

LIVING STANDARDS MORE VITAL THAN RE-ARMAMENT — but NOT according to the T.U.C.!

THE General Council of the T.U.C. has issued a stern warning—not to the Tories—but to that growing body of Labour opinion who want to cut the arms drive before it does still further damage to the living standards of the working class. The General Council will have none of it.

“Our firm conviction remains”, they tell us, “that the greatest possible measure of rearmament must be carried out within the limits of our power to find the means . . .” Very good, says Mr. Butler—and oh! so very responsible!

“The greatest measure of rearmament . . . within the limits of our powers . . .” Who will fix these limits? Couldn't we manage a little wage cut here and there? Couldn't we do with a little less housing, a little less education, and pay the doctor's prescription with a little more sense?

After all, the General Council informs us that . . . “The choice is not between rearmament and the standard of living, but between peace on the basis of human freedom and the constant fear of aggression.” Or, in other words,

Editorial

the standard of life is less important than rearmament (for “human freedom”!) But with such a “firm conviction” how shall we answer Mr. Butler—whose cuts are also in the cause of “human freedom”!—when he asks us for more sacrifices?

Shall we say—as some pretty politicians have already said, with one eye cocked on their unemployed constituents and the other on “human freedom”—we agree with the noble purpose of rearmament but you mustn't interfere with our standard of life! But not even the Americans can have ‘guns and the whole cow’. If we agree to spend millions on making tanks and guns, let us not complain if the gun factories devour the skill, the labour and the materials which should be making useful things to eat and wear and live in.

There's no way out except to recognise this war drive for what it really is—a diabolical attempt to crush the national liberation movements in the colonies and to seize back the land wrested from the capitalists by the Russian workers in 1917.

“Human freedom” indeed! Just look at the Knight Crusaders who lead it. ‘Hot Dog’ Boatner, Templar the Terrorist, Bulldozer Erskine, the reverend Doctor Malan, ‘Jail-em-all’ Rhee and Mr. Churchill! The only freedom these specimens want to preserve is—their freedom to lord it over half the toiling world.

The fight for more wages and against the Tory cuts is a fight for working class life. If the Tories tell us our struggle interferes with their war drive, there is only one effective reply: to hell with your filthy war drive! The less guns we produce, the less innocent people will be destroyed, the quicker will suffering humanity achieve its freedom and peace and socialism be upon the world.

LEADERSHIP

IN the present serious state of the world it is a tragedy that there should be division in the Labour Party. Now more than ever, with enemies crowding in on us, we need a united SOCIALIST movement. But we haven't got it and we had better face the facts.

The threat to unity does not come from the rank and file. It comes from a section of the top leadership. This is an opinion we share with Mr. Bevan. His “Tribune”—in an editorial entitled “Two Voices”—states that “Mr. Attlee has once more threatened the unity of the Party by not adjusting his views to the movement of opinion amongst the rank and file.”

Mr. Attlee is further accused—and accused rightly—of ignoring, not only the views of the membership on the question of German Re-armament, but even the solemn decisions of the National Executive of the Party.

“Tribune” says that the regime of “Two Voices”—this “paralysis of leadership”—must be ended. We heartily agree—and here are our proposals.

First, the coming October Conference must adopt policies which the workers want and can support . . . anti-Tory, ANTI-WAR, and stopping at nothing to bring Churchill's Government down. Then it must elect leaders who will be faithful to Party decisions.

Mr. Attlee has shown himself to be disloyal to the Party. We can have no confidence in him carrying out the decisions of the rank and file—especially if those decisions are socialist ones.

IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE AT THE TOP.

Stop these Massacres of Korean P.o.W's.

Withdraw British Troops!

IN our last issue we warned of a cold-blooded massacre being prepared in Koje. We were right. General Boatner's soldiers—and they include British conscripts—have now slaughtered 33 unarmed Chinese and Korean prisoners-of-war. For this heroic deed they used rifles, bayonets, hand grenades and . . . flame throwers! “Hot dog”, yelled Boatner, “I think we've got them licked”!

Doesn't it make your blood run cold—doesn't it make your stomach turn over. 33 unarmed workers assassinated on the orders

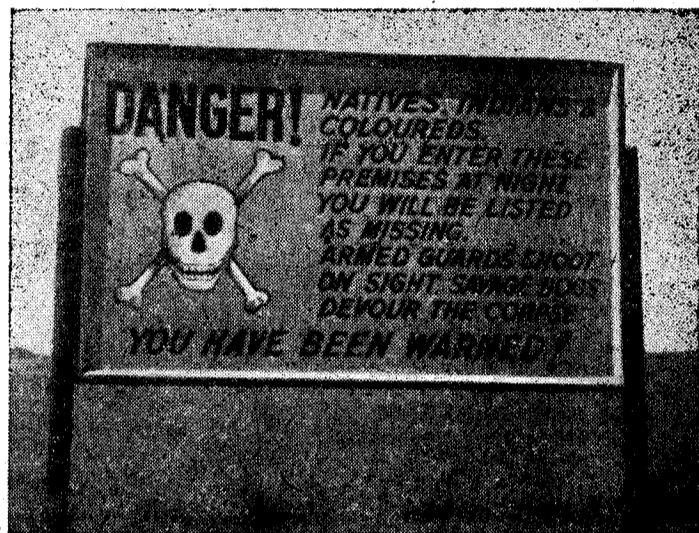
of this sadistic moron. “Slash them, use the butt of your rifle, and kick them in the groin,” spluttered Boatner when briefing British troops for a similar job in another compound.

