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THE INTERNATIONAL

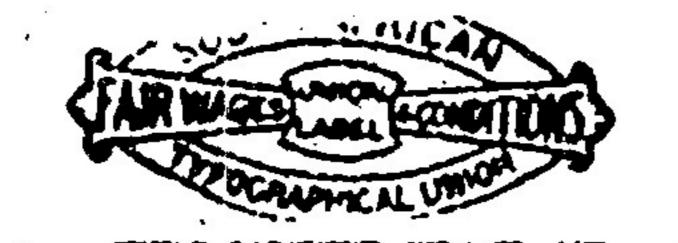
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

P.O. BOX 4179.

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No. 13?



FRIDAY, MAY, 3, 1915.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

May Day and Marx Day.

A double celebration falls in this week, and though in large centres, they are held distinct, our restricted facilities warrant us in connecting International May Day 1918 with the centenary of Karl Marx. In Johannesburg, while "Arcadia" blasphemously usurps May Day for a war fete, while A.S.E. strikers secure it as a holiday and then grumble at the loss of the day's pay, socialists, under our local Prussianism, the slimy (1.I.D.-gutter-pressmob-law "prohibition," have yet marked the occasion by a gathering numerically more modest, but intrinsical-; ly more proletarian; than in previous years: and in other centres the occasion has not been neglected. But when, prompted by the Marxian associations of the time; we survey the world situation of the International workingmen's revolutionary movement, we dan afford to speak no longer apologetically but triumphantly, and to claim that the very suppression of celebrations, which has probably been more severe in the warring countries this year than ever, points to there being something more serious to suppress. Last year. indeed, the weary governments seemed half inclined to toy with a Stockholm "Conference, and though Berlin stopped May Day demonstrations \(^{\supporting}\) the conference, however) the holiday was well kept in France, Italy and. elsewhere. This time (the governments having found the conference too dangerous) the cables are silent on May Day doings: just as they are latterly silent, except for wild rumours, on the doings in the country which has made all the difference in the meantime and. we may be sure, is going on making it as fast as the apathy or hostility of the rest of the world will allow.

Let us make up for the silence by travelling, as in Browning's 'Christmas Eve and Easter Day,' from meeting place to meeting place in the chief centres of international socialism, and hearing the ideas and feelings expressed in each this May Day.

And first to the Central European cities, where the recent strikes, mark you, constituted the most menacing labour movement anywhere outside Russia since the war broke out. Unlike English or South African strikes, they were strikes not just for bigger pay nor even more food, but first and foremost for peace—peace on the very non-annexation terms so derided by an S.A.L.P. branch at Cape Town (which, consisting no doubt of the usual couple of place hunters and their dupes with an M.L.A. or two from the North as grandee visitors, talks, amid capitalist applause, more arrant rubbish than even the majority-hunting Labour party at "home" dare utter: bah! says Capetown, we Britons have no truck with your sloppy internationalism):

"The German workers' immediate aims," even the majority so allists have been saying in Berlin, "are to force the Government to work sincerely for a peace without annexations and indemnities, active participation in the peace congresses by the labouring classes of every land, abolition of martial law, freedom of the press, release of political prisoners (such as Liebknecht) and improvements in food distribution.

If the strikers represented only a minority of the German people, and

minority of the German people, and were trying to enforce their will 'n a majority by stopping production, there would be reason to denounce them. But what the strikers want is the same as is wanted by the over-whelming majority of the German people."—("Vorwaerts," Jan. 9.)

For this article the writer and editor were arrested on a charge of attempted high treason: the paper was suppressed, and consequently all the Berlin printers struck. The article also appealed to British and French workers to back the strikers up; with what result? Your Hendersons and Creswells will watch being arrested for treason, and even if they had any "Labour organs," our printers would watch striking against their suppression! Again,

"The German people can no longer be restrained in its demand for equal franchise, for peace, and for the overthrow of the Pan-German party.... - Friend and foe must know that the masses of the German people are under no circumstances willing to make sacrifices and bear suffering for plans of conquest. The storm is gathering. The masses demand full suffrage and a sincere desire for peace by understanding. If these storm portents are unheeded, the storm may break overnight... The embitterment over the jingo cries will at last break out in an elemental manner."—, ("Volkstimme," of Frankfort, where the crowd shouted "Down with Hindenburg," Jan. 16.)

