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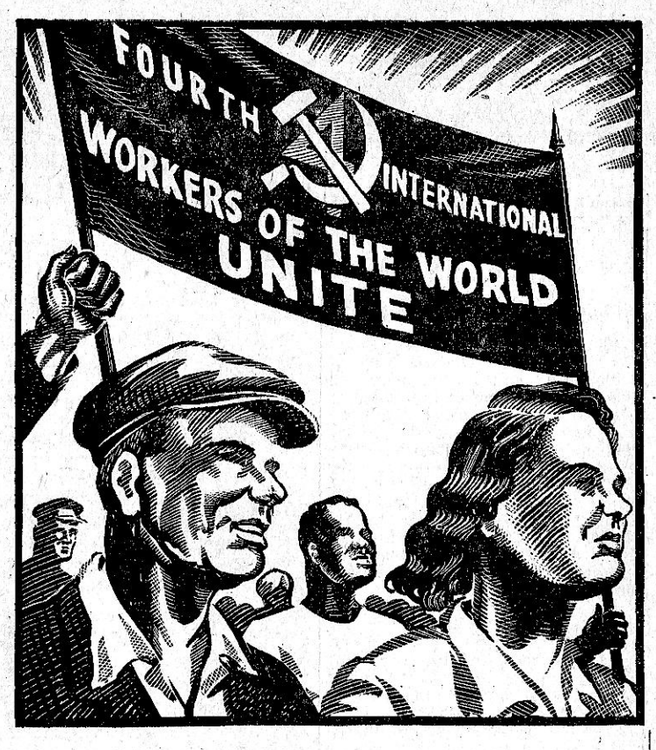


BREAD CUT HITS WORKERS

Tories Make Capital from Labour's Food Policy

Demand Committees of Consumers to Ensure Fair Distribution!

Statement of the Political Committee of the R.C.P. on Bread Rationing

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO RATION BREAD ON JULY 21st. THIS DECISION IS PROBABLY THE MOST UNPOPULAR ONE THAT HAS HAD TO BE MADE BY ANY BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR MANY YEARS. IT HAS AROUSED A NATION-WIDE DISCUSSION IN ALL STRATA OF THE POPULATION.

From the ranks of the working-class, more especially from the ranks of the middle-class, it has aroused a genuine hostile criticism and spontaneous opposition.

The Labour Leaders have long known that this would be the reaction to a decision to ration bread. For that reason they tried desperately to avoid having to take such a decision. But all their manoeuvres were of no avail. The economics of capitalism, within whose framework they are content to work and operate, forced their hand.

In the ranks of the advanced members of the working-class the reaction to this rationing measure is one of partial disillusionment and frustration. The workers want to express their disapproval of the introduction of bread rationing twelve months after the conclusion of the war. But they fear that an attack upon the Labour Government will play into the hands of the Tories. This inability to find expression for their criticism and opposition, adds to their frustration.

Meanwhile, among the more backward workers and also the middle-class there is the beginning of a definite swing back towards the Tories as a reprisal for Labour's mishandling of the food front.

This situation has been seized upon by the capitalist reaction with both hands. They seek to create a basis for themselves among the more backward sections of the population and to arouse an agitation against the Labour Government. They will undoubtedly gain more from this crisis than from any other single issue for some time to come.

Tories Use Bread Shortage For Reactionary Propaganda

A shortage of flour and bread hits the working-class hardest, for bread plays the most important part in the diet of the poorest sections of the population. Especially is this true today in view of the shortage of other foods. For the capitalists and for the upper middle class, *bread plays practically no role whatsoever in their diet*, and for all practical reasons could be eliminated altogether. The fact is that bread rationing will not affect them at all! But this does not, and will not prevent them from demagogically using the rationing of bread to undermine the Labour Government and utilising the most reactionary propaganda to that end. As if the capitalist class have ever concerned themselves with the bread of the working-class!!

The Tories used the batons of the police on the heads of the unemployed workers when they demanded work and bread. Today they agitate in the food queues in protest against the "starvation of the Labour Government"!

The Tory campaign seeks to make political capital out of the tragic misery of the German masses in demagogically screaming, "To hell with the Germans and other foreigners. Let them feel the pinch for the time whilst we eat better." By this chauvinistic line, the Tories seek to win support from the most backward strata of the population. This is the worst form of reactionary chauvinism and must be defeated by the working-peoples. So also must the equally false line that there is plenty of food in Europe, but it is all sold on the Black Market. It is true that a tremendous Black Market exists in Europe as it does in this country, and it is the duty of the working-class to stamp it out. But the mass of the workers cannot afford to buy on the Black Market. They live on less than half the rations consumed by the British working-class. The reactionary propaganda of the Tories on this question can only divide the workers of Britain from their fellow workers on the Continent.

The campaign of the Master Bakers directed against bread rationing and the Labour Government is dictated not by their concern for the interests of the consumer, *but entirely their own profit interests*. The allocation of flour will restrict the amount that they can bake into cakes and confections, from which a higher profit is made than upon bread.

The "Face the Facts" Committee, Mrs. Tennant's campaign, backed by Lord Beaverbrook, are foul chauvinist movements, incipent fascist organisations and regroupments of the middle-class.

(*Continued on page 4.*)

HUMANITY at the Cross-Roads

The Bikini atom experiment has been completed. The elaborate preparations to test scientifically the effects of atom warfare at sea, and the lethal effects of radio-active material on life has cost £125,000,000. And this is apparently the first of a series of such tests.

Thus the material resources and human skill of all the main countries of the world, are ceaselessly marshalled for the purposes of obliteration and destruction. This is the impasse of capitalist civilisation.

The marshalling of atomic energy and the resources of science and industry could destroy disease and poverty, could build a new world for mankind. Instead, the prospect of appalling destruction and chaos looms ahead.

The capitalist class themselves are conscious of their dilemma. "Operation Crossroads" as they called their terrible experiment has been truly named. But the capitalists are impotent to prevent the drift to catastrophe, only a conscious revolutionary working class can stop the drift to disaster.

The very conditions under which the experiment was conducted reveal it as a weapon of power-politics of American imperialism. In the struggle of imperialist rivalries no great power can trust any other. All are ceaselessly scheming to gain advantages at the others' expense. The policy of double-cross, black-mail, mutual concessions and threats is the normal method of their diplomacy. And the Kremlin is participating in this game with the same rules as the others.

Thus imperialism prepares the doom of mankind. The nightmare hanging over the world cannot be exorcised by capitalism-imperialism. The Labour and Stalinist leaders' talk about international "control" by the great powers, is setting a trap for the working class. There cannot be any control under the capitalist system. The very cause of the problem must be tackled. Only the abolition of national rivalries caused by private ownership of the means of production and the national states, can abolish war—and the atom bomb.

OPERATION CROSSROADS FACES MANKIND WITH HISTORY'S GREAT DILEMMA:

Construction or Destruction: a socialist society or the abyss.

