# THE INTERNATIONAL

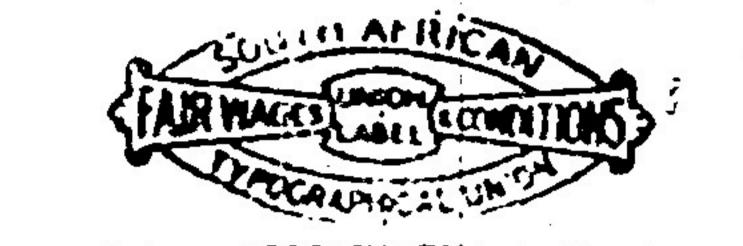
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

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# THE LEAGUE UNDAUNTED.

#### MANIFESTO FOR THE ELECTIONS.

Undaunted by the recent hooligan attacks on Socialist meetings, the Interternational Socialist League puts forward its candidates, Comrades W. H. Andrews and S. P. Bunting for the Benoni and Commissioner Street Divisions in the forthcoming Provincial Council Elections

The declared objects of the League are:-

"To propagate the principles of International Socialism, Industrial Unionism and Anti-militarism, and to maintain and strengthen International Working-Class organisation."

To-day more than ever these objects are the very pith and marrow of the Labour Movement. This is indeed no time, when the great Feast of Blood has almost reached its third anniversary, to come forward with a mere catalogue of pre-war reforms which at the best of times served rather to mask than even to alleviate the cardinal disease of modern 'civilisation.' Against a social system of now unconcealed and unprecedented brutality, the working class struggle must henceforth be waged with at least equal frankness and intensity.

It has become a straight fight between modern capitalism, whose latest and choicest fruit is this war, and the united Proletariat of the whole world who, bleeding in their masters cause, have yet life and strength to insist that this robber system of society shall at last cease, and the workers, the sole producers of wealth, shall in future produce it, not for the profit of the propertied few at the cost of the exploitation of the rest; but for the use of all.

The day of this Supreme Social Revolution seems already almost at hand: it is for us only to recognise it and work for its smooth and speedy realisation.

Fellow-workers of South Africa, it is high time for you all to rise to the occasion, following the bold and incipiring lead of the Russian Workers. Or are you still deluded with the fallocy that the German Junker is your only enemy? Can you not yet see that he is only one lieutenant of the Archfoe, the whole ruling class of the earth, including South Africa? The very conditions of existence of that class—its competition for economic predominance on the most gigantic ecale, its race for control of world markets to absorb the ever increasing

over-production and for some soil raw material and cheap labour, wherewith to-produce yet more, coupled with its continual degradation of the great mass of humanity—is it not obvious to you that all these chaotic condition-MUST necessarily and always produce world-conflict? That universal was. does not even pretend to attack, but rather bolsters up, the prime cause itself, the MODERN SYSTEM OF CAPITALIST INDUSTRY AND FINANCE? And that therefore the same cause, constantly more aggravated, must hereafter again produce the same result, but more murderous and devilish than ever?---UNIII, that is, the whole accursed structure collapses from its own inherent rottenness and discord, and YOU determine to replace it, with all its savage manifestations of war, oppression and misery, by the CO-OPERATIVE COMMON-WEAITH—as you are perfectly well able to do?

For what Guns and Zeppelins are utterly failing to effect between rival capitalist groups, the United Power of Labour, industrially organised the world over to take control of Capital—of land, mines, works, railways, ships and all the other means of production and distribution—can bring to pass perhaps without even the firing of a shot or the loss of a single life. You know it, however much you allow your faith to be obscured by Imperialistic claptrap. Then knowing your power, are you for ever content to abdicate it?

The present is perhaps the most critical moment in the world's history. Socialism bids you wipe away the blood and smoke of that sordid battlefield of Kings and Kaisers, gird your loins for the really Titanic fight, and claim domination of all the countries of the earth.

This is the platform upon which the International Socialist League's Candidates seek your votes in the Transval Provincial Election. Not that the functions of a real working class representative on the Provincial Council are themselves without significance. The great campaign must be fought down to the smallest detail, and there are a hundred ways in which such a Council, in the right hands, can forward it. If returned, the International Socialist League Candidates are pledged to keep the One Objective, the hastening of the downfall of the capi-

talist system and the organisation of the workers with a view to their inaugurating Industrial Democracy, continually and exclusively before them as the sole touchstone of their policy. The chief duty and privilege of the electors in this particular contest is, however, not to gamble on who will be the winning candidate, but to demonstrate by their votes the strength in this constituency of the International Socialist Movement. The final struggle of Socialism against Capitalism has already begun. The question is, on which side do YOU elect to stand?

