

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

Vol. 5. No. 23.

MID-MAY,

Twopence

# LABOUR LEADERS FEAR CONFERENCE

THE LABOUR LEADERS HAVE ANNOUNCED THE CANCELLATION OF THIS YEAR'S LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE. THE OSTENSIBLE EXCUSE FOR THIS IS THE WARNING OF THE RAILWAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO WITHDRAW MANY MORE TRAINS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

But this excuse does not hold water, since many other organisations are holding their Conferences as usual.

It is obvious that the leadership of the Labour Party has eagerly seized this pretext as a way out of a situation which even at best would be embarrassing and painful to them.

The opening of the Second Front would give added importance to a Conference of the representatives of the working class to discuss the issues whereby the fate of Europe is being decided. But the leaders are content to leave the fate of the workers in the hands of the capitalist class without giving the rank and file the opportunity to voice its opinions.

The real truth of the matter is that the leadership has seized the opportunity to avoid facing the rank and file delegates at this juncture. Throughout the country, in the unions and

among the rank and file of the Labour Party, there is a tremendous revolt against the support by the Labour and Trade Union bureaucrats of the new anti-Labour Laws and a feeling of opposition to any measures of reprisal against the Labour "rebels."

The leadership has followed this up by a demand for a statement from Aneurin Bevan that he will "in future loyally accept and abide by the orders of the Parliamentary Party." In the event of a refusal of the joint meeting of the N.E.C. of the Labour Party and the Administrative Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party has recommended that Bevan should be expelled. The stiffening of the attitude of the Labour leaders after the Parliamentary Labour Party had accepted a compromise, is obviously connected with the decision to cancel the Labour Party Conference.

The leadership has realised the depth of feeling which these issues have aroused among the Labour rank and file. A reaction which has been completely unexpected by the leadership. A Conference now would possibly reveal a sharp reaction against the whole compromising policy of capitulation to the ruling class by the policy of coalition. So the leadership prefers to wait for what they imagine would be a better atmosphere for putting over their reactionary coalition policy—possibly after the Second Front has been opened.

This treacherous manoeuvre of the Transport House bosses shows how much they are really concerned with democracy in the Party and seeking

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# SOLDIERS HOME AND ABROAD ANSWER BEVIN

WHAT THE SOLDIERS THINK OF ERNEST BEVIN'S REGULATION 1AA AND THE PROPAGANDA OF

THE CAPITALISTS THAT THE STRIKERS WERE STABBING THE BOYS IN THE BACK, CAN BE SEEN FROM THE PAPER OF THE 8TH ARMY OF WHICH A FACSIMILE IS REPRODUCED BELOW.

Sergeant Lawson failed to get a resolution passed by the soldiers of the 8th Army condemning strikes in war time.

A further indication of the mood of the workers' uniform can be seen from a petition sent to the Home Secretary signed by 82 soldiers in the R.E.s. The petition reads as follows:

"The undersigned members of the Armed Forces protest to the Home Secretary, Mr. Herbert Morrison, against the arrest of Roy Tearse, Heaton Lee and Ann Keen.

They are detained under the Trade Disputes Act of 1927. This Act was instituted in revenge for the General Strike by the Conservative Government of the time. The Labour Movement has always condemned the Act as hostile to the working class.

Tearse and his comrades are accused of fomenting the strike amongst the apprentices and the coal miners. We do not believe that this is true. That they gave guidance and advice to the miners and apprentices is to their credit, for that is the job of all faithful workers' leaders.

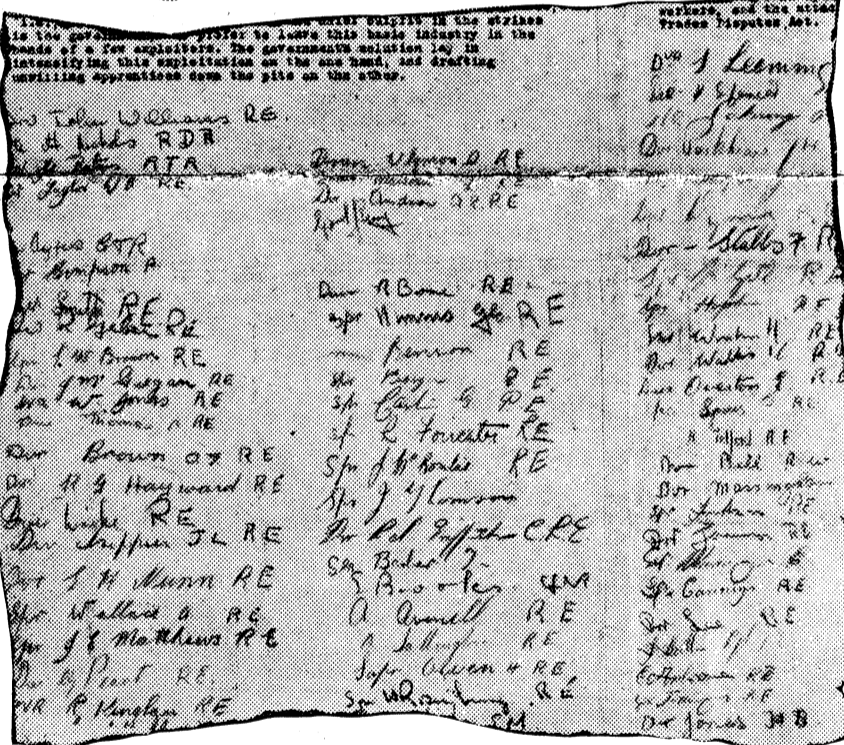
We believe that the real reason that they are under arrest is because they offered the only solution to the coal crisis, i.e., nationalisation. The real and chief culprit in the strikes is the Government, who prefer to leave this basic industry in the hands of a few exploiters. The Government's solution lay in intensifying this exploitation on the one hand, and drafting unwilling apprentices down the pits on the other.

