

Women maintain picket at Scottish factory

B.S.R. strikers determined to win

Ex-Ford man Blakeman flies in to E. Kilbride

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IN VIEW of Mr Blakeman's visit, the Mid-Lanarkshire district committee of the AEF postponed indefinitely the one-day strike it had originally called for Wednesday in support of the BSR strikers.

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Young Socialists

GRAND XMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, Nov. 29

Canning Town Public Hall
doors open 12 noon

Can you sew? knit? paint?
make something for our Bazaar?
give something towards our bazaar?
Have you a tin of grocery? jumble?
Help us make this the best bazaar ever held!
Help us raise the money for our daily paper—
THE WORKERS' PRESS

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Not give in

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'The BSR manager', said Archie, 'wants to use a big stick to discipline us in his factory, but we are not meant to use a big stick to hit back'.

He and James Baillie said that they worked for a flat rate of £12 5s. a week, which was increased by £1 after six weeks.

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In the men's defence it was said, 'At the time of the offences they were under great pressure and extremely tired.'

'They came out to Ulster as unsuitable and unhappy soldiers who wanted to leave the army.'

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Meanwhile, clerical and administrative workers employed by the Coal Board are now pressing their executive to claim substantial improvements in pay and conditions in line with those granted for day-wage men.

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Only the Victoria line, where the trains have no guards, ran normally.

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Glasgow

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union:

'I am not in the drivers' union so I don't know what the deal was.'

After the decision had been taken to stay on strike at least until Friday, he then tried to split the men into two different meetings in an attempt to get them back to work.

The men recognised this and after electing a strike committee and a new shop steward for the Partick depot they rejoined the men who had split off and continued the fight with the official.

Demands

The meeting got almost unanimous support for:

● The rejection of the Edinburgh agreement.

● A basic rate for all grades of £18.

● A mass meeting to be held at the earliest opportunity of all Glasgow dustmen.

They also decided on a demonstration to today's shop stewards' meeting to raise their demands and to extend the strike to all the city's depots.

Before next year, refuse workers will be feeling the full impact of rents and rate increases, higher fares and the inevitable rise in prices.

Their wages should be increased now by the full £3 on the basic rate originally demanded—with no productivity 'strings'.

The bogey of the health danger is, of course, being raised, particularly because with the sewage men on strike, sewage is being pumped untreated into the Clyde.

Hazards

No mention is made, however, of the danger to the health of the refuse workers themselves, existing on miserably low wages, exposed to the hazards of bad weather, dust, etc., to say nothing of the problem in Glasgow of battling with the rats—estimated to number four million.

Refuse workers at all Glasgow depots, including drivers, should join the strike.

Glasgow should make approaches also to the striking dustmen in Barrhead, Giffnock, Newton Mearns, Paisley, etc., for united action to win the full claim.

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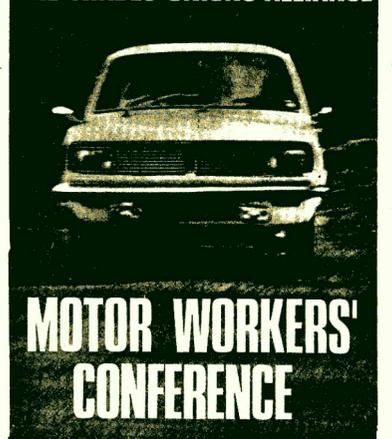
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HARD on the heels of the sell-out of the London dustmen and the drawing up of a new productivity deal for dustmen nationally comes a wave of unofficial strikes in Glasgow against the new agreement.

More than 500 corporation workers, dustmen, road sweepers and sewage workers, have been on strike since Friday at Shieldhall, Dalmuir and Polmadie depots.

Most are members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union (G&MWU) and are dissatisfied with awards recently agreed with the National Joint Industrial Council.

They also face the threat of a productivity deal at present being negotiated by the G&MWU in Glasgow.

At a turbulent meeting on Monday of men from Partick and Kelvinhaugh depots the G&MWU official sent along to try to get the men back to work, was given a very cool reception.

Amid constant interruptions he excused the agreement.

Workers must accept the Prices and Incomes Act, he said.

This was the possible way to achieve wage increases.

But asked by one furious dustman, 'Would you come out to work for £13?' he replied cynically 'I don't have to'.

Throughout the meeting as things became too hot for him he hid behind the inadequacies of the shop stewards in the depots, blamed the men for not calling a mass meeting earlier and finally replied to a question about the agreement reached by the drivers'.

Workers' Press correspondent

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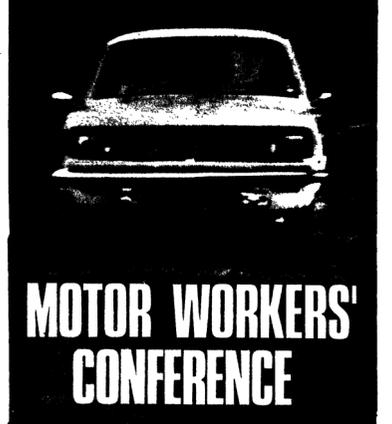
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THIS SCIENTIFIC WORLD

By Martin Zarrop

BRITAIN has now followed the United States, West Germany, Sweden and Denmark in banning the sale from January 1 of food products containing the artificial sweetener cyclamate.

This follows a US government report of the development of deformities and cancer in animals injected with large doses of the substance.

Experiments with rats have shown that prolonged doses of cyclamates produce genetic changes which would correspond to cancer in man.

In further tests, chick embryos injected were found to be deformed on hatching. This raises by implication the question of pregnant women who habitually consume food and drink—especially the types used for dieting—which contains cyclamate.

