THE INTERNATIONAL.

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

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International May Day.

I. S- L. Leaflet for May Day.

What is May Day? Does it concern you?

Do you work for wages? Ace you satisfied with your lot?

Can you leave your job when it suits you, or must you always sell your labour to a boss?

When you work for a boss are you YOU, or are you your Boss's employee?

Is your job elevating? Do you gain the chief end of man in your daily toil?

Is it so fine and glorious that you clamour for an extension of hours?

Or is it more leisure that you want from the control of the Boss?

Can't you get more leisure? Why not?
Are'nt you a free man then, or are you a slave?
That's it? A SLAVE, A WAGE SLAVE!

While you are working you are not YOU, you are your Boss's man.

You and your life begins only when you knock off work, to spend the evening with your wife, or at the pub, or the Bio, or more likely, asleep getting enough strength, to start another day for your Boss and so on until you peg out.

Perhaps you think you are a free born Britisher?

Did you ever hear of those "Ragged Trousered Philanthropists" who were arguing about Socialism in their meal hour? Bill the painter was indignantly denying that he was a wage-slave. He was a free-born Britisher! "Britons Never Never shall be Slaves" he was proudly proclaiming when he heard the foreman's footsteps. (The foreman was a regular terror.) "Holy Smoke" screamed Bill, looking at the clock, "four minutes past one, we'll get the blooming sack for sure!"

Do you see? The beauty of the wages system is that it not only robs you of your freedom, but it robs you of the knowledge that you are a slave.

Capital robs you of your freedom because it robs you of three quarters of the fruits of your toil.

The ancient chattel slave had his body sold to a master under the whip of the driver.

We modern wage-slaves have to sell our own labour (which is our life) to a master, under the invisible whip of starvation.

Caliban shouted: "Hail Freedom. I've found a new Master."

We wage slaves shout: "HAIL BRITISH FREEDOM, HAIL, WE CAN CHOOSE AMONG MANY MASTERS, OR CHOOSE NONE AND STARVE."

Now it sounds rotten to talk like that while there is a war on. It doesn't seem right. You don't like it,

But why is there a war on, and a World War at

that? The war is raging for the simple cause that we workers have to slave for wages.

The capitalists of the world have been robbing the workers of the world of the fruits of their toil, and they are now quarrelling over the booty; and oh, well might Lucifer laugh in his hell, they are not doing the fighting themselves; they are getting the same workers they have robbed to cut one another's throats by the million in a quarrel as to which robber shall get the biggest share of the booty. The share of the workers will be blood and tears and torn limbs and penury, and the grave.

But this is not going to last for ever. The wage workers of the world are gradually combining under the lash of the capitalist. They are combining irrespective of language or colour. Even the nigger boys will soon be combining, and showing the cuff and collar men points in solidarity. Make no mistake, we all slave for a boss, white workers as well as black. The power to labour, not the colour of the skin, is the key to emancipation.

For May Day was decreed by the International Socialist Congress of Paris in 1889 as a day on which the world's workers shall remember their common unity. On this day workingmen all over Europe and America turn away from thoughts of fratricide and carnage to think of the Comradeship of Labour the wide world o'er. Capitalism Decrees international murder. May Day Decrees universal brotherhood. May Day must win.

MAY DAY MEANS THAT THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ARE GOING TO UNITE INTERNATIONALLY. The Russian Council of Workmen has already been co-operating with the German Socialists to try and end the war.

When the workingclass is thoroughly combined in one great bond of international unity the capitalist system is bound to tumble down. What then? The Industrial Democracy of the Workers will arise, when no man will toil to make another man rich.

Yes, the impossible is becoming the inevitable as the workers of the world unite. Let the capitalist press sneer the forced sneer of those who know their doom. The present world wide war will be followed by the world wide action of the workers to bring about the downfall of capitalism, with all its horrors of war and peace, its blights and diseases, its desecration of the human character, its gigantic temple of lies and empires of robbery, its slums and its slavery, its pickhandles, its police, its chained convict gangs and illicit liquor cancers, and all the filth that oozes out at every pore of the present robber system.

WORKERS OF SOUTH AFRICA, YOU ARE ONE WITH THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD. International May Day means that no saviour from on high, but yourselves must strike the blow and save the world from unending mass murder.