We soldiers are also workers. We do not want to come back to a life where

living conditions have been driven down to intolerable levels. We consider the miners' fight as a struggle to maintain these rights. We condemn all talk of the miners (as well as

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## SOLDIERS' PETITION SENT TO HOME SECRETARY



# Support Grows For Arrested Comrades

ANEURIN BEVAN JOINS DEFENCE COMMITTEE

The four imprisoned comrades who have been charged under the Trades Disputes Act in connection with the strike of the Tyne apprentices on the Tyneside, Glasgow and Huddersfield, have now been granted bail.

The magistrate in Newcastle refused bail on the application of the police and an appeal was made to the High Court. Comrades Ann Keen and Heaton Lee were granted bail immediately the application came before the High Court on 5th May. But owing to the strenuous opposition of the police, Judge Cassels deferred the decision till May 9th with regard to Comrades Tearse and Haston. But on that date, bail was obtained for these two comrades as well.

Extremely onerous and exceptional conditions were imposed on all the male comrades. Comrade Keen was allowed out on her own recognisance of £10 while on Comrades Lee, Tearse and Haston was placed the high bail of £450. In the cases of Comrades Haston and Tearse they were ordered to reside in London, report to the police daily, and are debarred from speaking at any public meeting. These conditions thus prevented the comrades from assisting in and participating in the campaign for the mobilising of the workers in their defence.

However, encouraging support for the defence of the Comrades is being

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## EIGHTH ARMY NEWS

### EIGHTH ARMY MEN SAY TO WORKERS:

# "Right to Strike is Part of the Freedom we Fight for"

STRIKES ARE HARMFUL TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS ABROAD. FOR THEY CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF NATIONAL DISUNITY AND DIVISION FROM THE MAIN PURPOSE OF OUR WAR EFFORT. THEY MAKE RUSSIA SUSPICIOUS OF OUR SINCERITY AND GIVE GERMANY MATERIAL FOR INJURIOUS PROPAGANDA IN OCCUPIED AND NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

One of the most telling arguments in a strong indictment of strikes in war time, this statement of Sgt. J. Lawson FAILED to gain sufficient Eighth Army Signals' support to carry his proposal that strikes in war-time should be declared illegal.

measure and that the privilege could be restored when war ends. But I would warn you he said, that the leader of our nation, the great...

THE Welsh coal strike has raised in many minds the question, "Should strikes be allowed in war-time?"

Here is the answer of Eighth Army men who have just debated the subject.

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## N.C.C.L. Refuses to Defend Civil Liberties

Revolutionary Communist Party,  
256 Harrow Rd., London, W.2.  
13th April, 1944.

Secretary,  
National Council of Civil Liberties,  
11a Kings Road, S.W.3.

Dear Sir,

In previous correspondence we applied for affiliation to the N.C.C.L. but you refused our application on a pretext, which in our opinion had nothing to do with civil liberties. You did, however, state that you would be prepared to give us assistance in the event of an attack against our democratic and legal rights.

As you will be aware, the C.I.D. Special Branch have raided our central premises and the houses of many of our individual comrades. Three arrests have been made under the Trades Disputes Act, 1927—Heaton Lee and Ann Keen of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Roy Tearse from Glasgow. They are all lodged at Durham jail and are to be tried at Newcastle court on the 28th April, 1944.

We would be pleased to know if you

are prepared to take an interest in the case, to publicly protest the use of the anti-democratic Trades Disputes Act, and to assist us to find competent legal aid to defend our arrested comrades.

Yours truly,  
Jock Haston,  
General Secretary.

P.S.—The application for affiliation referred to above was made in the name of "Workers International League."

