# THE DAY ON A SECOND TO A SECON

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## The African Fleshpots Trust Ltd.

Our uncfficial reporters have brought in persistent rumours of a proposed 'toenadering' or Unity Conference between the S.A. Labour Party, the S.A. Industrial Federation and—the International Socialist League!

The idea has probably emanated from placeholders or placehunters who, since 25th October last, feel nervous (of course on behalf of all concerned) of the effect of further I.S.L. participation in elections etc. The Labour Party expelled the War on Warites for Parliamentary election purposes. That policy having paid miserably, it is now proposed to slew round again and try reconciliatie for Provincial Council election purposes. It can't pay worse; it might pay better. After all, "we only differ on the war"; and a leetle smoodging of principle is less important than losing OFFICE. Objectives, like the Sabbath, are made for a party, not parties for an objective.

Why do we "differ on the" (capitalist) "war"? Because we differ on the class war. The League recognises the class war; the others are either content with lip service to it, or openly deny it altogether and shake hands with the Capitalist class whose civil war they are pledged to see through aided by convict labour. As Andrew Watson said last Sunday, our socialism is something more than a mere buttonhole flower, and place is not our object.

We should advise the Labour Party to stick to their present allies, such as the gang whose co-operation has just secured them so rich a picking of plums in the Johannesburg Town Council. On the strength of that success, they should 'draw all men unto them' who are after place, boodle, graft property deals, loaves, fishes or printing orders. Shoddy politics produce shoddy politicians. For ourselves, we intend to keep clean and revalutionary. So far from harking back, we exult in an ever-widening scope and outlook, transforming the League from the first 'International League of the S. A. L. P.', almost beyond recognition it might sometimes seem, were it not that its simple constitution still covers and explains all.

The League will continue to 'agitate and educate' in real Socialism the 'rank and file' on whose blind support the S. A. L. P. and S. A. I. F. no doubt still reckon; doing its utmost in particular to further their better industrial organisation. The only non-party conference worth calling now is on this subject; and as a matter of fact the League is preparing to convene one. But the only suitable political partner for a reformed industrial organisation will be something quite unlike the S. A. L. P.—a mate fit only for the S. A. I. F.

In South Africa the "political" instinct has hitherto been far more developed than the industrial. The Dutch are often described as born politicians, and the English are no better. It is the League's business, amongst other things, to

see the balance redressed and help backward industrialism to catch up precocious politicalism; not leaving the other undone either—there can be no question of a bargain between the I. S. L. and the S. A. L. P., as in 1910 between the S. A. L. P. and S. A. P., to refrain in any given constituency or at all from competition.

We will not go a whoring after the false gods of spurious unity or 'Anglo-Russian' alliances. As we see in Europe, to ally oneself with even a great power often means being blotted off the map. How much more so to go in with a couple of small ones: and for that matter the influence of the League and the ideas it represents is probably greater to-day than that of the two proposed partners combined.

The suggested 'Unity Conference' is no doubt calculated to eliminate the I. S. L. and leave a smile on the face of the Tiger. To quote Andrew Watson on the matter again, never was compromise less acceptable. We are not taking any, thank you. Nothing doing. The noes have it.

# Our Constitution.

In view of our Annual Conference on January 14 next and of the fact that our Constitution as passed at last Conference is out of print at Head Quarters at any rate, an extract from it here will be useful. It reads as follows:—

OBJECTS:—To propagate the principles of International Socialism and anti-Militarism, and to maintain and strengthen International working class organisation.

METHODS SHALL INCLUDE:—1. Organisation and education by means of press and platform.

2. Participation in elections for public bodies.

MEMBERSHIP:—a. Any person may be a member of the League who either joins and is accepted by a Branch of the League, or joins the League at Headquarters as an unattached member, and

b. signs a pledge to abide by the Constitution of the League; and

c. Pays any subscription levied by his Branch, or in the case of unattached members pays at least 2/6 per month to the Treasurer of the League and

d. Subscribes at the rate of 5 - per annum to the official organ of the League.

