INTERNATIONAL.

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

Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

NOVEMBEK

WEEKLY.

The Conference.

For the information of branches desiring to be represented at the Delegates' Meeting or Annual Conference of the I.S.L. to be held at the Trades Hall, Rissik St. Johannesburg on 14 January 1917 the administration clauses of the constitution are here reproduced:

BRANCHES: -Branches shall consist of ten or more

_ members.

One half of the subscriptions received by Branches (apart from subscriptions to the official organ of the League) shall be paid quarterly to the Treasurer of the League.

ADMINISTRATION -- (1) Each Branch shall be entitled to appoint two delegates for every 25 members or part thereof to a Delegates' Meeting, and representation of unattached members at such meeting shall be arranged in the same proportion by the Management Committee; and such meeting with the Management Committee shall be the governing body of the League, and shall be summoned from time to time at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(2) The Management Committee of the League shall consist of Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, a Treasurer and Secretary, and four other members, all to be appointed for

one year by a Delegates' Meeting.

(3) The Management Committee may frame bye-laws

for the further management of the League's affairs.

As last year, all comrades, whether delegates or not, are invited to the Conference, with the right to speak.

An Age of Slosh.

One difference between the working class philosophy and others is that it is both indicative and imperative. The thought is father to the wish: creed and cause are inextricable. A true Socialist not only sees the revolution coming but also does his bit to push it along. At the same time, one of the læst ways of pushing it along is to make others see it coming; and contrariwise, as the Capitalist class know full well, the best way to retard it is to throw dust in people's eyes so that they can see no further than their noses.

Spoof, rather than forces promises to be the primary weapon of Capitalism in coming years: soft sawder inste.d of steel: oil instead of cold water. Your martinet employer is to be out of date. "Brotherhood between Labour and Capital" the priests now intone from the chancels: 'et cum spiritu tuo: we are weary of industrial strife", is already the devout response of the Simple Simons of Trade Union Congresses. 'Amicable settlements' are praised to the skies: for when once you are friendly with a fellow you really can't denounce or fight him again: decency forbids. And how can you help being friendly with the boss whose "bully ing, sweating methods of extracting profit for Labour have" as the October Socialist says "been superseded by the welfare" method"? His heart, if up to date, will ber-leed for the suffering ; istic views about capitalists being unnecessary and being bloodpoor. He will do everything for them except get off their backs Of course, if they won't take his precious 'welfare', oh well, then when necessary his middle-class schoolmasters and film syndicates have still bred plenty of willing soldiers and special constables to revive he ancien régime after all.

Here is a characteristic specimen, by an English prelate, of the slosh used for lubricating extra turns of the capitalist screw. "Social evils and injustices are of the very nature and essence of our competitive industry and social customs" he a mits, with oleaginous eloquence; and the remedy is "a more altruistic education and a clearer alteuistic call to faithful service.....a corporate conversion to a new attitude of soul towards a 'way' of life in which the doctrine of Brotherhood can fid an expression". Dissenters and Salvationists in their turn will employ their special jargon to the same effect—if any. Meanwhile, the swell pew-renters have already arranged State slavery at home and State butchery abroad for the 'faithful service' men.

Such use of the pulpit induces a special nausea: but let not us in South Africa think that because we are less priestridden than some, we are less filled up with spoof. The tin-pot vulgarity of our 'public' calls for spoof weapons of corresponding calibre. The Sunday Times', for instance, pored over weekly with more reverence than a Bible. The 'Workers Educational' and the 'Social Reform Ticket' or 'Public Relief Board' (same crowd), dealt with elsewhere in this issue. The S. A. Labour Party, exposed last week-The school flagwaggers, often denounced in this paper. And so on, until you feel ready to ask "What's the good of anything?"

That is where Socialism comes in. Whether you stand at the perpetual salute for King, Country, Honour, Empire, &c., or act the philanthropist, face down to your Muckrake, or, face upwards, vet 'sit under' some Bishop, Labour M.L.A. or similar conscious, or ought-to-be-conscious, hamboozler for the ruling class, your answer to the above question will eventually, if you follow it up, be-"Why, nothing". Revolutionary Socialism alone gives you something to hite. All the talky talky about the wonderful changes to come after the war, but burking the need for complete working class emancipation, and for the capitalist class to be 'sent empty away,' is only calculated to bolster up a bad old world a little longer. The essential lesson of the hour is that the Socialist kingdom is 'not of this world'; that all these up to date State control and organisation schemes are but fulfilments of the Capitalism which Socialism is to destroy, dissering from its previous form much a. Hughes and Wilson differed—one has a beard and the other hasn't; that nothing short of entire scepticism of and active revolt against the existing régime in every daily form can list you beyond vour cynicism into the clear air of the New World.

