# THE INTERNATIONAL

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

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#### The Great Events in Russia

The cable news regarding the revolution in Russia is so confusing and every day so contradictory that it is hopeless attempting to build on them. The Maxlimalist wing of the Social Democratic Party has been gaining strength since the political revolution. Vast propaganda work has been done. One Socialist paper is mentioned as circulating 250,000 copies daily in Petrograd. All Capitalist journalists were resigned to what they considered the inevitable triumph of the Maximalists, and the growing power of the Council of Workmen. (Note the avidity with which Capitalist journalists grab at words like "The Sowiet" and "Maximalists," which hide the working class character of these organisations).

The immediate issue on which Kerensky has broken with the Maximalists seems to be the authority of the Council of Workmen (The Soviet). Lenin and the Social Democrats recognise in the Council the great instrument of Social Revolution, the embryo of the new order that is going to supplant the Capitalist State. To the Capitalists and their "Socialist" hirelings the Council is naturally a menace.

Kerensky has also failed to fulfil his promises to confiscate the land and restore it to the peasants. And the shortage of bread has also precipated things. Kerensky's association with Korniloff places him in the light of a betrayer of his great promise. Indeed he is charged with having been a secret accomplice of Korniloff in his late rebellion. Be that as it may, he had evidently become the tool of the Capitalist reaction.

The Capitalist lie factory has been busy with regard to Russia. Riga fell by arrangement with the Germans. That was deliberately planned by Korniloff. He is the German agent.

The Russian offensive in July did not fail because of regimental committees, as the Military commanders cabled. That was a lie endorsed by the Provisional Government to discredit the revolutionary committees. The reverse was the case. Out of a battalion of 6,000, 2,000 Russian soldiers were left dead on the field. This was the crime of Kerensky, who hurled them at the Germans to please American finance.

No wonder that the Social Democrats gained power. Now the abuse and filth of Capitalist journalism is being poured without restraint on Lenin and his party. But we trow that his party by this is the Russian proletariat itself. The latest cable states that the Eoreign Embassies are leaving Petrograd. Russia under Social Democratic leadership will be outlawed by the Governments of Europe.

FRIDAY, NOV. 16, 1917.

'For Peace, Bread, and the Power of the People,' was the watchword of the bloodless revolution accomplished by the Maximalists. All the blood that has been spilt is due to the counter-revolution. Now all the atrocities of the calendar are being attributed to the workmen of Petrograd. But we doubt not that, as in the Paris Commune, when the workmen gave a lofty example of humanity, but were massacred by the Capitalist troops, in Petrograd also the proletariat will vindicate the generous, humane order of the Red Flag, and any atrocities that occur will be due to those who seek to crush the

workers. The Capitalist papers admit that they took possession without disorder. But should the Social Democrats fail, we can expect the most bloody massacre of the workingmen of Petrograd that history has ever recorded. Long live the Social Revolution, the light from the East.

#### Sunny South Africa.

At the mass meeting of the Tailors on strike at Capetown recently, Mr. Gamiet, secretary of the Union, in dealing with a statement that £3 10s. 4d. was earned by one of the hands, said if; for the sake of argument, that was a fact, it would be to the firm's advantage to accept the maximum of 23 asked for by the Union, as in that case they would be saving 10s. 4d. per week in each case. (Laughter). As a man who ought to know, he could say that in no single instance did a girl earn £25s. per week in making shorts? It has been omitted to state that there was another girl who shares this amount. The fact was that two girls were earning this amount, and that by working overtime all the week.

Mr. Gamiet then called to the platform boys and girls, whose ages ranged from 12 years to 14 years, earning from 3s. 6d. to 6s. per week. In the case of one girl who lived at Maitland, a trousers machinist, her wages was 5s. per week, out of which she paid 2s. per week for train fares. The hours worked were from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one hour for dinner.

#### ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT STOCKHOLM.

According to "The Call," an attempt is being made by the Russian-Dutch-Scandinavian Committees to get the Stockholm Conference to meet next January.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

## 'When Dawn's Left Hand was in the Sky."

There is a story told of an ancient Boer who, during the late Anglo-Boer war, found himself in a tight corner. He decided to pray and commenced his prayer thus wise: 'O Lord,' said he, 'we're in a Hell of a mess,' after which statement of the case he put up quite a good prayer for deliverance.

