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The Local Veto.

Beware of the old cracked drum of the Local Veto. Its object is to stampede the people from the true issues. The recruiting swashbucklers of the employing class who kill Germans from the safe and bloodless rampart of the Town Hall donkey cart have been too indiscreet. They make it the issue at the forthcoming election that eligible men shall be hounded out of all Municipal and other (employ to go and fight. The honest enthusiasts of prohibition are thus upleashed to sidetrack the class issue to harmless channels.

immediately prior to conscription in England were designedly meant to fail, so the Local Veto cry is to be a welcome failure as another prelude to the eventual introduction of the Kimberley Compound system on the Rand.

The Moral collapse of Capitalist Society.

Our own opinion is that whatever ulterior motives there may be for this sudden agitation on the part of sectional interests, it derives its hectic flush from the desire of the bourgeoisie to salve the fever and the fret into which the deaths heads and the cross bones of their two system of Exploitation drives them. They want to hide their dwn responsibility for the brutalities of the Liquor Laws. They would fain cloak over the glaring fact that the cruel procession of the degraded and the miserable passing daily through the Illicit Liquor Courts, like the millions of massacred youths in Flanders, and the great army of phthisis men, are all sacrifices delivered up to the Juggernaut of their own Profit System,—a Juggernaut that demands more victims daily than did all the dark ages of so-called barbarism put together.

Like all modern legislation, the only effect is to redouble the offen ces and the criminals, until the system gets choked up in frantic legislation and endless herds of penal victims. The only effect is to make the word "criminal" lose its meaning, and spelt in quotation marks of ridicule: to bring capitalist laws into general derision by their super-abundance, tentativeness, wild contradictoriness and cheapness; and let us hope, lead the public mind to the real root ca uses of the evils they are sought to allay.

This latter is the duty of the working class. They can take no sides in this hypocritical stunt. Nothing can remove the Curse that dogs the modern profit system, wherever it goes, except a strong class conscious industrial organization of the workers projecting its

influence into every sphere of society.

Millions of lives in expiation for property.

Lafargue points out ("Social and Philosophical Studies." League L iterature 2/-) that the bond of primitive society was the passion for vengeance. "The implacable and furious passion for vengeance which is found in the souls of the savages and barbarians of the old and new world is imposed upon them by the conditions of the natural and social environment in which they move. . To shed the blood of one member was to shed the bled of the whole tribe." The institutu tion of private property came in, Lafargue goes on to shew, to replace this first human link, when gold or chattels were first offered in expiation of a crime. In all the old writers of antiquity this was at first considered a base innovation. But it has ne-

vertheless brought human society another step in advance, until it has to-day outlived itself unto putrefaction by ordaining, not that gold shall be an expiation for loss of life, but that the loss of millions of lives shall be an expiation for gold.

Evolving Moralities.

"To buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market" is the morality of the ruling or propertied class, and therefore the ruling morality. From the prutrescence of its results that ruling class cannot escape.

A new principle, like another Neptune, again swims into human ken therefore. The workingclass movement, the movement of the disinherited, emerges from the full fruition of the institution of private property. The law of its existence is the higher one of "an injury to one an injury to all", thus completing the cycle on a higher plane.

This principle, animating the wage-earners can alone solve the manifold contradictions and evils, not merely of Illicit Inquor, but of the whole capitalist system-

The demands of the mining industry has brought the hatives under the indentured labour system to the Rand, to be compounded and herded together under unnatural conditions of celibacy and restriction and regulation, involving all kinds of indignity on the human person and on the human mind. Profits require it to be done so.

Deep rooted evils: Deep rooted remedies.

The people may rave at atrocities, at colour bars, at black perils, at illicit liquor crime, at cheap labour, at the danger to the person, and the disease they breed, but there is absolutely no permanent outcome from the illicit liquor and all other problems of which the native is the centre except the application of the principle which is the law of working class development, "that an injury to one is an injury to all," to the native as to the white worker. That is, that the salvation of white societly as well as of the native, can in the last reckoning only be done by the native workers themselves. The uniting of all wage-labourers irrespective of colour or craft on the industrial field is the only remedy. Deep rooted evils require deep rooted remedies. For this alone we are prepared to work and wait,

SIGNS OF CHANGE.

