Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

THE INTERNATIONAL.

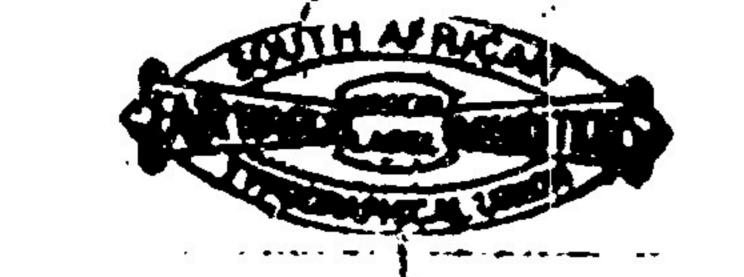
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

P.O. BOX 4179.

6 Trades Hall, Rissik Street.

Johannesburg.

No. 109



FRIDAY, NOV. 9, 1917.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

A Special Appeal to all Comrades.

£100 Wanted Right Away.

Legal Defence and Propaganda.

The League is passing through a trying time financially, and the Management Committee has decided to take
all friends and comrades into its confidence, with a view to calling upon all
hands to give the I.S.L. a good lift
this month.

It may surprise some of our readers to know that the cost of running the League Office, Secretary's Salary, and publishing "The International" comes to £65 or £70 per month. To these who know anything about running a paper the surprise will be that it is not much more. In what we regard as a good month we can look for £20 towards this from sales and subscriptions: 'to "The International." The balance is made up by Branch affiliation fees, (the Johannesburg Central being a great help in this respect) and by donations from a small—too small—ring of comrades. League Socials also furnish good contributions.

Now we are forced with extra expenditure. A conspiracy is afoot to smash up the League. The court cases against Comrades Barlin and Bareng-regt involve a principle which make the expenses of legal defence a charge on the League. The League as a whole is involved in these cases. We have appealed against the judgement of the Magistrate's Court, and this will necessitate further heavy legal expenses.

The intrigues against the I.S.L has taken on another form. A "petition" has been hawked round the proprietors of public halls binding them not to let their premises to the I.S.L. Such a paper was presented to Professor West at whose Academy the League holds its monthly dances. But he refused to sign it. The "Sons of England" and the Empire League and similar cliques are responsible. We are assured that this hooligan clique were in attendance on our last advertised dance, which was luckily poetponed.

In addition to Legal Defence the Management Committee and the Branches have decided upon a campaign of leastet distribution to take the place of the temporary closing down of our public meetings. This will also involve heavy expense, but the kind of expense which the League exists to incur. The distribution of leastets on a large scale is the finest form of pro-

paganda, and if adhered to will eventually result in such a modification of working class opinion that there will be no question of breaking up our meetings.

WE WANT £100 RICHT AWAY towards Legal Defence, Leaflet Distribution, and to wipe off a debit balance on our general account. ONE HUND-RED POUNDS wanted this month, and we know that the comrades will fork out once they know the position. We know that they do not want it to be said that a hooligan clique can close down our little paper. Rally then to the aid of the League, and make up that £100 before the month is out.

Subscription lists will be issued immediately, and all friends who desire to contribute to "THE LECAL DEFINCE AND LEAFLET FUND' should hustle round and get one filled up. All together comrades!

For the Management Committee I.S.L.

D. Ivon Jones,

Secretary.

A QUESTION FOR THE TRADES HALL

According to a Press Item a coloured workers' branch of the Railwaymen's Union has been formed in Capetown. We are getting on. We look to a strong Union of Railwaymen, like the railway itself, to standardise the conceptions of the whole working class of South Africa by contact and interchange. Such a Union cannot long hold anti-colour prejudice in Johannesburg while coloured men hold office in Capetown. And when the time comes, as come it must, for defensive and offensive alliances with the other Transvaal Unions, and coloured men act as delegates from the Cape Railwaymen, where will the Trades Hall Society and the Miners' Delegates then?

LEAGUE PICNIC.—A picnic of League members and friends will be held near the Zoo Lake next Sunday week, the 18th inst. Bring your own skoff. All rally up.

Guilty!

