

"Workers of All Lands Unite"

SOCIALIST APPEAL

ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, FOURTH INTERNATIONAL.

VOL. 7. No. 3

APRIL, 1945.

TWOPENCE

NO BLACKLEGS IN THE LEITH DOCK STRIKE Railwaymen Support Dockers

ON MONDAY, MARCH 19th, 1,000 DOCKERS STRUCK WORK AT LEITH DOCKS. AFTER A WINTER OF BITTER WEATHER AND CONSTANT OVERTIME THEY ARE TAKING ACTION AGAINST THE COMPLETE FAILURE OF THE EMPLOYERS AND TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP TO REMEDY A LONG SERIES OF LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES.

The statement of the Strike Committee, which was immediately elected by the democratic vote of all the strikers, is printed in full on page 2.

In the presence of the Committee, the Chairman, Bro. Davy Bernard, told the representative of the "Socialist Appeal": "The strike is simply a repetition of the big London Dock Strike the previous week. It was completely spontaneous. The local boss-class press has not dared, as yet, to raise the cry of 'subversive elements', and only the 'Daily Herald' degraded itself by attacking the strike leaders. All our public statements stress that we are willing to negotiate at any time. Our union officials take the usual attitude that we must go back to work before negotiations can begin, but that is useless to us. We are on strike simply because the existing negotiating machinery has broken down."

Two hundred Royal Engineers were brought in, and the local press threat-

as soon as the strike started, and are "working to rule". All the other trades in the docks fell in line within a couple of days, and the feeling among the workers throughout Leith is strongly sympathetic.

At daily mass meetings the men are told of everything that their leadership does. This is a refreshing change from the finagling experienced at the hands of the Union bureaucrats. It is much appreciated by the men and greatly strengthens their morale, which in turn reinforces the rank and file leadership which has been thrown up out of the ranks. The conduct of the strike reflects the greatest credit on the Leith dockers, the great majority of whom are middle-aged men, as the younger and more energetic elements are away in the Forces.

The men can see from the experiences of the Newcastle dockers that the Trade Union officials are prepared to starve them back to work. Therefore, the Committee is considering the

TORY POST-WAR PLANS

More Sweat, Toil and Tears for the Workers

CHURCHILL'S SPEECH AT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE ON MARCH 15th WAS AN INDICATION OF THE POLICIES AND TACTICS OF THE RULING CLASS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION AND THE POST-WAR PERIOD.



JOCK HASTON
Revolutionary
Communist Candidate.

Jock Haston—Edinburgh born, 32 year old General Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Fourth International. Joined the Labour movement, at the age of 14. Entered the Merchant Navy—organised and fought in bitter struggles for National Union of Seamen against vicious P.C.5. Steeplejack by trade. Became organiser for the Trotskyist Party in 1938. Well-known to readers of the "Socialist Appeal" for his fearless articles in support of the miners' struggles. Described by the capitalist press as a "dangerous agitator." Arrested under the Trade Disputes Act in May 1944 for aiding Tyneside apprentices in their strike against the Bevin Ballot Scheme. Sentenced to six months hard labour—served three months and released after successful appeal by the Anti-Labour Laws Victims Defence Committee.

Reaction in Greece

General Plastiras, the Greek Prime Minister, Puppet of Churchill, is continuing his anti-working class activity unabated. The most hated man in Greece, he is violating daily the peace agreement he himself signed.

Every opportunity is given to the Right Wing fascists to victimize, assault and torture E.A.M. supporters. The Right Wing Press is circulating freely, and openly defending Tsolakoglou and Rallis, the two quisling Premiers who served under Hitler, whilst the Left Wing Press is seized and burned in the squares or torn to pieces. According to the "Daily Worker" of 21.3.45, these facts are disclosed in a secret document addressed to the police by Attorney General Collias.

"The number of citizens jailed without warrant runs into thousands. E.A.M. offices all over the country have been attacked, looted and even destroyed.

Instead of starting to reconstruct the national army, the Government retains "volunteers" from the German Security Battalions in the National Guard."

This is confirmed by the "Times" of 8.3.45:

"The central committee of E.A.M. has protested to the Regent, the Greek Government, and the diplomatic representatives of Britain, the United States, and France against

Left-wing Press is not allowed to circulate freely, and the members of the E.L.A.S. army returning to their homes after disbandment are assaulted. All this, it is declared, tends to confirm that the Government is trying to set up an 'anti-democratic police state.' Included in the document are the names of well-known provincial officials said to have been arrested solely because of their adherence to E.A.M. So far there has been no reply, but there is no doubt that E.A.M. have a certain amount of right on their side."

And the "Times" of 9.3.45:

"Although, apart from one or two minor incidents, the change-over in the provinces has been effected peacefully there have been many clashes in Athens in which the National Guard either took the lead or had a share in the beating and even killing of returning E.L.A.S. men."

The workers of Greece, betrayed into this peace agreement by the Socialist and Communist Parties of Greece, with the aid of the British Labour Leaders, have themselves honoured the agreement by handing over hostages and arms to the Government. Today they are unarmed and defenceless against the White Terror of Plastiras. They are suffering with their blood, for the betrayal of their leaders. Only the Fourth Inter-

The Tories are moving forward in cunning fashion in order to confuse the electorate and ensure a safe conservative majority at the Polls.

As Churchill has hinted, the general election will not be long delayed after the fall of Hitler and the close of the San Francisco Conference.

Had there been a serious opposition to the Tories the prospects of their coming back to power would be virtually impossible.

Yet Churchill is not unduly disturbed.

One of the trump cards Churchill indicated the Tories would use, is to disguise the ruling class control under the cloak of a "National" administration. It would be difficult for the Labour Party to expose this fraud and sham for what it is, after their participation for five years in a similar masquerade.

In addition to this the Tories have been demagogically attacking "controls".

But the best weapon in the arsenal of Churchill and the Tories lies in the fact that the main platform on which they will fight the election, will be almost indistinguishable from that put forward by the Labour leaders. It will be difficult for the non-political electors, and even the politically conscious to see the difference between the Tory and the official Labour policy.

No wonder Churchill remarked derisively:

"Our Socialist friends have officially committed themselves—much to the disgust of some of their leaders—to a programme for nationalising all the means of production, distribution and exchange."

The vague speeches of the Labour leaders on "controls" instead of a bold fight for outright nationalisation without compensation, demonstrate the sound basis for Churchill's contempt for them.

What the Labour leaders fear is the effect of such revelations on the rank and file—thus their weak protestations.

Churchill pulled out the usual confidence trick of the Tories in his statement:

"The Four-year Plan will require our utmost effort, and whatever Government is in power will not only have to turn White Papers into Acts of Parliament but to make the Acts of Parliament a living, active, and harmonious part of our social system. On all this we must march ahead even while the Japanese war continues and even while the process of bringing back the armies and rehabilitating our trade is incomplete. Never was there a time when so much was planned and projected and so

"We, (i.e. British capitalism) have freely sacrificed our foreign investments which brought a large income into this country and helped to redress our trade balance."

He might have added that British capitalism has lost more than half her shipping, her insurance and banking; that Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa are now competitors in goods they formerly imported from Britain; that America has largely grabbed the markets lost by Britain and intends to hang on to them; that British imperialism is in a worse position than she was after the last war.

Churchill's half-panic, half-defiance in relation to his Trans-Atlantic "Ally" and her dominant position after the war, is indicated by his references to America without naming her.

"We do not wish to live on the charity or generosity of any nation. We have given our all in the common cause and may claim assistance to recover our normal economy from those we have helped to victory. But we must never agree to found our economic life on the indulgence or favour even of the allies we most dearly cherish."

The worsened position of British capitalism after the last world war turned Lloyd George's promises and schemes into the realities of capitalism—mass unemployment, slump, the dole, starvation wages, misery and insecurity.

But today with the loss of Britain's investments abroad, the position of British capitalism is even more critical. The profits and tribute they gained from abroad are gone. They must squeeze it out of the toil and suffering of the British workers. If British capitalism is to survive and compete it must reduce the standard of living to a lower level than anything endured by the British workers for decades!

And Churchill, while using glittering phrases intended to fool the workers in one section of his speech, used others to convey the situation to his audience of bankers and capitalists, officers and pampered youth.

"Let there be no mistake about it, it is no easy, cheap-jack Utopia of airy phrases that lies before us. This is no time for windy platitudes and glittering advertisements . . ."

And in another passage:
"Blood, sweat, toil, and tears! There may be less blood and fewer tears, we thank God for that hope. But mental toil and physical sweat, the conscious, united resolve of every man and woman to give all that is in them, will be required of us long after the last bomb or cannon has ceased to thunder."

