

SOCIALIST APPEAL

ORGAN OF WORKERS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

VOL. 5, No. 15.

MID-JULY, 1943.

TWOPENCE.

DURHAM MINERS STRIKE THREE PITS OUT

BY ANN KEEN

1,300 MINERS HAVE BEEN OUT ON STRIKE OFF AND ON FOR THE LAST THREE WEEKS FROM THE BUSTY, OSWALD AND THOMAS PITS. NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME BEFORE THE WHITSUN HOLIDAYS FOR INCREASES IN THE PUTTERS' SCORE PRICES.

SECOND FRONT WILL NOT END FASCISM

THE INVASION OF SICILY MARKS A NEW STAGE IN THE WAR. IT BEGINS THE OFFENSIVE OF ANGLO-AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AGAINST THEIR GERMAN-ITALIAN RIVALS TO DESTROY THEIR HEGEMONY IN EUROPE AND CRIPPLE THEM AS COMPETITORS ON THE WORLD MARKET.

BUT AS THE CAPITALIST PRESS IS CONSTANTLY WARNING, AND AS CHURCHILL ADMITTED IN HIS LAST SPEECH, VERY HEAVY SLAUGHTER WOULD HAVE TO BE ENDURED BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN SOLDIERS, BEFORE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS WILL BE ENABLED TO GAIN A MASTERY OF THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT.

Both the German Nazis and the Italian Fascists are making desperate back-to-the-wall appeals to the population of Italy and Germany to resist to the utmost as the prospect of defeat looms ahead. With the victories and heroic resistance of the Soviet Union against the onslaught of the German imperialists, the German masses have become completely disillusioned with the Nazis. Ten years of fascism with all the miseries that it has meant to the German people, have left their mark on the minds of the German workers and soldiers. In the case of Italy the position is, if anything, even more developed. After 20 years of fascism, the full rottenness, corruption and degeneracy of Mussolini's regime has been laid bare for all to see.

of the regime, bitter and stronger opposition has been mounting with growing vigour and strength. And in Occupied Europe itself from the Ukraine to France, the hatred of the invader has been growing more intense and only waits for the slightest relaxation of the grip of the Nazis to burst forth in an uprising with the force of a pent-up volcano.

But statements of the Anglo-American Imperialist Governments show that they do not have and do not expect to get the support of the peoples of either Italy or Germany. In fact they expect invasion would see the Italians lining up behind Mussolini in a desperate attempt at resistance. If the Allies were fighting a real war against fascism they could win and obtain the support of the Axis workers and soldiers who have been groaning under the yoke of totalitarian oppression.

The aim of Anglo-American imperialism is not at all to rid Europe of the horror of fascism but to cripple their rivals and replace Axis domination and occupation of Europe by that of Britain and America. Far from seeing the rumbles of revolt in Germany and Italy as a factor to be utilised to the fullest extent as a means of securing the downfall of fascism by the efforts of the German and Italian workers themselves, the British and American capitalists merely regard this as a means to the military overthrow of their rivals, and even look upon it

The masses in both Italy and Germany are in a state of ferment and growing opposition towards the regimes which have brought nothing but disaster, misery and suffering to them. Particularly in Italy, strikes and minor uprisings are taking place among the workers, peasants and soldiers. In turn, Milan and other areas mass strikes have taken place. In the towns of the Ruhr, among the sailors at Kiel and the soldiers in the army, and also in the Italian navy and army, mutinies have been reported in the British press. The Nazi and Fascist gangsters have replied to this nascent rebellion with reprisals, executions and redoubled repressions. But despite the savage and merciless terror against all opponents

with fear and alarm because of the consequences it would have. Far from appealing to the German and Italian workers to overthrow their oppressors and those responsible for organising and financing the fascists—the monopoly capitalists of Italy and Germany—they are refusing to differentiate between the workers and the fascists, between the slaves and the slave-owners. Far from preparing to strike at the roots of fascism, by striking at the ruling class, they are preparing to prop up and support as quislings the

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1,500 R.O.F. WORKERS STILL OUT

The strike of 1,500 at — Yorks R.O.F. reported in the last issue of the "Socialist Appeal," and which commenced on June 18th, is still in progress. A delegate from the strikers, Bro. Hepple, whose victimisation was the cause of the dispute, addressed a meeting of London militants on Sunday 11th July at the Holborn Hall. He reported that the R.O.F. management still refused to re-instate him pending an inquiry....In view of this a further meeting of the workers decided unanimously to continue the strike.

Apparently the R.O.F. authorities are not very much concerned about the production that is wasted as long as the militant is out of the factory.

The London meeting expressed its solidarity with the strikers and a collection was made towards the strike fund. The workers in this factory are determined to continue to resist the attack upon their rights and not to return to work until the victimised comrade has been reinstated. In view of the length of time the workers have been out—more than four weeks at the time of writing—funds are greatly needed.

On the Tuesday, after the Monday holiday the men went to work but decided to call a lightning strike in order to hasten the proceedings for increases. As a result of this there was a complete stoppage in the pits.

Immediately the men went out on strike Mr. Tunny and Mr. Gilliland of the Durham Miners Association visited Hedley Hall, Craghead, and addressed the strikers. The men were persuaded, on the plea of immediate negotiations to return to work the following day.

In order to placate the miners, a meeting was called on the day of the men's return to work consisting of lodge officials, representatives of the putters, and the colliery manager. The manager offered 8d. a score for the Oswald and Thomas Pits and 3d. a score at the Busty Pit along with other small concessions. This offer was considered unsatisfactory and was unanimously turned down by the men and the lodge officials. The men came out on strike again.

On the day the men came out for the second time that week a meeting was held and addressed by two officials of the Ministry of Fuel and Power. A decision to return to work was once again arrived at on the promise of immediate arbitration. At this meeting an urgency committee was elected and the meeting took place at the Coal Trade Hall in Newcastle on the 20th June.

Present at the meeting were 3 representatives of the owners and Mr. Hornsby, Regional Controller of the Ministry of Fuel and Power. From the D.M.A. were Mr. James Gilliland, Mr. E. Moore and Mr. Joe Swan, together with some local branch officials. Some representatives of the putters were also present.

At this meeting the same offer was made to the putters as had previously been made by the manager. A dead-

lock was reached at the meeting and the lodge officials and putters representative did not agree on one single point with the employers and returned to Craghead to report to the miners. Their decision was unanimously endorsed by the miners.

Subsequently it was discovered that two of the D.M.A. officials had signed an agreement accepting the miserable increase offered by the owners. Immediately the miners struck work again, and a meeting was called for Sunday 4th to challenge the legality of the agreement, and the right of the D.M.A. officials to adopt the dictatorial powers of signing an agreement when the "urgency committee" was not unanimous in its decision. The men claim that constitutionally it is not within the powers of the D.M.A. agents to sign any agreement, whilst acting on an "urgency committee," unless that committee is unanimous in its decision to accept or reject offers and claims.

Mr. Hornsby was persuaded to attend this meeting and the D.M.A. officials were also asked to be present. These latter gentlemen, however, did not see fit to put in an appearance.

