THE INTERNATIONAL.

The Organ of the International Socialist League (S.A.)

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PRICE Id. WEEKLY.

The Parting of the Ways.

As was announced in last week's issue of "The Our International", the anti-militarists have dejustification. finitely seceded from the South African Labour Party, and have formed a seperate organisation called the International Socialist League (S.A.). The first step was the formation of the International League within the Party. This was done in the lingering hope that the Party might relent considerably in the application of its "see it through" policy, and afford some prospect of winning it back to what the Internationals consider its native principles. But it was not to be. Drunk with its newlyfound ascendancy, the majority rode rough-shod over all finer sentiments of old associations, comradeship, freedom of thought, or working class qualificatione; and, with one eye on the pledge and the other on the Capitalist Press, insisted upon the imposition of its Imperialism on that pledge, and on its signature anew by every candidate for public office.

Two poles mutually repulsive.

With the anxiety of the one section to protest its loyalty to the Empire by constant public dissociation from the Internationals, and the impatience of the Internationals at the growing

flagwagging propensities of the majority, the antagonism within the Party soon created an impossible situation, and the link finally broke.

In addition to the inevitable estrangement, the secession was helped by other considerations. The Party has become definitely rainted with militarism and Imperialism. The alternatives were to remain silent within the Party, (an unthinkable attitude), or loudly to proclaim true working class principles; which latter inevitably made for expulsion in any case.

It was a case of duty to the International as against The two the obligation to working class unity. It soon beunities. came evident however that unity for us meant unity with the anti-war minorities of Socialism all over the world. It was even felt latterly that the best answer to those who wished to "bore from within" was that no reclamation of the party to Socialism after the war will have any virtue unless a section of it have unmistakeably rebelled against its capitulation to capitalism. We claim that in the present conflict our best service to, South Africa will be rendered by considering the claims of humanity at large. We have applied the same principle here. The best way to secure local unity is to make International unity our guide. Wnether or not the present Labour Party will ever desire or deserve any working affiliation with the League on its return to sanity, the imperative duty of the hour is to give adequate voice to the International spirit in South Africa. If that has made secession inevitable—well and good. The fact that the final break was preceded by some lingering hesitation, not to say vacillation, is

a guarantee of earnest consideration.

that success.

responsibilities. Socialism in South Africa are in our keeping. We have undertaken great responsibilities. Every member of the League must feel the need for concentrating all available energies on making the organisation well worthy of the principles which it is to enshrine. We have the whole of South Africa to organise; and if we do not make the International Socialist League the most effective and best organised Party of the workers in South Africa, we hope to at least deserve

from the spirit of the time. It will endeavour to ascertain from the experiences of the past year the pitfalls in organisation which should be avoided. The Provisional Constitution of the League appears in another column. It is purposely simple and embracing, insisting firmly on the one principle which accounts for our existence. We have learnt something of the dangers of too elaborate constitutions and pledges. Greater freedom of action will undoubtedly mark the Labour movement of the future. The War on War League has done magnificent work on a constitution of two lines only, proving that hard personal service in the Branches, and not constitutions, will do the work.

Branches. Working of itself all night through, after the attendant had been electrocuted. The Labour Party is very much in that position. Most of its Branches are now mere skeletons kept in being by persons interested in getting nominated for public office. The League will not follow the old method of forming Branches of ten in every constituency. Running candidates for public bodies will only be one of our methods, and not perhaps, the most important one. Strong central Branches therefore rather than many small and scattered ones, is the securest organisation.

Appeal to In this connection we would appeal to the Socia-Socialists. list Societies of Durban, Capetown, Pretoria, as

well as other kindred organisations, to link up into one International Socialist Organisation for South Africa. Most encouraging response is being given by isolated Socialists in all parts of South Africa, to whom the Labour Party has not been able to make any appeal. The Socialists of the Transvaal have given sufficient guarantee of fidelity to the cause which they now espouse to give them the right to urge upon the organised Socialists of the other Provinces to link up at all costs. The Conference of the League which it is hoped to call in a few months time should be representative of the whole of South Africa. We look with confidence to them to rise to the greatness of the occasion, and form in South Africa an organisation worthy of the International.

