# THE INTERNATIONAL.

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### Comrade Andrews on the Revolution.

Comrade W. H. Andrews, writing to wish us well on May Day from his Zululand exile, makes the following interesting remarks on the present situation:—

"I really think there is something to be said for the prevalent idea among the pro-warites early in the war: That the workers will demand a greater say in the conditions of their lives. Not of course, as they innocently supposed, through the good will and gratitude of their masters. Quite the contrary. May they not wake up to the fact that they have been badly fooled? There are one or two facts that rather impress me also aside from theories. The agricultural labourer is, for the first time since the "Black Death" period emphasized by T. Rogers, recognised as of supreme importance. He is now given 35/- a week. "Cost of living," it may be answered. Granted. But there is another factor in wages supply and demand. The labourers are scarce now, and my father informs me that as compared with wages of from 7/- to 12/- per week which he remembers them getting, they are undoubtedly better off than what they have been for generations:

Again, without knowing the precise facts, there must be thousands of the very phorest who have more food now than formerly owing to separation allowances coming in regularly. If, as is likely. Rationing the People is adopted, everyone I take it will for the first time in history be fed. It is, I think a fact that people will fight: harder against a reduction of well-being than they will for an increase. May not a rationized (even tho' not rationalized. ED.) people then have more "guts" than a starving one? The evolution going on is so tremendous that it may get out of the control of those who started it, as revolutions have done before. Howsever, one may hardly doubt that the workingclass will accomplishits mission in ways quite unforeseen either by its friendly or hostile critics. I think a clear course of conduct for all lovers of their kind is to keep in sympathy, ready to help when possible the great oppressed, even when they appear and perhaps are foolish, unreas--onable, or even wicked, (whatever that may be).

# Hooliganism, the Last Ditch.

This year's International May Day was looked forward to with apprehension by the capitalist warmongers all over the world. They know the significance of May Day. They know that it is the first swallow of the revolutionary spring. Even in times of peace they have turned out their military to break up the May Day processions of the workers. But that was on the continent, in militarist countries like France and Germany and Russia. In capitalist England, true to its "free" traditions, other means are resorted to to nip dangerous movements in the bud. The police are withdrawn, given the wink to confine their protection to property, and the hooligan underworld,—the preverted victims of the very system they serve,—is turned loose upon the vanguard of revolution.

This is what happened to our May Day celebrations at

Johannesburg. There was a glaring distinction between the concern of the police authorities for sacred property and their apathy towards violence against persons. The bold announcement that May Day would be made the occasion for "calling upon the workers to end the war," was too much for the warinongers, whose property, whose profits, and whose rights to property and profits are bound up with the continued sacrifice of millions of young men on the blighting altar of the War God. The May Day celebration had to be stopped at all cost. There was only one way, and that was the hooligan way.

But the cause which cannot hear argument is bankrupt. The "loyalty" whose only expression is that of the garotter and sandbagger has shed all its virtues. The social system whose only protection is the hooligan mob is already in the last ditch, it is doomed. The spectacle of a street full of soldiers artificially incited by a shopkeeping Recruiting Committee, led by women of the otherworld, as the last capitalist argument against the Socialist movement does not spall the impregnability of the present system, it spells its tottering weakness.

The International Socialists do not function on the mob plane. They do not arm for street fighting. They arm themselves with principles which work irrespective of mob action.

We claim that the workers had no part or lot in the hooliganism of Tuesday. The workers are awakening to the folly of war and gradually gaining the international vision. Just as we do not hope for anything but futility from mob action in the streets.—whether labelled Labour, Socialist or Jingo,—so is this incident no indication of the mind of the workingclass.

There has been some criticism at the alleged rashness of the League in calling the public meeting. Those who talk in this strain are not of the stock that preserves liberties, least of all of the stock that wins them. As citizens of this country we have a constitutional right to air our views. We proceed on that assumption, and propagate principles openly. If in the process we expose the existence of a mob Junta, which lives by intimidation and blackmail and hooligan threats, then something has been accomplished. If, from fear of this Recruiting Junta we forego our citizen rights, that mob tyranny still exists. But we have acquiesced in it without opposition.