But that wasn't enough. On June 10th the whole range of modern death-dealing weapons was used. And when the dogs were finally called off, 33 dead bodies lay quiet in the prison camp. “The terror of compound 76 had at last been smashed,” smirked Labour's “Daily Herald”. Whose terror? The “terror” of unarmed men fighting flame-throwers—and dying with defiance on their lips? Shame on the “Daily Herald” for accusing the innocent of the crimes of their bloody torturers!

Meanwhile on the mainland of South Korea, Syngman Rhee

REIGN OF TERROR IN S. AFRICA

9 million decide to fight Malan



And this is what they fight against! A brutal example of South Africa's colour bar is seen in this sign-post boldly displayed on a white man's farm facing the main road leading to Vereeniging, Transvaal. Malan's fascist supporters are prepared to shoot down like dogs the coloured people whose land they have stolen!

The picture is reproduced by kind permission of the South African Communist Party.

EIGHT MILLION Bantu workers and poor farmers—together with nearly a million Africans of Indian descent—have decided to resist South Africa's Fascist ruler Malan. The African National Congress and the Indian National Congress together launched, on May 31st, a “Civil Disobedience Campaign” against Malan's filthy colour bar laws.

Unlike Malan's thugs, the leaders of the African peoples are against the use of violence and strikes. “Only minor forms of law-breaking will be encouraged at present”, they say. However, the Malanites are unlikely to exercise such restraint and, despite the African people's desire for a peaceful resistance, a large-scale blood-letting will probably be forced upon them. If it is, then Malan

and his fascist followers will be entirely responsible.

LABOUR THREATENED AS WELL

South Africa's official trade unions have long been the cherished preserves of skilled, white workers who have, for the most part, agreed to the banning of African workers from the skilled trades. However, the example of organisation is dangerous to Malan's plans. Millions of black and coloured workers might follow the example of white trade unionists. And that is why Malan has arrested Solly Sachs, South Africa's best-known trade union leader. It is the first shot in the campaign to smash trade unionism in South Africa.

ARE WE CONCERNED?

We certainly are! Malan is a fascist. If he succeeds in his diabolical plan to terrorise ten million black and coloured workers then the fascists in every country in the world will be encouraged including the Mosleyite scum who plague the streets of Brixton with their filthy attacks on the negroes.

We must bring every possible aid to our exploited black brothers of Africa. They are our allies in the fight against exploitation.

The N.E.C. of the Labour Party and the General Council of the T.U.C. have passed resolutions of protest against the actions of the Malan Government. That is good as far as it goes but it doesn't go far enough.

The colonial peoples of the whole world are on the move against imperialism and capitalism. Let us join them—by breaking completely with the Truman-Churchill-Malan war alliance which, fundamentally, is an alliance to crush the movements for freedom in every part of the world.

PROTEST MEETING

The Colour Bar and Democracy
CAXTON HALL

Wednesday, 18th June, 7.30 p.m.

African Speakers will answer all your questions.

Chairman: R. Sorenson, M.P.

brings in martial law and arrests the Parliamentary opposition to ensure his dictatorship another term of office.

In face of all these events, it will be clear that a United Nations victory will turn the whole of Korea into one big Koje. Don't think that U.N.O. men would control Rhee. After the foul deed of Koje who can doubt that Syngman Rhee and the commanders of U.N.O.'s crusade for “democracy” are brothers under the skin.

This paper has opposed the Korean war from the start. The horrors of Koje were inevitable because this is a civil war—a war in which poor people are prepared to fight machine guns with sticks and die sooner than live under Syngman Rhee's corrupt dictatorship.

Let the people live! Let the Koreans decide their own fate! Withdraw all British troops! That is the only way Labour can clean its hands of the bloody stain of Koje.

There can't be peace while millions are hungry

THREE recently-published United Nations reports* have dramatically revealed why the political state of the world is so disquieting and overhung with the threat of World War 3.

"The outstanding single impression given by them all is that, seven years after the end of the war, the economic and social gulf between the industrial countries and the under-developed countries is wider and more difficult to bridge than ever." ("Observer.")

The richer nations are getting richer and the poorer ones are getting poorer. Food is the best index of this. Each of the three reports points the tale. There is less food in the world now than 15 years ago, but more of it goes to white people and less than ever goes to Asians.

In South-East Asia, as the Social Report points out, not only is there less food per head, but farmers have been forced by need to concentrate more on the foods like sweet potatoes which, though filling, are least valuable for health.

The report says that to improve diets even moderately, the Far and Near East, Africa and Latin America would have to double their cereal crops treble their output of beans, and raise two to four times as many live-stock. It is clear that land reform which places the land in the hands of native producers is the first step towards growing more food.

But the feudal sheiks of the Near East and the Syngman Rhee of the Far East will not grant reform. Yet these are the people whom Imperialism supports.