Finally, at the moment when the class struggle approaches the decisive hour, the process of dissolution within the ruling class, within the whole of society in fact, takes a character so violent and glaring, that a small part of the ruling class cuts itself off and joins the revolutionary class, the class which holds the future in its hands. Just as formerly, a portion of the nobility went over to the bourgeoisie, so now a portion of the bourgeoisie goes over to the poletariat, and particularly that portion of the bourgeois ideologists who have reached a theoretical understanding of the whole historical movement.

Karl. Marx: in Communist Maniscsto 1847.

CORRECTION. On this page last week we stated that all the constituent Unions had refused to nominate candidate; for the Federation ticket in the Municipal Elections. This is incorrect. Several Crade Union Branches did nominate.

'Judicial Cognisance.'

League wins the Appeal.

(See the Rand Daily Mail, Sep. 23, 1916.)

The judgments in re Bunting against the King, in which two judges most treasonably decided against His Majesty, and the accused's conviction was thus simultaneously upheki and quashed, reveal a mixture of noble juridical sentiments, of crass ignorance, of gross mis-interpretation, and of that stupid intolerance and assumption of hearsay matter which those who whine most about the necessity of strict legal proof (Judges must not know where London is) are ever foremost to display. Their language is redolent of Mr. Archibald Cramer, Mr. Langley Levy or the Bishop of Pretoria, and shows no consideration for the feelings of those who are offended by slovenly English. + Their abundant spellingmistakes (e.g. 'guage' for 'gauge,' 'prostitutors' for 'prostituters' etc. may be the fault of their clerks, but Judge Curlewis's l inab lity to say 'anarchic' correctly was his own. Their conceit is overwhelming (even to those who know not Judge Wessels) for they boldly state that they are the only judges of public feeling. Such gutter expressions as "Woe unto you Pharisees, hypocrites" "Whited sepulchres" or "Generation of vipers" sound dreadful, but there is nothing more in them than the invective of the Courthouse, no, pothouse—(the Mermaid Tavern, for instance, where Shakespeare wrote his ribald gutter doggerel, the eff. ct of which on the "supra-mundane" mind of Judge Curlewis is, we are guite ready to believe, nil).

One could go on, but it is enough to parody just the passages which, with the dispassionate fairplay that also distinguished its haderette next day, the "Star" picked out of three judgments taking nearly three quarters of an hour to deliver: "most excellent Judge Curlewis" it says. Like the Bench, perhaps, it selt baulked of a conviction, and vented its chagrin in criticisisms on style, manners and taste: Judges and "Star" man alike teaching their grandmother to suck eggs, with, in the former case; some pawky attemits at Darlinges que humour. Judges are paid to be either literary critics, teachers of deportment or jesters.

Nevertheless parts of the judgments

+ For instance: "The article is a mixture of crassignorance, of hase motives Acc. apparently meaning that it attributes hase molives to others. Again: The only panacea for the wehare of the hummy race -- instract of the ills of the immin race. As for misinterpretation, Lidge Curlewis painphlet-jeers at those who took part in the rebigions celebrations, and suggests that those dying for their country are not actuated by a sense of they or patriolism, but by, reed and the object of gain. The Judge must know how yrolesque is this construction of an allack on the Fulling Chas responsible. "Il pictures tiem as eluating over the sacrifice": Well, Hishop Parse !-"is a fanalic for killing Boches and for getting everyable hodied man fit to fight" i.e. probably 10 be sacrificed. Space sorbids surther examples.

are interesting. A nice point between the majority and the minority reports might be stated thus: A special war-law says "(In peace time you may but) in war time you mustn't say things calculated to excite public feeling." Judge Curlewis says that means things calculated to excite in war time especially. The others by implication say "No, it only means things calculated to excite at any time, otherwise you are applying the war conditions twice over and reading into the Act what isn't there"