If power continues to remain in the hands of the capitalists the road is wide open, and downhill, to destruction. Only the working class, in the advanced capitalist countries, Britain America and in Europe, aiding the masses in the colonial lands can put mankind on the road to construction.

For that they must have a programme of socialist internationalism, a programme of ruthless struggle against capitalism, reformist and reactionary, in every part of the world.

Only the Parties of the Fourth International have such a programme of socialist internationalism.

Fellow Workers! Comrades!

Build the Revolutionary Communist Party—British Section of the Fourth International.

Bulgarian Trotskyists Arrested

MASS ARRESTS OF REVOLUTIONARY AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERS INSPIRED BY STALINIST G.P.U.

PARIS—June 29—News has just been received here announcing mass arrests of Trotskyists and the leaders of the League for the Defence of the Rights of Man, among whom is Doctor Gacher of Plovdiv, a well-known revolutionary leader of the Fourth International.

Communications with Bulgaria are difficult, and we do not receive much news of the activities of our comrades there. This country, in the Russian "sphere of influence", is euphemistically labelled by the supporters of Stalinism a "revolutionary democracy". The only "democracy" is that permitted by the Stalinist G.P.U. operating through ex-Comintern leader, Georgi Dimitrov and the Bulgarian Communist Party.

In its issue of May 17, the French Trotskyist paper *La Verite* carried the following item from Plovdiv, Bulgaria, written in April, 1946:

"I have received your letter, I must say for myself, as well as for the Party Group in Plovdiv, your letter has been a great and cheerful event.

Our Party was founded in activity in 1923 as a fraction of the Bulgarian Communist Party, section of the 3rd International.

Stalinism here is steadily going backwards. Its collaboration with the bourgeoisie has weakened it. Our Party grows each day politically and organisationally although having to work illegally.

The Government of class collaboration has trumpeted to the Bulgarian population that today in Bulgaria there is complete liberty, etc., etc. . . . Ah well, comrade, here is the truth. Our Party, which has struggled against fascism, not only during the years 1941 to 1944, but at all times remains banned by the Bulgarian Government in which sit the Stalinist Ministers.

Our journal *Communist Appeal*, is read with great interest by the Bulgarian workers, but it is *cyclostyled*.

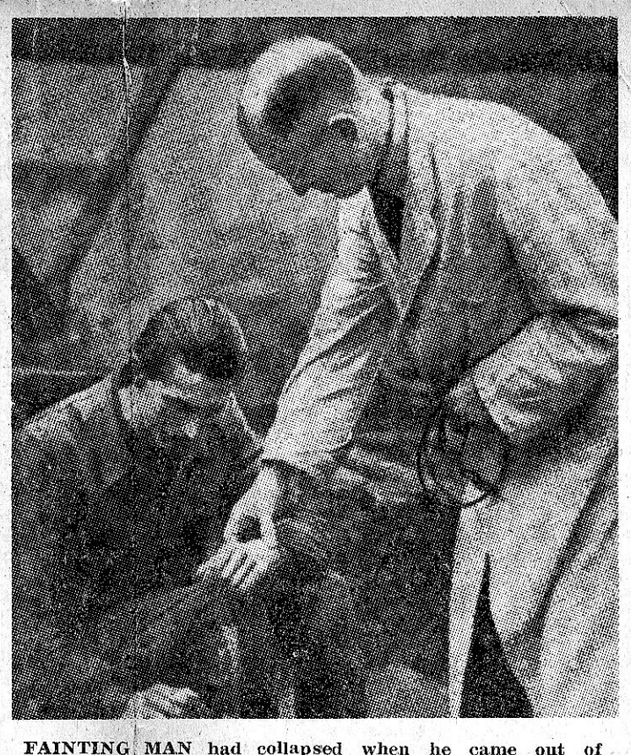
The members of our Party are persecuted because they are Trotskyists. Five days ago one of our young comrades was sacked from a factory because he was a Trotskyist. In our country persecution for political opinions is on the increase. The fascist terror has been set up anew by the Stalinists under the cloak of *defence of the power of the people*. The press is gagged. Journals are free insofar as they adulate the Government. Immediately they commence to criticise [illegible] (with the blessing of Georgi Dimitrov) can forbid their publication . . ."

* * *

We are trying to get fuller and more detailed information of these latest persecutions in order to mobilise progressive opinion in protest against such outrages. But, on the basis of the above report, protests should be made immediately to the Bulgarian Government by all who claim to champion the rights of free speech and free press.

The R.C.P. has sent a protest to the Bulgarian Government.

Hamburg Worker Faints from Starvation



FAINTING MAN had collapsed when he came out of Hamburg factory for air. In past fortnight he had fainted three times. In one day 30 workers collapsed from hunger.

JAPANESE WORKERS

Seize Control of Factories

JAPANESE WORKERS DRIVEN BEYOND ENDURANCE BY BAD CONDITIONS AND THE COST OF LIVING, ARE SEIZING FACTORIES, EXPELLING THE MANAGEMENTS AND RUNNING THE FACTORIES UNDER THEIR OWN CONTROL.

For almost two decades Japan has had a regime which was racked with crisis. The state was similar to that of Czarism before the Russian Revolution. Japan was ruled by a clique of monopoly capitalists (largely by two families—the Mitsui and the Mitsubishi) who had a stranglehold over industry. The landowners who exploited the peasants on feudal or semi-feudal lines, and the military caste, fused around the figurehead of the Emperor. Japan's government was a typical military-feudal-capitalist regime.

It was this which gave Japanese economy its lopsided and unbalanced character. The peasants and the workers were too poverty stricken to provide a market for the goods produced by industry. The discontent of the masses and the growth of a rebellious spirit among them, together with the insoluble crisis of the rickety Japanese economic structure, made the military caste engage in one adventure after another, in order to divert the threatening explosions at home. This is the explanation for the permanent wars of conquest which were waged by the Japanese militarists, beginning with the attack on Manchuria in 1931. Each new war led to the placing of additional burdens on the backs of the oppressed workers and peasants, further aggravating the crisis at home. Each new cisis precipitated a fresh wave of conquest, as a desperate measure to divert the attention of the masses from the enemy at home. But these conquests could not solve the crisis.

The war against Britain and America has resulted in intolerable conditions for the Japanese masses. Apart from the removal of a few scapegoats at the top, Japanese capitalists and landlords continue as before, under the American Military Government.

Meanwhile, the familiar conditions of breakdown are aggravated to an extreme in Japan because of the social set-up. Starvation exists in many of the cities among the working class, while the capitalists and privileged nobility live comfortably on the Black Market. Prices have rocketed far beyond the meagre wages earned by the workers.

The American occupation authorities who had originally based themselves on the Emperor and the old bureaucratic machine (which remained intact) were compelled to tolerate the existence of Trade Unions as a result of the pressure of the masses in Japan, and as a sop to the American workers. However, this movement of the workers has not remained in the channels which the Yankee imperialists had hoped. A revolutionary movement has developed which instinctively moves in the direction of taking the fate of society in its own hands.

Workers take over Factories.

