

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

Workers of the World Unite.

ORGAN OF WORKERS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE  
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

# QUISLINGS CHANGE SIDES

## ALLIED "DEMOCRATS" EMBRACE FRENCH FASCISTS

THE RECENT EVENTS IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN HAVE THROWN A CLEAR LIGHT ON THE TRUE AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE RULING CLASSES IN BRITAIN AND AMERICA. THEIR ACTIONS ARE A DRESS REHEARSAL OF WHAT ALLIED IMPERIALISM INTENDS TO ESTABLISH IN EUROPE TO-MORROW.

After the invasion of French North Africa by British and American troops, Admiral Darlan who was in command of French forces, offered resistance for a short time till he recognised the overwhelming superiority of the Allies. He was compelled to capitulate and was placed under military control. Within a few days he was released by General Eisenhower, the Commander of the American forces in Africa, and to the astonishment and dismay of the workers in Britain and America, he was forthwith placed in control of all French forces in Africa.

In assuming power, Darlan claimed his allegiance to Marshall Petain. That the ruling class in Britain and America desire to win the gang of Vichy to their banner is shown by a leader in the "Times" of November 12th, which writing on the German occupation of France commented:

"Sympathy will not be withheld at this hour from the aged Marshall who often misguidedly but always sincerely sought the way of salvation for the tormented, distraught, and

hungry people of France. The protest he has addressed to Hitler betrays deep distress of soul and mind. Whether, with the disclosure of Hitler's remorselessness and Laval's duplicity, Marshall Petain will tread the road of humiliation which leads to Versailles or the road of honour which points challengingly and hopefully to Algiers the events of the next few days will show. The onus of a cardinal decision rests on him."

Thus the ruling class openly revealed their fake indignation at the

betrayal and treachery of the Vichy regime which sold France into the hands of Hitler. Only yesterday the British rulers had difficulty in exhausting the dictionary of epithets to describe these creatures. Yet they are only too anxious to win these fascist quislings to the banner of "democracy", and the so-called "anti-fascist war". By rendering this benign indulgence to these scum the ruling class showed that, placed in the same circumstances, they would react in the

same way as the French rulers had done. Democracy had nothing whatever to do with their calculations.

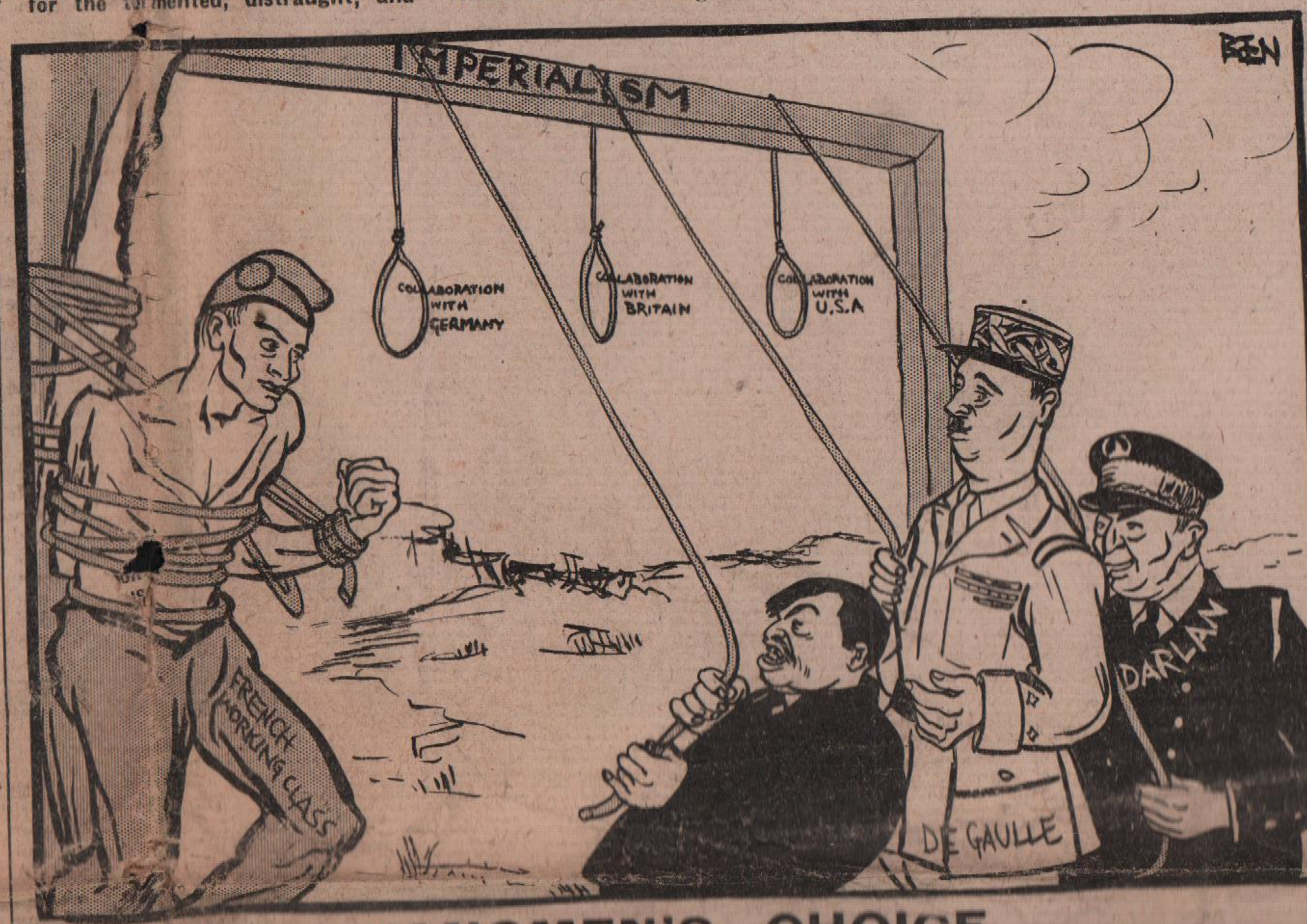
Not only that. In Egypt General Montgomery found with the greatest of ease that as one soldier to another, he could talk the same language as the butcher of the Spanish village of Guernica, the captive General von Thoma.

### "TWO VICHY REGIMES"

The "Economist", organ of the Liberal capitalists, is reluctantly compelled to admit: "Two parallel Vichy regimes now exist, under Allied and German control respectively. They have one characteristic in common. Collaboration with the man with the gun. Darlan's stubbornness in claiming allegiance to Petain, in spite of the Marshall's repeated denials is significant. His purpose is to defend, not France, but the France of Vichy. He is determined to regard the Marshall as the source of his authority, absurd and untenable though this may seem, because he is determined that the regime which was fastened upon France in 1940, when the Third Republic fell, shall survive, come what may. In the persons of Petain and Darlan, Vichy is backing both sides and, by taking Darlan to their bosom, the Allies could scarcely avoid adding to their war aims the unsavory task of making France free for Vichy—and for all that the Vichy regime stands for, in politics as well as diplomatically.