### THE EDITOR.

Habitual readers will have divined that this paper is still bereft of its Editor. Comrade Ivon Jones is quietly recuperating with friends near town, and has been granted leave until the end of the year; for we do not wish to welcome him back to his post until he is completely restored to normal health.

The monthly I.S.L. dance will be held at West's Academy, Pritchard St. Johannesburg on Wednesday next at 8 p.m. Tickets, 2/6, including refreshments.

The acting Editor will be glad to receive at No 6 Trades Hall any copies, not required, of the 'International' of the 3rd. instant, that issue having run out before all demands had been met.

The Johannesburg Central Branch will meet again next Thursday at the Trades Hall to continue discussion on Conference Agenda. Roll up, Most Important.

### The basis of Socialism.

BY J. M. G.

The Socialist ideal is an ideal founded on arguments drawn from and taking as its basis the economic development of Society.

Mankind in making their livelihood together enter into certain necessary involuntary relations with each other. The totality of these industrial relations constitutes the economic structure of Society. These industrial relations determine the social, political and intellectual life in general. Thus the fundamental basis, the foundation of society, is material: the material means by which it produces the material things by which it satisfies its material wants. Those members or that class in society who hold the material means of producing material wealth, shut out the rest of society from access to and free use of the tools of production, thereby giving rise to material, slavery.

These industrial relations give rise to antagonisms, a conflict of class against class, exploiter against exploited, a system of civil war from top to bottom; the whole social structure fissured by the conflicting interests, of individual and individual, worker and worker, trader and trader, each section of society struggling in self-interest against another section.

These antagonistic interests are gradually developing the germ which will ultimately lead to the dissolution of our present form of society. They will gradually force humanity to a realisation of the brutality of the system and compel them to group under two banners: organised Labour against organised Capital. We can see pervading society to-day consciousness of wrong and injustice and a new morality of ideal justice for all. The so-called intellectual middle classes are unconsciously being inoculated with a sense of the brutality of the present system; but owing to a want of grasp of the economic forces around and controlling society, they are misleading the people. They are hide-bound with the prejudices of caste and an inflated Pharisaical idea of their own value, and until they divest themselves of all the cant inseparable from such an environment there is little hope for them.

The so called Labour Leaders are just as hide-bound. Blind leaders of the blind, they are unable to grasp and understand the forces that are shaping the social structure,—economic forces, the basis of life itself, not generated apart from common every day experience in the heart or consciousness of the exceptional individual, but out of the conditions of life itself. Economic forces evolving into new

likenesses through forces in which our individual conscious efforts have so limited a share.

This consciousness of the brutality of our system pervading society is vague and indeterminate at present, without a collective expression; a groping as it were in the dark for a basis on which to build the social structure of the future, rendering men a prey to every glib orator with a plausible measure of reform or other specific to mend the present system—carried away by their emotions and hypnotised into giving their adherence to all the fads and fallacies of the many blind leaders.

This lack of grasp of the issues and trend in the development of capitalism will render them incapable of any intelligent conception and understanding of the tide that is flowing towards concentration of capital into international combines, a capitalism that will have shed itself of nationalism and will truly be international. A combine that will be a power of such magnitude as will crush the smaller capitalists, reduce the small middleman to the ranks of the wage slaves—and ultimately lead the mass of the people towards a clearer vision and perception of the methods to adopt, not to amend the system, but, by peaceful or if necessary other methods, to make a clean sweep of the whole system.

# The Science of Political Bluff.

(The Labour Party, represented by Messrs. Sampson, Gow and Hay, in giving evidence before the State Mining Commission, urged mining by the State with native convict labour for economy. Mr. Sampson, according to the "Star" report, concluded by saying they represented 25,000 members of the Labour Party.)

