# THE INTERNATIONAL.

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

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PRICE ICI. WEEKLY.

## LABOUR SAVED FROM JINGOISM.

## Electorate goes to the Fountain Head.

The Electorate has decided not to cross the river for water. The Election has been a Khaki one, and none have such a right to Khaki votes as the Unionists. It is regrettable that the great bulk of the working class should have considered the hour one of such danger as to warrant their entrusting the country into the hands of the very men who have fooled them so much in the past. It is another example of the sovereign power of economic possession of the means of production and public education in deciding Elections. It is however gratifying to find, a sturdy Labour vote remaining true in this welter of national panic. We trust than the lesson will not be lost on these faithful Labour voters that Labour can never compete with the Unionists in Jingoism. We sinterely trust that the present landslide will make the Labourite realise, even if his party managers cannot, what the "Star" and its Capitalist bosses realise only too well, namely, that if the Labour party is not International Socialist, it has no right to exist. This is the verdict of the people. The Labour Party has been discovered in a swindle. The misled Labourite will sooner or later demand an account of it from the manipulaters who are responsible for switching the Party into a defeat on a policy of which it should now be ashamed. Had the party suffered the same defeat on the policy which above all others it is an the world to consummate,—International Socialism, what is now a disaster would have been but a step forward on the straight road of working class emancipation.

"Sweet are the uses of adversity," Mr. Andrews was heard to remark after the count. We would ask the honest Labourite to leave out account the personal disappointments of candidates, and to reflect, viewing the Election cry chosen for Labour, the treatment of old champions of the cause who refused to use that election cry, whether after all it is not as well that the Labour movement has been bluntly told to return and fetch up the forgotten principles of the

International without which it is only a mugwump, m'bongo Party.

"Are we or are we not a political Party?" This was the great argument for the adoption of the "See it through policy." The inference being that the Labour Party must stoop to the subterfuges of Capitalist Parties. Only Capitalist Parties can cheat the electorate and exist. When Louis Bonaparte as President of the French Republic was endeavoring to capture the army in order to re-establish the Empire of his uncle, he held a grand review at Satory whereat every soldier was provided with garlie and sausage. As the troops rode past the saluting point, a cavalry regiment with vociferous huzzas shouted, "Long live Napoleon, long live the sausages!"

The Labour Party cannot provide the sausages, so it can only exist by playing the straight game.

The Labour Party owed its power to the fact that it continually bumped against the preconceived notions of the public.

What an opportunity lost! Labour has gone down in an attempt to out-Jingo the Jingoes. It might have gone down to rise again flying the glorious banner of the International working-class.

The International League has every reason to be proud of itself. The 140 stalwart voters who supported Andrews and Clark are to be congratulated on their pluck. The League will now go on from strength to strength. The salutary lessons emerging from the present smash up will be the cement of the strong movement which our members have resolved to build up. To us the election is an incident. Alone among candidates, successful or otherwise Andrews and Clarke will be found addressing the public as usual next Sunday on the enduring principles of the working class International.

## 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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### International Socialist League.

Pamphlets on various aspects of the War, and working class Philosophy.

Morocco and Armageddon. 3d., E. D. Morel.

How the War came. I.L.P. 3d.

The War Trust Exposed. 3d.

Compulsory Military Service, 3d. — Paul.

Reform or Revolution. 3d. De Leon.

P.O. Box 4479, Johannesburg.

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# Moving Appeal to German Socialists.

A manifesto of heroic nobility has been addressed by the Foreign Committee of the Lettish Social Democratic Party to the members of the German Social Democratic Party. Whilst it resists the schemes of the German Imperialists to annex the Baltic Provinces and condemns, the attitude of the Executive of the German Social Democratic Party, it describes how even "when cannons roared in our land, and houses and villages went up in smoke," the Lettish Socialists issued appeals to the people not to regard the German workers as their enemies, "since they have been forced against their will to take part in this detestable war."

#### THE MANIFESTO.

The manifesto opens by regretting that certain Socialist leaders in Germany should have accepted the declaration of the German Government that the annexaof the Biltic Provinces would mean the liberation of the people from the Russian yoke. "The Lettish people of Courland and Livonia," it says, "won't hear of a 'liberation' by the German military power." They nurse no hatred of the German people, but they fear that annexation by Germany would strengthen the shattered power of their own Junkers. The Baltic Provinces are politically and economically bound up with Russia, but, above that, "the Lettish organised working class, which has fought shoulder to shoulder with the organised working class of Russia for several decades" is firmly convinced that the Russian revolution will be victorious. "From this victory alone," the manifesto continues, "it awaits its freedom. That freedom can never be gained by a victory of the German (or of Russian) arms."

