egistered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

THE INTERNATIONAL

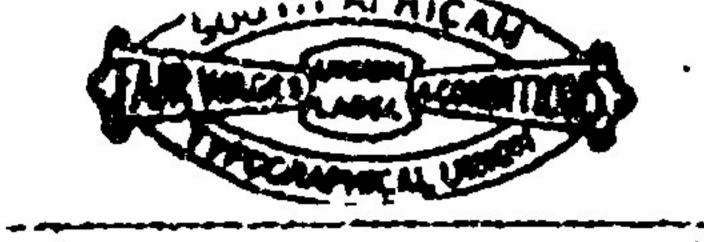
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

P.O. BOX 4179.

Neppe's Buildings, 54, Fox Street, Johannesburg.

Phone 6035.

No. 156



FRIDAY, OCT. 18, 1918.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

A Capitulation of Capital?

No ringing of bell, no blowing vi trampets marked the reception by the local" "public" vester lay of the unofficial and unenthusiastic news that the war was, in effect, at an end; and as the 'public' in these days only mourns or rejoices when it is told, being too jaded with war weariness to raise a spontaneous cheer at what it already perhaps realises brings no benest whatever to the man in the street, we may assume, from the fact that no encouragement to demonstrate was vouchsafed from above, that the capitalist "stable" are none too pleased at the turn of events, and are afraid to face the sequels of peace. Not merely because some profiteers' days are numbered—profiteering is not going to end merely because the war ends—but because it is perfectly clear this is no mere military victory, but something. quite different. The Hun, still holding enormous areas of conquered territory, with his own country infact, was not going suddenly to throw up the sponge merely because he might in future suffer a really decisive reverse. Plainly a new party is in charge of Germany: plainly it is a peace at any price party, with a healthy contempt for imperialist gains or losses and also a faculty of ignoring official Foreign Offices; plainly it is a party whose sole concern is "that the interosta of the German PFOPLE will be safeguarded," the "Czar" or "Kaiser" being no more, and his police siding with strikers.

The resemblance to the licy of revolutionary Russian and Bulgaria is surely no mere coincidence. With an eye on the times and the circumstances, on the confident hopes repeatedly expressed by the Russian leaders (who know their Mittel Europa) and on the obvious reticence if not disingenuousness of the capitalist news agencies and chancelleries, we should like to guess—for you have to guess in these days, vou can't be for everwaiting for sworn affidavits—that the "peaceful revolution" in Germany admitted by our bourgeois press is, or is destined to develop into, yet another extension of the Socialist revolution; that Germany too is now indeed becoming "safe for democracy," far safer than her enemies; that a German, Commune is in the making, able to prevail against attack; that Germany's emancipation will make Russia's impregnable, and vice versa; that the "capitulation" is a capitulation of the German capitalist class—the most brutally frank of all the exponents of the system: that the Allies are now too late to play the Bismarck and rescue that system either in Russia or now also in Germany; that their fruits of victory have turned at once to ashes in their mouth; that against a Bolshevik Cen-

tral and Eastern Europe they will train their batteries in vain, for though they collaborate with German counter-revolutionaries, they will not persuade their own Dubbs to go on when the very cause they professed these four years, the downfall of German autocracy and militarism, has been realised beyond their wildest hopes, although, to their bitter chagrin, realised not by themselves as conquerors, but by the German people; that such a very attempt will bring their own autocracy and militarism also clattering about their ears: that in short we are face todace with news, depressing indeed to the bourgeoisie and its jaded parasites, but to us glorious almostras the tidings of Russia's pioneer success—the news of Socialism trium; manit over the continent of Europe.

A dream? Call it so, if you will, but if it is we are fain to dream on for a spell. That "political amnesty" means that Liebknecht and his friends are free, perhaps called at once to the helm: That abdication means that the Anointed Bagman's employers are now themselves also unemployed. That cry for "peace, bread and reform," the same that swept Russia, has already kindled in Germany's slaves, the same newfound hope that lit up the faces of the Petrograd crowds a year or more ago, as those who saw the films will remember. Bunktupter? Let it come: the bankrunt always lives the best; and Allied figuree has less interest in maintaining Austro-German than even Russian dinance; let the Central Empires public debt he repudiated-who cares? Thus the rivalries within the ranks of capital lead to capital's piecemeal suicide.

