# THE INTERNATIONAL.

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

Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

No. 53

FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 1916.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

# Exciting Public Feeling.

We wish to draw the attention of the police to last Friday's issue of the Rand Daily Mail. A clearer instance of exciting public teeling could not be imagined. Our Comrade, Andrew Campbell, was mobbed the other day for saying that it was the practice in war time to hide our own atrocities and magnify those of the enemy. But what can be said of our morning paper? At the head of a column it has a blaring title "SPRINGBOKS IN GERMANY, WELL LOOKED AFTER." Just below it appears a long growl from Durban. Thirty-three wounded or otherwise disabled South African soldiers, it was alleged, had arrived there from Delville Wood, "found themselves

neglected and forlorn, but that was a trifling exaggeration, because, as a matter of fact, crippled, bruised, nerve shaken and broken as they were, the military authorities arranged for their removal to the base camp at Congella, where they are allowed military rations and tentage, and are not expected to do any duty. . .

They are being medically boarded, and when their papers arrive they will be paid off and discharged. In the meantime they have no recognition of any kind. Some are crippled, some are suffering from the effects of gassing, and some from nerve shock, but they are not patients. They may not go to convalescent homes, and they cannot be kept in hospital: the base camp with all its cold, unhealthy horrors, its discipline and its bareness for these men who have been broken in our war."

"In our war." That's right! These men are discovering it is not their war. What we want to suggest to the police is, it may be all right when you don't want any more recruits, but the Mail must not be allowed to communicate matter calculated to excite the idea that, even now, all that is left for the poor Tommy is the scrap heap. That wont do, because we are calling for more recruits for "our war."

# "No War on Warites Wanted."

A speaker on the recruiting platform the other day, referring to the Municipal Elections, said that while they were thankful for good roads, sanitation and all that, they had to see to it that they elected men who stood by their king and country. Since then the Johanneshurg Recruiting Committee has passed a resolution pledging itself to do all in its power to prevent the return of "war on warites" to the Town Council.

The Johannesburg Branches of the International Socialist League have taken up the challenge. At a meeting held last Monday the decision was reaffirmed to fight the coming elections on our own revolutionary issue.

For a party whose special mission it is not only to awaken the workers to the folly of participating in capitalist war, but also to point the way to the abolition of the system by the organized workingclass: site only way out of the system's increasing brutalities, no other course were possible short of dissipating our energies and diverting our great cause into the sands of capitalist issues.

What does the crdinary municipal programme amount to?

Regarding the necessity for cheap trams, good milk and pure water, we all ask for these; but "what do we more than others. Do not the publicans the same?"

The usual municipal programme amounts to no more than asking the ratepayer for the loan of a bob "and I'll stand you a drink." The next party comes along with: "lend us two bob and I'll stand you two drinks." The third says, "give us three and I'll stand myself champagne."

The capitalist is just as anxious for cheap fares, pure water and milk as any, not only for himself, but for his workman. Attention was first drawn to the increased cost of living in May last by anxious enquiries sent from the Chamber of Mines to the Chamber of Commerce. He requires efficient wage-slaves.

Demand the abolition of the wage-system and its atrocities of war and peace, and all these things will be added unto us. That is going to be the tactic for some time of a Socialist party whose function it is to create the working class power: at will not only take charge of water and light and trams, but will in its own right assume the sole directing authority in industry, and therefore, in human society. Yes, we accept the challenge of the Recruiting Committee.

### Disunity of Labour.

How should the power of the working class be organised? The Federation is nominating candidates for the Johannesburg Municipal Election. In an "interview" with the Evening Chronicle, the Federation Secretary talks in a large manner of the intentions of that body, and of the severance of the constituent unions from the Labour Party. The fact is that all these constituent unions have refused to nominate candidates for the Municipal Elections when requested by the Federation, and that the quartette put forward as candidates are themselves the ruling clique of the Federation Executive. The Federation Secretary poses in the paper as the arbiter of some great mass movements, whereas the fact is that he and a few other politicants are able to do these things because the working-class is attending just now to the quarrels of the bosses in preference to its own business.

