# THE INTERNATIONAL

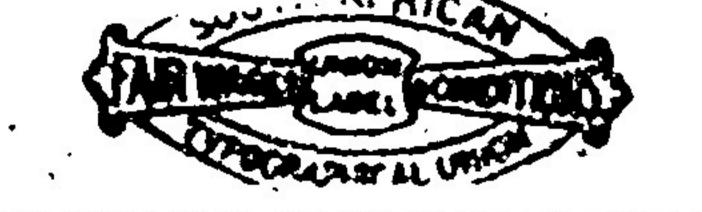
THE ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE (S.A.)

P.O. BOX 4179.

Neppe's Buildings, 54, Fox Street, Johannesburg.

Phone 6035.

No. 163



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# Not in the Whirlwind.

If the workers' movement were not proving a very serious menace to world wide capitalism, it would be difficult to explain the present torrent of Press attack, comparable to the thick of an election campaign, on 'Bolshevism.' Among other things, it is evidently intended to reconcile us to war with Russia; yet significantly enough, the Labour party in Britain deems it a good election cry to demand the immediate withdrawal of Allied troops from that country: and if George is returned with an alleged mandate to fight on, we. may reasonably hope that his pitch will be queered within six months by industrial action, and not of the academic sort, if not by another election as well. Meanwhile we need not/waste more ink on the still repeated blood and bribery stories without which the attacks must instantly collapse. For the British or any other ruling class to boggle, after four years of war, intrigue and bullying, over mere "massacre," "corruption" or, "tyranny," would be too thin, even if they did so consistently wherever they find these things and not exclusively in socialist countries where they do not. What they are really trying desperately to parry, without daring to avow it, is of course the now actual attack on bourgeois properiv, the "the fundamental question" of Socialism, itself. That attack, and not just the political form of a Soviet constitution, epoch-making democratic advance as that is, still less the mere symptoms, largely irrelevant, of the foundation laying of Socialism in war time, is the gist of the Russian revolution and of the Spartacus demand for socialisation of industries: that, and not "atrocities," is the "disorder and marchy" which causes panic on the exchanges; that is the "spectre haunting Europe to exorcise which all the powers of old Europe" and America "have united in a holy alliance." Let our critics of "Bolshevism" study Socialism itself, say in the Communist Manifesto for a start, and then embark on the "open discussion" of the whole subject which they profess to welcome, but in which in fact they have hitherto monopolised all the channels of debate and facilities of public meeting for their side only.

#### SIR E. WALLERS.

The local Goliath so far put up to attack the workers' revolution is the Chamber of Mines president knighted for "bringing about harmony between employer and worker" in war time; a circumstance which at once discredits both the harmony and the attack. His chief armoury is an anonymous article in the "Round Table," a magazine issued by a set of Milner kindergarten types holding as their philosophy of history nothing more profound than a middle class worship of the British Em-

pire which has provided so many of them with agreeable and important billets: and their writings accordingly can do no more than dish up current journalistic cant in a genteel, donnish or even clerical garnishment. The article, so far as, it narrates fact follows Litvinoff's booklet, though it cites no sources or authorities whaiever, the author's ipse dixit being evidently considered sufficient: but, like the work by a Mr. Sanders (almost unknown to old hands in the British Labour movement) recently boosted in two Unionist papers, as soon as the time comes to describe the Bolshevist regime, it abandons particulars and substitutes wholesale vague indiscriminate abuse with the best, saying little, true or false, that the "International" has not already dealt with. Here, too, the dictatorship of the "immense majority," continuously exercised by local Soviets everywhere, is called "tyranny" (the same topsy-turvy notion as Mr. Merriman's we are an oligarchy based on serfdom' instead of "we are a seridom oppressed by oligarchy'); attacks on Russia by Allied and other foreign troops are called "civil war," and the paralysis thereby produced is imputed to the Soviets; and the lie is reproduced that non-Bolsheviks are disfranchised, showing that the writers have never read the constitution but only the press messages about it. The surrender of Germany to Bolshevism rather than of Bolshevism to Germany, and the spread of the movement to other lands, makes all these earlier attacks look particularly silly to-day. The "intelligentsia" has indeed been "disillusioned"; the proletariat is more than ever "convinced of its capacity to walk alone."