"This strike is a blow aimed at the heart of German Imperialism."—
("Arbeiter Zeitung," Vienna, Jan. 24.)

"The Bolshevik terms are the terms of the Hungarian people. We do not want a peace with victory."—(Member of the Hungarian Chamber, Jan. 18.)

"We call upon the Government to disclare its readiness for general peace without open or veiled annexations or indemnities." — (Manifesto by the Majority Executive, Jan. 28.)

"The strikes are not the breakdown of Germany, but her rising up towards freedom and peace." ("Vorwaerts," Feb. 8.) "Class feeling has at last reawakened, socialists are once more isolated or independent."

"Our most passionate wishes go with our Russian brothers."—("Arheiter Zeitung," on the news of the Boishevist revolution.) "In spite of all seeming obstacles and set backs, the world belongs to us."

True, the labour leaders, taken by surprise by so proletarian a movement, instinctively sought to suppress the strike by securing a rise of pay as a bribe for dropping revolutionary aims. But they only postponed it. Luckily for the Kaiser, the Entente just then issued a defiant declaration, and so enabled the Huns to launch their reply to the strikes and to the German indignation at the Brest Litovsk outcome, in the shape of the latest and most ferocious offensive, evidently undertaken to silence the unrest, just as Russia went to war to stiffe the Revolution—only to succumb to it in the end, as the Central, yes and the Entente Empires must also do.

We pass to the west and south. Of Italy we speak in another column: and can reckon on "increased confidence" in the celebration there this May day.

In Spain the mists are rising.

"It is no longer democracy that is on the side of the Allies (or Centrals either for that matter) but at best only the antiquated form of constitutional liberalism, industrialist and banking, and loudly rhetorical, which is well known in Spain."— ("A.B.C.," a Madrid paper, in January.)

The brilliant writers of France begin to see visions:—

"Who can say whether the last miracle of the war may not be to see the world's peace arise from a revolution which has overthrown victory?"—('Journal,' Feb. 2.)
And to shed illusions:—

"Ever since the Maximalist Revolution our Government has dreamed of uniting Kaledin, Kornilov, the Cossacks and the Ukraine in a common struggle against the Maximalists of Petrograd and Moscow. . . And is it not indeed piquant to see Lenin and Trotzky, whose every act was denounced as treason, carrying on the struggle against German pretensions, while the Ukraine, friend of the Allies and restorer of order, hastens to yield to the German offers?" — ("L'Humanite," Jan 23.)

Time and space preclude a journey further afield. It would be interesting to know how far American socialism, prominent by its press (now excluded from this country), has kept the Red Flag flying and earned a May Day celebration this year. At any rate, it is safe to conclude that there is quite enough working-class revolutionary material in the Central Empires to warrant, and demand bold action in sympathy by corresponding elements in Entente countries. If any side is lag-

ging behind in this respect, it is rather the workers of the latter, although everywhere alike, the lesson is slow to sink in that all "Empires," and not merely the "enemy's," must go. Russia, of course, stands far ahead of the rest, for she began by making her soldiers socialists, which no one else has yet done, and now she has extricated herself from the war and already renounced her 'Empire.' What a victorious May festival, therefore, what a significant Marx Centenary, is being celebrated this week in every town and village of that radiant, though foe-girt, land of promise, can safely be left to the reader's imagination.

The day when all these forces in different lands, each straining for the social revolution, but each isolated, can break through and effect a junction, will be the day not only, of rescue for beleaguered Bolshevisse but of liberation for the oppressed of the earth.

The Life of Marx.