INDUSTRY AND POWER

The World Economic Report says quite plainly that, since the war, there has been little or no

*World Economic Report, 1950-1951; Report on the World Social Situation and a report called "Changes in Production."

A PAMPHLET WORTH READING

The current issue of "Labour Review" is entirely devoted to an analysis and criticism of Bevan's "In Place of Fear." All the strength and weakness of Bevan is brought out. What he owes to Marxism, and what he failed to understand in it, are both examined and explained. Above all, Bevan's confusion between Parliament and Democracy and his illusion that an exclusively parliamentary strategy is the only "safe" road for the British working class is exposed.

It is clearly shown that Parliament and Democracy are not at all times the same, and it is consequently unsafe, extremely dangerous in fact, to rely entirely on any one particular strategy.

Bevan's book, cleared of its confusion, itself shows that the capitalists will only be deterred from a resort to violence to stop the revolution — constitutional and peaceful though it may be — if they are certain that the working class is ready and willing to meet violence with violence if necessary.

"Labour Review" comments strongly, but fairly, on Bevan, and in fact in places is much too kind — not to Comrade Bevan, but to the ideas he has expressed in his book. My advice is to read them both. They are both worth the effort.

Tom Mercer.

LABOUR REVIEW

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'Liberty and Democracy' fill no bellies

says Alf Rose

BEBINGTON C.L.P.

States attained less.

"The Manchester Guardian" (12/5/52) analysing these reports, says:

"The rate of growth of industrial production in the developed private enterprise economies appears to have slowed down during the second half of 1951 and early in 1952. While the production of armaments and investment goods continued to rise, the output of consumer goods dropped. In the centrally planned economies increases in production in 1951 were generally in line with economic plans."

"In a number of them the rapid pace of industrialisation, combined with relatively poor harvests, caused severe pressure on supplies of food and this caused the reintroduction of rationing for

industrial progress in many of the under-developed countries.

It is true that western nations have developed their industries more than the colonial lands they dominate, but "the biggest percentage increases in industrial production were in Japan, Germany and the East European countries. The United Kingdom had the smallest increase except Denmark."

That Japan and Germany show revival over 1950 is not unexpected since they have been promoted suddenly from positions of abnormal subjection to the equally abnormal role of "defenders of democracy."

Apart from them, the chart shows that increases of production larger than the world-average have been achieved only by Hungary, Rumania, Poland, Luxembourg (so small as to be unimportant in this respect), Bulgaria, Finland, Greece and the U.S.S.R. Even the United

some commodities. In others, particularly the Soviet Union, the rise in supply of consumer goods made it possible for consumer prices to be reduced."

The record of industrial expansion in states where industry is state-owned must surely impress exploited peoples concerned about the under-development of their own economies.

FAROUKISM

According to the World Economic Report, lack of progress is not always, or only, caused by lack of capital to invest in industry. "Some countries," the report comments, "were willing to see part of their foreign exchange spent on luxury goods." Many

countries in Latin America and the Middle East bought twice as many cars in the first half of 1951 as in the first half of 1950. Again, it was the corrupt native ruling classes who had the power to plan but preferred luxury. Their subjects wish only to be rid of these local as well as foreign tyrants.

Unless the British Labour Movement breaks completely with Tory support for these reactionaries, it cannot complain if Mao-Tse-Tung and Stalin appear more attractive to exploited people than do Attlee or Bevan.

Alliance with Moscow may not assure them liberty and democracy — which colonial peoples have never known. It can give them plenty as compared with their poverty. Platitudes concerning "liberty" and "democracy" fill no bellies and, as the report states, "The problem of supplying sufficient food for the rapidly increasing numbers is urgent and fundamental."

STARVATION THREATENS

The world's population will certainly go on increasing alarmingly (60,000 more every 24 hours!) for at least some decades, mainly because of the falling death-rates and high birth-rates of the under-developed countries. "Efforts to improve health standards will, it seems, save men, women and children from disease, only to let them die of starvation," comments a self-confused "Observer."

That is indeed the fruit of continued imperialism. The socialist answer to the problem is clear. It is one which can give British Labour the leadership of the world. End the wars against colonial peoples; withdraw the armies of imperialism from Malaya, Korea, Viet Nam, Egypt, etc.; grant immediate independence to the colonies; and lend them technical and capital assistance to become equal partners in a planned world economy.

MOSCOW'S MISSING MIDINETTES

"The Paris Midinette, after all, may not have expensive clothes, but at least she is dressed with a certain taste. In Russia they are covered rather than clothed." (M. Paul Bastid.)

The Russian women can't wear clothes:

They don't know how to dress
Of Hartnell they have never heard;
Paquin they would distress.

They lack the Midinette's gay charm;

Her well-dressed, chic élan;
But war-scarred cities they rebuild;
More stately buildings plan.

But Cosmopolitan Idlers who
At Russian women sneer
Have never had to draw the

"dole,"
Or hungry children rear.

In London, Paris and New York,
Throughout the world to-day,
Rich idlers wear the choicest silks
But hungry mill hands pay,

If British textiles we exchange
For Russian wood and grain,
Our Lancashire mill workers can
Begin to eat again.

