### ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE

P.O. BOX 4779.

Happo's Buildings, 54, Fox Stroot.

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No. 123



FRIDAY, MAR. 1, 1918.

PRICE 10. WEEKLY.

#### "THE CALL OF THE BOLSHEVIKS."

#### LEAGUE MANIFESTO.

WORKERS OF SOUTH AFRICA! It is time you knew what game is afoot. It is time for you to realise that your fellow workers in Russia need your voice and help. The Capitalist Press hides the real state of affairs behind foul slanders. It hides the fact that the Bolshevik Government is only the Government of the workers by the workers for the workers. It hides the fact that Lenin and Trotsky are only the delegates of the Russian Federation of Labour, otherwise the Council of Workmen, or the Soviet. It is your fellow workmen they are slandering. It is your fellow workmen who are calling upon you to hurl these slanders back into the teeth of your and their capitalist enemies.

What are they up to now, these International Capitalists? Labour having conquered power in Russia is occupied in quelling the rebellion of the "bourgeoisie class," that is, the capitalist class. The bourgeoisie are apposing the workers by force wherever there is a hope of saving their precious private interests from being captured by Labour for the common weat. In some cases they have massacred the workingmen by the hundreds. What will they not do when, with the help of German arms, they get all the workers of Russia under their heel again? They will massacre them by the HUND-REDS OF THOUSANDS.

The tiger of capitalism will show no mercy when his hide is threatened by Labour. You know that. You found that out in Commissioner Street in 1913, when even your parsons took up arms against you. Consider then the position of your Russian fellow workmen.

You say: the Russian workmen should not have dissolved their army. We say: that the victory of Labour means the dissolution of all armies. You cannot have Labour triumphant and militarism on top at the same time.

Make no mistake: this is not the crime of German militarism alone, this attack on the Russian revolution. Lenin has declared that the Adlied Governments are silently backing the German Government against the Bolshoviks. No matter what family quarrels International Capital may have, they are all united against the Bolsheviks, that is, the working men of Russia. And they will unite

against you too when you dare to assert your rights as the producers of all wealth.

Balfour the other day would not deny that the British Government had negotiated directly with Austria. What did they negotiate about if not to protect their common capitalist interests in Russia?

A gathering of International Financiers was held at Switzerland last year from all belligerent countries, Germany and Britain, America and Austria, and all the family cats of capitalism were there to arrange how to stem the rising tide of working class revolution in all countries.

Remember that once, only once before, have the workingmen held power as workers,—in the Paris Commune of 1871. Remember how Bismarck, at the very time he was imposing harsh terms upon the French Government, co-operated with that Government to crush the workers of Paris by releasing drafts of French prisoners of war for the purpose. And the greatest massacre in all history was the result. Remember that it was a massacre of the workers. If they can they will do the same with the Russian workers, but on a still vaster and more horrible scale.

While the Capitalist Governments are quarrelling over the booty they have stolen from Labour, they are keeping alive a family understanding against any sign of working class unity. They are all united when Labour shows signs of coming into its QWII.

What can we do? It is our part as workers to denounce these capitalist slanderers of the Russian proletariat. It is our part to help in the great class struggle of the toilers of all lands that is now beginning. The humbug of national wars is being exposed. Behind it all the exploitation of the workers of all lands stands out as their. chief aim, their dearest treasure. The great war of Germany versus the Allies may go on. It is the only hope of Capital that it should go on. In any case it is only the working masses that are slaughtered. Capital thrivés on it. But the class war of international Capital against the rising working class is also waging to-day.

Workers of South Africa! Armuse from your submissiveness and lethargy,

and show that you see through this foul conspiracy of International Capital against the Russian workmen. The cause of the Russian workmen is your cause. Workers of the world UNITE. You have a world to win.

#### "Our Truthful Press"

What are the Russians up to? Anurchy and murder in Russia! What does it all mean, asks the working-man. Some give the problem up, contending it is impossible to solve. Others cease reading the papers, but some plod on through every edition believing the latest news to be the correct version.

