# THE INTERNATIONAL

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

P.O. BOX 4179.

6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street.

Johannesburg.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

No. 105



The New Social Conscience

By J. M. G.

The new born "humanitarian" spirit pervading certain sections of the community, more especially the capitalists and their servile sycophants the Church and the Press, should be very carefully watched by the workers. These capitalists, by the very nature of their relations as exploiters of the labour power of the workers, are not likely to give anything or do anything that will weaken their power to appropriate the surplus value of Jahour.

This helated so called 'spiritual revolt," an awakening of the "social conscience" after all the years of def grading misery inflicted on the mass of the people, should be analysed by the workers, and it will be found to be ana attempt engineered by the capitalist class to divert the rising tide that is Howing towards the emancipation of the workers from the brutal system of wage slavery. It is the soft solder of compromise, with the sops of higher wages to a few, and co-partnership, with the State as Umpire—the employers' safeguards.

These benevolent schemes are the frantic efforts of the capitalist class to still preserve and give an extended lease to the present system,—futile efforts that are, by their very nature, bound to fail.

The cloven hoof of selfish interests animating this so called social conscience is clearly revealed by that exploiter of labour "Lord Leverhulme." of Sunlight Soap fame, writing in "The Observer," this friend of humanity (?) says: "I believe, and my belief is based upon practical experience—the human machine could and would do as much work in six as in eight hours." Just so, the human machine and the mechanical machine to this humanitarian with an awakened. conscience are identical. He can see no difference, they are both to continue producing profit, more profit, and still more profit. And that more profits are expected and will be demanded by the capitalist class; notwithstanding their platitudes as to the rights of humanity, is very evident. when one hears of machines that are producing commodities in twofold. quantity, ships in threefold, manufacturers' costs cut in half, and distribution of the finished article reduced fifty per cent. by better organisation. Machines that are eliminating the skilled mechanic and organisation that is displacing one half of the workers employed in the handling of these articles.

FRIDAY, OCT. 12, 1917.

For the workers to allow themselves to be misled by these socalled humanitarian mountebanks is criminal. Their salvation is with themselves. The ball lies at their feet to play as they think fit. The experience of the past should point the lesson of the failure of anything and everything short of control of the machinery, the tools of production, for the use of the community as a whole. Any compromise proposed by the capitalist class or their hirelings should be discarded. These hirelings are the ready tools of the employing class, always at their service to beguile the worker. And the most dangerous are those labour leaders, who have the axe of office to grind and who consciously play into the hands of the vmploving class div fantastic schemes such as thying to curtail profits and grading systems to the detriment of the workers as a class.

The enormous strides in the perfecting of the tools of production brought about by the war, with the increased capacity of producing commodities, tools that if left in the hands and under the hands of the capitalist class, are bound to intensify the brutality of our present system, even if sops are thrown to a few of the workers, who may be employed in certain industries, the mass of unemployed will be double the number previous to the war. A twofold production of commodities owing to the perfecting of these machines will result in throwing out of employment one half the number required under the old or pre-war methods, except. markets be found to absorb double the quantity of commodities, which is impossible, as although the earth is large there is a limit to its size, and a very few years would see every market and every part on the face of the globe glutted and stocked to the fullest capacity.

This is the dilemma that is staring the capitalist class in the face to-day. They have a glimmer of the facts, and this so-called "social conscience" is nothing but a despairing effort to prevent the downfall of the system. They are willing to grant reforms, recognise the humanity of man (as a pious thought) but profits must be preserved.

The germ of failure is contained in these frantic attempts to side track the growing class consciousness of the workers, a consciousness that is straightening out the mental kinks of craft unionism and giving a clearer vision to Labour of organisation as a class for the emancipation of the workers of the world, which is the emancipation of humanity.

JOHANNESBURG.—Don't forget the League Dance at West's Academy next Wednesday.

The Light from the East

By Comrade W. MACLEAN.

Pioneers of Revolution, Raise vour voices near and far! In the East your flag is waving O'er the Bastilles of the Czar.

