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TODAY

Socialist Outlook

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3d.

**Hands Off
the Colonial
peoples!**

THAT 15% Engineers Prepare For Action

THE 24 hour token stoppage of two million engineers demonstrated the solidarity of the workers who participated and, I am convinced, gave the employers food for much thought.

At the meeting of Joint Executives of the 39 Unions affiliated to the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions held on

December 23rd there was a determination to see some further form of action operated, and whilst the motion submitted by the Confederation was specific in its terms, there were seven amendments, put forward by various Unions, amongst them my own, the Constructional Engineering Union.

One significant feature of these seven amendments was the fact that practically all of them mentioned Industrial or Strike action, if all else failed.

The Confederation motion which was carried with few dissentients means that no worker should draw in wages more than the day-worker would receive by working a 44 hour week. Thus making for equality of sacrifice.

Obviously there will be difficulties attached to the operation of the resolution, but these can be overcome by specific instructions, good and sound leadership, and the co-operation of shop stewards, this in turn leading to the co-operation of the workers and the ultimate success of our efforts.

It is a striking commentary on the justice of the claim, especially when based on increased production that the "News of the World" on Sunday, December 27th published the following:

"A toast this morning—if you've anything left—to all who helped to make this Christmas the most bountiful for many a long day and who have laid the foundations for a happy and prosperous New Year.

"A toast to the factory workers who have boosted production until it looks as though the final balance sheet of industrial output in 1953 will beat even the post-war record of 1951..."

Public opinion, when the facts are known, will undoubtedly support the claim, for they are not blind to the enormous profits made by the employers in the industry.

The time has come when the workers must exhibit their solidarity and strength, for a fight must ultimately take place unless the employers' attitude alters.

Finally, my own Union, who have invariably taken the line that the time for action is long overdue, submitted the following amendment which although defeated received considerable support.

"This meeting of Joint Executives instructs the Executive Council of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions that a recommendation be made to the affiliated Unions to issue notice of strike action in accordance with their respective Constitutional Rules."

If between now and January 18th no settlement is arrived at I look forward with confidence to the workers concerned acting in accordance with the Confederation Joint Executives decision to ban all piece-work and overtime.

By Jack Stanley
General Secretary—Constructional Engineering Union

Our New Year Message to the Movement..

Be Resolute in the Fight Against War!

NINETEEN-FIFTY-FOUR may well prove to be the most fateful year in the history of mankind, for many political and economic facts converge to make this the year in which the third world war can explode. We don't say it will—as there are some factors operating to force a re-casting of American plans—but any attempt to give, however briefly, a perspective which does not take the dread reality of war into account is hardly worth the paper it is written on.

American economy—to which the economies of the entire western world are tied—is at present showing all the familiar signs of approaching slump and decline. Anyone who ignores the possibility of American Big Business trying to head off this crisis by means of war is either not living in the real world or—is deliberately trying to deceive the people.

The last time that U.S. economy showed similar signs of decline was in 1949 and Big Business overcame that crisis by pushing up arms production from the then level of 13 billion dollars a year to the present level of more than 60 billion and in 1950...it launched the war in Korea!

But now the Korean war is over—at least for the time being—and the American Government is compelled to level off its spending on arms production. What is the result? Already there is, as one

capitalist spokesman put it, "a slow downward drift of business activity." And this, don't forget, notwithstanding a continuing arms programme of around 60 billion dollars a year!

Twice the amount spent on arms for the entire four years of the first world war is now being spent by America for arms every year—yet still it is not enough to mop up the tremendous productive power of the American working class.

Each year they increase production by some 12 billion dollars and each year the profits of industry amount (after taxation) to a further 20 billion.

Unless this surplus production can be sold and a field of investment found for the surplus capital in the hands of Big Business no power on earth can

prevent the wheels of American industry coming to a stop.

The sole remaining "solution" is to produce arms and still more arms. But—as all history testifies—the production of more and more guns has a hellish logic of its own. Sooner or later they explode into world war!

Nevertheless, war remains a "solution" for imperialism and one which they are more and more consciously embracing. To expect them to await passively the inevi-

table ruination of another 1929 is to expect a miracle.

Charles E. Wilson, the head of General Motors and the man who once said that "what is good for America," has recently given it as his profound conviction that American capitalism could not survive another 1929. And he is right. It couldn't.

A slump in America would not only have disastrous consequences for the American working class, it would also have immediate repercussions in Europe. Increased competition would lead to a price war and the "export of unemployment" across the Atlantic. In the present political situation, it is highly unlikely that the European unemployed could be bought off with a dole—even if the money could be raised to pay such a dole.

Revolutionary struggles throughout all Western Europe, including Britain, would therefore be the inevitable result of another American slump of the proportions of 1929.

Nor is that all. Compelled to grapple with their own enraged working class, the American capitalists would be in no position to stem the tide of colonial revolt which would undoubtedly completely crumble the empires of Britain, France and Holland and, through South and Central America, sweep up to the borders of the U.S.A. itself. And meanwhile, what of the U.S.S.R. and China?

First of all, the Soviet Union doesn't want war, she wants peace. Her economy is fundamentally socialist—it is not periodically racked by crisis of over-production when by some mad logic machines stand idle while people starve. On the contrary, from a very low beginning the Soviet Union has made giant strides in all fields of production until today, despite the ravages of the war, it is the second industrial power in the world. All this, we must stress, is due to the existence in the Soviet Union of a planned economy. Meanwhile, with this enormous growth of the productive forces

and a corresponding numerical growth of the Russian working class, there has grown a mass desire for a more democratic system of Government. Slowly rising standards of living and standards of culture in the Soviet Union are rendering more and more obsolete and absurd the present police methods of rule so far practised by the Soviet Government.

Should this process be allowed to continue for the next ten or twenty years, that is, should no war intervene, it is no exaggeration to say that a socialist Europe arising out of the coming slump would join hands with a Soviet Union in which the workers have secured a restoration of political democracy, thus confronting American Imperialism with such a display of democratic and socialist might that victory for the forces of socialism would be inevitable.

"The Western world's superiority over the Soviet bloc in military-economic potential, says the "New York Times," is being rapidly whittled away and is likely to lose much of its political and military importance within the next decade or so. There is little time to lose and it is running out fast."

What makes 1954 such a critical year is the fact that a capitalist economic crisis is approaching, the colonial revolution show no signs of diminishing, the productive capacity of the Soviet Union continue to increase—and the rulers of America have the arms and the necessary support at home to make them consider war a possible solution.

Is there then no way out of the war? Nobody can give any guarantees—least of all those of our leaders who preach that the more arms we have, the less danger there is of war. That policy makes war absolutely inevitable.

But this much is certain: British Labour occupies a key position in this global alignment of class forces. Resolute action here at home can so alter the situation that the possibility could arise of American Imperialism being forced to hesitate before the enormous task of taking on the entire world on their own.

A Socialist Government in Britain acting in free collaboration with the non-capitalist world and the national liberation movements in the former colonies could cause even the desperate men of Washington to hesitate and, as we have said, that hesitation could prove fatal.

It would mean an inevitable decline in American economic activity and the consequent appearance on the world scene of the great American working class so long quiescent. And when that happens—either before or during the war—the victory of socialism throughout the world is absolutely inevitable.

Editorial

When the Miners Marched on Newport
(see page 3)



White Collar Meets Bib & Brace

By W. A. Court
Chairman—Handley Page Strike Committee

THE strike of the 170 draughtsmen and technicians at Handley Page's Cricklewood aircraft factory is in its eighth week, and has now become the battlefield between the Engineering and Allied Employers National Federation and the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen for national recognition of a minimum rate for draughtsmen and technicians in the engineering and shipbuilding industries.

This dispute was caused originally by the introduction into the Handley Page Drawing and Design Offices at Cricklewood of "trainee draughtsmen" without either consultation or guarantees. Eventually, as the dispute continued it became increasingly obvious that the conflict, in dealing with the question of diluted labour would naturally resolve itself if an agreed minimum scale of rates for draughtsmen was arrived at.

In the words of Mr. G. H. Doughty, General Secretary of the A.E.S.D.:

Donations to Strike Committee, Cricklewood Trades Hall, Cricklewood Lane, N.W.2.

men to return to work, and therefore an offer from the employers was to be expected. In the teeth of evidence that other companies had agreed to minimum rates for draughtsmen, the employers made no attempt to argue a weak case. The London official of their organisation stated simply that the Engineering and Allied Employers National Federation could not permit a member firm to agree to a scale of minimum rates for draughtsmen—not even as a purely local settlement.

The gauntlet was thrown—war was declared.

The following day, after learning that their just demands had been refused so cavalierly, the draughtsmen resumed the strike—

solid to a man, knowing that upon their shoulders the outcome of a minimum rate for draughtsmen depended.

Their Executive Committee met the following day and, congratulating the draughtsmen on their determined stand, resolved to give continued support to the strike. The next day was Xmas Eve, and the strikers went home to their Christmas holidays, and so, presumably, did the employers!

Now, however, the season of goodwill has ended, the battle is on in full earnest. The draughtsmen, as members of the Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions will probably appeal to their fellow-workers in the industry to support the strike at Cricklewood.

The workers in the factory at Cricklewood, and in the Company's factory at Radlett, in Hertfordshire, have already passed resolutions asking the C.S.E.U. to declare the Handley Page factories black. The draughtsmen, whilst appreciating to the full the importance, and the historical significance of this support have to date been reluctant to call into being any practical demonstration of this unity in a sober attempt to resolve the dispute without spreading it.

This attempt has manifestly failed—the employers have thrown down a challenge the workers in the industry cannot ignore. One thing is certain, if the employers succeed on this sector of the front, where next will they, encouraged, choose to strike?

Time and time again our members are told how respectable we are, and how better educated than the rough men in the shops, and how far different are our interests and theirs. We have rejected this fraud—we know where our interests lie.

The engineering industry is our livelihood, as it is the livelihood of all those who work in it whether they wear collar and tie or bib and brace. Our future in the industry is in the guarantee we fight for now. We have no future in uncontrolled terms of engagement, so called "privileges," and "staff relationships."

Our guarantee against hard times is a guaranteed minimum wage, as indeed it is the only real guarantee of any working man.

In this lies both the essence and the need for unity between us all—white collar and bib and brace.

What Next For Take-Over?

HELP yourself, help the "Outlook", and help the whole Labour movement.

That's what you can do by entering our "Nationalisation Competition," details of which appear on page 4. Here's how it works out that you do all these three things.

You can help yourself by winning the prize of £10 which is offered for the best entry.

You can help the "Outlook" because, of the entries at 3d. a time, any surplus over the prize and the expenses of organising the

competition will go toward our fighting fund. And that fighting fund will be needed more than ever in 1954. With it we can carry on the good work we have been doing for the past 5 years— increase our campaigning for the removal of the Tory Government, and its replacement by a new Labour Government pledged to the work of introducing socialism.

You can help the Labour movement by working out which concrete measures of nationalisation should be operated by the next Labour Government. With the

possibility of getting rid of the Tories in 1954 this is an important subject.

So enter yourself, and get your family, your friends and your workmates to enter too. Discussions about which measures are the most important—whether those discussions take place at home, in the factory, at the Party Ward or Trade Union branch meeting—will all help in the development of policy.

Fred Emmett
Circulation Manager

MUSICAL THANKS

Having seen your report of the Musicians Union's strike at the Theatre Royal, Exeter in to-day's issue of your paper I wish to convey thanks to you for printing the real truth on this dispute.

A. Martin, Secretary
Exeter Branch N.A.T.K.E.

REPORT FROM BRITISH GUIANA

Georgetown, Dec. 12th

FOLLOWING the arrival of troops in British Guiana and the suspension of the Constitution, the People's Progressive Party inaugurated a campaign of non-co-operation and non-violence, urging the people to remain calm. This policy is still in operation.

There have been no incidents of violence, although the people have been deliberately provoked in many instances. For example, in Buxton, the home village of Sydney King (where feeling is usually high) the Chairman of the village Council obtained permission from the police to hold a public meeting to discuss village affairs. While the meeting was in progress, police with batons moved in, dispersed the meeting, and beat-up many persons. Many had to jump into trenches to avoid injury. Yet the people did not respond to this provocation, but returned home peacefully.

The non-co-operation campaign began with a strike call, which was effective on all the sugar estates in the Colony. The city workers did not respond, due perhaps to the fact that the Essential Services Act, which covers the nature of employment of most, would have caused them to lose their jobs by striking.

SUGAR STRIKES

The sugar estate strike lasted about three weeks, with two estates refusing to go back to work until after approximately a month. We had to urge them to return to work as the strike call had ended—but because of high emotional feelings, they were reluctant to do so.

On October 25th, five members

Numerous requests for information from British Guiana have resulted in the Peoples Progressive Party issuing a regular bulletin on the latest developments. The following is an extract from that bulletin.

of the P.P.P. including Mr. King, the former Minister of Communications and Works, were detained by the police and taken to Atkinson Field, former U.S. Air Base where they had been to the present. After numerous protests, the treatment they received has improved. They are each allowed visits from close relatives once per week, and are permitted to receive books, food and other gifts.

SEDITION CHARGES

Two members of the Party have been charged with sedition. They are Nasrudeen, a former sugar worker and Fred Bowman, also a former Sugar worker and Member of the prorogued House of Assembly.

Mr. Bowman is charged with having on September 24th, at Georgetown, in the hearing of the liege subjects of our Lady, the Queen, uttered a seditious speech, the purport of which was that (a) the white people were acting in the House of Assembly against the interest of the other people of the Colony; (b) The white people of the Colony were stupid and that they could use them as slaves, but the other people of the Colony were determined not to tolerate this and intended to resort to bloodshed to show that they were serious in their determination; (c) if necessary these other people of the Colony were prepared to resort to violence to get what they wanted, and was asking them to unite as the time was coming when they would have to fight the white people.

The strength of the Party since the time of the suspension of the Constitution is indicated by the results of the recent Local



IMPRISONED MINISTER

Mr. S. M. King, former Minister of Communications and Works in the deposed Government of British Guiana. Seen here taking his seat in Parliament, he is now in jail—detained "indefinitely."

Government elections. The Party has not received full reports on all elections but those on hand reveal that we won six out of six seats at Buxton village, with King, one of the detained, leading the polls. At Bagotsville we won five out of six. As far as we can estimate, our strength has not been diminished.

MEETINGS BANNED

We are, of course, greatly restricted in our activities. Meetings of more than five persons without permission are prohibited. We have applied for permission to hold a member's meeting, but have been refused. The Commissioner of Police replied to our request—"I am directed to inform you, in addition, that only applications for Executive Meetings will be considered for political parties, while the Emergency (British Guiana) Order, 1953 is in force." After that reply was received, the United Democratic Party was granted permission to hold a Member's Meeting which was even advertised in the newspapers.

Obviously the Government is

going to do all to encourage the U.D.P. in its development, and prevent our carrying out any organisational or propaganda work. Whenever we have attempted to have handbills or leaflets printed, they are seized by the Police and the printer terrorised. Members have been arrested by the Police for posting up posters. Last week one of our Members was charged for putting up a poster * "NO CONSTITUTION, NO CHRISTMAS."

Collection lists for our funds and collecting tins have been seized by police. Persons collecting money for the party on the sugar estates have been served with eviction and trespass notices.

Practically any activities we engage in is stopped by the Police. In one instance Mrs. Jagan when visiting a settlement of people was followed by the police within one foot of her, literally in her footsteps.

If any of the leaders of the Party go out of town, they are immediately followed by the police. Police raids on private homes continue weekly. Well over a hundred have been raided so far.

Our immediate demands are:—

1. **Withdrawal of troops.**
2. **Removal of Emergency Orders.**
3. **Release of the five detainees.**

DOVER DEMANDS

THE following resolution was recently passed by the Temple Ewell Local Labour Party.

"That the N.E.C. reconsiders the principle which governs the use it makes of its power of endorsement of Parliamentary Candidates, with special reference to its refusal to endorse the candidature of John Lawrence. If a person's views of the official policy of the Party are such that he is suitable to serve as a Labour Councillor, then they should be equally suitable for a prospective Parliamentary Candidate.

The N.E.C. is hereby called upon to reconsider its "witch-hunting" tactics which can victimise persons of known Socialistic views who are intelligent and useful members of our organisation."

Dover Mrs. E. M. Young

Councils Against the Rent Bill

LAMBETH Council has registered its opposition to the Tory Rents and Repairs Bill.

The Council discussed a report of its General Purposes Committee on December 16th. The Committee registered its opposition to the Tory Rents and Repairs Bill in these terms: "... certain provisions which appear to be biased in favour of owners of property cause much perturbation. For example, they do not approve the proposed increase in rent which will result for thousands of ratepayers living in the poorer classes of property who cannot afford such increases. Furthermore, the view is held that there is no guarantee that the property will be held in a good state of repair."

The debate in the council was the most heated since the new council was elected last May. The Tories were angry and very much on the defensive—Labour speakers were confident and aggressive.

Councillor Finch opened the debate. Part I of the Bill, he argued, put forward three new ideas. The first, a reduction in the standard of housing; the second, the occupation of slum houses for five to fifteen years, or more—which really means for ever; and third, that local authorities take over and maintain housing junk with the main expense falling on the ratepayers and the unfortunate slum occupants.

He dealt briefly with Part II of the Bill. "The few landlords who were hard up were the sprat to catch the mackerel. What was to stop the Government empowering local authorities to allow grants to landlords whose total annual income was no more than £450 and who could show need? The real reason for the Bill was to give the large landlords and the investment companies more." Quoting from the Government White Paper, he showed how the Tories intended to scrap rent control altogether if they got away with the present Bill.

Councillor Stapleton, the Tory leader angrily declared that he had heard a "most ferocious motion from Councillor Finch... Was a means test being asked

for?" ("For landlords!" interposed Councillor Finch).

Councillor Stapleton declared this was hypocrisy, the Bill was for better housing, he was astonished that the Socialist Party had not welcomed it. Some property had been rent restricted since 1915, the occupants of such houses had had the best end of the stick. They had been living in clover. At this there was laughter from Labour members.

The Labour Whip—Councillor Cleasby said that 'Operation Rescue' showed that it was not the people living in slums, but the landlords who were being rescued, although it was private enterprise who were responsible for the slums.

The Labour Chairman of the Housing Committee—Councillor White stated that the Tory Government "were encouraging the building of houses for sale while they were reducing the quota that councils could build... if local authorities were given interest free money they would be able to take over all private property, clear the slums and build the houses."

The report of the General Purposes Committee and its recommendations that the M.P. for Lambeth and the Metropolitan Boroughs Joint Standing Committee be informed of the Council's objections to the Bill were agreed without a division. The Tories, after speaking against the General Purposes Report, did not have the courage to vote against.

Socialist Outlook Reporter

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and the
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The Landlords are Never Satisfied

PROPERTY owners gathered together on December 15th at Winchester House in the City of London. They were there to consider the New Rent Bill.

The meeting was called by the Property Owners Protection Association and they were addressed by their President, the Rt. Hon Lord Meston. His lordship was quite candid about the Bill and admitted right away that he did not know what Clause 7 means. This is the clause dealing with standards of fitness!

Lord Meston is a barrister-at-law, and if he doesn't know, it is not likely that a County Court judge will be in any better state of mind.

But it is on this state of fitness that the tenant will, or will not, pay a substantial rent increase, in most cases high enough, for instance, to wipe out the increase in wages just granted to our underpaid railway employees.

His lordship was equally candid about the present state of rented houses, several millions are unfit for human habitation, said he. No objection was taken by the meeting to this statement so, there need be no more argument, if the Property Owners Protection Association say their houses are not fit for human habitation there seems to be a case, not for paying

increased rent but for paying no rent at all!

Why should anybody pay rent for a house that is not fit to be lived in? Indeed, they ought to be compensated for the discomfort and danger they are forced to put up with. 30/- a week should be allowed to all families living in a house not fit to be lived in.

His lordship then went on to criticise the Bill. His condemnation was complete. Its provisions to repair the unfit houses are useless and ineffective, nearly all the houses are out of repair because the landlord has not carried on current, or made structural repairs.

He was of the opinion that an average of £180 per house would have to be spent before current maintenance could even start (this figure, by the way, is what it is costing the Birmingham City Council to do the job over about two square miles of working-class houses they have taken over). He suggested that this sum of money should be found by the state or local authorities and that the interest on the cost should be shared equally by the landlord and the tenant.

Finally, it was his considered opinion that 90 per cent of landlords would do no repairs and that therefore the houses would continue to deteriorate.

Mister Morrison's Ten Commandments

The "Daily Herald" recently published ten New Year Resolutions from the pen of Mr. Herbert Morrison. We reproduce them below (in bold type) together with one of our readers "heartfelt thanks for this new dispensation."

1. I WILL seek to serve my country and the world. To give, no less than to receive.

This, I am truly thankful to say, has always been my dearest wish. Conscriptio guards me in war and I give all my labour power in peace time. Glad I am that if I didn't I should get the sack. Also I receive all the kicks and ha'pence.

2. I WILL seek at my work to promote fair play, understanding of the processes, and among the workers by hand and brain on the job, good fellowship and happiness.

Blessings on you Mr. M. In my wicked heart I have not given thought to processes. I will be a new man in future, also I will be happy on my job. Being Xmas time I have looked up an old carol. I am teaching it to my dear children, they are calling down buckets of *?*(censored) on dear Mr. M.'s head.

The Carol:
"OH, LET US LOVE OUR OCCUPATIONS AND BLESS THE SQUIRE AND HIS RELATIONS, BE CONTENTED WITH OUR DAILY RATIONS AND ALWAYS KEEP OUR PROPER STATIONS."

3. Knowing that waste and slacking will needlessly increase costs and therefore prices, I WILL play my part in keeping costs down and advancing productivity.

Thankful I am to say that although in my wicked youth I did not always understand how necessary it was to keep costs down and increase productivity, now my eyes have been opened, some day I know that my humble efforts will be rewarded. Thank you, dear Mr. Morrison, for reminding me that increased costs are the result of my ungrateful conduct in the past. In the New Year I know that prices will come down. Hallelujah!

4. I WILL realise that real wages and salaries are what money will buy and that we must try to avoid a race between pay and prices, in which the workers may get the worst of it.

5. I KNOW that if our industrial efficiency is low, if our costs are needlessly high, if the goods we seek to sell abroad do not meet overseas needs—then our export trade will be hurt, we shall not be able to pay for imported food for our stomachs and raw materials for our factories.

And then mass unemployment will come, the bargaining powers of the trade unions will be weakened, and the incomes of the workers may fall.

Humbly I beg dear Mr. M. to understand that I am all against Wages and Salaries going up, I know that such wickedness only raises prices. I will show this 4th Commandment me in the past, she will talk about the children. Mr. Morrison to my wife, who I regret to say has had little sympathy with rison will make a new woman of her. (Confidentially, Mr. M. stop in the South of France for Christmas, she may still be stubborn and want to kick the pricks).

6. I WILL seek to stimulate management in industry to the exercise of an ever-developing progressive, co-operative efficiency. I will play my part in constructive joint consultation.

Will Mr. M. please send a special letter to my dear employer (address herewith). I regret that when I tried to stimulate him about five years ago he expressed doubts as to whether I was sane enough to work in his shop. When I told my wife, she said: "Don't be a silly old fool." I await with confidence being called into the office to do some stimulating.

7. In whatever quarter it may arise, I WILL resist irresponsibility, mere negation and stodginess. Our business is to build, to achieve, for the well-being of our country and humanity.

● Continued on page 4 ●

that landlords are really after, they are not very much interested in Mr. MacMillan's "Rents and Repairs Bill" even the increased rents that MacMillan offers are chicken feed compared with the golden harvest they see in view if only decontrol could be obtained.

Will the Bill in fact help in this direction? It most certainly will. As already pointed out in "Socialist Outlook," increased rents will force the families of the lower paid workers to crowd together to share the rent. This will relieve the pressure on the housing lists and the demand for separate accommodation.

Once this happens it will be argued that there is no shortage and therefore why control? There will then be in housing as in food, rationing by the purse.

Landlords will be able to put up their rents to those who can afford to pay, the rest will sink into the slums and become the responsibility of the local authority.

Two conclusions can be drawn from the meeting:

1. The Bill will not produce houses fit for human habitation.

2. The landlords are out for a lot more rent than the Bill will give them, and to get this they want decontrol and a free market in housing accommodation.

It became very evident from the meeting that it is decontrol

Following the Queen ... to Fiji and Tonga

THIS week we visit the Fiji islands and Tonga. They are both groups of islands situated in the South Pacific on the America-Australia route. They have both been singled out for Royal attention.

Let's take a look at the Fiji group of islands. Of all "our" possessions in the Pacific, these 300 odd islands rank as the most important commercially. In all, 7,000 square miles in extent, they amount to a considerable area in terms of Pacific islands. Of their

total population of 300,000 half are Indians and the rest Fijians barring a few Chinese and Europeans.

The 19th century history of these islands falls into the familiar pattern of plundering traders, Blackbirders (slavers), missionaries, real estate sharks and rapa-

less coolies who are barred from acquiring Fijian owned land (a kind of strict reserve) and are denied even the right to vote. Throughout the last war and after, workers on plantations and in the mines waged heroic strike struggles for better conditions and the right to organise.

A footnote. Expenditure on education is only 27/- per head and there is only one proper government scholarship for study abroad. That is Fiji.

Tonga presents us with a different picture. A smaller group of islands, a bare 270 square miles in extent but with a long history stretching back 13 centuries. Tonga became a protectorate in 1900.

On these islands, 50,000 people attempt to eke out a miserable existence. Battering on this population is a hierarchical aristocracy, Queen and all (darlings of our press) the medium through which the "protection" of these sturdy islanders is maintained. A poll tax of 32/- per head is levied to keep this set-up going.

Tonga, like other Pacific islands has had its quota of traders, blackbirders and missionary politicians. A land of small proprietors, raising coconuts and bananas, this land is cursed by T.B. Filariasis, Yaws and Conjunctivitis. Tonga has only TWO doctors to serve the needs of the people. That is Tonga.

By
A. Banda

cious planters, whose activities paved the way for annexation by the British in 1874.

The price the Fijians paid for "civilisation" was catastrophic. In the second year of foreign rule an epidemic of measles carried off 40,000 out of the population of 200,000. The people rose in revolt and kept on revolting and rebelling against the new and destructive force of capitalism. By 1919 there were only 80,000 Fijians left—eloquent testimony to the legend of the "White man's burden."

SUGAR KINGS

Sugar, introduced in the 1870s, changed Fiji, created new classes, introducing 150,000 Indian indentured labourers, and powerful Companies. One of these, The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, is almost the sole producer and buyer of the island's sugar crop. With a capital investment of £4,000,000 it owns 80,000 acres out of a total of 350,000 acres under any form of cultivation at all.

Second industry in Fiji is gold and silver mining which is dominated by the three giants—Empress, Loloma, and Dolphin operating mainly on Australian capital, employing up-to-date methods and exploiting a purely Fijian labour force of 4,000 labourers. Next in importance, is the production of copra. In this field, Pacific Plantations of Lever Bros. is king.

VOTE DENIED

All this rapid and violent development has served to accelerate the development of the working class even in this remote part of the world. To make things worse, "There is no system of social insurance or old age pensions in force in the colony" (Colonial Office Report). Anyone can appreciate what this means to land-

A Negro writes
This Week's
★ Star Letter ★

The suggested campaign to petition parliament for the resignation of Mr. Oliver Lyttelton who, with his generals, is responsible for atrocities committed in Kenya, is long overdue and should be supported. **The Tories should be chased out of office.**

Their foreign policy, dictated by Washington, is leading straight to World War III. No-one will benefit from the recent Bermuda conference except the German nazis whose representative is Dr. Adenauer. Their home policy is nothing but a raid on the workers pay packet and slow death for the old age pensioners.

Mr. Lyttelton is a real tough savage—a true representative of the early barbarians who founded the empire. He is leading us to the days of the Spanish Inquisition, and the massacre of Ireland 300 years ago. How, in the name of all that is good, can the Tories so glibly talk about "freedom-loving nations" and "democracy"—the most mis-used word to-day.

You cannot have one standard for one section of mankind and another and inferior standard for other sections of mankind. What is freedom in the West must be freedom in the East. Mankind wants an end to the double talk and two-faced actions of world statesmen.

We must be equally opposed to all forms of totalitarianism, slavery, oppression, exploitation and brutality. To you British workers, members of the trade union movement and Labour Party, leaders and rank and file alike, housewives and youth, your firm actions can help to prevent not only the colonial problem but world problems from getting further out of hand. You owe it to yourself, your children and those yet unborn. It will be to their benefit for you to act now.

We are tired of articles and well meant editorials. We want action now. Launch a vigorous campaign. Petition parliament for (1) the resignation of the colonial secretary and (2) stop the shooting in Kenya and investigate all atrocities.

What are men like Mr. Peter Blackman, Mr. George Padmore, the League of Coloured Peoples and the other outstanding black men and organisations, and English champions of the coloured race and the church doing about this grave matter?

How can we sleep, comfortably rest at ease and content, and take no notice when our brothers and sisters and mothers and children are in concentration camps, dying of hunger, being murdered, hanged in the public square? How can we be happy in our soul when our brothers are rotting in jail in the West Indies?

How can we have a happy Christmas and talk about peace on earth and good will to all men when British airmen are bombing defenceless men, women and children? All this is done by leaders of the free world movement and in the name of the British people and democracy.

The call is to you to act now.
Birmingham An oppressed Negro

**Socialist
Outlook**

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

Telephone: HOP 4554

Editor: John Lawrence

By Murder and Torture They Rule in Kenya

By
Bill Hunter

REGULARLY there are reports from Kenya of atrocities and horrors equal to those committed by the S.S. in occupied Europe.

There is the terror bombing, the herding of Africans like cattle, the beatings, the murders, and the torturing of 'suspects' to make them confess to taking the Mau Mau oath.

The Griffiths case exposed white man's justice in Kenya. Now comes news of another representative of white 'civilisation'—**Mr. Brian Hayward** who was sentenced by a court in Tanganyika to three months imprisonment. By burning their ear drums with a cigarette this civilised gentleman had persuaded African 'barbarians' to admit a connection with Mau Mau. The London "Evening Standard" reports that he is serving his sentence in a comfortable hotel and is working as a surveyor for the Tanganyikan government. Thus is this colonial so-called justice exposed as a farce.

Last month a settler was fined £50 for whipping and torturing Africans. One African was held over a fire until his stomach was burned. It later turned septic. The defence council told the court: "There are some people who want to fight this emergency by the Queensbury rules... and treat

these Mau Mau people as misguided children, rather than as savage and wild barbarians."

After a handful of British settlers and British imperialism have turned the African off the best land, have ruthlessly exploited him, depressed his standard of living and conditions to an animal level, they now torture him and kill him and call on British troops to hunt him like a wild animal.

By murder, terror and torture. That is how Kenya is being held down. In that corner of Africa is our Buchenwald and Belsen. What the Nazis did to the German workers, to the people of occupied

Europe, to the Jews, to the gypsies, our Government and settlers are now doing to Africans in Kenya. There is no need for an inquiry to establish this. It is plain from what reports filter through the newspapers.

How can the Labour movement expect any respect from the colonial peoples when it is left to the left wing weeklies and a small group of M.P.s to protest at what is happening? The duty of our leaders is to organise a mighty protest against the activities of imperialism in Kenya. Labour has but one course.—to demand that this shameful, brutal and sadistic repression shall stop and that British forces be immediately withdrawn.

I'll Think for Myself!

Says this Merseyside Reader

I joined the Labour Party because I believe that socialism is the answer to the unity of mankind. I looked to the leadership of the Labour Party, whom I was prepared to serve, to help me realise my beliefs. What do I find?

We don't agree with re-armament, we protest; let us use the money, materials and manpower to build up a better way of life, we ask. But we are told that this is not possible because otherwise we would not be able to defend ourselves against a nameless aggressor who might at some unknown date attempt to take our land and way of life from us.

I have no wish, personally, to defend myself against something which will deprive me and my fellow countrymen of our present way of life. I'd give it away if I could!

Also, if this country is not sufficiently armed, it would not be possible to send our babies to Korea to die, before they have really lived, fighting for the survival of such a noble cause as President Syngman Rhee's. We could not assist General Templar to suppress the Malayan people; we would not be in the position to send forces to Guiana to quell the RED uprising; there would not be kindly folk in Africa to carry out "mercy killings" on Africans in their own country—to teach the poor ignorant black

men civilisation! Am I just contrary or do others feel with me that "mercy killings" are not really popular in a civilised world?

The N.E.C. even want to think for us—look at how they guided us on the "situation in British Guiana." Sorry, N.E.C., but I like to do my own thinking and I think the leaders of the Labour Party do know what the members of our movement want and are either incapable of expressing our views or they don't want to voice them.

I'm not bitter because I am still young and prepared to work on in the Party, without the help of our leaders; I want to see socialism work.

Liverpool Mrs. M. Cocker

BRITISH GUIANA

- by
● Cheddi Jagan
● Janet Jagan
● L. F. S. Burnham
● H. W. Benn

SOCIALIST OUTLOOK PAMPHLET 3d.
Order from:
177 Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

Heed This Appeal

May we appeal to your readers to help us to send desperately needed food, clothes, blankets and medicines to destitute people in Greece.

Many thousands of men and women are detained in the prisons and islands of exile in Greece. For many of them this will be the seventh or eighth Christmas they have spent away from their homes. Meantime, their health has been seriously affected and many of them suffer from tuberculosis. Their families and children are destitute. In addition, there are thousands of people in urgent need of help since they lost their homes and possessions in the recent disastrous earthquakes.

The International Red Cross, which distributes the relief supplies sent by our Committee for the political prisoners, is most anxious that more food and warm clothes, as well as medicines

should be sent and gifts are always most gratefully received. But gifts and donations now will help to bring a little Christmas cheer into the hearts of these suffering people, as well as to many who lost everything in the earthquakes.

Please send gifts in kind (tinned food clothes etc.) and financial donations towards the purchase of blankets and medicines etc., and transport costs, to: Relief Committee LDG, 19 Beak Street, London, W.1.

Yours faithfully,
(Sir) Compton Mackenzie, O.B.E.
(Lady) Mary Trevelyan
(Lady) Florence Wedgwood
Ethel Mannin
(Professor) John Mavrogordato
J. F. Horrabin
Gordon Schaffer
A. E. Coppard

'On a wild tempestuous night ...'

★ How the Miners marched on Newport ★

THE Convention opened its meetings in London on February 4th, 1839.

Elected at mass meetings, the Convention represented many more people than did the House of Commons. To most of Britain's workers, the Convention stood as the Parliament of the People in contrast to the Westminster Parliament of the land, money and factory lords.

The hopes inspired by the Convention can be seen in the thousands of letters and resolutions that poured in from every part of the country; in the many petitions brought to it, as though it and not the House of Commons was already the real government of the country; in the £1,350 "national rent" collected by the poorest of the poor to pay Convention expenses; and above all in the expectant quiet that fell on the industrial districts in the early months of 1839.

Of the Convention's 53 elected members, 23 were from the professional and middle classes, 24 from the working classes. Thirteen of the 53 never appeared at all, and six deserted in the early stages. Of these 19 absentees only five were working men, one of them being **George Lovell**, the Tolpuddle martyr recently returned from exile.

It should be stressed here that the Chartists had no national organisation—any kind of national political organisation being illegal.

They depended upon loose communication between local reforming and radical clubs and societies, numbering, it has been estimated, at some 200 over the whole country.

The Convention collected signatures to the Petition, debated on policy questions, including the by no means academic question as to whether the people had a legal right to possess arms. The Convention, by a large majority, decided that "all constitutional authorities are agreed in the undoubted right of the people to possess arms", a decision that encouraged many Chartists to raise funds for the purchase of pikes and muskets.

The Government appointed General Napier to the Northern Command, and the General placed his 6,000 regular troops and numerous volunteers at main centres of Chartist agitation in the North. On 3rd May, 1839, the Government banned armed assemblies, gave local magistrates the power to ban all meetings, and urged that armed civilian forces be recruited everywhere.

On May 7th, the Petition, bearing 1,283,000 signatures, was presented to **Thomas Attwood, M.P.**, the Birmingham radical with an obsession for currency reform. He was to present it to Parliament, but a Government crisis delayed matters.

It was clear to members of the

Convention that a line of action to follow the expected rejection of the Petition must be settled. As Government repression increased, the people grew more restive. Many were getting arms, and there were reports of night drilling on the moors and other open spaces. When **Henry Vincent**, popular Chartist orator, was arrested in Monmouthshire, colliers

Reg Groves

continues the story of the
Chartist Insurrection

in the Newport area stopped work, and were only prevented from staging an armed attack on the prison by the timely arrival of **John Frost**, Newport delegate to the Convention.

The Convention's plan was presented to the people at huge meetings held during Whit Week at all main centres. The plan included withdrawal of savings and conversion of all paper money into gold—an echo of the Reform Bill agitation this, when radicals issued a placard about Wellington's rejection of reform "to Beat the Duke—Go for Gold"—a pledge to do business only with Chartist shopkeepers and to aid all victims of persecution; the election at popular meetings, by show of hands, of Chartist candidates to form a new 'People's Government'; and abstention from labour for four weeks—the "sacred month."

With the backing of the mighty mass meetings, the Convention re-assembled, this time at Birmingham where it was thought to be safer from Government attack.

Birmingham was in a state of great excitement, with work at a standstill and meetings going on everywhere. The Government sent some of the new—and hated—London police there to help restore order, and there were riots for several days. Leading Chartists were arrested; and then, on July 12th, the Petition was rejected by the House of Commons by 235 votes to 46. On July 15th, the Convention announced that the "sacred month" was to begin on August 12th.

Rejection of petition, and further repressive action by the authorities roused the fury of the Birmingham people. Sweeping all before them, they took possession of the town. The propertied classes fled from the town, the police and troops stood by helpless for a week while great crowds gathered at meetings and wreaked vengeance on the enemies of Chartism. Shops and houses belonging to well-to-do opponents of the people were wrecked or burned. There was no looting. Goods in the houses and shops were taken out into the streets and there set on fire.

Convention hesitated, however, to take command of the movement. Indeed, on July 22nd, the call to abstain from work for a

month was withdrawn. Instead, the Convention urged people to stop work for two or three days beginning on August 12th. The Convention feared a poor response: it need not have done, for in most industrial centres work stopped for varying periods of from one to six or seven days. There were many clashes with police and troops.

By now, twenty members of the Convention had been arrested, and were in prison or out on bail awaiting trial. In the localities hundreds of Chartists had been arrested, and sentences were imposed ranging from one day's imprisonment to transportation for fifteen years. Three of the Birmingham Chartists had been sentenced to death but the violent temper displayed by the Birmingham people caused the authorities to commute the sentences to transportation for life.

By now, the more militant members of the Convention had decided that the Convention was too unrepresentative to be any use. Insurrection seemed the only way of getting the vote and political democracy. The Convention was divided over policy. So, on the motion of John Frost, supported by the champions of insurrection, the Convention was disbanded.

Petition had failed. The cessation of work had not been fully operated. Now the boldest of them determined on armed insurrection. On a wild, tempestuous night in November, 1839, John Frost led his miners down the hillsides into Newport. The Chartist insurrection had begun.

Discussion on the Petition Continues . . .

Our Readers Write . . .

I'd like to Appeal

I'd like to appeal to some readers, Whose woes in your columns unfold, On the subject of Monster Petitions, That "distract us"—or so we are told.

They're opposed, so they say, to your Charter, They're alarmed lest we "substitute" this, Mere "passive," "reformist" illusion, For "mass action" and like forms of bliss.

It's time they were told to be brave and be bold, And let us have chapter and verse, Of where, when and how we have, Espoused this "reformism"—and worse.

For if, just because we're for signing, They think we've created a blot, How comes it that we, before '53, Elections aplenty have fought?

We stood there supporting the miners, The dockers the drivers, the lot, So if we've been blind to some fight we've declined, Perhaps they'll produce one small dot?

There's a moral behind all this blarney, Directed to readers who think That the old-fashioned notion of moving a motion, Is just so's to use up the ink.

In moving petitions, despite the positions, Of those who proclaim their protest, There's a minor distraction, preceding "mass action"—Getting up from positions of rest.

The aim of petition, election or motion, Is not just to set some wrong right, In priming the workers to throw out the shirkers, We're uniting our class for the fight.

R. Hood Peckham

Tottenham Labour Party come in for special mention in the letter of Comrade Dinning. It is perfectly true that I was in a minority of one in opposing the Petition, and demanding Building Nationalisation at a Party aggregate meeting of 50-60 members.

But at a later Party meeting, members present at the aggregate meeting expressed their doubts. Now a special Conference with the local building workers are to be called, and housing policy re-examined.

Of course Tottenham has been in the forefront in urging Labour leaders to carry out a genuine Socialist programme. The result is evident in the Party programme—but why ease the pressure now?

Again, the one essential element in the present situation is a link-up between the militant workers and the political power of the Labour Party. Will the N.E.C. issue the call, or will a signature campaign leave the door open for an escape from a head-on clash with the Tories?

An answer is needed to these questions, not talk about uniting the Party behind the N.E.C.

Further on in the letter we find a new political principle. "An election is the time when the Party really works with a Class purpose." If so, we should follow the example of those workers who only appear at election times—because the rest of the year the Party has no class purpose! Presumably, Tottenham left-wingers have been wrong in demanding that the Party takes part in the workers fight, local and national, all the time.

At our aggregate, I raised the possibility of a petition restricted

to Rent Increases, as opposed to a blanket anti-Tory petition. This was intended to indicate that petitions of the right kind had their uses at the right time. In an upsurge of the workers' movement, as to-day, a blanket petition would be—a wet blanket!

A final point from the letter. It was stated that a Petition leads to Class unity, which leads to Class Power. A high degree of class unity has existed many times, but Class Power has not been achieved in Britain yet—why? Because the necessary leadership has not been developed. To fight for such a leadership is the job of the Left Wing, which in Tottenham and elsewhere will soon realise the inadequacy of the proposed Petition.

Tottenham J. Dipple

Tottenham C.L.P. in Support

The General Council of the Tottenham Labour Party has overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution (originally passed by an aggregate meeting of members) denouncing the Tory Rent Bill and demanding that the National Executive Committee of the Party organize a petition to get the Tories out.

The resolution recognises that the Rent Bill is part of the general attack on the workers' living standards and seeks to unite all the currents of discontent into one main stream around a demand that the Tories should resign.

Tottenham A. Wise

Evictions and Petitions

I read with much sympathy the letter concerning Mrs. Raymond of North Kensington. I too, am living under the suspense, and have been for the last five months, of being evicted though no fault of my own. I have a small son, and have been without cooking facilities for over 25 weeks.

However, I fail to see any solution in an Anti-Tory Petition. Petitions like this build false hopes and ideas.

The Labour Party Leadership should organise the tenants to fight against any increase in rents. With

This Party has Acted

It will interest you to hear that, following the initiative of your paper, two wards of our Constituency Labour Party submitted resolutions to our General Management Committee calling upon the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party to organise a nation-wide petition to get the Tories out.

At our G.M.C. of this month (December) a very lively discussion on the advisability of such a move ended with the adoption of the following resolution:

"That this C.L.P. asks the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party to organise a nation-wide petition demanding that the Tory Government resign and go to the country immediately. The petition should be organised through all branches of the Labour Movement, the Trade Unions the Co-ops, and Labour Parties etc., and a door-to-door collection of signatures should be backed by a vast propaganda campaign with meetings and demonstrations."

Yours Fraternally, Louis Bondy, (Press Officer) Holborn & St. Pancras South C.L.P.

How to Remove the Tories?

The week the S. O. called for a petition to remove the Tories almost 2 million Engineers took part in a nationwide one-day strike. On December 12th the

GREETINGS Seasonal Greetings from Briggs Workers. All the Very Best Wishes for 1954. With many thanks to the "Socialist Outlook" for the loan of blocks and general help, etc. to our own Workers' Paper during 1953. S. Harroway, Editor, "Voice of Briggs Workers"

this, we need a Party programme calling for Nationalisation of the building trade, and the Nationalisation of the land. It is only by such a Socialist programme that we will get rid of the Tories for good.

The Tories will only be too happy to receive as many petitions as the Labour Movement likes to provide. If this is the strongest action they are going to have from the working class it enables them to go ahead to do what they like.

In my opinion, the best place to strike is at their pockets and strike hard because that is one of the places it hurts them most. Tottenham Mrs. Jean Dipple

The Press is Growing Worse

Most of your readers know that leading Conservative newspapers play down or even entirely omit speeches by Socialists.

But we have now reached a position when these papers are even ignoring their own ministers—when their statements are unpalatable!

On November 24th Major Lloyd George, Food Minister, gave a written answer in the House to Mr. F. T. Willey (Lab.). It showed the startling rise in food prices since the subsidies were removed.

Not one line about this important matter of widespread interest appeared in: the Daily Mail, Daily Express, Daily Sketch, Daily Telegraph or Daily Dispatch.

It confirms the view that the reactionary press is growing worse.

The facts given in Lloyd George's reply show how food prices have risen in the two years since the Conservative Government took office:

Table comparing food prices in Nov 1951 and Nov 1953. Items include Bacon, Bread, Meat, Milk, Butter, Cheese, Margarine, and Cooking fat.

READ Britain's only T.U. Weekly Newspaper The Railway Review FEARLESS, FACTUAL, STIMULATING and packed with information. Price 3d. Obtainable from any newsagent or bookstall.

The Ten Commandments from page two

How beautiful this sounds! From now on, when I am told irresponsibility is about I will think about "to build, to achieve." I have always thought that anybody who says anything I don't agree with is irresponsible. Now that Mr. M. has warned me I will be forever on my guard.

8. So I WILL attend the meetings of my trade union or professional association and my Co-operative Society, and play my part in promoting good organisation and wise policies, and resisting foolishness.

Hear, hear! So I WILL heaven help me, I know the connection between irresponsibility and foolishness. I remember that my old father told me that Socialism was inspired by these evil influences. How true his words were, and thank you Mr. Morrison, for recalling them to my mind. I will be true.

9. I WILL criticise the overseas policy of my own country when I think it wrong and support it when I think it right. I will not take the view that my country is always wrong any more than that it is always right.

I have often wondered if it was right to keep sitting on the fence, it is sometimes painful when one reads about Africa today. Thank heaven Mr. M. has strengthened my backside, I am getting 12 back numbers of the D.H. to form a pad between myself and the spikes. I do feel so much better for Mr. M.'s No. 9.

10. In public affairs, in national and local government, I WILL try to be a good citizen, fighting for social justice, progress and for policies which put the community first.

This is so cheering, so much the Christmas Spirit. I find that all the Tories on my local council agree fully with Mr. M. Tears came into their eyes when I read this No. 10. From now on I work with them, still going to my branch meeting but singing in my heart: "The more we are together the happier we shall be."

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WHICH OF THESE INDUSTRIES SHOULD BE NATIONALISED?

Win £10 In this novel competition

All you have to do is to put an X against the 10 industries which you consider would make the most balanced programme for the next Labour Government. You can make as many entries as you like. Each entry costs 3d., and there is room for 4 entries on the coupon.

RULES The prize of £10 will be awarded to the competitor who selects on one entry from the list of nationalisation measures shown, the 10 which, in the opinion of a panel of experts, is the most balanced selection of measures which could be put into operation in the term of office of the next Labour Government.

In the event of a tie the total prize will be equally divided. No competitor can win more than one share.

Place an X against each of the 10 measures you select. You do not have to place them in order of merit.

Up to 4 attempts may be submitted on each coupon. Only 10 measures may be selected in each attempt column.

Each coupon must have stamps or postal order covering the cost of entries attached. Each entry costs 3d.

All entries must be posted in a sealed envelope (2½d. stamp) to "Competition," Socialist Outlook, 177, Bermondsey Street, London, S.E.1, so as to arrive not later than first post on Monday, February 1st. Proof of posting is not proof of delivery. All entries will be examined, but no correspondence will be entered into. Entry coupons must not be mutilated or altered.

ENTRY COUPON 3d. per column Table with 10 industry categories and 4 columns for entries.

P.O. No. Value If stamps, attach tip here

I agree to abide by the rules as published and to accept as final and binding the findings of the panel and/or the decision of the Editor.

Address 1st Jan. 54