# THE INTERNATIONAL.

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

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# Workers, Unite!

Mr Devenish, the Mineworkers' Organiser, stated at the Federation Council the other day that there was an unusual flow of members into the Mine workers' Union of late, especially on the West Rand. How many times have the figures not ebbed and Howed from zerö to seventy-five per cent in the Mine Workers I mion? How many times have the men let things slide despairing of they know not what? Our only hope in the coming revival is that we have now in the Miners' Head Office a few men who are concerned about the lessons of the past, and anxious. to tackle the tremendous problem presented by the true organisation of mine workers on the Rand.

is largely the result of the hiatus, the unbridged gap between themselves and the Central Direction of the Union, which reduces membeiship into the mere payment of five bob a month to an organiser or shaft steward.

Democratic Control through a branch or Local does not yest exist. And, in the main, attempts to form District Branches are unsatisfactory. They cover too many mines to give interest to the proceedings. What men instinctively want is a unit of control which deals with the familiar details of their own particular mine, the Mine Branch or Local. Hopeless though it may seem, this is the only true start, and it is in the hurry to avoid this initial obstacle that so many false starts have been made in organisation of Mine Workers.

But why does this start seem so hopeless? Because the workers' ranks are split up, criminally split up, into obsolete and arbitrary groups. While men are deploring the disunity in the political tield of Labour, they have long contemplated chronic disunity of the workers on the industrial field with indifference. Let us ask again, is it because political unity brings jobs to a set, and industrial disunity brings jobs to another set?

The storm and stress looming ahead for the working class of this country does not admit of soft words when men worship sacred monograms such as A.S.E., I.S.S.B. and A.S.C. & J. before the welfare of the workers in general.

The weak and sagging lines of craft organisation end in a knot which they call "The Federation." It is the work of the future to bind those lines into one at every point. Not a "Federation of looseness," but the union of all the workers at every point of industry culminating in a South African Union. Such a union that an injury to a miner becomes an injury to every timberman," mechanic and shift boy on that very mine.

What gross misleadership to faction the workers up on a mine plant into several disunited, even resentful craft vanities! The time will come when the workers will execrate us that this invaluable period of labour scarcity has not been utilized for reconstruction.

Only by mine Locals can the most strategic Union in the country be reconstructed. Only by a general exodus of the mechanics from the imported unions to the home organisation can mine Locals be formed. And now is the time by united demand to get facilities on or near every mine for Locals to meet.

The Mine Workers Union has made provision for the inclusion of every skilled mine-worker. Regrettable, and dangerous to working-class solidarity, though its colour bar may be, it is yet the duty of every class conscious mine-worker to link up with the S.A.M.W.A and let benefits go hang. The cause of the workers is crying for them to do so.

## Woman, the Higher Communist.

An able article by Mrs. Barnet on "The Blackleg of the Future" which appeared in a back number of our paper contained apprehensions that the entry of women into industry spelt a serious check to the industrial organisation of the working class, Women, she feared, were to be the blacklegs of the future."

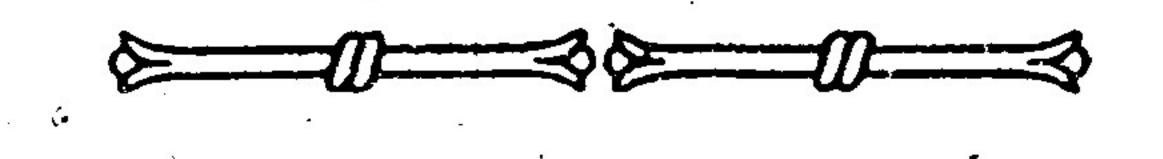
But it seems that we have not reckoned with the higher communism of woman's nature. Instead of having the wife, the children, and the empty cupboard at home to break his spirit, the industrial worker of the future will as often as not have the sweetheart as comrade to spur him to greater endeavours.

A great strike of women garment makers broke out at Balti-The apathy among the would be Trade Unionists in the mines | more a few weeks ago. The solidarity of the young girl workers was unparalleled in industrial history. Not only were they brutally ill treated by the police, and bundled into prison by the score, but they were deserted by the American Federation of Labour, in fact the local leader of that Craft organisation lent his aid to the bosses to break the strike. But the last heard of them was that the girl workers were undaunted.

