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THE INTERNATIONAL

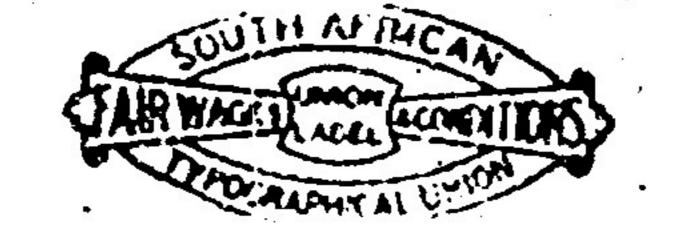
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

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6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street.

Johannesburg.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 15th. 1917.

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MINEOWNERS DIVIDE AND RULE THE WORKERS,

The Chamber of Mines' offer to the Mineworkers' Union has been accepted almost in full by the men. The terms appear generous, and the principle of the class struggle makes us quizzical as to what the Chamber expects in return for its generosity.

No one is to be engaged underground at less than 12s. 6d. per shift, except as a learner. Everyone who has worked underground for more than six months must get this minimum wage, the maximum being subject to the fluctuations of the market as heretofore.

If the minimum wage concession stopped at the flat rate there would be little to cavil at. But there follows an elaborate scale of pay for those who have worked underground for longer periods. There is a 15s. a shift minimun for all who have worked underground 15 months. A minimum of 20s. per shift to all who have worked underground for two years in Group 1. And 16s. 8d. per shift to all who have worked underground for 15 months if that 15 months includes nine months in Group 1. And so, on to Group 2: So here we have grades, and groups within grades, for the underground MOLKGLS

BEWARE GRADES!

So far, however, this does not lay down very serious lines of demarcation. But the Mineworkers' Union should take to heart the lesson of other employments where the grading system is in vogue, and mark how hopelessly it disrupts the workers' organisations. The setting up of Standard One, Standard, Two and Standard Three in the ranks of the workers is a tendency which must be checked It takes as much to keep a wife and family whether von have worked underground 15 months or two years. Grading according to ability will always exist informally. But let the Union not endorse the official stratification of its members. What it wants is a living wage for every member. Let his fitness be the lookout of the bass. The effect of the grading will be that in any demands to keep wages up to the sost of living the two-year men will rest content while the lower paid are bicking.

THE CARITALIST HAREM.

Then there is the grandmotherly intitution of the War Bonus. There is thing so degrading as this in the whole wage system, when its character Inion is a silent acknowledgment that wages are not paid to the worker for value of labour given, but as fuel to reproduce lost labour tissue to restart again for the boss next morning; and the bonus to reproduce more little wage-labourers for the capitalist class of to-morrow.

Only the married men get the War Ponus; for they provide the harem of the capitalist class. They are the baby farmers who guarantee the safe supply of cannon fodder and wage-slaves for King Kapitaal. The additional War Bonus does not apply to single men without dependents. And as for single men with dependents.

"the variety of dependency is so great that the Chamber prefers that each case be treated on its merits by the mine concerned. . . ."

That is, if it is a grandmother, or an aged unproductive mother, it is no business of the sapitalist. But if your ingle run has young brothers or nephews—likeable wage-slaves—growing up dependent upon him, then that is a different matter. He is fulfilling the extra duty of a cunuch in the capitalist harem, and gets an "extra" for it.

Furthermore, the War Bonus is on a sliding scale, according to a man's reproductiveness. It is 10s. for each "total dependent," wife or children only coming under this heading. (One realises why "wife" is in the singular under this system.)

So that the married man or single man with dependents will now not merely have to prove his capacity as a worker to receive top pay, but also "as a breeder of wage labourers. He will not only have to present his discharge certificate showing what a good boy he was to his previous boss, but his family history and genealogical tree as well. Is it not surprising that manly men could be found in the Union to tolerate this step-motherly Chamber poking its nose into the sanctuary of their family affairs? Are they serfs seeking to get extra remuneration on the score of their breeding capacity? The next thing we'll hear is that the mineowners will come into line with the banks and only allow their ployes to marry by consent of the Chamber of Mines. And after that, perhaps, it won't be such a serious step forward to revive the right of "first night" enjoyed by the feudal

lord over his serf and his newly wed. Why not go the whole hog? The implications are accepted. We are already asked to bring our litters into the labour market for extra pay.

