

WEMBLEY LEAGUES

ORGAN OF THE WEMBLEY LABOUR LEAGUES OF YOUTH

Number 5

MARCH 1951

price 1d

It seems almost certain that the rearmanent of Western Germany will be put into operation within the next few months, indeed the organization of local militias has been started already.

Rearmanent of Western Germany and in fact the whole rearmanent programme can only bring the ugly shadow of War even nearer and eventually cause economic ruin in this country. No one gains from rearmanent but the armanent manufacturers and one of these capitalists has been released by the Americans just in time to make a second fortune in ten years, I refer to Krupps, Krupps the Ruhr steel king, Krupps the force behind Hitler!

Have we forgotten Belsen, Auchwitz, and Dachau where thousands men, women and children were murdered, have we forgotten the merciless bombing of London and Coventry? Krupps was responsible for these monstrous crimes, just as much as Hitler, and what now? A pat on the back for him, "Let bygones be bygones" and he is given all his illgotten fortune back.

The release of this archcriminal and others of his kind shows the complete hypocrisy of the statement that we must fight to defend "Democracy". Can any one, but a political idiot say that Krupps is a democrat?

The rearmanent of Western Germany can be the spark to the flame of War in Europe, for two martial bloc facing each other, could turn Germany into another Korea. As Socialists, we oppose rearmanent within Western Germany and regard it as another step off the road to Socialism and one along the road to the ultimate destruction of civilization as we know it to-day.

EDITOR

HARD TIMES WE WERE STIRRED TO HEAR THAT H.M. THE KING IS TO CUT HIS PERSONAL EXPENDITURE BY £40,000. THERE ARE FEW PEOPLE IN BRITAIN WHO COULD AFFORD TO MAKE SO LARGE A SACRIFICE IN THESE TIMES OF RISING PRICES.

All articles in this magazine are purely the personal opinions of the writer.

WALL STREET - Fact NOT Fiction

It has become increasingly the fashion in certain circles in the Labour movement to point out the "progressive" nature of the U.S.A., whilst at the same time deriding anyone who suggests that the great industrial and banking corporations are the dominant factor in all U.S. policy at home and abroad. This series of three articles will cover briefly:-

1. Industrial Corporations and the Banking Interests,
2. Their influence and control of the Press, Radio and Motion Pictures:
3. Foreign investments.

Wall Street is the name which has been given to the complex structure of financial groups which control American industry and especially to the top 400 men who hold almost one third of the directorships of the 250 largest corporations. In the monopoly stage of capitalism there are certain distinct features as Lenin pointed out:

1. The concentration of production and capital developed to such a stage that it creates monopolies which play a decisive role in economic life.
2. The merging of bank capital with industrial capital, and the creation, on the basis of 'finance capital', or a financial oligarchy.
3. The export of capital, which has become extremely important, as distinguished from the export of commodities.
4. The formation of internationalist capitalist monopolies which share the world among themselves.

Let us now look at the industrial corporations, here we find in at least 13 industries three or fewer companies control from 64 to 100% of the net capital assets, of their respective industries; they range from aluminium, tin cans and lino at the top end to motors, biscuits, agricultural machinery and meat products at the 64% end. In the motor group are names well known to readers - General Motors, Ford and Chrysler and in the meat trade are the familiar names of Armour, Swift and Wilson.

In the next group of "high but not extreme" concentration are 6 industries in which four, five or six companies control over 60% of the industry's assets, glass, carpets, dairy products, primary steel, industrial chemicals, and aircraft and parts. The U.S. Steel Corp. for instance has 29% of the total capital assets of the steel industry and over 35% of ingot capacity.

A further method of indicating the degree of concentration of the monopolies is actual production. Of the 452 industries in the U.S., the top four companies in 1950 industries account for more than one half of total production.

In one of the concrete canyons of New York, Wall Street by name, are to be found the offices of the financiers of U.S. industry. These financial interest groups, the directors of these groups are also directors of industrial corporations, illustrate Lenin's second point. Further, when an investment firm promotes a new corporation, handles its new security issues and have directors in common.....it seems appropriate to treat them as part of a single interest group. That last statement comes from an official U.S. Government committee and that seems a reasonable basis to study these financial interest. The main groups concerned are Morgan, Rockefeller, Mellon, de. Pont, and Kuhn, Loeb. The Morgan firm in association with the first National Bank of New York have direct influence over 51 of the largest 250 corporations and based on evidence in official government reports the Morgan group controls corporations with assets of 55,000 million! Such is the power of these banking groups.