Granted that this involves an intellectual feat. But you need not be a genius or 'born a hundred years before your time' to accomplish it. It is being half insensibly accomplished whole sale to-day by the artisans of the Clyde, by the miners of South Wales and New South Wales, and, as we infer, by great masses of the German proletariat of the type that were shot down demonstrating for Liebknecht; all of them men who, not by laborious individual conversion, but by the inspiration born of common class action, have succeeded in raising their heads above the sea of war mudand he who can do that is already more than half proof against all other humbug. Even in Johannesburg the Master Builders complain that "the men are more influenced to-day with Socialsuckers." It is in the school of organised industrial struggle, not in Churches or lecture-rooms, that Socialist truth is being quickest learnt; but conversely, it is Socialist truth that can alone inspire and compel the organised international industrial struggle that is destined to deliver the world from wars and capitalism, and so after all to 'change human nature.'

The Workers' Mystificationa! Association.

The uses of the Workers' Educational Association were never better displayed than in the lecture delivered under its auspices by the Belgian Consul on the Belgian Socialists last week.

The "Workers' Educational" has for chief patron the Governor-General, representative in this country of the Imperial Government.

The Belgian Consul, representative also of another Capitalist Government in this country, was set up at the W.E.A. as the exponent of Socialism and what it ought to do. This is on a par with all that the W.E.A. pretends to do under the name of Education.

Also present at all these meetings, and prime mover, is the Union Astronomer, Mr. Innes. All the servants of capitalist Governments, no matter how technical their jobs, are to-day expected to take a hand in the game of "Workers' Mystification."

The Belgian Consul made a lot of false and slanderous statements about Socialists during the lecture, so we hear. But this is exactly what a representative of a Capitalist Government is paid to do.

There were a lot of Socialists present who expressed their indignation during the discussion. But they should now know that in attending W.E.A. lectures they do not go to hear the truth about the workingclass and its mission.

In fact, there were few workingmen, few of the workingmen contemplated within the mystifying designs of the W.E.A. listening to the lecture if the Socialists are left out.

Why do the Socialists go? Their object in going is to do propaganda, that is, to lecture the lecturers, and teach the teachers, and to hold a watching brief for Socialism, so we are told.

Very laudable indeed! But may not this also be one of the objects of the W.E.A., namely to waste the energies of Socialists in futile attempts to chase up capitalist lies when they ought to be engaged in building a movement that will pulverize the liars?

Socialists left the Belgian Consul without a leg to stand on during the discussion. Very good. But are there not dozens of other little cliques meeting every week in Johannesburg bearing false witness against the Socialist movement, only not graced with the name of "Workers' Educational?" Who was reported in the "Mail" the next morning? Why, the Belgian Consul of course. He was read by thousands. But not a word appeared of the Socialist refutation. All that the Socialists did was to make up a respectable audience for a pack of lies. They enabled the reporter to say: "There was a good attendance."

Observation sheweth that Socialists become useless to their own movement to the degree that they become familiar figures at W.E.A. lectures. These are designed to lead the revolutionary lightning to the ground. Men we esteem personally are here allowed to play at revolution, under the aegis of the Governor-General, who would be excommunicated from their jobs if they associated themselves will the revolutionary movement. You may have Socialists galore, but if you have no Socialist movement, what better are you?

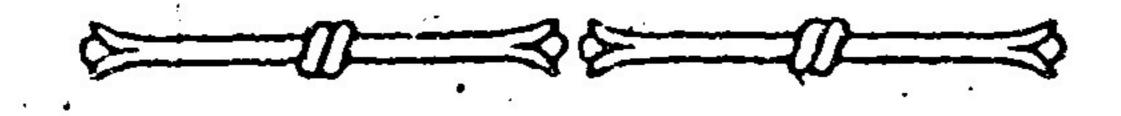
Our Socialist friends were particularly indignant at the remark made by Mr. Innes, the Union Astronomer with regard to Belgian atrocities. It is alleged that he made in cold blood the following statement. "EVEN IF THESE ATROCITIES ARE NOT TRUE THEY SERVE A GOOD OBJECT".

Now, Socialists must cease to be indignant at anything the capitalists or their "intellectual" friends may say. Socialists can afford to smile at the deceits of our enemies, and keep their indignation for Labour misleaders of Labour.

Such a remark artributed to a supposedly scientific man should be regarded as letters of fire indicating to what a degree the capitalist class and its thinkers have ceased even to keep up appearances, have failed even to adhere to the standard of intellectual rectitude hitherto demanded of capitalist thinkers by the system itself; a sure sign of the impending downfall of the system. The capitalist system is based on a Lie. The lie is now boiling to the top, turning astronomers into astrologers. It will soon boil over.

