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170 Million Recruits.

The Socialist International has become a far more tremendous thing by the Russian Revolution. It means that a people of 170 million has swung into line with the great proletariat of all countries, on its march to the Revolution by the side of which this and all previous ones are but "shopkeeper's riots" in immensity.

J. M. G. ably explains in another column the economic factors which have made this revolution possible. But while it is necessary to warn the workers of the partial value only to them of the conquest of political rights, the importance of this step forward in the world's history can hardly be exaggerated. The rising capitalist class cannot achieve its political revolution without the aid of the workers, nor without sharing the fruits with them. The capitalist looks only to the immediate necessities of industry, no matter if his successors have to reap the whirlwind. The proletariat must look to the end; for in its fight the means and the end, the method and the objective, are at one. The Capitalist seeks a political railroad for his system. He cannot win it without providing a railroad to the working class revolution.

We see two streams in this, as in all previous revolution. The Industrial Capitalist cry is now "ORDER." The proletarian driving power cries "Liberty." But the workers having won their "Programme of the Day", and the Capitalist the control of the State, the two streams immediately disunite and the class war begins on the last lap to the Socialist Revolution. Now is the dangerous hour. Now the dominant capitalist cry will be "order," and it will be enforced at the cannon's mouth if necessary, "tearing the side of the proletariat", as Marx once said, if the workers are not organised independently and strong to bear the shock of the recoil.

organised in the industrial centres. The independent existence of a "Council of Workmen" dictating terms all night to the Duma; scotching the Regency scheme; sanctioning capitalist control meanwhile, knowing that it has not the material means at hand (namely highly organised industry and a highly organised industrial workingclass), to push forward yet to the Socialist Revolution; sending back troop trains bound to suppress the revolution;—all this augurs a working-class conscious of its mission, and recognising this as a half-way house to it.

Only Russians can feel the thrill of the wonderful deliverance involved in a free press, free speech, and political liberty. Note, however that the right to combine is won as a result of the workers combining.

This is a bourgeois revolution, but arriving when the night of capitalism is far spent. It cannot be a mere repetition of previous revolutions. It partakes infinitely more of a victory for the proletariat, as well as for the industrial capitalist. Now the two classes pursue their several ways; one

"to prosecute the war abroad" and "law and order" at home; the other to pursue the class war at home and "the Socialist Republic in all countries." Let us look forward with great hope to the entry of the Russian elemental mass into the International class struggle for human emancipation. The day of its coming seems immeasurably nearer by this awakening.

The Witch Doctor Again.

The Bishop of Preteria has not killed enough Bosches, so he is economically conscripting his poor curates to the front. Last Sunday he announced that about forty of them would be "released for service as combatants," or to do any other war work, such as chop wood.

At one of the Church Committee meetings convened to endorse the scheme as Comrade in the League was the only dissentient. Some of the poor men "who had to vote with the majority" came and shook hands with her after the meeting; but implored her not to ask them questions. The Church is dead, and the Witch Doctor rattles her skeleton thus:—

"I and my Father Kapital are one Whosoever believeth in me believeth in Father Kapital also.

I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd getteth his living from the sheep.

Behold the fields are red for the slaughter, and the murderers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of Slaughter that he send more murderers into his harvest.

Go your ways: behold I send you forth as curates among bishops.

Carry neither purse nor scrip nor conscience, but bayonet and bandolier; and salute no man, but your officers, by the way.

For he that humbleth himself before Kapital shall be exalted, but they that do not my word shall be sacked into outer darkness.

Combatant Corp of Curates, in-the-name-of-the-Meek-and-Lowly-Jesus: Shoulderr ARMS!

The Coming of May Day.

May Day is drawing near, and it is proposed to make a big effort to give it a worthy greeting in South Africa this year. The May Day Committee has already met, and it has been decided to set apart next Sunday week for a general rally at the Johannesburg Trades Hall in the evening, to emphasize the great significance of International May Day to the workers of the world, and to form a strong committee of all those to whom the festival is dear, whether inside or outside the League; in order to carry through a good programme for the day.

The May Day Committee propose to issue a leaflet before and on May Day pointing the way of Internationalism to the people. And a grand Social Evening in the evening will be preceded by an open air demonstration at which speakers of every possible nationality, race and colour will be asked to speak.

