

the Organ of the International Jocialist League

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Peace Manoeuvres.

Peace manoeuvres! This is what the press terms agitations sur, or rumours of peace. Prior to the outbreak of war it was undoubtedly true that peace was desired by the majority of capitalist interests. But they had left the powder lying about, and the match was dropped, and the train lighted, and the magazine had to blow up.

In the meantime, the vested interests in war have grown enormously, until at the present time the ruling interests of capitalism find it a good paying investment. Shipping interests are doing well. The hundreds of millions invested in war loans are all a dead weight against peace (or let us say, the cessation of war, because there can be no peace under Capitalism). All the investors in the war loans dread the name of peace for fear of a decline in their value. All the huge munition concerns, having invested millions in new plant, want the war to continue in order to recover the outlay. Coal Kings, Copper Kings, Gold Kings, Iron "Masters," Clothing and Food Contracters, none of these want peace, now that the financial problem of carrying on the war has been solved. The financial problem is only the problem of man power. This has been solved by women. The advent of women into industry has, with the introduction of labour saving machinery, more than compensated for the loss of man power, and production is on a more gigantic scale in Britain to-day in spite of the withdrawal of three million men from industry.

So that any "peace feelers" knocking about are interpreted by the Press as the 'whip behind' cry of small sections of disappointed capitalists who do not happen to share in the war loot. Says "The Star":--

"Reuter's New York correspondent says the Stock Market I is affected by the peace rumours which many bankers have spread that native locations are always dumped on working class districts. with the object of weakening war shares."

Now, there is a pregnant sentence for you! "Peace Rumours,"-"Bankers"-"War Shares." American capitalists, it is estimated, make seven dollars profit for every Tommy shot in Flanders. It pays well. What do British Capitalists make out of I it? They beat the Yankee hollow. There is a war profits revenue i of £70,000,000, at 50 per cent, this year. That makes at least one hundred and forty million pounds profits due to the war which they have not been able to hide away from the exciseman. That makes a modest £140 extra profit for every mother's son snuffed out in the l fight for freedom. Another £140 into the pocket of the kind capitalist, as the "reward for abstinence" (from work), for every sweetheart deprived of her boy. Another £140 to same, as "wages for supervision," for every arm chopped off in the cause of Right. And still another £140 to the "leaders of industry" for every leg amputated in this glorious war for the liberties of small nations. When there is money in it, how easy to find high sounding phrases to justify its continuance. Especially when those who reap the profits are the same interests that pay the parsons, own the press, hold the politicians in the hollow of their hand, and have sole control of public education.

On top of all that, while the war is on every capitalist has the right to speed up the workers under industrial conscription. It has market. The only way out of the vicious round of his commodity stabeen proved that the extra output due to the powers given to employers by conscription and the Defence of the Realm Act is fully Lit prophetically: "Labour cannot emancipate itself in the white 30 per cent.

Then who the devil wants peace? Only the workers of the world. But surely, if that vague and swollen thing called public opinion was of any use it is to-day. But it is not. Up against capitalism and its war making it is as effective as a tallow candle is to pierce a brick wall.

The war has shown up the class struggle in all its nakednesa. The only power that can put a stop to the horrors of capitalist war and capitalist peace is working class combination. Industry, that thing which has to-day become the tyrant of man, in whose behalf milllions are immolated, is also the machine along which if the workers do but organise, they can use for the deliverance of mankind. The great work before us is to get the workers to realize that only by their own solidarity as workers can there be any hope for humanity. Until they do so, evils will not diminish but overwhelm.

The Great Unskilled.

The fortunes of the great mass of the unorganised workers of this country should really be a matter of greater concern to Socialists than the two and ten penny versus two and eleven penny vicissitudes of the organised craftsmen. The peculiar illusion to which social classes are prey to is that they represent the whole of society and that no other section counts.

From this hallucination the white workers also are not immune. In speaking of the rights of the workers, it always means the rights of the white workers, and sometimes it only means' the white skilled workers; because the very system of organising supposes that only white skilled workers require to be protected from the capitalist.

A Labour Town Councillor this week bemoaned the fact It reminds one of the discovery of the schoolboy that all the big rivers of England went round by the big towns. Where the location is dumped will depend on which landlord section pulls the most Labour marionettes. But wherever it is dumped, does not that district become a workingclass one?

While the exploitation of the mass of the unskilled workers in this country is taking on such startling developments, (the recruitment of 10,000 workers for France, the figures disclosed in the annual report of that Labour Exchange which calls itself the Native Labour Recruiting Bureau, recent incidents in Basoluland, etc.) the exploitation of the unskilled should be of most portentous significance to all friends of Labour in South Africa.

