

STOP GOADING THE MINERS

Recruiting Propaganda Insult To Workers

MALAYA

The latest demob delay came like a bombshell to the men out here. The Labour Government has come out in its full colours with a full reactionary solution to meet imperialist military requirements.

To get a complete picture it must be realised that most of the men of, say, 50 Group, three months ago, thought that they would be home at the end of the year. At the beginning of the year it was believed that more groups in the 50s would be released. The advent of the Labour Government at the end of the war meant to the servicemen that this Government of "theirs" would release 3 Groups per month.

No wonder they are outraged to hear that 50 Group will not be out by June, 1947. Not even one group per month. This "Workers Government" has fallen from grace in the Malayan terrain on this issue alone as far as the "squad" is concerned.

Out here a soldier studies above all one angle of Governmental policy, namely, demobilisation, and the outcome means a pat on the back or a kick in the pants for a good or bad programme.

NO-ONE DEFENDS THE GOVERNMENT

The political reaction is that the vast majority are vague about the next step. A proportion of the few who say the Tories would do better, do so in a "just to spite you" attitude. But nobody tries to apologise for the Government.

There is no mood among the British soldiers to police the world in the interests of imperialism. This is reflected in the complete failure of voluntary recruitment and the introduction of conscription. As an indication of the lengths to which the army authorities are going in order to maintain an army to suppress the colonial peoples, here are some extracts from the Adjutant General's Branch letter dated 27th September which appeared in our detail.

GENERAL'S LETTER INSULT TO SOLDIERS

The numbers taken on are, as yet, far short of requirements; the reason for this being mainly ignorance. There is no doubt that the new army conditions are not generally understood. With release and repatriation as the

'Mutiny' Trial - See Page 4

INDIAN MISSION Britain Poses as 'Arbiter'

BY AJIT ROY

The arrival in London of the Viceroy in company with the leaders of the Indian Congress and Muslim League reveals the growing tension in Indian politics which the Cabinet Mission and the so-called plan for Indian freedom has done nothing to alleviate.

British policy in India moves on from crisis to crisis, from one deadlock to the next. The root of the evil is the half-hearted policy pursued by the British Cabinet, a policy made up partly of concessions to Indian nationalism, and partly of attempts to salvage as much as possible of the old imperialist regime. The new crisis has developed over the continued refusal on the part of the Muslim League leaders to enter the so-called "Constituent Assembly" due to begin its sittings on December 9th, on which so much store has been set by British imperialism. Based upon indirect election on communal lines from the Provincial Legislatures which themselves represent only 11% of the population; with the nominees of the Princes representing nobody but the Princes; and with its powers strictly circumscribed by the provisions of the British Cabinet, this "Constituent Assembly" has no power to decide for itself but only to put its stamp of approval on British-made plans on vital issues. Even this is not reactionary enough for the Muslim League.

Jinnah Demands Division of India

Having originally accepted the proposals of the Cabinet Mission, Jinnah is now demanding further guarantees from the British Government before he will consent to participate in the Assembly. The guarantees relate to those

sections in the Cabinet Mission's proposals which provide for the division of India into Hindu and Muslim groups of Provinces. The Congress leaders, whose actions are dictated by considerations of the interests of Indian capitalism as well as by the pressure of anti-imperialist forces, have declared that they will not accept this scheme for the Ulsterisation of India. Hence Jinnah's demand for a guarantee from the British Government that India will be separated into religious groups. The British Government, for its part, would be only too willing to placate the communal leaders, who have always been their faithful allies, were it not for the dangers involved.

The British Government is well aware of the hatred entertained by the vast majority of the Indian people, including a considerable section of the Muslims, for the separatist provisions of the Cabinet's proposals - provisions which seek to perpetuate the existing communal differences and the autocratic powers of the Princes, by weaving them into the very fabric of the Indian Constitution. It is well aware that the Congress leaders alone, with the prestige of their past struggles against British imperialism, are able to hold back the nationalist forces from tearing up the entire Cabinet proposals and launching a new struggle for power.

During the past years, British

(Continued on page 4.)

Morrison Joins Chorus: 'Dig More Coal'

BY JOCK HASTON

SINCE "PEACE ON EARTH" WAS ESTABLISHED, THE MINERS HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A TREMENDOUS CAMPAIGN OF CRITICISM AND DENIGRATION. FROM THE VIRULENT ATTACKS OF THE EXTREME RIGHT WING, WHO ALLEGE THAT THE MINERS ARE LYING DOWN ON THE JOB, TO THE MISNAMED "LEFT WING" OF THE TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO ONLY INSINUATE WHAT THE REACTIONARIES SAY OPENLY - ALL PARTICIPATE IN A FLOOD OF PROPAGANDA DIRECTED TO THE MINERS: "WORK HARDER! THE FUTURE OF BRITAIN DEPENDS ON YOU ALONE YOU MUST DIG MORE COAL."

The latest spokesman in this campaign to make the miners the whipping boy for Britain's unfavourable economic position, was Herbert Morrison in his speech at Newcastle on December 1st.

"You know as well as I know", Morrison is reported to have said, "that it is not good enough to be a socialist at the polling booth and anti-socialist at the pit." What can this mean but an insidious criticism of the work of the miners? And so it has certainly been taken to mean by the reactionary sections of the middle class who falsely accept it as a legitimate criticism.

"The miner has something to work for", Morrison continued, "... But if he was not prepared to work, he would not only ruin his own industry but the whole country."

If we do not overcome the coal difficulty, he went on, other countries would establish themselves in markets which could be ours for the asking, and we should be faced with a permanently low standard of living due to our own inability to pay for adequate imports. Shortage of coal threatens us with permanent austerity.

Workers must give considerable thought to this. It contains the key to the way in which the Labour leaders think, and how they are going to unload the re-

sponsibility for the future crisis from their own onto the shoulders of the workers—especially the miners—when the slump takes place.

But it is not enough to think about the matter. It is necessary to expose its content to place the responsibility for the future crisis where it truly belongs: on the shoulders of the Labour leaders, including Herbert Morrison.

No Change In Miners' Status

The miner sees that the coal capitalist has been more than amply compensated, that he continues to live just as before, a parasite on society with a guarantee from the Labour Government that his standard of life as a coal baron will be maintained. The miner, who digs the coal, however, does not get the same guarantee. If he listens to the call of Morrison to "go to it" and work harder, in the present conditions of mining work, his life and health are forfeit. But he and his dependents are to be compensated on a scale little higher than slow starvation level in the event of accident. What inspiration is this to a miner to work harder, produce more, and to risk his life and limb?

The miner feels and knows that there is, as yet, no real tangible

change in his status and conditions of life from the transfer of the ownership of the mines to the state. Without a genuinely socialist policy which eliminates all traces of parasitism connected with the industry, and gives the miners a real and active control, it will not be possible to "inspire" them.

The miner instinctively feels, and he is correct, that in a few years' time at most, when machinery has been introduced into the pits and production speeded up, the markets will not expand, but at best will remain as they are. What is going to happen then?

Is the Labour Government going to break down the working day to absorb the unemployed in the industry while at the same time maintain the standards of living, meagre as they are? The miners correctly fear that their standards will be subject to a severe attack and that there will once again be thousands of unemployed in the mining villages. Morrison's policy of capitalist reforms will not put an end to the crisis of capitalism and all its consequences. To do this requires bold socialist action on a national scale.

For A Socialist Solution

In continuing the old policy of bureaucratic control in the hands of the old capitalist managers, the Labour leaders have taken upon their shoulders the responsibility for the coal crisis, for the general crisis of production which will be upon us, and for the inevitable decline in the standards of life of the British workers. It is time to expose their false propaganda to find scapegoats for their own misdeeds.

The miners would be foolish if they allowed the present campaign against them to continue without an answer, without exposing those who conduct the campaign, openly or insidiously.

To the Miners' Charter of reforms which they are now demanding, must be added the demand for direct management of the pits through representatives of the miners and mining engineers. This policy of workers management and control is essential if nationalisation is to benefit the producer of coal.

Remember This? C.P. POSTER 1942



Comrades in Arms

The Churchill Myth

William Rust, editor of the 'Daily Worker' wrote an article in the issue of November 23rd, headed "THE CHURCHILL MYTH." The article purported to destroy the fable that Churchill was a great democratic war leader.

In refuting this myth Rust recalls the anti-Soviet record of the Tory leader, Churchill, he says, has been wrong about Russia for 24 years.

In 1941 "Churchill changed his language, but not his basic policy. Between 1941-45 the Tory imperialist Churchill may have suffered from political deviations but he never once overlooked his anti-Socialist aims."

"If many Labour members do not understand these things it can only be because they do not know the real Mr. Churchill, have forgotten his record or have been taken in by the sedulously propagated myth that Mr. Churchill was a great war leader and anti-Fascist."

What hypocrisy! What paper

And This? C.P. PROPAGANDA RECEIPT 1942



more than the "Daily Worker" sedulously propagated the myth of Churchill as a great 'rebel' and anti-fascist war leader. Who more vigorously slandered those socialist and communists who tried to expose Churchill's true aims in the war than Rust and his friends? It was Harry Pollitt in "How To Win The Peace" who said: "... Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin declared their aims... with simplicity and clarity. They are to make a peace which will banish the scourge and terror of war for many generations."