Percy Allott.

Half Egypt's children die under five

THE working man in Britain sometimes fails to understand the compelling force behind the struggle of his comrades in Eastern countries. The intensity and heroism of such struggles is always represented in the capitalist Press as arising from blind anti-foreign sentiments or misdirected Nationalism.

The Rockefeller Institute, in its report on health conditions in Egypt has, however, established facts which clearly explain why the Egyptian people fight so determinedly to end the system of joint British imperialism and feudal landlordism in the Middle East.

DISEASE IS RIFE

The Institute reports that 92 per cent. of villagers were found to be affected by Bilharziosis or amoebic dysentery, 64 per cent. with intestinal worms, 6 per cent. with syphilis and 6 per cent. with blindness and eye diseases.

Twelve per cent. of the families were shown to be living on flat bread and skimmed milk, 56 per cent. obtained fresh vegetables only once a week. In one centre one doctor was trying to treat 27,000 patients single-handed.

Incomes of 5 per cent. of all families do not exceed 15 shillings per month, 61 per cent. have incomes of 15 to 75 shillings per month, the rest up to 150 shillings.

YOU DIE AT 20!

More than 50 per cent. of infants die before the age of five.

The average length of life for the whole population in these villages is 15 to 20 years.

While these disastrous conditions became the lot of the masses of the Egyptian people, more than £400,000,000 sterling were being accumulated in Britain out of the sweat of Egyptian workers and peasants. Other millions were being scattered in the gambling casinos of the Riviera by Farouk and his clique of landlords.

MARTIAL LAW

For nine out of the last thirteen years, Egypt has been under martial law. During the rest of the period most of the big cities were almost always under so-called "condition of emergency" which

amounts to actual martial law. The exceptional days when the Government failed to govern Egypt with British Steel and Fire were those days when even policemen joined the masses in their struggle.

The industrial workers, now about one million and a quarter, are not only living in the same conditions of misery and poverty as farm workers, but, because of their obvious role in leading the National struggle as well as the struggle for Social Revolution, they have always been the most persecuted section in this land of persecution.

Under laws laid down by British Commissioners, every kind of



WHAT ARE THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE LIKE?

'No different from us'

— Jack Stanley

Co-op. shops where there was plenty of food, plenty of customers, and plenty of money. The same procedure was adopted as in Britain, obtain your goods, receive a check for amount due, take it to the cash desk, and after payment collect the goods.

One thing I particularly noticed in Moscow; there does not appear to be any general delivery of milk and people were queuing up in the early morning with cans from one gallon upwards, for their supply. There were ample supplies.

WORKERS' CLOTHES

Criticism was passed by certain of the business men's wives in the British delegation about the drabness and shoddiness of the clothes. I had taken particular notice of the workers' clothes, so I asked one business man had he ever seen building workers at work in Britain — particularly 'iron fighters' or 'spider men'? He hadn't!

The Russian workers wear a kind of padded coat with belt, knee high boots, thick trousers, caps of all sorts, gloves and scarves. Equal

liberty, political or trade-union, has been denied them. In 1942, after a struggle of two decades, a slight reform of these laws was achieved. These reformed laws did not make any difference, because martial law, when declared in Egypt, is declared for the industrial working class before any other class. Concentration camps and military trials are becoming a constant feature of Egyptian political life.

The British capitalist Press and British governments are full of praise and help for those Egyptian governments who maintain these conditions.

Last January, when the whole population rose against the stooges of British occupation in Egypt, a plot to burn Cairo was worked out by secret agents. British troops moved to less than thirty miles from Cairo to protect Farouk and his slave-drivers. That is why the struggle of the people takes such intensity and gains popular support. That is why no amount of propaganda or brutal force can hinder the rising tide. We ask your help.

aged perhaps 11 or 12 who could speak English. I was asked did boys and girls in England collect stamps, etc.? I spent a very enjoyable 45 minutes.

So much for the people — not a bit different to ours. Most of my readers will want to know how the Russian workers' standard of living compares with the British workers'.

UNIVERSITY OPINION

The economists from the universities of Glasgow, Cambridge, Birmingham and Oxford who attended the conference have issued a report (with which I agree) which states that:—

"... the food shops and markets are well stocked with bread, potatoes, sugar, meat, poultry, fish, cheese, butter and eggs. By our standards the prices of these commodities appear to be comparable to our own, and they are, of course, unrationed. The restriction in the range of vegetables and fruit is probably seasonal. Chocolate is expensive. In considering food prices we must also remember that Russians and Koreans provide three

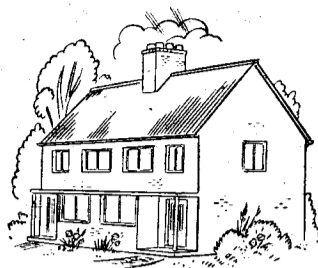
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Problems of Labour Councils

Bankers are Forcing up Council Rents

'Rent Rebate' is no solution says E. J. Craske

HON. SECRETARY NORWOOD TENANTS' ASSOCIATION



ing rents by taking net or gross income. When overtime is taken into consideration the opportunities for "fiddling" are obvious. The Council takes two wage packets from the tenants for estimating the rent. The tenant has only to ensure that he works no overtime that fortnight to get his rent lowered until the next application six months later. The Council has since decided to exclude overtime in the evaluation of rents. The two incomes—man and wife—are still taken into consideration, however.)

