THE INTERNATIONAL.

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Russian Workmen Vindicate Marx.

The Russian Minister of Agriculture has told the Council of Workmen that the present situation cannot go on indefinitely. The Council of Workmen competes with the Duma for the direction of Russian society. The Council of Workmen has already won over the Duma in squashing the Constitutional Monarchy scheme. Whether it maintains its position and strenghens it depends on whether the material forces are ripe for Socialism in Russia.

Three clauses from Marx's statement of the Materialist Conception are worth reading in the light of Russian developments:—

New and higher social institutions are never established until the material conditions of life to support them have been prepared in the lap of the old society itself.

Therefore mankind never sets itself any tasks except those for which it has received the proper training.

If we examine closely, it will always be found that the conflict never arises except where the material conditions of its solution are already at hand, or at least are in process of growth.

The Duma is the engine of Capitalism. That is why the Council of Workmen operates outside it No sooner has the Duma won out against the Czar than it finds itself a waning power. The Council of Workmen has the soldiers on its side, and has swept the police out of existence. That is why what the Minister for Agriculture apologetically calls "excesses" have taken place; no doubt "despotic inroads on property" on the part of the Council of Workmen. The Council of Workmen is not concerned with "governing men," that is the odious job of the Capitalist State. It is concerned with "administering things," which as Engels shews is the sole concern of a Directing Authority in the Co-operative Commonwealth. In short, here we see "in the lap of the old society" the Socialist Commonwealth forming, the workers directing society as workers and not as voters.

The Russian workmen go by no rule in their revolution.

They act according to the necessities of the time. But their actions are undoubtedly enlightened, waste effort saved, wrong turnings escaped, by following the principles demonstrated by Marx.

The Council of Workmen is the Russian form of the Industrial Union. Whether it succeeds now or later, it has given the nudge to the whole workingclass movement of Europe as to the lines on which the Social Revolution can be made imminent. The Manchester Shop Stewards Organisation Committee is just a Council of Workmen. It has conducted a strike of 60,000 workers. It has told the Trade Union Executives to mind their own business, and the Gov-

ernment champions the Trade Unions in vain. It is the copy of the Clyde Workers Committee, and the Sheffield Shop Stewards Committee, and no doubt of others forming in every industrial centre in Britain

When these form a National Committee there you have a British Council of Workmen dictating terms to Parliament, and giving it a temporary licence to carry on until the people's minds are ready for its complete abolition and with it the Capitalist State and all its engines of tyranny. Oh for eyes to see beneath the present holocaust. Soon, very soon, this rusty shell of Capitalism will burst and man emerges into perfect day. Edward Carpenter has caught its gleam; it is Marx rhapsodized.

"At last, after centuries, when the tension and strain of the old society can go no further, and ruin on every side seems impending, Behold! behind and beneath it all, in dim prefigurement, yet clear and not to be mistaken—the Outline and Draft of the new order."

Comrade Blake, of Pretoria, gave the Capitalist Press a nasty dig the other day when it sought information regarding the Building Trades Dispute in Pretoria. He told them straight that the Press lied in 1914 to break up the workers' organisation, and would therefore refuse to give them any information. There has been too much spying within the movement in the past on the part of so-called Labour reporters, who join up for the purpose of pegging a claim in Labour journalism. It is to be hoped that Comrade Blake's action will become the rule. If the workers cannot get a Press of their own, they will use the Capitalist Press only if the Capitalist Press can use them in return.

Provincial Council Elections.

Allocation of Candidates.

The Management Committee of the League has decided, after careful consideration to put up two candidates for the forthcoming Provincial Elections Comrade W. H. Andrews will contest the Benoni division, and Comrade Bunting the Commissioner Street division.

The League has reason to be grateful to our Comrades Andrews and Bunting for allowing their names to go forward, and consenting to fight for the principles of International Socialism at the present time. No time should be lost in getting into the fight. Comrades should take subscription lists, and an Election Fund will be opened in "The International" to meet the heavy expense of flooding these areas with Socialist and Ani-War literature. Electors should be tackled and their votes asked, not so much for men, as for the principles which the men have stood out for.