A more accurate picture of the situation could hardly be presented. This is precisely the case is shown by

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HANGMEN'S CHOICE

# Soldiers Support Leeds Transport Workers

WHEN THE CONDITIONS DESCRIBED BELOW THREATENED TO BRING ABOUT A TRANSPORT STRIKE IN LEEDS, THE GOVERNMENT DRAFTED SOLDIERS AND MILITARY VEHICLES INTO THE DISTRICT IN READINESS TO TAKE OVER THE TRANSPORT.

BUT THE SOLDIERS WERE HOSTILE TO THE IDEA OF BEING USED AS STRIKE-BREAKERS, AND THE MANIFESTO PUBLISHED AT THE END OF THIS ARTICLE WAS HANDED OUT IN HAND-WRITTEN COPIES TO THE BUS DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS. HERE IS A MAGNIFICENT DEMONSTRATION OF THE CLASS SOLIDARITY BETWEEN SOLDIERS AND WORKERS.

For the past two years the 9/12 Leeds Branch Transport and General Workers Union representing the Leeds Passenger Transport Workers have been split on many issues, one reason being that the Department played off the regular drivers against the spare men and the Tram drivers against the Bus drivers, and a very important reason for division amongst the men has been the policy of the Branch officials in encouraging splits against the men's interests. Also the ineffective manner in which complaints and cases brought by the members have been presented, until it became the confirmed opinion of the majority that no confidence could be placed in the union officials. During October the situation changed completely. Whilst the department were instituting harder duties

possibly attend, has of necessity to be late, it was called for 11.30 p.m., November 26th. Over 600 members attended—an unprecedented number for this branch. At the meeting the following motion was put:

That this 9/12 Branch of the T.G.W.U., having exhausted every possible means of a satisfactory settlement of the dispute on the suggested new Rotas and Schedules, added to the fact that a Sunday service was instituted with complete disregard to its effect upon the negotiations in progress; Further that many protests having been made against the grievances set out below without any serious attempt to improve the conditions complained of, we find ourselves without any alternative but to hereby give notice that unless notices signed by the strike Committee are posted in all Depots and Garages, notifying a settlement by 12 midnight, Sunday 29th November, we shall withdraw our labour from the time and date stated above.

- (1) That the new Sunday services be immediately withdrawn and a
- (2) That in view of the arduous duties of Fire watching, Civil Defence, Home Guard, black-out driving and deteriorating rolling stock, that negotiations commence immediately to consider increases in pay for Black-out driving and increased running times on certain rotas in black-out.
- (3) That it is recognised that drivers agreed to guard to fill an emergency and did not agree to guard vehicles 4 to 5 hours. Also that when a driver is guarding, proper equipment shall be provided.
- (4) That split turns shall be limited to 13 hours, this to be inclusive time from commencement to finish at drivers' usual depot or garage, whether spare or regular drivers.
- (5) That the issue of clothing be organised, and the method of appraising worn out clothing be altered.
- (6) That a majority of about 640 to 14 was carried. The Branch secretary, Chairman and Trade Group Secretary

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presented, until it became the confirmed opinion of the majority that no reference could be placed in the union or notes. During October the situation changed completely. Whilst the department were instituting harder duties upon the regular men, it also lengthened the amount of hours to be worked in a split turn by spare men. This has resulted in both sections becoming united on a common issue.

On November 24th a Branch meeting was held and a special meeting was called for to deal with the problems complained of. As the only meeting at which all members on transport can

be met... (1) That the new Sunday services be immediately withdrawn and a service on the basis of earlier finishing, and priority workers only between certain hours be organised, and where possible and when necessary, two conductresses be detailed for duty. Further that buses and cars should not be sent out to transport pleasure seekers after advertised times.

(2) That in view of the hardship

By a majority of about 640 to 14 this was carried. The Branch Secretary, Chairman and Trade Group Secretary immediately left the meeting apparently refusing to accept responsibility for the resolution. The meeting then elected a Chairman, Secretary and Vice Chairman and strike Committee to implement the Resolution. After various arrangements and attempts to negotiate upon the basis of the proposals which was refused by the transport officials, the Committee called another mass meeting for Sunday, 29th November.

The support and enthusiasm was tremendous. The attendance exceeded all expectations. The first meeting was thought to be large, but the Sunday meeting simply swamped the previous one with an estimated attendance of 1,500. After various discussions and explanations of attempts to negotiate, the Trade Group Secretary asked for permission to speak. He gave three alternatives—none of which were acceptable to the meeting, and finally it was suggested that he should get in touch with the Transport officials and suggest a suspension of the new duties which were to commence on that day, Monday. He came back with the assurance that suspension would be seriously considered and agreed that three members of the Strike Committee should negotiate for a fair settlement along with the three officials who had deserted Thursday's meeting. This was agreed upon with the proviso that if no settlement was reached the strike would take place at the week-end.

It has undoubtedly been the most outstanding demonstration in the history of the Branch, and more has been attained in four days with this united solidarity than in two years with the apathy that has existed in that time. It actually astonished the old members of the Branch who, basing themselves on past events, were positive that the demonstration would be a complete failure. It has proved two points to the members: that only by united support of those who are willing to lead them can they hope to win any success, and secondly, that the Branch secretary and Chairman must be removed to continue the strength and solidarity of the Branch. Two collections were taken. The first realised £15. 10. 0 and the second £24. 10. 0.

Armed troops were brought into all Depots and Garages, some to drive a skeleton service and other apparently to guard the premises. The soldiers expressed their sympathy by forwarding a notice enclosed.



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# FOUST HALL—

## Plead Yorkshire Miners

Dear Brothers,

On the 19th November, an Arbitration Committee sat to decide on which price list the Cortonwood Company should pay: one which had been in force for thirteen years, or one which Mr. J. Hall, the President of our union, had drawn up and signed with Mr. T. Oakey, Mr. Elliot and Mr. Pickering, the last two names representing the Owners.

Mr. Hall and Mr. Oakey, the Yorkshire Mineworkers' leaders thought that the colliers at Cortonwood were earning too much money, so they decided that they would have to cut their wages down. Without asking permission of the colliers, they decided along with Messrs. Pickering and Elliot, that the old price list should be reduced so that the colliers would receive approximately 25/- per week less wages; that was at a time when the rest of the country was saying that the miners were not getting enough money.

The old price list was drawn up in May 1929, in which the Owners and Colliers agreed to the price of 1/9 per ton. After a few years the owners managed to get 2d. per ton knocked off, leaving the price list at 1/7 per ton. Mr. Hall thought that this was far too much and after going down the pit, telling the colliers to work harder, and that he would see that we got better machinery, etc., he thought he would be in a position to drop their wages for the Owners.

He proceeded to draw up a new price list, of course with the help of Messrs. Oakey, Pickering and Elliot, and it was duly posted at the pit head.