Senator Warren Magnuson, chairman of the sub-committee which handles the budget for the Food and Drug Administration, said that the chicks 'present a chamber of horrors at hatching age... Many are crippled with twisted spines, underdeveloped eyes, dwarfed and missing wings and legs, and abdomens so deformed that the organs are visible.'

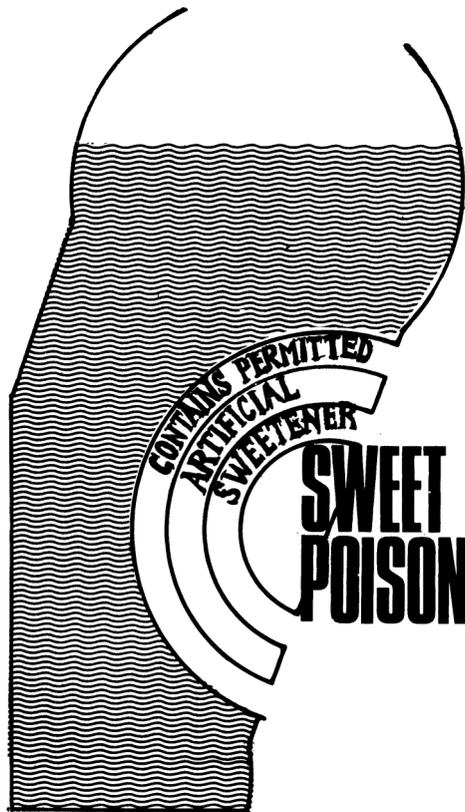
'Flippers'

'Perhaps the most frightening on some are the familiar "flippers" for arms and legs that were seen on Thalidomide babies.'

Small wonder that there is consternation at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Its Food Additives and Contaminants Committee (FAAC) had already produced two reports on cyclamates and, in the absence of 'decisive' proof, decided in 1968 to allow the chemical in all foodstuffs.

This decision was taken in spite of doubts expressed by



leading retailers such as Marks & Spencer, John Lewis and Sainsbury's where, pending further clarification, products containing cyclamates were banned.

Obviously it was a little late for the FAAC to give 'immediate and priority consideration' to the American ban.

What are cyclamates?

They are a group of artificial sweeteners derived from benzene and although they have no nutritive value they have the property of being 30 times sweeter than sugar weight for weight.

Unlike saccharin they leave no after-taste and they are cheaper than sugar in terms of sweetening power.

They are also intended to pass through the body without affecting it or being chemically changed in the digestive process.

However, there is evidence to suggest that during this process the cyclamates may be converted into a more toxic chemical.

Furthermore, research carried out at the Paracelsus Institute in Austria suggests that three groups of people could be in danger from an uncontrolled intake of cyclamates: those with existing damage to liver cells, those whose heart action is below normal, and people suffering from a deficiency in the anti-blood-clotting mechanism.

Since British law does not require a manufacturer specifically to state that a product contains cyclamate, it is difficult to find out how extensively it is used.

It is certainly widely used in soft drinks but, according to a report from the British Nutrition Foundation, producers of the chemical recommend its use in a wide range of foods, 'including bread, buns, rolls, cakes, pastries, canned fruit and fruit juices, preserves, jams, jellies, sauces, pickles, dressings, canned vegetables, confectionery, and cured meats'.

Contradictory

Cyclamate may not be used in ice cream, but it is sold in tablets for use in tea and other beverages by stimmers and those on diets, like diabetics.

The FAAC took a contradictory position in that, while recommending that cyclamates continue in use, they proposed that the British Industrial Biological Research Association investigate five points connected with their use, including the fact that high intake causes diarrhoea!

We do not have to look far below the surface to find vested interests at work.

The sugar industry has financed most of the research that has led to the present bans.

In Britain, the British Sugar Bureau, a public relations organization set up by Tate and Lyle, the British Sugar Corporation, and Manbré and Garton, has been most active.

It has given briefings to MPs, lectured to women's institutes and townswomen's guilds about cyclamates and has prepared a pamphlet about them freely available to anyone interested.

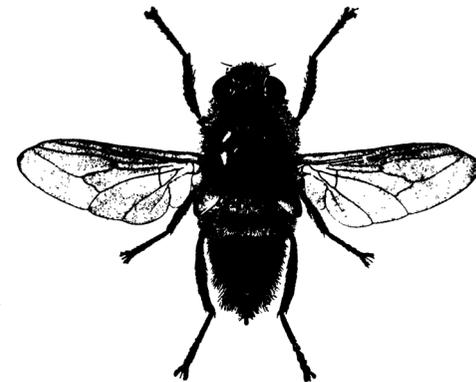
Undoubtedly there is a similar lobby in America where the ban involves the billion-dollar-a-year soft drink and diet food industry whose products are used by some 75 per cent of American families.

'Safe side'

In announcing the British ban, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Cledwyn Hughes, implied that it was being imposed to be on the safe side and that the rats in the US experiments had been given doses which would have been the equivalent in a man weighing 150 lb of 500 eight oz bottles of soft drinks a day during his entire life span.

If so, why the panic stations? One thing is certain whether the US findings are conclusive or not.

As long as it is extremely profitable to use drugs and chemicals which have been inadequately tested on human beings, the Thalidomide tragedy will occur again.



Fly killer or nerve-gas?

FOLLOWING hard on the heels of the ban on cyclamates pending further research into their toxic properties, recent work by Swedish biochemist Göran Löfroth raises doubts about the wisdom of letting the organophosphorous insecticide DDVP be freely available in Britain ('New Scientist', October 23).

DDVP was synthesized in the late 1940s and is marketed by Shell under the trade name Vapona.

It acts, like related compounds which are being stockpiled as nerve gases, by inhibiting certain chemical processes which play an essential part in the transmission of nerve impulses.

Vapona is extensively used in houses, canteens and foodshops; on dog-collars and on aircraft.