If our message is an absurdity; then absurdities need only be laughed at. If a platitude, then it need only be yawned at. If a rational principle, then its rationality is limited by the rational arguments of its opponents. If an all conquering principle, then there is nothing left but to sandbag us. But be sure that in doing so you have already thrown up the sponge.

The comrades feel more than ever that the message of International workingclass solidarity is the one message of our time that can lead society out of the muck. On the same day, at the same hour, millions of workingmen in America, England, France, Germany, Austria, and not least, Russia, were celebrating the same common cause. Where, in the annals of history, or in the conception of any, prophet of the past can you find any Ideal that comes near to the grandeur of this Real, existent common action, growing in unity and singleness of aim, of the workers of the world? We are proud of having attempted our part. And our South African warmongers should feel small to be in such a minority.

# Freedom?

By.J. M. G.

"Free born Briton" is a shibboleth that when analysed is found to be
one of those meaningless phrases that
is used to dope the workers into submission to the capitalist class.

The idea intended to be instilled into the workers' minds by this catch phrase is that they have more freedom than those of any other country, this may or may not be true.

in the light of the economic position of the workers is found to be untrue.

As the workers are notwithstanding this boasted freedom nothing but slaves under the heel of the capitalist class.

The workers in Britain as in all countries possess no property, and as agricultural labourers, factory hands, or mechanics in the big industries, do not own or control the tools of the industries. On the contrary, their tools are in the hands and under the control of the capitalist class.

The workers not having control of these tools are compelled to sell their labour power to the owners of these tools for a livelihood, on the average amere subsistence which they receive in the form of money wages. This dependence upon the will of the capitalists, the owners of the jobs, is obscured by the money wage, which blinds the workers to the fact that they receive on the average but a fraction of the value of the wealth produced in return for their capacity to labour; and that they have the freedom to leave one employer, and perhaps get a job with another, obscures the fact that they are slaves dependent upon the capitalist class as a whole.

In comparison with the slaves of antiquity the modern wage slaves' position is more degrading. The chattel slaves with all the disadvantage occuring from their position had certain rights and claims upon their owners, and one of the most important was they were assured of food, shelter and clothing. These the modern wage slaves are denied; if times are bad, and no profits accrue to the employing class in return for paying wages to the workers for their labour power, they are discharged; and the employers either run their plant on short time or close down altogether. Thus the workers stand in relation to their employers simply a class or set of people who offer for sale acertain commodity,—the power to labur. If unable to dispose of this commodity they must starve: which is a bout the only freedom they have got.

It is quite true, the modern wage slave possesses certain political rights, which his predecessor the chattel slave did not possess. But these rights have not sufficed to free him from the thraldom of his economic slavery.

The only possible remedy for this brutalising, enslaving system is its total abolition. As society is at present constructed there can be no real freedom to the mass of the people dependent as they are upon the will of a minority holding the means whereby the necessaries of life are obtained.

No, freedom does not exist under our present form of capitalist, society and will never exist while the mass of the people are subject to and controlled by a minority.

The modern form of social preduction clearly and distinctly points the way to ending this enslaving form of Society, and giving that freedom, that economic liberty that should be the right of every human being.

The present form of production in the big industries employing as they do the greater portion of the workers, with the formation of Trusts and Combines, with the concentration of machinery for production into large factories and workshops, make it easier to bring about that transformation of society that will abolish this antagonism, between social production and individual ownership and exchange. These antagonisms cannot be harmonised by any system of reform that still leaves a wage paying class and a wage receiving class. The only solution is a complete economic and social revolution. This economic and social revolution can only be brought about by the workers becoming conscious of the wrong of our present system; and just as mankind has advanced economically and socially from the gens and the tribe to the province and the nation. "so our modern form of social production and exchange has broken down the boundaries of nationality, and this war, will be the means of consolidating. international capital and be the lever that will bring about the greatest Trust world has ever seen. Seen. Seen workers must organise internationally on the broad basis of taking control of the productive forces and utilising them, not for a section of society,--but for the whole; thereby doing away with wage slavery and giving that freedom to the individual that under our present system is a myth the semblance of reality.