The "Economist" has clearly recognised the significance of this movement:

"But the Japanese unions have in many cases embarked on what they call "labour control of production" in the course of industrial disputes; the workers occupy the factory and carry on production themselves, ignoring the management, until their demands are met. This method is familiar from several periods of acute labour disturbance in the West, as in Italy in 1920 or in France in 1936, but it has always been recognised as potentially a revolutionary move because its success depends on the unwillingness or inability of the Government to enforce the legal rights of property. In Japan the Yoshida Government, after having recently decreed (with encouragement from Allied Headquarters) to expel Communist sit-down occupiers from the Prime Ministers official residence, has now gone

(*Continued on page 4.*)

GERMAN HOMES Requisitioned

In Hamburg, on June 27th, 4,000 people demonstrated against the decision of the British military authorities there, to move 20,000 Germans from their homes in the city in order to requisition the houses for the British Control Commission, and for the wives of men serving in the B.A.O.R.

The houses and flats of the working class in Hamburg suffered terrible destruction in the bombing raids during the war. As a consequence the housing situation there is tragic, even more than in London. And it is, as always, the workers who will suffer from these mass evictions and loss of household furniture, they will be herded off somewhere under intolerable cramped conditions. Every harassed worker in Britain who desperately seeks a home for his family in the present acute housing shortage will understand the magnitude of the misery caused by this action in Hamburg.

It is these actions which expose the lie of the capitalist class, that they are "re-educating Germany into the methods of democracy." These actions are the actions of Hitler minded reactionaries.

Victimised R.A.F Men Freed

Victory for Working Class Solidarity

Organised working class action has had a signal triumph in the case of the R.A.F. militants who recently faced court-martial charges in India, arising out of the January strikes that took place in the R.A.F. camps.

Attwood was released unconditionally, and all charges against him dropped, on June 19th. Eight days after this report, it was further announced, by the Under-Secretary for Air, that the charges against CPL. STONE had been unconditionally dropped and he had been released. A similar announcement followed in the case of L.A.C. NOBLE. To-date no further court-martials are proceeding against ANY of the other R.A.F. militants concerned in the strikes.

There is no question but that the wide-spread protests from all sections of the organised workers in Britain, and the anger and resentment of the workers in the armed forces all over the world, forced the hand of the reactionary military caste and effected the release of the R.A.F. militants.

The release of the victimised R.A.F. militants is a demonstrative VICTORY for the organised solidarity of the workers in civvy street and those in uniform.

Meanwhile, the campaign to demand the release of the one remaining R.A.F. victim L.C.A. Cymbalist must continue to receive the active support of the organised working class. We cannot and will not allow the anti-labour nabobs of the R.A.F. to justify his continued imprisonment. The organised labour movement must continue this campaign until Cymbalist is unconditionally released.

DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF L.A.C. CYMBALIST.

Stalin Liquidates Two Republics

BY TED GRANT

The "Daily Worker" of June 28th reports, without comment, the following item under the heading:—**"DEMOTED SOVIET REPUBLICS DID NOT OPPOSE TRAITORS."**

"The bulk of the population of the Checheno-Ingush and Crimean Republics which have been deprived of their status, did not oppose the traitors who collaborated with the German invaders against the Red Army.

This point was made by Deputy Bakhmurov in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR when he explained the Bill to abolish the Checheno-Ingush Republic and to make the Crimean Republic into the Crimean Region.

In view of this, the Chechens and Crimean Tartars had been transported to other districts of the Soviet Union, where they had been allotted land and given the necessary State economic assistance.

The Chechens and Tartars are national minorities with a total population of 1,500,000 The two republics were part of the Russian Soviet Federal Republic."

Thus the deportation of 1,500,000 men, women and children is treated as of no more consequence than the transport of so many sacks of potatoes. The actual dissolution of two autonomous Republics established by the Russian Revolution, is justified by the argument that the inhabitants did not struggle against quislings who sold out to the Nazis.

These unfortunate people are to suffer the fate which befell the Volga Germans in the Volga German Republic when the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union. The whole population of this Republic was deported to Siberia as a "precaution" against the possibility of quislings.

The uprooting and exile of entire peoples is a measure of such unmitigated barbarism, that it can be compared only with the excesses of the Nazis in modern times. It is a measure of national oppression that is nothing but a mockery of the elementary conceptions of socialism.

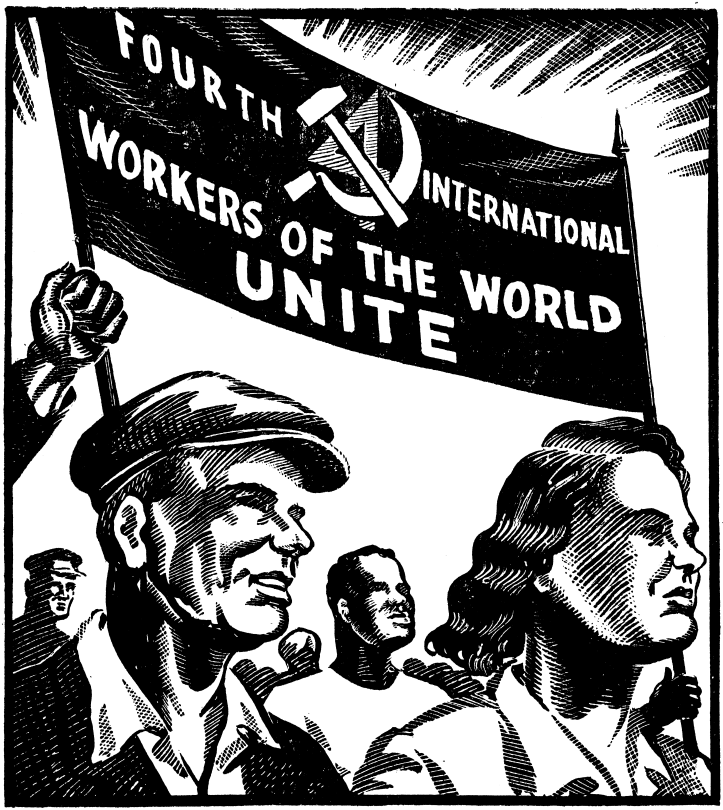
The real meaning behind these measures of repression is to terrorise the peoples of the national Republics into submission to the Great Russian Bureaucracy. This is an example of what happens to any people who may oppose the monstrous Stalinist regime. The pretext that there were quislings among these people does not hold water. *All*, innocent or guilty, workers or peasants, members of the Communist Party—all are to suffer a like fate. This in the name of Socialism!

How could it happen, if we accept the Stalinist version, that nearly three decades after the Russian Revolution, whole peoples liberated by the revolution, should prefer the slavery of the Nazis to the rule of Stalin?

Labour need in Siberia.