Signs of world wide awakening of the workers are abundantly growing. Even the British workers in their own way are responding and are striking masses of terror into the hearts of the Capitalists.

To-day uneasy lies the head of the ruling class of Europe. Their robber system shews signs of universal crumbling. Shall we then in South Africa lag behind? Let us act our part, and be worthy of the great International by holding aloft the Red Flag in the present contest.

There is a likelihood of a couple of Labour Members being unopposed. The I.S.L. undertakes to get out of business as soon as the Capitalist Parties do not oppose us.

Audacity will Win.

By J. M. G.

Our great and only Statesman, Lloyd George, according to "The Star," of 11th May, has been giving advice to the deputation from the Labour Party Conference, who were presenting him with resolutions dealing with Labour after the War.

It is not often this oracle and mouthpiece of the financiers gives utterance
to anything that can be endorsed by
the Socialists. The advice he gave this
deputation we hope will be acted upon
by the Labour Party, not in Britain
only, but the world over. The Premier
said:

"I firmly believe that what is known as the "After-the-War Settlement" is a settlement that will direct the destines of all classes for generations to tc come. I believe this settlement after the War will succeed in proportion to its audacity. The readier we are to cut away from the past the better we are likely to succeed. If every class insists on getting back to pre-war conditions, God help the country. I say so in all solemnity—audacity—is the thing for you. Think out new ways, think out new methods, think out even new ways of dealing with old problems. Get a really new world."

Yes; quite true. There will be no going back to pre-war conditions. The Capitalists have said so from many platforms as reported in their own press, notwithstanding their agreements with the officials of the Craft Unions.

This agreement will have no other meaning to them than a mere scrap of paper, to be torn up and cast into the waste paper basket as the best place for it. And the sooner the workers of Britain realise this and stop braying for the restoration of pre-war conditions, the better for them.

The Capitalist class is quite logical in the attitude it is taking. The Capitalists as a body recognise the changed conditions that must rule in industrial production of commodities owing to the war. The enormous War debt, that to-day is four and three-quarter thousand millions pounds sterling— and will be considerably more before the end of the War—must be paid, and the worker must be bled still more to produce the surplus profits that will be required to pay this "indebtedness."

Adopting this advice means the tearing up of old fads and fallacies, mistaken ideas, such as the interests of capital and labour being identical. It means scrapping the old snobbery of the aristocracy of labour, the skilled workers looking upon themselves as of more importance in society than the humbler unskilled workers. It means the scrapping of the old Craft Unions with their narrow outlook of selfish interests, and the sending into oblivion those misleaders, those salaried officials who have battened upon the workers, always alive to their own selfish interests, and ever ready to sell the workers' interests to the Capitalist class for a consideration.

Think out new ways and new methods to cope with the after-war problems, 's says Lloyd George. Excellent advice, and from the workers' standpoint there is only one way and one method that will be of any use to the workers. The one way is o organise along the lines of Industrial Unionism on the basis of mutual interest. Let the individual unit feel that infespective of creed or colour, skill or unskilled, his interests are bound up with his fellow workers as an exploited class, depending upon the will of a parasitic. class, the mere sport of a class who are useless to society, performing no useful work, but enjoying all the luxuries of life and consuming the surplus wealth produced by the workers.

This is the only way, organisation along the lines of mutual aid and co-operation, making the interest of the individual the interest of all. When or-Gainsaid, the method to adopt is to seize the industries and run them for the benefit of every member of society, each contributing his share and receiving according to his needs.

Yes, audacity will win. It is the only way. Cut away from the past with all the bestial, degrading conditions inherent to a system run simply for a section of the community. A clean sweep and on the ruins establish the Co-operative Commonwealth, a form of society that will give the mass of the people a chance to live human lives and not the bestial existence the present imposes upon them. Good advice; audacity will win. It is the only way, and it is to be hoped the workers in all lands will act upon it.

