



Workers  
of All  
Lands  
Unite

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

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Organ of the  
Revolutionary  
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BRITISH SECTION of the  
4th INTERNATIONAL

## Transport Bill: Workers Must Demand Control

BY TED GRANT

THE TORIES ARE CONDUCTING A TREMENDOUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BILL FOR THE NATIONALISATION OF TRANSPORT. DESPITE LAVISH COMPENSATION, AND THE FACT THAT THE NATIONALISATION WILL ASSIST BRITISH CAPITALISM'S COMPETITIVE STRUGGLE, THE TORIES AND THE TRANSPORT SHAREHOLDERS, ARE FIGHTING TO PRESERVE THEIR SACRED RIGHTS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.

The nationalisation of transport constitutes a progressive step in placing all national transport under one single control. It will eliminate part of the chaos which is the legacy of "free enterprise." But the workers must have no illusions that it will be run in their interests.

Many capitalist states own the railways. For instance, in South Africa and Germany railways were state owned. In no case did this make any fundamental difference to the conditions of the workers employed. In the same way as the nationalisation of the Post Office in this country has meant neither improved conditions for the post office workers, nor any advantage to the working class as a whole.

Instead of individual ownership, the capitalist class as a whole will own the railways and other means of transport.

### Why We Oppose Compensation

Having drawn enormous profits on their original outlay for many years, the capital having been paid over and over again, the shareholders are to receive compensation based on the average price of railway securities on November 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th, 1946. Or if it is higher, the average from February to July 1945. The stock is to be freely negotiable.

The cost will be £1,019.7 millions, according to the estimates of the "Financial Times." The nominal value is £1,142 millions.

And this outlay is for railways alone. Taking into consideration that the first charge on the nationalised industry will be to pay the interest to the stockholders; that large sums will have to be spent to modernise the industry; and that there will be constant pressure to guarantee cheap freight charges, the workers cannot expect to see any real change. The amount which will have to be paid out annually before any other charges are taken into consideration, will be £25½ millions every year.

### How The Industry Will Be Run

Transport will be run on similar lines to the mining industry with its capitalist Coal Board.

A Transport Commission is to be established composed of a Chairman and four members, who will be appointed by the Minister. The overall supervision will be in the hands of this Board.

Also, four Transport Executives for the Railways, Docks and Inland Waterways, Road Transport, and London Passenger Transport will be appointed to deal with these sections.

(Continued on Page 4.)

## No Support For The Muslim League

For a Free United India!

BY JOCK HASTON

IF ANY SINGLE FACTOR IN BRITISH POLITICS PORTRAYS THE DECLINE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, IT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS INDIA.

During the two days' debate on that subject in the House of Commons all the participants spoke with guarded tongue. Even Churchill, master of the gilded phrase, gave a strangely colourless speech. He provoked the Government, but that was all. Certainly the imperial roar which normally accompanies his speeches on the theme of "India—what we have we hold" was muted.

When a nation of 400 million reach out for national freedom after being held for a hundred and fifty years in slavery and bondage; when they are in the process of enforcing the right to determine their own form of government and thus achieve their national emancipation, world history is being made on a grand scale.

When the largest and juiciest Empire steak is slowly but certainly slipping out from the jaws of the toothless lion, history is being made.

While India was a backward nation, lacking industry, national consciousness and co-hesion, and the British working class were still imbued with the "pride of Empire", the British imperialists were able to keep India down at the point of the gun. The Indian masses were exploited and plundered on a scale unparalleled in any other part of the world.

As far back as the end of the last century, apart from the millions of pounds which the Indians had to pay to maintain the British army on Indian soil and to pay the bureaucrats and parasites needed by the Raj, the value of the goods shipped from India to Britain without any

equivalent being sent back in exchange, amounted to a greater sum than the total income of more than 60,000,000 Indian agricultural and industrial workers! And exploitation on this scale, and even greater, was continued right up until the most recent years when the growth of an Indian National industry has reached considerable proportions.

### India Develops A National Consciousness

But precisely the development of Indian industry has brought into being a powerful national capitalist class, who, from being merely agents of British imperialism, now feel themselves sufficiently powerful to bargain with British imperialism on equal terms.

The growth of industry has also brought into being a powerful working class which is the backbone of the struggle against the British Raj, and which has been the driving force of the growth of national consciousness, seeking self expression and emancipation.

These factors have resulted in a situation whereby to hold India in continued subjection, the British

(Continued on page 4.)

## FINED £10 FOR FRATTING WITH P.O.W.'s

Action Justified in Court

BAKEWELL—

THE TRIAL OF COMRADE BILL CLEMINSON WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 13th AT THE BAKEWELL COURT, A SLEEPY VILLAGE IN THE PEAK DISTRICT OF DERBYSHIRE. IT WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN THE PROVINCIAL EDITIONS OF THE DAILY PRESS.



BILL CLEMINSON  
FINED £10  
Statement to Court—page 3.

In reply to a question of one of the three Magistrates: "Do you plead guilty or not guilty?", Bill Cleminson said: "If it is an offence to distribute publications to German P.o.W.'s, then I am guilty." "I wish to make a statement", he continued, "as to the reasons for, and as a justification of this act. I have written my statement out, and wish it to be entered into the records of this court.

The case for the prosecution was a simple one: Cleminson had handed the propaganda material to a working party of German P.o.W.'s. The German N.C.O. in charge of the working party, who was the chief witness for the prosecution, one, Hugo Huerdler, had noticed that the publications were Trotskyist publications. He took

the number of Cleminson's motor cycle and turned it over (with copies of the publications which had been distributed) to the officials in charge of the camp.

This stool pigeon was in court to give evidence. Probably a Nazi under Hitler, he was the type of camp-toady upon whom the British authorities largely rely to keep them informed of what the prisoners are doing, and who can be found in any workshop and in every nation. The workers of Germany will know how to treat the stool-pigeon, Hugo Huerdler.

In conducting the case for the prosecution, the prosecutor stated, handing copies of "Solidaritat" and "Neuer Spartakus" to the magistrates: "You will see how undesirable it is for this type of literature to be distributed to P.o.W.'s." This was a complete vindication of the statement later made by Bill Cleminson: that the law discriminated between the journals that were allowed to reach the prisoners.

"I Know The Policy Of  
My Party"

## Soldiers Walk Off Ship

### Protest Foul Conditions

BY G. NOZEDA

The foul conditions on board the troopships that transport worker-soldiers on long journeys, were exposed anew by the recent "walk-offs" of some hundreds of soldiers at Liverpool recently.

In the last year protests have occurred on four separate boats, the "Corfu", the "Johan de Witt", the "Orion", (twice), and now the "Empress of Scotland" which was due to leave Liverpool with 2,300 troops on December 10th, bound for the Far East

Three times in 24 hours, some hundreds of soldiers aboard "walked off" and refused to sail.

### Conditions On Board

the complete disregard for the welfare of the worker-soldiers.

The excuse "There's a war on", no longer exists, and the soldiers are not prepared to accept the

The Magistrates asked Cleminson if he understood German. "No", he replied.

Or if it is higher, the average from February to July 1945. The stock is to be freely negotiable. The cost will be £1,019.7 millions, according to the estimates of the "Financial Times." The nominal value is £1,142 millions.

for the Railways, Docks and Inland Waterways, Road Transport, and London Passenger Transport will be appointed to deal with these sections. (Continued on Page 4.)

# Italian Trotskyist Wins Election

Foggia, Italy—

The Foggia Section of the Communist Workers' Party (P.O.C.), Italian Trotskyists, succeeded in having Comrade Romeo Mangano elected onto the Municipal Council in the November 24th elections.

He obtained 1,500 preferential votes. 1,500 votes were invalidated by the Central Electoral Bureau because the workers added revolutionary slogans to their votes.



ROMEO MANGANO

Comrade Mangano, who is the General Secretary of the Party, fought his election campaign on the programme of the Fourth International, and all the other parties taking part, from the Communist Party and Socialist Party to the neo-Fascist Uomo Qualunque, united in vilifying and attacking him. Despite this, the advanced workers voted for him and the

programme he stood for.

On the Foggia Council, Comrade Mangano will continue the fight for socialism which he began when he joined the Socialist Youth in 1910. He will use the Council Chamber as a forum to champion the cause of the workers and peasants of Puglia, one of the most downtrodden sections in the whole of Europe.



HAMBURG — Recently 33,000 Hamburg working class families were evicted to make way for British personnel and their families. Above is a picture of how the Hamburg workers are living.

## Bound for the Far East

Three times in 24 hours, some hundreds of soldiers aboard "walked off" and refused to sail.

### Conditions On Board

In one mess deck, originally built to accommodate 40 persons, 110 soldiers were expected to exist for 22 days of the journey. Others had to sleep in hammocks strung so closely together that free movement in and out was impossible.

Still others had to sleep on the floor of the mess-decks, cheek by cheek.

It is clear that such conditions would become unbearable in tropical conditions in which most of the 3 weeks' journey would be made.

The contrast between the comfortable conditions of the officers, and the overcrowded misery of the troops below deck, further angered the men.

After officers frantically promised to improve the conditions aboard, some of the men returned to the ship. But when it became clear that these promises were not being kept and no radical improvements were being made, many returned ashore.

Of those who originally left the Empress of Scotland, 175 refused to return, preferring to risk victimisation.

In reply to the men's charges regarding the conditions aboard, a high ranking officer stated that: "In this particular case, the War Department scale of troopship accommodation has been adhered to, and in fact, even has been exceeded in space."

This admission that the officers who arrange the statistical capacities of troop-carrying ships, regard it as normal for thousands of soldiers to be "sardined" in the lower decks, is an illustration of

the complete disregard for the welfare of the worker-soldiers.

The excuse "There's a war on", no longer exists, and the soldiers are not prepared to accept the same discomforts and abuses which existed during the war.

Bitter resentment has been caused by the fact that soldiers were sent overseas just before the holidays. They felt there was no justification for not granting an extended leave so that Christmas and New Year holidays could be spent with their families at home.

### Liners Converted For Luxury Travel

The same War Office spokesman admitted that many of the ships formerly used for troop-carrying, had been withdrawn.