The National Council of Civil Liberties,  
11a King's Rd., London, S.W.3  
The General Secretary,  
Revolutionary Communist Party,  
256 Harrow Road, London, W.2.  
18th April, 1944.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 13th April was considered by my Executive Committee at its meeting yesterday. My Committee instructed me to write and enquire of you in what respect the democratic and legal rights of Heaton Lee, Ann Keen and Roy Tearse were being challenged under the Trades Dispute Act. On receipt of this information my Committee will give the matter further consideration.

Your faithfully,  
Elizabeth A. Allen,  
General Secretary.



"MOVE UP CHUM, I'LL BE JOINING YOU SOON"

## BUILDING WORKER EXPOSES PIECE WORK

BY A. HUNT

For years, workers in the Building and Civil Engineering industries fought against the introduction of piece work or bonus schemes, but in 1941, the payment by results bonus scheme was foisted upon them by their leaders.

For more than two years now the P.B.R. scheme has been operated in these industries, and the capitalists have reaped millions in profit as a result. Workers real wages have risen very slightly and for the most part they have to depend upon the bonus they earn to make ends meet. In this way the capitalists have been able to speed up production and make bigger profits, all at the expense of increased expenditure of labour on the part of the workers.

The 'principle' of P.B.R. is that all work executed by the worker in excess of "normal outputs" is bonused at the rates of two-thirds the normal time rate. The statute which controls P.B.R. insists that the capitalists must receive one third or more of the extra production as their rake-off. The E.W.O. (Building and Civil Engineering Industries Order 1941) lays it down as an immutable law that "no departures from the principle of the scheme and no unauthorised methods of bonusing are permitted whether agreement is reached with the operatives on the job or not." In this way the capitalists through their obedient lackeys in the government legalise the daylight robbery of the workers.

Examining the P.B.R. schedule issued by the Ministry of Works and Buildings we can analyse the degree to which the workers are swindled. To do this, it is necessary to reduce the bonus rates on the various items to a common rate which we will call the "bonus rate per hour" as distinct from the normal time rate for one unit of that item. For example: if the basic output is 0.5 cubic yards per man hour and the bonus rate is 2/- per unit; the bonus rate per man hour saved is 2/- by 0.5=1/-.

The following table has been prepared from the Ministry of Works memorandum on P.B.R. it gives some idea of the way in which the workers are swindled for the extra work they put in, in order to earn bonus.

Class of Work	Average Bonus Rate per man hour saved	Average Wage Rate	Bosses' Take off
Navvies	1/-	1/7	7d
Carpenters	1/2½	2/-	9½d
Plasterers	1/3	2/-	9d
Glaziers	1/3	2/-	9d
Painters	1/3½	2/-	8½d
Bricklayers	1/3	2/-	9d

Statistics speak louder than words. For every hour the workers save, they receive an average of two thirds of their normal time-rate. It is no small wonder that the bosses are so keen on

P.B.R. It forces the workers to greater production at tremendous cost to their health and, at the same time, prevents a general demand for an increase in wages by the Building and Civil Engineering workers.

This great robbery is often obscured by the lesser crimes perpetrated against the workers within the framework of the P.B.R. The workers are entirely dependent on the efficiency of the bosses site organisation for the accuracy of bonus computation. Measurement of the work done, and the allocation of the hours spent on the various items of work are under the bosses control. On both of these aspects depends the accuracy of compiling the amounts of bonus earned. From experience the workers have good cause to believe that this side of the bosses organisation is no more efficient than the rest of his chaotic dis-organisation.

So complicated and involved are the records kept by the boss, so intricate the methods of computation that only an auditor could detect inaccuracies which abound. Behind this almost impenetrable barrier the boss is able to juggle with the basic outputs and hours with freedom. Many a shop steward investigating the records for suspected inaccuracies has returned to the workers he represents to report that he would rather be kicked to death than be stupefied to insanity in an attempt to probe into the records.

It is usually in the field of computation that the workers feel the most resentment towards the scheme. Their ire is wasted on the clerks and underlings who are responsible for computing the amount of bonus earned. Their ire should be directed against the capitalists who extract not only the pennies by juggling with figures, but the pounds in broad daylight with the connivance of Trade Union Leadership who agree to the scheme.

If the Bonus system is necessary to increase production, then the workers must be given full payment for the extra work they do as a result of their added exertion. But, the law forbids them to receive the full payment and insists that they must be paid for only two-thirds of the extra work.

The P.B.R. must be scrapped as must be the E.W.O. which makes it law. Any revised scheme which may be introduced to replace the P.B.R. must be under the control of the workers. The clerks and measurers who compute the bonus must be controlled by the workers. This is the only guarantee that the workers who have worked for and earned bonus shall receive what they are justly entitled to. The power of the boss to change basics and dangle P.B.R. before the workers nose must be put an end to. Failing this, P.B.R. must be scrapped and the workers must demand a decent living wage which increases automatically with the rise of prices.