Soon your comrades shall assemble You to guide and rule the world, Tyrants of the earth shall tremble Bre your flag again be furled.

Sons of labour, how you redden Hills and valleys with your blood. To enrich the monied Vampire. And its hireling traitor brood.

When the workers of the Nation's 'Stop the gans and all their blast, Craft and greed shall then be broken, Vampires into hell be cast.

Sons of heroes long departed, Raise your voices near and far; In the East your flag is waving. O'er the Bastilles of the Czar.

#### A PROPHECY.

"Unless this bill is submitted to the electorate, and they decide to have it, we say right here and now that we will lay down our tools, and we will not take them up till you take this thing off our backs.' I offer you this prophecy, that out of the turmoil and strife and tempest of this war will rise in every country a revolutionary movement of the proletariat which will sweep the master class and like robbers off the face of the earth within the next two decades, for whatever else the war has done, it has at least cleared the stage of a lot of rubbish and pointed the way to the possibility of a world without masters and slaves."--Kingsley, editor of "B.C. Federationist."

The Krugersdorp Disrict Committee of the S.A. Mineworkers' Union has recommended that the action of the Trades Hall Society in excluding non-Europeans from the Trades Hall be endorsed. The Krugersdorp miners will soon come a cropper if they pursue this policy. Have they so soon forgotten that strike of theirs at Randfontein, how they could not go down below because the Shangaan mineworkers had a grievance to settle. The white miners should have learnt a little humility... and solidarity—from that incident.

## "The Pacifist Peril."

The anti-war propaganda must be assuming big proportions in England when the Press Bureau (personally manipulated by Lloyd George, so says Henderson), is spreading reports of German gold and German agents, Bolo Pasha and all the rest of the alarums calculated to prejudice the propaganda for peace.

Capitalist Governments do not intend to end this war, however much they may mouthe phrases. The war has become a necessary part of the capitalist system. Just as it was Utopian in peace to ask them to abolish the reserve army of unemployed, st seems equally Utopian to-day to expect this War of Stleel and Coal to be brought to an end by Governments of Steel and Coal Kings. The vast trade of peaceful exchange of useful comodities has been almost completely suspended in favour of the more profitable production of war material. The capitalist section which controls the production of munition material has risen through the war to the ruling position, is the Government, in fact. How can this section arrange peace without deliberately working its own economic suicide? The transference of twenty million men back to peaceful, production also seems a task too gigantic for any Government hampered on every hand by the dictates of vast and conflicting private interests. The salvation of the capitalist system therefore lies in the continuation of the war.

For this reason tremendous efforts are being made to advertise the activities of 'enemy agents,' and to involve the Socialist movement in these activities. 'Enemy agents' may have in some instances succeeded in attaching themselves to pacifist movements. It is certain that agent provacateurs of the Government have done so. The case of the Government spy Gordon, who toured the workshops of the Industrial centres on behalf of the Munitions Department is notorious. He was in the pay of the Government to incite class conscious workers to violence. He arranged to bring the Wheeldon family to disaster by his vile suggestion, in the case of the attempted poisoning of Lloyd George. Whenever a statesman's popularity is on the wane, a frequent dodge is to get an attempted asresination of himself. Will Hughes Lied this before the last Australian elections. And the only way to deal with a revolutionary movement that can neither be met with argument nor bought out, is to send spies and agent provocateurs inside to get it to commit acts of iolence, or to get a member to receive "German gold."

In South Africa they have so far contented themselves with smashing us from the outside by riots and break up of meetings. But failing this, other and more insidious means will be tried by the spy and the "enemy agent" dodge.

August Bebel in a speech which has been since embodied in a pamphlet: "Assassinations and Socialism," made a wholesale exposure of Governments

attempting to implicate the workingclass movement in terrorist intrigues.

"We stand by the law of evolution. However natural the desire of the masses of the working people to free themselves to-day rather than to-morrow, from social misery and economic and political oppression, we know it will not sooner be possible for us to reach our aim than when the general development, which we strive to accelerate by organising the working class for the struggle, will have advanced to the point when we will be strong enough to transform society. From this standpoint we can and will consider as enemies and fight with determination all those in power who oppose us, but we will never imagine that by removing such persons by means of violence we gain any special advantage. Rather on the contrary—reaction's sails are furnished with wind...