On the other hand, if overtime is excluded, inequalities occur. Some workers rarely, or never, work overtime, whereas others do so regularly. Thus one worker may pay more than another who (through overtime working) has a greater total income.

THE "EXTRAS"

After rebate has been deducted from maximum rent, 2s. 6d. is then added for each wage-earning person in the family over 16 years

... as they always did!

John Wheatley, Minister of Health in the 1924 Labour Government, put his finger on the spot in this extract from a speech made to the Parliament of that day . . .

"When I come to the finance of (housing) . . . I find where the burden comes in. Taking the rate of interest at 5 per cent for the loan periods, it requires 6/6 a week for the house to meet the burden of finance.

"In other words, of all the people who, by hand or brain, give service to the production of the house, take 3/3, that section of the community who lend, not their labour but their credit, their surplus wealth—normally not their savings but their leavings—take twice as much out of the rent of the house as all those who usefully contributed to its creation."

Wages and politics underground

By Howell D. Williams
SECRETARY RHIGOS LODGE
NATIONAL UNION OF
MINEWORKERS

worker earning £10 a week in a colliery was less than that of a sedentary worker outside the mines receiving £6 per week. The average piece worker in a coal mine often loses months of work due to sickness and injury—whereas a non-manual worker generally is able to attend his employment far more regularly.

TORY TRICKERY

All sorts of devices are being employed in order to defeat the miners' efforts to win another wage advance. We are, for example, being asked to work more overtime, including Saturday, as an alternative to claiming higher wages.

Another method is the spreading of the fallacy of "high wages being responsible for high prices." Always they conceal the truth that the rise in prices is caused chiefly by soaring industrial profits in general, and the ruinous re-arming programme in particular.

But most deceitful of these devices is the desperate efforts now being made to cover up the political factors which are causing the fall in the purchasing power of the wage packet of the miner as that of every other worker.

Never was it more necessary to recognise the political reasons for

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BRITISH SOLDIER WARNS US FROM GERMANY

THE headline to the article in "Socialist Outlook" — German Treaty Means a New 'Korea'—immediately caught my eye because a German worker had expressed the same thought to me a few days previously.

That the imperialist manipulation of Germany is setting the stage for a European version of the Korean blood-bath is only too clearly understood by Germans. Only a week ago there was an anti-war

demonstration of workers in the town in which I am stationed.

What should be realised however, is that it is not only the industrial working class that opposes the division of the country into two armed camps. The 'middle class' also supplies a considerable number of opponents. I have in fact met only one German who supported the re-arming of western Germany, and he was an outright supporter of the Nazi regime.

German people have even more reason than other European peoples for opposing re-arming. A German acquaintance recently said to me—"We have friends and relations in the east and it is a terrible thing that we should be forced to fight against them in a war that doesn't concern us."

I have found no desire at all for unification by an extension of the East German regime by the Red Army, but such is the disillusionment in the capitalism of the west that there is apparently little desire to fight for it. Adenauer is generally considered to be a German Churchill who represents only the very big business interests and who acts like a dictator without even going through the formality of consulting parliament. He would undoubtedly be politically annihilated in a general election.

WHY WE ARE THERE

British and other troops are being kept here in order to keep the country divided and there is very little pretence over the fact that we are being trained to fight against the Soviet Union. Integrated into the army of the west is a corps of renegades and mercenaries from Eastern Europe. Now there is to be added a Nazi-organised German army.

The Labour movements of the west have a clear choice. Either they force the withdrawal of foreign troops so that the German workers can build a united socialist Germany or Germany will become another 'Korea' and you will be in it!

Conse. 11

PROFITS OR PLENTY

Two million pounds of the best Cuban tobacco valued at £1,785,000, remaining from last year's crop, was burned at the week-end in order to restrict supplies and keep up prices. (Press report).

A million Danish apple trees worth £200,000 will be burned down this summer because prices and demand have slumped through bumper harvest and freed imports. ("News Chronicle", 21/5/52).

LOCAL Authorities are concerned at the state of their Housing Revenue Accounts. Increased costs in building and repairs, the price of land and interest rates, means an excess of expenditure over income and the deficit must be made good.

Some Local Authorities have introduced schemes whereby the council tenants make good the deficit in one way or another. One such method is a "rent differential" or "rent rebate" scheme.

Both schemes, not really connected, were introduced by the Lambeth Borough Council in January, 1949. Both have as their fundamental aim the bringing in of additional revenue, and both are bad from the tenants' point of view.

EQUALISATION

The rents of all flats and houses having similar accommodation were equalised. In some instances this meant a decrease and in others an increase. Then an average amount of 3s. 6d. per week was added to the rent to cover the increased cost of repairs.