The point to note is that the political disunity of Labour arises from its industrial disunity. Labour will continue politically disunited so long as its foundation, the industrial movement, is torn as under by factitious lines of demarcation. The choice to-day is not between unity and disunity, but between being disunited on the cross roads, or all being united on the road to destruction.

A mob is united. But a mob labelled Labour united at the ballot box does not prove that Labour is united. Labour is nothing if not a united class conscious industrial movement of the workers projecting its influence into the political sphere. The paramount duty of all true lovers of the working class cause to-day is to create that class conscious industrial unity.

Labour can never be politically united so long as the industrial movement is sectioned into craft unions. How absurd to expect a class conscious party of the workingclass while that same workingclass cares more for its craft vanities, its "amalgamated" emblems, its superior skill over fellow wage-labourers, than for solidarity with all workers of whatever craft or colour. The idea is topsy-turvy, a chimera.

The question at bottom is an industrial, not a political one. The choice is either to seek alliance with the middle class or with the bottom dogs of wage-labour. So long as the white worker looks upon his fellow wage-slave, the native worker, as an object to be kicked, instead of a work-mate to be linked up industrially to help fight his industrial battles, so long will the white worker be the fool of imperialist notions and alarums. The one follows the other.

The whole of the fight against capitalism is a fight with the prejudices and capitalist-engendered aversions of the workers. Conquer these and capitalism is conquered. While these remain, it is useless whining about the disunity of Labour. The job is to create among workers that teeling of unity with all those who labour for wages, irrespective of what pigment may have been injected by Nature into the labourer's skin, or what tools he may or may not have learnt to use. That is the only unity.

# An Appeal to International Socialists.

Demand the Release of Comrade John Maclean.

We have received the following appeal from Glasgow on behalf of John Maclean, a victim, like Liebkne at, of militarism.

Comrades,

Whichever state will emerge victonous from this world war—one thing is
absolutely clear: the working class of all
the belligerent countries has suffered the
most disastrous defeat. In all countries
where Socialists have shown any tendency
towards Internationalism, and a desire for
a cessation of the terrible slaughter among
the nations, Capitalism has consistently
defeated these ends by having the prime
agitators removed.

In Russia, the anti-war Socialists in the Duma have been removed. In France our Comrade Jean Jaures was assassinated. In Germany Karl Liebknecht has been imprisoned for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years, and in Britain John Maclean has been sentenced to 3 years Penal Servitude.

Throughout the world this policy of repression is going on, and it is essential that International Socialists all over the world should agitate the matter incessantly. Make your Government move in the matter. Make the International Socialist Bureau move in the matter.

We however desire to make known the facts of repression in Britain, and that with special reference to the case of our comrade John Maclean.

In ordinary times John Maclean was a school teacher, but was dismissed from his employment over six months ago, on the plausible excuse of insubordination, but in reality for his educational and Socialist activity. He is a strong Internationalist and recognises that a Socialist movement, to be effective, must be based on the well organised, intelligent, and well-disciplined action of the rank and file, and not on the blind adulation of "leaders." All his spare time has been given over to the task of educating the Scottish workers, by holding classes on Economics and Industrial History. He held many classes in and Glasgow, which were attended by amdreds of earnest students. In six years alone he built up in Glasgow what he claimed to be the biggest class in Socialist Economics throughout the world. Last session, he enrolled 480 students. who attended regularly for two hours every Sunday afternoon for six months. No such educationalist was ever heard of or known of in Britain before, and now that he is not with us, we realise the necessity to demand. his release. His latest scheme was to/set afoot a Scottish Labour Co!lege for the study of Marxian Economics, Industrial History, Trade Unionism, and other matters pertaining to the Labour movement, and at a provisional conference held in the

Spring, 500 delegates representing Irade Union, Co-operative and Socialist Societies throughout Scotland, signified their desirability of taking this great step forward in the educational movement in Scotland. When his schemes were at their zenith, however, and just a fortnight before the Conserence took place, this pioneer of British Working Class education was arrested at the instigation of the Military Authorities, and later sentenced to the brutally heavy sentence of Three Years Penal Servitude. TO-DAY, he works at boring holes in stones, side by side with some of the most callous criminals and murderers imaginable. He does not even get special political treatment. A fitting punishment for an honest man?

