THE INTERNATIONAL.

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Liberty Sold for 6/3d.

On behalf of the mechanics of the Reef, Messrs. A. Crawford, R. H. Miller, James Pender, and D. Colraine, a roll of honour have signed an agreement by which the mechanics bind themselves "not to raise the question of wages, hours and overtime until at least three months after the declaration of peace." If that much maligned Union, the Engine Drivers, had signed such an agreement, what abuse would we not have heard. The crime of these Engine Drivers is that when they sell the workingclass they see that they make a good deal out of it. But what can be said of men who forfeit their liberty to the end of the war, "it may be for years, it may be for ever," for the net amount of 6/3d a week.

The document as published in the press claims to "having consulted and received the sanction of their respective principals to the following terms of settlement." The carpenters at least have not had a chance of sanctioning this precious bargain. These terms provide a 48 hour week at a standard rate of 2/6 per hour. "The mines undertake the unions agree, that 50 hours per week will continue to be worked as at present until three months after the declaration of peace, the extra two hours to rank as overtime," at the usual overtime rates: time and a quarter. This will mean a weekly wage of £6. 6. 3 instead of the p and a day rate. For this blessing the mechanics "do not participate in the Chamber's war bonus scheme." and consent to be good boys until all the soldiers are back from the front, and the State Mines Commission, of which the Federation Treasurer has been appointed a member, will have finished its mighty and society-saving deliberations.

Behind all this is the schedule of the Miners' demands. Having disposed of, that is, bought out, the mechanics, the miners' demands will how receive the calm attention of the Chamber. The Chamber understands the Napoleonic tactic of bringing your whole strength against details of the enemy, or the maxim of Lurkish rule over the Christians, divide and rule. In the present case the leaders seem to have concluded the agreement without the "sanction" talked of in the document. That is their business. The Craft Unions concerned have evidently given them powers, and they have used them. The thundering evil, we repeat again, is that men should organise. in crafts, elbow and jostle through their craft organisations for advantageous terms, yesterday it was the Engine Drivers coming to a five years agreement and letting the rest of their fellow workers go hang. the day before yesterda, it was the Engineers accepting terms to the neglect of their fellow mechanics in the Municipality. To-day it is the mechanics for a pittance binding themselves to look on with folded arms while the miners struggle for their little demand: tomorrow, it will be the miners selling out the unskilled, and deserting them to the tender mercies of the capitalist, who will have made a club out of the Craft Unions to bludgeon the rest of the workers into submission. Curse the system. When will the workers, nay, even their accredited leaders, realize that the only division warranted in industrial organisation is the division of industry. What right have Craft Unions to go singlehanded to the Chamber of Mines for special favours. They will be sold and sold again until they all go. carpenter, miner, fitter, reduction man, handyman, yes, even hammer boy, as one working class body, not with cap in hand, but in firm industrial unity, and present their demands to the Chamber of Mines as one united Mine Workers Union.

The Reward of Loyalty.

A Joint Committee of the Johannesburg Recruiting Committee and the Governor General's Fund has sent a letter to the Prime Minister calling attention to the extreme unemployment inevitable after the close of the German East campaign. First about discharged men, it has to call attention to the manner in which the saviours of the Empire are being treated even to-day.

"It has come to the notice of the Joint Committee that there are already considerable numbers of men being discharged from military hospitals in very indifferent health, parecularly men who have fever, and who on their coming to the high veld, suffer a relapse."

All those men whoodo not want that plot of land in German East, (of course it will be shared out among the conquerors) will find it hard to get a billet. That is what the Recruiting Committee says, not on the Town Hall platform, but in their letter to Louis Botha:

"The Joint Committee have come to the conclusion that it is impossible to place the returned men in civil employment if there be no work on which they can be employed. They cannot make bricks without straw."

Quite true! You can't make bricks out of the straw men on the recruiting platform.

There are on the books of the Governor General's Fund Johannesburg, about 1,350 families whose supporters are now fighting. These men do not receive allowances from civil employers. They had, in almost all cases, no steady employment when they enlisted, and very few of them, if any, have promises of being employed on their return."