It is with reverence and respect that on Sunday next we commemorate the centenary of the birth of the founder of scientific socialism. Karl Marx, born on May 5th, 1813, at Treves, in the Rhenish province of Prussia, was destined to be recognised as one of the master minds of the century. After passing through the customary school course he entered the University of Bonn, and afterwards that of Berlin, where he studied law by the request of his father, and history and philosophy to please himself.

After passing the law examination with high honours in 1840 and leaving the university, his special studies were philosophy and political economy, with special reference to the great social. problems of the age; and these studies led him towards socialism, so much so that he felt compelled to decline the offer of an important government post.

In the fall of 1842 he was appointed editor of the 'Rheinische Zeitung,' a new paper which he conducted with such force and ability that it became involved in a continual fight with the censorship then still in vocue in Germany. Not content with the one censor the provincial government placed a second censorship over the paper, which being still ineffectual, the Government in March, 1843, suppressed it. altogether. During this year Marx became married to Jenny von Westphalen, a playmate of his childhood, and sister of a well-known Prussian statesman.

After the suppression of the paper, Marx left for Paris, where he became co-editor of the 'Deutsch-Franzoesischen Jahrbuecher." It was during his connection with this paper that Mary became acquainted with Fred. Engels, resulting in life-long friendship, and in collaboration with him wrote the "Holy Family." The paper inly lasted for a short period, after which Marx in conjunction with others wrote for the 'Paris Vorwaerts.'

During his stay in Paris he occupied himself mainly with the study of political economy and the French Revolution, at the same time being engaged in a continuous war of the pen against the Prussian Government. The latter revenged itself by obtaining his expul-

sion from France.

Marx now proceeded to Brussels, where he helped to establish a working-man's club, and contributed articles to the 'Deutsche Bruesseler Zeitung." In 1846 he gave a lecture on free trade and wrote his Poverty and Philosophy": and in the following year, 1847, he, in conjunction with Engels, wrote that memorable "Manifesto of the Communist Party," the corner stone and programme of the modern labour movement.

In 1848, after several requests by the Prussian Government, the Belgian Government ordered the arrest of Marx and transported him across the frontier. He again arrived in Paris, but did not stay long, and returned to Cologne. Here he revived the "Neue Rheinische Zeitung" which carried on until finally suppressed on May 19, 1849, the last number being printed on red paper

Marx again found his w av to Paris. but again not to stay long, for the French Government forbade him to remain there or in any other part of France except Brittany. This he de-

clined and went to London. Thus after seven years of wandering he at last found a haven of rest—no. not rest, for his work and the struggle for existence were harder than ever. There in the British Museum he found the materials for that great classical work, the text book of the labour movement, "Capital." During 1851 and 1852 he contributed a number of articles to the !'New York Tribune," for which he received the magnificent sum of one pound (£1) per article. The series is republished as "Revolution and Counter-Revolution." In 1859 his "Critique of Political Economy" was published. During his sojourn in London his principal part in 'political action" was to form on 28th September, 1864, the "International Working Men's Association." In 1867 the first volume of "Capital" was published. Other works from his pen are the Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte," "The Civil War in France" and the addresses to the "International Working Men's Association." Needless to sav, for all the work he did on behalf of the working classes he never received one farthing from them. After a life of continual suffering through poverty, sickness and bereavement, and finally a general breakdown of his own physique, he died in London, on March 14. 1883.

What Italy has done in the Great War.

Readers of the "International", will remember the name of Comrade C. Lazzari, Political Secretary to the Italian Socialist Party, with whom the I.S.L. has kept in touch, though the last news of him is that he has been arrested. In his latest annual report he recalls how at the outbreak of war the General Confederation of Labour and the Syndicalist Union of Italy approved of the party's decision to remain neutral, a decision supported by a referendum of all branches. In May, 1915, perhaps influenced by the same weakening influences as prevailed at the S.A.L.P. conference in that year, the

National Conference turned down a proposal for a general strike in the event of Italy declaring war. Only in Turin was the strike declared, and in the riots that followed two comrades lost their lives. But in February, 1917, when it was first possible to convene a National Congress again, the policy of strict and irreducible opposition to the Government (and the war) was again approved by delegates of all branches, an opposition which in fact has been maintained throughout. Mobilisation greatly reduced the party's strength, but in spite of manifold difficulties there were at the end of 1917 1,237 branches with 27,918 members. Not more than 300 members resigned or were expelled for having favoured the war. The Parliamentary Socialist Group is a solid phalanx of 43 members.