To-day the Capitalist class proclaims to the world "we're in a hell of a mess," but they have no one to turn to for deliverance.

They have installed the legal ineubus.

They have decreed themselves honours and their defenders emoluments.

They have burned incense before their own shrine.

They have sung paeans of praise in their own honour.

In the name of the great God Kapital they have commanded all to fall down and worship their putrid institutions and rotten glories.

But the slaves slowly rouse from their long sleep and rub their eyes. They notice the fetters, which hitherto they had thought golden, to be of the rudest iron. They feel the chafe of the chains and see the misery of their lot. Their moaning becomes a threatening growl. Kapital becomes shifty eyed and afraid.

The past is written in letters of blood and fire and cannot be wiped out.

Silvery tongued orators raise their voices at the word of command, still are not the slaves not appeared.

Scribes with sublimest gifts of language pour forth their effusions in defence of the festering system—the growl changes to a roar. Tub thumping Demagogues labelled "Labour" waste their frenzied utterances on unheeding ears. And the sun of the rising day throws its first early beams across the sky. It is a new dawn.

SEN YAH.

#### League Picnic.

An A.S.L. Picnic has been organised for next Sunday to be held near the Zoo Lake. All comrades are invited with their friends. Bring your own refreshments, but tea provided. A sports programme has been drawn up by the Committee for old, middling, young and toddling, which will take all day. Roll up!

### Economics the Basis of Society.

I.—Morality.

By J. M. G.

That all the diverse manifestations of social life can be traced back to the underlying economic conditions, seems at first sight irreconcilable with the multiplicity of the thousand and one sentiments and ideas that apparently dominate humanity.

The apparent contradiction disappears when we grasp the fact that the basic foundation of all societies, past and present, during the civilisation period, has been individual ownership by the few to the exclusion of the many, whether in land, slaves, serfs, or as at present, ownership of the machinery required to produce the necessaries of life, with a majority-as wage slaves dependent upon the owners for the use of these essentials, in return for a bare subsistence.

The system of private ownership is not a natural phenomenon, but a violation of all natural and human laws, an absurd and contradictory system, for the maintenance of which it is necessary to play upon the emotions and sentiments of the majority in order to create a psychology, an apparently imposing system of morality; making, as under the slavery system, the slaves believe they are such by nature, that this slavery is imposed upon them, by a supernatural power that is beyond their. power to break, thus compelling them to how to the destiny that renders them bondsmen to the master class.

Under the wage system the same moral force operates to keep the wage slaves, if not content, at least to look upon our present system, as the best possible, and unalterable. This idea is inculcated by the schoolmaster, the pulpit, the Press, and what is called public opinion, and the environment which is the result of the manipulations of these hirelings, the tools of the Capitalist class.

The subtle machinations of these hirelings appeal to the intelligence of the masses a morality that will act as judgement and give them those mental kinks that compel them to act in opposition to their real interests.

The methods adopted by these paid hirelings,— is to instil the idea, that it is immoral to act or do anything that would be a menace to the welfare of society as at present formed. The whole teaching has as its object the giving to the masses a morality that will act as a deterrent to any action on their part that would lead to the disruption of the system.

To inspire the dispossessed with a feeling of the stability of the system, they are continually being told of the glories of our civilisation, of the liberality of our laws and the order of society and other, high sounding phrases such as "social welfare," "collective utility," and the more recently trotted out "new social conscience." These phrases are nothing but the dope with which the masses have always been willingly de-

ceived into giving their sanction to the dominance of the possessing class, creating stability to a system of exploitation of the many by the few, giving. strength to the dominant class by causing to appear as spontaneous and natural the actions of the masses in support of the Capitalist system. Yet the slightest examination of the subject reveals the fact that these acts are determined by an environment dominated and having as its foundation private ownership, giving rise to a morality that imposes upon the masses the idea of the sacred rights of property, thus rendering thein docile and easy dupes of those in possession.

Thus it is readily seen, the reigning morality is always the product of existing economic conditions; and as these economic conditions change so morality is modified to meet those changes that must take place in social life.