### American Reveries.

BY. S. G. RICH.

Comrade Bunting's article on the Native Land Act, from "The International" of March 6, has been reprinted by. Ilanga Lase Natal, the native weekly at Phoenix, Natal. Looks as though the editor of that paper knew horse sense when he saw it.

I see by the papers that my land of birth and citizenship, the United States, has come into the war at last. As they say in New York slang, "Ish kabibble." That is, "Let others worry." Shall I get excited because Morgan and Rockefeller profits are endangered by submarines?

On the other hand, I as an American worker who came oversea to get a good teaching job, cannot but want to see the needless dangers of capitalism eliminated. Though I am at a loss to see how American participation will lesson the risk of murder by submarines.

It has been hard to keep my Socialist head these last days. We Americans grow up with the ideas of a generation ago, of a nearly classless democracy, and the patriotism which is logical therein is hard to outgrow.

I suppose there will be a lot of pressure on me to enlist in the army now. I shall be able to appreciate what the British workers have had to go through.

There is no doubt that even the workers in America have fallen into war frenzy. Our bourgeois idealism has made us feel it as an insult to the nation that Germany has treated our capitalism as it has. Remember that we still have the mental habits of small capitalism, with its complete / inability to understand classes and the class war.

But I see clearly that bourgeois pacifism is not only impotent but ridiculous in America at this moment. There is only one-logical and tenable alternative to militarist ideas. That is our own I. S. L. stand of War on War.

The worst of the whole thing is that it gives capitalism the chance it wanted to fasten militarism on to the working class of America. Hereto-fore we have been fortunate in escapling that particular form of hypnotism.

# Mob Law on May Day.

# International Reeting Broken Up.

The comrades of the League had ! the distinction it deserves as an International Working Class festival. But the set programme was somewhat des parted from, and an impromptu of the Recruiting Committee's very own was rehearsed instead. In any case May. Day got distinction, and the unleashing of a khaki mobio sappress our edebration is the best testimony to whe fear which this year's May Day has inspired in the hearts of the war mon-" gers all over the world.

Our advertized programme was an outdoor meeting in front of the Town Hall at 6,20 p.m. "Calling upon the workers to end the war and re-establish the Workingclass International.' This was what gave offence to the hireling job scekers on the Recruiting Committee. Various comrades were bil- | by a recruiting sergeant on the tactics led to address the meeting, and other friends of Internationlism, including Mr. Horatio 'Mbelle, a native speaker.

The outside meeting was to have been followed by a grand Social evening in the Masonic Hall. This promised to be the most successful Internat ional function yet held in Johannesburg. A fine programme of songs and addresses was assured. Among the prominent artistes billed were Miss Cecilia Levy, Mr. R. Goldberg (cellist) and Mr. Butowsky (tenor.)

Comrade W.H. Andrews wired up from his forced retreat in Natal.

"Greetings. Long live the International." And Comrades Harrison and Pick of the Capetown S.D.F. wired up their May Day greetings. Comrade John Campbell was up from Natal to keep May Day. The May Day Souvenir contained the following "GREET-INGS TO COMRADES IN ALL LANDS."

"On the first of May we send our greetings to our Comrades throughoutout the world. We of the Revolutionary Socialist Movement in South Africa know neither race nor colour. Fellow workers in the ceaseless struggle against the Vampire of Capitalism, our only hope lies in unity. We therefore ignore all national barriers and hold in contempt the spirit of Patriotism instilled into our minds by the master class through its hired press for its own selfish ends. The unparalleled butchery of the present war is the result of their teaching. To our Comrades Liebknecht in Germany, McLeanin Britain, Glynnin Australia, Seinple in New Zealand, incarcerated

with hosts of others in the Bastilles of looked forward to giving May Day, Capitalism: to the heroes of the Russian Revolution, to our Comrades in all lands we send our greetings. To the working class throughout the world we say with Karl Marx: "Unite! You, have a world to win, and nothing to lose but vour chains."