There is some ground for agreeing with Judge Curlewis on that point: but not when he argues that a pamphlet which. given every chance, fails to excite, is nevertheless calculated to excite. The only people really excited are the founing re cruiters. Mr. Curlewis should attend at some luncheon-hour to hear the foam: he would understand the allusion better then. They are pitiably conscious of having made a failure of everything they have touched; and in their spite and vexation, being super-excitable, as Judge Wessels says, they cast stones at the first people they see, the "War on Warites" as they call us, and say like quarrelsome children, "Its all your fault." Now, when the Court upholds us, they are foamier than ever.

Again, Judge Wessels offers a modetately acceptable summary of the Marxian gist of the pamphlet: "The war has been

"engineered by the ruling or capitalistic "classes and its origin lies in trade "jealousy. It is an indifferent matter "to the working classes who wins the "war, for they have to sacrifice their "lives at the bidding of the ruling ca-"pitalistic classes who through war-"contracts derive great benefits from "the war. The cause of all this lies in "the economic error of the profit sys-"tem, by which the wage-earning clas-"ses are exploited for the benefit of "employers. But for the profit system "there would be no war, and therefore "the working classes are urged to do "all in their power to put an end to "this profit system, and to substitute "for it the co operative system. The "co-operative system has no interest "in war, for its object is to alleviate "poverty by an equal distribution of "wealth. As there are to be no profits "in the co-operative Commonwealth "there will be no inducement for in-"ternational trade rivalry, or trade "jealousy—there will be no profits to "be invested abroad and therefore no "international quarrels. Humanity "can only be saved from the barbari-"ties of war by an organised movement "on the part of the wage earners, ir-"respective of race, colour or creed, in "order to get rid of the present anar-"chic system: of, production and to re-"place it by the workers' Co-operative "Commonwealth." (All three judges "quote the phrase about "the present. "planless and anarchic system of pro-"Cuction").

"There is nothing pro-German in the article" is his judicial finding "and nothing to assist or comfort our enemies. ..." "The subject matter is as old as the hills" he adds contemptuously—almost as old as the Gospels, say, or the Decalogue. We still lift our eyes to these hills. "The language is redolent of the gutter" but no examples are quoted: the Judge might be proud if he could write half as well. "It states that its party possesses the only panecea"—(like Dr. McDonald, Henry George, or Jimmy Green).

Judge Gregorowski's summary is also fair, and there is less vulgarity or cheap sneer about his whimsical comment, viz. that "a great majority of people utterly disapprove of these ideas, especially at the present time", and that "the mode of expression is intended to be as offensive as possible to those who do not subscribe to their views" (just like the recruiters mode).

"The ariicle is a rehash of what one "has been accustomed to hear. It con-"tains no new departure from the So-"cialist standpoint as regards the war. "The attitude assumed is not antagonis-"tic to any particular war but to all war. "It ascribes war with its accompanying "evils and crimes to the capitalists: "the workers are the victims who are "led to the slaughter and who bear "the brunt, while the capitalists reap. "the benefit. It refers to the burning "of alien shops, to the existence of the "Consumers Alliance," to the Econo-"mic Conference as so many proofs of "the machinations of the capitalists. It "winds up with an appeal to the work-"ers to save the world from the barba-"rities of war, to organize their own "co-operative commonwealth in order "to supersede the present planless and "anarchic spstem of production which "only leads to strife, and to free them-"selves from a state of society in "which the workers have nothing to "lose except their chains."

Judge Curlewis is perhaps right—the business of the Crown is to anticipate a breach of the peace, not to wait until it occurs. We commend his advice to the Johannesburg police, and suggest that they at once arrest and intern the small knot of thugs, who, since our arrests, attend our meetings, evidently in order to prove expost facto that our teaching is calculated to cause a disturbance: and whom, if they succeeded in causing it, their Lordships would blissfully describe as 'the public.' The public is anyone that has the press and the police behind him—and we know who is behind our press and police.