The We have glorious tasks to perform for South Africa outlook. and Socialism during the coming years. The nature

happily prevert our by overmuch public applause. A dilletante and exclusive Inter- the League deal resolutely in consonance with Socialist principles nationalism will however have to be guarded against. The International Socialist League will have the more significance the more it tends to pull the working class of South Africa with it. This involves a corresponding interest in industrial organisation with a relations. Not till we free the native can we hope to free the view to giving it an International outlook.

Moreover, an Internationalism which does not The real proletariat. concede the fullest rights which the native working class is capable of claiming will-be a sham.

One of the justifications for our withdrawal from the Labour Party is that gives us untrammelled freedom to deal, regardless of political

being spoilt fortunes, with the great and fascinating problem of the native. If with the native question, it will succeed in shaking South African Capitalism to its foundations. Then and not till then, shall we be able to talk about the South African Proletariat in our International white. Is militarism to be destroyed, capitalism to be chained, and the lust of conquest "dragged captive through the deep" by the immeasurably finer order of the Great International that is to be? then

SOCIALISTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, UNITE.!



International Socialist League.

For the Benefit of supporters and comrades in the other provinces of the Union, it will be well worth the space to publish here the provisional Constitution of the International Socialist League, as decided upon at the general meeting of the Rand members in Johannesburg on September 22nd. The Constitution will prevail until a Conference of the League can be called. In the meantime kindred organisations in other parts of the Union, with this Constitution before them, will no doubt discuss the question of amalgamating all the International Socialists of South Africa into one body.

International Socialist Name. League, (S.A.)

To propagate the principles of Objects. Socialism International and maintain anti-Militarism, and to strengthen International working class organisation.

Methods Shall Include:—

(I) Organisation and education by means of press and platform.

(2) Participation in elections for public bodies.

Membership:-

- Any person may be a member of the League who either joins and is accepted by a Branch of the League, or joins the League at Headquarters as an unattached member, and
- (i) signs a pledge to abide by the Constitution of the League; and
- (c) pays any subscription levied by his Branch, or in the case of unattached members pays at least 2/6 per month to the Treasurer of the League; and

(a) Subscribes at the rate of 5/- per annum to the official organ of the League.

Administration:--

(1) Rech Branch shall be entitled to appoint two delegates for

members or part thereof to a Delegates Meeting, and representation of unattached members at such meeting shall be arranged in the same proportion by the Management Committee; and such meeting with the Management Committee shall be the governing body of the League, and shall be summoned from time to time at the discretion of the Management Committee.

- The Management Committee of the League shall consist of Chairman, two Vice-chairmen, a Treasurer and Secretary, and four other members, all to be appointed for one year by a Delegates' Meeting.
- (3) The Management Committee may frame bye-laws for the further management of the League's affairs.

The Cry of the Children.

A Free State supporter of the League galled on us this week,—a Marxian Socialist who confesses himself a wage slave, since his Government billet will not allow us to give his name. The account he gave us of the condition of the poor Dutch labourers in his district was simply appalling. They work on the railway for 3/- per day, increasing in fifteen months to the munificent salary of 6/-.

Talk about subsistence level, these men can hardly be said to exist. Our friend said that we are breeding a type of humanity in South Africa which will become desperate from hunger. One told him the other day that his family would not starve so much now as meal was cheaper.

The children in his school are often found crying of hunger, and the kindly schoolmaster has himself to provide for them from his not too ample store.

While Botha, Smuts, Duncan and Creswell are deluding the people with their stupendous Imperialist swindle, the cry of thousands of white children for bread goes up in South Africa. Members of Parliament in their lust tor European blood will have additional crime on their souls of having bred a degenerate and degraded race for the sunny South Africa of the future.