> The "Star" and "Mail" reports of the meles at the Town Hall tried to make much of the non-appearance of the Internationals at the place of meetjing. Both reports were pitiful samples of journalistic integrity. The "Star" report was evidently a paraphrase of the" Mail 'version.

As a matter of fact the comrades were there. The time advertised was 6.30. Long before that the square in front of the Town Hall was thronged with soldiers and civilians. The soldiers were evidently being coached to adopt. Comrades Andrew Watson and Andrew Campbell had brought a large box for platform to the scene. Comrade Hornstein had been dealing out the May Day leaflet. And there was a knot of faithful Comrades around the spot of our usual Sunday open air meetings, although it was evident to all that no meeting was possible. Horatio 'Mbele, our native friend who was billed to speak, was also there to do his duty in spite of the serious look of things. When the time of starting came Comrades Ginsberg and Jones ("two natives," according to the "Mail.") rolled the box into place to announce that the meeting was off on account of the organised opposition. Immediately that was dono the crowd of soldiers came down from the steps and gathered round the box, angrily challenging anybody and everybody to get on. Here Comrade Ginsberg was specially singled out, and his plucky stand against a dozen soldiers was the signal for the break up of the crowd which had momentarily thronged round the box.

#### Police apathy

Andrew Watson clicited from a detective that the police had no instructions to keep order; asked if the police were going to abet the mob, the 'tec answered cynically "I suppose so." This soon appeared evident. Comrade Watson appealed to a sergeant in charge of a sew policemen to help Comrade Ginsberg.

The sergeant demurred. But several of the men under him (being Afrikanders) ran to our comtade's aid before they could be restrained.

The comrades having retired, Captain McIntyre mounted the box and congratulated the soldiers on their victory. But his attempt to get the "Red Flag" sung in honour of the occasion (McIntyre being a Labourite) met with no success, and he ended up with being called a "traitor" by the hooligan element.

The Khaki men were not satisfied with breaking up the open air meeting. Comrades Bunting and Jones were later "arrested" by a crowd of soldiers, and were being marched to give an account of themselves to the crowd at the Town Hall, when they were extricated by Captain Donald, an officer in Khaki who parleyed with the rowdies and enabled the comrades to get into a cab. Comrade Andrew Campbell was badly handled by a dozen brave heroes because he would not take off his hat to the National Anthem. Comrade John Campbell was likewise assaulted. Indeed the feats of daring preformed by 'our "brave defenders" when they were twelve to one, and their admirable discretion and respect for law and order when their superiority was not more than two to one, was worthy the high praise of their patrons on the Recruiting Committee.

#### The Social.

Now the Masonic Hall was besieged by an immense crowd. The Social had every promise of being an unprecedented success. The one caus of worry was that the hall would be too small. But even the Social was not to be interated. At half past seven the place was besieged, and the women comrades and children already inside were compelled to escape by the back door. Soldiers, and women who hysterically led them, entered to assure themselves that the place was empty. Comrades Gibson, Becker, Reid, Barendregt, Ginsburg, and others were already there and handled the situation with coolness, Comrade Barendregt especially distinguishing himself by cowing some rowdies with a clever piece of C.I.D. impersonation. The proprietor rang up for the police, and reported having received the following reply: "You knew what to expect by letting your hall to the Socialists." There was a force of police near the scene standing idle and making no attempt to interfere in the many cases of personal vielence taking place. In fact the young Dutchmen in the police force

were heard by several asking to be allowed to clear the mob, but were restrained by their superiors.

However, none of the comrades were much the worse. Comrade Campbell, who was subjected to the most cowardly attack of all, was able to go to work the next morning. When some of the comrades defended themselves, they occasioned surprise that "Waron Warites should hit back;" there was just a suggestion that they were not playing the game.