> In a pictorial journal last mail appears a photo of a strike of tramwaymen, and women, at Croydon, England. The women conductors are seen bravely marching along with the men. No danger of blacklegging there, though only a few months in industry.

A remarkable victory was that of the Liverpool Dockers a few weeks ago, which has been kept quiet by the capitalist press. It was endeavoured to get women to do the work on the docks. The protest of the men was made purely on grounds of humanity, and not as trade protection. The waves offered were equal to the men. But the conditions are so brutalizing and insanitary that the men were compelled to do what any decent society would have howled against. The men wonktheir point, and no further attempt has been made to make women de dock work.

Women are going to be a civilizing force in industrial organisation.



# The Pledge.

By W. E. WILLIAMS.

Here's a pledge to you my brothers. A pledge and a comrade's hand; By the roads we have built for the masters. By the rivers we have spanned; By the forge of our foundry prison, Where flesh is as cheap as grass, My heart and my hand forever, For my own—the working class!

By the hungry sees we've conquered, And strewn with our sailor dead; By the land we have bathed in lifeblood, And that lifeblood rich and red; By the ease we've broughtour masters, By the loads 'neath which we groan, My heart and my hand forever, For the working class—iny own.

By the day when the strife is over And the worker comes to his own, By the dawn of the glad tomorrow When we reap where we have sown, When the last of the slaves shall be freemen And the last of the masters pass— My heart and my hand forever For my own—the working class!

# Anti-Segregation.

Views of an American Comrade.

Editor, "The International" Johannesburg, Transvaal. Dear Mr. Editor,

A gentleman signing himself "Socialist" writes in the issue of May 19 in favour of segregation. This gentleman claims that there is no analogy between the movement for the segregation of the negro in America and the native in South Africa. He adduces certain alleged reasons, but on careful examination they all seem specious to me.

This gentleman speaks of "limitations", of the native, with an assumed sureness that at once betokens the man who has not had anything to do with them save perhaps ordering one or two around in Kitchen Kaffir. I write from the viewpoint of one who is engaged in educational work with the natives, and who comes to it from America and the Socialist movement there.

That most of the South African natives are at this moment ignorant and easily exploitable by the capitalists is no doubt true. That the policy of segregation is in any way one that will protect them from exploitation. and relieve them of ignorance is decidedly and obviously false. Segregation is a policy of capitalism, not of the Labour movement. In America such of our Labour organisations as have in practice worked segregation policies have found them destructive. Such policies, as with the black and the white firemen on the railways near New Orleans some years back, have proven the most effective mode of producing strikebreakers.

The attitude of 'white men are to natives as men of sixty to children of ten" is by no means wholly borne out by the facts of the case. We in America have seen how our black men, physically and mentally similar to the natives of South Africa, have gone ahead and become quite as thorough members of civilized communities as have the white people.

The South African natives are just emerging from primitive communism. They have come into violent contact with capitalism in a most advanced and barefaced form. Segregation, while not preserving the love of freedom and the communistic spirit, all of which are useful to the native as a factor in the Labour movement, prevents the full and complete influence of capitalism upon this people. Segregation, in shorts is directly opposed the interests of the white workers of South Africa.

Segregation, far from benefiting the natives will tend to make them complete and INERT victims of exploitation. It will make them as unwilling to aid themselves by collective action as are the caste-ridden people of India. The importation of the coolie into Natal was a great tribute to the

manliness of the native, who would not willingly be a wage-slave. Let us "Reds" not kill out the spark of divine fire in him by acquiescing in segregation.

Very truly yours,

S. G. RICH.

Amanzimtoi, Natal, 24 April 1916.



## The way they do it!

BY DORA B. MONTIFIORE in "Anti-Militarism."

workers from their childhood history is falsified, and is written exclusively from the point of view of the exploiters. The class rooms, where the children of the workers are educated, instead of being hung with pictures telling of the glorious victories in the past and present of knowledge and of science, are hung with crude pictures of kings charging in battle at the head of their armies, while the workers of one land exterminate the workers of another land with whom they had no quarrel. Instead of the children of the people being taught how their few precious liber- millions own its sway, right enough, and ties have been one by one wrested with blood know that neath its ample folds they can and suffering from the privileged classes, get phthisis on two bob a day. To us they they are taught by similar crude pictures send a heartfelt curse, ascending to the sky, how territory had been wrested from one when they are rushed in train loads over country by the kings and rulers of another the Portugese border, for a softer place to country, who have used as pawns in the game die. of their personal ambitions the sons and fa- Then we have another; "You and I, thers of the common people. False values, and the Empire." This one is a long false standards have been cunningly given to treatise on why England went to war, the led to believe from childhood that it is an British Navy bringing us our scoff in safety honour to wear the uniform of a king or the vileness of the Huns, and the blessing of queen; whereas, if the worker were really freedom and unity under the flag. This conscious of his dignity—as being the source has been composed by a Randfontein Schoolthe sun.