Ah! give us the old commodity status of labour in its pure capitalist form rather than this impudent discrimination by the master class between those who breed and those who do not breed. To the Chamber of Mines the piffling minimum wage is well spent for the added prestige and domination which these indecent interferences give them.

MORE SNARES.

The attempt to establish a central? employment bureau for the mines was turned down by a big majority of the Union. This offer indicates again the direction in which the Chamber continually attempts to lead the men. They are prepared to feed us wage-cattle on a tolerable scale. What they want in return is to make us docile and surrender all intellectual and moral independence. They want to eliminate all the kickers by kindness. So they have made a showy offer before the Union has made a decent kick. If the Union can get this much without kicking, without even a growl, how much could it not have got by showing its teeth?

Mineworkers! Beware of the offers of the Chamber of Mines, especially when the "Star" praises your Union and compares it favourably with us wicked "Maximalists," and, vampirelike, fans its victims with the sleeping draught of friendship between Capital and Labour—"until three months after the war!

The Union has at last succumbed to the blandishments of the Mineowners on the question of allowing those members who wish it to have their Union money docked off their pay cheques. We are surprised at the secretary of the Union, a class-conscious Socialist like Forrester Brown, being taken in by this snare. This is prized by the Chamber. It is an additional insignia. of the "friendship" between Capital and Labour. We shall now have the Chamber of Mines handing its monthly cheque to the Union for Union dues received and getting due stamps in exchange for the mine bosses to affix on the Union cards; or perhaps the Union official going up to the Chamber when any hitch occurs over the amount to get the cheque, and gradually the Union officials will be made to feel how easy it is to carry on with the new method, and a hond of friendship will grow between the Union officials and the Chamber, and the Union will eventually become dependent on the Chamber for its funds, and "while we are making out this cheque can't we conIf the Union men do not like this prospect, how do they propose to avoid it, and what the blazes do they mean by putting their heads in the lion's mouth?

The Union has not made the most of its fighting forces in binding itself till three months after the end of the war to this sectional agreement. We feel that the guarantee of the status quo of coloured labour is the key to the whole offer. The Chamber has hastened to dish the class-conscious elements by buying cut with sops the tendencies towards amalgamating with the native mineworkers. A halfpenny rise as the result of a fight which unites all the toilers would be a far greater victory than this mush of humiliating "concessions," whose nett effect is to widen the gap between the white and native workers on the - Inines.

Let the Mineworkers' Union remember the effrontery implied in its name. - Its constitution as vet provides for barely ONE-TWENTETT OF MINE-WORKERS. Its primary job is not to come to terms with the Chamber of - Mines, but with the vast mass of the minomorkers whom it to-day ignores. Until then all its "conciliatie" schemes are vain, for there is room for ten such Unions as the S.A.M.W.U. on the mines, and still half the mineworkers left uncreanised. Workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but the good slobber of the "Star;". and until the Union loses that it is - floundering in the morass.

Correspondence.

Mr. J. A. Clark writes a long letter, mainly composed of insulting reflections on the character of the editor, accepting our challenge to show the minutes of the Tramway Committee to a representative delegation of tramwaymen, provided we print his letter in full. As the policy of the Press Committee is to refuse the limited space of our little sheet for sordid personal attacks, we are obliged to say that we accept Mr. Clark's condition if he writes his letter in publishable form.

And Compromise has always been the mother of Tragedy. By the "favours" they have received from their masters have the workers of all ages been made the inhabitants of a slave world. This conciliation and arbitration makes it possible for the capitalists to prevent any improvement in the condition of the working class by so-called "concessions" that become a bridle and a bit in the mouth of Labour and allow it to be steered to new ruling class power and glory.

GEORGE HARVEY.

True unionism, that is CLASS unionism, means death to the exploiting class.

