

SOCIALIST APPEAL

The Socialist Appeal Stands For:

Read the Testament of LENIN (inside)

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ONE PENNY

WHY USSR IS SUFFERING REVERSES

CLYDE WORKERS' STRIKE AGAINST ORDNANCE FACTORY RAMP Government Acts as Agent of Big Business

On September 23rd the workers at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Dalmeir on the Clyde side downed tools in protest against the transfer of the factory from Government to private control. A demonstration was held in Glasgow and two deputations inter-Dollan issued a statement at the City Chambers. After the second meeting, which had been agreed to by the delegation. The important section of it reads:

"I am authorised by Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Supply, to give you his personal guarantee, in writing, that on the day the war ends the factory will revert to the control of the Director-General of the Royal Ordnance Department and as such will become a permanent establishment under State control and management. . . changes have been made for the sole purpose of increasing output so that the war may be ended in favour of democracy. In this way, a factory which cost millions of pounds of public money has been handed over to Sir James Litigow and the Beardmore bosses free of charge, and the fact that the men's leaders accepted Beaverbrook's promise only serves to obscure the indignation that is widespread throughout the Clyde area. (Continued on page 2)

Internationalism has been Abandoned

Kiev has fallen to the legions of German imperialism. The Donetz Basin is threatened. Leningrad and Odessa are besieged. Even the bourgeois press speaks of the seriousness of the military situation in which the Soviet Union finds itself and is already preparing an alibi for the failure to send substantial aid.

The German armies are blasting their way inch by inch into Soviet territory, paying a bloody price in casualties, it is true. Already the regions conquered are TWICE THE AREA OF GREATER GERMANY. The bitterly contested but triumphant advance of the German troops is due, of course, to the superiority of German technique, organisation, industry and military skill over that of Russia.

But in war, morale is the decisive factor. Even these victories would not be of vital importance if the armies of German imperialism had their morale shattered. The German soldier today is apathetic and indifferent. Insofar as Russian propaganda has any effect, it serves only to drive him, in despair, into support of Hitler. At the time of the wars of intervention almost the whole of Russia was at one time in the hands of imperialism. All that was left to the Bolsheviks at one period were the two towns Petrograd and Moscow and one province. An overwhelming superiority in military equipment was in the hands of the armies of intervention. Annihilation of the young Soviet Republic seemed certain. And if it had been allowed to remain a purely military question, annihilation would have been the result. But that was a revolutionary war, led by Lenin and Trotsky.

What are the methods of waging a revolutionary war such as the Socialist Appeal calls—the methods which would avert the disasters now facing the Workers' State?

First, the reintroduction of complete workers' democracy within the Soviet Union, and the re-establishment of Soviets.

Continued on back page

LENIN'S GENERAL STAFF OF 1917 STALIN THE EXECUTIONER ALONE REMAINS



BOLSHEVIK CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF 1917

These pictures depict the General Staff of the Bolshevik Party which, under the leadership of Lenin, led the victorious October Revolution of 1917. Stalin destroyed the entire generation of the Old Guard. Not only that. He also decapitated the entire leadership of the Red Army, the trade unions, the Youth organisations. Lenin attached tremendous significance to the Old Guard of Bolshevism. He regarded these men—the living embodiment of the experience of three revolutions (1905, February 1917, October 1917), of the struggle against World War I, the Civil War, the post war period of reconstruction, as the only guarantee of correct policies. "If we do not close our eyes to reality, then it must be recognised," Lenin wrote in March 1922, "that at the present time the proletarian policy of our party is determined not so much by its social composition as by the enormous and unlimited authority of that thin layer which may be called the Old Guard. Even a minor internal struggle within this layer would suffice if not to undermine, then, in any case, to weaken its authority to such an extent that the decisions would thereafter no longer depend upon it." Stalin and the bureaucracy have not stopped at "weakening its authority". They have annihilated it, and with it the programme of international Socialism for which it stood. It is to this that we can trace the terrible defeats which, despite the heroism of the Russian workers and soldiers, the Red Army is suffering today. Only the restoration of the methods of Lenin and Trotsky can save the Soviet Union from total destruction at the hands of international imperialism, either of Germany or the "allies"—Anglo-American imperialism.

An end to the coalition with the bosses. Labour and Trade Union leaders must break with the capitalist Government and wage a campaign for power on the following programme:

1. Immediate despatch of arms and material to the Soviet Union under the control of the Trade Unions and factory committees.
2. Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry without compensation.
3. Confiscation of all war profits—all company books to be open for trade union inspection.
4. Workers' control of production to end chaos and mismanagement in industry to be exercised through workers committees.
5. Equal distribution of food, clothes, etc. under control of committees elected by housewives, small shopkeepers and factory workers.
6. Sliding scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum.
7. Repeal of the Essential Works Order and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking laws.
8. Clear out the reactionary pro-fascist officer caste in the Army and Home Guard. Election of officers by the soldiers.
9. Establishment of military academies by the Trade Unions at the expense of the state for the training of worker officers.
10. Arming of the workers under control of committees of workers elected in factories, unions and in the streets against the danger of invasion or Petainism.
11. Freedom for Ireland, India and the Colonies.
12. A Socialist appeal to the workers of Germany and Europe on the basis of this programme in Britain to join the Socialist struggle against Hitler for the Socialist United States of Europe.

Workers' Victory at Handley-Page Essential Works Order Defeated

In the middle of last August the management of Handley-Page began the application of the Transfer Scheme under the Essential Works Order. 19 workers received notices of transfer, among them being a high percentage of militant workers and some shop stewards. The workers were discontented by the application of the scheme whereby an arbitrary selection of shop-stewards and militant workers, could be made by the management. In order to make it more palatable and soften the blow to the men, the management announced at least reasonable conditions for those to be transferred: the men who received notice were not to be dismissed until alternative employment could be found for them. The management were proceeding with caution in order to use this as the thin end of the wedge. But some of the men had not been found other work, whereupon the Ministry of Labour advised the firm to proceed with the strict application of the Essential Works Order. The management then acted with the knowledge of full support by the Ministry of Labour.

VICTIMISATION BEHIND THE TRANSFERS

On the 10th of September, 29 men received seven days notice of transfer. Of this lot, the majority were militant workers, and, once again, included several shop stewards. Many of these highly skilled workers had not been found alternative employment and would have been thrown on the dole.

The workers soon saw that this placed an intolerable power in the hands of the management to get rid of all those militants who had stood for their interests and thus incurred the dislike of the bosses. In addition there was the provocation of the high-handed and callous way in which the management was treating these workers in applying the provisions of the E.W.O.