It was Michael Shapiro, Communist Party Councillor in Stepney, popularising the line of the Party in the special C.P. publication "YOUR VOTE—HOW TO USE IT" in the general

Paddington Work-to-Rule N.U.R 'Discipline' Angers Rail Workers

BY SID BIDWELL

THE DECISION OF THE N.U.R. NATIONAL E.C. TO SUSPEND THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PADDINGTON GOODS WORKERS' BRANCH SO LONG AS THEY CONTINUED WITH THEIR "WORK TO RULE" MOVEMENT, HAS ANGERED RAILWAY WORKERS ON A NATIONAL SCALE.

As the Beaverbrook Press pointed out, this was the first attempt to "discipline" the workers on the part of trade union officials since the advent of the Labour Government.

Although the workers slowed up, in fact, it was a strict adherence to the G.W.R.'s mass of rules applicable to the handling of freight. Many battles have been fought and won by the Paddington workers and others in the past by using this method of struggle.

Because it was a "work-to-rule" movement it makes the decision of the Union E.C. all the more arbitrary and adds to the widespread indignation of the workers. Already storm-clouds are gathering within the N.U.R. which bode ill for the leaders.

Cause Of The Dispute

The dispute started when two workers refused to deal with a Carter Paterson Container which arrived two hours later than the recognised time for handling "private traders" traffic. The workers' local committee claimed they had an agreement to this effect with the Company, but the railway officials denied it. The rule concerning the acceptance of traffic must be rigidly adhered to if the extensive programme of goods movement is to work, and services operated on time.

It is generally known that the railway companies have a controlling financial interest in firms such as Carter Paterson, Pickfords, Hays Wharf, etc., but the workers consider that "private trader" regulations should apply to such firms.



Workers Told Of Suspension Over Radio

Because the workers, who felt so strongly on the question, took action, before the cumbersome disciplinary machinery had been set into motion, the Company refused to negotiate with the local committee and the N.U.R. E.C. threw their weight behind the railway bosses in refusing to proceed until a resumption of "normal work" had taken place. Heated battles took place on the N.U.R. E.C. and it remains to be seen by the publication of the Minutes which members were responsible for this disgraceful conduct.

As the workers grew more determined, the E.C. took a decision

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U.S. WORKERS BACK MINERS

Over 200,000 Miners had already struck in the coal-pits throughout the United States before the expiration of their contract. Most likely no coalfield would be operating after the contract deadline.

The contract was signed last year in direct negotiation between the United Mineworkers' Union and the Government at Washington, which had at that time taken over the mines when the bosses had refused to concede to the strikers after six weeks of strike.

Last week, the courts ruled that this contract cannot be terminated, except with the consent of the Government. When John L. Lewis gave notice of the termination of the Agreement, the Department of Justice asked the Courts for an injunction to restrain the Union from calling a strike, which the Courts granted.

"NO CONTRACT, NO WORK"

No official strike call has been issued. But the miners are leaving the pits under the traditional slogan: "No contract, no work." Union pickets are stationed at all mines to enforce this slogan.

At the same time Government troops have been mobilised and are under orders "to protect property which is under Government Control" and "to permit those who want to work to go into the mines unmolested."

No attempts of any miners to cross the picket line have been reported. In an endeavour to crush the Union, the Government has fined it \$875,000. This will lead to a more bitter struggle.

A.F.L. AND C.I.O. BEHIND MINERS

In the name of the American Federation of Labour, its President William Green has announced full support to the miners by the central union body, to which they are affiliated. In an unusually militant public declaration Green stated: "Neither troops with bayonets, nor court injunctions, nor incarcerations of miners or their representatives

in jail can serve to produce one single ton of coal... Instead of returning to work, the miners who have voluntarily walked out will voluntarily refuse to return until a new contract becomes effective."

The Congress of Industrial Organisations (C.I.O.), the other great central Union body, meeting in annual convention at Atlantic City, has likewise declared full support to the miners in their struggle. Thus the entire organised working class of the United States is completely ranged behind the U.M.W. in its bold defiance of the Government, and the strike is transformed into a major test between Labour and Capital in the United States.

MEANING OF ELECTION RESULTS

The Government's latest attempt at strike-breaking, coming on the heels of the victory of the reactionary Republican Party in the elections, provides a test as to the actual meaning of the electoral results.

The unprecedented solidarity and militancy of the Labour movement behind the miners indicates that the Republican victory meant not a swing towards conservatism on the part of the workers, but only a shift to the right on the part of the capitalist class followed by the middle class in face of the refusal of the labour bureaucrats to take the road of political independence from the discredited Democratic Party.

Unable to voice their class aspirations politically, owing to the absence of an independent Labour Party, the workers are conducting ever more powerfully and with greater compactness, the struggle on the economic field. The direct clash with the Government—now utilising injunctions, threatening arrests, and planning of new anti-labour laws—will pose more sharply than ever the need for independent working class political action.

Cossor's Sell-Out

T.U. LEADERS' AGREEMENT

Stewards Still on Streets

BY J. KELLY

A defeat of foremost importance to the Trade Union movement has been inflicted upon the Cossor Strikers by the cowardly policy of the Stalinists and Trade Union leaders.

For eight weeks, over 1,000 male and female employees have been on strike for the reinstatement of six victimised Shop Stewards. During that time £8,000 has been subscribed to the strike funds by factories all over the country on the grounds that Cossor's management, supported by the Employers' Federation, had violated the York Memorandum in sacking the Stewards. Whilst this action of the employers released the Trade Union Executives from supporting an agreement which no longer existed, nevertheless they persisted in maintaining that the strike was "unofficial" and procedure must be obeyed at all costs.

In this they had the full support of the Stalinist National Council of Shop Stewards, who directed the strike on the spot. Such a position allowed a majority of "trade unionists" in the Highbury factory to scab on the strike, and in this way split the ranks, enabling Cossor's management to score a victory.

The text of the infamous Agreement terminating the strike dated November 23rd, reads as follows:

The Agreement

Stoppages of Work at A. C. Cossor Ltd., Highbury, and Electronic Tubes Ltd., High Wycombe

Preamble: The representatives of the Unions having intimated that the stoppages of work at Highbury High Wycombe have not been

officially recognised, and the Unions desiring to bring this matter to a close, it is mutually agreed:

1. There shall be a full resumption of work at the High Wycombe factory on Monday, 25th November, 1946, or as early as possible.

2. So far as Highbury is concerned, the firm are prepared to provide facilities for Executive officials of the Unions concerned to speak with their members.

(a) Production at Highbury is related to supplies from High Wycombe, and must of necessity affect the volume of employment at Highbury. Further, circumstances have arisen which make it impossible to guarantee the immediate re-employment of all those who left their employment on 4th October, 1946.

(b) The firm will, however, so soon as possible, provide employment for as many as practicable.

(c) Those workpeople who withdrew their labour, and who are still on the firm's books, shall intimate to the Company through their Trade Unions two weeks from the date of resumption of work at High Wycombe whether they wish to be re-employed. The names of such workpeople shall be kept in a Register. An effort will be made to provide employment for such persons within one month from the date of the High Wycombe resumption, but no guarantee can be given in this regard.

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INDUSTRIAL NEWS

BY P. NORMAN

Fight for 40 hour Week

After eight months of tedious negotiations by the Engineering Unions for the 40 hour week, the E.C. agreed to discuss the acceptance of the Employers' offer of a 44 hour week.

In an "explanation" of the agreement, the E.C. of the A.E.U. has stated that there is no agreement as yet, but the issue is to be discussed further between the Confederation of Engineering Unions and the employers.

The A.E.U. E.C. will then come forward with a halo round their heads and say: "Well, we are only a part of the Confederation in accepting the 44 hours."

That may be so, but what engineers have to remember is that due to the recent affiliation the A.E.U. is the dominating body with a membership of nearly 800,000.

Against the wishes and principles of the Trade Union movement the 84 hour day will be raised to 9 hours for at least three days per week. This, after hundreds of resolutions from the rank and file members have been passed, and thousands of words have been paid in lip service by the bureaucrats to the shorter working day.

Over 250 London engineers, as representatives of their factories, paraded all day outside the employers' offices during the final Conference. They were not there only to impress the employers, but to very strongly remind the Trade Union officials that there must be no surrender to the 45 hour week, this being the rumoured figure amongst engineers and a possible "sell out" by the E.C.'s.

Employers Offer Backed By Government

The employers built their case on the failure of the Labour Government to institute a 40-hour week nationally.

Quoting Government spokesmen on the need for production and exports, the employers refused to move from the 44 hour offer.

Coupled to this, the employing class as a whole understand very well that the Trade Union leadership will not raise a call to the rank and file for strike action. With this in mind, they can very

well offer almost nothing, knowing that there will be no organised official action on the part of the Unions which will endanger their profits.

This is the whole crux of the present situation.