In the face of very strong solidarity from the miners Mr. Hornsby attempted to split their ranks by threatening to have them called up into the Forces. The reaction to this threat was that the miners became more determined than ever and voted unanimously to continue strike action. The following morning 86 of the young miners volunteered for the forces, some even volunteering for submarine service. Ten of these lads were accepted as rear gunners, the rest being rejected.

The miners think that the D.M.A. officials in signing the agreement have prevented their case from going to arbitration which they believe would have been the next step towards realising their claims. The agents of the D.M.A. have refused to open discussions with the Craghead miners about their actions in signing the agreement, until the miners return to the pits.

The miners decided that at this stage they have no alternative but to return to work on Monday 12th July on the same basis upon which they first walked out. They are solid in their resolve to carry on a relentless struggle against the powers assumed by their leaders. They still retain the perspective of taking their case to a tribunal, after they have dealt with the D.M.A. agents.

The miners have come to realise by cruel experience that these officials with life-time jobs no longer represent their interests. They have realised the need to rout them out of their cushy jobs and re-elect fresh militants as Agents of the D.M.A. In this struggle they will try to gain the support of every lodge in the country, to determine their rights on an "urgency committee" and to revise the present status of D.M.A. officials. The miners feel that the only guarantee against a repetition of the present state of affairs is to re-elect their agents once in every two or three years instead of allowing them to hold life-time jobs.

One lesson has been learned. Miners cannot go into action against the boss for their rights if their leaders sabotage their efforts and refuse to answer for, or discuss their misdeeds with the miners. The workers still retain hope in arbitration tribunals, but from these tribunals they will get no more concessions than were granted by the manager. Only by independent class action can they succeed in winning their demands.

APOLOGY

With reference to the article on the Transport Strike in Sheffield published in the May issue of the "Socialist Appeal" it has been drawn to our notice by Mr. Scott of the T.&G.W.U. that certain inaccuracies were contained therein.

The statement to Mr. Scott in the Sheffield "Star" that the strike would fizzle out was corrected on the following day. Unfortunately, we have not seen the disclaimer and in view of the "Star's" withdrawal, we also withdraw and apologise.

We have also to point out that our statement that Mr. Scott had resigned was due to a misunderstanding. It is not the case that Mr. Scott resigned, and we unreservedly withdraw our statement and apologise to him for having made it.

WHO HELPS HITLER?

A Reply to 'Hitler's Agents Exposed'

Daily Worker

By
JOCK HASTON

NO. 2001

MEMBERSHIP OF THE D.P.C. IS A PRIVILEGE

5th Floor

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1939

FINAL EDITION

PEACE OFFER TO EUROPE

Soviet-German Declaration On War In West

NEW EASTERN FRONTIERS FIXED

AN OFFER OF IMMEDIATE PEACE TO THE WESTERN WORLD—ON THE BASIS OF THE PEACE ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN EAST EUROPE—WAS MADE YESTERDAY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS.

With this offer, the German Government associated itself. In a joint communique the two Governments yesterday declared that—

"The German Government and the Government of the U.S.S.R. having, by a Treaty signed today, finally settled the questions arising from the dissolution of the Polish State, and thereby created a firm foundation for a lasting peace in Eastern Europe, they in mutual agreement express the opinion that the liquidation of the present war between Germany on the one hand and Great Britain and France on the other would meet the interests of all nations.

"Therefore both Governments will direct their common efforts, if necessary, in accordance with their Treaty Powers, in order to attain this aim as early as possible.

The Communist Party has recently published a pamphlet entitled 'Hitler's Agents Exposed' from the pen of one John Mahon. This pamphlet consists of a 20 page attack against the "Socialist Appeal" and runs true to the frame-up pattern and technique which is such a familiar feature of Stalinist "literature" directed against the revolutionary socialists.

This pamphlet is significant only because it demonstrates a new phase in the history of the British Stalinist relations with the Trotskyist movement; because it emphasises the advances being made by the "Socialist Appeal" not only in the ranks of the organised and advanced workers in the Labour and trade union movement—but also in the ranks of the British Stalinist Party itself.

In the past the British C.P. could ignore the programme of the

Trotskyists. The Mahons simply churned out a series of lies and slanders. By this means they hoped to frighten workers away from our tendency and isolate us in the labour movement. Eighteen months ago they flooded the factories with thousands of leaflets "Clear Out Hitler's Agents." Thousands more local leaflets were printed by District Committees and local branches of the Party based on the central leaflet. This was followed by W. Wainwright's pamphlet of the same name, which was so full of slanders and historical falsifications that even the Stalinist workers could not stomach it. When the "Socialist Appeal" published an offer of £10 to any Communist Party member who could prove that the so-called quotations from the Trotskyist press were not forgeries, or that there were less than five lies in any single page of Wainwright's pamphlet, nobody collected the £10. Wainwright's pamphlet acted as a boomerang.

STALIN AND HITLER ISSUED JOINT PEACE STATEMENT AFTER HITLER'S RAPE OF POLAND.

Today the situation is different. The Stalinist workers are being faced with the Trotskyist Programme. Hundreds of C.P. members are becoming critical of the party line and find themselves in agreement with the Trotskyist programme in one aspect or another. Hence the need for this pamphlet which purports to "examine" the programme of the "Socialist Appeal" and claims to give an "objective" answer.

Mahon sets out to "prove" that the policy of the "Socialist Appeal" coincides with the policy of Hitler and indeed that our policy is directed by the Goebbels radio station "Workers Challenge."

This filthy slander runs true to the familiar technique of all reaction: the Mensheviks and "Black Hundreds" (fascists) in Russia during the revolution of 1917 accused Lenin and Trotsky of being agents of the foreign

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TYNE WELDERS STRIKE SUPPORTED

21 Welders have been out on strike now for 7 weeks at a Tyne shipyard.

A few months ago a new foreman, Mr. Fellows, was brought on to the job and his methods of working made it impossible for the workers on piece work to realise even the normal hourly rate (known as the lieu rate) paid to the Welders which is 2/4d. an hour.

When the difference between the wages they received on piece work and the wages they could have earned on time work became so marked that at times skilled journey men walked out with £3 15s. to £4 while training dilutees were receiving £4 9s., the workers began to protest strongly. They sent deputation after deputation to the management demanding that they be paid for the number of hours they had worked at the lieu rate.

The management refused to entertain this demand and referred the workers to the Employers Federation. The workers pointed out to the manager that under the E.W.O. they were entitled to at least 47 hours at 2/4d. which is £5 9. 8d. a week. But the management's reply each time was to refer the men to the Employers Federation.

The workers felt that the way they were being treated was a direct contravention of the E.W.O. That the boss was entirely in the wrong, and that their only possible action was to file a strike notice. This they did through one of the workers who was not the Shop Steward. Immediately

the lodging allowance payable to some of the workers was stopped, showing quite plainly that the notice had been received. On the technical ground however that the Shop Steward had not filed the strike notice and that "officially" they knew of no strike the management induced the National Service Officer to prefer charges against the workers under the E.W.O.

This is a test case and involves not only the workers of the Tyneside but all workers working in establishments scheduled under the E.W.O. in Great Britain.

These 21 welders are leading the struggle against the reactionary Employers Federation. The magnificent response the strikers have and are receiving in answer to their appeal for financial assistance, in spite of the fact that rumours have been put about, to the effect that the workers have gone back to work, demonstrates the solidarity and support that they are getting from the workers in all the shipyards on the Tyneside.