Thus the reward for the terrible

time. Our union officials take the usual attitude that we must go back to work before negotiations can begin, but that is useless to us. We are on strike simply because the existing negotiating machinery has broken down."

Two hundred Royal Engineers were brought in, and the local press threatened that more might follow. The strikers have explained the position to the soldiers, and clearly understand that the soldiers are unwilling to be scabs and work only because of army discipline. Nor can untrained men do dockers' work efficiently.

SOLID SUPPORT FOR STRIKE COMMITTEE

The men are absolutely solid behind the Committee. There are no black-legs, and this in a port at which the Transport and General Workers' officials have been accustomed to sneer as a "black spot". No pickets are needed, beyond a daily tour of inspection of the docks by members of the strike committee.

The railwaymen in the docks sent a deputation to express their solidarity

of whom are the usual type of young and more energetic elements are away in the Forces.

The men can also from the experiences of the Newcastle dockers that the Trade Union officials are prepared to starve them back to work. Therefore, the Committee is considering the organisation of a mass meeting for the wives of the dockers, where working women will explain on behalf of the Committee to the housewives, what the strike is about and why the sacrifices it involves, are necessary.

T.U. OFFICIALS SPEAK TO THEMSELVES

All efforts to split the strikers have so far failed. The local and areas secretaries of the Docks Group of the Transport & General Workers' Union, Messrs. Meikle and Batchelor, tried to hold a meeting on Thursday morning.

A (Continued on page 4.)

TRADE DISPUTES ACT TO STAY say Tories

Labour Leaders to Blame

CHURCHILL HAS REFUSED TO AMEND THE 1927 TRADES DISPUTES ACT AND PERMIT THE AFFILIATION OF THE FOUR CIVIL SERVICE UNIONS.

Churchill—the "great democrat"—not only refused to consider such amendments but slammed the door on the T.U.C. delegation. In his letter to Sir Walter Citrine, Churchill said:

"Although I am always glad to see you, I do not think there would be sufficient reason to put you to the trouble of coming to see me on this matter."

The T.U.C. was not asking for the complete repeal of the Trades Disputes Act but only for slight amendments which would permit the big Civil Service Unions to affiliate with the T.U.C. Under the heading "A Blow To Unity" the "Daily Worker", in an editorial inadvertently exposed the cowardly policy of the T.U.C. and at the same time exposed the depths to which the Stalinists have sunk. It states:—

"Clearly the Tories hope that the public will have forgotten the fact that the Unions are so concerned with the national interests that instead of calling for the complete repeal of the Trades Disputes Act, they have confined themselves to asking for its amendment."

Almost two years ago Sir Walter Citrine opened up the "campaign" for Civil Service Union affiliation to the

J. DEANE

T.U.C., with fighting speeches. He "threatened" to conduct a struggle till death, against this vicious anti-working-class Act. The Labour leaders considered that here was an opportunity for an easy victory which would dampen the growing criticism and opposition against the Coalition—a Coalition in which they had given everything and the bosses nothing.

In August 1943 the Union of Post Office Workers made application for political and industrial affiliation to the T.U.C. But "in order not to cause a rupture between Labour and the Government at a critical stage in the war" the leaders of the U.P.O.W., at the request of the T.U.C., withdrew their application. However, Churchill stated that he could see no objection to (harmless) industrial affiliation, and promised a further meeting before reaching a final decision. Sir W. Citrine's speeches turned out to be nothing more than hot air.

Almost two years have elapsed. At the beginning of the war, Chamberlain promised to reconsider favourably the amendments to the Trades Disputes Act if the Labour leaders

(Continued on page 4.)

This is confirmed by the "Times" of 8.3.45:

"The central committee of E.A.M. has protested to the Regent, the Greek Government, and the diplomatic representatives of Britain, the United States, and France against alleged infringements of the peace agreement. Specific charges are that former supporters of E.A.M. are still being victimized and arrested without warrant, that the

honoured the agreement by handing over hostages and arms to the Government. Today they are unarmed and defenceless against the White Terror of Plastiras. They are suffering with their blood, for the betrayal of their leaders. Only the Fourth International, which consistently opposed the surrender of arms and warned against the counter-revolutionary plans of Churchill, gives a clear lead to the Greek peasants and workers.



BLOOD OF THE DEAD was used to letter this sign which was carried through the streets of Athens on December 4th in funeral march for casualties on University Street. Although open warfare for control of the city was getting under way, thousands marched in parade. A translation of the sign is "WHEN THE PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES BEFORE THE DANGER OF TYRANNY, THEY CHOOSE EITHER CHAINS OR THE ARMS OF E.A.M."

OFFER OF HELP

YOU are personally invited to help the Revolutionary Communist Candidate by offering some little service.

Put a **X** to show what you are prepared to do and return this card to:—

R.C.P., 17 ALFRED STREET, NEATH, GLAM.

- Folding Circulars Canvassing
- Addressing Odd Jobs
- Delivering Bills
- Donation to Election Fund: £.....s.....d.
- Name
- Address

London comrades should send the form to R.C.P., 256 Harrow Rd., London, W.2.

of Parliament a thing, a harmonious part of our social system. On all this we must march ahead even while the Japanese war continues and even while the process of bringing back the armies and rehabilitating our trade is incomplete. Never was there a time when so much was planned and projected and so much remains to be turned from paper into action."

Never was there a time when so many cheap promises were committed to paper—that the capitalist class has no intention of translating into action.

British capitalism, which was old and feeble when the war began, has suffered a catastrophic decline in her world position during the conflict. As Churchill soberly expressed it, "victory" for British capitalism, "with all its brilliant trappings appears to our strained and experienced eyes as a deliverance rather than as a triumph." Britain has lost her place as the dominant power in the markets of the world. Attempting to put a good face on the hard realities, Churchill casually revealed:

SCOTTISH FIREMEN Fight for Living Wage

Mine Leaders Call for Scabs

Leaflet issued by Scottish District Committee of the R.C.P.

CLOSE THE RANKS OF ALL MINE WORKERS

One of the most important strikes in the Scottish coal field is now taking place. 1,800 Firemen and Deputies, members of the Federation of Colliery Deputies, have been out on strike for 17 days. The majority of the Firemen who are organised in the National Union of Mineworkers, and who have been ordered to scab by their "leaders", are also out on strike. The wide sympathy and feeling of solidarity amongst the miners is demonstrated by the fact that the miners at three Blantyre Collieries came out immediately in support of the strikers.

The Firemen have been forced to take direct action by the completely unjustified refusal of the Scottish coal-owners to bring the wages of the Scottish Firemen up to the level paid to the English and Welsh Firemen.

WAGES LOWEST IN COUNTRY

The wages paid to Firemen and Deputies in England and Wales are from 5/- to 10/- above those paid to the Scottish Deputies. In South Wales the Firemen receive 26/8 per day, in Leicestershire 30/-, Nottingham 29/8, Lancashire 26/8, Cumberland 24/8, and in Durham 24/- per day.

tears, we thank God for that hope. But mental toil and physical sweat, the conscious, united resolve of every man and woman to give all that is in them, will be required of us long after the last bomb or cannon has ceased to thunder."

Thus the reward for the terrible exertions and patient endurance of the masses in the war is... further intensified toil and sweat! And at the end of the toil and sweat? A Third Imperialist War! Already the Imperialists of all lands are preparing for the naked struggle for markets, raw materials, colonial spheres of influence, and strategic bases which must inevitably culminate in an armed struggle! Britain announces she must double her exports or more. America replies by a programme of trebling hers. The competition between Britain and America for the markets of the world, will be more intense than the embittered competition between Britain and Germany, which led to the present war. The armaments race is

(Continued on Back Page.)

The Scottish Firemen have received no wage increases since the Porter Award and the 4-year wage freeze agreement. Scottish Firemen receive 19/5 per shift, and Shot-firers 17/10 per shift. All underground workers in Scotland receive the same pay as the English and Welsh miners.

In June, 1944, the Deputies Federation of Great Britain applied for 3/6 a day increase. This was turned down by the Coal-owners. From there, the question was referred by the Ministry of Labour to the Coal Conciliation Board of Scotland—the graveyard of all workers' claims—which is composed of representatives from the National Union of Mineworkers and the Coal-owners' Federation. The Firemen refused to put their case before the Conciliation Board because they have no representation on the board.

At a special delegate meeting a unanimous vote in favour of strike action was taken. The coal-owners refuse to concede the justified and elementary demands of the Firemen, despite the critical shortage of coal 130,000 tons having been lost in the first ten days. The full responsibility of this situation must be placed where it belongs—on the shoulders of the Coal-owners.

Continued on page 4.



