# THE INTERNATIONAL.

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

Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper,

No. 51

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 1916.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

# Get Something Now!

We often hear misgivings expressed thar our policy is destructive, negative, and does not provide for the partial alleviation of present grievances. We only promise something in the future. People want something now. Just as the deep shaft sinker is told of the easy gains of his neighbour, the alluvial digger, so are we reminded of the Overseas Pay, the Municipal ten bob minimum, Betting restriction, and other very virtuous agitations about the mere symptoms of things.

Our business is to destroy, to expose the falsities and hy pocrisies of the capitalist system. Our propaganda is alive with the conviction that the system is rotting to its fall. Our stand is based on the fact that what is wrong with society is not that there are bad patches in it which require special outside treatment. We believe that capitalist society is unmitigatedly bad and unregenerate. "It oozes blood and filth from every pore," said Marx. Not only are we convinced, but the events of the last two years has torn away the veil of sanctity from the system for great masses of men. Q

The salvage of victims is a matter requiring urgent attention. But no elixir exists to rejuvenate the tissues of old society. Its fibre is withering away in blood and tears. What is to replace it? That is the concern of a revolutionary party. Shall the Party revolve round these symptomatic issues, or around the great revolutionary issue, the demand for the abolition of the capitalist system?

Let it not be supposed that this demand is a sterile one. Sterile indeed it would be to cry like a "Muezzin from the darkness" at all reform efforts, "fool! your reward is neither here nor there!" But as Eugene Debs, the American Socialist leader quoted in this issue, indicates, the revolutionary demand implies immediate action.

Ideals and economic forces have been joint partners in all great advances. Ideals fill all circumambient air waiting at the doors of economic power. The great ideal of workingclass emancipation is no exception. It waits for the formation of the power that is going to make the aspiration a reality.

#### We must force our own issue.

What is the great issue today? The great issue is not necessarily what the capitalists choose to make it. To any revolutionary Socialist who is serious about the great objective, nothing can appal him so much in South Africa to-day as the practical absence of industrial organisation. Our Socialist ideal waves up against the reality of things in vain until its economic channel,—the industrial combination of the workers, is laid down. The present fag ends of craft combinations are only candles to show up the night, the void. South African Labour is crying out for rejuvenation, for an industry, by which alone can it hope to shake the foundations of capitalism. While that Industrial Unity does not exist, whence can the call then come if not from its forerunner, the political party of Socialism?

This is the great political issue today, if we read the word "political" in its true sense: a call to the swage earners of South Africa to combine in class conscious unity, not primarily in this or that competing political party, but in their various industries. Industry is their great weapon. Industry is their great shield from correption. Political unity can only follow that solidarity on the industrial field:

This does not promise anyone "something now." The sellaheen who scratched the parched desert might have groused at the engineers of the great Nile Dam, that they did not dig him a private furrow, "something now." They might have answered that the choice lay between ever digging trickle furrows or the great dam which made furrows unnecessary. We must either be rigging up kerosene tin shacks or laying the foundation of the great indust rial edifice; either leaving about our tallow candles of public sops, or preparing the throbbing power plant that will bring universal light. More-than that, we must either be doomed to revolve round the palliative measures of the present, or create the industrial unity round which it will be right for all such ameliorative measures to revolve. Whereas it would be only at its peril that the political forerunner of the great industrial movement were to plunge into sections and sub-sections of political reform; that coming class conscious movement, wherein political and industrial will be indistinguishable, will find its true activity in immediate demands of wages, hours, and conditions, as well as the multitudious other affairs of society upon which it will more and more encroach. But in the meantime the great-issue is the rallying of the workers to that class conscious unity unto which all things will be added.

# The movement of power follows the movement of propaganda.

All palliative measures are right if they are approached through the strait gate of Industrial Unity. The Melbourne Dockers upset the law of supply and demand by stopping flour leaving Melbourne Docks. That was a revolutionary act. It would have been tinkering for an unaided political party to attempt it.

