tickets 2/6 Refreshment's provided.

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#### BRANCH DIRECTORY.

The League has now passed the stage of General Meetings. The next job is to organise by Branches. It is every members duty to throw himself wholeheartedly into the work of the Branch that is nearest him. On that will the progress of the League depend. Here are the Branches and Secretaries to date.

#### Johannesburg Central Branch: T. W. WARD.

P. O. Box 1915.

#### Benoni Branch:

T. CHAPMAN, Box 397.

Valley Central:

P. R. ROUX, Chemist, Bezuidenhout Valley,

#### Mayfair:

J. A. CLARK,

76 Tenth Avenue.

#### Georgetown:

Ed. H. BECKER,

54 Queen Street. Germiston.

T. K. NORTJE,