The "Sunday Times" had a sneer at the I.S.L. in its last issue, saying that there was a large incease in our membership, mainly Natives, Indians, and Chinese. To the extent that it is true we are proud of it, only wishing it were truer. Our comrades in Sydney. Australia, are also proud to have John Chinaman, as evidenced by the following little tale from the Melbourne "Socialist":—

THE GOSPEL ACCURDING TO JOHN.

["The Chinese hawkers in Sydney are refusing to sell vegetables to free labourers."--Press item.]

Wegetable, missus!
Nice cahliflow'
You' boss go on stlike?
No money now?
All a same, na hahm!
Him all li',
Welly good union man.
Pay bimeby.

Nesha-door people try
Makee me hear;
Want spling onion—
No blally fear!
No callot stlike-bleaker,
Na can hab;
Too muchee blackleg.
All a same scab!

Too many king!
Too many church-bell,
Ting-a-ling!
Too many gleedy man,
Too muchee glab!
Too many blackleg,
All a same scab!

IMPROMPTU AUCTIONS. — A novel way of raising money for the League Press has been discovered by Comrade Elk. The other day, at a little gathering of ten Internationals, a flower from a comrade's buttonhole was put up for American Auction, and was knocked down at 21s. to Comrade Kesler, who has forwarded the amount to the Press Fund.

Charles Kerr, of Chicago, the head of the noted firm of Socialist publishers, states in a letter to Comrade Haynes that the Socialist movement in America 'is now growing by leaps and bounds, and the comrades under pressure from the Capitalist Government are forgetting all their controversies over tactics.'

Patriotism.

By J. M. G.

a scoundrel," applies just as aptly to-day as when used many years ago by Dr. Johnson. The patrotism of the Capitalist class is quite natural and easily understood. They, as the possessing class, have everything to gain by the continuation of the present system of society. They are top dog and naturally wish to continue in that position.

Their position as top dog enables them in times of peace as of war to annex all the good things of this life. Having control of the political machinery of State, with the productive and distributive forces. They have the mass of the people under their thumb, and compel them to submit to any conditions they deem fit, to their own selfish interests.

By the machinery at their disposal they are able to create an environment that moulds the psychology of the masses, giving them the mental kinks that compels them to see society, not from the point of view of the interest of the masses, but from the distorted view point of identity of interest with Capital.

The ruling class in all past phases of societies as to-day have played upon the emotions of the subject class. The same process with very little variation, has been used, 'no case, abuse the other side," it may be "women and children outraged," "our country," "culture versus barbarism," or any of the hundred and one shibboleths that may fit the particular enemy, are trotted out to hypnotise the masses into a patriotic fervour that will make them servile tools to fight the battles of the master class. The enthusiasm worked up is such that they become mad for the time being and are not responsible for their actions, more especially those that fight their country's battles by staying at home. The enthusiasm of these stay-at-homes is such that if they were in the trenches they would be a menace to their comrades, who in their own interests would have to put them in straight jackets to prevent them going for the enemy on their own initiative, and thereby upset the plans of the military authorities.

This so called patriotism of the Capitalist class is a vaneer of the thinnest type. At the base of it is profits, more profits, and still more profits. They have sold themselves body and soul for profits and have in the past sold their country as was done by the Capitalists of France to the Germans in 1871, during the Paris commune, and will do so again if they can see profits oin the transaction. To these parasites there is no patriotism, it is a slapdash sentiment used to gull the unthinking masses, making them the ready tools of scheming politicians and wire-pulling profit-mongers eager to annex the markets of the world to dispose of the surplus values stolen from the workers. Their so-called patriotism has never stood in the way of fleecing the public. It is rotten to the core

and will go the way of all shibboleths and make way for the broader expanding new life that is behind it, the international solidarity of the human race irrespective of race or colour.

The patriotic and benevolent (?) lords of industry are working the confidence trick of emotional patriotism for all it is worth. It is an emotion that involves the ethic of roguery. How proud the British should be to belong to the mighty Empire 'upon which the sun never sets." The Union Jack they are told is seen in every scaport on the earth's surface. The 'heroic patriots dving for their country, a country they never had any claim upon, and which has always denied to the majority the right to live as human beings and participate in that superior culture of which at present we hear so much.