Brittania's Slaves.

The Editor. "INTERNATIONAL." Dear Sir.

In view of the fact that a corps of munition workers have just left S.A. for England and also because you publish an extract from the "Evening Chronicle" on Munition Slackers, I think the enclosed extract from the letter of a carpenter's wife residing in Liverpool might interest your readers.

This poor woman is not a Socialist and has no "views" oh the war, but from the window of her little cottage she has a good view of the Dock road, Liverpool, and the daily parade of hundreds of skilled men unemployed there.

When one thinks of the hysterical skrieking of Mr. Lloyd George "more men, oh! more men for Gods sake" it makes one give a wry and bitter smile.

> Yours truly, S. MASON.

3 Lancaster Cottages, Krugersdorp. 28. 8. 15.

[Here follows the extract referred to.]

"Charlie has only done two weeks in eight, and things are getting worse. He tried to get in the munition shops, but as he was unemployed he was not wanted, and if you are working on the ships you are not wantedlas that's Government work, and when you stop they don't want you as you are unemployed, so what in the wide world they want one does not know, they don't know themselves really. You may guess' what Charlie and a few more said about munition shops etc. Its really too terrible, for there are between two and three hundred men walking the dock road now and they seem to be giving the work to men that are coming from Birmingham and Manchester and all round. They work for about a fortnight and then join the rest unemployed."

Have you Subscribed to "THE INTERNATIONAL ?"? Send 5s. to Box 4179, Johannesburg.

THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT.

The Austrian Socialists have issued a Manifesto in response to that of the 700 German Socialists' demand for peace on the basis of no annexations.

"The Social Democrats among the Austrians," they say, "welcome most heartily this manifestation, which has been received with the greatest satisfaction by the whole International."..." The suffering masses have no other thought than for peace."

That last sentence should strike South Africa on the raw. Apart from the sufferings caused by the rebellion, also a result of Imperial Conquest, the continuation of the present war is no more to us here than a spectacle which must be continued for our delectation. [No widows, orphans or wooden legs. South Africans are a crowd round the arena demanding that the gladiators draw more and more blood, and, woe be to those who spoil the show.

Meantime, there is nothing in the British Socialist world to equal in heroism and persistence the agitation of the German and Austrian Socialists in the direction of peace.

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h Africa there have been nominated the international Socialist Candidates for Parliament. That is the most practical demonstration of response we can make to the Internationals of all lands. Comrades Andrews and Clark, for Georgetown and Langlaagte respectively, are the nominees of the League, and members are urged to strain all their energies to make the best possible showing, and record every International Socialist vote. The Socialist International will be grateful to us.

Comrade Clark is already suffering the penalty. The Boilermakers Society have

given him two months notice to resign his position as Organising Secretary. At the South African Council last Saturday it was decided to call for nominations of a new organising secretary. We are told that the decision was not arrived at without a prolonged discussion on Mr. Clark's attitude on the war, and was not by any means unanimous.

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We are further told that several of Comrade Clark's supporters in Langlaagte excused themselves from nominating him because of business intimidation from Labour men.

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Eight anti-war Labourites have been returned to the new Parliament in New Zealand.

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The Management Committee has cabled the League's condolence at the death of Keir Hardie, and have asked Councillor Idwal Thomas, that ardent I.L.P-er who

(Continued on page 4.)

J. KEIR HARDIE :- AN APPRECIATION.

By W. H. ANDREWS.

Picturesque, even heroic, but essentially sane, Keir Hardie has long been the central figure in the British Labour Movement. He has been removed, not full of years as politicans go,—the early life in the pit may account for that—but leaving a memory behind of strenuous and unceasing activity as writer, speaker and organiser of the class from which he sprung and to which he always remained loyal.

His sartorial peculiarities, indicative of contempt for convention, and his blunt straightforward speeches, made him familiar to all and beloved by many, from the time when he entered Parliament as a member for West Ham.

