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# 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. 166



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## 1919 Annual Conference.

Each Annual Conference of the 1.S.L. is voted the best ever held; and so it is, each eclipsing the last in attendance, interest and work done. Our 1919 Conference on the 5th and 6th inst. comprised 39 delegates from Pretoria, Benoni, Krugersdorp and Germiston, as well as Johannesburg; also two unattached delegates from Bloemiontein, Com. Pettersen from Durban, and a local comrade representing, as a "fraternal delegate," the Cape Town S.D.F.; it was only regretted that some of the live Socialist propagandists from that centre could not have visited us in the flesh, and that Com. D. Ivon Jones missed his boat connection from Inhambane and arrived just after the thing was over. Over a hundred members attended as potential participants in discussion, together with a few nonmembers. The capitalist press had not been invited and would have been exeluded. Com. Tinker made an efficient. Chairman. The Conference was preceded on Saturday night by a successful Social, at which Comrades Pettersen and E. Shaw spoke.

#### Work of 1918.

The Management Committee's report

contained the following:

"The work of the Organisea, who commenced work on August 19th, has, we think, had some effect on the position of the League, assisted, of course. by the more favourable political atmosphere resulting from the cessation of hostilities. The Benoni, Krugersdorp and Germiston Branches have got into active work after a period of quiescence. A new and flourishing Branch has been opened in Pretoria. Durban. after going through an internal crisis, has reconstructed, and the three Johannesburg Branches have amalgamated and in conjunction with the Jewish-Speaking Branch have continued their good propaganda; educational and social work. It is hoped that a Branch will shortly be opened at Springs. A satisfactory feature is the increasing number of supporters and unattached members from the country and dorps of the Union.

Socialist League of Cape Town has been very active since its formation, and carries on propaganda very much on the lines of the I.S.L. It sells our paper and pamphlets and has also issued some very useful leaflets in English and Dutch. It is in constant touch with the Management Committee, and its members are frequent contributors

to the paper....

"Over twenty Trade Union meetings have been addressed by invitation of the Branches of the Boilermakers. Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Building Workers' Industrial Union,

Moulders and others. Our paper and literature have been sold on each occa-, sion.

"Public meetings have been held in Benoni, Fordsburg, Jeppe, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Krugersdorp, a few in halls and others in the open air. . . .

The native worker's position has for the first time been discussed from the proletarian point of view. The League in general, and three of its members in particular, have borne the brunt of capitalist hatred for challenging its right ruthlessly to exploit the black man. It has also earned the wrath of large sections of the white workers; but the problem is now forced on their notice as an economic one, and not merely one of race.

"The Delegation to the proposed International at Stockholm, and the appointment of an Organiser, were daring experiments from a financial point of view, but they have been success-

fully carried out.

The number of public meetings held, pamphlets sold and papers circulated is quite considerable when the times

are considered.

"The problem of the past four years has been how to hang on till the fierce hostility of the governing class, plus our own class, abates. With the end of the war, the workers are beginning to look to the International Socialists, and the problem takes on a new aspect. One danger now is that large numbers will give lip service to our ideals from various causes, and yet fail at the test. as they tailed four years ago. Nevertheless we ought not to hold ourselves aloof, but take our full share in the struggle for the emancipation of the workers, whenever we are convinced that such action leads in the right direction." The future has great thingin store for the down-trodden, and the 1.8.1. can look forward confidently to a great and increasing field of activity as an educational, organising and revolutionary force in South Africa."

The "Bolshevik" Pamphlet.

As the press report mentions, over 7,000 copies of this pamphlet have been sold all over South Africa. A Dutch translation is now being circulated, and it is hoped to print an edition in Yiddish if sufficient support is forthcoming. The enemy press warnings have only advertised the pamphlet the more, so that it has chivied, if not yet expelled, the capitalist predilections pervading the minds of nearly every section of the population.

#### Finance.

The financial report was the most satisfactory yet presented. The total amount received at the head office alone from all sources during 1918 was £1,533 18s. 2d. The press fund dehit balance is now almost negligible, thanks to increases in the subcribers roll; the loan account has been wiped

off; the organiser's account is just on the right side; and the "Defence and Leaflet Fund" is at a record figure.

Discipline.

The first major question raised was one of internal discipline, arising out of the Management Committee's compilation of a speakers' list, the object of which, it was alleged, was not so much to supply branches with names of available speakers as to debar certain members who might be thought disloyal to their League from speaking in its name on the public platform. This was denied, and eventually, no one having suggested a better plan for dealing with possible internal enemies such as are known in the movement everywhere, the M.C. was upheld by 25 votes to 7.

Work of 1919.

Next, by way of friendly criticism of the M.C.'s report, a valuable discussion was maintained on the various navs in which the League's activity might be increased, and its methods of propaganda improved, in the coming vear, especially in view of the stiming event, in Europe and the world war now declared, not between rival capitalist nations, but between the Capitalist "League of Nations" and the Socialist Revolution, now well under way. Among the suggestions were: the exercise of greater initiative, on "Soviet lines, by branches; more propaganda among native and Indian workers, possibly along the lines suggested by D.I.I. in last week's "International": redoubled effort to remove the embargo on meeting halls calready surmounted in Cape Town); a Socialist day school: improved international, communication, particularly with the militant pholetarians of Russia and German, whom the Capitalist Powers the Arabhang every nerve to isolate trong and minareson to to the stripathi-ing follow workers in other lands; the sending of another delegate "to Europe to get into direct touch with the Socialist Revolution: ir oreased one operation among S.A. Social si hodies without unduly forcing questions of amalgamation: relaxation of the I.S.L.'s splendid isolation, so as to . draw together the rapidly increasing number of those in other working-class sections (returned soldiers included) whom recent events are attracting, asnew blood; to Socialism; further local publication of pamphlets, especially in view of the non-arrival of oversea surplies: multiplied circulation of the "International": more open air nicetings, particularly in Johannesburg and Durban; a weekly or monthly leaflet in native languages; in short, propaganda on an unprecedented scale, as the necessary condition of true industrial organisation (which, as the recent Trade Union Congress at Durban showed, is but a tinkling eymbal without Socialist intelligence to give it tone) and

increover as the best weapon (as Lenin and Liebknecht hold) to 'corrupt' (apital's armies with--not but what there is quite the off chance of a call to active service in the field, against those armies, under the Red Flag!

#### Native Propaganda.

On the motion (carried nem. con.), to add to the "Method" of "organisation and education by means of Press and platform the words "special attention being paid to mative workers, a good dehate took place, justifying the spirit ("these things ye should do and not leave the other undone"), if not the wording, of the addendum. Some said it was the European workers of the industrialised areas who heeded, or merited, the special attention, as being the more hopeful material, e.g.: the Duich workers; whereas little could be done with semil-savages, who at best must be their own propagandists: besides, such "attention to native workers' would handicap the Socialist movement among the Butch. and also among Trade Unionists, as such. Others emphasised the community of interest between native and white capitalists, and workers, respectively. It is native and coloured workers that man the industries of this country. Being adaptable and capable of great solidarity, they should thus be organised rather than left passive under the guardianship of a semi-hostile white working class. It should not be forgotten that in this country, unlike Parope, the soldiers are mostly white, but the workers mostly black, so that; propaganda among the whites is necessary to prevent them from shooting the blacks, which a march while work es movement might result in their doing. As a matter of the the recent Antivi-Mongress and white Trade Union Consegress revealed both as equally stocks in capitalist ideologic or mis-education and manipulated in the interest of the ruling class. Nor is it true to say that natives in particular exploit their women folk. The salvation of the exploited coloured races of the world will, equally with that of the whites, she achieved, by Socialism, probably moving, in the case of the former, from Russia, via China and India, setting the pace to Africa; for this is a case of a would movement, not a peculiarly South African problem; and even so far as it is South African, the neglect of native propaganda will be a drag on the wheel sof the white revolution. Nor is there lany danger of it getting beyond conirol": for the revolution itself postulates education on the part of the proletariat; without that education it cannot progress; with it, its progress becomes , not that of a mad horde but of an ordered, intelligent class conscious mass which can safely work out its own salvation. But it must be revolutionary education: for granted that working class enlightenment is normally unattainable so long as capitalism controls education, and that such capitalist control persists so long us the working class is not enlightened. enough to overthrow it, that vicious circle is burst only by a revolution. bringing enlightenment as in a flash.

The debate concluded with speeches by two native members of the "Industrial Workers of Africa," who repudiated the stigma of 'savagery,' de-clared that a traveller was safer and less likely to starve in native terri-

tories than in big cities, and appealed to white workers to solve the problem by removing the "colour bar," looking on the natives as workers and comrades, and appreciating the disabilities under which as such they laboure: --so that the flag spelt liberty to Europeans only. The Native Congress, which said Socialism was Germanism. and invited the Mayor to warn the m against it, was (said one, the other dissenting) a "capitalist gang," whi h feared the good work the L.S.L. had done. The recent attempted natio strike nearly succeeded, without a y organisation, but the native workers asked for more socialist education. If deft alone they would be used lagain t the white workers by the capitalis's. Let us all unite and educate each other to destroy capitalism and free ourselves from slavery without recourse to gue.

"Political Action."

This, vexed question arose on a n tion to delete the 'method' of 'par :cipation in elections for public bodies Only "direct action," said the supporers of the motion, had accomplish d anything: polities is an un-socialis :: absurdity, as witness the S.A.L.P., the British elections, and contrast the Russian revolution; and it bree. crooks. The reply was that politifinds out the crooks, but that this flourish equally and more safely : other spheres, eg., Tillett, Applel. Gomers and --others we could nau Polities educates, and dispenses wi underground movement. Lenin a. Trotzky triumphed over Kerensky Moscow in a prolonged political deba in which they converted his 110 mainity into a minority of 72 heavisin bim as having sold Russia to come similares of the Lansdowne group. 's must conirol the political sinte to co nol the armies. Working class politi does not mean capitalist politics; bu has been vote-losing rather than voteatching. Russia has ambassader assemblies, and elections valore: it one mass of elected public bodies. A movements which have transform society have been political. Why bbar ourselves from using any weapon leaving it to, say, the S.A.L.P. to exploit Socialism and Bolshevism? the workers won't vote for the revolution they won't fight for it. To, refus. polities meansbecoming a physical forc party--still more hopeless except in the sense that when you have the majorit; you control the army, navy and police. The Spartacus group is aiming at political power. The debate was sustaine i at a high level, and resulted in a decisive majority of 22 to 5 for the retertion of the clause.

"Objective."

The previous formula "To propagate the principles of International Socialism, Industrial Unionism and antimilitarism, and to maintain and strengthen International Workingclass Organisation" was brushed aside in favour of "To establish the Socialist Commonwealth," and the seeming gap thus created was filled by the incorporation in the Constitution of the "Declaration of Principles" set forth on the front page of last week's "International" (January 4, 1919, No. 165a.

The Class War.

The last act of the Conference was to vote fraternal greetings to all Socialist bodies with whom the League could get in touch, and to pase the following resolution, a portion of which has since appeared in the Johannesburg daily D:H)() I.2:---

"This League acclaims the glorious advance of the Socialist Revolution in Europe; pledges itself to support it in every possible way against the attacks or intrigues of the Capitalist Powers in Russia. Germany and elsewhere; and resolves to redouble its efforts to spread the working-class movement in South Africa so as to assist in hastening the triumph of the Revolution and establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth throughout the world.

"Copy of this resolution to accompany the fraternal greetings previously voted, and in particular to be sent to the Bolshevik Government of Russia and the Spartacus Group in Germany with fervent wishes for their success.

Election of Officers.

The following were elected for 1919: Chairman (in accordance with last vear's precedent): None.

Secretary-Organiser: W. H. Andrews.

Joint Treasurers: S. Ward, T. R. M. White.

Editor: S. P. Bunting.

Management Committee: S. Barlin, J. Black, C. Dones, S. Goldman, Mrs. Hockley, I. Israelstam, W. Reid, D. Smith, T. P. Tinker, C. B. Tyler.

It was resolved to deprive members of the M.C. of the somewhat anomalous right of voting as such as Conferences, conferred on them, by the original constitution of the League.

The final resolution passed by the Trade Union Congress at Durban last week was as follows:

"This Congress denomines the Allied interference with Russia, and calls upon the Capitalist Powers, concerned forthwith (a) to withdraw their forces from that country and (b) to dissociate themselves from intrigue against the working class movement whether in Russia, Germany or elsewhere."

The voting was 32 for and 14 against. The number of those who "left the hall in a body was 6. It was typical of the confusion of thought prevailing, if not encouraged, in such circles, however, that quite a few of those who had voted against admitting coloured delegates voted for the resolution, and vice versa.

A "Zionist Socialist" writes:--"B.G.'s" article in your last issue is full of mischievous and untrue statements. He says only the poor Jews suffered from pogroms and persecution in Russia and that the hooligan press in. that country which incited the mob against the Jews was controlled by wealthy Jews. I am not one to champion the cause of the capitalist Jews . . But it is absolutely false to say that they did not share in the persecution of their poor co-religionists. The mob thirsting for Jewish blood did not draw a line between class and class. and if the wealth of the rich Jews bought them favour with the police. this was of no avail in the hour of stress. B.G.'s' statement about the Jewish supported press inciting against the Jews is too ridiculous to call for an answer."

## Criminals of Society.

The newspaper and other apologists of the capitalistic system brand as eriminals all those who by their exposure of the greed and grab at the basis the system endeavour to enlighten he masses to their enslaved status: griminals to be dealt with as a menace society, agitators who should be deported in the interests of law and order.

The ruling section of society, nominee of the possessors of the economic forces, arbitrarily classifies actions into in neficial and harmful, good and bad. But its moral codes are artificial and ery imperfect. They brand as crimilo anything that would have a ten-lency to loosen the stranglehold which the minority, by their possession and ontrol of the economic means of piclaction, have upon the vast majority. the dispossessed: the stranglehold that a responsible for all the degradation. prostitution, vice, crime, poverty, slums and brutality inherent in any system based upon individual owner-

Individual ownership of the tools of production is the root cause of all the misery and brutality that exist in human society to-day and always have existed since the advent of civilisation. The real criminals of to-day, as in past mases of society, whether slavery or wridom, are the possessors of the econ-

amier forces.

These economic forces, controlled by e minority, have a grap upon the masses that is strengthened by the milical percentrolled by their serdie henchinen, the governing bedy. The executive cominalism of the corres of the Shife, which ere always I dinabeck and call or he possessing · lass in lake up charges agodust sugtators," and to brand them as erimitals by class-made laws, enforced by the soldier's bayonet and policeman's baton.

Ananalysis of our present system of society shows conclusively that 90 per cent, of the crime can be traced to economic causes. The other 10 per cent, is the result of individual reversion to a lower type, or "atavism," a natural law controlling all animal and

organie life. Modern seience has discovered the universal link which connects all phenomena through cause and effect, showing that every phenomenon is the result of causes which have preceded it. This law operates in nature as a whole, and human society is no exception to. - its operation. Human society is an artificial conglomeration of human units, forced primarily to combine for mutual aid in overcoming the destructive forces of nature. Based upon communistic principles in the first instance, it has in the course of its development brought into existence a form of society of economic dependence of the many upon the few.

This dependence of the masses upon the few, with the uncertainty of daily life. ill-fed stomachs, casual employment or the want of it, insufficient wages, poverty, etc., is the root cause of the criminality in society to-day. To see the truth of this contention one has, only to follow the proceedings in the courts of law. There we see the ef-

fects caused by an environment based upon greed and grab, an economy of beggar your neighbour or be beggared. The real criminals of to-day are those in possession of the economic forces. It is too much to expect, that they will take the only steps to eradicate the Guse of all the brutality. The working class is the only class in society that can do so. The economic development has ripened social conditions, and the rising consciousness of the workers will compel them to be the reasurs of the harvest to be enjoyed by society as a whole.

J.M.(i.

## Progress of the War.

Glorious News. -- We are getting almost blase nowadays at the inevitableness of the Socialist Revolution, although depend upon it Liebknecht and his merry men are having a hard fight of it, as we shall have here when our turn comes. But poor old "Star"! To console itself for the "bloodstained · carpets" it tells us that of course the Spartacus group is not crude Bolshevist, bless your heart no; it is just "forceful opposition," democratic, quite English you know---and this only a couple of days after the "dramatic appearance" of Radek's delegation, smuggled from Russia, at the party Conference. Hail to the German revolution! We can see the Peace Conference being boycotted by "the enemy"!

Returned Soldiers.—Perhaps none of the classic writers foresaw the leading part soldiers and sailors were to take in the resolution. Without them it cannoi succeed, with them it cannot failso much after all depends, not really on the use of force, but an depriving the examinate of it. To-day, it is disarm Jour Capitalist Governments and their vahole economic structure collapses at once in favour of Socialism—to fight which they therefore seek to postpone demobilisation. Hence the evident gravity of the muting, for such it is apparently becoming, in England tooperhaps also on the "British soil" of ships mine office bound, if not bottled up, in the Baltie. The almost theoretic uniformity of the sequence of events in each successive country is what most astounds both ourselves and our opponents, so much so that we want to dub it miraculous. Are not our bourgeois parasites growing nervous at the unrest among our own returned soldiers in this country, diddle them as you may through half-a-dozen jostling organisations and clubs, warn them as you will against the "Bolshevism" that inevit ably springs out of their bitter reproaches against faithless employers? Year put not your trust even in backvelders to-day, desperately though our dorp papers incite the landowning class to march their landless Afrikanders, hitherto dragged blindly at their racial chariot wheel, with rifle and chastising sjambok against the land-communists of "Bolshevik" Johannesburg. When the very force of arms on which alone the decaying world system rests begin: to fail you, look out!

"We know nothing."—And then those wiseacres who tell you they must "suspend judgment" on "Bolshevism' or "Spartacism" because they

read such conflicting reports in the press will begin to feel uncomfortably behind the times. They have been so used to having their facts and opinions served up on toast for them by the capitalist press, and they are still, like the Durban Trade Union Congress with its "fraternal greetings," so sensitive to that press' ridicule or reproach, that they have forgotten nowadays how, despite our plethora of "news," truth more than ever is found, as Aristotle said, "hetween the lines." For instance: the Allied Press, after slobbering over the Armenians' for decades, is now abusing them: ergo, they must be becoming?" infected with the Bolshevist poison": such are the rules of interpretation we need to apply to-day.

John Maclean.—A private letter from England, dated 6th December, says that John Maclean, in response to gigantic demonstrations, and no doubt in fear of the election consequences of refusal, has been released. In these times it is after all vital to have trustworthy "labour leaders" at call, and. they are scarce enough in Britain in all conscience. The release could not have come more opportunely for the Cause.

## League Notes.

#### BENONI BRANCH.

Meets at 14. Lake, Avenue, on 16th inst., at 8 p.m. Business: Election of officers and report of delegates to Conintence.

### CERMISTON BRANCH.

The ordinary meeting will be held in Can. Wado's surgery, Victoria Street, Collustanuary 14th. at 7.30. Palle, When if Person of the Conference descentions will be promised.

On Friday, January 17th. Com. Nade will address a public meeting in Old Apollo Hall on "Liberty," Com. 2 P. Bunting in the chair. Comrades to requesied to advertise this meeting as much as possible, as we cannot afford to have any of our meetings a failure.

Next month ('om. C. B. Tyler will address, a meeting at the same place on

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

"Why I am a Socialist."

BUILDING AND PRESS FUND PICNIC .- All Comrades who have sold. tickets for the above are requested to send in eash received and unsold tickets to C. II. Traub, Box 4179., so that the accounts may be squared up.

STUDY CLASS on Friday evening at 8 o'clock in Palmerston Hall.

## JEWISH-SPEAKING BRANCH.

A literary and musical evening will be held on Sunday, 19th, at 8 p.m. in the Palmerston Hall. Comrades and sympathisers cordially invited.

KRUGERSDORP BRANCH.

Comrade T. P. Tinker will lecture on Sunday, 19th inst., in Thompson's Buildings, Krugersdorp, at & p.m. The public is invited.

## PRETORIA BRANCH.

Comrades are invited to a social on February 5th. Further particulars: later.

PUBLIC MEETING. Federation. Hall, on Sunday, 12th inst. Speaker: J. P. Anderson of Germiston.

## "The Iron Heel." IS IT PROPAGANDAT

You really should, you know! 'Who has not been buttonholed by some comrade or other with this question! If you cannot say 'Yes' you are not much class in the Socialist movement.

There it is on the bookshelf! For the sake of peace and quietness let's read it through. Let us see! Chapter One, Two, Three: Love story, or story of young love, with Karl Marx as Cupid. Very charming and all that.

Peace to the soul of Jack London! This belated review reflects not on love, only on the propaganda value of the book. The first nine chapters, so far as we know anything about style and that sort of thing, are excellent reading. They weave into the love's awakening discourses and battles royal between the muscular Socialist hero, Everhard, and the various groups of bourgeoisie; with pathetic accounts of victims of the industrial machine, completing what we shall consider the first part of the book with two chapters deseribing, in Jack London's brilliant Americanese, the laws of capitalist accumulation. These two chapters are celebrated. They show how the countries of the world are developing capitalist industry at an accelerating rate and producing surpluses which they all want to dump in a world market that is ever dwindling to the vanishing point, culminating in a world crisis such as we are truly face to face with to-day.

Soon the inevitable conflict for the remaining world market breaks out between America and Germany; and this is not the only unverified prophecy to the credit of the book. To prevent the world conflict, Jack London proceeds to describe a complete General Strike of the workers of Germany and America, so complete that all communications are cut off and the whole of the people go on holiday --- a rollicking time it was. The Oligarchy in both countries conceded the point, obeved the Socialist ultimatum, stopped the war, came to heel--and went on with the exploitation of labour! Here was the Revolution; but Jack did not recognise it. Here the book should have closed triumphantly with the hero's wedding and the inauguration of the Socialist Commonwealth, which latter could have been the only outcome of the events described in the chapter on the General Strike, as it amounted to a general lock out of the capitalist class. Instead of that Jack makes the o proletariat go back to work, meekly to bend the yoke to the exploiters for another seven centuries. For no other reason, as far as we can see, than to do Karl Marx a shot in the eye for being so "peskily shrewd"! Or was it because there were no Socialist members of Congress to ratify the thing constitutionally?

After this there are eleven more chapters, a kind of an Apocalypse. So far Karl Marx, with Austin Lewis, has been a super in the drama. Now that Jack's proletariat has gone balmy Karl Marx disappears from the book. The plot now bedraggles itself through another eleven chapters without any guiding principle of art, history, or

economics; other than a perferyid imagination visualising a horrible social nightmare. These, eleven chapters are all right as a solemn warning to society, but not as a sequel to the Marxian ones; and the Socialist movement should have been kept out of its miasma. Mud sticks to the art that paints with it more than to the thing painted. There is a subtle boomerang in our lurid anti-militarist cartoons, if you will notice: Molochs sacrificing the young by millions in its eternal fires or gigantic War Gods whose vasty jaws draw in the teeming populations to death and despair, great ogres of militarism and monsters unnameable —these things need to be done with great restraint and art. They appeal to the reason of the converted, but the impression on the unreasoning psychology of the popular mind is that the party that paints "them things" is itself an uncanny, Seventh Day Adventist kind of outfit. That is the effect of the association of the Socialist movement with the Oligarchic monstrosity in these eleven chapters.

Well now, in Chapters 13 and 14 the proletariat are back again starting their seven century night-shift. Although there is no longer any world market, the book hardly realises that it has killed the capitalist system. But it is troubled nevertheless about the surplus of production. So the Oligarchy sets about finding ways and means of consuming the surplus. It has a million or more mercenaries—to consume the surplus. A favoured labour caste-to consume the surplus. A vast army of satellites, art, "Great Art," wonder cities never dreamed of by man—all to consume the surplus, the "perplexing surplus!" The puzzle is: why the dickens didn't, this Oligarchy, seeing that it was looking for means of consuming the surplus, dump some of it on the People of the Abyss. and then all the bother would be finished.

Barrin- its economics, this second portion of the book would have been fall right placed before the other nine, as a not too overdrawn picture of the present system. And as for the economics of these eleven chapters, perhaps they are meant to infer that Socialism is indeed the only possible outcome. An Oligarchy whose incentive was to consume the surplus of production would very soon end up in consuming the productive forces themselves. The Co-operative Commonwealth is therefore the only conception of society to-day that is not Utopian, the only system that can preserve the productive forces. The capitalist system is to-day itself Utopian, impossible. It stands overwhelmed by the force of its own tremendous backwash. And it survives only by the artificial oxygen of militarism.

But without going into much detail on economics, the main reason why the "Iron Heel" is bad propaganda is that throughout these eleven chapters the Socialist movement is presented as a marauding band of anarchists and terrorists, engaged, not in the Great Idea, but in espionage, trickery, legerdemain, capital executions, secret service, bomb manufacture and everything that is the antithesis of Socialism. It is a travesty of the Socialist idea, casting a lurid and uncanny

gloom over the whole conception. Its eleven chapters of anarchism can be depended upon to annul its two chapters of Marxian teaching. It also spreads a "healthy" pessimism calculated to damp the ardour of any would-be convert. The suggestion of those seven centuries of waiting is worth a lot to the bourgeoisie. Hence the book can be bought in sevenpenny editions on Hoy's railway bookstall, while Marxian literature can only be produced by Socialist effort.

I should say: leave the "Iron Heel" out as propaganda. There is more humanity, beauty and truth, in fine, more Socialism, in Jack London's unsophisticated "White Fang" than in all his conscious propaganda efforts.

T) T.J

The "release" of Kerensky, i.e., permission to him to return to his own country, has been refused by the British Government, and he is now detained in England—the rejected of both sides, having missed his chance of surrendering, as the Mensheviks and Maxim Gorky have done, to the faits accomplis in Russia, and fallen foul of his Allied friends' malicious designs of "liberating" that country by invading it.

#### YIDDISH LITERARY AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

ALECTURE ON BOLSHEVISM"

Will be delivered in Yiddish by Mr. A. OVEDOFF,

On SUNDAY, 12th JANUARY, 8.15 p.m.

At the COMMUNAL HALL, Cor. of Beit and Staib Sts., Doornfontein.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.

IN.B.—The above is a mere advertisement. The lecture is in no way under I.S.L. auspices.—Ed.1

Creditors and Debtors in the Estate of the late BENNY GREEN 36721 are called upon to lodge their claims with and pay their debts to the undersigned within FOURTEEN DAYS from the date of publication hereof.

S. P. BUNTING,
Attorney for the Executor.
104, Commissioner Street,
Box 1915, Johannesburg.

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