Among the strikers are discharged soldiers who took part in the retreat from Dunkirk. These workers are experiencing already the "gratitude" of the bosses for having fought for their interests. Throughout the yard there is a general distrust of the management caused by the fact that the yard had previously been closed down and

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Our Programme for Power

An end to the coalition with the bosses. Labour and Trade Union leaders must break with the capitalist Government and wage a campaign for power on the following programme:

- 1. Immediate despatch of arms and material to the Soviet Union under the control of the Trade Unions and factory committees. 2. Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry without compensation. 3. Confiscation of all war profits—all company books to be open for trade union inspection. 4. Workers' control of production to end chaos and mismanagement in industry to be exercised through workers committees. 5. Equal distribution of food, clothes, and other consumers commodities under control of the Co-ops, committees of workers elected from the distributive trades, factories, housewives committees and small shopkeepers. 6. A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum. 7. Repeal of the Essential Works Order and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking laws. 8. Clear out the reactionary pro-fascist officer caste in the Army and Home Guard. Election of officers by the soldiers. Trade union wages for all workers in the armed forces. 9. Establishment of military schools by the Trade Unions at the expense of the state for the training of worker officers. 10. Arming of the workers under control of committees of workers elected in factories, unions and in the streets against the danger of invasion or Petainism. 11. Freedom for Ireland, India and the Colonies. 12. A Socialist appeal to the workers of Germany and Europe on the basis of this programme in Britain to join the Socialist struggle against Hitler to the Socialist United States of Europe.

POPULATION FIGURES AND THE SYSTEM

The rapid decline in the population is causing alarm in the ranks of the ruling classes. The bourgeoisie is worried because the shrinking population threatens their prosperity and profits. Less labour-power, less consumers and above all less cannon fodder. The debate in the House of Lords on June 6th led by Lord Geddes made some startling suggestions and revealed even more startling omissions. Lord Geddes stated that for some reason at present unknown the "reproductive germ plasma" among the races of North-West Europe has declined during the last 150 years. That this has resulted in these people developing a "psychological bias" so that not only are they unable to have children but that they are more and more unwilling to have them. In the face of this threat of the extinction of mankind Lord Geddes suggested that a Royal Commission be set up to investigate "the biological problem" of the population figures. As is usual in the House of Lords, the social, political and economic reasons for the problem are ignored and Lord Geddes concentrates upon the minor negligible aspects of the threatened destruction of the human race.

The Empty Cradle is a Consolous Act, it is a conscious and decisive condemnation of our present social system. Lord Geddes deliberately or otherwise ignores this fundamental aspect of the problem. By his statements he is either trying to prevent the truth from becoming known, or he does not understand the question, and should therefore not be taken seriously despite his undoubted scientific knowledge. If statistics are studied over the period of the last century it can be indisputably established that the birth-

rate fluctuations follow economic crises precisely. For instance 1933 the period of the greatest slump coincided with the lowest recorded birth rate. The very fact that family allowances are becoming a common demand even from reactionary sections of society gives proof of the fact that the economic basis for the falling birth rate is more clearly understood by laymen than by Lord Geddes, a former anatomist of some reputation. Family allowances however, cannot solve the problem since mere subsistence will not induce parentage. Women who have struggled to free themselves from the drudgery of the kitchen and the washtub will not easily give up the results of their emancipation. Only a fundamental change in the whole social system can make it possible for women to become mothers, yet remain free. Only a socialist society can solve the problem of nurseries, communal kitchens, and automatic cleaning, as well as offer a reasonable security during the period of pregnancy, childbirth and convalescence. The question of education and chance in life is another aspect which limits the family. But the most important aspect is one of perspective.

Capitalism in decline offers nothing but war, famine, disease and death. Men and women to-day having the necessary knowledge and possessing the means, choose, deliberately not to have children. The question of the survival of the human race is in the balance. The falling birth rate is only an aspect of the rapid extinction of the human race should the present barbaric system continue.

Only with a Socialist Society can man regain his confidence in the future of society, can there be a guarantee of freedom, plenty and happiness.

TYNE WELDERS' STRIKE

so many workers thrown on the scrap heap. Although the number of workers involved in this strike is small the issues at stake are extremely large, and from their leaflet it is obvious that the workers appreciate the magnitude of their struggle. "We treat this as a test, and if the Management are allowed to impose their conditions and we are forced to accept, it will affect every piece-worker on this river." The union official has attempted to convene a meeting to urge the workers to return pending arbitration. The workers are prepared to do this providing their interpretation, which is

the general interpretation on the Tyneside with regard to lieu rate, holds good until the tribunal gives a decision. But the workers refuse to create a precedent by accepting the bosses' interpretation while waiting for the arbitration tribunal to meet. They are determined to resist all threats or cajolings to return to work and their fine militant stand is receiving the support it deserves from the workers of the Tyneside. It has just been learned that the management is employing 20 girls to take the strikers' place. The yard opens up again on 12th July after being closed for a week's holiday. This is a deliberate provocative action on the management's part, and the strikers firmly believe that the whole yard will down tools as a result of this blatant attempt to employ scab labour. We urge the workers on the Tyneside and elsewhere to close their ranks and prevent the capitalist class from filching from them hard won union rights.

E.T.U. SHIPWORKERS BONUS GRIEVANCE

BY TOM BURNS

The electricians in shipyard, Glasgow, complain bitterly about the new bonus arrangement which was bureaucratically enforced on them by the Government. The 'sparks' work harder expecting a reasonable bonus, but in practice they only receive a small addition to their meagre wage while the employer is reaping in more profits.

Some months ago, the National Executive of the E.T.U. balloted the membership with the view to introducing into the trade, a bonus scheme. A huge majority, nationally, voted in favour of the status quo. This democratic decision did not apparently satisfy Mr. Bevin, Minister of Labour, as he called together the shop stewards of this industry and dictated to them that either they accept the bonus scheme, or else he would ask the employers to apply it independently. The bureaucratic leadership of the E.T.U. accepted the principle and an agreement was drawn up between the Shipbuilding and Engineering Employers Federation and the Union. The Scheme was put into operation on the 22nd February, 1943.

In the yard, a collective bonus for all ships under construction, was the method adopted by the boss. For sheer excessive profit-making, this idea takes some beating. The employer assesses the costs of the ships and the time to be taken. If the workers work extremely hard and speed up the job the savings will be divided out as bonus.

Although the agreement stated that a monthly result was to be shown, at the end of March no figures were produced giving the monthly bonus. A great agitation swept throughout the ranks of the electricians and forced the employer finally to give a provisional bonus of 10 per cent. In hard cash this meant the paltry sum of 38/- on an average for the month. At the end

Continued next Column.

of April, again no figures were produced. It needed an organised protest by the workers to change this position. The April bonus showed 8 per cent, but as the employers reckoned that the previous month's figure should have been 8 per cent instead of 10 per cent, the 2 per cent owing would be taken off the April standard so making the amount 6 per cent. Therefore, for working till 9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursdays, Saturday afternoon to 4.30 p.m. and alternate Sundays the average bonus earnings amounted to only 25/- for the month.

This decision so infuriated the electricians that a mass meeting was called and decided to write Bevin and tell him what they thought about his bonus scheme. A half day strike followed. Mathieson, a prominent Stalinist and member of the shop committee stayed on at work.

