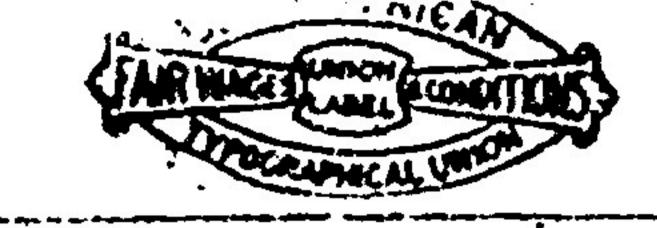
NIERNATIONAL

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How Long, O Lord?

Peace or no peace, the submissive peoples of the Big Three (really the Big Two) countries are still abetting their Governments in the grossest despotism of modern times, bcside which Kaiserism if not Tsarism pales. into insignificance. In every country under ospitalist influence it is now a race between the Governments and class conscious, labour, the wire-pullers hoping to achieve a death blow to the Revolution—especially by starvation, for the Big Two control the world's food—before their stupid puppets wake up to the game of suicide they are being made to play. Every other country in the world to-day is calling upon the Anglo-Saxon ragged-trousered philanthropists to begin, for very shame, to think—and act. How low British Labour, with its imbecile jingo parliamentarism and middle-class inobbery, has sunk in the eyes of those whose ally and example it should have been is illustrated by the reply of the Italian Socialist Party to an invitation from the French Socialist party to a conference on the "peace" situation, to which the British Labour party was also to be invited. The Italian party accepted provided the British party were excluded! Mother of Parliaments! Why, on so acute a question of the day as the attack on Petrograd (including the recent British recognition of the barbarous counter-revolutionary Government of Finland in consideration of the latter assisting the British expedition), Mr. Bonar Law can safely refuse to promise even to notify the House of Commons before embarking on such attack—and Parliament acquiesces, the expedition goes on, the troops and munitions are loaded up, the Labour "Opposition" is impotent! So credulous and creepy has the B.P. become with war "shellshock" that Reuter can now afford to hold up to its silly execration a "plot" in Canada to bring about, not even a violent coup d'etat, but "One Big Union" which shall secure to its leaders (sic) the control of the whole world: as if such control, not indeed by leaders, but by all the workers, were not the time-honoured objective of the whole Labour Movement, just as its recognised method is the organisation, education and agitation of that "disaffection" against capitalism which our defeated Public Welfare (!) Bill sought to suppress! But it seems you have only got to tell British Dubb that such ideas are "not the thing," and he will foam at the mouth for you, break up meetings to your heart's content, and gladly enlist against. your enemies. Yes, not a man in the House of Commons dared avow himself a Bolshevile! It used to be said that a Frenchman's life was dominated by fear of ridicule. We are afraid it may still be said that a British Labour M.P., dare not face the frown or sneer of a lord. While the Swiss and Norwegian Socialist parties, like the Italian, have affiliated to the Moscow International, your British workers' parties are still fiddling about with Berne Conferences, Labour Charters, Fourteen Points and President Wilson, still "awaiting" the "further information" with which their own Socialist papers are stuffed full if they would only read them, still "reserving judgment" as to the propriety of fighting working class Russia on behalf of Koltchak, Churchill and Cd, still passive in face of that crowning infamy of England's history, and blowing brass bands as their fellow workers steam off to Archangel: satisfied, so. long as their country's capitalists reign supreme in the world, themselves to draggle at the tail-end of the Labour movement, the supremacy in which has passed to their "enemies." How-long, O Lord?

Bitter it is to abuse the workers of your own "mother country"; but bitterer is the world's disappointment at their failure so far to exercise their power and opportunity, such as no other country's workers can command at this juncture, on behalf of the world movement. And yet who are we in South Africa to cast a stone? Canada indeed, now pioneer in the Anglo-Saxon revolution, may reproach Britain-for hauging back in her support; Australia, though responsible for that Imperial clown, Mr. Hughes, may well retort to Havelock Wilson's maritime dictatorship by holding up both mercantile and naval shipping on her coasts; but this country? Beyond even the oppression of the Japanese proletariat is the greater enslavement of our own, whose every effort, whether at better wages or housing, education, equal justice, franchise, freedom from passes, freedom even to organise or io ventilate their grievances or consult white fellow workers about them, is met not merely with studied contempt but with wholesale arrest and Cossack brutality! Have we yet even begun to earn the name of a Labour movement?

