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THE INTERNATIONAL

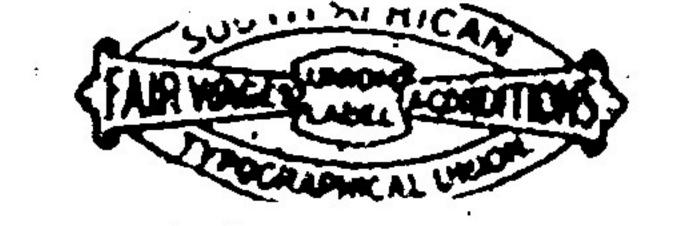
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

P.O. BOX 4179.

6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street.

Johannesburg.

No. 107



FRIDAY, OCT. 26, 1917.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

THE FINANCIERS' INTERNATIONALE.

AND THE VEILED CLASS WAR.

We dull this from our mail over hanges:

Philip Snowden asked Foreign Segletary Balfour in House of Commons if Government knew anything about the Secret Conference of British, French and German financiers held in Switzerland.

Balfour replied they knew nothing. Philip Snowden asked if they were not aware that the Secret Conference of financiers had met for the purpose of bringing about an simmediate. Peace such as would arrest the growth of International Socialism, and the rising tide of evolution, this object to be obtained by direct arrangement between the belligerents, in which national claims would be entirely subordinated to considerations of world finance. Balfour again repeats that he has no knowledge.

Philip Snowden: Are you aware that the statement is made by a semi-official organ called 'The New Europe,' which states on unimpeachable authority that the Conference has taken place?

Socialists Deputies of the French Chamber have also declined that the Financiers' Conference was held. Ramsay Macdonald informed the habour Party Conference on August the habour the same effect. And the last correlection comes from the German 'Vorwaerts,' which states that the billied 'money lords' conferred with representatives of the Deutsche Bank, 'Vorwaerts' calls upon Herr Hellferich, one of the representatives, to give an account of himself.

What have the Labour misles ers of Labour, the traitors who are playing the capitalist game of pre enting the internataional proletariat meeting at Stockholm, what have they and all the jingo breed to say to this. The masters whom they serve so well are already conferring over the corpses of their victims, while the victims themselves are hoodwinked by their leaders from restoring their Internationale.

As usual the facts are denied, or a knowledge of them at least, by the diplomats. They cannot do other than deny them. But in the overwhelming difficulties piling up for the Governments of Europe, the dangers of continuing the war and the still greater.

danger of concluding peace, there is no solution for them except by a common understanding to carry on or close up the slaughter with a special eye to the safety of the capitalist system as a whole.

It may be that they are exaggerating the forces of International Socialism. But the news now coming from Europe of the growing restlessness of the vast armies of Europe, armies so vast that the inimum of restlessness will suffice to break down the bonds of discipline. the vote of the British workers to go to Stockholm, to act as International Socialists in spite of all their fire leating. and the earthquake of the Russian revolution, and the uprisings in Spain,all these show that the tinder is becom-, ing ready for the spark of social revolution. Necessary though working class education is, that is not the only thing that piles up trouble for the international capitalists. There is the inevitable working out of the contradictions. of a great injustice like the profit sysiem into syntheses of mightier and ever mightier problems, until finally whether the workers will it or not, there is no escape except by social revolution. The workers on the other hand are also finding at every new step all other wave barred but that of the complete abolition of their wage-slavers; until. if they are not sufficiently educated in the great principles of their emancination to grasp the barb of circumstance in due time, the whole workingelass comes to a point when the only alternatives remaining are those of a "bloody struggle or death."

In August the whole of Spain was under Martial Law. The President of thes Council admitted that the industrial unrest meant social revolution, and in many cases soldiers have been called upon to shoot down the strikers. This is what happens if they have peace. We hear glib talk of 'after-the-war.' Spain is in the after-the-war stage, though it never had war, and the convulsions of capital versus labour turn that "neutral" country into an armed camp just as all the other countries will be in a state of more or less veiled civil war. And the incillent at Bilboa described in another column is typical of revolution, when the revolutionary class treats all precedents with contempt.