In this year of the Russian Revolution, in which the working class has been such a big factor, let us make this a May Day to be remembered. Roll up to the Sunday night rally on April 1st.

The Russian Revolution.

BY J. M. G.

The news of the Revolution in Russia that has just been made known through the press is rather scanty and does not let us know any of the details of what is happening in that country, details which are necessary to an understanding of the movement.

We are told by the Capitalist press it is the rising of the people against the pro-Germans, and that the effect of the rising will mean that the new Russian Government will prosecute the war with increased vigour against the Central Powers. This may or may not be so, we have to go deeper to find the truth. The agitation against the pro-Germans is only the spark that has been used to ignite the combustible matter that has been accumulating for years, just as the murder of the Austrian Archduke was the spark that set Europe ablaze. The cause is much deeper and has to be looked for in the material development of the country, the outstanding feature of which is economic, the method of production and the antagonisms and conflicts engendered by these struggles.

Russia to day is on the verge of developing industrially. She has made a start in that direction. The autocratic form of Government is a clog, a hindrance to this development, an autocracy that is conservative and strangles all measures of the rising middle class to develop along the line of modernindustrial countries. And just as the rising Capitalist class of France required to have control of the political machinery of Government to bring it into harmony with the more modern form of production, and to be an assistance to that development, so the rising middle class in Russia are making an effort to gain control of the political machinery, to make it subservient to their industrial needs.

The mass of the people, the workers, are assisting in this effort, but I don't think we need have any delusion as to the part the workers are playing in the Revolution. The workers of that country in the mass are not class conscious. Mainly a peasant class, they are not conscious of the result of their efforts in assisting the middle class to power. They will be quite content to accept the few reforms thrown to them by these people. These reforms as announced in the press are, free speech, free press, Labour organisation, universal suff-

rage and freedom to strike. These reforms will satisfy them, and enable the capitalist class to climb to power by their assistance, just what has happened to Revolutions in other countries. Undoubtedly there is a strong Revolutionary Party, but a party that must necessarily be small and not sufficiently strong to carry the mass, who will be quite content to accept the sops thrown to them. While having no delusions as to this struggle, we Socialists that accept the Materialist Conception welcome the change, it is the necessary growth of society. This change will develop the industries of Russia with lightning like rapidity. The many up to date and scientific tools that have been introduced since the beginning of the war, tools that will produce with twofold capacity as compared with prewar tools,—will be installed by these capitalists, and in a very few years Russia wills be looking for markets across her frontiers, and will be another factor in producing that congestion in the markets of the world that will mean the break up of the present system.

With the introduction of the big industries the Russian peasant will become disciplined to the capitalist system, it will enable him to see beyond the petty form of Society as it surrounds him to-day. It will create a different environment. This up-todate industry about to be introduced will widenshis intellectual vision beyond the boundaries of the village commune and the degrading atmosphere of a religions superstition. It will train him and give him the talent for organisation. Without this schooling it is impossible to adopt Socialism as we Revolutionary Socialists understand it. To expect a people used to the simple methods of production in industries and agriculture to adopt Socialism is against all psychological possibility, as it is against the economic one.

The Social Revolution requires complete organisation of the mass of the people with a consciousness of the ultimate goal, a consciousness that will not be side tracked by any reform or other amliorating scheme; and this will only come by the economic development of society. No, let us have no delusions, we don't expect a Socialist State from this Revolution, it is nothing but the rising middle class securing the reins of Government for their own ends and bribing the workers with a few sops, as it is only by their power they will be able to reach their goal.

The material conditions are not sufficently developed to form that class consciousness that must manifest itself and be the deciding factor in the struggle to bring about the Socialist Commonwealth.

Notes on Natives.

No. 2

BY S. G. RICH.

Some gentlemen assure us that the natives are essentially different from us. They tell us that they are unable to do mental work of the same sort as we do.

Yet, J. Rubesana, a Xosa, holds the degree of Ph.D. from a wellknown University in Germany. Several dozen natives have passed the Matriculation examination of the Cape University. Over two dozen hold the degree of B.A. The Ohlange school, in Natal, put up two students for the Cape Junior examination in 1916. One passed. Six more are preparing for this same examination at another Natal school this year. Let it be noted that this is an examination at which even some school inspectors have failed.