(Sampson, Gow and Hay, on the way back to the Party office.)

Gow-A'm not so sure about this native convict part of your scheme, Sammy. Sampson.—Its hall right now. What are

you worrying about? We've got no coloured vote to worry about (aside) at least not in Siemert.

HAY.—What about that Beaconsfield seat I've been nursing—on behalf of the Party?

SAMPSON.—Never mind George. We'll fix you up. And we make good with the Overseas Pay ery, anyhow. What we've got to make sure of now is the middle class vote. State mining is going to reduce the taxes for the trading class, and if you start economising you've got to be logical, you've got to go the whole hog. Don't you see? (Trium-phantly.)

Gow.—What will Creswell do with his White Labour Policy now?

Sampson — Well? What's wrong with it?

It's been a good election cry for hus.

(Emphatically) You've got to face the fact that a political party must cater for everybody.

HAY.—Just so. Just so. And the middle class are everybody.

Gow.—I think we should have made it clear that the native convicts would be supervised by white mechanics. That would satisfy my Trade union. Then we could have ended up with a peroration that industry should be run for the workers and not the workers run for the sake of industry. With the word "white" in brackets in all cases where "workers" are mentioned, eli, Sammy?

HAY.—(butting in) Precisely! That would assure white customers for our sup-

porters.

Sampson.—Oh well, we can always elaborate these points on the platform according to the constituencies we're in. Above all things, I say, you want flexibility in a political party.

HAY.—Of course, of course. That is why weare such a great Party, Mr. Sampson. What did you tell 'em our membership was, 25,000, eh? Wonderful indeed!

Gow.—Where did you get that figure from, Sammy? (Sampson nudges Gow to hold his tongue.)

HAY.—(his enquiring spirit roused.) What does our membership really consist of, Mister Sampson?

SAMPSON.—(bored) Well, to begin with, 2,000 A.S.E. men affiliated—

Gow.- (not up to the dodges) They are not affiliated now, Sammy.

Sampson.—(ignoring interruption) Carpenters—

Gow.—There's only my branch in Turffontein affiliated now, 35 members.

Sampson.—(oblivious to all interruption)
Then there are our open branches all over the country.

HAY.—(sadly) Kimberley is dead. They've all gone to the front or kind of war-on-war like there.

Sampson.—That brings us up to 2,500.

Two thousand five hundred, Two thousand—let me see. If they ask impertinent questions, Gow, tell 'em the "Star" put on the extra-nought.

(With forced joviality) Anyhow, has nt the Labour Party power to make the dead walk—at elections?

(Hay's orbs widen in enquiring bewonderment.) And, damn it all man, you must exercise a little imagination to run a political party.

HAY.—(blandly) I heard poor Andrews once speak on the principles of the Party.

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Sampson.—Bill Andrews is an ass. Where is he to-day? I've got a seat in Parliament. You can't go at things like a bull at a gate in a political party.

Beronia.

Man becomes very primitive when he is hungry and short of food, and we learned to be desperately hungry. I used to wonder sometimes whether the people who suffer hunger in the big cities of civilisation felt as we were feeling, and I arrived at the conclusion that they did, not for no barrier of law and order would have been allowed to stand between us and any food and had been available. The man had been available. The man had starves in a city is weakened, hopeless; spiritless, and we were vigorous and keen.—Sir E. H. Shackleton in "The Heart of the Antarctic" (1909).

Have you subscribed to "The International," 5s. per annum, post free, Box 4179, Johannesburg.

# An Open Letter to Sir George Albu.

Dear Sir George.

Giving evidence before the State Mining Commission the other day you said that if the State acquired possession of the gold mines your job would be gone. You didn't call it "job" of course; "occupation" was the word used.

