

SOCIALIST APPEAL

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DOCKERS ! FOR UNITY IN ACTION !

Tobacco Profits : Make the Rich Pay !

THE 50% INCREASE ON TOBACCO PRICES HAS AROUSED WIDESPREAD AND JUSTIFIED RESENTMENT AMONG THE WORKERS. WHILE DALTON REFUSES TO CONSIDER ANY MEASURE TO BRING THE COST OF TOBACCO MORE WITHIN THE REACH OF THE WORKERS' INCOME, HE TAKES NO ACTION AGAINST THE BIG TOBACCO COMBINES WHO MAKE MILLIONS OF POUNDS IN PROFITS EACH YEAR.

In 1946, five of the big capitalist monopolies in Britain made a total profit between them of £31,992,934. Meanwhile, the crushing taxation increase on tobacco imposed by the Labour Government's Budget, will result, says Dalton, in decreasing consumption and enable Britain to cut down tobacco imports from the U.S., thus saving approximately 30,000,000 dollars or £7,500,000.

But the burden of this saving is not to be borne by the wealthy tobacco combines; it is to be borne by the consumer. The Government has rejected rationing of tobacco as a means of securing equal distribution and has chosen, instead, to raise the cost of cigarettes and tobacco to a prohibitive price for the working class. This is the worst form of rationing—rationing by the pocket.

For the tobacco monopolies, the year 1946 has proven very profitable. The Imperial Tobacco Co. made a record profit of £18,300,000 in 1946, as compared with £16,354,345 in 1945. The market value of this Company's £1 Ordinary shares now stands at approximately £7 0s. 0d. The recent dividend to its Ordinary stockholders was 7/- for each £1 of Ordinary stock held, so that a shareholder who held £500 of Ordinary stock in the Company, would receive as unearned income £175! Truly capitalism is parasitical!

In other combines, similar big jumps in profits are reported. The British American Tobacco Company made a profit in 1946 of £9,148,357, nearly £2,000,000 more than in 1945. Its shareholders, too, received good dividends.

also jumped in 1946, to £2,859,325 as compared with £2,817,337 in 1945.

Gallaher Ltd., had a net profit in 1946 of £1,048,363, which pleased its parasitical shareholders, of course!

Another tobacco combine which had a good year in 1946 is Godfrey Phillips Ltd., whose profits rose from £543,559 in 1945 to £634,889 in 1946.

While the Labour Government refuses to take action against such capitalist profiteering, it can be safely said that 1947 will be just as lucrative for these big capitalist tobacco combines, and their shareholders. The much boosted profits-tax of Dalton's Budget will make no difference to the capitalists who will continue to reap a rich harvest of profits as long as the Labour Government continues to carry on in the same methods of Tory budgeting, methods which serve the interests and profits of the capitalist class.

What the organised working class must demand of the Labour Government is a policy that will place the burdens of the budget and of post-war reconstruction on the backs of those who can bear it most—the profiteering capitalist combines and the wealthy parasites.

MAKE THE RICH PAY !

must be the demand of the organised workers to the Labour leaders. Demand that they appropriate the profits of the rich tobacco monopolies and place the industry under the control and operation of the working class. Only such measures will ensure the fair and equal distribution and joining of available tobacco

The Only Language The Bosses Understand

BY ROY TEARSE

THE SPLENDID ACTION OF SOLIDARITY OF THE 10,000 STEVEDORES, DOCKERS, LIGHTERMEN AND WATERMEN IN SUPPORT OF THE 3,800 GLASGOW DOCKERS WAS THE CORRECT ANSWER TO THE EFFORTS OF THE EMPLOYERS AND THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT TO FORCE THE GLASGOW MEN TO THEIR KNEES IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE DISMISSAL OF 500 WORKERS.

The employers and the Minister of Labour wished to deal with the dockers one port at a time. First they would crush the resistance of Glasgow dockers, and then would come the turn of London, Liverpool and the others.

While the Government and the employers thought they only had the Glasgow dockers to deal with, they made no effort to reach an agreement with the strikers. They were content to use troops to break the strike in Glasgow and try and starve the dockers into submission.

Only after the solidarity action by the London workers, did the Minister of Labour make a statement offering to reinstate those of the 500 dismissed men (approximately half) who had been in the industry prior to 1939 and to re-employ the others on a casual basis, and immediately institute an inquiry into the Port's position. Concerted action is the only language the employers and Labour leaders understand.

Although this did not meet the original demands of the Glasgow dockers, it was a substantial climb-down from the Government's original attitude.

Government's Disregard For Dockers Welfare

When the London men came out the Press immediately launched a campaign on the basis of food ships being held up, tomatoes going rotten on the quayside, etc. This campaign was summed up in a "Daily Mail" editorial on 28th April. It stated: "the next following effect may be to stop supplies

the declared policy of the bosses, who argue that 14,000 of the 70,000 employed in the industry must be dispensed with in order that the employers may save £8,000,000 per year.

Role Of Deakin And Donovan

Deakin and Donovan, as usual, ably assisted the Government and the employers in breaking down the resistance of the dockers. The cry of "Constitutional procedure" was played like a cracked gramophone record. Living on fat salaries and large expense accounts, these bureaucrats have long forgotten what it is like to exist as

(Continued on page 4.)



MARX ENGELS LENIN TROTSKY

MAY DAY IS INTERNATIONAL

A Call to the Workers of Britain and the World

May Day is a day of international solidarity. It is the day on which the workers of the world dedicate themselves to the struggle against capitalism and all it represents, to the struggle for the Socialist tomorrow. On May Day, the marching feet of the workers of all lands strike terror into the hearts of the boss class, who see in the ordered ranks, the herald of their own doom. To the workers May Day brings fresh hope and renewed strength for the battles that lie ahead.

On this May Day of 1947 the workers of Britain and of the world can take stock of the heritage which capitalism has left them.

It is two years since the second imperialist war ended, and today the price which has to be paid for the six years of bloody slaughter is plain for all to see. And it is the workers who are paying the price. The wordy promises of the imperialist statesmen are forgotten. The glorious reign of peace which they promised recedes further and further into the background. Indeed, every gathering of the "Big Four" or their deputies resembles more a manoeuvring exercise for the next great war than a peace conference.

Only two years after the end of hostilities—and already the victors are at each other's throats in the mad scramble to divide up the world in their own selfish interests. Tommy Atkins, G.I. Joe and Ivan Ivanovitch, are forgotten as their rulers prepare for World War III.

Only the working class can stop the mad rush to another war—by putting an end to the capitalist system which is the cause of war! The struggle for Socialism is the only effective struggle for an enduring Peace!

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combines and the wealthy parasites. **MAKE THE RICH PAY!** must be the demand of the organised workers to the Labour leaders. Demand that they appropriate the profits of the rich tobacco monopolies and place the industry under the control and operation of the working class. Only such measures will ensure the fair and equal distribution and rationing of available tobacco supplies.

Land Owner Leaves £60 Million

BY HARRY ANDREWS

When the Marquis of Bute died last week he left a fortune estimated at £60,000,000. By way of contrast 38½ millions of Britain's population have an income below £5 a week.

At the present time, some two million families in the British Isles haven't got a home of their own. But the Marquis from the Isle of Bute—who owned some 117,000 acres of land—had "seats" at Cardiff Castle, Dumfries House, Cumnock, Ayrshire, Old Place of Mochrum, Wigtownshire, and Guadacorte, San Roque, Spain. In 1938 he sold half of Cardiff, estimated at £30,000,000. Included in this deal were 20,000 houses, 1,000 shops, 250 pubs, and a few theatres and cinemas.



MARQUIS OF BUTE

Aneurin Bevan should call in at Cardiff Castle, one of the "seats" of the late Marquis. He might get some tips on how to overcome the timber shortage which is holding up the housing programme. For Cardiff Castle contains a gold-plated staircase

The deceased multi-millionaire was devoutly religious. In his house in Rothesay is a private altar built at a cost of £50,000. It would appear that his monetary donations to the Catholic Church were of no mean magnitude, for he was honoured with the Order of the Golden Spur. He was the only British holder of this papal Order which cannot be held by more than 100 people at the same time.

It will be of interest to Christian miners to note that the Golden Spur is conferred on those who have "promoted the cause of Christianity and valiantly defended the Church." Before the coal rights were so dearly bought by the State the Marquis drew £117,000 in royalties. This he sucked from the blood and misery of all sections of the toilers—in order, no doubt, to be better able to "promote the cause of Christianity"!

This man was a parasite, living on society and contributing nothing to the production of the wealth which he consumed. His family who succeed to this fabulous fortune occupy a like role. They, together with a restricted clique of landowning and industrialist families, own the major part of this nation's wealth (remember only 7½ millions have an income exceeding a fiver a week), and thereby constitute the ruling class of this

Government Welfare For Dockers

When the London men came to the Press immediately launched a campaign on the basis of food supplies being held up, tomatoes going rotten on the quayside, etc. This "campaign" was summed up in a "Daily Mail" editorial on 28th April. It stated: "the next following effect may be to stop supplies from reaching the shops; to add another weight of disappointment and deprivation to the harassed housewives in the queues. Do the strikers ever think of them? Do they regret the misery they must cause? Or do they simply say, 'If we make enough trouble we shall win.'"