It cannot be too often reiterated that all great revolutions in human society take place, not as the result of statemanship, of wizardries of finance, of the erection of elaborate platforms and great schemes,—they come about through the acceptance by the people of one or two great underlying principles. While these are not grasped, of what use is the capture of political jobs?

The habitual exclusion from working class outlook of the mass of the unskilled worker not only hinders further advance, but presages disaster to the white workers of this country.

The worker's root grievance is that he is a commodity in the tus is by solidarity with all other wage-labourers. Mark expressed while in the black it is branded."

Liebknecht's Defiance.

A couple of week's ago we referred to the sentence of three years penal servitude passed on John Maclean of Glasgow by the military authorities for his Socialist activities. His offence was that of the quiet and uncetentations educator of the workers. Liebknecht's arrest was of a most dramatic and stirring kind.

Liebknecht's final offense, which caused his arrest and consequent imprisonment, was delivered before a great Labor Day demonstration in the Potsdamerplatz, in Berlin, on May Ist, of which the following vivid account is given in the International Socialist Review by a spectator:

It was two o'clock in the afternoon. Tens of thousands of people in the streets and crowds are coming from everywhere. The strange thing about the gathering is its complete silence. Not a sound is to be heard—only the noise of countless feet. Women and children predominate. The men, for the most part, are of advanced age. Liebknecht is to deliver a speech. He said:

"Comrades, some time ago a witty Social Democrat observed: 'We Prussians are a privileged people, We have the right to serve as soldiers, we are entitled to bear upon our shoulders the entire burden of taxation, and we are expected to hold our tongues.' So it is. The authorities never cease to call upon us to keep silent. Quite a simple thing—hold your tongue, that's all, Don't talk! If you are hungry, don't talk! If your children starve, don't talk! They ask for milk—hold your tongue! They ask for bread—don't say a word!...

"The workers of Germany have to bleed because such is the will of the capitalists, of the superpatriots, of the cannon-makers. The people have to make bloody sacrifices without a murmur in order that these robbers may mint gold out of their valuable lives: The war was ushered in with a lie, so that the workers would rush to the battlefields, and now the lie still presides over the continuance of this awful carnage."

Liebknecht had scarcely finished the last sentence when the tanks became disturbed. Something happened. I looked round—endless waves of human heads. Liebknecht is being dropt down from the platform; his comrades follow him. The children are alarmed, and the air is full of cries. Then a movement never to be forgotten. I am lifted off my feet by a human wave and carried aside. The police break into the crowd, they trample many underfoot and throw others to the ground.

At his trial and condemnation, which followed in July, the public prosecutor asked that the public be excluded. Lieb-knecht exclaimed:

"Gentlemen, you are powerful, but you are afraid. You tremble at the effect

my poor words might have on the public and on the prudently chosen journalists. You who have at your disposal a force of police, an army, cannon, everything! It is cowardice on your part, gentlemen. Yes, I repeat that you are cowards if you close the doors. You should be ashamed of yourselves."

Nevertheless, the court decided to exclude the public. Then Liebknecht shouted to his wife and Rosa Luxemburg in the audience: "Leave this comedy, where everything, including even the judgment, has been prepared beforehand! Go away!"

When the crowd waiting outside heard the verdict shouts arose: "Our Liebknecht has been condemmed to imprisonment for two and a half years. Long live Liebknecht!" The next day between 50,000 and 60,000 workers in the munition factories, and specially in the plant of the General Electric Company, struck. The manager of the latter concern asked to see a delegation from the strikers. He told them that no political strike would be tolerated and that strikers would be tried by court-martial, but he added that if they desired an increase in wages the company would consider it. The men did not ask for an increase, but after a few days the strike ceased owing to opposition by socialists and syndicalist leaders.

The Berlin newspapers have been for bidden to publish the fact of the arrest of Rosa Luxemburg. She was arrested in the military zone and can thus legally be kept in prison without trial until the end of the state of siege. The news of her arrest, however, was spread by word of mouth throughout Germany.

Disloyal to the Empire.

The Ironmoulders are out on strike in Johannesburg for an increase of pay. Although only a small body of men,—about 150, they are the most compactly organised in the country, and owing to the nature of their work, hold a strategic position in the engineering industry. It is said that the Minister of Mines has threatened to apply the Industrial Disputes Act to the men if they don't settle up quick. But the Ironmoulders are not greatly terrorised by that legality, as they have the economic power, and must win.

The A.S.E. men in the town engineering shops are also agitating for better conditions. Whether they will push their demand to the length of a strike has not yet transpired.

