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THE INTERNATIONAL

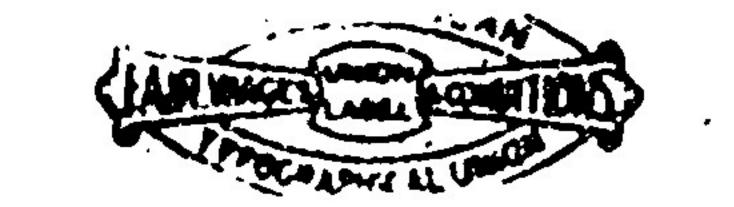
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

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FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1918.

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"The Crisis."

This is not the first time an article has appeared in these columns under the above title. Someone the other day deprecated the expression "a turning point in the Labour movement" on the ground that the movement consists of a succession of turning points all the time. So it does, and so it will do more and more until its mission is accomplished. The capitalist class, in over-growing panic at the vista, realises that that sentence on the sanitary boys was a tactical error; so the Bishop of Pretoria writes a cable-page letter disavowing it, while the "S.A. Review" cries "Macsie must go." Scapegoats are to be cast out into the wilderness; but without avail, for the sentence has pricked the class consciousness of the native workers into a vitality which no terror-stricken recantation can now ar-

The "turning point" of the movement turns, however, for the moment not so much on how far the natives will now strengthen their organisation as on how far the white workers will be shamed by even capitalistic example to stand up for their convicted fellow workers and trikers, and so compelled henceforward to recognise the essential solidarity of all grades in the movement. There is a grave danger that they will miss this opportunity. as in fact they have so far done: but they may still seize it and thereby, without even incurring unpopularity, enable the South. African workingclass movement to shoot in a twinkling to front rank. It is understood that a Labour Town Councillor of Johannesburg proposes calling a Mayor's mass meeting of protest against the sentence: well, we will give him active support if he does, and do all we can to see that no side-tracking or votecatching influence is allowed to spoil the effect of such a protest and thus enable the enemy to retrieve his own blunder. Then there are the white trade unions; they have still time to break their conspiracy of silence and show if there is any class consciousness about them. They complain that native wages undercut theirs; well, here's a chance to begin levelling up. It's all very well to sav that they will not co-operate with the negrophiles, the churches or the missionaries. There are many moments where capitalism and socialism involuntarily, march together, and this is one of them. In fact what the capitalist class dreads most "at this juncture" is to be involved (in tead of its present association with only white artisan labour leaders) in just that very association with a, for the nonce, united working class.

A corresponding revolutionary "demarche" is just as much called for on the part of the organised native workers. As with the white Federation, so among the natives the capitalists are

very willing to use to the full the "peace-in-our-time" and also racial tendencies of the S.A. Native National Congress—a weapon however highly dangerous to them if they do not know how to handle it. On the one hand they may succeed in restraining the ardour of the younger industrialists through the older members of that organisation who believe in keeping friends with the Government and battening on its advertising support. On the other hand they may manage to entice the hotheads into an ill-conceived and premature strike, against which we see troops mobilising and parading Johannesburg. For the native workers no formidable political action is available, and in their case therefore a high degree of calculated industrial organisation, as contrasted with a mere excited would-be Bastille storming and barricading rabble, is all the more essential.

Anyhow, the critis is here. Property owners are shaking in their shoes at the looming world-wide crash and collapse of their holdings, in comparison with which they view the possibility of a Gernfan victory with an equanimity contrasting painfully with the blind enthusiasm in their service displayed by many workers. Hesitation, weakness, scabbing or error of judgment on the part of the working class movement in this its hour of opportunity may make all the difference hereafter between a sanguinary and chequered conflict and the bloodless victory in which after all the privileged classes of the earth, if they were wise, would make up their minds to acquiesce with resignation.

"Appeal Dismissed."