"No steady employment when they en isted," having been economically conscripted with the threat of an empty belly at home to go and fight for Liberty abroad.

"There will be, however a considerable displacement of persons now employed in the places of men on active service.

These displacements will, it is estimated number not less than 2000.

Of the single men without dependents who are likely to be without work on return, it is estimated there will be not less than 1500."...

So that the Recruiting racket on the Town Hall square will have to be a permanent institution, to draft all the unemployed away to fight for Justice and Liberty in other parts of the world.

WOMEN MUNITIONERS.

"Rattle and clatter and clank and whire."

And thousands of wheels a-spinning—

Spinning death for the men of wrath,

Spinning death for the broken troth,

And life and a new beginning.

Was there ever, since the world was made,

Such a norrible trade for a peace-loving maid, And such wonderful, terrible spinning?

-From "Vox Clamantis," by John Oxenham.

Militarism Everywhere the Same.

Louvain or Dublin

If Louvain Cathedral is wantonly destroyed, there is great to do. It enshrines the God and the Capital of the Rich. But if the Liberty Hall of the workers is wrecked by cannon, and the organisations' little belongings deliberately smashed, where is the holy indignation then?

But first let us thank the Glasgow Forward for quoting from Hansard speeches on the Dublin atrocities suppressed by

the whole British Press:

The official Hansard reports Mr. J. D. Nugent M.P. speaking in the House of

Commons on the 26th July:

I was able to send to the Prime Minister a letter indicating that at one of the most repectable business houses in the street the military knocked at the dorr, and before there was time to open the door, they fired through it and shot a young girl of eighteen who was in the hospital till about two weeks ago. This was at the corper of North King Street and Smithfield There was no shooting at that particular point. This young girl, Custen, is ruined for life When complaint is made to the military authorities, we are told that the case is under consideration. For over a month I have been trying to discover from the Prime Minister how the matter stands, and to receive some satisfactory reply as to what is to happen to these people. The general reply that I have got for over a month is that there is no positive proof as to who it was by whom these people were shot.

of the street that week. Everyone knows the regiment and the company which was in possession of the street for a

month...

district to which I have referred ordered the women to leave, drove the men upstairs and into cellars, and when they were lying upon their backs in the cellars shot these men dead, and in some cases battered them with the butts of their rifles. I have been in the houses in the street, and I have tried for the last six weeks to secure that something should, be done for these poor people.

In one case—and if there is a single bit of humanity in any one he must be moved by this—there was a little boy, fourteen years of age, with his hands uplifted in appeal, on his father, who was battered dead. It was not, as some have suggested, that these people went out in the streets, and it was not known by whom they were shot. The Prime Minister went into that street and investigated for himself. He knows by whom

they were shot.

Then John Dillon, M.P., told the House of Commons of his visit to the shouting area in Dublin:—

I went round these places myself, and I saw in one narrow small backyard the place where three men were buried for two days. Their bodies were afterwards dug up and removed, but they were buried there with the manifest intention of concealing them. I saw another room where a poor boy, as described by the hon. Member for the College Green Division, was shot. I saw the spot where he was shot, I saw the blood upon the floor. I saw his mother, who came in and found him, as she thought, asleep, but when she went to him she discovered he had two budlets through his chest. He was shot in a small back room. He was put against the wall by the side of the window; no bullet coming through the window could have hit him This case was investigated by the Prime Minister. He is a most extra rdinary man. I saw him the other day, and I found

that he still had in mind all these horrible details. He had been in Eustace Street, where a boy was shot, and he had all the details in his mind. He promised me that there would be a full investigation. In reply to several questions lately, he said—"Yes, there has been a full investigation." I asked, "What was the nature of the investigation?" "It was a military investigation." I ask you, and I ask you confidently, can you expect the people of Dublin to be satisfied with a mere military investigation?