The sermonesque, talky-talky conclusion of thearticle, not emphasised by Sir Evelyn, is that the Russian Revolution is after all "one of the most vital factors in the creation of a new world society," "a scathing revision of all the elements of social structure," which shows that "our powerful Western civilisation unmodified, unrevised, cannot become the civilisation of the world': the war being now no longér presented as an assertion of British democracy but as a "struggle to discover a new civilisation," into which the entry of say India and China will be "largely determined by Russian happenings.'

#### MR. MOYNIHAN.

We have been asked to refer to an article in the 'Searchlight' on the Bolshevik Constitution. The writer, who is evidently unaccustomed to legal documents, is advised to search for more light on the subject. This he will find if he peruses, instead of distorting, this very constitution which he attacks, and which gives the lie to practically all he says; and incidentally he will then not overlook, for instance, the difference between 25,000 electors and 125,000 inhabitants. The British farm-

labourer to whom he appeals might spell "tyranny" more correctly than he, would certainly have a better understanding of the class struggle, and would probably not have ventured to predict the end of the war within three months in 1914.

To an attack in Tuesday's "Star" a reply may appear in that paper to-day.

The Lord is not in this whirlwind of newspaper abuse. The best answer to it all is the League's pamphlet itself. The Workers' Revolution in Russia. Theing the Truth about Bolshevism. I.S.L., 54; Fox St., Box 4179, Jhbg. Price 7d. post free.

Our most formidable counter-blast, then, is the spread of this pamphlet, and an increased circulation of the "International" (5s. per annum post free).

## The Drones

It skies remain clear, the air warm. and pollen and nectar abound in the flowers, the workers-through a kind of forgetfulness, or over scrupulous prudence perhaps--will for a short time longer endure the importanate, disastrous presence of the drones. These . . harbour never a suspicion of the deep and calculating scorn wherewith the workers regard them, of the constantly growing hatred to which they give rise, or of the destiny that awaits them... They have the busy air, the extravagant, contemptuous gait of indispensable gods who should be similtaneously venturing toward some destiny unknown to the vulgar.... The patient workers, their eves steadily fixed on the future, will silently set things right:...

One part of the people renounce their foraging duties to devote themselves to the work of justice. The great idle drones, asleep in unconscious groups on the mellifluous walls, are rudely ton. from their slumbers by an army of wrathful virgins. They wake, in pious wonder; they cannot believe their eves: and their astonishment struggles with their sioth as a moonbeam through marshy water. They stare amazedly round them, convinced that ther must be victims of some mistake: and the mother-idea of their life being first to assert itself they take a step toward the vats of honey to seek comfort there. But ended for them are the days of may honey, the wine flower of lime trees, and fragrant ambrosia of thyme and sage, of marjoram and wild. clover... Before the bewildered parasites are able to realise that the happy laws of the city have crumbled, dragging down in most inconceivable fashion their own plentiful destiny, each one is assailed by three or four envoys of justices'—Maeterlinck: 'The Life of the Bee.

# Social Reform.

Our present phase of society is a disease that humanity must necessarily go through in the onward evolutionary march to the goal of the Co-operative "Commonwealth. The reactionaries are those sentimental emotionalists who, content to skim the surface of our social system, write letters to the press and shed maudlin tears bewailing the poverty conditions of the mass of the people. Having reached a point in the development of the system when the capitalist class are compelled, by the very nature of the economic forces they have used, to become reactionary, they are making frantic efforts to retard the e-olution which must take the economic power from their control and place it in the control of the working class.

These reactionaries, sentimental and otherwise, are flooding the literary market, the press, platform and pulpit with ameliorative schemes and social reforms galore to stay the disease that will end in the dissolution of the system; quack remedies that will be useffective as a porous plaster on a volcano to stay its activities.