Isaacs, Minister of Labour, crowned this campaign of villification against the strikers by a statement in Parliament on Tuesday, April 29th, that they "showed a complete disregard of the national well-being." As was to be expected, this was roundly cheered by the Tories.

If Isaacs had been seriously concerned about the "national well-being" and the prompt and efficient handling of food supplies, the solution had been in his hands for five weeks. The whole question could have been settled at a moment's notice by granting the Glasgow dockers demands: immediate reinstatement of the 500 men and an inquiry into the position at the port. But Isaacs did not want to act against the employers.



POTATOES PLOUGHED UNDER

Last year, because it was bound by law to support the price of potatoes at a level profitable for farmers, the U.S. Government spent \$80,000,000 to buy part of 1946's bumper crop. In January of this year, the U.S. Government issued an order to dump 20,000,000 bushels of potatoes. The picture above shows the surplus potatoes from the American Red River Valley Area, spread over a field near Grand Forks, North Dakota, U.S.A., to be used as fertiliser. This criminal waste is taking place at a time when the peoples of India, China, Germany and elsewhere are starving. But the food is not exported because it would not be profitable: the starving countries could not pay for the cost of dehydration, refrigeration or shipping. Yet the U.S. Government spent £20,000,000 for the destruction of these potatoes! Such is the system of capitalism.

The Threat of Germ Warfare

By GRACE CARLSON

U.S.A., New York—

A few weeks ago, American and British troops rounded up a number of "Nazi diehards" who had been working underground in occupied Germany. Horrified journalists told the world that the Nazi underground workers had been developing weapons of germ warfare for use in a future war.

That the labour-hating, race-baiting Nazis are cruel and sadistic does not come under the heading of "news." That they were willing to descend to the inhuman depths of germ warfare is not very surprising. But are the American imperialists any better on this score?

In a calm report, entitled 'Nazi Try At Germ Warfare,' which appears in the Mar. 8 Science News Letter, there is some straight talk on this subject:

"Nazi scientists were working on biological warfare during the war . . . The Nazi bacteriologists believed that the only way the Nazis could conquer the United States would have been by a three-pronged germ attack against man, domestic animals and food plants. They realized that they were considerably behind the Americans in development of germ warfare . . . The underground attempt to develop germ warfare probably was an effort to continue the work begun during the war."

The Science News Letter article goes on to demonstrate that the United States is far in the lead in germ warfare. In November, 1942, the Chemical Warfare Service of the Army undertook a large-scale biological warfare programme. The main laboratory for this super-secret project was located at Camp Detrick, Md. with field-testing stations in Mississippi, Utah and Indiana.

Some 4,000 men and women were employed in these laboratories. George W. Merck, New Jersey drug manufacturer, was the government's special consultant on biological warfare.

Very little information has been given out about America's germ-research project, but it is assumed that a wide variety of death-bearing agents were investigated. Biological warfare might conceivably include attacking enemy troops or populations with such diseases as: influenza, infantile paralysis, typhoid fever, malaria, bubonic plague.

A little over a year ago, another Science News Letter writer, Frank Thone, warned against the dangers of biological warfare in these solemn words (Jan. 12, 1946):

"The worst horror about biological warfare is that once loosed it cannot be brought under control again. Other forms of war's destructiveness are self-limiting; they run their course and stop. Not so, however, with the germs of disease. We must face the fact that if one nation launches such uncontrollable agencies of harm against its neighbour, the war will never stop.

"Biological warfare can be terribly devastating. But it is a two-edged weapon, not to be lightly unsheathed."

It is American imperialism which threatens the world with this terrible sword!

the victors are at each other's throats in the mad scramble to divide up the world in their own selfish interests. Tommy Atkins, G.I. Joe and Ivan Ivanovitch, are forgotten as their rulers prepare for World War III.

Only the working class can stop the mad rush to another war—by putting an end to the capitalist system which is the cause of war! The struggle for Socialism is the only effective struggle for an enduring Peace!

In the midst of the war Roosevelt and Churchill the representatives of American and British imperialism met in mid-ocean and issued the "Atlantic Charter" to the world. Today we can see that the "Atlantic Charter" was a pack of lies, designed to deceive the workers in order to enlist their support for the imperialist robber war.

A Hand of Comradeship to our German Class Brothers

The "Atlantic Charter" promised "Freedom from Want". But today hunger unparalleled is stalking the towns and villages of Europe and Asia. Amidst the shattered ruins of the great German cities, working class children are dying in their hundreds for want of food. In the bitter winter of 1947, they walked the streets unshod and ill-clothed. Their roofless dwellings did little to keep out the wind, the rain and the snow. As in Germany, so in Italy and other parts of war-torn Europe.

May Day is the day of the Brotherhood of the Workers of All Lands. On this May Day, 1947, the workers of Britain must recall the aid given them by the miners of the Ruhr during the General Strike of 1926. They must stretch out the hand of comradeship and fraternity to their class brothers in Germany and in Europe. With the German, the French, the Italian workers, with the workers of all Europe we will fight to smash the capitalist system responsible for all this misery. Together we will build the better, the Socialist World!

The "Atlantic Charter" promised "Freedom from Fear." Stark terror grips the hearts of the people as they see their rulers preparing anew to plunge the world into war. Hovering over their war-shattered homes is the fate of Hiroshima. In Germany, Austria, Japan and Korea, the Armies of Occupation are already preparing the next battlegrounds. The inhabitants of the defeated countries are subjected to a reign of terror.

Food is used, not to relieve the prevailing famine, but as a political weapon, in the interests of the occupation authorities.

Hands off Europe and Asia! Demand the immediate withdrawal of all occupation troops! Let the shipment and distribution of food and supplies be supervised and controlled by the organized Labour movement of Britain. America and the countries concerned!

Help the Greek Workers Instead of the Reaction

All over the world the forces of reaction are gathering to crush the rising army of labour. In Greece, the intervention, first of Britain and now of America has unleashed a bloody campaign of extermination against the working class and its organizations. British troops maintain

(Continued on Page 4.)



The 'ASH' STRIKE

Nearly 2,000 L.N.E.R. Goods and Cartage workers went on strike last month against the appointment of Mr. Ash to be Chief Cartage Clerk at the Bishopsgate depot. They struck because Mr. Ash was a blackleg in the 1926 General Strike.

The management had been informed months in advance that if this individual was placed in a position of authority over the workers whom he had helped to defeat in 1926, then there would be trouble. Despite this, his appointment was confirmed.

The strike lasted a week and involved the Bishopsgate, Liverpool Street, Marylebone, Ilford, Walthamstow and Stepney depots. Sympathy extended throughout all the other depots in London and there is no doubt the movement could easily have spread. The morale of the strikers was high. After all, for 21 years they had waited to turn the tables on such anti-working class elements as Mr. Ash.

The N.U.R., Head Office, as is usual today, gave the strike no backing and eventually got the men back to work. But the fester remains. At Bishopsgate, Mr. Ash is in charge—but the men's representatives ignore him.

This strike raises a most important question for the Labour movement—especially for the workers in nationalised industries. **Who shall appoint the managers?** Shall they be appointed from above, or shall the workers elect them?

During the "Ash" strike, the L.N.E.R. stated that the strike was a "monstrous in-



Industrial Notes



TRAM & BUS WORKERS ON MOVE

Liverpool Meeting With T.U. Officials BY A. W. DEANE

More than one thousand Tram and Bus workers of the Liverpool Passenger Transport attended a stormy meeting at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on Monday, 21st April, 1947. This meeting was called to discuss the grievance of the men over the Transport management's interpretation of the forty-four hour week.

The Schedules are still based on the forty-eight hour week, yet the management refuse to pay the four hours' overtime involved on the grounds that the schedules involve between forty-one and forty-three hours' actual work. The workers now have to work the same hours as previously for less pay than before! This is the way in which the transport bosses, with the connivance of the T.U. officials, turn the workers' forty-four hour week victory into defeat.

It should be noted that the management never raised this objection in the time of the forty-eight hour week, although precisely the same principle was involved; in fact, the schedules were then drawn up by the transport bosses to suit their own ends.

This attack upon the transport workers' conditions coincides with the Passenger Transport Committee's decision to cut expenditure. It means that instead of cutting down the excessive salaries of the top officials of the Department, who receive up to £3,000 a year, they are attempting to push the burden onto the workers to whom the loss of ten shillings per week is a serious matter.

T.U. Officials Over-Ride Rank and File

At the meeting, the T.U. officials, headed by Bro. Dickie of the T.G.W.U. and Bro. Horan of the M. & G.W.U., reported that the negotiations between them and the management had failed and that the management had closed the door on future negotiations. This announcement called forth a heated discussion from the floor.

The Busmen asked their Secretary, Bro. Milton, what had happened to their resolution which had been passed unanimously at their last Branch meeting. Bro. Milton reported that he had put the resolution before the Unions' Unifying Committee (uniting both unions for common action). He then read the resolution to the meeting.

This resolution demanded that if the management refused to negotiate, they should be given twenty-four hours notice of intention to strike. When Bro. Milton said that he supported this resolution he was given a sharp rap over the knuckles by Bros. Dickie and Horan, and was not allowed to get his feet under the Busmen's

A second resolution was moved by a small group of Tram workers which advocated that they should work to the "rule book". (This is tantamount to a "go slow" strike). But even this resolution was not allowed to be voted on. It was clear that Bros. Dickie and Horan had made up their minds that their own resolution was the only one that was going to be put to the vote, and was in fact going to be carried.