The next article will continue briefly with the other groups before covering the question of the Pres etc; acknowledgement will be made at the end of the series as to the sources of information.

C.D. Wembley North

RITA'S COLUMN

O! how the rain did come down the Sunday before last as it has been coming down for the past few Sundays. It certainly rained buckets and it's my guess that the buckets weren't far behind either. Nevertheless it stopped Wembley South's plans for a ramble in to the wilds of Buckinghamshire. You may well say what a time to go rambling, but last year during the wintery months of January and February on the joint rambles of North & South, many Leaguers' footprints were to be found embedded deep into the mud which covered the countryside at that time, and it's an ever present wonder that shoes weren't left behind too. However, in the League spirit we all enjoyed ourselves, except perhaps, for one poor unfortunate - belonging I think to Wembley South - who fell head long into a bog. Surprisingly enough the individual didn't see the funny side of the situation, and I don't suppose many of you would either, taking into consideration the extreme discomfort of tramping through fields in damp, muddy clothes. Talking of rambling I seem to have done my share. I did start out to tell you that the ramble planned for the 11th February had to be postponed, but O! how we females do get off the subject - or so we're told. Anyway there is a ramble planned for Sunday 11th March, so do come if you can.

Both Leagues will perhaps be a little dissatisfied this month by the inadequacy of space left for social reports, others will perhaps breathe a sigh of relief. This shortage is due to our budding politicians who, once they get writing are very hard to stop, as can also be found by their oratorical powers both on the platform and at our meetings, mentioning no names.

March 10th must be mentioned for Wembley North's Social at Fryant School. There is a good programme mapped out for the evening's

THE TITO-STALIN CONFLICT: A SOCIALIST ATTITUDE

Those that are not familiar with the inner workings of the Communist Party may still be puzzled why Tito, once Demi-God, second only to Stalin Himself, is now denounced as a Fascist Hyena in the pay of the Imperialists. Tito, who rose to power in the Communist Party in 1957, and was always one of Stalin's loyalst agents.

In the Tito-Stalin conflict, socialists must support Tito's fight against Stalinism, in so far as it represents a struggle for National Independence. This does not mean, however, that Tito's regime in Jugoslevia is a socialist one, but for the reason given above, we must accord Tito our critical support.

To be able to take this view we must understand what is the nature of the Tito-Stalin conflict and how it has arisen. The stalinist version in a nutshell is this, that there is a lack of internal democracy in Jugoslavia, the abandonment of Socialist principles, and lack of friendship and co-operation towards the Soviet Union. These points are basically correct, and Russia would be justified in making them, if Russia herself were a socialist society. On the other hand Tito makes similar accusations against Russia, and these are also basically correct. If, as we believe, both sides in their statements are right, then why the present conflict. Tito's real reason is this, that he demands relative independence for Jugo-slavia from Moscow domination, and is not prepared to be a mere puppet dancing on the end of the string of Russian bure

Tito wants the right to decide what his country's home, economic and Foreign policy should be, and not like the other Eastern countries have it decided for them by Stalin.

In other words, Tito wants to rule in the same way as Stalin, and would be quite willing to work in conjunction with him, but he will not bow down to dictatorship.

Lenin himself stood for complete autonomy and full national independence for all peoples, including the Soviet Republics, stating that they may leave the Union if they so desired. Not so Stalin, to keep himself and his clique in power, he demands - and gets - complete subordination from the other "Socialist" Governments. Therefore, Tito with his breakaway tactics is a menace to Stalin, and to preserve his power, Stalin one way or another must crush Tito.

Some Socialists, because of Tito's opposition to Stalinism, seem to think that Jugoslavia is a democratic worker's state. They point to the free elections held there and more often to the Workers' Control in industry. They should not be deceived by these outward appearances.

Though there is a certain amount of freedom in Jugoslavia, and judging from reports of Comrades who have visited the country, the people do support the regime, we must not forget that there is no opposition press allowed, and the elections are from a single Government list.

Also the Worker's Control decree which did not come from the workers, but was handed down from above is very limited in its scope.

The hostility of the Soviet Union together with the division of the world into two power bloc's, forces backward Jugoslavia into the camp of Western Imperialism. The latter now welcomes Jugoslavia as

an ally against the Russian bloc. (Incidentally this proves that the Western Powers are not really interested in democracy). This does not mean that Yugoslavia is relapsing into capitalism as the Communist Party claims. Indeed there has been more nationalisation of industry in Yugoslavia since the break.