STRIKE ACTION TAKEN

As soon as the news spread through the factory several sections immediately downed tools. Other sections quickly followed this lead. The main assembly shop was soon at a standstill. Next morning the ancillary departments struck in solidarity. 2,000 workers were already on strike by Thursday morning. Throughout Thursday other departments were coming out one after the other, the stores, millwrights, inspection departments etc. A notable feature was the class solidarity of the women workers who came out in support of their fellow workers.

In spite of the equivocal acceptance of the E.W.O. and all that it means, by the leadership of the Communist Party, the rank and file members of the Communist Party instinctively came out in solidarity with the other workers. The first test and the facts of the class struggle compelled them to abandon the policy of the

Archives of the Revolution The TESTAMENT OF LENIN

Lenin wrote what has come to be known as the Testament for transmission to the 12th congress of the Russian Communist party, the first one his illness would not permit him to attend. Hoping for his recovery, Krupskaya withheld the notes and presented them to the 13th congress only after Lenin's death. By a vote of 30 to 10, the leadership refused to have the document read to the congress, for it was just then engaged in a violent struggle to discredit Trotsky and "Trotskyism." The document, so keen and profound a product of Lenin's mature thought and concern about the party situation, was literally suppressed. Its authenticity, widely denied by the supporters of Stalin, was, however, confirmed by the latter, under pressure of the Opposition, in a speech in Moscow, reprinted in the International Press Correspondence of November 17, 1927: "It is said that in the 'Testament' in question Lenin suggested to the party congress that it should deliberate on the question of replacing Stalin and appointing another comrade in his place as General Secretary of the party. This is perfectly true. . . . Yes, comrades, I am rude towards those who are rudely and disloyally destroying and disintegrating the party. I have never made a secret of it and shall not do so now."

The allusion in the second clause of the first sentence is to a part of the notes dealing with economic organization.—Ed.

By the stability of the Central Committee, of which I spoke before, I mean measures to prevent a split, so far as such measures can be taken. For, of course, the White Guard in Russia (I think it was S. E. Oldenburg) was right when, in the first place, in his play against Soviet Russia he split in our party, and when, in the second place, he banked for that split on serious disagreements in our party.

Our party rests upon two classes, and for that reason its instability is possible, and if there cannot exist an agreement between such classes its fall is inevitable. In such an event it would be useless to take any measures or in general to discuss the stability of our Central Committee. In such an event no measures would prove capable of preventing a split. But I trust that is too remote a future, and too improbable an event, to talk about.

I have in mind stability as a guarantee against a split in the near future, and I intend to examine here a series of considerations of a purely personal character.

I think that the fundamental factor in the matter of stability—from this point of view—as such members of the Central Committee as Stalin and Trotsky. The relation between them constitutes, in my opinion, a big half of the danger of that split, which might be avoided, and the avoidance of which might be promoted in my opinion by raising the number of members of the Central Committee to fifty or one hundred.

Comrade Stalin, having become General Secretary, has concentrated an enormous power in his hands; and I am not sure that he always knows how to use that power with sufficient caution. On the other hand, comrade Trotsky, as was proved by his struggle against the Central Committee in connection with the question of the People's Commissariat of Ways and Communications, is distinguished not only by his exceptional ability—personally, he is, to be sure, the most able man in the present Central Committee—but also by his too far-reaching self-confidence and a disposition to be far too much attracted by the purely administrative side of affairs.

These two qualities of the two most able leaders of the present Central Committee might, quite innocently, lead to a split, and if our

party does not take measures to prevent it, a split might arise unexpectedly.

I will not further characterise the other members of the Central Committee as to their personal qualities. I will only remind you that the October episode of Zinoviev and Kamenev was not, of course, accidental, but that it ought as little to be used against them as the non-Bolshevism of Trotsky.

Of the younger members of the Central Committee, I want to say a few words about Piatakov and Bukharin. They are, in my opinion, the most able forces (among the youngest) and in regard to them it is necessary to bear in mind the following: Bukharin is not only the most valuable and biggest theoretician of the party, but also may legitimately be considered the favourite of the whole party; but his theoretical views can only with the very greatest doubt be regarded as fully Marxian, for there is something scholastic in him (he never has learned, and I think never fully understood the dialectic).

And then Piatakov—a man undoubtedly distinguished in will and ability, but too much given over to the administrative side of things to be relied on in a serious political question.

Of course, both these remarks are made by me merely with a view of the present time, or supposing that these two able and loyal workers may not find an occasion to supplement their knowledge and correct their oneness.

December 25, 1922.

Postscript: Stalin is too rude, and this fault, entirely supportable in relations among us communists, becomes unsupportable in the office of General Secretary. Therefore, I propose to the comrades to find a way to remove Stalin from that position and appoint to it another man who in all respects differs from Stalin only in superiority—namely, more patient, more loyal, more polite and more attentive to comrades, less capricious, etc. This circumstance may seem an insignificant trifle, but I think that from the point of view of preventing a split and from the point of view of the relation between Stalin and Trotsky which I discussed above, it is not a trifle, or it is such a trifle as may acquire a decisive significance.

January 4, 1923. LENIN.

WORKERS' VICTORY AT HANDLEY-PAGE

(Continued from p.1)

party and resist the attack of the employers. In this connection it is significant that the management concerned is the same one which allowed Harry Pollitt and Ted Bramley to address the workers in the canteen quite recently which is an indication of how they regard the policy of the leadership of the Communist Party at the present time.

SHOP STEWARDS DEMAND IMMEDIATE SATISFACTION

Several mass meetings were held by the workers during the day, the workers taking over the canteen in order to have a meeting place. This was in defiance of one of the provisions of the infamous Essential Works Order.

The district organiser of the A.E.U. was informed and attended the delegate meeting of the shop stewards who were now negotiating with the management on behalf of the men. The management refused to discuss with the men till they had returned to work, as usual, demanding that the men "go through the customary procedure." This would have meant, as the workers have discovered by bitter experience, that negotiations would probably drag on for months till the original dispute had been completely forgotten. The workers overwhelmingly repudiated this suggestion.

A delegation was then sent by the men, together with the A.E.U. organiser to the responsible heads of the Ministry of Labour. They attempted to avoid responsibility, endeavouring to pass the buck back to the management of the factory. The delegation refused to accept this and were then referred to the Chief Conciliation Officer of the Ministry of Labour. Faced with the militant attitude of the

SHIPPING CO. Defrauds Gunner "Heroes"

CREWS JAILED

From a Scottish East Coast Port. To the Socialist Appeal, Dear Comrades,

The article which appeared in the September number of the Socialist Appeal on the imprisonment of a ship's crew was welcomed by all aboard our ship and has aroused a good deal of discussion in the fo-castle in the port. It exposes a practice which is taking place—that is the secret trial and imprisonment of merchant seamen for alleged delay of their ships, and unmasks the parliamentary and newspaper blab about the welfare and status of merchant seamen—after the war!