Men lie for profit, steal for profit, and murder for profit. Children are made slaves for profit, and women sell themselves for profit. Does it not seem reasonable to suggest that the way to put a stop to all this is to produce for use instead of for profit?

The Glasgow "Socialist."

Remember The New Innational

We must not forget that the beginnings of a new International Socialist movement have been made in Switzerland. The whole of the Italian Socialist Pariy, and the strong minorities in the French and German Social Democrats have participated in the new movement. The League considers itself an integral part of this new movement, destined again to knit the working class of the world. The anti-war Socialists in all countries are the hostages to international friendship as a guarantee of its revival and the dying out of hate.

But it must be something more than this. It must also be the expression of working class power exercised internationally through industrial organisation, to challenge the power for hate and oppression of international capitalism.

It has been decided to send financial aid to the New International Socialist Commission, of which Comrade Grimm, of the Swiss Socialist Party, is the secretary. Branch Secretaries of the League are reminded to get their lists filled up, and sent back as soon as possible. The following contributions are acknowledged:

Johannesburg Central Branch: J. Neppe 2/6, A. Heller 1/, A. Watson 2/6, D. Ivon Jones 2/6, A. Myers, 2/6, A. Anderson 2/6, S. Kartun 2/6, A. Alper 2/6, Mrs. Andrews 1/-, Mrs. Marynen 1/- Mrs. Cohen 1/-, Mrs. Breet 2/-, B. Klenerman, Kumberley 2/6. Germiston: E.H. Becker 10/-, H. Glass 2/6, D. Ginsberg 2/6.

The workingclass: Who are they f

Mary Fitzgerald, champion of Labour, talking on the eternal Kaffir Location site question, (a war of words and of landlords) complained that they always put kaffir locations in working class districts. You see, the native is not the working class. We, the white wurrkers, we the compound managers of the nigger, the fitters, the skilled mechanics who provide good rentals for fat landlords in respectable wurrking class neighbourhoods,—we are the wurruking class, and not the blankety, blankety nigger boy. We are the aristocrats of Labour, not kassir muck. Labour is respectable. The native, why, he sweats with a black skin?

A. Socitions Scientist.

It is a lamentable fact that beyond any nation of the West the bulk of our people remains ignorant; not in comparative ignorance only, for that would be less difficult to remedy, but in intellectual apathy.

We must all bow before the hard necessity of the moment. But we should still have the opportunity of doing something at least to prepare for the even more serious struggle that must ensue against the enemy in our midst that gnaws at our vitals.

SIR ARTHUR EVANS, to the British Association at Newcastle.

The South African Boodle Party.

Labour Captured by Bung.

Having first sold itself to the capitalist class, and then chucked by that class
among the scrap, the South African Labour
Party has now to sell itself to Mister Bung,
the Brewer, for a living.

There is a lot of money knocking about in the Local Veto campaign on both sides. The Press says that it is calculated to overshadow the Municipal Elections. "Calculated" is right. Of course that is the object of it. The workers must be kept off the class war at all costs.

A League candidate has been offered money to boost the Brewery side of the question. We therefore assume that any candidate flagwagging the liquor question is subsidized by the Liquor Trade. Labour candidates are issuing literature of this kind. Various candidates have the identical slogan. Here it is: The Burning TOPIC OF THE DAY is the LIQUOR QUESTION.

The Labour Party is out to nationalize it, NOT to prohibit it. PROHIBITION MEANS CONFISCATION.

Here is a Party pretending to stand for the working class surrendering itself over to Bung in a job to sidetrack the class war; asking for votes on an issue which does not effect the election of candidates; accepting subsidy for an election campaign from the most disreputable section of the capitalist class; lending itself to the Bogey of Confiscation, as if a party of Labour should not be out to confiscate, yes confiscate the whole capitalist class; and selling the name of Labour to gild labour's chains.

Is that the only issue at this election,—
that the worker is deprived of his beer?
Is he not deprived of the whole of life?
Is it not that he is a commodity, his labour power subject to the fluctuations of the market, far more so than beer? Is it not that by virtue of being a commodity for the use of the capitalist he is liable to be chivied to the front, by the whip of starvation in the hands of the employing class, the Brewer included, even by Labour recruiting sergeants, whether he likes it or not,—is not that the crime?

What did this Party decide at the special Conference before the 1914 elections. Anxious to muck-rake all possible votes on other matters as well as the war, it decided to trim for the teetotal as well as the beery voter. In a footnote to the plank "Nationalisation of the Liquor Traffic," it stated in the Election Manifesto:—

The South African Labour Party is in fayour of referring to the Electorate at election times, requesting the electors to vote (a) whether there shall be nationalisation of the the liquor traffic, (b) whether the traffic shall be prohibited."

