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

P.O. Box 4179.

58. Harrison Street.

donamesburg.

No. 115



FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 1918.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

THE CRAFT UNION CONGRESS.

SOUNDS THE DOOM OF CRAFT SOLIDARITY.

The South African Trade Union Congress has come and gone. Its proceedings occupied three days, -- the first to hear the working-class being lectured by the flunkeys of the capitalists; the second taken up with refusing to hear an address from a working-man hecause he had red hair - no, black skin; and the third taken up with passing a resolution saying that Industrial Unionism is a good thing in its way, because Crawford says so; and it is necessary for vice to pay tribute to virtue. Craft Unionism. after committing all the sins in the Labour calendar on the first two days, signed its own death warrant on the third, on the Industrial Union resolution, but reserved to itself how and when to carry it out. And the fourth day they went and had dinner with the Mayor, and Wallers, and McFie in the Grand National.

SOME GOOD ELEMENTS.

When we deal with the Congress in this vein we do not mean that there were not elements in it worthy of the class struggle; but the dominant spirit was the Craft Spirit. The International delegates and those of the Building Workers Industrial Union stood out markedly. But they bore reactionary instructions. Forrester Brown, as Chairman, used the term 'comrate in addressing delegates. And the International delegrates and others took it up. But one delegate addressed the gathering as 'fellow-mechanics.' and he was right. In spite of all tributes of vice to virtue in the shape of "revolntionary' chaffer, mainly by Crawford, most revolutionary when he wanted to best the most resonary proposit. less to breast the Craft Union Road. But theirs was the only clevating note. The Congress was a Congress of Becay and Dom. becense not one elevating extraction that the trust expents

THE CULTURE OTHER.

information received from Crawford, who told him that most of the Unions had decided in caucus against hearing him. Crawford adroitly saved the Craft Unions from the scandal of turning a labour man out of a Labour Congress by putting the onus on Talbot Williams.

THEY CANNOT PUT THE BRAKE ON CRAFT AND COLOUR PRE-JUDICE.

But the Big Bosses of the Craft Dfficials know that this is suicidal for Craft Unionism. Craft Unions, no matter how pompous, can no longer strike any blows at Labour solidarity. it can only throw boomerangs at itself. The movement of Labour is sweeping past it and its loud congresses. It not another push when the Congress turned down an official resolution which Crawford pleaded with the Congress to accept, providing for Craft Union unity. with the Cape Federations, who cannot link up with the Transvaal Congress until their Craft Union Coloured Delegates are admitted. Wallers and Co. are extremely anxious for this bastard kind of solidarity, in order that the cream of coloured labour may be lumped in with the white dupes, and the movement of coloured and native labourers thus robbed of its leaders.

But no, the Congress was admirably consistent in its colour prejudice. The native and coloured workers were as good as told that in Socialism alone was their hope. And we are grateful to the Congress for giving them this push away from the Craft Unions and the Chamber of Mines into the arms of International Socialism.

Aithough Craft Unionism is decrepit, the individual delegates to the Congress in the main are ripe for the propaganda of Industrial solidarity. It was the Craft system that cramped their action.

Theken on strike at Capetown:
Theken pool strp if a hundred young
to be a substant of the strike
The strike of the strike the

The Third Annual Conference of the League.

The I.S.L. will hold its Annual Conference, the third in its history, next Sunday, the 6th inst. It may be scouted as a platitude, and a stale one. our claim that the League exercises an influence and has an importance quite out of proportion to its membership. The Trade Union Congress, conservative though it was in its declarations. acted as if conscious all the time of the minatory finger of International Socialism over its proceedings. And the proportion of delegates there acknowledging allegiance to the principles of the I.S.L. was greater than the total number of delegates who will constitute the League's Annual Conference. The League dominates in other ways. It has permanently identified the name of International Socialism with the principle of the class struggle. No political adventurer will be able to exploit International Socialism except he is prepared to be tarred with the brush of black labour solidarity. The League is like Horatius at the bridge. Its existence makes impossible the appearance of Kerensky parties to capture the coming Internationalism. How dearly many disappointed politicians wish it were possible to form another Labour Party, without the Labour Party's Jingo incubus. The I.S.L. is an eyesore to the reformists. It is

That is why the Conference next Sunday will be an important one. Having established the principle of the class struggle as our policy, this year's Conference will be concerned with the evolution of new methods and larger plane for our propaganda in 1918. During the year the outlook of the League has more and more clarified in the direction of our responsibility towards the native worker; and the solidarity of Labour irrespective of colour has eclipsed the War on War principle in importance. It has become the revolutionary touchstone, the magic word from which all reformist gobline flee: and the key to the capitalist fortress as well.