#### Recruits in Ancient Rome.

The wild beasts of Italy have their caves to retire to, but the brave men who spill their blood in her cause have nothing left but air and light. Without houses, without any settled habitations, they wander from place to place with their wives and children; and their generals do but mock them, when at the head of their armies, they exhort their men to fight for their sepulchres and domestic gods; for, among such numbers, perhaps there is not a Roman who has an altar that belonged to his ancestors, or a sepulchre in which their ashes rest. The private soldiers fight and die, to advance the wealth and luxury of the great; and they are called masters of the world while they have not a foot of ground in their possession.

TIBERIUS GRACCHUS. quoted by De Leon in "Two Pages of Roman History."

# Union Jacks, Price 1d.

We mentioned last week about Queen Victoria's doll that High School girls in Johannesburg were graciously allowed to interrupt their botany lesson to go and see, on payment of one tickey. Like the street troubadours, patriotic flights always end nowadays in the collection box.

We have before us a few more samples of Victoria League literature, distributed in the Schools. One is the "Union Jack," a folded flap containing a coloured picture of the British flag inside, and a speech of With the purpose of misleading the Lord Roseberry's telling children what it stands for. Price one penny, that is the charge. Some nice poetry ends with this verse:

> Tis thy flag, and my flag, dark millions own its sway,

And know that neath its ample folds their night is turned to day.

With us they join heartfelt prayer,, ascending to the sky,

That God will bless the dear old flig, and keep it flying high.

This a preliminary to the 100,000 native troops they want from Africa. Dark

the children of the workers, who have been blessings of the vote, the blessings of the of all wealth, and therefore of all civilisation, master. Watch him! He'll be made nhe would spurn the shoddy uniform of the spector. The path of true education leads traditional representative of the class which but to the gr ve, but the way of success for exploits him and keeps him from a place in a schoolmaster is to sing "God Save the King" three times a day, and open his windows wide towards the Jerusalem of Adamson's promotions. "You and I and the Empire" is now a subject of study in the elementary classes, the children are taken through it paragraph by paragraph Whether Jew, Gentile, Afrikander, or English, all are squeezed through the same jelly mould.

The frantic efforts that are being made to inject the Jingo virus into the child in youth, to the growing neglect of its proper education, can have only one object: the dulling of the brain of the man against Socialism. The Capitalist lackeys who have the moulding of the minds of the next generation knowt that enlightenment leads to Socialism. They are bent on only one thing, making wage-slaves efficient profitgetters with the minimum of intelligence. Shall their pernicious work be allowed to continue?

# Strike Echoes.

BY WILFRID HARRISON.

The Tramway Strike is over, hence the bloated dividend mongers are gloating over their moral gams." Some of their victims are almost bedless, as it is alleged that goods were taken from their houses in some cases to the value of £14 to pay £1. 10 costs for not returning the Company's goods they held against wages due. Those who were again accepted by the Company must sign a long agreement, among other things, of course, not to ask for an increase of pay, and that he must give them a fortnights notice etc. The man who wants a testimonial instead can have one, of the blacklisting order, at the bottom is written 'Left with men on Strike." So much for another passing phase of capitalistic brotherhood. The Capetown comrades are still standing by the victimized men, concerts in their aid are still in progress. Of the workers without authority. Now Staunton the President was jubilant over the receipt of £8 from "The International," which has promoted the International spirit amongst them. Subsequently-they will find new masters, but with deep convictions of past experiences of the economic aspect of the situation. Meanwhile we are still preparing the ground by outdoor and indoor propaganda for greater deeds.

Our debating class grows in number and interest. Comrade Forrester Brown, M.P.C. is down liere on some Parliamentary Mission, but he is going to open the discussion on Tuesday night 'The coloured question and Industrial organisation." Our visitor seems

a homely and cheerful fellow.