But two years is a long time for a Boodle Party to keep consistent, even with the help of Bung. Poor "Labour," how you have been sold.

Boodle, Boodle, Boodle: That is the end of any party calling itself Labour once it deserts the true interests of the workingclass for votes. Its decline began when it shouted War. It ends by shouting for Bung. 'Another and another beer to drown the memory of this impertinence.'

What Means This Socialism?

Extracts from the Manifesto on State Socialism in the Glasgow "Socialist."

Socialism is a system of social equality, and needs no machine of domination. The victory of Socialism means the destruction of the State.

... The workers status in modern society is that of a commodity, bought and sold, like ordinary merchandise, for wages—which is the price of labourpower. Whether a labourer sells his labour power to an individual capitalist, to a municipality; or to the State, the fundamental facts remains—he is a commodity, a wage slave, whose price (wages) is determined by the same economic law that regulates the prices of all commodities—the law of supply and demand. This law operates in the Iron market, in the Jute market, in the Rubber market—and in the Labour market, which demonstrates beyond all confutation that labour power is a commodity bought and sold in its respective market.

The class struggle demands no compromise at the ballot box. It refuses to cooperate with any political section whose aim is not the overthrow of capitalist society. The political struggle can only be the social war between Capital and Labour expressing itself at the ballot box. Therefore, the sooner the industrial organisation becomes conscious of its class mission, the sooner will the class struggle manifest itself in Parliament—but not until then. The political aim of the class struggle is not to facilitate the work of capitalist society but to demand the unconditional surrender of the tools of production into the hands of the industrially organised workers, who through the industrial committees directly representing the artisans will administer the needs of the new social system—The Socialist Republic.

Socialism from below—in this way the workers assume command over the means of production. In this way the worker becomes a unit in the community, and through his industrial organisation operates the socially owned tools. He will then receive, not wages, but the social value of his labour. Thus he will partici-

pate in society as a Man, and not, as at present—a commodity, a piece of merchan-dise that is bought and sold.

The class struggle is, therefore, the guide to intelligent future action. And one word more. The class struggle relies on one element to achieve Socialism—The Working Class. Those outside the ranks of the workers are welcomed, but, be they intellectuals or middle class men, they must accept the discipline of the class struggle and take their stand, not above the workers, but at their side.

To-day the old cry of the International is truer and grander than ever:—

"The Emancipation of the workers must be the work of the Working Class."

A Letter from England.

Not in the "Rand Daily Mail."

The following is an extract from the letter of a South African lady in London. It is worth reproducing as an indication of the real feelings of correspondents. Compare with the made-to-order letters in the daily press:—

"It makes your heart ache to go into these big hospitals and see the sights they are; and they say it is heaven after being in France. Mr.—— said there were 900 of them went into this battle. They had to take Delancourt Wood, and 120 were left. There were 4 left out of his platoon. He is one and a young fellow from Kimberley, in the same ward wounded in the head, and with his leg off. You realize this. war here. There are over 1,000 wounded in that hospital alone. The hospital for South Africans is in Richmond, but it is full up, 2,000 there. There is a hospital near us. I went over it as we have a friend there. It is the second general hospital in Loudon, and there were 4 wards of blind. The sights were terrible. One with no arms and legs, and one with no legs and only 17 years old, and all the men with one leg and one arm in that hospital. They have 250 nurses in that hospital without the sisters. So you can guess they have a few patients.

I wish you were here to see the women. It is marvellous all the work they are doing. I went to see a demonstration of women workers, postwomen, porters, bus conductresses, and every trade you can think of. The chief of course were the munition workers; and it is awful to see the lyddite workers. It is most unhealthy and injurious work. It turns their hands and faces yellow, and their hair green, and it is a permanent disfigurement. They call them the "canaries." Some wear trousers and overalls."

"is ever the enemy of the Good."

Plebs Magazine.

international Socialist League (S.A.)

Objects: To propagate the principles of International Socialism and anti-militarism, and to maintain and strengthen international working-class organisation.

P.O. Box 4178

Phone 5035.

6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street,

Johannesburg.

(ieneral Secretary: D.

D. Ivon Jones.

BRANCH NOTES.

BENON!.

It has been decided owing to the Municipal Elections to postpone for a week of two the open air meeting in Boksburg North which was fixed for this coming Saturday. The Johannesburg Comrades being busy with the distribution of the Manifesto, they would not be able to come out to make the desired rally.