POLLING DAY NEATH BY-ELECTION: TUESDAY, MAY 15th, 1945

ill
ek.
Let
re-
nd of
s—
for a
world.



FROM SOLDIERS

An Atrocity Story

From a Soldier in France

January 1945.

Dear Comrades,

Because of my lack of French I only get around the Allied Forces Clubs, etc. From there I can see very little of what goes on in France. I gather, however, that in France the German soldiers have not been quite so black as painted.

When we were shown round a local 'Fort' which had been held by the Germans and used as a prison, the French commandant tried to impress upon us the terrible atrocities that had been committed there.

One bright day, half of our section was marched up to a fort to be shown round and impressed by the brutality of the "Hun". On arrival we were told by one officer who could speak English that he had terrible tales to tell us and asked us to forgive him if he broke down in the telling.

The first point of terror was the "chapel". It was impressed upon us that this had been left exactly as the Germans left it. It was in this "chapel" that prisoners had been taken to say their last prayers.

90 per cent. of the inscriptions consisted of five pointed stars and the old hammer and sickle. I asked the interpreter about this and he said: "Oh yes, the communists fought hard then but are hard to discipline." According to our informant 6,000 persons had been executed here, but there were only two stakes in the execution yard. The interpreter couldn't tell us how 6,000 bodies were disposed of. He would only say: "They were taken away and buried but I don't know where." The opinion of the lads was that the Germans must have been pretty clever to bury 6,000 bodies without a trace.

We were shown the torture chamber. Well, we saw nothing of impressive potentialities in the torture line here. The only thing which could be pointed out were some hooks on the wall where the patriots were hung, we were told. The system apparently was that a man was hung here till he strangled slowly.

I guess he must have strangled very slowly, because when we got closer we

important part in capitalist war propaganda—it is an essential part of the reactionary hate campaign.

This letter from a soldier exposes one story; in doing so it exposes many others.—(Ed.)

R.A.F. Corporal Supports Jock Haston

Comrades,

It would be greatly appreciated if you would send some of your literature to my brother in Swansea. I have pleasure in enclosing P.O. for 5/-.

Yours sincerely,

R.A.F. Cpl —

P.S.—It will be a pleasure for us to vote for our "Trotskyist" at Neath and we sincerely hope that he gets in.

Soldier Looks at India

India,
14.1.45.

The Indian papers gave some news of the Labour Party Conference. The nationalist press derided the remarks of Laski re India's freedom. The remarks of Laski re India's freedom was commented on neatly, that the Labour leaders are solely "socialist" guardians of His Majesty's Empire, or words to that effect. They showed the record of the past Labour Government and said "we want deeds."

In the Burma discussions, even the "Times of India" is critical of Amery's promises, and has shown that the Japanese have denounced the peasants' debt of £50,000,000 and cancelled them, thus demonstrating that academic plans are not suitable to defeat the Japanese monster.

I went along to a Toc H debating class for a tussle on: "Are the German people responsible for the atrocities and the war?" A gunner put a Van-

2,000 LEIGH MINERS STRIKE IN PROTEST

Before the Leigh Magistrate's Court on March 14th, three mineworkers were charged with the alleged theft of coal from the Mosley Common Colliery, Tyldesley. The accused were Frank Crook, Swan Lane, Bolton; Thos. Allred, Ellesmere Street, Fairthorpe; and Thos. Latchford, Alfred Street, Tyldesley.

The aggregate value of the coal in question was 1/4d.—or an average value of fivepence farthing per man.

For the employers—Manchester Collieries Ltd., it was stated that the Management's desire to put a stop to such thefts was the chief reason for the prosecution rather than the actual value involved. For the defence it was urged that the men had received less than the permitted coal allocation, and were without fuel at home. The coal had been taken quite openly and there had been no deliberate intention of theft.

The men were each bound over for 12 months in the sum of £5 and ordered to pay 15/- costs, and advocates fee of £1. 11. 6.

The week previously, 2,000 Mosley Common miners downed tools as a protest against the court proceedings, which were adjourned for one week. After resuming work the men decided at a further meeting to withdraw all workers' representatives from production, welfare, baths, and other Committees—considering that the strained relations with the Colliery management made further co-operation impossible. An inquiry into the matter by the Ministry of Fuel and Power was demanded—and the men decided to cover all possible defence and court costs by

a voluntary levy, any surplus going to the Russian Aid Fund.

One of the miners reported that certain friction had been caused by the Colliery Management's price cutting tendencies. One of the men concerned in the prosecution was the elected chargeman of a team of piece-workers. This man's efforts in the interests of his workmates had proved inconvenient for the management, who had attempted to shift him from the job. His fellow-workers had forced this man's reinstatement against the desire of the Colliery officials.

The practice of taking coal home had been going on for some time quite openly, and no attempt had been made to check it. The officials in fact, had joked about it, claiming that the colliery raised more coal during the riding period than during the coal winding shift. The miners claim that this practice was never very widespread, and would not have started but for the fuel scarcity at home.

The miners stated that the chargeman in question had never previously indulged in this practice until the date on which he was actually summoned. The workers suspected that it was more than a coincidence that the company should suddenly decide to exercise its property rights in this matter.

Believing that the other cases had been roped in to conceal the real motive for the prosecution—the continued victimisation of this particular worker—2,000 workers downed tools in protest against the action of the Colliery Company.

T. J.

NEATH FUND

Workers! We Rely on You!!

Dear Comrades,

Polling day has been fixed for 15th May and between that date and this we have to try and get our revolutionary voice into every quarter of a very large and scattered constituency. We ask all comrades to send in any monies that they may have collected immediately.

We have collected up to the present £344 12s. 3d.; this sum has come entirely from the shillings and pennies of the workers in the factories and the forces. Out of the total amount £41 8s. 0d. has been sent in by workers in the forces serving in all parts of the world.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.
Elland, Yorks	1	0	0	F.J. (Salop Worker)	3	15 2
R.C.A.F.	2	0	0	Spr. B.		11 0
South Wales Workers	7	18	0	Group of Workers (J.D.)		117 0
Edinburgh	1	0	0	Pte. A.C.		10 0
H.A.	12	0	0	Mrs. R. (Surrey)		5 0
Belfast Comrades	10	0	0	Huddersfield R.C.P.		5 0
Plymouth	12	6		Pte. W.L. (C.M.F.)		1 0 0
Eastbourne	13	0	0	Pte. A.H.		2 0
I.L.P. Sympathisers	1	2	6	Sheffield R.C.P.		1 0 0
Glasgow Branches	24	15	3	M.T., Wolverhampton		18 2
Newcastle Workers	8	10	6	Edinburgh Public Meeting		1 0 0
Newark (Yorks Miners)	1	17	6	I.L.P. Sympathiser		6 0
F. J., Royal Navy		10	0	Poole Comrades		3 0 0
Soldiers in Italy		5	0	Canadian Soldier		4 0 0
A Soldier in Italy		10	0	A.D., Cornwall		2 0
W.C. (Yorks Miners)		10	0	I.K.		1 0 0
Leeds R.C.P.		2	0	Birmingham R.C.P.		2 16 0
Neath Workers		2	4	T.D., Sailor		1 0 0
Soldier in India		2	0	U.S. Soldier		1 0 0
Enfield R.O.F. Workers		1	0	Palestine Comrades		5 0 0
Pte. G.N. (Holland)		15	0	E.S.		5 0
Edgeware, 3 A.E.U.		1	10	W.S., Edinburgh		9 0
South Wales Workers		3	12	Y.C.Ler (Midlands)		1 6
Cannock Miners		2	11	Bristol Sympathiser		2 0 0
Neath Workers		1	1	Polish Soldiers		2 0 0
D.J.		1	12	Neath Workers		1 11 0
J.P. Engineer		2	0	A C.P.er		10 0
Norwich R.C.P.		5	0	Italian Trotskyists		1 0 0
Liverpool District Committee		15	0	J.C.		1 0 0
Middle East Airman		10	0	A.B. (Fife)		3 0
K.V.W.S.		3	0	South African Trotskyists		25 0 0
Rugby Workers		1	17	Elland (Yorks)		1 0 0
Motherwell			1 11	London District Committee		85 0 0
Neath Workers		1	10			
Nottingham R.C.P.		40	0			£344 12 3

Statement of the Leith Strike Committee

2 Granton Medway,
Edinburgh
March 19th, 1945.

Dear Sir or Brother,

We hope you will give the widest possible publicity to the following statement in order to counteract any false reports that may appear in the capitalist press with regard to the present strike in Leith Docks.

IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE STRIKE

While the present strike must be regarded as the culmination of a whole series of legitimate grievances over a long period, which the employers and the

The Leith dockers had no alternative but to take strike action in an endeavour to have their many and long standing grievances rectified and accordingly make the following demands.