Yet the great bells of the Revolution are bidding us too awaken from our peddling with white Industrial Boards and Municipal Budgets to agitate, educate and organise with the single aim of joining here and now in the great fight, linking up as allies of the militant workers of Russia, Hungary and Italy; of at least catching up our comrades in Canada and Australia; of even helping, perhaps, to stimulate our fellow workers in Britain, with whom above all just now rests the Yes or No of the world's future, to charge at last into the thick of the fray and carry through to victory the banner of the Workers' Commonwealth.

The Cotton Crisis and Asiatic Compititien.

The strike of cotton operatives in Lancashire is not unconnected with the appalling labour conditions in the East, which is increasingly bidding for the world's cotton and other textile markets. Here are some examples: Children under the Indian Factory Act may be employed from nine years of age and inspractice often go to work earlier. Women work night shifts of twelve hours and in the Japanese silk mills are indentured and compounded for periods of three years, and are entirely at the mercy of the employer. The wages vary from 73d. to 103d. for men and for women 6d. to 7d. per day; hours, 15 to

In India the conditions are similar. Hours range from 13 to 15; wages, men, 10d.; women, 7d.; and children between 9 and 14, 23d. per day.

In China women silk weavers get 4d. to 6d. per day of eleven hours; coal miners get 33d. per day and 3d. worth of rice. Unskilled workers get the princely sum of 11d. per day in Sianfu. What chance have white workers of maintaining a reasonable standard of living and at the same time competing with people working under such conditions? The proposal of the Labour Party in England to raise the standard is impossible in any reasonable time. Long before this is accomplished if capitalism survives the European workers will have to submit to drastic reductions in their standard of living or go: out of business, i.e., starve.

The white workers of England and South Africa can think of no better remedy than to flog or shoot the cheap labourers!

The only remedy is Socialism, the abolition of capitalist production for profit and the substitution of production for use.

The Army and Trade Unionism.

SENSATIONAL SECRET DOCUMENT.

The following document has recently been issued to Commanding Officers in the British Army:--

(Form Number.) Secret and Urgent. (1) I am directed to request that, until further notice, you will furnish information on the headings hereunder as regards the troops in your Area, and that you will arrange for a report to reach this Office without fail not later than first post each Thursday morning.

(a) Will troops in various areas respond to orders for assistance to preserve the public peace;

(b) Will they assist in strike breaking;

(c) Will they parade for draft to overseas, especially to Russia;

(d) What has been the effect of Army Order XIV. of 1919 on the men; do they con-'sider the policy of dividing the Army into the classes of demobilisables and non-demobilisables a sound one, and, if so, do they think that the line of cleavago has been equitably fixed; is there any dissatisfaction with either the principles or the details of that order; and, if so, what are your recommendations?

(e) Any other information or suggestions. (2) You will please give your own views for the information of the General Officer Commanding---

(3) You will, of course, understand that any material change in a situation and any cases of disorder or indiscipline are to be reported at once....

(5) I am to add that the above is required with a view to the ostablishment of an efficient Intelligence Service, whereby the Army Council can keep its finger on the pulse of the troups, and that the information desired is required for the information of the Secretary of State.

For ———— Command.

1919. To Station Commander,, No. Area ----

Will you please let me have the following information for the C.M.A. --- Area as speedily as possible with regard to the Units on the Station under your command—

(a) Whether there is any growth of Trade Unionism among them;

(b) The effect outside Trade Unions have on them: (c) Whether any agitation from internal or

external sources is affecting them:

(d) Whether any Soldiers' Councils have been formed;

(e) Whether any demobilisation troubles are occurring, and if so (i.) what troops are demonstrating, (ii.) the numbers involved, (ii...) what their grievances are, (iv.) what has been done.

The War Office states that these questions had no reference to the employment of the military in relation to strikes in general, but were designed to meet the special circumstauces created by the threatened strike of railwaymen.

They were made in pursuance of the policy announced by the Prime Minister that the Government was prepared to use! "the whole might of the nation" with a view to safeguarding the public interest.

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Disaffection ''-mongers.

The American Negro magazine, "The Messenger," for February, publishes the following article, which is denounced by American employers as "fomenting discord among. Negroes":—

all have one common interest, viz., the getting of more wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions. Black and white workers should combine for no other reason than that for which individual workers should combine, viz., to increase their bargaining power, which will enable them to get their demands.