Revolt or Revolution?

By J. M. G.

"Nothing stable, all things change" is a fundamental law of nature. We see it operating in every phase of nature whether animate or so called inanimate.

Human Societies are no exception to this law. They have changed in the past and will change in the future; One of the greatest changes in society and one that will have far reaching effects upon humanity is silently taking place to day. Yet the majority of the peoples of all lands have no consciousness of the evolution that is going on under their eyes. There is an unconscious unrest amongst a section of the workingclass, without any rational or organised expression; but the mass of the people, just as before the epoch-making French revolution, follow the routine of their daily occupation, scheming and planning for the future, marrying and giving in marriage, eating, drinking and making merry, without any thought of tomorrow.

This unrest amongst the workers with the unconscious feeling of things not being as they should, is beginning in this country to find expression, in a desire to break away from the craft unions with their narrow outlook,—notwithstanding the efforts of the employing class,—and form up on the broader basis of Industrial Unionism, "each for all and all for each."

In Britain this unrest is very marked, there is a growing feeling of injustice caused by the conscription of human lives. This has begun to find articulate expression, which must ultimately lead to material action.

The workers of Britain are, beginming to feel the pinch of the high cost of living and are beginning to ask for the conscription of wealth. They are beginning to realise that while they are giving their all fighting for their so called country, (but in reality for which group of capitalists will be boss), the capitalist class is piling up huge fortunes. The eatch words at the beginning of the war was "business as usual," which has rendered itself into "profits more than usual." Huge profits in shipping, with monopolies in food stuffs and the necessaries of life have raised the cost of living 65 per cent, and the swindle is opening the eves of the workers to the fallacy and hollowness of the cry, -"we are all.

brethren now." They are beginning to see that these people are robbers still, and are exploiting the community at large while pretending to be patriots of the first water. They show the extent of their patriotism by lending their surplus cash to save their country, for a consideration: that consideration being 5 per cent.

The British Government is in the hand of a chosen board of autocrats carrying out the orders of the big capitalists. The apathy of the people has allowed matters to drift into irresponsible tyranny. They are obsessed with one phrase, and as a nation gone mad on the one idea of seeing the war through. In the main they have no idea of the forces at work driving society along a definite path. The only silver lining to a very black situation is the cry of the workers for the conscription of wealth. It is one that will grow with increasing volume, and if the ruling class persists in its present methods, will ultimately lead to open. revolution,—a revolution that may not stop at State Socialism, but if properly directed may give us the Co-operative Common wealth.

The other good sign in Britain is that the workers are beginning to question the usefulness of craft unions. They are awakening to the fact that these Unions by the very nature of their constitution, act as a bulwark of capitalism; and the efforts of the employing class in that country as in all other countries to capture these unions and use them to bolster up the present system have come too late

This growing consciousness of the brutality an limmorality of the present system, must give expression in revolt, but whether it will lead to revolution and the immediate overthrow of the present system depends upon the extent the workers grasp the fundamental idea that anything short of the abolition of the wage system is no good to the workers, anything short of this means the Servile State or a government by officials in uniforms and brass buttons.

England got their political revolutions through by chopping off heads. Charles the First lost his life for the divine right of kings to rule against the divine right of the shopkeeping class to trade. Louis the Sixteenth ditto. All the butcheries accompanying these revolutions were laid at the door of the masses. Today enters organised labout, the Council of Workmen, who pull through the political revolution in Russia; and the Czurstill lives with a whole skin.

Maxim Guns for Workers.

Competing Unions are the catspaws of Capitalism.

The education of Labour is the nightmare of the rich.

If the worker does two men's work he does one man out of a job.

If you want an "inconclusive peace" go into "partnership" with the employer.

Industrial Unionism is the great leveller. Properly organised it will level capitalism to the ground.

The workers will get just what they are strong enough to take.

Nothing less, and nothing more.

Through lack of amalgamation one Union is bled while the other is bought. Why not unite and bleed the capitalist

Capitalism blesses war, extols patriotism and endows religion. The only thing it is afraid of is that the workers may come together. Remember that!

Labour produces all the food, digs all the coal, builds all the houses. makes all the clothes, and runs all the machines—and yet they all "belong" to someboby else. Strange!