The soldiers then proceeded to attack some bioscopes and alleged alien firms; but here the police mustered in force to defend the sacred rights of property: and gave signal illustrations with the baton that the business competitors of the clique on the Recruiting Committee were not to be ousted in that manner.

Thus was celebrated May Day 1917. With the reasons for and against the wisdom of calling the public meeting we deal in our leading column. The little children were disappointed of their evening's entertainment, but all the comrades went home feeling that they had not neglected their duty to the Workingclass International, and that the big scale on which the opposition was organised was testimony to to the fear in which the warmongers regard May Day.

#### The Postponed Social.

All holders of Social Tickets are assured that the function will be held at an early date to be announced. Meanwhile ticket sellers are urged to pay in the proceeds to the Secretary in order to cover the outlay already made.

#### Messages of Congratulation.

The Capetown Peace Society wires "message of sympathy to sufferers for advocacy of peace proposals." (Interalia, the Society offers to take a 1000 copies of a reprint of "Going into Action," published in our last issue.

The Social Democratic Federation wires:—

"S. D. F. congratulates comrades attempt to make a stand Labour Day and deprecate tactics of brute force opposition as against logical argument."



Printed by the Elite Printing Works, for the I.S.L. Box 4179, Jeh'burg.

#### The May Day Leasset.

parts South Africa. In addition to the Jannesburg distribution, a parcel was pecially printed for Durban, and other arcels were sent to comrades in every town of any size in South Africa. An 1 -t London comrade, who is a Branchin himself, in sending good wish for a successful May Day in John resburg and all over the world, under akes to get the leaflet distributed in Kingwilliamstown as well as in East London. In no South African town is the message of International Sociolism not heard or read to-day.

#### May Day in Durban.

May Day was celebrated in Durban by the comrades with a picnic at Mitchell's Park. About 150 attended, and the day was beguiled with sports. In the evening the Seafarers' Society held a May Day Dance at the Norwegian Hall, Umbilo Road. Items were rendered by Miss E. P. Holman and Comrade Haynes with conspicuous success, and the Red Flag terminated a happy day under cloudless skies at 12.30 a.m.

## Croesus's Start in Life.

Croesus hung up his ermine mantle and flung his diamond-studded cane into a corner.

"Anything in the mail?" he yaw-ned.

The royal private secretary glanced over his notes.

"The Egyptian Land Title Company offers a sure 80 per cent. proposition, your Majesty."

"Eighty per cent.!" snorted Croesus. "What do they take me for—a huckster?"

"The Delphic Oracle would like to be financed in a prophecy-by-mail scheme.

They guarantee you a million in a year."

"Ayear! Bah!"

"Nabonidos of Babylon and Cyrus of Persia are on the outs, and they're each in need of bows and arrows, lances, armour—"

"Close with them both!" cried Croesus and his ennuied eyes lit up. "Contract to supply munitions for both sides—all they'll take. At last! At last! At last! At last! At last!"—New 'York "Puck'

Have you subscribed to "The International,"

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

Johannesburg.

# To Supporters of Class War and Industrial Unity of the Workers

The M.C. have to thank the following donors for their assistance in sending along the money necessary to enable our paper "The International" (the only working class paper in South Africa) to continue the struggle in educating the workers on the above lines. We are not out to catch votes for public office or self aggrandisement but we do want to keep "The International" going to carry the message of Socialism. Dont be afraid, readers and subscribers to send your amounts, however small. to the General Secretary, D. Ivon Jones No. 6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street Jh'bg. who will acknowledge from time to time initials only in our paper: "The Finance Committee."

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The following skit on Kipling's war verses are appended to P. Vivian's English work—"The Churches and Modern Thought":—

#### PROCESSIONAL.

Lord God of Battles, Whom we seek
On clouds and tempests throned afar.
When tired of being tamely weak,
We Maffick into deadly war:

If it should chance to be a sin, At least enable us to win.

Give to the Churches faith to pray
For what they know they shouldn't
ask,

And such abounding grace that they
May cheerfully perform the task;
Wave flags and loyally discount
That fatal Sermon on the Mount.

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.