THE INTERNATIONAL.

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The Working Class.

For the International Socialist there is neither Jew. nor Gentile, white nor black, as such: a Kaffir, or an English man, or even a vile Hun, may be an exploiter or a wage slave. Most whites in this country however need a Merriman always at their back to remind them of the obvious fact that the bulk of our working class is native, coloured, or Asiatic, and that whereas the outlook of the white wage earner largely tends to approximate to the ambition of a fortune, hunter, that of the black kraal-dweller is rapidly changing to the typical proletarian stagnation, with no hope of emancipation in his lifetime from the chains of wagery. Not all natives are proletarian yet; but as they are more and more completely driven into the labour market by Land Acts, Pass Laws, recruiters' bribes, and—education, the raw 'noble savage' is quickly becoming a rare antique. Tolstoi, not recognising Socialism as a philosophy of actualities, protested against the doctrine that every one must become a factory hand before he could attain economic freedom. If it were merely a doctrine, his protest would have been good. Our own eyes prove it a daily fact.

Where then is the working class movement which will win for these helots that reconomic freedom? Analogy from other countries confirms the observation that for a time. at least it-will be over-distracted with political struggles for status, franchise, parliamentary représentation, capitalist state education, and the like,—under the leadership of intellectuals themselves prone to batten on the movement; and that only when it becomes more predominantly concerned with the economic struggle in industry will it take on the clear revolutionary Socialist character, and at the same time become self-led: class-conscious enoughe to dispense with the middleman, and powerfully enough organised to defy the inevitable attempts at repression and reaction by a Government alarmed too late.

'Abantu Batho,' the Johannesburg native paper, edited (consciously or unconsciously) under the aegis of the Native Affairs Department and Capitalist class, has nevertheless ventured in its issue of last week on a mild, still somewhat cringing, yet perhaps epoch-making outburst entitled "Native Drudgery". As a change from Native Contingent flagwagging, aping of Europeans, adulation of Government, pro-native-landlord protests against Land Acts, old-fashioned bookish aspirations for the vote as the be-all and end-all, and snobbish cravings by an educated few for social recognition as whites, the article is on a good wicket, and sounds at last the initial rumblings of a spontaneous, indigenous classconscious industrial movement in South Africa. It says:

"The unskilled labour and all kinds of drudgery, both at the mines and in urban areas, are done by the native if people. . . They form the major population of the country and they belong to the working class. . . . They are the mainstay of the country's industries and the backbone of the land's prosperity. . . And they are the most worked and the least paid.

Treatment.

that a European thinks more of his dog or other. Unions and the Transvaal Native Council to seize every domestic animal of his than he does of the blackman who does all the work for his comfort by even luxury. A European would sconer see that his horse has a good clean stable than that his native servant gets a december room to sleep in. Some employers are so inconsiderate and almost brutal that they do not care 'even for their females! native servants to be housed properly, if at all Assoon as all girl's day's work is over-usually far in the night-she sil turned adrift expected to return to work in good time the forlowing day.

110urs of work.

"Native servants, at business places, and private homes, are extremely overworked. In laundry work especially, which is done mostly by women, there is a regular sweating-system of a most shameful character. Bundles of washing of extraordinary quantities of clothing are required to be done within a certain time at quite a low wage—a bundle that takes the whole day to wash being paid for with one to two shillings. Some steam-laundries, we are told, do not give time even for meals, a woman starting to iron at seven in the morning on to six at night without a break. No wonder most of the native female servants usually suffer from rheumatic gout and quite a number of physical deterioration and deformaty among our working women is noticeable. The same kind of overwork obtains at some big offices in town where natives commence duties at quite early hours and are not allowed a single hour for preparing and taking their meals till late at night. . .

"The usual rate of pay is from 7/6 to 15 - a week. Out of this a man is expected to pay his rent, feed his family and himself, pay taxes, provide for doctor's bills, dress decently with his dependents, and do a thousand-and-one other things. It is impossible! He must be driven to do extreme things in order to get a livelihood or meet domestic requirements. Talk of crimes of theft, illicit liquor dealing or even violence! How can a community be immune of these where responsible citizens fail to provide sufficient means of subsistence and are content only with seeing to their own comforts. and luxuries? It is often pleaded that a native has very little or no needs worth thinking of, consequently he should be

satisfied with the lowest wages. This is a fallacy -a wilful blindness to facts. European civilization has brought with it European Wants...