The resolution put forward by these two bureaucrats stated that instead of strike action, the transport workers demand that the Transport Committee re-open negotiations. It was greeted with cries of "Fix a time limit" from the workers who wished to commence action if the demand was not met within a reasonable time. These cries went unheeded by the T.U. officials.

An interesting illustration of Trade Union officials' idea of democracy was given when self-styled "level-headed" Bro. Dickie was howled down during the

summing up (no less than three times) and his fellow bureaucrats appealed to the workers with cries of "Let's have democracy—let Bro. Dickie finish"!! Yet, when it was a question of the two resolutions put forward by the workers or even of the opposition vote to their own resolution, these "democrats" refused to listen to the wishes of the workers and, declared the meeting closed. They left the platform abruptly amid great cries of indignation and disgust.

Transport Workers! Prepare For The Struggle!

Faced with a situation which robs them of a substantial portion of their weekly wage, the Liverpool Transport Workers will have to take action, sooner or later, to protect their rights and conditions.

The events which occurred at the meeting at St. George's Hall have shown that instead of leading them in the struggle against the Transport Bosses, the T.U. officials are determined that the struggle shall not take place, or, if it should take place it will do so under conditions which will force the workers to defeat. Therefore, let the Tram and Bus men beware of treachery from their own leaders. Instead of relying upon men who are not with them heart and soul, let them follow the example of the

Dockers, who wrote a new page in history with the establishment of their rank and file Dockers' Welfare Committee.

To ensure victory in the coming struggle, preparations must be started at once in every depot to elect a new fighting leadership from the ranks. This is the first task of the Liverpool transport men.

But men like Dickie and Horan do not drop out of the sky. They are moulded by the conditions under which they live. They are paid too well in comparison with the wages of the men they represent. They are not losing ten shillings a week. Why should they worry? It is clear that the unions need overhauling and officials need to be re-elected.

Demand re-election of all officials every year!

Demand that no officials be paid more than your average wage. Tie the wages of the officials to the wages of the workers!

London Busmen's Dispute

The one hour strike of 3,500 employees at the L.P.T.B. overhaul works at Chiswick, 1,400 trolleybus men at Charlton, and 270 men at the Fulwell Trolleybus Depot is an indication of the men's dissatisfaction at the protracted negotiations between the leadership of the T.G.W.U. and the Board.

It is now over five months since the demands of the busmen were placed before the Board by Bro. Clay, but still no agreement has been reached. Last month Bro. Deakin was called in in the hope that a speedy settlement of the dispute might be reached. At the last joint delegate conference it was decided to set a time limit of 14 days in which Bro. Deakin must terminate negotiations with the Board.

Those 14 days have long since expired, but not a word has been reported back to the local branches. Small wonder that the men have now lost confidence in the negotiating machinery and feel the quickest way to end the dispute is by direct action. Re-ableing the case of the lorry workip dispute, London busmen hat after nine months of July negotiations, six days of not action gained the lorry men

Board continues to pro-urnate and refuses to concede their legitimate demands, the busmen are preparing for stronger

Bureacratic Gagging in the E.T.U.

Manchester—

The rank and file of the Electrical Trades Union in the Manchester area has been shocked recently by a bureaucratic resolution of their Area Committee forbidding members from making statements to the press without obtaining permission from the Area Office.

Ostensibly this decision arose out of contradictory statements to the press, following the fuel crisis, by Bro. Blackwell, leading E.T.U. Shop Steward at Metro Vickers Ltd., and by Bro. Loftus (A.E.U.) Secretary of the Metro Vickers Works Committee, on the question of night shift and staggered hours. Bro. Blackwell had stated that he personally was against introducing women on night shift. Bro. Loftus had put the official union policy on staggered hours.

An amendment stating the right

did so in a personal capacity was rejected by the Area Committee.

The fact that the Area Committee rejected this amendment which would have perfectly safeguarded the E.T.U. as a body from being misrepresented, indicates that their real aim was not this, but was to silence Bro. Blackwell, who as a left wing trade union militant refuses to toe the line of the C.P. dominated Area Committee.

The reaction of the rank and file to this attempt at undemocratic gagging of the men and Liverpool flected by a res an important Streifford history when they composed their rank and file composed in 1945. But as a result workers' vacillations of these bodies Committee failure to function res on the be present str rescind it has been

All genuine trad the E.T.U. will stand behind the Streifford Branch in their fight for union democracy



Dalton's Budget

Yet another pull at the tightening cord that is strangling the faith of the working class in the Labour Government was administered in the new tobacco tax.

The majority of the masses realise this to be a blow only to their class, knowing that to many the new tax will curtail, if not make inaccessible, one of their very few remaining pleasures, whilst the capitalist smoker will not be affected.

"But tobacco imports must be cut," say all shades of opinion. Is this then, the solution arrived at by a Government professing the ideals of Socialism? Would not a genuine Socialist Government have—

(1) Nationalised the tobacco

industry, or is not the Government interested in anything that still pays a dividend, and what a dividend!

(2) Having full control, cut the tobacco imports by the amount deemed necessary.

(3) Despatch for distribution, all tobacco manufactures to trade union, old age pension, hospital, canteen and other workers' committees.

(4) Any surplus to be applied for by the capitalist class individually to committees of workers, applications to be accompanied by proofs of individual's use to society.

A Government taking these measures would be taking the road to Socialism, backed by the working class to a man.

B.C.

A.E.U. Branch Debates White Paper

20/4/47.

Mr. E. Grant, Editor, "Socialist Appeal."

Dear Comrade,

The following information may be of interest to you.

At the Hackney Branch of the A.E.U. held at the Pembury Tavern (near Hackney Station) on Friday, 18th of this month, there was a debate on the resolution of the A.E.U. Executive Council on the Government White Paper on the Economic recovery of the country: I do not know the name of the White Paper, but as the E.C.'s resolution was circulated to all Branches and District Committees about a month ago, you already probably know all about it.

The E.C.'s resolution was one of complete support for the reactionary white paper. It stated something to the effect that the E.C. pledged the entire membership of the union to full and complete support of the Government plan to drain the last drop of blood from the workers to put back Capitalism more firmly than ever in the saddle.

The resolution was fully debated, one member opened the debate by attacking what he called "the reactionary and demagogic character of the resolution." He made out a devastating case against both the Government and the E.C.

A Group of C.Pers. and their supporters attacked the speaker and supported the resolution.

After about an hour and a half's debate during which only one member attacked the resolution and

about six C.Pers. and their supporters attacked this one member and supported the resolution, the following resolution was tabled in opposition to the E.C. resolution by the solitary member:

"This branch, believing as it does, that there is no solution to the present economic crisis outside of a full and vigorous Socialist system, rejects the resolution of the E.C.

And further, urges the E.C. to press the Government to bring about the immediate nationalisation without compensation, of all the basic industries, this being the only means by which the workers can be relieved of their crushing economic burden for all time."

This resolution was then debated and fiercely attacked by the C.P. and their right wing supporters, nobody but the mover of the resolution spoke in favour of it, nevertheless when the resolution went to the vote, it was carried by 17 votes to 5 with about 20 members abstaining.

I think the importance of this is to be found in the fact that there is a lot of C.P. support in this Branch and there always has been. This was a particularly telling defeat for them seeing that only their own members and their cronies voted for the E.C. and against the resolution.

If you want to check up on this, the next Branch night will be on May 2nd, there will be a full report on the debate in the minutes that will be read out.

Regular Reader
10.4.47.

of the workers in nationalised industries. **Who shall appoint the managers?** Shall they be appointed from above, or shall the workers elect them?

During the "Ash" strike, the L.N.E.R. stated that the strike was a "monstrous interference by the workers with the rights of the management." We — and these railmen — agree entirely that this was "interference". For we know that unless the working class can establish its right to "interfere" in the affairs of management, no great changes in conditions and standards of life can be expected from nationalisation.

Unifying Committee, both unions for common action). He then read the resolution to the meeting. This resolution demanded that if the management refused to negotiate, they should be given twenty-four hours notice of intention to strike. When Bro. Milton said that he supported this resolution he was given a sharp rap over the knuckles by Bros. Dickie and Horan, and was not allowed to get on his feet again. The Busmen's resolution, needless to say, was not accepted by the Unifying Committee.

Most of the Tram and Bus men would have supported this resolution if the T.U. bureaucrats (Bros. Dickie and Horan) had allowed it to be put before the meeting. Unfortunately their idea of democracy did not permit them to agree to the voice of the rank and file being heard. Despite the roars of "Put the Busmen's resolution to the vote", it was pushed into the background by the "democrats" on the platform.

Adrema Fitters Victimised

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEE AND WORKERS' DEFENCE COMMITTEE, ADREMA LTD., EAST ACTON, LONDON, W.3.

Following the general return to work after the lock-out imposed by the Engineering Employers' Federation as a result of the Fuel and Power Crisis, all workers were re-engaged with the exception of three fitters, whom the management stated they could not re-employ owing to lack of work on the fitting sections. They also stated that negotiations regarding these workers' return must now be terminated and that the Labour Exchange would be advised to find them alternative employment.