The case was perhaps a victory for free speech: it is the second or third mishap the Crown has suffered in attacking us. But the judgments avowedly lay down no rule as to when matter shall be considered as calculated to excite public feeling, so that we are still at the mercy of judicial rule of thumb. Such is Law and Justice.

BUZFUZ.

Internationalism Begins at Home.

For some time past we have been trying to preach the gospel that Internationalism begins at Home. We cannot get the workers united internationally while they are divided within the nation into warring crast sections. Is we are sincere in our Socialism, right here at home sit must begin. We find growing testimony to the justness of our contention everywhere. We are only repeating unconsciously what is getting to be insisted upon by workingclass teachers and the young bloods of the Labour movement all over the world. If it is wrong to divide the workers into national groups, how much more wrong to split them up into castes within the national groups. If it is wrong for a British worker to hound a German worker who is across the sea, how much more wrong for the white workers to spurn the native labourer toiling and moiling by his side.

Here is what Robert Holder says in the August number of The Plebs, Magazine (what refreshing reading in The Plebs!):—

"Out of the nationalistic ruins of the second International will arise a third International of Labour whose members will be conscious of the fact that just as the crast barriers must be abolished between the workers within a nation in order to get a national class unity to fight and defeat the national State power, so must the national barriers that divide the workers of the various nations be broken down in order to get an international class unity capable of withstanding the international power of capital. The immediate task of the modern working class movement the world over is first to bring about an industrial unity of the workers within the various national groups and to educate them as to their true relationship to the State. Once this understanding has been attained by the workers of the various national groups, an International class unity would logically follow of itself. Up to the present the various Socialist bodies have sought to obtain an International unity whilst the working class within the various nations have remained divided among themselves. They have been making the common mistake of building the roof be fore laying the foundations. The great fight of the future will be between Labour and the State. No doubt it will be a long and bitter struggle, but that Labour will be victorious is as certain as that night follows day. In the words of John A. Symonds:-

These things shall be. A loftier race
Than e'er the world nath known, shall rise
With flame of freedom in their face,
And light of science in their eyes.

Nation with nation, land with land,
Unarmed shall live as comrades free;
In every heart and brain shall throb
The pulse of one fraternity."

War-Socialism.

This time it is in France that Socialists are enchanted by the beauty of the state capitalism which makes, modern warfare possible. L'Humanite, in an editorial, finds great satisfaction in the fact that Albert Thomas, a Socialist, is in control of 800,-000 workers. As a Cabinet member he has charge of the government's munitionsproviding activities. The government is controlling sugar refineries and importing coal. It even dares to tell the l'andlord that you are excused from paying rent. England has done something of the same sort, and Germany has gone much farther. The appointment of Herr Batocki as a sort of minister of food is regarded as quite a Socialist triumph.

All of which shows how much we think of forms and how little we care for substance. In all the warring countries men and women are working longer hours than they have at any time since the rise of the labor movement. In some trades in England they are getting high wages, but for the most part the cost of living has gone up more rapidly than the wage scale. The London Herald published recently figures which show that foodstuffs advanced fifty per cent in England between July 1914, and June, 1916. "It will be said that wages have risen," comments George Lansbury, 'but this is true only of certain industries. Large masses of the population have received no increases at all, and it is certain that no ordinary working people have received an increase equivalent to these increased prices." In France and and Germany wages are worse than in England.

did not come by the will of the working people, and it does not serve their purpose or give them a better life. It was called into being to preserve capitalism and bridge over the interval between two of its stages. But just because the government for the moment has something to do with coal and rent some think we are hovering on the brink of paradise. We are presently to be booted into Socialism by the great god Mars. They will have a sad moment when they discover where Mars has really landed them.

International Socialist Review.

Somehow we have not until now seen the actual text of the resolution on was that was passed at the Easter Conference of the British Independent Labour Party, Here it is.