From the outset of the war the Lettish

Social Democrats have held and voiced the view that the war served the Imperial interests of the Capitalist Powers, and that. the enemies of the workers are to be found in their own land. The Lettish workers have concluded no "truce" with the Capitalist interests, they have continued their economic and political struggle, they have carried on their agitation publicly wherever possible, sécretly where open propaganda has been impossible. They have protested incessantly against the war with all the means in their power, and have encouraged the people to overthrow Tsardom and Capitalism, "Thousands and thousands of declarations against the war (in the Lettish, Lithuanian, and Russian languages) have been scattered broadcast, by our party, the agitation has been carried into the soldiers' barracks, leaflets have been distributed in the troop trains, and even at the front. Despite the operation of military law, despite sentences of hard labour in prison and mine, our comrades stopped at no sacrifice, and were deterred by no danger. It was enough to them to know that they were working for the international soiidarity of the workers, that they were proving the reality of their Socialist convictions.

#### THOUGH CANNONS ROAR.

The Lettish Socialists, the manifesto says, did not cease their activity because the German Socialists betrayed the principles of International Socialism by voting in favour of the war credits; they were disappointed but they were not discouraged by the collapse of the International. They condemn the Socialists of all countries who have supported the prosecution of the war. but they cannot forget the fact that the second International was led by the German Party, and thus a particular responsibility was its. They do not doubt that the Socialist International will be born again. "Even at the moment when German troops were pouring into the land, when the whole country was being devastated by Russian and German soldiers, when hundreds of thousands of cold and hungry refugees crowded all the roads—even in this hour of trial the Lettish Social Democratic Party clung fast to the banner of International working-class solidarity. When cannons roared in our land and houses and villages went up in smoke, our Party issued appears to the people declaring that the German workers could not be our enemies, that

they were forced against their will to take part in this detestable war, that the blame for this immense calamity rests upon the Capitalist system which now prevails."

The manifesto draws attention to the fact, that whilst the whole of Courland (as well as Poland and Lithuania) is devastated and depopulated, the German Socialist Party continues officially to vote for the war credits "in defence of the Fatherland." Owing to the occupation of the Baltic provinces, the Lettish Labour movement has been suppressed and its campaign against the war and Tsardom stifled. "We cannot acquit the German Party Executive of the charge that it has sanctioned this blow at the Lettish working class through its 'nationalist' policy.... That is the 'liberation' which the official German Socialist Democratic Party thinks is being bestowed upon us through Hindenburg!"

Despite all that has happened, the Lettish Socialists continue their agitation. The thousands of organised Lettish comrades who have now been scattered all over Russia carry with them the war-cry, "End the war and overthrow Tsardom." They are doing their duty side by side with their Russian comrades, "but they have the right to turn to the German working class and to ask, 'What have you done and what will you do to put an end to this terrible slaughter of the nations, to revive the International?"

"We hope for nothing from the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party" the manifesto concludes. But we have not yet lust faith in the masses of the German workers and we cry to them, Enter upon the fight for the immediate termination of the war. make your collective will known in every possible way, give up your truce with the Nationalist parties, become fighters for the areat and holy cause of the international working class.'.... The German organised working class can stop the war and again lead the European workers under the banner of Internationalism. Only through such action can the German working class wipe out the guilt which the official German Social Democratic Party has incurred by its policy during the war."

# When I Shall Fight.

By Eugene v. Debs

No, I am opposed to all war, nor am I opposed to fighting under all circumstances, and any declaration to the contrary would disqualify me as a revolutionist. When I say I am opposed to war I mean ruling class war, for the ruling class is the only class that makes war. It matters not to me whether this war be offensive or defensive, or what other lying excuse may be invented for it, I am opposed to it, and I would be shot for treason before I would enter such a war.

If I were in Congress I would be shot before I would vote a dollar for such a war.

Capitalist wars for capitalists conquest

and capitalist plunder must be fought by the capitalists themselves so far as I am concerned, and upon that question there can be no misunderstanding as to my position.

I have no country to fight for: my country is the earth; I am a citizen of the world.

I would not violate my principles for God, much less for a crazy Kaiser, a savage Czar, a degenerate King, or a gang of potbellied parasites.

But while I have not a drop of blood to shed for the oppressors, of the working class and the robbers of the poor, the thieves and looters, the brigands and murderers whose debauched m srule is the crime of the ages, I have a heart-full to shed for their victims when it shall be needed in the war their liberation.