GEORGE HARVEY.

The Egotism of the bourgeois Intellectual.

By J. M. G.

The egotism prevailing amongst that section of society called the intellectuals, the effect of their environment, unconsciously resulting in distorted ideas of the problems that confront society, is very marked to the class-conscious wage-earner. The economic status of these people warps their judgment and forces them to see the conflicts in society from their own class-bound point of view, the parochial burrow that denies to them the broader vision which embraces

This egotism was well exemplified by the proprietor and editor of "Searchlight" in the article in last week's issue entitled "My Point of View." Mr. Moynihan in his statement of the gold question in the main is quite correct; but when he states, "I know of only one such person" who believes in the conclusions he draws on that question, it shows how restricted his reading must be and how narrow his perception of the forces that have operated in past phases of society and are operating to-day.

Karl Marx, in his 'Das Kapitaal' and 'Critique of Political Economy, analysed Bimetallism and the question of Gold and Silver as money, an analysis that has never been refuted, but has stood the test of 70 years and is, as the result of this war, being proven puto the hilt.

Hundreds of thousands of Socialists have held the views set forth by Mr. Moynihan, but I question if the section of society to which Mr. Moynihan belongs will be able to draw any more "common sense" conclusions from it than "Farmer Giles and Mrs. 'Awkins."

We as Socialists have long recognised that all Governments are powerless to control the economic determinism that forces societies along certain lines of development. The economic laws that determine the value of any commodity, Gold and Silver included, is breaking down the fictitious price fixed by the ruling class as the exchange value of Gold.

The Gold fetish, like many other fallacies, is receiving its death blow. Gold in the past has played an important part in the commercial development of society, but to-day is playing no part, the currency of Gold being withdrawn in all belligerent countries and replaced by Bank Notes issued by private corporations, but having legal sanction and guaranteed by the respective Governments.

This tinkering with and trying to preserve the present form of society is the despairing attempt of a class that still wants to conserve to itself the surplus profits even if in reduced volume. We see the British Government has fixed maximum prices for bread, flour, meat and about twentwother articles of daily consumption

futile attempts to stem the rising consciousness of the mass of the people to the degrading conditions of a form of society that denies to the many the full development of their physical and mental capacities.

This consciousness of the brutality of our present form of society is permeating all sections, and is leading to all sorts of misleading and side-tracking schemes to amend society, schemes of reform that will still enable the parasitical class and its henchmen and hangers-on, the middle class, to still batten on the vitals of that class in society that produces for a bare subsistence those things necessary to the life of society.

This tinkering with the form of society will and is opening the eyes of the masses to the injustice of our system of production for profit. It is gradually clearing their mental vision of the fallacies their past environment forced upon them, and is gradually creating an environment that will ultimately lead them to a clearer vision of the futility of patching up this system, which has never and will never give that justice that should be the right of every unit of the community.

The economic dependence on the capitalist class of the greater number of the middle class warps their mental vision, resulting in that egotism that in the mass leads them to lock down upon the manual worker as an inferior species of humanity, without the intelligence to grasp the fundamental principle at the basis of society. They as so-called intellectuals have placed themselves on a pedestal of their own creation with the empty conceit of possessing the maximum of brain capacity. They are carried away by an inflated idea of their value to society that when calmly analysed shows them to be as a section of society mere parasites clinging to other parasites, the capitalist class, to whom they have prostituted their intellects in its endeavour to perpetuate the present system of distorting history, teaching capitalistic economics that won't bear the test of criticism, boosting up the culture et our so-called glorious civilisation; a culture that is denied to the majority -selling themselves as political hacks to befog the workers and mislead them into supporting the veiled schemes of the capitalist class. As lawvers they are paid by the hig corporations to distort the laws and read into them something that the framers of them never dreamt of. As followers of the meek and lowly Jesus they are fitting tools to dope the workers with promises of rewards hereafter, to the neglect of their daily needs. No! The so-called intellectuals have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Their egotism is of no value to us as Socialists. They have no philosophy of life that will cure humanity of the ills of present-day society.