le fact the whole of the present situation in Europe should be read in the light of the closing weeks of the Franco-Prussian War. Karl Marx turns (Civil War in France) the searchlight of his great intellect on the machinations of the Prussian and the French ruling class, shows how they fraternized in front of their common enemy, the armed working class of Paris, how the "national" war against the Prussian besiegers went on for months after the corrupt rulers of Paris had arranged terms of peace with Bismarck, and had made good commissions on their own

indemnity, or in Marx's own words:---

"That after the [then] most tremendons war of modern times, the conquering and the conquered liosts should fraternize for the common massacre of the proletariat this unparalleled event does indicate, not as Bismarck thinks, the final repression of a new society, & unheaving, but the crumbling into dust of hourgeois society. The highest heroic effort of which old society is still capable is national war; and this is now proved to be a mere governmental humbug, intended to defer the struggle of the classes, and to be thrown aside as soon as that class struggle hursts out into civil war. Class rule is no longer able to disquise itself in a national uniform; the national governments are one as against the proletariat.

THE STOCKHOLM FUND.—All comrades and friends who have lists for the Stockholm Fund are requested to send in all subscription lists with monies received, when new subscription lists will be returned for comrades to go on with the work of collecting. Remember that the fight for Stockholm is on in Europe greater than ever. It has been postponed at the instance of the Organising Committee at Stockholm. Comrade Andrews, our delegate, will be needed to join in the fight for passports, so keep him going.

STOCKHOLM FUND ACKNOW-LEDGEMENTS. — J.N.G., Balfour, 10s., per A.K.D., East London, D. 5s., G. 5s., F. 5s., S. 2s., Friend 1s., A.K. D. 2s., total 20s. The Jewish Socialist Society, Capetown, £1 15s. E.J.C., 2s. 6d., M.J. Randfontein 5s., G.W. 2s. 6d., I.J. 3s., J.M. 2s. 6d., I.G. Nigel, 5s. 6d., F.G. 2s. 6d., J.d.B. Benon, (List 11), S.F. 26s., J.G.B. £1 1s., total £2 7s. C.D. 5s., G.B.T. 2s. 6d., The S.A. Peace and Arbitration Society, £1 15s.

The Labour Leader Tinkers.

His I. M. I.

The South Atrican Industrial Federation in its wisdom (? as the representative attorganised Labour, has decided to approach the Government in all humility to stop profiteering, or illicit profits (when were profits not illicits a request on their part that will be as successful as trying to empty Rosherville Lake with a billy can.

Inis tinkering with our present torm of society is futile and shows the amount of ignorance that prevails, as to the basis of society, but an ignorance that cannot be pleaded for the leaders of the Federation.

One of the fundamental principles at the root of society is production and distribution for profit. All commodities are the product of the labour powers of the workers the which they receive a money wage which on a the average barely enables them to buy back enough of the product of their labour to maintain life. This method of production compels the workers to part with and lose control of the creation of their own skill and toil. The commodities, getting out of their control, are manipulated on the markets to create profits for the profit mongers. And when it is recognised that all Governments (the South African no exception) are the nominees of the capitalist class, nominees the workers are doped into returning as their representatives, there is as much hope for getting profits curtailed as of finding the proverhial snowball in Hades.

The Chamber of Mines has promised their assistance to curtail profits in the cost of those things necessary to life. Promises are easily made, but not always possible of fulfilment. Does it not strike the leaders of the S.A. I.F. that if the Chamber of Mines had had any power to keep down prices of material required for the production of gold they would have done, so, and seeing they were powerless to curtail the rising cost of mining material what earthly hope have they of controlling the cost of living?

The economic mill grinds slow but sure, and the capitalist class must bow down to the driving force that propels society along the evolutionary path blazed by the economic forces controlling the destiny of society. As a class they may think they are all-powerful, but they are nursing a deslusion, they are nothing, less than nothing before the mighty forces that are independent of individual or sectional control.

Profits being the object for which commodities are produced, buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest, taking every opportunity of giving as little as possible to the burchaser for the largest return, taking advantage of the fluctuataions of the markets, and, if possible, corner

some commodity and make a huge fortune, --success in these things, in squeezing profits, out of the individual or community, is the hall-mark of respectability.

Such is society to-day, and it is imbecility on the part of any person of body of persons to raise the cry of curtailing profits. It these people are content to let society remain as a system of producing commodities for profits, let them realise they as workers and wage slaves, have a commodity to sell, their labour powers. And let them organise in such a tashion that they will be able to demand a rise of wage that will keep pace with any rise in the cost of living. It is the only hope under the present system.