Workers must demand official action when class issues of this character come to a stalemate. Only by well organised action on the part of the Trade Union movement can the workers gain their just demands which can never be achieved by slick arguments across the worn out conference table.

Pattern Makers Strike Called off

After a careful bottling of the Patternmakers' strike action nationally (supported by A.E.U. members), the U.P.A. officials have, after negotiations with the employers, called the strike off.

Secret Settlement

A settlement has been reached on the demand for a minimum of 3/- per hour. But due to the fact that some two weeks after "settlement", no announcement has been made concerning the terms, it is feared and rumoured amongst the Patternmakers, that they have also "been sold" by their officials.

It is believed that the so-called "full settlement", is an agreement which makes the rate of 2/8d. or 2/10d. with an incentive bonus something which the Patternmakers have always resisted in the past. This is quite a long way from the demand of 3/- for which every Patternmaker, whether he was receiving the rate or not, was ready to strike.

Reaffirm Strike Action

In the event of such a rumour being a reality, it is the task of all Patternmakers to reaffirm their decision to strike as they were prepared to do in the first place for

their original demand. Their key position in industry gives them a good lever to achieve their demand by swift action. They should demand that the E.C. reverse their position and take a strike ballot among the members to decide whether the terms are acceptable, or whether national strike action should not be undertaken.

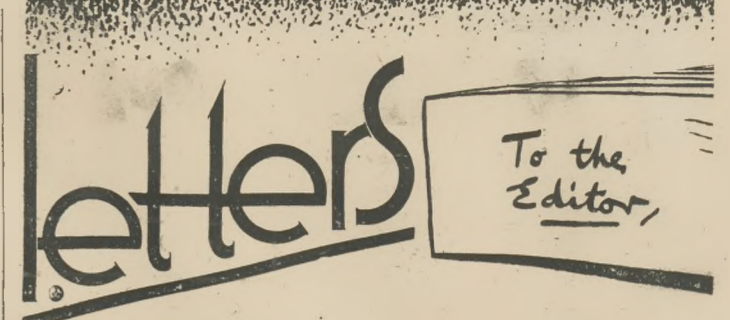
His Master's Voice

"The recent intimation by the Acting Prime Minister of South Africa (Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr) that native mine workers' organisations would not receive statutory recognition is in full accord with the views of the Gold Producers' Committee of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines." (South Africa, November 30, 1946).

This statement will come as no surprise to workers acquainted with labour conditions in South Africa. The South African Government is the national executive committee of the mine magnates and Hofmeyr was simply giving words to the sentiments of his masters.

In justification of their attitude, the Gold Producers' Committee's statement went on to say that in their opinion trade unionism was against the best interest of the tribal natives employed in the mines. "Not only were the natives insufficiently advanced for organisation on these lines, but they themselves did not want it."

One wonders why the Government goes to the length of passing legislation prohibiting Native trade unions when the natives themselves "did not want it"? In fact, of course, there is nothing the millionaire mine-owners fear more than the organisation of the 300,000 black miners into trade unions. They showed this when, with the aid of the Smuts' Government, they bloodily crushed the recent strike on the Rand and by their prosecution of all who actively attempt to organise the



MORALE OF THE PARATROOPERS

November 28th, 1946

Dear Editor, I feel it will be of interest to many to know the effect of the long trial of the Paratroopers lasting five months, that is, whether they have had their militancy suppressed or their confidence increased.

We were in transit awaiting for the S.S. Atrato, when the 13th Paratroopers Battalion arrived, and later it was made known that they were going on the same ship as we were.

I questioned many of them and it became clear that their confidence and morale was extremely high. Their confidence in themselves was even higher than the rest of the SEAC troops who are known for their militancy.

CLASS DISTINCTION ANGERS TROOPERS

Many instances on the boat showed the degree of class consciousness that these troops had attained. As is usual, class distinction was rampant on board. A and half B decks were out of bounds to troops, and were reserved for officers and women only. However, space was still not enough for them. One of the "first class" women complained about troops who were in the open, partly sheltered section of C Deck. As a result the Officer in Command of Troops (OICT) placed C Deck also out of bounds to the troops. Several hundred out of about 700 troops were sleeping there at the time.

At the same time it had started raining, and meanwhile three other decks had to be vacated to the mess decks, which the OICT Troops had previously complained was in too stuffy a condition for the men to sleep in.

Resulting from the foregoing, 4,500 troops were on the move in the hope of finding sleeping space, and about 700 gathered on D Deck.

MASS SINGING

Their mood after all this was one of disgust and defiance. This was expressed in a mass demonstration of singing anti-capitalist songs. Among these songs were: 'It is the Rich what gets the pleasure and the Poor what gets the blame' - 'I Wish I was an Absentee and have the Red-caps after me.'

It was indeed an impressive and inspiring sight. But the song that

had the most effect was the last one, for it was worded as if a mother were singing it to the effect that: 'If all the mothers had their way their sons would never shoulder a rifle, and its international significance was brought out as the song showed that Germans, Americans, French, Japanese, Chinese, Russians and British, all had mothers.

This last song gave a tense atmosphere, a mood which set many wondering as to how they had been tricked by the bosses, whose representatives looked down from A Deck.

C DECK IN BOUNDS AGAIN

By the morning the temper of the men had increased. They could be seen gathering on C Deck aft, and soon their numbers increased by hundreds. There they waited for the second order to again remove their bodies. But apparently OICT Troops knew his chances: C Deck was put in bounds again and the victors dispersed.

Such occurrences, as is known, only occur when the conditions under which men exist, can be little better than the punishment given.

The Paratroopers went to the sea-wall at Klang as the only way out of their intolerable living conditions. In other units, this expresses itself differently. For instance, in one unit in Singapore one man cut his throat, another was found dead down a well, another was going insane. But now we are learning the right way.

These Paratroopers are fine working-class men, yet all those who had received their demob. papers had testimonials slandering their characters.

The Paratroopers expressed their thanks to all those who supported them in their struggle to be treated as human beings. They urge them to send a hand of solidarity to those workers in uniform who are still conscripted over a year and a half after the end of the war, and are still denied the right to be again with their wives and families.

The "Socialist Appeal" was read by the Paratroopers who acknowledged that it was the only paper which clearly indicated that it was as a result of the pressure of the working class that they were released, and not a slip-up in "legal procedure" as the Labour and Tory press tried to pretend.

Ranker, SEAC

'OUR CASE' Scandalous Victimisation of Pit Lads

Gwaun-cae-Gurwen 22.11.46

The Editor, Socialist Appeal, London. Dear Comrade,

We, the undersigned, working as boys at the G.C.G. collieries, would be grateful if we could have the use of your columns to voice our disgust and indignation at the injustice recently inflicted on the boys at G.C.G. colliery. Faced with "damages" of over £13 each, which is deducted from our meagre wages weekly, in instalments of 5/-, we feel we would at least have the satisfaction of presenting OUR CASE against the imposition of this staggering debt.

With your permission, Mr. Editor, our case is as follows:—

The Steer Pit, G.C.G. began operations in 1927. All boys employed on the colliery screens were employed solely for the purpose of separating rubbish from the coal. The rubbish thus separated, accumulated in a day or two into one or two truck-loads, and the Company paid half a shift to two surface labourers for its clearance. This arrangement went on uninterrupted for 15 years.

In 1942, the output of coal fell as a result of an alleged ca'anny movement, and the then manager (J. Morgan) instructed the boys that until such time as the output of coal returned to normal, they (the boys on the screens) had to clear the rubbish.

At that time the screen boys protested at this breaking of a custom, and repeatedly demanded bunkers to do away with the handloading process, which, they said, was too heavy for them. Appealing again and again for bunkers, they were finally promised by the management. But

still nothing was done. And eventually the matter was given to the Lodge committee to settle. Again weeks followed weeks with no settlement, and in desperation, patience exhausted, the screen boys adopted a strike policy. The underground boys (to which we three belong) supported them, and after four years of appeals and months of negotiations we went on strike in October this year.

We were on strike for 12 days. During that time, truly, the men in the pit came out in sympathy with us, but their action was so divided, that when they went back to work we had no alternative but to accept arbitration of our case. The Arbitrator decided in our favour. But although completely vindicated by the Arbitrator's award, we were summoned to appear before court to answer a charge of breach of contract.

The union settled the matter out of court at £1 3s. 8d. for every day that we were on strike. We are loyal trade unionists, but the vicious attitude of the management, partly condoned by our Lodge servants makes a bitter pill to swallow. And seeing boys paying 5/- a week for more than a year from a miserable pittance of £1 8s. 6d. a week makes us wonder on the eve of Nationalisation if such an attitude is a forerunner of things to come. If the make-up of the South Wales Coal Board is any guide of what treatment we can expect in the future, we at least hold no hopes for the success of recruitment of boys to the pits for the production of coal which, we are told, is so urgently needed.

Yours fraternally, RONALD RICHARDS. CARL DAVIES. GEUAN REES.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Royal Commission Supports Bosses

THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON EQUAL PAY HAS BEEN PUBLISHED. THIS REPORT, WHICH REJECTS THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK IN INDUSTRY HAS BEEN HAILED BY THE BOSSES, WHO SEE IN IT A JUSTIFICATION FOR USING WOMEN AS A SOURCE OF CHEAP LABOUR.