The local agreement on the 'payment by results' is, to put it mildly, one-sided. In point 8 it says:

"The percentage of work done on each ship will be assessed by a qualified man appointed by the management and the bonus to be paid will be decided by the management whose decisions must be accepted as final."

In the section dealing with penalties, workers will lose their bonus if time-keeping is not kept, or, if they break any of the yard rules and regulations. Altogether the agreement is a very poor one as far as the workers are concerned. Since 'payment by results' was introduced the management has declared many electricians redundant, so getting more work done by a less number of men.

When it is realised, that the wages paid to a shipyard electrician is only 1/10d. plus 4ths of a penny per hour, it is not surprising that these workers desire an increase in their pay packet, especially with the present high cost of living. The original demand of the electricians in opposing 'payment by results' should be pressed forward more sharply through the yard committees, shop committees and branches. Bevin's dictatorial attitude as representative of the capitalist government in imposing the present agreement onto the workers, must meet the instant condemnation of all sections of the working class.

The leadership of the E.T.U. must be forced by the membership to drive forward for a genuine wage increase from the bosses.

STEEL WORKERS OPPOSE T.U. LEADERS

The trend towards the left which is developing throughout the trade union movement is sharply reflected in the decisions taken at the Divisional Conference of B.I.S.A.K.T.A. held in London on July 3. In this, the most conservative of all engineering unions, 27 delegates, representing about 4,000 steel workers and engineers, made history when a unanimous vote (apart from 4 abstentions) they demanded that an Annual National Conference should be held in place of the existing divisional conferences. This was the first time such a demand was successful. It constituted a fitting reply to the anti-democratic Vansittart policies of the Brown Walker caucus. It is proof of the unrest which is sweeping the union, indicating the grouping together of a left-wing, particularly in the London area. Further resolutions of a militant character, such as the withdrawal of the Black Circular were also carried, while the resolution on C.P. affiliation to the L.P. was defeated by only one vote.

WALKER AND VANSITTART.

One of the main discussions at the conference was the Vansittart resolution which attacked the German workers as being equally as guilty as Hitler. Cunningly phrased, this resolution on the surface, appeared to be a modification of the usual Vansittart rubbish, but its underlying motives were the same. James Walker, M.P., the political secretary, made this clear as far back as 1941 when in his presidential address to the Labour Party Conference he stated: "I cannot separate the German people from the German Government. They are just as responsible for the acts of the Government as the Government itself." Mr. Walker has continually seized upon the political backwardness of B.I.S.A.K.T.A. members to foist this reactionary argument wherever possible upon the British workers. What he neglects to tell the members of his union is that when Hitler came to power in Germany, Labour and trade union leaders of Mr. Walker's type attempted to retain their fat salaried positions under Hitler.

Strong opposition was forthcoming against this resolution at the Conference, and it was only carried by 13 votes to 10, with 4 abstentions. At the Manchester Conference it was unanimously adopted, which shows the dire need for a strong campaign throughout the union against this policy.

LONDON GIVES THE LEAD

B.I.S.A.K.T.A. members everywhere must rally full support for London's demand for a national conference. Closer contact amongst the members

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PAMPHLETS BY TROTSKY

- WAR AND WORLD REVOLUTION 2d
TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE 4th INTERNATIONAL 6d
TRADE UNIONS 1d
L.P. & THE 4th INTERNATIONAL 2d

will not only ensure more democracy inside the union, but it will also greatly assist the education of the membership. When the national delegates see Walker get a trouncing like he did in London, they will soon understand the correct position. One of the main reasons for London playing a leading part is because stress is continually being laid upon members taking an active interest in union affairs. The B.I.S.A.K.T.A. leadership don't like this because they thrive upon the inertia of the members. That is why members must immediately commence to play an active part in the union. Connections should be opened up with militants in other areas and a rank and file campaign instituted in the union to support London's lead. At forthcoming divisional conferences this year the slogans should be: Against Vansittartism and Walker. For more democracy in the Union. For an Annual Conference.

Correspondence

A SOLDIER ON A.B.C.A. LECTURES

July, 1943.

Socialist Appeal, Dear Comrade,

I am writing to you about a most instructive experience I have had in the army. An experience which showed me quite clearly that the army chiefs and the Government are determined that the rank and file shall not be allowed to discuss seriously at the A.B.C.A. meetings the questions that really interest them. The ban on the discussion of the Beveridge Report may have been lifted, but the brass-hats are going to see to it that this does not lead to any serious discussion of the problem of social security.

An expert came to our camp to teach the officers how to give A.B.C.A. lectures on the Beveridge Plan. Two dozen privates were detailed to act as a stooge audience to which the "expert" gave a demonstration lecture while the officers looked on and listened. I was one of the stooges. I thus had an excellent opportunity of getting the tip straight from the horse's mouth.

The usual attempt was made to create the "heart-to-heart talk" atmosphere. ("You can smoke, chaps," and "This is just a chat between you and me.") Then came the "discussion". And I have never heard one which was more firmly controlled, or more carefully guided. The speaker limited the discussion strictly to the relatively technical question of health services. Nothing else was allowed. The point that the first essential for an improvement in national health is good wages, sufficient good food, leisure, etc., was ruled out of order as being beyond the scope of the discussion. The same with every other point that left the sphere of the purely technical and threatened to become political.

For an hour we debated how doctors should be paid. The rights and wrongs of the panel system. The question of

compulsory medical inspection for the whole population. But social security wasn't even touched on. The speaker's idea of discussion was to ask a question, and whenever the man who answered it got beyond a simple yes or no, to stop him and say he was not sticking to the subject.

It must be admitted that the speaker was a past-master in his particular art. But it was not the art of promoting discussion. On the contrary, it consisted in killing discussion completely. And the officers were listening all the time, learning to do the same.

It is quite clear that the army big-wigs regard the A.B.C.A. discussions merely as a safety valve. And they are determined that the rank and file shall not turn them into something more useful.

The Beveridge Plan itself is no more than a species of safety valve. It is highly significant therefore, that workers in uniform are not even allowed to discuss it freely. The official propaganda states that one of the purposes of the war is to secure a better future for everybody. But the very men who are supposed to be fighting for that are not even allowed to air their own views freely. That is democracy at work in the army. The Government and the army chiefs have been forced to allow some sort of discussion on the Beveridge Plan; but they are determined to keep it within limits. The demonstration lecture by the "expert" showed this clearly.

But whether or not the officers can handle the situation in the same way is another matter. It is up to the men to see that the discussions are not confined to trivial details and banalities but are a serious interchange of ideas on the real problems that face the British working class, whether they work in the factory or in the army.

A. S.

ON THE T.U. MOVEMENT AND THE FORCES

The following letter, written by a serving soldier, is republished from the June issue of the "A.E.U. Monthly Journal". The ideas contained are so clear and indicate such a firm class content that we consider it should be discussed and the ideas supported by engineering workers in all parts of the country.—Ed.

I should like to welcome the prominence given in the March Journal to the question of the Union and the Forces. The attitude of the Trade Union Movement to the Forces is of paramount importance. The Army to-day is one vast open shop, and like all open shops can and, to an extent, is being used against the organised workers. We all know of strikes which have taken place, many of them in defence of elementary trade union rights and standards, where the troops have been drafted in to break them—that is, make unwilling strike-breakers.

