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Russian Workmen Vindicate Marx.

The Russian Minister of Agriculture has told the Council of Workmen that the present situation cannot go on indefinitely. The Council of Workmen competes with the Duma for the direction of Russian society. The Council of Workmen has already won over the Duma in squashing the Constitutional Monarchy scheme. Whether it maintains its position and strenghens it depends on whether the material forces are ripe for Socialism in Russia.

Three clauses from Marx's statement of the Materialist Conception are worth reading in the light of Russian developments:—

New and higher social institutions are never established until the material conditions of life to support them have been prepared in the lap of the old society itself.

Therefore mankind never sets itself any tasks except those for which it has received the proper training.

If we examine closely, it will always be found that the conflict never arises except where the material conditions of its solution are already at hand, or at least are in process of growth.

The Duma is the engine of Capitalism. That is why the Council of Workmen operates outside it No sooner has the Duma won out against the Czar than it finds itself a waning power. The Council of Workmen has the soldiers on its side, and has swept the police out of existence. That is why what the Minister for Agriculture apologetically calls "excesses" have taken place; no doubt "despotic inroads on property" on the part of the Council of Workmen. The Council of Workmen is not concerned with "governing men," that is the odious job of the Capitalist State. It is concerned with "administering things," which as Engels shews is the sole concern of a Directing Authority in the Co-operative Commonwealth. In short, here we see "in the lap of the old society" the Socialist Commonwealth forming, the workers directing society as workers and not as voters.

The Russian workmen go by no rule in their revolution.

They act according to the necessities of the time. But their actions are undoubtedly enlightened, waste effort saved, wrong turnings escaped, by following the principles demonstrated by Marx.

The Council of Workmen is the Russian form of the Industrial Union. Whether it succeeds now or later, it has given the nudge to the whole workingclass movement of Europe as to the lines on which the Social Revolution can be made imminent. The Manchester Shop Stewards Organisation Committee is just a Council of Workmen. It has conducted a strike of 60,000 workers. It has told the Trade Union Executives to mind their own business, and the Gov-

ernment champions the Trade Unions in vain. It is the copy of the Clyde Workers Committee, and the Sheffield Shop Stewards Committee, and no doubt of others forming in every industrial centre in Britain

When these form a National Committee there you have a British Council of Workmen dictating terms to Parliament, and giving it a temporary licence to carry on until the people's minds are ready for its complete abolition and with it the Capitalist State and all its engines of tyranny. Oh for eyes to see beneath the present holocaust. Soon, very soon, this rusty shell of Capitalism will burst and man emerges into perfect day. Edward Carpenter has caught its gleam; it is Marx rhapsodized.

"At last, after centuries, when the tension and strain of the old society can go no further, and ruin on every side seems impending, Behold! behind and beneath it all, in dim prefigurement, yet clear and not to be mistaken—the Outline and Draft of the new order."

Comrade Blake, of Pretoria, gave the Capitalist Press a nasty dig the other day when it sought information regarding the Building Trades Dispute in Pretoria. He told them straight that the Press lied in 1914 to break up the workers' organisation, and would therefore refuse to give them any information. There has been too much spying within the movement in the past on the part of so-called Labour reporters, who join up for the purpose of pegging a claim in Labour journalism. It is to be hoped that Comrade Blake's action will become the rule. If the workers cannot get a Press of their own, they will use the Capitalist Press only if the Capitalist Press can use them in return.

Provincial Council Elections.

Allocation of Candidates.

The Management Committee of the League has decided, after careful consideration to put up two candidates for the forthcoming Provincial Elections. Comrade W. H. Andrews will contest the Benoni division, and Comrade Bunting the Commissioner Street division.

The League has reason to be grateful to our Comrades Andrews and Bunting for allowing their names to go forward, and consenting to fight for the principles of International Socialism at the present time. No time should be lost in getting into the fight. Comrades should take subscription lists, and an Election Fund will be opened in "The International" to meet the heavy expense of flooding these areas with Socialist and Ani-War literature. Electors should be tackled and their votes asked, not so much for men, as for the principles which the men have stood out for.

Signs of world wide awakening of the workers are abundantly growing. Even the British workers in their own way are responding and are striking masses of terror into the

To-day uneasy lies the head of the ruling class of Europe. Their robber system shews signs of universal crumbling. Shall we then in South Africa lag behind? Let us act our part, and be worthy of the great International by holding aloft the Red Flag in the present contest.

There is a likelihood of a couple of Labour Members being unopposed. The I.S.L. undertakes to get out of business as soon as the Capitalist Parties do not oppose us.