The day is not far distant when the cant of patriotism, with all the sentimental trash of dying for 'our country,' will lose its force to induce the workers of any country to slaughter the workers of another.

The nauseous cant about heroes, and the glories of war, will soon be recognised as neither heroic nor glorious, but merely manifestations of those primitive qualities inherited from our Simian ancestors, without the excuse they had for fighting.

The dry bone of patriotism circumscribed to nationality is about to give place to the ideal of humanity on an international plane. The economic forces are forming within the national societies, that must find expression in the closer union. The law of evolution determined by these economic forces will compel the national units to unite on an international basis, creating an environment that will kill the patriotism that is exploited to-day by the national Capitalists, and will open the broader vista of humanity as a whole, making clearer to the workers the position they stand in relation to Capital, and revealing in unmistakable language that the interest of all workers irrespective of country, race or colour, are identical, and stand opposed to those of the Capitalist class.

Such is the law of evolution as shown in the development of human societies. First the tribe with its primitive needs, expanding to the nation by the grouping of a number of tribes, owing to economic conditions, leading to groups of nations forming economic or what is usually termed commercial treaties, eventually giving place to the international or world wide federation of humanity.

According to 'Indian Opinion' the fame of the Indian Workers' Union, and Comrade Sigamoney's activities therein have reached Lahore in India. It refers almost with envy to the presence of an Indian delegate at a Conference of white workmen. 'Is there no lesson for this to the working classes in India'. For in India the workmen are entirely unorganised for their mutual benefits, adds the Lahore paper.

May it not be that from South Africa will yet come the call to all the Eastern races to unite as workers?

The Trades Hall Reaction.

The Management Committee of the Léague has received its notice to quit from the Trades Hall on November 30th, and arrangements are being made for a new office and meeting place, which will be announced in plenty of time.

The South African Typographical Union, in response to the protest of the L.S.L., has communicated with the Trades Hall Society; and in view of the fact that the S.A.T.U. and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers have no colour bar in their constitutions, the Trades Hall Society has now rescinded its previous motion and has passed a new one prohibiting Natives from attending meetings in the Trades Hall! How easily they are able to change their views when rents are threatened.

Forrester Brown, at last Sunday's meeting of the Mineworkers, stigmatised the Trades Hall Society as a "spineless mob." Nevertheless the S. A. Mineworkers have endorsed the regulation.

The African Political Organisation of the coloured population) has sent the following protest.—

That this meeting of Cape Coloured Workers do hereby strongly protest against the resolution passed by the Trades Hall Committee excluding non-Europeans from their premises, and in the interest of Labour generally, and the serious effect such resolution will have with the coloured workers in other Provinces, we suggest for your serious consideration the advisability of rescinding same.

The regulation has now answered itspurpose, which was to oust the I.S.L.
from the building. The enemies of
Labour were getting alarmed at the
fact that the Trades Hall, through the
Socialists, was becoming a beacon of
hope to the masses of the native workers, and the Trades Hall Society did
the dirty work of the Capitalists dutifully and well.

Judgement Against Comrade Barendregt.

As we announced in a footnote last week, judgement was given against Comrade Baredregt in the charge of assault on Trimble, and he was fined £10 or 14 days. Notice of appeal was given, and it is expected that this will be heard in the Supreme Court during the next few weeks.

Mr. L. W. Ritch defended in the lower court, and the keen ability with which he handled the case and his brilliant address of two hours duration was greatly admired even by opponents. Further comment we reserve till after the appeal.

Necessaries of life are at a discount at Durban because the unfortunate Indian gardeners were flooded out. Who is it that proudly declares himself an individualist. Let him produce vegetables for his table if he can

"The People."

The White Labour Illusion.

The Municipal Elections in Johannesburg have somewhat revived the old "white labour" cry of the so-called Labour Party (known to coloured workers as the "White Labour Party") probably because that Party's recent endorsement of the notorious. Trades Hall 'Europeans only' resolution seemed to require some appeal to old precedent to support its disregard of patent facts and reduction to absurdity of its name 'Labour' A Labour manifesto, speaking of the 'business man" ticket; says: "by their opposition to a white labour policy and insistence on cheap servile labour they have restricted the spending capacity of the majority of the people" (sic, compare "Het Volk"). "By cheap labour, high rents and costly transit they have driven the poorer section of the community (sic) to lie cheek by jowl with the exploited and helpless kaffir, Asiatic and coloured man." Up therefore with "the people" and "the community'; but as for the aforesaid exploited and helpless darkie, though his-conditions are so similar to those of "the people" and "the community" that they all live cheek by jowl together, equalised by Capitalism, yet 'if you wish to establish Native locations' -outer darknesses where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth then vote for me.