"Second, the history of the Labour movement in America proves that the employing class recognises no race lines. They will exploit a white man as readily as a black man. They will exploit women as readily as men. They will even go to the extent of coining the labour, blood and suffering of children into dollars. The introduction of women and children into the factories proves that capitalists are only concerned with profits, and that they will exploit any race or class in order to make profits, whether they be black or white men, black or white women, black or white children.

"Third, it is apparent that every Negro worker or non-union man is a potential scab upon white union men and black union men.

"Fourth, self-interest is the only principle upon which individuals or groups will act if they are sane. Thus it is idle and vain to hope or expect Negro workers out of work, and who receive less wages when at work than white workers, to refuse to scab upon white workers when an opportunity presents itself.

"Men will always seek to improve their, conditions. When coloured workers, as scabs, accept the wages against which white workers strike, they (the Negro workers) have definitely improved their conditions. That is the only reason why coloured workers scab upon white workers, or why non-union white men scab upon white union men.

"Fifth, if the employers can keep the white and black dogs on account of race prejudice fighting over a bone, the yellow capitalist dog will get away with the bone—the bone of profits. No union man's standard of living is safe so long as there is a group of men or women who may be used as scabs and whose standard of living is lower.

"The combination of black and white workers will be a powerful lesson to the capitalists of the solidarity of Labour. It will show that Labour, black and white, is conscious of its interests and power. This will prove that unions are not based upon race lines, but upon class lines. This will serve to convert a class of workers, which has been used by the capitalist class to defeat Organised Labour, into an ardent, class-conscious, intelli-

gent militant group.

"The Advisory Board of the National Association for the Promotion of Labour Unionism among Negroes includes: Joseph D. Cannon-Organiser of the United Mine and Smelter Workers of America; Charles W. Ervin-Editor of the New York 'Call'; Julius Gerber-Secretary of the New York Socialist Local and member of the Metal Workers! Union; Edward F. Cassidy—formerly business manager of the Big Six Typographical Union; Morris Linquit—well-known Labour and Socialist lawyer, scholar, author and speaker; Jacob Panken-Socialist Judge of the Municipal Court of New York and Labour leader and lawyer: James H. Mourer-President of the Pomentohnia State Pederation of Labour; Joseph Schlossberg-Secretary of the Amaigamated Clothing Workers of America; and Rose Schneiderman-President of the Women's Trade Union League of America.

Philip Randolph, the secretary-treasurer, are young coloured men with modern training in political science, well known as uncompromising radicals and students of the Labour problem.

"The emblem of the association is a black hand clasping a white hand, with the words, Black and White Workers, Unite."

-Another article in "The Messenger" says:

-"We want a patriotism represented by a flag so red that it symbolises truly the oueness of blood running through each one of our veins. . . We want no black or white patriotism which demands separate camps, separate ships and separate oceans to travel on. What we want is a patriotism of liberty, justice and joy."

That the capitalists of America know no colour bar is seen by the following facts, which were developed in a survey of two typical North Carolina counties, where 487 families were visited, 129 Negro, and the rest native white of native born American parentage.

In one-fourth of the homes there were five to more persons to every sleeping room. Instances are by no means rare where as many as ten persons were found in a single room. This did not occur in a community of foreigners or in a city slum or among the children of drunkards. Only one-fourth of one per cent. of the people of the State are of foreign birth. Ninety-five per cent. live in the country or in towns of 4,000 or less. The State has been dry since 1909.

One-fourth of all the children under fourteen years of age employed in manufacturing and mechanical establishments in the United States are in the State of North Carolina. The third largest number of all the children between 14 and 16 years of age working more than eight hours a day are in the same State. Twenty per cent. of the total wage earners employed in canning and preserving are under 16; 23 per cent. of all the persons employed in cotton mills are between 12 and 15 years of age; 41 per cent. of all employed in silk mills are under 16; 28 per cent. of all employed in knitting mills are under 16.

Two-thirds of the white children and three-fourths of the Negro children from five to fifteen years of age in the country districts help in the fields, cultivating and harvesting the crops. In the more remote backwoods district nine-tenths of the children are so engaged. Many were found working from sun to sun. The reason for this is that child labour is frequently cheaper than machine labour. One father of eight children said that he "did not buy a corn planter because he already had eight."

Between the ages of ten and twenty, from one-tenth to one-third of the children were unable to read or write, although the law makes attendance at school compulsory.—"The Public."

Italy Awakening.

Apropos of the latest news from Italy, which indicates a growing discontent amongst the workers, the following information from a

comrade is interesting.