The miners on Mynpacht Mine, Randfontein, came out on strike yesterday on behalf of two skipmen, who are receiving the standard 16s. 8d. instead of the standard 18s. 4d. agreed upon.

The Building workers are still on strike in Pretoria, and negotiated with the Master Builders through the S.A. Industrial Federation yesterday.

Keeping a Secret.

The current "Plebs Magazine" gives a vivid account of the machine breakers in England, the Luddite movement of over a hundred years ago, when the workers, starved out by the advent of machinery, in their hunger and blindness made desperate armed attacks on factories.

In the speeches delivered it was openly admitted that they were engaged in a desperate venture. But as one of them said:—

"'Are we not driven to it... Oppression drives men mad, and we refuse to die like dogs, without striking one blow for our wives and children who are starving before our eyes. Our masters offer us neither sympathy nor charity, neither kind word or crust of bread. Apparently we are in their way. But we insist on the right to live in the land of our birth, and we deny them the right to drive us out. Curse the machines, cursed be the men that made them! It is not right that we should suffer as we do. It cannot be right that men, able and willing to work, should be turned away with scorn and mockery to starve, or that their little ones should languish and waste away before our eyes."

In one attack that failed, two of the workers were killed and two others captured. One of these died shortly afterwards, and before his death was visited by a priest, who at his bed-side inquired closely about his fellow culprits in the attack. The wounded man in a dying whisper, asked "Can you keep a secret entrusted to you?" "Yes," eagerly replied the holy man, overjoyed that he was about to obtain the desired information. "So can I," replied the poor devil, and turned over quietly to die!

To-day the workers have discovered that not the machines but the robber class is the cause of their oppression.

"The Freeman's Journal" is quoted by the Melbourne "Socialist" as giving the figures of the voting by the Anzac troops on the conscription issue:—

For Conscription ... 40,000 Against ... 106,000

Majority against 66,000

As the total majority against conscription was only 61,000, it is thus clear that conscription was defeated by the Australian soldiers in the trenches.

It should, however, be mentioned that Premier Hughes has given figures which differ materially from the above.

Election. Message from Comrade, Andrews-

"The Solidarity of Labour is the Hope of the World."

Comrades.

This phrase is not as fashionable as it used to be. Many who used it freely a few short years ago now preach a very different doctrine.

It is as true to-day as ever and the International Socialist League exists to emphasise the fact and to keep it before the workers at all costs. Many of the channels of propaganda are now closed or seriously curtailed. It is the more necessary that no opportunity should be lost of emphasising our unaltered faith in the essential brotherhood of man. Election to public bodies provides one of these opportunities. Hence the I.S.L. runs candidates to enable our standpoint to be stated and discussed, and to combat the impression sedulously cultivated by the press that we are at best visionaries and cranks, and at worst enemies of our countrymen) We are pledged to take legitimate share in the affairs of the community in which we live, and to criticise any proposal or act which we consider contrary to the real interests of the working class. We are convinced that there ought to be no truce between the exploiters and exploited. The former must be abolished as a class. We are against militarism of whatever brand, being convinced that it is destructive of the higher qualities of the human race.

We stand or fall in the belief that the emancipation of the toiling millions can only be accomplished by themselves; not by slaughtering one another at their masters bidding, but by organising on International lines against the plutocratic autocracy which now grinds the last penny of profit in all lands out of their toil, ignorance, and misery.

To those who sympathise with these views and particularly, the comrades of the International, I urge strenuous effort to prove by the votes polled for I. S. L. candidates that the International Socialist ideal is emerging stronger from its temporary eclipse by capitalist engineered jealousy, fear and hatred.

"Workers of the world unite you have nothing to lose but your chains".

Yours Fraternally W. H. Andrews

A South African Council of Workmen.

The class war is for the time being quiescent in South Africa. That is to say, the conscious class war of the workers. But there is a class struggle going on every day. All the daily events of our time are but manifestations of the ceaseless struggle between exploier and exploited.

