# THE INTERNATIONAL.

The Organ of the International Socialist League (S.A.)

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# "Down with Capitalism" the

pacifist propaganda, except it be a capitalist party. The most notable anti-war movement of the day is the Independent Labour Party of Great Britain. Its leaders are already acclaimed by large crowds; but the Party as such will never enter the promised land of political office. So much the better for it. Already are heard voices in the I.L.P. in revolt against the alliance with those radicals, the Morels, the Ponsonbys and the Outhwaites, and their outlook.

Walter Newbold, whose pamphlets exposing the part 1. played by the Steel and Armament Capitalists in the instigato ion of the war are well known to many of our readers, is the leader of the revolt against inconsequent pacifism and its "inconclusive peace" with capitalism. Although himself, jailed as a conscientions objector, he has objected as a Socialist. In the mail issue of the Merthyr Pioneer he declares his antagonism to the State and all its works, "because it is the classes.". "I have felt a growing uneasiness at the influence which our pacifist associations have had upon our Socialist principles and propagandá," he says. While he values the helpwhich the Radicals gave at the beginning in the common task of defending civil liberties, he calls for a return to the "fundamental Socialist position. Himself an L.L.P. man he derides the I.L.P. propaganda against Secret Diplomacy, "Protection" and even "Militarism." These are all effects. Capitalism is the cause.

"We have been considerably entertained . . . at the fuss which many comrades are traking about "Militarism." This new demon, whose horrific face is discovered at every turn, together with those other furies, "Secret Diplomacy" and "Protection." sits gibbering on the

Ediposis of L.L.P. propagandists."

Secret Diplomacy is the natural means employed by a class-ridden government to negotiate the questionable deals" of a sordid and profiteering Capitalism. The commercial trickery of fiercely competing economic in terests must be manipulated in secret. "Militarism" and "Armaments" are weapons of Capitalism used in the lateral conflict of capitalist groups and in the vertical war of the classes.. "Armaments" also are a means of marketing the surplus production of capital engaged in manufacturing reproductive commodities.

Surely, the signs of the times are written big so that no Socialist can fail, if he will look, to read the significance of this war and of the measures adopted by the ruling classes to safeguald their interests. Capitalism has failed, failed its own directors and, ahead, looms the fear for them, the joy for us of its dissolution. Full well, in their hearts, they know it."

The lesson drawn by Newbold is the same as that which the Socialist movement on the Rand has learned: The one great duty of Socialism to day is not to engineer political tanks to catch the after-war downpour vote, but to tackle the No Party will be able to make political capital out of education of the working class on the principles of the class struggle as taught by the great founders of modern Socialism: Marx and Engels. Those who read "Post-war problems" and "Reconstruction after the war" in terms of electoral returns are going to be sadly left out of a job. The great class struggle to come will be fought on the industrial field and it is to the task of unifying the workers in the industry that the war, with all its blood and tears, is calling us to-day.

> Only by the unification of the workers on the job can society be saved from bleeding to death. The voting system is good only to record progress. In lustrial Unionism alone represents the power to hold humanity to the upward course, irrespective of "good" or "bad" in men.

Society to-day is directed by men as exploiters. Is it any remedy for the machine of exploitation to be captured by 'good' men. No! Society must be directed by? men A8 WORKERS. Herein lies the revolution. And forthis a new expression of the corporate will of the landlord and capitalist | structure is required, the structure of Industrial and animated by the principle of an injury to one an injury to all.

#### Waiting for the Harvest.

g Give us an out and out patriot value is really concerned about "his country" and will let hell look to save it, rather than the pacifist whose eyes are on the after-the-war tidal wave of votes.

The Glasgow "Forward," of whose pacifist." Socialist Points" we have hitherto been duly appreciative, launches out in its mail issue against the Independent Labour Party's uncompromising anti-war declaration, embodied in the celebrated Bermondsey resolution. Floundering over the best purb of a column on the matter, "Forward" utters the following betraying note: ---

"What chance shall we in Britain have at the polls if our ery is for the scuttling of the Navy, while, say, Russia is going in for a new warship-building programme?

What an ignorance of the elementary principles of the revolutionary chase struggle that indicates. Truly, the task of Socialists during the war is not merely to oppose war, but to rebuild the movement deep on the bedrock of international industrial unity of the wage-earners of the world, safe from place-seekers. On what grounds of reason or rhyme has the "Forward" been opposing war all this time? Workers! beware of the pacifists all over the world who are laying up treasures in the politics of the future. "The working class have no country, what they have not got you cannot take away from them," said Marx. The employing class (with their states, governments, armies, navies, police and prisons) and the working class, can have nothing in common. We have not to worry about their navies, and any workingclass leader, still more so any professed pacifist, who suggests that we have is guilty of treachery against the workingclass movement.