The system of industrial capitalism, though it was inevitable and the legitimate successor to the feudal system, has by the very nature of its necessary development intensified poverty conditions by the contrast between enormous accumulated wealth held by the few and the poverty stricken condition of

Wherever the system has been planted we have the jull crop of poverty, vice and slums. Our "Golden City", is no exception. It has been as prolific as other industrial centres. Johannesburg had its foundation laid 30 years ago, and the social structure, having the same economic basis as all other industrial centres, has developed the same social problems, a little more emphasised, perhaps, by the racial and

coloured antagonisms. "Garden cities," "municipal bands," better housing for the poor," and the other fossilised fads have never worked, and never will work. They are but the emotional ravings of surface skimmers on the one hand and the deliherate scheming's on the other of interested persons of the possessing class who see their economic power menaced by the social storm that is brewing. By these social reform fallacie's they are making strenuous efforts to stay the revolution that will wrench from them the dominating power they possess and have used with such callous disregard of the countless numbers crushed by the economic

forces in their possession. If social reforms at any period during the existence of the system had any value or power to stay demands made by the working class, they are useless to-day. The rising consciousness of the masses will not for long tolerate the denial to them of the rights of of human beings. They have been told by the capitalist class that in future they will have to be treated with justice as humans and not as beasts. These 49 promises are awakening the mental vision of the masses to the degrading position they have occupied in the past and giving them a knowledge of the futility of social reforms.

J.M.G.

## Under Bolshevism.

The" Isvestia" (Bolshevik organ) reports the spread of Socialism in Mahommedan Turkestan, hitherto a pawn of rival Chauvinist contestants. The District Soviet of the Mahonmedan Trades Unions in Tashkent unites 200,000 Turkestan workers, and the Soviet Government has opened a Mahommedan People's. University and twenty-four Turkish centres of dearning. Socialist papers appear in the Turkish language, and out of 36 memhers of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Republic there, eleven are Mahonnedan's. Thus, says an exchange, the Red Flag lights, the way to peace even as between the age-long feud of Crescent and Cross.

The London "Star" of Sept. 19, after a series of news agency reports of Soviet terrorism and murder, says: "The Soviet Government has established an Academy of Social Sciences at Moscow, open to all males and females over 16 years of age." Horrors!

### Not under Bolshevism

The Town Engineer of Pretoria, describing the dwellings of the poor in that town, says:—-

"The inhabitants of these so-called buildings are so weak, so poor, and often ill that they have no interest in the normal things of life. The women never seem able to get strong enough from nursing one child before they are unfortunately called upon to bear another. How can we expect them under such conditions to take any interest in whether they use the proper means of rubbish service, waste water or stercu's service. The outlook is absolutely hopeless to them."

A discussion having taken place in the Queensland Legislative Assembly last July in the course of which statements were made reflecting on the treatment of Irish and German internees, the publication of which the Australian Government considered would "ieopardise the war interests of Australia," the censor authority, on the orders of the Australian Premier, took steps to prevent publication, and the military took possession of the Queensland Government printing office. Eventually "Hansard" was issued with the objectionable references deleted by the Censor.—"The Australasian."

The "S.A. Review" recently reproduced our "deadly parallel" regarding the death of Mme. Breshkovskava, and took over our exposure of the British plot in Moscow. In neither case did it acknowledge its source. We are only too pleased to have these items circulated, but in their right setting. An acknowledgement might have led to a study of the "International," which gave the true inwardness of these incidents; whereas the "S.A. Review" reader is fobbed off with silly rubbish about such lies being particularly of "German origin": some of it. indeed. not much cleverer than the stuff dished out by the 'Review's' bete noire, the Unionist press, itself.

# league Notes.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The I.S.L. Annual Conference will be held in Johannesburg on Sunday, January 5, 1919, at 10 a.m. In addition to the usual elements, fraternal delegates from all bodies in sympathy with the League are especially invited, for these are no days to confound red tape with discipline. It is hoved that the Conference will help further to clarify our ideas on the movement among the native proletariat, and will assist the Preparedness Campaign already undertaken by the League in view of the Great Push in Europe.