"Solidarity."

Passing the Capitalist Sentries.

Mr. P.K. Fraser has been returning unopposed as the Labour member for Greyville in the Natal Provincial Council.

This is success indeed, when all the other parties make way for Labour and say, "pass on brother!" But it is the surest sign that a Labour Party that has gone on recruiting platforms, and mobilized the workers for the capitalist shambles, has by that very act got its teeth drawn, and has become harmless. Any party out to champion the workers can only do so by expropriating the robber class. But the robber class has found that a Party which has obeyed the capitalist whip on the crucial issue of the war will be amenable on every other issue that can possibly arise. Exit now Muzwump Labour. Its only asset is the name.

Have you subscribed to 'The Internationa'."

5s. per annum, post free, Box 4179.

Johannesburg.

The First of May.

"THE CLASS STATE NEARING DEATH"

BY JOHN CAMPBELL.

THE FIRST OF MAY finds us still. in Wars;

Ever-extending world wars.

Beyond all frontiers and expect- 17792 in France. ations,

In Russian revolutions; Romanoff depositions; Diplomatic expositions;

Constitution mongerings; Franco-British Patriotic-Labour

Deputations to mix up said Revolutions.

British Ambassadors in Petrograd working Press and Platform, to keep 1 the frontiers marked by running blood and festering carcases.

Tie London "Times" robbed of its Thunder, wailing, distractedly wailing, against Russian extremists! Utopians!

"Dreamers of a peaceful world!" Revolutionary Workmen's Committees, (national and local). Revolutionary Soldier's Committees, (also national and local.)

Revolutionary Workmen's Committee's controlling output and issuing permits designating quantities, qualities and destination of said output.

Revolutionary Soldiers Commitees guarding Industry and Transportation plants against would-be usurpers. and escorting outputs to destinations indicated by Workmen's Committees. Thus controlling the civil and military activities of the nation.

The combined Workmen's and Soldiers Committees arresting officers Hof the Old Criminal Regime, in short, policing the Police out of existence.

Revolutionary Workmen's and Soldiers' Central Committees giving. and enforcing orders from hour to hour to the Russian Provisional Government. projecting an ever increasing number of their nominees into the remnant of a State fransformed, correctly transformed, out of all recognition as such.

Jailing Bankers, jailing Financial Jyou. and other Ministers. agents of Banking and other interests.

Not a few of said bankers and . Jagents going bail for good conduct.

Bail taking form of releasing currency and raising loans, both being necessary during transitional period/

The Peasantry scrambling for - Roman Tandohues wist to setup a petty agracian class. Asinister move. THE DAY!

A tremendous danger. An attempt to turn the wheels economic, political and social backwards. An aping of

THE FIRST OF MAY FINDS:

United States President Wilson, obedient to Financial and Industrial Capitalist demands, invading Europe, nominally to keep the Franco-British Capitalist combine, popularly known the Allies, against the Germano-Turkish Capitalist combine, alias the Central Powers.

But really to reach towards a policy, which aims externally at world supremacy for Frock Coated Capitalism versus Crowned Capitalism.

Rockfeller capitalism against the Kaizer Brand.

And internally to creat the conditions necessary to exterminate the Lower Tiers of Capitalism on the one hand:.

And for Industrial and Military dragooning of the working class on the other hand.

In short, top-capitalist-multi-millionairedom attempting to introduce the Iron Heel of Capitalist Feudalism With Wall Street leading.

But above and beyond them all cames the all-powerful Revolutionary class-conscious Proletariat who have managed to survive conscription by land and sea, WHO HAVE PRESERVED THEIR GOAL, VISION AND MORALE throughout the horrors of Battlefield and minefield, Munition infernoes and floating hells, Minesweepers and Military Railroads, starving slums and festering llospitals, in short, all the Bastilles of the modern Capitalist System.

They are gaining a far reaching insight, an ever widening outlook, an unbounded confidence.

"You may mow us down with your maxim guns.

But we'll sure make an end of

So comrades, notwithstanding all that a small Coterie of intriguers in New York, London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna or elsewhere may do or try to do, THE DAY OF CAPITALISM AND THE CLASS STATE IS RAPIDLY NEAR-ING DEATH, to make way for the Industrially Organised classless condition of society in which the Co-ordinating Power will control times only, and leave humans' to freely devel ipud that they may be capable of. SPEED

Brothers Capital and Labour.