I am not a capitalist soldier: I am a proletarian revolutionist. I do not belong to the regular army of the plutocracy, but to the irregular army of the people. I re-

fuse to obey any command to fight from the ruling class, but I will not wait to be commanded to fight for the working class.

I am opposed to every war but one; I am for that war with heart and soul, and that is the world-wide war of the social revolution. In that war I am prepared to fight in any way the ruling class may make necessary, even to the barricades.

There is where I stand and where I believe the Socialist party stands, or ought to stand, on the question of war.

God heard the embattled nations sing and shout:

"Gott strafe England" and "God save the King"!

God this, God that, and God the other thing—

"Good God" said God, "Ive got my work cut out:"

## The League's Progress.

The Johannesburg Branches of the League have decided to run Municipal Candidates. At a joint meeting held last Sunday a sub-committee was appointed to make recommendations on various aspects of the proposal and report to a meeting of the Branches to be held in the Trades Hall on Saturday evening next, the 23rd inst. at 8 p.m. Roll up!

The Capetown Comrades have formed "a Branch of the League, and send a very encouraging response to the appeal for Socialists to unite throughout South Africa.

We had two rattling good meetings again last Sunday on the Town Hall steps. In the afternoon Tom Ward and Ivon Jones held the fort against a goodly crowd, John Campbell later coming to the rescue. Good humour was the prevailing note.

In the evening John Campbell as Chairman held a record crowd, it must have numbered over 2,000 people—in appreciative good order for two hours; while Comrades Andrews, Clark, and Dunbar spoke with their accustomed energy and effectiveness. These meetings are improving wonderfully in tone. So successful are they becoming that the "Star" had to take notice. "The International," "Labour Leader" and "Forward" sold well.

Comrade Harry Haynes, the genial. humourist and Nib is laid up. Look him up, 200a Fawcus St. Jeppes Extension.

Benoni Internationals are a fine lot of Comrades. They travel to all parts of the Reef to support our meetings. Thanks to the lady Comrades there, the "International" is on sale at Benoni every week. Mrs. Chapman made a record sale the other day. You mere men, get a move on! Our lady Comrades will themselves be sufficient to carry the movement to victory.

East London also sends a message of good cheer. The moving spirits in the old Labour Party there recognise that the vital spark of the movement is undoubtedly with the International. They hope to form a Branch after the Election. All together boys

We have hopes that Kimberley will also link up after the Election. In all parts Comrades feel that we did not sweat and sacrifice and get sacked for the Labour Party in order that it may be a tool of Imperial Capitalism. We will carry that old vision forward to the International, and get a wider vision in the process.

Comrade Andrews sends the following portion of a letter from a young private in the trenches whose people are wellknown' to him. It appeared in a Suffolk paper. And we dedicate it to the braves in Fordsburg who so enthusiastically defend the Empire in the Masonic Hall.

"Pte. Cyril Thurston, writing home to his father and mother at Leiston, says:

"At last we have been relieved from the trenches. During our recent stay we met a very sociable lot of Germans. Anybody at home would hardly credit the yarn, but last night (Aug. 12) we were very much surprised to hear them playing "God save the King" on a cornet. Of course our fellows cheered and that started the fun. They began to shout to each other for a song. A regular concert was thus begun. As each song finished, there followed the usual cries of "encore" and hand-clapping. Our chaps received loud applause after they had sung "Sons of the Sea" and "We are Soldiers of the King" finishing up with the latest rag-time choruses. When both sides had sung themselves hoarse, lights were sent up and followed by cheers. It reminded us of the fireworks at Aldeburgh regatta. The concert concluded with "Auld lang syne," followed by cheer after cheer. I expect this will seem very strange to vou; its not exaggerated in the least."

John Campbell said on Sunday that governments were the police organisations of the capitalist class. At present the system was in a bit of a mess because the police organisations had quarrelled among themselves. And why should you help one Policeman to fight another.

George Mason and Andrew Watson, the two deportee Internationals, are proving by their espousal of an unpopular Cause that they at least were not mob leaders catching notoriety out of the industrial crises of the Rand.

George Mason facing an angry crowd of Fordsburgians on Monday was a picture, especially when the workers for whom he was deported tried to drown his words with cheers for Botha and Smuts. It must have roused bitter reflections, but George did not flinch.

Steps are also being taken to form an open Branch of the League in Durban.