Within the past seven years the requirements for entrance to Teachers' Training courses for natives in Natal have been raised continuously. Today these requirements are within a year's study of the like requirements for Europeans. Yet in all this period the enrolment in Native Teachers' Training courses has steadily increased.

The truth is that the alleged "mental deficiencies" of natives are a fairy-tale. Measure up the natives with the backveld white children, or with slum children of Europe, who suffer from like meager school facilities. The centrast is, in the natives' favour, for they described education.

This being true, let us recognise natives as people. Especially, let us not larget that they, too, are subject to the Class Struggle. Let us realise that they are proletarians as much as we are. A working-class movement that neglects natives condemns itself as a sectional movement, not a class movement.

Bave you subscribed to "The International," Is, per annum, post free, Lox 4179,

Johannosburg.

Kirkwood's Great Defiance.

Conference cabled out here would give one to suppose that British Labour was dead; huge votes in favour of the Coalition, and so on. Ramsey Macdonald shews in the "Forward" how the block system of voting swelled the pro-war majority. The Miner's Federation caucus for instance declared for the Coalition Government; and as a result, the whole vote of the South Wales Miners against were included in the majority.

But there were wild scenes at the Conference. Kirkwood was there from Glasgow as an A.S.E. delegate.

He had defied the authorities by coming, and he g t an opportunity to lay the case of the deportees before the British Labour movement: Here is the concluding part of his speech, as reported in the Glasgow "Socialist.":—

"Mr. Lloyd George visited Glasgow. We distrusted Mr. Lloyd George. It seemed to us that his public policy was dictated by the spirit of the servile state. He was accompanied by Mr. Arthur Henderson. By joining the Cabinet Mr. Henderson had lost our confidence. He had been elected to he independent. We thought he should have remained independent. These gentlemen visited the various workshops to address the shop stewards. At Parkhead Florge it fell to me, as chief shop steward, to take the chair and introduce Mr. Lloyd George. Unfortunately for my future comfort I offended him. I stated that we distrusted him because every Act with which his name was associated had the taint of slavery; that in times like these one engineer was worth a hundred lawyers; and that for purposes of peace or war free engineers were hetter than slave engineers.

The week concluded with a meeting in St. Andrew's Hall, at which Mr. George attempted to sow dissension amongst us by his oratorical gifts.

Every Clyde worker who questioned Mr. George's methods is now deported or imprisoned.

from the City the employers proceeded to pick a quarrel with us. The privilege of traveling to another depurtment, which as chief shop steward I enjoyed, was withdrawn. This took place at the same time as the dilution of labour seleme, in which certain

promises were made to us, was being introduced. Irritation and suspicion was the result. In various little ways difficult to describe, my position in the workshop was made uncomfortable and humiliating. As I could no longer perform any service to my fellows as shop steward. I resigned the position.

The workers would not appoint a successor to me, but pressed the management for the restoration of the relations that had existed. All their advances were obstinately rejected, and after a series of meetings had taken place a strike was declared. I took no part in the meetings I was miles away from the workshop when the decision to stop work was actually taken, and I tendered no ad-Ovice on the position. Of course when my fellow-workers were on the street I changed my attitude. I selt then that their fight was my fight, and once more I became chief shop steward.

The men in several other works in the district, believing that organised labour was being unjustly attacked and weakly defended by its paid officials, joined in the struggle.

Eight of my comrades and I were arrested one morning early, placed in prison cells, and deported in the evening from our native district. For ten days or so the workers held out amidst a feeling of terror, and then the strike was crushed: The Government made little or no provision for us or our families, and but for the generous financial assistance of our fellowworkers we might have starved. My wife and six children, five of them of school age, have received from the Government during the full period of my deportation a total amount of £5 5s.

No charge has been made against us; no trial has been offered us.

After keeping us in banishment for nine months, the Government now propose to set us free if we sign a document undertaking to work regularly and loyally AND BEHAVE OBEDIENTLY TO OUR TRADE UNION. (Loud laughter.) I claim to have done this all my life.

On my return I shall have no means of the life but labour. I am no criminal. (Cheers.) If I break the law in future I must be dealt with as other men. Why should I sign this humiliating and degrading pledge?

There is only one reason: in order a to white-wash my persecutors. I refuse, and my compades refuse. But I am determined to do more. To-day for the first time, I have an opportun-

ity of placing our case before the representatives of British Labour.