## Soldiers Answer Bevin

Continued from page 1)

Tearse, Lee and Keen) stabbing the soldiers in the back. It is not they who are betraying us, but those who refuse to support the miners.

We condemn the arrest of Tearse, Lee and Keen as an attack upon the working class, including the soldier workers.

We cannot help but point out that the arrest of these workers, side by side with the release of the Labour-hating Fascist Mosley, is of great significance to workers and soldiers.

We call upon the Home Secretary to release the arrested workers, end the attacks upon the working people and abolish the Trade Disputes Act."

These are an effective answer to the barrage of lies of the Government, the capitalist press, and of Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour. Despite all the propaganda disseminated in the army to poison the soldiers against the miners and apprentices in the recent strikes, the soldiers have instinctively solidarised themselves with their class brothers. They realise that the workers only strike when provoked by the employers and in defence of their rights. They realise that it is their interests that are being defended by the workers against the attacks of the bosses. For what would be the conditions for them to return home to if the workers did not fight to defend those rights gained by the bitter struggles of the labour and socialist movement over the past century?



ERNEST BEVIN

## Pte. Stanton on Hunger Strike

The persecution of Pte. Stanton for his political views continues in detention barracks. As exclusively reported in the "Socialist Appeal" mid-April issue, Pte. Stanton was sentenced to 6 months detention after what was, in our opinion, a frame-up and a violation of the most elementary democratic rights.

On arrival at the Detention Barracks on April 14th, Pte. Stanton was put under close observation. A few days later he was put into an isolation cell measuring 11 feet by 6 feet, and allowed only 10 minutes per day communication with other men in the barracks. The commandant informed Pte. Stanton that while he could hold his political views, he would not be allowed to express them to the soldiers.

Pte. Stanton, faced with almost complete solitary confinement, under officers who sought to prevent even the slightest democracy in the ranks, on May 1st declared a hunger strike. Removed to hospital on May 10th, Pte. Stanton has a guard of 3 men over his bed and has been threatened with removal to an isolation ward if he even talks to the other patients. As we go to press Stanton is in the third week of hunger strike, and is getting weaker every day.

Although the R.C.P. does not recommend hunger strike as a general weapon to be used by soldiers against persecution by the officers, at the same time we give our unconditional support to Pte. Stanton's fight for his democratic rights.

Demand a square deal for Stanton and his release from detention.

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International.

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EDITOR: E Grant.

## NEXT STEP FOR LABOUR

The recent regulation against strikes, coupled with the vicious punitive Budget aimed directly against the standards of living of the working class, are but the latest of a series of events which are opening the eyes of the masses as to what "unity" with the national government means.

The resentment within the ranks of the Labour and Trade Union movement has been directed not only against the capitalists, but against the top strata of the Labour movement as well. Millions have a critical, and even hostile attitude towards Attlee, Bevin and the other Labour Ministers in the Government. This opposition and radicalisation is beginning to find an expression in the revolt of Aneurin Bevan and the other Labour Lefts against the new anti-Labour Regulation. This movement represents a definite step forward, but unless it secures clarity of direction and programme, it can develop into an even more dangerous impasse for the Labour workers than the coalition itself. The logical conclusion of opposition to the intertwining of the trade union machinery with the capitalist state machine must be a struggle for the restoration of the independence of the Trade Unions and the revival of their functions as fighting organs of the working class.

And this in its turn must mean a decisive break with the craven policy of coalition with the capitalists and a struggle for workers' power.

In the South Wales mining valleys, Bevan has been speaking to packed meetings, while official labour leaders have been orating to empty halls. This is symptomatic of the feeling already in one of the most advanced sections of the miners. Bevan, speaking at Tredegar, a mining town in his own constituency put his finger on the vital question which faces the workers. He pointed out that the Labour Party itself could obtain an overwhelming majority at the next election if it came forward on a socialist programme. But that the right wing leaders of the Labour Party were prepared to split the Labour movement in advance to prevent such a Labour Majority.

This is true. But unless the Left current which is beginning to emerge obtains clarity and draws the logical conclusions from this, it will inevitably end in the mire. No coalition of any sort with the capitalists. That must be the rallying cry for the workers' movement. As bitter experience has again and again proved, the working class can rely only on its own forces strength and organisation. Only thus can it gather the strength to overcome the relentless opposition of Big Business to important measures of social reform.

The danger that arises from this new movement is that Aneurin Bevan and others in the leadership are moving towards a nebulous Popular Frontism, in the name of "unity" of the "progressives."

Although this is not clearly stated, it is the implication which follows from the policy of the "Tribune", the paper which Aneurin Bevan supports. In the May 5th issue a leading article attacks the attitude of the Labour leaders in the following words: "This then is a move to demoralise the thrust for a Left Coalition to replace the Right Coalition." And again, "Our purpose is that Labour shall rule this land as the dominating partner(!). In effect this policy means replacing the Coalition with the Tory Right Wing of Capitalism, by the Coalition with the liberal "Left" Wing of Capitalism.