Job" seems to suggest work, and work unless other people do it for one is silly. I don't mean to say that you are an idle man. I'm sure you get brain fag at times, but that's better than getting corns on your hands, isn't it? Well now; you're quite wrong in thinking that state mining would rob you of your occupation. It wouldn't. Did you not observe that when the Imperial Government took over the sugar industry, experts were called in to administer the trade, and that those experts were sugar importers and that the price of sugar is now 62d per lb? And have you not heard that a Royal Commission has been appointed to control the bread supply, and that the members are chiefly corn factors and millers and that the price of bread is steadily increasing under State control? The State! What is the State? Is it not the Government of the day? And are you not a member of the SA.P.? And are you not an expert on mining although you never had phthisis? Your job would not be gone. Don't worry. Since reading your evidence I have felt real sorry for you. Fancy losing all that money! £750,000 in Rand Collieries! Don't you think your working costs are too high? You really don't deserve to be a millionaire. I could introduce you to Labour men who could give you points on how to run a gold mine. Don't tell me the Labour, Party has no brains. Didn't you read its evidence before the Commission? Convict labour at 2d per day. There's an idea for you No silly nonsense about the worker getting the full product of his labour. Worked by the state they say the full profit would belong to the people-after deducting of course the wages of ability (that's you) and if there were no profits that would also belong to the people. Why man, the thing's a dead cert, and if you take my advice you'll sell all the mines you've got to the State at once and get a Government Job. What with the ludiustrial Disputes Act, the Public Welfare Act, the Defence Force and 2d a day labour, you would have the time of your life.

in abscribing to the Governor General's Fund. Seither do I. Buxton will be or bly annoyed with us, but what does

it matter? We're not here for our health as you say.

Auf Wiedersehen
Yours Internationally,
C. BARNET.

# Snaring the Dubb-dubb Bird.

"As a medium of education the power of the Press cannot be overestimated."

HENRY DUBB.

Most people, Socialists excepted, never doubt the veracity of the Bosses' newspapers.

Being someway mixed up in the Working Class movement, and desiring to keep ourselves well posted on the civilized side of the business, we were following closely the activities of the two candidates for the United States presidency. The day following the election we were pleased to learn from our Masters' news sheets that Hughes had been elected.

We felt pleased. Wilson was not sound on the War. We were informed that at one time he had been alright, but he was pro-German now, hence the reason for his defeat. Really he was a bad lot.

We turned out to work next day as usual. Towards evening the news sheet arrived and on opening same we were surprised to find in bold type "Result in doubt". We did not sleep well that night but turned out to work next day. In the evening we got our paper as usual. We could scarcely believe what we saw: "Wilson re-elected." It was horrifying to learn that this pro-Hun had been re-elected.

It was a terrible blow, but on reading a little further we found that Wilson had dropped his pro-Germanism. Indeed it was a mistake: Wilson had always been pro-Ally.

· His election manifesto plainly stated that he was out to protect smaller Nations. Hughes we were told was anti-Ally. We were glad Wilson had won, and anxiously waited to see him join us for the liberation of Serbia, Belgium, and Gheece. We had been battling for Serbia and Belgium wherethe Huns sneaked in and pinched. Greece's navy. It was reported that Kaiser Bill had kidnapped some twenty thousand armed men after filling them drunk. As some trade union officials had been kidnapped in America while Wilson was there, we kness he understood the rules of the game, and would keep the Kaiser in his place, if he was not bought with German gold.

We were intoxicated with delight at this bracing news. As food was scarce, or rather money to buy it, we decided to

have a Street Collection in aid of Wilson and ourselves.

The notice convening the meeting of collectors appeared; and alongside was—"American Election: Result still in doubt."

It was Sunday when we regained consciousness, and after removing the ice from our heads we scanned the "Sunday Times". The first thing we noticed was "Who's in? Ballot boxes guarded."

Such is the stuff dished out for Henry Dubb to feed on, and while feeds he starves.