It is all so confusing. One day the Bolsheviks capture a position, the next the Red Guards have been eaten up by the Cossacks. Ah, now we can see daylight, one portion of the confusion has been removed. But hold on, what is this; the Cossacks and Red Guards are fighting shoulder to shoulder. If it were not for the shoulder to shoulder one would be lead to believe the Cossacks had made a breakfast of the Reds and were marching in that order. Then the crowning contradiction is that perfect order prevails throughout Russia. This information is of the utmost im portance, as "The Star" thought it warranted an editorial to contradict it.

The capitalistic press is playing a game of-of bluff shall we say. Ous of the tricks of the game is using uncommon words. A man asked me the meaning of bourgeoisie. He was under the impression it was a Russian wordmeaning, perhaps, a section of the people who sold dop. It would be just as easy for the press to use the words capitalistic class. The Russian would be much more lucid. The cers would understand the cause of this hysteria about Russian anarable of course, would never do. That, of course, would never do. The workers once learn the true and if affairs, and the social revolution will be that much nearer.

Capitalist society has dug its grave and is hesitating to take the orward and into it. The work lass will give the necessary particles will be recorded in the approach terms of single-conditions. would be much more lucia. The kers would understand the cause of this hysteria about Russian and That, of course, would never do. the workers once learn the true electric of affairs, and the social revolution will be that much nearer.

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W. J. C.

## The Spiral Curve.

By J. M. G.

There is no past phase of civilisation so imposing, so majestic, with such wealth and luxury as the Roman Em-. pire immediately before its downfail. The proud Roman as he looked around upon the accumulated riches and spoils from all parts of the then known world, as he viewed the public works, so solid in their structure, the roads, the aqueducts, and the bridge, as he looked upon the material evidence of the mighty empire, to all seeming was fully justified in declaring that this mighty organism was destined to exist for all time. Let it passed away and gave place to another phase of civilisation. Our modern form of civilisation to the superficial observer has to outward appearance the durability, strength and vigour to defy all assaults. We, just as the Roman did, believe it is destined to go on with slight modifications that will add to its strength and years to its duration. These superficial individuals are denied the vision of the rise and fall of past phases of civilisation. They, like the new hatched chick, accept the world, and conditions as they exist, as having always existed, and being destined always to exist.

Those who dive below the surface, not being satisfied to accept the superficial, are made to realise the most startling fact of modern thought and social life, that is the tendency of the stream of life to revert back to first principles by that spiral upward movement that was intuitively recognised by primitive people as the destiny of mankind. Out of the primal—brutish if you like—communism of pre-historic times mankind was cast upon the turbid stream of civilisation. Down through the centuries of stress and struggle, a veritable martyrdom. stage by stage through the many phases of society the evolutionary process has taken them, 'each phase of society devoloping the germ of its own destruction and nourishing the embryo society that takes its place. The law inherent in all societies is dynamic, never stable, always in a state of flux, ready to be moulded in conformity to the new economic condition demanding control.

The evolutionary process controlling and forcing societies onward marches down the civilisation period, through all its varying phases of struggle and stress, engendering class antagonisms incidental to and inherent in all forms of society based on individual ownership in those things necessary to the life of the community. Yet in spite of these struggles, or perhaps because of them, we see the social organism developing in its maturity the embryonic germ of the primal communistic period, which when fully developed will give material expression to a form of society based on economic equality, giving an individual liberty that can only be expressed by a society of social equals. Justifying the primitive ideas ef mankind advancing along a course.

that would bring them back to the starting point.

To the Roman citizen, with his restricted knowledge, was denied the clearer vision of many things that to us, who care to enquire, are commonplace. We, standing at the beginning of the 20th Century, with the accumulated knowledge of the past at our disposal—a knowledge that has been accumulated since the beginning of the 19th Century in ever increasing volume by scientific research, and has given all who care to get to bed rock a clear vision of those social changes that have always been the effect of economic revolution in the methods of production—we can clearly see those social changes to be the reflex of ever changing economic conditions controlled by the evolutionary process, from the simple to the complex social production of to-day.

