No. 119



FRIDAY, FEB. 1, 1918.

PRICE TO WEEDEN

German Colonies and the Workers.

Whilst the Capitalist class is worrying over the retention by Britain of German Colonies, history in the great world is already being made on an epochal scale.

The great war is ushering in a greater one,—the struggle of the working-class to abolish Capitalism and to bring about the Socialist Commonwealth.

It matters not a tinker's curse to the workers how they rearrange the geographical boundaries, or whether the Capitalist that robbed you yesterday is robbed by another Capitalist to-day.

Neither does it matter a tupenny damn to the German workers what becomes of German Colonies. Imperialist expansion abroad is the direct result of the robbery of the workers by Capitalism at home. The biggest Empire is always the Empire of the biggest exploiter.

What have the workers then to gain out of the war? Some who have taken part, a wooden leg, a glass eye or a chronic dose of fever, and possibly starvation. No, not starvation, for cannot the wife give up home and children and become the principal bread winner? Ye Gods!

The bosses don't worry too much which King or Kaiser or President you are loyal to so long as you are disloyal to your own class, the working-class. Hence their fine phrases about love of country, patriotism, etc.

What they fear most is not a victory by Germany but the spread of the Hawian Revolution, and the victory of the working-class.

This working-class victory cannot be accomplished until you have arrestable the Capitalist Kings and Kaizers of the earth. Our Russian comrades have asked you for a warrant for their arrest. Are you ready to grant it, and help in its execution? Or do you not yet grasp the situation? Then

It requires but little study. It only was that your bounden duty is with your place, the working-class the wide wind o'er, to assist in its struggle to in its struggle

Fellow workers of all shades and colores Give up whining for morsels from the Capitalist class, with its into beards and Boards of Reference. The said thing to do with the Capitalist is to demand its passonditional and seasonder. Give up mixib g in Cap-

italist quarrels about colonies. Unite to take control, unite without distinction of race, colour or grade.

Then make the watchword of the Russian workmen the watchword of South African Labour. LONG LIVE THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC IN ALL COUNTRIES!

C.B.T.

That Title Deed Again.

The Editor "The International."

Comrade,—In your issue last week you published what purported to be an extract from the title deed of the Johannesburg Trades Hall, but in doing so you omitted the words printed in heavy type in the following passage.—

"No coloured person other than the domestic servants of the registered owner or his tenants shall be permitted TO RESIDE thereon or in any other manner occupy the same."

These words make all the difference. There was never any question of a native who attended meetings in the Trades Hall 'residing on' or 'occupying' the property; and the Trades Hall Society has habitually permitted other natives, who were not its servants, on the property. The title deed was only unearthed to keep latives out of working class meetings on the property, but it does not prohibit that.

Yours atc.

SIDNEY P. BUNTING.

(The extract from the title deed referred to by comrade Bunting above was as given by Comrade Harrison from a Trades Hall Society communication to the S.D.F. It is possible that Comrade Harrison omitted these two all-important words in transcribing the Trades Hall letter. Our S.D.F. comrades will thus see that it ere is no point in quasing the title leed. It involves absolutely no prohibition of natives or coloured men attending meetings in the Trades Hall as now claimed by the Society. Ed. Int.)

"Justice" says: The Spanish Socialists Besteiro, Largo, Cabalisto, Auguiano and Saborita condemned by the Court-Martial at Michael to literal transferred to the page transferred to the shortly be taken to African and Saborita and Saborita safe from manifestations

The Decline and Fall of Political Democracy.

Last week there was held at Petrograd the All Russian Congress of Soviets, (i.e. the inauguration of Industrial Democracy) attended by 625 delegates. There were evidently present comrades from Oversea, and Lenin, Trotsky, Spirdonova, Liebknecht (Germany), Friedrich Adler (Austria) and John Maclean (Glasgow) were elected honorary presidents.

We need not question the accuracy of the Capitalist Press report, because it has intelligibly conveyed the terms of a language which it cannot itself understand.