On this subject the report of the Management Committee has words of wisdom:

It behoves the League therefore to redouble its efforts to educate the white and native workers in the principle of solidarity irrespective of colour. In our enthusiasm for organising the native worker we should guard against neglecting the education of the white worker on the matter. Appeals to the white worker to recognise in the native a fellow-vorker inevitably find

there way, to the native weather also, and thus belower a south purpose. We should see the native profession that the day when the native profession will find the majority of the white workers ready to co-operate and stand shoulder to shoulder; so that the class struggle may not degenerate into a bloody race struggle of White versus Black."

And it is in this sense that the League is truly important. The first mutterings of awakening class conscious among the mass of the native workers have been in terms of the class struggle, and for them political, civil, social as well as economic liberation, is all replete in the watchword of Internataional Socialism, and nowhere else. Let us be up and doing then, comrades, with courage and boundless hope for another year.

Where the Conference will be Held.

Comrades Take Note.

The Conference of the I.S.L. will be held in the Palmerston Hall (which is part of the Palmerston Hotel) in Commissioner Street. Palmerston Hall is in the West end of Commissioner St., towards Ferreira; and on the right hand side going West, between Kort and West Streets. Side entrance to Hall left of building. All members of the League are invited to attend the Conference, all with equal right to speak, but only delegates to vote.

The Confedence will open next Sunday at 10 p.m., and delegates are mrged to be as prompt as rossible in order
to get through with the business in one
day if possible.

The Russian Terms of

The Rand Day Mail calls it a cause of the course of the same and s

Intendeds of Britain.

By Contade Andrews.

Comrade Andrews writes this week from his home at Leiston. Suffolk, where he is having a rest waiting developments. Writing on

THE FOOD SHURTAGE

he says: "To-day, my father, who is the forager of the family, went to buy his weekly half pound of butter from a dealer who collects it from the farmers. There was a regular mob of men, women and children after it, crushing, pushing and struggling. Men left the factory an hour earlier to lose no chance of obtaining some of the coveted grease. Only-about a fourth of those clamouring for it got any. This is the condition of affairs in almost every commodity. Many things are almost unobtainable even at famine prices, e.g., bacon, eggs, raisins, currants, fish, etc. The bread is poor stuff. Margerine and fat are as precious as gold now.... Meanwhile, the rich are wallowing in all their former luxuries. You have heard of course of the thirty or forty thousand workers who struck at Coventry and demonstrated against the scarcity of food. This is likely to become infectious. "Rationing" is not liked by the Capitalist Boss Gang. I think they fear that they and their friends may not fare so well as under the present automatic rationing by means of high prices and fayouritism in the distribution of commodities.

The Russians have so far justified the confidence of the comrades in Johanneeburg, and if they perform the feat of inaugurating the Industrial Republie they will be the greatest benefactors the human race has so far seen. There seems little doubt that a revolutionary moment was partly responsible for the Italian affair. The 'Labour Leader and the 'Herald' are very careful not to openly support the Mammates almost as vareful as the Government. will. In fact, the leaders' sympathes are rather with Kerensky and the Althormsts: The triumph of the Bolelevike meret only temporary, does not fit: the their theory that the menters need the maddle class intellectuals to move them, from their ignorance of the selence of government!

There is no sign of any atlibrary being made to bring about an
Informational meeting. The Labourities are clipally donedried new with
atrang thesis by them additioned new with
atrang thesis by them additioned new with
atrang thesis by them additioned in the
contract mail insure for distinguish to the
contract property to seems to be first to be the
contract to the seems to be first to be the
contract to the property to the property and poliment for the first the reas pripat and policontract to the first the reas pripat and policontract to the first the reas pripat and policontract to the first the reas pripat and growcontract to the first the reason and grow-

struggle as set out up the lister face of the S.L.P. and kindred consistents. The I.L.P. is still dominated by the reformist political idea, but has a large and growing left wing which constantly seeks to swing it towards the class struggle.

Siberian Glimpses.

A Petrograd correspondent to an American journal (and they say that the hordes of journalists at Petrograd themselves threaten a famine) writes that it is estimated that there were two million Austrian and German soldiers in Russian and Siberia. Hundreds of thousands of these were not living in camps at all, but were spread across the country in the houses of the simple country foldk, where they naturally assume the position of professors of political economy, music and international brotherhood.