And what of the peoples of the socalled conquering powers? Unhappy they, perhaps, for having failed to take advantage of the war to win their freedom too. But it must come. The workers of Britain and America, we shall be told, are not of the stuff to play stagy games of revolution. We have been repeatedly assured that the genius of the Germans was entirely against any such internal change while the war was on; yet that has happened. Kaiser Wilson and Kaiser Lloyd George—they too may soon be compelled, even by "ragged-trousered philanthropists," to abdicate, particularly il they persist in attempting to persecute the Revolution on the Continent. Italy is ripe for Bolshevism. In France the Socialist party has been captured by what were until recently the "Minoritaires." There is at least good reason

Of course that is not enough. Dream or no dream, war for another two years or peace by Christmas, now is the time for feverish activity in our Socialist movement here; for a swinging solidarity among the class conscious; swinging solidarity among the class conscious; for a rigorous refusal, as in Russia, to compromise with any who,

not being with us, are against us, and a careful watch on any who, having snarled at us all these years, now begin to snivel and fawn where they think the see the pendulum swinging; but for a rigorous refusal, as in verts with no axe to grind. In this country, where civilised meets uncivilised labour, the organisation of such an Army of Solidarity offers an unlimited field for immediate activity, to say nothing of the pigantic task of preparing for the resumption of the land of South Africa by all its people, which will perhaps constitute after all the chief achievement of the revolution here. There is no time for disputations: the call to responsibility may soon be upon us. Fellow-workers, fall in! Attention! Forward to enforce the "unconditional surrender," not of Kaiserdom alone, but of the world-wide capistalist class!

Moulders' Strike.

At last the other workers in the engineering industry have begun to move. Owing to the management insisting on the handling of scab-made castings, the patternmakers, fitters, turners and smiths at the Denver Iron and Steel Works ceased work on Wednesday morning. The boilermakers unfortunately remained at work.

The B.W.I.U. have decided to give financial and moral support to the moulders.

The A.S.E. are ballotting for a levy in support which the Federation officials are moving heaven and earth to stop. It will be an everlasting disgrace to the A.S.E. if they do not at this late hour support financially their fellow wage slaves.

The aggregate meeting of the members of the A.S.E. in the central area which was held in the Trades Hall yesterday evening endorsed the action of the Denver Iron Works engineers in refusing to handle scab castings. A further meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon to vote for or against a trike in the central area in support of the moulders and the A.S.E. men already on strike.

INFLUENZA AND THE FEDERA-' TION CO-OPERATIVE STORES.

The Federation Co-operative Stores directorate decided about two weeks ago to give the striking moulders groceries on credit, but up to the date of. writing no communication has been received by the moulders. The secretary. Mr. Davidson, on being approached explained that "his staff had been reduced so much on account of the epidemic that he was unable to send the letter." Is there any connection between this delay and the known hostility of the Secretary of the Federaltion (who is also the Chairman of the Co-operative directorate) to the Moulders' Union?

Australia "Advances."

(From the "B.C. Federationist.")

Following a conference held in Melbourne during the middle of April last, certain concessions were a granted to / Labour and the unions in Australia. It now transpires that such concessions were granted conditionally that the Labour delegates there present would try and secure the co-operation of Labour in a more vigorous prosecution of the war. Such a bargaining, if agreed to by the labour delegates, is nothing short of a scandal and disgrace, and the rank and file of Labour has lost no time in repudiating the unholy arrangement.

Now it has been shown that whatover concessions were asked for were not in the form of gratitudes from the Government, but merely the restitution of certain wrongs done by the Government towards Labour during the past few months. To argue, then, that these wrongs could only be righted by Labour agreeing to pay a price was a most impudent suggestion. Naturally the Trades and Labour Council resented

this.

For four years now discussion has taken place in the Sydney Trades and Labour Council on this matter, and it has now passed the following motion:

"The Sydney Trades and Labour Council (Australia), after careful consideration of the war and the issues involved and being fully seized with the momentous nature of such issues, de-

clares as follows:—

That the secret treaties of the Allied (hovernments --- us published in the press—disclosing designs of territorial aggrandisement; the placing of an army of approximately 80,000 armed) men in Ireland; the Allied Governments' attitude towards the working class government in Russia; Mr. linghes' speech before the manufacturers of Sydney in which he thanked God that Germany had plunged the world into this war; and the fact that all anti-Labour forcos are in favour of the war and its continuance, justifies grave doubts regarding the contention that the Allied Governments are fighting solely for liberty, justice and democracy.