We Socialists, founding our philosophy on the economic development of the past, can see forces generating in present society that must result in the destruction of its present form and give place to another that will deal out justice to all.

Coloured Workers Waking Up.

And the Parson Knows It.

last Friday a mass meeting of coloured workers was held under the auspices of the African Political Organisation in the Pilkington Hall, Ferreira, to organise the coloured workers. Comrades Bunting, Dunbar, Barendregt, Tyler and Ivon Jones were present by invitation of the A.P.O. to speak on industrial organisation and Socialism to the coloured men. A number of other 1.S.L. comrades occupied the back seats. There was a full attendance of coloured men, the platform being occupied by the leaders of the African Political Association, on their right a Mr. Avery, the white parson of the coloured church next door, and on their left the goats, perhaps the parson would say "wolves," he being the "shepherd," viz., the International Socialists.

The first half of the proceedings was taken up with speeches by the A.P.O. leaders, the first speaker's remarks being mainly a tirade against the "Rand Daily Mail" for its colour prejudice appeals. Mr. Talbot Williams, the secretary of the A.P.O., made an able speech, which showed a good grasp of the class struggle, although his appeal to the coloured men to scab, scab, scab again on the whites was not the true appeal, which should be for unity on the industrial field. Comrade Dunbar took the floor and made a fighting class war speech which was well responded to, explaining aspects of International Socialism and Industrial Unity. He advised the coloured workers to form a mixed local of an Industrial Union, and when sufficieni from one industry, joined up in the mixed local to draft them out to a separate local of that industry, and so Θ^{*}

Comrade Bunting went on the principle that they should not spurn the native, nor create more artificial barriers of race and colour than was absolutely necessary. He criticised the organisers of the meeting for refusing admission to a large number of natives who had sought to come into the hall, saying that this was the very crime they were complaining of in the whites.

Comrade Barendregt spoke in Dutch on details of industrial organisation, and Ivon Jones finished up with an appeal to get going, that human society and all its problems, the cancer of illicit liquor and all other social cancers, were waiting to be solved by the industrial organisation of the great mass of the unskilled workers.

A motion was then put by one of the A.P.O. men endorsing the principle of organising on the industrial field, but giving effect to it at a later gathering. Then the parson got up, although his job was to close with prayer, and made a speech typical of the cloth and its mystifying vocation. He warned against the white man (except the white parson presumably), against the laternational Socialists, misconstrued statements of Dunbar, which our com-

rade immediately jumped up to correct, closing up his correction with a warning to the coloured workers to beware of the parson. However, the parson got the last say with a long prayer to his flock of the usual deliver-us-from all-strife kind. But it did not matter, as it was agreed that good Socialist propaganda had been made, and we shall meet our coloured fellow-workers again—minus the parson.

Railwaymen Want "Recognition."

Mr. Moore, the secretary of the new Railway Union, is busy organising the men. His public utterances are still weighed down with the superstition that what they want is "recognition." What the Railwaymen want is Industrial Unity; "recognition" will follow. It is said that the headquarters of the new Union will be placed at Johannesburg. This is good. Without lack of modesty it may be claimed that the industrial centre of the country must always be the thought centre and nerve centre of the workers' movement.

The Postal and Telegraph men are also hankering after "recognition." Their cuff and collar exclusiveness has only got them snubs from their superiors so far. The only way for every section of the workers to get "something now" is to go for the whole hog by fighting the revolutionary class war and organising along the lines of unity with the whole of the working class. It is the failure to perceive this fact that makes the superior clirk who looks down loftily at you from behind his postal buffet so absolutely futile and ineut in the mass dompared with the corduroy workman, who may not know "figgers," but is a greater political factor because he does not cringe for favours from his "superion," but looks for salvation from unity with his class. If the Railwaymen and Postal men started organising with the common native worker, Burton would tumble over himself to give "concesions."

Industrial Conference.

The preliminary Conference of Industrial Workers will resume its sitting at the Trades Hall next Sunday at 10.30 a.m. to receive the report of the Manifesto Committee and consider the draft manifesto. All workers interested in the reconstruction of the working class movement on Industrial Union lines are heartily welcome.