The decline of the Roman economy, rendering it unprofitable to hold slaves, created a morality that was opposed to holding human heings as slaves. With the break up of the feudal system and the freeing of the serfs, owing to the development of Capitalist production, there arose the beginning of our present system of so-called free labour, and free competition. Under this system the dope is administered that it is immoral to hold human beings in personal bondage. This is a dope that renders the mass of the workers blind to the degrading conditions of the wage system, under which they are merely slaves to a master class having control of everything necessary to the life of the community, thus rendering the working class dependent upon the Capitalist class for the right to work, the denial of, which under the present system places the workers in a worse position than were the chattel slaves of antiquity. who were always assured of food, shelter and clothing.

The morality of the Capitalistic system is made up of a series of codes and regulations imposed upon the workers in opposition to their own interests, guaranteeing the persistence of the system in the interests of the Capitalists.—codes and regulations that create the emotions that lead the masses as willing tools to serve the Capitalist class. It finds expression in patriotism, leading them to look upon it as their duty to fight for their country without a glimmer of the truth that they have no country except the six by two they will receive when dead.

But whilst moral suasion has sufficient to hold the majority in subjection, there has been in all past societies, as in the present, a minority that has always kicked against moral restraints. who have been branded as criminal, and for whom other restraints and penalties had to be imposed for the protection of property, a more definite and restrictive force than moral suasion. This is THE LAW, making it criminal to do anything that will weaken the economic forces of the possessing class. And of The Law we will treat in our next:

A lecture in Yiddish will be given at the Palmerston Hotel, Commissioner Street, next Sunday evening at 8 p.m., under the auspicies of the I.S.L. The speaker will be Comrade Davies Smith, and the subject: "The Russian Revolution and the War."

#### Working Class Thrift.

a You often hear the parson inveighing against the betting habits of the workers, and other hireling prophets of King Fat preaching to them the virtues of thrift. What really troubles them is that the workers don't tighten their helts and squeeze their bellies so that wages may be reduced. Besides, the "bookie" interest and the big Insurance Companies are not on speaking terms. Sections of the bourgeoisie are often envious of each other, when one gets more of the spoils of labour than another. The 'rationalism' of the bourgeois intellectual, often down at heel though a collegian, is largely envy of the fat livings of his clerical competitors. We don't like bookies. They strike one as being fat and oily, and oleaginous where not fat. But the pious harangues on thrift and against betting and in favour of insuring vourself delivered off our masters' chests are a bit thick when you consider the following:—"Solidarity" mentions information given in the House of Commons the other day on the question of lapsed insurance policies. "It appears that as many as 7 million policies. issued by industrial insurance companies have lapsed, and that companies in the vear 1913-14 made a COOL £20,000,000—having received 35 millions in premiums for claims and surrenders."

#### Rome and Stockholm.

It appears from the "Cambridge Magazine" that the Pope's Peace Note was nothing more nor less than Rome competiting with Stockholm. It is a fact that when the agitation for an International Socialiis Conference was at its height many parties urged on the Pope to issue his Note. Eszburger's peace resolution in the Reichstag was also part of the scheme. Eszburger being a leader of the Clerical party. The whole was a concerted plan to dish Stockholm and Socialism, and the fact that the Powers facilitated the dissemination of the "Papal Note" indicates, says a Berlin Liberal paper, that they had some hand in drawing up its terms. This paper concludes that whatever effect the "Note" may have on peace, or on Socialism, it has done good service for Roman Catholicism.

NOTES ON THE "THE INTERNA-TIONAL." Our comrades of the Social Democratic Federation, Capetown, dispose of 70 copies of "The International" weekly. This week the S.D.F. has sent up £5 to the paper stock loan.

Apropos of the "Sunday Times" sneer that the I.S.L. takes in natives, Chinese, and Indians, by a strange coincidence the last fortnight has established a record in the number of new subscribers. And last week we received paid up subscriptions from an Indian worker in Natal, a "Chinese comrade" in Pretoria, and a native member of the I.W.S.A. (Industrial Workers of S.A.) in Johannesburg!

#### Notes from Comrade Andrews.

Comrade Andrews had already been busy when the mails left, nevertheless he found time to jot down a few impressions of things in England. The full text of his notes is too lengthy to reproduce. They may be perused by comrades at the League Office.

