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THE INTERNATIONAL

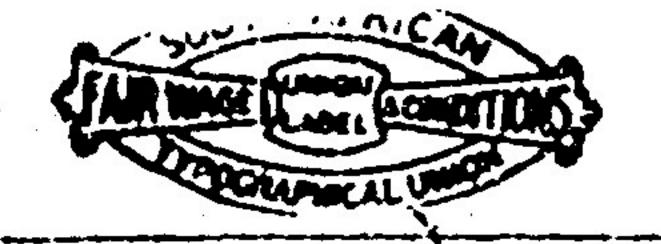
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

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November 6-7, 1917.

This week the Socialist world celebrates the first birthday of the Socialist Republic of Russia. The cables deliberately suggest that the event is to be commemorated in Petrograd by a record "Red Terror" massacre of bourgeois, and some who have no sense of humour or probability left may believe it. The I.S.L. has marked the occasion by publishing its pamphlet "The Workers Revolution in Russia: being the truth about 'Bolshevism'," which is selling apace (price 6d., by post 7d., cash with order, I.S.L. Office, Box 4179, Johannesburg) and which will go far to show the intrinsic impossibility of these monstrous fabrications.

To-morrow Saturday night at West's Academy, 125, Pritchard St., all Rand Socialists are invited to rally once more round the Red Flag of all workers at a Social commencing at 8 p.m. Admission free.

No Peace.

At this eleventh hour of history, the expectation of an inter-capitalist "peace" leaves the class conscious worker cold, for he realises that even it it were a real promise of slaughter ended, which it is not, it breeds the cermintr of more in vears to come and means meanwhile only a shuffling of the weights that bear him for ever down. By this time his care must be almost wholly for the safety of the movement "sweeping over Europe," fear of which is already forming an Anglo-Hun bourgeois alliance such that, as the Swedish Commission reports, the German occupation of the Ukraine "is tolerated"--- i.e., by the Allies--as a bulwark against the worse thing that might befall hoth; that the Germans too recognise the precious "Czecho-Slovaks," i.e., anti-Bolsheviks; and that ther too withdraw their Ambassador from Petrograd. What are the Holy Alliance hatching grainst that movement? And how far will their plan be disconcerted if the Russian Republic too has asked the Allies to stop fighting mominst her? That story is possibly cirinlated to keep alive the old fabrication about Russia being Germany's tool and therefore suing simultaneousl, with her for peace: but if true it will produce an interesting situation, on which we indulge in a little speculation elsewhere.

Meanwhile the danger to the Revolution is imminent and serious. True, we cannot suppress a smile when Lord R. Cecil. a High Tory high-priest of British capitalism, hopes that the Bolsheviks—who to him are evidently a sort of wild species, as we confess some "Czecho-Slovaks" are to us — will henceforth be treated by all civilised governments as outlaws and, like the

Son of Man, allowed no refuge on the face of the earth. The Papal excommunication is in the best mediaeval style. The bumptious Junkerdom of it smacks of that "shining armour," "Gott mit uns" oratory which our papers are recalling with great gusto to-day. But such language was never used either by or even against the Hûns, whom we shall soon hear extolled to the skies in contrast with the Soviets. No class war now, indeed! No, not among those docile patriois who allow themselves to be humbugred by this sort of thing into continuing the war, no longer against a Kaiser but against their Eastern—and Central --fellow workers.

Fellow workers, in this solemn hour it is time to assert yourselves. Let every Labour body or organisation, of whatever colour or complexion, grasp the situation of the working class and of the moneers of its movement in the world. Let resolutions in hundreds be sent forthwith to the Union, British and American Governments, demanding the immediate cessation of hostilities and all other outside interference against the Socialist Republic of Russia and any other movement in sympathy with it, whether at Kiel, in Poland, or elsewhere. As a first step this is the verv least vou can do. Courage, and do it now!

The Liars.