The cry to reduce the cost of living is the result of a want of an elementary knowledge of the economic toundation of society. And the ignorance has been fostered by that form of abour organisation which divides the workers into innumerable craft unions with the restricted outlook of their own parochial burrows, giving the mental kinks of craft and racial prejudice, to the detriment of the working class as a whole.

This restricted outlook must be swept aside, and the broader vision of humanity brought within the workers' mental vision, with the determination to stop chasing will-o'-the-wisps which have only landed their followers in the bog of despair.

To expect any relief, from dependence on the capitalist class under the present system is a dream that will have a rude awakering. The workers may crawl and creep and go cap in hand to the Government, to at best receive many promises that cannot be fulfilled even if promised in good faith.

Let them as workers recognise their power as being indispensible to society. They produce the wealth of the world and as producers let them have done with all these tinkering schemes to curtail profits, and organise as a class to take control of the productive force in society and produce not for an idle class of parasites, but to control the product of their labour, eliminating the profiteer, and thereby inaugurating the profiteer, and thereby inaugurating the Co-operative Commonwealth.

It is a strange fact. In spite of all the tall talk and all the immense liter-. ature, for the last sixty years about the emancipation of labour, no sooner do the working class anywhere take the subject into their own hands with a will. a than uprises at once all the apologetic phraseology of the mouthpieces of present society with its two poles of Capital and Wage-slavery/(the landlord is now but the sleeping partner of the capitalist), as if capitalist society was still in its purest state of virgin innocence, with its antagonisms still undeveloped, with its delusions still unexpioded, with its prostitute realities not ret laid bare.

KARL MARX, 1871.

The Invasion of England.

In a series of glimpses of the "Invasion of England" (by capitalist expropriation) the Glasgow "Socialist" gives the following account of an incident in the "invasion" of the crofters' eights by the lords, not of Germany but of their own country. How little can the capitalists of any country talk of atrocities! The capitalists have more working class blood on their hands than the whole casualty list of this war cover 45 millions all tolds, which is a

capitalist orine to hout.

The seeme is in Sutherlandshire, in Scotland, and the time is between 1811 and 1814, and the action takes place in and around the parishes of Farr and Kildoman. These are crofters' villagesthere the simple Scottish crofters and their ancestors before them have tilled the ground and lived and died from lime immemorial. But, alas, an evil day has dawned; the laird, the Duke of Sutherland, wants land for sheep runs and for profit, and the order has been given to elear the crofters off the laid, and to level their villages. But there is innel resentment and bitterness among the poor crofters—they remember that only two or three years ago, fellow villagers in Dorna in and Rogart had been hunted ruthlessly out of their homesteads by police, factors, and laird's servants, and there left to starve and perish on a desolate seashore, whilst on their lands sheep were grazing.

The noble Duke and his minions fearing frouble, spread stories about an incipient "Sutherlandshire Rebellion," and the "strong arm" of the law is brought in to back up the invaders of the homes of the Scottish peasants Special constables are sworn in, the annount Dunrobin Castle are trimmed and charged, and an Irish regiment is imported on the scene from Fort George. The Riot Act is read to unprotesting and unresisting natives, some are clapped in gaol, and the soldiers parade with artillery and cartloads of ammunition to cow the crofters.

. Then the tragedy is enacted. People are torn from their cottages, bullied and struck by the landlords minions; men, women and children, old and vonng, kick and dving, turned adrift on a bleak and barren shore to die of cold and hunger. Their homesteads are burnt over their heads. In the cottage of William Chisholm. Badinleskin, lies his aged mother, hed-ridden and feeble, one hundred years of age. The factor on his arrival to superintend the destruction is told of this, and he replies: 'Dann the old witch, she has lived too long; let her burn! And the cottage is fired with the old woman inside. She is resemed by the peasants with the blankers on fire, but succumbs.

Such is one glimpse of the invasion of capitalism. The Bradford woollen industry was booming, and gave big profits. Consequently sheep grazing offered big profits; and there is no law of god or man which capitalism won't trample to get more profits, or to preserve what it has, as in the present holocaust of Flanders.

"Long Live the Sausages!"

Inciting "Public Feeling."

It is som Fance that welget the classic examples of artificially manusactured public feeling, although nowadages there is no public outburst that is not activitiedly tunned by the Capitalist Press.