Soldiers will be and are being used as cheap labour against the unions. I could give example after example of soldiers doing civilian jobs at Army rates of pay; jobs such as dock labouring, farming (labouring), building, unloading on the railways and in many other spheres. The differences in pay between a soldier and a civilian make it easier for the "Engineers are getting £10 a week" type of propaganda to meet with some success. These attempts by the master class to divide us must be smashed.

In the factories you have organisation, shop stewards, etc. These rights were won after many years of bitter struggle. Keep hold of them, not only for yourselves, but for us in the armed forces. You will all readily appreciate, brothers, that because of what is termed "discipline", it is very difficult for us in the Army to do very much. In fact, it is very difficult for us even to say very much, so, though we will do our best, the lead must come from you. You can, and must, forge the link between us by using your organisation to fight for our demands.

By that I mean taking up, not only in the A.E.U. but on the Trades Councils, questions affecting the welfare of the worker-soldier, demands such as: 1. The right of soldiers to have Elected Grievance Committee. Repeal that section or sections of

King's Regulations which make it a criminal offence to put forward a collective complaint.

2. Trade union rates where civilian jobs are being done. More pay.

3. Full rights of soldiers to take part in Union affairs, to elect delegates to Trades Councils, etc.

These are but a few. Take up these questions, brothers, discuss them in the factories, in the branches, and insist that our Executive Council takes them up.

We believe that by coming closer to them, we in the factories and our comrades in the Services can defeat any attempt to divide us and set one section against the other. That was the Journal Editorial, Good. You have in your power to forge the link between us.

First recognised that as an open shot we, as turners, fitters, sheetmetal workers, etc., are a direct menace to your standards and conditions. Having recognised that, start discussions in the branches and on the Trades Councils on the points I raise and culminate this discussion with resolutions to the Executive Council to act.

The Editorial also suggested that the Union "adopt" R.E.M.E. and asks for suggestions on how to operate this "adoption". I believe I speak for the vast mass of worker-soldiers when I say, the best way to operate this "adoption" is to fight for those you "adopt".

Think what support the A.E.U. will get from us in the R.E.M.E. when the lads hear that three-quarters of a million organised trade unionists demand the right of soldiers to elect Grievance Committees, demand more pay for the troops.

A.E.U. nights, as suggested in the Editorial, are a fine idea. Every step which will draw us closer together must be supported. This applies also to the proposed Solidarity Fund. But here we have to be very careful. We soldiers do not ask the Union for charity. As members of the A.E.U. now in the Army, we ask you to fight on behalf of us, and in this way you will win over that section of the community who, left as they are to-day without a champion or a voice, can be the greatest threat to the organised workers.

I hope that other brothers, particularly those in the Army, will send in contributions to this discussion and will themselves attend their local branch wherever they are stationed and raise our demands there too.

Read: An A.B.C. of Trotskyism THE CASE FOR SOCIALIST REVOLUTION SECOND EDITION 6d.

SOCIALIST APPEAL

ORGAN OF WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

61, Northdown Street, London, N.1.

EDITOR: E. Grant BUSINESS MANAGER: M. Orton.

12 issues 3/-... Post free.

RACE RIOTS IN AMERICA

On Monday, 21st June, racial riots broke out in Detroit costing the lives of twenty-four negroes.

In 1930 about 27.8 per cent of the occupied Negro population was engaged in industry.

The position of a Negro worker in industry is summed up as follows: "Often he is paid a lower wage than the white worker for doing the same job; if the job is one involving a piecework rate, the Negro is paid the same rate but is given newer, slower, or more difficult jobs, thus keeping his wage at a lower level.

Some of the Trade Unions have membership in the Negroes. In all not more than 100,000 Negroes are members of Trade Unions.

HOUSING AND HEALTH CONDITIONS

The death rate and the infant mortality rate of Negro population in comparison with the white population reveals the poor environment and malnutrition resulting from low economic standards.

Percentage of Total Deaths in Each Age Group: U.S.A. (1934)

Table with columns for Age group, Whites, Negroes. Rows include Under 1, 1-19, 20-44, 45-64, 65 and over.

Infant mortality in 1933 was 52.8 among the white mortality, and 91.3 among Negroes.

POLITICAL POSITION

Legally, the Negroes have the same rights of voting as the whites. But by a series of measures they are barred from voting in the South and insurmountable difficulties are placed in their way in the North.

The following eight methods have been listed by which the Negroes are debarred from voting:

- 1. Literacy. Voters must be able to read and write.
2. Property. Voters must own a certain amount of property.
3. Poll Tax. The voter must have paid his poll tax within the year or for a number of years.
4. Employment. The voter must have regular employment.
5. Army service. Soldiers who fought in the Civil War or in certain other wars, or the descendants of such soldiers may vote.

6. Reputation. Persons of good reputation who understand the duties of a citizen may vote.

7. Grandfather clauses. Persons who could vote before the Negroes were enfranchised, or descendants of such persons, may vote.

8. Understanding clause. Persons may vote who understand some selected clauses of the constitution and who can explain these clauses of the constitution to the satisfaction of the registration officials.

BEWARE

Negro Citizens, as long as you keep your place We will protect you, But Beware, the Ku Klux Klan is Again Alive And Every NEGRO who approaches a polling place Next Thursday will be

A MARKED MAN

This is a White Man's country, boys, so save your own life next Thursday Ku Klux Klan Miami Chapter.

P.S. Don't think for a minute that we don't know you. A white man will be at every polling place with his book. Don't Get in That Book."

To conclude: The American capitalists shed crocodile tears over the racial theories and the persecution of the Jews on the continent.

ECONOMIC POSITION: AGRICULTURE

As a hang-over from the period of slavery, the Negro has mainly remained in Agriculture. His position is that of a tenant or hired worker. There are thousands of white share-croppers, sharing the misery and poverty of the Negro share-croppers.

From the sample investigations made into the earnings of share croppers by the Committee on Minority Groups in the Economic Recovery it was found that the incomes averaged 105 dollars a year for a family with a monthly average of 1.75 dollars for each person.

"With such earnings it is to be expected that the standard of living would be low; that food would be reduced to pellagr-inducing scarcity and monotony; that the housing would be cramped, dreary and bare; that mortality would be high and family life on a low plane.

POSITION - INDUSTRY

Beginning with the last war, there has been a steady influx of Negro labour into industry. Three causes contributed to this. Firstly, increasing tractorisation of agriculture drove the tenant farmers from the land.

MISSION TO MOSCOW

WARNER BROS. WITHDRAW A SCENE

Warner Brothers, the Hollywood company which produced the picture "Mission to Moscow" from the book by ex-Ambassador Joseph E. Davies, itself provided the proof that it was a historical frame-up when it admitted that it had inserted into the picture a scene showing Leon Trotsky, one of the leaders of the Russian Revolution and founder of the Red Army, meeting with the Nazi von Ribbentrop in the German Embassy in Oslo, Norway!

The Davies' book and film give the official Stalinist version of the infamous Moscow Trials of 1936-37, which were staged to discredit and eliminate many of the working class opponents of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the U.S.S.R., and which were rejected by world labour opinion as crude frame-ups.