Some of the finest liners have already been, or are in the process of being converted to cater for luxury travel trade. It goes without saying that there won't be any overcrowding in the cabins of the wealthy globe-trotters.

Bevin can have a suite of rooms for himself and his fellow bureaucrats when they travel on their missions abroad. In such a suite as Bevin occupies, scores of soldiers could be accommodated in comfort. With their own travelling comforts always assured, they regard the welfare of the conscript soldiers with disdain.

These militant workers look to the working class for support in their action. Sympathy is there, but as yet no voice of the organised movement has been raised on their behalf.

The organised workers must demonstrate that they are solidly with the men, and will not tolerate any form of victimisation in their struggle for decent, hygienic conditions.

## "I Know The Policy Of

### My Party

The Magistrates asked Cleminson if he understood German. "No", he replied.

"Then how do you know what is said in these German publications?" he was asked.

"I know the policy of my Party", was his reply. "It is the same in German as it is in English or any other language. It is the policy of the Fourth International."

It was clear, when the magistrates came to decide upon the sentence, that had Comrade Cleminson said he was sorry and given an undertaking not to do it again, he would probably have walked out of court. The magistrates almost pleaded with him to say he would not do it again. He refused to give such an undertaking, but replied:

"I will give an undertaking to approach the authorities to try to get permission to give this literature out in future. Can the court tell me to whom I can apply?"

But the Magistrates were not satisfied with the answer and pursued the matter, ceasing only when Comrade Cleminson said: "I cannot possibly give such an undertaking."

### "My Justification"

When Cleminson began to make his speech, the Magistrates' clerk stopped him and said:

"The court does not want to hear a lecture on Communism, which this statement appears to be. It wants to hear your excuse."

Bill Cleminson replied: "This is not my excuse but my justification for doing it. This is a statement of my beliefs as they relate to this

(Continued on page 4.)

# Help Our German Comrades! SEND FOOD

Dear Comrades,

The conditions in which the mass of German working class families live are fairly well known to British workers, certainly they are known to the readers of the "Socialist Appeal."

Homeless and ill-clad, starved and diseased; that is the lot of the German workman and his family at the present time.

Faced with these appalling conditions British tommies have for long been dishing out their rations, especially to the kids, risking military discipline in the practice. Meanwhile, at home thousands of civvies have waited for the day when it was possible to send food to their fellow workmen in Germany.

For many months now, the humanitarians have been conducting a campaign to "Save Europe Now" under the vigorous leadership of Victor Gollancz. It is principally as the result of these activities that the Government has decided

to amend the regulations and allow food and clothing to be sent to Germany. It is to the great credit of these humanitarians that they have managed to enforce this concession and thereby achieve something for human solidarity which the Trade Union and Labour organisations to their shame have not stirred themselves to bring about.

We hope that every worker who is organised in trade unions or in Socialist or Communist organisations will seize this opportunity to help a fellow worker.

To our offices at 256 Harrow Road, come many reports of old militants of the working class who have spent years in concentration camps as a reward for their fight against the Nazis and who, homeless and ill, need the nourishing food that it is possible to send them if they are to get through the winter alive.

Those who fared worst under Hitler were

working class militants, leading fighters in the class struggle. It is still these men and their families who face the worst at the present time. We are sure that readers of the "Socialist Appeal" will want to send at least one parcel of food or clothing to a needy German worker. We are sure that our readers would like their gift to be sent to a militant worker who works for similar ends to ourselves.

The following facts are taken from the data supplied by the "Save Europe Now" Committee through whom the food and clothes will be sent to Germany.

### FOOD PARCELS

The parcel must contain only rationed food purchased with coupons, points or personal points.

### CLOTHING PARCELS

The parcels may contain:—  
Second-hand clothes and shoes, mending

material (excluding cotton thread) household remedies (excluding vitamin extracts, cod liver oil and supplementary medicines of this type), books, stationery, educational commodities for children such as pencils, paints and drawing books, soap flakes and rationed soap powder.

### PLEASE NOTE. IMPORTANT—

The following foods are the most suitable to send and they are listed in order of merit:

Tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned milk, dried eggs, flour semolina, barley, oatmeal, macaroni, tinned beans and peas, chocolate and sweets, dried milk, dried fruit, tinned syrup, jam, honey, treacle and sugar.

The following foods are unrationed and are not allowed:

Coffee, cocoa, Horlick's Ovaltine, cod liver oil, tinned vegetable and soups.

We are sure that readers of our press who desire to send food or clothing to Germany will

want their contribution to be received by a trade-unionist or an international socialist or communist. These, by virtue of their part in the struggle against Hitler and against world capitalism are, in our opinion, the most deserving. Food, clothing and other household necessities, as stated above, which readers of our press want to send should be addressed to:

**GERMAN WORKERS' RELIEF FUND,**  
256, Harrow Road,  
Paddington, London, W.2.

It costs 4/- package and postage for every 7 lb. parcel. It is not essential to send this with food or clothes but we would be pleased to get a postal order for that amount to cover costs.

...We guarantee that all gifts will go to members of the working class movement in Germany, most of whom have spent many years of their life in Hitler's Concentration Camps because of their principles and activities.

**POLITICAL BUREAU, R.C.P.**



With half the month gone we are still short of achieving half of our monthly target.

While the list of donations printed below shows a slight improvement over last month, it still falls far short of our aim and were it not for some stalwart "regulars" we would be very much worse off.

Comrade Readers—it is up to you. When you buy your paper—if you can possibly manage it—give the seller some extra cash. It will all come to this office to help our Paper keep going. Check over your cash resources and then add yourself to our regular monthly donors. We will eagerly welcome any donation, large or small.

Keep this weapon of the Working Class well armed with cash ammunition in the unceasing war against capitalism and for the emancipation of all the toilers of the world.

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

December, 1946.

	£	s.	d.
W.H., Birmingham..	6	0	0
W.G.T., Edinburgh	4	0	
East London .....	2	0	
Liverpool .....	6	7	1
Glasgow .....	3	0	0
Anon. ....	4	0	
W.M. ....	5	0	
West London .....	5	17	6
Charlie White .....	5	0	
North London .....	1	11	6
"Monty" .....	10	0	
W.H. ....	5	4	9
Cannock .....	7	0	
Labourer, N.E.M. ...	1	11	6
Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	5	0	
"Slinger", N.E.M.	1	0	
D.G., Manchester ...	10	0	0
Thames Valley .....	2	12	0
Southall .....	5	2	
R.S., S.E.A.C. ....	2	0	

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# Industrial Notes

## Essex Transport Strike—'Daily Worker' and 40 hour week—T.U. Leaders and Manchester Strike

### ESSEX TRANSPORT BY N. PENTLAND

Following the breakdown of negotiations concerning a winter schedule, nearly 300 drivers and conductors of the City Coach Co., resorted to strike action when notified that the disputed service would be operated.

Since October, the men have been negotiating with the Company in order to prevent a greater spread-over of hours and a speed-up of times.

The Company recently arbitrarily announced that they would put their scheme into operation without further discussion. This led to the well organised drivers and conductors replying to this provocation, by strike action.

### New Anti-Scab Measures

At the Brentwood garage, inspectors attempted to operate the coaches. But they were soon forestalled by the drivers who drove five of the larger coaches to the front of the garage, let the air out of the tyres and drained petrol tanks, thus barricading the rest of the coaches securely in their place! Then, to ensure no further attempt would be made to break the strike a picket was thrown round the garage making the stoppage 100%.

The recent spate of transport strikes from all parts of the country calls for a national rank and file committee, to conduct a successful fight nationally. A co-ordinating committee of rail and road transport workers is the only way to link up all action for the preservation of wages, hours and conditions.

### N.A.T. AND THE YORK MEMO

#### BY P. NORMAN

Hardly a week goes by without an example of the reactionary role of the National Arbitration Tribunal.

The latest deliberation of this employer biased body, announced that Bro. Stacey, A.E.U. Convenor of Napiers' Liverpool plant, was guilty of misconduct and rightly sacked.

All this took place six months ago, following a token strike, after the firing of four other workers. Since May, Bro. Stacey has

had his case go through the whole gamut of the cumbersome York Memo., which involved three long drawn out conferences, plus the N.A.T.

This is the result of the treacherous snivelling policy of the Stalinists and trade union bureaucracy. The employers use the policy of hiding behind "constitutional procedure" to keep militant shop stewards and convenors on the streets. This has been the lot of Bro. Stacey over the past six months.

This case is a glaring example of what the N.A.T. is. If the workshop organisation is to be kept intact for future battles with the employing class, no reliance can be placed on the York Memo., and the N.A.T. They must be swept aside and a real fighting policy put in its place.

The employers are girding their loins for the coming struggles. This is clearly apparent by the amalgamation of the Federation of British Industries and the British Employers Confederation.

The trade union rank and file must take notice of this step and in the place of "niceties" and "constitutionalism" demand in their union, a policy which allows for the strength of the organised workers to be used.

Organised direct action is the only weapon the employers really fear. This must be the workers' answer to attacks on their shop stewards and factory organisations, which are the backbone of the trade union movement.

Workers, demand that your E.C. recognise all strikes that are in defence of workshop organisation.

### The "DAILY WORKER" AND THE ENGINEERS 40-HOUR WEEK

The level of reporting of the "Daily Worker", which has the audacity to parade under the name "communist", exposed itself anew

in the report on the Engineers' 40-Hour Week Campaign.

On Tuesday, December 4th, the "Daily Worker" reported that it was certain that the Engineering E.C.'s would ratify the employers' offer of 44 hours. Without one word of protest at the lengthening of the working day from 8½ to 9 hours, with tongue in cheek, they merely reported that "there is considerable disappointment over the failure to obtain a shorter working week." Further, not really believing that less hours mean more production, and ready to back the employers' export drive, the report confuses and betrays the engineers by assuring them that there is general agreement for the 44-hour week, and that it is a step in the right direction.

The "Daily Worker" failed to point out that in relation to the strength of the Confederation of Engineering Unions (some 2 million members) acceptance of this is a retrogressive step in that it leads to the lengthening of the working day.