His sentence is a blow not only to the the British Working Class, but also to the International Socialist Movement. Comrades, stir yourselves, an injury to one is the concern of all. Bring the matter up for discussion at all your meetings and cause, if at all possible, a worldwide demand for the release of John Maclean. Get your Ambassadors to approach the British Government on his behalf.

Remember, however, John Maclean does not ask for mercy, but merely demands Justice.

ON BEHALF OF THE GLASGOW DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE BRITISH SOCIALIST PARTY.

JOHN D. R. MACKAY.

Secretary.

Funds for the sustenance of John Maclean's family are also asked for. The Management Committee of the League invites donations from readers towards this worthy object. Let us not forget that there are British Liebknechts also, and John Maclean stands out as one of the noblest teachers of the working class; in the International Socialist movement to-day.

# Militarism in the Schools.

A Young Socialist's Victory.

MILITARISM: Thon cased giant brandishing great dripping knife in his hairy fist). "Hullo!'I smell human flesh. Here are some children that ought to be mine!" Notenkraker.

If any one doubts that the Socialist movement is to-day mightier than ever before let him read the tale we here unfold of some young Socialist militants in South Africa. Socialism alone can be the inspiration of the coming generation.

In a certain large town in South Africa, (let us keep out names to avoid complications) there is a day school. "For about a year now" writes our informant. "the children have been given guns to play with, and the first time they had them our Young Socialist (for such we will call him) took one with the rest. When he came home his mother, a member of the International Socialist League, talked to

him and told him he was a silly boy etc. and that it was only a preparation to make cadets of them. After that he refused to play with the guns any mor The teacher and Head-Teacher have questioned him many times. He has always told them he refuses to handle guns because he is a Socialist and does not believe in war. One day last week the teacher put a gun in his hands and told him he was to clean it. He and another lad of like mind simply laid them down and walked out and left them. A few days later a fresh batch of guns were brought to the school in the morning Our Young Socialist saw them and guessed what would happen. So he got to work and "organised" the boys (as he called it! in play time. He told them about the conscientious objectors and how they are treated, what brave men they are, and how wars are caused by kings and capitalists. and how we are always made to do the fighting and get nothing out of it, etc. etc.

After lunch the teacher called them ali into the Hall, and addressed them on Jingo lines, how they would grow up to be brave. men and fight for King and Country, and a lot more rot. Our young Martin Luther requested leave to ask a question. 'Yes!' ·Well,' he said, 'do not kings cause wars. The teacher answered 'Yes.' 'Then' he said, 'why should we do the fighting?' After this it appears all the boys started asking questions, until the teacher got a bit bewildered. Then came the question of the guns. It was evident the boys were against having them. Their young leader said his mother did not want to pay school fees to have him taught gun drill, but to learn useful things.

The finish of it all was that a large placard was put up in the Hall marked on one side "For the guns and uniform." and on the other, "Against the guns and uniform." All the boys old enough were allowed to write down their names 'for' or 'against.' About twenty boys wrote their names 'for, and forty-five 'against.' That was the end of the guns for this school. Later on the boys had the pleasure of seeing them packed away again on the trolley."

Look out! There is a Young South Africa growing calculated to pulverize any form of capitalist oppression.

The conditions under which millions of our people live appear to me to make it natural that they should not care a straw under what rule they may be called upon to dwell. Recently unimpeachable evidence makes it clear that to tens of thousands of Englishmen engaged in daily toil the call to sacrifice themselves for their country would seem an insult to their reason, as the conditious amid which they live make their lives already an unending sacrifice.

LORD ROBERTS, quoted by Rowntree, M.P.
in the House of Commons.

### The Enslaved Rich!

In all the talk on Recruiting Platforms about liberty, justice, slavery, oppression etc., the meaning given to these words by the Filmers and Partridges is quite different to the meaning put into them by the workingmen who listen. The Filmers know that.

