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**TODAY**

# Socialist Outlook

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**OUR AIMS**

"To secure for the producer by hand and by brain the fruits of their industry, and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production and distribution . . .  
Labour Party Constitution

## A LETTER TO BE PROUD OF

NATIONAL UNION OF VEHICLE BUILDERS  
AUSTIN STRIKE COMMITTEE

The Editor, Socialist Outlook,  
177 Bermondsey Street,  
London, S.E.1.  
March 27th, 1953.

Dear Sir,

It gives us great pleasure on behalf of all members involved in this dispute, to express to you our sincere appreciation for your loyal co-operation regarding statements in your publication pertaining to the struggle we have on hand.

We will submit to you further items of interest which we know if at all possible you will publish.

Once again thanking you for your endeavours, and on behalf of all the members involved in this dispute,  
Yours fraternally,

F. WILKINS,  
Financial Secretary.

## Round the Regions London and Lancashire in Conference

Resolutions on national, international and (in London at least), industrial questions are not permitted so the discussions are virtually limited to local government activities and policies.

### LANCASHIRE

This highly unsatisfactory situation has been challenged at the recent conference of the Lancashire and Cheshire region and a resolution was carried—against the pleas of the Regional Organiser—asking for a reconsideration of this "local affairs only" rule.

The Conference also carried resolutions demanding a greater degree of autonomy for its Labour Leagues of Youth and less interference from the Regional (adult) Executive.

### LONDON

Last Sunday was the turn of the London and Middlesex Regional to meet in Conference. It was an interesting meeting insofar as the number of times the platform was defeated showed that the rank and file of the local parties are on their toes.

The biggest defeat for the Executive came on the question of education.

Several delegates—especially Mrs. I. Chaplin, Mr. Dennington, both from Holborn and St. Pancras, and the delegate from the National Association of Labour Teachers—proved with facts and figures that the London County Council, despite its fine record in Education, was tending to capitulate before Government pressure and had, in fact, allowed the staffing situation in London schools to deteriorate.

A resolution whose importance was not perhaps realised by many of the delegates dealt with a recent decision of the L.C.C.'s Housing Committee to allocate houses on some of its new estates to people who are not on the housing lists but who are "key workers in the armaments industry". This, it was admitted by Ike Hayward, was done at the request of the Tory Minister of Housing.

The North Paddington Party's activity of this nature was defeated very narrowly, but the letting

of flats in collaboration with the Tory Government in the arms drive.

### MEMBERSHIP

Total membership in London and Middlesex showed an increase of nearly 16,000 over last year and now stands at the figure of 401,709. The Membership Trophy was awarded to the Spelthorne Party for the really remarkable achievement of having increased its membership by 1,865 and secured more than £730 in membership subscriptions.

The Government's Economic Survey shows that in 1952 the working class consumed less food, clothes, furniture and similar useful things.

More money was spent on them but, as prices rose 7 per cent., less was actually bought.

And the trend continues in 1953. There are now nearly half a million unemployed and millions more on short time working.

Yet it is in this kind of situation that Sir Lincoln Evans, speaking for the General Council of the T.U.C., chooses to tell us that by increasing productivity, by 'working more efficiently', we can actually raise our falling living standards. His contention is patently absurd.

First of all, what does increased productivity mean? It means what it has always meant: a greater output in the same or less time from the same or less number of workers employed. Unless there is a general expansion of the whole economy (a flourishing home and foreign market), greater productivity must inevitably result in unemployment. That is irrefutable.

And there certainly isn't any general expansion of the economy today. On the contrary, production declined by 3 per cent. last

An octopus in danger will exude a slimy ink over its prey and, if that doesn't work, will then try to crush the foe in its tentacles. The Austin octopus is now emulating its deep sea relation.

First it threatened the strikers with dismissal if they did not return to work by Friday, March 27th. This was the slimy ink method. Then, when the strikers remained true to trade union principles and decided to stick with their Union rather than lick Austin's boots, the Octopus tried the crushing method. So all these staunch trade unionists were dismissed, sacked—sixteen hundred of them!

It is a very long time since an employer has attempted such reckless methods to break a strike, and it clearly proves up to the hilt the case of the Vehicle Builders that this fight is one for the survival of trade unionism.

The victimisation of John Mc... attempt to smash the N.U.V.B. and demoralise all trade unionists. Austins are yearning for the "good old days" when a whip was a whip and the workers knew it! But the workers are determined those days shall never return.

How annoying for these millionaire motor lords to find themselves confronted with a trade union whose members do not grovel but stand up straight in defence of their union and the shop stewards who keep the union machine functioning.

This is going to be a titanic battle between trade unionism and the Lords and Overlords of the most powerful motor combine in Europe.

"No dispute now exists", says the Lord of Austins, "the men can report to the Labour Exchanges if they are seeking work"! But Big Boss Lord has reckoned without the fighting spirit of the working class.

There will be no 'signing on' and no going back to work for Austins. Furthermore, every attempt will be made to extend the battle until Austins honour their agreements on redundancy.

## Big Boss Lord



HIS EFFORTS TO SMASH TRADE UNIONISM IN AUSTINS MUST BE DEFEATED

## Editorial

year and all company reports bemoan the increasing competition in world markets.

Therefore, those workers who are made redundant by 'more efficient methods' will not find other jobs because—apart from armaments—the market for the goods we produce are shrinking fast. Some because of increasing world

competition, and others—like China, Eastern Europe and Russia—because of a deliberate restriction, a ban, imposed by the capitalist rulers of this country and the United States of America.

Mr. Ted Hill, the Secretary of the Boilermakers' Society, was worried about this point at the last meeting of the much publicised Productivity Council. He didn't oppose increased productivity as such (no trade unionist ever would), but he did quite rightly insist that the workers should benefit from all the harder work involved.

For stating this elementary claim of a good trade unionist, Mr. Hill was officially rebuked by the T.U.C. It is almost unbelievable isn't it? No wonder the capitalist press is full of praise for the T.U.C. They couldn't be more

"responsible" if they were a meeting of company directors!

They tell us our salvation lies through more efficient work, and all the employers—big and small—shout their approval. But where among them is the man of genius who will explain how the half-a-million unemployed can work "more efficiently"?

Or take the workers in those industries turning out useful things like clothes, food, furniture, books, houses, schools, etc. The Government's Survey shows that the effective demand for these things is declining because of high prices. Surely even the worst productivity fiend will understand that it is little use producing more vacuum cleaners, for example, if they can't be sold. It can only lead—and is leading—to unemployment.