At the end of the second year it was arranged to start a strong agitation for peace. A national plebiscite was being prepared, but 50,000 lists were seized by the authorities and the work stopped. Nevertheless it was possible in that way to create an agitation that reached almost every village.

As regards international action, the "Bureau" proving useless, a conference of the Italian and Swiss Socialist parties took place in September, 1914, and a year later, as the result of Morgari's visit to the comrades of France, England, Belgium and Holland, the first international meeting of the war took place at Zimmerwald. "All Governments united to defeat our efforts. Accused of being bribed by German gold, we can truly and proudly say that the work was made possible by the humble pence of the Italian workers." In April. 1916, another international meeting took place at Kienthal, 19 nationalities heing represented. The division, in all countries, between majority and minority socialists became more pronounced. The French majority got alarmed and promoted an Inter-Allied Socialist Conference, which did not succeed owing to the Italian Party's opposition to the participation of the Italian pro-war reformists. Delegates were sent to the Inter-Allied Conference at London in August, 1917, when Comrade Modigliani conveyed the Italian protest against the action of the French, Belgian and English majoritarians, who aimed at making the conference a manifestation in favour of the war. (A process recently repeated, see Comrade Andrews' letter in our issue of a fortnight ago.—Ed.)

The "Avanti," though forbidden in all provinces in the military zone, has during the war increased its circulation, and is published daily in two cities. The juvenile groups, comprising 350 branches with 9,500 members, all under military age, issue a paper of their own.

What has England or Germany—not to say South Africa-done to equal this? As we have said before, salvation is coming from the "weaker" nations: first-class military and labour strength are incompatibles.

The Canadian war lords have made it a crime to give food, drink or shelter to a "slacker," which includes anyone who doesn't want to fight for his masters. The same treatment as the Huns applied to the Belgians.

Reconstruction, that Blessed Word.

Society is sick, and around its bedside are gathered the many interested sections of the possessing class, administering their quack nostrums to prolong its existence. The ink that has heen used in writing prescriptions by the sycophants, and printiffer them in newspapers, pamphlets and books, is immeasurable. That blessed word "reconstruction" stands out clear and distinct on every page. But it always must be a reconstruction which, whilst throwing sops here and there to the workers, will still conserve to the possessing class the right to control the economic forces and keep the kernels for themselves whilst throwing the husk to the masses.

The increasing unrest and growing demand for conscription of wealth and repudiation of war loans in Britain is evidently giving the good parnots who have invested in these funds an anxious time, as is evidenced by the remedies pioposed by Lord Leverhulme in a paper read before the Royal Society of Arts. The noble lord's paper is one long appeal to maintain the "stability of British industries, and their ability to provide full employment at full wages for the British workman."

The inference to be taken from such a statement is that all British workmen in the past have been fully employed and receiving full wages—whatever that means. Yet we all know as a matter of fact that such a statement is not true, as one-third of the population of the British Isles and a large proportion of the working class of all industrial countries were never sure of the next meal, being on the verge of starvation from time to time.

The reconstruction prescription compounded to cure the ills of society, with the much paraded new social conscience and humanitarianism of the quack physicians, has the cloven foot of selfish interests at its base. Class selfishness is the motive that underlies the soap magnate's lecture, notwithstanding his appeal to "dismiss from our minds and souls any idea of who for want of a better name we call 'class against class' antagonism." He is good enough to concede to the workers the right to be considered human beings; also that "human strength has its economic zero point"; "experience has taught us that between eight hours as a maximum and six hours as a minimum, the safety point may most probably be found to rest." With better organisation he believes the output of commodities could be "increased from 50 per cent. to 200 per cent." giving larger "incomes to meet the demands made upon him''—the employer capitalist—"for higher graduation in rates of income tax."