The result was increased rents ranging from 1s. 8d. to 8s. 4d. per week, to be applied at the rate of 1s. increase each year. These increases (with minor exceptions) were applied to existing tenancies in January, 1949. On top of fixing equalised rents a further 2s. 6d. was added for amenities in post-war houses and flats. As an example, the rent of a pre-war

four-roomed house, or flat, increased from 12s. 8d. to 16s. 2d., whilst the same sized house or flat built post-war was charged an extra 2s. 6d., making a total of 18s. 8d.

RENT REBATE SCHEME

Twenty per cent. of the total subsidies for flats and houses on new estates was to go towards a reduction in rents. The other 80 per cent. went into a pool to be used for further reductions in rents as applied through the rent rebate system.

The idea behind the scheme was that the subsidies should be distributed according to need by reducing the economic rent for the lower income workers more than for the higher-income groups.

In Lambeth the system is as follows: maximum rents are fixed for each type of dwelling by adding 60 per cent. to the equalised net rent. For example, an equalised net rent of 20s. became 32s. by adding 60 per cent. The tenant could now apply for a rent rebate and his application had to be renewed every six months. This is clearly a form of means test.

From the maximum rent a rebate is to be granted where necessary, and if the tenant applies, so that the rent paid should not exceed one-fifth of gross income (i.e., before deductions for National Health and Unemployment, Pensions, etc.) but not fall below the prescribed minimum equalised rent.

SOME DISADVANTAGES

It should be clear that there are obvious disadvantages in evaluat-

Speaking my mind

On . . . LAND and LANDLORDS

by TOM BRADDOCK

"The earth is the . . . Lord's and the fulness thereof".

I HAVE had the printer leave a blank space in the above quotation which appears on the pediment of the Royal Exchange in the City of London. Write in the word "land" and you will then have the case correctly stated.

Well, Tom, you will say, and so what? We know all about that. Yes, so you do, just as you know that there is reasonably fresh air to breathe and you think nowt about it. Familiarity breeds contempt. You get the air near enough free of charge, a bit fresher if you can afford to live in the place where the "best" people live, not quite so good if you live where most workers live in the low parts down by the railway, near the sewage farm. Test this out anywhere.

★

Get out of the train at the station and ask a taxi driver to take you to where the better-off people live; he will go up the hill, but if to where the workers live—down! Still the air is free, good or bad. The land is not, in any circumstances. This is the reason for my quotation in the first paragraph.

Your "native land" is not your own, it is the landlord's—and the "fulness thereof". You have to pay a tribute every minute of every day of your lives for the right to live in what is poetically described as "your native land". Does it matter? Ah! That is the question.

★

Well, brother, it is for you to decide, but let me remind you of what it means to you. So long as you are paying rent, or ground rent, or interest on money borrowed to be allowed to use the land, or higher prices for all other things because the rent of the land happens to be low, then out of everything you produce, or help to produce by your labour, by hand or by brain, the landlord is taking his whack.

"But people must pay taxes And kings must have their sport, So out of every gallon, His Grace, he takes a quart".

The tax being the rent, and his Grace, of course, the landlord. Again I ask you, does it matter? Again I remind you it is for you to say whether you pay or not. Get that fact quite clear in your mind; if you decide not to pay you can stop.

★

Remember that the land is a very special sort of magnet. If it is privately owned it enables the owner, i.e. the landlord, to take from you his quart out of every gallon you produce and, what is more, the harder you work, the more gallons you produce, the greater the number of quarts he takes.

You plan, you scheme and increase and multiply, you live in towns and cities, you get thicker and thicker on the land, you produce more and more; the landlord sits back and his magnet drains off all the surplus you produce, beyond what you need to keep yourself alive and reasonably fit, into his pocket. Do you think it matters?

★

Yes, it does, and you are a first-class mutt to put up with such barefaced robbery. The landlord did not make the land, he can't take it away, he can't make more, he can't even use it. Only you and your fellow workers can do that. So what the hell do you go on paying for? Stop! and stop at once! No more rent, no more interest, no more profit to be got out of land.

Terrible, isn't it, you will have to learn to spend the rent on yourself and on your family. Can you stand it? I think you will be able to with a bit of practice; it will come hard at first, but never mind, stick it brother, your grandchildren will bless you for it even if you yourself miss the landlord.

Readers Forum

Correspondence should be as brief as possible and addressed to The Editor, 177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

CONCRETE JUNGLE BANDITS

Landlords, through their National Federation, are agitating for increased rents. They say they cannot afford to keep their properties in a fit state of repairs because of the increased cost of labour and materials. But they don't tell us that the disgraceful condition of housing property in areas like Bethnal Green is due to years of neglect! But now they want the tenants to pay for this neglect. We mustn't let them get away with it.

Workers must organise within these "bastions of broken brick, rubble and plaster" as they do in the factories and on the job. Conditions in some of this property would not be tolerated for a minute in the factories. There would be strikes against them. So let us meet the representative bodies of the landlords with organisations of the workers.

The fight against the private landlords—the concrete jungle bandits—must be taken up in the Labour Party. Full support and assistance to tenants' associations; heavy fines and more drastic measures against landlords who don't carry out repairs. Stop turning the coppers of the tenants into fat banking accounts for the landlords and financial houses.

Jim Watts Secretary, West Ward (Bethnal Green) Tenants' Association.