At the Masonic Hall, Johannes burg last Friday the Amalgamated Society of Engineers held a smoker to which the following were invited as guests of the evening? Forrester Brown, Crawford, Creswell and-Wallers, The President of the Chamber of Mines.

Forrester Brown struck a jarring note. He said it was up to them to tackle the Industrial Union question. They had a Federation, but the Federation was only made necessary because they organised as crafts. If they organised along the line of industry no Federation would be necessary. They should have it so that when a man shifted from one job to another he should be able to transfer from this Industrial Union to that one, just as easily as stepping from one train to the next. He made a rotten speech! jarred the fraternal spirit of Capital and Labour, did Comrade Forrester!

"Brother" Wallers however talked the stuff! (He is well paid to talk it.) He talked how strong unions (craft unions) are the things they want now, and how it was enough tomake the old school of employers jump from their graves at the way Capital and Labour arefraternizing these days.

What greater tribute to the harmlessness of the Craft Union than the fact that Wallers lives them so well. and strokes them on the back with fine fraternity and soothing agreements until they purr themselves to sleep.

The A.S.E. men, secure in their craft status, may sup with the exploiters, and forget the mass of the toilers outside who have nothing but their bare arms, and no craft status, to parley with the enemy. And Wallers may croon over you and call you blessed, but "there can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life." . . . The working class and the employing class have nothing in common.". Between these two classes a struggle must go on until all the toilers come together on the political as well as on the industrial field, and take and hold that which they produce by their lab ur"... Why is Wallers in favour of strong. unions? He sees that by organising as fitters, as A.S.E. men or as Engine Drivers, you are withdrawn from the rest of your mates working in the same industry, and that ther fore your strength means the weakness of the working class. He can only soothe and sop a section. When all the workers get moving he will be compelled to fight in the open. Say that all the native workers in the mines organised. Then Wallers will have to parley at arms length, and we. xi perior proble, will have to chose betw. en throwing in our lot with them or acting as petted police hoys for Waliers.

"Ging into Action"

An account of the glory of war written by a soldier from the trenches to "The Ploughshare.

On, on we tramp, staggering be neath the heavy load of equipment, . slipping in mud and slush, stumbling holes. "How much further is it, chum?" I ask the man next to me. He cannot reply, he is crying bitterly Now we approach the danger zone The artillery is blazing away and the noise makes talking impossible. We break step, put out our fags, and begin to march in "extended order." Suddenly there is a roar and a crash—a shell has fallen just behind us! Happily no one is hurt. Then I see a man in front of me fall, caught by a spent bullet. He shrieks in agony, and the stretcher bearers comes to his rescue.

Now we march Along in silence, absolute silence, dumb men driven to the slaughter. We are nearing the communication trench. The sky it lit up with the flashes of thousands of guns, and the star shells shed a lurid glow over the field of battle. Shells are bursting near us, for the enemy is shellings the roads. Several men fall hit by shrapnel. We quicken our pade to get the cover of the trenches. The wounded are being brought from a field dressing station and quickly put in Red Cross vans. As the stretchers pass us, the poor wretches groan in agony.

We are now in the assembly trench, it is knee-deep in mud; we slip and stumble about, advancing in single fille toward the front. My company is to be stationed in a rear tréach, but the others advance to the front. We are alloted our positions by the Captain, and we stand there all night, asking: "Will the dawn never come?"

All next day we stand there; some have gone into dug-ou/To try to get a few hours to sleep, but this is almost impossible, for the earth shakes from the vibrations of the artillery. The lice crawl all over, the body, driving one nearly trantic, and the rats are in swarms and run over us. But there are some corpses lying out on the top with plenty of rats around them, so they won't go hungry!

As the the hour for attack draws near, the officers become pale and anxious. They keep looking at their watches. They try to smile, as they shake hands with the sergeants, whispering "Good-bye," in case the worst happens.

The men in the front trench have now fixed their bayonets, and throw off unnecessary equipment. They dare not look at each other; steel helmets are firmly fixed as they await

the world. Suddenly a young officer pushes his way to a place prepared in the parapet for jumping over. In his hand he holds a whistle. He gives a shrill blast, and is over the top, the others scrambling after him, and at this moment the artillery ceases.