Concessions of a sort are to be given to the workers, to keep the system going, sops to keep them from kicking over the traces, to keep the masses still harnessed to produce surplus values, to gild the chains of wage slavery. Futile efforts! Society is sick, it has reached a point in its development when it must pass away and give place to another based upon a more equitable form of

economic production. The proposed concessions of the employing class are really its despairing efforts to keep our system of exploitation going in the interests of a class that have never considered human lives of any value. Profits have been their God always and always will be under any phase of society that leaves the productive forces in possession of a section of society.

The capitalist class of Britain were slowly but surely being worsted in the struggle for the markets of the world. First in the field, they continued the methods by which they gained success in the early period of the system. They became fossilised. The other countries that adopted the industrial system have outstripped them in technical efficiency and carried the system a step forward along the evolutionary path.

The war has taught its lesson; it has revealed to the British capitalists what should have been done in the past. Hence their frantic efforts to get abreast of other countries, overlooking the fact that the adoption of the technical education of Germany and sops of co-partnership with shorter hours to the workers will not avert the downfall of the wage system.

The reconstructors of society are imbued with one underlying idea. Profits must be maintained under any scheme of reconstruction. The wage system must be maintained. They claim it has stood the test of time, and from their point of view it undoubtedly has. Blinding the workers to the robbery of the system, it has enabled the exploiting class to gull the exploited class as to the beneficence of capital.

The greatest safety to capitalism lies in hampering the evolutionary forces. The sops proposed to the worker are efforts to postpone its inevitable down. fall. The system at its inception loudly proclaimed individual liberty, but in its development it has eliminated individual effort and compelled the grouping together of exploiters on the one side and exploited on the other. In its earlier stages the individual loudly proclaimed the right to dispose of his wealth as he thought fit, a right that has been gradually curtailed as the system developed. It has been compelled to fely more and more on the power of the State in order to maintain itself, using the State as arbiter in the antagonism between employer and employed. Thus, evolving through many phases from individualism to partnership, corporations to trusts, it is compelled, in its last organised efforts to perpetuate wage slavery and profits, to adopt State control. To ensure the more or less harmonious working of the "recoustructed" system, they are willing io make concessions to the workers, with the promise of employment for all. providing they can obtain and control the surplus profits produced by the workers.

The germ of failure is contained in the whole scheme. The evolutionary forces cannot be controlled or stayed. We are rushing headlong towards the dissolution of the system, and the puny efforts of individuals or sections are powerless to stop the rush by quack remedies. No matter how plausible those reconstruction schemes may be they are futile to prevent the birth of the socialist republic that must take shape in the near future.

J.M.G.

The Work of Marx.

Though born with the proverbial spoon in his mouth, Karl Marx was of the people by adoption, and few indeed of the proletariat can have sacrificed so much for their cause as he. Marx was, as are all truly great men, free from conceit, and appreciated every genuine striving, every opinion based on independent thinking; and no man was a greater critic of himself. Not that he owed nothing to his predecessors, for no man is original; but the conditions create the man, and Marx was the man to carry socialism a step further. So great was his development that this next step seemed a revolution.

Before his time it all seemed vague. Certainly the socialism of earlier days criticised the existing capitalistic mode of production and its consequences, but it could not explain them, and therefore could not get the mastery of them, nor the purport and end of socialismwhence it came, what it was, and whither it was going. By his stroke of genius Marx brought it from a Utopia to a science. His two great discoveries were the production of surplus value which is appropriated by the capitalist, and the materialistic conception of history. This latter starts out from the proposition that the producion of the means to support human life and the exchange of the things produced form the basis of all social structure, and that in every society that has appeared in history, the manner in which wealth is distributed and society divided into classes or orders is dependent upon what is produced, how it is produced, and how the products are exchanged. He did not lose sight of the fact that the political, moral or religious circles played their parts; but saw that they did so only in a secondary. degree. On this basis he deduced that socialism must come as the next step in natural evolution.