It said that Trotsky, in addressing the Congress, declared that the was convinced that the proletarist in the Western countries of Europe would come to the assistance of Russia.

He contended that the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly was justified because that body aimed at the creation of an Upper Chamber.

Moreover, the Maximalists were fully entitled to substitute a proletarian dictatorship for the general franchise in the interest of the higher form of Social Revolution (Loud Cheers).

He said that the presence of foreign comrades symbolised the general revolt against the ancient Capital ist systems of Europe and Aracrica. "Universal suffrage was obsolete. A dictatorship of the proletariat was their sole salvation."

What does Trotsky mean? Universal suffrage obselete! He means that it is no longer possible to obtain free dom under the most advanced form of political democracy. What the world wants is Industrial Democracy.

Political Democracy is the patitude air of the Capitalist State. The of the old reformers for case in vote has been practically and political democracy finishing contemporary in accommon ting contemporary in accommon ting contemporary in accommon ting paragon of Domocracios. Here their being leastly described their being leastly described their being leastly described another home of Leastley described another home of Leastley.

The Constituent Association, toper-

Labour power is the new consittuency, not territory any longer, where the proletariat has assumed dictatorship.

This does not say that the political suffrage is obsolete in the Class State, On the contrary, it is the arena in which the class struggle is fought out. But Trotsky's declaration, consistent with the teaching of scientific Socialism, disabuses the minds of all those honest but deluded idealists who look to mere votes and Parliaments for emancipation. It sweeps away the balderdash about England, and Germany, France and America being the homes of democracy because men happen to have a vote on issues which they do not choose. It points the way of the industrial solidarity of Labour as the only constituency and the only Parliament for bringing emancipation. Russia leads again.

100,000 Years of To-Day

By. S.W.

That is a queer title. But what I mean is that to find the proper meaning for the present war you must go back about 100,000 years, to the primitive communism of our ancestors. The Snowdens and Macdonalds are still worrying about white papers, blue papers, yellow and orange and pink'ns, of August, 1914, but God bless me, the origin of this war is in the discovery of fire, then of iron, and as a result of that, the discovery of private property as an institution. That is why we should say 100,000 years of to-day.

When slavery was introduced into the ancient communes as a result of private property, a machine called the State was invented to preserve order," that is, to hold the slaves in subjection. These slaves corresponded to the serfs of feudal times and the wageslaves of to-day. Just as the ancient gens coalesced into tribes and developed the system of chattel slavery; the tribes into nations, developing feudalism; and the nations into Empires, developing Capitaliam, so now the Great War is proving to be another social crisis, the harbinger of a worldwide workers' revolution, having for its object the only further agglomeration possible, the formation of the IN-TERNATIONAL COMMONWEALTH OF THE WORLD, the inauguration. of which will make the commencement of another new era in the history of man in which class domination of every form, economic competition, and hence also The State and War, will become things of the past.

But this process started when men discovered that 'private property' gave them the power to live on other men's labour, say about 100,000 years—of To-day, the day of Flevolution.

would you like to serve the King?"

mild the recruiting sergeant to the

milkman. Yes, replied the milk
mon, how much does he want?"

Education.

By J. M. G.

The workers are accused by the intellectual labourers in the vineyard of the Capitalists of being uneducated, so ignorant they will have to submit to a course of training to equip them to take control of society. And if we accept their definition of what education consists of, they are undoubtedly right.

Education as typified by these intellectuals consists of combating any new scientific thought that may have a tendency to undermine the enslaving grip of the Capitalist class on the community, and displaying their learning by confounding all common sense, by seeing things not as they are, but in the interests of their masters. Barren of any ideas except the most common place, destitute of everything that should appeal to our experience, mere automatons that conform to present day conditions, without sufficent mental capacity to realise their slavish dependence on the master class, lending themselves as tools and prostituting their book learning in piling up volumes that are monuments to their ignorance, endeavouring to roll back the evolutionary forces, to stav the onward march of humanity towards the rising sun that is making its appearance on the social horizon, and that will ultimately spread its benignant beam's over a society freed from the enslaving conditions of to-day.