It marks a step backward from the Report of the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry which, as long ago as 1919, recommended that the Government support and apply the principle of "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

REPORT INSULT TO WOMEN WORKERS

If the Report comes as balm to the hearts of the boss-class, the organised Labour Movement has not been slow to react in the opposite direction. From all over the country come reports of strong criticisms from Trade Union branches and Shop Stewards' Committees. They object to the insulting references to the "inferiority" of women and to the recommendations which, if carried out, will widen the breach between men and women workers.

The Report comes just at a time when British capitalism is faced with an acute Labour shortage and when they are compelled, more and more, to turn to female labour. In such a situation, the workers are in a strong position to enforce their economic demands and to push through the principle of "the rate for the job." Heedful of the necessity to serve the interests of the owners of industry, the Commission warns the workers that—"the policy of high and stable employment is a precious and tender plant which has not yet been successfully transplanted from the greenhouse of speculation and plan-making into the cold air of the real world."

In plain words, the Commission states its belief in the possibility of full employment under capitalism. It therefore demands that the workers exercise "moderation and restraint" in their claims.

A Cardinal Principle of Labour

"Equal Pay for Equal Work" is a cardinal principle of the Labour Movement, just as the use of cheap female labour to undermine the living standards of the working class as a whole, is a first principle of the capitalist class. The Labour Movement must demand that the Labour Government reject the recommendations of the Report and that it immediately accept and apply the principle of equal pay.

That vigorous action on the part of the organized workers is necessary, was made painfully obvious by the evidence of the Treasury representatives before the Commission. These spokesmen for the Labour Government stated that they were opposed to the introduction of equality in the Government's industrial establishment because—"Before the war Government employment covered an extremely small part of the industrial field. In no respect could the Government as employer attempt to exercise a dominant influence in the sphere of industrial wages."

As far as employment in the non-industrial field was concerned, the Treasury spokesman approached the problem from exactly the opposite angle. Because of the extensiveness of Government employment in this field, it would be "peculiarly inappropriate that the Government should take action independently of the employers in the country at large."

What a disgrace that a Labour Government should fear to set an example to the capitalist class in applying the elementary principle of "Equal Pay for Equal Work," and that Dame Anne Loughlin, former Chairman of the T.U.C.,

was the only Trade Union representative on the Commission to oppose the recommendations.

Reactionary Recommendations

The arguments used by the Commission to justify their reactionary recommendations are as old as capitalism itself—the threadbare old arguments about the "greater inefficiency" and the

"physical weaknesses" of women. In Volume I of "Capital", Karl Marx wrote:

"In so far as machinery does away with the need of any considerable expenditure of muscular power, it becomes a means for the utilisation of workers with comparatively little strength and those whose bodily growth is immature but whose limbs are all the more supple..."

Since Marx wrote these words, industrial technique has made giant strides and manufacturing processes, with the exception of one or two specialist branches such as coal-mining, call for dexterity rather than physical strength. There is today not the slightest excuse for unequal rates of pay except the capitalist greed for profits.

Cheap female labour is a weapon directed at the living standards of the workers. With all their might the organized workers must redouble their fight for the principle of "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

C. van Gelderen

From LEFT and RIGHT BY AGITATOR

'Daily Worker' Advertising

One of the biggest headaches of the Labour Government is how to maintain, at sufficient strength, the military forces requisite for the defence of the interests of senile British imperialism. Attlee and Co., having taken on this commitment, are swimming against a strong tide. Those in the armed forces want to get out. Those outside want to stay out. The high-powered recruiting campaign through press publicity is running into rough weather, in at least some circles claiming allegiance to the Labour Government.

The "Daily Worker" of 30th November ran almost a page of letters from serving men headed "We Want to Come Out Now!" All were protests against the slow down of demobilization, and the "Daily Worker" added its comments:

"The letters published here are from men in Greece, Italy, Palestine, Malaya, as well as Germany. Hundreds of thousands of these men are paying in misery for the Government's attempt to prop up a Right-Wing Greek Government, for the effort to retain a base in Palestine, for the pressure on the Yugoslavs and for other imperialist projects."

This, presumably is the real position of the "Worker". But on the adjoining page of the same issue was a paid Government advert calling for men to join the "New Regular Army"! Pre-



AN APPEAL FROM THE NEW TREASURER

In order to free Harold Atkinson for other Party tasks—the most important of which is the editing of "Workers' International News"—I have been appointed the National Treasurer. And I want to start off with an extremely urgent appeal to all our readers and sympathisers.

In order to keep going we must get £125 per month. This target has been fixed after cutting all our expenses to the bone—after enforcing a most rigid restraint on all of our expenditure. Our readers will have seen from the lists of contributions to the Fighting Fund that we have been falling short of our target. This month's list, printed below, emphasises this point in a most brutal fashion.

As the new Treasurer, I appeal to you to help us to reverse the present state of the Fund. There is precious little in the way of cash, but a wad of bills which have to be met. You know that we are the only Party and the only Paper in this country which consistently supports the struggle of the working class, which consistently opposes capitalism in all its manifestations and which puts the struggle for Socialism before everything else.

Comrades, I appeal to you. Help us in the great task we have undertaken—Send your donations immediately to—

ARTHUR ROSS, National Treasurer, 256, Harrow Road, London, W.2.

NOVEMBER

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Lists contributions from various branches like South Kirby, Charlie White, Croydon Branch, etc., totaling £82 6 1.

Advertisement for 'I stake my life!' by Leon Trotsky, featuring a portrait of Trotsky and text about the Dewey Report on the Moscow Trials.

SOCIALIST APPEAL

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

Greek Intervention Stain on British Labour

Greece is engulfed in a new and fairly large scale civil war. The suppression of militant working class and peasant movements, the arrests, the beatings, and the assassinations of militant workers' and peasant leaders have again given rise to a widespread movement in the mountains of Macedonia on the borders of Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

The movement springs from the Greek masses. It arises from the terrible economic conditions of semi-starvation imposed on the people, from the oppressive actions of the military regime which seeks to destroy every vestige of democratic expression on the part of the workers and peasants. Royalist reaction seeks once again to reintroduce a regime of military terror such as was imposed by the infamous General Metaxas in 1936.

Frantically the Royalists appeal to the British Labour Government for arms and supplies to help crush the popular uprisings. A report from Athens, which has not been denied in London, states that Britain is to supply the Greek Government with 10,000 additional pieces of arms — mostly heavy automatic weapons — and has approved an increase of an additional 5,000 men to the Greek Royalist army.

It will be to the everlasting shame of British Trade Unionists if they allow these arms to be shipped and transported without an attempt to stop them by strike action.

Ernest Bevin sent a message to Tsaldaris, the Greek Prime Minister, saying: "I am convinced that although the situation demands careful attention there is no danger of crisis. . . I feel admiration for the courage with which Your Excellency is resisting temptation." Bevin condones the massacre of the working peoples and expresses admiration for the policy of Tsaldaris. Suppress the workers according to the principles of British gradualism! A direct and bloody clash in the towns is more than the British workers will stand at present and might embarrass His Majesty's socialists. That is Bevin's message to Tsaldaris.

Now that Labour is in power the majority of organised workers seem to have forgotten that there are 50,000 troops in Greece who don't want to be there. Forgotten that these troops have the task not to put down fascists and anti-socialist forces, but to keep the semi-fascist, Royalist and military reaction in power.

Every day that this policy is condoned in silence adds shame to the name of British Labour. It is time to rouse the workers to wipe off this stain from Labour's banner.

Every soldier in or bound for Greece must be urged to ask himself: 'For what purpose am I being sent there? Is it to help the common toiling people like myself, or is it to keep the Quisling King of Greece on the throne against the wishes of the people, to keep in power the quisling capitalist class whom the King represents?'

When the soldiers ask themselves these questions and discuss them, then the Labour Government will soon feel the pressure.

At home, every worker who thinks in terms of social progress and the socialist emancipation of the working class, must seriously plan and act to block the transport of arms and supplies to Greek reaction. Every socialist worker must feel the shame that comes from loading and transporting supplies which will be used against fellow workers.

Remember: every gun and every shell is not destined to be used by a fellow trade unionist to defend his democratic rights; it is destined to be used by a semi-fascist to destroy these rights.

Remember: every British shell, transported by British labour, is destined to find a target in the heart or back of a Greek fellow toiler.

TERRORISM IN PALESTINE Are The Terrorists Anti-Imperialist ?

BY T. CLIFF

TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN PALESTINE HAS BEEN REVIVED ON A LARGER SCALE THAN FORMERLY, CALLING THE ATTENTION OF THE ENTIRE PRESS TO THE ORGANISATIONS OF THE HAGANA, THE IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI, THE STERN GANG AND THEIR ACTIVITIES.

Socialist internationalists must answer the question: what is the character of these organisations? Are they an anti-imperialist factor in the liberatory struggles of the colonial peoples?