But Siberia is not the bleak succession of ice and forest which tradition makes of it. The correspondent says he will remember it as 'the fairest land upon which my eye has ever rested. Rolling hills and endless plains, forest clad slopes, and great fields of grain ready to harvest. Lovely rivers winding to the forest and fire-tints of the setting sun. Siberia seems to have everything lovely and worth while except people.

It is in this vast land that the Revolution and the Red Guard is also making way along the six thousand mile long railway line. This week it is Irkutsk that is taken by the Revolution, and Irkutsk is near the Chinese border, and a centre of great traffic with Pekin. Thus is the Social Revolution inevitably capturing the Far Eastern millions; and no disarming of Red Guards will stop it.

The Class Struggle Declared Criminal.

William D. Haywood, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Industrial Workers of the World and one hundred and sixty-six I.W.W. men have have thrown into prison in America, on five counts, for the crime of fighting for Labour. The Capitalist class of America is coming out barefaced in its interfaced methods of suppression. The orthogonal statement was all ever the countries.

We see the Socialist Party and the Industrial was a second and the countries.

The Capitalist Party and the Industrial was a second and the Industrial was the countries.

The Capitalist Control of the Capitalist Con

"Mater C'Flaberty's Philadely.

By W. J. C. GIBSON.

A paraphlet containing Mr. O' Flaherty's speeches has recently been widely circulated. By inference it tries to switch the workingman into the belief that all the capitalist evils of the past have been due to a particularly atrocious brand called German Capitalism. British Capitalism of course is the workingman's friend.

Mr. O'Flaherty sets himself the task of pleading for State Mining, but after devoting four pages to a confused advocacy, he devotes thirty-seven to a most damning indictment of our pre-

eent capitalistic system.

It is true he had no intention of impeaching capitalism. His cry of indignation is against German Capitalists. He has shown how German Capital is ruling this country, and gives one the impression that he is of opinion Capitalists of another country would be a god-send. The bone of contenttion is that the Germans have control of economic power in a British colony. I have no hesitation in agreeing with Mr. O'Flaherty on the point of the nationality of our rulers. As a Speialist I also helieve, like Mr. O'Flaherty, that those in economic control are in political power. It is a So-, cialist maxim.

Mr. O'Flaherty has overlooked one important factor: While he condemns the Germans for intriguing under a hospitable flag, he upsets the 'apple cart' by quoting from a paper read, before the Royal Colonial Institute, by a Mr., Williams. This is the passage;— 'The Rand was discovered by the British. and the people of this country put millions into its development. It was not long, however, before financiers of German extraction became to a large extent masters of the Rand, as they had become of Kimberley." Mr. Williams does not tell what Hag South Africa was under, when the British Capitalist made a bid for economic power, but Mr. O'Flaherty informs us the Germans had sufficient power in this country to engineer the Jameson Raid. The inference is that the Britin financiers tried economic penetration when this country was under the rule of the Dutch.

The German Plot in S.A." must be an edification to the British section of the Capitalist class. It is no doubt including to them that the world is because received they have been beaten at the or of Capitalists will use it as a text text. But what is that to the world is the con-

It makes not the slightest difference to them the authors of their Vertalius and the slightest difference to them the authors of their Vertalius and the second of the sec

The top of the mornin' to yeh,

"The same to yeh, O'Flaherty."

Sure, Murphy, but phwats the matter? Yeh luk as if yeh had seen the divil himself."

Man aloive, I've been robbed, half

an hour ago.

Yeh don't say so, Murphy. Was the dirty spalpeen a German or a Britisher.

"Oi don't know. Phwat do. yeh ask me fur?"

Murphy; If it was a Britisher don't worry about it."

Be gorra the rascal has got me pro-

Yis, I know, but as long as its not a dirty Hun, don't worry."

Phwat do yeh mane. The filthy spalpeen has me watch an' money an' all me valuables, and yeh say its alright so long as it wasn't a thornan.

It's no use talking to yeh Murphy. Yeh have got a thick scrannum."

Phwat do veh mane atal, atal."

'Luk here, O'Flaherty, oi'v.' no thicker scrannum than yeh have, but sumbody has jist robbed me, and oi'm going to look for him, no matter whether he's a German, Britisher. Greek or Italian. May the curse of Cromwell be on him, an' the divil's own pup."

Christians at War.

An American mugwump magazine quotes with horror the following verses from the I.W.W. song book, (by John F. Kendrick), and says: "The Federal authorities have acted not a moment too soon in moving to disrupt this detestable organisation and to put its members behind the bars. Out with them all!"

