THE INTERNATIONAL.

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The Crisis

And so there was a crisis at Westminster, and they wanted to swap horses in midstream. Well, and what of it? To the Socialist, nothing particular except this, that all the world has become diseased with the makidy of war, and whether the cancer comes out first in one part or another, whether it is a finger or a, nose that rots off, the whole body has hardly a sound fibre left. Nothing is clearer, for instance, than that the great majority of the belligerent populations now long for peace; yet so completely have they surrendered themselves body and soul to the military dictatorships called their Governments that they dare not raise a voice or a hand except to prolong the agony. They seem to have forgotten the very existence of a working class, and have come to have eyes for no one in the world except the masters. England, we are told, is ready for a dictatorship. England is normally nothing of the sort; but most of her people, having bowed the knee to Baal for two years, now have such a 'tired feeling' that they can only look passively on; until it is doubtsul whether even the South Wales Miners will ultimately prevail against the State tyranny they themselves in earlier days tacitly invited or failed adequately to resist, like the Frogs and King Stork; or whether the Australian Labour Party, having screwed itself up to carry through the Referendum, will sink back again before the ruling class embodied in Pro-consul Hughes. The same is true in Germany. The German 'Socialist' majority, and the minority too for that matter, had their chances two years ago, when they failed for want of organisation capable of real control of industry; it is now too late for them to expect demonstrations or leaflets to save, themselves from the mass levy, or Belgium from, deportation. After all, a long period of strain may mean loss of nerve and power, and consequent descent to internal squabbles, even among Scialists, as it is clearly doing among Cabinet Ministers. The capitalist system of the world has come to a Crisis in this war, and all is pestilence and corruption. The nations are sick unto death. Each devil has brought seven other devils worse than himself. Myriads are killed, crippled or go raving mad every day: Empires tottering, 'small nations' disappearing from the map, revolutionary changes or coups de main, must embellish our newspaper twice daily or we find it dull; to such listless, servile nonchalance have we come.

True Socialists foretold all this long ago to deaf ears:
they even agreed that it was inevitable. For there is no mere categorical imperative, beating its head against a brick wall, about Socialism. It is at once ethical and theoretical, passive and active; its mission, whether in the wilderness or not, is not just to rail at sin but to point to facts, and through them to the consequent new dispensation that cometh after us. Not to abuse food merchants who, like everyone else, small or great, profit, under the profit system, by war: but to convince our fellow-workers that the present welter is necessarily involved in the profit system, and to stimulate them to end it by a vast international organisation designed to displace production for profit altogether. Once understood, the revolution comes about of itself; it postulates, yet also produces, a better mind.

The 'Star' calls Socialism dismal. It is the one cheerful thing left on earth; the one softener of hearts and clarifier of heads, the one tonic against the universal callousness, lassitude and stagnation. A drowning man is said to see all his past life before him in a flash. It cannot be long before a drowning world will recognise the causes leading up to its present submersion, and scramble out to terra firma.

Why Capitalists are Patriots.

We sell the ships, we conscript the men, we make the money too."

— Jingo song, modernised.

The current American Preparedness Campaign shows that in the U. S. A. at any rate this is not regarded as the last war, but that on the contrary it is adding American militarism to all the others which have sprung up like thorns to choke the original Prussian weed. It's precious little use appealing to neutral nations to stop the war! Their magnates are cosmopolitan patriots, always prepared to take a price from anybody.

The methods and motives of this campaign sound familiar those who remember Liebknecht's and Newbold's European exposures; and show how much more difficult the exposure is than the original spoof.

The campaign is run by the 'Navy League' and the 'National Security League'. One of its most valuable propagandists is Mr. Hudson Maxim, inventor and now manufacturer of munitions. 'He opens the ball with a book called "Defenceless America" (what would you do if the Germans came here &c). Next comes a bioscope film "The Battle-cry of Peace", founded on the book: about as true to life as most other films. The ground thus prepared, the Maxim Munitions Corporation is floated to take over Hudson's inventions in bombs, torpedoes, &c, he being Chairman. This was indeed too much for some of the Dubbs at first:

"St. Louis, November 27. Many members have resigned and others are threatening to resign from the Committee of One Hundred appointed by Mayor Kiel to urge the preparedness of the natural Congress.