Watch the newspapers! The only way to make their sordid columns edifying is to read them in the light of the class struggle:—

The Native Administration Bill:—How to better exploit the native worker.

The Recruiing Committee's antics:—
How best to gull the white helots to
go fight for their masters.

The Hertzog flare-up:—The Promissory Noting petty farmer struggling against high finance, and incidentally, doing high finance a good turn by keeping the Afrikander toiler asleep.

Illicit Liquor Crimes:—The complication of a complication; the slum proletariat and the unemployed reserve army interfering with the regulations for the safe exploitation of native labour. A cancer on top of a carbuncle!

All burning questions arise directly or indirectly from the capitalist need of exploiting labour for profit. All past and present history is the history of class struggles.

But in South Africa we are waiting for the revolutionary class war. We are waiting because the workers are not yet completely marshalled in industrial array.

Just as the development of the working class movement in America has been retarded by large immigrations of European labour, which take time to assimilate, so in this country the mass of the workers, the native workers, are in transition between the small landholder stage and that of the proletarian wage earner.

They are being disinherited from the land and projected into industry. But once they become stable in industry, look out for squalls! They will not need knobkerries, or deputations to magistrates, or any weapons of precision whatsoever. They will blow off the top from this Etna of Capitalism with the far more tremendous power of peaceful industrial co-operation.

We can engineer other campaigns, put up big lists of Labour candidates, and get Labour Parties artificially oxygenised by the Capitalist Press, but to ignore the native worker and confine our hopes of the workingclass move-

ment to the top layer of white artisans is to reduce it into a nationalist skirmish for prior place at the capitalist table, with Wallers at the head dishing out the sops

The most acute form the class war can take in South Africa to-day is the preparing the minds of the people to the inevitable coming of the power of the native proletariat, and making its coming beneficent to all. And "the people" includes the native worker.

"The Plebs Magazine," whose good opinion as the organ of the Central Labour College, London, is worth having, describes "The International" as one of the modern workingclass journals.

Democracy and the Ricksha Boy.

you. No white angelic spirit are you now, but a black and horned Ethiopian—your great grinning lips and teeth and powerful brow and huge limbs please me well."

EDWARD CARPENTER.

If Winter comes, can Spring be far Behind.

Strikes all over England, rumours of Revolution in Italy, Russian soldiers fraternising with German, German Socialists in International conclave at Stockholm, what if South Africa is at the tail end of the great world movement. The Head is getting under way, and willy nilly the tail must follow.

Federation of Labour, has written denouncing the Stockholm International Socialist Conference. Poor Samuel won't affect things much; it only means that Samuel will be nowhere when the Socialist International cleans up Europe. But how respectful they all are to the Russian Workmen, the most thoroughgoing Socialists in the whole International.

In ancient times the labourer starved when the labourers had produced too little; or when famine and flood and pestilence destroyed his crops.

In modern times the labourer starves when the labourers have produced too much; when they have filled the storehouses to overflowing; then they have nothing to eat.

This is Capitalism. This is why Capitalism cannot last. It is the most impudent form of exploitation that has

ever existed.

LEAGUE NOTES.

Johannesburg.—After one Sunday's withdrawal from the Town Hall Square we resumed our open-air meeting last Sunday. The crowd quickly grew to its usual dimensions, and there was only one Police Inspector in evidence. There was a good sprinkling of soldiers, who chaffed good humouredly. References to the May Day riots elicited from them the claim that the soldiers responsible for the outrages had no right to wear Khaki, that the bona fide soldiers were a restraining influence. All honour to the restrainers. Men in Khaki are also capable of learning. Comrades Bunting and Jones did the speaking, and their views on the stirring events in Russia. and in the workingclass movement elsewhere were keenly followed by a' crowd that was orderly in the main.