Within the last couple of months, two fo-castle crews that I know of, have been imprisoned from this port on the same frame-up as the one you reported: refusing to take the ship to sea without just and reasonable cause. In these cases the men refused to take vessels out because they were not fully manned. The companies claimed, as evidence against the men, that the gunners aboard—that is men who man the guns but do no work—were part of the ship's crew. A deliberate lie!

These frame-ups aroused a good deal of opposition and resentment at the time, but since we are mostly split up on different ships coming and going, it was difficult to do anything about it, particularly since the union officials sold out in these cases as well.

The widespread and numerous grievances of the merchant seamen demand immediate attention and action. But the difficulty of attending union branch meetings, makes it simple for the officials to avoid their responsibility to us, and sell



WHAT TO READ

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Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay	1d.
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The U.S.S.R. in War	3d.
The Permanent Revolution	3/6
In Duplicated form, 218 pages.	

out to the bosses. They make it almost impossible to keep a check on their actions by seeing to it that branches never meet.

One very important and legitimate demand among the fo-castle hands is for bonus on dangerous cargoes. Although the companies are paid exceptionally high freightage rates for such cargoes as high spirit or explosives, the men who do the dangerous work of getting the cargoes through, receive nothing at all.

Every sharp practice is used to increase profits and evade responsibility to the crews. Men from the crew who sign as gunners are paid 6d. a day extra. But there are never sufficient who have signed as gunners to fully man and operate the ship's guns. Many of us who have been trained as gunners and who, naturally, man the guns during raids, are paid no extra at all. In my own case, while the ship's gunners who man the heavier guns are fairly well protected from machine gun bullets and bomb splinters; the light gun I man is situated directly behind them and is completely unprotected. Yet when I demanded my extra 6d. a day the company clerks simply laugh. The companies rely on the instinct of self preservation in the men to evade their responsibilities to them. Knowing that in the final analysis the men will protect themselves with whatever weapons are at hand, they sign on and pay the absolute legal minimum of gunners.

The demand for workers' control was hotly debated and supported by the majority of men. In the shipping industry, more than any other, the men already control the processes of transport and the parasitic character of the owners is most easily seen.

Yours fraternally,
Stanley H. Able Seaman.

men he was compelled to admit that the workers had a genuine grievance.

COMPLETE VICTORY FOR WORKERS

The result of the negotiations was a complete victory for the workers. The management was ordered to reinstate all the men dismissed, who had not been found jobs by the Ministry of Labour. It was agreed that no further transfers of any men should take place until the men had been consulted through their representatives.

A conference is to be held between the management and the shop stewards to decide on the machinery for any further

J. P. CANNON FOR MAYOR of NEW YORK

James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party of America, will be the Trotskyist anti-war candidate for Mayor of New York City. This is the reply of the Socialist Workers' Party to Roosevelt's attempt to silence the voices of the proletarian anti-war fighters of the United States by his frame-up charge against James P. Cannon and 28 other members of the Socialist Workers' Party and of Minneapolis Union leaders for "conspiring to overthrow the government by force."

ANTI-WAR PLATFORM

The platform of the party in their campaign will have three chief planks:

1. For class struggle opposition to the war and the capitalist system that breeds war.
2. For the defence of all workers' rights and civil liberties against the war-time repressions.
3. For the unconditional defence of the Soviet Union and against reactionary Stalinism which weakens the defence of the Soviet Union.

As part of the struggle against fascism the Socialist Workers' Party advocates Military Training of Workers, financed by the government, BUT UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE TRADE UNIONS. For special officers' training camps, financed by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.

The campaign committee is confident that the quota of 7,500 signatures, the

minimum required, will be fulfilled. The New York comrades are working furiously getting the nomination petitions filed in the crowded working class section of New York.

ROOSEVELT'S FRAME-UP ATTACKED BY AMERICAN UNIONS

Labour's Non Partisan League, the C.I.O.'s (Industrial unions) political body, branded the frame-up against the Union and Trotskyist leaders as "a menace to fundamental civil liberties and to labour's basic rights." The following paragraphs are taken from the text:

"In St. Paul a few days ago a large number of C.I.O. Union members of Minneapolis were indicted for holding allegedly subversive opinions. The indictment went back to 1938 in strained efforts to find some incident on which to base its action. Not what these men did, but what they thought, formed the real crime against them."

A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

"The incident is regarded generally here as an attempt by the Justice Department to establish a precedent. If it is successful, many informed observers are expecting other indictments of labour figures who do not toe the mark in the way some bureaucrat would prefer that they do."

If Minneapolis teamsters can be jailed for their opinions, so can anybody. That is why the case is of national importance to civil liberties."

ONLY SOLUTION FOR DALMUIR WORKERS

Continued from page 1

Lithgow and the other engineering bosses are well known on Clydeside. They are not taking over this factory to manage it more efficiently, increase production and assure that "the war may be ended in favour of democracy." They are going in order to manage the factory in their own interests, increase their already gigantic profits and assure that the war will be ended in favour of British imperialism. Who will believe that the same Lithgow who said at a public meeting in Glasgow that if he had his way the Clydeside workers would be treated like 'coolies' will take seriously Beaverbrook's empty promise to these very workers? Beaverbrook's own paper, the Daily Express, reflected the real attitude of the bosses when it said of the men who went on strike against the transfer: "Put them in khaki."

The official argument of the Government that this deal will assist in the elimination of chaos in production is smashed to the ground by an abundance of hard facts. Every workers knows that in factories controlled by private enterprise, nothing but red tape, bottlenecks and mismanagement exist. The cost-plus ten-per-cent-profit system ensures that the employers and shareholders draw their fat

share of the swag even if they, the more muddle there's shops chaos reigns. How often is it possible for the gentlemen of private enterprise to clean up the muddle at Dalmuir or elsewhere if they cannot do it in their own shops. It is well known to engineering workers that production figures are higher in State controlled factories than in the monopoly controlled enterprises.

It was the workers at Dalmuir who drew the attention of the Government to the state of muddle which existed within the R.O.F. Thousands of hours were being wasted owing to the hold-up of materials (controlled by Lithgow).