# STALIN'S PLANS FOR GERMANY

BY ROSE CARSON

As the second Imperialist World War draws to a climax, vested interests, its lackey's in the Labour movement and the betrayers of Socialism in the Kremlin present their "plans" for "liberated" Europe. These plans, like the Versailles Treaty after the last war mean nothing less than the crushing of the Revolution and the further enslavement of the people.

The publication of Stalin's latest plans for defeated Germany, demonstrates the Kremlin's complete abandonment of even the pretence of Internationalism.

The "Sunday Observer" of May 7, stated the following:

"Russia has proposed that if it fights to the bitter end, the whole Germany Army should be declared prisoners and reorganised into Labour groups for reconstruction work in the devastated lands after the war".

With such an alternative before them, it is small wonder that the German soldiers when captured in Italy and Sicily have asked: "When are we going to be shipped to Siberia?" Nor is it surprising that these soldiers expecting deportation as slaves to Siberia will endure any hardship and fight desperately to avoid such a fate. Such shameless proposals have given the Anglo-American Imperialists the opportunity to pose as humanitarians in contrast. They pointed out that they are bound by the Hague Convention, under which any such treatment would be illegal. Of course this "humanitarianism" deceives no one. It merely means that the Russian plan for the enslavement of Europe does not coincide with Anglo-American interests. The Allied Imperialists would not hesitate to use far harsher measures should it suit their purpose. The point is, however, that Stalin's reactionary plans are presented as too much for the Imperialists.

Nor are the "plans" in the recent report of the National Executive of the

As if there are any fundamental differences between the two!

On the basis of a mighty mass movement for social change which is already in the making, the Liberals would be only too anxious to make such an agreement in order to prevent the workers from taking decisive action against Capitalism—while they prepare, behind the shelter of the Popular Front, an onslaught of reaction against the working class. No more than the present coalition could any agreement with any section of the capitalists serve the interests of the workers. Promises there would be in plenty; Plans on paper there would also be, in plenty, as Lenin warned in the last century in condemning coalitions with so-called progressive sections of the capitalists. The tragedy of France and Spain which resulted in the destruction of the Labour movement are a testimony to the outcome of Popular Frontism. The results of such a policy in Britain would be no different.

The next step forward is the mobilisation of the masses for the putting into power of a labour majority. But this can only be done by fighting to prepare the masses now. It is the capitalist coalition which has led to the evils from which the workers suffer; then an implacable struggle must be waged to end the coalition!

On this road the Revolutionary Communist Party would give the fullest support and assistance. For this would be a progressive step forward. We stand for the unity of all working class tendencies and organisations on an agreed programme of struggle. Such unity could be welded round the slogan of a Majority Labour Government on a programme of socialist demands.

On this road the workers can march forward with confidence and vigour. In the struggle to carry it out, the Revolutionary Communist Party is convinced that the workers will come to realise that only the overthrow of capitalism on the programme of revolutionary communism, can solve the problems of the workers.

Labour Party on International post-war settlement, any less reactionary and shameful for a party that professes to adhere to Internationalism. It furthermore serves to bind the German masses more firmly to Hitler's war machine. It reads:

"Germany must be occupied for a considerable period after the war... We must remember that no discrimination against defeated states can be enforced except by actual military occupation, or by an effective threat of force close at hand."

This is identical with the plans of the Allied Imperialists to enslave the suffering German masses indefinitely. "Labour's" report goes on to propose that Germany's heavy industries be reduced, and a system of financial and economic controls be worked out in order to prevent her from once again using her war potential. In contrast the Versailles Treaty of 1918 appears benevolent and humane.

Lenin speaking in 1920 at the 2nd World Congress of the Communist International characterised the Versailles Treaty as follows:

"The war, which led to the complete defeat of these countries through the Versailles Treaty imposed on them such conditions that these civilised peoples have become dependent like the colonials, and like the latter are ruined, starving and without rights... you know that the Versailles Treaty forced Germany and the whole series of conquered states into conditions of absolute impossibility of economic existence, into conditions of complete absence of rights of utter humiliation."

If that was the result of the Versailles Treaty, when only the Rhineland was occupied and Germany's economic output was reduced a mere 15 per cent (due to control and diversion of raw materials such as coal etc. to the victors), what can be the future of Germany today?

### THE FUTURE OF GERMANY

However, despite the terrible alternatives offered to Hitler's murderous

regime, the German masses are showing signs of renewed awakening. There is evidence of indomitable courage and resurgence.

Under conditions of unprecedented horror and destruction, the German masses are showing opposition to Hitler. Dr. Benes, Czech President in exile, told a "Reynolds" correspondent on April 23, "We know definitely that between fifteen and thirty German civilians are being executed inside Germany every day for expressing defeatist views and making remarks against Hitler and even carrying on anti-Nazi propaganda on a systematic scale."