Comrade Andrews mentions the general disappointment at the temporary failure to hold the Stockholm Conference, but thinks that any moment a new situation may arise.

Invaring a london "from every hoarding shouted the legend Eat less bread!" And the sugar scarcity and food dearness and badness was forcibly brought home to us at meal times: less than a teaspoonful of sugar for each meal to use with tea or porridge." Also "the extortionate prices charged and the difficulty of obtaining food make travelling expensive and none too pleasant." "The people seem to have forgoten how to smile."

Then there is the woman everywhere on busses as conductors in neat uniforms,—in breeches and leggings dragging trucks on railway stations, driving huge pair horse drays, ticket collectors, lift operators, etc., in the Tubes. The only men almost are the engine-drivers. A good sprinkling drive taxis and the munition werkers are legion.

That is London." Comrade Andrews then describes his visit to Glasgow to attend the Scottish Advisory Committee of the Labour Party. "This is really the annual meeting of the Scottish section of the Labour Party- and is overwhelmingly anti-war and against the Coalition Government. Having here made the acquaintance of many prominent men of the Scottish movement, Robert Smillie and W. Stewart particularly, Comrade Andrews mentions à visit to an S.L.P. lecture at the rooms which houses "The Socialist," "The Young Rebel" and "Workshop \* Supplement." The atmosphere of the lecture "was reminiscent of the I.S.I., Johannesburg."

"The S.L.P. is doing great educational work, but there seems little doubt that the I.L.P. is the political machine, that will, as the reaction against the war gains strength, dominate the situation. On all hands I hear that it is growing rapidly, opening new branches and increasing membership in others. Meetings surpass all records in numbers and enthusiasm. But that the S.L.P. are the dangerous people is shown by the close attention given them by the authorities. They are young men here as in South Africa, and youth will not be denied."

Regarding outward social appearances, Comrade 'Andrews notes that 'the underworld is still dirty but apparently fed.' The Royal visit to Glasgow fell flat, and 'patriotism is not the word to conjure with it has been.'

(To be continued).

#### The "Row" over Taxation

THE INTERNATIONAL.

What a fine stage performance was this over the taxation quarrel in the Transvaal! Taxation proposals which put the main burden of the commercial centres were carried in the Provincial Council through the absence, quite avoidable absence, of three Labour members. That gave the Unionist and Labour members a two days' motoriety. They sat on either side of the Mayor at a public demonstration, Comfade Duncan and Comrade Sampson, to prove to the country members of the Provincial Council that they would not stand it; and next day all turned up at the Council and defeated the farmer coalition by two votes. Thus proving that twentytwo can whack twenty every time if the twenty-two are only allowed a Town Hall demonstration first to show off their biceps!

But what a come down for a Party calling itself "Labour" when it has nothing new to give to the people on a question like this except to sit with the Unionists at a public meeting. How hollow is our "Labourism" after all was aptly put by a comrade who tried to imagine this "Labour movement" haranguing a mass meeting of native workers on the iniquitous taxation proposals of the Dutch farmers. It shows that our Labour movement is far nearer to the soul of the petty trader class which has to pay the taxes than to the real working class of this country.

Taxes do not oppress the workers. They only oppress the small middle class. The workers are robbed at the place where they work. They are robbed by the employing class. They are robbed at the point where the masters make profit out of their labour. So long as the master class employs us for ten hours and pays us for five hours, so long are we robbed of life and liberty, no matter if all taxes are withdrawn.

On the other hand wages are ultimately regulated by the cost of living. It is true that the one often steals a march on the other, and agitations for wage increases have to be made. Yet the Chamber of Mines and the Capitalists generally who are not interested in food production, keep a zealous eye on the cost of living. When rents fall wages fall. The great aim of the anticorn law campaign in England was the Capitalist aim to bring down the cost of labour. True enough, with Free Trade came "Free" Labour, that is cheap labour.

Away with these platform fireworks about taxation. The only thing that can benefit the workers is strong industrial unity, combination in the workshop to check the robbery at its source, and eventually, to abolish it altogether.

'An old yarn in new clothes:—
Newsboy: "Great I.W.W. mystery!