The "Star" yesterday attempted rather lamely to ridicule the widespread suspicion that news is cooked. We wish the critical faculty were more widespread. Everyone ought to know by this time how far the "news" supplied to the Press, whether through the Wolff Bureau or other agencies, is not alone negatively censored but positively manufactured; and should have become trained to discern by whom and why it is really supplied, and to appreciate the prostitute function in the respective countries of a Ministry of "Propaganda."

When a lie, after being well rubbed in all over the world, has served its turn, like the Belgian hands and breasts series, it is not denied, only quietly dropped. When it is desired to switch popular hatred on to a new object, the same old "fable is retold, only the name being changed." One cunning device is to spread some yarn which, instead of merely feeding the fury of your already convinced supporters, rather shakes the faith of those who had believed in the other side.

Just now, through the bewildering whirr of "victory" brain-mafficking and clatter of "thrones, dominations, princedoms, powers," it is the business of the Allied Governments, by daily doses, to stem, if they can, the epidemic "infection" of philo-Bolshevism so as to rush their "public" into supporting the now avowed transference of the war from one against Kaiserism to one

gainst Socialism. Finding that general accusations of massacres, etc., leave readers cold—for after all they read of ... Issacres everywhere, and the war has ade the Russian atmosphere reek with about no less than any other—they have really brilliantly, cabled last Saturday de l'etrograd message through Amsterdrun that the "Grandmother of the Revolution," over 80 years old, had is been 'shot for resistance to the Rign of Terror," in other words, murdoned by order of Lenin or the Soviet Executive. We say cabled, i.e., for Consumption, for they could hardly have published such a story in Eirland in face of the following uncontradicted item in the "Manchester Guardian' - the leading English source of Russian news—of September 14 lest:

The Exchange Amsterdam correspondent says a Moscow telegram via Berlin announces the death of Breshko Breshkovskaya, styled the Grandmother of the Russian Revolution. The funeral took place at the expense of the Soviet Government."

The same newspaper adds, at the end of an account of her career:

"When the whole national organisation went into the melting pot, she lived quietly with friends in Moscow, where she ended her days."

As a matter of fact, we are informed by a careful newspaper reader that this is not the first time this old lady has been butchered in the press; also that Maxim Gorky has been similarly assassinated at least three times, so much so that an American cartoon depicted him contemplating his own gravestone or attending his own memorial service. Similarly Lenin was wounded, dead and buried, and almost "on the third day he rose again from the dead." The Tear's wife was murdered, attempted to be murdered for a fortnight, and lastiv discovered snug in some German asylum, all within a month. The "Manchester Guardian" of five days

Manchester Guardian of five days later, we happened to notice, turning over the file at random, quotes from Remer a Petrograd telegram, also via Amsterdam, reporting that

"The Entente Ministers to the Ronmanian Court at Jassy, who after the
signature of peace between Roumania
and the Central Powers went to Russia,
have been arrested at Petrograd by
order of the Bolshevik Government":
but corrects it immediately as follows:
"On making enquiries with reference
to the above telegram, Reuter's Agency
was authoritatively informed that the
diplomatic representatives of the Entente Powers accredited to Roumania
are still at Jassy."

Compare the grotesque cabled stories of our 1913 strike, and the lies in January. 1914, which were circulated in the East Rand about surrender on the West, and vice versa; not to mention Botha's blood-aurdling "enemy gold"

"plot-to-subvert-the - Constitution - by violent-means" rocket of last July, which proved after all but a damp souib, but served the purpose of making many well meaning people suspect the S.A. Socialists of something sinister. The "Star's" note on Ame. Breshkovskava is naive in this connection:

"She was accused in 1874, of undermining the foundation of the Russian State in the parlance of the public prosecutor, in other words" (sic) "of Socialistic propaganda!"

These Governments not only tell lies. they act them. Witness Litvinoff's Marconioram about Lockhart and the bribery-forgery plot, confirmed by several English exchanges since received. A similar case was the murder of Mirbach, suspected to have been instigated by the Entenie through the Social Revolutionaries in order to embroil he Germans into declaring war afresh on Bolshevik Russia.