DOCK CONDITIONS

- The immediate and unconditional repayment of the money deducted from the wages of the 72 men.
- The introduction of a general manning scale for the whole dock.
- Equal representation on the L.J.C. which must meet regularly each month, with 48 hours notice given by either side for special meetings.

JOCK HASTON'S MEETINGS:

Commencing 7 p.m.:

April 3rd TUES. - CADOXTON SENIOR SCHOOL.
" 4th WED. - GLYN-NEATH BOYS' SCHOOL.
" 5th THURS. - CWMGRACH SCHOOL.
" 6th FRI. - TYNRYHEOL MIXED SCHOOL.

Commencing 3.30 p.m.:

April 8th SUN. - SKEWEN, CO-OP. HALL.

Commencing 7.30 p.m.:

April 8th SUN. - NEATH UNEMPLOYED HUT.

The only thing which could be pointed out were some hooks on the wall where the patriots were hung, we were told. The system apparently was that a man was hung here till he strangled slowly. Guess he must have strangled very slowly, because when we got closer we found that the hooks were only shoulder high.

The lads in the section describe the whole tale as a hoax. I could see no traces of a horror fort. We were given to expect a minor "Lublin" but all we found were some rusty hooks. The general impression was that it was bloody nonsense. No doubt many workers had been shot by the Gestapo, but there was no concrete evidence of mass killings, as they tried to impress upon us to prove that the ordinary German soldier was involved. I expect this sort of thing can be multiplied a thousand times in France and all over Europe.

The main result of this "horror" visit has been to make the lads completely sceptical of all atrocity stories.

Fraternally,
Jim C.

Every war has its atrocities, and its atrocity stories. This war more so than any other. There can be no doubt that Hitler and the Gestapo—the Nazi regime—has slaughtered many workers. Our own comrades have been murdered by the Nazis. But the atrocity stories fabricated by the British capitalist and yellow press plays an

them, thus demonstrating that academic plans are not suitable to defeat the Japanese monster.

I went along to a Toc H debating class for a tussle on: "Are the German people responsible for the atrocities and the war?" A gunner put a Vansittart case and an opportunist was supposed to oppose him. He knew nothing and actually differed little from the Vansittartite. The audience was uneasy sitting through it all. The lads then let go. Over 12 took part putting up a class case. Points introduced were Greece, India, Ireland and colonial policy. Only one tried to justify Vansittartism—he was an Austrian refugee.

Monty's statement re German youth was hotly opposed by the men and at another meeting of the Padre's, it got the works and even the speaker could not believe it had been made.

Most of these friends I met recently are C.P. who don't support the official line. They are very friendly and interested.

THE C.P.

The C.P. is very unpopular and members are attacked almost daily. They say that their members have been stabbed and physically assaulted. A poor effort to counteract such unpopularity is made by such statements that their membership has increased since the "win the war" date from 4,434 to 9,122 and sales of paper has increased from 14,837 to 33,000 plus general increases in provincial organs. From limited information the opposite has occurred, and the working class is confused on the role of the Soviet Union. A little item appeared in the daily paper to say that a peasant union had decided to change its flag from red to Congress. This may have some significance on the above.

The workers in this area only earn about 1/6 per day which makes them very poor. The cost of living for eggs alone has increased 500 per cent from peace time. The rupee in all can be likened to 5d. in 1939 values. Everyone in the family, young and old, are forced to labour as the result. Yesterday I saw a child of 3 years learning to balance a load on her head. Women dig roads alongside men, but this is not always the case. Their usual job is carrying baskets of rock to the primitive builders. Things are so antiquated. Working hard, a motor took hours to load with gravel, and the way they did it was to scoop gravel into the baskets and carry them to the lorry. A couple of good "shovel men" would have done it—flinging direct into the lorry, in an hour. So the rich Indian contractors do not put much capital into modern machinery. Massive undertakings are carried out with such backward methods. These isolated villagers are being proletarianised afloat.

The hours worked are usually near the 12 mark each day of the week. Fruit sellers work longer than this for 7/6 a week.

In a small town nearby, a Muslim celebration was held recently and Hindus joined in the merriment. It was solely composed of members of the working class. Such celebrations were at one time resented by other religions and ended in a squabble or something worse.

Pte. X.

IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF

THE STRIKE

While the present strike may be regarded as the culmination of a whole series of legitimate grievances over a long period, which the employers and the Trade Union leadership have failed to remedy, the events which precipitated the present strike are as follows.

For the past 5 years it has been customary for the dockers to have a short break morning and afternoon for tea or other refreshment. This practice has been sanctioned and verbally endorsed by the employers at a meeting of the L.J.C. about a year ago.

72 men received their wages last week, and discovered that half an hour had been deducted for each break. This action was taken by the employer without reporting the matter to the L.J.C. which is an infringement of the local agreement. Nor was the alleged breach of contract on the part of the men reported to the local Manager, which is an infringement of the N.D.L.C. agreement.

Whereas the employers normally use whichever agreement best serves their interests, the immediate cause of the present strike is the flagrant violation of existing agreements on the part of the employers and the consequent breakdown of local negotiating machinery, which is proving itself more and more unfitted to serve the interests of the dockers.

The introduction of a general manning scale for the whole dock.

3. Equal representation on the L.J.C. which must meet regularly each month, with 48 hours notice given by either side for special meetings.

4. Immediate enquiry into various local grievances, e.g. differentials, protective clothing, safe sling loads, etc.

N.D.L.C. SCHEME.

1. Immediate enquiry into the mal-administration of the N.D.L.C. scheme.
2. An end to the dictatorial powers of the local manager.
3. A uniform guaranteed weekly wage irrespective of categories.
4. Reinstatement of dismissed men.
5. Full enquiry and investigation of various other anomalies that arise under the scheme.

The strike is regarded by the Trade Union as unofficial and the Leit dockers are as a consequence deprived of any financial support. This struggle is also your struggle and in order to conduct it successfully your moral and financial support is essential.

Resolutions of solidarity and contributions to the Strike Fund should be sent immediately to the Secretary of the Strike Committee, Mr. R. Gardiner, 2 Granton Medway, Edinburgh 5.

Yours fraternally,
R. Gardiner,
Secretary.

NEATH NEWS

BY P. PEVALIN

THE ELECTION IS OFFICIALLY ON! With the issuing of the writ and the declaration of polling day for 15th May, the campaign is beginning to produce an even greater interest in our programme. The official notices of election are to be seen almost everywhere, while our mass canvasses and meetings are helping to liven things up.

It now seems certain that there will be three candidates in the field, the official Labour-Coalition candidate, D. J. Williams of G.C.G., the Welsh Nationalist, Wynne Samuel, and our own Revolutionary Communist candidate Jock Haston.

The chief centre of interest will undoubtedly circle around the difference in policies of Labour-Coalition and Revolutionary Communism. With the possibility of a continuation of the Coalition after the war—which even the Communist Party are supporting—the people of Neath are beginning to realise that the Labour Party can offer them little more than has Churchill in the past. Although

breaking away from the traditional voting for the Labour Party is a hard break for the average worker, because of the reactionary role which the Labour leaders are playing in the Coalition Government, we know the workers here will not flinch in their demonstration for a revolutionary change to the workers of other parts of Britain, and to their families serving in the armed forces.

The widespread sale of our literature throughout the valleys and in the town will undoubtedly have made an impression, and a new source of interest. It is good to hear the worker say: "Thank goodness there is a party who still carries on the banner of Communism, untouched and unpolluted." On the canvass in Clydach, more than once it was said "About time, comrade, that your ideas were brought down here."

Almost the whole of the Glynneath valley has been canvassed, together with the outskirts of Neath, and part of the town itself. Comrades and sup-

(Continued at foot of next column.)

4th WED. - GLYN-NEATH BOYS' SCHOOL.
5th THURS. - CWMGRACH SCHOOL.
6th FRI. - TYNYRHEOL MIXED SCHOOL.

Commencing 3.30 p.m.:

April 8th SUN. - SKEWEN, CO-OP. HALL.

Commencing 7.30 p.m.:

April 8th SUN. - NEATH, UNEMPLOYED HUT.

Commencing 7 p.m.:

April 11th WED. - RESOLVEN BOYS' SCHOOL.

" 13th FRI. - TONNA JUNIOR SCHOOL.

" 16th MON. - TREBANOS MIXED SCHOOL.

" 17th TUES. - SEVEN SISTERS BOYS' SCHOOL.

" 18th WED. - CRYNANT SCHOOL.

" 19th THURS. - RHOS MIXED SCHOOL.

" 20th FRI. - MAESMARCHOG SENIOR SCHOOL.