Stern Gang

The answer to this question is clear: the liberation of Palestine from the imperialist yoke cannot be realised without the liberation of the whole East from imperialism. There are tens of millions of Arab workers and peasants in the Middle East, and any organisation which does not drive towards unity with these masses can objectively, not be anti-imperialist. All the Zionist terror organisations, however, daily declare that their objective is to turn Palestine into a Jewish state. Their leaders are the main organisers of the boycott of the Arabs, which casts Arab workers out of industries owned by Jews, and prevents Arab peasants from selling their products to Jewish customers, etc.

As regards their relation to imperialism, there is somewhat of a difference between the HAGANA and the other terrorist organisations, but this difference is in reality only verbal.

The Hagana

Dr. Sneh, head of the Hagana, declared: "One of the bad principles of the traditional system (of British policy) is that the British authorities compromise only with the one who knows how to disturb and to break their peace, but are accustomed to treat lightly and betray a faithful, peaceful and patient ally. If this is the way to win the alliance of Britain, we cannot avoid trying to follow this path, as we are very interested in Britain's alliance with us. We cannot long maintain the present one-sided alliance in place of a mutual alliance. The Jewish population in Palestine does not intend to expel the British from the country and be their heirs. We do not see any contradiction whatsoever between mass immigration, a Jewish state, and wide and strong British bases in this country. On the contrary, we shall look upon it very favourably."

"The Essence of the Crisis" Ha'aretz, October 26, 1945.

Stern Gang and Irgun

Zvai Leumi

The other two organisations, the Stern Gang and the Irgun Zvai Leumi, demagogically declare that they stand for the full freedom of Palestine from imperialism in order to establish a Jewish State. They declare:

"The British to the sea: the Arabs to the desert." The leaders, knowing the incompatibility of the two parts of this slogan, choose the second.

Do these organisations serve the interests of the Jewish masses of Palestine and the world, as they claim to do? Of course not.

Aims Of British Imperialism

For more than 20 years, British imperialism has been interested in building a citadel inside the Middle East, not economically, East, but socially and politically from the Arab masses, a citadel which, in its isolation and reliance on British bayonets will support an imperialist oppressive policy. British imperialism has accordingly allowed the Zionist leaders to settle tens of thousands of Jews in Palestine with this object: to use them as a buffer between itself and the Arab masses. The imperialists know that whatever the complaint of the Zionists against their master, in no case will they join with the Arab masses.

Sure of this, imperialism can use the Zionist movements, as it has done in the past and will do in the future, whenever there is an Arab anti-imperialist uprising in the Middle East. They will use the Zionists as a direct supporter; but they will also use them as scapegoats.

Anti-Semitism In The Middle East

The stronger the activity of the Zionist terror organisations, the greater the isolation of the Jewish toilers in Palestine from their Arab brethren. Every bomb thrown for the Jewish state, deepens the abyss between the Jewish and Arab

masses and increases the danger threatening them.

The Zionist leaders, who say the solution of the Jewish question lies in Palestine, really precipitate a terrible new Jewish tragedy. The situation of the Jews in the Middle East is one of isolation in the midst of a hostile population. This is the result of the criminal imperialist policy of goading the Jewish minority to struggle for a Jewish State, of helping them to erect a closed Zionist economy which turns the anti-imperialist ire of the Arab masses against the Jews.

It is impossible for the Palestinian Jews to save the displaced

than that of the Jews, who have higher wages and receive large sums from the world Zionist movement for health and education.

British imperialism tries its best to keep the Jewish and Arab toilers in different compartments of the same train speeding towards destruction. The Zionists act in this as the tool of imperialism.

The fate of the Country must rest in the Hands of its Inhabitants. The main leaders of the Zionist movement demand a Jewish state. The Left Zionists, Hashomer Hatzair demand the control of the Jewish Agency over immigration, colonisation and the development of the country. These demands

THE ONLY SALVATION FOR THE JEWS

BY LEON TROTSKY

The attempt to solve the Jewish question through the migration of Jews to Palestine can now be seen for what it is, a tragic mockery of the Jewish people. Interested in winning the sympathy of the Arabs who are more numerous than the Jews, the British government has sharply altered its policy toward the Jews, and has actually renounced its promise to help them found their "own home" in a foreign land. The future development of military events may well transform Palestine into a bloody trap for several hundred thousand Jews. Never was it so clear as it is today that the salvation of the Jewish people is bound up inseparably with the overthrow of the capitalist system.

July, 1940

Jews in Europe by bringing them to Palestine. Their task will be to save themselves from the abyss into which they are being driven.

This can be done only by their renunciation of Zionism, by breaking down their isolation in the Middle East, and by extending their hand to the Arab masses who fight against imperialism.

The Jewish terror movements in Palestine are antagonistic to the interests of the Jews and Arabs alike. Objectively, they help the interests of imperialism: help the policy of divide and rule, and justify the concentration of big armies in Palestine under the guise of protecting the Arabs from the Jews, while really fortifying the imperialist position in preparation for future uprisings in the Middle East.

Division Between Jews And Arabs

It is imperialism which is responsible for the cul-de-sac into which the Jewish masses of Palestine are being driven. It did all it could to maintain the differences in the standard of life of Jews and Arabs. While Jewish workers work mainly in the closed Jewish economy, based to a large extent on Zionist subsidies, the Arab workers are mainly employed by the Government and foreign enterprises.

Imperialist policy was first to pay the Arab workers wages which are far lower than those received by the Jews in the Jewish economy; insofar as it employed Jewish workers, it paid them higher wages.

The reactionary anti-Labour legislation, the police suppression of strikes, etc., harmed the Arab workers with their weak organisations and lower cultural level, much more than the Jewish workers, whose Labour organisation, Histadruth, on the whole supported by the Jewish capitalists. This organisation serves mainly not the class struggle, but the boycott of the Arabs. There is no trade union where Palestine Jews participate with Arabs on equal terms; there is no common school or hospital; there is no political party in which Jews and Arabs are united (Trotskyists apart) — even the Jewish and Arab Stalinists operate separately.

The fact that the Health and Education Budgets together do not amount to 65% of the Police Budget (in England they are five times larger than the latter), causes the standard of life of the Arabs to be dragged down much lower than that of the Jews.

Second Discussion in Greece

On Sunday, 3 November, the second discussion-conference between the International Communist Party, Greek Trotskyist organisation, and the Greek Communist Party (Stalinists) took place. About 750 workers attended. The conference was opened and closed by the I.C.P. speaker, who spoke on the subject: "Popular Republic or Socialist Soviet Republic in Greece?" At the end of the discussion, in which the audience found

much interest, and which for the first time was on a high level of ideological polemic without any slandering, 453 workers voted for the Greek Communist Party, 230 workers for the I.C.P., whilst 32 workers abstained by handing in unmarked ballot papers.

At the first discussion 552 workers voted for the C.P.G. and 189 for the I.C.P. Other joint discussions are scheduled.

I.L.P. DISINTEGRATING Leaders Desert Sinking Ship

The I.L.P. is in the process of disintegration. Since the refusal by the Labour Party to accept the affiliation of the I.L.P., the organisation has gone through a period of internal dissension and decay.

The collapse of the I.L.P. has been expressed in declining "Socialist Leader" sales, in the disappearance of whole branches all over the country, and the heavy drop in membership and activity in the remaining branches! While it is true that there is a general lull in activity in all Left wing organisations, including the Labour Party and Communist Party since the victory of the Labour Government, in the case of the I.L.P. there is a veritable collapse.

This was inevitable because of the centrist policy of the I.L.P., which attempts to maintain a midway position between the reformism of the Labour Party and revolutionary Marxism. Such a position cannot be maintained indefinitely. The I.L.P. itself after moving to the Left in the first stages of the war, has been moving steadily Right in the past few years.

Brockway, McGovern and Now Padley

Brockway was in the "vanguard" of the retreat to reformism. But despite his lead, Padley, pointing in the rear, has outdistanced him. He has discovered the virtues of Bevinism, which he extolled in the pages of the "Socialist Leader" for months even before his formal break.

McGovern has resigned and Brockway, though still nominally a member of the I.L.P., according to "Reynolds News" is to get a seat in Parliament when he joins the Labour Party in the new year. This marks the decisive end of the I.L.P. as a force in British politics. This once great party has been reduced to a shadow.

Reactions Of The N.A.C.

As a symptom of the disease which is racking the I.L.P., is the reaction of that Party to the desertions. No action has been taken against Brockway; no public repudiation of his intended desertion issued. It is left to him to choose the most suitable time to leave the Party. No explanation to the working class in the columns of the "Socialist Leader" as to what were the political differences between McGovern and himself. The following is the only pronouncement of the National Executive Committee of the I.L.P.:

"A meeting was held in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon (November 14th) between the Executive Committee of the Independent Labour Party and the Parliamentary Group. Mr. John McGovern, M.P. stated that, as he was at variance with the policy of the I.L.P., he thought it his duty to tender his resignation from the Party."

After a detailed discussion of the points raised by Mr.

McGovern, his resignation was accepted."