What Filmer and his crew mean is the liberty of the shopkeeper to make profits with the minimum of competition. The burning down of competing shops and the burning out of a competing nation is the same thing. These people represent shopkeeping interests, whether on a small or large scale, it makes no difference. Their "ideals" are the ideals of "buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest market.' Naturally, if another shopkeeper comes along with a brand new patent, or jumps your concession, whether on the Jumpers Deep or in the Bagdad, he shouts "elbow room, you devils, I want liberty." He leaves out the words "to trade;" so the workingman gets the illusion it is his liberty he wants.

Now, Aristide Briand, the French Cabinet Minister, said at the Economic Conference of the Allies, the great pow-wow of the shopkeepers of Western Europe, come together to consider how to put the firm across the road out of business,—said Aristide Briand:

"The war has opened our eyes to a great peril. It has abundantly shown toward what economic slavery we were to be forced."

You see the difference. Economic slavery for the workers is the slavery of wages, the slavery that arises from the fact that the bosses own all the jobs and therefore own us, body and soul. But the workers are under that economic slavery now. They are in economic slavery in Germany, France England and America, everywhere; because capitalism, that is, the system by which a few bosses own all the jobs and therefore own the masses,—because that is everywhere. in England the workingman has to get up to the seven or eight o'clock whistle. So they have to in Germany. It would not matter whether the English whistle became a German or a French one. the workingman has to get up and Sir the boss or go hungry all the same.

But what the bosses mean by Economic slavery is something very different.

They got such a skrick because the German mortgagors threatened to mortgage up the Allied mortgagees. That is why they talked of "freedom." The mistake the workingmen of the world have made is that they have been too trustful. They have forgotten to ask the boss "whose freedom?" Because the wage-earn ers have no freedom. They have no country. They cannot lose that which they have not got. And so they have died by the million to give their boss. BERONIA.

### Europe's Self-Murder.

In a mail issue of the Dutch Notenkraker, Albert Hahn, the noted Socialist cartoonist, has a striking figure of Europe bleeding to death with a self-inflicted dagger wound in the breast; and in another issue a cartoon showing millions whose life-blood Europe is shedding, thronging in deathly misery past the high throne of great King Kapital.

branded with no such outlawry as opposition to the present one. In the present the whole brutality of the capitalist system has broken out in self expression, and the whole capitalist system demands, cries out, implores for condonation, or it is lost. That is why those who oppose it are execrated with all the fanged venom that capitalism's wolves can command.

Then it follows that those who desert the capitalist state in its hour of peril must base their non-allegiance to it on a revolutionary principle. In the present wrack and welter of all falling principles and ideals and institutions, no anti-war agitation can stand which is not based on the simultaneous demand for the summary abolition of the capitalist system, and the substitution for it of the Industrial Republic of the international working class. These are the only alternatives to-day. Any other opposition to war is no more than a laying up of treasure in the politics of the future.

# French Socialists and the War Machine

Le Droit du Peuple (Limoges, Socialist Minority), July 27, has a leading article by Brizon (one of the three French deputies to the anti-war Socialist Conference at Kienthal). Says the Cambridge Magazine. Brizon quotes French, English and other papers to show that the general expectation is that the war will be long continued Times, Morning Post, Daily Mail. Observer, etc.); then he scathingly defines 'victory' as Constantinople for Russia and Lorraine potassium for French capitalists': we fight for 'honour' and 'right,' but also 'for tiles, steel, coal and potash.' Why then continue? Because the belligerent Governments are 'caught in the machine.' "War is the game of princes—financial or other—huit it cannot be stopped at pleasure. Certain devilish players of the red party would like to stop the game—and the bullets: they are embarrassed with 'their war.' They knew how to begin, but they do not know how to finish: they do not dare... the machine is going: where is the good mechanician who can simplific

Revolutions are not made, they come. A revolution is as natural a growth as an oak. It comes out of the past. Its foundations are laid far back.

