THE INTERNATIONAL.

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THE NEW INTERNATIONAL

GOOD NEWS FROM EUROPE

The first number of our paper opened with an article under the above heading. We then more particularly referred to the new international consciousness of working class unity, rather than to any replacement of the Bureau by a forward organisation. But now we learn through the American "Weekly People" and other; sources that the Zimmerwald Conference, held in September, was really the inception of the new International organisation of class conscious Socialists, the coming of which we felt was inevitable sooner or later.

The arrangements for the international gathering, it will be interesting to note, were made by the Swiss Comrades, though the initiative was taken by the Italian Party, at a meeting in Bologna, on May 15, of this year. Therefore we may consider the Swiss and Italian Socialists as the initiators of this momentous Conference.

In the Minutes of the Conference, published in the "Berner Tagwacht," our Comrades want us to understand their move to be a desire to reach an understanding among class conscious Socialists of the world on matters of vital importance to the workers (although disclaiming any intention to split the old or form a New International). Their somewhat independent action, by significantly mention, however, was made necessary by the refusal of The International Socialist Bureau to offer its offices for such an undertaking.

All political parties, workingmen's organisations and groups, which recognise the class struggle and act in accord with its dictations were invited to participate.

The following countries participated in the Conference; the name of the organisation, number of delegates and character of their mandate is also given:—

Germany: The delegates were elected by the different groups of the insurgent or opposition faction. The party officially was not invited, due to its present position. Tenwere present.

France: For the same reason as in Germany the official party was not represented. However, the Metal Workers' Union and the minority in the Confederation Generale Travaile were officially represented. Two delegates were present.

Italy: The whole Official Party, being Anti-war, was represented by five delegates.

England: As previously reported in the "International," the I.L.P. and B.S.P. delegates from England were prevented from being represented by the British authorities.

Russia: About sixteen official delegates from the Social Democratic Party and the Social Revolutionary Party and from the Lettish Socialists.

Poland: Three organisations which stand for the class struggle were represented by a delegate each.

Roumanian and Bulgarian Socialists, as well as the Inter-Balkan Socialist Federation, were represented. Sweden, Norway, Holland, Switzerland made up the rest.

The Conference adopted resolutions condemning the attitude of revisionists or reformers in voting the war credits and supporting their respective Governments; and commending the Russian revolutionists, Karl Liebknecht, Clara Zetkin, Rosa Luxemburg and others for their determined stand.

Admission to the Conference, it should be stated, was based upon the explicit condition that organisatons sending delegates recognise the decisions of the various International

Congresses; furthermore, upon their having in the recent past acted in accord with same; and last, but not least, that the organisations declare themselves willing to terminate the truce with their respective governments and return to the position of the class struggle.

It was such a Conference which issued the stirring Manifesto to the workers of the world published in a recent issue of our paper, and now printed in pamphlet form by the League.

The Conference formed itself into a Provisional Committee, known as the International Socialist Commission, which consists of O. Morgari (whose letter to the League appears in this issue), member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, and Charles Naine and Robert Grimm, members of the Swiss National Assembly. This Commission will organise a Bureau through which the affiliated parties will keep in touch with one another. Periodically the Bureau will also issue a bulletin. The seat of this "Provisional" International Socialist Bureau is at Berne, in Switzerland.

Message from Morgari.

It will be remembered that at a general meeting of the League, held while still in the bosom of the Labour Party, it was decided to send a letter, drafted and proposed by Comrade Bunting, to Morgari, the prominent Italian Socialist Leader, and to other representatives of Antiwar minorities all over the globe. The letter urged that the time had arrived to weld the anti-war, class conscious Socialists into a well-knit, united, executive International Socialist Organisation, and suggesting that Karl Liebknecht be invited to take a lead in the whole matter. The letter was published in the second issue of the "International," on the 17th September last.