That the economic resolutions of the Paris conference; the demand for the annexation of the German colonies; the declaration in favour of "crushing Germany," and other imperialistic utterances of bellicose statesmen and publicists, have strengthened, and are still strengthening the German ruling class, and have prolonged and are still prolonging the war, and enable the German militarists to persuade the German workers that the Allied Governments are more concerned about rendering Germany impotent as a competitor in the world markets than the securing of an early and just peace.

That as all modern wars are caused by the conflicting interests of different sections of the capitalist class, a "conclusive" or permanent peace is not pos-

sible under capitalism.

That the secret conference of English. French and German financiers, held in Switzerland last September, for the purpose of devising means to control Labour after the war, proves that they place their class interests and the

safeguarding of capitalism above the welfare of suffering humanity.

That the greatest service we can render the men at the front, their loved ones at home, and humanity in general is to-do all in our power to stop the war.

Therefore, whilst fully expecting anti-Labour forces, to misrepresent and calumniate our action — we refuse to take part in any recruiting campaign. and call upon the workers of this and other beligerent countries to urge their respective governments to immediately secure an armistice on all fronts and initiate negotiations for peace."

Despite the fact that Labour parties in Queensland and South Australia were designated as "stop-the-war" parties, they swept the polls when they faced the people recently and utterly routed the "Win-the-war" candidates.

Save the Revolution!

A FORTHCOMING PAMPHLET.

For the working class movement, which claims and intends to grip the world, the touchstone of such peace proposals as have taken apparently definite shape this week is, not whether these or those terms among the Imperialists should or can be enforced, but, as always, what is to be the effect of it all on the Social Revolution of the world? Our thoughts fly, not to a forthcoming Congress of the "Powers," not to the possible humiliation of one capitalist group to magnify another, but to the defenders of the beleaguered Sociale ist citadel in Russia; and we strain our eyes to discern between the lines a spread of the "Red Light" (for we know that Bolshevik propaganda has never been idle) to the "workmen, soldiers and peasants" of Austria and Hermany:

Gigantic efforts to becloud us will still be made by the war wire-pullers. with their puppet Ministers and Presi-/ dents, who by, say, a three months' course of determined press drill have been able to reconcile an inflamed and enervated puppet "public" to anything they please. All the more stimulus for Socialist counter-attack. It is good to prick the hypocritical bubble of Allied "disinterestedness" or American "liherty": but an even more important means to "preparedness" at our disposal is to throw, light and fix attention more than ever on the centre, till now at least, of the workers' fight. Indeed, the more bitter—to the point of stark ludicrousness—the Press atrocity campaign against the Bolsheviks, the more profound is the commonsense working-man's scepticism of this transparent manipulation of his "opinion" these latter months with Bolshevik "atrocities" manufactured to excuse the infamous invasion, and the more urgent his need to seek for the truth of the whole matter.

As the first anniversary of the revolution of the workers (the largely illiterate workers, mind you) of Russia approaches with the 6th of next month, we can mostly fitly celebrate it by increased effort to supply that need. More searchlight on the capitalist system as it works both at your own workplace and over the whole earth! For the bene-

tit of those who, like many in England, have been too timid to form, as against the press lies, their own judgment on the broad meaning of the revolutionary movement, begun in Russia but destined to end perhaps in America, we have published from time to time accounts by one or another fair observer of what has really gone on. We publish more to-day: and in time for that Anniversary, the I.S.L. is issuing a pamphlet describing, without rhetoric, the history of the Russian miracle, showing also its business-like details and working and the obstacles it must contend with, explaining how it has virtually allied even British and Hun capitalists to attack it, and pointing the duty of all organised workers to oppose that attack by every means in their power.

For depend upon it, the capitalist peace will mean no peace for the Labour Movement; rather it will be concluded, and the capitalist quarrel composed, in order the better to turn and rend the "Frankenstein" it has itself created. That Labour will triumph we are assured; but after how long and how painful a struggle will depend on the degree of good sense displayed on the one hand by us of the working-class in recognising our common status as transcending all our differences of grade or race, and on the other by the bourgeoisie itself in bowing to the inevitable "annexation" of the world under the Red Flag.