In that Athanasian creed of the white labour policy, the Mining Industry Commission report of 1907, signed by Creswell and Whiteside (Conclusions and Recommendations, clause 66) we read: "The most effecttive action would be to fix a maximum limit to the number of natives from outside British South Africa who may enter the Transvaal to serve indentures on the mines. . . until importation is entirely stopped, which should not be later than three years irom now. (Clause 67): The next step will be to allow employers to find their native labour within British South Africa, but only on the same footing industrially as it is employed in Cape Colony, outside Kimberley. Large employers of labour there engage their coloured labourers as free labourers and exercise no power of coercion over them." Hence the S.A.L.P. platform urges or urged, the abolition of the indentured labour and compound systems—and the Pass Laws would evidently have to go too.

Good enough, barring the obviously one-sided, sectional and therefore (when it comes to the point) Capitalistserving viewpoint and motive. But we hear nothing about the matter nowadays. All that your Labourites have done all these years to carry out their "policy" is to entrench their "workers" (alias "the people" alias "the community") by tame agreements with the masters, and to spurn the native labourer who was to have been put "on the same. footing industrially as free labourers"; to howl down, as a recent Miner's meeting did, a protest against the Trades Hall resolution; and to 'persecute the prophets' who alone' as pioneers, have had the sense to apply the elementary principle of Labour

solidarity. Meanwhile their clients, the supervisor whites, dwindle daily. Unwilling to save others, themselves they cannot save.

The real White Labour Policy, so much of it, that is, as had any reality and vitality and contact with facts about it, will be brought into effect by the non-whites, and in the teeth of passionate opposition from this, "White Labour Party' of petty bourgeois. For a tainted charter of capitalist liberty for the benefit of the liberator they will substitute a seizure of proletarian freedom for the benefit of the freed. To the bumptious self assertion of an ostrich 'people' they will reply with the unmistakable power of the real people,-Abantu-who appreciate the remark of the Mining Industry report that "the people who do the work of a country will in the end inherit it. Already the different races of workers of this country, whites, coloured, natives, Indians, are rapidly coming together to form one great Industrial Workers' Union of Africa. The movement appeals to them, it broadens, it uplifts, it civilises them. It gives them a glimpse of the only liberty, equality and fraternity worth having. That is why the "Sunday Times" sneers at it: but that is also why no one who has once tasted its live spirit can ever again content himself with the vanatities and futilities of the mere white man's so-called "White Labour Pol-S.P.B.

Plechanoff on Russia.

"Justice" quotes the following interesting estimate of the Russian situation by George Plechanoff. Plechanoff, it should be noted, although gone "ratty" on the war, is a Marxist who knows how to size up economic factors:-

According to the "Edinstvo," edited by Comrade George Plechanoff, the political revolution in Russia was complete when Kerensky, P. Skobeloff. supported by Tcheidze, reorganised the Provisional Government. Then began what the "Edinstov" calls the greatest social revolution that the world has witnessed. "The democracies of the West cannot understand it, because it proceeds in complete internal peace. This is due to the anomaly in Russian society which presents but two opposed classes, instead of three, as does western democracy. In Russia there are the toiling needy masses, and there are the enormously wealthy privileged classes. Between them Russian society has evolved no small business men or prospering bourgeois rising by means of a competitive industrialism to increasing influence. Such elements in Russia are insignificant when they are not exotic. There exists in Russia nothing upon which democracy in the western sense could be based.

STOCKHOLM FUND ACKNOW-LEDGEMENTS.—A.G. 2s. 6d., P. B.'s list, P.B. 5s., J.S. 5s., M.B. 5s., C.N.B. 2s. 6d., S.L. 2s. 6d., C.P. 2s. 6d., H.S. 2s. 6d., A.P. 5s., S.G. 2s. 6d, B.C., 5s.