How can anyone still be unsophisticated enough to believe a single word, "saving admissions," of all these press stalements about Bolshevism in Russia? Even Lord R. Cecil says nine-tenths of them are untrue. What they do show is that even the belligerent obvernments believe that the Idea, preferably false in their cause, is after all. mightier than the sword. Equally we bélieve in the Idea, true in our cause. which, without their armaments or their millions, will prevail agrunt them like David's smooth pebble against Goliath, until the flesh of the robber system is given unto the fowls of the air and to the beasts of the field.

Sir Evelyn Wallers and Sectionalism.

Strikes at the Crown Mines and Consolidated Main Roof. The Moulders. Plasterers and sections of the A.S.E., efe., etc., kicking jover, the traces. These things cause Sir E. Wallers and no doubt his lieuterants of the Federation furiously to think.

Says Wallsrs in dur bourgeois press: "The thing one does not like at all is the appearance of sectional action, which is inclined to destroy collective bargaining and to undo all that has been done during the last three or four

years." This is exactly what the capitalists and their press said in Britain when the men through their shop and mine organisations in defiance of Executives, Federations and agreements began to burst the chains made by their so-called leaders. Sectional fights are better than Federation capitulations. men are driven to fight in spite of the conciliation dope of their officials. What is needed is organisation on the job by mine and shop committees linked up one with another so that the militant spirit which is again begining to show itself may evolve its own organisation and control at the point of production.

The New South Wales Government has agreed to pay the costs of the I.W.W. inquiry from September 5th. Prior to that date the Sydney Labour Council footed the bill.

The Workers Merely

It only requires a very elementary knowledge of the economics of our present system of society, and especially that portion dealing with labour, to verify the fact that the workers are. merely chattels. They have no choice in the matter; the system of production compels them to be so whether they like it or not. One has only to refer to the columns of the daily press to see them there classed in "the labour market" with the commodities of the system, such as horses, cattle, pigs, vegetables, etc.

The working class have a commodity to sell: their "labour power." This commodity they must sell to the emploving class to enable them, to live. Whether as professional intellectuals, skilled mechanics, or unskilled lahourers, they are compelled to auction their power to labour for so many hours per day to those in control of the economic forces, in return receiving a money wage which varies according to the status of the section of the workers, the professionals receiving more than the skilled mechanics, the unskilled less than the skilled.

The money wage paid to the workers in return for their labour power is the value of their labour and is determined by the same economic laws that determine the value of any other commodity. The value of a commodity is de- & termined by the amount of social labour power embodied in the commodity. On the average it realises its value in the price it brings upon the market, supply and demand causing now a rise in price, now a fall.

So with labour, the wages, or prises received by the workers are determined by the sum total of the necessaries of existence and propagation of tuture

workers.

The unskilled labourers' equipment is very scanty. Taking their place in the industrial field without any technical knowledge, they receive a minimum wage, which is equivalent to the cost of their production: a subsistence that on the average is the value of the amount spent on producing them.

The skilled mechanics' line of subsistence is higher than that of the unskilled and it costs more to produce them, as they have to be maintained during their apprenticeship while acquiring the necessary skill of their trade: Their value is therefore higher, and their wage or price on the average is that value.

The professional man again is subject to the same laws, viz.: the cost of maintenance during childhood and college or university until he receives his diploma or qualification to practise or teach in his profession. The extracost is realised by the still higher line of subsistence which enables him to live and reproduce his kind.

We thus see the degrading position of the workers of all grades, their dependence upon a possessing class in a system of production for profits placing them as mere chattels in the market, their value being determined by the same laws as govern the production of all other commodities.

Such is the system; it cannot be otherwise whilst the system lasts. And the insidious propaganda being carried

on under the guise of the "new social conscience 'cannot alter the status of the workers to any material extent, or disguise the fact that the workers are but commodities upon the labour mar-J. M:G. ket.

The Epidemic.