It eliminates the need for frequent spraying as with DDT and lasts for three months.

Professor Löfroth shows that, even if Shell's instructions are closely followed, Va-

pona strips give off DDVP vapour for nearly half their life at a rate that will expose the housewife to substantially more than the safety level laid down by the World Health Organization.

No response

'New Scientist' reports that investigations into the effects of DDVP-impregnated dog collars reveals a failure of the animals to respond normally to anaesthesia and that death occurs when minimal doses of barbiturates are administered.

Severe dermatitis is also observed as a side effect. Shell admits that the sales of Vapona are booming and that already one strip is sold for every five aerosol insecticides.

However, if Löfroth's claims are correct, DDVP will significantly interfere with the transmission of nervous impulses in humans. In which case we agree with 'New Scientist's' conclusions that sales should be suspended immediately.

More than that, the giant Shell monopoly should be nationalized to prevent such occurrences.

Renault strikers defy lock-out



Outside Renault's Le Mans car plant—workers vote to force their way in after the management had decided to lock them out over a wage dispute.

RENAULT workers at Le Mans defied the management's lock out (reported in last Saturday's Workers' Press) by forcing the doors of the plant on Monday morning and reporting for work as usual.

The decision to defy the lock-out was taken at a mass meeting of 6,500 day-shift workers outside the factory at 7 a.m.

Police stood by as the workers broke down the locked gates, but they did not intervene.

The Stalinist-led union, the CGT, stated that on no account would it back 'adventurist' demands which would have the effect of sharpening or prolonging the conflict.

In the afternoon the CGT and the CFT (the other main union at Renault) told a press conference in Le Mans that the management had agreed to resume negotiations on wages.

One of the men's demands is an allowance for working in high temperatures.

Meanwhile, the unions said, the workers would continue to demand entry to the plant until the lock-out was called off.

Similar demands

The Renault management claim that a wage increase at Le Mans would lead to demands for similar rises all over France.

If the dispute lasts more than a few more days, the

whole Renault combine will be at a standstill. Le Mans manufactures parts that are assembled in all the other factories.

Whatever the Stalinists may say, the fight in Renault is warming up, a sure sign that the French working class as a whole is on the move again.

B.B.C.-1

9.38 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 12.30 p.m. Farm Management. 1.00 Cadw Cwmni. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News. Weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Journey To The Centre Of The Earth. 5.44 Babar. 5.50 National News and Weather. 6.00 London-Nationwide. 6.45 The Newcomers. 7.05 Top Of The Pops. 7.30 Dad's Army. 8.00 Softly, Softly. 8.50 The Main News and Weather. 9.10 Sportsnight With Coleman. 10.00 In A Class Of Their Own. 10.30 24 Hours. 11.15 The International Ballroom Championships 1969. 12 midnight Weatherman.

Regional programmes as BBC-1 except at the following times:

Midlands and East Anglia: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Midlands Today. Look East. Weather. Nationwide. 12.02 a.m. News Summary. Weather for the Midlands and East Anglia. North of England: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Look North. Weather. Nationwide. 12.02 a.m. Northern News Headlines. Weather.

Wales: 2.30-2.50 p.m. Gwlad A Thref. 6.00-6.45 Wales Today. Weather. Nationwide. 6.45-7.05 Heddlu. 10.00-10.30 Y Dewis.

Scotland: 2.30-2.50 p.m. Around Scotland. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. 7.00-10.30 First Person. Singalong. Interview with Nicol Williamson. 12.02 a.m. Epilogue. Scottish News Headlines.

Northern Ireland: 2.30-2.50 p.m. For Schools. 6.00-6.45 Scene Around Six. Weather. Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Patterson People. 12.02 a.m. Northern Ireland News Headlines. Weather. Road Works Report.

South and West: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Points West. South Today. Spotlight South-West. Weather. Nationwide. 12.02 a.m. South and West News Headlines. Weather.

Snap. 3.25 Mad Movies. 3.55 Face Of The Earth. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 The Adventures of Robin Hood. 5.20 Magpie.

5.50 News From ITN. 6.03 Today. 6.35 Peyton Place. 7.05 The Thursday Film: 'The Frightened City' starring Herbert Lom, Alfred Marks, Sean Connery and John Gregson.

9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 Tales of Edgar Wallace. 12 midnight Giving and Getting.

B.B.C.-2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School. 7.00 p.m. Teaching Adults. 7.30 Newsroom. Weather. 8.00 Call My Bluff. 8.30 The Money Programme. 9.10 The Canterbury Tales. 10.00 Portrait of Petula. 10.50 News Summary. Weather. 10.55 Line-Up.

Thames

11.00 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.40-2.58 p.m. Schools. 3.15 Snip and

and Dearest. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. Weather. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 The Contenders. 12 midnight.

Grampian

10.58 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.38-2.58 p.m. Schools. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.30 The New Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. 4.55 Ivanhoe. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Gramplan News. 6.10 The Double Life of Henry Phyc. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Adventure. 9.00 McQue's Music. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 Parkin's Patch.

Tyne Tees

11.00 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.40-2.58 p.m. Schools. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Sara and Hoppy. 4.25 Mr Piper. 4.53 North Coast. 4.59 The Flaxton Boys. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today At Six. 6.30 Peyton Place. 7.00 Marcus Welby, MD. 8.00 Man In A Suitcase. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Face The Press: The Russian Ambassador. 11.00 University Challenge. 11.30 Late News Extra. 11.47 God In Good Season.

Yorkshire

11.00-11.38 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.58 p.m. Schools. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.30 Arthur. 4.55 The Forest Rangers. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.30 Castle Haven. 7.00 Somewhere 'Til I Find You. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. Weather. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 The Contenders. 12 midnight.