When the Colliers saw it, they were dumbfounded. After a few minutes silence however, someone shouted "Judas is leading us" and the Colliers decided to strike. This brought to a climax the growing discontent of the miners in the same district, and several of the pits came out on strike shortly after. Mr. J. Hall knew he had started off something he could not control, so he tried to blame the "Socialist Appeal" for the said strikes. When challenged to prove this, he buried his head in the sand, and waited for the storm to blow over. The storm has not abated. The Colliers at Cortonwood will strike if their wages are cut down, and probably more pits will follow in sympathy. If this happens Mr. J. Hall ought to be interned as a saboteur.

At the arbitration, Mr. Hall's conduct was appalling. The Owners had Mr. Furness, the solicitor, putting the case over. When Mr. Furness said that the other colliers in the district were only

continued at foot of col. 6

## From Soldiers to the Workers

Somewhere in Leeds. 29.11.42.

TO THE MASS MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT WORKERS FELLOW TRADE UNIONISTS.

This is a letter from your brothers in the Forces who are in sympathy with you.

We know the Army will be used in an endeavour to break the strike and to force you to accept those conditions against which you are fighting.

But you must know that although there are some who are prepared to take action on your behalf and many

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Workers in this Aero firm are organised in five unions, one of them, the Sheet Metal Workers being an exclusive craft union. The other four are the N.U.V.B., A.E.U., E.T.U., and T. & G.W.U. The victimised shop steward represents the workers of the N.U.V.B. (National Union of Vehicle Builders). In addition to the ordinary shop stewards duties in which he has so many times scored victories for the workers against the management, he is engaged on additional work on the following:

1. He is a member of the Works Committee. The Works Committee consists of seven people, five representing the five unions, Convenor of shop stewards, and one elected from the floor.
2. He is the Secretary of the Joint Production Committee.
3. In a factory of the size of it is impossible for all problems to be thrashed out by a Production Committee. A few allied sections are grouped into a "region" called the Main Bay Committees. He has the function of attending to this work.

Taking all these jobs together, it can be seen that this is full-time work for any shop steward. Under the Constitution of the Joint Production Committee, members are paid once a month for attending the monthly meeting. But in practice if a workers' representative has to investigate the problems of production in the present muddle into which the British capitalists have reduced it, it takes a long, long time. Workers are not paid for this.

The general practice in the factory is that if any worker cannot make up his usual weekly wages, the gang in which he works helps him out by sharing some of their earned hours. This is a recognised system known to the management. In the case of this particular shop steward, he has deliberately refused in the past two years, all positions on the staff offered to him. Until four weeks ago, he was working in a section of four. He was then moved with his mate into a different job of Sub-Assembly. For the time that he was away discussing the problems of the workers with the management, the time was made up for him by the workers on the next section.

On Monday 17th November, the police superintendent called at the works and interviewed the shop steward and the other workers. They were informed that a prosecution would be launched under the Licensing Act of 1916 Section 32 for obtaining money under false pretences. Immediately the shop steward concerned informed the Works Committee and his trade union. The Executive of the Union argued correctly that this was an attack on a militant worker and promised to defend him legally and otherwise.

From the rumours and whispers the real reason for the attack was apparent to all the workers. During the last year this shop steward has been the leading spirit in denouncing the vicious system of sub-contracts. Originally it was intended to share out work to smaller units of production to avoid waiting time in the factory. This is a corrective to the wrong lay out and equipment of the factories which cannot undertake all operations in the same factory. Later it was used to earn double profits by sub-contracting to firms financially controlled by the larger firm. More recently it is being used to blackmail the workers by the rate fixer who, when he cannot get his own way in price fixing, uses it as a threat to take the whole job away and sub-contract it. Everyone knows that by a hard struggle and a good trade union organisation, the workers in have won favourable

standards. And now the management is using the indirect methods of sub-contracting to undermine those standards.

On Wednesday 19th, at 3 p.m. the shop steward concerned and two other workers were given one hour's notice. A meeting of the workers was called for Thursday dinner time. A mass meeting was held in the grounds addressed by the shop stewards with the help of loud speakers at which the following facts were revealed:

This is an attack on militant shop stewards.

The Company has not been defrauded. The money paid is for work done. If it is shared by the workers out of comradeship and solidarity, it is their affair.

In the past the management knew that such a system was generally prevalent, and in many cases approved and even connived in the introduction of it.

No production has been impeded.

It was unanimously agreed that the workers should return to the shop after the dinner hour but that they should not start work. In effect it meant a sit-down strike. After dinner time the management found that 8,000 workers were involved in the strike. They approached the various trade union officials in the town to get the men back to work. The Trade Union officials refused to interfere basing themselves on their experience of a previous dispute.

A few weeks ago, one of the shop stewards in a different section of this Company, under the same Board of Directors sacked a shop steward for holding an unauthorised meeting in a protected place. The A.E.U. won the

Mr. Hall made an attempt to explain his conduct in signing the price list, by saying that Mr. Rose and Mr. Saunders (the late President and delegate of the Cortonwood branch), had said it was a fair price list before he appended his signature. These two men have since denied this. The Arbitration Committee are going to give their verdict in a week or so, and after reading the evidence against the Colliers by the men who are supposed to represent them, it looks like being a reduction.

Miners! You can see what sort of creature Mr. Hall is. You must get together, have resolutions passed at all your branch meetings to demand that he and Mr. Oakey resign before they can do any more harm.

# MILITANT STAND BY 8,000 BIRMINGHAM AERO WORKERS

By V. SASTRY

A STRIKE OF 8,000 WORKERS HAS TAKEN PLACE AT AN AERO WORKS IN BIRMINGHAM. IT AROSE DUE TO THE VICTIMISATION OF A MILITANT SHOP STEWARD AND THE DELIBERATE PROVOCATION BY THE MANAGEMENT IN INSTITUTING A FRAME-UP PROSECUTION OF THIS WORKER FOR FRAUD.

## FOUST HALL—continued from col. 1

getting 11½d. and 1/- per ton, Mr. Hall let that pass and did not let on that the nearest pit to Cortonwood were paying their colliers 1/5 per ton... (This pit of course is Elsicar Main.)... He also agreed that the conditions at Cortonwood were better than they had been—and this after two miners have been killed inside seven days this very month. It is to be hoped that he is haunted by the spirits of these miners.

WOMBWELL COLLIERY



# RESTRICTS FUEL OUTPUT

By **ANDREW SCOTT**

For the past 18 months the British coalowners have been shouting their heads off about the amount of coal production that is lost by 'absenteeism' and strikes on the part of the miners. At the time of the Betteshanger strike they sobbed their hearts out at the thought of the four thousand tons of coal per day that were being left underground. Every month they work out and publish in the newspapers how much this year's figure is below that for the same month last year and utter threats about taking appropriate action if there is not an increase.