How long will Socialists grace these deliberate mystifiers of the working class with their good company?

BERONIA.



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

Pauvres Diables,

But the remedy for pauperism lies much deeper than the granting of doles and providing of shelter for starving people."—Mr. Wallace Soutter, at the annual meeting of the Public Relief Board on the 16th inst.

How very true those words are, yet how many have ever taken the trouble to think the matter out! The speaker's meaning and the one we accept here are as far apart as the poles, for we have one basis where n we interpret the effects oi society, that is the Materialist Conception of History. (I would appeal to our réaders and sympathisers to peruse and read on literature, and to hand on the same to others, that it may help them to think and assist to bring and, the only solution possible (with deference: the one mentioned below) by changing of the system. Any amount of valuable literature is to be had at the Head Office from 3d. upwards.)

To revert to the report. There is not one member of that Public Relief Board who went into the real and root cause of the subject, that is the system itself. How indeed can we expect them to, knowing who and what they stand for? Instead it is dished up in the usual way so as to befool and befog the minds of the public (workers) generally.

Further on in the report we have another of these geutlemen discovering something it's marvellous the ability they possess. I refer to the Hon. J. Rissik. He tells us that "THE ONLY SOLUTION of the whole relief problem was in the direction of placing men on the land." it would be very interesting to tax this same gentleman's ability a little more, and ask him by what mode of reasoning he arrived at The only solution, and what were the many difficulties that stood in the way, which he mentions also. I have an idea that if he began to tackle the difficulties only he would soon be applying for membership of the International Socialist League

He says that "In process of time the numbers of aged and infirm men who have fallen on bad times, and are without means of support, will increase"—but not a word of how it is they have fallen or will fall on bad times, how they came or will come to be without means of support. Perhaps we are expecting too much from these gentlemen, and should know better; on the other hand I think it

it was Mr. Justice Mason who said "The wretched lives of our fellow citizens and their downfall might have been due to many causes apart from their own."

Now we are brought, in touch with the filthy lucre, (the God of the capitalists and the curse of mankind.) What does the Hon. Administrator say? "The fact remained that there were always numbers of people who would never put their hands in their pockets for the poor. The only way to deal with the matter was through the rates." Fancy him uttering this last sentence, especially after the evidence of the South African Labour Party before the mining commission! What was it? Here you are; this one will do for the present. "The objective should be the greatest attainable advantage to the people—the already overburdened taxpayers." Wake up, ye working classes, but don't get swelled heads on reviewing your chaque books and discovering the an unt you have paid in tax es

Te say to the proletariat in general the above gentlemen and their very well be left to grapple. like c is, palliatives, and the effects with re. system; but your assisof their c tence an co-operation is required with us to propagate the principles of International Brotherhood, for the ultimate object of abolishing the present accursed system, and the ushering in of the Industrial Commonwealth, where the administration and production of things shall be for une instead of in profit; where every person will receive the full value of his. labour, and all those who require work will beafile to obtain it that he who will not work neither shall he eat); and not as the Hon. Administrator says. "people who would not work would have to go to places where they would be forced to work." On the death of Capitalism all 168 evil effects such as poverty, diseaser crime, prostitution etc. etc., will be reduced to a minimum.

over the term applied to some of the women by the Board, that many are Commercially Unemployable. One more quotation, for we couldn't close this article without mentioning it, it is such an ennobling piece of work, so humanitarian like:—"They have (actually) been the means of sending a large number of eligible and ablebodied men to the recruiting offices"—no, no mistake: this is a charitable organisation—'Nuff said. BRIGHAM.

Human Society.

It is surprising how many people even to-day think and speak of our present form of Society as something that has always existed, and always will exist. Even so-called educated people speak of this present system—that is production for profit, and private ownership—as having existed for all time, as having come down in much its present form from the early days of Egypt or Carthage, Greece and Rome.

They keep repeating to themselves and to others those old and
musty phrases "The poor you will always have with you" "You will have
to change human nature," etc., forgetting, if they ever knew, that in human
society as in nature there is nothing
stable; all things change, the seed of
to-day is the plant of tomorrow.

Admittedly it is difficult to transplant oneself into a past system of society, and form a mental vision of its industrial and social relations. Our present environment befogs us and distorts our vision. Words to-day inadequately express our mental vision of things around us, and still more inadequately give expression to the mental, social and industrial system of entirely different races of human beings at distant periods.

The past forms of society have been ably investigated by such men as Sir John Lubbock, Herbert Spencer, Lewis H. Morgan and F. Engels.