Change the social order from foun-dation up. . . and you can leave your enemies with their heads in peace.".

### Whom Lenin Hates.

And it is not only the "honest" reformists that is our danger, but men of the type of Kautsky in Germany, Axilrod in Russia, Hyndman in England, etc., who mouth sugared phrases of Marxism which prostitute, its spirit. Men who are revisionist in tactics while talking revolutionary jargon.

We have had enough of phrases, enough of Marxism prostituted. After twenty years of the Internationale... the workers have lost faith in mere words. The opportunists and Jingo Socialists have gone right over to the enemy, the capitalist class, and have made a deep breach with the spirit of Socialism. We can no longer associate with them, and we disavow them and their servile work entirely. Only "War on War" is Social Democratic work; and this work, however great the difficulties and whatever temporary defeats, mistakes, aberrations, etc., may interrupt us, yet will lead mankind on to the achievement of the victorious working class revolution which will free humanity from bondage.

LENIN.

Quoted in the Glasgow "Socialist."

Ramsay Macdonald has been putting his foot in it by denouncing Lenin as "the leader of a party in Russia composed of thoughtless anarchists with no definite policy," says the Glasgow "Socialist," The same paper quotes "Avanti" as giving a list of the crimes which the capitalist press attribute to Lenin, "from all these capitalist diatribes." says "Avanti" "we may be sure that Lenin is a clear cut Revolutionary Socialist, not content with a bourgeois political revolution, but driving straight for the pockets of 'fat' and the Social Revolution."

## Militant Spanish Workers

(Notes from "El Socialista," by Comrades Silva and Lee, Durban).

On account of the rising cost of living, and the exports of food stuffs in general to the countries at war, the transport workers' section of the 'National Workers' Union' of Barcelona refused to handle any foodstuffs for export till the prices of commodities were brought to normal prices. After four days strike the workers forced the capitalist class of Spain to accede to their demands.

# The National Workers' Union, Agricultural Workers' Section:—

The growth of this section has been phenomenal. In 1889 it had 27 branches with 3,000 members. 1900: Suppressed by the Government. 1911: Again suppressed. In 1917 it has 2,690 branches with 600,832 members. (Please Father, Son and Holy Mary give us some more suppression).

Since the last industrial crisis 100 prominent "Syndicalists" have been arrested.

Spanish Socialists and National Workers' Union Congress. (Barcelona, 10 July, 1917):—

The opinion of the organised workers of the present Government and the capitalist class of Spain, has never been very high, but has fallen still lower, owing to the Spanish Government forbidding the holding of the Congress. Martial Law having been proclaimed, the National Workers' Union Committee of Barcelona has declared a general strike to support the Congress. The Congress arrived at the following decisions: "That if the Capitalist Government of Spain enters the war, on either side, the duty of the Spanish workers is to declare a general strike or kivil war against the Capitalist Class of Spain. The Spanish workers have nothing to gain by taking part in any war, except the class war. This Congress sympathises with the workers of the world, but claims it is their duty to fight their one and only enemy, the capitalist class of their respective countries. The Spanish Government, owing to the attitude of the organised workers of Spain, were compelled to allow the Congress to proceed).

And the right of a man to labour and his right to labour in joy—
Not all your laws can strangle that right, nor the gates of hell destroy.
For it came with the making of man and was kneaded into his bones.
And it will stand at the last of things on the dust of crumbled thrones.

At Karkoc, in Russia, the workers "locked up" the directors of an electric power works until they paid more wages. Daniel de Leon said we must "lock out" the capitalist class. The Russian workers have gone one better, and locked them UP.

