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. 98



FRIDAY, 24th AUG. 1917.

PRICE 1d. WEEKLY.

WAKE UP, WHITE WORKERS!

THE ONCOMING NATIVE PROLETARIAT.

Never has there been such vindication of the class war fight of "The International" for the solidarity of labour irrespective of colour, waged insistently by us for the last two years, as came from the mouths of capitalists this week. The South African National Union met on Tuesday at the Carlton Hotel, and in its ninth annual report appeared sentiments which might easily have been echoes from "The International." This National Union is a body formed to encourage the growth of industries in South Africa. The report said inter alia:—

"The public mind has been so concentrated upon the actual fighting of the whole forces in the field that it has been apt to regard the Indians, and our coloured and native men, as merely pawns on the chess board, who will fall back into their old position once the war is over. No idea can be more fallacious.

The days of indentured labour are numbered."

Industrial Capital is always revolutionary in the days of its youth. Lisen to its philosophic radicalism. It will hardly suit the purpose of the old hoss, the Chamber of Mines, which has little to gain by the extension of civil rights to the natives:—

"A vital modification of the industrial situation in favour of the coloured people is sure to be followed by social and political changes in the same direction | Been reading Karl Marx.] The whites will more and more tend to become an 'overseer' class, [police boys], and Mr. Merriman's characterisation of the blacks as the real working-man will be on the road to realisation. It only needs the continued locking-up of the land and repression of local industries to make this situation acute, and to make South Africa take its place in the Empire alongside of India instead of beside Australia."

The report draws attention to another remarkable development affecting the "poor whites" (the "white trash" of like economic conditions in the Southern States of America, as Sen-Yah has pointed out):—

"In other countries the unemployed and unemployables have flocked to the colours and have been made men thereby. The 'poor white' has been left unaffected by the war. Even the educational revival. . . passes him by. Standard IV. at 16 is the summit of the ambition which his surroundings will admit. Hence the danger is that he may recede behind the advancing line of the non-European population."

So we see that the I.S.L. has not been a whit premature in its propaganda. In fact we have leeway to make up. The choice is even now being offered to the white workers of becoming police boys for the capitalists or of standing shoulder to shoulder with the native proletariat in its emancipating march. So long as the Federation refuses to bring the native worker within its purview, gracious concessions to white mechanics from the Chamber of Mines are nothing but lures to buy them out from the class struggle. The lavish interviews granted the Federation Secretary in the "Star" columns indicate that Wallers has discovered that the way of concession to white mechanics is the way of safety to the Chamber of Mines; for thus is the Federation being lifted high and dry above the mightier, broader currents of the teeming myriads of the bottom proletariat.

The only hope is that the Conference of Industrial Workers, which we see is being called together by a few prominent Trade Unionists on September 2nd, will become another Leeds Conference of rank and file men. If so, it will save the white workers of this country from being degraded into a police boy class. It will ensure for them a place in the ranks of those, irrespective of race or colour, privileged to unite together for the emancipation of the workers in South Africa.

As a sign of how the wind blows, it is said that the Benoni delegates at a recent S.A.L.P. Council meeting were roundly accused by their fellow delegates with being rank Internationals. Those 355 votes given to Comrade Andrews were of a high voltage, though the volume might not have been so showy as Kuper's.

Tramwaymen spoofed again.

The Tramwaymen put in demands for increases for all grades; and the Council has replied with an offer that ignores the lower paid, and piles on more privileges on the top grades. How long are the Tramwaymen going to tolerate this mean conspiracy to split their ranks by concessions to the higher paid at the expense of the new men? The Executive of the Union, mostly men of top pay, have resigned in a funk, although not long ago a scratch meeting put them in affice for the duration of the war. Meaner than all, the Council has endeavoured to put the tram riders up against the men by increasing fares. And the game of "'suspensions" for petty offences un tale telling evidence is still rife on the trams. This is about, the meanest part of the whole mean employ. The Tramwaymen should first learn that their self-respect is of more worth than. all increases in pay The first thing they should agitate for is the abolition of "suspensions." so that they may feel a bit more like men once again, instead of being the trembling slaves of every martinet inspector that comes along.