Even the "Daily Mail" gives credence to the following report on April 28. "The second most powerful opposition is made up of Communists. They are numerous and I don't think it any exaggeration to say that there are 10 million communist minded people in Germany now."

With Stalin's plans widely publicized in Germany, the 10 million communist minded people must necessarily move in a revolutionary direction. The German proletariat, described long ago by Karl Marx as the most cultured and advanced proletariat in Europe will not be content to have new chains riveted upon them once Hitler's iron grip is broken.

They, no less than their suffering class brothers in Europe, will follow the road of class struggle and the establishment of a Socialist United States of Europe. Salute to our German class brothers.

In contrast to the Socialists who have deserted to the camp of the class enemy, and those Socialists who have covered themselves with shame by their class collaboration, we reaffirm our Internationalism. Following in the footsteps of the tiny band of Revolutionary Socialists, who during the last war kept alight the flame of internationalism we repudiate unconditionally the brutal and reactionary vassalage proposed for a defeated Germany.

## GREEK CIVIL WAR

BY DAVID JAMES

The civil war in Greece has come into the news as a result of the strike in the Greek armed forces in the Middle East, suppressed by the intervention of British forces.

The sailors and soldiers struck for three weeks on a political issue—the refusal of King George of the Hellenes to include representatives of the Left wing National Liberation Front (E.A.M.) in the Government.

The strike was solid, proof of the hatred of the Greek masses for the King. Ninety per cent of the Greek armed forces in the Middle East backed the demands of the strike, which was only broken when the British authorities caused force to be used; even then they had to dig up a fake C-in-C., Voulgaris, as the real one refused to order violent action against the strikers. When 95 per cent of the crew of a Greek vessel in this country signed a similar petition—without even breaking discipline—they were deprived of their ship by the British authorities. The policy of the British Government is laid bare—to bolster up reactionary puppet rulers, and suppress by force the democratic protests of their subjects.

The Greek masses have good reason to hate the King. Like Victor Emmanuel in Italy (another darling of the Allies) he has always been associated with reaction in Greece, including Metaxas' fascist dictatorship. Recently he refused to accede to E.A.M.'s request for representatives in the Government, and for a plebiscite before the King be allowed to return to Greece. The refusal of these demands, placed last Autumn by E.A.M. delegates to Cairo, took place with the explicit support of the British Government and Churchill himself. It was the continuation of this atti-

tude which provoked the strike. Once again British imperialism saved the tottering monarchy. General Sir Bernard Paget, C-in-C., Middle East referred in the classical language of civil war to "subversive elements" organising the mutiny in the first Greek Brigade, and spoke of "reorganising the reliable elements." Translated, this means bullets and prison sentences for the democratic workers, and a rule of unrestricted violence by reactionary officers. Papandreou, the new premier, said:

"Those responsible for starting the mutiny will be severely punished according to their responsibility." And in a letter to him, Churchill gave his blessing:

"We cannot allow sporadic disorders to break out among the Greek forces in Egypt. We shall not hesitate to take any measures necessary for the performance of our duty."

Papandreou spoke of the victims of "civil war," and indeed this is the correct name of the state of Greek politics. In Greece itself, two main organisations, E.A.M. (and its army ELAS) and E.D.E.S., have engaged in armed struggle. E.A.M. is a broad worker-peasant movement, which has conducted the struggle against the Nazis by bold measures; it linked the peasants with the urban workers in the mass strikes of last autumn, and areas under its control are administered by democratically elected "Peoples Committees". Thus in spite of the Popular Front character of its leadership, it has great revolutionary potentialities. E.D.E.S., a band of reactionary officers, has fought ELAS in defence of the private property rights of the landlords and capitalists, not hesitating to combine with quising "Security Battalions" in murdering hundreds of peasants. Eden

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# Support Grows for Arrested Comrades

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received from the Trade Union and Labour movement. Resolutions of protest and financial support have been sent in from all parts of the country. Among the Trade Union branches to pass resolutions are Southall N.U.R., Southall Trades Council, and the Southall G.M.W.U., Edmonton Trades Council, Camberwell N.S.P., Mitcham A.E.U., Thornton Heath A.E.U., Paddington No. 1 N.U.R., Newcastle Trades Council, Newark A.S.L.E.F., Slough Trades Council, Slough E.T.U., Merthyr Vale Miners Lodge, Glasgow A.E.U. District Committee, two Glasgow A.E.U. Branches, three Coventry A.E.U. Branches and a Nottingham branch of the A.E.U. as well as several Yorkshire miners branches, and the London Shop Stewards Council of the A.S.W.