## Colour Prejudice.

#### From the Native Point of View.

Mr. R. C. Kapan writes on the Rev. Paget's allegation of cruelty towards the natives by whites in German East. Although he grasps the fact that capitalism is the all-prevading cause of it all, much of Kapan's letter is taken up with the past history of the Christian Church, which is hardly relevant to the present matter:

Sir,—"The brutal, callous and absolutely ungodly and beastly attitude of the average white man towards the native," says the Rev. Paget in the Pretoria Diocesan Synod a few weeks back. The coloured working class are confronted to-day, with a triple-headed monster:

(1) Capitalism, the arch enemy of mankind. He holds the life and death of the human race in the palm of his hand.

(2) The White Labour Party. It is the party that in order to be admitted to the Rank and Smell of Society arrive at agreements with the capitalist to exploit those who happen to differ from them in colour. They are doing to their black fellow working men what they for certain would not like done to them. At a meeting held at Benoni, presided over by a Rev. Ben. Evans of the Prechyterian church to protest against the removal of the colour har in the Mines, and Works Regulations,—at that meeting the Mayor of Benoni is reported to have said that the Lord had made the native to be the white man's inferior and the whites should do their best to keep him so. ("East Rand Express," May 16. 1914).

(3). Public opinion. The rank and file, the White Sinking Mass, which through the excess pressure of economic conditions, is being forced to extremes. These have lost all hope of success. Poverty is no doubt one of the greatest causes of crime attributed to mankind. And they come to the conclusion that it is the fault of the black man that such intolerable conditions exist as those to which they are being driven,"

#### ONLY. ONE CAUSE.

Kapan concludes that Christianity having persecuted along the ages, is itself the cause of the brutal attitude of whites towards blacks.

Our fellow-worker is wrong here. Capitalism is the single headed, not triple headed, monster of tyranny. All the other causes he mentions are only causes set in motion by capitalism; that is, the wage system, the system of exploiting human labour for profit, that is the cause of all tyranny, all poverty, and all brutality. Capitalism sets in motion the Church to recruit for the Flanders slaughter house. Capital sets in motion the Press, to keep alive colour prejudice to prevent white and black workers combining. Capitalism captures the so-called Labour - Party to delude the workers with phrases. Capitalism must have its in-

struments. These are they. The narrow craft union, which organises a small section of privileged artisans in an industry, and leaves the rest to their fate, is another instrument of capitalism. The workers are not to be blamed so much as the hirelings of capital who set them against one another. Let the best of the white and native workers then come together to find ways and means of counteracting the polluting agencies of capitalism, and bringing the truth of Industrial Solidarity home to all the workers, ultimately to bring about One Union for the whole workingclass. No prayers of parsons, no petitions to Parliament, not even voting representatives to Parliament, will get us justice. Capitalism fears only one nower, the power of the workers organised industrially. Workers of all lands unite!

#### THE WAR MARKET.

Attempts are being made to get the mine mechanics to put in overtime gratis for the War Market, and forms are being handed round to the employees requiring them to state what they will do. By these—and many other means the workers themselves are made to pay for the upkeep of the workers' children who have given their lives for the workers' bosses. By this means the bosses get out of the payments in which they would be mulcted if wooden legs and orphans became a charge on the State. The Mineworkers after some agitation have just wrested increases of wages from the Chamber of Mines; and now some of them are helping to organise this scheme for filching the increase back into War Markets and Governor-General's funds, and thus saving pocket money for the boss.

Our propaganda has no business to go outside South Africa for fields to conquer, but we might give the "Maoriland Worker" the tip about the Workers Educational Association, to which it gives much of its space. If our good contemporary does not know that this is a workers mystification association, the big W.E.A. lecture on "Economic Thought," which it reports in the mail issue should covince. it. In the whole of that lecture we fail to see a single reference to the economist and thinker of the workers: Karl Marx. Of course, it is the function of the W.E.A. to keep the workers from knowing about the great revolutionary thinker whom they cannot answer and therefore dare not mention.

The Provincial Council has postponed the Municipal Elections in the Trans vaal in favour of the fourth Centenary of Luther. If Luther had been alive in South Africa to-day he would have been interned; for, tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ascelon, the founder of the Protestant faith, and the prophet of the Reformation, was a "dirty Hun."