· In identitying himself with the cause of the proletariat, Marx became inseparable from the conscience and science of the proletarian revolution. While in every respect a revolutionary, he never suggested any conspiratory plans or political schemes, but explained the theory of the new politics and aided in its practical application in the way which the modern working class movement indicates and requires as an actual necessity of history. "Marxism" —that is the term applied to his works to-day, but Marxism is not a study in itself, it is a method of study, a means to the acquisition of knowledge. Let every reader of these lines become a reader of Marx's works, the chief of which are on sale at the I.S.L. offices at Johannesburg and Durban. Study them and qualify vourself, and by your unit help to build up that force that will eliminate poverty and starvation, prostitution and crime from off this earth and assist humanity to its highest ideal wherein peace and happiness will be an accomplished fact.

BRIGHAM.

The Nationalists want a Republic for the Africanders. By the same token the natives want a republic for the natives: and with far better reason than Hertzog.

International May Day in Johannesburg.

The workers' day was marked by an open air meeting held outside the Pilkington Hall (which, like all other halls, was refused to us) 'as an expression of the solidarity of the class-conscious workers." The attendance was between one and two hundred, mostly coloured workers, and, as the applause proved,

most appreciative.

The chairman, Comrade Tinker, said that the cure for poverty and low wages was to unite as a working class irrespective of race or colour to overthrow the ownership (against which mere possession by the workers did not avail) of the means of life by a small. minority. If all the white and coloured workers here, as in Russia, will discard race prejudice and unite as a great working class to defend the worldwide revolution, we can, he said, be free also as the Russians have become free. And if we can fight for the masters we can fight for ourselves

Com. Israelstam followed. The real workers of S.A., said the speaker, are the natives. The white workers are paid as slave drivers. The native and coloured workers therefore must not wait for the white workers to liberate them; they must organise themselves into a strong union to emanci-

pate themselves.

Com. Talbot Williams (A.P.O. organiser) said the salt of the carth was the people that work. If the bosses died to-morrow, should we starve? The black man produced the bulk of the wealth, for which he received but a bare subsistence. The world was inade. for workers, not for Kaisers, Kings and lazy parasites with a vast army of workers sweating for them. The workers of Russia were supposed to be the most uneducated people in the world, yet they had lost the Tsar and his friends their jobs. We all want this parasite class to lose their jobs. The speaker said he had recently been Cape Colony, Zululand and the Free State, and had "delivered the message." At Paarl the pay to the coioured worker is 1s. 6d. per day and a bottle of brandy: that was due to want of organisation, but he felt proud of the people of Paarl for they were now organising.

Comrade Hanscombe gave instances of his own knowledge that the black workers in America were organised and that on one occasion through the blacks refusing to scab on the whites

the workers won the day.

Comrade H. Barendregt, speaking in Dutch, told the coloured section present that their deplorable conditions of life were not due to their colour, but to the system of society under which they lived. It was essential that the coloured workers should not deal sectionally in attempting to remove the cancer which was eating into the life of the workers in Africa as elsewhere. Organisation must be, as outlined by the I.S.L., irrespective of all else but the class consciousness that all who worked for wages had everything in common and that all who paid wages had opposing interests. The speaker appealed to all present to link up in an endeavour to render what assistance was possible to the workers in Russia, who

had as a nation taken back from the master class that which rightfully be-

longed to the labourers.

Comrade Kessler said that just as the people of Pompeii did not realise the nearness 10f the volcano which submerged them neither does the capitalist class realise the nearness of the revolution that is to submerge the capitalist system. We workers too must prepare ourselves, to accept the new conditions of life that are coming.

Lastly, fellow-worker Wm. Thebedi spoke. He said he knew the police were in the vicinity, and he would have to be careful (being a black man) what he said, but he considered it his duty to say a few words in opposition to the churches, which were endeavouring to satisfy the natives with their inferior lot in this world and promising them freedom beyond the sky. The missionaries were leading the blacks away from from the truth in this world by a form of trickery which he despised. He cared not for any hell they may tell him about excepting the one in which he realised he was existing on earth. He urged all natives present to join up with the native organisation existence in an endeavour to secure redress of their grievances. Only by organisation could anything be accomplished.