By this mail we receive an acknowledgement of our letter from Comrade Morgari. It will be read with pleasure by our members. Now they can surely feel that we form at least a lonely outpost of the fast mobilising world army of a real Executive Internationale. Doubtless the Management Committee will reccommend to our Conference on the 9th January, the necessary steps to be taken for affiliating and adequately supporting morally and financially, the new International Socialist Commission at Berne. By that time also, we may have the official letter referred to, to present to the Conference. Here follows the note:—

Camera dei Deputati,

Rome, 5th Nov., 1915.

Mr. I. Jones,

The Int. League of the S.A.L.P.,

Johannesburg.

Dear Comrade,— I received your letter of the 20th September, which was published in the "Avanti," official paper of the Italian Socialist Party at the date of 22nd October.

I sent your letter also to the International Socialist Committee (Robert Grimm, Member of Parliament, Berne, Switzerland) appointed by the Zimmerwald Conference of the 5th-8th September.

I hope you read about the Conference in the political papers. It was inspired from the same principles that your letter—read by me with great pleasure,—defend.

This Committee will answer you directly and officially.

With brotherly regards,

Yours.

O. Morgari.

Homily to the Respectable.

By M. H. F.

Every morning as I go to work I see the sullen Kaffir gang being hurried down from the Fort to the bar of justice. At the pace of a forced march they go, some bravely stepping out, some shuffling to keep abreast. They are coupled with iron handcuffs. Chiselled on their faces by the Moloch of Capitalism are the crests of his degradation. Created are they in his image by his army of lackeys, from the Magistrate and Public Prosecutor to the Police and Police boys who walk by their side. By their side they walk with the jangle of handcuffs and sharp reprimands;—everyday offscourings and blasphemers of the Good God Profit.

Or it may be the Black Maria, now a brand new motor driven one, a far pleasanter sight, gilded too, tearing down Kaiser Street for the Court, hiding within God knows what misery (for Capitalism has learnt how to guild its misery)—a daily assurance that the machine which keeps profiteering profitable is in beautiful working order.

And when, from meditative trains along the Reef, I catch a glimpse of those squat, impregnable looking fortresses, the Germiston one for intance,—His Majesty's Prisons—reminiscent if you give reminiscence wing, of the pillars of 'Chillon's dungeons deep and old," where men have "learnt to love despair," and where for 'crimes" against the sacred law of Profits and of Property, they find an abyss of crime still greater, unnameable, whence favoured he who can escape;—when I pass these, I learn that to be civilized is to be policed.

These are the more primitive persuasions by which the wage-earner is made content with his lot.

But Capitalism has another weapon to suppress rebellions against His Ugliness, that still more powerful seventy-five of Respectability. It booms with smokeless powder, and is well concealed with foliage and bourgeois decorations.

of the professional and upper classes. 'The alternative promptly confronts him either to give up his ideas or snap all socal bonds that have held and supported him. I ew of these are equipped with the requisite vigour and independence of character to approach the spot where the roads fork; very few among these few are brave enough to break with their own class when they have reached that spot; and finally, of these few among the few, the larger portion have hitherto grown tired, recognised the 'indiscretions' of their youth, and become 'sensible'.'

"The past weighs like an Alp upon the brain of the present," said the master. Bourgeois respectability weighs like an Alp upon every Socialist—International Socialist—who is not a wage-earner.

The Utopians are fast being squeezed out. Capitalism, at pistol point, commands them to heel or be for ever damned into the outer darkness of International Socialism. The Blatchfords, Bernard Shaws, and H. G. Wells are staggered and scattered by that mighty Schismatic—War. "Traitor," roar the cannons of Capitalism. "Traitor," hiss his marshalled millions. "Traitor," echo obediently his wage-paid parsons, scientists, scribes, and School Boards. "Like phantoms of a scummy marsh, thrice horgible and cold" are the maledictions of shocked Respectability.

