# THE MILRIATIONAL.

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

Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

No. 55

FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 1916.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

## Why Conscription is Necessary.

The real object of this recruiting and conscripting of men who are 7000 miles away from the seat of war is well explained by an American. The American capitalists are delightfully frank about their objects sometimes.

The following comes from the American Masses, via the Glasgow Forward. General John O'Ryan, Commander of the New York National Guard, is quoted:

"We must get our men so that they are machines, and this can only be done as the result of a process of training.

When the feeling of fear—the natural instinct of self-precreation—comes over a man, there must be something to hold him to his duty. We have to have our men trained so that the influence of fear is overpowered by the peril of an uncompromising military system, often backed up by a pistol in the hands of an officer. We must make the men unconsciously forget their fear. All thesé matters of standing at attention and 'Sir. I have the honour to report,' are valuable to put him through the biological and social process by which he becomes a soldier.

The recruits have got to put their heads into the military noose. They have got to be "jacked up"—they have got to be "bawled at."

Another Candid Capitalist blurts out the truth:—

Landon, representing the Chamber of Commerce of the State, well and unfavourably known as an enemy of Labour. declared that he wished Labour Unions to understand that the State should have not only universal military service, but also universal industrial service. . . He shouted: "A strike will be treason!"—New York Call.

Take these extracts from the British Press, and ask your-

Last Wednesday's Cambridge Express reports a meeting of the Coatbridge Trades Council, wherein is given the findings of a Committee of Enquiry into the allegations that

soldiers are being paid one penny per hour for working at Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds.

The Committee of Enquiry reported that the allegations were true. Since that time we hear that the Secretary to the Committee has been discharged from his employment.

The Sheffield Independent declares that "In spite of this tremendous profit-making on the part of the employers, wages show scarcely any increase—labour being compulsory and cheap.

From a Leading Article in the "Manchester Guardian," IIth
August, 1916:

"He (Mr. Smillie, addressing the National Union of Scottish Mine Workers) cited as an instance the case of a man who had returned from the army to the mine. He was informed that his place was in a certain pit, which he was not at liberty to leave, and was warned that, in the event of any question of conduct arising, he would be dealt with by the military authority."

The italics are ours.

From the 'Scotlish Farm Servant," June, 1916:

"A farmer visited the local Military Officer and asked him to take a number of his men who refused to work overtime without pay. The farmer remarked, during the course of con-

versation, that the Military Service Act was the finest piece of law ever passed by the Government.

"This farmer had five single men who asked for a rise of wages of £20 per year, but after his visit to the Military Officer, found no d fficulty in retaining their services at former wages, thus saving £100 per year.

"The farmer also stated that he need no longer give them cream with their porridge, as ordinary milk would do now, because they dare not complain now they know the result of dismissal."

When you hear the Filmers and Partridges belching fire and hate at the slacker, remember that their chief desire is not to get troops to the front, but to get the workers into uniform.

"A strike will be treason." Burton, Minister of Railways, has already said that a strike on the railways or any government service is on a par with mutiny. That is why they are enrolling railwaymen in a corps of their own. Their bosses during working hours are their officers in drilling hours, with General Manager Hoy as Colonel, and Cresswell Clark, Assistant, G.M. as Major, and so on down the gamut of officials, so far as practicable. When a strike is threatened, your boss changes into an officer. 'Tenshun,' shouts he; and in a twinkle you have a rifle in your hand ready to shoot down your fellow-worker.

They want this in all industries. There are other harvests in the war for the capitalists besides profits, and one of them is INDUSTRIAL MILITARISM.