Empire Day! Yes! We had that bloodform. A Pageant was organised to meet on the parade, which included recruits classed 1925 from the schools It was a Proletarian But sent their representatives in the form of waggons laden with goods with blazoned letters, which in true patriotic phrases did appeal: Drink our beer!" Buy our boots!" Be loyal, buy our British goods, etc" hence we are cognisant now of their reasons for us to serve the Empire, it has been rather vague before.

# Now is the Time

To read "Socialism and Evolution," by Aley, "The Working Class, and The Dr. Aley, "The Working Class, and Socialist Republic, by Kautsky," The Burning Question of Trades Unionism," What and for covering up the sores of capitalist Means this Srike, and The preamble of the I.W.W. by Daniel De Leon, and last but not least Wage Labour and Capital, Value Price and Profit 6d., and The Communist in its administration. Manifesto by Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels all 3d each from the League Liter ature Department. P.O Box 4179. Johan-L. nesburg. Great crises are brewing in the world of Labour, which is the only world that counts. The problems of labour differ in all countries. But the principles that solve them are the same everywhere.

These principles have been unassailably laid down by master minds. Read intelli- subject being "Links between Black and Labour Conference, and forced to resign. gently so that when the cause demands you may act intelligently. In no science can occasion in the Transvaal on which a native anyone sift the confusing experiences of the has addressed a white audience on a subject present unaided by the fruits of past re- of this kind, and as Mr. Grendon has expresssearch, least of all in the Science of Socialism. ed a keen interest in the work of the "The No cause has been served by such great International" his views on the major race minds; and in no cause are its prophets problem of Africa, and its connection with ignored and neglected as are Socialist the working class movement, should prove can be forced to flow up by artificial means, thinkers by Socielists themselves. Serve of peculiar interest. The lecture is public man naturally aspires upward and nobly. have said.

The Federation and Recruiting.

Not long ago the Transvaal Federation was invited to appoint representatives on the Johannesburg Recruiting Committee, and the Executive complied by sending Messrs W. R. Jackson and T. A. Tole, as Federation representatives.

Last Saturday night their action came up for the approval of the General Council After a keen discussion approval was refused by a handsome majority. Mr. Devenish, the Miners Organiser, said that it was no Governing Board of the Pretoria Trades use pretending that the miners are loyal, they are not so. Recruiting Sergeants Tole and Jackson have been speaking on behalf anti-working class verdicts, also sits on the the whole pack of Labour patriots are beginning to profess their anti-war sentiments and to claim that they were anti-war all the that "an injury to one is an injury to all." time. But those who "bury the latchet" cannot dig it up again to suit their own convenience.

### The Badge and the Badgered.

The "Sunday Times" has blown the 'gaff badly on the street collections. It has a column article on the amount of money thirsty day celebrated in true characteristic pilfered in the past by the fair "badgers" on the street corners. Last Saturday the collection was for 'Blind Sailors Home?' meet; the "elite" of Society were not there, They have the effrontery to send men to be mained and blinded, and then throw them on the mercy of charity.

> which the It is a system whole burden of relief is thrown on the wage earning class. The capitalist, who by adequate taxation would have to take a good part of the burden, now goes free with a sixpence, more often than not sweeps by in trench. He did so by the connivance of both his motor without paying that. It is time for all decent people to resist this organised weekly blackmail. It is a device for relieving the capitalist; for keeping alive the war fever, society. In any case, workers should contribute to no fund unless workers have a share

> > A Unique Event.

Next Thursday at the Trades Hall at 8 o'clock Mr. Robert Grendon, the accomplished editor of "Abantu Batho," the Johannesburg And Holman, the New South Wales native newspaper, will be the lecturer, his Premier, has been pulled up short by a White." Bo far as is known this is the first This has caused a flutter among the Colonial the cause by reading what its great guides and will be followed by the usual questions but is forced by artificial means downwards and discussion.

# Capetown Strike Fund.

Aiready Acknowledged	£14.	11.	<b>6</b>
Miss. Marynen	i t	5.	0
Miss Nottelowitz		10.	0
A. B. Dunbar	•	5.	.0
H. Barendregt		4.	0
E. H. Becker	3	2.	6
A. Marxian		5.	0
T. Chapman	1.	0.	0
T.W. Ward	•	10.	0

Comrade W. Blake has resigned from the School and Polytechnic, where he represented the Building Trades Federation. Judge Bristowe, who has become notorious for his Board. And our friend has made this the form of his protest against Bristowe's 'exhihitions of hias and travesty of justice," and has therefore refused to sit with him, feeling

If the Germans invaded this country, they would take some of the property of the rich. But the working man would have to get up to the tune of the 6 o'clock whistle as before. When the Chinese invaded this country, not to take the property of the rich, but the jobs of the poor, did they ask you to take arms and repel the invader. No, your present Recruiting Committee forced him on you at the point of Tommy's bayonet.