ONE BETTER THAN THE TRIAL SLANDERS

Nevertheless, the Stalinist authors of the movie scenario and the Hollywood whitewashers of the bloody Stalin regime decided to go the Moscow Trials one better and to insert this scene. After all, what is one more lie in a picture full of falsification?

But apparently somebody in Hollywood acquainted with the official Stalinist lies about the trials saw this scene and pointed out that since it was an easily exposed falsification, its inclusion would do more to hurt than to help the purpose of the picture.

The report that the picture would show Trotsky meeting with von Ribbentrop was first printed in the New York daily, P.M., on March 17. The historical truth of this scene was immediately challenged in a letter to P.M. by Daniel Bell, managing editor of the New Leader, U.S. Social Democratic newspaper.

WITHDRAWN, BUT NOT REPUDIATED

On March 19, P.M. printed Bell's protest, together with an answer and a movie still from "Mission to Moscow," showing actors supposed to represent Trotsky and von Ribbentrop. P.M.'s answer said in part:

"We asked our reporter (in Hollywood) to check and he reported back yesterday by wire this statement from Warner Bros.: 'We had ample authority for truth of this scene. This week, however, it was decided to drop scene since Trotsky's dealings amply exposed in trial sequence'"

In other words, the scene was so obviously phoney that the producers cut it out—but they still pretend to stand by its "truth". They are careful not to reveal who was the "authority" for it. That's not necessary when they can slander Trotsky and other Bolshevik co-workers of Lenin in the "trial sequence"—for which they at least have the "authority" of Stalin and the G.P.U. and the "revelations" of Davies four years after the trials, in 1941 when Hitler's attack again made Stalin into an ally of Washington.

Protests against the film must be reaching sizeable proportions. On March 14 The Worker said that the picture is being attacked "by a small clique of Trotskyite and Social-Democrat supporters of the Hitler agents, Erlich and Alter. But let them rave—nobody will listen to them."

Three days later, however, the same paper admitted that Warner Brothers "are being showered with a stream" of protests and appealed to its readers to send letters to Warner Brothers "congratulating them for a faithful rendering of an epoch-making book."

Warner Brothers' intentions in producing the picture, and the State Department's aim in authorizing the scenario, have been made perfectly clear by the episode of the Trotsky-von Ribbentrop sequence.

JOSEPH E. DAVIES, STALIN'S NEW-FOUND FRIEND



J. E. Davies, wealthy corporation and banking lawyer, poses with a section of his valuable Russian Art collection. "I am definitely not a communist. I am a capitalist, I am proud of the designation," said Davies to Stalin.

What of Britain's Role?

In the third Moscow trial, held in March, 1938, Bukharin and others were made to confess that they had been plotting not only with Germany and Japan, but also with Britain and Poland.

Stalin's prosecutor at the trial, Vyshinsky, stated: "Implicated in this case are the remnants of... at least, as has been exactly established by the trial, four foreign intelligence services, the Japanese, German, Polish and British—and it goes without saying, all the other foreign intelligence services which maintain friendly, so-called operative contact with the above-mentioned intelligence services."

Thus, if the official version of the Moscow trials is to be believed, the defendants were plotting to overthrow the Soviet Union with Britain and with other of the present "United Nations," including presumably the United States!

If you catch a man in a lie, his whole story is placed in doubt. Davies should be compelled to publicly state whether or not he accepts this part of the official version of the trials; and if he rejects it, on what ground he pretends to accept the other parts.

Demonstration in America against Film

Socialist Workers Party branches in New York and Los Angeles led demonstrations at showings of "Mission to Moscow" last week to acquaint the public with the real facts about the film and the Moscow trials.

The New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party conducted a second protest demonstration against Warner Brothers' whitewash film "Mission to Moscow" last Sunday night. The purpose of the demonstration was not to prevent people from entering the theatre but to call attention to the lies in the motion picture and to the truth about the Moscow frame-ups.

Thousands of copies of The Truth—About "Mission to Moscow" and the Moscow Trials, a four-page tabloid, were distributed. In this exposure of the lies and slanders contained in the film, the latter is branded as a "100% Stalinist lie" produced with "unofficial" government blessing.

The demonstrators carried placards calling for the defence of the Soviet Union and denouncing "Mission to Moscow" as a white-wash of Stalin's crimes against labour. The demonstration attracted the attention and interest of thousands of theatregoers and passersby. So great was the interest of the crowd that gathered to read the placards, that the theatre management attempted to "dim-out" their effectiveness by extinguishing the marquee lights. When this failed, the management tried to serve the demonstrators with cups of coffee in the hope that the passers-by would thereupon construe the demonstration as an advertising stunt.

Stalinist plug-uglies milled about the theatre obviously seeking for a pretext to break up the action. They were prevented from using their customary hoodlum methods by the disciplined and firm conduct of the distributors and placard bearers.

A warm reception was accorded the tabloid The Truth. Hundreds of people who had seen the picture or who had become acquainted with the controversy in the capitalist press around "Mission to Moscow" were eager to acquaint themselves with the Trotskyist analysis of the Moscow trials.

After the first demonstration of the Socialist Workers Party conducted against "Mission to Moscow" when it opened at the Hollywood Theatre on April 29, many letters were received by the party's New York office, 116 University Place, asking for further information on the trials.

been written by the Nazi propagandists themselves.

The Nazi press is full of this Vansittart resolution. Look! says Goebbels, even the Labour Party will suppress the whole of the German people. Do not think you will be treated any different from Nazi party members. We will all be annihilated and suppressed together. There is no other way but to fight.

If the Labour Party Conference had demonstrated its complete break with an anti-German position; if it had placed on record its complete hostility to the oppressive peace that the capitalists are preparing for the German workers; if it had informed the German and European workers that British Labour stands for a United Socialist States of Europe, the whole situation could be transformed. This would give courage to the revolutionists to continue the underground struggle. It would strike a weapon out of Goebbels hands and give hope to the mass of the German workers who have for so long suffered under the domination of Hitlerism.

The task of the Socialists in the Labour movement is to fight for the overthrow of this disgusting Vansittart policy, re-establish the independence of the Labour movement from capitalist ideology, and demonstrate in deeds to the German masses, that they really stand for a free Europe and a free world.

ANTI-GERMAN PROPAGANDA HELPS HITLER

By ROSE GARSON

The daily press has reported that serious strikes have broken out in the Ruhr factories. Workers have refused to go to work at night for fear of the terrible air raids. This can be readily understood and appreciated by British workers. They remember what took place at Coventry during the winter of 1940, when the British workers also refused to report for work during the terrifying and destructive bombing.

The militia was called out, martial law was declared and the factories guarded by soldiers with fixed bayonets while the Riot Act was read. No civilians were allowed in or out of the city for several days. The reactions of the workers to the murderous air raids was similar in Germany, while the measures taken by the Nazis had their usual brutality. The "News Chronicle" reports:

"The strikes which have spread throughout the entire area, resulted in a series of searches in which it was hoped to find the ring-leaders. As these proved fruitless, the Germans shot 100 workers out of hand, most of them foreigners."

From this it is clear that the majority of the people in the Ruhr were in sympathy with the strikers, since they did not allow terrorism to induce them to expose the leaders of the strikes. It shows also that foreign workers were used as scape-goats.