"This conference is of the opinion that the Socialists of all nations should agree that henceforth the Socialist parties should refuse support to every war entered into by any government, whatever the ostensible object of the war, and even it such war be nominally of a defensive character and instructs the L. P. to bring forward this policy for adoption at the next International Socialist Conference."

GEORGE WASHINGTUN HUGHES

In the Commonwealth House of Representatives on July 16, 1915, (à long age ago to keep consistent) Premier Billy Hughes of Australia, in reply to fears expressed by Labour members to the effect that the measure then before the House foreshadowed conscription, said, "In no circumstances would I agree to send men out of this country to fight against their will." What is Billy Hughes doing to-day?

In the last session of Parliament, says De Spectator, General Smuts was more circumspect. In answer to Dr. Reitz's question on commandeering for Europe, "he said that: such a contingency was unthinkable. The Defence Force did not permit compulsion for oversea, and that it would never be necessary to conscript as there would be plenty of volunteers." So Jannie has left for his government a tidy sized loophole. . . . Let us see what the "monster petitioners" can make of it.

The Labour Leader of Tomorrow.

In this sense, the Labour Leader of tomrrow is the man who will go outside Parliament, who will not merely manipulate votes, or lead a party in the House of Commons, but will find some way of revitalizing the whole labour movement; concentrating and deploying its scattered forces, seizing its different and several aspects and energies. The problem before Labour statesmanship is analagous to the problem that was solved by Applegarth. Odger, and the other members of the Cabinet of the trade union movement, as Mr. and Mrs. Webb called them half a century ago. By their skill and energy they saved the principle of trade unionism. What is wanted to day is another such Cabinet.

Letter to The Nation quoted in the Plebs Magazine.

There can be no free people under Capitalism. All are slaves to somebody or something.

Appeal to Reason.

Other things being equal, the war will make the rich richer and multiply the hardships of the poor, and this will hold in victory or defeat.

R. L. DUFFUS.

Mever was there so much money in the country, and never so many without any.

That is capitalist prosperity.

Ex.

Men talk of friend-hip. There can be no friendship under capitalism. Friend-ship cannot exist under a system of tent sterest and profit. Appeal to Reason.

Sugar: Jam: War!

People wonder why the war can't stop!
Why should it. The people who made the war, or at least, are making it now, are doing well. Here, in brief, is the tale that lineward unfolds:—

There is an abundance of fruit this year in England. The little cottage garden's are loaded to the ground with it. The crop is phenomenal. But it is rotting. The poor people can't use it to make their annual jam, because they can't get sugar. The retail shopkeepers can't cole out more than I or 2 pounds of sugar to their customers. The wholesalers say that they cannot get any more because the Sugar Commission restricts them.

Lift up ye gates and let the Sugar Commission in. But who is the Sugar Commission? Why, the wholesale sugar merchant, they are the Sugar Commission.

At least, McKenna says that the Sugar Commission from time to time "calls in large wholesalers with expert knowledge to advise in the distribution of sugar."

But the Jam Manufacturers, the Lipions, and other great donors to party funds, can get all they want, and they are making jam like fury. What fine profits later on, and the little cottagers have not been able to rob the market with their come-made stuff.

And there are ship loads of sugar vaiting in the harbours, but not allowed unload. The Sugar Commission has no loubt called on the great wholesalers for spert advice. The hint is given that here will be plenty of sugar as soon as the am-boiling season is over.

Jam is a harmless little commodity. Who would think that the war is a good thing for Jam-manufacturing. What then must it be for Coal, and Iron and Shipping, and Boots, and Army Clothing, and Munition Monufacture, and Railway Dividends. These things boss the war. Ind the war will cease when it ceases to bring profits to shareholders; unless the workers wake up before then.

Buntang's Thanks

our columns publicly thank Dr. F. E. T. Krause, K. C. and Mr. F. A. W. Lucas who as prother professionals kindly conducted my defence in re Rex. vs. Bunting which also resulted in the case against league members, D. Ivon Jones and J. H. Andrews being withdrawn.