Having done so, I place it on your shoulders with all its responsibilities. Great principles of constitutional liberty are challenged. You must defend them. When I leave this Conference I won't return to deportation. (Loud cheers.) I go home to Glasgow or I go to prison."

At this declaration a wild and prolonged outburst of cheering arose from the delegates. They jumped on chairs, waving hats and papers, cheering to the echo, calling frantically for Henderson and demanding that the Conference should withdraw the Ministers from the Government if the deportees were imprisoned.

"The Manchester Guardian" says:
"The narrative of his case led to
one of the wildest scenes that have
been seen in a conference that is never
tame."

Durban Workers Debate Industrial Unionism.

The debate on Industrial Unionism held under the auspices of the Natal Federation in the Durban Trades Hall was resumed last week, under the chairmanship of Mr. D. Hoggins. There was a gratifying attendance, but the local paper rather damned the meeting with faint praise by saying that "the oratorical display would have done credit to the House of Assembly at its best."

The great preponderance of opinion was so much in favour of Industrial Unionism as against Craft Unionism that it was decided to continue the debate a fortnight hence under the heading. "What form should Industrial Unionism take."

"The Capitalist class was going to see that the unskilled nigger would be trained whether the white workers liked it or not. It was, therefore, all the more essential that they should have the black man on their side. They must enlist him in the ranks of the Union" said one speaker.

A. L. Clark said the end and aim they all had in view was the economic freedom of all the working classes. It was the present slave system which kept them on the bedrock plane. They should form an Industrial Union for Durban with the object of ending the wages system and to secure the reverting to the workers of all the produce of their labours.

W.H. Haynes dealt with the poor white question; and John Campbell urged the holding of a conference in some central point of the Union to organise the workers on a more effective basis.

GELUK: Commade Harry and Mrs.

Hay above possible the resolves with a little son. "another for the class war, William Lichlandh Haynes", so runs the message. Cood luck.

The "Statesman" Microbe.

By JOHN CAMPBELL,

As an aftermath to the Mine Strikes of 1913, and 1914 the Capitalist Class, discovering they were backward in legal techniques for railroading men to jail, deporting them out of the country, bludgeoning, browbeating, and terrorising, introduced the famous of 1914. Creswell and his satellites in Parliament, recognising the publicity and kudos to be got out of a parade of opposing such procedure, swung the Labour movement from its economic base, Industrial Activity;

It is notorious that Creswell and the pure and simple Politicians did their very damindest to prevent the Industrial discontent maturing to the point of a strike.

Such discontent proving too much for their machinations they acted as before montioned. The movement, divorced from the virility of the workshop, becomes translated into the platitudes of the talking shop, thereby radiating the revolutionary energy, evaporating vaporings, cant phrases, political sham fights, burial anniversaries, swindling collections, "I did it" stunts, Wanderers demonstrations, shopkeepers stampedes into their parties, Provincial Council diddling, bribers bribing bribers, and all the filth of Capitalist chicanery by deputy of "Labour" leaders.

Treachery, in and without the Labour movement, as here described becomes inflated and magnified in the International pitalist quabble known as the "Great World War."

The same mon who sang lustily "though cowards flinch and traitors aneer" proved themselves both traitor and coward.

Trade Federationists burying the hatchet into the skulls of their own class, Parliamentary Labour leaders leauing to the malarial swamps of East Africa, as a necessary preliminary to re-climbing the back stairs of the Corner House for forgiveness, reentering the blood drenched portals of the 'Rand Club, and shaking hands with "beaming Botha," such, comrades, is the result of moderation, statesmanship, and repudiation of the one real surety of our time, "The Class War."

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International Socialist League (S.A.)

OBJECT: To propagate the principles of International Socialism, Industrial Unionism and anti-militarism, and to maintain and strengthen international working class organisation.

P. O. Box 4179 Phone 6055. & Trades Hall; Rissik Street, Jehannesburg

D. Ivon Jones. General Secretary:

LEAGUE NOTES.

DURBAN.

On Sunday night at the Trades Hall. Comrade Campbell lectured under the chairmanship of Comrade Mabbot on "The Working Class and the Russian Revolution."

A good audience followed the

speaker with keen attention.