The Shop Stewards Committee consider this statement to be somewhat of a contradiction in view of the fact that nine fitters who had been re-engaged have since left the Company's employment.

In view of these facts, the workers at this establishment are of the opinion that the refusal of the management to immediately re-engage the three workers is tantamount to deliberate victimisation. Therefore, at recent mass meetings in the factory, unanimous decisions were taken that "no overtime be worked or new labour employed in the factory until the three fitters are re-instated. Should the management introduce any new labour there will be an immediate stoppage of work covering the entire engineering staff."

At the commencement of the Fuel and Power crisis, the workers, being aware of the

splendid opportunity that this situation presented to the employers for the victimisation of active trade unionists, proceeded to set up a Workers' Defence Committee comprising representatives of all departments in conjunction with the Shop Stewards Committee, to secure the return to work of all employees who had been dismissed through the crisis.

The elected Chairman of the Defence Committee, Bro. C. Ricketts, well-known as an active Trade Unionist in the area is one of the workers not yet re-engaged, and it appears that there is some reluctance on the part of the Company to re-instate this worker owing to past activities—hence "no vacancies for fitters."

Since its election, the Defence Committee has undertaken a number of activities including deputations to the House of Commons, the Ministry of Fuel and Power, the convening of mass meetings, the issuing of statements and general propaganda. In addition, it has instituted a Fund to assist those workers who were still unemployed and to meet the cost of our campaign to secure re-instatement. The sum of £42 has been collected to date, and £33 10s. has been paid out in Distress Benefits and expenses.

This Committee will continue its activities, and use every means at its disposal to defeat this attempted victimisation of active Trade Unionists by employers.

Signed:

C. RICKETTS (Chairman)
(On behalf of the
Defence Committee)
L. MILLER (Convener)
(On behalf of the Shop
Stewards Committee).

All Communications to:

L. Miller, 55, Woodlawn Road, Fulham, S.W.6.

press, following the fuel crisis, by Bro. Blackwell, leading E.T.U. Shop Steward at Metro Vickers Ltd., and by Bro. Loftus (A.E.U.) Secretary of the Metro Vickers Works Committee, on the question of night shift and staggered hours. Bro. Blackwell had stated that he personally was against introducing women on night shift. Bro. Loftus had put the official union policy on staggered hours.

An amendment stating the right of E.T.U. members to make statements to the press, on condition that they made it clear that they

to this attempt. The reaction of the rank and file to this attempt at undemocratic gagging of the men of Liverpool flected by a res. an important Strefford Branch history when they composed their rank and file workers, in 1945. But as a result of the failure to function present st. All genuine trade been the E.T.U. will, stand behind the Strefford Branch in their fight for union democracy against this or any future extension of such bureaucratic methods.

the quickest way to end the dispute is by direct action. Regarding the case of the lorry point dispute, London busmen working that after nine months of July negotiations, six days of action gained the lorry men's demands. Busmen are giving warning they now mean business. Board continues to procrastinate and refuses to concede their legitimate demands, the busmen are preparing for stronger action.

London Busman

Five Day Week for Miners

BY N. PENTLAND

Faced with the possibility of further unrest in the coal industry, Shinwell, with much trepidation has agreed to the principle of the five-day week, to commence on May 1st, 1947.



For generations the Labour movement has demanded less hours for the arduous work of coal getting. Now that the Labour Government is in power and has nationalised the coal industry, miners have rightly pushed their important claim to the fore.

Confronted on the one hand by the dearth of coal and on the other hand by pressure from the miners, Shinwell has very reluctantly given way to this reform in the House of Commons. This reluctance can be clearly seen by his many weak replies and answers to Tory gibes and criticism of this measure.

Instead of an outright condemnation and exposure of the Tories for the archaic and utterly dilapidated industry that the Labour Government have inherited, Shinwell merely "hopes" and calls on the miners' sense of "justice" to overcome the loss of manhours.

Conditional Reform

Despite this much lauded measure, the Labour Government has not unconditionally acceded to the miners' demand.

The agreement signed between Lawther and the National Coal Board without a great deal of fuss but with acclamation by the former, contains a number of conditions which even the former owners of the mines would not have dared to institute.

Clause I states that:

The underground worker will work five consecutive shifts of 7½ hours, plus winding time. Winding time, which varies from 20 to 40 minutes, hitherto had been calculated in the normal shift hours. Now it is to be outside shift hours and in the men's own time.

Miners must work 5 consecutive shifts or lose the 6th day's pay, which is now calculated as a 16% bonus. No valid excuse, the Agreement continues, will be accepted for absenteeism or idleness. Even sickness will not prevent a miner from losing a bonus or be entitled to any proportionate share of it.

Lawther further declares that incorporated in the Agreement is a clause that makes it an obligation for miners to complete a normal shift. This means that even if a miner has completed his agreed "stint" he will carry on till the full shift hours have been worked. This has not been the procedure in the mines hitherto.

With great haste and alacrity, Lawther has further pledged (behind the backs of the miners) that no restrictive practices will be countenanced by the Union. In any suspicious cases of individuals, who may likely cause a stoppage, the Union will immediately set up an enquiry.

"Daily Worker"— "A Great Reform"

The Communist Party's "Daily Worker" has rushed helter skelter to help foist this thinly sugar-coated pill down the throats of the mine workers. Far from exposing the conditional nature of the agreement, it whole-heartedly believes that they are justifiable measures against the miners. In the editorial of March 15th, the "Daily Worker" clearly states where it stands:

"The five day week removes the last excuse for voluntary absenteeism. It is only right, therefore, that this should be sharply penalised."

Not a word against the loss of bonus for sickness, or similar

occasions of absenteeism, or that the men must bear the brunt of winding time.

The Lawthers, Horners, and the C.P. are content only in administering the system of capitalism and making it acceptable to the working class. With tongue in cheek, the C.P. unreservedly supports the present measures of nationalisation, thereby confusing the working class that State capitalism of the Labour Government is a step towards socialism.

Miners Must Control

Since the mines have been nationalised, the miners have demonstrated their loyalty toward the Labour Government. The output of coal has risen to 4,000,000 tons per week and this is with fewer men in the pits than at any time over the past 8 years.

But it can be said that this loyalty will not last forever. Agreements like this latest one, which imposes harsh obligations on the miners, which gives with one hand and takes away with the other, will be reflected in the eventual fall of output. Side by side with this is the growing feeling amongst miners that the capitalist dominated coal board is not there in the miners' interests. The recent rumours of disagreement between the officials on the N.C.B. concerning the introduction of the 5-day week, will only give the miners further grounds for apprehension.

If Shinwell and the Labour Government were really interested in increased production in the interests of the workers they would immediately place the mines under the direct control of the miners, and technicians, as the only method of a real increase in output.

attacking what he called "the reactionary and demagogic character of the resolution." He made out a devastating case against both the Government and the E.C. A Group of C.Pers. and their supporters attacked the speaker and supported the resolution. After about an hour and a half's debate during which only one member attacked the resolution and

defeat for them seeing that only their own members and their cronies voted for the E.C. and against the resolution.

If you want to check up on this, the next Branch night will be on May 2nd. There will be a full report on the debate in the minutes that will be read out.

Regular Reader
10.4.47.

HOTEL WORKERS

Frank Piazza Still Victimised

BY T. REILLY

A large meeting of London hotel workers on Monday, 21st April, was called to hear a report from the District Secretary of the union, Brother E. V. Watering, on the case of the victimised waiter, Frank Piazza. He declared that the dispute was now going to the Industrial Court.

This case has dragged on for well over one month and the threat of the Union leaders to give 21 days strike notice was evidently so much bluff. It is a curious position as most of the workers imagined that the notice was handed to the employers and strike action was expected.

The Savoy Group of employers are out to undermine the workers' faith in trade unionism.

It is a vain hope however, as the Union returns show a jump in membership in the London Catering Section over 12 weeks, from 1,500 to 15,000, and it is said that 300 more joined during the Piazza strike.

In the Berkeley Hotel, the management won't allow the House Committee a notice board and a meeting room. Claridge's workers say: "We are having stiff opposition from the management, but it is only stimulating our appetite." Both hotels belong to the Savoy Group.

The Industrial Court will not serve the interests of the hotel workers. As past experience has shown it is a weapon of the boss class.

It seems obvious to many of the catering workers that the trade union leaders pulled too many punches on this issue. The hotel workers must map out a militant course to combat the reactionary efforts of the Savoy Group and all similar employers, and expose once and for all this nonsense of "progressive employers" which the Union officials are so fond of quoting. It was the October strike that made the employers recognise the unions, and not kindness of heart.

For the victory of the Union Savoy Group!

For the immediate and unconditional re-instatement of Frank Piazza.



Free India Now

PUBLIC MEETING on
Sunday, 11 May

in the
I.L.P. ROOMS
38 John Bright St.,
BIRMINGHAM

SPEAKER:
AJIT ROY
(Indian Trotskyist)
Questions and Discussion

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party,
256, HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2.
Phone: CUN 2526.
EDITOR: E. GRANT.
BUSINESS MANAGER: D. GRAY.

Editorial

Impotence of U.N.O

The last session of U.N.O. refused to agree to the incorporation of South West Africa into the Union of South Africa. Yet, on a motion by General Smuts on April 11th, the South African Parliament decided to treat South West Africa as an integral part of the Union, with representation in South Africa's parliament.