But the amount of coal lost through 'absenteeism' and strikes is microscopic and completely negligible when it is compared with what is lost by the deliberate sabotage of the coalowners themselves, assisted by the great gas and electricity combines. To suit their

What are these modern methods? They consist, to put it briefly, in burning the coal underground and thus converting it into gases which are simply led to the surface in pipes and put to various uses. Principal among these gases is methane, which has such properties that it can form the basis for a complete new industry. It provides a fuel that has a higher octane value than that of any petrol in use, and increases the efficiency of aeroplanes by one third. These gases can be used near the pithead for industry, or conveyed for long distances in pipes to cities to provide light, heat, petrol or chemicals.

Not only this, but the new method of mining means a tremendous saving in labour power. It has been proved by experience in Russia that one worker in a gas producing mine produces as much energy in the form of gas as ten miners produce in the form of coal in even the most modern pit of the usual type. And this gas is precisely the one which causes explosions in these old-fashioned mines. Mining engineers exert their energies to draw

of 12,187,500,000 horse power. As is pointed out by the magazine "Scope" from which these figures are taken, "All other waste pales into insignificance before this immensity of waste."

The coal owners and industrialists cannot claim that they have not had time to put the new method of mining into operation. For the British chemist Ramsay experimented with it in the 90's of last century, and actually sank a trial shaft. And into the bargain Lenin indicated the tremendous potentialities of the new method as far back as 1913.

"The world-famous British chemist, William Ramsay," said Lenin, "has discovered a method of obtaining coal gas directly at the coal face . . . Thus, one of the greatest problems of modern technique is approaching solution. The revolution that this solution will bring about will be enormous . . . If this technical revolution took place, the cost of electrical energy would be reduced to one-fifth of its present cost . . . An enormous amount of human labour that is now spent in extracting and distributing coal will be saved. It would be possible to work what are now regarded as the poorest and most unprofitable seams."

To this day Ramsay's invention has not been put to use in Britain. It is only in the Soviet Union that it has been developed and applied. And experiments had been so successful in the Don Basin that in March 1941 the Soviet mining engineers presented a plan for the coal industry based on general gasification. Underground mining operations were to be eliminated altogether.

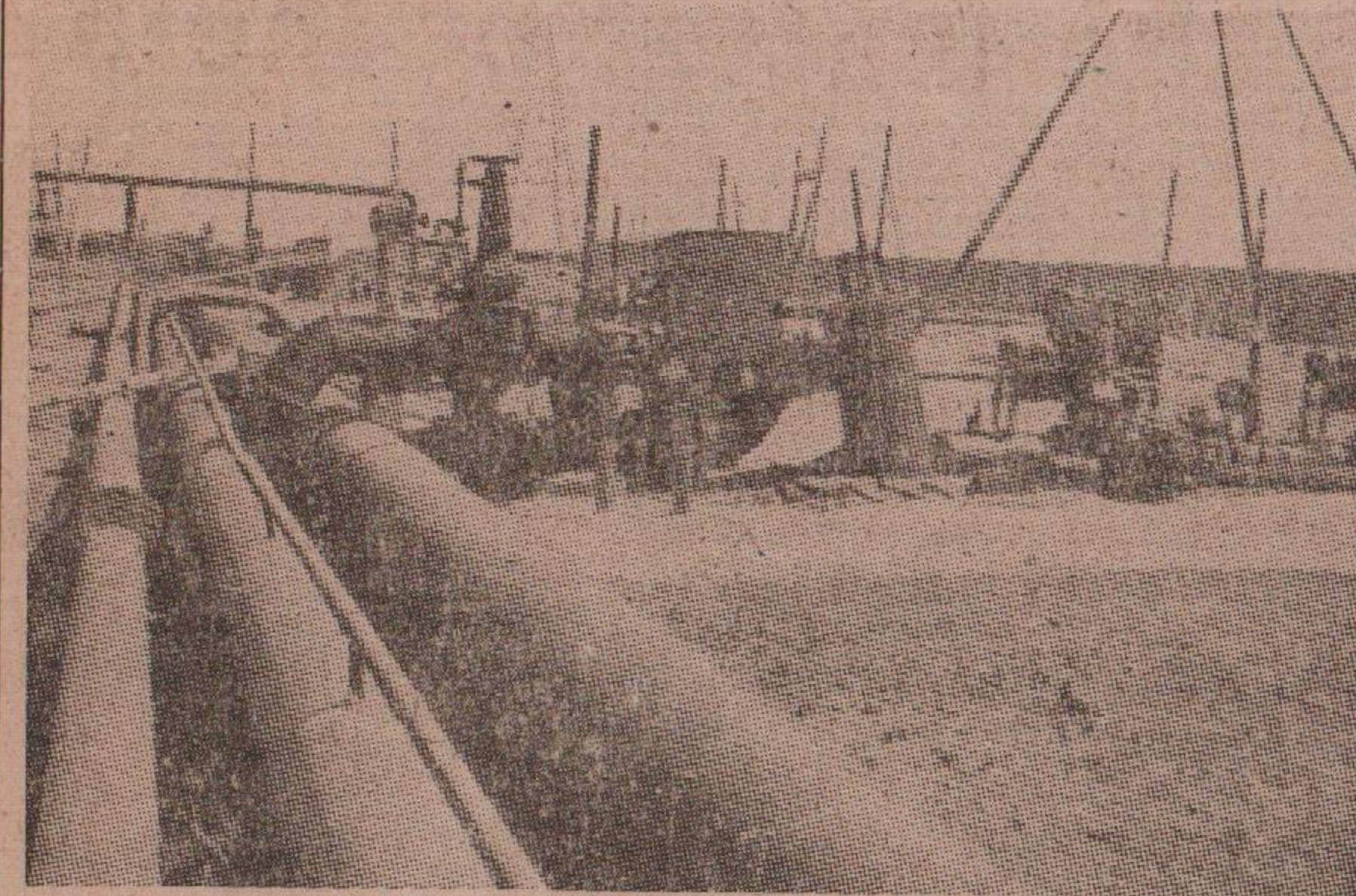
If the British coal owners and the Government were genuinely concerned with increasing production they would immediately get down to the job of modernising the methods by which energy is extracted from the 197,000,000 tons of coal that are estimated to lie below the surface of this island. They would also make use of the great potential energy that daily goes to waste in the sewage works.

But they find it pays them better to continue extracting their profits from the antique methods they have built up in the period of their laddering prosperity last century. With the coal owners are linked in a gang of united vested interests the petrol companies, with interests in the East Indies and Persia, the gas companies, the electrical undertakings, and many distributive subsidiaries.

Their attacks on the miners are merely efforts to extract not more coal, but greater profits, within the limits of the old methods and by increased exploitation of the miners.

Coal mining will become truly scientific, yielding a vast increase in energy, only when it is taken out of the hands of these profiteers. The nationalisation of the whole industry without compensation, and its operation under workers' control is the only foundation on which a truly great increase in production can take place. And is the only means by which the conditions of work can become truly civilised.