But the stories told by Byrne, M.P., were by far the worst:—

I will cite a couple of cases in support of those given by the hon. Member for East Mayo (Mr. Dillon). I will give one case of a man of the name of John M'Carthy, woo was manager to the Lord Mayor of Dublin. His wife gives an account of what occured in her house in North King Stree'. The military entered the house and found four men there. They searched them, but there was ncilling found on them, and they told them to go upstairs under escort into another room. The women where ordered out and told to cross the road and go to another house. They were told by the miliary, 'We may have to keep your husbands, but you can rest assured that they will be alright. The women went, and four hours afterwards one of them wanted to go back, and attempted to do so. She asked permission from the officer in charg; and he gave her permission, but at the door of her own house she met the sergeant who was in charge, and who hid ordered her out that morning, and he said, "You cannot come in here." She went back again, and the commanding officer insisted on the woman bei g allowed to go inside. She went in, and upstairs, in the same. room in which she had 1-ft them, she found the four men, and they were dead-She went out again, and remained with the other women in the other house all night, but she came back to her own home the next morning with her neighbours. This is where the mystery comes in. When she went upstairs into the room the four bodies had cone. The soldiers denied knowing anything about th-m, but a shopkeeper next door said that he was awakened the previous night by an ex'raordinary noise in the backyard, which continued for a couple of hours. They again approached the sergeant in charge, and ask d him if they could go into the backyard. He said they could not. The women then went to the commanding officer, and he gave them permission and brought them back. The neighbours got shovels, and they dug up the bodies of the four men who were shot the previous night. They were put there for the special purpose of hiding them. When they were searched it was found that the watches and chains and any small cash that they had had been taken from them. I ask you as Englishmen, does that case require investigation?

The Truth about Liberty Hall.

NO SHOTS FIRED UNTIL MILITARY IN POSSESSION.

In the report of the Committee of the Irish Trades Union Congress submitted at Sligo on August 7th and signed by the responsible officials of the Congress, there appeared the following astounding statements about the part played by

Liberty Hall during the recent rising in Dublin:—

In regard to our demand for the return of the books and papers belonging to the Transport Workers' Union and this Congress, we are pleased to say that after some delay we succeeded in obtaining possesion of a portion of these. Unfortunately a great deal has been destroyed, considerable stocks of new books and stationery, as well as large quantities of Trade Union records had been sent to the paper mill to be pulped.

It may be desirable in this connection to place on record, for the information of the Trade Union world outside Dublin, and in the interests of reliable history, certain facts in regard to the attack upon, and the military occupation of "Liberty Hall"—one of the chief centres of Trade Union activity in Dublin.

Sir Matthew Nathan, Under Secretary, in his evidence before the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the causes of the rebellion, stated that there were about three thousand members of the citizen army, and in the course of evidence, and that of certain Dublin employers, an impression was sought to be created that the citizen army and the Transport Workers' Union were scarcely distinguishable organisations.

The facts, as admitted by Major Price, of the Army Intelligence Department, in his evidence, and by the Under Secretary for War, in reply to a question asked in the House of Commons, are, that the citizen army at the time of the outbreak comprised about 200 men! Not more than half of these were members of the Transport Union. They were tenants of rooms in Liberty Hall, and had sole access thereto, just as several other bodies, Trade Union and other, were tenants of other rooms.

Not a single shot was fired from Liberty Hall during the rebeliion until the military took possession. The building was vacated and locked, and no one but the caretaker was on the premises after six o'clock on Monday night, 24th April, until the military "captured the citadel" after a bombarment which was utterly unnecessary, and which did not begin until Wednesday morning, 26th Aprila day and a ha f after the place had been evacuated. The wanton destruction and pillage which occured during the military occupation calls for inquiry. Over two hundred pounds' worth of stock, shirts, underclothing, etc., were stolen from a shop attached to the building and occupied by the Women Workers' Co-operative Society. In the womens' workroom a dozen sewing machines were wantonly smashed to bits, chairs, tables, clothing, books, pictures, etc., were broken up or stolen.

We submit this statement of indisputable facts which have come to our knowledge, in order to remove a talse impression regarding one of our affiliated societies which has been deliberately created by the Capitalist Press and the authorities for the purpose of discredit-

ing that organisation.