"This action resulted from the advertisements in St. Louis newspapers of a ten million Dodar Maxim Munitims Corporation offering stock for sale at ten do lars a share. Hudson Maxim appeared some time ago before the Business Men's League to urge support of the National Defence Programme."

But no matter; the magnates bluff it through; the 'Navy League' flourishes exceedingly in the hands of such men as the Chairman of the International Nickel Co., divers directors of the U.S. Steel Corporation, the Bethlehem Steel &c. and of the American, Baldwin, and other locomotive companies, the U.S. A. 'Copper King,' the President of the American Brass Co., the Westinghouse Co., &c., (all of which companies have profited heavily from war orders) and so on;—and the Maxim Corporation shares soar quickly to 14½ and more.

One safe rule, says' The Masses,' the American Socialist monthly from which these facts are taken, is, nowadays when you hear people talking about patriotism, keep your hand on your watch. It concludes, in terms applicable to all workers:

"The American workman will do well to reduce that his chemois not Germany, nor Japan; his enemy is that 2 per cent of the people of the United States who own to per cent of the national wealth, that band of unscriptions 'patriots' who have already robbed him of all he has, and are now planning to make a soldier out of him to defend their loot. We advocate that the working man prepare himself against that enemy. This is our Preparedness."

Talking of Maxims, it is told of Hiram of that ilk (recently gone to his God), who by his humane inventions expedited the 'civilisation' of many a respectable race, the conquest of many a people already 'civilised' and the enslavement of labour of all nations to King Capital so powerfully as to be knighted for it, that once, when he was in company of the future, King Edward VII, the late Lord Salisbury, with the genial bonhomie we expect of these aristocratic 'patriots,' said to the Prince: 'Sir, I have just been telling Mr. Maxim that he has prevented more people from dying of old age than any other man living.'

State Socialism,

It is only by getting down to fundamental principles and erecting the superstructure on the basis of those fundamentals that ideals can be built that will stand the test of criticism and time.

The neglect on the part of the leaders of the Independent Labour Party of Great Britain to do this has brought that party into a blind alley. The leaders, after preaching State Socialism, Nationalism, Government control etc. for the past 25 years, have suddenly discovered that they were on the wrong track. They have had a sudden awakening, and are beginning -we hope—to realise that any reforms or other ameliorating schemes are ultimately futile and must have inherent in them the germs of failure, considered as a remedy for removing the ills the workers are heirs to under the present system.

This awakening of the leaders of the I.L.P. has been brought about by the movement towards State Socialism advocated by the Harmsworth press, the largest newspaper combine in Britain. They have annexed the platform of the I.L.P. and are advocating it in all their papers. They have stolen the dope and are using it most efficiently to forward the interests of the big capitalists and financiers.

It has taken these blind leaders 25 years, and the stealing of their platform by the capitalist press, to find out that their methods have been wrong, and it is hoped that they, in the interests of the workers as a whole, will realise that any Social movement, to make good and be effective, must build its superstructure on the economic development of the past and present.

State Socialism, Municipal Socialism, Socialism by instalments, and the many other fads and fallacies proposed to emancipate the workers from the enslaving system of to-day, must necessarily be a failure while they leave the worker a slave to the system of wagedom. It is only by the abolition of wage slavery that there is any hope of placing the worker on the status of a human being, and not as a commodity to be bought and sold in the Labour market by the employers, the owners of the tools of production.

The capitalist interests at the back of the Harmsworth press recognise how powerful the political machinery has been in the past to dope the

workers by throwing them a few concessions here and a few reforms there. They know, and none better, that the present system has reached a point in its development when it requires the backing of the material forces of the State to continue it. It is a movement on the part of the financial interests at the back of the ruling class to safeguard their own interests, and will be carried no further than the interest of those classes are endangered.