## The Most Modern Pithead in the World —Donetz Basin



own purposes and to keep their profits up these forces keep British industry chained to antique methods, and misuse and destroy the coal resources of the country in a way that puts every professional saboteur in history into the shade. By their refusal to adopt new methods they are deliberately throwing away each day 455,133,881 cubic feet of the valuable gas methane. Expressed in terms of petrol, this is equivalent to 3,250,956 gallons. They are working the coal resources so inefficiently that they are only getting 60 per cent of the coal out of a seam where the Soviet mining engineers are managing to extract 80 to 90 per cent by using modern methods.

It off and expel it into the air, or render it harmless in some way or other. But the modern method turns its combustible properties into a wonderful new source of power.

Other sources of methane are sewage sludge, oil deposits such as there are in Scotland, and coke ovens. From the sewage works of Britain alone there could be produced 21,900,000,000 cubic feet per year. And from all sources taken together it would be possible to produce 195,203,866,710 cubic feet per year. This is equivalent to 1,394,313,334 gallons of petrol, or if reckoned in horse power for the generation of electricity we get the breath-taking figure

of the ship's arrival, and naturally they did not report for work. The ship was manned by local men and the deficiency of man power was made up by employing soldiers who were stationed at the port. In view of the fact that they had been instructed to hold themselves ready to start work on this particular ship whenever she arrived, the transferred men demanded, when they reported at the docks on the Mon-

During their week of suspension, although there was not much work in their home port, the majority of the men managed to get a day's work, others got a night shift, etc. Here were men who fought hard for their rights in a strange port, and through doing so, were suspended for a week in their own port. Striving to get a couple of days work in order to alleviate the hardships that they and their

## SIGNALMEN DEMAND ACTION

By **SID BIDWELL**

Among all grades of rail workers there exists today a profound feeling of disgust with the leadership of the N.U.R.; a growing awareness on the part of the workers concerned that there must be a return to the pre-1926 fighting militancy if the tremendous numerical strength of the N.U.R. (now approximately 400 thousand members) is to serve as a means of lifting rail workers to their rightful place in the life of the nation.

In recent weeks the desire of the workers to extricate themselves from their miserable standards has found its outlet in numerous mass meetings, not convened by the Union officials but arranged on the initiative of the rank and file. These meetings have revealed that the workers realise their fight is not only against the rail bosses but against the class-collaborating leadership of the N.U.R. as well.

As previously reported the inert leadership of the industrial union has resulted in a re-birth of sectionalism. It is a fact that the signalmen's sectional union has benefited in membership during the past few months. The rank and filers who have left the N.U.R. have not done so out of their disbelief in the effectiveness of industrial unity, but largely as a method of protest against the class-collaborating policy of the N.U.R. leaders. Whilst N.U.R. militants opposed to the present leadership fully appreciate the sentiments of those who have gone over to sectionalism, we would point out that this has not hurt the officials of the N.U.R. in one degree, but it will result in splitting the unity of grades in face of the common enemy and facilitate attacks on the railwaymen grade by grade. The workers split into multifarious sectional Unions will fall easy prey to time-honoured methods of the bosses of divide and rule.

As a reflection of the growing movement against the bosses on the one hand and the reactionary N.U.R. officials on the other, two mass meetings of N.U.R. signalmen were held in London recently. At both meetings which were the successors of others held all over the country, the following resolution was carried:—

"This mass meeting of signalmen condemns the N.U.R. E.C., because of its failure in negotiations with the railway companies to look after the interests of signalmen. We therefore pledge ourselves to work for a new militant leadership which will fight, in the case of signalmen, for the reintroduction of the standstill agreement and to have included in the conditions of service for

The important aspects of the incident, is first the mood of the men. They would rather face prosecution than continue to accept these reactionary measures. Secondly, the C.P. are more and more adopting the bosses' attitude to Absenteeism, conveniently forgetting that it is a result of mismanagement, long hours, low wages—in a word, Capitalism.

of the Russian Revolution, and of Trotsky the creator and builder of the Red Army and the concluding speech by Comrade Fred Jackson in which he dealt with the Trotskyist policy as the only means of defending the Soviet Union and of extending the October Revolution, was delivered in a masterly fashion. The oration accorded to him testified both to the appeal of the programme of the Fourth International as well as to the exposition and form in which the case was made.

A collection taken to defray the expenses of the meeting and to contribute to the propaganda funds of the organisation raised £8. 0. 0. The meeting terminated in the traditional fashion with the singing of the International.

members, the N.S.O. will get in touch with the head foreman who will investigate the case. The head foreman may:—

1. Allow him to start work.
2. Warn him not to work on Sunday.
3. Suspend him for half a day, a day, but not exceeding three days. Habitual offenders will be taken

## Russian Revolution Meeting

About 80 workers attended the Anniversary meeting of the Russian Revolution held on November 7th, under the auspices of the London District Committee of the Workers' International League. Owing to circumstances beyond our control, the date and venue of the meeting had to be changed at the eleventh hour, from the Holborn Hall to the Essex Hall. Many workers who did not see the change of arrangements turned up at the Holborn on the 8th, as originally advertised.

The speakers were Comrades Alan Christianson, George Hanson and Fred Jackson; (Comrade Grant was unable to be present). Comrade Harold Atkinson was in the chair. The first two speakers dealt with the background

## 8,000 AERO WORKERS STRIKE

Continued from page 1

case before a tribunal. The firm refused to reinstate. Now the trade unions took the position that the had scrapped the whole negotiating machinery. Under the circumstances they could deal with the workers direct and the trade unions would not interfere. On Friday again the police interviewed the shop steward.

The strike continued on Friday and Saturday. Realising the seriousness of the situation, the management agreed to a Conference on Sunday. An agreement was there reached as follows:

- The men should return to work.
  - The management agreed to reinstate the shop steward in Motor Works who had won the case.
  - They agreed to drop the prosecution proceedings.
  - They agreed to refer the case to the Tribunal and abide by the decision of the Tribunal.
- It is a partial victory for the workers. Where the trade unions had failed to force the firm to accept the decision of the Tribunal, the strike obtained the reinstatement of the shop steward and forced them to agree to future decisions of the Tribunal. What is more, they demonstrated what a "frame up" the legal proceedings were. Some of the most important features of the strike are that there was complete agreement in action between the shop stewards and men of five different unions. There was a magnificent display of discipline and solidarity involving 8,000 workers. The so-called Tribunal displayed their complete

powerlessness in face of a refusal by a big firm to abide by its decisions.

Deeper than these, the Production Committees are exposed for what they are worth to the workers. Workers' representatives who attend a meeting once a month for two hours and paid for those two hours, are face to face with the management engaged full time in practising evasions and tricks on the workers.

The workers can tackle the problem of production when their representatives have got complete control; only they can clear up issues which involve investigation of methods and books without being hampered by private profit and interest motives. To do this is a full time job to be paid at the rate of wages paid to skilled workers, this to be paid by the workers themselves. This will make the full time worker directly responsible to the workers subject to recall by them. What is needed in the factory are full time officials of the workers.