In the best traditions of a capitalist paper, the "Daily Worker" contends that there are two categories of thought around this question. One which says that the production drive will be prejudiced, and the second which opposes the agreement because of loss of earnings.

Instead of condemning the whole agreement and exposing the weak-kneed bureaucratic manoeuvres of the trade union E.C.'s, who are too scared to use the strength of the rank and file in achieving this demand, the "Daily Worker" poses as a neutral in attempting to foist the 44-hour week onto the workers.

Far from demanding the original claim of a 40-hour week, the "Daily Worker" sits on the fence and administers the piece of sugar to the engineers after they have swallowed the bitter pill of the 9-

hour day. This has nothing in common with real communism, but should be given the name it deserves: super reformism, a betrayal of the engineers.

### T.U. LEADERS AND THE MANCHESTER BUS STRIKE

#### BY BOB ALLEN

Isolated strikes have been breaking out in Transport all over the country on questions of reinstatement, victimisation, etc. Very few have concerned wages or conditions. Most have been questions of jurisdiction and discipline.

The transport workers everywhere are moving forward to new ideas about discipline and control; they want to see an end of the old style methods of discipline enforcement. They want a democratic rank and file constitution, curbing the personal powers of the managers, and ensuring participation of the men in the actual running of the local Transport Authorities.

Furthermore, in dealing with local transport, we are not dealing with private capitalist enterprise. The sovereign authority in Manchester for example, is not an individual capitalist but the City Council and its Transport Committee; both controlled by Labour Councillors. They were elected by Labour working men who are the majority in Manchester, and pay most of the rates. They were put there consciously by the workers to help the working class to get better hours, conditions and pay, not to operate Transport to get the last half-penny in profits.

### T. & G.W. Leadership Out Of Touch With Ideals Of Rank And File

But is the leadership of the T. & G.W.U. taking up these hopes (Continued on Page 4.)

# Letters

To the Editor,

## SINGAPORE

### City of Strikes

SINGAPORE—11th November—

Singapore, known to the Asiatic workers prior to the war as the "City of Police Stations" has now got another name, that of the "City of Strikers". Since the "Liberation" 14 months ago, there have been well over 200 strikes of one kind or another.

The "Hume Pipe Strike" which started in June and lasted for over 3 months was one of the best examples of the development of Trade Unionism in Malaya. Here for the first time, the workers of Singapore used the tactics of their more advanced class brothers in Europe and America. Picket lines in a somewhat crude form were used, class appeals for support were sent out to the other sections of the workers in Malaya, and attempts to get International connections with the Australian workers employed by the Hume Pipe Company were made. They also publicised their struggle internationally by letters to various organisations and newspapers in England, Ceylon, America and India. Amongst these letters was one to the "Socialist Appeal".

The most recent strike which held the centre of attraction in Singapore was that of the Harbour workers.

On October 19th, at a General Meeting of the workers, a Committee was elected to present demands to the Harbour authorities for much needed wage increases and extra food rations. There were 4 members elected to represent approximately 10,000 harbour workers, all members of the Singapore Harbour Workers Union (affiliated to the Federation of T.U.'s, Singapore).

When these representatives went to present the workers' case to the authorities, the Harbour authorities behaved in a very insulting manner to these representatives and refused to recognise them. In place of them, the authorities declared that they would only recognise another Union (a small Chinese union of approximately 200 men controlled by the Koumintang).

When the workers heard this, there was a unanimous cry for strike action and so on the 25th October the Harbour Strike was on.

### Strikers' Demands

The demands of the strikers were as follows:—

3. Three free rice meals per day (prior to the strike one free meal was given).
4. Double pay for Sunday work.
5. Night work 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. (4 hours) 12 hours wages to be paid.
6. 11 p.m.—1 a.m., 50 cents an hour.
7. Cost of Living Allowance should be given based on the prices of commodities. The same allowance as other Singapore workers were receiving.

On the first day of the strike the Unions formed a picket line, but only a few workers under the influence of the Kuomintang Union tried to scab and these were prevented from doing so by the pickets.

After a few days the authorities came forward with an offer of a 10% increase per day; this was rejected and a few days later the authorities offered 15% increases. This also was turned down.

During this period, Japanese P.O.W.s were brought in to unload foodstuffs.

The strike continued until about November 7th when the Government closed Singapore to all imports except food.

### Labour Government's Advisor

On November 11th, Mr. Garrett, the Trade Union Advisor got the workers to agree to return to work on a 15% increase for work done during meal hours, etc., whilst their case was going to an Impartial Arbitration Tribunal.

A few words about Mr. Garrett, the "Socialist" Government's Trade Union Adviser. Like his predecessor, Mr. Brazier, he seems all out to smash the unions as they now exist and set up "stooge unions" of his own liking. Garrett has actually set up puppet committees.

He recently published an appeal in a Singapore paper to Government and Municipal workers to follow the leadership of the new committees set up by him and not to support the democratically elected committees of the Government and Municipal workers which are affiliated to the Federation of T.U.s in Singapore.

After this letter had been published, the different Unions concerned called a joint meeting and

# CAPITALIST COAL BOARD OR WORKERS' CONTROL

### BY JOHN RIDING

THOSE ROTTEN OLD BITS

displaying a lack of knowledge of the true facts and conditions. One

# From LEFT and RIGHT

BY AGITATOR

## PROFITS BEFORE FOOD

Famine, food shortages, inadequate nourishment for the hungry workers in Europe and Asia. This kind of thing fills our newspapers day in and day out.

For the British workers it is a question of whether the present meagre rations will be reduced, or whether the monotonous diet can be varied. For the toilers in less "fortunate" lands, it is a question of getting enough food to keep alive. In Belgium there is a shortage of potatoes. In China, where millions are keeping alive on little more than grass; potatoes (whole or dehydrated), would be welcomed as luxury. But once again we are faced with the madness of capitalism. Shortages in Asia and Europe, destruction of foodstuffs in America!

A columnist in the "Boston Herald" of Sept. 9, reveals that "Maine has an overplus of potatoes and the Department of Agriculture has gone back to the Henry Wallace formula of plowing them under. It's dumping them, burying them, crushing them on roads under steam rollers. One man tells of seeing 5,000 carloads worth \$5 a carload, waiting in one place to be dumped."

Only the class action of the suffering masses can bring an end to such criminal actions on the part of the capitalists.

## STRAINING AT THE GNAT...

On December 10, the popular press gave prominence to the case of two men sentenced at Birmingham for evading tax on their business profits. The "Daily Herald" even ran an editorial on the subject in which they commented:

"Sentence of four years penal servitude was passed on a business man. . . . He had been engaged in hiring out tractors and trucks and in certain subsidiary businesses, and by means of secret banking accounts defrauded the Inland Revenue—which of course means his fellow citizens—of £58,874 during three years.

"In another case the proprietor of a motor coach business—who was sentenced to three years penal servitude—had cheated the Revenue of £1,495 income-tax and £15,124 excess profits tax. He was stated to have admitted to the Inland Revenue officials that he sometimes wagered as much as £1,000 on a dog or a horse."

This is undoubtedly a shocking state of affairs. But the only remedies the "Herald" can suggest—that more tax inspectors

be put on the job, and the loopholes in "our income-tax system closed"—don't get to the root of the matter at all.

The convicted businessmen got into hotwater only because they didn't know the ropes! The nature of their enterprises and the short term over which these fabulous profits were made, suggests that these two were just upstarts who used the crudest possible methods of evading taxes: the falsification of accounts.

None will bemoan their fate. At the same time it is necessary to recognise that they are but scapegoats for the whole capitalist class who have perfected methods of legally concealing their true profits and thereby evading their tax obligations.

If the motor-coach proprietor had staked £1,000 or £100,000 come to that, on a Stock Exchange gamble instead of on a horse or a dog, no hands would have been raised in pious horror. And any gains resulting from his "transaction" would have been treated as a capital profit and thereby excluded from taxation! If the man with the tractors and "subsidiary businesses" had run a string of subsidiary companies (especially if he had made use of nominees) he would have been able legally to avoid quite a sizeable proportion of the taxes which he is convicted of evading. Profits and income are easily concealed in that way. Expenses are inflated. Each company has a separate profit standard. Each director's fee has its "earned income" allowance for taxation purposes. Why otherwise do the big capitalists bother themselves with such myriads of companies in their organizations. One outfit even boasts that it consists of 600 companies!

If the felons had employed this constitutional method of running several sets of books, instead of their cruder method of falsification, they would have been regarded as highly respectable citizens, and would have been able to achieve pretty much the same results as landed them in gaol.

The "Herald" demagogically declares that "The millions whose pay packets are automatically lightened every pay-day by the deduction of tax are entitled to the assurance that every possible step is taken to deal just as firmly and fairly with all people who live by profits." This can only be achieved by the workers' representatives having access to all company books. To call for the heads of a few petty crooks and leave the bulk of the ruling class to hide behind the laws designed to enable them to exploit the masses, is to strain at the gnat and swallow the camel.

# OUR WORKERS' CONTROL

BY JOHN RIDING

THOSE ROTTEN OLD PITS

GLOUCESTER—

The silence regarding the composition of the local Board has been broken. Shinwell announced the names of the "experts" who form the Board. We have been given some indication of the future working of this august body. It is to be an "independent" body responsible to no-one except the Minister of Fuel and Power. Since its formation we have heard the voice of the local Board. Sir Charles Reid, one of its members has spoken. It sounds like the voice of the Big Indian Chief.

The Capitalist Press vary in their designation of his speech, but all are alike in their interpretation. The headlines described it as—**Straight Talk to the Miners**, etc., all presented in the nature of an ultimatum to the miners. It is the same old story, putting the miners in the dock.

It is a lamentable fact that few people outside the mining industry know anything of its peculiar nature. The numberless Rules and Regulations contained in the Coal Mines Act are allegedly embodied for the safety of the mines, but any working miner knows from bitter experience, how they can be manipulated and twisted against the miner so as to constitute a breach of the Act.

Actually, all authority is vested in the Mine Manager and his underlings, the Undermanager and his Deputy. There are no safeguards for the miner. "His not to reason why? His but to do or die."