Conscription Talk.

The New Zealand Act.

It is evident from the straw men who are put out to test public feeling that we ar preparing for a conscription agitation. Had it not been for the difficulty of gaining Dutch consent, not impossible yet for the premise of exempting the backveld, and the exclusion of the mines, South Africa would have been blessed with conscription long ago.

Federationist describes the Conscription Act which has just been passed in New Zealand. He is very confident of a great revolt against the Act on the part of the Trade Unions, but our experience now of these promised revolts, as in the case of the British Trade Unions, is that if they have not the power or the pluck to stop the passage of an obnoxious Act of this kind, all opposition afterwards, no matter with what great premise heralded, falls flat: Let us hope the New Zealand men will succeed. Says the writer, (Francis Ahern)

"By the time these words reach your readers, conscription will be the law of the land in New Zealand—the sister dominion, of Australia. The act in itself is even more drastic than the conscription act of England. It will proclaim that on a date to be stated later on, all boys and single men and widowers, without children, between the ages of 18 and 45, will be deemed to be automatically enlisted. The only exemptions are men who are not British subjects, or men already serving the colours, and men imprisoned for a term of over one year, or inmates of lunatic asylums.

Industrial Conscripts.

Should a man selected be found to be medically us fit, he may be used for military service at home, or sent back to the class from which he was called. In other words, he will be then an industrial conscript. The men selected have the right to appeal against being selected on the ground that his present work demands his attention. This is a clause that will be highly useful for the moneyed class, and which we presume will be availed of to the fullest extent, as is the case in all conscript countries.

Peremptory Power Given.

When the men are selected, they must join the colors within 14 days. The penalty for failure to do this is a fine of 50 dollars, or a month of jail life, after which the person will then be compilled to go to the front. Those using a wrong name for the purpose of evading enrolment are liable to a fine of 250 dollars or three nonths in jail, while persons wilfully deceiving the Board with intent to interfere with the military operations are liable to five years imprisonment. Employers employing un-

enrolled men are liable to a fine of 100 to 500 dollars — but no jail is specified for the boss as an alternative. Added to this, it must be noted that the police have full power to arrest a man suspected with evading the act without a warrant.

Collective Revolt Threatened.

The writer is prevented from writing as he would like, but it has been openly told to the government of New Zealand, by the various trades unions, that, if the law is put in action there will be an industrial revolution of the workers. The same has been said in Australia. The bill itself states quite clearly that industrial conscription is part of the business—even if it is not admitted in so many words.

Trades Unionist in New Zealand are making an appeal to the government to stay its hand, and so prevent the industrial revolu ion that is sure to come when the first unionist is asked to join the colors under the new arrangement. What is worrying the writer most is whether they will be able to build jails quick enough to house all the objectors to conscription in New Zealand. Perhaps the unionists may even refuse to build jails."

Keep it Going.

Comrades and friends have done samously during the last few months in extending the circulation of The International. The influx of new subscribers has exceeded our expectations. Nevertheless, it must not be forgotten that with the beginning of another year subscriptions are continually lapsing. It is now time for readers to renew their subs. Don't be afraid of being too soon, it is all welcome. The expense of keeping alive our one Socialist and Labour journal in South Africa comes heavy on a few faithful comrades. Every new subscription relieves that burden.

what they call P.O. P. Cards at 2/6 each. These are prepaid subscriptions to be bought by members and friends and sold to new subscribers. The card is an attractive one, divided in two; one half is a receipt to the subscriber and the other half to be sent to the General Secretary when sold with the subscriber's name and address thereon. Push P.O.P.Cards and Socialism.

Keep going with new subscribers, and what is almost as good, keep jotting down names and addresses of workers who are getting interested in the movement and will read the paper, so that a few specimen copies may be posted. A lot of good work has been done in this way during the past year. Keep the flame of Socialism alight in South Africa, by keeping The International not only alive but kicking too. It has many more kicks to make.