"Trade Unionism is the one great social bulwark of our largely compettive industrial system, and the more widely it is extended, and the more perfectly it is organised, the better it will be for our country and our trade." So said Winston Churchill in 1907, speaking from the point of view of the capitalist. What he meant was that trades unions organised along craft instead of industrial lines, and the more perfectly it organised the more perfectly it split up the workers in a particular industry.

A Capitalist Rebellion

Against the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

The ordinary process of things has been reversed in Russia. Instead of working-class revolt against capitalist tyranny, we have a resolt of capitalism against the political dietatorship of the proletariat.

It now seems fairly clear why Riga fell. Miliukov, Gutchkov and the other bourgeous reactionists having been kicked out of political power, the bourgeois interests getting squeezed more and more out of control, the situation became desperate for international capital, with its huge investments in Russia. The Socialist movement, by Miliukov's own admission, has been busily organising its forces in the free political field provided by the revolution. The propaganda work accomplished during the last few months must have been enormous. Only one card was left to the bourgeois. to dish the Socialist movement and to discredit the propaganda of Lenin to turn the national war into the international class war. That card was let in the German "enemy," and allow him to threaten Petrograd. As we opined last week, the German advance upon Riga and Korniloff's withdrawal therefrom was a move by international capital to force the position. It gave Korniloff the excuse, with the approval of the European capitalist press, the "Star" not excepted, to march on Petrograd with a few non-European troops and attempt the role of a Napoleon over again.

But the effect has been the reverse to that anticipated. Kerensky has spurned the aid of Miliukov and the Cadets. It is a sure enough index of the strength of forces that he has called in the aid of the Council of Workmen. He has disbanded the old Ministry and formed a Socialist Ministry, with only two bourgeois members, and they whole-hog pacifists. Thus at long last Lenin's demand that the proletariat take complete political control has been forced upon the Socialists, and we have the national war actually turned into the unabashed class war of Capital versus Labour. Miliukov's offer of aid was also part of the capitalist game to regain political control. We venture the opinion that the tardiness of the Council of Workmen to crush Korniloff's troop is not from weakness, but from the humanity born of over-

whelming strength. As for the national war, it is finished in Russia. There is not much fear of a big German invasion. The German command dare not risk the troops that have fraternised in a campaign against the working-men of Russia. The Stockholm Conference may not be held. That only means that the reformists will have no say in the peace settlement. We rejoice that the workers of Britain gave their endorsement. But the Thornes and O'Gradys and Hendersons will be cast into outer darkness by the international class war that is to end all wars now on the very threehold. Long live the International

Council of Workmen!

"Enlighten thy Daughter,"

God Enlighten Us All.

By I. A. SHOUL.

lighten Thy Daughter' there has been lighten Thy Daughter' there has been light anaemic struggling in the consciences of some of our worthy citizens against the vice of prostitution talking in our midst, and a few letters have appeared in the "Star" which by no means offer a solution to the problem.

Mere enlightenment will not eradicate the curse that corrupts the flesh and destroys the souls of our young boys and girls, for where men live in enforced celibacy, and women have the delightful liberty to starve, vice and misery will continue to haunt not only the street corners, but invade our very homes.

"Enlighten Thy Daughter!" God enlighten us all! How many gentle and noble ladies in the bright springtide of youth have been decoyed by hellish arts, worthy of Satan himself, to houses of ill-fame in the profit-hunting trade of white slavery. God help us all, profits are more valuable than lives.

The 'Rand Daily Mail' of the 7th inst. tells us that at a meeting of the Durban Town Council somebody named "Errol Hay" opposed the closing of houses of ill-fame, and referred to the large number of troops passing through the town. For are not these zoldiers our brave, generous and noble supporters of the glorious liberty, and traditions of the Union Jack, under the benevolent folds of which degraded wrecks of human lives, that might have been happy but are now a spreading cancer, are called "social necessities"? A Mr. Walker Gilbert, with more sense than heart, perceives that closing such houses will only transfer Hell to the street corners.