Let them ask why are they so defenceless against this "suspension" system, that strikes at their stomach, and "suspends" their manhood. Why? Because the grade system splits up their ranks and prevents them uniting. ABOLISH THE GRADE SYSTEM BOYS! and be self-respecting men once more.

The diagrams showing the recent great retreat of the Russians on the Eastern Front show that the Russian army fell back in Galacia to a line approximating with the boundary. It is evidently part of their "no annexations" policy, and their determination to fight for no foreign or home capitalism.

The Chamber of Mines has made various concessions to white mechanics, the most important being the forty-eight hour week. The wage concessions come to very little, and with the play on war bonus schemes are intricate even to the men involved. Where these concessions lose their significance is in fact that they are sectional. All working class victories are such only in so far as they increase the unity of the workers.

The Survival of the Fittest.

By J. M. G.

The biological development of man differentiating from the common ancestors of animal and man gave him that superiority which enabled him to fashion and invent tools, thereby laying the foundation of the economic forces which in all ages governed and was the basis of human society.

Natural selection involved life struggle as the essential conditions of contending units and groups.

This inevitable struggle of lorganisms in a state of nature, a struggle imposed upon the organism by climatic, food and accidental individual differences, must result ultimately in the selection of those best fitted to produce their kind and thus represent the type; no conscious activity being possible to modify the conditions and determine the fittest representatives.

This law applies to all organisms, human included; but we must discriminate between the state of nature prevailing in human societies. Human social life is a conscious struggle against nature. The upward march of humanity has been a conscious effort to control the forces of nature and make them subservient to the production of those things necessary to the physical welfare of life, thus everchanging the environment that determine the socially fittest.

This environment has been never stable, ever changing as mankind gradually conquered the forces of nature, thus determining the social structure of society.

This biological structure of mankind has given us the capacity of being conscious of our material surroundings. Man's superior brain power was the original cause that lifted him from a mere animal existence. It enabled him to concentrate his mind and reason, and thus develop his environment. It produced specific economic causes as he improved the gifts of nature by ever perfecting the tools necessary to produce with more abundance the means of life.

This evolution of human tools to supply the needs of society is the history of humanity. The technical improvements have resulted in the growth of new forces bringing about a series of transformations. Society is never stable. The fittest of one phase of society is the unfit of another. Giving rise to the many and varied ideology of the past and present.

This struggle with nature and the development of tools gradually evolved within society private ownership; thus leading to all those antagonisms that has disrupted societies during the civilisation period, banishing justice to the many for the selfish interests of the few, and giving rise to the class struggle.

The social structure of society today based on the capitalist methods of production, using the forces of nature with greater efficiency than was ever dreamt of in the wildest dreams of the past, has created an environment in

which the individual, to survive, must be not the hardiest nor the strongest, nor yet the most humane, but the most cunning and unscrupulous. The cult of getting on, by any means, in commercial life, if successful, is the hall mark of respectability and places the getter-on on a pedestal to be envied by the unsuccessful. This cult of getting on permeates all sections of society. The politician has adopted it as the beginning and end of his existence, and the fiftest to survive are those that chameleon-like can change with every passing phase of public clamour. The Labour leader has not neglected to cultivate it, by bringing the ability to mislead the workers to a fine art "running with the hare and hunting with the hounds." The clergymen of all religions are no exception to this getting on, and degrade their socalled holy calling by dragging it in the mire of greed and filthy lucre.

Even in art and science to get on the men with the highest ability and greatest genius have to resort to sophistry and cunning, and the extent of their success in the art of getting on depends on how much cunning and wirepulling they are capable of, and to what extent they are willing to prostitute their ability.

Such is our environment to-day, the most degrading that has ever been the lot of humanity, in which the fittest to socially survive must be not the best but the most immoral.