Such is the use made by this section of the community of their so-called education, and which they wish to impose on the workers by means of "The Workers' Educational Association" and other institutions supported by the possessing class.

The education of to-day whether received at the Government School, High School, College or University, consists of stuffing the head with words, repeating parrot-like the words of a language, and memorising certain rules which are necessary to speaking fluently and writing grammatically,—the ground work for building an education. The schoolmaster in the process of cramming is able to produce a slave psychology in the learner and at the same time the necessary intelligence to be more or less an efficient wage worker.

The Press is able to continue the process at the point left off by the schoolmaster, imposing on the credulity of the masses by high sounding words, sprinkling their delusions with scientific terms and ideas.

Having been crammed with all this book learning, the victims drift by circumstances over which they have no control into the professions and other mediums of earning their living.

The professional class, doctors, lawyers. teachers and others in the
schools and universities have been prepared to take up the several callings
by a process of carrier first tools that
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ies incidents

In the process of cramming they have to memorise many things that are forgotten immediately the aspirants have succeeded in passing the examination test.

The boasted education of the salaried class, whether bookkeepers, clerks,
salesmen, storekeepers, etc., when
analysed is but the knowledge of applying certain tools and methods to
earn their daily bread and receive the
wherewithal to cover their nakedness.

The workers, despised by their so-called superiors, are undoubtedly destitute of much of this book learning. Their position as the producers of the wealth and all the necessaries of life required by the community, does not require that they should be crammed with book learning. Yet when, as many do they take an interest in books they are able to take a clearer vision of the past, do not distort history, and owing to their economic position in society are able rightly to understand the present and predict with unerring certainty the future.

The education of to-day controlled as it is by the possessing class, is but the means employed to equip the masses to take their position in society as mere puppets, to do the bidding of the master class, whether as professionals, scientific, salaried or manual worker; distorting their mental vision, gilding the chains of slavery by so-called democracy, creating the mental kinks that obscures their enslaving position in society.

Whilst not despising book learning when properly applied, and admitting the mass of the workers to be destitute of this learning. They are without doubt educated in those things that are essential to society. They are equipped and skilled in using the tools that are necessary to the production of the three essentials of life. Food, shelter and clothing. They produce by their toil the foods we eat, the houses we live in, and the clothing we wear, and in addition produce all the luxuries of our civilisation.

No, the workers are not uneducated, but are skilled and equipped with an education that if they refused to make use of would plunge society into barbarism and make a desertable to-day we have teeming populations.

German victories make Cartelists smile. German gold is not It if it comes into Ospitalist pools. Glasgow 'Forward' quotes a the 'money and cicche' column 'Glasgow Herald' showing come to English anance are victories on the Eastern from 'City of Riga payments. Con sinshine comes in the factories and Court by Messay, the last of His Alexandra Sandra Sa

The 'Planks' of the 'Communist Manifesto.'

Towards the end of the "Communist". Manifesto" appears a series of measures for expropriating the bourgeoisie. In the pre-revolution days—we can call these now the days of the Great Revolution—we were inclined to be sceptical about these "planks." They looked suspiciously like 'reforms," palliatives, and the young Marxists extended some commisseration to their master that he had so unfortunatetly lived before their time, other wise he could not have wasted ink on the 'measures,' such an anti-climax to the whole philosophy of the "Manifesto."

But we did not read carefully enough. The "Communist Manifesto" does not pour forth indignation over the lot of the poor. It has no grievances to ventilate. It sheds no tears over the defeat of liberty and justice. Indeed, not once are these words used, except as quoted bourgeois phrases. The "manifesto" is a scientific poem of triumph, seventy years ago, of the proletarian revolution. It traces historically what has been, and with the principles deduced from the study of the past fortells, nay does not even fortell, but describes the great revolution as actually taking place, like "stout Cortets." silent upon a peak in Darien, gazing with eagle eyes on the new Pacific.