Westward

11.00 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.40-2.58 p.m. Schools. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.30 The Gus Honeybun Show. 4.50 The Flaxton Boys. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 National News. 6.00 Scotland Now. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 The Thursday Film: 'Five Finger Exercise' starring Jack Hawkins, Rossell Russell, Marjorie Schell, Richard Beymer and Annette Gorman. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 Seaway. 11.50 Faith For Life. 11.56 Weather.

Scottish

11.00 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.40-2.58 p.m. Schools. 4.20 Scotland Early. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 The New Adventures of Superman. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 National News. 6.00 Scotland Now. 6.35 High Living. 7.05 Feature Film: 'Busman's Honeymoon' starring Robert Montgomery, Constance Cummings. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 Late Call. 11.12 Joker's Wild.

Anglia

10.58 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.38-2.58 p.m. Schools. 4.05 Castle Haven. 4.30 Anglia Newsroom. 4.55 Sean The Legend. 4.59 The Flaxton Boys. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Action Movie: 'Flying Leathernecks' starring John Wayne, Robert Ryan, Don Taylor, Janis Carter. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 This Week. 10.00 News At Ten. Weather. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 The Contenders. 12 midnight.

THE SHELVES of any well-stocked British or American library today contain literally scores of books on the 'monetary crisis'.

Especially over the last decade there has been a veritable flood of reports, pamphlets and investigations into the nature of the illness now afflicting the capitalist monetary system.

A favourite theme of much of this work is that capitalism is now suffering from an acute 'liquidity crisis'.

The threat to world trade and the future stability of the system is, we are informed, an inadequacy in the means for settling international debt. The gold, dollar, and sterling reserves are inadequate to meet the needs of an expanding world trade.

Only if means are found to supplement these present reserves can crisis and disaster be averted. This has led many eminent economists and bankers to demand the creation of a 'new money' which would either replace or provide an addition to the present sources of liquidity.

Why not allow a central bank, such as the International Monetary Fund, to print an agreed quantity of such paper money which could then be distributed to the capitalist states?

Indeed such proposals, in a limited form at least, have been put into operation in the form of the creation of Special Drawing Rights (or 'paper gold'). And as early as 1944 Keynes had proposed the creation of a new world reserve currency—Bancor—which would have done away with the 'barbarous relic' of gold.

In the elaboration of such schemes the capitalist class shows that the true nature of the systems remains a mystery to it.

In the space of this brief article we shall show why such 'solutions' are Utopian and arise from a total misconception of capitalism and the nature of its crisis.

Marx himself treated with great scorn many of his contemporaries who also failed to see the real role which money played in capitalist economy. They always tended to see it as a clever device which man had invented to overcome the problems and inconveniences of barter.

Instead of exchanging goats for sheep, one used money as the intermediary in the process.

In reply Marx stressed that capitalism possessed a series of unique features which meant that money played a quite different role under this mode of production than any of the bourgeois economists realized.

These features we can briefly summarize:

● All production tends to be for the market and not for the producer's own use. In other words, commodity production tends to be the dominant form of production under capitalism.

GOLD, CAPITAL and the MONETARY CRISIS

By Peter Jeffries

ant form of production under capitalism.

● Labour power, or the ability to work, itself becomes a commodity.

● Production, the means of which are privately owned, is undertaken for profit.

He showed that each commodity had two 'aspects' or 'sides'.

It was in the first place a use value—a pair of shoes was useful for walking in.

At the same time it had an exchange value.

It contained a definite proportion of the total labour time of society—the time which under average conditions had been involved in making the commodity.

The value

It was this socially necessary labour time which determined the value of the commodity.

Thus a pair of shoes which, under average conditions took twice as long to make as a shirt would be twice as valuable.

Now a capitalist does not engage in production in order to create use values.

In fact he has no interest in the use to which the commodities which he produces might or might not be put.

What interests him alone is the exchange value contained in the commodities he makes. He will buy commodities (C) and through the exploitation of labour he will transform these commodities (say steel, coal, glass, rubber, etc.) into other commodities of a greater value (C') and a different use value (say motor cars).

But here the process cannot finish.

Henry Ford is not interested in a field full of cars.

In order to restart the process he must exchange his cars into another commodity which he can then use to purchase even greater quantities of steel, machinery, rubber, glass and labour power.

In capitalist economy it is money which plays this vital role.

A capitalist thus starts with money (M), buys his commodities (C), transforms them into commodities of a greater value (C') which he then must realize in the form of money (M').

This was the process of

capital accumulation which drove capitalism along.

Marx showed that it was a break in this process which produced the tendency towards breakdown and crisis inherent in capitalism.

Thus with the development of capitalism money separates itself out from all other commodities. Its use value lies solely in its command over the exchange value of all the other commodities.

But why should gold play such a crucial role in the world monetary system?

It has been the basis both of the old gold standard and the gold-exchange standard which replaced it after 1934 when all currencies of the world were eventually linked to gold via the dollar.

For the bourgeoisie this question always remains a mystery.

Gold, they tell us, plays this role because it is 'intrinsically valuable', because it is 'precious' or 'rare' or even that it is 'beautiful'.

Others give up even these so-called 'explanations' and inform us that gold enjoys its present status because it 'has always been the basis of the monetary system'.

In fact gold, because of the peculiar characteristics of this commodity, has been selected through the processes of history to play the role of world money. This is why it remains, ultimately, the means of international payment and debt settlement and under capitalism must do so.

What are the special material qualities of gold?

It is extremely durable, of uniform quality, easily divisible and weighed.

Its comparative rarity in the earth's crust also means that a large magnitude of value is contained in a small quantity of the metal. The fact that the technical conditions under which it is mined have been relatively constant over a long period has also helped to stabilize its value.

Worthless

In periods of expansion and prosperity, the capitalist may spurn gold as a worthless form in which to store money.