There is no escape for the Utopian reformer but to comply, patiently have his teeth drawn as the Labour Party has done, be soothed with Deputy Mayoralties and Public Presentations, and retreat into the lap of conformity,—himself reformed and respectabled. For Capitalism is past reformation. Electoral reform, Sidney Webb statistics, taxation by ability to bear, Municipal milk supply, these are still respectable, for the Tempest has swept them into Futility.

Capitalism is in its dotage. 'Tis no time for dim and vague ideals. The material for the Social Commonwealth is fast ripening even in the womb of the ugly present. While Capitalism celebrates his high feast, his successor is being born in the stable of wage-earner, among the asses and kine born in the stable of wage-labour, among the asses and kine the orgy. Do you want to belong to the newer, mightier world of to-morrow? You will find it in the lowly stable of International Socialism.

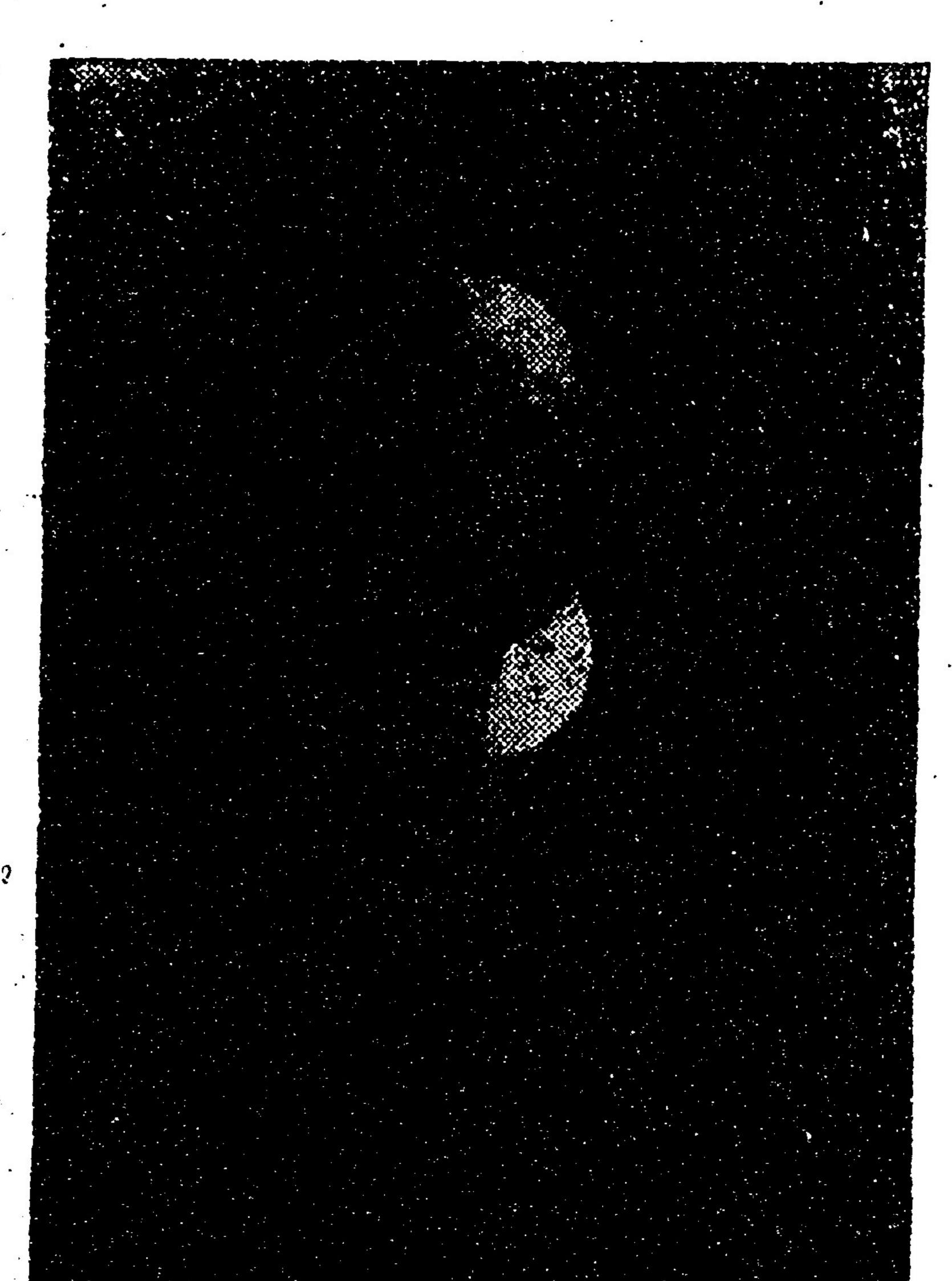
Snapshots.