I learn by a letter from the front that the German and French soldiers sometimes shake hands between the lines, exchanging views on the need for a revolt."

Letter in Socialist Review.

The friendliness is by no means approved by the officers. It is a surreptitious indulgence, which is winked at when it does not go too far. But there is a story of a man in the same part of the front who made a het with his neighbour that he would play a game of cards with the German in the next lines. Everyone talked of it, and it got to the ears of the higher officers. There is no friendship at headquarters for the invaders' of France, There is only a grim determination that the war shall never 'end until the last foot of land has been regained. "The man who played cards was court-

martialed", said Cabby: "He was shot that night." From a soldier's letter.

Premier Hughes has cabled out asking to be re-elected to the Executive of the Political Labour League of Australia. His sun is setting. The Star is angry that the guest of kings should have to beg for a seat among the well-beloved of Labour.

Officers. What is the Capitalist State coming to if Labour Conferences can make and unmake Cabinet Ministers.

As water naturally runs down, but

#### BRANCH NOTES.

#### Johannesburg.

Jno. Campbell's lecture on "Industrial Unionism" was listened to by a full audi- class style. ence, (with a few crows in the gallery,) which had been brought from the highways solemn audience. The open air meetings have been a distinct success' A great change in public feeling is moticeable since ensuing discussion evolved. the time when the "dilapidated twain" were getting to work soon.

John Campbell presented many sided views of the ideal Industrial Uniou, and no doubt brought the matter another step forward towards recognition. The evils of dividing the worke s into craft unions were lightly dwelt upon and the gradual disappearance of fhe skilled artisan before the growing eff ciency of the machine. In the earlier period of capitalist industry men comachines. In the present stage of large inindustry machines did the work aided by are waiting to see what Mr Secretary will 618. men. Men had been reduced to be mere say on the matter.

appanages of machinery.

It was therefore the next step towards working class emancipation to organise as the capitalist did, not along arbitrary lines of craft or colour, but along the lines of industry. Industries being interdependent, the organisation of such unions into one National Industrial Union will be easy, and thence to an International Industrial Union easier still. Such is the efficiency that will Thompson's Buildings, Ockerse Street, at I.S.L. Printed Word Committee. he required of the working class in self- [7.30.pm.] Roll up, all class conscious defence against the encreachments of capital that it will be possible for a strike of Capetown wharfingers to be ordered in order to gain a point for the dockers of New York, and vice-versa.

For instance, in the Umgeni deportation case, with a working class internationally organised, that piratical act would have been impossible. She could not have coafed in

St. Helena or Las Palmas.

The Industrial Union takes charge of he unemployed. It embraces all, under no onsideration can anvone be expelled from n Industrial Union; (for it is the nuclues of the New Society).

already won in Industrial Unionism. Where an eight hour day is won, and It is attempted to infringe it, no Executive is required to declare a strike, it follows automatically. An injury to one is an injury to all, that is the motto of Industrial Unionism.

Questions were lively at the close and

literature sales good,

The speaker in the Trades Hall next Sunday will be Colin Wade, M.P.C. The following Sunday the 11th, George Mason will speak.

Next Wednesday the League's monthly Dance will be held at Professor West's Academy, 125 Prichard Street. Tickets 2/6.

#### Durban.

meeting, our first economic class meeting was held on Thursday last. Marx's "Capital" was taken as our guide, with 'Value, Price, Profit" as a text book. Sixteen members were present, and the first paragraph gave us plenty to go on with. Comrade Lee acted as reader. We hope to turn out some economists as the result of our classes who will is Socialism, socialism with the weapon of | Manifesto; and other business, Roll up. be bad to beat.

The Sunday evening meeting in Acutts | maker this week.