A Pretoria critic points out that there are many other economies beside: wage economy which could keep existing gold mines payable and enable others now unpayable to pay. Power, now controlled by the V.F.P.: nitrogen production; agriculture and fertilisers; iron and steel; cyanide, etc.—these things, he says, should be run as Government or co-operative enterprises on a sub-continental scale of big production, with State banking facilities and a State Advisory Board. He points out the absurdity of appointing the manager of the V.F.P. as chairman of the present Technical and Scientific Advisory Board. When. however, he appeals to "Labour" to carry out these schemes of State control and capitalism which the Corner House and existing Government have not the imagination to undertake, we respectfully decline. For all these things we bring not peace but a sword. Capitalism will resist a rise of wares even if all these economies are effected. After the collapse of the canitalist system, private or State, will be the time to organise such public services for the workers', not the capital-

ists' benefit. Pendin that collapse Labour has no remedy for the dilemma, nor has capital. The story that certain mines can only pay if wage. are kept down may be true, enough: put them down a little lower, and still more mines will, pay; eliminate wages altogether and new mines will spring up all over the country. Why is the existing standard of wages in particu-

lar so sacred?

Of course, as "Solidarity" says, even the abolition of the wage system must proceed by practical stages. The most practical way of getting rid of this pernicious survival of human slavery is by forcing up the wage standard to such a pitch that capitalism will eventually have to retire through having nothing further to feed on. That is what has happened in Russia, and in England Tom Mann has started with a "£1 a day, six hour day and

five days week' programme.

But as for these windy suggestions for industrial "reconstruction" after the war, "workshop control," "increased production," State departments of power, steel and acricultural supply, "continuous employment with no strikes," etc., etc.—they are all put forward in order to keep the relationship between Capital and Labour precisely what it was before the war. The best form of attack on the system is that of deliberately setting out to take more and more of the profits and contribute less and less to the production per unit. As Tom Mann has pointed out, this will be only the merest measure of safety when demobilisation sets in: if men are to work as long hours and receive as little pay as they did before the war, if they are actually to "increase their ounut." that is work harder, it will simply mean that hundreds of thousands will swell the unemployed class and depress the general standard. In the working class movement every stop must be tested by daily reference to the ultimate objective.

Upton Sinclair once said: 'There is ho danger to the socialist movement so great as the danger of becoming an established institution." That is what the S.A.I.F. is trying its best to become.

The above quotation by the way is from an anti-war pamphlet written twelve years ago, on which Upton has gone back shamefully in his new magazine "for a clean peace," the burden of which is "we'll fight for you against the Junkers now, but wait till it's over, and then you'll see." Feebleness could no further go.

Will the comrade who, last Friday, June 14, handed his "International" sub. to a comrade in the office, kindly forward his name so that the amount may be passed through the books.

Social Contradictions.

The frantic efforts of the capitalists to strangle the natural development of, the present social system are futile. Like all other social systems that have existed, it has developed a series of inherent contradictions that are fetters to industrial growth and development. Starting as a system that denied the right of the State to interfere with or control individual industrial enterprise, it has as it became more complex ' been forced to invoke the aid of the State, and use its powers to postpone its inevitable dissolution. This war has forced the pace of its development and has compelled the capitalists against their will to look to State control as an organised effort to perpetuate class rule and wage slavery.

Wealth under our industrial system is social production with the glaring contradiction that this product of collective labour is individually enjoyed by the possessing class, the workers in return receiving a money wage, that is but a subsistence, for the hire of their labour power. This contradiction, "the fly in the ointment," is the problem that is insoluble to the capitalist class, cau ing them to formulate many schemes, State control being one to reconcile social production

and individual control.

The development of our industrial system has been from a comparatively simple process under which the commodity produced was manipulated by a single workman to the complex social production of to-day, which entails the same commodity passing through many machine processes, the result being that the skilled worker has been and is being turned into an unskilled machine minder.

In its development modern capitalism has equipped itself with the most perfect machinery for the production of commodities, one machine being but a short time in use when it is improved or scrapped for one more perfect and capable of producing more commodities. This war has given an impetus to the inventive faculty in machine power, and has produced machinery turning out double the volume of commodities produced under prewar conditions.