#### PROPAGANDA.

The lecture by Com. W. H. Andrews on "Bolshevism" in the Irish Club, Johannesburg, on Sunday last, was well attended and considerable interest was shown in questions and discussion.

The Organiser was at Springs branch A.S.E. on Wednesday evening, and in spite of the rain a good number turned up. "Internationals" and pamphlets went well.

#### THE TOAREDNESS CAMPAICN.

The Committee handling this matter held a further meeting last Wednesday at the I.S.L. Headquarters, and devoted attention largely to the absorbing question of what elements can and what cannot be counted upon to further forthcoming "action to secure workers' control in South Africa." The attendance was gratifying despite rain. A yet larger meeting is fixed for Wednesday next.

#### PRESS AND BUILDING FUND.

Will all holders of stamps kindly return same and also cash received if any, to the Treasurer. Chas. Traub. Box 4179.

B. & P. FUND PICNIC.—The comrades have organised a picnic at Driefontein farm, No. 3, on Sunday, the
15th inst. Trolleys leave Town Hall
at 7.45 a.m. A special trolley leaves
Town Hall at 9,15 a.m. sharp. Single
tickets, 6s.; children, 1s.—A. D. Elk,
Hon. Secretary, Box 4179.

#### JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

The Study Class will be held as usual on Friday evening at the Palmerston Hall, at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY MEETINGS.—Comrades C. Dones and T. P. Tinker will speak on Sunday afternoon, commencing at 3 o'clock, at Fordsburg Market Square; and in the evening, commencing at 8 o'clock, Comrades T. P. Tinker and C. B. Tyler will speak at the corner of Marshall and Maddison Streets, Jeppestown.

#### CERMISTON BRANCH.

Germiston Branch organised a successful public meeting on the 29th ult., at the Presbyterian Hall. Com. C. Wade in chair; W. H. Andrews speaker. Collection and sale of literature, good.

#### PRETORIA BRANCH.

This Branch reports a branch meeting in Federation Hall, on Tuesday, 3rd inst. when, encouraged by former meetings, a further meeting was arranged to take place on Monday, 8th inst., in the Federation Hall.

DURBAN BRANCH.

We are glad to report that Com. Miss Pauline Mann has got into harness in Durban where she is secretary of the reorganised Branch.

## The Vicars of Bray.

The S.A. Labour Party, in order to continue getting men wearing its label anto public bodies---its be-all and endall-during war time, decided to make an anti-labour appeal to imperialist passion. This appeal was a very indifferent success and is now becoming out of date altogether. Recent scandals caving yet further shaken the party, its time-servers abandon their war guns as an aid to office and launch a Peace Offersive on those whose principles they so roundly and hooliganishly condemned, by gaily rescinding—though not recanting—their condemnation.

The I.S.L. has nothing to recant or reseind. On its part it would welcome any S.A.L.P. man who cenuinely renounced and repudiated his backsliding. But in the words of the pamphlet "Keeping the Red Flag flying" issued after the East London Conference when a restoration of Labour Party unity dill seemed possible, "the war on war position" (which in substance is the 1.S.L. position) "must become the position of the whole party hereafter. Unity when restored in the party must be a unity on that basis without compromise. How can it be right go-morrow but wrong to-day?

As a matter of fact, as Pat. Duncan also observes, these are no days for "restoration." The effect of the Russian revolution has been to advance the Labour cause from a mere timid movement for Parliamentary representation under bourgeois "democracies" to a . bold proleiarian ultimatum demanding the surrender of the capitalist class-with all its public bodies. The Reichsize is dead. To continue whining for seats in the old Parliaments is to flog a dead horse, to confess utter stagnation while, the rest of the Labour world has moved on. The I.S.L. itself expects in the fulness of time to be superseded by some organisation, which it is constantly endeavouring to call into being, more revolutionary, because more comprehensive and more directly adapted to exercise working class control, industrial and general, in South Africa. But it would be suicidal to attempt to evolve such a thing under the obsolete old umbrella of the S.A.L.P:, even though it may still boast a 'small handful of genuine reformers among its attenuated following. A buffer party which, here as in England, has served the masters' cause by masking and stifling the slaves' rebellion it should have led, cannot convincingly chance its spots at the éleventh hour. Its ouly honest course would be to liquidate.