A CHILD DIES

The "Daily Express" uses a quarter of a page to tell us in big headlines that "The new Comet is

RUSSIA :-

(from page 2)

meals a day for those who want them.

"Rent and fuel are cheap by our standards, and in relation to other Russian prices. The quality of the living varies widely. The amount of food is great, or more than in large cities of the United Kingdom but the amount of under-occupation is of course, less. Clothing is a relatively expensive item and relatively poor in quality.

"The prices of durable goods appear comparable to ours in the case of certain useful articles, e.g. fountain pens, typewriters, vacuum cleaners. Motor cars appear to be cheaper and more readily available than ours. Luxury articles are very expensive.

"The cost, comfort, efficiency and availability of transport appears to be comparable with that in Britain. Both Britain and Russia have extensive social services and paid holidays."

My own enquiries ascertained that rent was approximately five per cent of wages, and the cost of a 23 h.p. car was equivalent to ten months wages of the average craftsman, whose rate is 1,500 roubles per month.

"Youth—the Future of Labour"

REVIEWED BY RON SPURWAY

TO aid the discussion at the Filey Youth Conference, a number of London members of the League of Youth have written this little pamphlet under four main headings—war, employment, education, and recreation.

It not only deals with the present re-armament drive and its causes, but devotes space to the much-neglected question—the fight for democratic rights and good conditions for the Youth who are

YOUTH the future of LABOUR

A new pamphlet that every young socialist should read
Written by members of the
Labour League of Youth

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Audrey Wise,
22, Bulwer St., London, W.12

oh! so bracing" for the Royalty who used it for a joy-ride.

Yet, in the "Daily Worker" of the same day, I read a report of a child (aged eleven) who died crying heartbroken for his twenty year old brother in Egypt who had been refused transport to fly home to this stricken infant. Joy-rides for royalty—but no flight of mercy for a little working class kiddie. Where is fairness and equality? Even a condemned criminal is allowed to choose his own meal.

R. E. Punt, Batley (Yorks.)

KOREA: American Doctor Protests

(From "New York Times" 13/5/52)

READ in "The Times" of May 9th the story of how the U.N. air force "wiped out the ancient city of Suan" in an all-day raid that was initiated by dumping 12,000 gallons of flaming gasoline on the town and its inhabitants.

As a physician, I am dedicated to the preservation of human life. This total destruction of a two-mile square Korean city utterly appalls me. There is no doubt that many thousands of aged, sick and infirm people, patients in hospitals, women and children were killed, mangled or indescribably burned. Thus in one day the U.N. air force—largely American and under the leadership of American commanders—has killed and maimed more people than I can cure in my whole life as a doctor.

I say that it is time to stop these dreadful tactics, these horrible bombings. There is not a decent person in America or in the whole world who does not condemn them.

Let us settle this Korean war. And in the meantime, let us act in a civilised and democratic manner.

Joseph B. Furst, M.D.
New York, May 10, 1952.

A SERIOUS SHORTAGE

FIFTY-POUNDS each month in our Fighting Fund. That is the price of establishing the "Socialist Outlook" as a fortnightly instead of the old monthly—a small price to pay for the increased fire power in the fight for socialism.

In the last issue we claimed our supporters would see we got this money if they fully realised the need. We know we were right in making this claim. This month, however, we are still £24 short—and that means £24 in debt, which must be paid off. So don't wait till tomorrow. The fight against the Tories can't wait. Send that cash along right now.

Let's make up the £24 as well as the £50 for the coming month.

actually in the Armed Forces. For this alone, it is well worth reading.

The authors remind us that the colonial people "fight for things we take for granted—three meals a day, a roof over their head, the vote, and the abolition of flogging." A very timely reminder to the Youth of a country actively engaged in suppressing the liberation movements in Malaya and Egypt!

There are excellent sections on employment (Youth is still the most exploited section of industry) and Horsbrugh's education cuts are roundly condemned. The whole is very practical, the authors themselves having conducted a survey on youth recreation, from which they conclude that, although many young people are at present passive spectators, there is a big demand for active participation in all kinds of recreation—which underlines the crying need for greater recreational facilities for young people.

All who are interested in the problems of Youth—and this should include adult members of the Labour Party, but too often doesn't—must get this pamphlet. It is cheap enough at fourpence. If you are going to Filey, it should become priority reading.

A little matter of the Constitution

By H. E. Castens

MR. MORRISON and Brother Deakin have been telling us to be good. They say that whatever the Tories do we must not start political strikes. We must wait for an election. We must then vote. So doing, we must turn them out and reverse their actions.

This, they say, is the way the constitution works, and only naughty communists and fellow-travellers will work against it.

They are terribly wrong about the constitution.

This is not a fixed, rigid thing like the Association Football Rules, that can only be altered by a voting procedure laid down in the rules themselves. It is a living, growing body of doctrine based on decent behaviour, of which respect for the truth is a fundamental part.

Only a very small part of it is written, and that part continually grows new meanings as it is interpreted against new backgrounds of fact and feeling.

Under this constitution we are a democracy. At periodical elections the people are offered contending

policies by contending parties, and they choose the one they prefer.