To-day's method of production has herded mankind into large industrial centres to work in huge workshops. It has revived the old instinct that has never been wholly exterminated during the many centuries of storm and stress. The primal instinct of mutual aid that prompts unconsciously the individual to render service to his fellows without hope of reward. The economic pressure of modern conditions is forcing it into material expression by combination to combat modern capitalism. The modern method of production is creating the conditions that instinctively. will force the workers of all countries to give a revolutionary expression to

their as yet vague aspirations. The symptoms of the downfall of our social system are plain to all who care to see. The low rumblings of death are audible to those who lend the ear to hear. The first fruits have appeared in the East, and just as civilisation had its birth in the East and ever rolled Westward inflicting its disease on all nations in its progress, so the new social order has been born in the East, and will spread Westwards. displacing the old, encircling the earth, completing the circle of evolutionary development in an upward spiral curve, bringing mankind back after many centuries of travail and sorrow to fellowship with his fellows in the promised land of a communistic society: an apparent retrogression that will give individual freedom, which has always been denied under all phases of civilisation, with social equality in a society of equals, creating an environment that will give expression to and develop all the latent powers in humanity that have been repressed during civilisation.

# The International Class War.

Germany's open attack on Russia is well-timed. The German Government has just browbeaten the German workers back to work from an attempted general strike. That is the psychological moment for capitalist aggression, because the workers are then temporarily demoralized; just as in the months of January, February and

March, 1914, the South African workers had to stand every insult from the employing class after the debacle of the January strike.

The Peoples' Commissioners maintain that German soldiers who will not march are being shot in large numbers. We believe it. While the number of those who will jump voluntarily into heroic death for the cause may be few, the number who will choose death rather than dishonour are vastly greater. We make bold to say that 25 per cent. of the German proletariat in the army are animated by the proletarian ethic, and will choose death, desertion, even the branding epithet of coward, rather than the dishonour of crushing their Russian comrades. We shall see. Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad. Imperialism has now made its maddest, brazenest throw in Germany.

The first cohorts of German Imperialism to enter Russian territory will undoubtedly be well picked German White Guards, the same White Guards that will shoot down the German workers when they rise.

"The Leipziger Volkszeitung" (Independent Socialist Party Daily, now superseding the "Vorwaerts" in influence) says that Lenin s quick move to accept the German peace terms has taken the German Government aback, as it does not want peace. It strikes one that the Allied Press are equally disappointed that the Germans won't have an excuse for crushing the power of the Soviets. They are at a loss for words to express their chagrin that the Peoples' Commissioners have bowed to force majeur. Their bitterness is not that the Bolsheviks are down, but a family bitterness that their big capitalist brother is inheriting all the booty.

Vandevelde said at the Allied Socialist Conference that the Bolsheviks had thrown "irretrievable discredit on International Socialism." We hope Comrade Andrews was there. We are sure he sung out "Liar" and "Scab" as the only fitting retort to such traitorous abetting of capitalist abuse of our Russian comrades.

Meanwhile, we have supreme faith that the hour will soon strike for the International proletarian revolution in Europe. The Russian proletariat will not have long to hold out.

#### LEAGUE PICNIC.

THE LEAGUE PICNIC WILL BE HELD AT THE

ZOO LAKE

HEXT SUNDAY, MARGH 3rd.

Sports and Games for the Children. Come early. No trolleys. No tickets.

Bring baskets. But extra tea and cake provided for children.

#### High Treason.

Their worships the Magistrates have been going out of their way to assure the luckless hammer-boys who have been arrested for "picketing" of a not too 'peaceful' sort, that they are welcome to boycott whom they please: vet The Government Gazette announces that Col. Stanford, one of those l'fathers of the natives" vou read allout, has been appointed a commissioner to enquire into the cause of tte recent "trouble" between natives and storekeepers. In view of the close connection between police and press, it seems quite likely that the real object of the Commission is to get a report implicating the Socialists, upon which anti-propaganda prosecution, or that failing, then legislation, might be bas-

The 'Natal Mercury' devotes the whole of a leaderette entitled 'Rand Natives' Boycott' to a flesh-creeping diatribe against the 'sinister influence' of the 'Industrial Workers of the World,' notoriously financed by Germany,' from which we cull these gens:—

"Once they permeate the natives with the permicious doctrine that they are slaves, and so on, there will be trouble. In a crisis like the present, the British principle of fairplay and justice should not be stretched too far. No one wishes this suppression more than the Labour Party of South Africa.