Arcade was well attended to hear Comrade Lee give an address on "The I W.W. its aims, constructions and methods." Comrade Silva presided and handled a spirited dis- Meetings, Smith's Studio, Lake Avenue, cussion, which followed the address, in first every Monday evening. Branch meetings

Many present agreed with the speaker and byways, otherwise the Town Hall on the aims and objects of the I.W.W. Square, where A. B. Dunbar and Ivon Jones (Chicago,) but the question of methods proaddressed a very interested if somewhat voked quite a number of intelligent questions, and was the point round which the

Next Sunday Comrade Andrews will marched of to Marshall quare. Fact is, speak. The Recruiting Committee here 4179. Meetings, Trades Hall. Every Thursthey promise to become so successful that we fear the police Decembrists will be again appear to have subsided but we hear that day, the famous Tonmy Tole will shortly be visiting us, so perhaps his presence will have the affect of spurring the dying horse to another spasmodic effort.

> We notice with surprise that the II.P. of Great Britain unblushingly assert, in their offical organ, that their Conference was the first in the world to declare un-

We are nearly sold out of pamphlets, so the seed is taking root all right in Durban

#### Hrugersdorp Branch

All Krugersdorp Comrades are remimdthat the newly formed branch will meet again next Wednesday, the 7th inst in workers. There is a lot to do.

#### School Board Elections.

As was indicated in last week's issue, the School Board Elections will be contested in Johannesburg and Germiston by League, Candidates. The main feature of the campaign as far as the League is concerned will will be the issue of a propoganda leaflet exposing the depraved methods introduced into elementary Education in the Transvaal. A great deal can be done by leaflets There can be no nego iation over rights | distribution, as was proved by our manifesto, and the Lague has wisely acted in taking advantage of the present elections. unimportant in themselves, to shake the public apathy towards the education of the children.

Woman—the race's mothers, sisters, daughters-long sinned against through unnumbered generations—is about to be atoned to. All the moral and intellectual forces of the age are seen obviously converging to that point. It will be the crowning work of militant Socialism, like a miglitier Perseus, to strike the shackles In addition to the usual weekly branch from the chained Audromeda of modern society, Woman, and raise her to the dignity of her sex.

#### DANIEL DE LEON.

They are not afraid of the Church. Industrial Unionism, said a socialist boiler-

#### BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Benoni.—T. Chapman, P.O. Box 379. every first and third Tuesdays in the month.

> Durban.—W.S. Mabbott, 353, Point Rd. 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

Western Districts: -- Fordsburg, Vrededorp, etc. Secretary, Comrade E. V. Boyd, 49, Solomon St., Vrededorp.

KRUGERSDORP.—Secretary, P. Somedville, 5 Vlei Street. Next meeting Thompson's Buildings, June 7, 7.30 p.m.

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

Pretoria.—Intending members see Mr. W. Blake, Secretary Socialist Society, Box

Capetown: — Intending members see Comrade Wilfrid Harrison, P.O. Box 1176. or Socialist Hall, Capetown.

Send us names and addresses of friends who should read "The International" to Box 4179, Joh'burg.

Subscription: 5s. per annum. Post free.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

The above Committee is taking over the . Agency of the "Labour Leader," "Forward" and "Socialist." Subscriptions and renewals to C. Clingman, Secretary, 25 Mercantile Buildings, Simmonds Street, Johannesburg. "Labour Leader" and "Forward' 1/6 per month post free. "Socialist," (Glasgow) 2/per annum post free.

A class for the study of Marxian Economies and History has been started, under the auspices of the I.S.L. at 25 Mercantile Buildings, Commissioner Street, every Friday evening, at 8 p.m.

All young people between the age of 16. and 30 who are interested in the Science of Socialism are welcome.

For further particulars apply to the convenor: H. Barendregt, Box 4179, Johannesburg.

# Socialist Sunday School.

Children between the ages of 8 and 16 will be welcomed at this school, which meets

Every Sunday Morning at 11 a.m.

#### Comrade Neppe's, c/o Fox 8 MacLaren Streets. (near the Stock exchange.)

Readers of "The International" who would like their children to acquire the rudiments of the Socialist teaching and outlook are invited to make use of this opportunity. There are two classes, a senior and a junior, and it is expected that with the increase of numbers a further subdivision of classes will take

They are not afraid of Trade Unions. They WESTERN DISTRICTS BRANCH will meet again are not afraid of the Labour Party. The next Thursday, 8th June, to organise for the only thing that the capitalists are afraid of dissemination of the League's Education

> Printed by Printers Limited 46a Simmonds, St. for the 1.S.L. Box 4179, Johannesburg.