"We would urge the Transvaal Native Council to inquire into the question of how natives are employed, especialy in big towns, with a view to approaching the Native Affairs Department on the matter. In the absence of organised Labour. Unions among natives it is suggested that the inquiry should

be directed to hours of work, rate of pay, and general treatment, particularly of women and girls."

We have omitted some more racial passages from our quotations because, though they are excused by the equally racial attitude of white men, racialism is fundamentally irrelevant to the working class movement. The white prodetariat of Europe, and of South Africa too for that matter, is treated by the master class in the same way, in essentials, as the black. Indeed the reference to organised Labour Unions shows that our contemporary is coming near to an inkling both of the position of the working class and of the true remedy, which is not "approaching the Native Affairs Department on the matter," nor Labour Unions "among the natives" as such, but one Big Union of all workers. irrespective of race, colour or creed. The increasing understanding among write workers that natives are their fellow workers. and not animals or something below the working class which the working class in its turn is entired to exploit, compled with the opening of the adding eye as foreshadowed in the arricle quoted, is big with promise for the future of the Lab-"The talk among natives is quite common concMovement in South Airied. Ne invite the white about opportunity of conferring together on this common movemant of theirs; and in this convection the L. S. L. Leering.

> will bear quoting again: The emancipation of the workers require the im--mediate abolition of all forms of native indenture, compound and passport systems and the llifting of the native worker to the political and industrial status of the white, meanwhile endeavouring to prevent the increase of the native wage workers and to assist the existing native wage workers to free

tion of a year ago, though for from exhaustive on the matter,

themselves from the wage system."

Crimina! Society.

The morality of our present form of Society, based on private ownership of property and individual competition, when weighed in the balance against the ethical ideal of Socialism,—the new morality growing up within present society,is proved guilty of the foulest crimes, and stands convicted at the bar of universal justice.

The ethics of to-day is a sort of game of beggar your neighbour; individual greed, unlimited grab. The system compels each individual to gratify limiself at the expense of his neighbour. It forces him to think of his own selfish interests and by his commercial creverness to accumulate wealth, though by doing so he pushes his neighbour's family to the wall.

on a pedestal as the ideal goal of humanity. The possession of wealth is the hall mark of respectability. The law confirms this: everything is on the side of the possessor of wealth. Justice is expensive and cannot be obtained by the poorer members of society. You may abuse or half kill your neighbour and only receive a triffing punishment, but if you steal food to satisfy the hunger of your starving children you may be locked up for years. You can gamble on the stock exchange, and the more successful you are at removing money from your neighbour's pocket to your own, the more respectable you become-but don't be taught playing at pitch and toss for the humble copper, you development of the sellowship and comay he run in by the police, and respectable society, as represented by the whitewashed hypocrisy on the bench, will give vou a lesson on the immorality and heinousliess of your crime, and sentence you to a term of imprisonment as a dangerous member of society.

Such is society to-day, an organised hypocrisy. It brands an individual as criminal, but not because he violates any eternal code of morality. No such code exists, or ever did cxist—on the contrary, each phase or form of society has had its own code, based on the economic conditions prevailing: a code formed in the interest of the class having control of the tools of production, embodied in the laws and enforced by the material forces of the State

In opposition to the moral code of to-day is being formed a new ethical standard, a consciousness of wrong a revolt against the hypocrisy and brutality of the system.

Whether this new ethical ideal shall obtain social force however depends upon

whether it results in class ideals or otherwise. Moralideals are important as the inspiring force, as a means to collect but revolutionary classes; the directing and deciding factor of the social evolution is the economic forces that control the social organism.

As this growing consciousness of wrong is transformed from the moral to the economic—the basis of life itself—the struggle will lose nothing of its greatness, but will be strengthened, and will give rise, for the first/time in the history of the world to the ideal of the abolition of class; not the transfer of privilege, but the eontrol in the interest of all those huge productive forces built up during. the 19th century by the capitalist elass.

Such results are won not by sentiinental ideals such as the brotherhood of man, ör such catch words as Liberty, Fraternity, Equality, but by the more Material possession has been placed prosair methods of taking over and controlling those economic forces, the foundation of social life.

> With the taking over of those 'ccon-16 6 forces, the tools of production and distribution, by the community; the enslaving system of to-day is abolished, With place to an environment of mutual helb' and service, a new morality, with liberty to the individual in the highest degree, mattemmelled by laws, repressive or otherwise; an environment that will produce the consciousness of duty to offerfellows, a duty not enfinced by man made laws bitt instinctive. It will give man that consciousness of unity with his fellows which is necessary to the fullest opération essential to give complete expression to the highest moral ideals of the Tutale common wealth. J. M. G.