The increasing power production developed during the 19th century with the speeding up of labour by sub-division or the introduction of labour-displacing machinery enabled the capitalist class to produce more cheaply and in greater volume, and thus compelled them to open up every part of the globe as markets.

Every new country brought within the sphere of capitalism has but hastened the dissolution of the system. Modern capitalism by the very nature of its productive forces internationalises and socialises the economic forces of society, and breeds the germ of the future international socialist commonwealth.

Capitalism, in addition to having collected the machinery of production into the big industries for the socialised production of wealth, has herded the workers as they were never herded before. Recently, in their efforts to prolong the sy tem of exploitation, its agents are endeavouring, and so far excessfully, to stiffe the unconscious sizes of the workers by forcing them,

with the help of the misleaders of labour, into craft unions. The army of propertiless workers, the creation of modern capitalism, is the menace to the continuation of the system. The efforts being made to conciliate them and make them content with their status in society as wage slave- can only operate with the skilled or semikilled section of the workers, and cannot be effective with the great mass, the vast majority who are unskilled. Yet as a measure of safety to the capitalist, even their efforts to conciliate a section of the workers are bound to fail, as the economic forces are beyond the control of any section of society, and will force the issue between the two clastes in society, that is the capitalistic class and the working class, as a whole.

The shortage of skilled labour places those workers in such a positi ; as would, if they were properly organied on class lines with the broader ision of the solidarity of labour, and not the sectional outlook of craft unionism, make it impossible for them to be side-tracked by labour official dom, which is playing the capitalist's game. for all it is worth. But like at aitemple that do not take into a ount the economic process in societ the labour of the e misleaders in the vinevards of the capitalist class, to whom they have sold themselves hod, and soul, will fail. The cost of living has not seen its high water mark, and as it sours, so the unrest of those weekers who have joined the tame union will find expression in demands for it reas-

ed wages.

Capitalism presents itself to-des as a mass of contradiction that can rever be removed without destroving the system, a system organised fro a ton to bottom to perpetuate wage s very and profits. It has developed reessive wealth for the few and a bare subsistence for the many. The capitalists' control of the machine's of production gives them a power more tyrannous than the slave holder's. The worker is free to withhold his bour as an individual, but is not legally free to withhold it in combination with his fellows if employed at what is called public service. No legal, sond compels the modern workman to labour for the possessing class, by the monopoly of the means of livelih id is stronger than any parchment. The new wage slavery differs from the old chattel slavery in that the melern slave driver is under no obligation, legal or moral, to keep his hands from starving. To the capitalists, the owners of the jobs, is left the decision when and where work is to be sone, and who shall or shall not receive the jobs at their disposal, the worker liaving no part in making the conditions of the labour.

These contradictions are inherent in the system, and will always le inherent in any system of exploitation. To attempt reforming a system based on wage-slavery and profits is topeless. The only hope is its abolation. The rumbling of discontent is leginning to make itself heard, a vet vaguely and unconsciously. Yet a little while, and the barriers the possessing class are erecting to prolong the system will be burst asunder, and the most degrading phase of civilisation will have passed away, giving place to the cooperative commonwealth.

Sodom and Gomorrah.

Mr. Pemberton Billing tells us, what we heard of Germany too a year or two before the war, that English cocieiv is like unto Sodom; and strs. Brandt announces a tribulation for S. Africa (what about the rest of the world?) equal to the doom of those illfated cities of autiquity, so much so that even the houseboys are to be warned of it by their white mistresses. Billing, with a "Daily Mail" scent - for alliterative mystery, adds to the previous catalogue of ahite books, blue books and yellow books a Black Book of 47,000 names; while Mrs. Blandthids sinner-repent and inscribe their names in a Book of Life in preparation for the Second Coming.

That ends this strange, eventful history,

Is second childishness and mere oblivion,

Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

Quite true: modern society with its foundation, the exploitation of the many by the propertied few, has become, like Roman society, rotten, decrepit and in its dotage: and what began as a tragedy is now exhibiting signs of farce. "A campaign for purity and honour so that—the war may be earnestly prosecuted"!