VI_I F. Brown

James Forrester Brown, M.P.C., is the subject of our snapshot this week. A member of the human race since 1879, and an Australian member at that, he knows all about the Capitalist system, and its effects on the wage-earner both in Australia and in South Africa. A self-educated man is Jimmy Brown, had to leave school when he was ten. Went in a bullock-wagon to Broken Hill in 1887, and endured the privations of the great 1892 strike there. James makes no bones of the goats he had to steal to assuage the gnawing hunger of those days, eaten without bread or salt.

Went underground when fourteen; and occupied various positions as underground manager, and even manager of various mines, and all the time a Union man. A foundation member even of the Amalgamated Miners Association of West Australia; he can produce his clearance card to this country

in 1905.



His work among the miners in this country is too well known to go into detail now. The fact that he is to-day the fitting successor of Tom Mathews as General Section of the Miners' Union is sufficient index of the regard in which he is held.

The first time the writer saw him was on a very solemn occasion indeed. During the July Strike Forrester Brown spent an hour at the Germiston Strike Committee, which sat in committee, which sat in constant session. News of the killing in Johannes-burg was arriving. James administered the oath of

the remembrance of its terrible clauses still makes the flesh creep. Later, the local Magistrate came with the Inspector of Police. They went away thinking that James was a very sinister Labour man to deal with.

Nevertheless, in the days of industrial peace, he is a typically boisterous Australian, who has the happy knack of getting on well with men with whom he may violently dis-

agree.

War-on-Warite from the first sound of battle, and a member of the League. An International Socialist in outlook as well as by profession, he realises the needs of the coming time in South African Industrial organisation perhaps more keenly than any other Trade Union leader. He has already raised his voice on behalf of the organisation of the native, and the necessity for making the Kaffir a free labourer before any further advance can be made in working class emancipation. This from the Secretary of the most conservative Trade Union in this respect is a hopeful sign, and shows that Internationalism is not a message of distant hopes, but brings light to the immediate problems of the here and now.

We know that no material good fortune can rob him of his love for the cause of working class emancipation. But we may deign to hope that no material good fortune will rob the industrial movement of his endeavours; for we are convinced that it is in the industrial arena that the principles of the International will hereafter find their mest signal appli-

cation.

PATRIOTISM NOT ENOUGH

"Standing before God and Eternity I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must be free from hate and bitterness."—Miss Cavell's last words.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

The "British Columbia Federationist" cannot contain itself over the General Elections in South Africa. This is how it soliloquizes:—

Whatever Gods there be, must surely be weltering in sardonic hilarity these days at the antics of the working class. And even if there should have been a disposition on their part to ease off a little, the South African elections must have startled them again at full speed. The outstanding features of that election, which took place last week are, the complete triumph of Premier Botha, and the smashing defeat of the Socialist and Labour candidates.

Andrews, the ablest of the former, only polled 63 votes in a constituency where he previously had a large majority. It goes without saying that we do not like it; but feelings avail nothing in face of the facts no matter how disagreeable they may be. What has come over the workers in South Africa? What has happened to their memories? We can understand their sentiments with respect to the war But we cannot understand why, in face of their experiences of the last two years, they come to throw their political prestige to the winds.