Repeated protests were followed by a deputation to see the Minister of Supply. Beaverbrook promised to attend to the men's demands personally. He did! Immediately following his trip to the Clyde the men were informed that their state employment with the R.O.F. was terminated and that they could apply for re-employment with Messrs. Beardmore's. This illegal action was taken without discussion with the men or their union representatives. The agreements won by years of hard and persistent struggle were cancelled over-night. The new agreement offered, proposed a substantial reduction in their status and conditions.

But the alternative before the Beardmore workers is not just to accept bureaucratic and incompetent Government control or the control of Sir James Lithgow. The real alternative is direct control by the workers themselves through shop-stewards' and factory committees. Such control, exercised by those who really do the producing and not by financiers and sharks, would cut through all the red tape and chaos which are inseparable from private ownership and control.

The Government has revealed itself as the agent of big business by this handing over of the Dalmuir factory to the arms profiteers. It is for this that the working class are making such terrible sacrifices. So that the end of the war will see the arms manufacturers and big combines with a complete stranglehold on the economic life of the nation. The Shop Stewards at a Midlands Ordnance Factory have passed a unanimous resolution of protest against the transfers and sent it to Lord Beaverbrook. The works committee of this factory have been instructed to take the initiative in calling a conference of Shop Steward delegates from all Ordnance Factories in order to discuss this anti-working-class move. The answer to the Dalmuir scandal is for the shop stewards at this forthcoming conference to demand the nationalisation without compensation of the whole armament industry and its operation under workers' control.



DONATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE

	£	s.	d.
Edmonton, London	10	10	0
East End, London	4	2	0
South London	14	0	0
Napiers workers	7	0	0
R.R. Girl Shop Steward	2	6	
Southall, Middlesex	10	0	
R.A.F. Comrade	1	0	0
Comrade Simpson, Member of the First International	1	0	0
Edinburgh	2	0	0
Glasgow	5	14	0
Birmingham	4	10	6
Northampton	10	0	
Nottingham	10	0	
Wales readers	7	0	
From a C.P.er, London	5	0	
	£54	1	0

transfers in future. Transfers when they take place will not be decided arbitrarily by the management. All future transfers will only take place after consultations with the shop stewards.

The attempt of the management to rid themselves of the most class-conscious workers was defeated by the solidarity of the workers. This victory shows that it will not be possible to treat the workers as human cattle or serfs, by laws such as the Essential Works Order, etc. so long as we resist such attempts by organised class action and solidarity.

Handley Page Worker.

EDITORIAL.

WHOM THE GODS DESTROY . . .

The war of 1914-1918 was supposed to be the "war to end war". According to recent statements the present one might be described to be the "war to perpetuate war." A few months ago Bevin held out to the British workers the shining vista of a future in which it would be necessary for Britain to maintain an army of 4,000,000. Mabane, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Security, now paints the post world victory in even brighter colours. According to him the civil defence services will be continued after the war. In his own words: "It does appear to me that after the war we shall certainly not be able to abandon our civil defence organisation. We shall be able to transform it into an army not standing-by and trained but at call—a necessary and proper supplement to the armed forces."

This grim prospect held before the workers is a symptom of the complete breakdown and decay of capitalism. That in the midst of the greatest slaughter of all times the capitalist statesmen and their labour lieutenants can only offer to those who are enduring the privations and sacrifices, a future of even bloodier and more appalling sacrifices for themselves and their children.

At some periods the attempt is made to coat this bitter pill with the sugar of the "New Order" which will be built after the war. But a "New Order" which has to be propped up with bayonets and which does not even offer an assurance against fire-bombs, high explosives, and poison gas is obviously no new order but a continuation of the old.

During the last war imperialists at least held the illusion up to the masses that their sacrifices would result in universal peace and lasting disarmament. This time, while the lie of a better world is still held out as an inducement, the reality that underlies persists in breaking through.

The future world as the imperialists see it, is one not of peace and plenty, but of bloody chaos and of misery.

The imperialists and their faithful servants have lost all sense of proportion. They are mad if they believe they can impose this "peace" on the masses. Like the rulers of all doomed regimes tottering into the abyss they are mad. Those whom the Gods wish to destroy they first make mad.

The masses of Britain and Europe will make their own peace terms. Only Hitler's regime, but also those of Roosevelt and Churchill will be overthrown. It will not be a programme of war and preparation for war but a programme of fraternal collaboration of the peoples of Europe and all continents in the pursuit of a world security, peace and plenty, through the abolition of capitalism and the organising of workers power.

PROFITS CAUSE PRODUCTION CHAOS

The overwhelming amount of evidence arraigned against the government's production policy places it first on the list as the most universally condemned and controversial part of the "war effort".

Reports from mass meetings held by industrial workers all over the country, from leading trade union and labour leaders—even from representative employers and business associations—add to the mountain of evidence accumulating against the method by which the ruling class is "organising" production.

Quoting examples of the chaotic inefficiency and waste in the war industries is by now a common pastime of press leader writers and is becoming a case of flogging the obvious. The attempts of government spokesmen to paint a rosy picture of "the great speed up" fly directly in the face of universally known facts.

PROFITEERS CLOSE MINES

The supporters of the profit system are the first to deny any responsibility for the backward state of industry. Mr. Tinker's statement in the House of Commons debate on production "that mines were still closing in spite of all the unions efforts to keep them open, because the owners claimed it was not possible to work them profitably" gives a good example of the effects of the profits lust.

Mr. T. Smith, in the same debate stated that the output of coal "had declined in the Midland area from 1,663,000 tons for June 2nd to 1,586,000 tons for July 19th." Such a state of affairs is the logical outcome in a situation where state policy is subordinate to the interests of a clique of bankers and financiers who to-day dominate every sphere of industry and who by their control over the basic industries exert a supreme influence over the whole structure of British industry.

CASH AT THE HELM

In fact, "progress" in the sphere of production bears a significant resemblance to the victorious retreats in the military sphere. "It is no secret, says Mr. Gordon England, that the science of production is but little known in the production departments." In the vital sphere of supply eighteen raw material controllers hold between them forty company directorships. These are the people who exert

a decisive influence on production and who are responsible for output.

They are expert at stock exchange manipulation and have achieved fame and affluence in the business world as financial wizards. But the war calls for experts in production, and the whole past history of these people is a story of efforts directed towards producing ever greater profits, with the production of commodities as an incidental part of their task. This is the reason behind the chaos in industry and one look at the profit figures of the monopoly concerns represented by the production controllers is enough to convince anyone that the "profits first" line is paying handsomely.

PRODUCTION ORGANISED BY 1945?