Fifty victims!"

Passer-by: 'Here, give me a paper.'
After reading awhile, 'Here, boy,
there's nothing about the I.W.W. in
this paper. Where is it?'

Newsboy: "That's the mystery, mister! You're the fifty-first victim!"

"Labour Call."

#### War and Peace.

The extension of the British front means the extension of British capital over its henchmen, France and Italy.

The Allied War Council with one director over the whole Allied military, means that one capitalist interest. British, is now dominating France and Italy also.

It follows that the war has resolved itself into a struggle between two hig capitalist combines; with a third, the American capitalist, making ready for the time when both sides will be exhausted. That is why, ostensibly on the Allies side, President Wilson harps so much about not making war on the German people but German Goernment. Having failed as the angel of peace without spoils, he is going to be the armed distributor of the spoils.

But none of them are in a hurry. The war did start over undeveloped countries. Both sets of capitalists wanted them, and there was only enough for one set. But that insoluble contradiction has been solved. War is the best form of profit producer, the best undeveloped area, the best 'sphere of influence.' Compared with War what are the piffling concessions of Morocco and Persia?

To top capitalism it doesn't matter one straw who wins this war or who 'owns' any particular country. It affects their position not one iota either way—the war itself and its result, apart from conquest, is what they played for, and the only danger to them is the revolt of the masses brought about by the 'psychological' effect of the economic condition prevailing from now on as a result of a war which became bigger than they could handle and had bargained for.'

#### Baby Week.

The thought at the back of the mind of the Capitalists in organising "Baby weeks" is well expressed in a couple of verses by W. N. Ewer, quoted in the "Workers' Dreadnought":

"Something has got to be done!
These children one day would be men;
We may have need of them
May want them to shoulder a gun
May want them to die in some War."

"Then what of the Labour supply?
Mustn't let labour run short.
Labour scarce! How our profits would fall.

What would become of us all? Gad! What a horrible thought! We mustn't allow them to die."

#### Do It Now.

Have you posted your Subscription to "The International," 5s. per annum post free. Postal Orders to P.O. Box 4179, Johannesburg. Keep the Red Flag flying.

#### "German Gold."

#### The "Case" Against Lenin

The "New Europe" Magazinewhich disclosed the recent financiers meeting at Berne—is quoted by the "Star" to convict Lenin of being in German pay. All that the "New Europe" does, however, is to quote an alleged letter from a General (since implicated in Korniloff's rebellion) supposed to have been published in a paper edited by a Russian Jingo "Socialist," according to which letter, one Yermolenko, who declared himself to be a spy bribed by the Germans, told the General's informant (presumably he did, at least, for it is not actually stated that he told anybody) that "some German officers' had told him that Lenin had received instructions from "the Germans" (which ones?) and money from People in Stockholm who (like anyone in Stockholm that chose) were in touch with Berlin; Yermolenko adding, as a sort of afterthought of his own, that the money came from someone at the German Embassy. Yermolenko also told the General's informant (presumably, as before) that he had heard from members of the German General Staff and others at Berlin that at two Socialist meetings in Berlin, Lenin "Aways kept by Yolkuhovski," another person who, according to similar "evidence," had been entrusted with the same task as Yermolenko himself said he had.

Now there are no doubt enemy-agents everywhere, but really, we prefer private detective. Trimble's stories about German gold being offered to him (Trimble) and handed over to the International Socialists) he has not yet particularised, by the way,) to this sort of stuff. Why, not even a Johannesburg Magistrate would, not merely convict, but so much as allow a Prosecutor to open his mouth with such hear-ay-to-the-seventh-degree "evidence" as this!

-S.P.B.

The traveller standing amid the ruins of ancient cities and empires, see-. ing on every side the fallen pillar and the prostrate wall, asks why did these cities fall, why did these cities crumble? and the ghost of the past, the wisdom of the ages answers: These temples, these palaces, these cities, the ruins of which you stand upon, were built by tyranny and injustice. The hands that built them were unpaid. The backs that bore the burden also bore the marks of the lash. They were built by slaves to satisfy the vanity and ambition of thieves and rubbers. For these reasons they are dust. "Their civilisation was a lie. Their laws merely regulated robbery and established theft. They bought and sold the bodies and souls of men and the mournful wind of desolation, sighing around their crumbling ruins is a voice of prophetic warning to those who would repeat the infamous experiment, uttering the great truth, that no nation founded upon slavery, either of body or mind, can stand.— From Robt. G. Ingersoll on "Doom of Empires.