## Shinwell And The Coal Board

Shinwell says we must give the Coal Board time to function. I am not sanguine of miraculous results. The construction of this local Board is fundamentally wrong. One has only to mention one name—that of Citrine—to prove it. Whom this man is supposed to represent, I do not know. Certainly not the miners. How can he? He knows nothing about coal and its problems and difficulties. The miners' own union officials are in like case, or very little more knowledgeable. These men were astute enough to get themselves elected to the official positions at an early age. Thus their real and practical mining experience is limited. I looked in vain for the appointment of men with long practical experience and who were actually working at the coal face. It is a growing omen of the hostility between the miners and their leaders. Support for this view is given by a letter to the local Barnsley paper, in which the writer, a working miner says that miners complaints were that all they got out of Shinwell's meeting

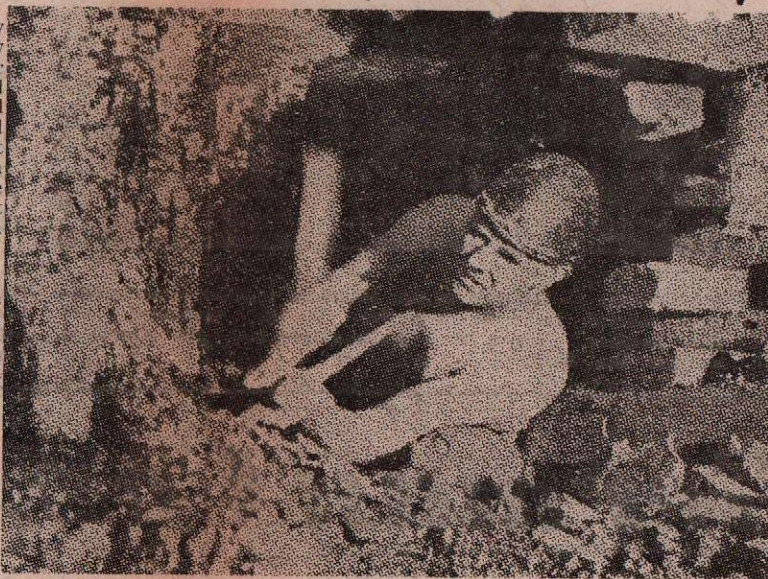
displaying a lack of knowledge of the true facts and conditions. One might excuse these people a little, but when men like the miners' leaders give their supporting view on the matter it is rank disloyalty to the men who pay them and indicates that they are no longer genuinely representative.

What are the true facts?

## Capitalist Greed Ruined Pits

First, many pits are old, and because they are old they are rotten. This is a legacy of private enterprise. When these pit shafts were sunk it was the policy of the owners to get production on as

## MINERS PRODUCE THE COAL— MINERS SHOULD CONTROL PITS



were insults. He adds: **It is time Delegates, Secretaries and other Officials got their pit clothes out and put them on to try and increase the output.**

Managements are still prosecuting miners for what they term breaches of the Coal Mines Act. This is a common practise in Yorkshire and it is a decided reflection that the attitude of the Managers has not changed. They are still arrogant and intolerant, and these local prosecutions are a fairer criterion of the relations between management and men, than all the sophistries Shinwell mouths. I refuse to believe he is unaware of this.

Much has been said about the miners not working a full shift and even the mens' leaders have joined in the Hounds Chorus, but nothing has been said why they do not. Irresponsible people speak in public or write to the daily press

large a scale as quickly as possible, to get back the initial outlay and cost of sinking. Thus the Mining practice of the colliery managers was to open out workings at a reasonably safe distance from the pit bottom. This meant taking all the coal before them to the boundary. They were not such fools as to drive narrow headings to the boundary and then work back to the pit bottom. Their business was to produce coal rapidly with a corresponding increase in output as they developed the mine. The consequence is we are left with the coal farthest away from the shafts.

Now what does this mean in Labour time? Or to put it more plainly, in working hours? When the miners are walking from the pit bottom to their working places, they are not producing coal. Think then, of collieries that have (Continued in next Column.)

## Strikers' Demands

The demands of the strikers were as follows:—

1. Recognition of Singapore Harbour Workers' Union, and their representatives to be treated as such.
2. Increase in pay of 100% (The rates prior to the strike were maximum \$1.20 per day; minimum \$1.00 per day). The exchange rate is \$1.00—2/4, (but with the high cost of living the purchasing value is approximately 6d.).

been producing and working from twenty to sixty years, and try to imagine how far those working places on the coal face are from the pit shaft! Moreover, this loss of working time cannot be measured in actual distances from pit bottom to coal face. In many pits the walk from the shaft to the coal face constitutes the hardest part of the miners work. Low roof, bad floor, walking in wet roads in some instances projecting pieces of rock from the sides, broken bars, twisted and bent girders, heavy roof weight and scrambling over falls, and a host of other impediments too numerous to mention, make the journey to the working place a nightmare of a task and makes the older miners quite exhausted when they reach their journey's end. Many miners are so far out that it takes the men an hour to reach the coal face. Then after working rapidly and strenuously, they are faced with the same journey back. This means that the actual working time in producing coal is 5 hours or so.

The question "is this journey really necessary?" seems ridiculous. It is ridiculous and it is the joint result of private enterprise and the coal royalties.

Under Nationalisation this can be altered.

## How can it be altered? By Workers' Control.

In the larger mining areas the pits border on each other and in many instances the miners of a neighbouring colliery are actually working much nearer the shaft of another colliery, but owing to the fact of the colliery belonging to another owner or set of owners, they cannot use the shaft. Under Nationalisation this can be altered. Instead of having to make a difficult and strenuous journey to get to their work and wasting precious time and energy in the process, they should be able to use the nearest shaft and thus save much time and be fresh to start their arduous toil.

Think also of the tremendous saving of haulage in time, labour and cost, if coal is drawn out of the nearest shaft instead of a journey of miles as they have to

elect committees of the Government and Municipal workers which are affiliated to the Federation of T.U.s in Singapore.

After this letter had been published, the different Unions concerned called a joint meeting and protested against this violation of trade unionism and challenged Barrett to call a general meeting of all Government and Municipal workers to thrash the matter out, to see which Committees the workers really wanted—those they had democratically elected or Garrett's stooge committees.

Garrett, like a typical Labour bureaucrat, remained silent in face of this challenge from the workers.

## SOLIDARITY

D. Aisle in the Main Works of Metropolitan Vickers struck work demanding the dismissal of a man who, during the transport strike in Manchester, had driven a black-leg bus.

The man was dismissed; the men then resumed work.

make under private enterprise. Any miner knows from experience that much waiting for tubs would be avoided if the haulage roads could be shortened. I know that some shafts are not large enough to deal with abnormal output, but there are many which could deal with an increased supply of coal.

This brings us to the problem of surface arrangements to deal with the coal raised from the mines. Here again the facilities are not all they should be, and instead of compensating the owners for worn out and obsolete machinery the money should be used to put the pits and their surface arrangements on a sound footing, equipped with the latest time and labour saving devices. There are many more matters that could be discussed and many more improvements that should be made in the pits and on the pit-head, and only those who have worked in the collieries all their lives know what could and should be done. Therefore we must insist that the miners themselves, must have a say in these important matters. We must press for workers' control, both inside the mines and on the regional boards. Only thus can we have a contented industry. Only thus can we have efficiency. The workers must see to it that the men who get the coal have the first claim to work the mines for their own and the nation's benefit.

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

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## FOREIGN POLICY REFLECTS HOME POLICY

For many decades, Socialist and Communist workers taught that if a country was capitalist, if its economy was dominated by capitalist monopoly and banking, then its foreign policy would inevitably be a capitalist one. Its ruling class seek to dominate sources of raw materials, markets and spheres of profitable investment abroad, by all forms of economic, diplomatic and military pressure.

In Britain, the nationalisation measures of the Labour Government have in no way altered the basic structure of capitalist economy. There remains untouched the power of the industrial capitalists, or bankers, of tin, rubber and oil barons, whose profits are made from the exploitation of the workers and peasants of the Empire, the Far East and the Middle East. The Diplomatic Service, the Foreign Office, the Military and General Staff remain, as before, manned from the ranks of the ruling class, instruments for the carrying out of their imperialist aims in foreign countries.

The Labour leadership has refused to struggle against the interests of British Imperialism. Its foreign policy has been completely in accord with the strategic interests of imperialism. Every major step taken has had the full approval and support of the ruling class.

For many years, one of the avowed aims of the Labour Party was to purge the Foreign Office. Even Ramsay MacDonald could state that he proposed "to end the bureaucracy of the Foreign Office with its queer mentality and selection of subversive agents." Of course, that was in 1923, before he became what this same bureaucracy called "the easiest Foreign Secretary they had ever had to manage."

Today, after two Labour Governments and a Coalition, the Labour leaders have learned how to be "responsible" politicians. Even the promise to purge the Foreign Office is relegated to the days of youthful "irresponsibility". The Tory foreign service remains intact. And Bevin is proud to boast, as it was the proud and open boast of Ramsay MacDonald before him, that he preserves the continuity of British foreign policy. His zeal in the cause of British imperialism, has duly earned him the admiration of Churchill who titled him, "The Working

## Bill Cleminson's Deposition at Court Send P.O.W.s Home

### It Is Our Duty

THE CHARGES AGAINST ME ARE MADE UNDER THE DEFENCE REGULATIONS ALLEGE THAT I DID, "WITHOUT LAWFUL AUTHORITY", CONVEY TO GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR, "PRINTED MATTER RECORDING INFORMATION BY WORDS." IF THIS IS AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE LAW, THEN I HAVE COMMITTED AN OFFENCE.

I did distribute printed matter to German Prisoners consisting of publications in German, namely "SOLIDARITAT" and "NEUER SPARTAKUS" and the book in that language by Leon Trotsky "WHAT NEXT FOR GERMANY?" At the same time I distributed copies of "SOCIALIST APPEAL" and "WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL NEWS" in English.

All these are publications of the party of which I am a member, the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International—which is an international organisation of socialist workingmen; (or as in the case of "Neuer Spartakus", an organ of our German fellow thinkers) are publications distributed under the auspices of the R.C.P.