This immorality is but imperfectly understood or realised by the masses. They are unconsciously imbued with a feeling that things are not as they should be, instinctively they feel the want of justice but owing to the mental kinks received from their environment console themseles with the old and musty parrot cry: "the poor you will always have with you." "The workers have always had to slave to live and always will." These people, ignorant of the development of the past and the forces operating in society to-day have no hone of ever receiving justice.

We Socialists, who recognise this evolution in human societies, see the germ of a new life, a germ that has taken root in our present society and is growing with ever increasing vigour, which must develop into a form of society eliminating the getter-on and giving justice to every unit of the community.

The ruling class for thousands of years have trodden upon the working class. We do not curse them for their crimes. The economic forces moulded the environment that made them masters of the masses and the fittest to survive. We do not blame them for their brutality nor praise them for their virtue. All we ask is that the masses awake to a consciousness their power. Take an intellectual interest in the economic plenomena of to-day, understand that it is but the development of the past, and just as other phases of societies have come and gone so must the present!

Pass this copy on to a friend. Tell him he can get it regularly by sending a year's sub.: 5s. to Box 4179, Johannesburg.

From strength to strength.

Andrews off to Stockholm.

By 1,234,000 votes to 1,231,000 the British Labour Party has decided to send delegates to Stockholm. As Ramsay Macdonald truly says, it is a sign that British Labour is in nobody's pocket. This is a great reduction on the previous vote, but it cannot be called a snap vote now. And who would have expected a year ago that by a bare majority the British workers would have voted to restore the International? The result is magnificent. For the forces at work to reverse the decision must have been enormous. The British worker is slow, but he is sure. This is the most portentous event after the Russian Revolution. It cannot be explained away. There are too many to buy, too many to spoof. It will electrify the whole International Socialist movement to think that the imaginative Britisher should have taken the great International leap.

Further news this week that Tcheidze, the President of the Russian Council, will be the Conference President, is heartening. Also the announcement that the proceedings will be public establishes an important precedent for the whole Socialist movement.

ANDREWS HAS SAILED.

Comrade Andrews, as we indicated last week, has taken passage for England. The "Cape Argus" made a show of protest against the departure of the Socialist delegate. But a gathering of the Socialist Democratic Federation, the Jewish Socialists: and the Peace Society gave a farewell social. and made a handsome donation to the Delegate Fund. On his way down Comrade Andrews was given a hail by the Kimberly comrades, who gathered on the platform to wish him good speed. The Kimberley men have now formed their Committee to gather the funds, and have already sent up their first instalment.

The response to the call for funds is most encouraging. The total amount required will be about £350, spread over about six months, and will require a united effort. That united effort is becoming more and more united. From Bloemfontein, East London, Maritzburg, Capetown, Pretoria, as well as the Rand, come assurances in tangible coin of whole hearted support.

Now that our Delegate has behind him the whole British Labour Party in his demand for a passport for Stockholm, we will wager a whole Socialist against half-a-dozen Jingoes that he will get there.

And we don't despair of the Miners' vote. 345 against 376 is a good tussle. Let the Stockholm Conference once get going and the South Wales bhoys and the Scottish laddies will soon get to work with their revolutionary battering ram and send their Miners' delegate to Stockholm. We are witnessing the unfolding of the greatest drama in history, the entering of the world's proletariat into control of the world's affairs in the name of humanity.

Creswell, the Pope, etc.

"If history means anything to me, it is a gradual unfolding, etc." (F. H. P. Creswell speaking in London, supported by Lord Milner on one hand and Lord Selborne on the other): The following is the same in good verse:

"There you sat and sang of Egypt, Sang your pretty women's lays Of Pyramids, you called them sphinxes,

Mortared with the blood of slaves; Then you sat and sang,

Of Church, Mart, and the Regal Stew,

Where Freedom broadens down so slow

It stops---with Lords and YOU." (Francis Adams in "Songs of the Army of the Night'').