Apart from this, collections have been made in factories throughout the country and the response is gratifying. Even middle class sympathisers have rallied in defence of the democratic rights of the workers which are threatened by this trial. On the job at Wimpeys where Heaton Lee was employed, £25 was collected for the defence fund. The Edgware No. 3 Branch of the A.E.U. of which Roy Tearse was President, has passed a resolution of protest against the arrests and sent £5 to the defence fund.

It might be noted in passing that the "Daily Worker" has mentioned some of the resolutions of protest against Regulation 1AA passed by union organisations such as the Glasgow D.C. of the A.E.U. and the Sutton

Trades Council, while suppressing the part which protested against the arrests of our comrades.

The comrades appear at Newcastle on the 18th and 19th May and a report of the proceedings will appear in the next issue of the "Socialist Appeal". Meanwhile, we appeal to all comrades to redouble their efforts to collect

Since the formation of the Anti-Labour Laws Victims Defence Committee four further prominent Labour M.P.s have associated themselves with it. These are Aneurin Bevan, M.P., Alec Sloan, M.P., S. O. Davies, M.P. and R. R. Stokes. These have all been prominent in Parliament in the struggle against Bevin's anti-labour legislation.

money for the legal defence and the maintenance of the arrested comrades and their dependants. At least £1,000 is needed and while the response has been excellent, more money is urgently needed. We have to fight not only the persecution of the capitalist press and the state, but the campaign of slander and lies of the traitors in the ranks of the labour movement. So redouble your efforts. Time is getting short.

## SUCCESSFUL DEFENCE MEETING £78 Collected

At a crowded meeting called by the Anti-Labour Laws Victims Defence Committee at the Conway Hall on May 9th, enthusiastic support was given to the National campaign against the arrests under the Trade Disputes Act. After Reg Groves, the Chairman, had made his opening remarks, the following resolution was put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

"This public meeting, convened by the A.L.L.V.D.C. protests against the arrest of Jock Haston, Roy Tearse, Angel Keen and Heaton Lee under the anti-working class Trades Disputes Act, and demands that the charges against them be withdrawn."

V. Sastry, Organiser of the Indian Workers' Association, made a statement as Secretary of the Defence Committee. Reporting very good progress, he stressed the wide political character of the Provisional National Committee; Labour M.P.s, T.U. officials, I.L.P., P.P.U., R.C.P., Anarchist and Commonwealth members are all on the Committee.

The three speakers, Comrades Ted Grant, John McGovern and James Maxton received an enthusiastic response from the audience in exposing the anti-working class character of the legislation under which the four comrades were arrested.

The collection taken at the meeting amounted to £78. 5. 0d. Several donations, some of £5, came from Union branches expressing solidarity with the victims. Money was handed up to Comrade Sankey from I.L.P.s, Anarchists, the Press, Italian Anti-fascists, R.C.P., factories, in fact all possible shades of opinion contributed to what was a magnificent demonstration of solidarity.

### FORWARD AGAINST THE ANTI-LABOUR LAWS!

The meeting of May 9th is the first of a series to be held all over the

country as part of the campaign against the arrests of our comrades, and against the Trade Disputes Act and Regulation 1A(A). In fighting these Anti-Labour Laws the supporters of the A.L.L.V.D.C. are carrying on the struggle which the Labour Leaders once fought, but which they have now betrayed.

The meeting unanimously supported the T.U.C. Covenant reproduced below. This Covenant was put at mass meetings all over the country in 1927, when the T.U.C. and Labour Party were organising the fight against the Anti-Labour Trade Disputes Act.

We, Trade Unionists and members of the working class, custodians of the heritage of Freedom and Right of association and of organisation won by our forefathers, the pioneers of Trade Unionism, thousands of whom underwent transportation, imprisonment, victimisation and punishments of all kinds to win that freedom, here and now pledge ourselves to safeguard that heritage no matter what the consequences to ourselves with all our strength and to the utmost limit of our power.

Realising the gravity of the attack now being made on Trade Unionism by the Tory Government, we take upon ourselves the obligation never to cease from striving to keep our Trade Unions intact, and to strengthen them so as to guarantee to them the fullest freedom of action: so handing on to those who come after us a powerful and invincible movement to defend their rights and maintain their liberties.

Everywhere all sections of the Left, who sincerely wish for Unity against the new regulation and against the arrests, can unite on the platform of the A.L.L.V.D.C.

The May 9th meeting was a real demonstration of United Front Unity. Let its example spread throughout the Labour Movement of Great Britain.

# L.P. CONFERENCE CANCELLED

(Continued from page 1)

the opinions of the rank and file on the major crisis within the Labour Party.

The Labour rank and file workers should demand the speedy holding of the Conference at a suitable date. The cancellation of the Conference in conjunction with the whole record of the Labour and Trade Union bureaucrats in the coalition seriously poses before the Labour workers the necessity for a serious struggle to democratise and revitalise the Labour movement. Real democracy within the Unions and the Labour Party can only be obtained by pushing the leadership on the road of

a struggle for power against the capitalists.