There remains only that sector of the economy which is working directly or indirectly for the arms drive—engineering, ship-building, radio, chemicals, aircraft, the mines and steel.

Here, it is true, there is no real danger of mass unemployment. The Government is doing its best, by cutting down all "unessential" services like pensions, subsidies, fire service, to feed and expand the war machine. But however much service is produced at the moment, it can't be eaten or tanks or fighters lived in.

The end of industrial activity will raise the level of material

Eighteen hundred strikers met last Monday and endorsed these and other decisions of their Union Executive.

By the time you read this report, all the N.U.V.B. shop stewards in the whole Austin Combine will have met to consider strike action by members of the Union employed at all the Austin factories.

Meanwhile the T.U.C. has been urged to put all its weight behind the N.U.V.B.'s demands for a Court of Inquiry.

The picket lines are now being better manned. Some members who returned to work last Friday are now out on strike again.

Whatever becomes of the demand for a Court of Inquiry it is the solid support of all trade unionists which will finally decide the issue and bring victory to the gallant members of the N.U.V.B.

Miners, engineers, bakers, local Labour Parties—even doctors—are sending in messages of support. And, most important, sending in the cash to carry on the fight.

It is possible that trade unionists will be called upon to take even more vigorous action than this—but meanwhile we cannot stress too much that MONEY IS NEEDED ALL THE TIME.

Send in all you can, and see that your organisation registers its support right away.

These wholesale sackings at Austins—this blatant lock-out—has surely made it clear to the whole country that the employers, backed by the Tory Government, have thrown down a challenge. Let us see that it is thrown right back in their faces.

If Big Boss Lord wins, the every employer in Great Britain will feel encouraged to 'try it on'. It will be the signal for a general onslaught on shop organisations a prelude to breaking down hard won agreements on wages and working conditions.

This Austin Strike is YOUR strike.

Send all donations to F. Wilkins, 142 Wolverton Road, Rednal, Birmingham.

## Mineworkers, Engineers and Labour Parties Send Aid

THE Austin Strike Committee inform us that among the organisations which have sent financial support are the National Union of Mineworkers (Midlands Area) £100; Coventry Branch N.U.V.B., £100; Jaguar workers, £150; Duplax workers, £330 6s. 0d.

"Factories are now shutting weekly" says the letter, "and above is some indication of support we are receiving".

We have also learned that Holborn & St. Pancras South Constituency Labour Party has, by decision of its General Committee sent the sum of £11 10s. 0d.

The Birmingham Borough Labour Party has donated £10 and pledged its full support.

But much more financial aid needed to beat Big Boss Lord. Roll in your donations to Financial Secretary, F. Wilkins, 142 Wolverton Road, Rednal, Birmingham.

employment to the workers and greatly increased profits to the employers.

No trade unionist, and certainly no socialist, is opposed to 'more efficient working', but it is no technical question—it is a political problem whose solution requires first of all, the removal of the Tory Government and the nationalisation and planning of the economy in the interests of the producers. To this aspect of the problem we shall return next week.

# Productivity—Who Benefits?

★ You Can't Make a Meal on Guns and Tanks ★

well-being by one iota. From the point of view of the working class, arms production has the same effect, in the long run, as burning wheat and throwing fish back in the sea had in the slump years of the 1930's.

By restricting the really productive sector of the economy, arms production gives rise inevitably to high prices. Remember they rose last year by 7 per cent. and are steadily undermining the workers' living standards. Meanwhile, for the unemployed, the sick and the old people the armaments drive spells absolute penury.

The conclusion we draw is this: while industry is in private hands, increased productivity bring un-

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# Local Councils Must Be Socialist Strongholds

★ Vigorous action CAN Reduce rents ★

THE problem of high rents is the problem of rising costs. While it is true that this is a national problem and will need a national solution, it is not true that there is nothing that local authorities can do to keep down these costs—particularly, of course, if the local authority is Labour-controlled.

In many localities a relatively large proportion of the total expenditure goes on such items as Civil Defence and, lately, on preparations for the Coronation.

In Lambeth for example, the amount spent on Civil Defence is in the region of £5,000 while the product of a 1d. rate—£9,000—is being spent on the Coronation. A total of £14,000 on two quite unnecessary functions.

When it is remembered that in the same borough the total falling in the rates for housing (the statutory rate contribution plus repayment of loans, interest charges, etc.), is £66,000 it will be readily appreciated that the amount spent on Civil Defence and Coronation activities is not inconsiderable.

In fact, with this £14,000, without recourse to a Rent Rebate scheme, it should be possible to assist needy cases like workers who are unemployed or on low wages.

**MONEYLENDERS' RAKE-OFF**  
But the real root of the problem is the interest charges which have to be met by every local authority. While this is paid there is little that can be done to reduce rents. Let me re-state the facts of this robbery of local authorities which bankers perform every year.

The following figures extracted from the minutes of the London County Council (14/11/52), give a real picture of the situation which followed the raising of the rate of interest on loans. They relate to a house costing £1,785.

At the old rate of 3 per cent. interest charges the debt charge was £67 13s. 9d. . . maintenance was £19 0s. 0d. The rent being £59 16s. 0d., the deficit was left at £20 17s. 9d.

At the new rate of 4½ per cent. the debt charge rose to £122 18s., maintenance remained the same as before the rent. The deficit rose therefore to £46 0s. 8d.

(This deficit is met by an exchequer subsidy, statutory rate contribution and additional rate contribution.)

The increase in the rate of interest has meant for London that

"there will be an additional charge on the rates in 1952-53 of about £45,000 rising to about £100,000 a year when the present programme of 94,000 dwellings is completed". (L.C.C. Minutes.)

But what is most striking about these figures is that the debt charges exceed the rent paid! If no interest were paid—that is, if the capital was borrowed without interest—the figures would read as follows:

Debt charges £31 5s. 0d., maintenance £19 0s. 0d. Rent at present level being £59 16s. 0d. there would be an asset accruing to the L.C.C. of £9 11s. 0d. per year! The rent could accordingly be reduced.

These figures bring home in a startling way just why the subsidy is necessary: to pay the City

Discussion on the Problems of High Rents continued by "Socialist Councillor".

of London its interest charges. To pay money to people who have done nothing except lend other peoples money at high rates of interest.