It is the onset of the crisis which makes clear for all to see the role which money (gold) plays. With prices falling the capitalists rush out of commodities and into money.

On the eve of the crisis the bourgeois, with the self-sufficiency that springs from intoxicating prosperity, declares money to be a vain imagination. Commodities alone are money. But now the cry is everywhere: money alone is a commodity! As the hart pants after fresh water, so pants his soul after money, the only wealth.' ('Capital I' p. 155 Kerr ed.)

This is why the hope that capitalism can continue to resolve its crisis simply by resort to the printing press through the creation of a new international money is utterly illusionary.

Gold cannot be dispensed with under capitalism. If the capitalists have confidence alone in this form of wealth in a crisis it is because of the particular features of gold as a commodity.

To see money merely as a means of exchange—as a lubricating device for the system—is to see capitalism as a system of production for use.

Commodities are produced on this view, sold for money and new commodities later bought. (C-M-C).

This, as we have seen, is not the process which drives capitalism along.

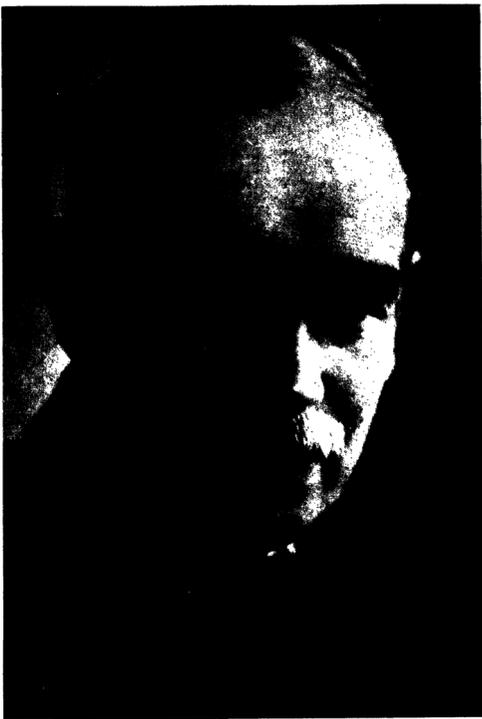
Capitalism is interested in the production and realization of surplus value in a form (money) which then allows the process to re-start on a higher, expanded level.

Money must therefore be a commodity which embodies a definite proportion of society's available labour time and which can be exchanged as and when required for any other commodity.

Paper money contains virtually no value in this sense.

This is why Marx, when speaking of 'money' always means gold. Any additions to which were not gold backed were for him 'credit'.

Of course capitalism continually strives to overcome



John Maynard Keynes in 1944 proposed the creation of a new world reserve currency—Bancor—which would have done away with the 'barbarous relic' of gold.

the limits imposed by this metallic barrier.

Especially in the present century and above all after the last war with the application of Keynesian monetary techniques, governments have expanded credit considerably beyond the value of gold in their possession. After 1945 they were largely forced to such measures by the power of the working class, demanding higher wages and living standards and determined never to return to the 1930s.

As Marx showed, even for the last century this creation of credit—in the form of paper currency and bank money—plays a vital role in extending the period of expansion in time of upswing of the type which followed the end of the last war.

Not only is considerably more capital placed at the disposal of each individual capitalist than would otherwise be the case without the credit system, but the pace of accumulation and concentration of capital is accelerated.

Complete collapse

All these were clearly consequences of the application of Keynesianism over the last 25 years.

But, Marx showed there were definite limits beyond which this process cannot go.

The more the volume of credit was expanded on a

narrower gold base, the greater the possibility of a collapse of the entire superstructure of credit.

A slight disturbance in one sector or country can rapidly spread in a chain reaction to the entire system once more. For capitalism such a crisis is inevitable and necessary. Only through such a collapse will the 'correct' relationship between gold and paper money be re-established.

But such a correction would involve bankruptcy for large areas of capitalism, especially in Europe, which has been rebuilt after the war largely on credit provided by the Americans.

Trade war

Above all it would unleash a trade war of unprecedented proportions and the attacks which this is now involving and will require on a much higher scale against the working class.

In other words, for the ruling class there can be no longer a solution to the currency crisis simply through a series of clever techniques or manipulations.

It is only through enormous attacks on the living standards of the working class—which means attempts to smash its organizations of struggle—that value can once more be put back into the monetary system and any 'stability', even on a temporary basis, be re-established.

Joint container group for Australia trade run

BRITISH and European shipping lines have formed a consortium for the Australian containership trade.

Its aim is to establish a monopoly on this run.

13 shipping lines from Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Australia will next summer form the Australia Container Service (ACS).

ACS will operate 14 big container ships representing an investment of over £100 million.

Computer control

The movements of each ship and the allocation of cargoes will be controlled by a computer in the consortium's London headquarters.

The formation of such groups as ACS is made necessary by the huge increase in productivity brought about by container ships.

The 14 ACS container ships will be able to carry the entire European-Australia cargo trade.

If each of the existing shipping lines introduced containerships, enormous surplus capacity would result and the trade would yield no profits at all.

But the formation of cartels cannot avoid the sharpening of competition which containerships must bring. Cartels mean the grouping of companies into powerful blocs for fighting the coming cargo rate-war.

Surplus capacity

Indeed the formation of ACS was stimulated when France ordered two big container ships.

This meant that there would be surplus containership capacity and cut-throat competition on the Australia run.

Three Scandinavian lines are expected to challenge the ACS monopoly with a new fleet of fast container/roll-on ships.

There is also a likelihood that US shipping lines may intrude into the Australia trade.

No matter what attempts the shipping companies make to group themselves into monopolies, a planned shipping industry under capitalism is impossible.

Only when capitalist private ownership and the nation state are abolished through the establishment of socialism will this be possible.