> Notes. League

DEFENCE DONATIONS.

I.J., 10s. 6d.; I.L., 10s. 6d.; P.F., 10a. 6d.; E.K., 5s.; E.L., 2s. 6d.; A.M., 39.; I.M., 2s. 6d.; E. K., 2s. 6d.; S.S., 2s. 6d.; A.F., 2s. 6d.; N.B., 2s. 6d.: I.C., 2s. 6d.; S.F., 2s. 6d.. List 95: F.P., 5s.; M.M., 5s.; S.C., 2s. 6d.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

PUBLIC MEETING.--Comrade S. P. Bunting will speak on "The Meaning of the Peace," at the Palmerston Hall, on Sunday next, at 8 p.m.

BRANCH MEETING. — A special general meeting of members is called for Tuesday next, the 22nd inst., at the Palmerston Hall, commencing at 8

STUDY CLASS.—Comrade W. Reid will address the class on Friday next, the 25th inst., at the Palmerston Hall. Subject: "Politics."

BENONI BRANCH.

BRANCH METING.—Comrades are reminded of the meeting to be held on Thursday week at Smith's Studio, 14a, Lake Avenue. Conference business.

ANOTHER CASUALTY.

As we go to press we hear of the death of another sterling Comrade, A. McVittie of the old Johannesburg Central Branch, from the epidemic. member of the petty middle class by occupation, he had a keen grasp of the working-class mission, and did his best, under the restrictions that compelled him to "keep quiet," to help it forward. He leaves, alas, a widow and family wholly unprovided for, we believe, and comrades may well come forward to ussist their distress without fear of being officious.

Absolute Liberty.

That the past ideology hangs like a shadow on the present is well exemplified by the advocates of "Absolute Liberty" for the individual. When asked to define what is meant by such a phrase, and upon what basis absolute individual Liberty would be based, they immediately get lost in the morass of Utopianism, showing that mentally they cling to the ideas of the past, ignoring as though non-existent the scientific advancement of the 19th Century, and especially the Marxian philosophy which placed Sociology on a scientific basis.

Liberty like all other ideals is only relative, and whilst we recognise the non-stability of all things in nature, including the conception of Liberty, the evidence for the realisation of absolute Liberty for the individual in any form of human society is unthinkable.

The evolutionary cycle of human society in its ever onward march is rapidly approaching a point in time that will see the present phase of society pass away and give place to a form of society based upon the economy of cooperation. The society based upon such an economy will have but a faint resemblance to present day society. Upon the economy of co-operation the superstructure raised will reflect the economic basis, and amongst the mant ideals-ideals denied under our present society based upon individual ownership in the tools of production—Liberty will be such as will free the individual from the enslaving restriction of classmade laws and regulations necessary to safeguard the interests of the possessing class in their economic power.

The Co-operative Commonwealth, being the immediate heir of the capitalistic system, will take over the huge scientific productive forces. To utilise these forces will require a social organisation, organised by the community as a whole, not controlled by a bureaucraey as would be the case under State Socialism. Such an organisation. necessarily implying discipline, must restrict individual "liberty" to the extent of restricting the individual within the social organisation to compliance with any rules and regulations. necessary to the smooth running of the productive machinery.

Under such a form of society the individual could not have absolute liberty. Such liberty is in fact inconceivable in any human society and could only be realised by an isolated person existing upon an island or other territory and being self supporting. Such a person would have absolute liberty to act as he pleased, such action being personal and outside any form of society.

The cry for "Absolute Liberty" is reactionary, based upon the Utopian ideology of an exploded philosophy of emotionalism and the mistaken idea that natural laws are the foundations upon which society should rest. It overlooks the fundamental economic basis upon which all phases of society since the advent of civilisation, including the present one, have been raised, and neglects to take into account the co-operative nature of the economy of the future society.

J.M.G.

"Making Russia Unsafe for Democracy."

The National Council of the British Independent Labour Party (the L.L.P.) has issued the following statement in relation to allied intervention in Russia.