It is an assumed and essential condition of this democratic process that the policies offered must be fully and truly described, and conscientiously pursued.

THEY LIED

In the last election the Tories ignored this essential condition. Whatever they promised or let the people believe they promised, it is certain that they denied Labour allegations that they would:—

Reduce the people's wealth and increase unemployment.

Destroy the people's education and undermine the people's health.

Scourge the poor with the means test, and increase the privileges of the rich in housing as in all else.

Strengthen the power of the exploiter in Malaya, and seek to hand over Africans and their country to the rule of intruding white settlers.

Encourage America to make war

on China, and work to rebuild the Japanese and Nazi armies.

Strengthen the bonds of servility that hold Britain to America.

Yet within a few months they have done all these things and many more as bad. What is even more important, they have done them with a speed and certainty that make it clear that they always meant to do them.

Thus the Tories deliberately lied their way to power; and each lie they uttered or implied broke the constitution of this country.

We are now being ruled by an unconstitutional government, whose members stole by lying the power they now wield.

There is nothing in the constitution that insists that a false, usurping government should be treated as a true government is customarily treated. To the contrary, it is quite obviously consistent with any constitution to take all available measures that may, be both wise and just to restrain an unconstitutional government and to remove it from power as quickly as possible.

Political strikes are among the measures that can be used, and in the present circumstances the decision as to whether to use them or not must be one of wisdom and justice only.

What Youth wants from Filey

L.L.O.Y. members give their views

NORMAN WINTROP (E. Salford) wants "a mass Socialist Youth organisation . . ."

"I hope the Filey Youth Conference will take a decision to oppose this Tory Government, its wars against the workers of Malaya and Korea, its proposed war against the Soviet Union and China, and its attempts to finance them all out of the standard of life of the British working class."

"Many young people are being forced by Tory policies to take part for the first time in working class struggles, demonstrations, strikes, etc. This gives a great opportunity to the League of Youth to organise young workers. I want to see the League transformed from a small discussion-cum-social club into a mass organisation."

KEN DRIVER (Edmonton) says "Stop the rot . . ."

"If we judge by membership alone, we find the League has slumped by about 80 per cent (official figures show membership at last year's conference 25,000, at this year's conference 5,000 plus). As can be expected, the political activities of the League has also suffered a setback."

"As I see it, the task before this year's conference is two-fold. First, we have to stop the rot going any further. Second, work out a programme to achieve before next year's conference the target of 100,000 members (supposed to have been reached in 1950).

"To do these things, the League must be more democratically organised."

FRANK REEVES (Fulham) however, is quite satisfied . . .

"As a member of the Labour Party my first duty is towards that organisation. The League of Youth acts as a ginger group to Constituency Labour Parties. Young socialists are educated in the duties of officerships and organisers and go from their League branches into their Ward associations."

"To complete their education and experience young socialists need a national organisation with an annual conference. As a delegate to the League's annual conference last year I gained considerable knowledge of the arrangement of National Party Conference. This experience will stand me in good stead if ever I am sent as delegate to National Conference."

"Youth has a contribution to make to future Socialist Policy but what is to prevent youth making that contribution through the normal democratic channels of our Party?"

"Young people fall for the

Are You Going to Vienna?

Young socialist, 23, would like to contact other left-wingers as travelling companions to I.U.S.Y. Vienna camp. Write direct to Ronald Taylor, 1 Oswald Terrace, Corstorphine, Edinburgh.

slogans of a more revolutionary type of Socialism simple because they are young people. As they develop (politically) modification of their ideas always comes. I am fortunate that such modifications have come early in my political life."

WINIFRED HAMILTON (Westminster) says . . . "we aren't budding Bevins . . ."

"Frank Reeves is quite right when he says that young socialists need their own national organisation with an Annual Conference, but he does not seem to appreciate the fact that this does not exist at present."

"If we take his remarks to their logical conclusion, we might well consider there is no need for a League of Youth, if its only role is to train young members to be good party functionaries—"budding Morrisons and Bevins", as a Party leader once described us! There is plenty of scope for this type of activity without having a League organisation."

"As to the experience of last year's conference, the lesson it may have taught any prospective delegate to the Labour Party Annual Conference is that the platform has the first and last word, and that any decision taken need not necessarily be carried out!"

"To recruit members we must have the democratic means at our disposal within the League. We must be able to develop a policy which is related to present-day youth questions, to act as our rallying point."

"It is therefore to be hoped that delegates to this year's Conference

will not have "modified" their ideas as Frank Reeves has done, and become old before his time, afraid and contemptuous of the fresh and radical aspirations of young Socialists."

PHIL SHERIDAN (Cleethorpes) says "We can win, if they'll let us . . ."

"If the League is to survive (and not be kept as a canvassing and social club) then it is imperative that we should be allowed to discuss policy, especially that affecting youth. We should develop a "Policy for Youth" to attract a mass backing for the League. People will join it to improve their conditions. They will not come in for purely sterile organisational discussions and organised games."

NORMAN GOODCHILD (Hackney) wants "closer ties with the Trade Unions . . ."

"If we want young workers to join us, we must have closer ties with Trade Unions, and their youth sections where they exist. Their assistance would be invaluable on our representative committees."

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