John McNair, General Secretary, I.L.P. And the "Socialist Leader" comments:

"... At the conclusion of the interview, the National Chairman (Bob Edwards) told John McGovern that the Party would always remember his work for the I.L.P. and for Socialism during the whole of his public life, particularly the magnificent stand for international socialism and peace which he had made, with James Maxton and Campbell Stephen, during the war years."

Reports that Campbell Stephen and James Carmichael are also leaving the I.L.P. are untrue. Not a word about the political differences. It is all a misunderstanding between good friends. No criticism of the reformism of Padley who was allowed to use the pages of the "Socialist Leader" to prepare his passage to the Labour Party. In the very issue announcing McGovern's resignation, Carmichael puts forward a reformist position in relation to the Labour Government. The N.A.C. comforts itself by denying that Carmichael and Campbell Stephen are leaving too. Small comfort. Inside Parliament and inside the I.L.P. they are putting forward more or less the same reformist position as McGovern, Brockway and Padley. They have not completed their passage home but they are well on the way.

Fusion with Common Wealth

Frantically, in an effort to prevent the I.L.P. from disintegrating altogether, the N.A.C. is preparing to fuse with another dying organisation, the middle class Common Wealth. The negotiations are of course, conducted behind the scenes and without consulting the rank and file of the I.L.P. We warned the I.L.P. workers that this would take place.

These events have not taken serious Marxists by surprise. In the columns of the "Socialist Appeal" and "Workers' International News" we have long explained the inevitability of this process and even chartered the process of degeneration. For the few revolutionary workers who still remain in the ranks of the I.L.P., it must be clear that there is no solution in the policy of the present leadership or in its turning towards the middle class organisation, Common Wealth. Such a fusion would be the culminating process in the collapse of the I.L.P. as a working class organisation. The members of the I.L.P. who seek the revolutionary road will find it only through the programme and within the ranks of the R.C.P.

Canadian R.W.P Founded

The Revolutionary Workers' Party of Canada was founded at a two day Convention in Toronto last month. It represents a significant stage in the working class movement of Canada.

The convention, according to the Mid-October "Labour Challenge," was attended by delegates of Labour Challenge Clubs from all the most important cities in the country. The majority of the delegates were trade-unionists. They came together on the basis of the revolutionary socialist programme of "Labour Challenge," organ of the Canadian Trotskyists since its first issue in June 1945.

Among the delegates present were four from the Labour Challenge Supporters' Club of Vancouver, under the leadership of Comrades R. W. Bullock, Lloyd Whalen and T. J. Bradley, who recently broke from the treacherous Canadian Commonwealth Federation.

The first item on the agenda was a report on the international situation which emphasized the degeneration of capitalism on a world scale, and pointed out the role and tasks ahead of the world party of socialist revolution. Following a full and democratic discussion the delegates voted unanimously to apply to the Fourth International for recognition as its Canadian section.

Comrade Ross Dowson, delegate from Toronto, reported on the past achievements of the Trotskyist movement in Canada since its last conference in the fall of 1944.

"Labour Challenge" was our first organizer," he stated, "and had become more than doubly effective since its appearance as a twice-monthly in January 1946."

Dowson dealt at length with the establishment of solid branches in the main industrial centres and the growth of the Canadian Trotskyist influence in organizations of the workers.

After a full discussion, in which

delegates from other centres recorded their gains, the organisational report was adopted. The convention chose the name Revolutionary Workers' Party of Canada and a constitution based on the principles of democratic centralism was adopted point by point.

The convention resolved that the R.W.P. would participate in elections under its own banner wherever possible in order to bring its programme before the masses.

Other important steps forward for the coming period were the raising of \$1,500 to stabilize and increase the influence of "Labour Challenge," the establishment of branch headquarters in several cities and the increase in most important spheres of activity.

A National Executive Committee of nine and one alternate were elected to lead the party until the next convention. Comrade Dowson was elected National Secretary. The National Committee was instructed to prepare a statement of principles of the party for publication in pamphlet form, in French and English.

The R.W.P. opposes itself to the Stalinist Labour Progressive Party and the reformist Canadian Commonwealth Federation. The basic policies of these two treacherous parties are little different. Both supported the second imperialist war and acted as recruiting agents for the ruling class. Both have endorsed the United Nations, "the new thieves kitchen." Thus the R.W.P. stands before the Canadian workers as the only revolutionary party in the country, based firmly on Marxist principles.

DEMOB PROTESTS: Withdraw The Charges!

BY G. NOZEDA

Seventeen soldiers N.C.O.'s and privates are awaiting court martial at Alexandria, charged with alleged "mutiny" in connection with the recent protests in the Middle East against demobilisation delay. Forty others are held in close arrest, and two hundred more are confined to barracks "pending investigation."

These actions of the military Special Investigation Bureau follow the same pattern of victimising a few militants as "ringleaders" as in the strikes that took place among the R.A.F. in India early this year.

The arrested men participated in the recent wave of protest strikes and demonstrations at garrisons all over the Middle East area, against the Labour Government's latest statement announcing a slow-down in the release programme. This has provoked an unprecedented discontent and bitterness among the worker-conscripts in the armed forces, particularly among the troops abroad. Thousands of miles away from their homes and families, some living under intolerable conditions of service, similar to those exposed by the recent trial of the 245 paratroopers, many of the men with already four to five years service, have their release delayed further, some by months, many others by at least a year.

WIDESPREAD PROTESTS

The first strikes began on November 9th, when 400 men at Port Said, and six hundred at three garrisons in Suez, came out on strike in protest at the demobilisation - slow-down. At Tel-el-Kehir, 2,000 soldiers initiated similar action. In one day they were followed by the rest of the 5,000 troops in the garrison. At Moascar, representatives of almost all of the units stationed in garrisons there, marched in a monster demonstration of protest against the Government's demobilisation statement. This demonstration, reported to be 5,000 strong, marched through the town and only turned back when the terrified officer-caste had ordered other troops to block the path of the demonstrators with "tommy guns and bayonets". The soldier militants, having made their protest-march in a disciplined manner, then returned to barracks.

The anger and determined protest of worker-conscripts in the forces continues to grow in volume at home and abroad. The military reactionaries will not stifle this militancy of the troops by attempting to frame a few militants as "ringleaders". This trick will not frighten militant worker-soldiers

with a genuine grievance. Recent court-martials have demonstrated that the support and solidarity of the organised workers in Britain will be forthcoming, as in the past, against any victimisations or frame-ups of fellow-workers in uniform. Their victories in securing the release of victimised R.A.F. militants and the paratroopers are still fresh in the minds of the working class in Britain.

Attlee Blames "World Commitments"

Attlee, in his speech, hastily sought to pacify the indignant and militant reaction of the troops by explaining that the slow-down in the release programme was due to "world commitments of Britain." But the working class of Britain in or out of uniform, have nothing to gain by oppressing and exploiting the colonial peoples or the workers in other countries. It is only the imperialist interests of the capitalist class of Britain that is served by the maintenance of large armies of British soldiers overseas. It is the capitalist class for which Attlee speaks when he talks of "world commitments". In Germany, Italy, Greece, Palestine, the Middle East and in India, over three-quarters of a million British troops are maintained to guard imperialist interests.

Organised Labour Movement Must Demand An End To Imperialist Occupation

The Labour movement in Britain has a class-duty to fellow-workers in the armed forces. The worker-conscripts have no wish to act as the agents of British imperialist oppression abroad, they want to return home. The strikes and protest demonstrations in the Middle East underline the growing disillusionment of the troops in the reactionary policy of the Labour Government. The British Labour movement must solidarise itself with the interests of the workers in uniform.

Demand the immediate release of the victimised men!

Withdraw all British troops from abroad!

Down with Conscription of the working class!

Protest Russian Deportations

In the last few weeks about 7,000 German technicians and workers, together with their families, have been arbitrarily deported from their homes in the Russian Zone of occupied Germany, to Russia.

The official explanation of the Russian authorities, that the deportations are in line with "contractual agreements" between them, and the workers involved, is demonstratively false. This lie, repeated in a shameful report in the "Daily Worker" here, is an indication of the cynical and chauvinistic attitude of Stalinism towards the German working class.

At Jena, as elsewhere, no warning was given of the deportations. About 300 men and their families were summarily "collected" in the middle of the night, some at 4 o'clock in the morning. In all cases the method of the deportations was similar. Lorry loads of Red Army troops, accompanied by an officer and an interpreter, drew up and surrounded the houses of those workers selected for deportation. Sentries were posted at the street corners to prevent any scenes or demonstrations. The officer and interpreter entered the house and woke the family, read out the deportation order and the worker and his family were told to pack and prepare to leave immediately. In some cases the "contractual agreement" to go and work in Russia was given the worker to sign, with no option of refusing. In other cases, this "formality" was just ignored. Protests against their deportations by the workers was also cynically and callously ignored.

"Times" reports that "People who saw the removals at Jena, assert, that few, if any, of the technicians and workers left willingly. They say that no regard was paid to sickness or age. One man died of heart-failure. One family had to leave without two children, who were away from home."