Can they have forgotten Botha's action less than two years ago, when the railway workers of South Africa were about to strike for general improvement in conditions which had be come so unbearable that they could no longer be tolerated. At that time he called out the entire military forces of the colony against them, and publicly said, that he would teach them such a lesson as would prevent a strike ever again taking place in South Africa.

Not only did he do that but ne also blew all the Magna Charta rights of British subjects higher than a kite by arresting nine of the men's officials; and then, without trial, had them put aboard ship and deported from South Africa with the parting threat that they had better stay away unless they wanted treatment even. more drastic than that. Even at this time, and with all the astounding happenings of the past fifteen months taken into account, that these elections should have gone as they have, seems about the last straw. It was Balzac who said: "Men collectively have no memory." It looks like it."

We quoted the "Maoriland Worker's" approval of our stand as Internationalists a few issues back. The Winnipeg "Voice" has likewise a rap over the knuckles for the Labour Party. Indeed, where in the wide world will vou find a Labour organ that has any sympathy for our recruiting sergeants! Thus saith the "Voice":—"The elections in South Africa have resulted in a victory for Botha. The press despatches feature the defeat of the Labour Party. Well if the Labour Party meddles with Imperialism instead of the economic question it deserves defeat. The two questions will never mix with the workers any more than water and oil."

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY GROWING.

The I.L.P. agitation against conscription, although indirect and rather beside the point like everything in British history, is undoubtedly a veiled form of the gathering feeling of International working class solidarity.

The truce with the Capitalists in France is getting severe knocks. Vigorous attacks were made on it at a recent Congress of French Socialists. A Conference of the French Teachers' Union has issued an anti-war manifesto, ending up with the words: "Enough of this bloodshed!" The Teachers' Union carried their militant propaganda to the Confederation Generale du Travail, lost their resolution by 89 votes to 21, but 59 delegates abstained from voting.

The Swiss Socialists have held anti-war meetings in seventy towns, participators in the demonstrations wearing badges inscribed: "War against War," in three languages

The Russian jingo Socialists have been hopelessly defeated in Petrograd, the occasion being a plebiscite as to representation on a Government War Committee: The delegates' resolution reads well:—

"We, the delegates of industrial establishments of Petrograd, acting upon a mandate from our fellow workers, declare to be inadmissable on principle any participation in organisations contributing in any way to the carrying on of war, and refuse therefore to join the Central War Industrial Committee."

The resolution further stigmatises as traitors and violators of the will of the proletariot anyone disregarding this resolution.

We in South Africa are keeping our bond. It is our duty to unite all those who regard this as a civil war of the workers into one organisation. We may not now be able to make many new converts, nor even get a hearing to our propaganda; nevertheless, it is our function to represent that international fraternity which we believe still to be lying latent in the heart of the working class here, underneath the froth of Capitalist education. ...

No man can serve both Capital and Labour at the same time.

Eugene Debs.

3 3

That culture, the threatened loss of which the Capitalist laments, is, for the enormous majority, a mere training to act as a machine.

Karl Marx.

3 3

The chains of slavery chafe on a black skin just as it does on a white.

8 8 7

All the attempts to abolish slavery by violence are like extinguishing fire by fire, stopping water with water, or filling one hole by digging another.

Tolstoy.

THE PRETORIA SOCIALISTS.

Comrade Blake sends us the objects and principles of the Pretoria Socialist Society. They show that the object of the Society is "the emancipation of the people from wage slavery; and the substitution of a system which shall ensure economic freedom for all." Membership is open to all who subscrible to this object and to the methods of obtaining it, namely, by the transfer of the control of industry from the employing class to the workers,—"irrespective of race, colour, or creed." "Recognising that politics may have a certain educational value, we should be prepared to support a party whose programme was definitely Socialistic, and which acknowledged that reforms, whether obtained by legislation or by Trade Union action, cannot ultimately bene-fit the working class while the wage system lasts." We invite the Pretoria Socialists to co-operate with the I.S.L. in the formation of a South African organisation definitely proclaiming these objects. Link up with the new class conscious International.