# A Word from the Italian Socialists.

Italian Socialist Party,

Political Secretariat,

D. Ivon Jones, I.S.L.,

Dear Comrade,—We have received your valued letter of the 26th Marck. We will pass on your report of the situation of your movement to Grimme, at Berne, in case he has not received.

We always get your paper and learn with the greatest satisfaction that we are moving in perfect accord in face of the terrible events of the time.

We continue our labours, difficult as they are in these times, and count on you on your part also doing your duty to the end.

With International greetings,

Constantino Lazari,

Secretary.

29th April, 1917.

# Why the War goes on?

"A Chicago message of May 1st says:—"Wheat tumbled down fifteen points on an announcement that the Swiss Minister would confer with President Wilson, and on reports that immense strikes were in progress in Germany, and also that Dr. von Bethman Hollweg was to make a peace offer yesterday. The market closed demoralized."

So runs a Chicago news item in cold print. Is it necessary to drive the point home. Strikes in Germany, hindering the production of German munitions, cause a slump in New York shares. Peace rumours demoralise the Wall Street Market. Is it any wonder that the War must go on? Hundreds of thousands of men must yet groan and die to keep up the Money Market.

### The Disease of Civilisation

13v J.M.Ci.

Our modern form of society is lauded to the skies by a certain section of society. They claim that our civilisation and culture is everything to be desired. Yet many of us look upon our present civilisation and all past phases of civilisation as a disease inflicted upon humanity, as a result of the breaking up of that social unity that prevailed amongst our primitive ancestors, under the tribal form of society.

The destruction of the ancient system based upon 'The Gens,' that is a society of equals founded on blood-relationship, introduced a society founded upon material possessions, the beginning of civilisation.

This disease of civilisation has developed many symptoms and disorders of a degrading nature to the mass of the people. Its destroyed the mother right and inheritance through the female line. It enslaved woman and made her the property of the man. It brought with it private ownership of land, thereby creating a class of landless aliens, entailing a system of rent, mortgage and interest. Other symptoms of this disease were the introduction of slaves, serfdom, and modern wage slavery the most degrading of all forms of labour, cobscured as it is by so called freedom); and to rivet these chains and make the mass subservient to a minority ruling class, the State and the policeman were introduced. And there is no better evidence of social degradation than the crawling, spying, servile things called policemen, paid hirelings to keep the mass of the community in subjection to class made laws.

The disease of civilisation, arising from individual ownership of property, has tended to corrupt the individual and break the unity of his nature, It has broken that social unity that was the basis of primitive life. It has developed individual selfishness, and brought him into conflict with his neighbour, whom he looks upon as an enemy, who may be competing against him, for individual profit.

The temptation of power, possession of wealth and individual greed engendered by private property wrenches , the individual from the primitive instincts of human unity. 'Each man' for himself" becomes the guiding motto. The hand of every man is raised against his brother. The rich fatten upon the vitals of the poor. The strong upon the murder of the weak. each trying to grab the utmost he can. Competition and corruption breaks out in tyrannies and plutocracies, society writhing with the maggots of greed. outrage and fraud to obtain wealth. Force is used to maintain possession, law barriers created to preserve property rights, with the soldier's havonet and policeman's baton to maintain law and order against the dispossessed, the robbed.

These antagonisms, the symptoms of the disease of civilisation are more

marked at this period than any other. It is an age of world wide commercialism, big capital and high finance, with so-called free parliaments, and liberal constitutions and general all round palaver, and word spinning to cover the symptoms of our diseased civilisation.

Such are a few of the symptoms of the eruptions and festering sores of of the disease called "civilisation." Many nations that have contracted the dsease have succumbed. Some have contracted new phases and symptoms of the disease, and the disease has been modified for a time, by being over-run from without by semi-barbarians. Many are still in the agony of it

It is held by many that our modern civilisation having reversed the procedure of former phases of society, that is, it has carried the disease to all parts of the globe, and imposed civilisation on all races and nations, it must ultimately perish or at least become stagnant owing to the want of stimulating force from without. According to these pessimists there is no hope for humanity. But we Socialists hold otherwise. We recognise forces in society to-day that never existed in any former phase of civilisation, forces that must destroy civilisation. We dimly have glimpses of the future form of society freed from the degrading disease called "civilisation," free of the antagonism and conflicts of individual against individual, class against class. with all the brutalising conditions such conflicts entail. We see a return to a form of society based on mutual help.

Thoreau truly says: "The morning wind ever blows, the power of creation is uninterrupted—but few are the ears that hear it." Yet how can those who are caught in the whirlpool of private gain, and engaged in the operation of removing wealth from their neighbour's pocket, and in fattening on the vitals of the poor,—conceive the glory of the re-creation of society, of a society that will enable the individual to give expression to all the highest attributes of humanity, attributes of which to-day we have only a very dimperception.

