THE INTERNATIONAL.

The Organ of the International Socialist League (S.A.)

Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

No. 29

FRIDAY 7 APRIL 1916.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

The Control of the Schools.

No question affects the workingclass movement more vitally than the care of the children's education. The curricula of our elementary schools today largely decide the intellectual bent of the workingclass tomorrow. The authorities know this. They are continually endeavouring to remove primary education from the influence of local movements. They are Darwinian enough to know that local initiative develops variation, "sports;" and that "sports" are the tendrils of evolution.

Thus there is a constant process towards centralizing control of the child mind, not in the School Board, not in the Municipal Council, not even in the Provincial Council, but in the Ministry of Defence. The Provincial Council has only nominal control of the schools. The Provincial Executive, which is and ever must be in the bosom of the Smutsian regime, it controls Adamson, the sole Director of your children's mental development.

Teachers Conference.

For instance, at the Teachers Conference held this week, (and by a Teachers Conference is meant for all practical purposes a Head Teachers' Conference) Mr. Adamson, the teachers' master was present. The chairman, a Pretoria schoolmaster, urged for the abolition of all School Boards on the score of expense, and for other vague reasons; again with the object of increasing the monopoly of Adamson as sole dictator of what is to be construed as education in the Transvaal.

Is Mr Adamson then such a heaven-sent expert as to merit this slavish adulation, even from Labour Provincial Councillors? No degree of expertness should justify making a mandarin of the expert. Experts are good only as servants to carry out general principles. Perusal of the proceedings of the 1914 Select Committee on education gives an impression of his expertness mainly in witholding from public gaze that wealth of constructive imagination for which an expert must have a reputation, while expertly keeping it all to himself.

The authorities seem to realize the importance of educational institutions, not so much to educate as to pervert the mind of the coming generation, The manner in which centralized control is being misused for the pollution of the mirds of the children with the debased clap-trap of jingoism has been already dwelt upon in these pages. At the Teachers Conference, Handel Thompson read a paper on "Patriotism," Adamson likewise urged that every opportunity should be taken to "teach to the children the righteousness and justice of our cause" in the war. Howard Pim talked on "Courage," and found that element deified in the British Navy. School inspectors are learning that ability to make patriotic stump speeches to the children is the most important step to gain favour. Indeed, we are told that much of the school literature of the Transvaal is concocted by Handel Thompson, who is said to have the right of sale to his own Department, owing to the dearth, presumably, of English classics.

Apart from any conspiracy of central authority to train children into habits of servility, think of the dreary, jelly-mould education which is likely to flow from the ideas of one pedestalled but unimaginative collegian aided by inspectors suited to his taste. But that the conspiracy to centralize is in intention a conspiracy against enlightened methods of education is also becoming increasingly evident.

Labour and the School Boards.

There are two proposals a-foot by which this process can be combatted. One is Colin Wade's draft ordinance at present before the Provincial Council aiming at the reform of School Board electoral machinery. The vicious device of voting by post is to be abolished. The franchise to be the same as the Municipal, and the elections to be held simultaneously with the Municipal Elections.

The workingclass, in order to achieve the great work of human emancipation, is compelled to seize upon every avenue of power which controls directly or indirectly the means of emancipation. Under capitalism it is hopeless to expect an education that is not predominantly commercial in its aim. But in the School Boards we have a means, inadequate though they be, by which we may prevent this deliberate process of softening the brain of the children who are to carry on, and perhaps mainly accomplish, if rightly educated, the social revolution from capitalism to commonweal. In the School Board we have the communal unit as opposed to centralized tyranny. Given a keen interest in the School Boards by working class organisations and lovers of true education, there is nothing to prevent the usurpation of primary education by the State for its own ends being checked by joint School Board action, and diverted towards liberal and humane ideas of education.

School Boards Congress.

Primary education is getting more and more under the control of officials whose training knows only of rule and rote. Under the guize of this pedagogie rule and rote, and expert mandarinism, the children are made the sport of capitalist scheming through State control. The organisation of School Boards in a congressional body for the Rand, or with rural co-operation, is the only power that can guide the expert from Smutsian forms towards a free people's education.