For a political party that cannot claim to be the growth of industrial revolutionary activity, but is its forerunner, to meddle in the milk supply, would be to abrogate its revolutionary mission, resigning itself to issues of Capitalist administration. But when the great class conscious industrial movement of the workers gets surging under way, the pure milk supply and many other matters will come under its interference, and the Capitalist class will wonder what things are coming to when this Labour movement, strong in the iron spring of industrial self reliance, comes arrog ating to itself concern in all the beneficent affairs of human society.

But we are not there yet. The great issue, the great political war cry is: Workers unite in your various industries, and win for yourselves the whole earth. We are the organisers of that army. And many things which it will be meet and proper for the army to do, we cannot do without neglecting our mission.

Labour Party was based on a fundamental principle, what is that principle? The old Labour objective, socialization of the means of production, distribution and exchange, was as pious a Socialist ideal as could be wished. It comes then that the cleavage is one on present method. What is it? Look around where we will it can only be found in this,— the posture of the class struggle, no compromise with false lines of division on the industrial field. It implies remains cing that old policy of grab and competition with the industrial movement, it implies oneness with that movement; more, it implies in all our activities as a political party, not a call to the politics side, but an unceasing call to all workers to combine in our alter ego, the industrial union. The night of capitalism is far spent. Happy they who find sufficient reward is bringing the Day of industrial distinctions.

# Breaking up the Home.

According to the Press Cable this week the increased dilution of labour on the Clyde by the importation of women workers is not meeting with any resistance. Of course not. You first gag Labour with conscription, and take his dumb struggles as nods of assent. Socialism will break up the home, they used to say. Capitalism is doing it and has done it already.

One of the machinists who went over with the crowd recruited in Canada by G. N. Barnes, M.P., (says the Columbia: Federationist) called to see the writer, and as he had been employed at Vickers, he was able to describe conditions in that plant. In the neighborhood of 30,000; people are employed, including a great many women, these being used to operate lathes, four or five being under the supervision of one real machinist, who grinds the tools, examines the work and keeps the lathes in condition. When my informant-went to Vickers, twelve months ago, there were but 25 to 30 lathes engaged in shell work, but this number has been increased to . 3500, all working 24 hours a day and this accounts, in no small méasure, for the abundance of shells with which the Allies now seem to be supplied.

Great Britain were greater in December 1915 than in December 1914, although in the meantime a couple of million workers had been recruited for the army, and the output of munitions increased tenfold. The difference was made up by the work of women. 650,000 women are now engaged in munition works alone. What is going to happen? We in South Africa are in the back, waters of economic development compared with a little village in England. Yet we have the same job to tackle.

The problem is the same as that presented by the native workers in this country. The Trade Unions are beginning to recognise the impossibility of stopping the exploitation of women in industry. The women themselves are against them. The women are bursting to rough it in the open air of industry rather than return to the musty sphere of the Victorian home.

The Trade Unions are conquering their aversion to admitting women to the Unions, and woman must become a partner not only in industry, but in industrial organisation as well.

Equally impossible would it be to check the exploitation of native workers in this country so long as capitalists require cheap labour. As capitalism in England is breaking up the home, in South Africa it is breaking up the tribe. What are we going to do about it? Capitalism is not squeamish. Are we going to be, are we going to cut our industrial noses to please our nice white racial faces? Are we going to have "lower orders" under Socialism? The "lower orders" are going to bring Socialism, whether they have black skins or white. Women workers will be a great access to the working class movement before long. Not because they are women.

but because they will have less to lose. The same with the kaffir in this country. Martin Luther. (the dirty Hun) writing to the wise Bishop Reuchlin, once said, "I sear nothing because I nothing have." Karl Marx (another, drat 'em) later pointed out that the emancipation of the world must come by those who have nothing to lose but their chains. Well, look around, not for black skins or white, but for that mass of wage earners who have nothing to lose but their chains. Just as the capitalist looks around, not for black skins or white to grace his industry, but for cheap labour. Then, when we do that, will the workingclass movement break up the happy home. of capitalism.