TOMORROW'S ISSUE

Book review
by Bernard Franks

What ever happened to Fairfield's?

SPECIAL OFFER to all readers of The Newsletter

Revolutionary silhouettes



By A. V. Lunacharsky

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PERIODICALS

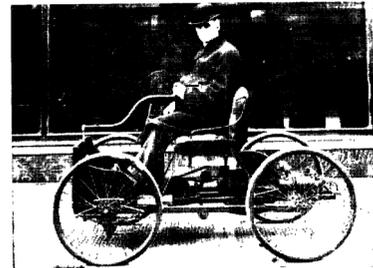
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Henry Ford: What interested him was a commodity's exchange value.

American monopolies move into Europe

By an industrial correspondent

US INDUSTRY increased its stake in Europe by over £2 millions during 1968, Commerce Department figures revealed earlier this week.

But the impact of rigid controls on overseas investment by the Nixon Administration is underlined by the fact that over £1.3 millions of this total was raised outside the United States, virtually all through the Euro-dollar market.

Take-overs

It is this severe competition for funds in the European money markets which has forced up interest rates to

record high levels and added considerably to the financial crisis facing European capitalism.

Two more US monopoly take-overs in Europe were announced on Monday.

Westinghouse Electric plan to take over a majority stake in the equity of the French firm Jeumont-Schneider, while Borg-Warner has announced proposals to link up with Zahnradfabrik Friedrichshafen, of West Germany, to produce automatic transmissions for marketing in Europe.

The giants of the world capitalist system are preparing themselves for battle, not only against each other, but the working class.

National strike at U.S. General Electric plants

By a foreign correspondent

NEARLY 150,000 workers at General Electric plants throughout the United States began a strike on Monday for a new wage contract.

General Electric is the fourth largest company in the United States, and it is the first time since 1946 that all its factories have been hit by strike action.

Crackdown

Apart from the paltry rise offered by the company, the 13 unions involved in the dispute are objecting to General

Electric's method of making a single 'take it or leave it' offer, which rules out any bargaining.

This firmness on wages reflects a growing determination on the part of the big US firms to crack down on demands for wage increases.

General Electric claim with justification they are applying Nixon's economic policy, which now calls for a war on inflationary wage and price increases.

The strike at the previously dispute-free General Electric company heralds a new round in the US class struggle.



President Nixon.

Parkside and Anstey, Coventry End productivity say Rolls Royce men

STOREKEEPERS from Rolls-Royce's Parkside and Anstey, Coventry, factories are continuing their strike against the present productivity set-up.

From a Midlands correspondent

Massey-Ferguson progress chasers strike

PRODUCTION was halted on Monday at Massey-Ferguson's tractor plant in Coventry because of an unofficial strike by 50 progress chasers. 1,200 men were laid off as a result. The strikers are dissatisfied with the conditions of an agreement transferring weekly-paid workers to monthly pay. A Massey's spokesman said that national union officials had agreed to the new system for all clerical workers in the company.

B.S.R.

FROM PAGE ONE worked on packing and had to lift 250 boxes each weighing 20 pounds a day. 'You always have your head down,' she said.

All the women workers complained about the management's attitude to their conditions. For those on the assembly line there were three-minute toilet breaks in morning and afternoon. 'All had to go at this time and no other time was allowed,' they said.

There had been numerous occasions where women and girls had suffered embarrassment and actual pain because of this inhuman restriction. One girl who was unable to wait for the three-minute break had wet herself and had been sacked.

Women who worked full time received a basic £9 17s wage with a bonus which raised their earnings to approximately £12.

High costs

Travel costs were heavy, many having to travel on three buses and taking over an hour to reach work. Only one minute was allowed for lateness before 'quarantining' workers' time-sheets. Part-time women received no bonus and for four hours got £4 17s a week. They were given no tea break during their shift.

Helen Thompson, a part-time worker, told the Workers' Press that she operated a machine in the moulding shop which she had been told was dangerous under certain conditions.

It was used for moulding plastics and the fumes from it were very bad, she said. The job was important to her because of the very high rents in East Kilbride, but she was determined to fight it out for better conditions and pay.

Some of the women workers hoped for some form of action from the government, but most were contemptuous of both their own MP, Judith Hart, and Harold Wilson.

'He has taken a hell of a long time to intervene,' said Margaret McGuire, who worked in the press shop. She was fighting for the principle of equal pay for all jobs, she said.

Hers was a heavy job which in many factories was done by men with double the pay. Asked what she thought of the AEF policy for the nationalization of the engineering industry without compensation and under workers' control, she replied: 'I fully endorse that.'

BSR production stood at 165 an hour before 1968. Output had been stepped up to 180 and then to 200 sets an hour in 1969.

It was this last increase in productivity which had caused the women and girls to walk out and join the men toolroom workers, who had already been on strike since June.

As they streamed out of the factory they joined the union. Spurred on by the example of the dustmen and the miners, the women and girls at BSR are going to fight until they get union recognition.

Then they are going to go back in to do battle with the BSR.

There are dozens and dozens of factories with conditions like theirs throughout Britain.

To them the BSR workers say, come out and fight. To the organized trade union movement they say, help us smash BSR and all the attack of the employers and the Wilson government.

They are meeting again today to discuss their demands for a straight 1s. 6d. an hour increase in wages.

Inspectors at the Anstey factory are also striking for a higher basic rate of pay. In a statement to the Workers' Press earlier this week the Transport and General Workers' stores steward, Alan Grayham, said:

'We struck last year for an increase, but the negotiating committee and union officials said that due to the Prices and Incomes Act we could not have a straight increase.

'We were "conned" into accepting a so-called productivity deal which was to have yielded 1s. an hour, based on increased production.

Only 4d.