"Bolshevism," like the "flu," crops. up in the most unexpected places—although we have no right to call Mexico an unexpected place for Socialism in recent years, during which a stiff resistance has been put up to the rival American and English oil pigates. The State of Yucatan is completely controlled by the Socialists. It is described as 'a State of 350,000 inhabitants, with a military garrison of about 500 men, that has 900 schools and an economic. life that for every two consumers produces enough for twenty. The chief credit for the growth of Socialism is given by Dr. Praito, a noted authorrty on Schialism in South America and Mexico, to the Railway Workers' Union, the first labour organisation in the State, whose president is now Governor of the State. "The workers of the State have been transformed from a swarm of slaves to a body of happy, prosperous people. Workers in the hennequin fields and sheds who three vears ago were getting from 5s. 2d. to 6s. 3d. a day now make from 14s. 7d. to 18-. 9d. The lands of the haciendas or tarms on which they formerly lived as slaves have been divided among them, and each worker now has a plot of his own on which his home stands.

The Landon "Chroniele" describes the "almost Pitopian" conditions in Murmansk, where the Allies are trying to upset the apple cart, in June last. Murman k at the present time is an absolute commune, governed by seven conneils éach of which possesses its own rights and duties -- one to look after the form, another for the railway, the port and so on. The cost of living is cheep, not more than £8 monthly. . . . Wages are out of all proportion. An ordinary dock labourer receives not

less than £37 10s, a month and a carpenter £45, but these have the right to work overtime, for which they receive double pay. The engineers, who are university graduates, and the section chiefs, receive not more than £50 monthly without overtime pay. Thus the simplest workmen, without the slightest qualifications, receive on an average £60 monthly. They elect their own foreman whom they dismiss as they please, and although they do not elect their engineers, they have the right to dismiss them. The best paid workmen on the line are the enginedrivers, who receive over £100 a month."

Such are the last phases of the doomed mages system.

The British Trade Union Congress in September rejected by a very large majority Havelock Wilson's resolution for boycotting the German nation for five years because of the action of the commanders and crews of the German U boats. Robert Smillie pointed out that when Plimsoll was fighting his fight, British shipowners insured rotten ships and sent them to sea, where they went to the bottom, crews and.

League Notes.

conference.—Branches are reminded that the forwarding of copies of their rolls to Head Office is essential to securing proper representation at the forthcoming Conference. Comrades who are not in close touch with branches are urged to communicate with Head Office as unattached members.

OBITUARY.—Members and friends acquainted with our comrades Den Bakker will regret to hear of the death of their only daughter and sister at Pretoria.

Com. H. C. Hanscomb died on the 4th inst., after seven days' illness, at Louis Trichardt, where, after the failure of the recent prosecution, he had found a sequestered living. An old worker in the movement in London, where he was inter alia an official of the Shop Assistants, and in America, where during a short stay he was active. in the Marine Cooks, Stewards, etc., Union, he found in Africa a non-conscriptionist but otherwise inhospitable refuge for a Socialist. Within two days of reaching Johannesburg he had joined the League, and at once plunced into all its activities, including his first incarceration. We have lost a keen, courageous and likable comrade in Harry.

We have also been notified of the death of Comrade Zaakon at Kingsley, Natal.

KRUCERSDORP.

The Branch meeting on Saturday, 2nd, was well attended, the chief business after enrolling new members being consideration of the constitution.

CERMISTON

Meets Tuesday, 12th inst., at Colin Wade's surgery.

JOHANNESBURG J.S. BRANCH.

and Marxism" is the title of the subject to be treated by Comrade S. Barlin on Sunday next in the Palmerston Hall, commencing at 8 p.m.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

OPEN AIR. — Comrade T. R. M. White will open a meeting to be held on the Market Square, Fordsburg, on Sunday next at 8 p.m. Comrades W. H. Andrews and T. P. Tinker speakers.

every Friday night, commencing at 8 p.m. in the Palmerston Hall, for the study of Scientific Socialism. All League members are entitled to participate.