The glowing prospect held out by the ruling class as a result of this policy was amply illustrated by Mr. J. D. Biggers, U.S. Co-ordinator of American and British production, who in an optimistic speech in London said, "I think that the combined efforts of the present programmes of our two nations, properly synchronised, will out-produce the Axis powers by Mid-1943"—disregarding the fact that a "synchronised effort is as far off as ever—how long after mid-1943 will it be before Anglo-American superiority in arms output will justify counter-action?"

"SMALL MEN" IGNORED

Outside of the all-powerful realm of the banks, the trusts and the monopoly combines, there is universal discord. The present production policy, run by and on behalf of the "big men" leaves scores of small businesses desperately groping for existence as the Limitation of Supplies and Concentration of Business Premises Orders drives many small concerns to the wall, leaving this vast potential reserve of industrial capacity to flounder around hopelessly without any plan to work out its own salvation as best it may.

Industrial experts are "frankly disturbed" at the planlessness of production and suggest that responsibility should be taken out of the hands of the financial magnates controlling supplies. Throughout the country factory workers are holding what are in effect vast protest meetings against the ill-effects of this policy which is spreading universal discontent and apathy among the industrial workers of Britain.

A ballot vote carried out by the Executive Committee of the South Wales Miners Federation recently endorsed the proposal of the E.C. in favour of working extra shifts to ease the situation in that industry. A few weeks back the mine-

owners were accusing the men of sabotaging the "war effort" by having time off. To-day the closing of the mines for profit reasons reveal who are the real saboteurs.

MINEOWNERS SABOTAGE OUTPUT

But the decision of the men to work extra shifts can only be described as a complete capitulation to the profiteering mineowners. A similar decision was also taken by the Fife miners Union Executive. The reception given to such actions has been shown in a press report on Sept. 26th. "25 Northumberland coal miners were asked by the management to increase their output by a ton a day each. By the end of the week they had reached their target. They held it a fortnight. Then they were told by their manager that in view of the increased output he wanted to discuss lowering their wage rate. They rejected the management's proposal and he retaliated by cancelling their wage agreement by placing them on day wages. The men are now producing the original amount but they are 9/- a day poorer for their efforts to speed up output."

The situation demands drastic action. While the war industries remain the plaything of finance, capital, inefficiency, waste of labour, power and material will remain. Not only this. The implications of leaving control in the hands of the capitalists, free to dictate their own terms and impose their own conditions upon government policy has been seen in the enormous growth of anti-working class measures.

At a time when revolutionary enthusiasm is called for, the working class is being driven into a state of apathy and demoralisation. Industrial conscription, the E.W.O.'s, the relaxation of the factory acts, these are the terms finance capital has dictated and is part of the price the working class must pay for capitalist control. Under the same plan the "allies" of a year ago—the French working class, are to-day paying the final instalment.

The growth of the Factory Committees and the Shop Stewards movement is an indication of the growing consciousness of the workers that only they, through the independent action of the producers themselves, can effect a remedy to the present chaos and guarantee the continuance, not of an out of date abstract capitalist democracy, but of genuine tangible workers democracy. Only by the expropriation of the war industries and through workers control of industry can the present disastrous trend of the "war effort" be reversed.

G.P.U. PREPARING ALIBI FOR TROTSKY'S ASSASSIN

MEXICO, D.F. As the first year following Leon Trotsky's murder passes, the G.P.U. is gradually arriving at a plan to free Jacson, the assassin. Little by little, the foundation for the projected "alibi" is being laid. In a statement which was published in all the dailies of Mexico City, Natalia Trotsky denounced this plot in the strongest terms.

The murderer's lawyer, Medillin Ostos, has followed the policy of seizing upon every occasion to protest against the judge's "partiality". He demands the right to ask questions of witnesses that have nothing to do with the case; he demands the testimony of people when such testimony can do nothing but clutter up the court records. Each time the judge refuses such a request, he protests the decision and the judge's "partiality".

On the other hand, it is possible to discern a line of development in the midst of much irrelevant material. He has asked certain questions of every policeman who was a member of the former guard posted outside the house on the day of the murder: Was Trotsky strong or weak? Was he agile and quick in his movements or slow? Where was the police guard posted to watch the office in which the fatal blow was struck? How does the police in charge know that only government officials entered the house on the night of the 20th of August?

GERMAN WORKERS STIRRING (from page 4)

ship by their refusal to form a united front that allowed Hitler to grasp power without a struggle. In 1933, Walter Citrine attempted to justify at the T.U.C. Conference, the treachery of the German Social-Democrats in not declaring a general strike—although he admitted it might have been successful by enlarging on the horrors of the civil war in Germany which it would have provoked.

It is significant for us to note that all news of the so-called anti-war move of the People's Convention was suppressed in German newspapers and wireless. Goebbels did not dare to let it be known among the German workers that a working class opposition, even in the caricature form of the

"SELF-DEFENCE" THEORY

Such questions following Jacson's statement last March that he had been injected with a "strange liquid" before making his most complete and damning statements, makes it clear that the G.P.U. is constructing the story designed to free its agent. This story may well be: "Trotsky became violently angry during an argument with Jacson and attacked him physically, forcing Jacson to kill in legitimate self-defence! Tell-tale evidence was removed from the office in the first night after the murder." To forewarn of such a story, Natalia Trotsky issued her statement to the press.

The repercussions to this statement were immediate. The following day, Ostos sent a note to the press "in answer" to the charge levelled against him. Gallantly assuming the pose of a gentleman, he said he wanted to be "not only tolerant but also benevolent" with the aggrieved widow, and therefore . . . did not answer one of the charges in a statement accusing him of being the go-between and therefore the accomplice of the G.P.U. He added that in regard to "the Messrs. advisors" of Comrade Natalia, he promised them to continue to the end the defence of the G.P.U. assassin. His justification is that of all gangster's lawyers—he is only pursuing his profession. His "profession" apparently obliged him to become an accomplice in his client's crimes!

People's Convention, was developing in Britain.

The ruling class of Britain which organised the power of German fascism is not in the least interested in waging a war against Fascism. They have always backed up reaction. Only the programme put forward by the Socialist Appeal can transform the war from a predatory imperialist war, into a genuine war of liberation on the part of Britain, for the destruction of fascism and the real defence of the Soviet Union. Only such a programme would immediately arouse the latent might of the German working class, banish the spectre of an endless war of extermination, and through the fraternal collaboration of peoples open up the prospect of a genuine new order of peace and prosperity—the Socialist United States of Europe.

WHY WE CALL FOR LABOUR TO POWER

"I am a former supporter of the Communist Party but now support your policy. What I cannot understand, however, is why you demand that the labour leaders should take power when you know that they will betray the workers. Look at their bad record in the Labour Governments of 1924 and 1929."