FIDE EDITOR.

Comrade Ivon Jones left last Monday on a visit to Comrade W.H. Andrews, who is on a sugar farm in Zululand, and was seen off by a number of Comrades who heartily wished him every possible benefit from the change.

In addition to the amount acknowledged in issue No. 56, the following sums have been received for the Berne Commission Fund: A. B. Dunbar 26. R. M. Ross 2/6, J. Bacharach 2/6, S. Jeffers 2/6, C. B. Tyler 2/6.

For the John Maclean Fund: T. Soskalene 10/6, B.L. 2/6, H.M. 2 E.W. 2/-, P.O. Finn 1/-, A. B. Dunbar 10/-, F. C. Hahne 5/-, Sympathiser, 26,: Greer 2/-, L. Wriland 1/, A. Glinzler 2/6 C. Hees 2/6, R. Anderson.2/6, J. Anderson 2/6.

It is particularly requested that all outstanding subscription lists, with cash collected, be sent in to the General Secretary, Box 4179, Johannesburg. immediately, as the lists have been closed in Europe. G. WEINSTOCK.

The Chicago Martyrs.

"Youth will be served." Yes. and with other virtues besides military courage. If youth could have placed within its hands a history of the pro-Social Reform. and be taught to appreciate the victories won during the centuries by the minorities fighting for the betterment of all. workers-leading, we hope soon, to the grand final victory whose triumph will be counted by the number of happy homes it will establish in the world, and not by the number of dead bodies it leaves behind—then youth might find vent for its high courage in the higher instead of the baser sort of effor.

One of the this epics struggle is marked by the date, November 11th 1389. On that day, four men suffered execution in the cause of emancipation of their fellows-Their names were Parsons, Fischer, Schwab and Spies. Phesfirst was an American, the other three from the land of Karl Marx, that is to say, Germany; and the circumstances under which they suffered may be stated briefly.

In: 1886 a great eight-hour day agitation apread over the United States, and in Chicago the unrest was at its highest, and two papers. The Afarm" and the Atheiter Zeitung" were the chief organs of the workers. Socialistic ideas, were widely spread by their means, and continuous open air meetings were held at which writers and editors of these papers were the appakers, On May 1st 40,000 men and women struck work for an eight hour day. Strikers were attacked by police, while scabs, were protected. In the evening a meeting was held which passed off in an orderly manner. It was closed, and the speakers departed to another, but before the audience had quite dispersed the police attacked them. A small bomb was thrown by someone, it was never discovered by whom, although a man named Schnaubelt was suspected. A policeman was killed. Instantly firing began; people fled terrified, followed by police who fired at random as they followed. The principal speakers and leaders of the workers, although not present at this outrage, were arrested, charged with causing the death of the policeman by their speeches and writings. The press called for the hanging of the "anarchists," and 300 leading capitalists in a few hours subscribed 100,000 dollars to defeat the workers. One thousand

men were examined for selection of a jury, of whom only five were working men, and they were promptly challenged. The jury was packed, and Judge Gary repeatedly indicated his bias. Parsons, editor of the "Alarm," was not in the hands of the police, but when the trial began he presented himself, eventually being sentenced to death with the others. Besides the four who were executed, Lingg, Engel an. Fielden received the death sentence. The former committed suicide. The others, with Neahe, sentenced to 15 years, were 'pardoned' when a new Governor came into power in 1893. The trial and hanging excited the whole world, and reformers of all shades of opinion meet still on both sides of the Atlantic to commemorate the death of the Chicago Martyrs. They died calmly and without flinching. Parsons' last words were "Let the voice of the People be heard."

Nowafter thirty years the eight-hours day has been granted to Railway men. Why? Because they were so united in their industrial Union that they were able to enforce it, so that "granted" is an ironical way of saying "taken."

ALFRED F. Symons, (Oudtshoorn).

Oversea Pay,

So the meeting was arranged, advertised and duly held at the Johannesburg Town Hall on Thursday evening the 231d ult, and from the press reports there seems to have been nothing but yap, yap, yapping about something somebody was alleged to have said, backed up by the secret desires of a few would-be dictators for conscription in South Africa. How some of these individuals must have schemed and tried to bring about their heart's desire, but ho galling it must be to them to think they have accomplished nothing! I notice the S.A.L.P. were well represented; what a thing it is to be a politician! When will they learn the lesson of the uselessness of going on wild-goose chases, and get down to something tangible? They least should know that the workers are only cattle, only pieces of commodities upon the market according to their exploiters, who would get them to work or fight for nothing if they could. But knowing the composition of the S.A.L.P. and how enthusiastic (?) they are for the working classes, I wonder they didn't put the following conun-! drum to the meeting, viz:—If a man gets a pound a day for killing cattle for human consumption, how much should he get for killing human beings as a fertiliser for the soil? Perhaps he may be worth a bob a day, and he might be worth three; but it might be "humanly possible" to stop the killing altogether.