On 15th April last the authorities smashed the doors, windows, offices and all the machinery and plant of the great Italian Socialist paper, "Avanti." Other premises and machinery were secured, and the paper was reissued on May 1st; 326,000 May Day copies were issued, and that was inadequate to supply the demand. The proletariat of France, Switzerland and elsewhere, as well as Italy itself held thousands of protest meetings and collected £8,000 up to May 9th. Workers levied themselves in some districts a day's pay towards the funds. One small district alone contributed 38,000 lire—£1,500. The paper is published daily as before the raid in Milan, Turin and Rome.

Through American correspondents in Paris Lenin's terms to the Allies for the withdrawal of their troops and the resumption of trade have become public property. They are:

(1) Cessation of all hostilities on all fronts.
(2) Withdrawal of Bolshovik troops from Russian Border States.

(3) The right of any part of Russia to choose between the Soviet regime and any other.

(4) The cessation of official propaganda.

The "Third International."

The invitation to the meeting of the Third International recently held at Moscow said inter alia:

The main problems that confront us to-day are:

(a) The socialisation of the large industries and their central organisations, the banks.

(b) The confiscation of the lands of the great landholders, and the socialisation of capitalist agricultural production.

(c) The monopolisation of trade.

(e) The socialisation of the great buildings and houses in the cities and on estates.

(f) The introduction of administration by the workers and the centralisation of economic functions in the hands of the organs of proletarian dictatorship.

The discriminating list of parties, etc., which it was suggested should participate included the following among others, a few being unwilling, or unwelcome, bed-fellows:—

The left Social Democratic party of Sweden; the Norwegian Social Democratic party; the group "Klassenkampen" (Denmark); the Communist party (Holland); the revolutionary elements of the Belgian Labour party; the groups and organisations and syndicalist movements in France, which in the main and on the whole, agree with Lorist; the Left Social Democrats of Switzerland; the Italian Socialist party; the Left element of the Spanish Socialist party; the Left elements of the Portuguese Socialist party; the British Socialist party, particularly that tendency represented by MacLean; Socialist Labour party (England); I.W.W. (England); I.W.W. of Great Britain; the revolutionary elements of the Irish labour organisations; the revolutionary elements of Shop Stewards (Great Britain); Socialist Labour party (America); the Left elements of the American Socialist party (the tendency represented by Debs and the Socialist Propsganda League); I.W.W. (America); I.W.W. (Australia); Workers' International Industrial Union (America).

(Note the omission of the I.L.P.).

The Soviet System.

THE SOVIET SECOND CHAMBER IN GERMANY.

The Soviet Congress at Berlin, in which the Majority Socialists were predominant, adopted a resolution defining the political functions of the Soviets on the following lines. It suggests a compromise between the Soviet and Parliamentary systems which may well be carried out in Germany, but there is at present no evidence that the scheme is accepted by the German Government as a whole:—

"As the system of Parliamentary representation only represents the people on the basis of numbers, a Socialist Democracy must strive to improve the system by taking into account the importance of the Labour element.

"A separate system of Labour representation must therefore exist, side by side with the representation of the population on the basis of numbers. There must be a Council of Production for each industry, as well as for agriculture and the liberal professions; this Council will nominate delegates to the Labour Chamber of the smallest economic unit, i.e., commune.

"Similar Councils of Production will be established in districts, in provinces, in states, and for the Republic as a whole. The last-named will be a Labour Chamber, side by side with the National Assembly. Legislation requires the assent of both these chambers, either of which may ask for a plebiscite to be taken. Economic laws are to be submitted in the first instance to the Labour Chamber.

"A special law will establish the basis of delegation to the Labour Chamber."

Upton Sinclair says he sent an article on Russia to a lot of American magazines, and they all returned it because it told the truth.

Mental Crooks.

Our present phase of society stands out prominently as more hypocritical and degrading, not only to the masses, but to the individual, than any form of civilisation we have had in the past. Under slavery or feudalism there was no pretence of the welfare of humanity being of any value except as something to be used for the benefit of the ruling class. There was no hypocrisy, but a direct exploitation of the slave or serf.