CAPITALISTS RES' ON LABOUR LEADERS

The above question is asked us by many comrades turning towards our tendency. The vast majority of the British working class passively support the Labour and Trade Union leaders at the present time. It is only by the hold which the Labour leaders have over the workers, that the capitalists in Britain continue to rule. Lenin once pointed out that without this support the capitalists could not rule for ever twenty four hours. It is for this reason that at all times of crisis, during revolutionary periods and especially during war, the capitalists compel the Labour and Trade Union leaders to enter the cabinet. Without their co-operation it would be impossible to launch the terrible attacks on the standard of living and the conditions of the workers which we see taking place today. Anderson would not have dared to launch the attacks against the workers which Morrison has done. Bevin has carried out measures which no Tory politician could have done.

The capitalists use the labour leaders in order to shield themselves from the anger of the workers. On the other hand, the labour leaders attempt to justify their position by the necessity for the workers to make sacrifices in the interests of "national unity". The main argument they use for their present betrayal is the need to wage a war against Hitlerism and fascism. Seeing no other alternative, the majority of the workers accept this—though sceptically and grudgingly.

MASSES STILL SUPPORT LABOUR LEADERS

It is true that the advance guard of the working class know the real role and treachery of the Labour leaders. The experience of the Labour Governments of

1924 and 1929 have demonstrated the incapacity of the labour leaders to solve any of the problems of the working class. Yet, despite this, the main mass of the workers, even the more class conscious sections of the workers in the trade union and labour movement, still have confidence in the ability of these leaders to offer them a solution to their problems.

In 1917, even after the February Revolution in Russia, when the Bolsheviks were a powerful force compared to the revolutionary forces in Britain today, they were in a minority within the working class movement. At that stage Lenin emphasised that the main task was to "patiently explain" the position to the workers. Like our own labour leaders, those in Russia formed a coalition government with the capitalist class. In order to expose them completely in the eyes of the workers, Lenin and the Bolsheviks issued the demand that they should break with the capitalists and take power into their own hands. By these means the labour leaders were exposed as agents of the capitalists and as being unwilling to fight for power on a programme in the interests of the toilers. In this way the Bolsheviks won to their side the majority of the Russian workers and led them to the victorious conquest of power.

TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARIES IS TO SEPARATE MASSES FROM LABOUR LEADERS

The Labour leaders in Britain rely purely on the passivity and inertia of the working class. This was clearly demonstrated at a recent meeting organised by the Labour Party in London at which Herbert Morrison addressed an almost empty hall. Once the workers and soldiers realise the enormous and decisive power which lies within their grasp the days of capitalism will be numbered. But in order that they should become aware of this potential power and make it actual, it is necessary that they should be aroused from their indifference and apathy. The Labour leaders deceive the masses into believing that they really represent their interests. No amount of pure denunciation can prove the contrary

to the workers. The masses learn only from experience, plus, of course, the systematic education and criticism of the advance guard. What the Labour leaders fear more than anything else is the independent mobilisation and initiative of the working class. In order that this shall be accomplished it is necessary to expose the incompetence and treachery of the Labour bureaucracy. By putting forward a programme of demands which really reflect the interests of the working class, and demanding that the Labour leaders take power to put it into action, we can open the eyes of the masses to the real role of these scoundrels. On the one hand, if they refuse to fight for power it will become obvious, especially as the conditions of the toilers become more and more intolerable during the course of the war, that they do not reflect the interests of the workers. On the other hand, if, owing to the pressure of the masses, (and it could only be realised through this pressure) the Labour leaders are pushed into power, so much the better! We do not take the slightest responsibility for their actions. But on the contrary, ruthlessly expose their shortcomings and inadequacy to meet the situation. The possibility will then be present, with an aroused and conscious working class, to organise the workers for the conquest of power.

Simultaneously with the demand for Labour to take power, we advocate through the Shop Stewards Committees, Consumers Committees, etc., the independent mobilisation of the working class round their own organisations. The two are not at all contradictory. We never cease to point out that only by reliance on our own strength and organisations can we achieve our emancipation from the shackles of capitalism.

To turn our backs towards the unclear feelings and aspirations of the masses by placing an ultimatum that they accept our leadership, would be sheer sectarianism. Our aim is to establish a revolutionary party in Britain which will lead to the establishment of a Soviet government. But before the workers accept this, they must be convinced, and we must prove, that no other road is possible.

GERMAN WORKERS STIRRING

British and Soviet Workers Must Show the Way

It is fashionable in the bourgeois press to depict the Germans as an undivided mass of barbarians and bloodthirsty monsters. In the pages of the *Times* and the *Telegraph* have appeared lengthy letters discussing what is to be done with the "Huns" after victory has been achieved. Churchill himself has spoken with relish of the period when the Germans will be brought to their knees and compelled to shout "Kamerad". Threats of fire and slaughter have been made to the German masses. The Kremlin leaders, flying in the face of the internationalist position of Lenin, have been playing Churchill's game and adding grist to the mill of Goebbels, with their propaganda about the spilling of "stinking Aryan blood" at the gates of Leningrad.

The British Labour leaders have faithfully reflected the attitude of the ruling class on this question; the Stalinists have gone even further in jingoism and chauvinism. In the latest issues of their papers the Communist Party talks about the "Boche". The whole official press, including that of the Stalinists, is attempting to place the responsibility for the monstrous crimes of Nazism on the shoulders of the German masses. The real situation in Germany and the reason for the paralysis of the German masses are deliberately obscured by both the ruling class press and the so-called representatives of the working class in the

Labour movement. But despite the entire barrage of lies, the real situation in Germany persists in breaking through in the press, despite the strenuous efforts to distort it before the British people.

We could give dozens of quotations from the capitalist press. Of these we shall choose one, which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of August 2:

"In the first place, I would emphasize that what I feel has probably been pointed out before—that this war isn't with Germans a popular war—of course, every German feels that it must be won—or else it will be the end; that if they lose this war Germany will never again get the chance of coming back as a great nation. They foresee a Germany subdivided into provinces ruled over by British appointed committees."

The reports from American and Swiss journalists confirm the indifference and despair of the German people. Victories occasion no enthusiasm, they say, but are accepted with bitterness and resignation.

This estimate is confirmed by events in Germany this month. At a cinema in the Potsdamerplatz, a working class district in Berlin, the audience demonstrated against the Nazi film of the fighting on the Eastern Front. "Down with the war! We want no war films!" they shouted. The lights were put on and an S.S. man came on to the stage and

warned the audience to desist. But the demonstration continued when the film re-started. The S.S. was called in and fired on the audience, killing and wounding scores of them.