# "Our Country

By J. M. G

"Our Country" is a shibboleth that has been used very effectively by the ruling class in all countries at war. The people have been appealed to to save their country from the enemy without, and yet the truth is that the mass of the people in all countries have no country, have no rights in the land of their birth.

put it,— "Why should men want to fight for their land when they have no hand to fight for,—when the most they can do is to die at the foot of a trespass-board, singing "Britons never, never shall be slaves!"

The land in all countries is held by a minority of the people to the exclusion of the majority. In the Transvaal the land companies hold 20 million acres for speculation purposes, and 1 million acres are locked up by the Gold Laws.

In England the mass of the people are divorced from the land in greater proportion than in any other country in Europe. In that country robbery has been more rampant, the one guiding principle has been.—

"The good old rule, the simple plan

That they shall take who have the power

And they shall keep who can."

The feudal laws that are still the basis of the land system in England invest the holders of land with extraordinary power. It gives them ownership of all foreshores, not only by the sea, but in all tidal rivers. This ownership extends to all wild fowl that may frequent these foreshores

on the beach, and prevent the peasantry removing it to use as manure, except they are paid for it. These parasites claim the right to prevent the beaching of a boat, and deny the right of bathing.

flowing through their estates, and if any of these fish, such as salmon, go out to sea for a change of water, it is a criminal offence to catch them for many square miles beyond the mouth of the river. These robbers have evicted the peasantry and converted their farms into deer parks. They have stolen the common lands and converted them to their own profit.

They have been guilty of every cossible crime against humanity, have

never conceded the people had any rights, but have always looked upon them as hewers of wood and drawers of water.

Investigation of this parrot cry of "Our Country" shows that 90 per cent of the people have no say or part in the land of their birth. They have been in the mass compelled to leave the land and herd together in slums and hovels in the industrial centres, doomed to lives of misery, that a few may reap and enjoy the fruits of their industry, and flaunt their vile ostentation and shameful extravagance.

The whole social fibre rots, that a few individuals may suck the life blood of their fellows. They enjoy the rights to divide the surplus value produced by labour. They have destroyed the home, they have torn the child from the mother's breast, and compelled her to trust it to the tender mercies of mercenery nursing, while she is made to go charing or to enter a mill or factory for a mere pittance.

It is a maxim of all governments, that every child born into the world is an asset to the state. Yet what facilities are provided to enable the children of the toilers to develop into healthy, intelligent and useful members of society? None whatever. Instead, they are brought up in an environment, inhuman, immoral and criminal. The fountains of their lives are polluted through the overwork, poverty and starvation of their mothers.

This slapdash sentimental cry of "Our Country" is not genuine. It has thrown the mass of the people into the grip of the capitalist and ruling class for the one purpose of carrying out the selfish ambitious schemes of robbers. It is nothing but a canting cry engineered by the ruling class through the mouths of glib orators. The "Our Country 'shibboleth is one big lie to the man who has to part with his goods and chattels to provide for himself and family. It has no meaning to the free born British citizen who by stress of circumstances is compelled to apply to the parish for food to feed his starying wife and children, and finds his action in doing so has stripped him of his citizenship, leaving him disfranchised and treated as an alien among his fellows.

No, the mass of the people of Britain have no country. For them to prate of "Our Country" is to beast of the possession of something they do not possess, and will have no hope of possessing until they make a clean sweep of the present robber system, and on the ruins raise the Co-operative Commonwealth.

# Capitalist Statistics!

# How Cohen proved his Employe Was a Parasite.

A shop assistant in Cohen's Departmental Store went to the boss and asked him for an increase of salary.

"Why," says Cohen, "this is no time to ask for more wages. Times is too hard, and you do very leetle work."

"Now, I will show you how leetle work you do for me in a year."

"The year has 365 days in it, and each day is twenty four hours, divided in three equal parts: eight hours for work, eight hours for schleep, and eight hours for play."

Now, you listen: take eight hours what you schleep in each day, which was 122 days from 365 and that leaves 243 days."

Now, you play eight hours each day, which is another 122 days from 243, and that leaves 121 days—see?

"Now, there was fifty-two Sundays when you did not work, just take that from 121, and that leaves sixtynine days."

"Now, the summer comes; you say: Mr. Cohen, I can't work; just I'm all in, and I want a wacation; and I give you two weeks off; take fourteen days from sixty-nine and that leefs fifty-five days."