"Why this hunting of the scapespark?" asks the enquiring mind. It is, and has ever been, because the masses know that "something" is hurting them more than usual. That "something" must be found o that the blame may be placed. And King Kapital is desperate. The last ditch fight is here. Study not the old defenders, they no longer count. Despération demands their sacrifice; and when did Kapital consider its defender? Like a worn bolt in the machine, be he labourer or aristocrat, east him aside, so long that we remain.

The bourgeois mind that we have so carefully nurtured in the masses, by "education" in childhood and pulpit, press, politics, educational societies, democratic parties, etc., etc., in after life, can still be shocked and overbalanced.

Cry "Sodomite" from the housetops, and under that black cloak our multitude of sins shall be hidden! But the subterfuge is vain. Squirm and twist as they may it is "the last scene of all."

The black cloak cannot hide the blood oozing from the finger tips, or the dead in ghastly piles on the fair plains of Europe. The masses will not wait until Kapital's morning. In this

--the hour of their darkness—their precious "system" goes into "mere oblivion," and the sun shall rise on a smiling world which shall forget the horrors and rottenness of the past in the smiling hope of international trotherhood.

SEN YAH.

Comrade B. L. E. Sigamoney, of the Indian Workers' Union, Durban, recently addressed an open-air meeting of Europeans in the Town Gardens, Durban, on the position of white and coloured workers.

The Capitalist Whirligig.

Macfie, MacFoe, MacFum,
I smell the blood of a working-man,
Be he black or be he white,
With gun, lash and assegai, both

No, no, you won't. Being a "magister," you'll have to get someone else to do it for you. Whom will you get? Being :o "level-headed" -- we had almost said "square-headed," after last week's sentence--you have decided, of record, that we workers are in the main eminently "sane and reasonable" (so much so that we at once see the force of your argument-that any claim for wages above your arbitrary figure is insane and unreasonable profiteering). You deprecate scabbing by volunteers from other trades or from "the middle class," because people are too "sane and reasonable" fotake it on, so that all your Worship would get for your pains would be a roar of Homeric laughter. But you are willing to turn on the military. Let our fellow workers in khaki or blue be ordered up to do the scabbing. (By the way, is it part of the attestation for, say, the Corps of Engineers that they must scab on their fellow workers in muftif) But funnil; enough, the plues are as near as dann it to a strike themselves, while the traditional night of a soldier to grouse is being chronieally indulged in no longer in the camp alone, but on the market place, making two more 'public service: '' in danger of being "viciously" demoralised and upset. So how about the white riflemen, the Zulu assegaiists. and the professional flowers? What if they too becan to get hungry, 'p up their swords," "spiked" their guns and their pistols, and "downed" sjamboks? Oh, then cou'll telephone or telegraph for reinforcements to seab on them. But what about the postal, unrest, another vital service, resulting in vour message miscarrying? What about the Railway Union trying something more than "political pressure"? What if the very warders, nay your magisterial staff itself, became restive? Shall we live to see the last scene-McFie on strike because he can't pet anv scahs?

From the usual contradictory cables it appears that the Allies are repeating the Ukraine bloomer by recognising the Czecho-Slovaks who are fighting the Bolsheviks. They are thus once more on the same side as the pro-Ger-a man Finns, the Monarchists who want Gernan aid, the Cadets, and all the re t of the reactionary rabble who hope by saving that Bolshevism is on its last legs to obtain that result. The story is getting as stale as the Tamine in Russia" tag. One thing emerges from all the Rusian news-that the Social Revolution initiated there is cutting clean across the war divisions. so that sections of both belligerent groups are driven to unite against the Revolutionary Democracy: and conversely, the Revolutionary Democracy in all the belligerent countries is being forced to unite against both "enemy" and "home" ruling classes.