## The Building Workers.

A Conference was held in Johannesburg last Sunday consisting of delegates from the Trade Unions in the Building Trades, to discuss the proposal to form an Industrial Union for the Building Trades. No actual steps were taken, but the discussions, it appears, were most interesting. It was decided to push forward the propaganda vigorously. The Union has been started at Pretoria, and Bro. Blake was in attendance to report on its progress. It is expected to start the Union in Johannesburg also within the next two months. The folly of craft unions was expatiated upon. But that the movement is something more than an amalgamation of competing crafts is indicated by the fact that the majority of lickgules present were in favour of coloured men being brought into the Union. Be it noted however that some of the amalgamating Unions already have that proviso. What is required is not only the insertion of a dead clause to salve consciences, but a live propaganda to rope in the coloured workers.

The Engineers have a clause in their constitution admitting all mechanic's labourers. But a dead letter does not make a class conscious Union. What is required is a change, not in constitutions, but in the outlook of white wage-earners.

Open thy soul to see,

Slave, and thy feet are free:

Thy bonds and thy beliefs are one in kind.

And of thy fears thine irons wrought

Hang weights upon thee fashioned out of thine own thought.

SWINBURNE.

## Call to the Workers of South Africa.

#### issued on the occasion of the Transvaal Municipal Elections.

forward candidates at this election not with a conventional programme of Municipal reforms, but with a statement of first principles for the working class. This is an unusual course, but to anyone able to discriminate it should not cause surprise.

The war has compelled the working class as never before to give attention to fundamentals; and, in or out of season, today it seems imperative to bring these clearly before the workers, rather than allow them to be obscured by either imperialist or parochial issues. When profound evils call for far-reaching remedies, the ordinary Municipal programmes ask you to fiddle while Rome is burning. Until Municipal business receives its proper setting within the framework of the workingclass movement, it will be jutile or worse. And we wish to warn the electors that unless recognition is given to the principle of the international working class movement, their votes will at best be to no purpose. . .

#### IBE CONSCRIPTION FATRENS.

The Johannesburg Recruiting Committec has adopted a resolution pledging itself to do all in its power to oppose the return of "War-on-Warites" to the Town Council. The Recruiting speakers also make daily appeals to you to see that "those detestable curs" the International Socialists do not get any votes.

What is the cause of their anxiety? They make no concealment of the fact that what they want is a clear field for the conscription campaign that is coming. A monster petition is to be presented to Parliment; and they declare their determination to push through that body a form of compulsory military service for oversea.

In the meantime their immediate demand is that every eligible man in Municipal employ who will not volunteer to sight shall be "hunted out," "driven out" by any means, that is, given the option either to starve or go and fight for Freedom and Justice.

It is expected that this will have a stimulating effect on other employers; and there must be no "detestable" Socialists knocking about to spoil their game.

THE CALL OF SOCIALISM.

Workers! The Socialists all over he workd, whether it be Liebknecht (sentenced to 4½ years) or John Maclean of Britain (sentenced to 3 years penal servi-0 tude) and many others, have made themselves obnoxious to the ruling class by persistently, too persistently, declaring that this is a war of the capitalists, that the workers of the world have no cause for quarrel to make them slaughter one another by the million; but on the contrary, that no. relief can be found from the duasters that

The International & dist League pats | have overwhelmed civilization until the workers organise, and organise INTERNA-TEDNALLY, irrespective of race, colour or creed. We know that the hard logic of events will convince the workers, sooner or later, of the truth of this great principle.

#### FORTH IS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE.

lie International's candidates enter this Municipal contest, not to make fine promises of millenniums from the Town Council, but to urge upon the workers that their salvation lies in themselves. There is no hope of real betterment from working class representatives in Council or Parliament unless the workers organise industrially to give force to their political de\_ mands.

Those candidates who, aspiring to sit and hoboob with capitalist representatives to administer that estate called the Municipality, tell you that they can get things for the workers single-handed, are justing the workers for a place in the sun. It is as well for the people to know that the political representatives of the workers are powerless unless they bear a mandate from Labour industrially organised.

#### INDUSTRIAL UNITY IS INDISPENSABLE.

That Industrial Combine of Labour is to-day non-existent. Industrial organisation of the workers is weaker in South Africa than in any other industrial centre in the world. "If the salt loseth its savour, wherewith shall it be salted?" If the political movement of the workers neglects to call upon them to combine as the first necessity, who is there to do it?