'In fact, apart from the original 4d. an hour to start the scheme off we never reached more than another 4d. an hour extra. This has now been taken off us because the firm say the "norms" in the factory are not being achieved.

'We are now back to the original 4d. and working much harder because we are feeding 91 more workers.'

Peter Flannery, another storeman, said:

'We were promised monthly production figures—we've never had them.

'We don't want these productivity deals. We want the straight increase. Our strike is being carefully watched by others in the factories as well.'

Pilot schemes

Time-study consultants were accepted into Rolls-Royce two years ago by Parkside's Stalinist covenor, Philip Higgs.

They came in with pilot schemes for Measured-Day Work and job-evaluation.

Now whole sections of workers are coming up against the results of this.

At the last stores meeting on Monday, Higgs said:

'There was supposed to have been a works conference this morning, but due to this dispute it was not held.

'However your officials have met the management and they advise you to go back to work. If there is a resumption there will be a meeting with the management on Friday at 9 a.m.

'If necessary you could resume your stoppage then.

'The company still say the productivity deal must be kept in being, but they are willing to listen to alternative suggestions or criticisms of aspects of the deal.'

Not interested

One speaker after another then got up to say that they were not interested in any productivity deals.

It was because they had already had a year of this that they were on strike.

The storekeepers voted unanimously to continue their strike and meet again this afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

The 180 Anstey inspectors are taking guerrilla strike action because they want their present basic rate plus bonus totalling 16s. an hour consolidated into a new 17s. hourly basic.

The management has offered them 6d. an hour on the present bonus in return for Measured-Day Work, job-evaluation and mobility of labour.

Lucas foremen defy union official

DESPITE union instructions to return to work, foremen and charginhands from Joseph Lucas's nine factories in the Birmingham area have decided to continue their strike.

British-Leyland chiefs are conducting a hurried review of their stocks of starters, dynamos, lamps, horns and regulators.

Advice

The company is heavily dependent on continuous supplies from Lucas and layoffs there may result if the strike drags on. On Monday night, the

HAY'S WHARF CLOSURE — STEWARDS MEETING



LONDON docks stewards and branch officials met in Poplar last night to consider what action they should take in support of the 450 Hay's Wharf men who have been on strike since last Friday.

One Hay's dockers told the Workers' Press: 'The company's transferred our work outside the dock industry and we've put the block on. I think this'll strike a spark that'll light up a number of things in London.'

'If they can do this at Hay's Wharf,' commented another striker, 'who'll be next?'

Hay's management announced last week that it is to close all the wharves between London and Tower bridges by November 28. (Part of the Mark Brown wharf being demolished above.)

Several have already shut down and the men believe part of the business has been transferred elsewhere and that the work is being done by non-dock-registered labour.

A leaflet circulating in London's enclosed docks this week listed about 20 companies alleged to be doing this. Half are said to be Hay's Wharf subsidiaries.

On Monday, the Transport and General Workers' No. 1 docks group committee 'blacked' all cargoes destined for the Hay's Wharf Proprietors Ltd. and its subsidiary companies, operating outside the terms of the Dockworkers' Regulations of Employment Scheme 1967.

There is growing feeling amongst dockers in the enclosed docks for action in support of the Hay's men.

Rootes profits slump—no divi.

FOLLOWING yet another drop in its market share the Rootes Motors board is recommending that no dividends be paid on any class of shares.

Only changes in depreciation arrangements have avoided loss on its trading operations over the past year.

Group sales revenue, at £165 millions, is 6 per cent down compared with the 12 months ended July 1968 and operating profits slumped to under £1 million compared with £2.7 millions the previous year.

Home sales

During the first three months of the year home sales dropped 45 per cent and by July prices were cut in a desperate attempt to force up sales.

Although some pick-up in its market share took place in August, the September figures show another fall back to around 9 per cent. VAUXHALLS, now in the middle of its biggest dispute this year, has also lost ground badly to its rivals.

During September sales fell to their lowest level so far this year, and now account for only just over 10 per cent.

IRELAND

Stalinists commend Hunt report

A STATEMENT issued on Sunday by officials of the two Irish Stalinist parties—the Northern Ireland Communist Party and the Irish Workers' Party—claims that the Civil Rights Association is now needed more than ever to see that the Hunt Committee proposals 'become not only law, but facts of everyday life'.

The statement accuses the Unionist Party of reluctance in accepting the Hunt proposals.

This is certainly not an accusation that could be levelled at the Stalinists.

Indeed, they appear to accept the Hunt report totally without criticism, describing it as 'Callaghan's reform proposals'.

The Hunt committee recommends re-organizing the B. Specials—the official Unionist thugs—under the control of the British military command.

Then, presumably, after re-orientation, the Specials

Workers' Press correspondent could be used 'impartially' against both Protestant and Catholic workers.

Chained

If these 'reforms' were ever to become 'facts of everyday life'—and the Irish working class will have to fight to the end to prevent this happening—Ireland will have been chained to British imperialism as never before.

The rest of the CP's statement, which speaks of 'united action by all the opposition forces, Nationalist, Northern Ireland Labour, Republican, Republican Labour, Peoples Democracy and Communists', is entirely in line with this policy of full co-operation with the imperialist occupation.

By bringing everyone together, from the green Tories right through to the revisionists, the Communist Party hopes to divert the working class away from any revolutionary solution to the crisis.

Admission

But even more open is the admission in the final section: 'British monopoly capitalism requires an Irish market free from disorders and divisions in order to gain the maximum amount of profit, hence Callaghan's package deal of reforms and Westminster's pressure on Stormont.'

Hence too, no doubt the Stalinists' full support for the said reforms and pressure.

Pisa, Italy

Workers clash with fascists

A NEW ROUND of strikes began in Italy this week. 24-hour stoppages are due to take place in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries today, while on Friday it will be the turn of bank employees.