It goes without saying, of course, that the Negro inhabitants of South West Africa, like those of the Union, will not have the right to elect representatives to this Parliament. Only the white Herrenvolk settlers who rule and exploit them will have that privilege.

The absolute impotence of U.N.O. as a means of securing peace and freedom for the peoples of the world, is shown by the contemptuous manner in which the capitalists of South Africa treat its decisions.

U.N.O. is incapable of taking action against the South African Government, despite the barbarous treatment of the coloured peoples under its control. Just as with the League of Nations, U.N.O. has neither the impulsion nor the capacity to prevent the persecutions of peoples, for whom nominally they were responsible under the mandates system. In this great "Thieves' Kitchen" all the great powers are interested only in manoeuvring against one another. Each big power has its own slaves to govern. Why should they take action against the little powers?

The League of Nations was too impotent even to prevent war between two small South American states in the war over the Gran Chaco. No more can U.N.O., the revived League under a different name, exorcise the shadow of the Third World War to which capitalism is leading.

Those political parties who hold U.N.O. up as a means of ensuring peace and security, are laying a new trap for the workers of the world.

De Gaulle Bares

More Arrests in Madras

Congress Reveals Its Class Character

Since the arrest of Comrade Antonipillai, Trotskyist President of the Madras Labour Union in an attempt to break the strike of the Textile Mill workers, news has now reached us of the arrests of Comrades Colin R. de Silva and Comrade M. Muthiah, well known Indian Trotskyists, together with a number of other leading Trade Unionists.

A cable has been sent to Nehru by the Political Bureau of the Revolutionary Communist Party, and protests have also been sent to the Madras Congress Government and the High Commissioner for India in London.

Madras—April 4th.

Strikers Demand Profits For Housing

On 11th March, this year, the Madras Labour Union, after negotiations and notice, struck work on a number of demands. Of these, one sets the pace in India, namely, that the money returned by the Government to the British owned Buckingham and Carnatic Mills at Madras in respect of accumulated war time excess profits tax payments, should be utilised for a housing scheme for the B. & C. workers.

The horrible conditions of housing for the Madras workers are a by-word in India.

The amount returned to the Company totalled over 11 million rupees. The management actually offered a paltry half million rupees during the negotiations.

Among the other demands were: 6 months wages as bonus (a demand recently won by the textile workers of Coimbatore, Madras Province); the re-instatement of all dismissed for striking during the August 1942 uprising of the Indian masses; and dearness (cost of living) allowance.

General Strike Protest At Arrest Of T.U. Leader

A strike of the B. & C. Mills, the largest textile mill in India, paralyses cloth production in the province. The Congress Government, whose anti-working class policy is now notorious in India, used this as a pretext to declare the strike illegal by a legalistic manoeuvre. The manoeuvre failed and the strike began.

The arrest of Comrade Pillai was followed by a general strike in Madras which might well have been a day in the 1942 uprising.



ANTONIPILLAI

workshop of the M.S.M. Railway out on the streets to back the Mill workers President—who was the President of their union too. They were joined by bus workers, lorry workers, tramway workers, municipal workers, workers in the civil service supplies, sections of the harbour workers, leather workers, cigar workers—all struck work that day. The Ministry received the workers' answer!

At the time of writing the B. and C. Mill workers had been on strike for over 24 days. The strike looks like being prolonged, for the Congress Ministry has let it be known that it is this time out to smash the Union—spearhead of the Madras working class. But they will not find it easy. Even rank and file Congress men, outraged by the Ministry's attitude, are active in the strike.

The political prestige of the Ministry has been severely hit. Worker after worker gets up at meetings to denounce the Congress and to declare that it has proved its capitalist character. Even Congressmen have spoken in the same vein. Thus the strike and the arrest is tending to make complete, the political exposure of Congress, the political party of the Indian capitalists, who are at this very moment engaged in a political horse-deal with British imperialism—behind the backs and over the heads of the masses.

A. MANICKAM

OUR MILITARY POLICY

Its Tradition in the British Labour Movement

BY G. NOZEDA

"Abolish conscription; for the dissolution of the standing army and its substitution by a Workers' Militia."

"For the abolition of military laws: clear out the reactionary officer caste from the armed

forces—for the election of officers from the ranks. For the establishment of military schools by the trade unions at the expense of the State for the training of worker officers."

The Conscription measure recently enacted in Parliament by the Labour Government—supported by the Tories—resulted in considerable opposition from Government supporters in the House of Commons. But not one of the opposition M.P.'s, Labour, I.L.P., or Communist, put forward a clear policy advocating the abolition of the present capitalist standing army and its substitution by a Workers' militia as a working class alternative to conscription. The all-important question of the control of the armed forces remaining in the hands of the present anti-labour and anti-democratic officer caste was not even raised.

Opposition to Conscription has a long and militant tradition in the British Labour movement. Until 1939, not even a Tory Government had dared to impose conscription on the youth of Britain in peace time. It has remained for the first majority Labour Government to carry over such a reactionary piece of legislation from war to peace.

Even the early pioneers of the British Labour movement, although already corroded by reformism, recognised the need for the workers to receive training in the military arts, under their own control, as an essential step if the working class was to protect and further its interests against the capitalist class.

The Citizen Army Bill

In 1908, a Bill, called "The Citizen Army in the Making", was submitted in the House of Commons by the late Will Thorne, a Labour M.P. As opposed to a scheme then being pushed by the capitalist militarist, Lord Roberts, which advocated conscription, the Bill put forward the need for a Workers' militia.

In the preface to the summary of the Bill (published in the Social-Democratic press), it was stated: "... what we advocate is not 'conscription', neither is it 'compulsory military training', or even compulsory military training under the old War Office system."

As against the military bureaucracy in control of the capitalist standing army, the Bill demanded the election of officers by the men in the ranks!

Paragraph 15, of the Bill state:

"The first appointment to the lower rank of officer shall be made upon the recommendation and selection by ballot of the men in the command. . . . From these officers, officers of higher rank shall be promoted by merit, subject to the approval by ballot of the men of the command, and facilities shall be afforded the lower grade of officers of entering a Staff College, and acquiring the necessary military knowledge for filling the highest posts. . . . From the officers admitted to Staff Colleges shall be selected a General Staff and a Commander-in-Chief. These shall be appointed by the officers themselves by ballot. . . . The military administration shall in all cases be carried out by the officers duly selected by the men of their command."

This conception of the early pioneers of the Labour movement was imbued with a class-consciousness which contrasts strongly with the timidity of the Labour leaders today before the capitalist military machine.

Today, victimisations of militant servicemen continue unchanged under the Labour Government as under the Tories. Anti-labour and anti-democratic officers continue to control the destinies of working class youth conscripted into the armed forces, unchallenged. The Labour Government has taken not the slightest action to implement elementary democratic and civil rights for the conscripts. Participation in the activities of political parties is forbidden the troops, and a military bureaucracy operates a totalitarian law inside the armed forces, although Lord Montgomery can make anti-labour speeches from public platforms without disciplinary action being taken.

What a gulf separates the present Labour leaders even from the early reformists on this question! Clause 18 of the 1908

Financial protection of those in the Citizen Force who sustained injury, was also covered by a clause:

"All members when embodied shall, in case of injury, be entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act."

What a distance the Labour leaders of today have travelled from these militant and class-conscious conceptions embodied in this Bill at the beginning of the century. In the Bill was a concrete and practical alternative military policy of the working class against capitalist militarism. Here can be seen, in embryo, ideas that form the basis of proletarian military policy.

Lenin's Policy

Lenin wrote, in the first World War, many articles on the need for the working class to acquire a training in the military arts, and, for a Workers' militia as opposed to the capitalist standing army. In an article on "The Disarmament-Slogan", Lenin wrote:

"In working out the concrete and practically necessary answer to the question of a militia we should have said: we are not in favour of a capitalist militia; we are in favour only of a workers' militia. . . . We can demand election of officers by the people, abolition of military law . . . further, the right of every hundred, say, of the inhabitants of the given country, to form free associations for military training, with the free election of instructors, who are to be paid by the state, etc. Only under such conditions could the working class acquire military training really for ITSELF and not for its slave-owners; and the need for such training is dictated by the interests of the workers." (Vol. 19 Collected Works).

For revolutionary communists, opposition to conscription and capitalist militarism, has never been confined to a merely negative opposition. On the contrary, military training of the workers, under the control of workers' organisations, election and training of worker-officers, must be recognised as an essential part of the struggle of the working class against capitalism. To allow the capitalist class to monopolise, build up, and control armed bodies of men, in the form of the present standing army, means that the working class will be disarmed and defenceless in the struggles ahead. The last war demonstrated afresh

Cable to Nehru

The following cable has been sent to Nehru, Vice-President

De Gaulle Bares His Teeth

After months of so-called "retirement" de Gaulle has re-entered the political arena with the formation of the "Rally of the French People" (R.P.F.).

This new organisation aims at creating "a coherent state, concentrated and orderly", in which power is derived "from the country and not from the parties" and in which "all insoluble conflicts are settled by the people itself."

De Gaulle seeks to break through the present uncertain relationships in France where the capitalists and the workers organisations are balanced in the Cabinet. His solution is to destroy the power of the workers organisations and concentrate power through a totalitarian state, independent of the parties.