The history of Russia from the usurper Fredrick the Great was followed. The building of Petersburg and the attempted modernisation of Russia from that centre, with the importation of civil and military bureaucrats, from the baneful effects of which Russia still suffers. Following on, the speaker sketched shortly the constitution and character of the Nihilist movement. and the events of 1915 were dealt with in extenso; emphasis being laid upon the energy and discipline of the Industrial elements in that upheaval, a record was claimed for them in the insight shown in their tacties and their method of expression. The cant of diplomats who said that this upheaval strengthened them in the prosecution of the war was exposed, and the "burythe-hatchet" leaders were shown to have "sympathy" with Revolutions in any country in the world except their own.

Literature sales: good.

BENONI: - Next Sunday the branch will go on a picnic to the Van Ryn Estate plantation. Comrades coming from town by the first train will be met by a special trolley. Refreshments may be purchased at the picnic.

Johannesburg: Last Sunday the open air meeting was again taken by Comrades William Reid and Bunting. There was a good crowd, come to hear all about the Russian Revolution, and the Comrades gave them incidents of the class struggle in Britain and South Africa which showed that the workers. revolution was brewing in all countries alike.

In the Trades Hall Comrade Andrew Watson spoke to a packed house. There was a shout of applause in response to Comrade Watson's opening remarks, and it was evident that the news of the week had filled the Russian section of the audience with delight. The meeting was enthusiastic throughout. And the speaker sustained the interest to the end in his birds eye view of the class war in South Africa and throughout the world.

George Mason will speak next Sunday on "Industrial Organisation."

LETTER awaits A. Hayduska at 6. Trades Hall. Johannesburg.

THE LEAGUE DANCE:-Roll up to the League dance to be held at Pro-

fessor West's Academy 125 Pritchard Street, on Wednesday April 4th. Push the sale of tickets for this littlefunction. Even comrades who do not dance should make a point of turning up to 'confabulate' with other comrades. Side amusements will be provided for you. Remember, a lot of good work can be donea t the monthly Dance, roping in now members for the League, enlarging its sphere, and getting new readers for "The International." All together, to make this next one a financial, social and propaganda success.

Protest Against Martial Law.

The following resolution has been placed on the order paper of:the Transvaal provincial Council by Comrade S. P. Bunting, M. P. C.

That this Council (a) Protests against the continuance of Martial Law in Johannesburg, and more particularly against the measures taken or alleged to be taken under authority of the Minister of Defence for the Censorship of postal or telegraphic communictions within or in transit through the Union, under which measures, whole issues of newspapers circulating within the Union, and within the Transvaal, are confiscated without notice or explanation and the amount paid for postage thereof is nevertheless retained by the authorities, notwithstanding that full power exists and has throughout existed to bring any parties responsible for the publication of such papers before the courts for any offence they may commit: and (b) Prays the Union Government to repeal or withdraw such Martial Law forthwith.

Britons Never. Never!

Maritzburg, March 13 (Special).— The latest phase in City recruiting is the action of the Corporation in calling upon its employes who are eligible for service to present themselves at the local recruiting office, and not to return unless they secure a medical certificate of unfitness. It is possible that this action will take a wider sphere, and be the means of rounding up a number of those who are still holding back. Natal Advertizer.

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Bononi:--Meetings every Tuesday evening at Smith's Studio, 14 Lake Avenue. Secretary: B. Fanaroff, P. (). Box 379.

Johannesburg Eastern Districts:--Secretary C. B. Tyler, 13 Evans St. Forest Hill.

Johannesburg Central: Public Meetings every Sunday night at Trades Hall, Rissik Street. Secretary: W. J. C. Gibson, 233-Smit Street, Manderers View.

Johannesburg Western Districts:--B. Dilew. 33 Market Street.

Germiston: -Joint Secretaries Prince, Box 64, and E. II. Becker, 54 Queen St.

Durban: Secretary: H. W. Haynes 353 Point Road.

The Distribution Account in the estate of the late Louis Edward Vincent 30093 will lie for inspection of all persons. interested therein at the office of the master of the Supreme Court, Pretoria, and of the Resident Magistrate: Johannesburg for a period of twenty one days from

EDIZABRIH ANNE VINCENT Ex Dative 89. 7th Avenue,

Melville Johannesburg.