French Socialist Manifesto

The French Socialist Minority has issued a Manifesto. It opens with a frank criticism of the attitude of the majority, which it describes as "contrary to the most sacred interests of the Proletariat and disastrous to the salvation and future of France."

After referring to the "ambiguous declarations" of Allied Governments, the Manifesto states:

"In truth, there are many signs that even in the case of the allied nations, the war is tending more and to become an Imperialist war and a war of supremacy, and that the intention is to demand the unconditional surrender of the enemy, economic warfare, and so on.

French Socialism should compel the government specifically to state its aims, and if it will not do so, it should refuse to vote any further credit for a blind war in which the governments, proud of proclaiming their determination and their refusal to treat, exhaust their peoples while professing to save them, and declare themselves ready to trample upon the corpses of all the peoples Europe in order to impose upon one another a funereal and ephemeral victory."

Saints Alive,

Com. Bunting's appeal was heard on Monday before Wessels, Curlewis, Gregorowski. J.J., who reserved judgement. Dr. Krause, K.C and Mr. FA.W. Lucas, as well the Aitorney-General for the Ciown, each addressed the Court, or rather got involved in the usual dialogue with Judge :Wessels, who picked out pros and cons with his usual acumen An intensely silly pamphlet, says he, improper it may be; but if Parliament intended us to suppress Socialist propagan ia, should not the statute have described it more explicitly than "matter calculated to excite public feeling"? -a view in which Judge Gregorowski appeared to concur. As for the allegations about Belgium, Greece, Ireland, and the torture of conscientious objectors, why, "judicial cognisance" or no, there was something in them: and the Socialist dogma, well, after all it was as old as the hills. Judge Curlewis thought those with relatives at the front, or 'gone before,' would justly feel offended or annoyed at the base motives ascribed to those responsible (although 'celebrating the anniversary' was 'language taken over from the "Daily Mail") but the Bench seemed to attach more importance than the Magistrate had to the fact that the Crown itself had proved an absence of disturbance: How then, it was asked, can you say it was calculated to excite?

We expect to report the decision in our next issue.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

An urgent meeting of the Johannesburg Branches of the League will be held in the Trades Hall, Rissik Street, on Monday next, 18th September, at 8 pm. This meeting has been called at the instance of the Management Committee to reconsider nominations of candidates and fighting platform for the Municipal Elections. Reef members will also be welcome to the discussion.

BRANCH NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG

Last Sunday's open air meeting was addressed by Comrade Dunbar. There were unmistakeable signs that the few roughs who had broken up the previous Sunday's meeting were there with reinforcements. The police were also present in numbers, and a general feeling of something going to happen was about. But Comrade Dunbar, who had round him a goodly support of members, gave the hooligans no chance to show "public feeling." He spoke for half an hour, and a couple of attempts at interruption he adroitly turned to ridicule.

Inside, in the Trades Hall, Comrade Dunbar was also down to speak. The subject was the "Class Struggle." He advised the audience to look around. Evidences of the "class struggle" were everwhere plain, and did not require reading in order to study.

The speaker emphasized the paramount necessity for industrial organisation for carrying on the class\struggle on the side of the workers. A large portion of the address was devoted to shewing up the futility of political action, as hitherto understood, to emancipate the workers. A State in America had enacted an eight hours day, but it was a dead letter, because the men were not organised to back it up. On the other hand, the Western Federation of Miners had enacted one on its own account. The Federation posted up the notice on the mines, and it had to be agreed to. So long as they clung to the idea that they were going to be emancipated by politics, by mere talking, they were going to pay sor it. Comrade Dunbar made a spirited appeal for the industrial organisation of all workingmen and women irrespective of race, colour or creed.

Last Saturday's "Social" for the children of the Socialist Sunday School was about the most joyful little entertainment we have ever experienced. The children of the S.S.S. gathered at Professor Wests', and had refreshments and sweets, and heaps of fun, and a programme of singing and reciting that did great credit to the S.S.S. teachers. One of the scholars, Julius Kaplan, conducted the programme in approved style, and all abandoned themselves to the fun. A Dance for the grown-ups followed.

DURBAN.