"And the store closes every Wednesday a half day, wich leaves twentysix from fifty-five, wich leaves twentynine days."

'And you take one an' a half hours lunch each day wich is twenty-eight hours from twenty-nine, wich leaves one day."

An Just remember now," concluded Cohen, as though surprised by his good memory. "that day was the Shop Assistants picnic, an' you asked off to go to it!"

Adapted from "Light."

#### Another Goel Comrade Gone!

The marriage was solemnized on Tuesday 17th April, of Comrade Charles Dones and Miss M. M. Pienaar. There was a bevy of comrades at the function to wish well to the happy pair and a couple of bachelor comrades (a few still remain) to bid goodbye to another good man gone. Good luck!

Following Durban, the Capetown and Krugersdorp Branches of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners support the movement to admit coloured men into the Union, and Krugersdorp calls for a ballot of all members in South Africa to decide the question.

# "Hands off Chamber

The Chamber of Mines practice of dictating a change in Trade Union Rule books as the price of concessions is not confined to the Mine workers. It has been tried on the Germiston Engine Drivers, who are separately organised under the name of "Engine Drivers and Firemen's Mutual Protec-

tion Society."

But what's in a name anyhow. These "Mutual Prolection sts" have refused to be dictated to by the Chamber of Mines. The Chamber wants all Engine Drivers to engage themselves under "one month's notice." Moreover, the Chamber sends an ultimatum that, unless the necessary alteration of these Engine Drivers' Rules are made, "the agreement which has in part been in force since 18th October 1916, would be cancelled."

Nevertheless, the men have decided by 156 to 14 not to depart from the custom of twenty-four hours notice. One of the reasons given in the Society's letter to the Chamber of Mines deserves a hearty word.

"In the event of industrial disputes affecting other classes of workmen, the majority of which are subject to twenty-four hours notice, our members would be debarred from participating in same, although their conscience prompted them that a high moral sense of duty insisted that they should co-operate with their fellow-workers. To stifle such an appeal to principle would be repugnant to them, and would submit them to contempt, abuse and ostracism."

These aré Engine Drivers. (Not Peter's flock). Yes, rub your eyes! No Union has a monopoly of fight, and under the most reactionary method of organising, the workingclass will ever shew the true spirit of class

solidarity.

Meanwhile, is it not a pity that men, who recognise that they must very soon fight side by side with their fellow workers in the same industry should fail to see the necessity of organising with them too, irrespective of craft or colour. When they do that, and do it effectively, there will be no need to fight. - President Wallers and his Chamber women will not be seen for dust.

The S.A. Industrial Federation of Johannesburg is issuing an appeal to Engine Drivers not to complete their agreement with the Chamber of Mines. Peter Whiteside's Union has for some time concluded an agreement subject to the alteration of the constitution. This agreement provides for monthly employ instead of the twenty-four hours notice. And on the strength of it retrospective increase of pay up to large amounts has been received by many Engine Drivers. Peter Whiteside delivered a two hours speech at Randfontein the other day. we are told, when he urged that it would be highly dishonourable for them now to fail to conclude the agreement by changing their constitution.

The Federation appeal says that "the Trade Union principle of freedom

o co-operate will be dishonourably betrayed if Engine Drivers do not. firmly reject conditions which require that one month's notice shall be given.". "The employers will benefit; your fellow workers—the miners and mechanics—will suffer; and you the Engine Drivers will be branded indelibly dishonourable."

"Them's our sentiments." Bur, we seem to have heard of the Mineworkers and the Mechanics also concluding agreements with the same employers, and they control the same Federation that now makes this just appeal. We seem to have heard of the Mineworkers also changing their constitution at the behest of Wallers. the astute Chamber of Mines president. Why should the Engine Drivers' action

be now dishonourable?

Fellow Workers! Once you organise as a craft you have to bargain as a craft to the detriment of your fellow workers in the same industry. Your Federation, good though its men may be, is by its very craft structure only a clearing house for competing Unions. Why persist in a system of organising that turns good men into scabs, and makes them party to "dishonourable actions." Organise industrially, and none of these problems can arise.

### White Capitalist versus Black Labourer.

An Episode in the Class Struggle.

By S. P. B.