Local Cash, Local Control.

Workingclass organisations would be the most potent lever to compel home rule in education say, by a Rand Council. But an immediate means of power for School Boards may be found in the second proposal referred to,—the demand for local taxation for primary education, which the agitation over inadequate school accomodation is bringing to the fore. In any case, means will be found, if the workers will realize the tremendous importance of wresting the child's young mind from the toils of the self-same serpent that also clasps the life of its father.

Send us name and address of any friend who should read "The International" to Box 4179, Joh'burg.

Call to the Native Workers.



George Mason's address in the Trades city. last Thursday on Trade Unions less in the Socialist one.

George Mason came to speak of the him in the turmoil of Labour agitation. And write. indeed, his address coruscated with flashes of tervour.

In reviewing the history of the subject, the trades here. That was his outlook on however they had discovered that the inte- taking such liberties? (laughter). rests of the white worker were bound up with those of the native. They found that they into touch with intelligent native workmen. could not stop Kleinfontein Mine without They must have a strong machine behind the native co-operation. He therefore appealed movement before whites can make direct to them, and they responded almost to a appeals to natives. But they can help with man, and the mine was stopped. Then came funds. He referred to the trial of natives the Tailor's Strike in December, when in | who had led the native strike on the Van spite of much criticism from his fellow Trade | Ryn, and said that those three leaders had meeting of whites and coloured in the Old | fought their case. When the time came he Trades Hall, at which an arrangement advantageous to both sections was secured.

Had they an organised native working if they had fought side by side with the native at that time. 'You can never stop industry in this country without organising the native."

native should be organised George summarily dealt with the stale nonsense purveyed in the Labour Movement on the native's mental capacity. The worker that is efficient for force repealed by the strength of Trade any arm of capitalist industry is doubly effi- Unionism. The same way they had made cient for Labour organisation. Coming from the Industrial Disputes Act here null and a workman in the rough and tumble of void. mine work, and dealing with native labourers kaffir was good to listen to. One had almost | effectively than anything else." a suspicion that George was a kind of Bobby Burns who allowed his dominant sense of not be wasted in arguing against the preju- the House)."

The gathering that came to listen-to his judgement as to degrees of mental capa-

But he brought arguments. Men are and the Native Question" was a unique one. | not to be judged by the amount of informa-The usual monotone of white faces in the tion they possess. Given time Oxford audience was broken by the presence of about | Education could pass a monkey through the a dozen dusky ones, representatives, more B.A. test. But a man's mental capacity must be the missionary fraud. They had told them or less, of an awakening million who may judged by the extent to which he can develop to fear God and live in peace, but behind not be ignored in the capitalist scheme, far his own faculties. And in this regard the native showed marvellous possibilities.

The founders of the British Trade Union tion insoluble. native worker as one who had discovered | Movement were men who could not read and

They were often told how great was the insight straight from the anvil of experience. directing ability which managed these mines. It was a surprize to those that were under | But the efficiency of the organisation of inthe impression that the six-men-and-a-corpo- dustry flows from the bottom upwards, not ral agitator had gone a-vegitating to find that from the top. The efficiency of the mining Mr. Sauer could not have solved the native he still burned with the old revolutionary industry rests on the efficiency of the native worker in his own sphere.

The native's mind was fresh and clear was insoluble. George Mason recalled that shortly prior to of the prejudices which from childhood bethe July 1913 strike, the Federation had cloud the mind of the white. He was cominitiated an agitation, at his own instigation, munal by instinct. Who had not seen kaffir against the coloured artisans in Johannesburg workers sitting round a pot of mealie pap. and had succeeded in ousting many from When a strange native entered the group he em incipation found an inlet into the native "tucked in" to the scoff with the rest without the native question then. In the July strike any ceremony. Who ever heard of whites discounted by the as yet unconquered colour

The lecturer urged that they should get Unionists, they had sought the co-operation | earned the gratitude of posterity. The Hewas prepared to do his utmost to organise the natives, though he were deported again.