South Africa disgraced herself by her brutal treatment of this people's champion, when he called here on his way from India in 1907. Then as now the Press vilified him because he dared to demand a measure of justice for all workers irrespective of race or colour. His views on India and the native question were wilfully distorted weeks before his arrival, and the mob incited to ill-treat him. The Johannesburg well-dressed hooligan, true to his reputation, met Hardie at Park Station. The authorities, who would have sent a battalion if a mine magnate had been threatened, thought two constables quite sufficient for the protection of this distinguished guest. With difficulty he reached his cab and hotel. His meeting at the Caledonian Hall was broken up, and the same people who whine when Quinn or Smuts are annoyed hurled missiles at him and the ladies who were on the platform.

I had the honour of helping to keep the crowd from rushing the platform; and afterwards, with Alt. Crisp, Tom Mathews. Berman, and a few friends, visited him at his hotel. A howling mob was below in the street. But Hardie had been through too much persecution to be disturbed. The veteran sat at ease in his white jacket smiling at the uproar outside. He proposed a meeting for the next evening, and arrangements were discussed, during which an incident showed his broad tolerance. He suggested refreshments. Knowing his strong total abstinence principles, one or two comrades henitated to "give it a name". He smiled. "I shall have coffee comrades" he said, "but don't be bashful, have what you want". At the next evening's meeting at the Trades Hall, at which I had the honour of being his Chairman, he was listened to with breathless attention and was well reported next day. When his sound and same views on the industrial

status of the coloured and the native people were grasped by the public he was listened to respectfully and even enthusias tically for the rest of his tour in South Africa.

So far as one can judge his outlook on lite was optimistic. He never grew old mentally. His keen intellectual vision kept him more than abreast of the times, and consequently he received more than the average amount of abuse from the reaction.

His reputation was International. His proposal to organise a general strike against war startled the International Congress. He died one of the few breasting the flood of mingled fear, hate, passion and prejudice let loose by the war mongers of Europe. He fought militarism in War as well as in Peace. His acquaintance was a privilege. His memory is an inspiration.

DO IT NOW.

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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THE MOVEMENT. (Continued from page 3.)

recently visited South Africa, to represent us at the funeral. Elsewhere in this issue appears an appreciation of Comrade Hardie by W. H. Andrews.

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On the Johannesburg Market Square last Sunday afternoon members of the League as usual held forth to an attentive little audience. Comrades Tom Ward and Ivon Jones were the speakers, International" was sold, as well as other anti-militarist and Socialist literature. A feature of these meetings is the little knot of in erested natives and coloured men always there. Some buy the "International." Let who will sneer, nothing convinces us of the universality of our appeal so much as this. We shall never be on bedrock until we can command the attention of the dark skinned proletariat of South Africa.

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The evening meeting on the Town Hall steps had a crowd of four or five hundred. Comrade Dunbar stuck to it valiantly for an hour; but the opposition was organised. There is reason to believe that it was abetted by members of the C.I.D. in the crowd. There was a big mass of interested listeners, as evidenced by the rush for "Internationals" at the close. Next week all members should turn up for a good rally. We'll have Comrades Andrews, a Campbell and Clark. Don't let us be beaten by half a dozen tipsy "patriots."

Answers to Correspondents.

R. Balmforth, Capetown:-

The Defence Act will demand a large part of our attention in the future, but from a working class stand point rather than the one you take.

BRITTLEBANK

Writes criticising the League's attitude, and pins his faith to a Labour majority in Parliament for a solution of all our troubles.

"It is deplorable that the rank and file of the workers have not got beyond the A. B. C. of Socialism the current idea of our opponents that it (Socialism) means an equal division of wealth and that if such division were made another division would be necessary next week."

Mr. Brittlebank says later: "at any rate the proposal to down arms and refuse to fight while the Empire is at war is preparing the way for Germany to ride rough shod over the small measure of liberty which we now possess."

lies in the fact that those who presume to teach the workers have not reached the "A B.C. of Booislism" Ed.1

The New Labour Hymn.