We wish to urge upon the workers that their movement is not merely a mob movement at the ballot box. The capitalists try to create that impression, because the mandate of a mob can always be defeated. The reason for the continued defeat, of the cause of the workers is largely due to the neglect of the political movement of Labour to call upon the workers to combine industrially to back up their political demands.

The working class is out to capture public power. But if the workers do not combine on the industrial field simultaneously with sending representatives to public bodies, instead of Labour capturing power, Labour's representatives will ever be captured or crushed by the capitalists.

"NPARALLELED FIMES.

Our political appeal therefore is for greater and greater industrial combination for sear of gréater and greater economic slavery looming ahead for the workers. We make this unparalleled appeal because we are living in unparalleled times. The hour has come in the history of human society when the prevailing system of Profits and Wages.--under which the landand machinery of production, whether in town, mine or veld, are passing into the hands of a small possessing class, enriched at the expense of a vast working class, white or black, when this system has bred evils no longer to be borne.

Great wealth and great poverty, palaces and slums, insolent arrogance and servile degradation, seem each to breed the other in ever increasing measure. And as by-products, graft flourishes, free speech is curtailed, and above all, trade competition, relying of necessity on Government armed force to seize from rivals new markets and new recruiting grounds for cheap labour, has now involved nearly the whole world in the unprecedented disaster of the present

We declare that this diseased and discredited society, as it has now become, must soon involve (and indeed calls for the utmost effort to bring about) its own final destruction; and that out of its ashes must arise the humane, the just, the free society of the Co-operative Commonwealth of the Workers, a society in which production for use must displace production for profit. This is the class struggle, the social revolution of our own time, towards which the working class inevitably moves.

THE MASTERS OWN THE TORS AND OWN YOU.

The issue placed before the workers to-day therefore is not to be found in the old ramshackle scaffolding of planks and platforms rigged up by the mugwump parties, which invariably collapse the day after the poll. Many vested interests want cheap tram fares, to enhance the value of their property. Other middle class interests want land values taxed to increase their 'primitive' opportunities" to exploit. And who is there to-day who can judge of the honesty of a would-be Town Councillor by his election promises?

The issue put before the workers today both by the International and by the recruiting bloods of the employing class is this:—

Shall the master class, because they own all the Jobs, have undisputed right over the workers in those jobs? Their body and their soul?

Shall they have the right to use the whip of starvation to drive us, some to produce their profits, others to fight their battles, at their own sweet will?

If we, the workers, are neither fuel for profits, nor food for powder; then the imperative call to-day as ever is to combine, COMBINE, COMBINE to withstand the en\_ croachments of the employing class on the vestiges of freedom we possess, and to throw off the yoke of servitude.

HOW CAN WORKERS ORGANISE

can the workers organise! In this connection we wish to urge the necessity for the reconstruction of the La-

bour Unions. To-day the Trade Unions do little more than wring benefits from the Chamber of Mines for a few privileged mechanics. Great and noble though their work has been, under the conditions of modern industry the Trace Unions disappoint the appressed because they are so constructed as to split up the workers into caves and sections, and are thus inadequate to protect the working class as a whole. These sections leave out the great bulk of the unskilled wage-workers. In practice they make skill, and the colour of the skin, the condition of entry. Thus they are liable, despite the best intentions of their members, to be bought out and stand apart from the struggles of the great mass of their fellow workers, who are beaten in detail by the combined capitalist class.

ONE BIG UNION.

The workers in all industries should therefore demand a method of combination that will combine and not divide, which shall include all those who labour for wages within its fold, irrespective of race, creed, craft or colour; a method of combination divided only by the natural boundaries of the various industries; making one great self-disciplined body of the working 'class. When this is done, not only cheap light and pure milk, but all the good things they produce will eventually fall into the lap of the workers.