The only possible reasons for such a measure, naturally not stated by the Stalinists, are lack of confidence in the regime of Stalin, on the part of these peoples and the need to make an example and terrorise any opposition from other minorities. **And the need for labour in new areas in the East being industrialised by the Stalinists.** In spite of regulations to the contrary, there has been a steady drift back to the Ukraine and other areas in the West of Russia, from the Urals and Siberia, of people evacuated during the war. Unable to get voluntary labour, Stalin merely transports populations to regions where he needs them most.

(*Continued on back page.*)



HUMANITY at the Cross-Roads

RALEIGH STRIKE

BY C. BARTHOLOMEW

Nottingham—

On Friday, June 7th, the Raliegh Cycle Company's employees at Nottingham were preparing to finish the day shift, when the Shop Stewards informed them that the Convenor and Deputy Convener had been sacked. The grounds for the managemet's actions were that these workers' representatives had circulated notices, giving information to members of negotiations and decisions arrived at, in relation to allowing women to leave early, owing to shopping difficulties caused by Victory Day celebrations.

This seemed to the workers a trivial excuse for such drastic action on the part of the management. The workers quite rightly considered this to be an attempt to smash the Stewards' organisation that had been built up in the factory, and had resulted in improved rates of pay and conditions.

Feeling ran high throughout the factory and the management were quick to notice it. They withdrew the notice of the dismissal of the Convenor, but insisted on the sacking of the Deputy Convenor (who is the A.E.U. Convenor and Secretary of the Works Committee, on whose behalf the notice was issued).

There is no doubt that they were hoping that they might be able to divide the workers, the Convenor being a member of the T. & G.W.U., and the Deputy Convenor being an A.E.U. member. However, to the credit of the Committee and the workers, this action only fanned the indignation of the workers.

The Stewards reported to a Works Committee meeting held on Friday evening, that the workers were prepared to support any action that the Works Committee decided on.

The night shift of Friday, June 7th, endorsed the attiude of the day shift and it was obvious that in the event of strike action being called for by the Stewards, there would be a good response

On the resumption of work after the Whitsun break, the Stewards issued a circular outlining the events and decisions reached.

The deputation of Officials to meet the management were instructed **to demand "The unconditional reinstatement of the Deputy Convenor, Bro. S. Taylor."**

However, no organised lead appeared to be coming from the works Committee, and on the Thursday the Tool Room downed tools in a short sit down strike. Bro. Taylor is a member of the Tool Room and there is no doubt that this short strike shook the management, as these are the key workers. On it becoming known that the Tool Room had ceased work, another shop downed tools. But due to a serious lack of organisation, the Tool Room started up, unknown to the other shop, who carried on their strike.

The outcome of these events was a victory for the workers and Bro. Taylor's reinstatement.

* * *

There is no doubt that this is only the first round. But the Stewards organisation must learn by this experience and face facts.

The Raleigh Stewards should bear this in mind, and ensure that the workers are made aware of this, and that any action taken is co-ordinated so that the employers cannot take advantage of any confusion caused by lack of organisation. (Although the whole of the organised workers of the Raleigh were prepared to support the strike action, it was left to two sections to force the issue.)

The present time is in favour of the workers. United action ensured victory of the Raleigh workers. It can prepare the way for the engineering workers to resist the coming attacks of the employers.

« INDUSTRIAL NEWS »

BY NORMAN PENTLAND

Uprooting Short Bros.

Under the pretext that the seaplane works at Rochester is in a vulnerable position "in time of war", the Government are about to uproot and transfer the whole factory of Shorts to Belfast. Thus they propose to break a "pledge" of Stafford Cripps, who only last year informed the workers that this would not be done by the Labour Government.

Without the guaranteed of reabsorption in other factories in Rochester, 5,000 workers of this plant are bitterly fighting the prospect of joining the ranks of the unemployed. Many meetings have been held, attended by workers, draughtsmen and technicians, who do not wish to be uprooted from their homes and sent to Belfast, a move which may mean a drop in wages or local conditions.

Here again the Communist Party, and the Labour Party, well in control of the movement, called **a half-day strike** in protest. Why only half-a-day? So that the workers could return and **"help put British aircraft on the map"!** What a putrid excuse. Instead of waging a militant campaign to force the Labour Government to alter its decision, they direct the militancy of the workers into harmless "protest" gestures.

As for the decision itself, the excuse given holds no water whatsoever. With the development of the Atom Bomb and Rocket Projectiles, no place on earth will be safe in the Third World War.

40 Hr. Week Shelved

To those who have studied the recent betrayals by the Labour Party Leadership, and their perfidious attitude towards the workers since they came to power, the announcement that the Labour Party is not prepared to compel the employers to institute a 40-hour week comes as no surprise. Under the excuse and pretext of tightening the belt and consolidating exports; (for their capitalist masters), the Labour leaders have given up the struggle for the much needed 40-hour week.

After six years of war, of continuous overtime, of the E.W.O., of the blackout and short rations, every organised worker is demanding, quite reasonably, the 40-hour week.

How soon these traitors forget their electioneering speeches and promises! Even the General Council of the T.U.C., who at one time made a fine stand on the issue, quickly knuckled under to the Labour Party right-wingers at the Bournemouth Conference. How conveniently they pushed into obscurity the militant traditions of the working class, and their past battles fought to reduce the working day from 14 hours to 8½ hours.

The Communist Party though claiming to be more "energetic" and more "farsighted" than the Labour Party, has merely reported the statement and has not even thought the 40-hour week worth an editorial comment in the *Daily Worker*.

Workers! Demand the 40 hour week without loss of pay and a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.

E.E.I. Strike Called Off

The threatened one-day strike of the E.E.I. workers over the fireing of Brother Stacey from the Liverpool Plant has been postponed for further negotiations. Such is the strike-breaking role of the C.P. who are at the head of thousands of workers, ready to battle with the provocations of the management who recently sacked their convenor. Yapping behind the heels of the T.U. and Labour bureaucracy, like snivelling lackeys, exhorting the workers to sweat harder than ever, the Communist Party leaders are prepared to forget the principles of workshop Trade Unionism; are prepared to abandon the strike weapon as the means of defending militants who have fallen foul of the vicious methods of private enterprise.

The E.E.I. workers must take note of this process. They must oppose all who do not pursue a militant policy. They must **remove all leaders who do not fight for the defence and extension of T.U. principles and workshop conditions.**

A.E.U. and Confederation

The E.C. of the A.E.U. are, in the near future, conducting a postal ballot in order to ascertain whether the membership wish to join the Confederation of Engineering and Ship Building Unions. This arises from a resolution of the 1943 National Committee of the A.E.U. which instructed the E.C. to go ahead with affiliation, which in its turn arises from the general desire of engineering workers to seek united action against the general onslaught of the united boss class.

This is the next step to complete amalgamation of the 48, or so, unions in the engineering industry.