These writers all agree that mankind in the earliest stages of existence lived under a rude form of communism, and have passed from primitive communism to various systems of private property.

Lewis H. Morgan has calculated 100,000 years to cover the life of the human race, and communism endured during 95,000 years, giving about 5,000 years for a private property basis of society.

Under this primitive communism was laid the foundation of all future progress. The idea of the dugout as a means of transport gave and made possible our modern palatial ocean steamship. It was under communism that the wheel and bow and arrow were invented, the boat and sails, the rudder, the oar, the stencil plate, fire, weaving, rude painting, building in wood and clay, the cultivation of cereals, taming of animals, and the smelting of metals. The discovery of all these and their application to the every day life of primitive society laid the foundation and made possible the complex fabric of our modern society.

After passing through many phases of private ownership, society to-day is on the verge of a great transformation, a reverting back as it were to the starting point of human society. but on an infinitely higher plane. As human society began its early history with a narrow tribal communism, based on primitive and simple forms of production, so the ultimate development of our present system is a world wide communism with greater power and control over nature, which will be utilised for humanity as a whole and not for a section only.

We are gradually evolving to-

wards that revolution, that point in time when this revolution will become inevitable. No man or body of men can force this issue or bring about the revolution until the time is ripe for it, although as men become, conscious of this development, instead of unconscious agents, they can materially assist in bringing about the revolution peacefully, instead of by violence.

This revolution, whether effected peacefully or otherwise, will give legal expression and sanction to the new forms which are forming in the

womb of society.

Mary has said that "force is the midwife of progress, delivering the old society pregnant with the new"; but on the other hand force is also reactionary, doing its utmost to strangle the new society, in the womb of the old. However, force itself is a mere detail on either side in that inevitable growth which none can very rapidly advance or seriously retard.

J.M.G.

The "Secret Manifesto" of the German Socialist Minority.

The following is the conclusion of a manifesto scattered surreptitiously in thousands all over Germany by the "Minority Party."

"It has already become apparent to all intelligent persons that this war can no longer be decided by force of arms. Even if rivers of blood still flow, if the millions of dead and crippled who have fallen victims so far are doubled and trebled, despite all that, no "decisive results" can be obtained. It will go on, like at Verdun, where more than 100,000 men were driven to death and destruction in organizations. If this madness continues only the bleeding of the nations white can put an end to this slaughter."

The statement then goes on to say that the war must be brought to an end by the will of the working people, and that now is one tand to put an end to it. The pamphle, closes with this

"Rouse yourselves! Put an end to the international murder by waging the revolutionary class struggle under the banner of international Socialism."

Another cast off Hero.—Pre Geo. Wilson V.C., discharged from the Army medically unfit, has resumed his old occupation of selling newspapers at the High St. Corner of Edinburgh.

--- Justice 26 September 1916.

The Daily Mirror publishes a photograph of Mrs. Moore and her six children; her husband (inset) has just been called up. She asked two magistrates of Guil Iford if an ejectment order againswher might be cancelled a e had been left with six childrend doubt find a home. The magist the suggested that if no cottage was available an association would make arrangements for her to be taken it to the workhouse.

"Preparedness."

The true inwardness of "preparedness" popped out suddenly when the railroad strike was threatened.

The very moment the strike became imminent "preparedness" dropped its mask and stark militarism leered upon the railroad workers.

It did not take a minute to decide where the soldiers belonged when a strike of the workers was threatened. Mexico was forgotten in a twinkling and all the bunc about the honor of the flag and the protection of American citizens was laid upon the shelf. The soldiers were rushed to the strike centers without an hour's delay.

Eugene V. Debs in the 'Appeal to Reason.'

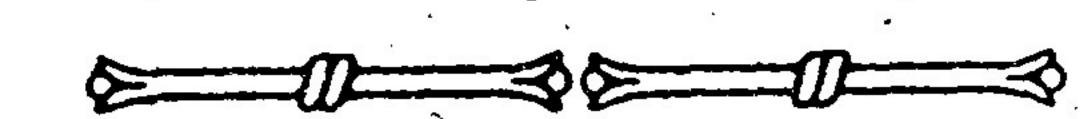
Or, if you don't agree that that is what American 'preparedness' is for remember the Washington Chronicle which, after avowing that wars are due to Capitalism and that 'bombs and dollars are the only things that count to-day,' added that the U.S.A. is prepared to dispute the trade leadership of the world, when the opportunity presents itself, either with Britain or Germany. "We have fought with Great Britain before. We shall exhibit no blushing reluctance to do so again. Then why not be frank about it?"