#### Politics by Post.

The American Socialist paper, "The Masses," was recently refused the use of the Post Office on account of its anti-war propaganda. The paper took the matter to the Courts, and the Judge's decision may be taken to heart by the Postal authorities in South Africa:—

Judge Learned Hand, of the United States District Court, decides that the Post Office Department has not shown sufficient reason for excluding "The Masses" from the mails. He accordingly lifts the ban placed upon that Radical publication by the Post Office Department. "The Masses" has been either violating the law or it has not.

. If there is a charge of treasonable offences, it is for the public prosecutor to accuse. . for a trial jury to render a finding of fact and for a Judge to punish under the law. It is not for the Post Office to combine all these executive and judicial functions in itself. If there is no alleged violation of Federal law, then the Post Office, in excluding from the mails, arrogates itself a legislative power to create offences as well as an executive and judicial power to deal with them within its own activities. On any theory of the postal service as a public institution, which is the fact, such a bureaucratic assumption of power ought to be unthinkable. It is plain usurpation. ?... The Post Office Department was created to carry the mails, not to regulate political opinions.

#### The Spanish Situation.

"El Socialista," the organ of the Spanish Socialist Party, has been suppressed, along with a number of other Labour papers.

The Republican-Socialist bloc in Parliament is now openly committed to the overthrow of the Spanish Monarchy, says "Justice."

The exasperated workers have resorted to a general strike, which was suppressed with great brutality. Many have been killed or wounded on both sides, and most of the workingclass militants are in prison.

The whole working class movement acted together in the recent strike. In Barcelona the workers drew up a 'revolutionary' programme, including the nationalisation of a number of industries, the confiscation of Church property, etc.

The instructions given by the General Union of Workers and the Socialist Party were that the moment the order to strike was given a complete stoppage should take place. If the Government should attempt to intimidate the workers by armed forces, the workers must not commit acts of hostility, but endeavour to persuade the armed forces that they are also composed of workingclass elements.

The aftermath of it all still remains to be revealed.

#### Our Good Old Has Been.

"The Workers' Dreadnought," in reporting the proceedings of the British Trade Union Congress in September, refers to Colonel Creswell's presence there as follows:—

"Colonel Creswell, the delegate from South Africa, looking a typical member of the employing classes and curiously unlike a Labour representative, an old-fashioned man who spoke briefly and cautiously, as scarcely knowing what to make of the atmosphere created by Henderson's speech, pleading that war weariness should not prevent us from responding to our sense of duty."

What a prophet for Internationalism Arthur Henderson seems suddenly to have become. Here is a portion of his speech at the Congress.—

"We have been told that Stockholm is dead. He repudiated the suggestion. Stockholm as a name might be. dead. "We do not care whether the meeting is held in Stockholm, Christiania, The Hague; any place in neutral territory will suit our purpose. But the Stockholm idea was not dead, the idea was too valuable to be killed. "They will find before many days, even hours, are over that your Parliament ary Committee, and Executive, have taken the first steps to secure a resufrection." Great applause broke forth: all the delegates were with him; and again they cheered when he said that he would rather negotiate with the German minority Socialists before Peace than confer with a discredited autocratic Government after victory has been secured, and called for fairness and honour to the German Socialist minority-Liebknecht, Bernstein, Haase and those who had struggled with them to thwart the objects of their Government.

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The GENERAL DEALER'S business carried on by ROSIE KIMMEL-MAN (Kimmelman's Store) at Stand 769, Melrose Street, Marshalls, Johannesburg, has been abandoned.

9-16-23.

#### ARL MARX.

Handsome reproductions of a Portract of KARL MARX for sale, £1 each, from I.S.L. Offices.

Help the League Funds by sending for one of these, mounted, 18in. x 16in. Should be in every Socialist home. The portrait of the great Proletarian Philosopher. Send to Box 4179, Johannes-burg.

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