TO GET FREEDOM WE MUSI GIVE IT.

Whichever way we look, the great fight to-day is for Freedom. We are asked to die for Freedom. We are expected to abjure all claim to Freedom in order to win it on the stricken field of Flanders. To get Freedom we must give it. The workers must therefore face the fact that, whether they hope to find Freedom in the support of Empire, or in the triumph of the workingclass movement, there is an overwhelming army of native wage labourers in this country to whom the name of Freedom is but a farce, and who are spat upon and spurned by the great majority of their white fellow workers.

The employing class, which exploits all labour without prejudice of colour whether it he white, black or yellow, so long as it is cheap, strives nevertheless to perpetuate that colour prejudice in the ranks of the workers themselves.

TOLERANE NO SLAVE CASALS.

But the working class movement must say that the more humble the toil the more honour to the toiler, whether white or black. Robbed of everything else, to emancipate the world becomes the heritage of those who have nothing to lose but their chains.

Remember the slaves of Rome, and how their masters were overwhelmed. As the meral decadence of a society upheld by slave labour recoiled on the Roman world conquerors, so are the white community in South Africa, and the white workers especially, threatened with moral and eco-

nomic ruin to day by countenancing a slave caste of wage labour in the social foundation.

It is for the white workers to stretch out the hand of industrial unity to the native workers, and enlist the enormous economic power they can wield from the side of the capitalist to the side of the working class and true civilization.

VOTE TO EMANCIPATE THE WORKING CLASS.

If you agree with us in the foregoing statement of principles, then we seek your endorsement of them at the ballot box in the forthcoming Municipal Election. Show to the conscriptionists and the Capitalist kidnappers that there is still some independence left in the workers.

candidates will, if elected, follow the foregoing broad lines. No doubt they will support such of the stock reforms appearing on the ordinary tickets (Social Reform, Labour Party, etc) as may appear genuine and calculated to bring the working class a step nearer their great objective—the Co-operative Commonwealth. They will also endeavour to further One Union for the whole of the Municipal employees. Knowing however what Municipal Business in practice usually comes to, they pin their faith not so much to these reforms, but to the main principles of this manifesto.

A vote for an I.S.L. candidate is not only a vote for these principles, but a promise from the voter (instead of the usual promise from the candidate) that he will assist in furthering them and carrying them into effect.

lise and manifesto will be regarded in leaflet town for the Rand Elections. Quantities of an abridged edition will also the sent to any part of South Airica in regarded to promises to distribute.

#### ANOTHER GREAT PUSH.

#### Ten Commundments Tottering.

NEW YORK. Wednesday. A. proposal to revise and shorten the first five of the Ten Commandments will be submitted to the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States: Press Cable.

Hooray! We'll soon reach "Thou shalt not kill," and George Hills will have no more need to explain that it is meant "not collectively but individually"! Of course, we are not misled by this partial conscription of the commandments. They are only taking the unmarried commandments, so to say; those with no friends. But by the time that the massacre of Flanders has to be explained by the Church, they will have found means to industrially conscript the whole lot. That will take 'em down to verse 17, of Exodus (Exitus). Fifteen verses lower down they will come to something new:—

"Then his master shall bring him unto

the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awd and he shall serve him for ever."

But that is in the next chapter. The parsons won't demolish that. The next chapter is the Social Revolution: which is right on the doorstep.

But the "tooth for a tooth" commandment is still in full force. R. J. Campbell, the driveller of the New Theology, is scrapping the sermon on the mount as well as the "Immaculate Conscription." The Bradford Pioneer quotes him thus:

"We must exact life for life. Let the Allies intimate now that every case of rape, pillage, and murder, will meet with instant reprisals on the bodies of the robbers and murderers already in our hands, and there will be less of it, perhaps none at all."