The capitalist class wants troops to fight its home foes and its foreign rivals alike.

German Socialism.

"Why did'nt the German Socialists stop the war?" says the interrupter who has got to say something that sounds like a poser. An article in the 'New Statesman' of October 14th snows that whole-hog revolutionary International Socialist war-onwarites are as scarce in Germany as anywhere else. Ed. Bernstein, the writer, is a member of the 'minority group' of the Socialist members of Parliament who, being reformists and thus opportunists, had not the courage to shake from their feet the dust of a Pro-War party, but have remained inside it, continuing to contribute to its funds, paralysing not only the Pro-War majority (now not large) but also themselves, and thus counting in the world for little or nothing compared with the influence of Liebknecht, Rosa Luxembourg and the one or two more seceding Marxian intransigeants. Bernstein mildly castigates the Sec-it through members who; ever since they first voted money for war, have been 'prisoners' of that vote, blighting even their hopes of becoming a 'recognised party of the Empire for constructive work," because they will have to swallow militarism, protection and all the rest of the middle class Imperialist programme for evermore. becomes almost seniler (But he

when he also, with parson-like sententiousness, takes the Internationalists to task: "the deeply felt conviction that more is at stuke than a few deductions from the basic principles of the Marxist doctrine has led us (the minority group,) tagether." No. The people who "differ only on the war" have a hardly less inglorious career before them than the Warites themselves. It is not a Bernstein but a Liebknecht and a Luxembourg who, being civilly and politically dead. 'yet speaketh.'



International Socialist League (S. A.)

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

P. O. Box 4179 'Phone 6035.

6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street, Johannesburg

General Secretary: D. Ivon Jones.

BRANCH NOTES.

JOHANNESBURG CENTRAL: On Sunday night at the Trades Hall, George Mason spoke on "Industrial Organisation" At present, he said, the working class was its own worst enemy, being sacrificed by its own organisations to keep its leaders in ossice. It was high time to reform existing trades union machinery out of existence. In England even an amalgamation of Trade Unions had been delaved 17 years by questions of pensioning off superseded officers. They were infected with false loyalty, and could move neither förward nor backward. Their 'See it through" representatives in Parliament, would eventually fall into contempt like Premier Hughes. As for the new food control, it meant that an Englishman's home was to be his—pigsty. The Returned Soldiers Organisation took care to relieve only those with good discharges, i ea most pliable for exploitation. We must see that the war cripples are not captured by charitable organisations; all middle class sympathy is hostile.

Out of doors the proceedings were considerably disturbed by a gang attending for the purpose, and a big crowd made its way to the Trades Hall, but had not the courage to go inside.

Last Thursday the Branch discussed Conference Agenda, returning to the Theme last night.

This Sunday, the 26th, A.B. Dunbar will speak on "A look round the Labour Movement".

To morrow Saturday night, the Sunday School childrens' social will be held at West's Academy. Pritchard Street at 7.30

Tickets adults: 26: Children free, not Cd. as announced last week.

The Dance on Wednesday night at West's Academy was one of the pleasantest held yet, though less crowded than some. The auction of the "International volume 1", and other financial items, were also entered into with unusual zest.

DURBAN

The annual election of officers took place on Thursday evening tlast. The officials elected for the coming year are:—

President: Com. Pettersen re-elected Vice-President: Com. Lee Treasurer: Com. Mrs. Needham

Secretary : Com. Hulse With the exception of the President we thus have a complete turn over and we all hope the new blood will make things hum some.

On Sunday night Com. Haynes delivered the last lecture of the series, under the Chairmanship of Com. Silva.

Comrade Turkington is now convinced that Jesus Christ came from Portugal.

The branch welcomed Com. Andrews who is on a visit from Zululand for the week end.

We are all concerned about the health of Comrade Ivon Jones and trust that he will soon be in the thick of the fight again.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The General Dealer Licence, and General Dealer (Tailor's) Licence, registered on March 30th 1916, at Springs Revenue Office, in the names of Roseman and Friedman, stand 72, 2nd Avenue, Springs, will be altered in the following particulars:—

The General Dealer Licence will be transferred to Mr. S. Roseman, who will take over all liabilities and assets of the said business, and the General Dealer (Tailor's) licence will be transferred to A. H. Friedman, as from 22nd November, 1916.

S. Roseman A. H. Friedman, C. & L. Clingman, General Agents.

I.S.L. Johannesburg Central Branch.

Socialist Sunday School

under the supervision of the above Branch meets

Every Sanday Morning at 11 a.m.

at

Comrade Neppe's, co 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 members a further sub-division is expected.

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. Mabbott, 353 Point Road.