The white workers were fed with prejuclass with them in the January Strike not dice and higher wages in order that they all the troops in creation could have beaten | should act the policeman on the native. The them. The Government-was not born that | white section of the workers were bribed by could have put them out of the country bread to keep down the native section fighting for bread.

In response to a question as to the posiwer of the native indenture laws to prevent combination among the natives, George Ma-Before proceeding to suggest how the son said that the way to abolish a law was to put it to its absolute test. The British Trade Union Movement started in spite of cruel and repressive laws, and they were per-

Referring to inter-tribal prejudice, every day, George Mason's eulogy of the said that capitalism was killing that more

when it came to a question of colour. What was needed was to get the native workers to train and organise themselves so that they could compel respect.

Most interesting contributions were made to the discussion by Comrades Dunbar, Andrews, Campbell and four or five of the natives present.

. Letanka rather humourously referred to them came the troops. Mr. Sauer on his death-bed had pronounced the native ques-

Comrade Andrews warned the natives present that the class war of rich and poor obtained among the natives as well. The wealthy native combined with the wealthy white to exploit his own race. Their business was only with the native wage earner. question had he lived to be a thousand. The same people said the poor white question

Mvataza spoke in very appreciative vein and seemed greatly impressed with the "Agitators" words. One felt sure that George Mason's militant gospel of working class heart, with consequences not to be lightly prejudice even of many Socialists.

The meeting terminated with congratulations to George Mason on his address, and an enthusiastic rendering of all three versus of the Red Flag.

The Clyde Deportations.

The Glasgow Socialist reveals the fact that the Ministry of Munitions urged that no bail be granted to Comrades Muir, Bell and of the Malay tailors, resulting in a mixed deration should have helped those men and Gallagher, who were arrested in February for publishing "The Worker." But the Crown had reckoned without the Clyde Workers Committee. Within twenty-four hours the authorities were willing to grant bail because the Clyde workers began to stop work in sympathy with the imprisoned men. By the time 15,000 men had struck work the accusedwere liberated on bail, and were expected to be tried at the Edinburgh High Courts some time in March.

> No doubt the arrests and deportations from the Clyde, with the strike of Clyde workers now in progress, is the sequel to that trial.

"Gentlemen, do you really wish that out of this slaughter, which all men have indeed deplored—(continued shouts of "Order!") should emerge as its final result a Europe forming nothing but a heap of ruins-("Quite right" from the Socialists; renewed shouts of "Order!")—drenched with tears and blood? We demand the renunciation of all plans of annexation—(assent and anproval from the Socialists)—from whatever he side they come, and in whatever shape they. are manifested. We want peace.' (The last words of the speaker were lost in the rising approval and applause of the Social Demo-Comrade Mason urged that time should crats. Great disorder in the other parts of

(Extract from speech by Herr Huise, Leider. kinship with the Universal Human to warp dice of white workers. Reason left them of the German Social Democrats in the Reichstag.)

Cannibals: A Parable,

BY JULIAN.

went to sleep with an unpleasantness in my brain and a bitterness in my mouth: I had been attending a debate of the Patrician Club on the Justifiability of Capitalism, and the result was a nightmare. Let me relate the nightmare to you as well as I am able.

The shadowy old oaks were spreading their branches in the sunshine, while men and women cat about the log-fire with a look. of pleasant anticipation on their faces. prosperous were be-ochred and be-spangled in the most fashionable style, while their poorer brethren had to content themselves with verdigrese. On a raised dais of dry moss sat the King with the Priests in servile attendance around him. In a little group near the fire lay the destined victims, a group of young men and girls, quite naked, with a look of dull resignation on their faces. One benevolent-looking old gentleman-plutocrat felt a young girl appreciatively and smacked his lips in anticipation of the feast; but next minute she was taken out of his reach, and the High Priest was just about to offer her up in the customary manner, when suddenly a young man came bounding through the meadow and, throwing the functionary to one side, stood protectingly between the girl and the festive party. It was Manoy Pittee, the · Chief's eldest son!

"Father," he gasped, turning to the sold man on the moss-throne, "how much longer" shall these abominable customs continue? How can you bear to devour your fellow-humans in this awful fashion?",

His father looked at him pityingly. The High Priest glared daggers. The benevolent gentleman-plutocrat sighed as he realized that the dinner was being interrupted.

"You are foolish, my son," said the chief, some are meant to eat, and some to The world could not otherwise be eaten. exist."

"It is the will of the Gods," added the High Priest. "These men are descended" from an ancestor who forgot to say his prayers one evening."

My good fellow, expostulated the benevolent gentleman-plutocrat. Do you wish to poison us with weeds and herbs? We shall all die of consumption if we cannot have a regular diet of human flesh," Besides," said the Economist, 'these people would have to die of starvation if we did not feed them up for the express purpose of stocking our larders with them. Do you think that they would prefer to starve then?"

It is all nonsense," said the Mofalist, 'you are simply rousing these people to dissatisfaction with a condition of life which they have become accustomed."

Manov Pittee turned to the victims, with an exhortation. Rouse yourselves against this tyranny, you poor people," he exclaimed.

"You are men and women even as they are. Show them they cannot treat you as so much provender."

A whispering ensued among the victims, while the festive-party was too dumbfounded Rome is very apt these days. What reflecting at the temerity of the chief's son to interfere.

"It is impossible," said the Pessimist. "Our forefathers have all been dished up for the Bosses. How can we ever change the Capitalists class. There was Bishop Bill customs of eternity?"

Cute One. "Perhaps if we help him to gain the chieftainship we shall be able to feed on us." And he gazed hungrily at the benevolent gentleman-plutgerat.

"No!" said Manoy Pittee imperiously. "None shall henceforth either eat men or he eaten by them."

"Huh!" grumbled the Sycophant. "He wants to deprive us of the scrapings of each other that are sometimes thrown to us by tial to the stability of Capitalism that the Prothe Bosses!"

Manov Pittee turned again from the victims to the festive party.

"Does it not go against your gore," he said, "to think of devouring human beings?"

think it is a natural human impulse which must be satisfied. No good can ever come of repressing our impulses,—it is against nature!"

At that moment a lightning-flash struck the chief, and he tumbled pell-mell from his chair.

"It is the vengeance of the Gods," said the High Priest "I put it to the vote that Manov Pittee as a penance be included in the victims to be sacrificed."

"Carried 500 to 1" said the teller. And then I awoke!

Peace hath her victories

The Australian Labour Call tells of a railway accident in Tasmania, where the engine driver shaken and bruised, saw that the boiler was so damaged that it would burst in a few seconds and thus blow up the whole train with its wrecked and wounded passengers. He would have been justified in crawling to safety to get his wounds dressed. But he its mind was emancipated. When the redid not hesitate. He crawled back to turn verenceful proletarians trampled over one on a valve of the stranded engine in a position that inevitably let the full force of the imprisoned steam on himself. The explosion was prevented, but not an inch of his body escaped the scalding steam, and driver Goodchild died an hour later.

There is only one working class. Why reformatory pinions. thousand unions? A thousand isolated efforts united into one vigorous kick would Labour Call. land the boss in—overalls.

"I saw a sergeant degraded and given two years imprisonsent because he palled up with a German Soldier"... We dont hate each other: we dont want to fight each other; we would shake hands tomorrow if it weren't for vou politicians in London and Berlin."

(What a young officer said to T. P O'Connor, I M.P.—from an article by that gent in Reynold's Newspaper, 27 February, 1916.)

Proletarian Tactics.

This striking lesson drawn by De Leon from the history of proletarian struggles in man or woman who saw the big recruiting pow-wow on the Town Hall square last Saturday did not realize the good use of the people's "reverential" posture made by the Sykes Furse, with a cross dangling on his big black apron, breathing vengeance on the "I wonder what he is getting at," stid the Huns in German East, and on the "cold feet" in Johanneshurg—holy! holy!! holy!!! thrice capitalized Father, shepherding the flock to the fleecers.— Truly despised and rejected of all consistent men.

The Proletarian Revolution is "irreverent."

Khrl Marx—the distinctive feature of whose philosophy is that it stands with its feet on earth, and is supremly practical throws out, right in the midst of an abstract economic chapter, the point, that it is essenletarian look upon the conditions surrounding him as of all time.

Reverence of the blind type is a fruit of latter-day Capitalism. Starting as an iconoclast, the capitalist winds up as a maw-worm. "Not at all," said the Epicurean, "I And it is essential to his safety that the proletarian masses take him seriously. The root of this blind reverence is the belief in the antiquity of the subject revered; and that implies the future, as well as the past. Capitalism, along with its gods, its gods along with it, are all pronounced "sacred", "ever were and ever will be, life without end." The capitalist foments such "reverence"; and, while he pushes his parsons forward to do the work, he holds himself out as the High Priest. The Usurper ever needs the cloak of sanctity; and therefore it is of importance to strip him bare of the cover.

> The posture of Tiberius materially played into the hands of this useful capitalist deception. He cultivated reverence for the Magistracy. The plea in defence of his deposition of his colleague was a sanctification of the class of the Usurper. It riveted superstitious a we on the minds of the proletariat, whose striking arm never could be free until another, reverently to make way for the Senators, who, sticks and staves and broken funiture in hand, rushed forward to slay Tiberius, the luckless reformer could not have failed to notice that the arrow that killed him was steadied by a feather plucked from his own

Irreverence—not the irreverence of insolence, which is the sign-manual of the weak, but the self-sustained irreverence that is the sign-manual of the consciously strong because consciously sound—is one of the inspiring breaths of the Proletarian Revolution.

Reverence for the Usurper denotes mental, with resulting physical, subjection to Usurpation.

* Two pages from Roman History," Daniel De Leon. 6d. I.S.L. Literature Department.

The Press Gang.

For the sake of nailing it down for future reference, we reproduce here the letter which has been sent round by the Inquisition sitting at the Recruiting Committee Offices in the Johannesburg Town Hall.

Dear Sir. am instructed by the Sub-Committee appointed by the General Recruting Committee of Johannesburg to ascertain particulars from employers of labour, to: send you herewith a Form, which we shall be much obliged if you will kindly fill in and return. As you will observe, the Form requires the following particulars to be given: -

(a) The names of all your employees now on active service;

(b) The nam-sof all single men of military age still in your employ;

(c) The terms on which you have allowed your employees to enlist; and

(d) The reason why the men of military age in your employ have not enlisted, or are not allowed to enlist.

You will of course, be well aware that the Committee is not legally entitled to demand thet you should supply these particulars, but in view of the fact that public opinion in Johannesburg is very strongly in favour of pressure being brought to bear upon the young men of eligible military age to join the British Forces in East Africa, and also that public opinion is very marked in f vour of employers doing their very best to meet the position and to encourage young men to go forward. my Committee feels certain that you will give the required information.

I send you herewith copy of resolutions unanimously passed at the General Recruiting Committee meeting held on the 29th March at the Town Hall, and my Committee will be glad to hear from you as to whether you will support the principle of refusing to employ single eligible men of military age after 30th April, 1916.

It is my Committee's intention to publish the returns furnished by you in the Johannesburg Press, and chall be pleased if you will let me have the required particulars at your very earliest convenience,

Yours truly, etc.

A member of the League, a strapping young man, reports that he has already been given notice to quit because his employer must either incur the odium of this Blackmailing Committee or send him to the front on half pay, or sack him. Our comrade told his employer to fill in the form absolutely refuses to go". The war is no concern of his.

appealing to Chamber of Mines to give those who are medically unfit or whose services are required at home a distinctive badge." Roll up, slaves, for your tickets of leave.

The Press Gang is far more effective than Bishop Furze's holy talk. No hands were put up in response to the appeal for recruits to the big crowd on Saturday. But the Blackmail Committee has got to work, and is now running up the figures to about 80 a day.