If Local Authorities took action to deprive the moneylenders of their tribute it could be easily explained and would be easily understood and supported by the workers. Fundamentally, high rents are part of a deliberate campaign by the Tory Government to place the burden of the crisis and war preparations on the backs of the workers. To defeat this plan will require that the whole Labour Movement, including Labour-controlled Councils, organise activities that will result in the resignation of the Government.

### LANSBURY DID IT!

It has been done before. In the 1920's, George Lansbury and the Poplar Borough Council took such action in defence of the unemployed. They were arrested and jailed—but the point they fought for was soon conceded by a frightened government.

The writer realises that if Labour Councils resort to "Poplarism" the Tories might imprison councillors, or they might pass legislation to ensure that only people who would accept "law and order" could become councillors. But such steps would be acts of desperation which would arouse the hatred of the workers everywhere.

The issue is this: either the Councils get ready to take extraordinary action in defence of the

people against Big Business and the Tories, or they will, whether they like it or not, become the instruments of the Tory Government in loading still further burdens on the workers' backs. Rents and rates will never be reduced, houses and flats will never be built to let at rents the workers can afford if local councils merely confine themselves to routine operations.

### PREPARE NOW!

Naturally I do not propose that these steps be taken without serious thought and preparation. It will be necessary for the Councils to win the widest support in the localities. In this respect they should start now to explain to the people what is the REAL cause of high rents. They should stop quoting the increase of building workers wages as the alleged cause of the trouble and place the blame in the right quarter—on the bankers, the landowners, and the Tory Government's rearmament programme.

We need not fear lack of support if we conduct local council work as the socialist representatives of the working class. Let us be prepared to fight and to sacrifice in order to force this Tory Government to resign.

## Don't Forget the Landowner

The Stepney Borough Council reports that if tenants paid the full cost of its new five-bedroomed houses the rent would be £6 3s. 0d. And even after subsidies and rate contribution the rent charged will be £2 17s. 3d.

The cost of land per acre in Stepney is . . . £20,000.

# Comprehensive Schools —the critics answered

By Jack Johnson  
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for S.E. Leicester.



IN my previous article I tried to indicate the deplorable educational effects of the tripartite system of secondary education. The social consequences of segregation should need no restatement for a Movement, one of whose chief objectives is the elimination of class barriers.

Yet the obvious alternative to the present system—a new type of secondary school catering for all children on a comprehensive, non-selective basis—is still viewed with deep suspicion by many Labour Councillors, despite the fact that the establishment of such schools is the declared policy of both the Labour Party and the Trade Union movement.

Why is this so? Because I think, such comrades have been hoodwinked by the defenders of the status quo.

In the first place, it is argued, the comprehensive school would sacrifice the individual in the interests of equality and result in a disastrous lowering of academic standards. Put in another way, the idea seems to be that every child in a comprehensive school will follow the same curriculum, the pace and content being determined by the ability of the average pupil. This, of course, is the veriest nonsense.

The flexibility of organisation possible in such a school and the wide scope of its curriculum will offer increased educational opportunities for all its pupils. With a four or five-form entry and the application of modern educational techniques, there is not the slightest reason why every pupil should not proceed at a speed appropriate to his age, aptitude, and ability.

For a greater part of the school week, pupils would, it is true, work together in groups of mixed abilities, and follow a common core of studies, for the simple reason that in subjects such as P.T., music, art, literature, etc., it

is quite unnecessary to stream children on the basis of their intellectual ability.

For subjects such as mathematics, however, the pupils would be regrouped in "sets" according to the level of their attainment in such subjects, so that each child would have the opportunity of progressing at a pace appropriate to his own needs and ability. After the age of thirteen, further regroupings would be introduced to permit an increasing degree of specialisation to suit the developing interests and aptitudes of the individual pupils.

Far from the dull uniformity forecast by the traditionalists, the comprehensive school presents an exciting picture of diversified activity. For the very bright, opportunity of academic attainment will be undiminished. For the average child and the late developer the comprehensive school opens a new world of educational opportunity.

Even from the stigma of inferiority which the present system imposes, even the so-called dull child may achieve a degree of personal

and cultural development far in advance of that which is at present his. After all, Churchill and Bevin were not exactly shining examples of academic attainment at the age of eleven!

Looked at in another light, the comprehensive school can and should provide increased educational opportunities for the bright pupil as much as for the others. As the L.C.C. report on the subject says:—"Education is not a matter merely of intellectual achievement. It is a matter of all-round growth and development, physical, intellectual, social and spiritual".

He would be a bold man who would claim that our grammar schools provide the opportunity for such all-round development. On the contrary, all too often the drive in such schools for examination successes results in cramming and undue specialisation. Education should be an exciting, stimulating adventure, enriching the spirit and enlarging the personality. For the bulk of grammar school pupils it has become a wearisome round of irksome swotting, a dull grind which stifles interest and baulks initiative. The freer atmosphere and more varied curriculum of the comprehensive school, the flexibility of its organisation, and its need to develop teaching techniques to suit a wide range of aptitudes and abilities, will afford such pupils a much brighter prospect of a really liberal education. Even the very bright children who take examinations in their stride will surely gain from the richer social climate and community training of the comprehensive school.

"But," say our opponents, "think of the size of such schools. At least two thousand pupils. Heaven protect us from such educational monstrosities."

Very well, let us consider the question of size. Like the objection with regard to standards, this objection is also a fallacy. In the first place, the prospect of large numbers is by no means as repellant as is usually alleged. Public schools such as Eton and grammar schools of the calibre of the Manchester Grammar School already cater successfully for very large numbers, and there is never any suggestion that these schools lack cohesion or that their pupils feel lost or bewildered by the magnitude of their surroundings.

With proper organisation, including the use of the tutorial system, there is every prospect that pupils in large comprehensive schools will receive greater individual attention than they could hope to get in a grammar school of average size.

But it is not at all necessary for comprehensive schools to be exceptionally large. In this connection London is a special case, the size of her schools being to a considerable degree influenced by external conditions not generally applicable in the country as a whole. There is no need at all for Coventry or Leicester or Sheffield to feel inhibited by the size of the new schools which are now being established in the L.C.C. area.