Commencing 3.30 p.m.:

April 22nd SUN. - YSTALYFFERA, MINERS' WELFARE HALL.

Commencing 7 p.m.:

April 24th TUES. - PONTARDAWE BOYS' SCHOOL.

" 25th WED. - CLYDACH GIRLS' SCHOOL.

" 26th THURS. - ONLLWYN MIXED SCHOOL.

SPEAKERS in SUPPORT will include:

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| AJIT ROY | - | - | Indian Trotskyist. |
| TED GRANT | - | - | Editor "Socialist Appeal." |
| N. KASTINOS | - | - | Greek Socialist. |
| EDGAR THOMAS | - | - | Gorseion. |
| JOHN LAWRENCE | - | - | South Wales Organiser. |
| BILL DAVY | - | - | Tyne Apprentice Leader. |
| JACK JONES | - | - | G—G—G. |
| TOM NICHOLSON | - | - | International Brigade. |

COME AND ASK THE CANDIDATE YOUR QUESTIONS.

(Continued from previous column)

porters from most areas in Britain are giving up their summer holidays and coming to Neath to help in the first revolutionary challenge to the misleaders of the working class movement, and their belly-crawling to Churchill.

Jock Haston, the candidate, and N. Kastinos, one of our Greek comrades, spoke at a series of meetings. At the Unemployed Hut, our election agent, Heaton Lee, was in the chair, and he opened the meeting with a short but forceful emphasis on the importance of a serious study of Greek events. Comrade Kastinos gave a clear and bitter indictment of the massacre of his Greek comrades, and demonstrated conclusively that British Imperialism had armed and aided the Greek reactionaries, while E.L.A.S. received scarcely a trickle of arms, and this, moreover, over a considerable period. He showed plainly a well-prepared plan to suppress any revolutionary struggles of the Greek workers. Jock Haston pointed out that the Greek events were but a preview of the forthcoming European struggles. Not only were the Labour leaders in the Cabinet aware of these plans, but Ernest Bevin at the Labour Party Conference speaking on behalf of these traitors, openly announced his intention of supporting any such counter-revolutionary moves. The lessons of Greece, he pointed out, demanded an unrelenting struggle by revolutionary workers against Churchill and his Labour lieutenants. As usual every opportunity was given for questions, discussions and criticisms,

and this was taken full advantage of by the workers present.

At RESOLVEN Boys' School, a large audience gathered to hear Jock Haston speak on "Labour to Power." The standard of questions and discussion were extremely high, and great interest was shown in our analysis of wage differences in the Soviet Union which, as always enters into the discussions. A good collection towards the expenses was taken.

The West Wales District Committee of the R.C.P. has answered the Stalinist slander leaflet which has been distributed throughout the constituency by the Communist Party, as reported in our last issue. A copy can be had on application at our headquarters. Compare for yourselves the policies of both parties and we feel sure our policy alone will stand the test.

The premises, by dint of much hard work, is rapidly becoming a model headquarters. With local aid and the influx of orange boxes into the area as basic constructional material, a first-class headquarters is emerging. Our window display attracts the attention of the passers-by. Our record of back issues of the "Socialist Appeal" and literature of our French, Belgian, South African, American, Dutch and Italian parties is on show, many of which have been produced under illegal conditions.

Meetings throughout the constituency will be taking place from now until the eve of the poll. Speakers from all parts of the country, will be here to help further the cause of International Socialism. Details of these meetings will be found elsewhere in this issue.

**SOCIALIST
APPEAL**

Organ of the Revolutionary
Communist Party, British Section of
the Fourth International.
256 HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2
Phone: CUN 2526.
EDITOR: E. Grant.
BUSINESS MANAGER: Ann Keen.

EDITORIAL

Allied Bombing Policy

The Press and Radio are full of reports of Allied bombing of "enemy" territory. The ten-ton bomb, the flying bomb and the rocket are the latest "achievements" of science prostituted in the service of imperialism. The results of aerial bombing are vividly portrayed. The "News Chronicle" of March 12th, reports:

"Bomber Command has now completed the 'master-bomber plan' conceived by Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris exactly three years ago for the elimination of all German industry, a staff officer stated today . . . The officer disclosed the following official figures of the devastation in the Ruhr: Duisburg and Hamborn—over 40 per cent. total destruction; Mulheim—over 64 per cent.; Oberhausen—42 per cent.; Essen—where the huge Krupp works run straight through the centre of the town and built-up areas—over 50 per cent.; Gelsenkirchen—36 per cent.; Bochum—centre of high-grade steel industry—88 per cent.; Dortmund—46 per cent.; Duesseldorf—65 per cent."

And from the "Daily Herald" of the same day we read:

"The heart of Tokyo has been burned to ashes and smouldering ruin. A million people are homeless. About 15 square miles of factories, offices and houses—with the small-scale domestic industry that was carried on in the larger Japanese homes—have been utterly destroyed by the myriad showers of incendiaries dropped by 300 Super-Fortresses in Friday's raid."

The bombing plan is something very much more than a purely temporary military measure. Allied imperialism aims at nothing less than the "elimination of all German industry"—and of Japanese industry too. This plan completely exposes the utter hypocrisy of the Allied outbursts against the "German barbarians" who dropped bombs on London, Coventry, Hull, etc.

It is a terrifying prospect that, should the capitalists maintain their system intact long enough to produce World War Three, the horrors we witness today would be as nothing in comparison with the horrors that would then be let loose upon suffering humanity.

The prevention or destruction of revolutionary movements, which is always and everywhere a prime consideration with the imperialists, takes its place as part of the bombing strategy of Allied imperialism. Recall the intensive bombardment of Milan and Turin which followed the overthrow of Fascism in Italy: the Allies desired to destroy the factories and the working class districts, and thus terrorise and scatter the workers and render them impotent. This same factor enters into the calculated

For over two decades the workers of Neath have voted for the Labour Party. Successively, the leaders of the Labour Party have promised them a heaven on earth. Repeatedly either in opposition or in Government, they have broken their promises, betrayed the workers and have acted as agents of the boss class.

The bare facts of their record since 1929 will convince any worker of the treacherous role of the Labour leaders and the necessity to turn their attention to the ideas of Revolutionary Communism.

1929—What did they promise and—What did they give?

Unemployment was the major issue of the 1929 election. Therefore the election manifesto declared:

"The Labour Party gives an unqualified pledge to deal immediately and practically with unemployment. Its record on this question is a guarantee that this pledge will be kept."

Neither the short term programme of industrial schemes nor the long term programme of technical improvements was carried out. In any case the Capitalist crisis could not be solved except by drastic measures against the capitalists, which the Labour leaders were not prepared to take. Unemployment increased from 1,222,713 to 2,050,000 within the first year of the Labour Government.

To the Miners the Manifesto promised:

"The Labour Party demands the nationalisation of the coal industry . . . Though, however, a Labour Government would take upon itself the duty of nationalising the mines, it could not—pending passage into law of its proposals, the creation of administrative machinery necessary, and the carrying into full effect of its policy—stand idly by and acquiesce in the intolerable conditions prevailing in the coal fields. On the contrary, it would come to the immediate succour of the mining population with the greatest speed. The disastrous Act by which the Tory Government added an hour to the Working Day must be at once repealed."

Labour held the reins of Government for two years but no Act to nationalise the mines was brought in. The working day was reduced to 7½ hours by agreement with the Tories but not to 7 hours as promised.

"Among the first tasks of the Labour Party, therefore will be to repeal the cynical measures of class legislation by which the Conservatives have sought to cripple the strength of trade unionism both on the industrial and on the political field."

This was before the elections. After the elections, when the Labour Government was formed it was announced: "A measure will be introduced to remedy the situation created by the

Record of the Labour Party

BY V. SIMMS

But within the two years of the Labour Government, 1,250,000 Congress leaders, trade unionists, peasants, and students were imprisoned. An unprecedented reign of terror was imposed on India. Newspapers all over the country were suppressed. Worker demonstrations were fired on in Peshawar (23/4/1930), Sholapur (5/5/30), Bombay (July 1930), Ahmadabad (July 1930) and other industrial areas. Thousands of them were killed and wounded.

The oppressed African masses fared no better. In Nigeria, women were demonstrating against the seizure of their goods by the European combines and traders at a nominal price. On 14th December 1929, women were shot dead by the police, on 16/12/1929, nineteen women were killed by rifle-fire, ten women died of wounds, and eight women were pushed into the river and drowned in the panic which followed the order to fire.

This is how the Labour leaders kept their promises to the miners, to the colonial masses, and to the unemployed. The fiasco of two years of criminal rule was ended by the Post-Office Savings Swindle and the MacDonald betrayal.