Capetown Tailors' Strike.

A mass meeting was held at the Metropolitan Hall which was full to the door, the Union now being 900 odd strong. Mr. Gaimet presided and was also elected Organising Setretary during the proceedings, as in the opinion of the meeting he had proved himself the most fitted man for the job.

One factory refused to recognise the Union under any consideration, another backed out after having agreed. to modify terms if their employees returned to work. Much dissatisfaction was shown and at the request of the chairman a whole factory of employees 'came forward as a protest against the conditions offered them. The writer approached one of these, a well set-up, well spoken young lady about 17 years of age. The rise in my particular branch of work is fairly good," she said. "but seeing that others are not, I'm going to stand by my fellow workers."

It was agreed that work should be continued and the Union's funds augmented to allow for further fighting propaganda. The Union being young and short of funds was their only reason for returning to work at all. It is contended that within a few months they would dictate to all the employers of Capetown.

Shop stewards were appointed with instructions to collect the subscriptions on Saturday, and the unanimous appeals to certain members seem to show they knew who to select for this job. The Bakers' Union sent £20 to help them along and hints have been given that Capetown may yet go hungry if the demands of the workers are not acceeded to.

However, the strike is not finished. The Tailors claim to have gained a force that is daily augmented numerically, financially and morally, for subsequent greater deeds.

P.S.—The workers in the two firms mentioned are still on striike.

W. H. HARRISON.

THE SMALL NATION'S GRIEVANCE.

. 'In the same measure as the exploitation of one individual by another is ended, the exploitation of one nation by another will be ended also." Karl Marx.

That is a self-evident proposition which many have ignored but no one has dared to challenge. All the problems of small nationalties, Ireland, Africander, Alsace, Polish, Czechs and Croats are insoluble under a system of society whose kernel is the exploitation of wage-labour by capital. There is no escape from the tyranny of the hig State over the small nation except through socialism; for the big State is the visible form of big capital. Only in the triumph of the international proletariat will we hear the last of Alsace-Lorraine and Ireland.

Decency on 10s. a Week.

Wanted: Effective Indignation.

The Dean of Capetown, speaking to a mass meeting of tailors on strike, said that in evidence given before a Select Committee of the House of Assembly during the last session a statement was made that "10s, per week is sofficient wage for any decent girl, but then the girls that we pay 10s. to are not decent:" "I have no words to characterise a statement made so complacently as that," added the Dean. But we have. We characterise that as "Capitalist civilization." All the girls who have given up trying to be decent on indecent wages are the victims of the same system which gives the Dean fat pew rents.

The Dean may be an honest, humanitarian soul. He wants to side with the workers. But to-day we are entitled to expect of humanitarians some larger humanity than blind indignation. No intelligent man can now look upon these apparitions, the slums, the sweating, the Flanders mass murder, the illicit liquor cancer of the Rand, the desolate street walker, the suicides, the murders and the wholesale cheatery of modern society,—no one can now honestly regard these things as disconnected accidents in an otherwise lofty social order. They are the prime fruit of our social order. They are all traceable to the one cause: the institution of wage-slavery.

We thank you Mr. Dean for every bit of honest indignation. But the supreme indignation must be reserved against this: that men and women have to sell their labour to a master as the only condition on which they may get bread. That to the vast majority of the people of the world the energy of their limbs, their labour power, the temple of the human spirit, has become a commodity in the world market to be exploited for the profit of Capitalist society.

Do you regard wage-labour as an essential foundation of human society? Then all indignation against the incidents of wage-slavery are but, froth. Capitalist society, in order to dragoon wage-labour, demands a reserve army of unemployed. That reserve army must make the best shift it can, by prostitution, by theft, by illicit liquor deals, anyhow, until its Capitalist masters are ready to make use of it to turn its labour into capital. The condition for the employment of labour is that it produces capital. To say that wages should be a first charge on industry is to live in a fool's paradise.

So that the army of wage-labour may be kept in toil the reserve army of unemployed must be kept in misery.

You cannot, you dare not, you will not be allowed by Capitalist government to pamper the "reserve army" with too many sweets, or it will cease to be a reserve army.