In the north west coastal city of Pisa, at least 100 were injured after widespread fighting between police and workers on Tuesday morning.

The workers were marching in protest against recent fascist attacks on students opposed to the military regime in Greece.

Here is a real warning for the Italian working class. It is well known that not only the fascists, but police and army leaders, favour a coup modelled on the colonels' take-over of April 1967.

Now that the Greek regime has become a central issue in Italian politics, both the fascists and the police hit back hard at those demonstrating their solidarity with its opponents.

During the march, a 22-year-old student collapsed and died. Bystanders said that he was hit in the chest by a teargas grenade.

The day of reckoning in Italy may be drawing very near. The workers must be on their guard.

Rovers storemen meet

WORKERS from Rover's Garrison Street factory in Birmingham are meeting today to decide on the continuation of their strike in support of a pay claim.

The week-old strike by 44 storemen and internal truck drivers has halted production in the Garrison Street factory and the main Solihull assembly plant.

The Garrison Street factory makes chassis, axles and doors for Land-Rovers produced at Solihull.

Three other factories are also affected by the strike. 1,600 Rover workers are now laid off and this number is expected to grow as the strike continues.

'I will fall fighting'—Greek Premier

AT A Second World War veterans' dinner held in his honour on Monday night, Greek Prime Minister George Papadopoulos made it clear that the military regime had no intention of handing over to a more 'democratic' government in the foreseeable future.

'I will fall fighting, because I took over the government to fight. I can assure you I will stay in my post as long as is needed to fulfil my mission.'

Forget

Deputy Prime Minister and police chief Stylianos Pattakos warned all his opponents that they would stay in prison long enough to forget the Greek language.

Neither 'liberal' pressure nor individual terror will remove this regime.

The overthrow of the colonels' dictatorship can only be based on the working class, against whom the April 1967 coup was mainly directed.

Libyans to evict foreign troops

THE Libyan government announced on Tuesday that the United States government has been given until December 24, 1970, to leave its air base at Wheelus, east of Tripoli.

A similar demand was also due to be presented to the British government concerning the evacuation of its base at El-Adem, according to the same agency report from Tripoli.

Rumania: Closer ties with big business

By a foreign correspondent

LORD LIMERICK, executive director of merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson, is to lead a 24-man trade mission to Rumania organized by the London Chamber of Commerce.

Monday's announcement follows the Labour government's confirmation of the visit to Britain by a top-level Rumanian delegation next month, headed by Prime Minister Gheorghe Maurer.

It also coincides with the decision of the Confederation of British Industry to send a high-powered team to East Germany to widen trade links between the two countries. The group visiting Rumania is dominated by banking and merchant interests: Kleinwort Benson, Rothschild, Dominion Exports, Biddle Sawyer, Kiril Mischeff and United City Merchants.

The London Chamber of Commerce said that the Rumanians had expressed a particular interest in British

machinery and equipment, non-ferrous metals, iron and steel, and chemicals.

Though Rumania remains a member of Comecon, the Soviet bloc economic and trade organization, it is turning rapidly to the capitalist west for many of its essential imports.

No doubt its government fears that economic over-dependence on the Soviet Union will be used as a political lever to force acceptance of the Kremlin's line in Czechoslovakia.

But the turn to closer relations with the British capitalist class introduces yet another 'lever'—this time pulled by imperialist interests who seek not to distort, but to widen the property relations of eastern Europe.

The Rumanian government's turn to the west is completely reactionary and places not only the Rumanian, but the entire eastern European economy in danger.

Sackings

FROM PAGE ONE

The redundancies are to be controlled so that any company taking over the Netherthorn plant would be assured of a balanced work force.

These considerations are a very small price for the management to pay for the closure of Netherthorn.

GEC workers have shown their willingness to fight closure all along.

Recently Netherthorn workers struck over the management's attempt to break an overtime ban and forced a victory.

Now union leaders are co-operating with the management to organize the closure.

But as unemployment grows, this type of union capitulation to management over closures under the guise of 'controlled' redundancy will no longer be possible.

SIX MONTHS FOR BELGRADE WRITER

THE Belgrade District Court found Yugoslav writer Zoran Gluscevic guilty of offending a friendly foreign state and sentenced him to six months' imprisonment.

The writer's 'crime' was to make public his opposition to the Kremlin occupation of Czechoslovakia on the eve of a Soviet delegation's visit to Belgrade.

Gluscevic has called the charges 'absurd' and at Tuesday's trial pleaded not guilty.

He has a week to appeal against the sentence. It must be quashed at once.

Brandt holds out olive branch to Ulbricht

By the foreign editor

WEST GERMAN Chancellor Willy Brandt confirmed earlier reports that his new government was seeking better relations with East Germany when he made his first speech to the new Bundestag on Tuesday.

While Brandt claimed that his government would not recognise East Germany in terms of international law, he promised a break from previous policies of hostility to the Ulbricht regime:

'We must prevent a further growing apart of the German nation, and that means achievement of a regulated neighbourliness.'

Advice

Brandt also undertook to advise the governments of Britain, France and the United States (who still have responsibilities for the administration of West Berlin) that they pursue with greater energy talks with the Soviet government on improving the situation in the divided city.

Both the Kremlin and Brandt have extended the olive branch.

Now it remains for Ulbricht to make his move.

Soviet-Czech

FROM PAGE ONE

Recent statements from Moscow indicate that the Soviet economy is in no position to dispense this type of 'aid' indefinitely.

If the deal does come off, the Husak regime will have to pay back the Kremlin's loan with not only financial but political interest.

The Czech workers are not going to be bribed by a few trainloads of coal into accepting Husak's Stalinist regime and its subservience to the Soviet bureaucracy.

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