BERONIA

# The Modern Witch Doctor.

Have you ever heard that spiritual contortionist, Furse of Pretoria, on the job.

Look at his acrobatics:

Hishop Furse, johannesburg, TUESDAY, August 20th, 1916.

It had been said that things would be different after the war. But would they when they saw so little sign of their being improved after two years of war? It appeared that precious little difference had been made to Johannesburg after two years' war; and the war at least should have taught them that every single man's life, every single woman's and every child's life was of the utmost importance to the State, let alone to God. If it did not appeal to us now—the value of human life—God alone knew when it would.

Bishop Furse, at Potchefstroom, Thursday, 31st August, 1916.

It was nonsense to think that they could prohibit liquor for natives and not for white men. If they wanted to kill the Boches, and get through with the war, they should stop every blessed drop of liquor until the war was ended. (Applause). They might say that he was a fanatic. He was a fanatic for killing Boches and for getting every able-bodted man fit to fight? Many of them would not make the great surrender of their whiskey, to say nothing of their lives.

And behold, he opened his jawbone and spake to the multitude:

It was said of old time, "Love thy neighbour as thyself." But that was that darned fool the Carpenter. I say unto you, ye shall not enter the kingdom of Moloch without £. s. d. cr the scalp of a Boche.

Ye have heard of old time that all men shall be brothers, but I'll see the Prince of Peace damned before any Huns enter my church.

He rode on an ass. I ride on asses, including the Prince of Peace.

Ye have heard of old time: "Money is the root of evil." But I bray unto you: Whuskey is the cause of the trouble. (Mine is champagne.)

Ye have heard that it was said of old time, even on Tuesday last, that human life is sacred; but I say unto you, let no Hun of Luther's breed inhabit the earth.

Think not I am come to destroy the Law, or the Profits: I am come not to destroy but to fillfull. Let us bray!

# Reprisals.

The New York Evening Post gives the figures for the victims of the Allies' Air Raid on the German town of Karlsruhe as II7 people killed, and I40 wounded. The day of the raid was the occasion of a festival,—Corpus Christie Day, and the people were congregated on the Festplatz. where the airmen directed their bombs. The French Government asserts that it was intended as a "reprisal" for similar German raids on English and French towns. The latest news is that of a record. Zeppelin raid on England, presumably in "reprisal" for Karlsruhe. And so it goes on. "Even in colonial warfare, against tribes who tortured their prisoners and maimed the dead," says the Evening Post, "the nations of Europe have not resorted to reprisals on their women and children."

But this is where European "civilization" has come to after two years of war. The way of retaliation is the way of barbarity. The rulers of Europe are thick as thieves when it comes to the pinch; they play their game with the innocent common folk as pawns, in order to keep alive the necessary degree of hatred and war fervour.

When Von Tirpits' son was saved from the Blucher, Winston Churchill sent a special message of congratulation to the young man's father, who was head of the German Navy. But as for the common Tommies of both countries, we have the papers gloating this week over the fact that three Germans for every one South African were killed in Delville Wood. This is their way of comforting the mothers in South Africa.

Let the working people of all countries awake to the fact that the ruling classes of the belligerent countries are past being horrified at anything so long as they can get matter to horrify and work up the righteous indignation of their respective peoples, for further sacrifices in the sacred cause of Profits and New Markets.

# The Magic Sign.

Signs of patriotism have appeared among the fat men of the recruiting Committee: here they are: £. £. £.

The fat employers do not need exemption badges on their coats; they carry them in their pockets. Here they are: £. £. £.

If you want an exemption badge, your employer must sign, with the doctor, to say he wants you. Who signs for his exemption? Why his own seal and crest. Here it is: £. £. £.

Insurance against riots: £. £. £. to G. G. Fund. Baits for Big Biz: £. £. £. to the G. G. Fund. The employees spell their Loyalty in Blood. The employers spell it differently, £oyalty! It cos: s. the employee damn dear. It pays the fat man damn well.

D.N.S.