JOHANNESBURG

Owing to the fact that so many of our members will be occupied with the distribution of leastets in the Municipal Campaign, the Thursday meetings will be suspended for the rest of October.

The speaker next Sunday evening will be Comrade S. P. Bunting.

Last Sunday's meeting in the Trades Hall was addressed by Comrade Ivon Jones on the subject of "Get Something Now," The purport of his address was to shew how Socialism can never come up on the agenda of public bodies in the Political State. That to make Socialism an issue at elections involves a rupture with traditional ideas; that the business of the working class with the Political State is to capture it to smash it. That the constructive side of Socialism is to be found in the fostering of the Industrial Union, which, in the fullness of power, becomes the sole directing authority in society, shedding off the tyrranical institutions of the political state like a tree shedding its old bark in springtime.

It has been decided by the Branch Executive to resume the open air meetings next Sunday evening.

The League will be holding another Dance at Professor West's Academy next Wednesdoy, the 18th inst. Roll up everybody, so says the women Comrades Committee. Tickets 2/6.

THE MANIFESTO.

Manifesto by the thousand, and comrades have already started getting to work with the house to house distribution. All those comrades who realize the fight that has to be put up to keep the class struggle clear before the workers in these times should swallow their pride and do the only effective work possible, that is, the distribution of the Socialist leader. We intend putting our leader has every house in Johannesburg during the manufacture for the workers in the distribution of the Socialist leader. We intend putting our leader has every house in Johannesburg during the manufacture for the Weintend Putting

Drafting Committee, it contains a message, clear as a bell, that stands out fresh and inspiring from all the cries of the Boodle Parties. We intend to let no one be in doubt as to what they are voting for in this election. For the first time in South African electioneering, the continued existence of the capitalist class itself is challenged.

It is hoped that a League candidate will yet be found to fight on this great issue in Benoni. "Comrades come rally, the last fight let us face." Here is the most glorious fight you can face to-day. It will never be more urgent. You will never be more badly wanted. To DAY you must face the battle and the breeze—and distribute the Manifesto.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Cointade.

I would like a few lines of your space to make an open request to the members of the Executive of the old Germiston Socialist Society That society, of which I was a member, became defunct a few years ago, leaving a balance of £20 old in the bank.

I know that the constitution provided that eny such balance should go to the Russian Bund in Switzerland, then a party of the Russian revolution. But the resolution providing same was never given effect to; and the Bund has now changed its complexion.

I suggest to the Executive therefore that they should devote that money to help on the work of the International Socialist League; as the League is undoubtedly the true successor of that body. I am sure that such action would be in sympathy with the intention of the constitution and the members of the old Socialist Society

I remain, fraternally yours,

H. GLASS.

Germiston it, 10. 16

FATHER TIME: Your essay is good in its way. But the first essential is a course of study in correct writing and spelling of English. Further, no young Socialist should be afraid to give his real name, at least to the editor. No movement was ever furthered by Nicodemus.

WAGE SI.AVE, Pretoria, writes to add to our notes on the Building Workers last week that there were 12 delegates present from Pretoria. He complains that there were no I.S.L. members there, evidently ignoring the fact that an I.S.L. member is the prime mover of the new Union in Jobannesburg. Wage slave also complains that we waste our time in issuing the "Call to the workers" "like the old political opportunists appeal" instead of engaging in the work of industrial reconstruction. WAGE SLAVE has either not read the Manisesto, or is hopelessly patriotic. Another anchymous letter. Correspondeats please note that we must insist on the usual courtesy of name and address, as a guarantee of gcod faith."

The worker has no country to lose,
And therefore no country to save.
All his real estate is stuck to his boots—
He don't own enough for a grave.

Fr

Custom die hard in this our native land; And still in Northern France, I understand, Our gallant boys, as through the fray they forge,

Cry "God for Harmsworth, England and Lloyd George."

J. C. SQUIRE' in "The Survival.

of the Fittest.

In proportion as the bourgeoisie, i. e Capital, is developed, in the same proportion is developed the Proletariat, the class of modern workers, who live only so long as they find work, and who only find work so long as their work increases capital. These workers, forced to sell themselves piecemeal, are a commodity like every other article of commerce, and are consequently exposed to the vicissitudes, and all the fluctuations of the market.

KARL MARX.

It is with thinkers as with snakes: those who cannot shed their skins die.

NIETSCHE.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

1.S.L. Johannesburg Central Branch
THE

Socialist Sunday School

under the supervision of the above Branch meets

Every Sunday Morning at 11 2.m.

at

Comrade Neppe's, c/o Fox & 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. 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 Klipfontein Farm, will be transferred to S. H. Jacobson as from October 1st, 1916.

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

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

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