State Socialism has been very aptly described as a system of Government by officials in uniform and brass buttons, a system of control from above, retaining all the elements of the present capitalistic system. As an exploiter of Labour the State would be in control of the machinery of Government and would use these powers to crush any demands of the workers.

The transformation into State ownership will not do away with the capitalistic nature of production and distribution. The more it becomes the national capitalist, the more citizens does it exploit, and the workers remain wage slaves without any control over their conditions of Labour.

The solution consists in the practical recognition of the social nature of the modern forces of production and distribution, and their use for the benefit of society as a whole. The capitalist mode of production has transformed the vast means of production into collective property, and thereby shown the way to change the system into a system of co-operation through a recognition of these facts by the workers, and the seizing by them. of the political power, backed up by their industrial organisations, replacing the present system of ownership by collective ownership in the tools of production and distribution.

In doing this they abolish class distinctions and all class antagonisms and eliminate the State as we understand it to-day. The Government of persons is replaced by the administration, and conduct of the process of production and distribution, creating an environment under which the moral, physical and intellectual capabilities of humandty will be assured a system under which the children shall start life with all the scientific knowledge and accumulated wisdom of the ages at their disposal—a system of Socialism dealing out social justice to the individual, communism to the family and collectivism to all.

J. M. G.

An Open Letter to Bob Waterston.

"Dear Bob, In writing you this letter I want you to understand that I am addressing you as a type, otherwise my valuable time would be wasted. There has appeared in these columns an open letter to your spouse Sir Geo. Albu. It is foolish of you to resent the relationship, just as it was of you in your present company to say—in the manicipal elections sham-fight (campaign you call it)—that Messrs. Lapping and Miles Sharp were cornered by the Corner House and therefore representing big pot finance You are all of one family. The marriage was signed at the Selborne Hall Labour Conference, and Sir Geo. (and his clan) will certainly exact the full penalties of the marriage settlement. If you wish to guarrel then was the time to "forbid the Banns", not now. The only "differences" that can exist, whilst you remain a family, are temperamental and not fundamental. Let me explain. A "Beautiful Benoni" battle cry—without the forced demand at the same time, and as a superior principle, that the dispossessed be put into possession--works in the diametrically opposite way to freeing the workers from their bondage. "Gild their chains" it certainly does, but their objective of freeing themselves which the workers always must have. either consciously or sub-consciously, is thereby hidden. It is folly (or worse) to discuss modern conditions, their so-called betterment, or anything about them, in the face of the fundamental problem underlying every other. It is the observance of this great essential which distinguishes the International Socialist League from every other body, and it is the lack of this perception which makes the Labour Party the laughing-stock of the capitalist class. The day the Labour Party got into power, its supposed victory, would be the day of its final defeat.

Some of your party are conscriptionists, others are anti's. The latter have the horse sense to realize that Britain would become Germanized, but not perceiving their illogical position in the face of their "see it through" policy, cannot "deliver the goods". Let conscription come along, together with the State enterprises so beloved of the Labour Party, and what a "Beautiful Benoni", gilded, caged Hell we've got (which is not good grammar, but is as good as I can put

it). All of us soldiers working under Government, and when you, Bob, open your mouth for better conditions, you'll have to "hamba lappa trunk" for treason.

You will not "come" the "pot calling the kettle black" argument on me again if I say the false physicians of the Labour Party are Labour Fakirs! Would it not be gentlemanly! Can you justify being a gentleman in these circumstances? You are not a gentle-man Bob, you know you're not. Then why do you support these things? Why do you do it?

E.S.

The Last War.

There seems to have been a deal of comment in the local press on Viscount Grey's speech before the Foreign Press Association in London; so perhaps it will not be out of place if we also add a quota.

According to this gentleman this is to be the last war; our children are not to experience anything like it, and these, with the aged, are to enjoy life and be free from the domination of Prussian militarism. Of this they are going to be sure, for this present butchery is not to cease until those terms are conceded. To quote his own words: "Our Allies and ourselves are determined that the war shall not end till we can be sure, at any rate, that the generations which come after us and our nations in future are not to be subjected to such a terrible trial again".