Many interested listeners tackled comrades with questions after the meeting; evidencing that the seed has been sown in a fertile soil, better than the thorns, rocks and thie ves outside the Town Hall. Altogether a May Day demonstration with more in it than ever

before.

League Notes.

J.S.B. LECTURE. -- Comrade J. Kessler spoke at the Palmerston Hali on Sunday on "Conditions of life and the Movement." The lecture was very well attended and much discussion arose from Comrado Kessler's reference. to anarchy.

LABOUR DAY.—May Day greetings from the Jewish Socialist Society, Cape Town, have been received and appreciated by the Head Office and M.C.

MARX SOCIAL.—To-morrow (Saturday. May 4) evening, commencing at eight o'clock in Professor West's Academy, 125, Pritchard Street, we open our celebrations in commemoration of the birth of Karl Marx, with a social. Refreshments are to be provided and a good programme of musical items has been arranged. Comrade C. Dones is to take the chair, and Comrades S. P. Bunting, C. B. Tyler and D. Smith are to deliver short addresses, the lastnamed in Yiddish, during the evening. All comrades and friends are welcome.

MARX CENTENARY.—The meeting to be held in the Palmerston Hall on Sunday, May 5, commencing at 8 p.m., will be in celebration of the Karl Marx Centenary. Comrade C. Dones will preside, assisted by Comrades C. B. Tyler, J. M. Gibson, I. Kessler, and S. P. Bunting. "Come one, come all."

BRANCH MEETINGS.—The monthly meeting of the Jewish-speaking Branch is to be held in the Palmerston Hall on Wednesday next, the 8th inst. The Central Branch meets on the previous evening, Tuesday, at the same time and place.

DAY'S PAY. — The Finance Committee is desirous of drawing the attention of romrades to the unsatisfactory response to the appeal for One. Day's Pay to be donated to the League for current expenses. Come, comrades! some members have given nearly all they possessed, others have sufferred to the extent of £10-£20 and even more each month. Some have given their lives. Surely we can spare one day's pay for the cause, even it it is sent in instalments.

knowledge is Power.

To celebrate the Marx centenary a class or circle to study the principles of scientific socialism is being formed by the Johannesburg Central Branch, and all comrades are urged to join up, as greater numbers mean greater success. A special point will be made of examining local labour conditions in the light of socialist theory, and vice versa, recognising that the conditions peculiar to a country or age help to determine the means to the end. Here especially the seeming incompatibility of white and black is a stumbling block to many professed socialists. The proletariat appears divided against itself, partly owing to language differences making communication difficult, partly owing to the white man's colour prejudice, played upon for obvious reasons by the capitalist class, until many white workers persuade themselves that "solidarity, irrespective of race, creed or colour," must be qualified by "except in South Africa"; and partly again owing to the reflex prejudice of the black workers who associate oppression and slavery with a white skin. Socialism alone can clear away these obsessions and avert a disastrous race conflict, for only socialism can expose the false issue involved; indeed, we are compelled to devote our chief efforts to combeting the capitalist distortions under this very head, and we may look for redoubled fury in the attack in time to come. Our strongest weapon is therefore a sound knowledge of the fundamentals of the social revolution. The object of the circle is thus a "preparedness campaign" for the comias struggle, that when our comrades in Europe and America make their move we may be ready armed to fall into line and do our bit for a working-class victory.

Will the A.S.E. tell us whether their native helpers were paid for strike time, and if not why they didn't see to it? Remember the Randfontein boys who wouldn't go down till they got pay for the days their white overseers were on strike.

Also, when are local unions going to adopt the Russian strikers' principle, that the first thing a boss must do in settling with strikers is to pay them for strike time, just as an unsuccessful litigant has to pay his opponent's costs!

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