"It is no longer maintained that the purpose of the Allied campaign in Siberia is to carry on the war against Germany on the western frontiers of Russia. That idea never was practicable, for no one with an elementary understanding of the situation conceived it possible to transport a vast army and material across 7,000 miles of difficult country. But even were the idea practical, it would be mone the less an indefensible and outrageous proceeding to violate a neutral country under the pretext of military necessity. Such an act would be precisely analogous to the German invasion of Belgium.

Allied intervention in Russia has been undertaken without the consent of, and in direct opposition to, the wishes of the Russian Government, and is viewed with alarm and resentment by the mass of the Russian people. The project is, on the other hand, openly hailed in the British and foreign Jingo press as a step towards the overthrow

of the Russian Revolution.

It is alleged that the Soviet Government does not represent the Russian people, and that the Allies have undertaken the invasion of the country in order to liberate the Russian democracy from the tyranny of the Government. Two important facts discredit the allegation that the Soviet Government exists in defiance of the wishes of the general body of the Russian people. The first is that the Soviet Government has maintained Ats authority, and has been carrying out great schemes of social re-organisation, for nine months; and the second is that there has been no counter revolutionary movement in Russia possessed of popular support and and capable of even attempting to overthrow and supplant the Soviet Government.

The only support, so far as is known, which is being given to the Allied intervention, is from aristocratic and capitalistic classes (who in the Ukraine, the Don and Finland, welcomed and assisted the German forces to overthrow the revolution in these parts), and a few Liberal and Socialist "Intellectuals," supporters of the Kerensky administration, whose deposition from power has thrown them into the

The military intervention of the Allies in Russia against the will in the Russian Government and people is a challenge to democracy and Socialism. It is, we believe, no less than an attempt to overthrow the Social Revolution and to re-establish the rule and power of Capitalism. The invasion will be resisted by the Russian peoples and can at best result in plunging Russia into the throes of civil war, and greatly intensifying the suffering from industrial dislocation and famine.

Socialists in this and the other Allied countries cannot remain silent and indifferent under the challenge and menace of this act of imperialist aggression on the parts of their Governments. We appeal, therefore, to British organ-

condemnation of the participation of the British Government in an act which constitutes a crime against the Russian Revolution, which has contributed, despite all its faults, so much to the hopes of human freedom — a crime which if persisted in will prove not only disastrous to Russia but to the cause of freedom and democracy throughout the world.

"STONE WALLS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE."

It was recently announced by the "Times" that in a. Test Municipal election at Vladivostok, then occupied by the combined armed forces of Czecho-Slovak- and Allies, who brought every form of pressure to bear on the electorate to vote anti-Bolshevist, the Bolsheviks obtained a majority of 58 candidates out of 1.01. This gave them the power among other things to nominate the "mext Mayor, and put the Allies in the impossible position of recognising the unicipal Council which the Bolshevists will control. The newly-elected members are in gaol and the ('zecho-Slovaks will not release them under any circumstances

A direct message from Russia, 'Special to 'The World' (California),' by Tannia Sologub, dated June 14, 1918, is published in an exchange:

The Soviet of Russia is positively permanent, and a great deal of freedom is prevalent throughout the nation.

The people are exceptionally well fed out in the agricultural districts, although there is some scarcity of food in the large industrial centres.

The great need of Russia is more seed. There are great areas of the best land in the world, and all that is needed now is the seed to plant them. The new spirit of freedom born in the peasant class is glorious to behold. Freedom carries with it inspiration, and the inspiration of the peasant seems to be to show the wonderful power within him to build the new republic.

The Soviet under Lenin and Trotzky is rapidly building railroads and making other internal improvements

All's well in Russia and the comrades there send greeting to comrades everywhere."

The Butcher's business registered Germiston Municipality 1918 by 1. Frankel, Stand 1467, Primrose Township, has been transferred to Elias-Prag, trading as the INTERNATION. AL CASH BUTCHERY, as from 1st October, 1918.

A Red X appearing in this space in dicates that your name has been given as a likely subscriber. Free copies will be posted for Four Weeks Only. If you desire to subscribe, send 5s. postal order for one year's subscription, post free, to Box 4179, Johannesburg.

If you are already a sub-

scriber the cross indicates that your subscription has lapsed and suggests a renewal.

Printed b the U. P. & P. Co., L. for the I.S.L. Box 4179, Johannes