Also this: "That the older generation now among us may live out its years after this war in peace, freedom, and honour, and that the generation which is now children, and the generation which is now children, and the generations which are yet to come, may enjoy life, and develop the national life, free from the stifling appression of the domination of *Prussian Militarism*."

According to those words there is no mistaking what the future is to be like. It all sounds very well and perhaps easy of accomplishment. But what of the British, French, Russian, American, and Japanese Militarism? Is it not possible that the future may bring about even a worse catastrophe than the present one? For instance, may not the whole of the Western nations (including Germany etc.) have to combine to fight the nations of the East, and from the same motives as the

present campaign? I fancy we hear a few truths occasionally from "Wall Street" in reference to the Far East. Is he not also looking to the future and warning you, but especially neutral nations, to prepare? Whilst uttering the following comments had he not the irony to be also referring to a league of peace, (and this is to be the last war)? "They (the neutrals) are not to undertake more than they are prepared to uphold by force, and to see when the time of crisis comes that it is upheld by force" (cheers). Also this: "You must have some agreement after this war is over as to the methods under which war is to be conducted"; and again this: "Neutral nations have an interest in seeing that something is done to ensure that there shall be rules which shall be kept in future wars". Oh yes! quite sure this is to be the last war! Did you ever read of such hypocrisy-"when the Crisis comes, the Methods for, and the Rules for future wars". If it were not so serious and human life involved, we might pass it by with contempt, but we ask our readers to weigh these matters up.

After the above examples I think we may trespass upon space to quote bne or two more. Continuing, Viscount Grey says: "Are all the resources of science to continue to be devoted after this war to inventing means of destroying the human race?" We may very well ask the same question, but add that it is you, the Workers, who alone possess the nower to prevent it. Again he says: "It will need all the efforts not only of belligerents but of neutrals" (I suppose he means the whole world) "after this war is over, to secure that the inventions of science are used in the future in the air, on the land, in the water and under the water, not for the destruction of mankind, but for its welfare". To that we say Hear! Hear! again, adding that it is you the workers that possess the power to make it possible.

We could still continue quoting from this gentleman's speech. After the above I think one more will suffice, viz: "If mankind has any birthright, we believe it has a birthright to peace and to liberty." Yes! again we agree; but have the members of the British Empire those rights at the present time? Have they always possessed them? And will they be sure of them in the future? Like the Scotchman, I hae ma doubts.

So this is to be the last War! To

the Workers of the World we say that it is you and you alone that can make it possible. Organise along the lines of Industry not only nationally, but Internationally; develop the seeds of the future society in the lap of this present one. When the time arrives and you give the signal, you will then throw the whole of this Capitalistic System overboard bag and baggage, and settle down to a *True Civilisation*.

BRIGHAM.

Slaves to the Slaughter.

The drums roll forth their summons,
The warlike bugles thrill:
From here and there and everywhere
The Slaves are given arms to bear
Some other slaves to kill.

For each must do his duty,
Must find warm blood to spill:
Though wrong or right, through fear
or fright,
Although he has no cause to fight.

Although he has no cause to fight It is his master's will.

The lawful zealots laud himTheir moral codes are nil:
In accents loud they tell the crowd
That legal murder is allowed—
It is no crime to kill [in uniform].

They praise him in the Papers
With patriotic swell:
They dress him in a gaudy suit,
Then teach him how to aim and shoot.
And send him forth to kill.

He marches down the highway,
The cheers are loud and shrill:
With deadly weapons in his hand
He leaves his own dear native land
Some corpse-strewn trench to fill.

They lead him forth to battle

To prove his warlike skill;
He knows not who, he knows not why.
But some poor slave has got to die,
For he is there to kill.

Beneath his master's banner,
Before his master's hill,
Unto his master's God he'll pray,
Slave seeking courage slave to slay,
And aid divine to kill.

Then comes machine-made murder,
The strongest hearts are still:
For some poor slave has found a grave
Neath blood-stained sod or crimson

He did his master's will.

You workers have your struggle.

A war to wage until
It comes to pass the workingclass
Beneath their own red flag shall mass
A world to save and win.