As at Jena, so the deportations were carried out elsewhere. At Bleicherode, in the Province of Saxony, several hundred workers employed by the Rabe Institute were deported. The Rabe Institute, engaged on scientific work, is to be dismantled and transported to Russia. Parallel with the deportations of hundreds of workers and technicians, industrial plant employing them is also being, or has been already, dismantled for shipment to Russia. Included among industrial undertakings scheduled for this purpose, are the real glassworks at Jena, formerly employed 2,750 workers and branches of the Zeiss works at Gera, Poessneck and Saalfeld, which employed 3,500 workers.

The dismantling of the Zeiss works at Jena will inflict great hardship on the 14,000 workers employed in connection with the plant. Of a population (pre-war) of 58,000 in Jena, 40,000 were directly dependent on the Zeiss and Schlott undertakings. 10,000 workers who worked at home in the Thuringian forest, making glass ornaments and chemical glassware, will lose their raw material, formerly obtained from the Zeiss-Schlott glassworks at Jena. In consequence, they will be deprived of their means of livelihood.

All the workers, employed at industrial plant that has been already dismantled or "car-marked" for dismantling in the Russian Zone, live in a dread of uncertainty, hourly expecting to be "rounded-up" and deported to Russia. The consequent feeling of helplessness despair among the workers in Russian occupied territory of Germany, generates bitter hostility towards their Stalinist overlords.

The capitalist press of the Allied powers in occupation of Germany piously condemn and strike self-righteous poses about the deportations. They are as guilty as the Russian bureaucrats in this respect. In all the Allied occupation zones, deportations, although on a smaller scale than the Russian, have taken place.

The Stalinist bureaucracy by anti-socialist methods, by its draggoning and oppression of the German workers demonstrates that the reactionary chauvinism of Stalinism has nothing in common with the internationalist ideas and methods of Lenin and Trotsky, of Bolshevism.

Stalinism in Germany, as elsewhere, discredits the very name and traditions of revolutionary communism.

Thorez Speaks

C.P. Policy Not Communist

BY TED GRANT

The leading position established by the French Communist Party in the election has aroused serious misgivings among the British ruling class at possible developments in France. This was expressed by Churchill in Parliament. Events in France, just 21 miles from England, will have inevitable repercussions in Britain.

The "Times", the voice of British imperialism, asked its Paris correspondent to interview Thorez to explore the intentions of the French Communist Party. The "Times" is entirely reassured; the fears of the British capitalist class are allayed. Thorez went out of his way to explain, as delicately as he could, that his programme has nothing in common with communism.

First, he put forward a chauvinist line in relation to Germany. The Ruhr should be "internationalised" and the Saar "brought into the French economic system." Germany must be held down and reparations extracted from the German people for the benefit of France, i.e., French imperialism. There must be no "blocs", but agreement between the Allies. To show how good a patriot he was, Thorez referred to the British blood shed in World War 1: "I come from a province into whose soil too much British blood has flowed for me to underestimate the worth of British friendship." Thus, he sanctifies the imperialist slaughter of 1914-1918, out of which Anglo-French imperialism made good profits. Here he betrays the traditions of communism and those who fought against capitalism and its imperialist wars.

The bait for an agreement on Stalinist foreign policy is the programme for France.

Thorez On Home Policy

"We repeated deliberately in our electoral campaign that we do not ask a mandate to apply a strictly Communist programme here, that is, resting on a radical transformation of the present regime of property and of the conditions of production that flow from that. We have put forward a programme of national reconstruction such as all democrats may accept, including some nationalisation, but also the support of medium and small industrial and craft undertakings, and the defence of present property against the trusts."

It is clear that the Communist Party, in its action as part of the Government and within the framework of the parliamentary system it has helped to re-establish, will hold strictly to the democratic programme which has won for it the confidence of the masses of the people. The progress of democracy throughout the world, in spite of rare exceptions which serve only to confirm the rule, permits the choice of other paths to socialism than the one taken by the Russian Communists. In any case the path is different in each country. . . .

In a few paragraphs Thorez expresses the distilled essence of Stalinist treachery. To most of what he said even the Liberals or the Tories would not disagree.

The "Times" itself has been tolerant towards a similar programme put forward by the Labour Party in the election. There is nothing of Socialism or Communism in the French C.P.'s policy. It is an abandonment of all that the founders of scientific socialism taught on the theory of the state, on how the social transformation could be accomplished, and the theory of the socialist revolution.

Such a programme is a terrible deception of the French workers and peasants who voted for "communism". Even the meagre reforms which have been promised to the workers—in return for intensified efforts in production—cannot be maintained when the crisis of French capitalism will develop. Even today, on the background of the inflation (and the profits of the French capitalists in industry and the black market are soaring) the lot of the French workers remains at a low level—far lower than the British workers.

Operating capitalism means that the laws of capitalism will continue to apply. In pursuance of this policy, the Communist Party will act as ruthless agents of the capitalists in suppressing any movement on the part of the workers, such as their strike-breaking in the Postal workers and Civil Servants strikes.

Lenin fought all his life against the reformist lie that there were many ways to socialism. He never tired of repeating that the struggle of the masses for peace, bread and freedom could only be obtained by relentless struggle against capitalism. The state, he said, is always an instrument for the suppression of one class by another. He hammered home to communists the lesson of the Commune which was taught by Marx. And in the land of the Paris Commune, this traitor violates the traditions of the martyrs of the Commune.

Marxist Attitude To The State

Marx and Engels wrote, on the basis of the experience of the Commune:

"The working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery and wield it for its own purposes."

The workers of France want a real struggle against capitalism. On the 26th November, thirty thousand Paris Trade Unionists demonstrated at the Paris meat market against profiteers and the government's handling of the meat rations. The demonstrators carried the old revolutionary banners and slogans depicting the act of hanging the capitalists and the profiteers.

Today the key is in the hands of the Communist Party. But there is only one road to socialism. The Stalinist road can only lead to disaster. Lenin answered Thorez in advance when he wrote against class.

another renegade, Kautsky, in "State and Revolution": "We have already said above and shall show more fully later that the teaching of Marx and Engels regarding the inevitability of a violent revolution refers to the bourgeois state. . . . The necessity of systematically fostering this and just this point of view about violent revolution lies at the root of the whole of Marx's and Engels' teaching. The neglect of such propaganda and agitation by both the present predominant social-chauvinist and the Kautskyst currents (today the Stalinists) brings their betrayal of Marx's and Engels' teaching into prominent relief."

N.U.R.

(Continued from Page 1.)

to suspend the members of Paddington No. 2 from membership. The first the workers knew of this was when it was announced over the radio.

Members of the Paddington No. 1 Branch mainly catering for passenger workers were also involved. Parcels workers expressed their solidarity by instituting a "work-to-rule". But here the Union headquarters were faced with a head-ache since it would be well-nigh impossible to sort out which proportion of this Branch was caught up in the movement. Goods workers at Acton, Park Royal, Greenford and South Lambeth also joined in. Before long it would have extended to the stunting yards.

Officials Refuse To Address Workers

Messrs. Binks and Benstead, Union President and Secretary, respectively refused to address meetings of the workers on the job. Bro. Albert Irons, respected Secretary of the Paddington No. 2 Branch, disclosed that only 5 members of the E.C. voted for this proposition. He also indicated that members of the E.C. were reluctant to see this battle carried forward to the Annual General Meeting of the N.U.R. next July which can override, and censure, the National E.C.

After hours of discussion with the officials of the Union, who did not deny the justice of the workers' case, the local committee formally recommended a return to "normal work", on the understanding that full membership would be restored and negotiations on the "white-papers" would commence immediately. A meeting of about 2,000 workers finally accepted this recommendation when strong hints were given by the Chairman, in reply to questions, that the disciplinary forms would be withdrawn. They have now been withdrawn.

The N.U.R. militants must organise themselves around a campaign for allowing full time officials no more than a worker's wage with actual expenses. Lifetime jobs must be abolished and all officials made to come up for periodical re-election.

Tested and proved militants must be found and pushed forward in the Union elections. We must begin again the lives of the selfless pioneers of Trade Unionism who sacrificed, suffered and died for the betterment of the working-class.

Cossers Sell-Out

(Continued from Page 2.)

due to the circumstances already outlined. (d) Any person on the Register remaining unemployed at the end of the period specified in paragraph (c) shall, if desired, be the subject of joint discussion between the management and the Executives of the Unions concerned on the same terms as today's meeting."

A Sell-Out

It is difficult to describe the leadership of the Trade Unions (A.E.U., E.T.U., T.G.W.U., M.G.W.U.) who subscribed to this vicious agreement. Cap in hand they crawled to the management, and without bothering to discuss the terms with the workers, arrived at decisions which leave not only the victimised Stewards on the streets, but several hundred workers as well at the Highbury factory. The management decides who they want back and when. Could the Agreement have embodied a clearer sell-out?