Through the periscopes we watch the progress. Some are falling and throw up their arms and spin round as the bullets strike them. Some are dashing madly on. The machine-guns of the enemy are spitting forth thousands of fiery bullets. The men still unhurt have passed through the German entanglements and are on their parapets. The bombs and bayonets are busy. Strong men are falling like corn before the sickle. Now the fighting is in the enemy,s trenches. Both explosions and revolver shots are heard. Our men have captured the trench and are consolidating it. In "No-man's-land" the stretcher-bearers are busy, dragging in the dead and wounded. The doctors in the trench dressing-station are hastily bandaging wounds and injecting "anti-lockjaw" serum. The sight is indescribable. Groans and cries rend the air as the dead and wounded lie together in the dressing-station. An ashy pallor is on their faces.

And now the enemy observers see that we occupy the trench and ininediaffely signal to their artillery. Hundreds of shells now pour on our comrades, smashing up the position they have occupied and burying them beneath the debiis. And thus the hideous game goes on and many brave lives sacrificed. The hidden artillery has robbed them of victory; for in this trench warfare neither side conquers...

"Going into action"! Yes, let us go into action, but not to slay and torture, but to build up a happier and brighter world redeemed from the folly

and brutality of war.

LEAGUE MOTES.

JOHANNESEURG.

On Thursday in last week the debate was held between Comrades J.M. Gibson and A. B. Dunbar on "Are Wages governed by the law of Supply and Demand." There was a good attendance, and both comrades gave expositions of differing aspects of the Marxian prificiples, of wage-labour and capital. A 200d evening's discussion on economics, and not a few new faces in the audience.

On Sunday Comrade William Reid delivered the lecture in the Trades Hall on the 'Organisation of workingclass Power." Tho speaker went into detail of the reform of the industrial movement of the workers, showing an intimate knowledge not only of the theory, but of the practical working of of the Craft versus the Industrial Union system. The first problem was to make ther workers class conscious. instead of job conscious. Question time proved mos interesting, and brought out many valuable points.

Arrangements are being completed for May Day. The May Day leaflet will be ready to day' Friday, for distribution from door to door by the comrades. Help'to make May Day a great success by scattering our propaganda leaflet broadcast, advertising The Day. the meaning of The Day, and what we intend doing on The Day. For further details see our advertisement columns.

May Day.

Durban.

A picnic will be held at

MITCHELL PARK On Tuesday, 1st May, 1917.

Commencing 10.0 a.m.

Adults Tickets I'6 from the Hon. Sec: H. W. HAYNES, 353 Point Road.

Children Free.

Refreshments provided.

International May Day, 1917.

Johannesburg. Tuesday next, May 1st.

PROGRAMME.

6.30 p.m. In front of the Town Hall.

Open air Demonstration, for International working class solidarity.

SPEAKERS, Gideon Botha, John Campbell, T. Chapman, J. den Bakker, A. B. Dunbar, M. Israelstem, H. 'Mbelle, George Mason, W. Staunton, Colin Wade, Andrew Watson.

8. p.m. Masonic Hall, Jeppe Street GRAND SOCIAL EVENING.

Tickets (at door) 26, Refreshments provided. Welcome to all friends of Internationalism. Come one, come all to a jovial Reunion.

Short addresses, songs, and other

entertaining items.

The Artistes will include: Miss Cecilia Levy, Miss Korras, Messrs. Z. Butow, R. Goldberg, Dave Thurston, Leslie Stafford, J. Muller, Jack Rosen, Steve Moring, Jack Bond, and H. Watson.

The General Dealer Business registered by Morris Ruskin, Stand No. 405, 79b. Knox Street, Germiston, was abandoned from April 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 Scaife, stands Nos. 47/8, 70 Betty St., Jeppes will be transferred to . 62a. Betty St., Jeppes as from May 15th, 1917. C. & L. Clingman, Party's Agents. 25 Mercantile Buildings, Commissioner and Simmonds Streets, Johannesburg.

Harry Gunning has retired as from 1st, April 1917, from the Dairy Business known as Slatter's Dairy carried on at Melrose Home Farm. Kruger Street, Melrose, Johannesburg...