The main lesson of the strike is the fact that only the organised strength and solidarity of the workers, backed up by militant action if necessary, can protect the rights and standards of the workers. The employers snap their fingers at appeals and tribunals, when it does not suit their interests. The second lesson is the fact that the bosses are not interested in the problem of production as such. Production can go to the devil if it does not increase profits. Especially the bosses resent what they consider the "meddling" of the workers with managerial functions.

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**EDITORIAL  
AFTER THE WAR**

Promises, promises, promises. They are being doled out in unlimited quantities. Uthwatt Reports, Scott Reports, Beveridge Reports. But False Reports, all of them. They paint a sort of Kingdom of Heaven in Britain after the war. A kingdom without unemployment, without poverty, without inequality, without fear of further wars. But also without foundation.

The natives of Tierra del Fuogo are in the habit of washing the bodies of dying people in order to ensure them immortality. The False Reports attempt to perform the same task for the body of dying British imperialism.

The Government, and the class, that issues these reports is only too well aware of the growing disillusionment of the mass of the workers and soldiers in imperialism; of their determination to achieve a better society. They know that there is an irresistible move Leftward taking place throughout the country. For this reason they are attempting to deck up their outworn system in fresh and attractive colours.

But at the same time—they cannot help themselves—in their discussions they give hints as to what the true conditions of things will be like after the war if they are left in control. It is almost as if they had read Churchill's advice to Lloyd George after the last war: "It would only have been prudent to pour some cold water upon inordinate hopes and claims, however resented at the time, would have been precious afterwards."

Some of the "sour statements" are deliberate, others just slip into the news by accident. But taken together they reveal clearly that Big Business looks ahead to a Britain in which there will be:— (1) An increase in the power and scope of Monopoly; (2) A greater measure of Government control of industry; (3) a drastic reduction in imports, and in the standard of living; (4) The need on the part of the workers to work harder and longer; (5) The need to develop and extend the international cartel arrangements for the restriction of production in the interests of keeping up profits.

The "National Policy for Industry" issued recently by 120 business men elaborates such a plan; Lord Croft makes no bones about it; the Marquess of Salisbury takes pleasure in announcing that "there will be still unemployment . . . equal opportunities for the education of all children, so literally stated, is impracticable. . . The right and power to make and preserve a private fortune must be jealously guarded." Sir William Jowitt hails the new era with: "We should emerge from this war a much poorer nation, a debtor nation and not a creditor nation." The "Times" has been hammering for months on the necessity to continue state control of industry after the war.

And all this talk about increasing poverty and hard work is taking place at a time when new inventions and the development of technique are placing on humanity's doorstep the means of drastically reducing the hours of labour, of sharing out the necessary work and of doing away with most of the arduous jobs.

But the Tory blueprint is the one that will be put into operation. They have no other way to travel. They

**WAINWRIGHT AND DORIOT  
Birds of a Feather****By TED GRANT**

William Wainwright, modestly signing himself W.W. has written an article in "World News and Views" of November 21st, 1942, the pretended purpose of which is to expose Jacques Doriot, leader of the Fascist Popular Party in France.

In reality, following the time worn methods of the "Communist" Party, the real aim is to slander and vilify the Trotskyists.

First Wainwright pretends to believe that Doriot is a Trotskyist. He is as much a Trotskyist as Wainwright himself could be described a Trotskyist. Both have the same credentials, i.e. Doriot at the service of Stalin slandered and lied about Trotsky's policies, now Wainwright jumps into the vacant space left by Doriot to fulfil the same purpose.

In order to understand this it is only necessary to examine the biography of Doriot. He was one of the leaders of the French Communist Party from its earliest days. When the split came in Russia between Stalin and Trotsky, judging that Stalin would win, he supported him in the struggle and came out as a violent opponent against Trotskyism. Faithfully and cynically carrying out the policy of Stalin, he helped carry through Stalin's policy in 1925-1927 which led to the defeat of the Chinese revolution. It was here that he learned to practise the habit of lies and deception in the interests of the Stalinist "line". When on a delegation representing the Communist workers, instead of warning the Chinese workers and peasants against the role of Chiang Kai-Shek and the Chinese capitalists who would betray the revolution and slaughter the masses, Doriot kept silent. He kept silent to cover the policy of his then master Stalin. Just as Wainwright today covers up the crimes of Churchill, De Gaulle and Co. for the same purpose. Doriot was sent by the Communist International as a member of an international delegation on a mission to China . . . this mission "passed through town after town where the unions had already been driven underground, and in Kanchow they received detailed reports on the murder of Chen Tsang-shen, local trade union leader killed by Chiang's orders only a few weeks previously." (Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution, by H. Isaacs). Doriot, after the betrayal of the Chinese revolution, wrote: "The Kanchow incidents

taught us a precious lesson. We knew from that moment on—well before the split—that the conflict between the bourgeoisie and the Chinese working class would take on the bloody forms it has since assumed. . . ." But in obedience to Stalin's policy he kept silent on this and attacked Trotsky and the Trotskyists who were warning the workers precisely of the inevitability of what happened.

From 1927 to 1933 he faithfully followed the policy of the Communist International which made the victory of Hitler inevitable: the policy of denouncing the Socialists as Social Fascists and refusing a united front with them against fascism. Doriot in France denounced Trotsky as a social fascist and counter revolutionary as obediently as the rest of the hacks in the Comintern for demanding a united front of Socialists and Communists to prevent Hitler from coming to power.

Doriot was expelled in 1934, after the "Communist" Party had demonstrated together with the fascists for the overthrow of the Liberal Government on February 6th. He was expelled from the C.P. for proposing a united front against the fascist bands! But Doriot never joined the Trotskyists. Just the contrary. He continued his attacks against Trotsky and the Trotskyists. He had been corrupted too well by the cynical school of Stalinism. It was but a short step for him to go over to fascism and offer his services to the capitalist class. It is significant that on the road to fascism he tarried for a while in the Popular Front in France. For the whole of his political life Doriot fought against Trotsky and Trotskyism.

But to return to Wainwright. Having failed with his forgeries and lies in the pamphlet "Clear Out Hitler's Agents" to convince the workers and even the advanced workers in the C.P. itself of the truth of the slander that Trotskyists are fascists, Wainwright attempts by a new series of quotations, to prove that the policy of the Trotskyists is the same as that of Doriot. This time he selects passages from the "Socialist Appeal". Let us have a look at these "quotations":

*"The Treaty between the Soviet Union and British Imperialism is primarily a conspiracy." — S.A. July, 1942.*

Now read the "Socialist Appeal" of July 1942, from which this is taken:

"The ruling class is not interested in the defeat of "Hitlerism" as such. They are concerned only once and for all, with destroying the power of their German rival and obtaining domination of Europe and as much of the world as they can hold. The defeat of Hitler opens out the prospect of revolution in Germany and in the whole of Europe—a revolution which could not fail to spread to the British Isles. The ruling class has collaborated with the Soviet Union only because of the way in which Russia has fought the war as a "national" war and not as part of the international struggle of the working class.