Benson, the lawyer, who can easily be spared by his clientage, harangues the Town Hall steppers thus:—

"Were they going to remain here and belong to the contemptible army of War-onwarites, slackers and cowards." Contemptible little army? By the way, last Tuesday, ('Hara asked all cowards in his audience to step on one side. Four had the pluck to do so, one with a red tie.

"We posted a man every five yards all around the top, which was covered with dead and dying." (From account of charge in German East.) All very glorious, but meanwhile the Chamber of Commerce are preparing for the 'Trade war after the war' to "Cripple Germany's trade," etc. This is what the bosses) are after, not right, humanity, and justice.

Party looks on dumb. At its Tivoli meeting last Sunday, (by the grace of Schlesinger, who has refused it persistently to the Soamid a lot of squibs about the price of tea and sugar, Reg. Barlow was most humble in his assurances that the Labour Party did not desire to interfere with recruiting. A Labour Party' has nothing to say when men are getting victimized wholesale to serve a cabitalist swindle. What a pantomime of Labour. A few disgruntled middleclassers riding on the momentum of a great name,

As witness the only men who voted against economic conscription in the Provincial Council dehate were-Bunting, Clark, Light, Lucas, S. J. Pienaar, Reitz, Riley, Van Veijeren and Colin Wade.

BRANCH NOTES.

Johannesburg.

ANDREWS' night was Trades Hall on Sunday attended. He spoke on Patriotism and Economic Conscription." His main theme was that there are no false and true patriotisms. Patriotismethe elevation of a geographical expression, as an object of worship is an unmitigated evil. It compels the condonation, the glorification of actions which violation of man's best Andrews audience Comrade through a calm survey of the great evils, apart from the terrible slaughter, which patriotism has brought upon modern society, the chief heing the absolute loss of liberty. He was speaking there that night not because he had a right to speak, but on the sufferance of the authorities. The wholesale repeal of their civil liberties gave absolute power to the State to throttle free speech. Comrade Andrews concluded by reading a striking-passage from Godard's "Patriotism and Ethics."

The Eastern Districts Branch has got going again, and Comrade C. B. Tyler has been appointed secretary.

MAY DAY.

The May Day Committee for the Reef to the rank of virtues." has decided to hold our May Day Reunion at Professor West's Academy in Pritchard Street. Tickets at 2/6 are now ready. Chil-Daily Mail Correspondence from "One dren's tickets 6d. All comrades are urged to Who Tried", "Miner" etc. is already a-foot do their share in making it a real reunion of all Reef Internationals. It is hoped to make the programme a joyful and merry one, with one or two short addresses to the May Day resolutions.

> A wreath will be placed on the grave of the July martyrs on the morning of May Day. Comrade Charlie Dones has the arrangoments in hand, and all are invited to attend the little ceremony.

> Day number of 'The International."

Benoni.

Comrade Dunbar will speak at the open air meeting on the Market Square on Saturday night.

The Melborne "Socialist," the organ of the Victoria Socialist Party, devotes a column of its space to "The International." and refers to us as the militant, revolutionary breakaways from the South African Labour Party." It considers that "The International" is full of meat' and virility." and concludes with. 'Hail to the Socialist Commonwealth. Greetings to the South African comrades. Long life and conquering strength to the League and its Printed Word."

Needless to say, we recipocrate. The 'Socialist" judging by the censored paragraphs on its pages, is putting up a stiffight, and is undoubtedy one of the forces leading Austra-While all this is going on, the Labour lia forward to sanity and Socialism.

Patriotism and Ethics.

(Quoted by Comrade Andrews at the Trades Hall Meeting last Sunday.)