Anxious still to curry favour with the renegade Union Executives who have perpetrated this betrayal, the Stalinist-controlled Strike Committee requested the strikers to accept it, in the interest of trade union unity. This has led to a serious division in their ranks, which came to a head at a recent conference of the National Council of Shop Stewards. An amendment from the floor which called for official recognition of all strikes over victimised Shop Stewards was only narrowly defeated by this Stalinist controlled platform by 21 votes to 17. This opposition must undoubtedly grow as the treacherous politics of the C.P. become clearer to the most advanced militants in the coming struggles.

A Victory For The Bosses

The partial return to work of the Cossor Strikers, without the victimised Shop Stewards was a defeat for the working class. Since the Employers' Federation were directly interested in the strike, it is possible that it foreshadows an offensive against the Shop Stewards' movement. Already it is reported that Fergusons' Radio have sacked the Shop Stewards' Convener.

If the struggle to defend Shop Stewards' organisation is to be effective, then all strikes over victimised stewards must be declared official by the Unions concerned. If the employers break the York Memorandum, by throwing stewards on the streets, then there is no longer any agreement which binds the Unions.

The Tasks Ahead

Immediate steps must be taken to press upon the Union E.C.s that full wages should be paid to the strikers who are still out of work until such time as they procure employment. A struggle has to be waged inside the Unions to replace the Union leaders who signed the agreement with Cossors by trusted militants from the ranks. Shop Stewards Committees must take all possible steps to fight the policy of the C.P. stooge National Council of Shop Stewards, whose policy will lead to further defeats like that of Cossors.

Cleminson Case Postponed

Readers of the "Socialist Appeal" will recall from the report of our last issue that Comrade Bill Cleminson, a member of the Sheffield Branch of the R.C.P., was due to appear in court to answer charges under the Defence Regulations on November 29th. The charge was that he had distributed literature to German P.O.W.'s.

Shortly after receiving the summons, Comrade Cleminson was involved in a motor cycle accident and suffered a fractured arm, injuries to his face and other parts of his body. As a result the case has been deferred until December 13th.

Parsons and priests, Tories and other capitalist propagandists can contact the P.O.W.'s with their poisonous propaganda. But let a revolutionist, who teaches internationalism, who calls for the class solidarity of the workers of Germany and Britain, contact the P.O.W.'s and he is hauled before the courts.

Comrade Cleminson is a member of the A.E.U. in Sheffield and has a good trade union record. There is a considerable opposition among fellow trade unionists in the district to the threat to his liberty. Every trade unionist who is eager to see the principles of trade unionism and internationalism spread among the P.O.W.'s will rally to his defence, and demand that the case against him be dropped.

It is the duty of British socialists and communists to contact and fraternise with the German workers to spread the message of international class solidarity. In this, the foremost task is to demand the immediate release of P.O.W.'s and their repatriation to their homes. This will be the defence of Comrade Cleminson in the court.

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India Mission

(Continued from Page 1.)

imperialism has managed to rule India by direct, naked force alone, assisted by the leaders of the League who ran provincial administrations under British rule in Bengal and Sind Provinces. But circumstances have changed. Despite the communal riots, which in themselves reflect in a distorted fashion the anti-imperialist sentiments of the Muslim masses, which is cleverly utilised by the Muslim League leaders and misdirected along reactionary communal lines, the forces of national liberation have been gaining in self confidence. With her commitments in the Middle East and her shrinking economic resources, with the reluctance of British troops to conduct a full-scale war against the Indian people, Britain would find it impossible to combat a new resurgence of Indian nationalism, without the support of the Congress leaders.

The British Government needs the Congress to hold back the nationalist forces, just as it needs the Muslim League to weight the balance against the Congress.

Britain As "Arbiter"

Thus the British Government is faced with the task of having to decide between the conflicting claims of the Congress and the Muslim League. As in the past, so today, British policy is to attempt to placate both parties, patch up a compromise and thus postpone the issue. This is the real significance of the Conference taking place in London. It cannot solve the real issues. But it will serve the invaluable purpose, so important from the British Government's point of view, of demonstrating to India and the whole world that India needs an "arbiter" to hold the balance between her "warring factions", and that the proposals of the Cabinet Mission alone are suited to the present situation in India.

Whatever the outcome of the Conference, the Indian crisis will go on until the Labour Government is forced to abandon the age-old imperialist policy of divide and rule and ceases interfering in the affairs of the Indian people under the pretext of defending minority rights.

The communal problem in India, pressing as it is, is a product of the two and half centuries of imperialist rule and intrigue on the basis of abysmal poverty, ignorance and superstition of the masses.

The British workers must face up to the simple truth that none can solve this problem except the Indian people themselves. In the final analysis, the communal problem in India can only be eradicated by an Indian Government of workers and peasants, which would have no reason to exploit religious superstition in the interest of politics.

If the Labour Government were really sincere in its professed intention to bring about communal harmony in India then its duty is clear: Let it grant immediate and unconditional independence to India.

The Indian people must have the right to call a Constituent Assembly on the basis of universal franchise, thus they will freely decide on their own form of government.

They can only do this when the last British soldier has left the country.

Whats on

Advertisements for this column will be accepted from Party branches for the nominal sum of 1/- per issue. Copy to be received no later than one week before date of issue.

WEST London Meetings are held at the Co-op. Hall, 249 Dawes Road, Fulham, on alternate Wednesday evenings, commencing 8 p.m. Next discussions on "R.C.P. and Labour in Office" include — "Nationalisation" speaker: George Hansen. Wed. Dec. 18th. "Social Legislation and Policy" — Speaker: Jim Hinchcliffe. Wed. Jan. 1st. All Welcome.

CANCELLATION—Jock Haston's Welsh tour has been postponed till early next year owing to difficulties in obtaining halls.

LIVERPOOL — Lectures every Thursday at 7.30 p.m., commencing Nov. 28th. Coopers Hall, (opposite Ilington Square).

BIRMINGHAM — Study Class every Tuesday at 7.45 p.m., 36, Holloway Head. "On Marxist Economics and Topical Events."

CROYDON — "The Leninist Attitude to the Labour Government". Speaker: E. Grant. Tuesday, December 10th at 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Wellesley Road, Croydon.



This feature, which we hope will now appear regularly in our columns, aims at satisfying a real need on the part of our members and sympathisers. Faced with questions which are posed by many of our growing circle of contacts—what is your Party like? How does it function? What does it actually do?—we are endeavouring to stimulate a genuine interest in the work of the revolutionary movement in this country.

By bringing our readers and friends into a closer contact with the many activities of the Party, we hope that many will eventually realise how vitally necessary it is to ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE in the important task of Party building.

It rests with the Party branches and members to make this a really lively feature by sending in regular reports of their experiences and plans. It rests with our readers and contacts to see how they can offer a little extra help in the work of our Party. Perhaps it may only be by the donation of an extra 3d., or the sale of an extra "Socialist Appeal"—which individually may not appear to mean much.

COLLECTIVELY, HOWEVER, IT WOULD MAKE A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE!

Commencing our survey of branch activity from the North, a welcome report has been received from MOTHERWELL where our branch is being reactivated on the return of Forces' members, and is now meeting regularly. Since their local funds are very low, they have imposed a 6d. per week levy on the members. This is a good idea for other branches to adopt when in a similar position!

Moving south, we reach NEWCASTLE, where, to quote direct from comrade Binah's report: "The main aspect of our propaganda work has been in relation to the Municipal Elections. We conducted a campaign in Wallsend, in two wards. In Buddle

REMEMBER — Raising the "S.A." sales is a task for YOU!

CANNOCK: "We intend building our sales up on canvasses in the time that the sale of 31 from door to door took one hour and a half. On Nov. 3rd. four comrades from Birmingham aided us in sales in the district. For an hour and a half 72 canvasses by the six of us, 72 "S.A.'s" were sold. Nine men hours in all."

BIRMINGHAM: "All members who are available are now regularly canvassing the "S.A." in their own localities. In addition, Saturday afternoon sales have been started in the Bull-Ring, and have averaged about 30 sold."

Ward where we ran a candidate last year, and in the Wallsend Ward, where the Stalinists were running a candidate this year. The campaign consisted of selling the "S.A." and holding street meetings with megaphone, explaining our attitude to the Labour Party and the C.P. Altogether we covered 34 streets, knocked on some 1,500 doors, and sold 350 "Socialist Appeals." We were received fairly well on the whole, and made quite a few contacts which we hope to follow up. It is interesting to note that the C.P. polled 59 votes compared to our 265 last year. Their ward was half the size of ours."

Our fairly new but active branch in MANCHESTER report steady progress, as do the NOTTINGHAM branch who report that "Discussions take place fortnightly for the education of the party members on Economics" and also report plans for a Public Meeting in the district.

Reports have been received from numerous other branches—South-East London, Hampstead, South-East, and Thames Valley. If you cannot see your branch listed here, raise the matter at your next branch meeting and see that the matter is rectified for the future.

ANY OLD RAGS?

Readers who wish to dispose of their old clothes, books, &c., are invited to do so via the medium of our proposed JUMBLE SALE to be held shortly. You will not only be clearing your cupboards and shelves, but will be giving valuable aid to our Party funds. Why not have a look round NOW and send a parcel along to us?