De Gaulle Prepares

De Gaulle's speeches and the formation of his party at this stage is a means of feeling out and testing the resistance of the French workers, and the degree of support he could mobilise among the middle class.

The reply of the workers, even in its distorted expression, through the mass workers' organisations, was immediately apparent. They were compelled to sound a note of alarm and warning to the workers as to de Gaulle's real aims and what his coming to power would mean.

Thorez, in a speech in Paris, demagogically pointed to the onward march of communism throughout Europe and even referred to the Communist Manifesto as the guide to the French workers! This was intended as a warning and a threat to the capitalist class by the Stalinists that any attempt by de Gaulle at a coup d'etat would bring civil war. It was a warning that the capitalists must compromise with the Stalinists if they wish to retain their hold on France.

Who Created de Gaulle Legend?

It must not be forgotten that it was the Communist and Socialist Parties who created the legend around de Gaulle as the "hero" and the "saviour" of France, hiding his shady past and his connections with Royalists and anti-democratic circles before and during the war.

The warnings of the Socialists and Communists, if not supplemented by preparations for a de-

cisive struggle can lead the French workers to defeat. Vigilance Committees have been formed. But they do not attempt to mobilise the workers. These committees are to be nothing but a repetition of the Popular Front combinations with the Radicals and sections of the M.R.P., instead of committees elected by the workers in unions and factories, drawing to their ranks the middle class and peasants.

Workers' Militia Needed

There is no suggestion to revive the workers militias, which were dissolved by Thorez two years ago in payment to de Gaulle for the latter's signature to a treaty with Russia.

The capitalist class in France are playing the same game as did the capitalists in Spain. While relying on the coalition government to keep the workers quiet, they keep de Gaulle in reserve. While the workers' parties warn the workers, they allow de Gaulle to prepare without taking any real preventive action. Franco quietly prepared during the days of the Popular Front, taking advantage of the inactivity of the workers' organisations. Their "warnings" to the Popular Front could not counter the fascist preparations and conspiracy. So in France today.

French Trotskyists' Policy

The P.C.I., French Trotskyists, calls for unity of action of all the workers' parties, the election on a democratic basis of Vigilance Committees based on the factories and workers' organisations; they demand the building immediately in every town, and industry, of an armed people's militia which will be led by their elected military and political representatives. They demand the immediate public investigation into the origin of the funds which are in the banks of de Gaulle and his clique; the immediate arrest of all the police and high government officials who support de Gaulle; and that the energies of the working class be unleashed by linking this struggle up with economic demands for the improvement of the life of the workers and middle class.

In other words—against the de Gaulle offensive, the P.C.I. demands a proletarian counter-offensive.

ment, whose anti-working class policy is now notorious in India, used this as a pretext to declare the strike illegal by a legalistic manoeuvre. The manoeuvre failed and the strike began.

The arrest of Comrade Pillai was followed by a general strike in Madras which might well have been a day in the 1942 uprising. Armed police at every ten yards in the streets, Gurkha troops armed to the teeth at every street corner, motor cyclists fitted with machine guns rushing through the streets emptied of traffic by a virtually complete transport strike (even the Taxi drivers joined in!), railways patrolled by armed trolleys. In short, the armed might of the State displayed everywhere.

Congress Reveals Its Hand

The workers' answer: 7,000 workers of the Perambur Railway

From LEFT and RIGHT

BY AGITATOR

ABJECT ATTLEE

A USEFUL test of the attitude of the Labour leaders to their professions of adherence to socialist principles is provided by their relationships with such feudal anachronisms as the monarchy. And one could hardly expect to find a more craven example of subservience to this parasitic institution than the poltroonery of Attlee on the occasion of the 21st birthday of Princess Elizabeth. His statement reads in part:

"Madam, I beg to present to your Royal Highness the congratulations of my colleagues and myself on the occasion of your twenty-first birthday. Your Royal Highness has lived through some of the hardest yet noblest years of these islands' long history. To one who, like myself, can look back over these and earlier troubled years, the steadfast leadership and selfless devotion of the Royal Family shine forth as one of the greatest blessings and surest bulwarks of this land. . . . I earnestly pray that peace may attend your ways, and that God may grant your Royal Highness happiness and health to carry through the great tasks that lie ahead."

I beg to remain your Royal Highness's humble, abedient servant."

The authors of this, speak in Labour's name, and dare to call themselves Socialists!

Paraphrase of the words of the heads of the masses.

A. MANICKAM

Paragraph 15, of the Bill

Cable to Nehru

The following cable has been sent to Nehru, Vice-President of the Government of India:

"Revolutionary Communist Party Britain vigorously protests arrests Colin de Silva, Antonpillai, Muthiah and Trade Unionists by Madras Congress Government stop This attack on democratic rights and organisations of working class in flagrant contradiction to professed democratic aims of Congress and its claims to represent Indian masses stop Such actions damage struggle for Indian independence stop Demand immediate release of all arrested."

JOCK HASTON
General Secretary."

A hereditary monarch, imposed upon the people by accident of birth, is not only the negation of Socialism; it is in contradiction with the elements even of formal democracy. The pioneers who struggled to build the British movement at such sacrifice always emblazoned on their banner the demand for the abolition of the monarchy and the House of Lords. They must be turning in their graves at the antics of the careerists who now dominate the movement.

And in passing, it should be noted that Attlee speaks, not only for himself but for his colleagues. It would be illuminating to learn whether Attlee's fire-eating "Left" colleague, Aneurin Bevan, and the erstwhile "Marxist", Strachey, participated in the drafting of this obsequious message with which they are publicly associated.

STALINISM & RELIGION

NO LESS base in their opportunism are the Stalinists. Indeed, one still finds it possible to be surprised at the depths to which international Stalinism, masquerading as Communism, will descend.

On April 22nd, the "Manchester Guardian" carried the following despatch on the Sicilian elections from its Rome Correspondent:

"The Communists' posters were really a masterpiece of pandering to Sicilian superstitions. They were written in dialect, misquoting a local poem and read 'People's block: God's block: Jesus will descend to scare all tyrants, with joy in his heart and his fist clenched.'

After the Communist Deputies' vote recently here in favour of inclusion of the Lateran pact in the Italian constitution and these Sicilian posters, one Roman wit has prophesied that Signor Togliatta is aiming at being called 'the man sent by providence' just as Pope Pius XI called Mussolini. There is actually more in this than the joke and dogmatic Communists are certainly among the staunchest allies of the Vatican in this country today though not necessarily tomorrow."

For the attention of those around the Communist Party who see nothing particularly outrageous in all this, we recall some of Lenin's expressed ideas on the subject. He wrote:

"Religion is, the opium of the people"—this saying of Marx is the corner-stone of the whole philosophy of Marxism with regard to religion. Marxism always regarded all modern religions and churches, and every kind of religious organisation as instruments of that bourgeois reaction whose aim is to defend exploitation and stupefy the working class. . . .

We must combat religion—this is the ABC of all materialism, and consequently of Marxism. . . .

The fight against religion must not be limited or reduced to abstract-ideological preaching. This struggle must be linked up with the concrete work of the working class movement; its aim must be to eliminate the social roots of religion."

The obscurantist opportunism of the Stalinists is the direct negation of Marxism-Leninism to which they pay hypocritical lip-service.

the armed forces, although Lord Montgomery can make anti-labour speeches from public platforms without disciplinary action being taken.

What a gulf separates the present Labour leaders even from the early reformists on this question! Clause 18 of the 1908 Citizens' Army Bill laid down, that:

"Every member of the Citizen Force will retain all his civil rights, and be subject only to civil law, and dealt with by that law, for any offence with which he may be charged under any circumstances, except when actively engaged in national defence, for which the Central Administrative Board (of the Citizen Force, G.N.) will enact a special military code adaptable to such conditions."

In sharp contrast to the actions of the present Labour leaders who use the troops to break strikes, the early pioneers, recognising how the capitalist class use the standing army to break up strikes and demonstrations, laid down in the Bill that:

"The Force, may not, under any circumstances, be called out to act in any case of civil disturbance, nor may it be mobilised in any emergency other than actual or threatened invasion."

as an essential part of the struggle of the working class against capitalism. To allow the capitalist class to monopolise, build up, and control armed bodies of men, in the form of the present standing army, means that the working class will be disarmed and defenceless in the struggles ahead. The last war demonstrated afresh the militarist nature of the epoch in which we live.

The historical success or otherwise of the working class struggle against the capitalist system, the struggle for the establishment of socialism will be resolved by force of arms, not by choice on the part of the working class, but because it will be forced upon them by the capitalists and their military organisations. Under such conditions to struggle for a workers' military policy is an essential task posed before the workers. It was in the period of the Second World War that the Fourth International developed further the ideas of Lenin on proletarian militarism. Alone of all the parties which claimed to represent the workers the Trotskyists opposed capitalist militarism with a positive alternative. Today, the Revolutionary Communist Party in Britain opposes conscription with a military policy, in the best traditions of Leninism and of the early pioneers of the working class movement in Britain.

Anti - Conscription Conference

Victor Yates, M.P. for Ladywood, one of the L.P. rebels on the issue of the National Service Bill, addressed a Conference called by the West Middlesex Anti-Conscription Committee at Hounslow on Saturday, April 12th.