# The Revolutionary Weapon.

Socialist candidate for Congress for the Socialist Party of America, and undoubtedly the most popular Socialist in that country, has something to say upon the prime importance of Industrial Unionism as a first essential to the Socialist revolution. Writing to the St. Louis Rip Saw on the movement to unite the two Socialist Parties of America into one revolutionary political party, he says:—

"Probably the principal obstacle in the way of unity is the difference between the two parties in their attitude toward economic organization, and upon that subject we believe the Socialist Labor Party to be right. It does not palter with craft unionism, nor compromise for the purpose of currying favor with craft union officials, but it takes its stand squarely for the revolutionary industrial organization of the workers, the only stand consistent with a revolutionary political party. Industrial organization is the foundation of the revolutionary movement, and without such organization politicalaction is in vain and industrial democracy remains a dream."

### WHAT BEBEL SAID.

It is interesting to recall what the great German Socialists, Bebel and the elder Liebknecht, said about the war of 1870, bearing in mind that France was then considered the military menace of Europe.

"As opponents of every dynastic war, as Social Republicans and members of the International Union of workers, men who, without distinction of nationality, fight against all oppressors and try to unite all the oppressed in one) great bond of brotherhood, we cannot declare ourselves for the war and therefore we abstain from voting. And we express the confident hope, that the peoples of Europe, taught by these disastrous events, will make every sacrifice to secure their rights of selfgovernment, to set aside for ever the caste domination and the domination of the sword which are the causes of all evil in all States and Societies."

Socialism, it is said, would destsoy individuality. If capitalism lasts a few years longer there will be no individuality lef to destroy.

J. E. ALEXANDER.

Morality is only religion passed into manners; and if the religion of the past is notten, then morals stick.

HEIRRICK HEINE.

# Another Scrap of Paper.

Burton, Minister of Railways, has issued a circular prohibiting the railwaymen from participating in elections, and politics generally. The Natal men maintain that said circular is a "scrap of paper;" why? because a resolution was passed by the Governer in Council before Union establishing political freedom for railwaymen. The "scrap of paper" is not Burton's circular, but the "Governor in Council." All political freedom is a "scrap of paper" unless there is economic power to back it up. The American Congress has just rushed through a Bill enacting an eight hour day for the American Railwaymen, because a few hundred thousand railwaymen had decided to strike last Monday failing compliance. There was true political action for you.

tinkers curse is not that contained in the promises of Governors in Council or of politicians who undertake to do things for us, but in the strong right arm of industrial solidarity. Just now, Burton may withdraw his circular to stop nuisances talking, but he can nevertheless apply its provisions to individuals, who will be helpless except their fellow workers collectively refuse to stand any nonsense.

## Justice Mason on Free Discussion.

In the Provincial Division of the Supreme Court last Monday, judgement was delivered in the case of Hammerschlag vs. Beamish in favour of the defendant, with costs. The Judge President expressed himself unable to agree with the judgement of Justice Mason and Bristowe. In the course of his judgement, with which Justice Bristowe concurred, Justice Mason made the following important announcement in regard to the alleged defamatory matter uttered by the defendant:—

It might be harsh or offensive, but, as long as free political discussion was allowed, Courts were not entitled to penalise a man for stating that the course of action adopted by his opponents was unpatriotic or even disloyal under the circumstances of an agitation such as the defendant was maintaining. It was incumbent on the Courts to uphold the general principles of free discussion, so long as it was not made the instrument of private malice, or a false imputation of unworthy motives or conduct.

### TO READERS

Who can supply copies of the Glasgow Forward of July 15th last, which contained reprints of Justice-Higgins speech on Free Speech. A dozen copies are required by Comrade Bunting for his appeal case as soon as possible. The first appeal will be heard at Pretoria next Monday.