Having come to the hour when the proletariat, as a culminating act of unity, achieve political dictatorship, the "Manifesto" describes how it will wrest by degrees all capital from the bourgeoisie."

Plished at first except by despotic inroads on the rights of property, and on the hourgeois conditions of production; by measures therefore, which appear economically insufficient and untenable, but which in the course of the movement/ out-strip themselves, and are indispensable as means of revolutionising the whole mode of production."

Here follow the measures. All the difference to their effectiveness is made by the fact that they are applied, not by a petty bourgeois party within the Capitalist state, but by the triumphant proletariat. Take note how many of these have been applied by the People's Commissioners as reported in the cables:—

- 1. "Abolition of property in land, etc. (Cabled.)
- 2. A heavily progressive income tax.
- 3. Abolition of inheritance. (Cabled).
- 4. Confiscation of the property of emigrants and rebels. [This is obviously being done on a large scale. The houses of Capitalist rebels used for sheltering the poor.]
 - hands of the State by means of a national bank, etc. [Cabled.]
 - 6. Contralisation of the means of transport in the hands of the State.
 [Cabled.]

- 7. Extension of national factories and instruments of production, etc. [Syndicalisation of industry. Cabled.]
- 8. Obligation of all to labour. [Cabled as "compulsory labour." No living on income from investments.]

The following two "measures" are really results of the progress of the revolution:—

- 9. "Combination of agricultural and industrial labour, etc.
- 10. Free public education for all children. . . Combination of education with material production."

But these are not the essential part of the "Communist Manifesto." The "Manifesto" places in the hand of every proletarian the key to the revolution; that is, an instrument where with not only to read history aright but also to make history. The "measures" sketched by Marx and Engels are just the illustration of a mathematician, dashing off a "for instance" to a formula on the blackboard. But so unerringly was the 'materialist conception" handled by its discoverers that even the 'for instance' proved a true chart calculation of the revolution seventy years afterwards.

Read "The Communist Manifesto." The Cadet newspapers in Petrograd sourly admit the supreme confidence, definiteness, clarity and certitude of the Bolsheviks in speech and tactics. These qualities are wholly derived from the training given by the principles of the "Communist Manifesto." It gives sureness of touch, clarity of aim, definiteness of vision to every workingman who seriously delves into its deep harmonics. We have just received from the Socialist Labour Press of Glasgow a consignment of the "Manifesto," price 3d. The S.L.P. translation is undoubtedly the finest English version going.

The League's new Office.

The League has been compelled to move its office again. Although no special blame can be attached to our late landlord, the removal is undoubtedly due to the general state of funk all landlords suffer from at having anything to do with the I.S.L. We were given to expect throughout the month that the International Union of Hotel Employers would let one of its vacant offices to us, but at the last moment their Committee, in spite of their high flowing title, also became victims of funk (putting the best construction on it) and refused to let.

Comrade Neppe has now very generously put two thems in his building of our disposal. It is a second factor from the centre, but now for a second factor for and factor for and factor of fox and factor for Marshall's Square for the centre of fox and factor for Marshall's Square for the centre of fox and factor for the centre of factor factor for the centre of factor factor for the centre of factor factor

Why you should read "The International."

Tell your mates:—

BECAUSE Socialism, notwithpaper in the sub-continent.

BECAUSE Solialism, notwithstanding its comparatively recent birth, is already the second greatent force in the world, and is infallibly destined in the near future to crush completely all opposition, and sweep away the laws and institutions of thousands of years.

BECAUSE you are kept in wilful ignorance by the hireling Capitalist Press of the scientific principles underlying this World movement, the rapidity of the growth of which has no parallel in history; and you need never seek aught else but misterpresentation and falsehood from the corrupt mouthpieces of vested interests, the Capitalist Press.

BECAUSE each week it is becoming increasingly important for every worker in this country to understand the significance of the events which have already happened and the still greater events which are about to happen in the old countries of Europe. The 'dramas' the 'tragi-comedies,' the frenzied hysteria of an already doomed parasitic class were forseen as inevitable 70 years, and it is necessary that you should understand the roof principles which form the code by which alone you can decipher the garbled reports which are permitted to reach us from oversea.