From the second resolution put to the meeting I have extracted the following: - "Requests the Government to take active measures and do everything humanly possible to encourage" (whatever this means) "eligible men to go" etc. etc.. I don't think anyone can accuse the recruiting committee of not having done everything humanby possible, they having been assisted by and received the approval of the South African Industrial Federation delegates. For among other items are the following. It was humanly possible for them to organise the women badgers, humanly possible for them to visit employers so that the employees may be 'encouraged' etc., or humanly starve; it was humanly possible for them to advise young girls not to encourage eligibles etc. etc., humanly possible for them to again visit the employers and to interview the employees to swell the Governor General's Fund, and also humanly possible for them to get the Theatre Trust not to rent a hall or theatre to the I.S. League.

At present I am not in a position to know how many people in South Africa share our views, but Edo know that there are but few who write or speak of them, and who endeavour to teach the workers what we believe to be the truth; and as the powers that be and the people mentioned above have all the forces of the State behind them, still they tear us.

To the workers of South Africa we say: THINK and REASON for your-selves, and so help to build up that mental force that no armed force can stay, and help to bring about those conditions we are striving for. Then you will not need to worry about a bob or three bob a day or potential murderers; then for the first time in it will be HUMANLY POSSIBLE for you to live in peace and happiness.

Join the IS.L. and help its propaganda.

BRIGHAM.



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

Surplus Surplus Values.

The French Socialist Party, or 'French Section of the Working Class International,' has sent an invitation to "the Socialist sections of the Enten:e Countries," to attend a Conference at Paris on March 15 next "to decide on common action among the Socialist Parties of the allied nations in order (1) to direct the policy of their respective countries on such lines as to exclude, during and after the war, all spirit of conquest and annexation, and to guarantee on the day of peace respect for the violated rights of nations by means of international institutions which shall materially ensure the lasting maintenance of that peace" and (2) "to induce their Governments to eliminate from their economic agreements, during and after the war, everything, which might represent for the international proletariat an EXGESS of exploitation, and everything which might constitute the germ of conflicts to come between the kations, thus running the risk of turning these agreements, so desirable in themselves, into instruments of prolonged war." Nothing else.

"With us," the letter adds, "you will fully recognise the interest which the Socialist Sections of the Entente have in exchanging their views at this moment, and combining their efforts."

We fear we do not. The Entente as such is no more to Socialists than the enemy group. The poverty-stricken nature of the agenda shows to what a pitiable plight-working class bodies are reduced when they identify themselves with the quarrels and groupings and pacts and conspiracies of the armed capitalist class. 'Please Sir.' they say in effect, "we will fight and die for you, but don't be hard on us, don't exploit us too severely; like the British Trade Union Congress, we won't quarrel with your robbing us of 'legitimate profit,' but we beg you not to make our chains so very very much heavier than usual; and so we remain, your lordships' humble and obedient servants, Amen."

And this from the city of the Commune and the successors of the Communards!

GERMISTON BRANCH.

At a meeting held at Colin Wade's Surgery on the 27th ult it was decided to re-organise this branch at a meeting at the same place on Monday the 11th inst at 8 p.m. All Comrades are earnestly requested to make a point of attending. Com: W. Prince has been appointed Secretary pro tem.

More "Mystification."

The Editor "The International."
Sir,

Some one has sent me a penmarked copy of your issue of the 24th November with a query, asking in effect if it is true that I believe that the German atrocities (not Belgian as you have it) serve a good purpose.

I do not. They are entirely wicked.

My argument at Mr. Forthomme's meeting was that in the hands of apologists of German militarism stories of atrocities, where proof is unattainable, served the apologists' pur, ose in obscuring the real issue—which is the crime of the invasion and subjugation of Belgium.

These stories even if they are not true enable the apologists of Germany to find the needle and overlook the haystack.

Yours faithfully,

R. T. Å. INNES.

(Then why Even '?--Ev.).