The I.S.L.'s comment, a letter to the "Star," drafted by a sub-committee appointed by the M.C. for the purpose. was as follows:

"The resolution, No. 1, passed by the Administrative Council of the S.A.L.P., as published in your issue of the 2nd inst., is amusing, not to say impertinent.

. For forming or joining the International Socialist League, certain members of the S.A.L.P. were expelled in October, 1915.

The S.A.L.P. now raciously invites these errir comrades to return to the fold, stating that:—"The war is now happily at an end (?) and the differences arising therefrom being now removed the resolution of the Party of

October 10th, 1915, be rescinded, and a welcome extended to all who accept the Socialist objective of the Party '

The sapient gentlemen who passed this resolution are quite wrong when they observe that the differences between the International Socialists and the political opportunists of the S.A L.P. cease with the signing of an armistice with Germany.

The difference of outlook is far more fundamenial than that. What have they to say, for instance, of the inclusion of the native races as full citizens of the Socialist Commonwealth?

They failed at the testing time to maintain their "Socialist Objective" and hounded down those who stuck to it when it was unpopular and even dangerous. What guarantee have International Socialists that they will not fail again when the final struggle between the workers and exploiters blazes up here as elsewhere? Men of their kidney are even now in Germany brutally suppressing every effort of the workers to seize real power by the destruction of the capitalist system.

Rerensky in Russia, A. Thomas in France, Scheidemann, Henderson, Van der Velde and Creswell are all in the same boat—Labour lieutenants of the capitalist class, hoodwinking the workers by offering them palliatives and sops to keep them quiet and to maintain the said lieutenants' influence and miportance.

The breach is final and fundamental. The capitalist system and its machine, the State as we know it, must go. This the S.A.L.P. does not recognise, as shown by its "see it through" policy. Its election badge of the Imperialist Thion Jack, crossed with the Red Flag of International labour solidarity is damning evidence that popularity and votes count for more than principles with it.

International Socialism stands for the abolition of private property in the means of life and for direct and full control by the workers themselves of the means of production; a community organised for the administration of things and not for the Government of men.

inside the capitalist State. International Socialists seek to destroy the system built up on a foundation of private property and exploitation. they have not merely a "Socialist Objective" for window-dressing purposes, but are prepared to work for it even when the tide is running against them, as well as in fair weather."

The "Volkstem" tells us that the S.A.P. in South Africa will not tolerate Bolshevism in South Africa; and General Botha also declares that he will have no Socialism in South Africa. When he gets to Europe his eyes will open and he will understand that tall talk avails but little against such a mighty world movement. When a Tsar or a Kaiser were not big enough to withstand it, a 'little tyrant' like General Botha will certainly not be able to turn it back.—"De Spectator," Pretoria.

"Chaos in Russia and Germany." A writer in the 'Natal Advertiser' 'savs: "When a house is being built there is nothing but noise and confusion, with dirt, dust and debris everywhere. Russia's house is now being built."

# Atr city Mongering.

The War Department of the United States authorised the publication of the following cablegram:—

A St. Louis, Mo., paper recently received here states that a Sergeant, one of fifty men sent back in connection with the Liberty Loan campaign, is making speeches in which he states: "The German's give poisoned candy to the children to eat and hand grenades for them to play with. They show glee at the children's dying writhings and laugh aloud when the grenades explode. I saw one American boy, about 17 years old, who had been captured by the Germans, come back to our trenches. He had cotton in and about his ears. I asked someone what the cotton was for.

""The Germans cut off his ears and sent him back to tell us they want to fight men,' was the answer. They feed Americans on tuberculosis oerms."

As there is no foundation whatever in fact for such statements, based on any experience we have had. I recommend that this Sergeaut, if the 'statements quoted above were made by him, be immediately returned for duty and that the statements be contradicted.---Persinng.

Somewhat mild treatment: yet the President of our Chamber of Commerce, justifying an immediate trade boycott with like tales, bets off scotfree altogether.