In his Eighteenth Bruuaire, Mary describes now Louis Bonaparte iii 1849-01, with the end in view of assuming power, organised in conjunction with his police, "the hand of December 10th," which was recruited trom the dregs in all ranks of society. The special work of these vile mercenaries, paid and later pensioned from the tisecret funds," was to shout Vive Empereur' when Louis Bonaparte, as yet only President of the Republic, progressed through the streets. of Paris. He also organised reviews of the troops after feeding Them with cold poultry and garlie-sausages. Some, t'avairy regiments marched past shouting: "Long live Napoleon! Long live whelsan-ages." With such shows of Amblic approval he was gladly conceded the Executive power and the Imperial (rown by the corrupt bourgeoisie of France, whose continued. parliamentary rule made the political control of capital more and more precarious in face of the militant profetariati

Agains in 1870 the "Society of Decembrists" was requisitioned to create "popular" enthusiasm for the war against Germany. They were masqueraded in blouses to look like French workmen. But the real workmen came forward with such overwhelming demonstrations against the war that the Prefect of Police put a stop to all further "street politics" on the plea that the Paris, people had given sufficient vent to their patriotism

With us things are managed in an even more subtle manner. Instead of the "Society of Decembers" we have our patriotic societies, our "Sons of England, Empire Leagues, and "Overseus Chubs," etc. They do these things more chemply, without even a garlie-sausage, only their managers get recouped in the ordinary way of trade. They organise the outbursts of public feeling whenever any needs inciting. It is a sign that we h too have entered on that corrupt and A dangerous phase for capitalism when -treet-polities that bring the class war in the front cannot be allowed.

And they intend to defend their Decembrists." Mactic, the Chief Magistrate gave us his opinion of the legal" position the other day, when he said that there can be no further police protection for our meetings, that we must follow the usual custom of "stewarding" them ourselves. But that we are nevertheless guilty of an offence under the Riotous Assemblies Act and the Moratorium Act if we publish matter resulting in violence at our meetings, and that we shall be guilty of a further offence if we de-

fend ourselves against the violence thus incited!

But the only result is to postpone for a while the expression of the class war; until, smouldering, it breaks out with overwhelming strength at a later time,—at a time when it will find the 'bourgeoisie' weaker and more triendless than it is now.

Direct Political Action.

Some translations from the September issue of 'El Socialista' (Spanish) by Comrades Silva and Lee.

After a six weeks strike, the Masters of Bilbao, tried to sidetrack the men's demands to arbitration by the Provincial Council. Socialist Deputies in the Provincial Council organised a demonstration to invade the holy atmosphere of the P.C. Early in the morning the Socialist delegates pre--sented to the Administrator the men's demands, which were an eight hours' day with a fifty per cent, increase in wages. The men in the Public Works also struck work with the same demands. At 11 a.m. 1,500 strikers were outside the P.C. chambers waiting for the arrival of the members of the Council. The public gallery was packed with strikers, no standing room. The doors were picketed by strikers to prevent the Councillers from leaving. The capitalist opposition parties tried to proceed with the usual business. The gallery audience, of strikers demanded that their grievances should be dealt with first. After twenty minutes wondy strife and attempts, to put off till tomorrow what they had to do-day, they howed to the inevitable and proceeded to discuss the strikers' demands. They arrived at the decision to grant the eight hours day, with a 20 per cent, increase all round in wages: The strikers refused to leave or allow any to leave the House, till the bill legalizing these concessions was passed, signed and delivered to the Master Builderand the Public Works Department.

SPANISH PRIME MINISTERS DEFINITION OF "NOTHING.

was happening in Valencia, were told by the Prime Minister: "Nothing." Reports received later stated that there were 35 killed and 25 wounded, caused by a conflict between demonstrators and police. They can't trust the Spanish solders any longer now. A commemoration service to the memory of a railway worker, murdered by hired thugs of the Railway Company, was being held when the above "Nothing" happened.

Comrade Goodenough informs use that the verses entitled 'The Pledge,' the origin of which we recently queried, says that they first appeared in the 'People's College News,' the organ of the People's College, Fort Scott, Kansas, U.S.A.

A Defiant Soldier.