The latest Labour Badges are now out. They bear the inscription "Vote Labour, "See it Through," worked round a tasteful design of the "Red Flag" and the "Union Jack" crossed in sweet alliance.

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The peoples flag was deepest red, And shrouded oft our martyred dead; But now 'tis daubed with "White and Blue"

Since we've resolved to see it through.

Then raise the scarlet standard high, Within its shade we'll live and—lie. God save our Gracious King we pray, To see us through on election day.

It well recalls the triumphs past,

If we'll just pull it down—half mast.

Our martyred dead will have to wait,

We've made some millions more of late.

Then raise the scarlet standard—lower, Till'we have seen the twentieth over. God save the King, our Gracious King, This song is our election hymn.

With heads uncovered swear we all,
To bear it on—here comes the call
To send King George victorious—
His song shall be our parting—cuss.

And let the old Red Flag be damned,
The Union Jack is in demand,
Election day is drawing near,
We'll keep the two flags flying here.
M.H.F.

Gradually, from Labour platforms, we are beginning to learn what "see it through" means.

It means throwing Smuts out of office for killing men in Commissioner Street in 1913, and keeping him in office to help kill men in Flanders in 1915. Now, d'you understand!

The "Evening Chronicle" is now under Labour control. With that close logic which evidently decided the party to "see it through," we are told that "owing to a considerable creditor pressing the company"... it has been taken over by a Committee of gentlemen of the Labour Party.

. It is also rumoured that;

Owing to a considerable creditor pressing the Company, a committee of gentlemen of the Labour Party have taken over the performance of the play: "Under two Flags."

When any considerable Creditor presses you therefore appeal to a Committee of gentlemen of the Labour Party, they will see you through!

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BRANCH DIRECTORY.

The League has now passed the stage of General Meetings. The next job is to organise by Branches. It is every members duty to throw himself wholeheartedly into the work of the Branch that is nearest him. On that will the progress of the League depend. Here are the Branches and Secretaries to date. Application forms of membership will be issued in a few days.

Johannesburg Branch:

C. CLINGMAN, Secretary, 25 Mercantile Buildings, Comm. Str.

Benoni Branch:

T. CHAPMAN, Box 397.

Valley Central:

P. R. ROUX, Chemist, Bezuidenhout Valley,

Mayfair:

J. A. CLARK,
76 Tenth Avenue.

Georgetown:

Ed. H. BECKER,

54 Queen Street, Germiston.

Vrededorp:

T. K. NORTJE,

15 Tenth Street.

BRANCH NOTICES.

BENONI.—A meeting of the Benoni Branch of the International Socialist League will be held at Mr. Krasnick's shop, Market Avenue, Benoni; on Monday, 4th October, at 8 p.m. Important business, including appointment of office bearers.

commissioner Street Branch of the League will be held on Tuesday 5th October, at 8 p.m. in the Trades Hall, Rissik Street. All comrades are urged to turn up. It is proposed to make this the Johannesburg Central Branch; and as the War on War League has identified itself with the International its local activities will have to be taken over by this Branch: Roll up therefore and make it equal to the new task.

LEAGUE SOCIAL.

The members of the League were in happy mood last Friday when the Inaugural Social and Dance was held in the Masonic Hall, Johannesburg.

A few bright songe, a few crisp speeches, and a Crisp chairman opened the proceedings; refreshments followed and thereafter the dance.

A feature of the evening was the singing of the 'Internationale' by three comrades in Dutch and French.

Auctioneer Brown was in great form, and disposed of, for a fabulous sum, a marvellous tea cosy guaranteed to serve any and every domestic purpose.

The proceedings closed with the singing of the "Red Flag," (unabridged

and undiluted.)

Returns have not yet been fully received, but a subtantial surplus is in sight.

The Entertainment Committee desires to convey its thanks to the Pianist, the artists, the friends who lent the crockery and all othe helpers.

C. B.