## The Australian Upheaval.

Up to the cable announcing the end of the strike, not a word appeared in the papers about the great upheaval in Australia. So anxious have the capitalists been to hermetically close in the strike that even the New Zealand papers complain of the lack of news, and the steamship service was stopped between Australia and New Zealand by order of the Company.

In mail week the strike in New South Wales was in full blast, the number of men out being computed at 100,000. According to a "Star" cable last week the men have now returned to work on the terms offered by the Government in the first week of the strike. If that is the whole of the truth, it signifies the greatest defeat yet suffered by Labour in Australia.

The Mail issue of the Queensland "Worker," writing when the strike had already been in progress six weeks, referred to the passing of the Unlawful Association Act, a measure directed against the I.W.W. Astounding to relate several Labour Members voted for this new repressive law. The Fuller Government, said the "Worker," was already talking about applying this law against the leaders of the strike!!

Tom Barker, the Editor of "Direct Action," and a crowd of others with him, were automatically sentenced to six months imprisonment for being members of the I.W.W. The hearing was short and sharp. Evidence of members and sentence forthwith.

The defeat of Labour will initiate a period of searching of hearts. Hundreds of scabs were German workers who had been expelled from their Unions. The attitude of the N.S.W. Government as employer has been most high handed, and determined in its plan to crush the workers. Out of it all will come a great harvest of revolutionary Industrial Unionists.

## League Notes.

JOHANNESBURG.—If our attacks on Capitalism and War consisted of physical combat, we might fairly claim a victory last Sunday, in that the comrades decided to take drastic measures with Cohen, and his gang of meeting breakers who wreck our meetings now almost every Sunday. The outdoor meeting was not held, but a number of copies of the "International" were sold on the Town Hall square. In the Trades Hall Comrade Becker was announced to speak on "Socialist Theory and Tactics." Cohen was compelled to sing small, and during the proceedings had to take the cry-baby resort of fetching the police against one or two of our too militant comrades. The lecture was listened to in peace, except for the singing of the National Anthem by part of the gang who were being kept outside. The comrades are being still urged to roll up and back up the speakers.

## The "Bloody Coolie."

By GORDON LEE.

(Note.—We have always been under the impression that there is no colour berin the Typographical Union. Given the facts as stated, then our comrade's robust punches at the Typos are indeed not unmerited. Ed.)

The aristocratic white Typos handed in their notices last week at Durban. It appears they want five jimmy 'goblins a week. Why stick at such a reasonable number? They say the boss can't do without them and it appears they can't do without the Mayor, for as he won their strike last year for them, the yare expecting him to do an encore this year. He is not a Typo or a member of the Union; but that does not matter.

There are over a hundred of these superior white slaves employed in Durban. Now, alongside of them in the same jobs, breathing the same air, (I think) are about 250 "bloody coolies." That's how the white "lord" Typos affectionately address their Indian "inferiors." The wages paid vary from the superior white's fiver down to the "inferior" blacks smell of an oil rag flavoured with a little curry.

The brains of the Typo Union have discovered a difference between the coolie on and the coolie off the job. So has the boss. The bosses' discovery is in wages. The Typos' discovery is in the colour of his jib. The Indians in the printing trade can easily get over that difficulty, seeing that powder, the white ladies' friend, and whitewash are cheap enough.

They are also trying to get over the difference in wages by forming their own Union, with no Colour Bar. (Typos please note). Black and White is a good combination whether in whiskies or in Unions; and the European Typos with the Printing Trades section of the Indian Workers Union, fighting side by side, could tie up the Master Printers' Association quite easily.

But nothing so common with my Lord Typos, who prefer the more respectable way of arbitration by a white Mayor, to combination with a black worker and common coolie to force their demands. They prefer a crumb by favour rather than a loaf by might.

. . . Perhaps the "bloody coolie," the Mouse of to-day, will yet help the Lion of yesterday.

The Master Printers' Association has recognised our Union by victimising two of our members. The future is pregnant with possibilities. We of the Indian Workers Union have offered to fight side by side with our fellow workers of the Typo Union. So far we have been ignored. If they decline to help us to their level, they will be dragged down to ours. Then only will White, Black, and Brindle achieve Industrial Solidarity.