A Branch will soon be formed in Krugersdorp: It is surprising the number of enquiries from that district. No good Labourite can help feeling that a cause that is right is bound to win.

By the way, from Krugersdorp to Potsdam. Our branch in the latter district has passed a vote of confidence in Comrade Liebknecht; and approves of his fight against Kaizèrdom and Corner House in war and in peace,—in war especially:

## Why does Labour exist?

All who are weary and heavy laden: all who suffer under injustice; all who suffer from the outrages of the existing bourgeois society; all who have in them the feeling of the worth of humanity, look to us, turn hopefully to us, as the only party that can bring rescue and deliverance. And if we, the opponents of this unjust world of violence, suddenly reach out the hand of brotherhood to it, conclude alliances with its representatives, invite our comrades to go hand in hand with the enemy whose misdeeds have driven the masses into our camp, what confusion must result in their minds! How can the masses longer believe us? If the men of the clerical party, of the progressive party, and the other boodle parties are our comrades, wherefore then the struggle against capitalist society, whose representatives and champions all of these are? What reason have we, then. for existence? It must be that for the hundreds and thousands, for the millions that have sought salvation under our banner, it was all a colossal mistake for them to come to us. If we are not different from the others, then we are not the right ones the Saviour is yet to come; and the Social Democracy was a false Messiah, no better than the other false ones!— WILHBLM LIEBKNECHT.

## Our Glorious Ally.

From disclosures made in the Russian Duma the atrocities committed on the Jews are almost too appalling to relate.

Half a million Jews driven from their homes in one Province, regardless of sex or wounds; wounded Jewish soldiers dragged by force from the war hospitals, and bundled into goods trains. People forbidden to hand anything to them on their terrible journey crowded with typhus and scarlet fever victims. At Homel, where many were crying like mad creatures from such a carraige for water and bread, both Jews and Christians were kept off from helping by gendarmes. Oh, Russia, land of the free, Glorious Ally.

Don't forget the League's Dance in Professor West's Academy on the 27th.

The Seafarers Union of Durban annouoce that they have seceded from the Labour Party and have affiliated to the League.

The War-on-War League advise its members to transfer their activities and subscriptions to the International. The War-on-War League executive will however keep a watching brief over its own propaganda.

A Capetown Branch of the League has been formed by Comrades of the waron-war League and the Social Democrats there.

# Arbeiders en de Oarlog.

(Door Dakanor.)

Heden in 't jaar Eenduizend Negenhonderd en Vijstien, getuigen wij de toestand van beschaafdheid waarin wij leven.
Wij hebben vandaag die grootste bloeddorstige oorlog die aanwezig is tussen onze
broeders over zee. En de onbeschaafde
daden welke al plaats gevonden hebben
zijn zo verschrikkelik dat het bittere
gezicht moet zijn voor enig persoon om er
over te denken. Ja 't zal een moeilik gezicht
zijn, zelfs voor dieren om zoiets 'te beginnen.

wandaag de ondervinding van sommige van die bittere dingen. Daarom kunnen wij begrijpen dat er een dwingelandij stelsel die daar moet regeren; hongersnood, treurigheid, manloze vrouwen, bedroefde daines en zusters enz. De straten van Rusland, Frankrijk, Engeland en Duitsland vloeien met tranen van de bedroefde achterblijvenden van diegenen die zo onnodig vermoord worden, en toch laten wij, de werkende klasse, al de afgrijselikheid toe.

Waarom doen wij zo? Alleen omdat wij zo onkundig zijn, en door onze onkunde vervullen wij de wens en voordeel van een getal koningen, dieven en moordenaars. Deze onkunde van ons en ons zogenaamde "Patriotisme" is groteliks te beschuldigen voor die nederkomen van die vurige "Oorlogs Wolk, die vandag gevolgt waren, van al deze gedane daden, en de daden die nog gedaan zullen worden, en deze zullen tot nadeel wezen van onze eigen klas.

Nee Broeder, onze enigste vijanden zijn de kapitalist klas, wie ken geen vlag, of nationa iteit, maar wie de landen eigen, de wereld, rijkdom en alles wat die werkende

klas voortbrengen. Ja, ook de meerderheid van de werkende klas in zichzelf. En als zij niet zo tevreden zijn, dan dreig zij ons om elkander te verscheuren zoals wilde beesten, en in deze tijden wachten zij voor hun grote profijten, waarvoor wij zovele bittere dingen opofferen.