A dispute has been taking place in Parliament on the Native Affairs Administration Bill, criticised in "The International" of March 9th last. Casual observers might think it was a genuine struggle between the English or Unionist section—the "natives" friends"—and their Dutch enemies. It is really only a debate between two sections of one composite ruling class in South Africa: the Junker agrarian and the up-to-date financial-industrial; the big speculative absentee land companies and the plantation nigger drivers being included in the latter section, from different mutives. The Government represents both, and, notwithstanding appearances, and the support it gets from the Nationalists when OTHER Nationalisms are to be trampled upon, it is dominated by the more powerful section, the financialindustrial-Imperialist. This section however allows its Unionist representatives (for it has men in all Parties) to show fight against the Bill, partly in order to pose as the friends of the .native and so to counteract such unpopularity among potential labour recruits as the Rand might incur if the Randlords supported the Bill-for with all the millions spent on it, labour is still difficult to recruit; and besides, in the Cape are native votes to be catered

The rural resident white landowners are as a class mainly interested to prevent, by however artificial means. "their" land from falling back into the hands of those who once occupied it unmolested by whites, but now work on it for white usurpers; and so they graciously concede the native areas of the Union as a sop to preserve the rest. That is all the alleged segregation in

this Bill, as in the 1913 Act, amounts to All sections, including the Labour Party with its "White Labour" and Convict Labour policies, desire in any event to make the most of the exploit-'ation of "our national asset," cheap native labour. The farmers must have it to work their farms, the mine owners to win their gold, the land companies to produce their rents.

The native landowner may or may not be segregated, but there was never any question of segregating the native labourer by doing without him and letting him work only for himself and his own people. Oh dear no, quite the reverse! More native labour is just what this Bill is ultimately calculated to stimulate. It gives the native the choice of either starving in a native area or wage earning under white masters outside. Not slavery, not serfage,—that is ostensibly abolished under the Bill-but freedom of contract, just honest modern wagery. Oh yes, the Unionists are only too pleased to get the credit of championing the oppressed, leaving the Bothaites and the Hertzogites to pull the chestnuts out of the fire. Colonel Mentz has quite properly exposed that humbug. "Don't come it on us," he says in effect, "we are all one gang in the long run." The "English" opposition is if anything more unadulteratedly capitalist than the 'Dutch' party; and both are equally the enemies of the natives and the workingclass in general 

#### BE CONTENT.

Said the parson, "Be content, Pay your tithe-dues, pay your rent They that earthly things despise Shall have mansions in the skies; Though your back with toil be bent," Said the parson, "be content." Then the parson feasting went, With my lord who lives by rent; And the parson laughed elate, For my lord has livings great. They that earthly things revere, May get bishops' mansions here. Be content! be content! Till your deary life he spent, Lowly live and lowly die, All for mansions in the sky. Castles here are much too rare; All may have them—in the air.

TOM MAGUIRE.

Quoted by "The Hudders field Worker." 

#### The "Internationale" in Russia

The Russian Council of workmen is beginning to get maligned by the Capitalist Press. They admit it organised the politicals revolution. But it is now becoming Utopian and revolutionary and extremist.

The Council of Workmen has appealed to the German Socialists to end the war. Most sane men think it a sane idea. But "The Star" reckons it is a silly, utopian thing to do. Exactly what the I.S.L would have done, exactly what the I.S.L. has urged Labour to do from the start; exactly what Andrews fought the Georgetown election on and got 67 votes, that is what the Russian workmen have done. They have proved that international united ction of the workers is the only practical solution.

### Sparks of Socialism.

Socialism is the only uncompromising anti-war principle. Middle class pacifism has no "guts." First Wilson succumbed, now Bryan, the greatest pacifist in America, has volunteered as a private in the American Army.

A deputation of British Labour bodies has arrived in Russia, to congratulate the Council of Workmen on the revolution, and to persuade them to keep up the mass murder. Kindly note, Mister Lloyd George, that you refused to let Labour men go. to Switzerland for an anti-war Conference of Socialists.

Wallers the President of the Chamher of mines, presided at the foundation stone laying of the Weslyan Hall last week. Were there no working bricklayers or masons in the "Connexion" more capable, spiritually and technically, of doing the job?

Strange how spiritual eminence always goes with pots of money.

The Glasgow "Socialist," which has many readers on the Rand because of its thoroughly Marxian teaching, has been prohibited from circulating out side Great Britain. If the workers don't look out, Socialist propaganda will soon be made a criminal offence

Do we realize what the entry of America into the war means? The American capitalist class is triumpliant and arrogant. With the mortgage deeds of Europe in its pocket it wants the lion's share in the spoils of war. The duration of the war is to be measured by the freshness of the latest combatant. That means we are only beginning, unless Germany Wives in. The only other alternative is that the workers enforce peace. In the state capitalism will have come to by then · that will be equal to Social Revolution The power necessary, to end the war to-day is the power necessary to destroy capitalism. Nes, capitalism fights for life and the blood of millions is the price it is willing to pay.