Credit is taken by the "Superintendent of the Women's Employment Bureau," a Government official apparently, for having got employment at 10s. a week for white girls in jobs formerly done by native girls. "There

are always applicants willing to accept work at that wage." That's the way! "A new spirit has arisen, the interests of employer and employed are recognised as identical," etc. The White Labour Policy, ana! And now on with the war to avenge outrages on women, and to free the natives of G.S.W. and G.E.A. from oppression. Courage, my daughters, brack or white. The Empire needs gold, gold fetches a fixed price, patiotr in therefore demands that gold workers should be content with a fixed standard of wages notwithstanding the rise in the cost of living: hut again, the whole country depends on the gold industry, and therefore not gold workers only, but all workers in the country should likewise be content with bread and water, for the premier industry sets the pace. Those of you who, being white, have secured the succulent jobs at 10s, are serving the Empire; and "they also serve the Empire," who, being black, "stand and wait'-outside, decorated with the Imperial Order of the Boot; let them, too, remember that "the methods of the engineers are exceedingly dangers ous," as that invisterious "Sunday Times" informant says (the one who falways tells us all about the S.A.I.F.) particularly in a country teeming with native labour"! Then let the volcano burst! In the interest: of Empire, we'll bribe, bamboozle or bomb it to a frazzle. Down with Boloism on the Rand."

In these lion-cum-lamb days, the ruling class hope to avert "trouble" for a little longer by coquetting with the craft unions. Its organs assure the "public" that there is "no possibility of a general strike, because the Federation is in charge of the situation." And so, in order to allay discontent, they discharge the lowest paid white municipal employees, thus saving a paltry 3s. 4d. a day (less cost of Eubestituted labour), to keep the better -\paid men in 3s. 4d. a day (less nothing) extra. Thus are the "hooligan" Iclass swelled, and in these days neither bread nor circuses will buy them off. Unorganised they may be, but they give at least numerical body to any movement of discontent. And all the while this discontent grows apace even among the very skilled and organised men they have been flattering if not pampering, until even the precious Federation Executive is forced to betray the trust reposed in it by the bosses, and to obey its still discatisfied members' mandate. Meanwhile the next few weeks will show what profound "trouble" that "salutary" sanitary sentence has wrought among the native workers. Yes, that there is no possibility this time of an ill organised, sectional "general" strike is a hope we share to the full; but the signs of the times gave cause for more than a hope that a feally GENERAIT strike, from top to bottom, all co-overating, cutting the cackle and getting to the hosser, is something more than a "possibility."

PRESS FUND DONATIONS.

Collected by Comrade N. Stern, Brakpan: N.S., 5s.; Z.S., 2s. 6d.; J.M., 5s.; J.S., 2s. 6d.; R.M., 2s. 6d.; M.B., 2s. 6d.; M.G., 5s.; M.D., 5s.; A.K., 2s. 6d.; M.C., 2s. 6d.; S.S., 2s. 6d.; D.S., 2s. 6d.; H. J., 2s. 6d.; J.S., 2s. 6d.; Total, £2 5s.

Pay, Pay, a Day's Pay.

An Appeal to the "International" Army.

The Finance Committee of the I.S.L. make an appeal to the reader of the "International" in connection with the call for a day's pay to reduce the deficit on the League lunds.

In making the appeal it is only necessary to point out how very little is. being asked of our comrades generally: when compated with the sacrifices made so willingly in Russia. In that great country, which in future history will hold the premier position, our. comrades in hundreds have offered up their lives not only for Rusian democracy but for us as units in the world-wide revolution. In other countries the minority parties are undergoing untold sufferings for the sake of the cause which we claim to be ours. In Africa a number of comrades (one of whom at least is well known to the Johannesburg workers) have sacrificed themselves till the limit: of physical endurance have almost been reached. Many of these comrades hide their true position from their fellow workers: they continue in their refusal to compromise with the enemy; their every thought and action is directed towards the overthrow of the ruling class and its replacement by the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Attention is drawn to the fact that these comrades can not bring about the revolution by themselves. The League and the eco-operating with it form the revolutionary army in embryo; and every member is required to hasten the evolutionary process to the utmost of his means and ability. By this method only can we achieve the freedom of which we talk so much.

Is the cause worth the effort, comrades? Then let each make that effort, by donating one day's pay to the League, if need be in instalments.