The Conference was attended by delegates from a number of working class organisations, including delegates from three Branches of the R.C.P.

Victor Yates' speech stated the case for those Labour M.P.'s who for one reason or another, were in opposition to the Bill. His case therefore combined a pacifist, Left Labour point of view with the arguments of those who are against conscript armies as ineffective.

A resolution was put to the Conference calling for the withdrawal of the National Services Bill and against all forms of industrial and military conscription, no surrender of T.U. practises, speed-up of demobilisation, and T.U. rights for workers who should not be used as blacklegs in industrial disputes.

To this resolution an amendment was moved by Tom Reilly

for Thames Valley R.C.P. The amendment stressed the reactionary nature of the officer caste and called for the dissolution of the existing Army and its substitution, by the armed people. The amendment was supported by a delegate from Staines Labour College, and by G. Hanson and G. Noseda of the Southall & West London R.C.P. Although the amendment was defeated it was significant that several non-R.C.P. votes were cast for it.

The R.C.P. delegates voted for the resolution making it clear that they had introduced their amendment to strengthen the resolution and so bring the campaign against conscription from a nebulous negative attitude, to one that could offer a concrete policy.

It was significant that although the speakers had spoken of the Bill as a departure from the traditions of the Labour movement, they did not recognise in the amendment the question of a Citizen Army, a policy for which the pioneers, in particular John McLean, had always fought.

POLICY OF THE R.C.P.



1. Nationalisation of the land, of all atomic processes, of all large financial, insurance, industrial, distributive and transport enterprises without compensation, and the operation of these enterprises on the basis of an overall production plan under control of workers' and technicians' committees.
2. Abolition of business secrets. All company books to be open to inspection by trade unions and workers committees.
3. Distribution of food, clothes, fuel and other consumers goods in short supply under the control of committees elected from the co-ops, distributive trades, factories, housewives and small shopkeepers which will eliminate the black market.
4. The control and allocation of existing housing space in the hands of tenants committees; a state financed national house-building plan to be directed by the building trades unions and tenants committees.
5. A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum and a falling scale of hours to absorb the unemployed, who must be fully maintained while not working; a 40-hour week maximum without loss of earnings.
6. Abolition of the Monarchy and the House of Lords; full electoral rights for all from the age of 18; and full political and civil rights for men and women in the forces; the immediate repeal of all strike-breaking and anti-labour laws.
7. Abolish Conscription: For the dissolution of the standing army and its substitution by a workers' militia.
8. For the abolition of military law; clear out the reactionary anti-labour officer caste from the armed forces; for the election of officers from the ranks. For the establishment of military schools by the trade unions at the expense of the State for the training of worker officers.
9. Full and immediate freedom for India and the other colonies to choose their own form of government; the immediate withdrawal of British troops from all colonial countries.
10. End secret diplomacy and a peace of vengeance and plunder; end race hatred, anti-semitism, Vansittartism and the colour bar; the withdrawal of British troops from Europe and Asia and a peace based upon the self-determination of the peoples of Europe, Asia and the world.
11. Unconditional defence of the Soviet Union against all imperialist powers; for the overthrow of the privileged Stalinist bureaucracy and the re-introduction of workers' democracy in Russia.
12. Full support and active co-operation with the European workers against all occupying forces, for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a United Socialist States of Europe, unity with the workers and exploited masses of all lands in the struggle for world socialism.

Black Market in British Guiana

REACTIONARY LAWS SPONSOR BLACK MARKET
IN BRITISH GUIANA

With the full encouragement of the local administration, the Black Market is flourishing in British Guiana, the South American colony of British imperialism. The big

DOCKERS CASE:

UNITED ACTION WILL BRING VICTORY

(Continued from Page 1.)

workers, on a worker's wage. The threat of redundancy has no meaning for them. They have feathered their nests on the pennies of the workers, and only look upon militant working class struggle as a menace to their comfortable existence. This also explains why they always attack so-called "agitators." The "Telegraph" of April 30th reports Deakin as saying the following:

"He was even more bitter about the agitators, not members of his own union, who are involved in this strike. They are the group who have been concerned in other stoppages and it is time they were exposed", he declared. "These elements are inciting the men but they have no responsibility and are seeking to exploit any and every opportunity to cause disaffection. They are utterly unmindful of the interests of the men they have induced to strike."

To the Deakins and Donovans, the workers are sheep who blindly follow "agitators" against their own interests! Such is the contempt of the T.U. leaders for the rank and file.

Lessons Of The Strike

For the dock workers this strike contains many lessons which must be learned for their future struggles. An analysis of the weaknesses of this strike is all the more imperative in view of the preparations required for July, when the London dockers anticipate a struggle against the proposed de-casualisation scheme which the dockers regard as inimical to their interests.

With a lack of co-ordinated leadership the energies of the workers will be rapidly dissipated and only defeat can result, with ensuing demoralisation.

Sporadic Efforts Fritter Workers' Energies

The statements from Liverpool during the present strike, first, that they intend to come out, then that there will be no action, made by Campbell and others of the Merseyside unofficial Committee; the confusion of the London workers, three weeks after the Glasgow strike began, when the Port Workers' Defence Committee allowed the whole initiative to pass into the hands of the Donovans; the failure of the Glasgow leadership to come out with a clear call to all the other ports, the

London workers had moved into strike activity, eating into their savings, with no co-ordinated assistance from other ports, had made these workers tired and without the necessary enthusiasm to wage a determined struggle. It was only their basic instincts of class solidarity that led them to take action on April 28th.

However, almost as many workers were at work, as there were on strike. This was bound up with the conflict between the "blue" and the "white" card men, members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union, and members of the T. & G.W.U. The fact that the leadership in the London strike was provided by the former Union, made the workers in the T. and G.W.U. hesitate. Donovan and Deakin exploited this confusion to the full. They saw that with this conflict between the men of the different organisations, and the failure of the London Port Workers' Defence Committee (the only body capable of rallying every worker in the port) to face up to its tasks, their best policy was to wait until the strike had played itself out. They adopted a policy of sitting back and waiting for things to work themselves out.

Thus, throughout this whole period the workers faced from time to time the disheartening spectacle of some striking when others were working, some going back when others were coming out. Information was scanty, and often non-existent. Many dockers did not know what was taking place, their only guiding factor being that they refused to black-leg.

In the interests of a determined struggle the dock workers must put an end to this dissipation of energy. Sporadic activity from port to port will not solve questions of basic importance. The tremendous energy and capacity for struggle undoubtedly contained within the ranks of the dock workers, and demonstrated in this and other recent disputes, must be harnessed in a firm link from port to port.

For A National Docks Policy

The London and Liverpool dockers marked an important chapter in their history when they developed their rank and file committees in 1945. But as a result of the vacillations of these bodies, and their failure to function really efficiently in the present struggle, their prestige has been seriously reduced.

men belong, their interests are identical. Inter-Union prejudices only play into the hands of Deakin and the other bureaucrats, as does the conservative policy of isolating one port from the other.

The first step that must be taken is to call a meeting of rank and file delegates in each port to develop the necessary organisational forms for welding the men together.

In London, the members of the Port Workers' Defence Committee face the responsibility of giving a lead on this question. A full and frank discussion must take place on the recent failures and how to remedy these defects. The rank and file dockers must press for this to be carried out. In Liverpool it is necessary to overhaul their Advisory Committee, replacing those who have demonstrated their incapacity to carry a militant policy by rank and file delegates who will. In Glasgow, an end must be made to the previous policy of isolating themselves from the workers in the other main ports and steps taken for the creation of a rank and file committee similar to that in the other ports.

From port to port, even down to the smallest, these rank and file committees must be established, and then without delay a meeting of representatives from all these committees convened to form a national link-up, through which a common policy can be determined.

The most intimate and constant contact must be maintained between these committees and the rank and file. An end must be made to the position whereby the dockers are not aware of what is happening locally and nationally.

This can only be overcome by the regular publication of bulletins, subscribed to by the committees from all the ports.

At the same time these unofficial bodies must co-ordinate the struggle to carry the fight for a working class policy inside the Unions, from the branch to their uppermost bodies.

In this way the dockers can be guaranteed that in each struggle they will be able to crystallise the whole strength of dockland, formidable beyond estimation. They will point the correct way for the whole working class movement.

July is not far off. Time does not allow for any slackening in these tasks; but they can be accomplished with a determined effort NOW.

By a vigorous and determined

May Day

(Continued from Page 1.)

"order" while the slaughter of Greek workers goes on. American battleships lie in the Bay of Salonika. With their life-blood the workers of Greece are paying for the Tory foreign policy which the Labour Government is pursuing, a policy which the workers of Britain voted to end in the General Election of 1945.

Demand the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Greece! The Greek people have the right to determine their own fate! Demand that the Labour Government end this shameful aping of Tory politics! Demand its foreign policy give aid to Socialism everywhere, instead of to reaction.