WENDELL PHILLIPS

# The Revolutionary Watch. word.

At the same time, and quite apart from the general servitude involved in the wages system, the working class ought not to exaggerate to themselves the ultimate working of these every day struggles. They ought not to forget that they are nighting with effects, but not with the causes of those effects, that they are retarding the downward movement, but not changing its direction; that they are applying palliatives, not curing the malady. They ought, therefore, not to be exclusively absorbed in these unavoidable guerilla fight's incessantly springing up from the never ceasing encroachments of capital or changes of the market. They ought to understand that, with all the miseries it imposes upon them, thè present system simultaneously engenders the material conditions and the social forms necessary for an economical reconstruction of society. Instead of the conservalive motto, "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work!" They ought to inscribe on their banner the revolutionary watchword "Abolition of the wages system.".

Trades Unions work well as centres of resistance against the encroachments of capital. They fail partially from an injudicious use of their power. They fail generally from limiting themselves to a guerilla war against the effects of the existing system, instead of simultaneously trying to change it, instead of using their organized forces as a lever for the final emancipation of the working class, that is to say, the ultimate abolition of the wages system.

KARL MARX in "Value, Price and Profit."

### BRANCH NOTES.

Some copies of issue No. 20 of "The International" are asked for. Comrades with odd copies of that issue please forward.

LEAGUE BADGE: The Management Committee asks for suggestions for a design for an I.S.L. Badge.

The decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Comrade Bunting's appeal is still awaited. The cases of Comrades J.H. Andrews and Ivon Jones, put down for hearing at the magistrate's court to-day, will therefore be postponed sine die.

It is quite to his interest (the Capitalist that the wage-workers exhaust their brain power in controversies on the truth of religion and in discussion on Justice Liberty, Ethics, Patriotism, and other boobytraps, in order that they may not have a minute left to reflect on their wretched condition and the means of improving it.

PAUL LAFARGUE.

Mr. Charles McGrath, a member of the Commonwealth House of Representatives has predicted that conscription in Australia will mean civil war. So says The Labour Call.

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

# Cape Socialists Getting Militant,

The following report from Connade Harrison shows that the issue of the war has been brought to a head in the deration of Capetown by the leaflet "Let Saints on Earth in Concert Sing "the adoption of which by the Socialists in Capetown led to a definite anti-war stand, and the "depletion" of the reactionary members. We congratulate the convades on their step. Last Sunday's paper made cidlcule of the S.D.F. resolution. That ridicule will turn to execution as the S.D.F. carries the Socialist campaign against war to the people—white or coloured:—

One of the minority, Mr. Evans by name, has resigned his membership of the S.D.F. on the issue described last week. Ind also stood his preliminary bout as, a "Britisher" and a "fighter"(?) against the anti-war, or to use his term, "anti-British party." The encounter took place at the Adderley Street meeting last Sunday night.

When Comrade Pick, the new chairman since the depletion of Henry Mc-Manus the pro-warite, opened the meeting Mr. Evans, stepping forward, said "Gentlemen, I want to appeal to you tonight as Britishers to prevent this anti-war, and anti-British party from carrying on their propaganda." Further interjecting, he asked, "Didn't the Socialists of Germany vote for war?" The speaker: "No! they were not Socialists who voted for war, they are in the same position as yourself. Herr Liebknecht took the Socialist position" Evans, raising his hat. "all honour to him." "Yes! but those of us who do the same thing here are traitors." The crowd getting tired of the interjections, contrary to Mr. Evans' expectations told him to "shut up"! The speaker: "This gentleman who claims to stand for the liberty of citizens is giving the best exposition of the tyrranical tactics he claims to be fighting to destroy (Applause!)

Police Sergeant here intervenes and politely told Mr. Evans if "the medicine was too strong for him" he had better move to another spot. Mr. Evans, having discovered silence to be the wiser policy, was later allowed to put his point from the platform. And he commenced with a tirade against the leaflet "Let Saints on Earth in Concert Sing," which he declared te be Anti-British and Pro-German, and accused the anti-warites of having persistently forced their views on the Federation. The S.D.F. speaker in reply said that the leastet was a protest mainly on the existing order of Society advocating Socialism as the alternative to the present diabolical system of chaos and slaughter. Of course we are anti-War, anti-Monarchy, anti Government. Socialists are never anything else.