A SPECIAL MEETING will be held of the above Branch in the Palmerston Hall, 34, Commissioner Street, on Tuesday, 14th instant. The business of amendments to League Constitution will be dealt with. Roll up, comrades!

The epidemic, coupled with repeated ill-treatment by the Clerk of the Weather, frustrated the recent projected meeting in Maritzburg called "with the object of forming an industrial union of all unorganised workers." But, the promoters write, "the presence of the Greater War will yet force that meeting to be held on our Market Square, influenza or rainstorm notwithstanding. We intend later on to try a meeting in some room or other to test whether Sodom and Gomorrah have enough class-conscious wage slaves to avoid destruction."

Iconociasmi

of Sept. 23 last reports that "some very nasty gibes at America and America's labour representatives" were the outstanding feature of the annual conference of the Scottish Labour Party held at Glasgow on Sept. 21.

Mrs. Philip Snowden said that "the Inter-Ailied Labour Conference just clused in London was largely a waste of time for the reason that American Labour came in for the first time. They had spent the whole week discussing maiters that were settled at the last Conference. Her impression was that they could go on having Inter-Allied Labour Conferences till the Day of Judgment, and the governments of the world twould sit and laugh them to scorn. They had taught the representatives of American Labour that they did not own the earth. We had, she added, shown Mr. Gompers that there are two points of view, his and somebody else's, and made it clear that we do not maintain an uncritical attitude towards the capitalist governments of the Allies as well as those of the enemy powers. We have, she exclaimed, never been able to see why if America had to support the war at all she did not come in two and a half years before she did."

Ramsay Macdonald "endorsed Mrs. Snowden's remarks about our American colleagues. We must be very generous. They are far away from our affairs. They live in a world of their own, and they come with a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm into a war which has been moing on for four years. On the war they are four years out of date, and on Labour politics they are half a century out of date"—and, he implied, they had utterly "fed up" the French and Italian delegates.

Incidentally, the conference adonted a resolution demanding the immediate release of John McLean, the Russian Polchevik Consul in Glasgow, now undergoing a term of penal servitude under the D.O.R.A. — in a land of freedom, like Debs. Meanwhile in "autocracy's stronghold" Liebknecht, is released. Thus doth Beelzebub, as self-chucker-out, breed "seven other devils worse than the first."

A recent victim to the world-wide disease is R. Talbot Williams, sometime local organiser of the African (Coloured) Political Organisation. Talbot Williams' career furnishes a typical illustration of capitalist methods. Over a year ago he seemed to have grasped the meaning of Socialism, and in a speech last January which the League reprinted he applied it in vigorous language to the peculiar conditions of South African Labour. In character, however, he was lacking, and after a period of apparently disappointing inactivity in the cause he was discovered in the service (of all bodies!) the Nationalist Party in the Cape, and also in some obscure relalation with the S.A. Industrial Federation—having in the meantime become discredited with his own organisation and also with ours. "One must live," was his lame excuse to the writer. Fate seems, however regretfully, to have "failed to see the necessity."

A Russian-Allied Brest Litovsk?

The Allies want a "stable Government 'in Germany; and may quite possibly discourage the complete abolition of the Monarchy there, in order w check, not Průssianism now (for they are all Prussians to-day) so much as Socialism. They may stipulate for a free passage for troops through Germany, as through Austria and the Dardanelles, in order to be able to attack the Socialist Republic: and the German Government with whom they will be delighted to negotiate will be delighted to co-operate. If such a campaign took place, Russia's best policy might be one of non-resistance. As in the case of Brest Litovsk, the view may bive prevailed that favours agreeing with thine adversary quickly whiles thou art in the way with him, and thus anticipating even a non-resisted invasion: trusting to the power of the movement to "redress the balance" in the fulness of time. The price will no doubt include the payment of the Russian bonds, which have never been actually repudiated: well; that micht be coupled with remission of Germany's 325 million claim; one bad turn deserves another. Before many instalments are paid, a much more universal repudiation me have become practicable; or it may have become possible to dispense to a great extent with coin, when those Powers who still demand cold could have whatever Siberia produces and welcome. Experience has shown that the sacrifices involved in a Brest Litovsk treaty, whether with the Huns. or now, with the Allies, may be mickly remired in unexpected wave. The immediate necessity of Russia is to deprive her counter-revolutionaries of forcion armed support. For this a peace at any price is acceptable. The only risk is that this immunity is just what the Allies and other Huns will not concode; but if so, they cannot hove for long to justify their action to their own peoples: on the contrary they will hasten the home awakening which will sweep the whole robber crew to perdition.