## Militarism Crumbling.

At the recent peace debate in the British House of Commons Philip Snowdon made some startling revelations regarding the "disillusionment of the British Army." The troops at Salonica had been in a state of mutiny he said, and hundreds and thousands were in prison through indiscipline. But as for the French Army, things were much worse. France was in "danger of revolution." (Labour Leader heading!) The soldiers had práctically taken control of the army. They were refusing to obey orders. The French Soldiers were already saying what the Russian soldiers had said: We will not go into the trenches for a war of Imperialist aims and aggressions!

The foregoing paragraph was in type before the news was published of the mutiny of sailors on the four German warships, and the martyrdom of their leaders. The British naval authority regards it "as one of the most as-'tounding incidents of the war.' And well it may. Revolution has been very 'good for "enemy" countries." But today there can be no exultation over the event. To-day we shall see whether the actual reality pleases our war mongers. To-day they must see in the German mutiny the mirror of their own fate. - Militarism and its results cannot have national preferences. It is a universal disease bringing its own universal care. Militarism is a manure heap that is sweetening itself through its own excess of putresence. To-day the Reign of Terror is at hand for Capitalist Goernments. That Reign of Terror will not let still more blood flow, but will stop the world slaughter by the action of the soldiers themselves, by the wreck of military discipline. Soon, very soon, the military camp of Europe will take the Russian hint and turn itself into a public meeting of soldiers and sailors, and workers too.

What does it matter then what Parliaments do or leave undone, or what Trades Union Congresses do or undo, or whether Labour Executives manipulate the Stockholm Conference out of existence, the will of the workers, whether in uniform or in corduroy, whether in uniform or in corduroy, whether in uniform or in corduroy, the surging up too greatly for suppression. The net result of every prolongation of the war is to place the soldiers, not in terror over the working class, but in the vanguard of their emancipation.

In South Africa we have a part to play. Militarism here expresses itself in the regimentation of the millions of mative workers through passport and penal regulations. By their number and freedom from every vestige of property, they are destined to bring the Social Revolution in this country. They are the comrades of the European proletariat. It is our job therefore to fire them with a sense of solidarity with the great movement of the workers that is brewing in Europe.

WANTED.—We are now receiving exchange copies of "Avantia" the official organ of the Italian Socialist Party, whose articles often assume European importance. We want a comrade with a knowledge of Italian to read and translate its news items for us.

At last Monday's meeting of the Johannesburg Branch of the A.S. Engineers we are informed that the members resolved to reply to the letter of the Trades Hall Society notifying the exclusion of non-Europeans from the Trades Hall, to the effect that the Amalgamated Society of Engineers would please itself as to whom it admitted to its meetings, and would not be dictated to by the landlord. Now it is the turn of the Typos.

Three fine verses entitled "The Pledge," by W.E. Williams, are quoted from "The International" in the American and Australian Labour papers. We make a point of acknowledging the source of all our quotations, but this one came to us by post, typed with author's name only attached. We were not aware that it was original to South Africa, and should like to learn us original source.

The Mineworkers on the Brakpan mine established a precedent last Saturday by going on strike for one day as a protest against the manager taking legal proceedings against Van Zyl, who, according to general custom, signed on for full time when he was let off work at midday. The miners demanded full pay for their day off on pain of another strike, and got it.

# International Socialist League.

A CINDERELLA DANCE

will be held at West's Academy, under League auspices,

Next Wednesday, October 17th, at 8 p.m.

Tickets 2s. 6d. Refreshments provided
Bring your friends along for a jolly

evening.

Note the place: 125, Pritchard Street.
Two blocks from End Street.

## Boys and Girls.

The Day Schools are doing their best to turn you into

## Snobs and Jingoes!

Are you (or your parents) content to leave it at that?

IF NOT, come to the SOCIALIST SCHOOL, C/r Fox & Maclaren Streets, (Near Stock Exchange)

EVERY SUNDAY at 11 a.m.

98/101

Printed b the U. P. & P. Co., Ltd. for the I.S.L. Box 4179, Johannesburg