This was the Labour Government in practice. Passing into opposition they actually mouthed revolutionary phrases. In 1933, Hitler came to power in Germany. War clouds were gathering in Europe and the Far East. The cap-

italists were preparing to drag the working class into the holocaust of a second World War. The Labour leaders knew the causes of the war, and knew how to end it. For example, the Annual Conference of the Labour Party at Hastings in 1933, adopted the following resolution unanimously.

"This Conference views with the most grave disquiet the steady drift of the international situation towards war . . . and pledges itself to TAKE NO PART IN WAR and to RESIST it with the whole force of the Labour Movement, and to seek consultations forthwith with the Trade Union and Co-operative Movements with a view to deciding and announcing to the country what steps including a General Strike are to be taken to organise the opposition of the organised working class movement in the event of war or the threat of war."

Once again Attlee in "The Will and the Way to Socialism" declared in 1935:

"In the modern era imperialist wars have been the result of the rivalries of contending capitalist groups utilising the emotion of patriotism to further their own interests."

When the War broke out, Major Attlee and the other Labour leaders rallied to the banner of British Imperialism so that the British Capitalists "utilising the emotion of patriotism" could "further their own interests". Instead of "resisting" the war and calling the "General Strike" promised

at Hastings Conference in 1933, the industrial and political truce was proclaimed!

For a period a mock opposition was maintained in the House of Commons. After all, had they not rejected "class collaboration" and coalition during the days of "Communist" agitation for a Popular Front? Had they not expelled Cripps uncerimoniously for this crime?

The quick collapse of France and the capitulation, and collaboration of the French Capitalists revealed the incompetence and corruption, of the ruling class all over the world. The British Capitalists too were in disgrace with the workers. So the Labour leaders rushed into the coalition to save them. Indeed, Bevin declared that without the Labour and Trade Union leaders, the government could not have held power.

The Labour leaders could not just enter the Coalition. They had to fool the masses, make promises, and thunder against the perilous state of the country to which the Tories had brought it. So they came to the Bournemouth Conference of the Labour Party in 1940 for a mandate to enter the Government. Attlee said: "We go in, as partners, and not hostages." He ended up his speech with a peroration: "Let us go forward and win that liberty, and establish that liberty for ever on the sure foundation of social justice."

Greenwood was more voluble and more rhetorical. He prophesied:

We shall have (by entering the coalition) greater power than we have today. We shall have a grip on the trembling capitalist system which can never recover again. We shall have broken the back of vested interests. On the Home Front with the power that we possess, we can build a Socialist State and abroad we may bring the most powerful factor in the world to get the kind of just and eternal peace which we all desire."

EMPTY WORDS! FALSE PROMISES!

Brave words. But let us look at the deeds of this Coalition, and the part played by the Labour leaders in the Coalition.

LABOUR LEADERS' RECORD IN THE COALITION.

At Home.

Conscription of all workers under the E.W.O.—No conscription of property or wealth.

Conscription of life for the war—No confiscation of war profits.

The whole of the country's industry placed under the control of the big monopolies and combines.

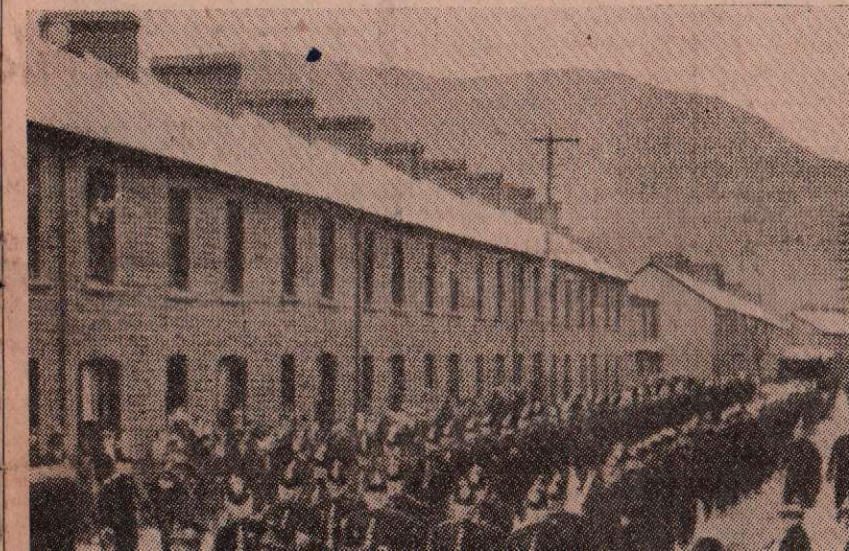
Increased profits for the bosses, while the wages of the workers have lagged behind the rising cost of living.

The army used to break strikes.

No democracy in the armed forces—complete control under the reactionary officer caste.

Prosecution of revolutionary workers under the anti-Labour Trade Disputes Act for the first time and the arrest

Labour Government in Action 300 "LABOUR" POLICE ESCORT 3 SCABS IN GARW VALLEY.



imperialists, takes its place as part of the bombing strategy of Allied imperialism. Recall the intensive bombardment of Milan and Turin which followed the overthrow of Fascism in Italy: the Allies desired to destroy the factories and the working class districts, and thus terrorise and scatter the workers and render them impotent. This same factor enters into the calculated bombing of the industrial cities of Germany and Japan

We have in our Press consistently exposed the real nature of the war. We have pointed out that the war is being waged between the rival imperialists seeking world domination. This is the main reason for the day and night saturation bombing of German cities, which plan is not yet in full swing on the paper cities of Japan.

For the masses, the destruction of the cities of Europe means, in material terms: **no food, water, housing, fuel or light; it means unemployment, hunger, disease and demoralisation.** Reducing the peoples of Europe to sub-human living standards, American imperialism, which completely dominates its imperialist allies, seeks to enslave an entire continent. It would be wrong to imagine that the Allied bombing plans are directed only against German industry. The destruction of German industry, the backbone of European economy, condemns Europe to a future of complete dependence upon, and submission to the industrial might of America.

The bombing is also a preparation for carrying out the policy of "reparations in kind", that is, slave-labour. This is clearly implied by Sir Arthur Salter (Chairman of the Reparations Committee after the last war) in his article in the "Evening Standard" of March 20th, where he writes:

"... workers may, of course, be required to migrate in large numbers under the same kind of compelling authority as that by which foreign workers have been obtained by Germany. . . . It is possible that the conditions of the labour market in Germany will be such that genuine volunteers will be numerous."

The implications are clear enough: having destroyed Germany as an industrial nation, the Allies, including Russia, will then proceed to round up the German masses for slave-labour abroad.

Thus the "war for democracy" turns out to be a war for the enslavement of the peoples of the globe, in the first place of Germany and Japan. And the bombing is one of the means whereby this plan is to be achieved.

German fascism, in its heyday, also saw itself as the master of Europe "for a thousand years", and likewise used bombing as a means towards this end. American imperialism, together with its British Junior Partner, hopes to succeed where Hitler failed. Destruction, poverty, misery, pestilence and "horror without end", such is the future which capitalism outlines for humanity! However, the European masses have not yet been heard, and it is they alone, in the last analysis, who will determine the destiny of the European continent.

NOW ON SALE!

GERMANY—The Key to the International Situation

By **LEON TROTSKY.** December, 1931

INTRODUCTION by **TED GRANT** - - 6d.

of trade unionism both on the industrial and on the political field."

This was before the elections. After the elections, when the Labour Government was formed it was announced: "A measure will be introduced to remedy the situation created by the Trade Disputes Act, 1927". Not that the Act will be repealed as promised before the election but the "situation will be remedied." But needless to say that neither the Act was repealed nor the situation remedied.

The Labour leaders were full of sympathy in words for the Indian and the Colonial masses. The Manifesto said:

"It believes in the right of the Indian people to self-determination, and the policy of a Labour Government would be one of continuous co-operation with them with the object of establishing India at the earliest possible moment, and, by her consent, as an equal partner with the other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations."



During October, 1929, the miners of Garw Valley, South Wales, went on strike against non-unionism. In this valley there was a Labour Council, and apparently the miners thought that with a National Labour Government, the time was favourable for strike action. The employers were only able to get 3 blacklegs to work, but 300 police were drafted in by the Labour leaders to escort the scabs to and from the pit.

Fourth International News

The 3rd International is Dead—the 4th Lives

News and publications received from our parties in Europe indicate that Trotskyism is growing in strength and influence.

The European Executive Committee publishes a handsome 30-page magazine "IVth International."