WARE NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

Be especially wary about all news and views coming over the cables concerning Russian affairs. The financial houses of London, New York and Paris, in combination, have only one object in view, and that is to secure the rehabilitation of Russian Bonds. They have issued notices to all concerned to that effect. These people are all powerful, and will stick at nothing so long as they can met their money back. They have control of the cables and telegraph wires, and can mislead public opinion concerning Russian affairs exactly as may suit their own interests. Their one aim is to secure the downfall of Bolshevism, whether Germany benefits by it or not. They are ecretly holstering up the Skoropadsky Government in the Ukraine because it is capitalistic. That this Government is in league with Germany does not concern your patriotic financier in the least.—"S.A. Review."

BRANCH NOTES.

BENONI. — A general meeting of the Benoni Branch is called for Thursday next, June 27, at 7.30 p.m. Comrades will meet at 121, Elston Avenue, and an important item on the agenda is discussion on the present acute industrial unrest.

"Native Unrest."

While the daily Press publishes white protests against the gun and assogai policy, it has given no account whatever of a number of native gatherings in Johannesburg, not to mention similar ones in other centres, held since the sanitary boys' temporary discomfiture, to demand more wages, and to give vent to the strong feeling for general strike." As our readers should be informed on these things, we must act the newspaper and record in particular a most remarkable meeting held two nights ago at the Pilkington Hall, called by the Transvaal District Council of the S.A. Native National Congress, a hody in whose more reactionary, middle-class and religious-cum-racial tendencies socialists can of course have no part, but which may be compelled by the close coincidence of native and working class interests to play a useful role.

The hall was packed to its utmost capacity, sitting and standing room, and counting the at least equal number outside unable to get in from 1.500 to 2,000 natives mu t have been present, together with a large number of white and black police (we especially pity the latter when the day of reckoning comes) and some white parsons, missionaries, and members of the I.S.L. The 'native national anthem'' opened the proceedings, and was repeated later as a sort of welcome or applause to speakers. The chairman said that in reply to an invitation to attend and explain the attitude of the Municipality regarding an increa e of native wages, the Mayor had declined as "no good nurpose could be served" by his presence. Mr. Whitehead, Director of Native Affairs, being asked to attend to explain the attitude of the Government on the sanitary workers' sentence, replied that he could not attend for that purpose, but would meet a deputation at his office. Mr. Macsie replied in the like sense, naming "E" Court (presumably the Court where the sentence was pronounced) as the place where he could ha seen. The Municipality, in reply to a request for increased mages, replied refusing, and added that that the matter of "conditions" of native labour would be discussed later. (Thus do these people "ask for trouble," as in 1913.)

The speakers testified to the German Government under which South Africa groaned, and to the necessity for the natives, whom those entences were designed to terrify, to fight for their own salvation. The Native Affairs Department it was said. was just a detective agency. The natives could, if they wished (which they did not). destroy Johannesburg in a day, and stop the mines in an hour: but if the Government persecution went further. it would this rear push them to the evtreme point: it was coming to bloodshed. The President of the Congress added, however, that the natives must not be in a hurry to walk before they could sit, and that a strike was dangerous: while as for the socialists. they were all white men, and would therefore join in shooting the natives - down Just as they had parsed a reso-Intion against whites working alongside blacks; to which another speaker

retorted by quoting a newspaper remark that the socialists are spoiling the natives and adding "If so, good luck to them." The President of the Women's Section of the Congress pictured the native as a muzzled ox. If we venture to speak, she said, we are charged with "unrest." The missionaries, who came to set us free, are the ones who make us feel exiles. Our girls get paid 2s. a day, spend 7d. of it on railage to Nancefield, and are supposed to live decently, keep off the liquor traffie, and give to the parson's collection, on the balance! Many house girls can only get 30s. a month, the mistresses pleading that they can't pay more as "they have to pay for the war''—which simply means that our girls are made to pay for the war. The Secretary of the Council said that Gen. Smuts, now as at Kimberley in 1895, advised the two white races to unite to secure South Africa for the white:: well, we want Africa for the Africans, whereas under the Christian regime the land is taken from us as soon as the missionary arrives.