(Tune: 'Onward, Christian Soldiers.')
Onward Christian soldiers: Duty's way

is plain;

Slay your Christian neighbours, or by them be slain.

Pulpiteers are spouting effervescent swill, God above is calling you to rob and

rape and kill.
All your acts are sanctified by the Lamb

on high;
If wan lare the Halv Chast, on murder

If you love the Holy Ghost, go murder, pray and die.

Onward Christian soldiers, rip and tear and smite!

Let the gentle Jesus bless your dyna-

Splinter skulls with shrapnel, fertilize

Polks who do not speak your tongue, deserve the curse of God.

Smash the doors of every home, pretty mandens seize:

Use your might and sacred right to treat them as you please.

Onward Christian soldiers! Blighting all you meet,

Trampling human freedom under pious

Professional whose dollar sign dupes

Many the Author trade respect your

Next: Industrial Union Convention.

The Industrial Committee (or Solidarity Committee as it now signs itself) has insued its manifesto on 'Industrial Unionism in South Africa,' and calle all those, whether individuals or Tradec Union Branches, to be represented at an Industrial Union Convention to be held in Johannesburg next Easter Sunday, April 1st.

Copies of the manifesto were to be seen in the hands of the delegates at the Trades Union Congress. It declares Trades Unions to be an unmitigated evil, a bulwark of capitalism, and demands Industrial Unions, to cover all large industries, admitting irrespective of colour or craft.

Thus organiseed, the individual Industrial Unions will link up into one National Industrial Union, which should regulate the transfer of cards as the workers migrate from one industry to another, so that the members are members of one great working-class Union.

Workers Union must be one and indivisible. An injury to one worker, be he white or black, is an injury to all. Before the workers can discuss terms with the Capitalists they must settle accounts with one another and link up into one Big Union. In the Commonwealth of Labour, labour is the only coat of arms. To those who toil shall all honour be due. The growing unity of the workers is the only victory. The dictatorship of the working-class is the only 'concession' worth fighting for.

Thus organised on the Industrial Field, we, the workers will learn to control industry and show the capital ist off the stage of human society. The one Industrial Union will become the Parliament of Labour and will form an integral part of the International Industrial Republic."

The manifesto is signed by Andrew Watson as Secretary of the Solidarity Committee. We urge all interested to send for copies for distribution.

NOTICE TO OVERSEA EXCHANGES.

Will our Oversea Exchanges, as well as local comrades, kindly take note that the League's Post Office Box number is 4179, Johannesburg, and that communications to our old address at 6, Trades Hall will not be readdressed after a certain date.

THE SOCIAL ABANDONED.

It had been arranged to hold a Conference Social next Saturday at West's Academy, but Professor West was ordered away by the doctor, and he felt unable to leave anyone in charge for that might owing to the rumous of risk which the hooligans have feetened on to I.S.L. functions. No other state which half was obtainable. We may said that there is a general encapture that there is a general encapture to have the I.S.L. out at all halfs well try and sweep sack the sec.

Capetown Strike Incidents

From the Horse's Mouth.

Comrade Dean, the Secretary of the Capetown Bakers' Union, writes rather sorely about our deprecation of introducing patent nostrums like Guild Socialism into a struggle between his Union and the masters. We are living in revolutionary times, Comrade Dean, times that demand our putting the true principles of the workingclass movement above regard for persons. We try to criticise the actions of working-class leaders as tenderly as the circumstances permit, but they are not Popes whose reputation for infallibility must be preserved for the workers at all costs. Having said our say, however, we might have added that, to our knowledge, there has been no more singleminded and devoted worker in the industrial movement than Comrade Dean. But singlemindedness is not enough in those who speak for the workers. It must be supplemented with a knowledge of working-class principles. In the latter domain, and the domain of tactics, free and frank criticism, even of comrades, is highly essential.

MILITARY INTERVENTION.

Comrade Dean states that the Bakers' Union never talked of supplying the bread direct to the consumers if their demands were not conceded. "It was hinted that in the past the Union had contemplated initiating a co-operative bakery, but only to prove that the experts at the trade, the workers. knew night work could be abolished. What we did offer to do was this: We offered to supply the military hospitals and prisons with bread at cost price during the strike; we finding labour, plant, yeast, salt, etc., (they supplying the flour), and profits eliminated thought it a good object lesson. Government, however, preferred send the military into Messrs. Pyott's Bakeries to bake bread alongside scabs and help the masters to defeat the men.