This is a period of the year at which many subscriptions to this paper fall to be renewed. The League cannot be expected to concur in the idea apparently entertained by some that one vear's subscription entitles them to continue to receive the paper for an indefinite period after its expiry. Will readers in default please make for the nearest Post Office forthwith and send the nimble 5s. Postal Order to Box 4179. Johannesburg? No one who is unwilling like sheep to be led astray can afford to lose touch with this beacon of enlightenment, least of all in these days of desperate misleading: and we may say that in the last few days we have received quite a number of encouraging letters congratulating us on the good work we are doing. To readers, then, we say, become subscribers; to subscribers, renew; and to both, become members of the League, and make vourselves useful in the campaign for which, like the capitalists, we can to-day claim "Victory in sight ''

Workers of the Warld.

Renaudel, the Jingo editor, feeling that he no longer represents the general attitude of the French Socialist party, has resigned his position as editor in chief of "Humanite."

The Zimmerwald Commission has telegraphed from Stockholm to the Russian comrades "an expression of its complete solidarity in the common struggle against the imperialism of all countries."

In September last representatives of the two Bulgarian Socialist parties, with a member of the Macedonian Revolutionary Committee, were in Switzerland in close touch with the Ukrainian Bolshevik Socialists for the purpose of organising a simultaneous republican and revolutionary movement. The deposition of Boris and the rising in the Ukraine just reported seem to show that they did not meet in vain.

The Madrid branch of the Spanish Socialist party has before it a resolution "regretting that the glorious Russian revolution has been able to be utilised as a reason for prolonging the war, and condemning emphatically every attempt to crush a revolution which represents such a great danger to the safety of the bourgeois world."

The Irish Trades Union Congress and Labour Party have just held a special congress at Dublin to discuss, inter alia, the following "objects":

"To recover for the nation complete possession of all the natural physical sources of wealth of the country "To win for the workers of Ireland collectively the ownership and control of the whole produce of their labour."

"To secure the democratic management and control of all industries and services by the whole body of workers, manual and mental, engaged and politically. . . ."

"To promote the organisation of the working class industrially, socially and politically."

10,000 Finnish workers suspected of supporting the revolution, says the Danish "Social Democraten," have been put to death by the (bourgeois) White Guards. In one camp, writes a doctor, from June 6 to July 31, 1,347, prisoners out of 6,000 have died of starvation or from insanitary surroundings. We don't call to mind a Salturday collection for comforts for these prisoners.

THE RAILWAY "BIC PUSH."

A correspondent in the "S.A. Rail-way Review" says: "When it was seen that we contributed £100,000 in one year to war funds the administration raised our rents. Now we have raised several thousands in the big push' they have pushed off our coal privilege." A Just so. Whilst the sheep consent, why shouldn't they be fleeced? The remedy is, organise to fight, not to whine for concessions.

Capitalism claims to be making the world "safe for democracy." A corspondent writes: "Safe for demonocracy would be nearly as easy to say, and more in keeping with the truth."

Black Conscription.