Lieutenant Sassoon is a Cambridge man who has written some robust poetry exposing the realities of war and the hypocrisies of war mongers. Attention was recently drawn to his case in the House of Commons, Lieut. enant. Sassoon being a soldier who had done Texcellent work in the war. Sassoon wrote the following letter to his Commanding Officer:

"I am making this statement as an act of willul defiance of military authority, because I believe the war is being deliberately prolonged by those who have the power to end it. I am a soldier, convinced that I am acting on behalf of soldiers. I believe that this war, upon which I entered as a war of defence and liberation, has now become a war of aggression and conquest. . . I have seen and endured the suffering of the troops. I can no longer be a party to prolonging their sufferings for anything which I holieve to be evil and unjust. I am not protesting against the conduct of the war but against political errors and insincerities for which fighting men are being sacrificed. On behalf of those who are suffering now I make this profest against the deception which has been practised upon them; and I believe it may help to destroy the calous indifference with which the majority of those at home regard the continuance of the agonies which they do not share and which they have not 's sufficient imagination to realize.'

Mr. Lees Smith, the M.P. who brought forward the case, went on to state that the Army authorities forced Sassoon to appear before a medical board, who heard him express opinions such as the letter contained, and informed him that he must be suffering from the effects of a passing nervous shock due to his terrible experiences at the Front, and that they would therefore send him to an hospital tor officers suffering from shell shock and other nervous ailments. [In other words: genteel durance vile].

THE COLOUR BAR TRADÉS HALL.

The Democratic Labour Party of Capetown has passed the following resolution anent the Johannesburg Trades Hall Society:

The Democratic Labour Party is special meeting assembled expresses its deep regret at the decision of the Johannesburg Trades Hall Society to exclude non-Europeans from meetings held in the Trades Hall. The Party believes this action to be unjust and undemocratic and a step which can only be harmful both now and in the future to all sections of the population of South Africa.

This resolution has been sent to the Trades Hall Society, and the D.L.P. adds the request that the Society reconsider the whole question and in due course review and rescind the regulations. 'as it must have a most harmful effect on the future of the Trade Union and Labour movement in South Africa.

The Tailors' Strike in Capetown.

Competition in the tailoring tradeand the continual reduction of wages in spite of protests by the workers has resulted in a crisis at last. Several firms were presented with a demand from the Tailors' Union for a 30 per cent, increase three weeks ago on the ground that in addition to the high cost of living wages had liven considerably reduced to the following scale: Tunics from 4s/ to 1s. 3d., Military knickers : from 2s. 6d. to 7d. In spite of these glaring figures which resulted in a 60 hour week bringing the magnificent sum of £1.15s. for a qualified mechanic. while the pressers and buttonhole makers but 23s. for the same time. The employers threw the demand out. Last Saturday, however, a further demand was sent with a time limit of 4 hours for reply. The non-appearance at the termination of the time limit resulted in a strike. A mass meeting was held this evening for the purpose of decid! ing action. It was called for the parade but as rain came or they adjourned to the Trades Hall which was packed Many could not obtain admittance. while the speeches were revolutionary and enthusiastically applauded. The following resolution was passed:--"We the citizens of Capetown in public meeting assembled, pledge ourselves to support the strike in the tailoring trade. and help them both morally and financially to the utmost of our ability until cictory is assured and a living wage in the workers is attained.

Pickets were formed, and some signed on as new members. All sections of the workers were represented. irrespective of colour, mation or creed. and seemed to grasp the position of their economic interests being only attained by solidarity.

A Malay speaker at the meeting. who was very fluent with the "Taak" pointed out the fallacy of so many mus-iers; he thought the position could ouly be righted when they became sufficiontly intelligent to be muster- of the - industries themselves. Rounds of opplause followed this statement, which seemed to be the key note of the whole proceedings. Others followed and the nearer they approached the same question. "No master," the more applause did ther obtain.

A meeting is organised for to-morrow night, in fact every night, all local organisations were appealed to, and so far promises of moral and financial support are coming from all quarters. In Russia, in Germany, in England, even in South Africa, the Social Resolution is being proclaimed.

W. II. II.ARISON.

Bill Hosken and the biggest exploit Pers of labour may enter the Johannes burg Trades Hall, but Labour itself, in the person of Jim Sixpence, may not attend any meeting there. So say the Labour Party and the Trades Hall. Society.

Stockholm Again.

The voting at the Allied Socialisi Conterance held on August 28 in London on the question of the Stockholm Con-(enterplane Willer)

FOR: Franke, Girénie Britain, Italy. Portugui and Russia.