"Natives should be educated less on the European standard," said Burton the other day, "and more in a way that would be useful to them in their own lives and among their own people It filled him with alarm to see the educational lines along which some of them were proceeding."

Let's have a little more of this "alarm." A hundred years ago the British capitalist said the same of the

white workers, and taught them to be humble in their stations, until they organised and got strong, and-patriotic. When it becomes necessary for wage-slaves to read and write in the service of their masters, they get Compulsary Education: A native labourer need not read or write to get a job. When it becomes necessary to his. masters that he should, then natives will be compelled to go to school. What they don't want is for the workers to educate themselves along their own lines.

A split has occurred in the Swedish Socialist Party, apparently on the question of national defence, and the minority party will hold its first conference in May.

The Socialist victory in Potsdam was gained in an election to the Russian Diet, which makes it all the more notable, as the franchise is conservative and the election an indirect one by meanssof an "electoral college" of 288 delegates. Franz Mehring got 218 delegates; the Majority Socialists only six, while all the rest were anti-Socialists. This indicates that the bond between the Pro and Anti-war Socialists in Germany is now very slender if not altogether severed.

## Conrade Andrews makes a Correction.

The Editor, "Laternational" 

It is proverially difficult even for the most abborreporter in a. condensed report of speech to correctly convey the spakers exact meaning; it becomes in masing difficult to sum up in two someores what took half an hour bost of our so contraversial a subject as the various forms of workers' industrial organisation; When the report is given by size, no matter how conscientions he and to. who was not present, it obviously has dittle value as a grophic. I think the latter conditions apply to the lations Notes in your issue of 6th in :

was to the effect that probably in the process of adjusting atof working class tuctica new conditions it was in found that some of the existing or anisations will be able to make their constitutions and met. Est. times without the necessity of ansolving. Some, like the Bourbons, who "learn nothing and lorget nothing," will disappear in the process of evolution. Others may survive in modified forms and continue to assist in the emancipation of the working class, from wage-slavery.

Yours Froternally W. H. ANDREWS. Bamle Farm, Ginzindhlovu. 11 4, 17

#### LEAGUE NOTES.

JOHANNESEURG.

The open air meeting this week was again taken by Conirade Bunting, and a good attentive crowd listened to the straight out declaration of the class war. The indoor meeting in the Trades Hall was addressed by Comrade Tyler on "A step towards Industrial Unionism." The lecturer described the formation of the new Building Workers Industrial Union, branches of which have been successfully launched at Pretoria, Johannesburg and Benoni. An instructive address, followed by a good discussion:

Comrades should note the general meeting to be held next Wednesday in the Trades Hall to deal with Provincial Coun-

cil Elections.

May Day tickets are selling well, and promise a bump r success. All friends and comrades who have not vet secured one should not deduce.

The Nafal Federation of Trades has passed a resolution doming it desirable to have One Union for the whole of the Building Industry, with temporary reservations of a technical character.

#### I.S.L. PIOTICE.

A TOMBINED SHETTING OF THE JOHANNESBURG AND BENONI BRANCHES, With the M.C.,

> will be held in the TRADES HAI

#### WIDNESDAY, the 25th APRIL

to discuss the forthcoming Provincial Council Elections and finally determine werd sund allowate candidates.

NOTE THE DATE,

# MAY DAY CELEBRATION

A SOCIAL EVENING

EQUALIBRIE MAN DAY will be belief in the

Mesonic Ffi. Jeppe Street, CHARLES Ist at 8 p.m.

Maria Bala Balancia Internation-

A TOTAL LA TITA TANDENT ASSISTED

lickete 20. ... the lical Office, 6 Thurst Hall, and thembers, Benoni: Driefly the drift of my remarks T. C. pamer and J. den Fakker. Germi Made China Wade, H. Glass.

#### militens Tickets: Sd.

Same die nach der dem der in die Eronrumno do do be sent to Convade Bunting. Conven red line Productione Committee. CONTRACTOR AND ANTICES OF THE SECOND SECTION AND SECTI

The General Decier Business registerall in Morris theside, Stand No. 405, 79b. Knox Meet, Germision, was abandoned from Amil 17th, 1917. C. & L. Clingman, Party's Agents. 25 Mercantile Buildings, Commissioner and Simmonds Streets, Johannesburg. 20.27.4

The General Dealer Business registered at Revenue office, Johannesburg, by Charles William Scrife, stands Nos. 47/8, 70 Betty St., Jeppes will be transferred to 62a. Betty St., Jonnes as from May 15th, 1917. C. & L. Chugman, Party's Agents. 25 Mercantille Buildings, Commissioner and Simmonds Streets. Johnnesburg.