The Orangemen of Ulster and elsewhere are now in order with the cry: "We are being conquered by a Roman Priest." The Pope sends a peace note to the King of England with a covering letter asking him to forward it to the Presidents of France and the United States, because those countries have no diplomats at the Vatican.

When the same Vatican declared the Knights of Labour immoral, did it have such diplomatic scruples?

Or when the Pope in 1894 declared that Dreyfus would be found guilty, where was then the diplomatic aven-

Or when the Irish plan of campaign. was denounced how was the missing link found?

And when the working class, assisted by Socialist Science and Socialist Officers, declares peace amongst the nations, where will the Vatican then stand with the cry 'Socialism is immoral'?

A Roman Catholic Priest in America said once that the best reply to the Socialists was a gun, that they ought to be hunted like mad dogs.

And now the chief of these Priests is afraid that the Socialists will make peace, and he and his church, being the largest property owners, want to have a cut at playing the 'honest broker."

Sense answers nonsense in advance! Utopian Socialist, after a brain wave description of the future society sees a shade. Having often been told that he is mad, is now in doubt, and asks "who are you"?

Shade of Marx: "Why; when I was little more than a youth I told the world: Philosophers have interpreted the world differently, the great thing is to change it.'

Creswell arrives in England. (Free passage on transport).

WAR OFFICE: "Who are you"? CRESWELL: "Colonel Creswell." W.O. begins looking up Army List.

CRESWELL: "Oh! I was Major last week."

W.O.: "Oh"! CRESWELL: "Nobody, when war broke out."

W.O.: "No vacancies."

(Creswell gets shipped back by his masters).

J. CAMPBELL.

Industrial Conference of Workingmen.

We have received the following circular calling together an Industrial Conference. It is to be hoped that at last we see the beginning of the forward march in the industrial moement. It reads:

Fellow Worker,

Many of those associated with the Industrial side of the Labour Movement in South Africa have noted with great concern how the workers are being continually defeated by their own disunity in their struggle for better conditions.

The workers in one industry are split up into various sectional or craft organisations. The employer deals with the various sections, and buys them out in detail with promises and agreements, so that the time of need finds the workers pitted against one another instead of against the capitalists. Not in one single industry are the workers able to present a united front to the masters.

Apart from the system of organising sectionally by craft instead of by class, and apart from the want of a definite, united policy in the industrial movement, we feel that the economic stress in Europe will soon have its reflection in this country also,

As in England to-day, there will be a tendency on the part of the employing class to eliminate craft privileges by the introduction of semi-skilled and women labour, together with labour saving devices.

The position of the white workers is becoming increasingly precarious and degrading, and the sectional character of our present organisations is a stumbling block in the way of further advance,

We, the undersigned, have been asked by a number of industrialists with like views, to form a Convening Committee to call together a Conference of all industrial workers who deem reorganisation necessary.

This Conference will be held on September 2nd. at the Trades Hall. Rissik Street. Johannesburg, at 10 a.m., and will discuss ways and means of urging the workers to unite and organise as a class industrially so that they may be in position to present a united front to the employing class. and eventually take over the control of the industry.

Yours for greater unity, J. F. Brown, W. Staunton, G. Alexander, A. Watson.

League Notes.

JOHANNESBURG.— The women comrades are going to bring double event this mouth. A social will be held on Saturday the 8th to cele-. brate the second anniversay of the formation of the League, and also to celebrate the foregathering of the Stockholm Congress the day after, if all goes well enough to enable it to meet on the 9th. All friends of the movement are cordially asked to come to this. Admission by invitation, obtainable at the League Office.

On Wednesday, the 12th, it is proposed to continue the monthly einderella dances. Tickets for this at 2s. 6d. now on sale. Refreshments provided and a jolly time promised.