"THE WRECKERS."

We are accused of being wreckers of the Labour movement, by those persons who to-day conspire with the Machiavelli of Capitalism as to how the workers shall be marched to the field of murder. They who talk of "common causes" over the wine with Smuts, should not feel the need of any Labour movement, though they may feel the need of a "screw" from it.

To-morrow, Capital and Labour will confront each other like two vast armies engaged in a titanic struggle for supremacy.

It will be of the greatest importance that the men who will then lead Labour shall be men who have kept the hatchet ground and polished, who have recognised no truce, never suborned themselves to popularty, succumbed to no Capitalist flattery, never considered place or pelf in their duty to true working class interests.

New men, with the flame of independence and integrity in their face, shall rise to lead the working class when the march resumes. No snarls of disappointed hucksters shall deter the "International" from telling the truth as it presents itself to us.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

The Press Committee have packed the Editor off for a fortnight's holiday, consequently no "International" will be issued in Christmas and New Year Week Next issue January 7th, 1915.

BENONI NOTES.

By T. C. D.

The Benoni Branch of the International held its first public meeting on Sunday last at Smith's Studio. Comrade T. C. Davies presided, and it devolved upon Comrade Dunbar to make the first public speech from the platform of the International in this town.

The hall was crammed. It is not a very spacious hall, and it was filled to its utmost limit, and those who could not find seating accommodation were quite content to stand and listen attentively to a most educative lecture.

The future of the Labour movement was the pivot on which our comrade's lecture revolved, and after emphasing the value of organisation on the lines laid down by the I.W.W., he enlarged upon the Socialist's objective, to the consummation of which all our efforts should be devoted. To that end he urged that the platform of the I.S.L. should on no account be burdened with reforms and palliatives, which only hinder and cripple the movement for emancipation.

But good though the lecture proved, it was in skirmishing with the questions our comrade was seen at his best. His cool, withering ,shattering retorts to the "patriotic" interrogator brought the house down every time. In the delight and excitement time was forgotten, and it was 10.25 when, with a jerk, the halt was called—for the last train to town left at 10.30!

Aye, Dunbar is an 18-carat agitator! as on a sultry day when all seems lifeless and we tap our liver and say: "All's wrong with the world!" a breeze comes up and refreshes us; so in this day when Labour seems to have been chloroformed with Oom King and Oom Empire gas, this breezy comrade comes along and agitating calls us back to the fray—to the fight in which no man falls in vain. There is a breeze in his brogue, in his celtic fervour, and in his vigorous thought and vigorous language—and might in his ruggedness.

On Monday evening the usual Branch meeting was held. Comrade Den Bekker was in the chair. After enrolling a few more names on the register, it heing speech night, Comrade Edgar Davies was called upon to give his paper on "The French Revolution," after which a lively discussion arose. Conrades Sundelsohn, Chapman, Krasnick, Den Bekker, T. C. Davies, and Aronowitz tuck part. In addition to the historical data which Comrade Krasnick certified as "correct," every phase of the Revolution was dwelt upon; its causes, its failings, its lessons, its acomplishments, with its bearing on and similarities to the present International situation were not overlooked, and the hope was expressed and applauded that as the French Revolution sealed the doom of feudalism, so may the Revolution which must assuredly come on the wake of the International confict seal the doom of Capitalism! The meeting closed with rousing cheers: "Hail to the Revolution!"

DURBAN SOCIALISTS UNITING.

Durban Internationals maintain:

healthy activity.