Ex comrade R. B. Waterston, who signed "The Labour Party's Duty in the War," writes denying that he said "he would not go to the war because there were many others who should go before him" (but our informant adheres absolutely to the accuracy of his report); also that he said "a vote for a Socialist was a vote for a Capitalist" (as to which we understand the full version is: "A vote for the Socialist candidate is a vote for the Citizens' Ticket, being a vote thrown away on a candidate who has no charce, when it might have been given to the S.A.L.P." (!))

Mr. Waterston is welcome to these 'corrections,' such as they are. The rest of his letter refers to nothing in particular, and is largely personal and abusive.'

A Reid: We frequently attack the parsons and churches (see e.g. our leading article last week) and have never apported attending such places: but we keep clear of religious controversies as such.

Imperialism on the Quiet.

Nicaraguan citizens have had are now taken away. A free press: free speech, and free suffrage are unknown. The American forces are responsible for a reign of terror in Nicaragua in which political imprisonment and cold blooded assassination are a fact. The purpose of the American War of Conquest was to compel Nicaragua to submit, first, to the collection of some spurious debts urged by American bankers; second, to a general looting of her national resources by American bankers; third. to a "convention" with the United State: by which she is reduced to a permanent protectorate and yields to the United States territory and privileges for which no adequate return is made." Equally secret has been the 'convention' of September 1915 by which the finance, police and 'development of national resources' of Haiti have, as the result of armed intervention by the U.S.A., (which still continues) and a demand for compliance with 24 hours, been gobbled up by the American Government.

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.

BENONI.

The Branch is meeting every Tuesday night as usual and is at present engrossed in discussion on the Agenda for the approaching Conference. A motion to prevent all labour fakirs etc. from occupying or standing for any public office for five years after they joined the Int. Soc. League is being considered, with an level on certain local "labour" opposed and others.

JOHANNESBURG CENTRAL.

The Sunday School's entertainment last Saturday was a very great
success, and indeed from the financial
point of view realised a sum far in
excess of the present requirements of
the "library" mentioned on the tickets.)
The surplus however will not be allowed to go to waste.

Domitions to the Municipal Election expenses will still be gladly seceived by the Trensurer, box 1915.

The Branch met Inst night, and place on the previous Thursday; to dicass Conference Agenda. On Sandry last, during a heavy rain torm, no open air meeting was held, but Comrade Dunbar spoke indoors. He compared the activities of the Labour Party in Scotland 20 years ago with those of the S. A. L. P. to-day—liquor nationalisation campaigns conducted by publicans, White slave and occu-

pational disease agitations, Free Trade, Women's suffrage, etc. The speaker dwelt on the record of the now defunct Industrial Workers. Union; on the Johannesburg tram strike engineered by the Municipality; on the versatility of certain "Labour leaders" male and female, then and still, notwithstanding exposure, prominent in the public eye; on the strange adventures of a certain £100, and on divers acts of sabotage committed by the Capitalist class.

On Sunday night J. P. Anderson

will speak on "Shams."

DURBAN

A specially summoned meeting was held on Thursday night at Acutt's Arcade to receive yearly balance sheet and discuss the League Constitution in view of the coming Annual Conference. In the absence of Comrade Pettersen the chair was taken by Comrade Lee. Considerable discussion took place around the clause referring to participation in politics by the League, and an amendment to the section in the Constitution to the effect that such participation should be for the 'purpose of the propagation of Socialism' was put on record as notice of motion for the Conference.

on Sunday evening Comrade Silva made his debut as lecturer under the chairmanship of Comrade Lee. Taking as his subject "What political parties have done for the working class" the lecturer traversed old ground, but added some interesting information regarding the country of

his birth (Spain).

His remarks were well supported by the Chairman in the ensuing discussion, which became very animated, with honours about even. =

Comrade Rich dropped in from Maritzburg during the evening and enjoyed the discussion on a familiar subject.

Comrade Hulse. Secretary, is leaving for East London to chase a living and in consequence the old horse Mabbot has been inspanned again pro tem.

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 protein: C. P. Tyler, 14 Evans St. Forest Hill.

Johanneshung Cemnal: Public Moorings everylöimeiny night on Trades Hall. Rissik Signet. Seemany: W. J. C. Calls in 208 Simil Stage. Wander & View.

Administration Western Discription Statements D. Elle 23 Foresign Statement Statement of Security Security Property Security Security 11.

Prince, Pax Ol.

Dudhan: Paldie meetings every Sunder dichtyn Aemes Bullaines, Seenetary: W. r. Mashen, 355 Point Rend.

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