BENONI.— Last Saturday the Branch held a social evening at the League Hall. A number of the comrades rolled up, and songs, larded with refreshments, were given by Comrades Payne, Den Bakker, Ogterop and Thomas. Comrade Dunbar was out from town, and the evening turned out so jolly that the last comrade did not leave till the early morn. This week end a sing song will again be held at the League Hall, and all comrades are cordially invited.

The Western Districts Branch will meet next Tuesday, 28th inst., at 8 p.m. at the usual place. All members are earnestly requested to make a great effort to attend, as the comrades are resolved to carry on the work of the League in the Western Districts more vigorously than ever.

John Campbell writes a hearty letter from Natal, and wishes to be remembered to all those comrades whom he should have written to. They can give him a blowing up when he comes up in October. Signs himself, "Yours for the Time when we can be Ourselves," and wholeheartedly endorses the work of the Special Conference. The resolution, he says, 'like all forms of truth, is simple and direct."

I.S.L. JEWISH SPEAKING BRANCH

A meeting of the above Branch will be held next Sunday, the 26th Aug., in the Trades Hall, Rissik Street, at 2.30 p.m. All Jewish speaking Socialists and supporters of the International cordially invited. Note place and date.

The world war broke out hecause there were no more new markets for the big capitalist countries. The marets they had are getting filched wholesale by smaller rivals. How then can peace come and the capitalist system continue?

Advertisers can get more for their money by advertising in "The International" than any other weekly. Ours is not a bogus circulation. Get your Trade Union to advertise in the only working class paper in South Africa.

A full list of acknowledgements of Donations for the Stockholm Fund will be given in our next issue.

After War Problems.

C. B. Tylers lecture, Trade Hall, last Sunday.

There is no doubt there will be very grave problems to face after the war is over. The capitalists have realised this, and have been preparing for it, we might say from the commencement of hostilities.

Owing to millions of men being required in order to carry the war, labour-saving machines have been introduced in every branch of industry. It is therefore evident that although thousands of those who don the khaki will never return to swell the ranks of labour, yet there will still be a large surplus who will not be wanted in their respective trades, owing to the introduction of labour-saving machinery.

We might pause to consider what will become of them. What can they turn to, when in every branch, and even in agricultural pursuits, machines have taken the place of the men who used to do the work. To quote from an article in the London "Times" of December 29, 1916:—

The manufacturer may also be reminded that a capital expenditure of a thousand pounds is justified if thereby ONE man can be saved."

This is the opinion of the capitalists. for whom men are daily shedding their blood by thousands on the battlefield.

To quote again from the "Times" as to how labour is being replaced by machinery:—

"As an example on a small scale, an enterprising West of England miller, who receives his grain by boats on the River Usk, recently installed a small pneumatic plant. It formerly took eight men a week to unload one of the boats, but since the new plant has been installed one man can do the same work in two days."

Coming now to the coal industry: "By the use of mechanically equipped colliers seven men can transfer into the bunkers of other vessels 800 tons of coal an hour, or over 100 tons each; instead of one ton. This one ton per man cost 901. to shift, whereas by the hundred ton per man method the cost is only one farthing per ton. Do not the shipping trade and the whole country benefit by this? And which is better from a labourers' point of view. to shovel a ton of coal into a basket every hour for a day, or to be one of the seven men who shift the 100 tons. per hour, just standing by to see that the machinery works properly, and doing a little oiling now and then."

How very thoughtful these people are where their pocket is concerned!

There will be another grave problem to face, viz: the decrease in export trade. Owing to all industry being practically crippled, in order to turn out a sufficient quantity of ammunition, also food and clothes for the vast armies, we have been unable to export to other countries to anything like the extent of our exports before the war.

What has been the result? Those countries who hitherto imported from us have put down their own factories,

and manufactured their requirements at home. Is it likely that they are going to scrap their machines in order to buy from us when this great catastrophe is over?

Then there is the vast army of women workers, who have taken the place of the men who have gone to the front. Do not think for a moment that after the war is over they are going back to thier kitchens and their "holy stoves"; no, they have come into the labour market to stay, and men must wake up and realise this fact, and give women every opportunity of organising and entering their Unions. Otherwise the capitalists will use them to keep down your wages.