The Saturday evening meetings in the Garden's continue to attract considerable crowds. The pitch is a little congested. The Salvation Army blares away until after eight, and last week a patriotic band performance was given from the top of a train in the immediate vicinity until 8.30. Comrades hesitated to start with a seething mass of lip patriots filling the streets, but with Andrews in the chair, Hall started and gave an able address. The chief incident was provided by a diminitive soldier, who stepped boldly into the ring and an nounced that Andrews had called hin, a fillibuster, and therefore was a traitor. The Sunday lecture this week was given by Comrade Mabbot, on his experiences as secretary of the New Australia movement and settlement ir Paraguay. His account of the vicissitudes of: the settlers and the causes of their failure to maintain the commun al organisation was listened to with deep interest, and a useful discussior followed the lecture. Comrade Petterson was in the chair. Perhaps the most interesting event locally was the meeting between the S.D.P. and members of the League on Wednesday las' week. After a very pleasant even ings discussion and exchange of views, it was agreed to call a joint meeting of all members of the two bodies for the 23rd, at which definite proposals, with a view to joint action will be discussed.

It is interesting to notice that the propaganda of the S.D.P. has taken on a more pronounced anti-war ton lately, and therefore the Sunday night meetings are more largely attended and more interest and also hostility shown.

Evil communications corrupt good manners. Comrade Percy Baker is the latest victim of Capitalist hate He was informed that men holding his views could not be employed by the firm. He is still active in the cause, being literature secretary, but will have to seek bread and butter soon.

W.H.A.

THE LEAGUE PICNIC.

Oyez. Oyez, as the bellman used to sing, be the members of the League and their friends hereby notified that 'ye picnic' of the League will be holden at Jackson's Drift on Boxing Day, the 26th December.

All Comrades and friends must assemble at the New Trades Hall at 9 of the clock in the morning, whence the trollies will leave for the pleasant and umbrageous spot aforementioned. Plenty of fun for the children, grown-up or growing—and refreshments provided all day. Tickets, 5s., children half-price; dress optional. All under six and over sixty free. Tickets obtained at the League office or from the lady comrades?

BRANCH NEWS

Johannesburg Central.

A meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon the 19th inst., at 4 p.m. sharp, on the Town Hall steps. Comrades are asked to roll up to support the speakers. As the police do not expect the meeting, hooliganism is unlikely.

Regular meetings will be resumed after the New Year, either in the open or in a hall, for which negotiations are pending; Vrededorp and Fordsburg will also be tackled in Jan-

uary.

Literature Distribution. — All members are urged to rally at No. 6, Trades Hall, to-morrow (Saturday) night at 7.30 prompt, to take part in a Zeppelin raid over certain parts of the town. Explosive literature will be forthcoming in plenty.

Lectures and Discussions.—The January syllabus of Thursday lectures will be published very shortly.

Conference.—We hope to send eight delegates, representing a membership of between 75 and 100. Members should forward at once to the Secretary, Box 1981, particulars of matter they desire brought up at the Conference.

Subscriptions for December not yet paid up may be left at the Chairman's office, 104, Commissioner Street, the Treasurer, 115, Market Street, or at Head Office.

Eastern Districts

This Branch held a meeting at Comrade Light's house on Tuesday evening. Comrade Light acting chairman till the new year. Resolutions for discussion at the Conference were agreed upon. Financial details were discussed, and money came in freely. Subscriptions for the "International" were also taken.

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Benoni.—T. Chapman, P.O. Box 279. Meetings, Smith's Studio, Lake Avenue.

Capetown.—Intending members see Comrade Wilfrid Harrison, Secretary S.D.F., Box 1176.

Durban.—W. S. Mabbott, 353, Point Road. Meetings at Auld Kirk Hall and Trades Hall.

Eastern Districts. — Secretary, c.o. 249, Marshall St., Jeppe.

Germiston.—E. H. Becker, 54, Queen Street. Meetings in Colin Wade's surgery.

Johannesburg.—T. W. Ward, P.O. Box 1981. Meetings, Trades Hall.

Head Office.—D. Ivon Jones, Secretary, 6, Trades Hall. P.O. Box

Pretoria.—Intending members see Mr. W. Blake, Secretary, Socialist Society, Box 618.

Comrade J. A. Clark informs us that he has made preparations for opening a Branch of the League in Fordsburg after the Christmas holidays, and has received encouraging number of assurances from friends in that district who wish to join.