A. B. D.



# 'Help, help!'

"I have spoken to literally thousands of soldiers, in dozens of disserent regiments. Men from France, Egypt, Dardanelles, and Malta. There is not one man in twenty who wants the war to go on. If the Government could hear the conversation of the men in khaki when talking to each other, and not for public consumption, they would be startled out of their complacency. Hope alone prevents a mighty movement; the iron is entering deep. So far from hating Germans, no one discusses them in an unfriendly spirit. It is recognised quite plainly that all, or nearly all, the bloodthirsty people of the different countries have by this time been killed or wounded; the German who is now fighting is simply driven to the slaughter. We all seem caught in a terrible machine, which no one has the capacity or pluck to control.

Again, the war that now rages is mere blind killing of men, in the hope that one side may weaken. Apart from military families and a populace who are hypnotised by fear, which they sometimes call hate, no man believes in a military ending of the war.

The broad position is that the war goes on because no Government has the moral courage to make the first move for either a truce or peace. Each thinks its reputation depends on shouting hate the longest. I know the public will black-guard the men who ask for peace, and in their heart of hearts will thank them.

The cry goes up, "How long?" Can no one help us?—From a soldier at the front to the "Nation."



On Saturday evening the 25th at 7.30° p.m. a Social will be given at West's Academy by the pupils of the Socialist Sunday School. Tickets adults 26, children 6d. A feature will be a play written for the occasion by a member of the Senior Class of the School.

JOHANNESBURG.

The Western Districts Branch meeting this week voted a substantial contribution to Municipal election expenses. Com: D. Elk replaced V.E. Boyd, resigned, as secretary.

Central Branch: On Sunday Andrew Watson at the Trades Hall. discussed 'Why not Peace to-day'? Like the mine batteries, we hardly notice the actual din of war nowadays, he said. We can't help noticing . Labour Leaders who talked in 1914 of 'hired assassins of the Capitalist class'. and now recruit such, or men like Waterston who in 1914 told English audiences how in the Boer war he had fought for the Capitalists. "but that ewas before I saw the light of Socialism" and now says "A vote for a Socialist is a vote for the Capitalist". But in the workshops it used to be You ought to be shot": now it is "What can we do, when even soldiers in the trenches, though fed up, say 'We suppose we must go on' and statesmen themselves can no more stop it than stop a ship launched off the stocks"? (and if there are shipowners they even say "Why Peace to-day?"). There is not a country where a referendnm vote would be for going on fighting.

open air meeting Comrade Tyler spoke convincingly. except to a few obvious Non-prohibitionists, whom the police distuaded from offering violence but did not arrest.

Next Sunday the 19th. George Mason will speak on "Industrial Organisation."

On the same morning the Sunday School will assemble at Com: Neppe's at 8.30 for outdoor School in Milner Park.

#### DURBAN

On Sunday night Comrade Haynes gave the second lecture of his series. He shewed how crises in the life of Industry had recurred periodically all over the world, and the cause therefor. Some sidelights were thrown upon the Moroccan question, and Arabian trade with Great Britain was clearly shewn to be leading straight to annexation in the future. The "glorious" career of Napoleon the Great received considération and under hé lecturer's criticism the "glory" seemed to fade away, leaving in its place groans and auguish for the masses and profits for the "classes".

Next Sunday, in the last lecture of the series, the National Service League comes under the lash, and we

BRANCH NOTES look forward to a good attendace.

The annual meeting takes place next Thursday at 8 o'clock when the yearly balance sheet will be presented. The old Officers automatically resign and young blood is expected to take up the burden to give the "old buffers" a well earned spell.

Comrade Andrews is still raising "Cane" in Zululand but one result of his initiative, our Socialist Sunday School, is "still going strong," and we consider we have unearthed the 9 year old champion exponent of Socialism in the person of young Turkington of whom more anon.

#### BENONI.

An S.A.L.P. meeting last Saturday was attended by our members, and prov typical of that Party's incapacity, whi it is our duty to expose, to fulfil the

working class mission.