ANOTHER JOINT MEETING OF THE LEAGUE JOHANNESBURG BRANCHES OF THE LEAGUE WILL DE HELD NEXT MONDAY, 2nd CCTO-

BRANCH NOTES.

BENONI.

Comrades Chapman and Den Bakker made their weekly pilgrimage to Boksburg North again this week, with "The International" for sale. A walk up the Cason Road and back disposed of their stock, and they hied them back to Benoni to dispose of the remainder before the shops closed. Time 2 hours. Distance covered 10 miles, on footback and horse and trap; sales 90. Results: who can tell!

The Socialist Sunday School is busy preparing for a childrens Social. With Comrade Edward Thomas as teacher with his soul in the job and Chapman as superintendent, and Alkema discoursing sweet music to the children, Sunday mornings' School is quite a happy little meeting. It is hoped to buy a piano from the proceeds of the Social.

On Saturday, (tomorrow) An open air meeting will be held in the Market Squre, when the two Andrews, Comrades Watson and Dunbar will speak-

JOHANNESBURG

On Sunday night outside the Town Hall, A. B. Dunbar once more addressed an interested big crowd. He afterwards contessed however that the repeated presence of a few bullies, avowedly to create a disturbance the moment any other capitalism was attacked or Socalism extolled than the enemy, or at best neutral varieties. amounted to a suppression of free speech, in which the police obviously acquiesced. Of course most of the listeners can see and supply the obvious omissions, but the thugs are probably quite unconscious that what all their menaces enforce is baby-talk down to their level.

Indoors, C. B. Tyler spoke on 'Utopia,' especially the genial, sunny 'News from Nowhere' of Wm Morris as against the earlier State schemes. The chairman told the story of the man who, professing faith to remove mountains, looked out of his window after a night of prayer, only to see the mountain still there, and growled "Ah, well, a thocht as much." He thought the tramp, the "bum" and the inmate of Kelly's had the best chance of grasping Socialism.

It is a pity that, if discussion is to be invited at all at these meetings only two or three habitues take part. We want "the public's" criticism.

Next Thursday Oct. 5th will be the branch's first anniversary, when a fresh Executive and officers will be elected. Roll up, comrades all, of all nuances of opinion.

The Sunday School is booming, and now consists three classes (soon, we hope, to become four) as well as a School Committee. Send the kiddies along.

NEW WRITERS. The Press Committee of The International is desirous of encouraging the writing of articles by members of the League on Socialist questions. Not only is it necessary to stimulate Socialist literature writing, but also the research into South African questions which would naturally result.

Space will therefore be set aside for articles by local communities, and the Editor will be advised by his Committee as to the publication of articles received for this space. It is hoped that this will encourage young writers to exercise and develope their gifts.

Have you subscribed to "The International." 5/- per annum. Dost free. Box 4179, Jo'burg. The following appeared in "The West-minster Gazette" during The Boer War when the same nonsense about dying for glory was preached. The signature was A.M.A.

When Johnny Comes Marching Home.

Oh, all the ships are coming home But I've no ship to meet. Now all the lassies see their lads But I've no lad to greet.

And all the tales that I've saved up ...
I've nobody to tell.

An augel cannot play a harp.
And see a joke as well.

I'm tired of being proud of him
And feeling glad he died
If only I might have him back
I'd throw away my pride.

I could have spared him for a week,

And borne it with a smile.

But life goes on and on and on And death lasts such a while.

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

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

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

ADVERTISEMENTS.

I.S.I.. Johannesburg Central Branch
THE

Socialist Sunday School

under the supervision of the above Branch meets

Every Sunday Morning at 11 a.m.

at

Comrade Nesse's, c/o Fex & Mechanga 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. Children between the ages of 8 and 16 specially welcomed.

There are three classes, one senior and two junior, and with the increase of members a further sub-division is expected.

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