The truth is that the figure of two thousand pupils is founded on a fallacy. The premise is that every comprehensive school must offer a complete range of courses for sixth form pupils, which implies a minimum of a hundred in the sixth form. This in turn means that there must be at least five hundred pupils of the so-called academic type in the school. But pupils of this type constitute only a quarter of the child population, so the school must also cater for

● Continued page 3, Col. 1

## A Dastardly 'Crime'!

TWENTY members of the African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress have been on trial in South Africa. They are charged with the following dastardly crime . . . being party to a plan to bring about full equality between Europeans and non-Europeans in South Africa, including the franchise for all!

Under the Reverend Dr. Malan's fascist regime, the whole of the British Labour and Trade Movement could be brought to trial!



### CAMERA OBSCURA OVER THE DARK CONTINENT

CAMERA obscura is defined as a dark box or chamber admitting light through a pin-hole. That's exactly what most of the Tory heads seem to be. They admit light just through a pin-hole on this Central African Federation issue.

Whatever the cost in human misery and African frustration our "realistic" Government insist on going ahead with the scheme. We are thus piling up more trouble.

Briefly, the scheme aims at the federation of the three Central territories of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland are Protectorates administered from the Colonial Office, while Southern Rhodesia is a self-governing colony within the Commonwealth.

The scheme suggested is not true federation but merely an amalgamation of a vast black majority to a powerful white minority.

There is no just representation of native African interests. There is no effort to reduce the colour bar. Neither is there any attempt to produce a multi-racial society based on common justice and equality.

Under the proposals the Government of the Federation would elect a Single Chamber with 35 elected members of whom six would be Africans. To change the Constitution a two-thirds majority would be needed. What hopes have the six of doing this?

The Copper interests are keen on this federation. The Chairman of Mufira Copper mines said:—

"A successful completion of federation would recreate conditions where investors could be confident about further investments in Rhodesia." ("Financial Times", 10/11/52.)

There in a nutshell is the argument! But is it not foolishness to expect this economic security if the wishes of the Africans are for ever brushed aside. Is not Kenya a warning?

African Chiefs whom I met here in London told me that they fear this federation because their people are not yet sufficiently advanced to defend themselves against the Europeans. They desire to work

Harold Davies, M.P. devotes the whole of this week's column to the problem of Central Africa.

as rapidly as possible towards universal suffrage in all the three territories. As it is, six million Africans will get their six representatives. Some 190,000 Europeans will get 29!

Responsible quarters of all political opinion in Britain have been shaken by the weight of opinion against the scheme.

The T.U.C. and the Labour Party oppose the idea and have supported the campaign against federation in Central Africa.

I will hurl no rocks against colleagues of mine who, despite the Official attitude, supported the federation project. Time will, as in many other of these differences of opinion, show that we are right when we follow our socialist instincts. Must not a socialist instinctively

be against racial discrimination? Should he not be prepared to help as quickly as possible to raise the standards of these backward peoples to prepare them for greater responsibility? And is it not a socialist duty to protect the African from exploitation in the transition period? Will not the African be exploited by this federation?

### COPPER IS KING

SIR FRANK SOCKICE in a cogent and powerful speech summed up for Labour. His speech was incisive and sincere. He said in the course of his remarks: "It is not my purpose to discuss whether the colour bar could have been avoided. But that it exists and that it bruises African spirits, hurts African pride and engenders constant and growing embitterment amongst Africans as they grow more and more conscious of their rights and their own individual nationalism cannot be gainsaid."

This is the human key to a socialist's approach to the question. Man was born for congeniality as well as economic efficiency. What efficiency can we expect from a Federation based almost on a slave concept?

Lord Noel-Buxton, in an article in the "Observer", January 4, 1953 said, "Consent is at the root of the matter, because consent is a factor basic to human dignity . . ."

The T.U.C. have also registered their opposition to this scheme. Their vast experience in industrial relationships is such that they, more than any other body, know the evils of coercion and cheap native labour. In Central Africa, Copper, not man, is king.

## A CASE FOR DISCIPLINE

ARE there two laws—or two sets of Standing Orders—in the Parliamentary Labour Party—one for the Left Wing and one for the Right Wing?

This question is prompted by the failure of the Parliamentary Party to take any action against those Labour M.P.'s who refused to support the Party's policy on Central Africa in last week's House of Commons debate on Central Africa.

Led by ex-Ministers Gordon Walker, Richard Stokes and Stanley Evans, a small but well-organised group of extreme right-wingers have been carrying on a vigorous campaign in support of the Tory line to impose Federation on Central Africa against the clearly-expressed opposition of 6,000,000 Africans.

In Parliament, they abstained

from voting against the Bill, despite the fact that there was a three-line Whip. In the weeks before the debate, they had consistently opposed the Labour Party's policy on the public platform and in the press.

Fifteen Labour M.P.'s deliberately defied the Whip. No disciplinary action has been taken against them, nor does it appear that any such action is contemplated.

What a contrast with the treatment meted out in April of last year to the 57 M.P.'s who rebelled against the Parliamentary Party's support of the Tory Arms Bill. They were immediately censured by the leadership and as a direct result of their action, standing orders, which had been in abeyance, were reintroduced.

In the past, the Labour Party had always permitted M.P.'s to abstain from voting on such issues as pacifism, temperance and denominational schools, on conscientious grounds. On all other questions it was insisted that majority decisions would be absolutely binding on every Labour M.P. Now, it would appear, support of reactionary Tory colonial policy can also be interpreted as "a matter of conscience".

Or is it simply that the right-wing M.P.'s are not subject to the same discipline as the left-wing?

## Socialist Outlook

177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1.

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Editor: John Lawrence

# Shipowners' Profits Break All Records



THE "Financial Times" published in January last, shows that trading profits of 57 Shipping undertakings that issued annual reports at various times in 1952, rose sharply from £63,364,000 to £96,477,000. This is an increase of 32 per cent, and no other industry listed in the "Financial Times" can show such a fabulous increase in profit. Holders of shipping shares, described by one financial reporter as becoming "restive," demanded a bigger share of the "cake" and were given an extra £1,211,000, bringing their total "slice" to £4,840,000. This is about 18 per cent of the gross profit, and just about 4½ million more than would have been necessary to give our old-timers a pension of £3 a week. But then our old-timers are not shareholders, are they? They have made no contribution to the wealth of the industry, have they? They are merely tools, like derricks or hatch boards which, having served their purpose, are no longer required and dealt with accordingly. Unfortunately, unlike the derricks and hatch boards, old-timers still eat food.

"It is well enough known," comments a journal of commerce reporter, "that the balance sheet of the shipping industry is strongly built," but he solemnly warns: "It is not always appreciated, however, that accumulated reserve and liquid funds must be measured against the very high cost of new tonnage." We might

Reprinted from the 'Portworkers' Clarion'

add that never is it appreciated that all profit is derived from the labour of Port-workers, and the cost to them in life and limb is never considered.

### FOR A RAINY DAY?

However, the same reporter assures us that Shipowners generally have saved up no more than is necessary to provide replacement and modernisation programmes. A statement which makes remarkable reading indeed, in the light of the fact that as their 1952 financial year ends, shipping companies covered by the "Financial Times" had reserves totalling over two hundred and seventy-eight million pounds. Once again no other industry can show such colossal reserves of wealth. The magnitude of such wealth can only be grasped if one considers just what £278 million could do. It could, to quote but one instance, if used to subsidise food, cut the cost of living for every family of four by at least 10/- a week.

### NOT ENOUGH

One might imagine that shipowners would be well satisfied with such fat balance sheets but, believe it or not, £278 million is not enough. They want the tax upon them to be slashed drastically. The excuse? Not enough money to buy ships. At every "face feeding" function (held at the rate of one a day), "after dinner" speakers warn the Government of the decline of

Britain's Merchant Fleet. Pompously they speak of the proud history of Britain's Merchant Fleet and tell of their own "desperate" struggles to maintain it. Their reasons, of course, are purely patriotic, and profit is the farthest thing from their minds. The final sally is always the same: "Taxation must be reduced." One is left with the impression that the situation is desperate; that is, until we learn that whilst an extra £12 million could be made available for distribution, only an extra £3 million out of an increased profit of some £33 millions, was put to the replacement fund. Shipowners may want more ships but they have no intention of limiting the distribution of profits to provide them.

The only other source is the one they are hammering away at now, the National Exchequer, and that's where YOU come in, brother. It's YOUR money they're after, and if the Government reduces their tax, as is more than probable, then away go the remaining food subsidies and up goes your cost of living.

It's a great life—for Shipowners.

## Straight From the (War) Horse's Mouth!

WAR for democracy, war for our way of life, war against totalitarianism... they have all been used to whip up support for the plans of the warmongers.

Just what a cynical fraud it all is has been revealed by the words of this American General which we quote.

"I spent thirty-four years and four months in active service as a member of our country's most agile military force—the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from second lieutenant to major-general. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscleman for Big Business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism."

"Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues..."

"I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916."

"I helped make Honduras 'right' for fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927, I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested."

"During these years I had, as the boys in the back room say, a swell racket. I was rewarded with honours, medals, promotion. Looking back on it, I feel I might have given Al Capone a few hints."

Major-General Smedley D. Butler, U.S. Marines.

## Question and Answer on the Austin Strike

A LEAFLET issued by the Austin Joint Shop Stewards' Organisation contains information on the real facts of the present strike which should be in the possession of every active trade unionist. We reproduce part of it here:

In view of the distortion and mis-statements in the press, we find it necessary to issue the following factual information. It has always been the policy of Austin Shop Stewards to oppose redundancy, and to see that alternative employment is offered to members so affected.

The firm have operated this principle in the vast majority of cases and have an agreement with us as to how to determine which worker has priority, i.e., last in, first out, and it was agreed that Austin employees would be given preference for re-engagement. It is regrettable that this practice has not operated in the case of Brother McHugh...

Many questions are being asked as a result of the firm's statement and press publicity. In the space at our disposal the following major points should be made known:—

- Q. Has Brother McHugh applied for re-engagement?
  - A. Yes. Three times, once in the presence of the convenor and three leading shop stewards. He has also applied for jobs at other firms without success.
- Q. How long has McHugh worked at the Austin?
  - A. Since 1928, except for occasional breaks and war service. Total at least 15 years with the Company.
- Q. Has the firm, at any time, registered any grievance against McHugh?
  - A. No. On the contrary, have stated, both at local conference and York, that have nothing against his conduct at all, and that he be treated like the other...
- Q. Has work been available to Brother McHugh since experience?
  - A. Yes. On this work 41 employees were engaged at Selly Oak Labour Exchange and elsewhere.
- Q. Why did N.U.V.B. members allow these 43 to start?
  - A. Because at that time the procedure for the avoidance of disputes was being operated. N.U.V.B. members honoured that procedure.
- Q. Why can't McHugh accept alleged job offered by A. Shenstone?
  - A. Because this firm is already in official dispute with a number of Trade Unions, and the Brother McHugh has been specially instructed not to be engaged.
- Q. Why can't this matter be settled under the Industrial Disputes Order?
  - A. Because, under this order 1376 of 1951, no provision made for a case of this kind.

To our women members wives of the men affected, allow this one agreement broken by the Austin Management, how can we defend existing agreements upon the wages and conditions of menfolk depend?

## Merrie England

"The public (finds that) 'Rationing by the pound' is an unnecessary and expensive device."

Thank God for "Merrie England; Proud mother of the free; Thank God for British conscripts, And Royal Pageantry."

Thank God for loving couples Who can't afford to wed; Thank God for empty larders, And the high price of bread.

Thank God for "Woolton's Red Meat" We can't afford to buy; Thank God for one room tenements, And Mansions—in the Sky.

Thank God for rationing by the purse, And for rearmament; Thank God for the "Economist", And workers "well content".

Percy Allott.

## Grimsby Trades Council Has Plan For Old People

AN Old Age Pension based on a percentage of the average earnings of all workers—one third for a single person and two-thirds for a married couple—was demanded at the March meeting of the Grimsby and District Trades Council.

The resolution, which has been sent to the General Council of the T.U.C. for action, suggested that the cost of these pensions should not be recovered out of increased taxation or increased contributions but should "be met out of the present expenditure on armaments."

## Comprehensive Schools (Cont. from page 2)

about fifteen hundred of the 'non-academic type'. So two thousand the total figure must be:

The answer to this nonsense is that we are not proposing to build our comprehensive schools on separate planets!

Within any administrative area there would, of course, be a number of such schools, each complementary to the others. Where a pupil required advanced, specialised tuition in a subject or course not available in his particular school, it would be a relatively simple matter to arrange for his transfer at the appropriate stage to a neighbouring school where such tuition was available. All that is necessary is that there should be a wide range of sixth-

form courses available within the L.E.A. area.

On this basis a comprehensive school can be almost any size to suit the needs and convenience of the area in question. As a Labour Party pamphlet on the subject points out, schools with six hundred or nine hundred pupils would be able to cater satisfactorily for the great majority of their pupils. For the rest, the exceptional cases, a system of inter-school transfers would operate. Given the will on the part of the administering authorities there is no reason why such a system should not work smoothly and efficiently and, in fact, offer a far wider range of choice for sixth-form pupils than is available in most of our present grammar schools.

There it is, then, comrades—the gist of the case for the comprehensive school, the secondary school of the future. It is up to our Labour Councils to start planning for such schools without delay.

It is up to all of us to see that parents understand their nature and purpose. Already many parents are disgruntled with the present system which brands their children as inferior and denies them the opportunity of a real education. Once they understand our case they will back us with enthusiasm.

# Young Engineers in Conference

Reported by A. Atkinson

LOOKING back on the 10th Annual Youth Conference of the A.E.U. it is clear that the young engineers of this country are ready and willing to pursue a militant socialist policy if they are given the opportunity. The resolutions passed will give adequate proof of this statement.

There were ten resolutions to be discussed and five of them dealt in some way or other with National Service. The most important of these five asked for:— a reduction to 12 months in military service; the 12 months to be served in this country at the age of 21, and the abolition of Territorial and Reserve Service.

Points brought forward were that Churchill was betraying British youth to the U.S. capitalists who, we were of the opinion, would exploit us in every way possible to further their own ends.

Should apprentices be automatically deferred until they are 21? Certainly, we answered. Too many young men at 20 have come out of the army and left the trade because of the two years' unsettlement.

On the question of whether or not the key apprentices who are deferred until they are 23 should be exempted, everyone voted solidly for exemption, on the grounds that, if he was so valuable for those two years, it should count as National Service.

An emergency resolution alleged that pressure was being brought upon young lads in the

army, and about to go into the army, to make them join for 3 or more years. The Executive agreed to go into this matter providing enough proof of this 'blackmail' could be forwarded to them. (This can possibly be a job for 'Outlook' readers).

Equal pay for equal work? Certainly, said the lads and they forthwith passed a resolution asking that national servicemen be paid the same rate as regular soldiers.

Who are the most highly skilled and worst paid apprentices in the country? We are, lamented the Conference—but if we could make sure that this resolution for a £1 per week increase for ALL APPRENTICES is passed we will then be on a level with other trades. It was passed all right and—with no votes against!

Education has been a sore point with the working class ever since there have been socialists, and we are certainly not going to have our already poor facilities made any worse. If the government are short of cash, we say, reduce expenditure on armaments. Arms certainly don't benefit us.

Votes at 18? This has been for some years the official policy of the A.E.U. and, in fact, we have approached the Labour Party about it, with no success. But young Engineers will continue to pass this resolution, as we did.

until the vote is given to all young people of 18 and over in Parliamentary and Municipal Elections.

A resolution was passed urging:—

- (a) a campaign based on — wages, apprenticeship, trade training, education, and trade unionism.
- (b) liaison between youth in T.U.s in this country.
- (c) Close contact with youth throughout the world.
- (d) The T.U.C. to instigate a

## Fighting Talk

DID you see the "News Chronicle" last Saturday? Laurence Thompson, in a feature article on the Austin Strike, paid involuntary tribute to the "Socialist Outlook" which, week after week has championed the strikers' cause and brought the FACTS before the public.

That the strikers appreciate what we are doing, is shown by the message from the strike committee which appears on the front page of this issue.

We are very proud of that letter of appreciation. We treasure it alongside similar letters we have received from other workers whose cause we have tried to help—Briggs Strike Committee, Rival Lamps Strike Committee, and the Road Haulage Shop Stewards.

That's what the "Outlook" is here for—to help the working class in its struggles. We have no other reason for existence.

But to live, we need CASH. To serve the Labour Movement fully, we must expand! The "Outlook" must penetrate into those areas where we have few readers. This we are going to do with our SUMMER CAMPAIGN. For that we need MORE CASH.

In brief, we must reach that Target of £70 in our Fighting Fund EVERY MONTH! Every penny above that Target is an extra bullet in the fight against Mr. Lord and his fellow-bosses.

Join in the battle by sending as much as you can to our Fighting Fund. It's YOUR fight, comrades, so go to it!

National Campaign to encourage youth to join trade unions.

Last but not least, a resolution was carried asking for payment of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by apprentices attending day school.

Finally, conference agreed we couldn't do these things alone. We need the help of ALL the organised Labour Movement. This was forthcoming and we are able to look forward to making a Britain fit for decent working class people to live in.

## Scottish Railmen Denationalisation

AT a recall Conference in Edinburgh, 29th March delegates representing branches of the A.S.L.E.F. the N.U.R. in the Scottish region, passed the following resolution:—

"That this Conference A.S.L.E.F. & F. and N.U.R. Branches expresses their solidarity with the A.S.L.E.F. & F. and N.U.R. who have failed to give necessary positive leadership against the Transport Bill which will so gravely affect the conditions of all Railwaymen.

"Therefore we pledge ourselves to use every means of persuasion and character towards that end, and ask all N.U.R. and A.S.L.E.F. branches to urge their members, to press for the 40 week to offset the serious redundancy which must accrue from introduction."

"We resolve, not only to oppose the industrial effects of the bill but to make every possible effort to secure the complete withdrawal of this reactionary Legislation."

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## The Railway Review

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Engineers 57/5d.; R. J. Johnston, Altrincham 4/-; Platts workers 41/6d.; Platts "Buster" 58/6d.; Salford A.E.U. members 8/-; Manchester & Salford readers 26/6d.; J. Wilcock, Salford 3/-; Albert Park Ward members 2/6d.; 2 London readers 60/-; F. Dannreuther 10/-; J. Davies, B'ham 6/-; Vickeridge 1/-; Anon. 2/6d.; A.E.U. members 14/6d.; Walsh 5/-; A. Cooper, B'ham. 7/6d.; B. Pickett 7/6d.; G. White 5/-; R. T. Shelley workers 18/-; Sam 13/-; H. & O. 8/-; J. & W. 6/-; W. Keane, Manchester 5/6d.; Leicester Socialists 84/6d.; Norwood readers 51/3d.; Nottingham readers 46/3d.; West Salford readers 10/-.

Total £86 16s. 0d.

# The Shocking Plight of Old Seamen

**I**FAD Napoleon been living nowadays, he would have probably called the English people a "Nation of beachcombers" instead of the familiar "Shopkeepers".

*Our readers write*

And he would not have been looking through the top of his sea-corned hat, because all along our coasts old men have been forced to beachcombing.

These old folk are usually old pensioners, seamen in the days of sail and unemployed workmen who have been forced to the high costs of living and employment to sink to "scavenging" for odd coppers in the streets.

They are not vagrants, however, who are too lazy to work, the contrary not so long ago under the Labour government, they were proud and useful members of the community.

One old man I recently spoke to was a retired sea captain who many of his friends couldn't work.

Consequently after a gale has led the barren beach during black wintry night, churning the sand, he can be seen walking with his "mates" through the streets early next morning towards the shore where, figures of eyes fixed to the sand, the little band of men search pennies, sixpenny pieces and half-crowns which were lost holiday-makers the previous summer.

No matter what monies they have in their search it is sure to them. For they say all helps with the 'baccy' and 'pint' which is pitifully protective on their pensions or dole.

It is not morally wrong that they who have served their country both in peace and war should be compelled by the Tory Government to "scrounge"?

Obviously the answer lies in the fact that they are not one of those face-faced Colonels or Majors.

But they are not the only folk who suffer by the high cost of living, there is fierce competition in the summer holidays with school-children who cannot afford the things that the "Tory gentlemen" rationed.

So fierce, in fact, is the competition that a seaman who is unable to work because of injuries received during the war said: "I don't want any youngsters coming down here and taking away our bread."

These men are bitter because of their search in the shadows of the hotels with ugly American cars parked in the drives. Surely this is a perfect example of Conservatism.

Peter Jackson.

## Coronation Humbug

Thank you for the very plain facts and letters on the Coronation waste of the people's money.

The humbug about "make the coronation as economical as possible" supposed to come from

those at the top is nothing but a studied insult to the workers. It is well known that a Government is in power that believes the workers should feel privileged to be exploited all ends up so that Royalty can prance around London on every possible occasion as if the country teemed with an abundance of wealth.

A non-productive member of the community can be voted £40,000 a year while the workers are faced with still rising cost of living. It is unfortunate for the exploited that at a time when they need a national newspaper to rouse the workers against Churchill and his Government we are deprived of true representation of the workers' cause by the changing front of the "Daily Herald".

To be quite blunt about it, the Tories seem to be doing what they like in Parliament and only voices like the "Socialist Outlook" are genuinely raised against them.

Leicester. Paton Dene.

## Expose the Horrors

I have always held the view that if we want to convert the people to a policy of everlasting peace, it is essential the horrors and not the "glory" of war be constantly placed before them. That is why I welcome the constant efforts of the "Outlook," by articles and photographs to portray the horrors and the injustice of war.

The unpleasant fact must be continually brought to the notice of the people in the British Isles, that it is all too certain that in the event of war with Russia we could not be protected from complete devastation should atomic bombs be employed. As long as Britain is being used as an American aircraft base there is every reason to suppose that atomic weapons will be used against us.

Cleethorpes. S. R. Pearson.

## Oppose Conscription

All socialists should oppose conscription. While it might be argued that a Socialist state would require armed forces to defend it from capitalist attacks there is absolutely no excuse for any socialist to support it today under a reactionary Tory Government.

Conscription was nailed down on our Youth in 1947 by a Labour Government with the aid of Tory votes. The Right wing leaders of Labour presumably needed this measure to back up Ernest Bevin's support for American imperialism and wage war against the colonial people. That is still the position today. Young lads are being sent to Malaya and Korea to die for the glory of profit-making.

Not only is conscription anti-socialist, it is also the greatest

menace to public liberty that this country has ever known.

Those young men who object to this are being jailed for as much as 12 months for their anti-war opinions.

Let all socialists unite and remind our Right Wing that the Movement was not founded to uphold the Slave Society.

Keighley. M. Evans.

## Austria's Anti-Fascists

I would like to draw your attention to the situation in Austria where the Right-wing People's Party has been conquered by its crypto-Fascist and ex-Heimwehr right-wing and, in consequence, where the workers look like having a tough anti-Fascist struggle on their hands.

I would suggest that the "Outlook" tries to encourage moral support in this country for, and the sending of resolutions of encouragement to the Austrian workers by Local Parties and Trade Union Branches.

Edinburgh. Tom Wright.

## No Retreat on Public Ownership says Leicester

**T**HE South East Leicester Division Labour Party considered the pamphlet, "Problems of Public Ownership" at Day schools held on Sunday, November 2nd, 1952, and Sunday, January 18th, 1953.

The school rejected the idea that the Labour Party should seek a general mandate at the next election on the lines propounded by Herbert Morrison in recent speeches. It did so for two reasons:

(1) As Davies himself states, "the original reasons why nationalisation was advocated by the Labour Movement still stands," and John Strachey quite recently, has said "we do not nationalise industries merely to increase their efficiency, but also to change the property relationship of our community".

Our aim as Socialists is the transference of property and the means of production to the people in order to secure a proper distribution of the net national product among those who create it.

We recognised, that however speedy may be our progress to this goal, an appreciable sector of our economy will have to remain in the hands of capitalists for some time to come, and that it will be necessary to control these private investments in the interest of the people. We agreed, too, that it must be made abundantly clear that inefficiency in the private sector will not be tolerated.

But to present socialisation to the electorate as a last resort to be applied only when private enterprise has failed, or is inefficient, or monopolistic, is, in our view, to invite disaster.

(2) The school held that a socialist programme is decidedly relevant to the problems facing the nation at the present time. The maintenance of full employment, the initiation and co-ordination of investment, both at home and overseas, the extension of social justice and the full development, of an industrial democracy are all factors vital to our survival and security.

The relationship between these factors and public ownership was clearly apparent to members of these schools. It would appear to have been equally obvious to the delegates who attended the Morecambe Conference. To seek to nullify Conference decisions in favour of an indefinite, ambiguous appeal to the public is to underestimate the seriousness of our economic situation and the intelligence of the electorate.

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# Is Your Journey Necessary?

(by private car)

★ Death on the Roads CAN be stopped ★

**A**RMAMENTS and the Motor Industry — the chief consumers of steel in this country—have many other things in common.

The motor industry is attractive to the modern industrialist because there is a lot of easy money to be made and very little responsibility taken. It has other characteristics in common with armaments; fashions change rapidly, they are deliberately changed, they are produced for snobs. Generals and car owners must always have the latest and be up to date. In this they are helped by the manufacturer. The other characteristic the motor industry has in common with armaments is that it kills an enormous number of people.

Killing by armaments is done on a grand scale, generally for limited periods, although Korea, Malaya and Indo-China are quite useful non-stop efforts, but motor killing goes on all the time, everywhere a steady toll is taken of human life and limb. They both kill indiscriminately men, women and children and their score is about equal. We waste steel and petrol in order to waste human life in both cases.

But of course we all love peace, we all deplore the killing and maiming of people on the road. Nevertheless it goes on. Do we really care? Do we? Or do we regard the whole thing as a sort of thrilling gamble, like the degenerates in Robert Louis Stevenson's "Suicide Club"? Do we say to ourselves in the morning, "Well, here we are, another jolly day of risk; I may be one of the unlucky ones today, or perhaps little Jane will be cut down on her way to school. Oh well, let's chance it, we must all die some day, and after all, Lord Nuffield is a great man and does a power of good with the money he gets through manufacturing motor cars."

The fact is we don't think that way, but we most certainly act

## The Weekly Wash!

**A**T one o'clock the other morning the phone bell rang in the Manchester newspaper office where I work.

"It's Joe Hardman speaking. Can you get a car and come over right away to Hodge Lane Washhouse? You won't be wasting your time."

Joe is the energetic chairman of Salford Corporation Baths and Washhouse Committee, an engineer by trade, and not the kind of man to pull a pal out of a warm office on a freezing cold morning.

When I arrived at the washhouse an amazing sight met me. Queuing on the steps were 20 women huddling together for warmth. They were the first of many to come. Some had brought blankets which they shared between them. Their ages ranged from 16 to 60. They were going to stay there till eight o'clock in the morning. Why?

Because the Labour-controlled council had installed a new battery of six electric washing machines and was now extending their use to Saturday morning to help housewives, mothers and other women who go out to work on weekdays. Terms: 1s. 6d. an hour. Booking was to start at eight o'clock on that morning.

So desperate were these women to make sure their names would be on the list of 300 successful applicants they were prepared to make this sacrifice.

There are 35,000 homes in Salford without either a bath or a hot-water system. These washing machines would be a help to any woman. But to working wives and mothers who lack the most elementary of housing amenities they are a positive boon.

I reckon that if anything reflects the crying need for proper housing this little incident does.

Frank Allau.

Easter and a welcome bit of sunshine will bring swarms of private motorists on to our already congested roads. Pleasure for a few — death and brutal injuries for many others. For the mothers of children who live on main roads and in the big cities this traffic problem is an absolute nightmare.

that way. Can anything be done, you ask, is it not all an Act of God or fate, just something we can't help, like flying bombs?

Rubbish! we could easily stop it if we were not blinded by profit grabbers and snob worship. I do not say that accidents can be avoided, but killing by armaments or by motor cars is avoidable and if not avoided the result is not accident but murder. Let us look at murder on the road.

There were very few people

By Tom Braddock

killed before the advent of the motor car. The only fast traffic we had then were railway trains and they were fenced off from all contact with the rest of the community. Motor cars are just as fast and not nearly so noisy, but they are allowed free access to all places where people walk. The old horse traffic was slow moving and the horse itself, if not its driver, had some small respect for life even if it was only its own.

The car driver is a very different proposition, and as his numbers increased, as his weapon has got swifter, so his record of killing on the road steadily increases. All this in spite of the most careful propaganda and drill to persuade people to avoid the motor car. All of no avail, we have got to go out of doors and the killer is winning all the time.

What is to be done? Surely it is obvious, we must take most of the cars off the road and reduce the speed of those that are left. Oh! you think, I could have said that but I am not so silly, progress must go on. But is it progress to waste labour power and material and kill people with the products? In my opinion there is no progress there, but wilful and stupid cruelty which adds to no one's happiness and causes untold sorrow to thousands of people.

What would happen if we took the cars off the roads?

(1) We would not burn to waste that extremely expensive import, petrol. We could get food and raw materials instead; what petrol we did bring in would be used only for industry, agriculture and essential transport.

(2) We would free our roads of the clutter of traffic that is at present wasting millions of hours of time simply because our streets are so packed with these swift, expensive, petrol-burning vehicles that they stop one another from moving at anything but a horse and cart speed. This applies not only to working hours but to holidays as well. Fewer vehicles travelling at a slower pace would get us all where we want to go just as quickly, much more certainly, and without killing and maiming thousands in the process.

(3) We could limit our road making activities to the improving of existing highways and main traffic roads. We would save ourselves from trying to carry through the impossible task of providing enough roads for the ever increasing numbers of fast travelling vehicles, which in the final analysis can only travel slowly because of their numbers, and can only murder people in their efforts to travel quickly during those times when they find themselves with an open road in front of them.

(4) By releasing the motor industry from its urge to manufacture large numbers of snob appeal private cars we can use that same industry to produce instead in-

creased numbers of public vehicles of improved types and so equip our network of roads with a service to carry all who want to travel on business or pleasure to any place they wish to go to.

I agree this would be a blow to all those people who have been persuaded to believe that the height of bliss is to sit alone or with girl, wife or family in a privately-owned car, each behind his own private petrol burning engine. This is an attitude which has been most cunningly engendered in the minds of the better-off section of the community. Those not so well off think it is the thing to be in the swim, and so we get death and chaos on our roads.

The provision of a first class public service would outweigh all seeming advantages of privately-owned vehicles, the saving in time, garaging, upkeep, petrol, etc. would vastly outweigh any seeming loss of convenience. There could be run in connection with the public service a cheap and efficient taxi service and the provision of special vehicles for the aged and infirm.

(5) This policy would release an impressive section of our motor industry for the production of other and more necessary products and for the manufacture of vehicles for export, not to the Americas but to the countries of the East and to the colonial peoples who are now demanding higher living standards.

(6) The building up of such a public service would to a great extent free our railroad system of passenger traffic and so enable it to be fully used for the transport of goods. In certain cases the railway tracks would be relaid for the use of fast motor traffic. These tracks are fully protected and there would therefore be no danger to life and limb and speed could be used with real effect.

These may seem revolutionary proposals to many of my readers. There is however no difficulty in putting them into operation. Thousands of lives would be saved, labour and material would be released for more worth-while purposes and so enable us to face with greater confidence the task of upholding the living standards of our own people and assisting in the improvement of those of other nations and peoples.

Small Advs. (1/- per line, minimum 3 lines.)

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