Men, and women too, must organise on industrial lines in order to meet, these grave problems which we shall all have to face.

Also, what about the widows and orphans? Who is going to provide for them after the war? The capitalists first duty should be to provide for the needs of the widows and orphans of those who have shed their blood for them. Is it likely that they will do this? No, the workers will have to face this problem of providing for the widows and fatherless.

Then organise, and waste no more time! You have the means in your hands to settle all these problems. Workers of the world unite!

F.ET.

Friederich Adler.

How he justified assasination.

The trial of Frederich 'Adler, the Austrian Socialist leader who shot the Austrian Premier, Count Sturcgh, began on May 18th. He was eventually sentenced to death. The "Frankfurter Zeitung" calls him a Brutus who through a sense of public duty violated his own most cherished standards. Or one might say, another Lasalle, who, himself the greatest opponent of duelling, finally fell in a duel.

The Russian Council of Workmen telegaphed through the International Socialist Bureau to the Socialist organisations of Europe and particularly the Austrian, requesting them to use every means to prevent the execution of Frederich Adler,—"the forerunner of the freedom of all peoples and of a world peace."

The following paragraph is taken from Dr. Adler's statement to the Court:—

"I admit my opinion always was that the violent killing of men was dehumanising, and that we still living in an are of barbarism if we are forced to kill men... I agree that war is dehumanising, and I do not deny that revolution too is dehumanising. Everything that makes it necessary to kill men instead of elevating them, by means of the spirit of barbarism, is dehumanising, and our view has always been that we loathe murder, the violent killing of men. For we labour, as our Master Marx has said, for a new society, which knows at home no policy but work, and abroad no policy but peace. .. Nevertheless, I am of

opinion that we should not be Utopians and should not yield to the delusion that we already live in this society which we seek. Just as we are convinced that sons and fathers are obliged to sacrifice their lives in war and to destroy other lives, so are we obliged to ask ourselves too whether we have to sacrifice our lives in a society of barbarism. If we answer this question with yes, we come to the conclusion: the killing of men is justified not only by war, but also by revolution. Murder cannot be a privilege of the rulers; we are too justified therein under present conditions."

Dr. Adler's sentence was commuted to penal servitude. He committed the assasination, calmly believing his own fate sealed thereby. Yet, though we cannot but admire his self-immolation, the words in which he justifies the deed cannot but seem a casuistry in the light of the Russian Revolution. The greatest revolution in history was also the most bloodless. There is a vastly greater one still to come. May it not be that to think of that revolution in: terms of killing is to defeat its object? The power of the Social Revolution lies in industrial organisation. Here is a weapon that does not dehumanise the wielder thereof. So let the capitalist have the monopoly of murder. It may be that the workers are even now in this war paying the blood sacrifice of revolution. The secret events of the present war, as of the days preceding the Paris Commune, may reveal this holocaust to be but a veiled incident in the international class war. The revolution may come in blood, but let us be absolved from its guilt bypreaching that which alone can make it bloodless,—the invincible vet elevating power of Industrial Solidarity. The aim of the social revolution is the elevation of man to the highest. It must accomplish its aim by pursuing methods which are akin to that aim. Nevertheless Frederich Adler is one of our heroes.

אינטערנאציאנאלע סאציאליסטישע פעראיין. (איריש שפרעכענרע גרופע.)

אן ארגעמיינע פערואמרונג

וועם נעהאלטען ווערען וונמאג 26 טין אונוסט אומ 2.30 אומ 2.30 אוהר נאכמישאג אין

שריידם האלל, ריססיק סמריט.

אללע סאציאליסטען און פֿריינד זיינען. געבעשען צו קופען.

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Income Tax Returns Prepared.

84/97

Printed by the U. P. & P. Co., Ltd. for the I.S.L. Box 4179, Johannesburg.