- Patriotism results in the suppression of Free Speech—in the stifling of that liberty which might form a legitimate ground for pride. And it does this precisely at those periods when there is the greatest need for freedom, when the issues are the most momentous, and when there is an imperative necessity for fullest and freest utterance. It is characterized by the curious phenomena of the people trampling upon their own liberties, and of a free press' condoning, or approving, or palliating. the mad crusade. It outwits the guardians of peace or gives rise to a lax view of their duties, and assures to rioters plenary indulgence; and it leads responsible statesmen to extenuate a campaign against liberty, and to cast some of the responsibility upon those whose liberties are invaded. It results in mob rule superseding authority, and in lynch law being substituted for the law of the land; and it thus leads not simply towards bondage, but towards anar-It concentrates the attention of its devotee's not upon home but foreign affairs; and exhibits itself, not so much in love of country, as in hatred of other countries. It gives rise to a false standard of conduct; and as the consequence, vices become virtues and virtues become vices. . for it really induces the belief that national virtue consists in the promotion of self-interests. It is made the excuse for habitual equivocation, grave distortion, and gross breach of faith; and it gives hirth to the imputation that conscientious protests proceed from vicious motives, and to the condemnation of highly intellectual and honourable men as imbeciles and traitors. It has the ludicrous result of hasing pride upon the accident of frontier; viewed as identical with national virtue, it becomes a delusion and a snare; it is made to cover a multitude of sins, and it even elevates them

J. G. GODARD. in Patriotism and Ethics."

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Benoni.—T. Chapman, P.O. Box 379. Meetings, Smith's Studio, Lake Avenue, every Monday evening. Branch meetings every first and third Tuesdays in the month.

Durban.—W.S. Mabbott, 353, Point Rd. It is also hoped to issue a special, May | Meetings at Acutt's Buildings every Thursday and lectures every Sunday night.

> Eastern Districts.—Secretary, C.B. Tyler, 81 Jules Street, Jeppestown.

> Germiston.—E.H. Becker, 54, Queen St. Meetings in Colin Wade's surgery.

> Johannesburg.--Mrs. C. Barnet P.O. Box Meetings, Trades Hall. Every Thurs-

> Head Office.--D. Ivon Jones, Secretary, 6. Trades Hall. P.O. Box 4179.

Have you Subscribed to "THE INTERNATIONAL?" Send 5s. to Box 4179, Joh'burg.

Printed by The Rex Printing Works, 88 Von Weilligh St. for the I.S.L.

MANIFESTO.

Against Economic Conscription.

ERS OF THE RAND AND SOUTH

The International Socialist League of S.A. sole concern is the welfare of the working class movement.) has hitherto studiously refrained from interfering with men who have sincerely and freely volunteered for military service. We have respected their courage though regarding it misplaced. We have instead endeavoured, in spite of manifold suppressions, to proclaim the international unity of the working class across all frontiers of race and country.

But the time has now come to record a most emphatic protest against the methods adopted by the self-elected Recruiting Committee which, with the connivance of the authorities, is conspiring with employers to force men to enlist against their will, by a system little removed from blackmail.

According to the orders of this inquisitorial commit-Tee, employers are "to bring such pressure to bear upon their emplayees as will be best calculated to ensure their immediate enlistplayers as will be best calculated to ensure their immediate enlistment, and to "refuse to employ single cligible men of military
age after 30th April, 1916." In other words (words evaded in
the bucaneer politeness of this Committee) employers are to
SACK THEM.

As a result of this Committee's activities hundreds
of young men are today faced with the alternative of either
walking the streets hungry or enlisting.

Enlisting for what? For an expedition that cannot
by any stretch of imagination be regarded as a measure of

of young men are today faced with the alternative of either.

by any stretch of imagination be regarded as a measure of

What did the expenditure of £15,900,000 and considerable blood and tears in German South West bring to the Speople of South Africa? Are mothers and widows of fallen

soldiers to be consoled by the reflection that De Beers have agained control of German West diamond fields?

And now economic conscription, brutal and unashamed, is being brought to bear on young men to compel them to take part in another business of butchery, at an expenditure of human life that is scandalous to contemplate. Is this again for the expansion of the interests of the Corner House in German East Africa?

The workers are told of the freedom they enjoy in their immunity from legal conscription. Legal conscription on the continental system falls on the rich as well as the poor. But the conscription now in vogue in South Africa enables the employers and the well-to-do to go scot free, while effectively compelling wage earners to enlist or to starve. This is the free choice that the workers enjoy.