It was because of this that the imperialists of Britain and America could even afford themselves the luxury of giving the Soviet Union a certain amount of aid. But they now desire further guarantees that after the war their position of domination will be firmly entrenched throughout the world—i.e. that the revolutions which are inevitable in Europe should be crushed. This is the meaning of the treaty between the Soviet Union and British imperialism. It is primarily a conspiracy against the German and European working class."

This quotation speaks for itself. Let us examine the second quotation, selected by Wainwright.

*"We have resolutely opposed the policy of 'pressing' Churchill for a Second Front." ("Socialist Appeal", November, 1942.)*

Now read the "Socialist Appeal" from where this is taken:

*"As against the short sighted policy of support for Churchill and Roosevelt we have urged the independence of the labour movement from the capitalist class: we have fought for workers' control of the sending of arms to Russia; and we have resolutely opposed the policy of 'pressing' Churchill for a Second Front, knowing that such a military move would be undertaken by the imperialists at the moment of their own choosing for their own aims of dismembering the Soviet Union and stifling the European revolution by wresting control from their hands."*

It will be observed that Wainwright has to pretend that these quotations are the beginning and end of sentences and for this purpose he obligingly adds full stops and capital letters where none exist! Just an old fashioned Stalinist custom! Wainwright uses his quotations to "prove" that the Trotskyists are in favour of fascism

and opposed to the Soviet Union. One glance at the "Socialist Appeal" reveals that the articles were directed to demonstrate the real policy of Churchill and the British ruling class and the dangers to which the false policy of Stalin and the Comintern were leading the Soviet Union and the world working class.

Leaving aside the sustion of whether the opinions and ideas were correct or not, that was the point of view which we revolutionary socialists hold and we firmly believe even will prove us correct. We claim this is the Leninist point of view. Why then did this Stalinist hack have to resort to lies and deliberate misrepresentation? If our point of view is incorrect surely it should not be too difficult to prove this? Here we get the difference between Leninism and Stalinism. Marx and Lenin prided themselves on the fact that never once in the thousands of articles and books they wrote, did they distort or lie on the position adopted by an opponent. And indeed it would be impossible to ever find a lie or perversion in the writings of Marx or Lenin. And for a very simple reason. They were so convinced of the correctness of their policies that they knew any worker comparing their ideas with those of their opponents could not fail to arrive at the conclusion that they were right. Lenin even advised his supporters among the workers to read his opponents! Furthermore he taught that lies and slander were the weapons of capitalist reaction. The weapon of truth is the most powerful weapon of all.

It is this tradition which Trotsky handed on to the Fourth International. Stalinism resorts to the methods of lies and slander. Wainwright as a Stalinist is without honour, without truth and without conscience. Methods such as these can only train and create . . . Doriots!

As for us, we shall continue on the path of Marxism. No amount of lies, slander, or persecution will prevent us from answering the capitalists and Stalinists with the weapon of truth. And in spite of all, the truth will prevail. Our policy and ideas will become the policy of the working class, including the majority of the rank and file members of the Communist Party.

**We Continue  
Lenin's Policy**

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 the control of committees of workers elected from the distributive trades, factories, housewives committees and small shop-keepers.
6. Sliding 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 for the Socialist United States of Europe.

**Birmingham  
Workers Demand  
Indian Freedom**

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Indian workers held at Bristol Street School, Birmingham on Sunday, 8th November. Speakers included delegates from the Indian Workers Association (Hindusthani Mazdur Sabha) in Bradford, Manchester, Coventry, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. British working class or-

**FRENCH WORKERS**

has been hammering for months on the necessity to continue control of industry after the war.

And all this talk about increasing poverty and hard work is taking place at a time when new inventions and the development of technique are placing on humanity's doorstep the means of drastically reducing the hours of labour, of sharing out the necessary work and of doing away with most of the arduous jobs.

But the Tory blueprint is the one that will be put into operation if they remain in power. They have no other way to travel. They cannot lead the way through the gates that modern industry has opened up into a world of security, of plenty and of leisure. They can only continue to restrict production and employment, and to take political measures to ensure that control of the means of production remains in their hands. And on that road lies ultimately Fascism.

Their plans indicate their whole trend in this direction. The only alternative to this is the road of the independent action of the workers. It is only if they put their own plans into operation that they will achieve a new and a worthwhile society after the war. By taking the political power they will close the road to Fascism in Britain; by taking the industrial power they will abolish poverty and insecurity; by taking the military power they will forge an instrument that will set the seal of doom on all the Hitlers, Mussolinis and Mikados in the world and all their attempts at domination.

The capitalists have two sets of plans. Penny plain and tuppence coloured. The coloured variety for public consumption; the plain one the grim reality. The only way for the workers to avoid the horrors of a police state is for them to adopt their own plan and to put themselves in a position to put it into operation. That can only be done on condition that they take their destiny into their own hands.

## Manifesto of the Fourth International to the masses of India

On Sept. 26, 1942, the Executive Committee of the Fourth International issued a manifesto to: "*The Workers and Peasants of India*". This manifesto, over 7,000 words in length, has just reached us and will be fully reproduced in the December issue of "*Workers International News*".

Although primarily addressed to the workers and peasants of India, the manifesto is of international significance and of especial and vital interest to the British working class.

Taking its stand on the side of the struggle of India for national liberation, the Manifesto notes that the Fourth International is the only international labour organisation which is supporting the present struggle for independence, while the Second and Third International are aiding Churchill by condemning the present struggle. In this connection the Manifesto reviews the principal documents of the Fourth International since 1934, on the basis of which the best revolutionists of India have come together during the last two years to form the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of India as a section of the Fourth International.

An important section of the Manifesto is devoted to proving that under no conditions will British imperialism voluntarily agree to Indian independence. The only road to independence is the overthrow of the British power in India.

The section of the manifesto headed "*The New Spirit of the British Workers*" is fully reproduced below and

should be seriously studied by the readers of the "*Socialist Appeal*."

"Nor need you fear that the British soldiers constitute an insuperable obstacle to the overthrow of British imperialism. There is a new spirit growing among the British workers and soldiers! The British government tries to conceal this from you, but it is nevertheless a fact—a fact of deadly significance to British imperialism.

In England today the overwhelming majority of the workers are already deeply distrustful of the Churchill government. The British capitalists would not be able to rule at all except with the help of the British Labour Party leaders. After two years of this capitalist-Labour coalition government however, the workers are discontented not only with the capitalist ministers but also with the "Labour" ministers. Despite anti-strike laws and imprisonment, despite frenzied appeals from the Labour leaders, the workers in England are more and more taking to strike action and thus directly coming into collision with the government. The British defeats in the Far East, which were a consequence above all of the refusal of the colonial masses to fight and die for their oppressors, have opened the eyes of the English workers as never before to the evils of imperialism. The British workers

in Kanchow they received detailed reports on the murder of Chen Tsang-shen, local trade union leader killed by Chiang's orders only a few weeks previously." (Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution, by H. Isaacs). Doriot, after the betrayal of the Chinese revolution, wrote: "The Kanchow incidents

is the same as the Doriot. This time he selects passages from the "*Socialist Appeal*". Let us have a look at these "quotations":

"The Treaty between the Soviet Union and British Imperialism... is primarily a conspiracy." — S.A. July, 1942.