BECAUSE Socialism speaks in different terms in different countries. The class struggle in South Africa comes along in its own language. Men give lip homage to the Bolshevik Rovolution who despise the garb which the same struggle takes in South Africa. So read 'International,' and be in the world movement.

Give these reasons to your friends and workmates. Tell them the paper depends on their support in the shape of an annual subscription of be., por free, and a little more to meet the League's deficits whenever they can afford it, and even when they

The Press Committee has assemble for the convenience of those committee who distribute copies to likely recommended to send them parcels of five weeking the price of four subs. (£1) for the purpose of distribution.

In Darlington, In August, an I.L. peace speaker, Councillor (ill)
threatened by a rowdy cleaned meeting, diero saturates of the speaker and fall in the same speaker and fight-to-a-summer of the saturates of the speaker and the same saturates of the same speaker and the same saturates of the same saturates o

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Black Justice-11.

(Continuation of articles which appeared in the "New Age" in July, 1917, from the pen of a South African writer who knows his subject.)

In Government dealings with natives, there is no trace of the "suaviter in modo" which is certainly their due; from the moment they come within hail of a Native Commissioner's office they begin to be treated with scant ceremony. They have to approach the bare-walled sanctum in which junior olerks sit in grandeur at the receipt of custom, and tender their poll-tax on bended knees; a native constable stands behind them, and if they are slow in producing their previous receipt, or hesitate in replying to the formal questions put by the clerks (often in very poor kaffir), they will get a reminder in the shape of a cuff on the head or a poke in the ribs from the pointed end of the police boy's knobkerry. If they should happen to be two or three years in arrear, or give any extra trouble, they get soundly abused and called opprobrious names by the clerk, and their ears will be violently pulled by the attendant police boy. (It is not unknown to see the lobe of the ear torn from the cheek in the execution of this manoeuvre.) Kven the best behaved and the most punctual tax-payers meet with a rude reception and are gruffly told to "pay up." while such a thing as "thank you' or wishing 'sgood morning' after payment, is absolutetly unknown, for junior clerks must maintain what they conceive to be their dignity, though it figure as an item in the first cause of a rebellion to do so. When they are brought before the Commissioner's Court for the heinous "crime" of failing to pay tax," being then prisoners, they go from bad to worse. Police-boys hustle them, "shout at them, and are constantly laying hands on them. They are pulled and pushed into the dock like cattle, and an armed police-boy parades in front of them, bellowing out the remarks of 'his worship' and generally intimidating them. A junior clerk acts as dumny "bublic prosecutor." There is no counsel 'for the defence' and the Commissioner, sitting as Judge, conducts their trial, cross-examines and sentences them himself.

Bentences vary from a fine of £1 or ten days to one of £2 or 14 days and upwards, all with hard labour, while recruiters of native labour swarm round the Court to get access to prisoners awaiting trial. Picking out the most likely-locking, able-bodied condidates, they agree to ransom them when sentenced, and by the act of payment of the fine the native regards. Kimself as "sold" by the government, and thenceforth he becomes the helpless property of the recruiter. (The fine plus all other expenses is speedily refunded to the recruiter by his mining company and in due course will be deducted from the native's wages; recruiters run no risks.) Or the thereiser may elect to attend the trial and inform the "judge" that auch and mech have agreed with him to go work on the miner (signing a con-