Instead of directing their blows and reprisals against the Left wing inside and outside the Labour Party within the working class movement, the leadership should be compelled to fight against the systematic attacks of the bosses on the standards of the workers. Either this or they should be driven out of the movement altogether. Either open McDonalldism or the road of the class struggle.

In the ending of the coalition with the capitalists both industrially and politically lies the only means of reviving the Labour movement.

## Greek Civil War A.E.U. AWARD Only 4s. Bonus

(Continued from page 3)

has announced in parliament that the British Government has backed E.D.E.S. and sent it the bulk of the arms going to Greece.

Why does the British Government oppose E.L.A.S., whereas it gives at least grudging support to its counterpart in Yugoslavia, Tito's army? Evidently because, whereas they are satisfied that Stalinism is sufficiently strong in Yugoslavia to form a firm Popular Front barrier to socialist revolution (as in Spain), they are not of the same opinion about Greece. Doubtless the existence of a strong Trotskyist tendency has played its part in giving the rank and file of the resistance movement a revolutionary consciousness. There is another factor at work also: the efficacy of a Popular Front as a means of keeping the revolution in check, depends upon the authority and respect commanded by the middle-class intellectuals. The Allies know very well that when they enter Greece these gentlemen will rat like their Italian counterparts and collaborate with the King and his Government. The resulting disillusion of the masses will be trebly dangerous to them if it can find expression in an organised movement such as E.L.A.S. This is why they seek to destroy it in spite of its mild liberal policy; they fear its revolutionary development when the Stalinists and liberals have covered themselves with shame.

Such a development offers the only road for the Greek masses: The Greek ruling class has shown that it will go to any lengths to keep them in servitude; concessions in the direction of broadening the exile government are and can be only a sham. The solution for the problems for the workers and peasants is not a "truly national" capitalist government as the Stalinists advocate, but the transformation of the guerilla movement into a revolutionary weapon for social as well as national liberation of the Greek toilers.

The real power behind the Greek throne is Allied capital. The civil war now raging, the viciously suppressed strike, is merely the prelude to far more bitter struggles when the Allies enter Greece and the full depths of their reactionary policy are evident. General Paget's "reliable elements" are the cadres of the capitalist side in this civil war: the Allies will bring their quislings with them, already steeled in the brave art of suppressing rebellion.

Our prediction that the Anglo-American Second Front will aim to crush the European Revolution is confirmed in advance. The Italian workers have learned by bombing and starvation, the Greek workers are learning by bullets and prison sentences, that the Allied imperialists come not as liberators, but as another gang of slave holders. The interests of the British working class lie in fighting together with the European workers for the overthrow of all the imperialist camps for the Socialist United States of Europe.

Last year the A.E.U. asked for 10/- and got nothing. This year the A.E.U. asked for 10/- and has got 4/- on the bonus. How long will the arbitration farce go on? The last award of the N.A.T. is an insult to the patience of the A.E.U. members. It will be remembered that the N.A.T. Award of last year was greeted with a great strike wave all over Yorkshire and the successful struggle of the Barrow workers.

At least, the last Award recognised the principle that adjustments should be made in the rate, not on the bonus. But it appears that the Government is determined to give no more concessions on the rate. The miserable concession that has been given is conceived as an increase which can be taken off after the War. The Press was pathetic in its "explanations" to the workers that after all, this was only a temporary concession which will come off the war bonus as soon as the war is over. The workers will know how to reply to this threat.

What is particularly bad about the Award is the fact that women as such are given no increase whatever. Only where women have directly replaced men and are getting the man's rate will women get the 4/-. A.E.U. members know that only a small percentage of women are getting the full man's rate. This part of the Award is a slap in the face to the A.E.U.'s demand for better women's rates.

The A.E.U. members take a serious view of this Award. It is a cynical provocation to the workers. The members of the A.E.U. know that it is not agitators who provoke strikes but actions of the Government and Employers such as the N.A.T. Award just announced.

### Birmingham Anti-Labour Laws Victims Defence Committee

## Protest Meeting

Sunday, June 4th, 6.30 p.m.

BRISTOL STREET SCHOOL

against the Arrest of

ROY TEARSE HEATON LEE

ANN KEEN JOCK HASTON

Under the infamous Trade Disputes Act, 1927, and against Bevin's Anti-Working Class Regulation 1AA

Speakers:

REG GROVES,

Prospective Labour Party Candidate.

for Aylesbury.

AJIT ROY,

Revolutionary Communist Party.

WILL MORRIS,

Ex-Labour Candidate for Hampstead,

Chairman London I.L.P.

Chair: FRED LONGDEN (L.P.),

Co-op. & Labour Party Candidate for

Deritend.

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