In Hamburg, at the burial of hundreds of air raid victims, 10,000 workers demonstrated against the war and again the S.S. had to be called in to "restore order". They fired on the crowd and many were killed. Both incidents have been reported in the British press.

These incidents testify to the fact that the revolutionary tradition of the German working class has not been destroyed by the Nazi terror. The German workers have a Marxist tradition of 75 years. They have the inspiration of the anti-war fight of Liebknecht and Luxembourg; the revolution of 1918, which following the example of the Russian revolution, overthrew the Kaiser, and was the real cause of the ending of the last war. It is to this tradition, a tradition of Socialist struggle that must be appealed, in order that Hitlerism will be destroyed by the forces of the German workers themselves.

When Hitler took power, he had not managed to gain the support of the basic mass of the German working class. 8,000,000 voted for the Social-Democrats and 6,000,000 for the Communist Party in 1932. It was only the betrayal of the Social-Democratic and Communist leader-

Continued on page 3

BRABAZON'S POLICY IS CHURCHILL'S POLICY

Continued from page 1

Second, a clear explanation to the peoples of the Soviet Union, Germany and the world, of the real nature and causes of the war. Not the lying and meaningless statements of the capitalist politicians that it is due to the blood-thirst and megalomania of Adolph Hitler. But the simple truth that it is in the interests of finance capital and the preservation of the capitalist system. Above all, it is the duty of Stalin to clearly differentiate to the German workers between the war being fought by the Soviet Union and that being waged by capitalist Britain under Churchill.

Third, instead of the chauvinist appeal, an international socialist call to the German and European workers and soldiers for the extension of the socialist revolution to all Europe; this would be the only means of awakening the class solidarity of the once proud and mighty German working class.

NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR WORKERS' DEMOCRACY

Stalin and the Soviet bureaucracy will not and cannot make use of these revolutionary methods. Why? Workers have often asked us—"If you are in favour of the Soviet Union why do you attack the leaders in Russia?"

Russia is a workers' state because the land, mines, banks, factories, railways have been taken out of the hands of the capitalists and have been nationalised. That is why, in spite of all the crimes of Stalin, the Soviet Union must be defended by every class conscious worker to the fullest extent.

Lenin laid down certain conditions for the existence of a workers' state which can be summed up as follows:

1. All officials to be elected with right of recall through workers' Councils (Soviets).
2. The abolition of the standing army and its substitution by the armed people.
3. No official to receive a wage higher than that of a skilled worker.
4. Administrative posts to be filled gradually in rotation so that no permanent officialdom could be formed.

WHAT IS THE "STALINIST BUREAUCRACY"?

But a similar process has taken place in Russia to that which took place in Britain. The trade union movement here was formed as a weapon of struggle against capitalism. But the officials—the Citrines and Bevins—gradually took over control and operated the trade unions in their own interests. Every trade unionist knows this from his own experience. But this does not mean to say we reject trade unionism. What it does mean is that we must conduct a struggle to get rid of the Citrines and Bevins, and the whole strata of bureaucrats in order to transform the trade unions into fighting instruments of the working class.

In Russia, likewise, because of the backward development of the country and the defeats of the world working class, power has been seized out of the hands of the workers by the officialdom, the bureaucracy. In this case the officials, not of a trade union, but of a state. The Russian government officials, managers, heads of industry, etcetera, are now utilising the workers' state in their own interests instead of those of the workers. All the conditions laid down by Lenin are being eradicated. The Soviets no longer exist. The officials are arbitrarily appointed and removed from above with the workers having no control over them. In place of the armed people, we have the old reactionary caste system restored in the army and the privileged officer strata. The law that the wages of officials do not exceed those of the skilled workers was abolished years ago.

This privileged caste defends its power and privileges against the working class, just as Morrison and his ilk do. To understand this is to understand the destruction of the entire Old Bolshevik Guard, the destruction of the rights of the working class, of the officer cadres of the Red Army when 90% of the General Staff were murdered and three quarters of the officers executed. The representative of this bureaucracy is Stalin, who has organised nothing but defeats for the workers.

INTERNATIONALISM IS THE ONLY SALVATION

The victories under Lenin and Trotsky were obtained, not only by the response of the Allied and German working class to their international calls, but by relying on the democratic organisations of the workers. Lenin based his power on the workers, placed his trust on their initiative and self sacrifice, and made his first rule to tell the workers the truth. At every crisis in the wars of Intervention the Bolsheviks made an open, world wide appeal to the masses, never misinforming them or sowing illusions. But the incompetent and venal bureaucracy dare not do this. One of the principal factors in the demoralisation of the French nation was the vicious censorship. In Russia today we see the contempt and panic with which the bureaucracy regard the masses in an even more rigid stifling of news. According to the *News Chronicle* Moscow correspondent, the destruction of the Dniepnostroy Dam was not known to the masses of the people in the capital. The correspondent himself was not aware of it until he heard it on the British wireless.

BRABAZON'S POLICY IS CHURCHILL'S POLICY

The acceptance by Stalin of the Atlantic Charter deception is a betrayal of the workers of Russia and the world. Churchill and Roosevelt are despatching carefully calculated aid to Russia. But behind the scenes the policy which Moore-Brabazon indiscreetly blurted out is the

policy of the ruling class. They wish to see the Soviet Union destroyed—but only after Germany has been sufficiently weakened to collapse under the offensive of Anglo-American imperialism. By relying on them, Stalin has placed the workers' state in the gravest danger of destruction. The capitalists will turn the flow of supplies on and off as suits them.

Under the most favourable conditions, the production of war materials within the Soviet Union is only half that of Germany and occupied Europe. But with the occupation of some of the main industrial areas of the USSR, this disparity is now even greater. From this point of view, apart from the superiority of German military technique and organisation, if Hitler retains the support of the German people and his armies and if the peoples in occupied Europe do not rise (and these two conditions are largely interdependent), the Russia is doomed.

Reliance upon the capitalist democracies means inevitable disaster. Churchill and Roosevelt are not out to smash fascism or defend the conquests of October. The ruling class is taking advantage of the sentiment among the workers for support of the Soviet Union for their own ends. That is what lies behind the "Tanks For Russia Week" which was launched by Beaverbrook. Every worker would like to see the greatest possible material support sent to the gallant defenders of the USSR. But while control of these supplies remains in the hands of the ruling class there is no guarantee that these will be sent when most needed, or even that they will be sent at all. To trust the promises of aid given by Mr. Moore-Brabazon and his ilk who control the government, would be suicidal.