# Socialist Manifesto

ON

# Education.

Issued by the International Socialist League for the School Board Elections

Transvaal 1916.

#### Schools For Jingoism.

The grave defects inherent in our elementary system of education, with which we deal below, have been aggravated since the outbreak of the war by the introduction of a virulent lingo propaganda in the teaching of children. This propaganda works untold havoc in sapping the stamina and intellectual vigour of our youth. It is designed to thwart true enlightenment, and to corrupt with Jingo standards the growing generation of South Africans, so that they may be rendered impervious to Socialist influences. For it is the aspiration of the working-class movement to hasten the fall of the present Capitalist system and usher in the Co-operative Commonwealth. And this requires a race of men fre and independent of spirit.

The fact must be getting plain to workingclass parents, that our town schools have been degraded into little more than nurseries of Jingoism and militarism. The supreme object of the Director of Education seems to be to teach the children, not useful knowledge, not even self-respect, but brain oftening jargon about "their duty to the Empire," the Flag, the King, the Navy, the Army, the heroes of modern Capitalist Impérialism—these, not letters or science or virtue, are held up for childish worship.

#### Empire idolaters.

A breed of Empire idolaters is being industriously reared up by our god-fearing Government as a bulwark against the working-class movement. Jingo craft displaces priest-craft in the control of the children's minds. To a Dreadnought, not a crucifix, their homage must now be paid. And there is a constant process towards centralising control of the child mind, not in the School Board, not even in the Provincial Council, but in the Ministry of Defence. Over and above the necessity of making wage-earners efficient for the use of commerce, the only further interest in their "education" is the Khaki interest.

For example, lessons are habitually, almost daily curtailed or missed for as much as an hour at a time to hear lectures or readings on patriotism, or the war, or the Empire, or the Flag, or to view Queen Victoria's doll on payment of a tickey. Extra whole or half holidays are repeatedly enforced to enable the children to attend some flag-saluting or khaki-worshipping celebration or debauch, such as the unfurling of Lady Wernher's Britisch Union Jacks. Where essay writing or like exercises are encouraged, they are gene-

rally devoted to militarist topics. At a master's send-off, the children are told he is going to bring back a German to stuff for the school museum. Only the other day a Johannesburg school-master, otherwise same, gave his pupils a two hours lesson on courage and loyalty. It consisted of a carnival of orating, singing and dancing on an enemy flag by the schoolmaster and children. At school entertainments, about the only thing boys are taught to do are some stupid scout-drills and rifle-clickings,—grand stimulants of brain and character! Meanwhile reading, writing and arithmetic, to say nothing of efficiency and true discipline of the mind, can look after themselves.—Indeed, the superstitions disseminated in our day schools vie with those of the naddle ages in their appeals to ignorance and prejudice.

#### Conscription in School.

Compulsory military service sprevails in the high schools. Pack-drill punishment is meted out to the boy who refuses to wear Gadet uniform or will not submit to military drill. And the time taken up in these interminable military struttings and goose-steppings is ousting healthy games from the playground. Worse than this, the boys are made to take part in the deceits of recruiting meetings, and formed up to applaud the orators, whom they cannot hear, on signals from the chairman.

Music, that free and universal language, in the hands of the Education Department teaches only Hymns of Hate, "Rule Brittannia", "Tipperary", "Britain's Naval Might", "Our Gallant Boys in navy blue", and other such muse-murdering bombast for which Inspector Handel Thompson trains his choristers wholesale, sometimes for an hour a day.

The history books ooze with unctuous Imperialism. The Victoria League, handmaiden of the Imperialist bosses, reprints and the Education Department sedulously circulates literature extolling the virtues of loyalty, patriotism and courage, not as expressed in the great researches, high resolves, wonderful discoveries, and liberation movements which have lifted humanity thus far, but in the brutalising standards of the Army and Navy. Indeed, at a recent Teachers' Conference a leading schoolmaster devoted a large part of his address to deprecating the standards of patriotism and humanity taught by the imperishable annals of Greece, to such decadence has our Jingoism brought the educators of youth in this country.