tract to that effect) and the judge then adds the significant words to his sentence suspended for one month provided prisoner obtains work at not less than 30s. a month." (30s. being the identical rate of pay for a month's work on the mines). The Criminal Record book in the special column reserved for the 'result of trial' then shows that such boys were "recruited.". These latter cases produce no direct revenue to government, but have the deplorable effect of placing it (from the native point of view) in the odious light of acting openly as "assistant recruiter" to the mining industry, and they feel acutely that the whole weight of the Court procedure as well as the influence of all the officials is thrown into the scale to force them to accept the recruiter's terms. There is yet another much more reprehensible method of persuading natives to work and pay poll-tax; it is entirely illegal, but in out of the way places—often 50 miles from any centre—it is a constant practice not to bring "hard cases" or "bad eggs" before the Court at all, but to administer 6 lashes with a heavy 3foot length of harness-trace, attached to a heavy 3-foot kaffir stick or pick handle), which has the effect of inducing the most recalcitrant boy to sign a labour contract promptly. The mines are not salubrious for white men and still less so for the kaffirs, so that which it is considered that, for the triffing offence of being in arrear with the poll-tax, the punishment inflicted frequently amounts to a sentence of death or permanent disablement, it will be realised that the griovances under which natives suffer from the weight of the tax, the form of collection and the consequences of failure to pay are distinctly grave.

(To be continued.)

Trotsky's Career.

The Glasgow "Forward," without quoting authority, gives the following sketch of Trotsky's career which will doubtless be welcomed by our readers:

Leon Trotsky is about 40 years of age, tall and of commanding personality. He was born in the province of Kherson, Southern Russia, his father being a poor farmer. When he was 18 he was a member of the Russian Social Democratic Party. When he was 20 he was sent to Siberia for being a Socialist. At the time of the first Russian Revolution in 1905 he had served his sentence, and was back in Petrograd as Chairman of the Council of Workmen's Delegates.

When that Revolution was crushed he was again sent to Siberia. He excaped, and landed in Switzerland. The German Government sentenced him to six months' imprisonment in his absence for publishing a book obtaching Kaiserism and Prussianism. That and ence he never served, for the Maiser's men could not lay hands upon him.

At the orthogonic of war he was in Vienna problems a Russian Somalist the paper, and sometimes as communication to the 'Nesse Zair, 'in Gamerica' and the 'Nesse Zair, 'an Gamerica' and

went to Faris, where he edited the Russian Socialist paper, "Our Cause." Expelled from France, he went to Spain; at the request of the French Government he was driven from Spain and went to America, arriving last January. In New York he lectured, and edited the "Novy Mir" (Russian Socialist paper).

In April, after the Russian Revolution, he left for Petrograd, but was arrested and interned by the British authorities at Halifax. Nova Scotia. He was released on the intervention of Miluikoff, and landed safely in Petrograd, where he immediately secured a commanding position, by his alili-

ties, among the Bolsheviks.

League Notes.

THE DANCE. — Remember the League Dance held by the Women's Entertainment Committee at West's Academy next Wednesday at 3 p.m. Tickets 2s. 6d Refreshments provided.

THE INTERNATIONAL.—Kindly note that parcels of five will now be sent weekly to any comrade who wishes to distribute "The International" to friends or likely subscribers, for a donation of \$1.

THE LEAGUE'S DEFICIT.—The Management Committee, acting on the instruction of the Annual Conference to endeavour to pay off the deficit on the League's accounts, has decided to ask all members to levy themselves a day's pay for the purpose of liquidat. ing the debt. All supporters and readers of "The International" are also asked to respond to the appeal to take the liability off the League's shoulders, and thus enable it go ahead with the urgent propaganda work that is waiting to be done. A day's pay is what the M.C. asks. Wil you do it nowy

THE PICNIC.—The Picnic organised by the Press and Building Fund Committee held at Hillside last Sunday was one of the most successful things done by the League. Four big trolleys crammed with grown ups and children word a sight to roake one alad. Sports and races enlivened the day for the children, and for those whose thought- the long. long. thought of your -- chaose mante sequestered nooks, the place was also not found wanting. No maine is too great for the Committees-empecially the olivé organieurs, Connader Min and Barlin, to say nothing of the ladies, who, with the experience gained, will soon we have be able to give us onoiner jauni with the chilian is asset homo of many in the

League will be annumed on Wissing of Wissing Stranger and Market Market Market Stranger and Market M

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