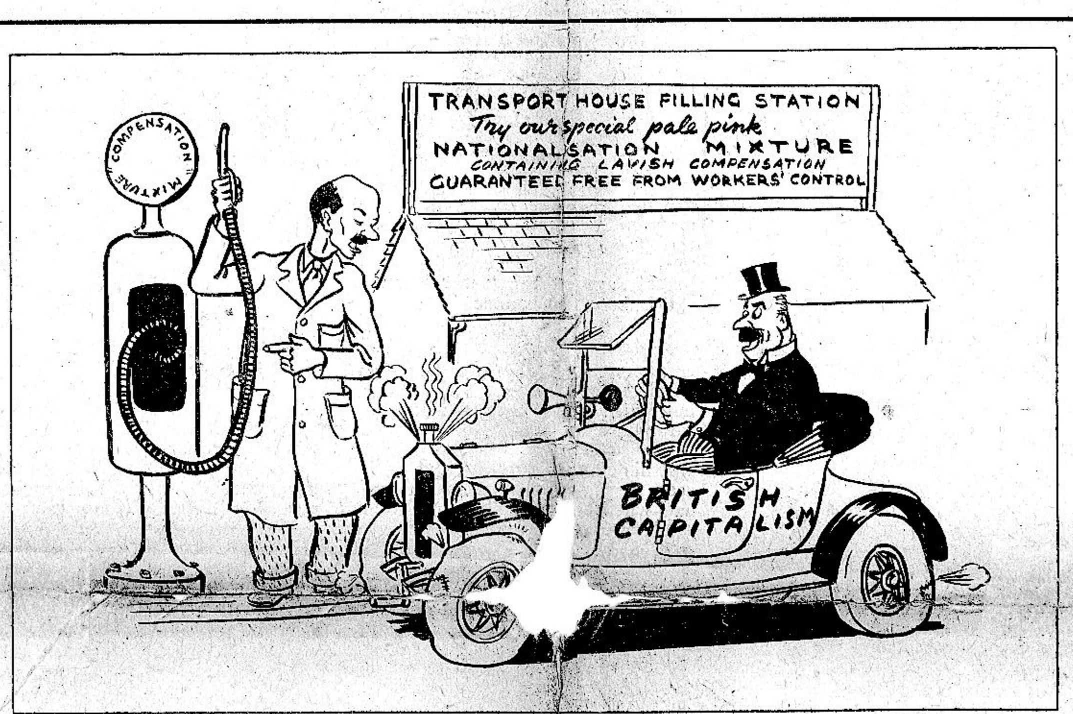
Due to craft prejudices, and fear of the loss of well paid privileged positions, the bureaucracy of these 48 unions have deliberately failed to see the necessity for one union. Hence the failure of nearly two years' of discussion recently conducted by the A.E.U.

This step of joining the Confederation is one that can be supported. **But** although the rules provide for joint strike action in time of encroachments by the employers on wages and conditions, **workers must be under no illusions whatsoever.**

If the workers do not push their E.C.s into using this clause, when needed, it will merely remain a dead letter so far as the T.U. Bureaucracy is concerned.

Cammel-Laird's Strike

Yet another strike is in progress over the victimisation of Shop Stewards. On June 13th, 1,400 shipwrights, joiners and painters walked off the ships in the yards of Cammell-Lairds of Birkenhead, in support of three shop stewards, who were arbitrarily fired by this notoriously anti-union firm. From the many recent cases of this kind it is crystal clear that only by concerted action, by a national link-up of shop stewards and Rank and File Committees, can the organised workers defend their **REAL** representatives from the growing number of attacks by the employers.



"THIS WILL KEEP HER RUNNING A FEW MORE YEARS, SIR."

KEEP IT UP!

In our last issue we expressed the hope that we would make the June target and recover the May deficit. Comrades you did it! Here are the results for May and June:

	£	s.	d.
May Total	**67**	**5**	**11**
June 1st to 14th	**105**	**18**	**6**
Already acknowledged	**173**	**4**	**5**
Since received:			
Birmingham	**1**	**4**	**8**
Coventry	**10**	**0**	**0**
G.B., Edinburgh	**1**	**0**	**0**
Glasgow	**12**	**5**	**9**
Nottingham	**5**	**0**	**0**
Sheffield	**50**	**0**	**0**
South-East London		**12**	**2**
Southall		**2**	**3**
Ilford	**2**	**0**	**0**
West London	**1**	**0**	**0**
Thames Valley	**13**	**14**	**0**
Croydon	**7**	**3**	**4**
Miscellaneous	**21**	**1**	**0**
Total for May and June	**£298**	**7**	**7**

This is a splendid achievement, made possible largely by the generosity of the two comrades who donated £50 each. We can hope for others to follow this lead, but we cannot rely on it. So this means that there is no room for complacency. **In order to reach our monthly target of £120 we must go all out all the time.** Only sustained effort will be able to keep clear of financial crises. Remember it is **your** paper you are helping.

The June result must be an inspiration. **Keep it going!**

Send all donations to:
HAROLD ATKINSON,
256, Harrow Road,
London, W.2.

WORKERS RETURN CARDS

The workers of Weldandgrind, London, are having a battle for Trade Union rights. They are on strike for T.U. recognition and T.U. conditions. The firm have replied to this by sending all the strikers their cards. But the workers have returned them and are determined to stay on and win their claims. Many London A.E.U. branches have supported them financially.

"Britain's Young Citizens"

BY FRANK ROWE — (Ex Y.C.L.)

A criticism of a pamphet prepared by the Youth Affairs Committee of the C.P. in collaboration with the Y.C.L. and published by the C.P., May 1946.

In a recent pamphlet published by the "Communist Party" and entitled **"Britain's Young Citizens"**, the old Stalinist menu of patriotism by the bucketfull and "National Unity" by the cart-load has been rehashed for the benefit, or detriment of the young worker.

The pamphlet which agitates, or rather pleads, for a series of proposals covering education, health and factory training incorporated into it's so-called **"Charter of Youth Rights"**, provides nothing new for the advanced worker who by now is accustomed to Pollitt's policy of collaborating wth the boss class.

In continuance of the Party line the pamphlet states:

"The service of youth therefore, needs to have a much wider function. **It would not usurp the rights of the employers** or the proper duties of the Trade Unions."

Thus speaks a party which claims to be "Communist", but now openly proclaims it's complete rejection of the workers struggle for power, and blazons it's faith in the continued exploitation of the workers by the employing class.

Desirous of further educating the young worker in the teachings of complete servility to the capitalist class, the pamphlet advocates that:

"In the same way that the Army Bureau of Current Affairs has been of great value to the armed forces, a similar scheme for young people would be of great value. It would publish popular material on Science, Current Affairs, Sports, etc."

No longer interested in imbuing the young worker with revolutionary traditions, Pollitt and Co. advocate the handing over of his political education in "current affairs" to the worst enemy of the working class—the propaganda machinery of the capitalist state.

Yet even more ironical are the remarks on the Health of the young worker.

On holidays with pay, the pamphlet declares:

"During the war years lads and girls in the Forces were accustomed to ample opportunities of keeping fit; they are more than ever needed for fitness for Peace."