In the Trades Hall the platform was taken by Comrade Bunting on "The Socialist Bible," being an address on the "Communist Manifesto" by Marx and Engels. The chair was taken by Comrade Staunton. The address teemed with sparkling impressions of the "Manifesto," which in style and substance the speaker said was the most wonderful thing in Socialist literature. In the sledge hammer character of its arguments, its tremendous positiveness, its self-evident demonstrations of the proletarian revolution, it was almost unique in literature. The wonder of Marx's style and argument, the two inseparable, was akin to the deep harmonics of Bach's Fugues. It filled one with a sense of the transiency of the capitalist system, and the inevitable triumph of the Proletariat as a thing on the very threshold of accomplishment.

As a result a good number of copies of the "Manifesto" were sold, as well as other Marxian monographs.

Benoni.—On Monday last a good muster of Comrades turned un to meet Comrades Watson, Becker and Tyler, who paid a visit as members if the M. C. The woman comrades had tea and cake to beguile the intervals of discussion. The chief object of the meeting was to have the matter of Mr. Clark's expulsion explained. After a quiet evening's talk on the principles involved, the Branch carried a motion approving of the action of the M.C., without a single dissentient. The visit of the M.C. delegates was much appreciated and has proved a grateful stimulant to further Branch efforts.

Socialist Sunday Schools.—The management Committee of the League proposes to form a Socialist Sunday School Council, composed of delegates) from each S.S.S. and the M.C., to be a medium for the interchange of ideas and study of methods of teaching, and for the administration of the Socialist Sunday Schools generally. In addition to Johannesburg, Socialist Sunday Schools are held weekly in Benoni and Durban. This week we hear from Comrade Harrison that a School has been started at Capetown, as a result of Comrade Pick's visit to the Rand recently. THE MAY DAY SOCIAL: - The Social unavoidably deferred from May Day will be held at Professor West's Academy on Wednesday, June 6th at 8 p.m. There will be a Social and Dance. Those who hold May Day tickets will. be admitted on presentation of same, provided they write their name on the back. (This to correct the difficulties resulting from the break up of the May Day Social.) New half crown tickets have been issued for the coming Social. Welcome to all friends of Internationalism, to make it a grand success.

The Star Russian Revolution.

Thursday's cables brought word that the Workmen's Committee at Petrogad is carrying the political revolution onwards to Social Revolution. The Duma is helpless. The Provincial Government is helpless. The Minister of war resigns. The Generals resign The Council of Workmen is tightening its grip on the country, its "tentacles" growing longer and threatening to overthrow the Government. workers are -celebrating the joyous time by several fete days in the week. The Russian soldiers are fraternising with the Germans, many of the latter deserting to Russia. This the capitalist declares is ANARCHY. (Killing five million men is not anarchy, notice!) What the capitalist calls "anarchy" is when the workers will not be exploited to the profit of their masters.

Now "The Star" is shewing the capitalist death's head. The Hun, the destroyer of human freedom, is now preferable to a Russia controlled by workingmen. Workers, take note, when you take control, the Capitalists will forget their quarrels to shoot you down. says "The Star":—

"Perhaps the most effective cure would be the most drastic—a German attack on the Russian soldiers:"

"The Star" would like see a German victory to secure the downfall of the Russian workmen!

The workers have no country, what they have not got cannot be taken from them.

In the same measure as the exploitation of one individual by another is ended, the exploitation of one nation by another will be ended also.

With the disappearance of classes within the nation the state of enmity between nations will come to an end.

KARL MARX.

A Social and Dance

will be held by

the I.S.L.

on Wednesday June 6th at 8 p.m.

At Professor Wests' Academy

125 Pritchard St. Johannesburg. WELCOME TO ALL FRIENDS OF INTERNATIONALISM

Tickets 2/6 Refreshments provides.

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Tradesmen's and Commercial. Books kept.

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Creditors and Debtors in the Estate of the late JAMES HAYWARD CLAY TON, who was killed on the Nourse Mines on the 10th April, 1917, are called upon to lodge their claims with and pay their debts to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of publication hereof. 18th April, 1917.

S. P. BUNTING, Attorney for the Executor Dative, 104, Commissioner St.. Johannesburg.

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