No doubt these former phases of society had their apologists, mental crooks in the pay of the ruling class, to distort the egoism of the masses and give them the mental kinks that could only see in the prevailing form of society the best possible, looking upon slavery or serfdom as inevitable, as always having been and always going to be. Yet these mental crooks were mere babes in the art of distortion compared with the past masters under our present phase of civilisation. These operate not only in the direct pay of the capitalist class but in many instances as Labour leaders receiving pay from the very people they gull with their fine phrases about "mutual interests to be adjusted by joint boards," "conciliation; boards," "conferences," and other paraphernalia to mislead the workers as to their real status as wage slaves in a system of society where those who, with the aid of the forces of the State, own and control the economic means of production thereby own and control the lives, of the wage slaves.

These kirelings of the capitalist class prostitute themselves to the lowest depths of infamy. When expressing their own thoughtout and reasoned conclusions as private individuals they will speak what they believe to be truth; yet in their capacity as hirelings they will not only spread all manner of frigid calculated lies on the same subject matter, but will base the vilest propaganda upon such lies, well knowing what dirty work they are engaged in. Your labour leaders again will openly proclaim their duality. As private individuals they have certain opinions arrived at by rational study of the industrial problems that are ever present in our system, yet they will shed these principles to follow the will-of-the-wisp of compromises, palliatives and reforms, and become mental crooks ministering to the obscured consciousness of the masses; well knowing the fallacy of their tactics as against the principles that should be held dear by every lover of truth.

The nature of our present form of seciety, more than any past phase, has lent itself to the production of these crooks. The so-called free labourer with political rights had to be kept in subjection. He had to be doped with the idea of being a free man whilst in reality he is the slave of the possessing class. "He that owns the job owns the man" is a grim reality to which the workers are only gradually getting their eyes opened. This ignorance of wage slavery has obscured the mental tision of the workers. Right well have these thental-crooks served their economic masters. As publicists, labour misleaders, economists, professors and teachers they have been adept et distorting everything, and produced the mental kinks that have kept the workers serrile and ignorant of their slave status.

J.M.G.

We understand that the Typo branches on the Rand are moving for better conditions. The hours to be reduced to 42 per week, and the pay of lino operators to be increased. The most interesting proposals are, however, the demand that May Day shall be a paid holiday and that foremen and "clickers" shall be elected by the "chapels" concerned. The election of the supervisors in any industry by those who have to work under their direction is of fundamental importance, and would revolutionise the status of the workers. We are glad the typos have seized on this idea, but it will not be conceded without a struggle as the tiger capitalism will fight as hard for one of his whiskers as he will for his whole body.

Progress of the Soviet Republic.

The following is an extract from a memorandum submitted on March 19 to the United States Government by Mr. L. A. Marten, with his credentials as official representative of the Russian Soviet Republic in the United States:-

Financial Reorganisation.

The Soviet Government-inherited a legacy of utter financial disruption created by four years of war and a year of revolution. This state of affairs, and also the necessity of coordinating the financial system of Russia with the new industrial and economic system represented by my Government, necessitated a complete reorganisation of the financial institutions on the basis of common property rights. This reorganisation, which aims at exchanging the money system for a system representing labour value, is still in the state of formation. Regardless thereof the Soviet Government, in as far as financial relations with and obligations to other countries are concerned, is prepared to offer modes of financial transactions adapted to the financial system of other countries.

Industrial Reconstruction.

The period preceding the establishment of the Soviet Government also badly disrupted the machinery for producing and distributing. The Soviet Government inaugurated a system of public control and ownership of industries. It has actually taken over many important branches of industry, and has established the control of the Supreme Council of National Economy over all industries. Great handicaps have been faced because of. the obstructionist methods of our opponents, lack of raw material and machinery, and because of the general confusion unavoidably coincident with the gigantic reorganisation of the industrial life. In spite of these handicaps, various branches of industry have been re-established, even with an increase of productive efficiency. Many branches of industry, however, have not so far been able to recuperate, because of lack of raw material and lack of machinery. The needs of such industries offer a wide field for business transactions with Russia by other countries.

Railroad Communication. The state of railroad communication at the outset of the Soviet regime was very unsatisfactory. The demands first of the demobilisation of the old army and later of military operations against counter-revolutionary attacks taxed the capacity of our railroads and left little opportunity for reconstruction work in this field. The Soviet Government during the past year, nevertheless, has managed to build and to complete the building of about 2,000 versts of new railroads. It has also paid great attention to the construction of other means of communication such as canals, roads, etc., and is at the present time planning work along these lines on a large scale, which will also offer great opportunities for foreign trade.