#### The Content Of The Publications

Since the court will undoubtedly be interested in the ideological content of these publications, I will briefly outline that content: it consists of a series of articles explaining urgent problems of the day from the standpoint of International Communism, first developed into a scientific method and programme by Karl Marx, a German, who did most of his great work in this country.

In these journals the revolutionary communists explain, and try to assist the working class of all countries to understand—and that includes the workers of Germany and Japan—that the war was the inevitable result of the capitalist system of production and exchange, and not at all because of the existence in power of the madman Hitler, or because the German people have a national characteristic for warmongering.

These journals explain our view that race hatred and fascism are not peculiar to the German people but are the products of a decaying social system, namely, capitalism. They explain that the only way in which the workers can end the periodic wars and terrible slumps that ravage society between the wars, is by uniting the forces of the workers of all countries to end the capitalist system and to introduce the socialist or communist (for they are the same) system to society.

I was not aware that it was an offence against the law to distribute such literature to German Prisoners. On the contrary, I was under the impression that it was quite legal. The press is full of reports of parsons and priests

The law must have as its objective therefore, the protection of the German Prisoners from the ideological influence of the British people.

#### Germans Will Judge Us By Our Deeds

We are told that the German people are being re-educated in democracy, especially the youth. Good! I am all in favour of a thoroughgoing and consistent democratic education. But every German worker—imprisoned or otherwise—every German wife and mother will judge the democrats, not by their pretty speeches and phrases but by their deeds.

A democracy which carefully discriminates what the people should read and whom they should contact is a peculiar form of democracy.

A democracy which filters and sieves the ideas and policies which it allows to reach the Prisoners will soon be detected for what it is: a conscious fraud.

This kind of democracy will be exposed as a sugar coating to cover the bitter pill which has the same economic and social content of fascism. It must inevitably result in the disillusionment of the "pupils" who are to be "re-educated." It must in the end, add volume to the voice of the reactionary false prophets of nazism and fascism, who still, unfortunately, control the internal regime of many of the prison camps.

I believe the Nazi and Fascist system of social and political oppression to be a monstrous system. Every human being who values human progress has the duty to combat this system. This is especially true for the workers, for the Nazis and Fascists essentially came into existence to destroy the Trade Unions and political organisations through which the workers exercise their democratic rights.

But Fascist laws and organisations are not peculiar to the Germans. We too have our Fascists here and they must be destroyed.

British Labour Cannot Be

because they have fought the Nazi system. They fought it at a time when Sir Oswald Mosley and many of the elite, who still occupy high places in British public life, were advocating the Fascist system for Britain.

#### Anti-Fascists imprisoned—Mosleyites Free

A law which keeps these German anti-fascists imprisoned while leaving these friends of Hitler to go free, is an undemocratic law and should be abolished. It is a law that should be fought against by every worker and by every person who values human culture.

I believe it to be the duty of every socialist and communist and of every trade unionist in the country to raise his voice and demand that the P.O.W.'s be sent home at once. This is also the duty of everyone who claims to be imbued with democratic sentiments. He who refuses to carry out the practical tasks that flow from this duty makes a mockery of socialism and communism, and even of democracy.

Whilst P.O.W.'s remain on British soil, they must be paid the full trade union rate for the job they do, and not be employed as forced slave labour. They must be allowed to attend trade union and political meetings of the working class. Indeed, they should be welcomed at such meetings, not only by the workers but by the Government which claims to be a socialist government.

#### "I Feel No Shame"

No personal gain was sought by me in the distribution of this literature or in the act of fraternisation of which I am accused. Nor did any personal gain result. I feel no shame therefore, at having committed the alleged offence. On the contrary, I would have had cause for shame only if I would have allowed this opportunity of carrying out my duty and demonstrating my international class solidarity with these German workers, to have passed without being utilised.

## Algerian Leader Arrested in Paris

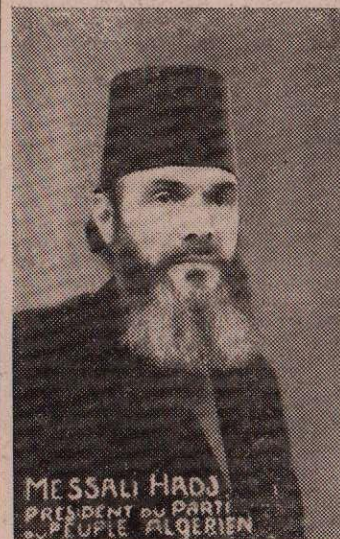
PARIS.

On December 3rd, a crowded meeting was held to listen to a speech from Messali Hadj, the President of the People's Party of Algeria. The P.P.A. meeting was announced to begin at 8 p.m. and at this time both halls of the "Salle Wagram" (Paris), were already crowded. But the tribune was empty. At 8.30 p.m. the tribune was still empty . . . everybody was waiting.

At last, Comrade Asla of the Federation of France of the P.P.A. came on to the tribune to announce that events "of an exceptional gravity, which he cannot communicate, have prevented the P.P.A. Deputies arriving on time," and he asked the audience to remain quiet and to wait.

The Algerians, confident in their leaders, did not protest. At 10.10 p.m., Derdour Djamal, Constantine Deputy arrived on to the tribune and to the silent hall he announced that Messali Hadj who arrived that evening in Paris, was arrested by the police.

Following this announcement a tremendous protest was heard



MESSALI HADJ  
PRESIDENT DU PARTI  
COMMUNISTE ALGERIEN

against this sinister police measure. Messali Hadj is imprisoned by the police in a room, he is forbidden to greet the Algerian workers in Paris.

Three Deputies of Constantine took the floor, as well as Maiza, a leading candidate of the P.P.A. Numerous Indo-Chinese, Tunisian, Moroccan delegates brought the salutations of the colonial peoples fighting against French imperialism.

Then Marcel Beaufrère, member of the Political Bureau of the P.C.I. (French Trotskyists), greeted with tremendous applause, brought the salutations of the P.C.I.

An immense applause greeted the statement of M. Beaufrère that he welcomed the declaration of solidarity made to the meeting by an Algerian Stalinist, to whom Beaufrère recommended that he persuade his comrades of the Metropolis of the impossibility to be with the oppressed peoples and to sit at the same time with the M.R.P. Ministers. This demonstration reflected the maturity of the P.P.A. Delegates who in their interventions not only proved their militancy but also a profound political sense.

The sellers of the "Verité" (organ of the P.C.I.) had not enough papers, such was the demand for it. The reception made to the speaker of the P.C.I. and to its paper, proved that the Algerian workers are aware of the struggle led by the Parti Communiste Internationaliste for the independence of the colonial peoples and that they know that only the Fourth International is fighting on their side, against imperialism and its agents in the working class movement.

## Anti-Imperialist Meeting Smashed

FRENCH POLICE SMASH TROTSKYIST

The Tory foreign service remains intact. And Bevin is proud to boast, as it was the proud and open boast of Ramsay MacDonald before him, that he preserves the continuity of British foreign policy. His zeal in the cause of British imperialism, has duly earned him the admiration of Churchill, who titled him, "The Working Man John Bull."

Labour's foreign policy is not determined by the personal characteristics of its Minister. To demand "Bevin must go" will not solve the problem. The basis of the Labour Government's foreign policy lies in the fact that finance capital remains dominant in Britain and demands the protection of its foreign interests. The Labour leaders regard themselves as the best defenders of these interests.

During the past sixteen months, the Labour Government has, because of its vast support among the masses, carried out the designs of imperialism, without widespread opposition from the ranks of the working class. But the "revolt" of the Labour M.P.'s is an expression of the discontent of the workers with this policy, as was the vote against Labour's foreign policy at the T.U.C. Added to this is the mounting protest from the constituencies at the slowing down of demobilisation of the worker-soldiers, who are being retained in all parts of the world for imperialist policing purposes.

However, the confusion of these "left" M.P.'s, their inability to carry a struggle through, was made abundantly clear. The "revolt" ended ingloriously with their abstention when their amendment to the King's Speech was voted on. Not one had the courage to vote against the Government. That the Government's foreign policy will not be changed by mere expressions of opinion is clear. To change foreign policy is obviously a task of far greater dimensions, one which requires courageous leadership, and above all, the participation of the organised labour movement.

The collapse of the "revolt" was not surprising when one considered the mixed character of the opposition. It was not the expression of a conscious and consolidated left wing within the Labour Party. Widely differing elements, for widely different reasons were opposed to the foreign policy of the Government. Some because they were Zionists, others because they were anti-Zionists, others because they were Catholics, yet others because they were pacifists. Some were in favour of a Western Bloc; others wanted a "middle way" between the policy of American imperialism and Stalinism; another group were the faithful exponents of Stalinist foreign policy.

This "revolt" did not result in the crystallisation of a left wing either in the country as a whole or in the Parliamentary Labour Party. There was no clear-cut tendency revealed. The general theme of the "rebels" was that at home, the Labour Government had done exceedingly well, only in foreign affairs had it failed. But no real alternative to Bevin's foreign policy can be given without the realisation that every aspect of the Labour Government's policy is inter-linked, one the continuation of the other. A socialist foreign policy demands here at home, the smashing of the power of the trusts and banks, whose strategic, military and profit making interests are responsible for the actions of the Foreign office and military forces abroad.

are the same) system to society. I was not aware that it was an offence against the law to distribute such literature to German Prisoners. On the contrary, I was under the impression that it was quite legal. The press is full of reports of parsons and priests addressing the prisoners not only on religious questions but on social and political questions. It seems, therefore, that since no action is taken except against us, the law discriminates what type of printed matter and what type of speech the prisoners can hear.

#### Why The Regulation?

There is no danger from a military standpoint to be feared from fraternising with P.o.W.'s. That is clear. What then, and who is to be protected by the continuation of the use of the Defence Regulation? Is it to protect the British people from the influence of Nazi or Fascist ideology? The workers need no protection from these ideas. They know only too well that Nazism and Fascism is the bitter enemy of organised labour. The law is obviously not designed to protect the people for that reason.