Comrade H. W. Haynes who had run down from the country on a short visit. He drew attention to the government's appeal for natives to go to work in Europe and from this example of capitalist indifference to colour prejudice argued that the workers have got to throw over their antipathy to organising the black man or he will drive them to the wall. Comrades Clark, Turking too, Lee and Andrews took part in the disc

cussion and presented various points for consideration.

BENONI ON THE WARPATH.

The Branch seems busier than ever lately, and before this is in print, the Dance, which promises to excel any in the past, will have come and gone.

The International is getting very popular out this end of the reef. New subscribers continue to come in, as per list attached.

Two comrades went on their usual weekly pilgrimage to Boksburg North on Saturday last, after having done Benoui. The International sold well, and we got some real proof that we are making headway there. Abuse is always the forlorn hope of a beaten party, and my word, we got our share of that last Saturday from the Labour Party platform. My mate caught the words, "the dirty little rag of the International Socialists," and being a regular devil to fight, marched right up to the front row, and waited his turn, which he thought would surely come at question time. Question time came, and our comrade was not long in catching the chairman's eye, and got in what proved to be a regular stunner, which brought the big gun, Mr. A. Ruffles M.P.C. to his feet, and never before had I heard such a string of abuse. What right had a man like that, a foreigner, a war on war International Socialist who had ruined the Labour Party, and who sold dirty Literature, and had never done a days work in his life, to ask a question. A foreign thing like that, shouted Mr. A Ruffies M.P.C., and fell back in his seat exhausted. A Labour leader im nediately filled up the Gap this time, with his own personal body. Councillor Mantle supported Mr. Rüffles, and appealed to the multitude to stop these Socialists from selling their dirty Literature in Boksburg North. The multitue did not respond.:

The Chairman evidently thought the time was now opportune to state the objects of the party, and with chest expanded, he brayed forth: "The S.A.L.P. is patriotic, we are out for our King and country" (we could see that by their presence on a platform in Boksburg North, South Africa) we are nationalists." With that I felt a pull on my arm, a fellow wanted The International, which sold briskly from then on. Do not forget our supply for next Saturday.

T,C.

S.D.F. Declares Anti-War.

"That the S.D.F. Capetown is opposed to all wars organised on Capitalist lines; and that we consider the present war to be the outcome of Capitalist machinations in which all the belligerent nations are equally responsible."

Such was the resolution passed by a full representative meeting of the Social Democratic Federation last night. The minority again make boast of the usual phrases about the liberties of the British subject, one having the audacity to claim that he was a Britisher first and a Socialist afterwards. We wonder under such circumstances the necessity for the dual activity with the two deliberate opposing centiments.

"Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains and a world to win"!! This is the unrefutable dictum of the orthodox Socialism pronounced from the platforms for more than

half a century, by exponents who have simultaneously renounced the emblems of their respective nations either in the form of Monarchs, Republican Presidents, Flags, or Governments, all of which are represented and maintained by conquest. This obvious and abominable fact it seems has yet to be grasped by still a very considerable number of self styled Socialists

It is conspicious and perhaps comforting to the revolutionary wing, that this section belong largely to the Labour cum Sentimental cum National Guild etc. order hence with such associhtions their position is somewhat excusable.

W.H.H.

Branch Directory.

Benoni.—T. Chapman, P.O. Box 379, Meetings, Smith's Studio. Lake Avenue. every Tuesday night.

Durban.—W.S. Mabbot, 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 4179. Meetings Trades Hall. Every Thursday.

Western Districts.—Fordsburg, Vrededorp, etc. Secretary, Comrade V. E Boyd, 49 Solomon Street, Vrededorp.

Krugersdorp. — Secretary, P. Somerville, 5 Vlei Street. Meetings every first and third Wednesday and, every Sunday night in Thompson's Buildings.

ry, 6 Trades Hall, P.O. Box 4179.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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.

at

Courses Respo's, cio fex 8 Mecleren 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 place.

Have you subscribed to "The International." 5/- per annum, post free, Box 4179, Jo'burg,

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