THE USSR WILL BE DEFENDED OUR WAY

Russia must be defended in spite of the fact that Stalin and the bureaucracy are in control, in the same way as we defend the trade unions from capitalist attack even though the labour bureaucrats control them. The defeat of Russia would signal the most terrible set-back for the working class for the past two decades. Because of this, we dare not sow illusions among the workers. The only guarantee that real aid will be despatched to our Russian brothers in sufficient quantities to affect the issue of the great battles, is when the Shop Stewards and Trade Union Committees control the despatch of supplies.

The tasks of the British workers are clear: Full support for the fight of the Soviet Union against the onslaught of German imperialism. But to rally behind Churchill and the British ruling class would be to make certain the ultimate destruction of the Soviet Union and the victory of fascism. Only a workers' government in Britain could impel the German masses to overthrow Hitler and together with the Russian and British workers, establish a Socialist Europe.

E. GRANT.

FOOD SCANDAL GROWS CONSUMERS MUST CONTROL

The story of Britain's food supplies and how they are distributed is one of the most scandalous stories of the war. It is a story of millionaire racketeers who are reaping a golden harvest at the expense of millions of hungry men and women, daily going short of essential foods; it is a story of red tape, muddle, and inefficiency in Government circles, which apart from issuing periodic threats and long-winded statements, do nothing whatsoever to ease the situation. The time has come for Britain's consumers to act.

HOW THE BLACK MARKET WORKS

"If there were no black sheep, there would be no black market." This is Lord Woolton's explanation of the greatest ramp of modern times. The question that arises is, "who are the black sheep and who runs the black market?"

The market deals mainly in unrationed goods, which are subject to price control, because it is much more profitable for the seller to sell his goods illegally to those who can afford to pay high prices, than to sell them to the ordinary working class housewives who can barely afford the controlled amount. It is therefore the most fashionable and select hotels, clubs and restaurants, the wealthy proprietors of country mansions, specialising in week-end guzzling parties, who are the greatest customers of the "black market". Naturally the patrons of the high class eating houses and week-end "hunting and shooting" parties differ in bank-book stability from the soldiers, engineers and miners wives. The yellow press admits quite openly that the real "black sheep" are the people with the money.

Likewise the "black market" itself is no mere "Petticoat Lane" venture. For the enterprising speculator it is one of the greatest money making games of the war. The "Daily Herald" states that "Key men in the racketeering ring have been able to obtain supplies on which they aimed at making profits running into six figures". It is obvious that the type of individual who goes in for large transactions of this description is far different from the small-scale retailers who have been heavily fined for minor profiteering offences. Investigations have shown that large sums of money have been advanced by the banks for such activity. Of course the so-called "well informed" newspaper correspondents are united in proclaiming the banks' innocence, though it is difficult to understand how the banks were fooled into lending money for something they are supposed to know nothing about. Things just don't happen that way in the world of finance, and it is clear that the ring-leaders of the "black market" are men of money and not "tuppenny ha'penny Crooks". In other words the proprietors and customers of the black market are the rich and well-to-do and not the workers and small shopkeepers.

A PROFITEERS' PARADISE.

Meanwhile profiteering continues on a vast scale. Sir Douglas McCraith, chairman of the North Midland Regional Food Investigation Price Committee has stated that he knew of cases where "a manufacturer sold cans of soup at 6/6 a dozen they reached a retail shopkeeper at 12/- a dozen and he sold them to the public at 14/6 a dozen. In between came seven middlemen, each of whom made a profit." For being so outspoken, he was openly rebuked by the government.

Carrots which last Autumn cost 8/1d. a cwt., are now being sold at 17/6. Yet production is three times greater than last year. Melons have been sold at £2

each and peaches at 5/-. Any housewife can spend hours giving similar examples.

WORKERS GO HUNGRY

The people who suffer most from this notorious racket are naturally the working class. Heavy industrial workers, Old age pensioners and farm workers are existing on a starvation level whilst the rich idlers think nothing of spending a fiver on a meal. Mr. George Griffiths, M.P. has told the House of Commons that he knew a lad of 15 years of age working in the mines, who had got out of bed at 4.30 in the morning and went to work with nothing but "dry bread for his snap".

A Labour Party food investigator reports the following extract from remarks made by an old age pensioner. "The trouble is that we can't get sufficient food on our 34/- a week," said the old lady. "I'm too old to work," said her husband "and too frail to firewatch. I'd like to do something, but—well, I can't get enough food to build me up". Another gives extracts from remarks made by a farm labourer's wife. "He has bread and margarine before he leaves and takes bread and margarine sandwiches. Comes home for a cup of tea at half past four, more bread and jam and a suet pudding with jam in it if there is jam and potatoes. Doesn't sound much for a working man does it? But that's all he has some days."

"The meat lasts from Saturday till Wednesday, but the children don't have as much meat as they could do with."

"Gordon has to get most of it, otherwise he'd never be fit for his work." At this Gordon Dales' mouth set in a tight line. "That's true enough. And I hate . . . HATE . . . taking it from these children of mine."

COMBINES ARE HAPPY

At the top stands the mighty combines. For them "everything in the garden is lovely". Mr. Herbert Davies, director of Lever Bros. and Unilever, and of British Oil and Cake Mills, is in charge of the business heads in charge of the Ministry of Food's distribution of oils, fats and margarine. His Company Lever Bros. (Unilever) show a record profit of £6,987,130 against £6,742,053 for 1939 and British Oil and Cake show profits of £720,373 for 1941. The workers in the distributive trades and combine employees are up in arms against this shameless plundering of the people.

CONSUMERS MUST CONTROL

Why are such injustices taking place? The answer is simple. Because the nation's food supplies are controlled and managed by bankers and capitalists who are out to make as much profit as possible. The government represents their interests and not those of the working class and whilst it carries out isolated petty prosecutions, the real culprits always escape. The "black market" is not some sort of alien social disease, but a reflection of the rottenness and corruption of capitalism, and will continue no matter what prosecutions take place, because wherever easy money is to be made you will always find speculators.

The only way to remedy food shortage, the black market and profiteering is to take control out of the hands of the capitalists and their government agents and place the country's food supplies under the control of committees elected by housewives, distributive trade workers, small shopkeepers and factory workers. Already several big factory canteens have been taken over by the works committees and are being run with great success by the workers themselves.

To end the chaos and to assure equitable distribution, consumers must control.

G. HEALY.

NOTICE OF MEETING

24th Anniversary of the RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

HOLBORN HALL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9th

AT 6.30 P.M.

Doors Open at 6 p.m.

Leading Trotskyist Speakers

Auspices: Workers' International League Fourth International