Moral training alone will do little good; morality generally decreases as hunger increases, and alas, there is plenty of hunger, even the 'Star' admits this, and where men are unable to live natural lives, in decent matrimony, owing to economic pressure, and where women are hungry, well—prostitution will flourish and thrive.

The real houses of ill-fame are those built on the wealth stolen from labour, and whose parasitic influence is draining all natural good from their victims.

John Campbell says that the cry, "We will do all possible for the workers after the war," is a proof that the epitalist Governments intend the war by on for ever!

Pass this paper on to a friend. Tell him he ought to subscribe; only 5s.

per annum, post free. Postal order to The International," Box 4179, Johannesburg.

League Notes.

The Social Democratic Federation of Capetown is getting to work with "The International." Of late the sale of our paper has been prohibited at open-air meetings in Adderley Street. But the prohibition has now been removed, and our comrades have ordered a batch of 50 copies weekly for sale in the streets.

SOCIAL AND DANCE.—This month promises to beat the record for League socials. Last Saturday a very successful social evening to celebrate the second anniversary of the formation of the League was held at West's Academy. Songs beguiled the evening, and a large attendance of comrades made merry converse. Short addresses were given by Comrades Watson, the chairman, A. B. Dunbar and Ivon Jones. The Internationale was sung with a will, and many new members enrolled.

Last Wednesday a League Cinderella was held at the same place, and, although the attendance was naturally not so big, the feeling of buoyant comradeship was sustained and financially even improved on the social. The younger members of the League monopolised this evening, with their terpsichorean revels and friendship making. A lot of Socialist consolidation results from our socials and dances.

On the 26th inst. the Jewish speaking branch intend holding a concert and dance.

WESTERN. DISTRICTS. — This branch met last week at its usual place of meeting, and there was a good turn up of members. The comrades had a discussion on the reconstruction of the branch. Comrade Dilew was re-elected secretary, and Comrade Mark Obell was elected chairman. It has been decided to hold branch discussions on Socialist Economics, and it is hoped, under Comrade Obell's chairmanship, to create an active branch again and embark on propaganda. Owing to the inadvisability at present of advertising the place of meeting, comrades in the Fordsburg district who wish to link up should communicate through the Head Office.

Comrade MacLean held the League platform in the Trades Hall last Sunday to a good audience. Comrade MacLean showed the value of Industrial Unionism, and showed how the present system was being perpetuated by the vested interests of officialdom, whom he described in their reactionary tendencies as either fools or fakirs. The lecturer appealed mainly for a live spirit in the cause to propagate the new principle, a forward movement to carry the fire of International Socialism into the industrial field.

Discussion and questions followed, with a good sale of "Internationals."

BENONI BRANCH.—The Benoni Branch is holding a dance at the Hotel Cecil on Saturday, September 22. Tickets 3s., including refreshments.

We urge all readers and friends of the movement to roll up and help to make it a social and financial success.

NEXT SUNDAY Comrade Bunting will speak in the Trades Hall on "BLACK AND WHITE IN THE TRADES HALL." All turn up, as the subject turns round an astounding decision of the Trades Hall Society readmission of natives to the meeting place of Labour, of which more next week.

CONGRATULATIONS.—To Comrades Charles and Martha Dones on the birth of a son, Frank Aubrey; to Comrades Sidney and Becky Bunting also on the birth of a son. All doing well.

International Socialist League

(S.A.)

Jewish Speaking Branch.
Johannesburg.

M'CONCERT AND DANCE will be held under the above Branch

AT WEST'S ACADEMY.
125, Pritchard Street,

On Wednesday, 26th September, At 8.30 p.m.

Admission free. Refreshment provided.

International Socialist League

(S.A.)

Benoni Branch.

A DANCE

will be held at the HOTEL CECIL

On Saturday, September 22, 1917, at 8 p.m.

Under the auspices of the Benomin Branch of the I.S.L.

All friends of the movement roll up.
Blum's Band. Tickets 3s.

Refreshments provided.

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The Day Schools are doing their best to turn you into

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