Education. The people of Russia, kept for hundreds of years away from sources of popular education, have made it one of the main tasks of my Government to re-organise the school system with the view of the greatest possible achievements in the field of popular education. In this respect extensive work has been carried on throughout Russia during the past year. Tens of thousands of new primary schools, vocational schools, workers' universities and lecture courses, especially courses offering agricultural instruction, have been established and maintained at great expense on the part of the Soviet Government, and the field of the educational activities has been extended to include the making of the treasures of the arts and sciences as easily accessible to the people as possible.

Exphange of Commodities. Russia is now prepared to purchase in the American market great quantities of the following commodities, commensurate with the needs of 150.000.000 people: Railroad supplies, agricultural implements and machin-

ery, factory machinery, tools, mining machinery and supplies, electrical supplies, printing machinery, textile manufactures, shoes and clothing, fats and canned meats, rubber goods, typewriters and office supplies, automobiles and trucks, chemicals, medical supplies, etc.

Russia is prepared to sell the following commodities: Flax, hemp, hides, bristles, furs, lumber, grain, platinum, metale and minerals.

The Russian Government in the event of trade being opened with the United States, is prepared to place at once in banks in Europe and America, gold to the amount of two hundred million dollars to cover the price of initial purchases.

Our Fellow Workers in Japan.

(From an article written in 1917 by Sen Katayama, the veteran Japanese Socialist.) Although the Japanese worker is a highly capable mechanic, has advanced rapidly in the sphere of technique, and is able to execute highly complicated work on modern machines. he is, politically and economically ,utterly powerless to resist the oppressive bureaucratic ruling class. The frequent strikes and labour uprisings are desperate revolts of the ill-treated workers against their oppressors, against unbearable conditions of labour and economic pressure under a steadily rising cost of the necessities of life.

The Japanese Government rests its power on a powerful army of well-organised bureaucratic followers, its officials numbering over

200,000 men.

About five years ago the Government increased the salaries of all civil officials and military officers by 25 per cent., and a new increase is now being contemplated.

In theory every able-bodied young man of 20 is conscripted into the army. In actual fact the youths of the rich are permitted to escape from this universal duty. Government othicials, students in the secondary schools, and young men whose financial status permits them to go abroad are exempted.

Still, the great powers that lie in the hands of the ruling class in Japan would finally arouse the resentment of the labouring masses were it not that the latter have been driven into submission by an incredible surplus of labour power in every field and industry, except in the cotton spinning industry, where cruelty and overwork rapidly thin out the ranks of the working girls. Japanese workers are not permitted to emigrate to foreign countries, not only to America, with which the Gentlemen's Agreement exists, but to other countries as well. There is, to be sure, a brutal immigration company which supplies contract labour to Brazil. Furthermore, the Japanese labourer is free to go to Manchuria or China. But here even our poorly-paid Japanese workers cannot compete with the cheap labour of the natives.

Simultaneously, to-day Japan is financing some of the Allies, notably China, Russia and

even England.

It is the irony of fate that Japan's imperfalism should join in the battle cry-to crush Prussian militarism to make the world safe for democracy—while its own system of militarism is crushing the Formosans, the Koreans, and even the Manchurians, as well as the Japanese workers themselves.

[And the next move may be to manipulate these workers to fight Western Powers for

control of China !-- Ed.]

The biggest strike in the history of Australia, and also the establishment of a Soviet Government in Bessarabia, appeared as cable items this week in the South African press. Simultaneously, newspapers containing the same news were received here by mail from Australia and from England respectively. Does that mean that the cable is just as slow as the mail? No: it means that certain kinds of news are withheld from us until it is impossible to withhold them any longer!

Fruits of Victory.

A South African lately arrived in England writes:-

England is in the most terrible state conceivable as a result of the war. I have not tasted butter, cheese, whisky or brandy since my agrival, nearly four weeks ago. Beer or stout can only be got as a favour and in very small quantities and very thin. There is no mutton'to be had. In the tea rooms they are rude if you ask for sugar with your tea, and insulting if you want more than half a lump. I now carry a little paper of sugar in my vest pocket to avoid rows. The profiteering here is the most cruel and ferocious I have over witnessed. The average Johannesburg Jew is a caricature of Christ by comparison with the ordinary trader here. Nobody wants to sell except at fiendish prices: one goes into shop as a suppliant. It takes half an hour to get to a 'phone or a 'bus or into a Tube. The place is disgracefully managed, and the English sheep stand things that a droughtweakened lot of Afrikander hamels would go to war over. I have to pay a year's rent for three months' occupation—£3 13s. 6d. per week for two rooms-and a kitchen---pre-war value and price about £50 per annum. The landlords laugh at the Government by refusing to let anything unfurnished—they are barred by law from increasing rents on unfurnished houses, so once a tenant goes they put in a few sticks, call it furnished and ask anything they like. Fish is kept up to double Johannesburg prices by the retailers, though there has been such a glut that ood sold at 1d. per lb. on the market, and a lot of fish was turned into manure. Then the inevitable kicking-out of the heroes from their homes has begun, and the "V.C.'s" are beginning to beg. A Colonel ("V.C.") has gone back into the Police force as a common plat-foot. The word "Revolution" is beginning to be heard a good deal—it only requires an honest "head to contrive, a heart to resolve and a hand to execute." People like Bortomley are the only thing the people have. In France the Government messed up the people on May Day; here they do it every day. The country is in a thorough state of discontent. People will never again work for the old sums.