Fundamentally Titoism and Stalinism, despite their disagreements, are similar regimes. In 1945 in the "Peoples Democracies", Stalinism was able to reproduce itself, but owing to the Red Army not playing such a large part in the liberation of Yugoslavia, this led to the relative independence of the Tito regime.

Tito now says that Socialism can be built in one country, (which was once Stalin's theory) and is now attacked by Stalin for putting it forward.

This policy can only succeed in strengthening the bureaucratic tendencies of the state, which exist because of the backwardness and isolation of the country.

Although we support Yugoslavia against Stalinist domination, we realise that as in the Soviet Union the socialist economy is battered on by a bureaucratic clique. The only solution to this problem lies in the establishment of Democratic Socialism in Western Europe and throughout the world.

'ISKRA'

RITA'S COLUMN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

entertainment and from past experience you can be sure to have a good time there, remembering, of course, the George, so be sure not to miss this event.

Wembley South follows on with a social on Easter Saturday, March 24th, at the Heather Park Community Centre, where you should once again find a full evening's entertainment. So don't forget these two dates to be jotted down in your diary.

Unity Theatre once again lived up to expectations with their presentation of "Here Goes". Judging by one member's obvious enjoyment throughout the performance it must have been very amusing indeed, especially the skit on the Young Tories. The Sketch on 100 years from now was certainly very good. Well Girl's why not take a leaf (the Editor said not that leaf) (Rita says delete) (typist says leave) (and the Editor said stop wasting paper) out of "Nothing doing to-night". Do I hear from Johnny Ault a laugh?

Oh well the politicians are back again clamouring for more space. So once again cheerio for this month. Don't forget the two socials mentioned and, of course, the jolly old ramble for the open-air fiends (and the pub-crawlers) (but not only these hale and hearty creatures - meaning of course the open-air fiends - please* That satisfy you Mr. Editor?!*??!!** - Editor's reply.

Just a few words to cheer our delegates to THE Conference (Editor - "The one and only") Don't bully Cora, and the best of luck to you both. (and do I hear the Editor say you'll need it). con p6

continued from page 5

WHO IS THIS EDITOR? LOOK AT THE CREDIT TITLES AT THE FOOT OF THIS PAGE

A RAILWAYMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

Even though the railway pay dispute has been settled it would be wrong to assume that all is now well in this vital industry. The increase for the lower-paid workers was long over-due and will in any case, be rapidly absorbed by the ever-increasing cost-o-f-living. A lot has been said about inefficient working on the railways and some changed conditions are proposed, mostly concerning train-crews, that is drivers, firemen and guards. As a fireman, then, I would like to give my impressions of the position.

It is proposed to abolish call-boys and one would think that from the fuss that has been made about them the millions of pounds are to be saved by this economy. At the depot where I work about half the footplate men are not called for duty. They live more than a mile from the depot and, therefore, are outside the "calling area". The others are only called for duty between midnight and 7.0 a.m., but the 4 call-boys employed at the depot work shifts round the 24 hours as messengers for official railway business. I think it is necessary to point out these things to get the matter in its true perspective

Two other measures that the Railway Executive intend to introduce are compulsory overtime and more lodging turns. At many depots it is only because men voluntarily work overtime that the railway operates as well as it does. In most industrial areas there are vacancies for firemen totalling, literally, thousands. This is due to better paid and more congenial jobs than railway work being available. To try to effect economies by worsening conditions will not only discourage new recruits, but also cause more men to leave the industry. It is quite bad enough to have to go to work at all hours of the day and night, Saturdays and Sundays included, without depriving men even more of their home and social life. The feeling of footplate men on this point is very strong and the Railway Executive would do well to take heed of it.

The Executive should be reformed to give the workers a real voice in questions of management. The inclusion of a few, discredited, former trade union officials, in no way answers this problem. Until the workers in any nationalised industry feel that they really have some control of their industry and their opinions are genuinely respected, then I feel they will continue to regard the management as they did their former employer, that is, their natural enemy.

One last point, as a result of the wage increases, fares and freight charges will be increased, this in turn causing living costs to rise still higher. Obviously this burden will fall, mainly, upon the ordinary people, but every effort should be made to spread the load as evenly as possible over all classes. Why should not the interest on compensation to former share-holders be reduced? In 1949 the British Transport Commission paid £34 million to these people. We are all urged to make economies, here's a good place to start.

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