# Pyramids, Ancient and Modern.

The Pyramids of Egypt have been classed among the wonders of the world. They have excited the admiration of a multitude of worshippers at the shrine of royal achievement, whether such achievement served any useful purpose, or was merely a monument to the brutal stupidity and insane ambitions of kingly knaves and ruffians. Those huge piles of stone along the banks of the Nile record no human achievement bearing any beneficial significance to human kind. They are all but imperishable monuments to the brutal Jeckless and lavish waste of human energy and human life, that alone can bring gratification to the whims and ambitions of kings and other rulers. That a hundred thousand captive Jews were driven for twenty years by relentless taskmasters, under the sierce Egyptian sun, in order thus a ruling tyrant might have a huge rock pile to commemorate his tyrannies, is not an achievement to call forth the admiration of any one outside of ruling class brutes and their sycophantic and mediocre following. To all others they stand as evidence of the tortures and brutalities perpetrated upon helpless slaves, at the hands of their masters, and call forth execration instead of admiration.

Our modern pyramids are the Markets and the Gold Returns. Our modern Pharoahs, the capitalist press, often point to the monthly gold output as proof that we are blessed and prosperous. And the typo men waiting for a job in front of the Trades Hall find consolation for being down and out in the fact that they are shareholders in that other pyramid of suffering, the great British Empire.

### CAPE NOTES.

Comrade Harrison writes stating that the resolution endorsing the League leaflet is causing controversy in the old Social Democratic Federation. The storm of principle is shaking her timbers. Motions are made to rescind that resolution, with the result that a summonsed meeting is being called to discuss the following resolution, at last, after two years of capitalist atrocities:—

"That the S.D F. is opposed to all wars organised on capitalist lines, and that we believe the present war to be the outcome of capitalist machinations in which all the belligerent nations are equally responsible.

Have you subscribed to "The International." 5/- per annum, post free, Box 4179, Jo'burg.

## The Economic War.

It is beginning to be felt in European business circles that the Economic war on Germany is wrong in principle; wrong in principle because unprofitable in practice. Russia is asked to boycott everything German. Well, says Russia, what about our harvest? You get us other markets and we'll agree. France won't buy our coin; that will ruin her agriculturists. England won't buy; that will ruin her colonies. England on the other hand has suddenly discovered that Germany imported more British goods before the war than all the British colonies did. There is no sentiment in business. That is what caused the war. But after all, economic bonds are like the mysterious bond that binds Halley's Comet to the sun, they repel and disrupt nations, but as surely keep them from complete dissolution and fratricide, and attract together again.

Our good friends on the Recruiting Committee who to-day find profit in killing Germans, will inevitably embrace their dear Hun competitors as soon as the economic wheel turns round to the profitable side. And even the Bishop of Pretoria will yet live to receive church donations from Hun capitalists, and kick out the men he sent to kill the "Boches;" as soon as it pays his Elessdeeship. It is nt so long since he turned out with a gun in Commissioner Street to shoot down those very men whom he to-day beslobbers over.

### BRANCH NOTES.

### JOHANNESBURG

Last Sunday evening's meeting in the open air was ruffled by the advent of the hooligan. Comrade Andrew Campbell was the speaker, and he no sooner started than three or four interrupters, evidently fortified with dutch courage, began to bully and even threaten him with violence. The policemen stood round apathetically acquiescing in the threats of the hooligan clique, with whom the audience in general were completely out of sympathy and in accord with the speaker. They persisted with their threats of assault until the police took Comrade Andrew (not the hooligans) to Marshall Square, "for protection." The affair was premeditated, for the disturbers had been overheard hatching the plot on the previous Sunday. No charge was laid against Comrade Campbell.

# Eighting for Liberty & Justice?

At the indoor meeting, which was full, the speaker was Comrade S. P. Bunting, who devoted much of his time to illustrating from the current press the sarcasm of theritie: "Fighting for Liberty and Justice." The Times article of its March 1925, repudinting the plea that the war was the