#### Industrial Unrest in Canada

"The Western Labour News," late "Voice," says: "Industrial anarchy neigns. Strikes are common all over Canada, and many important industries have been held un. Postal employees have paralysed one of the most vital branches of national service for several davs. Most of the strikers are destribed as returned veterans. The paper continues: "We do not believe that the Government would wilfully encourage the growth of Bolshevism in this country, yet the present unrest if unchecked will certainly lead to the de-The S.A.L.P. is designed to function velopment of revolutionary tendencies."

So we can understand that sentence of three years on a Canadian "Bolshevist 'over which the "Star" has been so repeatedly smacking it's lips.

With reference to a contributed statement in our issue of August 16 last, which surprised us at the time, stating that "the victims in Australia who have appealed have also had their sentences reversed," the Secretary of the Workers' International Industrial Union of Australasia writes: 'This is totally incorrect. Every one of these (I.W.W.) men is doing imprisonment. On appeal a few of them had their sentences reduced; and then he refers to the Royal Commission still (October 14) sitting, to which we have made recent reference.

The ruling class applies the same discipline to its servants whether they are white or black. Mr. Moffat's report on Native Grievances advised conceding to natives the right of meeting provided one of his kidney presided. The Commissioner of Police is in favour of exactly the same "concession" to the Force.

## Alternative to Bolshevism.

News received from Finland via Sweden, and published in "De Burger" of Nov. 20, seems to prove that the plutocracy have realised their ideal of capitalist government in that unhappy country. With the help of German troops the proletariat has been reduced to the position of pariahs. As with the Communards of Paris, recourse has been had to wholesale executions to strike terror in the hearts of the workers. In the principal centres some two or three hundred people, men, women and children, were shot, day after day for ten successive days. Some of the men were so old that their natural span of life was nearly over, while some boys. were only ten years old. It is said that over ten thousand workers were ruthlessly murdered in this way. The next step was to collect the breadwinners among the proletariat and put them in concentration camps. These camps are really prison camps. Once having been removed from their homes their families are not likely to see them again in this world, as they are hired out to contractors who are reclaiming land in the lake districts—a most unhealthy and even deadly work. The contractors have to pay one shilling a day (and the cost of living is as high in Finland as anywhere else) for the services of these convicts, of whom over seventy thousand are available for contract labour. The Government provides the prisoner. with clothing out of this one shilling per day, while any balance left is paid to his wife for maintenance. The Government exercises no control over the rations and general treatment of these workers; same are left to the "discretion of their masters." Some have also been deported to Germany where their labour is exchanged for another necessary commodity, potash.

The captains of industries can thus command an unlimited supply of labour at their own price, while those who refuse to "bend the knee to Moloch" and cannot pay their rent, or are out of work or "without visible means of existence," find their way to the concentration camps. It seems a very simple way of dealing with a discontented proletariat: those who resist are wiped off the face of the earth; the others are exploited unto death and their wives and daughters are required for prostitution, while the middle class, though their interests are approaching dissolution and they are tast reinforcing the proletariat, are won over by the capitalist giving them special opportunities as contractors of public works, and enabling them to make fortunes out of convict labour.

Note that though these atrocities are in effect German atrocities, we find no outcry against them in the Allied Press: it does not suit the masters' book to expose such stories, for the blood shed is the blood of revolutionary workers! It is no part of the Allies' law and order crusagle in Eastern Europe to restore "order" in Finland—why, this is capitalist "order" already realised, this is the "order" they desire to establish everywhere else! At most they will use Finland as one of the bases of attack on Russia.

For there is really nothing new in it all. It is only the naked and unashamed capitalist way to deal with the proletariat! The populations of all countries have increased so much that it is no longer practicable to send outof-works to ordinary prisons, and discontented masses of workers constitute a serious menace to capitalist government unless reduced in this way to helplessness. In this country too it has frequently been suggested by different contributors to our capitalist press that the Government should establish penal settlements to which those should be sent who are not earning a decent living; and the hiring out of convict labour is not a new principle in South Africa; it is done every day.