The riots in Munich appeared to be of a more political character. The recent execution of Students and a University professor not only belie the complete unity of the German nation, it also shows active opposition to the regime. Particularly is this important since the German Students and Professors were among the first to accept Hitler's "ideals" and to join the Nazi Party in large numbers. To-day we see that the University of Munich, cradle of National Socialism is the seat of the main opposition to the Nazi regime. Hans Scholl, the leader of the Student's revolt, was a typical product of the Nazi regime. He was a member of the Nazi Students' organisation and was trained as a soldier in the Nazi Army. He was imbued with a contempt for every conception other than the National Socialist "philosophy". He fought with his regiment at Stalingrad but was sent back to

resume his studies before the final defeat. The terrible ordeals which he suffered and the awful shames, to which Scholl was witness, seems to have changed his outlook. On his return to Germany the whole regime appeared in its true light. As a result of his change of ideas he and his sister brought out a leaflet in which he stated:

"What Hitler and his confederates mean by freedom and honour they have shown only too well in ten years of destruction of all personal freedom, all freedom of thought, all moral principles of the German people. The eyes of the most stupid Germans have been opened by the terrible blood bath in which they endeavour to drown all Europe in the name of the freedom and the honour of the German Nation. The German name will remain forever dishonoured if German youth does not at last rise, revenge, atone, destroy its tormentors and help build up a new spiritual conception of Europe."

There was widespread response to the call of these students and it resulted in an anti-fascist riot prior to Scholl's arrest.

Scholl was not betrayed by his fellow students or the professors of the University, since it is known that between ten and twenty professors were arrested for implication in the "plots". He was betrayed by a porter, one of the spies that exist in every university, every school, every hospital, every workshop and every tenement throughout Germany. Hans Scholl, his sister and four others, as well as a professor were shot, but their heroic opposition is not ended. Disturbances, unrest is reported not only from Munich but from Karlsruhe, Heidelberg, and Leipzig.

It is quite clear that not only are the German workers not responsible for Hitler and his gangsters, but that they are daily suffering torture and risking their lives in a struggle against Hitler and the fascist regime. With each day that passes the mood of the German masses becomes clearer.

On June 13th, the "Voelkischer Beobachter", the voice of the Nazi Party, stated:

"We in particular must acknowledge our close links with the Party, even though this may require a good

deal of "civic courage". It is easy, and it may appear advantageous to profess membership of the Party on festive occasions, to appear and act as a Parteigenosse (party comrade) in everyday life and at all times is incomparably harder and by no means easy."

An analysis of this statement made by the Party shows a clear admission not only of the unpopularity of the Nazi Party, but of the dislike that members have of admitting membership of the party, as well as an unwillingness to act as a member at all times. This statement alone clearly exposes those traitors to the working class in the British Labour Movement who have succumbed to the lying propaganda of the British imperialist ruling class.

Despite the murderous Nazi regime and its propaganda, despite the lies and slanders of the so-called socialists of Britain, the German workers are beginning to regain their confidence. They are beginning to see, if not a clear alternative, at least who are their enemies.

John Gurney, writing from Stockholm on Thursday, June 10th, reports a significant statement from the German underground movement:

"It is by ourselves alone—not through the invaders—that we shall get our freedom."

This statement shows a consciousness and determination that does honour to the oppressed, beaten and terrorised people of Germany, a consciousness not even contemplated by the so-called free socialists of Britain. If the British workers do not immediately take steps to wipe out their leaders' shameful betrayal of internationalism, they will not only strengthen the machinations of their oppressors, who need to divide the workers of the world in their own interests, but they also strengthen the power of the fascist criminals.

The events of the war are fast undermining the support which the Nazis had among the German people. Instead of assisting the movement of the German workers and student revolution, the leaders of the Labour Party, are giving Hitler plenty of material to bind the wavering to his regime. The Vansittart policy could not have been better framed had it

Continued next Column.

WHO HELPS HITLER? THE CAPITALIST SECOND FRONT

A Reply to 'Hitlers' Agents Exposed'

Continued from page 1.

enemy, the Kaiser. The German capitalists and a section of their labour lackeys accused Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht of being agents of Britain and France...

papers had reported the Convention fully. It helped him in trying to persuade the Germans that this country was disunited. The Communist Party through the lawyer Pritt, spent no little money in trying to dispose of this slanderous allegation.

The difficulty of dealing with a foul and slanderous document such as Mahon's is to know where to begin. It is very simple to lie, but it is not so simple to unravel a string of lies and falsifications...

Unfortunately for Mr. Mahon the Communist Party were prolific publicists during the 'Peace with Hitler' period which the British C.P. were propagating from October 1939 to June 1940. And the same amalgam was used against the Communist Party regarding 'Workers Challenge'.

Communist Party could have crushed fascism without formidable opposition from the Nazi thugs. But instead of fighting for a united front of the workers organisations to crush the Nazis, the Communist Party were fighting the Social Democratic workers on the streets and even voted with the Nazis against the Social Democrats.

To day, the C.P. try to convince the workers that they were for a united front with the Social Democrats in Germany, but the truth is the very opposite.

During this critical period the Communist Party 'theoreticians' claimed that the main enemy of the German working class was the German Social Democratic Party and not the Fascists. Stalin had written in his first article to be published in the 'Communist International' (No. 6, 1925):

'Fascism and Social Fascism (Social Democracy) are not anti-poles, they are twins.'

Flowing from this Stalinist 'theory' (which was dropped from 1925 until 1928) the argument was developed that the Labour and Trade Union leaders were concealed Fascists and the organisations they controlled were concealed fascist organisations.

'In countries where there are strong Social Democratic Parties, fascism assumes a particular form of Social Fascism.'

While Trotsky was clamouring for the Communist Party of Germany to give a lead to organise a United Front with the Social Democratic Party, to fight Hitler and prevent his coming to power, the Stalinists actively opposed a genuine united front...

'It is significant' observed the 'Daily Worker' less than a year before Hitler's triumph, 'that Trotsky has come out in defence of a united front between the Communist and Social Democratic parties against Fascism.'

'Insisting all the time that Social Democracy is the chief social support of capitalism, the Party has carried on intense and unceasing struggle against the German Social Democratic Party and the new 'Independent Socialist Labour Party' as well as against right wing and Trotskyist renegades who wanted the party of the proletariat to make a united front with Social Fascism against Fascism.'

'These minutes (of the C.C. referred to by Mahon) destroy the legend that the C.C. was faced by a split on the question of the insurrection. It is evident from the minutes that the opponents of immediate revolt—Comrade Kamenev and Zinoviev joined the organ for the political direction of the revolt, just as those who were in favour of it...

move Stalin from that position and to appoint to it another man who in all respects differs to Stalin only in superiority—namely, more patient, more loyal, more polite, more attentive to comrades, less capricious, etc.'

In these few lines, Lenin drew the portrait of Stalin: a rude and disloyal bureaucrat! Let the paid Stalinist hacks prate about 'Stalin, the lifelong comrade of Lenin' two decades after his death. The real Lenin shattered this falsification as his last political act.

'It is said that in the 'Testament' in question Lenin suggested to the Party Congress that it should deliberate on the question of replacing Stalin and appointing another Comrade in his place as General Secretary, this is perfectly true.'