Need I recall to this court in this connection that the fascist and notorious friend and ally of Hitler, Oswald Mosley was only recently allowed to hold a meeting at the Victoria Hall, Sheffield, and there to disseminate his poisonous Hitlerite ideas. Need I point out that Mosley was protected by the police from the anger of the Sheffield workers, who would undoubtedly have made their protest in a very practical way.

political organisations through which the workers exercise their democratic rights. But Fascist ideas and organisations are not peculiar to the Germans. We too have our Fascists here and they must be destroyed.

#### British Labour Cannot Be Free Whilst German Labour Is In Chains

I believe, as millions of other workers believe, that the widest democracy and freedom is essential to human happiness and progress. But I am a consistent democrat. I believe that British Labour cannot be free itself whilst German Labour is in chains.

Six million German soldiers are still being held prisoners by the victorious powers. Starvation and human misery on an unprecedented scale are the lot of the families of these imprisoned workers. In consequence, the hundreds of thousands of prisoners in this country, who are fully aware of the terrible conditions in which their families live, are eating out their hearts to be home, protecting their loved ones or sharing their hardships.

One need not be a socialist or a communist to fully appreciate the urgent need to speedily repatriate these prisoners. Every single person in whom the spark of humanity has not been extinguished must campaign for their immediate return.

Many of these prisoners are workers who have experienced the horrors of the concentration camps or suffered hardships under Hitler

committed the alleged offence. On the contrary, I would have had cause for shame only if I would have allowed this opportunity of carrying out my duty and demonstrating my international class solidarity with these German workers, to have passed without being utilised.

Recently the Labour Government has modified the regulations to allow the prisoners a limited fraternisation with the civilian population. I hope that the Magistrates will take this into consideration as indicating that my action was not a criminal offence but a step which should long ago have had the full protection and encouragement of the Labour Government.

#### Fraternise with The German P.o.W.'s

I hope that the workers will seize this opportunity of fraternising with the prisoners and of showing that for them democracy is not a mere phrase but a way of life. Not only will they be able to teach the Germans something, but they will learn much from the German workers in return, if they do so.

When they discuss together the lessons of the war—why it took place? Who gained from it and who must pay for it? What has resulted from it and the only way to prevent its recurrence in future, both, I am sure, will arrive at the solution advocated by Karl Marx a hundred years ago: **that the workers of all countries should unite, for they have nothing to lose but their chains, they have a world to gain.**

# Meeting Smashed

FRENCH POLICE SMASH TROTSKYIST ANTI-IMPERIALIST MEETING

PARIS, 6 December.

To-night the French police brutally assaulted Indo-Chinese, Algerian and French workers when the Parti Communiste Internationaliste (Trotskyists) organised an open air protest meeting against the police ban of a big indoor Trotskyist rally scheduled for to-night. About 17 colonial and French comrades were arrested, many more comrades were bruised and beaten up by the police—2 gravely injured and had to be taken to hospital.

The meeting had been called in the Salle Wagram to protest and condemn the massacre of the Indo-Chinese people by French imperialism. This meeting was widely advertised and supported by the Algerian People's Party (P.P.A.). The Socialists and Stalinists had been invited to participate but had not replied to the invitation.

#### Colonial Workers

##### Turned Away

The street in which the hall is situated was crowded with colonial and French workers. When they arrived at the meeting the doors were shut and guarded by hundreds of police. Some considerable distance away the police were forcing all coloured workers to return to the underground station. Thousands of Algerians, Indo-Chinese and colonial workers were not even permitted to come within 400 yards of the hall.

#### 1,000 Workers Demonstrate

Immediately the P.C.I. speakers organised a meeting in a public space near the hall to condemn this reactionary attack upon the workers' elementary rights. Com-

rades Marcel Beaufreere and Albert Demaziere addressed this meeting, which was attended by 1,000 workers, mainly Algerian, who had broken through the police cordon. The audience then formed itself into a demonstration and tried to march along the street with democratic and anti-imperialist slogans, and to the tune of the "Internationale".

#### Fascists Join Police

At this the police brutally assaulted the workers, deliberately provoking the Algerian and Indo-Chinese workers in order to make arrests. The fascists, who had joined the police in their brutal assault, triumphantly counter-demonstrated with reactionary slogans "Long Live Leclerc," "Long Live Argenlieu," the two principal French imperialist butchers.

The P.C.I. will organise immediate protests in defence of those arrested. A new attempt will be made to publicly expose the policies of French imperialism and the cowardly silence of the official workers' parties.

Note: It is reported that all the arrested have been released this morning (7 December).

# FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE IRON & STEEL INDUSTRY

BY ROY TEARSE

In the pamphlet "LET US FACE FUTURE", in which it outlined its election promises, the Labour Party declared its intention to bring the Iron and Steel industry, along with the Coal Mining and other industries, under "public ownership", ostensibly to benefit the population as a whole. These promises were welcomed by the working class, who, on the basis of such promises, and a desire to curb the activities of the employers once and for all, swept the Labour Party into Government with an overwhelming majority.

It was not long, however, before the more discerning workers came to realise that the nationalisation plans of the Labour Government were not to give such a rosy state of affairs as had been previously anticipated. The pattern of future events was laid down in the Coal Industry. Although minor concessions have been made, and will be made here and there, the Government has persistently refused to substantially improve the lot of the miners, whilst meeting militant activity by the diabolical method of closing down whole pits, throwing hundreds out of work. At the same time, unparalleled haste has been shown in compensating the mine-owners to the tune of millions of pounds, and placing the burden of this on the backs of the workers.

#### Capitalist Anarchy and Sabotage

No industry can excel, and few can equal the example of capitalist sabotage and anarchy provided by the Iron and Steel Industry. Of all the major industries in Britain, the only one-hundred per cent watertight monopoly is in iron and steel and, vital though this industry is to the basic needs of modern industrial production, it is singularly backward and antiquated. To-day, "of the total number of 1,750 (iron) foundries, many are small, employing a handful of workers and entirely unmechanised." ("Economist" 19/10/46).

The monopoly body which has maintained almost undisputed charge of this most important industry, and which was deliberately created

by the Baldwin Government, is the Iron and Steel Federation.

From the collapse of the boom following World War I up to 1932, the industry went through a period of chronic depression. Old-fashioned plants and the sub-division of the industry into un-economic units rendered its competitive efforts, with its modern American and Continental rivals, feeble indeed. In 1932, when the Federation was created, the National Government came to its assistance with the imposition of tariffs on imported steel. The ensuing regulation of output and the fixing of prices at ever-rising levels made it possible for the financiers dominating the industry to ensure continuously rising profits. Employing the Import Duties Advisory

(Continued on Page 4.)

# Schacht Exposes U.S. War Guilt

PARIS, Oct. 29—There will be no trials of big German industrialists, said Mr. Hjalmar Schacht on October 29 in France-Soir. His full declaration was reported by Captain G. M. Gilbert of the Psychology Service of the U.S. Army, who watched the Nazi leaders at Nuremberg.

Schacht, says Psychiatrist Gilbert, "laughed at the suggestion that the German industrialists

would be accused," declaring:

"If you want to bring them to judgment for having aided rearmament of Germany, it will be necessary also to bring to justice those of your country (America)."

Schacht concluded, "The Opel works, which have made nothing beside war production, were the property of General Motors. It is impossible to bring the industrialists to trial."

# For a United India

(Continued from page 1.)

must either find sufficiently powerful allies within India itself to hold the population down, or conduct a colonial war on an unprecedented scale.

Britain is no longer capable, politically, of conducting such a war. Far from receiving the support of the workers of Britain, it would give rise to a widespread anti-imperialist movement. If they could rely on the British masses they would use the army to butcher the Indians as of old. But they can't. This is the principal reason why the British seek to lean on the Muslim League on the old imperialist principle of "Divide and Rule."

## The Class Basis Of Religious Riots

The Indian National Congress is controlled by astute capitalists who are not afraid of a certain amount of socialist demagogy, and therefore allow Nehru to lull the workers with speeches about a socialist India under Congress. Congress wants a united India, freed from British control, in which the capitalists will dominate the economy and the feudal elements will be subordinated to capitalism. Nevertheless, Congress is not capable of conducting a revolutionary struggle against the British, the Princes and the feudal elements for such a struggle would inevitably draw the masses into battle, unite them and raise their confidence in their own ranks. An inevitable consequence would be the passing of that movement over to a fight against the Indian Congress capitalists and landowners as well.

The Muslim League is headed by the reactionary feudal elements in India. Partly because of the support given to them by the British, and to the fact that Congress is headed by capitalists, who, for their own class ends are interested in seeing that the Hindu and Muslim workers and peasants are not united along class lines, the Muslim League has succeeded in creating a more popular support than in the past for their reactionary demand for an India split and divided in Pakistan and Hindustan.

Pakistan, a separate state under Muslim control, will, they hope, make it possible for the feudal Muslim elements to dominate the economy and maintain the privileges of this reactionary element.

To bring pressure to ensure the maximum protection of their interests, the Muslim leaders, not without a considerable support and encouragement from the British, have succeeded in arousing a tremendous clash along religious and communal lines. This has played into the hands of British

civil war. This is possible. But no single modern nation has come into existence without a civil war. No worker can welcome such a war, but nor should he allow the possibility of it to lead him to support the policy of British imperialism.

One thing is certain; the Indian masses are determined to have the British out and to govern themselves. If the British don't withdraw voluntarily, it is inevitable that India will be involved in civil war. And in this war British troops will be called upon to protect the most reactionary elements—the Quislings—in Indian political life.

The presence of British troops in India is an encouragement to the Muslim League leaders to provoke communal riots. They are confident of the backing of the British capitalists.

Instead of exposing this situation, the Labour Government is giving open support to the Muslim League.

## Unity With The Indian Workers

The British working class have the possibility of wiping out the worst effects of, and hatreds which are the accumulated result of a century and a half of oppression. They have the possibility of really helping the Indian masses to achieve their emancipation. They have the possibility to create an economic and social bond between India and Britain which would inevitably lead to a higher standard of life and culture for the mass of the people of both countries. But to do this they have to place themselves unconditionally on the side of the Indians against British rule.