As for prostitution, what about girls who earn 10s. per week when the rent of a room is £2 per month and upwards? In time it will be the same here as in the United States of America, where the saloons are filled with the wives and daughters of the workers, and in France, where legislation directly and indirectly forces the daughters , of the poor into brothels, and where shares in brothels are the recognised national investment for the bourgeoisie. (In France debt has been a criminal offence. To save a father from imprisonment, the daughter would be forced by the bourgeois creditor to enter a brothel. Although a girl could not marry without her parents' consent until she was twenty-five, she could enter a brothel when quite young.)

The capitalist system of government cannot survive without the co-operation of the middle-class and the skilled trades, especially the latter. In Finland it is evident that the trade unions of those industries which are essential to economic life have betrayed their fellow workers. Tet let us not judge them too harshly. Their choice was "betrayal or execution." Knowing that their progeny will suffer the same horrible fate as has overtaken the proletariat of to-day, it is impossible to believe that they preferred capitalisi government to a "Social Republic" which is able to safeguard the true interests of every one of its citizens and ensure them against want, sickness and unemployment. The fault of the members of the trade unions has been that they waited too long in coming to a decision when the idea of a Social Republic was put before them. They clung to the idea of party politics until the favourable moment had passed, until they found themselves slaves in the merciless grip of capital. They had thought themselves so strong; in their pride they had refused to have an extension fund for the progress of their cause; when they woke up to the seriousuess of the position it was too late.

The 'Star' says that if Socializm embraces the natives then South Africa is "safe" from it for a long time to come; and the "Sunday Times" says that only a lunatic would advocate native Soviets. Well, well. There is no doubt that Socialism must embrace the natives, and the "Star" is obviously feeling very unsafe about it: while as for black Soviets, something of the scut is bound to develop spontaneously without any lunatics to advocate it.

# Press Fund.

The "International" is being more and more sought after by people in South Africa who desire to know more of what is happening in Europe and elsewhere in connection with the workers' movements.

We are anxious to supply the demand for the truth. As the price charged does not cover the cost of printing and publishing, notwithstanding that the editorial work costs nothing, the Press Committee appeals to readers and supporters to give what they can afford monthly to the Press Fund to make up the deficiency.

## Above the Law.

The general secretary of the Railway Union, writing to the "Cape Times" recently, effectively criticised the 1917 report of the Gen. Manager of Railways.

He mentions the case of guard Self who was acquitted of the charges by a judge and jury, but found guilty of them by the departmental officers. "As the Assistant General Manager's Department were involved in the responsibility for the whole accident, we may leave it to your readers to decide which court was likely to be more impartial."

Again, "foreman Lilley was charged with theft of a truck of wheat. He stood his trial before a judge and jury at Worcester and was acquitted. Thereafter the Railway Department charged Lilley with the same theft, found him guilty and dismissed him."

Ganger Watkins, charged with misappropriation of money, was acquitted by the magistrate, retried by the Railway Department, found guilty and dismissed."

It is a pity that Mr. Moore, who says the miners have got this double trial system abolished or modified, asks (like some native leaders for their people) for nothing more than that the S.A. railwayman be "placed in the same position as all other citizens of his counetry. If he will glance at what is going on in some other countries to-day, he will find inspiration for something more satisfying than this dreary ding-dong fight with Sir W. Hoy within the prescribed ring of master and servant, and will understand better why Socialists insist that Capitalist State ownership. makes matters if anything worse than they were under private ownership.

DEFENCE FUND.—List 120: G.D., 1s.; T.B.C., 10s. 6d.; A.B., 2s. 6d.; H.G., 5s. List H.B.: T.M., 5s.; J.T., 2s. 6d.; S., 2s. 6d.; T.V., 5s. List 131: T.B., 5s. List 21: G.W., 5s.; D.R., 2s.; C.W.H., 3s. List 27: H.V.R., 5s.; Friend, 2s.; F.D., 2s.; Supporter, 2s. 6d.; N.F., 2s.; F., 5s.; Friend, 2s. 6d.; J.A., 5s.; D.S., 2s. 6d.

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