But it takes a Socialist to die and forgive, even when R. J. Campbell's paymasters refuse him even Death for a Sanctuary from their all-consuming vengeance. Here is an incident of the Irish Revolt:—

"Councily, dying in frightful agony, carried out on a stretcher, and propped up to be shot, could yet pray for the soldiers who formed the firing party."—

EVA GORÉ BOOTH, in 'Socialist Review," August, 1910.

#### On the Soap Box in Adderley Street.

War! The hell of it, is being discussed in all its aspects by the Social Democrats of the Cape just now.

At the Adderley Street meeting on Sunday night, challenges to debate were hurled between the S.D.F. speakers and the pro-war "Socialists." Dealing with the revolutionary aspect the S.D.F. speaker (Comrade Harrison, we presume: Ed.) drew a picture in metaphor concerning the driving power of a ship. The sailer was the obsolete form; the steamer the modern. Many reforms in methods of sailing, were introduced, but the driving force was still by wind. The revolution came by the introduction of the steam, which was an absolutely different force of locomotion. The sailing ship was the capitalist system. The steamer the social revolution; hence no Socialist should concern themselves about resorming the sails, but work to establish the new and more modern form of locomotion.

The S.D.F. speaker claimed British descent and had seen service as a British soldier, but he now stood by the axiom "That the world is my country and every man is my brother." He had nothing but condemnation for the methods of brutal capitalism in Germany or any other part of the world: but he put out the hand of fellowship to the workers of Germany who were duped to suffer slaughter for capitalist gain. We were a people of lunatics blind to obvious facts. If a starving citizen steals a loaf of bread, he is hauled up as a thief, vagrant, and sentenced to imprisonment. If a capitalist robs people of

land and wealth by lawful theft, he is made a Lord, Duke or Earl. The same with the question of murder: "If a citizen slays another he is tried and hung for assasination. If on the battlefield he slashes with a sword and slays fifty he is declared a hero and awarded a cross of valour." Police Sergeant here intervenes and closes the meeting. A visit was paid the S.D.F. speaker by the same sergeant a few days afterwards, warning him that such "comparisons" are not to be made, and that he must refrain from using such language in future. Hence by the skin of our teeth are we again saved.

## The War to end War-New Style.

"ALL OUR SACRIFICES IN THE WAR WILL BE IN VAIN if we leave to Germany the means of recommencing the commercial war."-Mr. W. M. Hughes, interviewed by "Le Matin."

Mr. Hughes, while in France, addressed some of the men from the trenches. The following report has not been submitted to the Press Bureau.

"We've 'ad a perlitical bloke down 'ere of a most peculiar kind.

'E was a Practical Man' 'e ses, an' 'e spoke is practical mind;

An' 'e said: 'Yer may lay the enemy out an' make no end of a splash,

But wot's the use of layin' 'im out if yer don't lay 'old of the cash?'

"Well, we none of us came out 'ere for cash, but simply to do our bit. But when we started explainin' to 4m, 'e pretty near 'ad a fit;

"You're splendid fightin' men," 'e said,. "an' a credit to England's slag:

But wot's the good of fightin' at all if you don't get away with the swag?'

"An 'e said: 'You was unprepared for war, an' for peace it will be the same'; But we answered, 'Soldierin' isn't our job

but we're learnin' the rules o' the game An' now that we've got our and in' -But 'e larfed at us louder still-

"Wot are you gettin' your and in for if yer don't get it into the till?"

Then'e told us as how the blood an' the mud an' the 'ellish kind of a strain ... O'stickin' out this blinkin' war would all of it be in vain

Unless while we was chargin' the foe an gettin' im on the run

The blokes at 'ome what collar the 'oof 'ad collared the trade o' the Un.

"Well, we was jest abart fed up then, an' we told im to go to 'ell,

Or stop out 'ere like us for a bit—which 'ud do pretty near as well.

We never thought much o' perlitical chaps but this pertickler bloke-

A Practical Man? We Don't think; 'e's a bloody bad practical joke!"