FRANCE

Our French party, the P.C.I., works under conditions of capitalist and Stalinist terror, in spite of which it has succeeded in sinking its roots into the working class. Its weekly paper "La Vérité" has been refused permission to appear legally, and consequently has to be printed and distributed illegally—under the "democracy" of de Gaulle, as it did under the dictatorship of Hitler and Laval.

The Press Federation, replying to our comrades' demand that they hasten the legalisation of "La Vérité", justify their refusal by stating that, while "La Vérité" admittedly resisted Hitler and Pétain:

"it has always put Messrs. Churchill and Roosevelt on the same plane as Hitler and Mussolini . . . Writing on the eve of the invasion: 'The Allies are preparing to replace the failing Nazi gendarme.'"

"What do the workers think of this?" asks our party. "Has not our policy been shown to be a hundred times right? What is General Erskine doing in Belgium and the hangman Scobie in Greece, if not replacing the German generals in their job, which consists in saving the tottering capitalist regime?"

While de Gaulle bans "La Vérité" because, in resisting the Nazis it proclaimed the necessity of overthrowing all the capitalists, the big capitalist newspapers "Le Temps" and "Paris-soir" which collaborated with the Nazis reappear freely under new names—"Le Monde" and "Paris-press".

BY DAVID JAMES

The situation in France 6 months after the "liberation" fully justifies our condemnation of the Allied imperialists as equally predatory as the German. The capitalists are unable to start French industry, and innumerable factories are discharging their workers. At the same time "La Vérité" reports the case of 130 factories in the Loire region which had belonged to collaborationist owners, in which production had been started under democratically-elected workers' committees. **The Government is attempting to close them, declaring the Committees illegal, and the banks refuse credits. The capitalists and their Government prefer to let France go to ruin rather than allow the workers to make inroads into the sacred rights of management!**

And while industry is stagnating the food situation is appalling, largely owing to Allied requisitioning of transport. On March 21st, thousands of women demonstrated in Paris crying: "We are living on air! Our children are tubercular!" The Paris ration is the lowest since the siege of 1870.

To end this economic chaos and capitalist sabotage, the P.C.I., at its National Congress in December, drew up a programme of action:

"A plan of reconstruction to be drawn up by the C.G.T. (General Confederation of Labour) and applied under the control of workers' committees.

Nationalisation of the banks and trusts without compensation.

Government of the Socialist Party, Communist Party and C.G.T.

Arming the people, workers' militias.

International unity of action of the working class."

BELGIUM

In Belgium the party and its paper are legal. The failure of the Stalinists and Socialists to challenge the capitalists for power in the crisis last November was a setback to the workers; but our party has extended its influence, particularly among the miners of Charleroi. In the Borinage, a re-awakening is indicated. Some comrades who went to the area sold out all their papers (several hundred) in an hour and a half, and many miners asked to be put in touch with the party. The party has also made gains in Liège and Antwerp, in the latter they control a Flemish trade-union paper, and were active in the dockers' strike, which led to the arrest of two of our comrades (as reported in our last issue).

Disillusion is growing in the ranks of the Belgian Communist Party with the class-collaboration of the leadership. Already a section of the Stalinist-influenced youth movement (Jeunes Gardes Socialistes Unifiés) in Brussels has broken away and adopted the Trotskyist position on the war and the U.S.S.R.

Our Spanish comrades are active in the emigration. In Mexico they publish "Contra la Corriente" (Against the Stream) and in France "Lucha de Classe" (The Class Struggle). There is an opposition inside the POUM in France to the leadership, who still have Popular Front ideas and have decided to confine POUM to Catalonia in order not to annoy the Socialists in the rest of Spain. "La Vérité" reports that our party has regrouped its forces in Spain itself, in spite of the Falangist terror. We can be confident that the Spanish workers who struggled so valiantly against fascism, and who were betrayed vilely by the Popular Front, will turn in masses to the Fourth International in the coming days.

the wages of the workers have lagged behind the rising cost of living.

The army used to break strikes—complete control under the reactionary officer caste.

Prosecution of revolutionary workers under the anti-Labour Trade Disputes Act for the first time and the arrest and imprisonment of Jock Haston, Roy Tearse, Heaton Lee and Ann Keen for "inciting" to strike.

Introduction of Regulation 1A(a), making strikes illegal, with a penalty of 5 years' imprisonment. An attack on the Shop Stewards' movement.

Prosecution and conviction of thousands of workers under the E.W.O. 1,807 workers imprisoned, while NOT A SINGLE EMPLOYER HAS BEEN SENT TO PRISON. Abroad.

Agreements with pro-fascists and reactionaries—Darlan, Plastiras, etc. Intervention against the Greek workers and peasants fighting for their democratic liberties against the reactionary monarchy.

Imprisonment of 89,000 anti-fascist Greek soldiers in Cairo.

Establishment of A.M.G.O.T., with Lord Rennel, a banker and pro-fascist at its head to suppress the European revolutions.

Forced disarming of the Belgian masses.

The adoption of the Vansittart policy against the German workers and peasants, instead of blaming the German capitalists and the City of London financiers who supported Hitler. In the Colonies.

Forced labour in the African territories.

Refusal to arm the masses of Malaya and Burma.

The suppression of the Indian rising for freedom in 1942.

Thousands of Indians demanding freedom still languishing in prisons.

The use of air bombing, machine-gunning, tear gas, collective fines, shooting of hostages and flogging on the Starving Indian masses.

Famine in India caused by imperialist administration resulting in the death of 5,000,000 from starvation.

Equal partners in the coalition! That was Attlee's promise. The criminal record speaks for itself. The Labour leaders have acted as nothing more or less than the lackeys of the Tories.

Citrine, in making excuses for the role of the Labour leaders, said at the T.U.C. in October 1940 at Southport:

"The Government is a coalition Government, and the Labour representatives are not masters in the House they occupy."

They are not masters, they are lackeys, licking the boots and carrying out all the dirty jobs for the Tory masters.

In Neath, the Labour Party asks the workers to support this bloodstained coalition. The issue is simple and straightforward: are the workers of Neath going to support Churchill and his lackeys, or are they going to support the anti-Churchill, anti-coalition candidate who fights for an independent working class struggle for power on a socialist programme.

The workers of the whole world will be watching this election—the Greek, the Indian, the German workers. Let the workers of Neath give their resounding reply by extending a hand of solidarity to the colonial masses—to the German workers. Forward for a Socialist Britain and a Socialist world.

BOSSES FEAR FRATERNISATION

A hundred thousand civilians living like animals under the flattened ruins of Cologne. This is the picture which greets the Allied soldiers in their advance on the Rhine. This is the picture of all Germany—misery, desolation, hunger and plague.

On this background, the capitalist press openly express their fear of fraternisation. They frantically try to whip up hate against the German workers and peasants.

But despite the heavy fines—"Stars and Stripes" report a fine of £100 on a Warrant Officer for visiting a German home—despite imprisonment imposed on the soldiers, fraternisation is taking place.

A woman reporter, in a crude hate article, writing in the "People" of March 18th, states that the American soldiers are carrying the bags for German girls. When she protested to them, one soldier said:

"They are down, I am not going to rub their nose in it."

The no-fraternisation policy was to have been carried out even in religious observance. But in the Rhineland it didn't work that way. The German civilians had been granted special permission to go to mass. The army mess was still in progress when they arrived, and about 200 filed into church. When the army service was over, 2,000 Germans streamed in together with soldiers who were late for their own mass.

Expecting to meet a nation of fanatical Nazis, if the Army and Allied propaganda was to be believed, the British and American soldier is confronted with a quite different picture: a frightened downtrodden people, who have suffered for 12 years under the Nazi Gestapo, and who welcome them with smiles and friendly gestures as liberators from Hitler. And they see in Germany the same class distinction against the workers and peasants as exists in the capitalist countries throughout the world, for, contrary to the capitalist propaganda, the German people gained nothing from the war just as the British and American people gain nothing.

The lie that this hatred of Hitler and the Nazis is a mask put on to deceive the Allied soldiers, is so thin that the capitalist press is trying to back up its arguments with tales of well-filled larders, and implications that the German masses have been living on the fat of the land off the back of occupied Europe. Just as much can be said that the British workers are

R. RYAN

living on the fat of the land off the back of India and the colonial peoples.

Significant is the statement of A. J. Cummings, of the "News Chronicle":

"A high British authority, who has a just reputation for understatement, told me a few days ago that Germany's food position now is worse than it was in 1918."

The same authority added: "The position will become grimmer still after the war. There will be very little imported food left for Germany when we have done our best for the liberated countries. In fact it is not an extravagant estimate that in post-war Germany, at least 5 millions of her citizens may starve to death."