Pietermaritzburg Notes.

On Monday, the 16th, a largely attended open air meeting, under the aegis of the Natal Shop Assistants' and Commercial Workers' Union, was held on the Market

Square, Pietermaritzburg.
The Organiser, Mr. Kinnings, spoke on the new Shop Hours Ordinance, and a motion was unanimously carried that shop assistants knock off work on Fridays at 5.30 p.m., Ordinance or no Ordinance. Messrs. Haynes and Cox spoke to the motion.

On Tuesday, the 17th, the Natal S.A. and C.W.U. held a public meeting in the Oddfellows' Hall to protest against the Public Welfare Act which was well attended. Messri. Kinnings, Cox, Strachan and Haynes spoke.

Mr. Kinnings made a rousing speech and called upon workers to "shed their blood in defence of whatever little liberty remained to them." Quoting Eugene Debs, he said: "From the top of my head to the sole of my feet I am Bolshevik," amid great applause. The "Natal Witness" came under the lash, and altogother the meeting was a most unusual one for "sleepy hollow." (The motions were carried unanimously.)

The Natal Shop Assistants' and Commercial Workers' Union-throwing open their ranks to all workers irrespective of sex, race or colour, is the most hopeful feature of pre-

sont day Natal.

JONAH.

A Soviet government was recently re-established at Omsk. Koltchak's government was compelled to flee, but established itself at Ekaterinenburg! This coup was accomplished by the Omsk workers without any help from European Russia and illustrates once again the strong desire and attachment of the Russian people for the Soviet form of government.

Cane Notes.

As you have probably seen in the daily press the charge against our three comrades in connection with the "Bolshevist" failed. and they have all been acquitted, the printer alone having been fined £2 for contravening some obscure section of an old Cape Act, in omitting to have his (the printer's) full name and address shown on the paper. If all be well the paper will again he for sale on Wednesday, and the streets of the Mother City of South Africa will again resound with the news-boys' cry "The Bolshevist," much to the disgust and annoyance of our friends, the capitalists.

During the "trial," which lasted three days, it became obvious to us that the authorities instituted the proceedings with the sole object of preventing the sale of the paper. 48 the particular offence for which we have been charged is quite common with all the leading printers and publishers, none of whom has ever been brought before the Court for this

It looks as if the above was only the beginning of the trouble, and the Cape guardians of law and order have set themselves against our Industrial Socialist League which, to quote the remark of the Minister of Justice, Mr. De Wet, in the House the other day, "the Government intends watching very carefully." The Censor refused to pass a certain leasset of our entitled: "What British Soldiers are dying for." It may be very peculiar but the fact of the matter is that since we have had the censor's verdict on this leastet we have been more than ever tempted to distribute it, and the Lord alone knows whether we shall be able to withstand this temptation, as our comrades are of the opinion that the Censor is a very good authority on what is harmful to his class, and a more flattering testimony regarding this publication was hardly anticipated.

Things are getting livelier down here. The Rev. Balmforth delivered a lecture recently in the City Hall on the subject "Ought we to go to war with Russia?" Knowing Mr. Balmforth's attitude to the war in general and to the Allied invasion of Russia in particular, the Industrial Socialist League undertook to organise (unefficially, of course) this meeting, which turned out a huge success, the hall being filled to overflowing. Strong resolutions were passed and the meeting finished with the "Red Flag" and the "I.S.Is. Marching Song." Poor Mr. Balmforth! He received a very nasty "telling off" from our local press, for "having been made the tool of the League." and "allowing his society" (the S.A. Peace and A.S. under the official. auspices of which the meeting was advertised) to be 'captured' by the Cape Town Bolsheviks.". Anyhow, we sold several pounds' worth of literature on that occasion and were amply rewarded for our troubles.