Frinstans. Madeley, M.L., favoured conscription 1st. of capital, 2nd of men "IF 'our' constitution is in danger." By that capitalist constitution our Socialist' (!) Walter will stand, or sit down-while the rest of his class will leave him behind and go right on to the winning post of its own emancipation. Would you fight for a Socialist country against a Capitalist country?" cries he "What an idiosyncrasy!" Phew! what a word! Socialists when they have a country will fight the class war for it. But imagine British capitalists asking their government to conscript their wealth! Northcliffe with all Fleet St. under his arm will sail for the Fatherland first—query will they take him?" Why is Chapman not a member of a Trade Union, like me?" Well, Chapman is a master blacksmith: if Craft Unions consist of both masters and men, we can understand their failure! Madeley is all for State Mining—alias, while the Capitalist State exists, the development of the Trust under State control for the purpose of better exploiting the workers, who will continue to be robbed at the point of production and get none of the profits. State enterprises must conform to the prevailing mode of production, which tends increasingly to greater intensification of industries, or they will go under. Why not use the energy required to convert people to State mining as a lesser of two evils in teaching them the fundamental truth about both private and State capitalism?

Waterston should have ended his career when he returned from deportation. He was then still engaged in the class war: now he's—nuff sed. "My heart" says he with his hand on it, is in this war. Wry am I not at the front? I might plead a medical certificate from the Boer War, or a wife and four children dependent on me. Instead I say, because there are others who should go before me" (!), and then he abuses the I.E.L. 11: personal abuse. If a man steals my dog, or a Premier deports Bob working for my class, or a Comrade betrays the Movement... I should say hard things. Nice segregation of personality from principle is an academic pastime for which, unlike Bob, no working man searching for the cause of his enslavement can find time. Meanwhile it is good to call a spade a spade; and so Waterston himself after all says that because of this abuse the Labour Party of Benoni have

taken off the gloveston mount ought (good!) and accordingly abuses Mrs. Barnet for having 'helped Capt. Rennie' because forsooth she exposed the Labour candidate Who had signed the War on War pledge.

The S.A.L.P. is doomed. Since the cream has been separated from the milk the residue has become unpalatable. It is now a mere wing of the capitalist class: the sin was to help one wing more than the other. A Beautiful Benoni' was their Municipal battle-cry. We see them at their Mutual Admiration Society sagely discussing that soul-throbbing question Should Municipal dust bins have brass knobs on?. And then Should the aforesaid knobs be polished by whites or blacks?

The Chairman closed with God Save the King very appropriate. We sang a verse of the Red Flag'-also most appropriate. E.S. Abridged owing to lack of space. Ed.

### International Socialist League (S. A.)

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

Q. O. Box 4179 Phone 6035. 6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street, Johannesburg

General Secretary: D. Ivon Jones.



#### BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Benoni:—Meetings every Tuesday evening at Smith's Studio, 14 Lake Avenue. Secretary: T. Chapman, c/o Lake Avenue and Swan Street.

Johannesburg Eastern Districts:—Secretary pro tem: C. B. Tyler, 14 Evans St. Forest Hill.

Johannesburg Central:---Public Meetings every Sunday night at Trades Hall, Rissik Street. Secretary: W. J. C. Gibson 238 Smit Street, Wanderers View.

Johannesburg Western Districts:--Secretary: D. Elk, 23 Ferreira Street.

Krugersdorp:--Public meetings every Sunday night at Thompson's Buildings, Ockerse Street. Secretary: P. Somerville, 5 Vlei Street.

Durban: -Public meetings every Sunday night at Acutts Buildings. Secretary: W. S. Mabhott, 353 Point Road.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

I.S.L. Johannesburg Central Branch. THE

### Socialist Sunday School

under the supervision of the above Branch meets

Every Sunday Morning at 11 a.m.

Comrade Neppe's, c'o Fox and 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 manbers a further sub-division is expected: