THE INTERNATIONAL.

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THE LIBERTY TO PLUNDER.

TRADES UNIONS AND RECRUITING.

Coats Ltd of Paisley have declared a profit of 30 per cent for the past year, carrying another million and a quarter pounds forward to reserve, so that it won't look too bad.

The Birmingham Small Arms Coy. declare a dividend of 20 per cent, and have taken, their reserve fund to present every shareholder with one fully paid up share for every two existing ones. By this means profits will be made to appear smaller, and the sacrifice required by the Munitions Act evaded. The Prince Line Limited have declared a 19 per cent dividend, as against 5 per cent in the so-called piping time of peace. American steel firms are making hundred per cent profits, Pigmies in the American financial world are becoming giants. The steel and munition concerns have increased in value by £175,000,000. A "Star" London correspondent has with brutal frankness stated that "the prosperity in the metal and allied trades depends on the duration of the war." · Landlords all over Britain have increased rents 20 per cent, while the sons of their tenants are fighting to defend their property. What a huge vested interest we have growing in human slaughter all over - the world. The Capitalist nature of the war is getting more naked and unashamed every day.

In the darkest hour of "national peril" profits are sacred. While the workers have lost every title to what is termed "their country," to the machinery of production, and are even losing the right to dispose of their labour as they choose, are herded in munition works under a system of forced labour from which they are not allowed to transfer their employment except by ticket from their employer,—while that same employer has the right to give them a "loafers ticket" and to hand them before a Munitions Tribunal for idleness, while they are losing the right of free speech and public assembly, the right of public trial and free press, foregoing hard won Trade Union standard and customs, all to preserve the liberties I calamity to their cause whichever way its fortunes go.

which a suborned press has hoodwinked them into imagining they possess, in all these sacrifices and losses the eyes of the Capitalist classes bulge out in the acquirement of hugely increased profits, and are concerned over nothing so much as how to gather increased spoil from the blood and sweat of the workers. How well disguised and well entrenched is the swindle!

We wish to point these things out to the representatives of the Trades Unions who have been wheedled with a free trip to Capetown to endorse the filibustering expedition to German East; an expedition where the loss of life by actual hostilities will be nothing compared to the ravages of malaria.

We do not hope to be able to persuade the Trades Unions to have nothing to do with the unclean business. But let them not forget the interests of their class. If they feel that they must for some obscure reason endorse a project/which does not even effer the excuse of defence, a project of territorial aggrandisement and extension of influence for their one time enemy the Corner House, let it be at a price so great as to ensure that the people demanding this expedition are disinterested if misguided in their patriotism. Let these interests be given the choice of renouncing profits or patriotism. If their country is in danger, will they abate their demand for 5 per cent? That is the lest which the Trades Unions should apply. Were they not intoxicated by capitalist alarms, they would not budge an inch without securing some preliminary sacrifice of substantial value from their masters. The fact that that sacrifice is not forthcoming. the fact that on the contrary, their masters are enjoying fine harvesthomes of extra per cents from the slaughter of the common people should convince the workers, and their so-called leaders, that the war is none of their business, not in their defence, and can only result in

Some League Triumphs.

The Municipal Elections in Germiston' and Johannesburg have been, considering everything, triumphs for League personalities if not for League principles,—perhaps for both.

In Germiston, Comrade Colin Wade was elected for two years, in spite of the violent antagonisms which have been aroused against him on account of his International Socialism.

Sidney van Lingen, Becker and Johnson, the other International Comrades there, did not poll heavily, but have reason to be proud of the fight they put up,

In Johannesburg Comrade Clark in Ward I came within sight of the quota— 903—with 721 first preferences, beating the Mayor in that respect. The transserence of surpluses soon put him in, also for two years. Comrades Light and Crisp polled 145 and 86 respectively. Light's

poll increasing to 300 odd, from various sources. Comrades Bunting and Ivon Jones in Ward II got 256 and 25 respective-

A gratifying feature of our poll was the solidity of the Socialist vote. Ivon Jones' 25 practically all went to Comrade Bunting; and the majority of Alf. Crisp's went to Comrade Light. Likewise when Bunting's total was split up, the great number of exhausted papers showed the proportion of Socialists who plumped for Bunting and Jones on their papers.

The Election itself, carried on the system of proportional representation, had features which made it uniquely interesting in the history of that system.

"De man dat kin own right up dat he needs advice," said Uncle Eben, "is mighty liable to have sense enough to think it out foh hisse'f."

Washing on Star.

URGENT NOTICE.

A general meeting of Johannesburg League members will be held in the Trades Hall, next Sunday morning, at 10.30 a.m., for important Business. Roll up!

Remanded.

Those hardened Criminals, Dunbar, Bunting and Ivon Jones, appeared before the Magistrate last Tuesday morning; and having stood before the dock for two minutes and a half, the case was remanded till Friday morning the 19th. In the meantime they are at large, liable again to commit the crime of being assaulted by Johannesburg hooligans.

Religion and War.

(From the Socialist.)

The Freethinker is nothing if not shrewd—at times—also cynical, but its attempts to state a case regarding problems arising out of Society leads it to make glaring statements at once foolish and unscientific. Criticising a London vicar for his appelation "Holy War," our contemporary remarks:

"All the parties concerned believe that they are the champions of right, and that God is with them to lead them to victory. We, on the contrary, are more consistent, holding the opinion that there is no God on either side, ana that if this had been the view entertained by all, there would have been no war."

The inference here is that war is the product of religion. As Socialists and students of history, we know that even the alleged religious wars were purely economic. The Crusaders, as the Rev. Mr. Cox convincingly demonstrates in his book on that subject, was simply a plundering expedition. Long before Jerusalem was sacked, Christian towns fell beneath the murderous onslaught of the soldiers of the Holy Cross. The merest tyro in history knows that the merchants of Italy bargained their ships for purposes of transport on condition that they received part of the plunder.

Similarly with the war between Spain and England. Protestant England fought Spain on Catholic points; so it is asserted. However it remains a notorious fact that the Catholic gentry of England marched their men to Tilbury to resist the invasion of the Catholics of Spain. And we all know that one of the most energetic Commanders of the English fleet was the Catholic Howard!

The present European conflict is the result of the economic conditions engendered by capitalist development. The theologians blame the whole thing on the lack of Christian belief among the population of Europe; whereas on the other hand, the pure and simple atheist traces the terrible conflict to the presence of the God idea among the nations concerned. Between the two conceptions, there is nothing to choose, neither are correct. The one explanation is as intelligible as the other. Religion is not the predeminant factor in social evolution the Secularists would, have us think it is; it is a subjective factor. On the other hand, the economic, process in general explains most clearly the causes of war and the modifications of religion.

The weak dess of both Secularism and Christianity has been their inability to attempt to propound a scheme of social re-

God, the other to get rid of Him. The average atheist is as superstitious as the average Christian. The one is as bigoted regarding the Social problem as the other. Society must be readjusted, that is the problem; the solution of which will free men from all social degradation, and enble them to have that leisure to unravel problems for or against the God ideas.

Abolish hunger, war etc. and the incidental problems can look after themselves.

The Prussians in our midst.

As a supporter of the National Service League I regret that compulsion is not to be applied to the shops. It is more necessary there than in the army.

The Spectator 14 Sept. 1915.

The miners who refuse to work must be conscripted—put under military control and made to work at soldiers pay. That is the way they do things in Germany, and that is the way we must do with them here.

John Bull:

Compulsory service was necessary at this time when the people were getting out of hand.

Colonel Fitzgeorge, 26 August, 1915.

The abuse of personal freedom has reached its climax in this country. Trade Unionism—that shelter for slinking o shirkers, is imperilling our existence, and by its action a rot of our national soul has set in. One remedy and one alone can eradicate this state of rot—martial law will cure it. With the knowledge that refusal to assist in the nation's defence means "death" to the individual so refusing, the shirkers would soon be brought to their senses and fall in wherever required. The individual does not count today. If Parliament will not act, then let a Cromwell come in and settle the question.

Colonel W. H Maxwell.

Commenting on the above Bruce Glazier remarks:—

Since the days of Feudal slavery in Great Britain no man or woman, except he be a criminal, a lunatic, or a pauper, has been compelled to personally serve any master or government, or engage in any occupation or task by legal compulsion. Shall we allow the old-world tyranny to return?

There is no record of any capitalist of any nation at war becoming so patriotic as to offer to loan his dearly beloved government money without interest or sell it munitions of war except at a profit—all he can get. And yet these gentlemen do not hesitate to ask the workers to sacrifice their lives in the name or patriotism.

The Iron Meel.

Last Sunday night's meeting has again brought the platform propaganda of the League to a crux; as has so often happened in the short existence of the War on War and International Leagues.

Jones were on the stump. With his usual advoitness and good humour Dunbar kept the big meeting quiet and attentive. He changed his usual style of propaganda, and endeavoured to put the young blood of the audience on their mettle by inviting names of those willing to serve in German East. There were none forthcoming.

Ivon Jones then tackled the situation, and his simple assertion that the war had its origin in Capitalism started a series of interruptions which soon made it impossible to continue. Bunting followed, and was given a fair hearing for a while, the end of his address marked however by "chippings" from the rowdies, who formed after all only a very small section of an otherwise attentive crowd.

Dunbar closed the meeting with the "Red Flag," after which the cordon of supporters round the rostrum started to disperse. As usual we then announced "The International" for sale, the crowd still looking on. One young chap came up for three, tore them up, and flung them into Ivon Jones face. This was a signat for a rush. The whole of the "Internationals" were snatched and torn and scattered about. Thus exulting, the hooligans charged Bunting and Jones, and for a while there was an ugly mix up, Bunting getting some primmels and Ivon Jones a punch in the jaw. Half a dozen policemen who were providentially and mysteriously close at hand, not without apparent difficulty marched both off to Marshall Square followed by a mixed crowd of supporters, sympathisers neutrals and active execrators. After a quarter of an hour's detention, we were released by a side door into a quieter street.

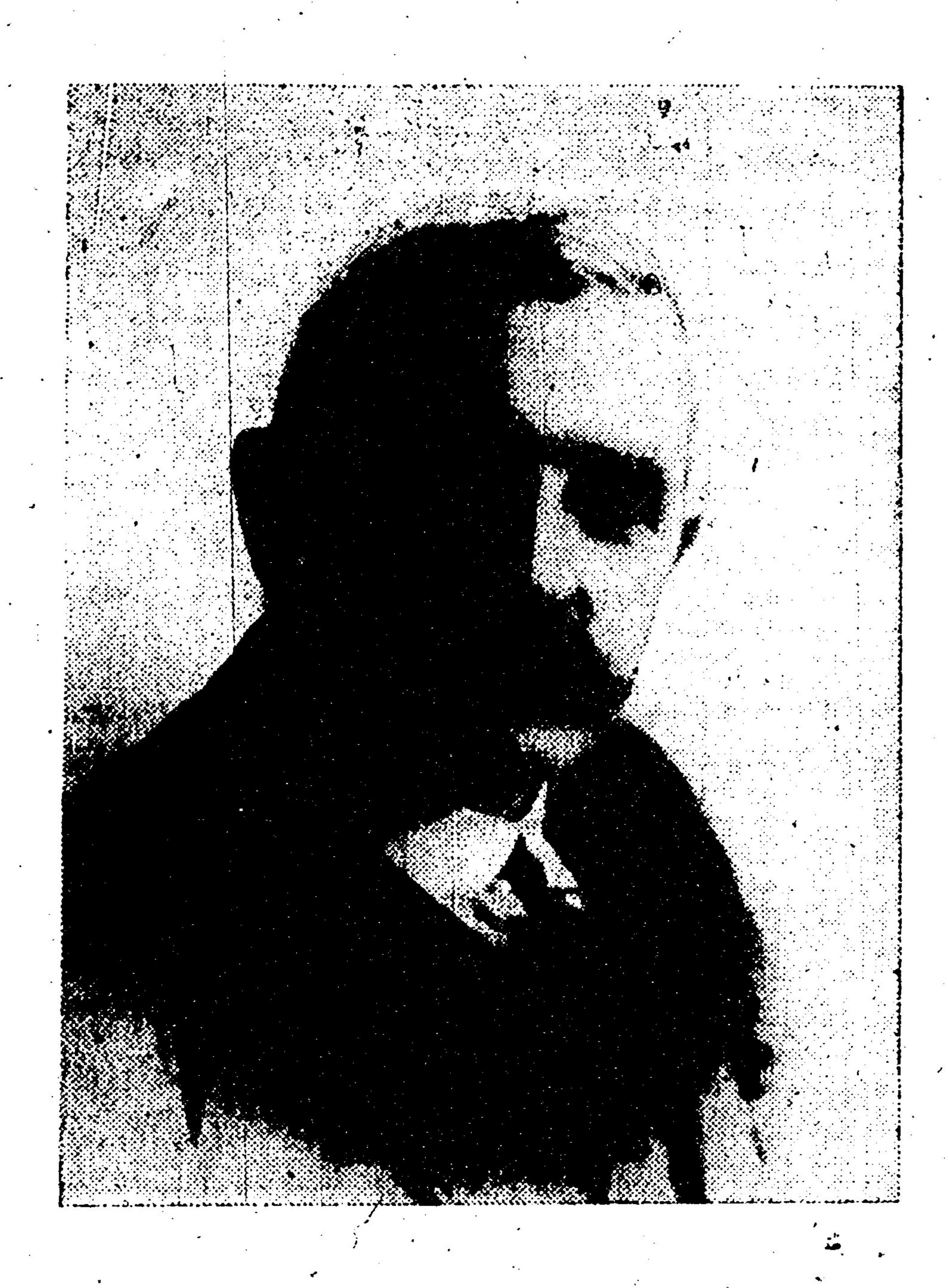
On Monday afternoon warrants were issued for the arrest, not of the meeting breakers, but of comrades Dunbar, Bunting and Ivon Jones, on a charge of "the publication of matter calculated to excite public feeling" under Act I. of 1914. Bail was allowed for £50 each, which was forthcoming.

A few significant points: The damage was only attempted after the meeting was over and our supporters dispersing. It was done by no more than a couple of dozen well organised young hooligans. The police were there in force, which was unusual. The appearance of the police from nowhere in particular was so providentially timed with the hooligan assault that a man given to fairy tales would say that both had been called by one signal.

The workers of one-half the world are busy killing each other, while the workers of the other half are busy manufacturing the means for them to do the killing with. That's the Christian civilization you have been voting for, Mr. Worker.

SNAPSHOTS.

III. WILLIAM LIGHT. M.P.C.



If one sought for the best tribute to pay to Comrade Light, (and Mrs Light, the men somehow get all the credit) it would lie in the fact that he only polled 146 votes at the recent Municipal Election. At the Provincial Council Election, Mr. Light's majority was the record for the Transvaal, about eleven hundred odd, I think. All that has deserted him now, and on top of it all he carries on a butcher's business in the middle of the "disaffected area!"

That butchers business has been a trial to Billy Light, as we call him. During the worked up frenzy of the Anti-German riots this War on War shop was smashed and looted like the rest, and Comrade Light, smiling just as you see him in his photo had to start over again.

It has been one of the jokes of the movement—a War on War butcher! In the first few months of the War especially, Comrade Light's Tivoli speeches, full of his characteristic, pawky humour, were always a feature.

Our Internationals, strange to say, find a strong allurement in the sphere of Municipal adminstration. Their proud-sailed argosies return from the far-off shores of the International spice-laden for the service of—the Parks and Estates Committee. Comrade Light's one regret is that he is no longer Chairman of the Parks and Estates, where for some time he has been in the lead in the attempt to provide the drab-striken citizens of Johannesburg with a little more green foliage, and a little more music in their very drab environment.

However, the formation of an Eastern Districts Branch of the League is Comrade Light's next job; the achievement of which will make the year before us as bright for them both as the past one has been trying.

An American writer has figured that American war manufacturers get a profit of nine dollars for every seven men killed in Europe.

Seven hearts whose beating has been rudely stilled forever!

Seven minds whose flame of intelligence has been rudely extinguished!

Seven souls whose divine sentiments and possibilities have been rudely smashed!

Seven hands whose useful toil has been rudely ended!

Seven forms to which mother, wife or sweetheart never-

more will cling!

Seven soul-murders for nine bloody dollars!

Seven murders, ser presit!

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.

In our last issue appeared a letter from Mr. A. L. Clark of I) urban dealing with an invitation in the International to all Socialist Societies in South Africa to link up into one organisation. Mr. Clark, writing unofficially on behalf of the Durban S. D. P., seems to require certain verbal guarantees as to the wholesomeness of our Socialism before taking steps to link up.

These are stirring times. Too stirring to while away in the study. There were clean Socialists in the piping times of peace who have miserably failed to keep to the Socialist faith in time of stress. If a Party's attitude during the present test is no indication of the soundness of its outlook on workingclass problems, no amount of constitution building will avail.

At present the League is actively in the fight, hitting the enemy where it hurts him most. That is our guarantee. What we want to know from any organisation calling itself working class is. Are you hurting the enemy, are you execrated by him?

Nevertheless, the League Branches will have to find time to thrash out and clarify their outlook on such important matters as the Coloured and Native questions. Industrial Unionism. Taxation of Site Values. etc.

We know the weakness of the S.A.L.P. position on several questions on which our outlook has to be reviewed. But greater than verbal statements is the fighting quality of an organisation. It will come to clear declarations on these matters that agitate our S.D.P. and S.D.F. Comrades, not through academic Studies and debating Societies, but by emerging from actual grips with Capitalism and militarism, emerging with mandates from the struggle rather than from the study.

We are passing through the perpetration of the greatest swindle upon the common peoples of the world known in history. The working class are section by section being duped and enslaved more and more in the toils of militarism. It is a time to fight and a time to organise the united energies of all Socialists who mean business for that fight. Some there are who linger back on the plea of "doctrine". They will have to be left behind. It will be no justification that in a previous period certain parties kept the faith. There is no law of entail in the workingclass movement. The torch is snatched from the hand of an S.A.L.P. an S. D. P. or an S.D.F. as soon as it shows signs of drooping, no matter how brightly it burned there once. This week we had intended dilating on several of the points raised by Mr. Clark; but intervening events leave us with nothing on our lips except the one word FIGHT.

The workers produce all the shot and shell and get the full product of their labour—it is shot into them.

A Capitalist nation organizes immense armies and equips them to destroy wealth and men. A Socialist nation will organize immense armies and equip them to produce wealth for men. Which do you choose?

ARE YOU A SOCIALIST?

If you feel that we are doing the work that matters fill in this form and send your subscription to "The International" and to the funds of the League. Have you friends who should read "The International"? Send us a list of their names and addresses.

To the Secretary, International Socialist League, Box 4179. Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed find my subscription, 5s., for one year, post free, to "The International." Also a donation of £: s. d. to the funds of the League.

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League Literature.

THE WAR OF STEEL AND GOLD. 2/by H. N. Brailsford.

A study of European militarism in time of peace.

TEN YEARS OF SECRET DIPLO-MACY. 2/-

by E. D. Morel, author of "Red Rubber."

This marvellous book written prior to the outbreak of war foretold the events of the past eighteen months, pointing out the inevitable consequences of the intrigues of British, French and Spanish diplomats in Morocco.

DISARM. Baroness von Suttner's great war novel. 1/6.

PATRIOTISM & CHRISTIANITY. 1/-

by Leo Tolstoy.

An exposure in the great Russian's best style of the hollowness and hypocrisy of the former.

HOW THE WAR CAME. 3d.

Cold, hard facts adduced from official documents, distributing the blame for the war impartially among the Powers responsible. This has caused a great stir in England, and is among the list of I.L.P. pamphlets confiscated by the police.

THE WAR TRUST EXPOSED. 3d.

by Walter Newbold.

Showing how dividends are made in human slaughter. No patriotism in profits. British capital turns out torpedos in all countries to sink British mercantile marine.

THE PRUSSIAN IN OUR MIDST. 3d.

by Norman Angell.

IS BRITAIN BLAMELESS. 3d.

by Fenner Brockway.

MOROCCO AND ARMAGEDDON: 3d.

How the scramble for markets in

COMPULSORY MILITARY SER-VICE. 3d.

The two sides of the question expounded in debate by the Socialist, W. Paul and the Conscriptionist, G. Coulton.

WARS AND CAPITALISM. 3d.

Morocco made war inevitable.

by Peter Kropotkin.

How both are materially dependent one on the other.

ANTI-PATRIOTISM. 3d.

Gustav Herve's defence on a charge of anti-militarism.

Trade follows the flag and in between stalks death.

"I go" and he went not.

Do you know the man who says, "Before I take up a rifle to shoot my fellow man, I am prepared to stand up against a brick wall to be shot."?

Think of those whom you have heard saying that since the war began. How they have brought down the house! How the women have praised and said, "what a brave man"!

'Where are these men now?

They feared not death, but live in mortal terror of the sack.

They will not flinch from the sacrificial bullet someday after tomorrow. In the meanwhile there is no time for the little services which help.

They will face the shooting party, but not the ridcule.

They will even put their hands in their pockets, but can't be persuaded to pull 'em out again.

Give me the man who promises nothing glorious, but does the unrewarded job in obscurity. Depend upon it, he will not quail before any threats of military authority.

Captain Sawdust.

The Fordsburg vacancy.

At a hurriedly called general meeting of the League held on Tuesday evening the Fordsburg vacancy in the Provincial Council was discussed, and agreed that the election be contested by the League. It was decided to obtain acceptances for candidatures from Comrades Andrews, Hall and Sidney van Lingen, and to hold a ballot of members for the election of the candidates.

LEAGUE BALLOT.

The ballot for the selection of a Candidate to contest the Fordsburg vacancy in the Transvaal Provincial Council will close midday Tuesday, the 23rd. All members in Johannesburg are requested to send in signed voting papers. The ballot will be by proportional representation. Members are asked to place the names Andrews, Hall, van Lingen in alphabetical order, and their preferences I. 2. 3. against the names of their choice. Be careful to use three preferences so that the election may proceed in the event of one of the above comrades not accepting.

There can be no permanent peace in this world as long as it is to the economic advantage of any nation to capture foreign markets. Peace can only come with the universal adoption of Socialism. We will then have not the United States of America but the United Nations of Earth.

Benoni shots.

[By THE VOICE.]

Labour at the Polls.

Only the husks remain. On the Municipal manifesto issued by the Labour eight the citizens were asked to vote Labour as against Property, and in the next paragraph proceeded to base the request for suffrages on the fact that "seven of the eight Labour candidates are owners of property? All respectable, dont ther know. They have the saving grace of being "careful," unlike the shiftless worker who squanders on an outing, dares to help an unfortunate down-at-heel comrade, or lavishly caters to his mental demands by purchasing a few Socialist leaflets.

Joining the Land League.

Sombre Dr. MacDo ald, who with perfect aplomb links himself with Abraham Lincoln and Cobden, appeared bearing the fiery torch (alias red herring) of Land Reform at the Club on Saturday evening. Guess all comrades are conversant with the promises of these palliativists—it's a droll business. But in the aunouncement Arthur Ruffels' name was linked with capt. Geo. Rennie, Unionist M.L.A. for Springs, and W. B. Madeley also spoke. At the end of the meeting a branch of the League was formed, and hey presto! Madeley, Rennie and the Secretary of local Labourites scampered to get their names on the roll. There were visions of "freehold plots" held out, and as if capitalism was not already sufficiently entreached, the seven "proputting" Labour candidates yearned to see a thousand more landowners in this blighted country of "ours". Obviously that is the Labour Party's "seeit-through" policy on the Land question.

The Anticipated Rapprochement.

On account of articles and a letter above the name of Comrade Weinstock which appeared in the local 'Record', it was anticipated that some approach would be made to mend the breach in the movement. But alas, is it of any use asking propertied proletarians to look beyond national boundaries or appreciate the spirit of human broth-rhood? None at all. Then what would it profit the cause we have at heart if when striving after numerical strength we have to forfeit the soul of the movement? Fight on, comrades. Under the Internationale alone will we he able to take the outstretched arm of stricken humanity, at the end of this calamity. The fratricidal blot on the escutcheon of the Labour Party can never be erased. Let us not waste time in attempting the impossible.

In happy contrast.

To turn from such confusion to write of the happy enthusiastic band of comrades who meet weekly to hurry on the Social revolution and to endorse the International makes one's blood tingle. We have outgrown our quarters, and in the words of the shopkeepers "are removing to larger premises, " and those comrades who have hitherto not frequented the meetings on account of a lack of seating accommodation will receive a hearty welcome at Smith's Studio. The meetings are always bright and breezy -- well-thought-out papers, eloquent criticism, and good comradeship crowning all. Meetings are held every Monday evening at 8 prompt.

"Then comrades, come rally, The last fight let us face. L'Internationalé Unites the human race!"

The Benoni Branch have arranged to hold their weekly meetings from the first of December in Smith's Studio 14 Lake Avenue. Mr. Krasnick's room has been a veritable haven of refuge for the Branch, but the more commodious meeting place will conduce to the still greater popularity of the Branch meetings.

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