The semi-starvation, the despair of the reserve army, its pangs of hunger. are the cat-o'-nine tails which keeps the main army of wage-labour on the move. Your fine churches and palaces of the rich rest on the blood and bones of the "reserve army." Your Parktown ladies owe their pride to the girls in the street. Their frills and finery are not free from the desolation of the abandoned, yea, at every "sacred" family hearth sits also the shadow of the prostitute as its inevitable complement.

"10s. per week is enough for a decent girl, but then the girls we pay 10s. to are not decent girls." That is a Capitalist syllogism for you.

Our fight must be against Capitalism. Any humanitarism that falls short of this is nothing better than a catspaw for Capitalism to pull its chestnuts out of the fire of social revolution:

A Question for Diogenes.

The great wail at the Municipal Election just past has been, "Give us men." Tennyson, the all-round handy man of the parsons, has been in great vogue. That extinct genius, "the citizen," has been appealed to from pulpit and Press to vote for that Dodo, the 'disinterested candidate.' And from a hundred beer-barrelled platforms, racing touts, land agents, and Municipal vagabonds have all given the Messianic response: "Here am I, Lord, send me. The little fleas of the Labour Party have become too expensive to keep. So they have turned in anguish, parson and Press, to the Reform Ticket, the pure, lofty, disinterested men. "God give us men." Have they not full throatedly moaned? and God has placed the order with the Braamfontein Estates and the Transvaal Consolidated Lands.

"The bourgeoisie," said Karl Marx, "wherever it has conquered power, has destroyed all feudal, patriarchal, and idyllic relations. It has pitilessly torn asunder all the many-coloured feudal bonds which united men to their "natural superiors," and has left no other tie twixt man and man but naked self-interest and callous cash payment. It has drowned religious ecstasy in the ice-cold water of egotistical calculational. It has transformed personal worth into exchange value.

The South African "Masonic Journal" retails the following skit. We wouldn't have dared!

A small boy astride of a donkey was taking some supplies to an army camp in Texas not long ago, and got there just as a detachment of soldiers preceded by a band was marching past.

The lad dismounted and held the bridle of the donkey in his hand.

"Why are you holding on to your brother so hard?" asked a group of soldiers who were standing near and wanted to tease the country boy.

"I'm afraid he might enlist," said the lad, without batting an eyelash.

Class Distinctions Abolished.

A Labour politician has been declaiming against class distinctions. He objects to First and Second Class on the Railways, and he objects to separate dining rooms on the mines for the Staff and the "Men." So the Labour Party is going to do away with these anomalies.

There is no mention made of what is going to be done with the Third Class Compartments, where the 'pigs' of a subject race are herded. And it is not yet suggested that the workingman should jump into a Parktown automobile on his way home from work, nor that he may sit down at the Carlton to a swell meal at the price of a counter lunch. These things are eternally ordained otherwise. That the men who toil should live in hovels, and that the idle few should swank in palaces is not the Labour Party's grievance, because the Labour Party is now made up of insurance agents, petty traders, small landlords and career seekers who hope some day themselves to swank it over the toilers; and therefore have no wish to abolish the real class distinctions and the emoluments of the exploiting class which in the distant prospect belong also to them. Meanwhile, the way to "get there" is to raise their price to the Capitalist by a bark. The workers only hear the bark, and think what good watchdogs they are. But the Capitalist is not afraid; he sees their tails wagging at him as well. He knows these watchdogs. They are only asking for a bone.

Judge: "It seems to me that you're a good-for-nothing rogue. Have you ever earned a dollar in your life"

Prisoner: "Yes. yer honour; I voted for ver once."

"S.A. Masonic Journal,"

The GENERAL DEALER'S business carried on by ROSIE KIMMEL-MAN (Kimmelman's Store) at Stand 769, Melrose Street, Marshalls, Johannesburg, has been abandoned.

9-16-23.

KARL MARX.

Handsome reproductions of a Portrait of KARL MARX for sale, £1 each, from I.S.L. Offices.

Help the League Funds by sending for one of these, mounted, 18in. x 16in. Should be in every Socialist home. The portrait of the great Proletarian Philosopher. Send to Box 4179, Johannesburg.

Printed b the U. P. & P. Oo., Ltd. for the I.S.L. Box 4179, Johannesburg.