In attemping to justify their general opportunist line, the Stalinist leadership ignore even simple class logic. They refuse to recognise the self evident fact, that during the war the young worker in uniform was so much human cannon fodder, to be kept in working order in the imperialist interests of the boss class. Today the young worker represents so much junk, to be thrown on to the labour market of the future. Totally rejecting every idea of Marxism which they ever possessed, the wallahs of Kings Street turn with nervous eyes to the wage demands of the young worker and plead with the employing class thus:

"They are not greedy, unreasonable demands. They are the demands of men and women who know that their labour is worth a great deal more than they get."

Deadly afraid of the young workers participating in really serious struggle against the employing class, wringing from them the utmost concessions that are possible under capitalism, and at the same time organising for the total destruction of capitalist society, the Stalinist leadership endeavour to side-track the young workers' efforts into more harmess channels. They raise the moth eaten conservative slogan — **"A fair day's wages, for a fair day's work."**

The *Socialist Appeal* battles under the revolutionary banner and counter-poses the revolutionary watchword of Marx—**"Abolition of the Wages System—Expropriation of the Employing Class."**

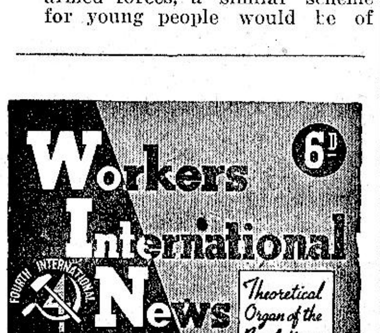
Young Workers!

Our emancipation and our interests lies in consistent struggle, in conjunction with the adult workers, for these demands:—

Nationalisation of all industries. No compensation for the boss class

Workers' control of production!

For a Socialist Britain!
For a Socialist Europe!
For a Socialist World!



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From LEFT and RIGHT

BY AGITATOR

Two Worlds

"It is ten weeks to deadline, on July 1st, when one of the greatest famines in history is due to overwhelm India and bring a quarter of its people face to face with starvation." Thus wrote the journalist, Henry Keys, after an interview with India's Food Minister early in April. The introduction of bread rationing here, the plight of Europe have tended to push the catastrophe of India from the news, but the fact remains.

For the past seven years most of India's millions have been living on a diet of 1,000 calories a day. But not all. And from the report we publish below, the Cabinet Ministers who have just returned didn't see much of the famine conditions either.

From the Indian paper *Blitz*, June 8, we take the following:

"A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty and one of the members of the British Cabinet Mission, was the guest of honour at the Empire Day banquet. Two hundred guests were present **war profiteers, flunkies and toadies, who have made it a point of honour to celebrate this function annually.**

"One is surprised that a prominent Labour Member of the British Government should have been a party to breaking the rationing laws of the country. . .

'Next to the First Lord sat the Food Member, who is supposed to keep a watchful eye on the food situation. The Food Member's lapses in this connection have been many. He entertained more than one thousand guests at a family marriage party when the food law required that not more than 50 guests could be entertained and more recently he was the guest of honour at the son-adopting ceremony of Seth of Shardara where also more than one thousand people were entertained to dinner."

S. American Joe

The gyrations of Stalinist dipplomacy would leave us gasping if we weren't so used to expecting them. The new agreement with the Argentinian dictator, Peron, must be a difficult pill for the "anti-fascist" "Friends of the Soviet Union" to swallow.

Since the "United Nations" became united, international Stalin-

ism has conducted a venomous campaign against "fascist" Argentina. It was the Russian delegate who moved for Argentina's exclusion from U.N.O. It was the Stalinist Lombardo Toledano, who, at the inaugural meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions, **"warned of the danger from Fascism in Spain, Portugal and Argentina."** It was the Communist Party members who, a few months ago, were beating up the Argentinian Trotskyists whom they falsely accused of being "Peronistas". Now all is changed. Once again Stalin has sold out in a diplomatic trade agreement, together with lorries and agricultural machinery.

The editors of the *Daily Worker* will have to change the Argentinian card in their filing system. From the "fascist" pigeon-hole it will be removed to the compartment labelled "peace-loving democracies".

The Stalinist bureaucrats are concerned only with their own power and privileges. To this end they lie shamelessly, call black white, fascists, democrats and democrats, fascists. What is worse they demand that their followers fall into line. Such antics carried on in the name of Communism can only damage the moral prestige of the U.S.S.R. among the world working class, and thereby weaken its own position and the struggle of the working class generally.

SHEFFIELD DRAW

LIST OF WINNING TICKETS

1st Prize.. £8. No. 375. Taffy
2nd Prize. £4. No. 363.
M. Costello. Sheffield.
3rd Prize. £2. No. 319.
G. Gifford. Leeds.
4th Prize. £1. No. 103.
P. Hulley.
(Donated to Fighting Fund.)
5th Prize. £1. No. 31.
Topsy. Woodhouse Mill.
6th Prize. £1. No. 402.
"Coal". Wentworth Street.
7th Prize. 10/- No. 528.
"Lenin."
(Donated to Fighting Fund.)
8th Prize. 10/- No. 184.
J. Harris. Firth Brownes.
9th Prize. 10/- No. 446.
F. Broomhall. Sarah Street.
10th Prize. 10/- No. 388.
Copley. 6/1 Wentworth Street.
11th Prize. 10/- No. 60.
Eli Rosen. 368, South Road.
12th Prize 10/- No. 623.
H. Lee. Mushroom Lane.

Women in Revolt

BY JESSIE BRYCE

Croydon.

Have you seen Tory reaction's latest weapon? This ingenious affair is already in action against the Labour Government. It is our own working class women, organised into a campaign of revolt against further cuts in rations.

If not already in your district, it soon will be, and this is how it works. Tory inspired women call a meeting of queue-weary women and recite the story of hardship and harassment that is the lot of working class women.

Of course everyone agrees with the speaker, righteous anger is roused and encouraged. How satisfying it is to let the pent up feelings flow unchecked. The speaker and those in charge of the meeting deftly direct this hate and stern resolve against the Labour Government. Signatures are collected by the thousand, contingents formed locally, and soon the women will be ready to march to Westminster.

This is only the beginning. And when the working class women—that long-suffering strata of our unjust system, tastes the power that is theirs—then things will really happen.

The fact that working class women are prepared to demonstrate their resentment against injustice in the matter of rations is magnificent; **but it is imperative that our women fully realise who is leading this campaign.** They must know if their "Demands" are calculated to improve working class conditions, or merely confound the Labour Government and further Tory political ends. Let our women be sure that their demands include:—

Abolition of luxury feeding in hotels and restaurants, the setting up of committees of workers in the distributive trades, the co-ops, of housewives and of small shopkeepers to organise and supervise the distribution of available food at present distributed through the food combines and monopolies. This is the best way to ensure an equal distribution and the end of the black market, also the rationing of available living space for the homeless and the needy. This demand should be emphasised with all the supporting strength of Trade Unions and other workers' organisations, for it is an insult to humanity, let alone socialism that the Labour Government has not already taken over houses and rooms standing empty while the people are in dire want.