Whilst barriers are enforced between Allied soldiers and the German masses, the Allies are placing in authoritative and administrative posts, known members of the Nazi party. Ronald Matthews of the "Daily Herald" describes how Captain Mallen, Military Governor of Rheydt got to work this way in choosing a mayor. After questioning members of the former administration he appointed Heinrich Vogelsang as mayor. Mallen told the reporter:

"Vogelsang was a member of the Nazi Party, but I don't think he is a Nazi. He joined the Party only in 1940 under pressure because he could not be made personnel director unless he held the Party card."

In other words, Allied officers are quite prepared to believe this change of face when it suits them, and their class interests.

As on the West, so in the East the German masses are faced with the same racial hatred, and blame for the crimes of the Nazis. Ilya Ehrenburg spokesman for the present leaders in the Soviet Union, writes:

"The Germans can protest as hard as they like that they aren't playing any more, but they won't get away with it. They were united in their misdeeds."

This vicious campaign of race hatred is carried on by the "Daily Worker". On 27th March a revolting editorial appeared entirely opposing all the ideas of Marx and Lenin, Internationalism and working-class solidarity, and breathing the spirit of nationalism and chauvinist hate. This policy of race hatred can only force the German workers behind Hitler, against the Red Army. According to the article "the

general attitude of the German population both East and West is not overtly hostile." But if Stalin's policy of race hatred is continued, this attitude will indeed be changed to active hostility.

For the "Communist Party" to talk of guilt for the crimes of Hitler is colossal impudence in the face of the fact that Stalin was quite prepared to shake the hand of Hitler when he signed the Stalin-Hitler pact. Then, he condoned the crimes of Hitler and blamed America and Britain. Now, the German workers are to blame.

Even elementary humane practices in an American prison camp, is too much for these traitors. In the same issue of the "Worker" an item entitled "Humane—But Foolish", the supposed anti-fraternisation warnings of a German Engineer at 21st Army Group Headquarters are quoted with relish:

"After surrendering to the Americans I saw the mistakes they were committing in being humane."

Among the prisoners was a man whose wife was expecting a baby. The U.S. authorities let him visit her every day far from the prisoner's cage, simply on his word of honour to return by nightfall.

Simply on his word of honour. That may be humane, but it is not warrior-like and would be laughed at by my own countrymen."

Class conscious workers will understand this language—the language of the enemies of the international working class. They will stretch a hand of fraternity and solidarity to the German workers and peasants, never forgetting the words of Lenin: "Never forget there are two Britains, the Britain of Finance capital, and the Britain of the workers." They will never forget that there are also two Germanies—the Germany of the finance capitalists, and the Germany of the workers.

This is the lesson that the Allied soldier is learning. Fraternisation is the death-knell of capitalism — and fraternisation is taking place!

NEWPORT BY-ELECTION

.VOTE I.L.P.

Bob Edwards, candidate of the Independent Labour Party for Newport, has not only the possibility of polling a record number of votes but of actually winning the seat.

The Tory majority over the Labour candidate in the last election was not very great. With the undoubted swing to the Left that has occurred throughout Britain, there is every possibility of unseating the Tories from the constituency. A victory for the

Post-War Coalition ?

(Continued from page 1.)

on. Bevin announces that Britain must have an army of 4,000,000 men after the war. A.R.P. is to be continued. While in the past the misery in the distressed areas left the capitalists unmoved, now they have a plan to spread industry over the country—for strategic reasons! Lennox-Boyd, Under Secretary for Air, declared bluntly at a meeting of workers that a factory in south-east London had to be removed because it would be a vulnerable target in the next war!

Thus the farce to be enacted at San Francisco is merely designed to smooth out the minor differences between the Great Powers, keeping the small powers in order, and lulling the masses into a false sense of security until they are thrust into the next war!

These are the outlines of the future world which British and world capitalism are preparing. One word of good advice was given by Churchill, which although put forward hypocritically, the advanced workers would do well to adopt.

"All my experience of the British people, which is a long one, convinces me that never at any moment more than this have they wished and meant to face realities, and woe betide those public men who seek to slide into power down the slippery slope of vain and profligate undertakings. This is no time for humbug and blandishments but for grim stark facts and figures . . ."

If the Labour and Trade Union leaders accepted this idea as a basis for their policy, Churchill and the Tories would be snowed under in the coming general election, and Labour would gain an overwhelming majority at the polls. All that would be necessary would be to tell the workers the truth! Give them the grim facts and figures! Give them too, a fighting alternative. A Socialist Britain and a Socialist Europe! An end to the nightmare of unemployment, hunger, want, fascism and war which are inevitable if capitalism survives!

At no time have the Labour leaders warned the workers of the real critical situation of British capitalism. Morrison makes speeches chiding the capitalists for taking too gloomy a view of the future. The capitalist politicians do not hide the facts from their class; but the Labour leaders do all in their power to hide the truth from the working class. Instead of demonstrating the impossibility of improving the conditions of the working class while the capitalist system remains, they are offering a programme of reforms (which in any case would not substantially increase the standards of living for the workers) such as Beveridge, Housing, etc., etc. Indeed, they have made the statement that whoever comes into

power after this election—the Labour Party or the Tories, will have to implement these so-called reforms projected by the present government—

discipline, forbearance and patience. Instead of showing the workers that without action against the landlords, there cannot be an effective housing scheme; that without the nationalisation of the factories, far from full employment, there will be 4 to 7 million unemployed; that without a plan in which the workers and technicians organise and control, there can not be prosperity but only economic chaos; that without strong action against the combines and monopolies, the standard of life for the working class will fall catastrophically.

Who can doubt that if the Labour and Trade Union leaders explained the situation to the workers they would respond to a fighting Socialist lead? But these cowards and traitors prefer to deceive the workers. They don't want to win the next election! They are leaving Churchill to decide when to break the Coalition at a time suitable to himself! They are not exposing the fraud of the Tory "reforms" and how can they, when they have helped to put them through Parliament?

If the Labour leaders wanted Power, they would immediately break the coalition and wage a campaign of enlightenment throughout the country, showing the workers the only progressive alternative. But they dread the prospect of taking power with a majority because it would show the workers that the Labour Party programme cannot solve a single one of the major problems with which the masses are faced.

The Revolutionary Communist Party believes that only the programme of Marx and Lenin, the programme of revolutionary communism can solve the problems of the workers. But even today there are millions and millions of workers who still cling to the hope that the Labour leaders will improve the conditions of the workers and even introduce Socialism, if they came to power. We say to these workers: Demand that your leaders tell the workers the truth, cease collaborating with the enemy and fight for Power on a Socialist Programme.

We will fight side by side with the Labour workers on this basis in loyal co-operation and comradeship to return a Labour Government so that the workers can learn from their own experience that the policy of the Labour leaders has nothing in common with Socialism or Communism.

Already Churchill has been talking of a post-general election coalition. His "Communist" Party lackeys are supporting him in this. The Labour leaders have not decisively and unequivocally rejected the idea of a new coalition with Churchill.

Workers! Demand that your leaders end the Coalition Now! Demand that they fight for Power on a Socialist Programme! Support the Revolutionary Communist Party!

BREAK THE COALITION!

Labour to Power!

on the following Programme

Industrial and Economic Policy.

1. Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry without compensation, as the prerequisite for a planned economy and the only means of ensuring full employment with adequate standards of living for the workers, and the operation of the means of production under control of workers' committees.

2. Confiscation of all war profits, all company books to be open for trade union inspection, control of production through workers' committees to end the chaos and mismanagement.

3. Distribution of food, clothes and other consumers commodities under the control or committees of workers elected from the Co-ops, distributive trades, factories, housewives' committees, and small shopkeepers, and allocation of housing under the control of tenants' committees.

4. A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum; the rate for the job; and industrial rates for all members of the armed forces.

Democratic Demands

5. Repeal of the Essential Works Order, the Emergency Powers Act and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking legislation.

6. Full electoral and democratic rights for all persons from the age of 18 years. Full democratic and political rights for the men and women in uniform.

7. Immediate freedom and unconditional independence for India, Ireland and all the colonies of Britain; immediate withdrawal of British armed forces from these countries; full economic and military assistance to the Indian and colonial peoples to maintain their independence against all imperialist attack.

Military Policy

8. Clear out the reactionary, pro-fascist, and anti-labour officer caste in the armed forces; election of officers by the ranks.

9. Establishment of military schools by the Trade Unions at the expense of the state for the training of worker-officers; arming of the workers under the control of workers' committees elected in the factories, unions and in the streets for the defence of the democratic rights of the workers from reactionary attacks by the enemies of the working class at home and abroad.

International Policy

10. Against race hatred and discrimination of all forms (Vansittartism, Anti-Semitism, and the Colour Bar); for the fraternisation and

LEITH DOCKERS DEMAND END THE TRUCE