# FRENCH WORKERS FOIL FASCISTS

By BILL CHALK

The class struggle in France has inflicted a sharp defeat on the Nazi overlords and their Vichy deputies.

This is the mighty portent of the magnificent struggle of the French workers which resulted in the great strike at the GNOME-RHONE aero-engine works at Lyons around Oct. 17th. Sufficient news—even when suitably doctored by the De Gaullist apparatus in London—has emerged to reveal one of the greatest and most heartening incidents in the underground war against the ruling classes of both France and Germany.

Germany is short of skilled labour

and France is the only important reservoir—apart from Czecho-Slovakia and Belgium—which will yield the required technical ability needed to maintain the military machine in perfect functioning order. Hence the Nazi demand for at least 150,000 technicians made last June by Labour-Gauleiter Sauckel in Paris. All sorts of inducements were made, particularly concerning war prisoners, to raise the requisite volunteers. Gigantic propaganda was made by the Nazi-organised "Association of Released Prisoners of War", which played upon the feelings of families deprived of their members by imprisonment, and

by the newly formed "Association of Victims of British Air Raids" which sought to capitalise the deathroll due to R.A.F. raids in France.

When this emotional appeal was met with sullen silence from the French workers, a further sop was added; wives would be allowed to work side by side with the volunteers. Pressure was exercised by the Vichy crew in every conceivable fashion, but to no avail. The workers "forgot" their skill, trained engineers registered as cleaners, skilled railwaymen overnight became porters and station staff—every device was adopted by the recalcitrant workmen to meet the increasing scale of threats, bribes, blandishments. Laval wept into the microphone, the Royalist Maurras wagged his beard in solemn and pontifical warning, the Nazi Gauleiters glowered and muttered threats, designed to cow the stubborn populace, the "Riot Squad of the Legion"—newly organised terror police of Laval—attempted to intimidate the strikers and demonstrators, employers drew up lists of skilled men and promised a quota... but no, the workers did not budge. *So wholehearted is their determination and so solid is their opposition that to this day neither the Nazis nor Laval have published the number of volunteers raised for German industry.*

The host of strikes and protests against this attempt to conscribe the French workers into slave-labour conditions received its greatest impetus at Lyons where 700 out of the 4,000 employees of the Gnome-Rhone works were ordered to work in the Reich. All but 15 flatly refused. Laval ordered them to be dismissed, whereupon the entire factory downed tools as a protest. Their decision was carried to the ends of the country by clandestine methods and Vichy was presented with the ultimatum of a General strike within three days, unless...

Threats of court-martial were made by Laval, but the Nazis had seen the red light. Fearful lest the strike should actually take place and spread, fearful of its effects upon the workers in other parts of Europe and, not the least, fearful of their own workers at home—in a word *fear of the class war and its repercussions*, drove them to instruct their Vichy deputies to negotiate with the "illegal" organisations of the

French workers. By this time the Railworkers had joined the struggle and the situation looked ominous; moreover the Vichy Ministers were undecided as to what line to take and the German High Command was faced with an impasse which all the terror of their Gestapo could not resolve. Brought sharply up against the very spectre which they had imagined to be bloodily laid, confronted with the prospect of an insurgent working class, the leaders of the *Wehrmacht* retreated. They extended the "target" date until Dec. 31st.

In this way the voice of French Labour has become again articulate. Note carefully however, that it speaks with proletarian accent. All the professors, all the Generals, all the distinguished exiles, all the academical screwballs grouped about De Gaulle payed absolutely no part in this event. The first major setback to the German plans in Occupied Europe came without the assistance of the platitudinous baggages masquerading as "the true spirit of France". Indeed these gentlemen must be apprehensive as Laval, or Stulpnaegel, or for that matter, Churchill.

For indisputably this affair is an affair of the working class against its own ruling class and their conquerors; the emergence of the class-war on the Gestapo-ridden Continent can bring hope to no-one but ourselves, the revolutionary workers of the world. The triumph of the French workers is *our* victory, is the victory of the masses all over the world, and *our* triumphs shall be theirs also. *Our* class knows no frontiers, *our* struggle is international.

The composition of De Gaulle's National Committee belies any attempt on its part to speak for the French workers. Can anyone be found who will now believe that the threat of General Strike was inspired by a Committee which includes Charles Vallin, deputy leader of the fascist Croix de Feu, who boasted as recently as September 9th, 1940, of having prepared Petain's "National Revolution" by his actions, who was a leading member of the "Rassemblement de la Révolution Nationale", who was also a member of the infamous "Committee of Political Justice" and who bluntly declared in a broadcast speech that he had joined De Gaulle "*without re-*

### Indian Freedom

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Indian workers held at Bristol Street School, Birmingham on Sunday, 8th November. Speakers included delegates from the *Indian Workers Association* (Hindusthani Mazdur Sabha) in Bradford, Manchester, Coventry, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. British working class organisations were represented by two speakers from the Labour Party and one from the I.L.P. (Owing to sudden illness the W.I.L. speaker was unable to attend and was not in a position to obtain a substitute at short notice.) About 200 attended.

"**This meeting of the Indian Workers condemns the British Government for provoking a struggle in India and the brutal methods of repression instituted in the form of martial law, collective fines, Whipping Act, machine gunning of unarmed people, shooting and the use of tear gas. It condemns the Labour Party and Trade Union leaders for supporting the Government, as a betrayal of the British and Indian workers. It demands the immediate release of the political prisoners and the acceptance of the Congress demand for immediate independence and the formation of a national provisional government with the authority to convene a Constituent Assembly based upon universal adult suffrage. It demands the immediate arming of the Indian masses under their own leadership.**"

nouncing any of his ideas or his friendships?"

The fact is that De Gaulle's set-up is the point of assembly for those politicians who now anticipate an Allied victory and are anxious to register their grub stakes as early as possible, they hope to be restored to offices of power under Anglo-American auspices, mere street-walkers who have transferred their patronage from one Madame to another. It is certain that the workers of France have not fought for the return of these gentry.

The momentous processes of historical development may be stayed momentarily by the forcible suppression of the working classes which are the instruments of their progression, but inevitably they burst forth anew, for their power is irresistible. The whole of Europe resembles a vast compression chamber within which forces of colossal energy are accumulating under pressure; we may not be able to determine the exact date and location of the flash-point, but the explosion is none the less inevitable because of that.

The workers of Europe will find common cause with those of France struggling against a dual tyranny, the workers of Britain salute their French comrades, the revolutionary vanguard receives heartening confirmation of its belief, held against all the chauvinist ravings, that the European worker will rise again in socialist revolt against the oppressors of our class.