Broeders! Zij zijn allen onze vijanden en voor hen alleen hebben wij reden om mede te vechten. Duitse Broeder, Franse broeder, ze hebben geen krakelen met u, ook de Russiese en Australiese broeders heeft geen krakelen met u broeders, zusters, werkers in algemeen die wereld werkers hebben geen krakelen met elkander.

Het is de zogennamde "Patriotisme" die het verstand van werkers gewond hebben. En de wond is zo gevaarlik dat het wereld werkers helemaal tot krankzinnigheid gedreven heeft.

En als wij bij deze grote. "Internationale Werkers beweging" aansluiten van broedeflike liefde en vrede, beschaafdheid en menselikheid en bevordering, dan zullen wij in de toekomst oorlogen helemaal: vernietigen.

Want is het alleenlik wij, de werkende klasse, die de oorlogs noodwendigheid vervaardigen en gebruiken voor het nut van de Kapitalistiese klas.

Broeders vereeniging, sluitaan, de dag komt "stadig aan," wanneer wij oorlog zullen verklaren tegen de bittere vijanden der Kapitalistiese klasse.

> Met groete, Lang leve de Internation il.

## Fordsburg Vanquished.

Comrade Clark's meeting in the Masonic Hall, Fordsburg, last Monday was a significant step forward in the progress of the League. It was a triumph for our principles and for our platform leaders. A large crowd waited for the doors to open, and the rowdy element were there in force.

The audience had a good sprinkling also of League members, and the rest was made up of the enquiring listener. Alf Crisp took the chair, and John Campbell kicked off. The opposition was in evidence right from the start, and Comrade Campbell had a hard tussle of it, but scored as usual.

few words in Dutch, after an abortive attempt from the Britishers to suppress the "foreign language." Sydney also did well. He has developed a wond rful grasp of working class philosopy. Then Comrade Clark bent to the task, and a task it was. He was undoubtedly the target of the Jingoes. For over three quarters of an hour he battled against a tornado of interjections

and insults. But through it all he managed to review the International position.

At one stage, a determined rush towards the platform was made by the jingo phalanx. But the platform guard was too strong and unperturbed for it to succeed, so it subsided instead. George Mason followed with a fine declamation on patriotism.

The working class of England mortgaged up to the last drop of blood, and this was a fight between the bondholders. Who got for us such liberties as we possessed? Early Trade union pioneers who were placed outside the pale of the law and transported to B tany Bay. George kept the audience well in Rand, but the din was renewed when the chairman called on Andrews to speak. At first it seemed impossible that he should be given a hearing, and the fact that he kept that audience listening to him for thirty five minutes must be credited to him as as one of his greate-t triumphs. In that time he got in all the salient points of our policy; with the result that the crowd which came in to the strain of "Tipperary" went away absolutely silent or remained to sing the "Red Flag" with the crowd of exulting Internationals. We do not often enlarge upon our own meetings. But this Fordsburg victory vill not soon be forgotten. The poll itself will appear immaterial in comparison.

# BRANCH DIRECTORY. Johannesburg Central Branch:

T. W. WARD P. O. Box 1915

#### Benoni Branch:

T. CHAPMAN, Box 379.
Valley Central:

P. R. ROUX, Chemist,
Bezuidenhout Valley,

#### May fair:

J. A. CLARK.
76 Tenth Avenue.

#### Georgetown:

Ed. H. BECKER,

54 Queen Street.

Germiston.

#### Vrededorp:

T. K. NORTJE, 15, Tenth Street.

## Capetown International:

WILFRID HARRISON, P. O. Box, 1176.

## The League's Pledge.

Pledge Forms of membership as framed by the Management Committee have now been issued by the General Secretary. Members are required to sign the following form:

I hereby apply to be enrolled a member of the International Socialist League (S.A.) and agree to abide by its Constitution.

I pledge myself to do all in my power:-

- (1) To support the International political action of the working class.
- (2) To support the International industrial action of the working class.
- (3) To oppose militarism in all its phases.
- 4) I further declare that I am not a memer of any other political party.

The actual resolution by which the Labour Party expelled the Internationals read as follows. When found take a note of.

"That all members of the S.A.I.P. who before formally resigning formed or joined the International League or any other Party shall be considered as having violated clause 50 of the constitution, and therefore as having been expelled from the Party. And all Branches are instructed that Clause 49 of the Constitution must be strictly enforced in the case of every such person."

In an ugly and unhappy world the richest man can purchase nothing but ugliness and unhappiness.—Bernard Shaw.

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Sentimentality is the error of supposing that quarter can be given or taken in moral conflicts.—Bernard Shaw.