# Civilisation!

Civilisation! The first fruit of this civilisation has been to spread over the earth the truth-killing Russian censorship. The second is that we have come back to the days of human sacrifice: with this difference, however, that in the barbarous days of ancient history four or five prisoners of war were offered each year to please a much-feared divinity, whereas now four or five millions are sacrificed to the fetishes of the day.

Lammenais once wrote: "Satan inspired the oppressors of mankind with a fiendish thought. He said to them: In each family take the strongest and bravest men and give them arms. Then I shall give them two idols, called Honour and Loyalty, and one law which they shall call Obedience to Duty. They shall worship these idols and blindly obey this law."

GEORGE BRANDES.

#### The Stockholm Conference

The International Socialist Conference at Stockholm, attended as it is by representatives from all the belligerent countries, will be a tremendous power for peace, and with peace, for the Social revolution.

The American Government has refused passports to American delegates to attend. They will not be allowed to pass the bounds of the Statue of Liberty! But important though America is industrially, she stands or falls by Europe. And the Stockholm Conference will be sitting presumably in permanent session to force the end of the War by workingclass action.

The ruling cliques of Europe have set forces in motion which they cannot control, and which threaten to overwhelm humanity. Nothing but workingclass pressure, coupled with the pressure of starvation, can now restoresanity. The restoration of sanity now means the inauguration of Socialism.

On May 1st, we now learn through the mail papers, there was a general strike throughout Austria-Hungary. Demonstrations were held in Vienna, when Socialist leaders made speeches demanding peace without annexations, without humiliation of any of the belligerents, and protesting against further shedding of blood. Resolutions in favour of 'First of May and Peace.'

At Budapest there was a general cessation of work in all factories. Business establishments were shut, and no newspapers appeared. In consequence of the widespread unrest newspapers from Germany up to and including May 1st were rigidly censored.

In Berlin the workers remained at work at the request of the Socialist organisations. Are they holding themselves in so as to act when the Stockholm Conference gives the word?

The Russian workmen give every indication of holding their own against the counter-revolution. Factories are being controlled by them, and profits are being eliminated. The fraternisation undoubtedly continues, for we see but half-hearted claims to the contrary; and fraternisation of the Russian and German soldiers cannot but mean that the revolutionary spirit is taking hold of Germany, where, once alight, it will become invincible in Europe.

But, above all, this thirst for knowledge is untirely unselfish with the workingman. The worker at a machine will not be able to raise his income through the knowledge he may acquire. . It is not the possession of knowledge, but the desire to acquire it that constitutes the philosopher. It is among the despised and ignorant class of the modern proletariat that the philosophical spirit of the most brilliant members of the Athenian aristocracy is revived. But the free movement of this spirit is not possible in modern society. . . only the triumph of Socialism can render accessible to the proletariat all the sources of culture.

DANIEL DE LEON.

#### The Mineworkers' Ballot.

The result of the Mineworkers' Ballot on the Chamber of Mines offer was given this week. The Chamber of Mines made certain substantial concessions, (sops and bribes) to the Mineworkers' demands on conditition that they would change their Constitution.

Last year the Mineworkers' Union devolved a lot of its central work on to Districts Committees. This gave a great impetus to the Union in various centres by the development of local initiative and local control of half the income. This did not suit the Chamber of Mines. When it was too late they discovered that the central control of the Union, which they had so much reviled in the past, was the most pliable control to Chamber of Mines influence. The development of local autonomy has resulted in local strikes, from which the Union has nearly always come out victorious. These in turn have stimulated the membership, with the result that the Union is to-day becoming a powerful well-knit force.

Much therefore turned on whether the men would retain their system of local automony, and this they did by a small majority. The Mineworkers' therefore stand as they were, relying solely on their unity.

A further development is the decision of the Reduction work men to link up with the S.A. Mineworkers' Union instead of forming one of their own. And there is a move among the surface men to organise with the rest of their fellow workers in the mines, as a result of the Randfontein victory. If the underground men take pains at this juncture to provide efficient departmental representation to these sections of Mineworkers, the result will be the formation of a most powerul union.

The methods of the Shop Stewards Organisations in Glasgow, Sheffield, Leeds and Manchester should be followed. The Reduction Men and the Surface Men should appoint separate Conveners on each mine. These, with the Shaft Stewards would form a Mine Stewards Committee in direct communication with the Head Office. Thus the separate interests of each section will be safeguarded, without disrupting the unity of the Mineworkers as a whole.

"We are now at war, and militant pacificists are reminded that there is no shortage of hemp or lamp posts."