Kaffirs and Indians are fighting in this war "for liberty and justice," (which the masters, sub-rosa, pronounce markets and dividends"). What do these men get for it? Are they really honoured for their sacrifices? They are subjected to the same indignities, the same restrictions, the same exploitation as before. So it will be with the white, workers who have sacrificed themselves in this conflict.

The workers are contributing everything to the present war. While their masters are waxing fat in war profits, the workers give their life-blood on the field, and are forced to sustain the relief funds at home.

Furthermore, under the cloak of patriotism, employers are everywhere imposing extra burdens, in longer hours and more distracting labour, burdens which are becoming hard to bear, and are sapping the life of the people. Tostmen, Railwaymen, shop assistants, office men and girls are compelled to take on increased work, and get scant attention when incapacitated by overwork. In all spheres the war and patriotism are made the excuse for levying an increased toll on the life and labour of the unorganised workers, in order that greater profits may be reaped by their patriotic masters.

Not only are the workers sacrificing while employers wax fat, but their rights are meanwhile being filehed from them one by one. "The outbreak of peace" will find them domineered by police rule. 'Freedom of speech is being suppressed; and all publication of views distasteful to the Government throttled. Detectives swarm the swell recruiting meetings to nip heckling in the bud, and arrest men who express dissent from the speakers of the Recruiting Committee. The high-flowing language of recruiting speakers only hide the stage man gement of deepits and shams by which the mailed fist of conscription is covered.

Your children are enrolled in Boy-Scout regiments, so that in early youth they may be impregnated with the virus of militarism. (They are marshalled in recruiting meetings to initiate the clapping, the applause, and "the spontaneous enthusiasm," at arranged signals from their scout-masters. These meetings do not bring recruits. They only gather the harvest of young men that economic conscription throws into

alle street.

We therefore protest against the swindle perpetrated on the wage-éarners. We protest no less because the generous impulses of the workers are being exploited to their own undoing; misled and deceived by a Press whose sole function is the hoodwinking of the prople and the clothing of capitalist schemes in patriotic terms.

We protest against the Christian Church bathing her

Finds in the blood of the peoples.

We protest against the Federation of Trades and the Labour Party, called to lead in the great movement of the liberation of humanity, abusing their position of trust to betray the workers at this time, acting as unholy procuresses for the enemies of the workers; and taking sides with the employers in this conspiracy of wholesale victimization.

We would urge the workers to organise themselves in store, workshop and mine against this latest attempt to breat them as helots to be driven to the trenches by intimida-

gion and the sack.

To all those who look for deliverance from the present evils we have a message. We again declare that it is the mission of the international working class, acting on its own authority, to free the world from the crimes of war and capitalism.

We proclaim the new Socialism, rising fresh and strong. We stand side by side with the great Italian Socialist Party, with the brilliant anti-war minority of the Socialist Party, with the brilliant anti-war minority of the Socialist Democrats under the heroic Liebknecht; with the Independent Labour Party of Great Britain, with the Socialist Labour Party of America, with the Socialists of Scandinavia and Holland who have so far been strong enough to thwart the militarist designs of their governments, with the militant Trade Unions of France and New Zéaland, with the great International Socialist movement we declare uncompromising hostility towards this unjust world of violence, on capitalism and the warmongers who degrade the life of the people.

The Capitalist press may laugh the forced laugh of men who are afraid; but we declare that it is the mission of the organised working class to accomplish the work of human freedom. The earth is bountiful. There is enough and to spare for all without arduous toil. Yet the nations are tearing one another to pieces over the disposal of the surplus wealth created by labour, which, though many starve in the

midst of plenty, the workers are not allowed to touch.

But the forces are ripening which will abolish the slavery of our times if the workers will but assert themselve in combination. This is the message of Socialism, based not alone on sentiment but on science, to the heavy-laden and the toilers today.

"Workers of the world unite, you shave nothing the

lose but your chains. You have a world to win."

sor the International Socialist League (S.A.)

W. H. Andrews, Chairman.

D. Ivox Jones, Secretary.

Published by the International Socialist League (S.A.)
6 Trades Hall, Johannesburg.

Reprinted from "The International" 14 April 1916.