A prominent Unionist who was present at the lecture wished to move some amendment, but on seeing that he was hardly likely tofind a seconder to it amongst all those present, he suggested that as the hour was late, the Mayor should be approached to call a public meeting to discuss the subject of the Allied intervention in Russia, which suggestion was accepted unanimously. It is, of course, absurd to expect the Mayor to do it as he knows very well what a meeting of this nature would turn out to be.

A.Z.B.

The Clothing Workers' Industrial Union is holding a meeting at Vrededorp Bioscope Hall on Sunday week, July 6th, at 2 p.m., at which W. H. Andrews and C. B. Tyler will speak. All workers in the clothing industry, irrespective of race, creed or sex, are invited to attend.

The Government claims credit for keeping down (sic) the price of sugar-by the singular method of excluding Mauritius sugar from South Africa. But it has failed to keep down the price of rice, the staple food of "coolies" in Natal. There is a rice famine there, brought about by European and Indian wholesalers slike—no colour bar among profiteers

League Notes.

FREE SPEECH DEFENCE FUND. Already acknowledged, £98 11s. 9d. JAM, 10s. List 451: DI, 21s. List 51: WS, 2s. 6d.; AB, 2s.; HRG, 2s. 6d.List 330: 8, 10s.; Sympathisers (Durban), 5s. List. 51: 7s. 6d.; TW, 10s.; FH, 20s.; KCHF, 1s.; DHD, 5s.; AWSR, 5s.; JS, 2s. 6d.; MJ, 2s. 6d.; DEG, 2s.; TFS, 2s.

The Management Committee earnestly requests holders of subscription lists for this Fund to return same with money collected at the earliest possible moment as the calls on it are very considerable and urgent.

10,000 Shilling Fund. — The Committee charged with the management of this fund have books of 1s. stamps which can be obtained at the Office. It is considered necessary that the League should own its own printing plant and money is urgently needed for the purpose. The stamps constitute a convenient method of raising the funds but at the same time any sympathiser who is willing to donate larger amounts or supply money on loan is invited to communicate with the secretary at the Office of the League when he will be supplied with all necessary information.

Comrades are urged to take parcels of the "International" C.O.D: to sell at any convenient place and time. Having temporarily stopped our open air public meetings it is all the more essential that the literature should be distributed and the workers reached by that means.

The following pamphlets can now be obtained at the head office, C.W.O .:-Evolution of Industry, 8d., by McLaine. Trades Unionism at the Cross Roads, 8d., by

McLaine. Socalism and the Survival of the Fittest, 3d, by J. Connell.

Truth about Russia, 6d., by A. Ransome. The War after the War, 4d., by J. McLean. Wage-Labour and Capital, 6d., by Marx. Burning Question of Trades Unionism, 4d., by

Reform or Revolution, 4d., by De Leon. Socialism Made Easy, 6d., by Connolly. Value, Price and Profit, 9d., by Marx. Through Dictatorship to Democracy, 6d., by

Klara Zetkin. The Workers' Revolution in Russia, Dutch and English, 6d:

Industrial Unionism and the Mining Industry,

The People's Calendar, 1s. 6d., by Dora Monteffore.

Industrial Unionism, 6d., by E. I. Pratt. Socialist Song Book, with music, 1s. 8d.: Socialism and Evolution, 3d., by Aley, M.D. Communist Manifesto, 6d., by Marx and Engels.

Condemned from the Dock, 6d., by J. Me-

Postage, 1d. extra.

JEWISH-SPEAKING BRANCH SOCIAL.

A literary and musical evening will be held on Wednesday, July 9th, at Professor West's Academy. Tickets (1s. each) can be obtained at the Head Office, or from any member of the branch. Refreshments provided.

JOHANNESBURG BRANCH.

A general meeting of members will be held on Thursday, July 3rd, in Neppe's Buildings, at 8 p.m. There will be no study class that evening. Study class meets on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursdays in each month at the same place.

KIMBERLEY BRANCH.

This branch holds meetings every second and fourth Tuesday in the month.

This paper will be posted for four weeks only (a) to subscribers whose subscriptions have expired. from date of expi.; (b) to persons recommended as likely subscribers.

To ensure receipt of paper thereafter Postal Order for 5s., being one year's subscription post free, must be sent during the four weeks to the "International," Box 4179 Johannesburg.