The above quotation is not from darkest Russia that was, nor from German Junkerdom; it is from the "Wall Street Journal," quoted by the "Weekly People."

Soon we shall expect to see the tide of emigrants turning east instead of west. Imagine thousands upon thousands of poor steerage passengers landing at Petrograd from America and England in search of liberty!

# Oh, Mr. O'Grady!

F. W. Jowett, M.P., writes to "The Merthyr Pioneer" of May 5th, as follows:—

It is now generally understood that the visit of Messrs. Thorne, O'Grady and Saunders to Russia has not been a success. The Petrograd correspondent of the "Sunday Times" reported, directly after the so-called delegation arrived in the Russian capital, that Russian Labour was asking why the British Government and not the British. Labour parties elected to send these delegates. The British Ambassador at Petrograd is doing his best to advertise the delegation, but the more assiduously he chaperons, the trio the more suspicious becomes the attitude of Russian Labour towards them.

In the same issue Mr. Jowett remarks that a Russian Czuiser happened to be in British waters. The crew held a meeting and passed a resolution requesting the captain to provide facilities for one of their number to gather information on matters of importance to them from Labour and Socialist organisations in England. The appearance of the Russian sailor in the lobby of the House of Commons led to many enquiries from Press men, but apparently, said Jowett, the nature of his mission was of a sort they had no wish to advertise, for they made no mention of it the following day.

# The Election Fight.

Andrews and Bunting Nominated.

Nomination day for the Transvaal Provincial Council Elections found Comrade Andrews proposed and seconded by a quartette of workingmen at the Benoni Court House. The benches were filled with Unionist and Labour supporters waiting and wondering if the Socialist nomination would be forthcoming. Mr. Kuper, the Labour Candidate had already been nominated when the Socialist platoon trooped in, Comrades Chapman and Glastonbury proposing and seconding Comrade W. H. Andrews. The Unionists nominated Mr. Raymond Sellers.

Comrade Bunting was duly nominated for Commissioner Street, where a four-cornered contest will take place.

In both Divisions there is every prospect of encouraging results, and if all the comrades will put their backs into the fight, a victory for Socialism is assured in both places. Comrade Bunting's canvass in Commissioner Street shows a good, healthy Socialist element existing, sufficient to win the Election with a little hard work.

At Benoni, Comrade Andrews' name as the foremost workingclass name in South African politics gives a great pull over the other candidates, and makes the propaganda work comparatively easy. At Boksburg North one Labourite who was canvassed, although a pro-war man, expressed his inability to vote against Andrews, though he would not vote for him. We

wish to appeal to all our Benoni comrades and supporters to rally to the Committee Room in Market Avenue to give their help. There are plenty of class war men in Benoni who would help were they not apprehensive of victimisation.

A few comrades are working like trojans. A lot of work requires to be done in the distribution of leaflets, canvassing, buttonholing the all-but-converted, getting information about removals, or writing out cards in the Committee Room, work to suit all temperaments. SO ROLL UP, 'ALL BENONI COMRADES.

Last Saturday night the campaign was opened with an open-air meeting at Boksburg North. Comrades Barendregt, Reid, Ivon Jones and Chapman did the talking. There was a good crowd, a large proportion of whom were anxious to hear. But a couple of Labour Party rowdies (they claimed allegiance to the S.A.L.P.) made speaking difficult with violent abuse and "Tipperary." However, good individual support was secured, and the "Red Flag" terminated the meeting.

Next Saturday night Comrade J. Forrester Brown will speak at Perry's Corner in Benoni, with Comrade Barendregt in Dutch.

#### Provincial Election Fund.

Subscriptions are now appealed for to carry on the I.S.L. campaigns of Comrades Andrews and Bunting in the present Provincial Council Elections in the Transvaal. Let us not be behind our comrades in Europe in the great fight. Happy we if by electing one or both of our Comrades to the Provincial Council we can say that the Rand is not so far behind the Socialists of Potsdam in their recent blow at Militarism. Lists have been issued, and more may be obtained from the I.S.L. office. In the meantime we have pleasure in acknowledging the following received direct:

R.B., Pretoria £1 0 0

# Revolutionary Reforms.

However justifiable, or even necessary, it may be that the workmen establish labour organisations for the purpose of improving their condition, by lowering the hours of work, and other equally wholesome measures, it were a profund error to imagine that such reforms delay the social revolution, and equally mistaken is the notion that one cannot admit the usefulness of certain social reforms without admitting that it is possible to preserve society upon its present basis. On the contrary, such reforms may be supported from the revolutionary standpoint because, as it has been shown, they stim- " ulate the course of events, and because, so far from removing the suicidal tendencies of the capitalist system, they help them along. KAUTSKY.