Greetings to Colonial Workers

Stirred to life by the war, the peoples of the colonial world are preparing for the final struggle against their imperialist oppressors. A great revolutionary wave is surging through Asia and Africa. The colonial slaves are the surest allies of the workers of Europe. They face a common enemy—monopoly capitalism, and a common goal—world socialism... **On this May Day we greet the Colonial workers, now actively fighting for their freedom. Their fight is our fight! All aid to the Colonial Revolution!**

For a Communist Britain— Down with Capitalism

At home, two years of the Labour Government have brought us not one step nearer to the achievement of a Socialist society. The mines have been nationalised—but the capitalists still draw their profits. Only now these are **guaranteed** by the Labour Government in the form of compensation. Meanwhile, the price of food and necessities go up and the Labour ministers confess their impotence to control the price racketeering. Capitalist profits soar while the workers have to fight for the smallest increase in pay. The representatives of big business occupy all the key positions in the nationalised industries. Despite the overwhelming desire of the working class—so clearly demonstrated in the General Election—to end capitalism forever, capitalism still rides triumphant—two years after Labour's victory.

Demand that the Labour Government pursue an active Socialist policy! For the immediate nationalisation of all big industrial concerns without compensation! For workers' control of production and distribution—out with the representatives of big business! For an over-all economic plan to be operated under the direction of workers' representatives!

REACTIONARY LAWS SPONSOR BLACK MARKET IN BRITISH GUIANA

With the full encouragement of the local administration, the Black Market is flourishing in British Guiana, the South American colony of British imperialism. The big merchants of Georgetown are exploiting to the full the current shortages in consumers goods and, as usual, it is the workers who are suffering.

During the war, a Quota System was introduced, under which only a limited number of firms were granted import licences. As is only to be expected, this privilege was extended only to the powerful merchants who form the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. The small shopkeepers and the Co-operatives were completely dependent on these big business men for their supplies. This left the door wide open for large-scale racketeering—an opportunity in which the big shots of the Chamber of Commerce were not slow to take advantage.

Despite the Excess Profits Tax, which was also introduced as a war-time measure, the merchants made record profits.

Today the war is over. The Excess Profits Tax has been abolished but the Quota Restrictions remain. As a result prices are reaching staggering proportions. The authorities are doing all in their power to protect the profits of the black marketeers. Thus, though there has been a severe shortage of flour for many months, the Government refused to allow a Co-operative Society to take advantage of an offer of 10,000 half-bags from Canada. This would immediately have brought down the price and so strike a blow at the Chamber of Commerce profiteers. Similarly, the Co-op. was refused permission to import split peas, one of the staple items of food in the Colony.

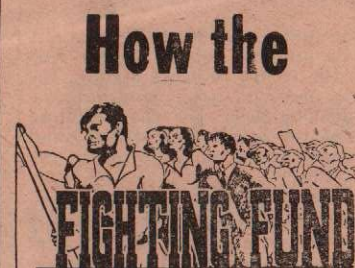
Salt Fish, another important item in the people's diet, is seldom seen, and when it is it is only sold on condition that other goods are bought as well. In 1946, one merchant had so large a stock in hand that it became rotten and unfit for consumption. He had refused to sell unless he obtained a "reasonable blackmarket price." That is how openly the people in this British Colony are being exploited—two years after Labour's return to power.

The Co-operative Movement is doing all it can to fight the ramp but on all sides it is meeting with official hostility. All the hopes which the colonial workers placed in a Labour Government are being frustrated. The colonial peoples find themselves betrayed and abandoned.

It is for the British workers to restore the honour of the British Labour Movement, which the Labour Government is besmirching. The struggle of the colonial people must receive the fullest support from the organised Labour Movement here.

Demand that the Colonial Office institute an immediate in-

quiry into the conditions under which the people of British Guiana live. Demand the immediate abolition of the existing Quota Restrictions and the control of Imports and Exports and distribution by representatives of the organised workers' and co-operative organisations.



How the Stands

APRIL, 1947.

	£	s.	d.
S.E. Contact Class ...	4	0	
Nottingham	5	0	
Edinburgh	2	10	0
Ilford	2	0	0
Ted Shields	7	0	
J.P., Croydon	5	6	
Croydon	17	4	
Southall	8	2	
Anon.		6	
Thames Valley	2	10	8
Hampstead	7	1	6
East London	1	6	7
"Back Room Boy" ...	1	0	0
Manchester	7	6	
Newcastle	3	2	
I.C., Newcastle	5	0	
J.H.J., Cheltenham ...	2	0	
Mrs. C.	5	0	
Well Wisher	1	1	0
C.E.S., Croydon	2	0	0
Bill Donnelly	5	0	
Kilburn	4	0	0
South Wales	1	0	0
Charlie White	1	0	0
Dan Pollock	2	6	
"41"	11	0	
North London	12	6	
J.G.	1	0	0
"Fish & Chips"	1	0	0
West London	5	5	0
S.E. London	4	0	
F.P.	2	6	
B.J.P.	1	1	0
Fish	10	0	
Coventry	2	6	
Eastbourne	1	8	0
Edinburgh	3	0	0

£44 3 11

that there will be no action, made by Campbell and others of the Mersey Area unofficial Committee; the confusion of the London workers, three weeks after the Glasgow strike began, when the Port Workers' Defence Committee allowed the whole initiative to pass into the hands of the Donovans; the failure of the Glasgow leadership to come out with a clear call to all the other ports the moment the strike began; all of these factors assisted in preventing a firm fighting front from being established.

Added to this, the fact that on several occasions recently the

Policy
The London and Liverpool dockers marked an important chapter in their history when they developed their rank and file committees in 1945. But as a result of the vacillations of these bodies, and their failure to function really efficiently in the present struggle, their prestige has been seriously reduced.

This poses before the dockers the task of retrieving the lost ground, before being able to take the next step forward.

It is necessary to recognise that, regardless of the unions to which

they will be able to crystallise the whole strength of dockland, formidable beyond estimation. They will point the correct way for the whole working class movement.

July is not far off. Time does not allow for any slackening in these tasks; but they can be accomplished with a determined effort NOW.

By a vigorous and determined effort on the part of the militant dockers and their rank and file leaders, victory is ensured. Only in this way will the dockers give full effect to their slogan advocated in 1945: "ONE OUT—ALL OUT."



Orphan German Children
Queue For Food

Our German Comrades are beginning to receive our Parcels

ONE MESSAGE READ:

"Your action of Solidarity is
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much needed Food."

COMRADES! Such messages should spur us to
greater efforts in aiding German Communists and
Socialists. Send a Parcel a Month to:—

H. CHASE,
256 Harrow Road,
London - W.2.

RAIL WORKERS BAN OVERTIME

About 240 railway workers of the Parcel Department at Liverpool Street are incensed at the lack of co-operation which they are receiving from the railway owners.

For 18 months, negotiations have been carried out around the following demands.

- (1) That the number of leading porters be increased from 41 to 62.
- (2) The number of parcel porters be increased from 110 to 140.
- (3) That the 9 second class foremen be reclassified to first class.

After a long drawn out struggle they have been able to achieve de-

mands (1) and (2) but not number (3). They are determined to gain all their demands and refuse to be divided. The result is that the workers have turned down this offer in its entirety.

It is said that the third point would only cost the employers a total of £2 9s. 0d. per week.

As a protest, and to exert pressure to enforce their reasonable demands, these railway workers are refusing to do overtime or Sunday work. As railwaymen have to depend on overtime and Sunday work to increase their pitifully low wages, it can be seen that a big sacrifice is being made to force the reactionary owners to recognise the rights of organised labour.

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T.R.

For the immediate nationalisation of all big industrial concerns without compensation! For workers' control of production and distribution—out with the representatives of big business! For an over-all economic plan to be operated under the direction of workers' representatives!

In order to carry out its imperialist policy at home and abroad, the Labour Government, in defiance of all the traditions of the Labour Movement, introduces peace-time conscription. The sons of the working class are to be drilled and trained to shoot down their class brothers in the colonies, on the Continent and at home, in order to protect the interests of the monopoly capitalists. This May Day the workers must show in no mistaken fashion that they want no part of conscription for their sons.

Demand the immediate demobilisation of all men still in the Forces! Fight the Labour Government's Conscription plans which brings shame on the whole Labour Movement! Abolish the Capitalist Army! Build Workers' Militias which will defend the interests of the working class and not these of the bosses!

A United Socialist States of Europe and the World

In 1917, the Russian workers under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky showed the way to the workers of the world. Since the great October Revolution, the Soviet Union has achieved great successes, demonstrating to the whole world the superiority of a planned, nationalized economy over the chaos of "private enterprise". With the internationalist policy of Lenin and Trotsky, the whole of Europe and of Asia would today be Socialist, and May Day would be a day of rejoicing instead of a fresh dedication to struggle. But the reactionary policies of Stalinism have not only betrayed the cause of socialism everywhere, they have squandered and endangered the conquests of October itself. Instead of extending the socialist revolution throughout Europe, the Stalinist bureaucracy is robbing, looting and spreading disillusionment among the peoples of Europe.

The fate of the Soviet workers and peasants is bound up with the fate of the world working class. Only the extension of the October Revolution to Europe and the world can save what remains of the Russian Revolution.

The internationalist Marxism of Lenin and Trotsky is emblazoned into the programme of the Revolutionary Communist Party and the Fourth International. That is why the R.C.P. brings this message of international solidarity on May Day.

Forward to the United Socialist States of Europe and of the World!

Long Live the international solidarity of the working class!

Down with Capitalism - Imperialism!

Long Live the Fourth International!

Workers of the World, Unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains, you have a world to gain!

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