Some years ago the Masai tribe migrated from Gernian East Africa and claimed protection of the British in B.E.A., as the German's were so heavily taxing them. They are a warlike and nomadic tribe, but if left alone they interfere with nobody. An article in last Saturday's "Star" however illustrates how, as the Communist Manifesto says, "The bourgeoisie forces even the most barbarian nations, on pain of extinction, to adopt so-called 'civilisation'; in a word, it creates a world after its own image." The British Government issued an order calling for native recruits in connection with the East African campaign. In comparison with other tribes the Masai failed to "do their bit." Orders were issued to a section of them to turnish their quota of Askaris for service in the K.A.R. The orders were not carried out. Proops were then despatched 'to enforce if necessary the Government's orders and to uphold the Government's prestige." An engagement took place. and 14 Masai, "all important individuals amongst the Masai connected with the present trouble," were killed —and this is what the report apparently calls "declinings to listen to reason," although no other attempt seems to have been made to convince their reason of the propriety of their taking part in a quarrel not of their making and the intricacies of which they could not possibly be made to understand!

Woulders' Sirike.

For ten weeks the moulders have held out at enormous sacrifice to themselves and the section of the workers who place more value on loyalty to their class than on loyalty to labour fakirs. All the forces of the capitalist: of the Rand plus: the Federation have been brought to Bear on them, but their spirit is unbroken and they are still confident of winning the fight. The brake block difficulty which looked like putting the Rand in a flame is temporarily settled by the withdrawal by the Town Council of the 64 discharge notices. There is a still a great deal of electricity in the air, however. and the aggregate meeting of the East Rand A.S.E. has requested the S.A. Council to take steps to take a vote of all A.S.E. men on the Rand on the question of support to the moulders. This eternal calling of meetings and taking of votes plays into the hands of the anti-fight section of the Unions.

We recently mentioned the lynching in America of one Pracer for anti-war sentiments. The sequel was that "all of the defendants charged with the murder of Robert Paul Prager, enemy alien, were acquitted after the jury had deliberated only 45 minutes."

One of the U.S.A. pressoring methods was adopted recently at Phoenix, Arixona. Four hundred guards were placed about the city immediately after a certain Red Cross pageant had taken place, which had attracted great crowds from all the district. Everyone was halted, and those believed to be of military age who could not show that they had registered were arrested. The drive yielded 2,000 alleged "evaders."

The "Empire Press."

The London "Daily Mirror" of July 11 last published an "Exchange" cable from Johannesburg, reading "As a sequel to the native unrest which German agents have been fostering in the mines a number of arrests have been effected. These include" the three I.S.L. members prosecuted.

The "Daily Graphic" a few days later published a Reuter cable under date July 15, stating that the case was withdrawn. As a matter of fact, the case was not withdrawn until several months later, and even Luke's "confession" only took place on July 17, when the Prosecutor expressed himself as completely surprised by it. How did Reuter know what was coming?

The gravamen of Luke's evidence, his allegation of a frame up by officials of the Native Affairs Dept., was not, so far as we can discover, reported at all overseas, and it looks as if the relevant issues of the "International" had not reached their destinations abroad (at any rate we shall be glad to receive evidence to the contrary or otherwise.

From the Cape.

Although Socialists as a rule do not follow the crowd we have had no choice this time. Nearly every member of the I.S.L. and S.D.F. has had the "flue," some pretty badly, but happily we have had no casualtie. I rendered some service, mostly in the and districts, and have never been so stirred in my life It requires the pen and genius of a Zola to do justice to the slums of the "Mother City." The wonder to me is, considering how the poor live down here, not that so many died, but that so many pulled through. And the depths of superstition in which they are steeped! It is bitterly ironic to enter some house containing say four rooms with a family in each and very likely one in the cellar, and to find the walls plastered with texts such as "Home is best," "God loves us," etc. One wife for whose husband I had called to fetch him to the hospital told me that she had nursed him for three weeks and he would remain in that filthy, hovel till God fetched him. If anyone undertook relief work in Distriet 6 and did not become deeply convinced of the necessity for a fundamental change he or she must be either a rogue or a fool. True to the exalted principles of capitalism the doctors have done a tidy hit of profiteering. The libel law forbids us to publish our correspondent's personal experience in this respect. -- Ed.?

M.I.

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