Let these demands be added to the Revolt Campaign's Food list, and the Tory inspired leaders will soon reveal themselves for their true worth. What do they care if working class women get a raw deal in food or housing? This is no new condition for us. Where were these Revolt Leaders when we were marching against hunger in 1933? And do these leaders support our women engineers' demands?

The only time these Tories come to us is when there is vote catching or a campaign to undermine the labour movement.

Working women! March by all means to demonstrate against poverty, injustice and hardship. But do so under your own class leadership and put forward Anti-Tory and Socialist demands.

READ . . .

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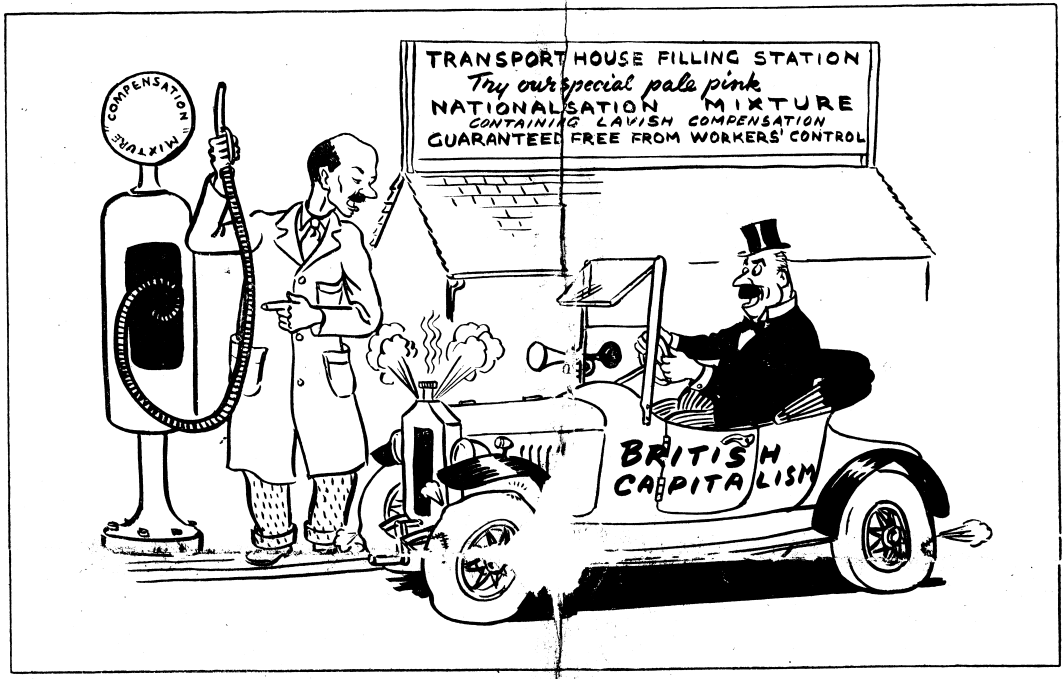
THE LENINIST ATTITUDE TO THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT

CONWAY HALL, Monday, July 8th At 7.30 p.m. *Speakers:* **JOCK HASTON, AJIT ROY**



"THIS WILL KEEP HER RUNNING A FEW MORE YEARS, SIR."

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party,
256, HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2.
Phone: CUN 2526.
EDITOR: E. GRANT.
BUSINESS MANAGER: A. MAXEY.

Editorial

Lenin on Food Rationing

We produce an excerpt from Lenin's pamphlet **"The Threatening Catastrophe"** which preserves all its freshness today, when Britain and the world are faced with food shortages and famine. Written just before the seizure of power by the Bolsheviks, it indicates what measures a government would take which was really interested in the welfare of the mass of the population, and not the wealthy cliques of the ruling class, in peace or war when faced with food shortages.—Ed.

REGULATION OF CONSUMPTION

The war has compelled all the belligerent and many of the neutral countries to introduce the regulation of consumption. The bread card made its appearance, became a customary phenomenon, and was followed by other cards. Russia did not remain untouched, but also introduced bread cards.

But it seems that just by this example we can furnish the best comparison between the reactionary-bureaucratic methods of fighting the catastrophe, methods striving to confine themselves to a minimum of reforms, and the revolutionary-democratic methods, which to deserve their name must make it their immediate task to break forcibly with the obsolete old and to accelerate as far as possible the movement forward.

The bread card, this typical sample of regulated consumption in the modern capitalist states, has as its aim and (at least) realises one thing: it distributes the existing food reserve in a manner to make it suffice for all. A minimum consumption is introduced not for all, but for the "staple" products. And this is all. Nothing more is cared for. The existing food reserves are bureaucratically taken stock of, divided by the number of persons; then a norm is established and introduced, and this is all. Articles of luxury are not touched because they are scarce "anyway," and they are "anyway" so expensive that they are inaccessible to the "people." This is why in **all** the belligerent countries without exception, even in Germany, which without risking contradiction may be considered an example of the most exact, most pedantic, most rigid regulation of consumption, even in Germany we observe how the rich constantly **evade** "norms" of consumption. This is also known to "everybody"; everybody speaks of this with a smirk, and in the German Socialist press and sometimes even in the bourgeois press, one can always find, notwithstanding the fierceness of the rigorous German censorship, notes and comment on the "menu" of the rich, on how they get white bread in unlimited quantities in some watering place or other (frequented by all who have the money to do so under the pretext of being sick), on the substitution by the rich of exquisite and rare articles of luxury for products used by the common people.

The reactionary capitalist state which is **afraid** of undermining the foundations of capitalism, the foundations of wage slavery, the foundations of the economic **mastery** of the rich, is **afraid** of developing the initiative of the workers and the toilers in general; it is **afraid** to "incite" them to demand more and more; **such** a state needs nothing but bread cards. Such a state does not lose sight for a moment, not at a single step, of the reactionary aim of strengthening capitalism, of not allowing it to be undermined, of limiting the "regulation of economic life" in general, the regulation of consumption in particular, to such measures as are absolutely necessary in order to be able to feed the people, without in the least degree **attempting** actually to regulate consumption in the sense of **control over the rich,** in the sense of imposing on those people who are better situated, privileged, sated, and over-fed in peace time, **greater** burdens in time of war.

The reactionary-bureaucratic solution of the problem put before the people by the war, is limited to the bread card, to equal distribution of the "common" products absolutely necessary for feeding the people, without deviating one iota from bureaucracy and reactionary policy, that is, from the aim: self-reliant activity on the part of the poor, the proletariat, the masses of the people (the **demos**), of not allowing any loopholes for the rich to gorge themselves with articles of luxury. And in **all** countries, we repeat, even in Germany—not to speak of Russia—a large number of loopholes are left, for the "common people" are starving while the rich frequent watering places, supplmenting the meagre governmental ration by all sorts of "additional products" on the side and **not** allowing **themselves** to be controlled.