There is the difference of the poles between the methods of the Labour Party and the Bolshevik actions," etc.

with which latter, by the way, we quite agree. Meanwhile C.I.D. men go round enquiring of printers whether they printed the leaflet published in our issue of the 15th instant.

Is is just as well to state what we know on the matter. The Socialists of the I.S.L. had nothing to do with the boycott, which they consider a fine exhibition of "scab-proofness" but a piece of misguided tactics, an attack on the branch rather than the root, just like the white men's "Cost of Living" agitation. Nor is anything known to us of an 'Industrial Workers of the World" body in South Africa, nor have we anything to do with the incendarist, homicidal or similar methods attributed to the I.W.W. by the press. What we do know is that a few natives have for some months past been meeting together under the name of 'Industrial Workers of Africa," to learn, carry out, and organise upon, the principles of the Labour Movement (as was published in the "Abantu Batho" and published in the "International" a month or so back); that similar meetings of coloured and Indian workers have taken place here and in Natal: that at the Cape, Coloured Unions have long been formed and have put up many a good fight; that besides their own members, white Socialists have taken part in these most laudable efforts; and that we of the I.S.L. are doing what little we can to further them. Socialists collaborated with natives in compiling the particular leaslet

which the pressmen have never read and of which they have recently circulated a grotesquely false version; in fact, we believe that leaflet was endorsed by the Management Committee of the I.S.L.

For years we have preached the solidarity of Labour irrespective of race, colour or grade,—preached it on the Town Hall steps till the audiences got tired of it, preached it at meetings, on leastlets and in this paper, as the vital basis of Labour Union; and it would be strange if we did not endeavour to the best of our ability to practise what we preach. If the police can find any cause of action in repeating to black workers the commonplaces which have been preached to white workers the would over for nearly a hundred years -as old as the hills, as Judge Wessels said—let them get on with it—and leave the printers out. We shall certainly get on with our part of the business as fast as we know how; and if the recent police appeals to mob law the only law on their side so far have necessitated some discretion on our part in the matter of public meetings and printed propaganda, that does not make our teaching in the least degree, "secret" or "insidious"; there is intrinsically nothing to conceal about it. The most avowed opponents of "Bolshevism" just now are in Europe the German Junkers and in Africa the Union Government. We wish them joy of each other's partnership, but for our part we are right up against the enemies of Labour, white or black, whether ther be German. British or anything else.

#### Notes of the Movement.

Jones, the Editor leaves Johannesburg to-night for an indefinite stay at the coast. The secretarial work of the League will be carried on by Comrade T. P. Tinker, and Comrade Bunting will be responsible for the editorial work from next week on. All comrades who are ready to give regular help at the office in the work of publishing "The International," such as typing wrappers and issuing it on Fridays, please notify Comrade Tinker at the League Office. Volunteers urgently needed for this job.

DAY'S PAY LEVY.—The comrades are responding to the appeal of the M. wards the finances of the League, and are responding to the appeal of the M. C. to clear off the deficit on the funds by levying themselves a day's pay for that purpose. Members who have not yet done so should make an effort to follow the good lead given by the more enthusiastic comrades.

JOHANNESBURG.—The monthly meeting of the Johannesburg Central Branch will be held at the Palmerston Hall at 8 p.m. Comrades roll up, as there are items of interest to discuss.

of the second year of "The International" are now for sale at £1 each, nicely bound in half morocco; and including various leaflets issued by the I.S.L. during the period.