'Comrade Stalin, having become General Secretary, has concentrated an enormous power in his hands; and I am not sure that he always knows how to use that power with sufficient caution.'

'Stalin is too rude and this fault, entirely supportable in relations among us Communists, becomes unsupportable in the office of General Secretary ... therefore, I propose to the comrades to find a way to re-

fact—including the 1939 edition which was personally supervised by Stalin? However, the lie is given, not only to Mahon, but to Stalin's personally edited 'history', by the master himself.

'The Social Democrats too sometimes put forward the slogan of unity. And in this the renegade Trotsky hastens to their aid with his proposal for a 'bloc' between the Communists and the Social Democrats. . . . How is it possible to deduce a 'bloc' with the German Social Democrats say, for the struggle against Fascism when the Social Democrats are doing nothing but helping the Fascists?'

Today Stalinists try to crush all this aside, and inform the workers that they repeatedly offered the Social Democracy a united front. But the statement of Piatnitski in the 'Communist International' for March 15th 1932 (English edition) should put all doubts on this score aside.

'The Social Democrats too sometimes put forward the slogan of unity. And in this the renegade Trotsky hastens to their aid with his proposal for a 'bloc' between the Communists and the Social Democrats. . . . How is it possible to deduce a 'bloc' with the German Social Democrats say, for the struggle against Fascism when the Social Democrats are doing nothing but helping the Fascists?'

When Trotsky, in his book 'Lessons of October' wrote a criticism of the vacillations of Kamenev and Zinoviev precisely for the action which Mahon now attributes to Trotsky, Stalin and all his paid Mahon's were mobilised in the attack against Trotsky and in defence of Kamenev and Zinoviev.

one occasion they were the actual allies of fascists. And when they did range themselves against the fascists, they fought with false weapons and a false policy.

The most vociferous argument of the Stalinist leadership is that they are, and always have been, the principle opponents of Fascism. This is a blatant lie which they try to ram down the throats of the workers through their powerful propaganda machine.

leadership of the party (the German C.P.) opposed taking part in the referendum (the Nazi referendum) on the dissolution of the Prussian Landtag. A number of party news papers published leading articles opposing participation in that referendum.

How they would like to forget this period of their history! What sums they would give to erase their printed word of yesterday!

There should not be a Labour passing of resolutions is not enough. There should not be a Labour meeting held anywhere, but what the revolutionary workers in that district attend such meetings and fight against the speakers, whoever they are, so-called 'left', 'right' or 'centre'.

For three years this policy was carried out, and the Communist Party recruited many hoodlums, whose main activity was to smash up Labour meetings.

'So the Bourgeois liberal Trotsky puts forward the apparently simple, but totally un-Marxian, solution of a united front with the Social Democracy with the main object of keeping out the fascists.'

From this sorry position the Stalinists swung right over to the equally false position of the 'Popular Front with capitalist parties. This resulted in the 'Communist' Parties subjecting the interests of the workers to those of the 'non-fascist' capitalists who according to the Stalinists would carry out a genuine fight against the fascists. . . . but only if the workers refrained from putting forward their own class policy!

From this sorry position the Stalinists swung right over to the equally false position of the 'Popular Front with capitalist parties.

From Support of British Imperialism to Justification of Hitler

The most cynical trick in the history of the British Labour movement was foisted on to the members of the C.P. on October 7th, 1939. Suffering from the hangover of the 'Popular Front' line; incapable of fully understanding the implications of Stalin's pact with Hitler: the leadership of the C.P.G.B. continued to support the British ruling class—to support the war.

But the truth is very different and is easy to establish. There is not a single published document in existence written by one of the so-called 'anti-war' faction preceding the manifesto of October 7th either of a public character—or written for internal party discussion opposing the pro-war line.

one occasion they were the actual allies of fascists. And when they did range themselves against the fascists, they fought with false weapons and a false policy.

capitalists and landowners in Italy and Germany and throughout Europe as agents for the exploitation of the people of Europe.

How they would like to forget this period of their history! What sums they would give to erase their printed word of yesterday!

Every worker wishes to see fascism wiped off the face of the earth once and for all. It is clear to the workers of the whole world what ghastly horror

Party had proposed united fronts with the fascists. A section of the French Y.C.L. at one stage in the Popular Front Campaign, put forward a united front proposal to the French fascist youth against the Nazis.

But Stalin himself was to have a united front with Hitler. Secretly negotiating with the Nazis, the 'anti-fascist' policy was thrown overboard within 24 hours. The non-aggression pact freed Hitler's hands for war, and Poland was invaded. In Moscow, Stalin was dining and dining with the Nazi butchers just as he does today with the representatives of allied imperialism.

But Stalin himself was to have a united front with Hitler. Secretly negotiating with the Nazis, the 'anti-fascist' policy was thrown overboard within 24 hours. The non-aggression pact freed Hitler's hands for war, and Poland was invaded.

From Support of British Imperialism to Justification of Hitler

the war when they should have been opposing it? Either they were spineless time-servers without principle. . . or the statement that they 'opposed' the war was a fake. There is no evidence, not a single written line that any member of the C.C. opposed the war during this period.

But the truth is very different and is easy to establish. There is not a single published document in existence written by one of the so-called 'anti-war' faction preceding the manifesto of October 7th either of a public character—or written for internal party discussion opposing the pro-war line.

the victory of the fascist barbarians would mean to all workers. But the victory of Anglo-American imperialism would not at all mean the destruction of fascism: it would not have much better consequences for the workers of the world than that of the Axis.

Meanwhile, Hitler by enslaving all Europe has united the workers of all Europe against him in a common bond of solidarity. The revolution in Germany will unite Polish, French, Czech, Dutch, Norwegian, Ukrainian and other workers taken as slave labour to Germany together with the German workers.

It is the duty of the British workers to give class solidarity and support to the German workers. If the British workers had to take power that would sound the death-knell of Hitler and Mussolini.

With this statement we are in complete agreement.

But how to end the war and defeat the war-mongers in Britain and destroy Fascism? The 'Socialist Appeal' advocated then as it does now, that the British workers should struggle for power in its own hands here and then assist the German and European workers to overthrow Nazism.

'Opinion Grows in Favour of 'Serious Consideration'' On the day after that so quickly had opinion grown in favour, that the Communist Party issued a special statement saying:

'We are against the continuance of the war. We demand that negotiations be immediately opened for the establishment of peace in Europe.'

In answer to a questionnaire sent round by the 'Daily Worker', Bernard Shaw advised:

'Cease Fire, Turn Up the Lights' and this provided the headline of the October 14 issue of the 'Daily Worker.'

'We must face up to whatever peace terms there are.' And don't forget: these peace terms were Hitler's Peace terms!

On November 2nd, 1939, Molotov endorsed the Nazi policy of rapine and conquest in the following statement quoted from the 'Daily Worker' of the following day:

Commenting on Hitler's speech at the end of January 1940, the Editorial of the 'Daily Worker' of February 1st, stated:

'Hitler repeated once again his claim that the war was thrust upon him by Britain. Against this historical fact there is no reply. Britain tempts were made to end the war, but the Soviet German peace overtures were rejected by Britain.

To be continued. NEXT ISSUE WE WILL DEAL WITH THEIR SO-CALLED CRITICISMS OF OUR POLICY.