AGAINST: Greece quoxy delegates South Africa, Belgium, the "Majority" Socialists among the French and varions individuals in the other sections abstained or refused to vote. Unanimity not having been attained, the report and the dissents were simply placed on record.

"South Africa" stands for Coloned"

Creswell, who was mesent.

The Committee on War Aims failed to get unanimity. The Conference made complete unanimity necessary to considerany resolution carried, otherwise in an ordinary gathering its overwhelming majorities for the International made it one of the most effective Conferences on record. A standing Committee on War Aims was appointed in order that the various questions might be further considered. with the view to the summoning of another Allied Socialist Conference in preparation for the International Con-

The ultimate meeting of the Congress is regarded as inevitable in all the reports. A message was read from the Organising Committee at Stockholm, enumerating the difficulties (rejusal of passports, etc.), of deciding on a date for the Stockholm Conference suitable to all parties, and adding that now the date of Sentember 9 seemed to be impossible, owing to the passport difficulties. Thus the fight for the International, which now exists. is growng on.

APAIAING RENORANCE.

Julius West, the delegate of the Fahian Society to Petrograd, reports the following incident illustrative of the temper of the Russian workers What he calls apalling ignorance we would term "workingclass onlightenment. Notes the pronunciation of "hourgeois." indicating that these Russian workers only know the word so frequently on their lips from the reading of Socialist literature.

"An officer puts the case for the war to a body of deserters, who agree to everything, except the suggestion that they should act up to their convictions. A workman argues his right to the whole product of his labour; he reckons he turns out twenty roubles worth off stuff a day and should receive twenty roubles accordingly. Another amateur economist then claims that this cannot be done while the 'boorjoov' is allowed to exist. Get rid of the 'boorjooy' and wages will rise at once....

. The mob is an extremely fine mob. and in time it will make one of the finest nations one earth. But it is incoherent, and appallingly ignorant.

Indian Workers Waking up

Omr overtime strike has antsed a dutter in the Master Printers Mesoniation at Durban. By his and bluff and bluster they have attempted to scare our members, and twenty per cent, of them are a hit shaky. With three exceptions the Masters are prepared to grant our demands. Every day requests are reaching us from our back: "Come and organise a branch of the I.W.I. here! The sugar shaves are mutely stretching out their hands ion aid. The mine workers, the Corporation slaves from amid the swamps known as "the Barracks" in Durban. also look to us for help. The common Indian worker is realising at last that their Indian compatriots and business men, capitalists and others, are just as much their "loving enemies" as any white hosses ever knew how to be. This week the tobacco, didundry and marine transport workers are taking the necessary steps to form sections of the I.W.C. The waiters have come and gone. They are the worst bunch in every country; their daily atmos phore breeds servility. The fullie, however, is full of hope and hard work. Some croakers here, Socialist and Labour, sav we cannot organise the coolies. But the IW.W. has organised worse material, and hy the विशेष्ट वर्गाते कर्णामान्य वर्ग वीते क्रीतम्प स्था मानी वर्गgamise the Indian wage slaves of South Africa too.

(i()RI)(.N.E.E.

Notes of the Mövement.

INDIAN WORKERS UNION. The weekly open air meeting was held in Victoria Street, on Sunday last the 14th inst. A large crowd of workers were present. The objects of the meeting were to expound the principles of the above Union, which is a. body organised on I.W.W. lines: and to get workers to join the Union. The chairman for the evening was Comrade Gordon Lee (I.W.W. organisor) The speakers for the evening were the Secretary, Comrade M. R. Moodley. and Comrades G. Harris and B. L. F. Signification is progressing cowly but surely. The next meetthe will be held on Sunday next, the 21st insi. when in addition to last week's speckers we hope to put a few now speakers on the sour hox.

THE PRESS AND THE BUILD-ING FUND.—The Committee has heen getting busy to launch its 10,000 shilling scheme, and books of shilling stamps or vouchers are being printed. The Committee requests the Branches to get busy and discuss the scheme, and arrange for the sale of the Shil-Ings. All commissions in the Sugretary of the Committee, Box 4179, Johannesburg. The Committee is determined to provide wavs and means of providing a home for the I.S.L. which will place it above the reactionary whims of Trades, Hill and other Societies.

Printed h the UP&P. Co., Ltd. for the I.S.L. Box 4179 Johannesburg