### Feeding Upon the Young.

Recruiting Committee is junta of beasts of prev skins. Having uuman authority derived from any form, even of democracy, it passes resolutions knowing that by a little hooligan bullying combined with the mean power that bosses have over those who work for them, they can largely get their own way. Its latest atrocity is to circularise schoolmasters for a list of boys who have left school since 1914. This crowd of capitalist hirelings, who will do aything for a contract or a job from the Corner House, are those perverters of the human character who are indicated in Mrs. Gilman's verse when she said:---

No fledgling feeds the father bird,
No chicken feeds the hen.
No kitten mouses for the cat.
That glory is for men.
We are wisest, strongest race.
Loud may our praise be sung,
The only animal alive

That feeds upon its young.

### Capitalistic Logic.

By S. W.

A certain Dr. Wm. Macdonald has been contributing a number of articles to the local "Star" under the heading "Letters to the People of South Africa." The last one or two have had reference to a visit of his to Sierra Leone, which he states he toured in the only motor car in the Colony. A few of his observations are worth noticing.

". . I saw no native huts or rondavels. All the cottages in the neighbourhood occupied by the black man are built either in woon or in stone. We passed through Congo Town... till we reached the village of the Aku people, where some of the inhabitants. were busy fishing." (Hold tight, ve phthisical mine boys.) The only thing that seems to have excited his ire was the native population 'basking in the sun," in a country "which could be made to vield vast quantities of tropical produçe"; and he devotes half a column of lamentation to the absence of compulsory work "under military discipline" (shades of Wilbertorce) and to the want of 'commercial imagination" on the part of Downing Street which he would like to see "transported to Freetown, the paradise of the black man, and the cemetery of the white."

The one thing that rasps the bourgeois mind more than any other is to see cheap labour lying idle, unexploited, happy, 'basking in the sun.'

That is what they call a 'state of anarchy.'

#### The Board of "Reverence"

The Board of Reference has had another sitting and has hatched another report. The Board of Reference, our readers should know, is a round table talkee of "Trade Union leaders with Chamber of Mines capitalists to adjudicate in labour disputes on mines. The latest case thus adjudicated upon is that of Comrade E. H. Becker, sampler on the Langlaagte Mine, who was suddenly discharged for disobeying instructions, the mine manager said; for being a War on Warite and an agitator, Comrade Becker's mates said.

The pros and cons of this particular case are not intrinsically important, except as showing up the whole system of Boards of Reference. The victimized person in this case was offered a similar job on another mine if he would keep it out of the mine ballot and out of the Board of Reference. Comrade Becker refused the bribe. When this came out in the evidence before the Board, Mr. Crawford, who was ostensibly there on behalf of the workers, sneeringly remarked to Becker. "You were trying to make a martyr of yourself, eh!"

That is indicative of the atmosphere, the bosses' atmosphere, that pervades these Boards of Reference. Mesers. Smith and Spendiff, two representatives of the Union on this Board, refused to sign the report, because, as stated in the report, 'they objected on principle to disputes being referred to Boards of Reference.' And they are right.

It is not the impartial arrangement it pretends to be. Like all modern forms of democracy, the weighting of the scales in favour of those holding economic power make these forms a sham. The bosses sit round the Board table as holders of economic power. The men's representatives, by the very act of meeting the bosses to adjudicate, renounce the economic power of labour solidarity, and are therefore there as suppliants. Having renounced the posture of fighting solidarity and condescended to sit with its masters, the Union is no longer a protection to the witnesses on the working-class side. They know who is boss round the table, the bosses, not the Union whose strength has gone out of its arm in the shake of the hand with the employer. The result is that all byidence is ouloured in the bosses favour. The victimized and his mates are not strong in the strength of their Union. Their Union has abrogated that strength by coming to the Board. It is thus a Board of Reverence for all that the boss holds dear. It is reverence for his nower. Reverence for the necessity of caming on the mine at a profit. Revte for his code as an employer. The and all it implies is far away, white bodily representatives are at Board. But they too are possessed with this reverence for the masters' code. The masters sneer at solidarity as it comes out of the mouth of Craw-

There is no compromise possible in the class straggle. At the Union spection it is the rights of the workers by which all things are judged. At the

Board of Reverence it is the rights of the employer over the workers, discipline, good management, working profit, by which all things are judged. But the two can never mix. A footnote to the report is illuminating as showing how the Union is travelling along the masters' road away from workingclass solidarity:—

sult of the ballot [on the Langlaagte Mine] was against a strike, but the important point is that the Union advised the Chamber of Mines that had the ballot been in favour of a strike, the Union must have repudiated the strike in view of the arrangement between it and the Chamber for the appointment of Boards of Reference to consider disputes on the mines before any drastic action is taken on either side."