They must put an end to the situation where the Labour Government encourages the Feudal elements on the reactionary demands to split India in two. They must demand that the Labour Government immediately withdraw all troops from Indian soil.

In place of the present policy of encouraging the splitting tactics of the feudal reaction, they must be forced to propagate the unity of India, through the working class taking the lead of the nation, and thus uniting Muslims and Hindus along the lines of socialism and the class struggle.

Certainly the advanced workers in the mass organisations have the duty to fight to enforce these aims.

## U.S. ELECTIONS Trotskyist

# IRON AND STEEL

(Continued from Page 3.)

Board as a weapon, they used quotas to tie the industry up into a neat parcel. The extent of this process can be measured by the fact that prices had reached such a level in 1938 that steel buyers were compelled to stop buying.

## Profits The Only Consideration

Nevertheless, trade recovery and the armaments programme (mass slaughter is always good business for the Steel Bosses) consolidated both the strength of the Federation and the profitability of steel. Conditions of output were secondary to profits. "Restrictionism" was the watchword of the industry—prices could be kept up all the more easily as a result. In particular, the workers of Jarrow ("the town that was murdered") and Ebbw Vale have experience of what this policy means.

Before World War II, a proposal was made to build a modern iron and steel works on a derelict site in Jarrow. This was resisted at every step and finally defeated. The Federation after a perfunctory survey of the position, claimed a risk of excess capacity and maintained they couldn't sell the estimated tonnage.

The Import Duties Advisory Committee, after public indignation had forced at least the pretence of an enquiry, cast its blind eye over the scene and came to entire agreement with the Federation. The same resistance to projects which threaten profits was demonstrated in the Federation manoeuvres over the continuous strip-mill at Ebbw Vale, built by Richard Thomas and Co.

## This Policy Continued During The War

During the war the picture was not substantially altered. Domination was maintained by the Iron and Steel Federation, which on the eve of the war became the Iron and Steel control overnight. Profits were still the guiding factor, and despite all drivell about "Patriotism" and "Democracy," their war-time policy was fashioned with an eye to the future of these profits. So much so, that on October 8th, 1941, the "Financial Times" was compelled to admit that although "output could be increased by selecting the better-class stocks (of raw materials) this would be a mistake from a long-term point of view."

The policy of easy money continued. Even with the operation of E.P.T. (and the working class is quite aware of the "shady" nature of this regulation) the Steel Barons obviously played about with their profits at will. A war-time report

regaining the Steel Bosses' lost markets, and thus maintain their profits. The needs of the population and the interests of the iron and steel workers were of no account.

The plan was approved by the "Caretaker" Government, but with the advent of the Labour Government everyone thought that this situation would be changed. Instead of this, however, we have seen the Labour Government acquiescing to the policy of the employers.

## Disgraceful Retreat By Labour Government

At first, in May of this year, it was stated that the aim of the Government was to set up a Board which would co-ordinate the industry and which would have the task of preparing a plan for nationalisation. Vigorous opposition was shown to this plan by the Federation, which openly declared its intention to carry out a policy of non-co-operation and sabotage, and to back-pedal on its own intention to "overhaul" the industry. In face of this opposition the Labour leaders beat a shameful retreat. At the beginning of August the Minister of Supply, in re-defining the status of the Steel Board, pointed out that in its functions of supervising and developing the industry, it will have no hand in schemes, or advice, relating to nationalisation.

The plan for nationalisation is to be treated separately and, in fact, all indications are that it is now the intention of the Government to indefinitely delay this measure, if not abandon it altogether.

That the new plans are in line with the wishes of the Federation is self-evident from the statement of its Secretary that the Federation had no complaints and would now co-operate. It is interesting to note that the "mediator" in the dispute between the Government and the bosses was a Dr. van der Bijl, Chairman of the South African Iron and Steel Corporation.

The extent of the sabotage against the previous plans of the Government was seen by the widespread admission in the capitalist press that the Government's revised policy would release the brake that had been imposed on capital development. Discussing the implementation of the strip-mill plan for South Wales (part of the £168 million plan of the Federation) the "Economist" (19/10/46) stated: "How far the behaviour of the Government on the question of nationalisation plans has delayed and increased the cost of this project cannot be accurately measured." However, the capitalists can be reassured that such costs will be assisted by the Government at the expense of the tax payer. Already

smashing of workshop organisation. It is this section of the capitalist class which first feels the need of the fascist gangs, as did their counterparts in Germany, the Krupps, the Thyssens, the Kirdorfs and others, and in Italy, the Ferrones.

In Britain the pattern will be basically no different. The only answer to this disastrous road is a clear Socialist policy, backed by the organised might of the working class.

## Need For Revolutionary Policy

The workers have looked to the Labour Government to provide a lead. Within three months it has seen that Government retreat from even its own milk-and-water nationalisation programme, which in any case is no answer to the problem and will not benefit the workers so long as the industry is geared to a capitalist economy.

In this respect, it will not solve the workers' problems one little bit to confine themselves to a discussion on the merits of a State-owned capitalist trust as against the present form of monopoly, working in conjunction with the State. The comparative freedom of movement or otherwise of one group of capitalists in relation to the capitalist class as a whole will be determined in either case against the class interests of the workers.

Only the Socialist measure of the nationalisation of industry without compensation and its operation nationally under the control of the workers through their own elected committees can benefit the workers. Such is the policy for which a struggle must be waged by the working class in the Unions and Labour Organisations. It must struggle to force the Trade Union and Labour leaders along this road, the road of revolutionary struggle against capitalism, and in that sense demand not only the implementation of their own previously declared policy, but that they go beyond that policy.

## CLEMINSON

(Continued from Page 1.)

question. My politics are my justification. As a member of an international workers' organisation I am interested in the welfare of the workers of every nation, and especially am I interested in fraternising with the German workers who are prisoners of war." The Magistrates thereupon refused to allow him to make his speech, but he insisted that it be entered in the records of the court. He was then fined £10.

## No Chauvinism

It was clear from the whole

# Indian C.P. Exposed

## Ex Member of Central Committee Alleges C.P. Aided C.I.D.

The depth to which the Indian C.P. sank in the course of its Kremlin dictated policy of support for the Imperialist War, has been revealed with the recent break from the Indian C.P. of one of their leading figures, Batliwala, member of their Central Committee. Batliwala testifies that members acting under instructions from P.C. Joshi, informed on nationalist workers in the 1942 struggles and on members of the Indian National Army, to the British Imperialist Government.

Batliwala who has gone over to the Indian Congress Party and not to the revolutionary movement, gave the following information to the Indian "National Herald":

"I accidentally landed on a file about whose existence even as a member of the Central Committee of the party I was not aware. It was a 'confidential file' which was for the exclusive use of the Politbureau only. This file contained correspondence exchanged between Comrade P. C. Joshi (the Indian Stalinist boss) and Sir Reginald Maxwell . . .

"I assert that the correspondence would conclusively prove that an alliance existed between the Politbureau of the Communist Party and the Home Department of the Government of India, by which Mr. Joshi was placing at the disposal of the

Government of India the services of its party members.

"The manner and method of operation of this alliance was a closely guarded secret even inside the party. It is absolutely clear that the various political drives undertaken by the party in the name of anti-fascist campaigns were a part of the arrangement which helped the Government of India to tide over certain crises. . . .

"I challenge him (Joshi) to contradict me when I say that he detailed certain party members without the knowledge of the Central Committee or the rank and file of the party to be in touch with the Army Intelligence Department and supply the CID chiefs with such information as they would require against nationalist workers who were connected with the 1942 struggle or against persons who had come to India on behalf of the Azad Hind Government of Netaji Chandra Bose."

Every genuine Communist worker will recoil with horror from this infamous policy of betrayal of Nationalist workers to British Imperialism. The lessons must be drawn. Stalinism is a gangrene in the working class movement which must be burned out before it does even greater harm to the working class movement.

# MANCHESTER BUS STRIKE

(Continued from Page 2.)

of the rank and file, and pushing them everywhere? The answer is an emphatic "No". The leadership is bankrupt of policies and ideas to fit the new trends in the industry today. Witness Arthur Deakin, General Secretary of the T. & G.W.U. In answer to a "Manchester Guardian" editorial reproaching the Union for having allowed the strike to break out, Deakin replies in a letter published on Friday, November 22nd:

The fact that men took strike action by reason of their strong resentment arising from

to negotiate new terms but "to get the men back to work"

The result is that Christie remains in the same position as he was before the strike. Right down from Deakin, through Henderson, through Dickie, there is not the slightest willingness to throw themselves wholeheartedly into the struggle.

## A National Struggle and a National Charter

The delegate from the N.W.T.S. to the final mass meeting at Manchester put his finger on the central question when he said that

terests, the Muslim leaders, not without a considerable support and encouragement from the British, have succeeded in arousing a tremendous clash along religious and communal lines. This has played in the hands of British imperialism.

### Communal Riots Help British Imperialism

The fact that thousands have been killed and many thousands have been injured in the communal riots, has been adroitly exploited by the capitalist press. This campaign has undoubtedly affected the outlook of a large section of even the more advanced workers who in the past have vaguely stood for self-determination for India.

The arguments of the imperialists that the Indians are incapable of ruling themselves; that British troops have to be maintained in India not to ensure the domination of British imperialism, but to prevent the Indians from wiping each other out on religious grounds, and that the troops are there basically on a humanitarian mission, these arguments have been reinforced.

Even many workers who understand that British troops are there in the interests of British capitalism, feel that if the troops were withdrawn now, there would be a massacre on an unprecedented scale.

This great swing backwards on the part of a section of the more advanced workers, has strengthened the hand of the Government and the imperialists to a considerable degree.

But the workers should not be taken in by the crocodile tears and lying arguments of the British capitalist press. Only a couple of years ago 3,000,000 Indians died, not as a result of communal riots, but from starvation, due solely to the incompetent and brutal rule of the British.

### Labour Must End Support Of Muslim League

It is argued that in the event of the evacuation of the British troops, India may be faced with

# U.S. Elections Trotskyist Gains

Final figures for the recent elections in the United States shows that the Socialist Workers Party (American Trotskyists) are making steady headway in the most important industrial centres.