Unite. Unite, Unite,
To fight your own good fight!
You slaves of shop and mill,
'Tis better far such battles are
Than all the hellish ways of war,
Where slaves fight slaves to kill!

G. L.

Durban.

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, a welcome addition to the ranks of our speakers appeared in the person of Comrade J. P. Anderson, now of Germiston Branch, who spoke on "Shams," past and present. He instanced the high-flown excuses put forward at the time for e.g. The Jameson Raid and the Boer War. As for the former, Dr. Jim, one of the new owners of Reuter, is now trumpeted as a person whose honesty and integrity are beyond repreach. The Boer War, like the present war, was also stated to be something far more moral than the bad old wars of the past, "a war of liberation" etc; and to question Britain's motives then was as dangerous to life and limb as it is to-day. The Chamber of Mines and Stadsraad were assuring Kruger of their co-operation while they were getting signatures to a petition for British intervention. At Vereeniging the mineholders' secured their objective—ownership instead of leasehold of the mines. Threats to dispossess them can nowadays be laughed at, and surface rights are in effect impregnable, while the thirty millions, price of the Chinese, is still unpaid. If Dr Jim had stolen one diamond instead of trying to steal a country he would have been on the Breakwater. As for the 1913" suspense strike," banks and business men knew it was off in the morning, whereas the Federation, in charge, did not meet to decide the point until that evening; the politicians had arranged the sham. as they always do, on the threat of the banks to close down.

We were pleased to welcome Comrade S. N. Pettersen who paid a visit en route from the Cape to Durban Benoni.

In reporting the last open-air meeting of the S.A.L.P. I stated those meetings were to become weekly. I should have said weakly, which would have been more appropriate in more senses than one. Three weeks have elapsed now, and "no-

thing doing", except in in-door meeting called for Wednesday evening last, when the attendance was so small that it had to be abandoned. Mr. Kuper M.P.C. was to have told of his travail in the Provincial Council, but the story is to be told on some future occasion. I understand he has been asked to stand again in the same interests (good word that food for thought.) In justice it must be said that it was a very wet night, but the bioscopes were full. Why the Bioscope dope should be more welcome than the Labour Party's—(Editor's blue pencil)

The same evening a Branch meeting of the Mine Workers Union was held at which Messrs Devenish and Forrester Brown from head office attended. After the branch business the latter spoke of the need of the workers to wake up. 9,000 soldiers had returned from the front, 4,500 for the Rand What did this addition to the unemployed signify? And what of the the future? Industrial Unity with sane organisation was the only remedy. On some future occasion he would address them, and asked that they should come prepared thear some things which they at present may not like.

Our Sunday School meets every Sunday morning, and those parents who would have their children taught ethics undiluted, should bring them along and thus encourage the teachers of same.

F. S.



This Sunday, December 10, at the Trades Hall, Rissik Street, Johannesburg, Miss E. F. Gelman will speak at 8 p.m. on "The Child: education as the work of Social Reconstruction". A big house should assemble to hear our Comrade on a subject which she will treat "not as those scribes".

The expropriation of the peasant, from the soil was the basis of the capitalist system.—MARN.

Strikes and War.

The attitude which the Welsh miners have taken against the mine owners is the finest bit of patriotism that the British people have yet displayed. It is a sign that when the war is over no power on earth can make slaves of us

And the news of the strike at Essen seems to indicate that the Social Democrats of Germany will live to see another day—a day when there will be no Kaiser.

Let the employing class take warning of the strike in Wales that, if the British and

our allies win, the gains of victory will be to man, not to master. If the Germans win the Social Democracy of the Vaterland will conquer the conquerors

They laugh best who laugh last. At the end of the war the proletariats all over Europe will laugh the laugh of victory and of innocence."—"The Ethical World," London.

The hand that fakes the cable fools the world. —Coast Seamens Journal

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:--Secretary: P. Somerville, 5 Vlei Street.

Germiston:—Secretary pro tem; W. Prince, Box 64.

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

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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.

at

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 members a further sub-division is expected.

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

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