The resolution passed demanded a general increase, in view of the rise in the cost of living, of 12, per day all round for native workers, and the meeting seemed ready to declare a strike next week in support of that demand, including women and girls

among the strikers.

Com. Tinker of the I.S.L., however, after referring to black and yellow socialists, warned those present that passing resolutions was not enough, that a much more comprehensive organisation, by industrie, was necessary before a strike could succeed, that anyhow no excuse should be given to the enemy to employ violence, and that the demand should also include the same to employ violence.

The meeting declined to send deputations to Messrs. Whitehead and Macfie.

NOW WE KNOW.

After a very careful study of the views of Mr. Dottomley, Sir A. Yapp, Lord Northcliffe, Winston Churchill, Mrs. Pankhurst, General Smuts, Sir Edward Carson, Hilaire Belloc, Little Tich, Lloyd George and George Robey, Cassell's "Saturday Journal" has arrived at the following emphatic conclusions:—

1. We may be starved out any day.
2. If the war lasts for ever and ever and ever, we shall never be starved

3. That the war is won.

4. That the war is only just begin-

5. That we ought to get the flags ready.

6. That we ought to set the crepe

7. That, owir- to the tightness of our blockade, the Germans are living solely on straw and corpse fat.

8. That, owing to the slackness of our blockade, thousands of Germans are dving each week of over-eating

9. That we ought to start getting ready for the next war.

10. That we haven't finished getting ready for this one yet.

11. That German man nower came to a definite end in 1914, 1915, 1916

12. That the longer the war goes on the more millions of Germans there, are.

Macsie Must Go.

The "S.A. Review," of Capetown, says that Mr. Macfie, the Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg, is exasperating the workers of Johannesburg to an intolerable degree. It recalls his "extraordinary report on the demands of. the building trades, in which he virtually ignored the cau e of the agitation for higher wages, namely, higher prices"; his speech as Chairman of the District Committee on the Cost of Living, warning the workers not to demand more wages but to 'see that' the purchasing power of the money they already receive is not impaired by higher prices; and his voluble evidence before the Buckle Strike Enquiry stating that he expressed the hope that the Council would not give way, and that he contemplated employing the military to run the power station. "the only topics he avoided being those which might conceivably have caused dissatisfaction among the heads of the mining and commercial community." "Had Gen. Botha or any other member of the Ministry acted like Mr. Macfie thero would have been an uproar throughout the Union." Finally, of course, the sanitary case, causing even the "Star." which had been incontinently denouncing the Council for giving way to the power men, to pull him up. The "Review" concludes that it is high time such a "prancing vartisan" were removed to a less inflammable district than the Rand.

League Notes.

WEDDING.—Comrade Gemmell in a most unostentatious manner left Johanne burg last week for Inhambane. We hear that her marriage to Comrade E. H. Becker (our late Treasurer) was dated for vesterday, and that Comrade D. Ivon Jones (Sec. Editor) was to give the bride away. Valuable as their individual work on behalf of the League has been in the past, we are convinced the movement will be strengthened by their joint efforts in the future.

PROPAGANDA.—Comrades along the Reef who can give suggestions for meetings (open-air) are requested to communicate with the Acting-Secretary stating most suitable time and place, when arrangements will be made to send out speakers.

CENTRAL BRANCH NOTES.

The Study and Speakers' Class is surging ahead. The membership roll has increased enormously and there is every prospect of its work being an asset to the socialist movement.

The object of the class is to study scientific socialism and train speakers for propaganda purposes. Members of the League are welcomed as visitors and are eligible for membership.

"Modes of production acro's the ages" is the title of the next lecture on Friday, the 28th inst. Com. W. Gibson is the speaker for the night. Questions and discussion are invited.

There will be an open air meeting at Fordsburg Market Square next Sunday, the 23rd inst. The meeting is looked forward to by those who attended the last meeting in that district.

for the I.S.L. Box 4179, Johannesburg.