In Minnesota, the State which featured the famous Minneapolis Trial in 1941, when 18 leaders of the S.W.P. were railroaded to jail, Grace Carlson, the Trotskyist candidate for U.S. Senator received 11,421 votes. In 1940 she received 8,761 votes as the Party's Senatorial candidate.

Warren Creel, who ran for Congressman in the Third District of the same State, polled 1,325 votes and Dorothy Schultz, Congressional candidate for the Fourth District received 1,138 votes.

Returns from New Jersey's 21 counties indicate that the Socialist Workers' Party has succeeded in polling the highest minority vote in the state. Total vote for Alan Kohlman, Trotskyist candidate for Governor, has climbed to 9,829. This is more than the combined vote of the Stalinist, Socialist and Socialist Labour Party candidates. His vote was four times greater than that of the Stalinist candidate for Governor.

George Breitman, who ran for Senator, received 4,978 votes—the number he received for the same office in 1942.

In the 11th Congressional District, William E. Bohannen secured 300 votes and in the 13th District Arlene Phillips received 1,720 votes, more than five times the vote recorded for her Stalinist opponent.

The American Trotskyists are very encouraged by the results and look forward to gaining greater support among the American workers in the coming period.

# TRANSPORT BILL: WORKERS MUST CONTROL

(Continued from Page 1.)

The Railways will be run strictly as a "business enterprise", that is, strictly on capitalist lines and with the powers in the hands of the management.

The first charge of the Board will not be the granting of improved conditions for the workers, but to ensure the compensation to the shareholders and that the industry is efficiently run in the interests of the capitalist economy of the country.

The example of the Post Office workers, where discipline is on the same lines as any capitalist firm, and where the lower strata are among the worst paid in Britain, is proof of this.

### Workers Need their Own Board

In order to defend their interests, the Railway workers would need a Board, elected and controlled by the workers in the industry.

Every railway worker knows the inefficiency and bureaucratic way in which the railways are run. Committees of workers elected on the job, can run the industry far more efficiently and eliminate waste and mismanagement far more effectively.

The task of the workers is to demand that control be in their own hands.

Not state capitalism, but nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

The policy of easy money continued. Even with the operation of E.P.T. (and the working class is quite aware of the "shady" nature of this regulation) the Steel Barons obviously played about with their profits at will. A war-time report of the Auditor General lends weight to this assumption. It stated: "This levy (a pre-war arrangement under which the Federation levied its members to overcome losses in dealings with certain raw materials) was paid into a special fund about which I have no information" . . . "Further levies have been included in later prices" . . . "Since the war it seems likely that iron and steel products have mainly been purchased directly or indirectly out of public funds, but it is not possible to say that in certain cases suppliers may not retain as additional profit the levy element included in prices. Further, there is no provision for public control and audit of these levies."

### Terrible Conditions of Workers

Side by side with this picture of tremendous profits and financial horse-deals, the conditions of the steel workers have always been among the worst in Britain, especially when one takes into consideration the nature of the work. Antiquated plants, lacking the most elementary health and sanitation facilities, long arduous hours with the workers dripping in sweat, breathing foul, dusty air—these are the conditions they face, with wages little over a third of those of their American counterparts.

In the last year of the war they received 2/4 per hour for 50 hours, and in July 1946 the Ministry of Labour announced that the average wage for the Iron, Steel and Tinplate Industries is little over £6, with the increases since 1938 among the lowest of all industries. And even the recent meagre increase of 7/- per week was answered by an increase of steel prices by 5/- per ton, because the bosses claimed that the wage advance added this amount per ton to heavy steel costs. Nevertheless, Richard Thomas and Co. could recently announce a net profit for the last financial year of £1,136,120.

This whole history of filthy conditions and low wages was crowned in the pre-war years by large-scale unemployment and casual labour, and if capitalism is to remain the future prospects are no different. Small wonder that there are constant moans from Government and employers that they have not been able to recruit the required number of workers into this industry (although of course the power of direction always lurks in the background).

### Bosses' Post-War Plans

At the end of the war the Federation drew up a plan (estimated to cost £168 million). This plan was previously discussed in the "Socialist Appeal," and it was clear that it had one object only—to assist in

the nationalisation plan which has delayed and increased the cost of this project cannot be accurately measured." However, the capitalists can be reassured that such costs will be assisted by the Government at the expense of the tax-payer. Already Mr. Dalton has promised financial assistance to the tune of about £80 million.

Even the new "independent" Steel Board is being openly discussed as a farce. The "Economist" (14/9/46) gives the following opinion: "The independent Chairman of the Board will find himself between the independent chairman of the Federation on the one side and the Minister of Supply on the other. He can hardly escape a tug-of-war between the two unless in some miraculous way the views of all three coincide and the Board proves to be a superfluity." But the retreat of the Labour Government and the composition of the Board paves the way for such "miracles." The Board is to have two employers, two trade unionists, and an accountant to act as "independent" Chairman. The employers are: Mr. Latham, Chairman of Whitehead's, and Mr. Mather, Chairman of Skinningrove's, with the "independent" Chairman no other than Sir Archibald Forbes, Managing Director of Spillers Ltd. Even if one were to assume that the trade unionist members of the Board would carry a struggle, which the leaders of the BISAFTA and the other Unions have obviously no intention of doing, and which in any case could not benefit the workers on a half-and-half, class-collaborationist basis, the composition and terms of reference of the Board safely determine the course it will take.

And when one adds to this the policy on wages, hours and shop practices put forward by the Labour and Trade Union leaders at the recent T.U.C., the situation is indeed disgraceful. The delight of the Steel Bosses, in particular, was reflected in an editorial headed "The Dawn of Reason," in the journal "The Iron and Coal Trades Review" (Nov. 1st, 1946). It stated: "Latest utterances of the arch priests of Socialism (!?) disclose the first signs of an awakening to economic realities. The sedulously propagated and widely practised doctrine of minimum effort for maximum wage has at last been repudiated by the party bosses . . ."

### Steel Bosses and Fascism

It is no accident that the Steel Employers have always been, and will continue to be among the most brutal in their relations with the working class. For them, the tremendous proportion of expenditure on fixed capital equipment and raw materials, in their total costs, as compared with the situation in the "lighter" industries, determines all the more sharply the need to intensify the exploitation of labour, the driving down of conditions, the

The Magistrates thereupon refused to allow him to make his speech, but he insisted that it be entered in the records of the court. He was then fined £10.

### No Chauvinism

It was clear from the whole atmosphere of the trial that a big change has taken place among the population. The chauvinism which was evident towards the end of the war and immediately after its conclusion, has evaporated. In the streets of this sleepy Derbyshire town were several posters appealing for food for Europe and Germany of the "Save Europe Now" Campaign. There was no hostility, even from the court officials, such as one normally experienced in cases of international revolutionists who come before the courts for their political activities. The radicalisation of the British population has even penetrated the sleepy villages.

But the principal effect of the case should be that it has laid before wide sections of the working class, the need to campaign in the interests of Prisoners of War and to fraternise with them, not as an act of charity, but as a class duty.

The Trotskyists are the only tendency which has undertaken the practical tasks that flow from this duty, and they do so as part of the general work of the Fourth International.



## 3 Month "Win" Sub Campaign To Begin January 1st

Opening on January 1st, 1947, the Party is organising a three month campaign for 400 new postal subscribers to "Workers' International News", the monthly theoretical organ of our Party.

During this period, a special leaflet will be issued for use by the branches, and a bound volume of "W.I.N." (1946) will be distributed as a prize to each of the four branches who reach the highest percentage above their quota.

### Help To Make This A Real Success!

Every comrade and reader is urged to help in making this a real success by gaining at least one new reader during the next few months. We must reach that target in good time! The leaflets are now in the hands of the branches, and we want to be able to report a flying start in the January issue of the "Socialist Appeal." Every reader who wishes to introduce "Workers' International News" to a friend, is invited to take advantage of the special free introductory offer made in this issue, and which will be available during the period of the campaign.

Manchester Guardian editorial reproaching the Union for having allowed the strike to break out, Deakin replies in a letter published on Friday, November 22nd:

The fact that men took strike action by reason of their strong resentment arising from an unacceptable decision does not by any means establish the fact that there is a deficiency in the machinery already in existence for dealing with disciplinary cases."

Again, Deakin says: "In fact the case of the dismissed driver was at once taken up by the local officer of the Union, discussed with the management and a decision reached to re-instate the driver in another position. Unfortunately, the proposed settlement was not accepted by the men."

Again, in the same letter: "The Union made every effort to get the men back to work." From all this we find that:

(1) Mr. Deakin is perfectly satisfied with the strike disciplinary methods.

(2) Both Mr. Deakin and the local union official agreed with the management that Christie should be demoted.

(3) Mr. Deakin and the leading officials "made every effort" not

## A National Struggle and a National Charter

The delegate from the N.W.T.S. to the final mass meeting at Manchester put his finger on the central question, when he said that the North West Transport services men had struck because black-legs had been used, and declared that the N.W.T.S. would strike whenever black-legs were used in any part of the country. He asked Manchester to do the same, and said that they were all busmen with the same problems and must fight unitedly to solve them, not in an isolated fashion, but nationally.

The Manchester Transport men are feeling that they have been cheated.

They demand: (1) The Transport Manager must refer all cases of disciplinary action against a man to a discipline tribunal.

(2) The discipline tribunal to consist of one representative each of management transport committee and union. The sittings of the Committee to be public and by majority decision.

It is a minimum demand which the men thought they had obtained when the strike was settled, and would have obtained if the Union leaders had not sold the pass.

Here are the branch targets: . . .

Glasgow	25
Newcastle	25
North London	25
South East London	20
Croydon	20
Birmingham	20
South West London	20
Leeds	20
West London	18
Thames Valley	15
Southall	15
Sheffield	15
Liverpool	15
South Wales	15
Hampstead	12
Kilburn	12
Nottingham	12
Edinburgh	12
Oxford	10
Manchester	10
East London	10
Ilford	6
Motherwell	6
Cannock	5
Norwich	4
Southampton	4
Coventry	4
National members etc	25

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