Now, talking of the solidarity of the workers. The workers of the Peniasula are approaching that state more rapidly than at any time in the previous history of South Africa, thanks to the work of a few ardent workers who thoroughly understand the meaning of Solidarity and how to teach it. The Bakers, Tailors and Cabinet Makers are more interlocked on a solid Line than any other three Unions in Couts Africa. I wish I had the time and you the space to tell you the whole tale of latter day promisation in the Cape, and Lithink you would forget the petty differences of opinion of your allook and others, and admit a great, work has and is taking place in

IMBRECTIVE OF COLOUR.

politically, and methinks one of our coloured organisers may come North one day to teach the lesson up there. [Bravo. Ed.] The Bakers Union with a membership of over 200 had less than 12 scabs at work during the strike. The Cabinet Makers very similar. The Bakers were defeated by the Confectioners and Cart Drivers, notwithstanding efforts during five years to solidify them. They scabbed on the Bakers and the Government provided Military bakers to help them. But the Union is still alive, still on the road to fight again till it does win. 'Invicta!' No workingclass movement need be beaten if they stick till they win. Win what? Economic freedom eventually through their solidarity. We can extend the line from that station to a sweet future free from the chaos of to-day.

Yours fraternally, J. H. DEAN.

A Unique Meeting.

Last Friday night in a Marshallstown hall, a unique gathering was held. It was a Conference of the Transvaul Native Council, the African Political Organisation, (the coloured workers) and the Industrial Workers at Africa. The gathering was an adjourned on: to consider ways and means of common action on the industrial field between the native and coloured workers. The "Industrial Workers," we should add, is the new organisation of native workers.

The whole of one side of the hall was taken by the horny-handed Industrial Workers of Africa. On the other side were members of the Transvaal Native Council, more sedate and middle-class looking, coloured workers, two or three members of the I.S.L. and some more Industrial Workers. On the platform were representatives of all parties, Talbot Williams, the fiery class-war Secretary of the coloured men, taking the lead.

There were speeches galore, delayed by the necessity of interpretations. The most adept at speaking through an interpreter being Talbot aforesaid, who told the interpreter to go ahead as he liked. His fire seemed to overcome all such pauses.

The Industrial Workers put in good class war points, and the class division between them and their compatriots of the T.N.C. was most marked. The Industrial Workers seemed to have a knack of 'riling' the T.N.C. 'respectables' beyond all patience. The T.N.C. seemed on its defence. The Industrial Workers were conscious of occupying an impregnable position. Eventually, after threshing it out in several languages it was resolved to appoint a committee of all the organisations concerned to draw up a working selecte of bo-operation on the industrial field, incorporation on the industrial field in the content of the cont

The second of the second of white the second of the second

Conscientious Objectors at Capetown.

According to "The Call" of November 15th, particulars were to hand concerning fourteen conscientious objec-, tors who were deported from New Zea-, land, with the 28th New Zealand Reinforcements, to which they were deemed to be attached. Three of them. Saunderson of North Wairon, and the, two Baxter brothers of Otago, were put off the ship at Capetown, as they were too ill to be taken further. (Will not some Nationalist or Labour Member make enquiries in the coming session of Parliament as to the fate of these three heroic victims of militarism at Capetown, and endeavour to bring them under the civil government and rights of the country?

The rest of the C.O.'s were taken to Sling Camp, Salisbury, where they remained in irons in the guard room for several weeks. Eight of them have now been sent over to France, most of them handcuffed, and thereafter still resisting. "Unfortunately," says "The Call," "means could be found in France for disposing of these men, without a court martial or death sentence. The only hope of saving their lives is by widespread and continued.

public protest."

The Socialist Press of Russia.

Ben Riley, in "The Huddersfield Worker," reproduces from 'Le Populaire, the French Socialist journal, some startling details regards the Socialist Press of Russia.

Press has received a tremendous impetus. There is not a town of any size in which there does not appear either one or several papers. In Petrograd especially every shade of Socialist action has its daily paper, many of them with circulations running into hundreds of thousands.

The "Isvestia" is the official daily of the Soviet, and has a circulation of over 500,000 copies. The "Novia Jizn." Maxim Gorky's paper, is a large and influential journal, and is described as having a circulation as large as the "Isvestia." It is read by the educated and intellectual classes, cause of its literary quality, and by the revolutionary working-classes because of its bold Socialism. Gorky is accepted in the direction by Soukhapor (chief editor), Martoff, Aviled, Kirt. gentsif, etc.

The Pravda is the organ of Lenia, Trotaky, and the extreme Maximalists. It has a circulation of 400,500. It is read not only by the adherents of the Maximalists, but also by the lovers of separation and excitement.

Control of the Contro