M. B. RECKITT in London "Herald.",

"There is one thing stronger than Armies, and that is an idea whose time has come." said Victor Hugo. Socialism is the idea whose time has come. To-day it is the only alternative.

The soft green carpet of the beauteous earth, is no arena for unhallowed fiends.

GOETHE.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE 5.A.

OBJECTS: To propagate the principles of International Socialism and anti-militarism, and to maintain and strengthen international workingclass organisation.

P.O. Box 4179

Phone 6035.

6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street. Johannesburg.

General Secretary:

D. Ivon Jones.

#### BRANCH NOTES.

#### BENONI.

The open air meeting on the market square last Saturday was an encouraging success. Comrade Watson failed to turn up owing to indisposition. Comrade Dunbar spoke to a thoroughly sympathetic audience. "The International" sold well, and the sellers of the paper, who are after all best capable of feeling the public pulse, found a great change taking place in the minds of the people.

It is intended to hold an open air meeting in Boksburg North on the 14th., when it is hoped Comrade Watson who is recovering, will be well enough to speak.

#### JOHANNESBURG

No meeting was held on the Town Hall Square on Sunday evening, per resolution of the Joint Branches. But "The International" was sold, and went well.

Mr. T. R. Rogers, who is Comrade Mason's father-in-law, lately arrived from London, delivered the lecture indoors on "The Labour Collapse in Great Britain." The lecture was followed with interest; and the speaker's critical remarks on the "war on war" attitude resulted in some good humoured jousts with Comrade Dunbar and others at the close.

#### MUNICIPAI. ELECTIONS.

The series of joint meetings of the Johannesburg Branches called to consider Municipal Elections have been of extreme interest, and have finally resulted in the first resolution to fight the Municipal Elections on a revolutionary issue being given effect to by the endorsement of the Manifesto which appears in this issue. The discussions have been long and keen. It was felt by the majority that to copy the stock programmes of the "mugwump parties" and make them an election issue, would be a dereliction of duty, and a betrayal of its great mission on the part of the League.

The candidates already endorsed by the M.C. were adopted, and the Selection Committee was instructed to proceed to finally arrange the ticket. This has now been done, and the League will put forward the following ticket to fight on the Manifesto in Johannesburg.

Ward I. Jas. Forrester Brown, M.P.C. Ward II. David Ivon lones. Ward III. S. P. Bunting, M.P.C.

#### Traditional Ideas.

When people speak of ideas that revolutionize society, the fact is that within the old society the elements of the new are formed, that the dissolution of the old ideas keeps pace with the dissolution of the old social relations.

When the ancient world was in its decline the ancient religions were overcome by the Christian religion. When, in the eighteenth century, Christian ideas gave place to rationalist ideas, feudal society fought its death battle with the then revolutionary bourgeoisie. The ideas of religious liberty and liberty of conscience merely expressed the rule of free competition within the domain of knowledge...

. . . The Communist revolution is the most radical rupture with traditional property relations; no wonder that in the course of its development it breaks most radically with traditional ideas. KARL MARN.

MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, and it is true also that a publication cannot live on compliments. If you take the editor's word, no compliment reaches the heart like a renewed subscription. So says one of our valued exchanges, And so says the Press Committee of The International.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

I.S.I. Johannesburg Central Branch

## Socialist Sunday School

under the supervision of the above Branch meets

Every Sunday Morning at 11 a.m.

Comrade Neppe's, c/o fox & MacLarea 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.

The General Dealer business registered at Boksburg, on August 31st, 1916, by P. Lochoff, No. 6 Klipsontein Farm, will be trausferred to S. H. Jacobson as from October Ist, 1916.

C. & L. Clingman, l'arties' Agents. Mercantile Buildings, Commissioner & Simmonds Streets., Johannesburg. 6.13.20.

Have you subscribed to "The International." 5/- per ammun. post free. Box 4179, Joburg

Printed by Viliven & Co., 185 Smit Street. Braamsontein, for the ISI, P.O. Box Michigannesius