dertaken on behalf of Belgium, (compare White Book No. 123)—the Daily Mail (Overseas) article of 29 August 1914, saying that British Manufacturers stood to win £700,000,000 from the Germans,—the Economic Conference report foreshadowing the greatest intensity of the commercial war after the military war,—the Skeffington report,—the cable news of the Greek "revolution" (!) supported by thirty warships and, it might be guessed, thirty. pieces of silver too,—and the Roumanian declaration of war, after two years hesitation as to which side stood for liberty and justice,—were all reviewed. The deputation proposed by a now patriotic Labour leader before the war to the German 11 Consulate at Johannesburg with a view to naturalization under the Kaizer, was recalled. The hollowness of the brigand Powers' alleged solicitude for the "national ideals" (themselves false) of small nations was exposed. The speaker suggested that all such fine words should be boycotted in the Socialist vocabulary, just as franc-tireur middle-class attacks on war, militarism, immorality etc. were alien to working class philosophy, which could approve such movements only if forming part of the highly organised and disciplined plan of campaign necessary to shake thewhole capitalist system, itself highly organised, disciplined and equipped, and still able to dominate the education and outlook of workers no less than of bourgeoisie. Socialist mass ethics (if the term was admissible) based on the axiom that an injury to one was an injury to all, supplanted the now purely meretricious notions of "freedom" or "justice;" or rather could alone give meaning and relevance to them. Comrade Bunting concluded a highly interesting address, which was followed keenly, with an appeal for more subscribers to The International —and with gratifying success.

### DURBAN.

Thursday's branch meeting dealt with business matters and fixed the annual meeting for the third week in October. Comrade J. A. Clark visited the Sunday School and interested the little comrades in the doings of the S.S.S. in Johannesburg and Beaoni. His address in the evening was much appreciated. He reviewed the progressive loss of such civil liberty as the workers possessed on the plea of national necessity and urged the local comrades to increased efforts.

one of the most successful of the series. It is on the cards that similar functions may be held by the I.S.L. in other districts of the town. The local comrades were pleased to welcome Miss Gemmell at the dance and branch meetings. The distribution of our literature is understood to be disturbing some of the local councillors who have been handed copies in the streets. They are said to be enquiring who the "agistics" are.

### Branch Directory.

Benoni.—T. Chapman, P.O. Box 379, Meetings, Smith's Studio, Lake Av: every Tuesday night.

Durban.—W.S. Mabbot, 353, Point Rd. Meetings at Acutt's Buildings every Thursday and lectures every Sunday night.

Eastern Districts.—Secretary, C.B. Tyler, 81 Jules Street, Jeppestown.

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

Johannesburg.—Mrs. C. Barnet, P.O. Box 4179. Meetings Trades Hall. Every Thursday.

Western Districts.—Fordsburg, Vrededorp, etc. Secretary, Comrade D. Elk, Ferreira St. Vrededorp.

Krugersdorp. — Secretary, P. Somerville, 5 Vlei Street. Meetings every first and third Wednesday and, every Sunday night in Thompson's Buildings.

Head Office.—D. Ivon Jones, Secretary, 5 Trades Hall, P.O. Box 4179.

Capetown.—Intending members see Comrade Wilfrid Harrison, P.O. Box 1176, or Socialist Hall, Capetown.

A certain captain had been lecturing his new recruits at some length on "The Duties of a Soldier." At last he thought the time had come to find out just what he had accomplished.

Casting his eye over the room, he fixed on Private Murphy as his first victim. "Private Murphy," he asked, "why should a soldier be ready to die for his country?"

The private scratched his head for a while; then an ingratiating smile flitted across his face. "Sure, captain." he said, pleasantly, "you're quite right. Why should he?"

-YOUTHS COMPANION.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

# Socialist Sunday School

Children between the ages of 8 and 16 will be welcomed at this school, which meets

Every Swaday Morbing at 11 2.20.

**2**t

# Comrade Respe's, c/e Fox & MacLaren Streets, (Near the Stock Exchange)

Readers of "The International" who would like their children to acquire the rudiments of the Socialist teaching and outlook are invited to make use of this opportunity. There are two classes, a senior and a junior, and it is expected that with the increase of numbers a further subdivision of classes will take place.

Printed by The Tresevent Printing World,
54 Herrican Street for the ISL. P. O. Box
4179, Johnnachurg.