#### Patriotism for pennies.

By every conceivable pressure of blackmail, school boycott and even threats of caning the children are levied and bled to swell the various war funds whose destination is so mysterious. South Africa is of course not alone in this epidemic of Chauvinism in education. Karl Liebknecht has made a celebrated charge against the Prussian authorities of turning the schools into training stables for war. The one notable exception in all the belligerent countries is that of the Hungarian Minister of Public Instruction, who has urged on the school teachers of that country that no hatred or contempt of the enemy should enter the minds of the children, it being unworthy of a nation and inhuman to impress them with such ideas.

With equal truth can the words of the great Socialist already mentioned in the Prussian Diet be applied to the South African Maustion system when he was ejected from that body for accusing

the Government of using education to serve and strengthen militarism and capitalism, of teaching history systematically distorted to induce hatred against the enemy and educating children to be war machines.

#### Capitalism pollutes all.

All this militarist education bears only the bitterest fruit. It makes the people ready to plunge into war whenever their rulers so require them. Those who are taught to sing of the ships and the men and the money they have as their highest boast are not destined for a place as a great people, and their teachers are heading them for moral and material disaster.

The blame for this perversion of youth cannot be laid at the door of one nation only. It is, as Socialism has long insisted, the modern fruit of capitalism, which pollutes everything it touches, whether it be education, Labour Parties, horse racing, bioscope

shows, the drama or native advancement.

The International Socialist League has nominated candidates for the present School Board election to voice the protest against the present Prussian control of education, and its pollution by Jingoism. For the sake of the mental and moral health of the children let the people say that education shall be removed as far as possible from the brutalities of war. Let us crush militarism in their minds if we cannot do it on the stricken field.

# Our Education System.

There is a common idea that School Boards, elections for which are now pending, are valueless for the control of education. This is not altogether so

The administration of education in the Transvaal is the most bureaucratic known in any country claiming to be democratic. The whole education system of the Province is under the control of Mr. Adamson, Director of Education; who, originally appointed by Lord Milner, is controlled by the Provincial Executive; which latter body, theoretically controlled by the Provincial Council, takes orders from the Smutsian regime.

Between the Director and the people stands the whole array of Government officialdom. Between the Director and sole control over the minds of the people's children stand only the School

Boards.

The School Boards have power only to recommend in the appointment of teachers and new schools, and the care of school furniture. They are moreover elected by a loose system of voting by post, all tending, given pliant School Board members, to repose greater and greater control in the Director of Education.

But even this small measure of public control is in danger. For at a recent conference whereat the Director of Education was present, the abolition of School Boards was urged, their duties to

devolve on Mr. Adamson's staff.

#### Mandarin Experts.

Unlike other public services, where experts are the servants of the people, in education the illusion has been fostered that the experts must be made sole masters. The evil result of this is that all the children of the Transvaal are flat-ironed into one monotonous mould. All individuality is killed, both in teacher and pupil. No

ideas on education no matter how advanced are admissible unless they flow from the brain of one man, the Director. The teachers also suffer in character and independence. Sycophancy and toadyism of the Director, traits least desirable in moulders of character, must be rife under this bureaucratic regime. Promotion, not achievement, becomes their direct incentive.

Education a People's Concern.

Education is only partly a technical matter. Upon it democracy must also impress its freshness ever anew. For this purpose every possible use should be made of the School Boards by the people. The absurd system of voting by post should be abolished, and the elections held at the same time as the municipal elections, and conducted on the Municipal Voters' Roll, whereby women, the mothers, would also participate. It is also extremely important that teachers should be more than a servant class, more even than Civil Servants, without right of free speech. It is time that South Africa produced a few of those 'great headmasters' who shall turn out an efficient, intelligent, liberally educated, sturdy minded race. A suppliant, dead level and servile body of teachers can never rear proud, fearless enterprising men and women. There is more than a suspicion that our present system is deliberately designed to suppress these qualities. The Socialists therfore urge giving teachers the right to elect members of their profession to sit on School Boards. The orientation of the teachers' outlook must be turned from the Director of Education as sole authority to the people. These reforms, recently rejected by the Provincial Council, would have brought out the popular quality of the School Boards.

Apart however from any increased legal power, even the existing Boards, given members with a regard for true education, could throw off their present undignified impotency and dependence on the Director. They could exercise solid influence over the whole realm of education by School Board Conferences covering the Rand and the Transvaal, for interchange of views on educational methods. Such conferences could bring combined pressure on the Education Department to compel it to base the teaching of children less with a view to making them efficient for exploitation, and more towards making them liberal and intelligent men and women.

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