#### Brothers in Revolt.

Civilisation, after having destroyed the rude and simple communism of the beginnings of humanity, elaborates the elements of a complex and scientific communism. Just as in primitive times, labour is to-day performed in common, but the producer owns neither the instruments of labour nor the products of labour. The produce of labour is not yet shared in common, as was the case with the savage and barbarian tribes, it is monopolized by idle capitalists whose suppression is now but a question of time and opportunity. Let the parasites of property have been swept away, and communistic property will affirm itself and implant itself in society. In primitive society property was common only among members of tribe, connected blood; every human being not included in the narrow circle of kinship was a stranger, an enemy; but in the society of the future, property will be held in common by all the members of the great human family, without distinction of nationality, race, or colour; for the workers. bowed under the same capitalist yoke, have recognised that, brothers in misery, brothers in revolt, they must remain brothers in victory.

PAUL LAFARGUE.

#### The Maniesto.

Lenin says that the proletariat of the world will come to the aid of the Russian Revolution. Look at the Manifesto on the front page. It is our share of the job to call up the workers in South Africa at least to realise the issues. It is the privilege of every comrade to volunteer for the distribution of this manifesto. Men, whether our Russian comrades go down in oceans of blood or whether they rise triumph. ant over their enemies, we shall be sure that we stood by their side, not acade. mically, but by vigorous short of the right kind. Comrades view viel to tako a land in the distribution, soni de 

#### Inter-Allied Socialists.

The very term "Inter-Allied Socialists' implies the very opposite of International Socialists. At a Conference of Inter Allied Socialists therefore no gleam of hope may be expected for those who are weary of war and its horrors. De Leon refers to the Plebs Leaders in Ancient Rome who were first allowed into the Senate. Ther were not allowed to speak. But they might signify by beating their feet on the floor assent or dissent when voting time came. Our Allied Socialists, the Vandeveldes, Huysmans, Hendersons, and even the Macdonalds, are just such Fleb Leaders. When the capitalist press proclaims the wisdom and ingenuity of their findings, it may be taken for granted that they are endorsing capitalist aims on behalf of the proletariat. Alsace-Lorraine must be returned to France, say the Allied capitalists (with an eye on the rich iron and coal fields there). Although at previous Inter-Allied Socialist Conferences Belgium was the great bone of contention, now that the capitalist governments have raised the Alsace-Lorraine issue in order to prolong the war, their "Allied-Socialist" catspaws obediently beat their feet in affirmation. These Inter-Allied Socialists are the twin shadows of the Inter-Allied capitalists. From them no good can come to the working-class. And their elaborate tinkering of war aims serve the capitalist governments well.

The Independent Labour Party and British Socialist Party were denied independent representation. This is good. These two parties are getting honeycombed with Marxist propaganda, and their affiliation is becoming a discomfort to Labour leaders. Meanwhile the Macdonalds and Snowdens won't suffer. They will be nobbled by the party they belong to—the party of tinkering and reform.

The original Stockholm Conference if held would have served the purpose of exposing the Imperialist character of all the governments. This function has been fulfilled by the Brest Litovsk negotiations. It seems to us that the only real restoration of the workingclass International can now only be expressed by the spontaneous uprising of the proletariat in all the belligerent countries. An International of Hendersons and Vanderoldes cannot save the Russian revolution. They viouill sell it. Nothing can now avail emorph common mass action of the soldiers and workmen of Germany, France and Britain.

She: "This be a terrible war, doctor." He: "It is, indeed." She: "It's a pity someone don't catch that there old Kruger." He: "Ah, you mean the Kaiser." She: "Aw, change and the 'as 'e? deceitful old your

for the land of th