Another of the same school, H. Mc-Manus be it known, said, "The Capitalists have split the Socialists all over the world on the war question and you have let them to it here." This is somewhat misleading; on the contrary the Socialist ranks have solidified. casting off the elements of re-

action, who have hitherto retarded revolutionary progress. As Comrade Pick put it in debate. "If we are to split we ought to decide which section is the most useful in furthering the progress of Socialistic propaganda, and my opinion is that that section is the anti-war."

W.H.H.

#### BRANCH NOTES.

DURBAN.

Last Sunday's lecture was given by Com. Leigh in the absence of Com. Rich. He took as his subject, the failure of the "Old International," pointing out that the old International as constituted previous to the war, was purely a party who met in Conference every year or so, declaiming against war and other evils and passing resolutions with the knowledge that when the time for action should occur there was no organization at their backs to uphold the pious resolutions passed, and maintained that if this New International was to be of any use Industrial Organization would have to take precedence of all other matters, claiming that Industrial Organization would be the International of the future. He gave a very interesting discourse on the I.W.W. which was much appreciated by the comrades present, several taking part in the discussion which naturally arose from the sweeping assertion made by Com. Leigh.

#### JOHANNESBURG

The Sunday night meeting in the open air went off quietly. Comrade Dunbar was again up, as there were still signs of organised interruption, and he piloted the meeting through safely with his usual tact and geniality. The crowd seemed larger than usual, and their desire to listen seemed, to us who sold "The International" on the outskirts, most keen. Comrade Dunbar gave kindly advice to the Tommies in the crowd about the dangers of militarism, which advice was taken quite seriously. The theme of the lecture was the class war, using German and American instead of British illustrations, just to dish the would-be interrupters. But few if any were deceived by this from seeing the universal application of the principle that capitalist exploitation inevitably leads to war.

Watson held the floor. His subject was "Liberty: Price 6/3." He dealt in his usual sparkling manner with the agreement come to between the mechanics Unions and the Chamber of Mines, and shewed how for the net gain of 6/3 a week, and the promise of a reduction of hours after the war, they had sold their freedom of action for the period of the war, which "may be for years, and may be for ever". The lecturer dealt in scathing terms with the signatories to the agreement, and said he objected to Labour leaders scabbing on Judas, who at

least demanded thirty pieces as his price. He had said that the hope of the British Labour movement lay in the death rate of their parliamentary representatives. This was not untrue of the South African movement. Comrade Watson shewed what liberty was being fought for by the men of England to day by reading the appeal for John Maclean (appearing in another column) and said that the most eloquent and able men in the British Labour movement were not those who figured in the papers. John Maclean was one of the finest men he had met at home. Comrade Watson's address was followed with appreciation, and the Red Flag was lustily sung at the close.

There was a full attendance of members at the joint meeting on Monday to consider the Municipal Elections. Discussion turned round the issue on which the election should be fought, and the decisions of the previous joint meeting was reaffirmed to issue a manifesto on the revolutionary principles of the League. The Manifesto Committee was instructed to prepare the draft and call another meeting to endorse same, at which also the candidates will be finally selected.

#### NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The joint meeting of the Johannesburg Branches will be held next Thursday, the 28th inst. Reef members also welcome.

### Branch Directory.

Benoni.—T. Charman, P.O. Box 379, Meetings, Smith's Studio. Lake Avenue. 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 — F. H. Becker, 54 Ougen

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 V. E. Boyd, 49 Solomon Street. Vrededorp.

Krugersdorp. — Sccretary, 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, 6 Trades Hall, P.O. Box 4179.

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

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

#### WANTED:

A qualified Dental Mechanic immediately, at standard pay. Apply: X.Y.Z. P.O. Box 4179, Johannesburg.

Printed by Viljoen & Co., 185 Smit Street, Brazinfontein, for the I.S.L. P.O. Box 4179, Johannesburg.