In Russia, which has just brought about a revolution against tsarism in the name of freedom and equality; in Russia, which has become at once a democratic republic as far as its actual political institutions are concerned, the ease with which the "bread cards' are evaded by the rich in a manner obvious to **all,** particularly strikes the eye of the people, particularly arouses discontent, irritation, anger, and indignation on the part of the masses. And this ease is particularly great. In a "clandestine' way, and for particularly high prices, especially when you have **"Connections"** (which only the rich have), everything can be gotten in large quantities. The people are starving. Regulation of consumption is confined to very narrow bureaucratic reactionary limits. Not a shadow of consideration, not a shadow of care on the part of the government to place this regulation on a really revolutionary-democratic basis.

The queues are an evil from which "everybody" suffers, but . . . the rich send their servants to stand in line, and

(Continued on page 4.)

TRAGEDY OF ZIONISM

NOT SOLUTION FOR JEWRY

BY D. TAMARY

Acts of sabotage and terroristic activities have swept over Palestine during the last two weeks. Bridges connected with the Lebanon, Transjordan and Egypt were broken up. Trains were stopped and burned. The railway workshops in Haifa, the biggest in the country, were set ablaze and British officers were kidnapped. British forces as a counter move, arrested Zionist leaders, searched settlements known to be the bases of the Hagana and arrested many of its members.

It is not the first time that the two terroristic semi-fascist Zionist organizations have been engaged in individual terror and sabotage against British policemen, officers and government personnel. It is already a few years back since they declared "war" on British imperialism. But that by no means indicates that they are anti-imperialist.

Before Italy joined the war the terrorists negotiated with the Italian Fascists. Today they will be only too ready to serve American or any other imperialism which would promise them a caricature of an independent Jewish Palestine.

The Hagana

Recent outbreaks, mainly the blowing up of the bridges, were the responsibility of the **Hagana**—the military organization of the Zionist movement. This is not a terrorist organization, as the newspapers here are trying to make out. It is a small army stated to be 70,000 strong and to which all Zionist Labour Organizations belong. But this fact must not blind us as to the nature and aims of this large military organization.

First of all, what was the cause of the recent flareup and what did it try to achieve? Two months have already passed since the Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry set up to investigate the position of the remnants of European Jewry and the Palestine question, concluded its work and has submitted its recommendations. Both Jews and Arabs have waited impatiently to learn whether the British Government would accept or reject the recommendations. Although Attlee and Bevin have hinted on a number of occasions that the recommendations as a whole could not be accepted, they have deliberately refrained from stating their policy until the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty negotiations are concluded. Bevin is a new hand at the Foreign Office but it is remarkable how quickly he has picked up the game of imperialist politics.

Labour's Promises — Words And Deeds

The Zionists are prepared for the time being not to persist in their demands for a Jewish state if the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry—amongst which were the immediate immigration into Palestine of 100,000 Jews to buy land from forbidding Jews to buy land from the Arabs, etc.—are accepted. A few remarks by the Prime Minister in Parliament and by Bevin at the Labour Party Conference made it clear to the Zionists that the Labour Party *out* of office when they are able to make all kinds of hypocritical promises to the Zionists, and the Labour Party *in* office are two completely different things.

Imperialism, which is now the guiding star of the Labour Government, thus, also dragging the name of British Labour into the mud, is not interested one bit as to the fate of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Europe many of whom are still kept in the same camps where so many of their brothers were massacred by the Nazis. Nor is it interested in solving the Palestine question. British imperialism must have its military bases in the Middle East to safeguard strategic lines of communication, to guard the oil centres, and to subjugate the Arab masses. With the uncertainties as to the future relationship with Egypt and the other Arab countries,

(Continued on page 4.)

INDIA RAIL STRIKE

THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED STRIKE OF A MILLION INDIAN RAILWAY MEN. AS PREDICTED BY THE WRITER, THE STRIKE WAS CALLED OFF BY THE LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, FOR THE BRITISH WORKERS THE ARTICLE RETAINS ITS INTEREST BECAUSE IT GIVES A PICTURE OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYMEN (WHOSE STANDARD OF LIVING IS HIGHER THAN THE MAJORITY OF INDIAN WORKERS) AS SEEN BY A BRITISH SOLDIER IN INDIA.

Tambaram, India,

June 12th, 1946.

As you know the Railway strike in India is scheduled to start on June 27th and the notices have already been given. Of course, the Trade Union leaders are twisting and turning in attempts to come to a compromise with the Government and the odds are that they will eventually sell out. For the workers, however, the situation is grim and almost unanimously they are prepared for a fight for their demands.

I managed to find out some facts of the way the workers live. They will give a better idea of the Railway workers' grievances than one gets from the Press—imperialist or nationalist.

Living Conditions

Some houses are provided by the railways. For the 7,000 workers in this area, there are 300 of these. They consist of one room 8 feet by 10 feet high with a verandah 4 feet by 6 feet which serves as a kitchen and a dining room. All other purposes are served in a "large" room which on the average will accommodate 4 or 5 persons. The lighting is obtained by kerosene lamps, kerosene being rationed but fortunately not too expensive—the cost of the full ration (1/3rd gallon) being 6 ans. per month. There is, of course, no cooling system of any sort. There is one lavatory to every 15 houses, or about 60-75 people and also one tap from which all water is drawn.

The sewage system is underground (unlike, say Calcutta, where most sewers are open) but the water at the tap is available only for two hours in the morning and one hour in the evening. Apart from the inconvenience and conjestion this produces, it obviously increases the need for storage vessels, another burden on the workers' budget.

The rent for these houses (which are brick) is Rs. 2/8 per month, or 3/9. As I said before, there are only 300 for 7,000 workers and the rent of an equivalent private house is 10/- or 15/-.

The wage of the workers is Rs.15/- per month, with a dearness allowance of Rs. 17/8, making a total of Rs.32/8. or just under £2 10s. 0d. per month.

Railway Worker's Diet

The worker has a hot meal in the evening of rice with curry of vegetables. Twice a week he will have fish. What rice is left of the evening meal is put in water for the night and eaten in the morning with pickles and salt. If he lives a long way from the workshop, he takes rice for a midday meal with him. If the workshop is near, one of the family will come along during the day with it. Apart from the rice, then, he eats very little. But the cost of such a diet is something like 30 rupees a month.

Bureaucrats Time Strike

The strike has been declared for June 27th. The manoeuvre of the bureaucrats is understood when one knows that pay-day is June 12th. Fifteen days after he receives his pay, the worker, even in a normal month, can look forward to another fortnight of short rations, and at least another 7 days living on credit (depending on how large his balance of debt is). The time could not have been better calculated to undermine the resistance of the strikers. It seems fairly certain that their supplies of rice from the Railway shops will be stopped by one means or another. When this happens, the worker will have no reserves with which to accumulate any stock. He will in fact, be in need of borrowing money. But by this time his creditors will be demanding settlement of old debts and exerting pressure to persuade him to go back to work. There will be no question of borrowing more. He will immediately be seized between a vice of debt and starvation.

The financial position of the Unions varies throughout India. The Union of the workers I met has no Strike Funds at all. To offset this, attempts will be made to collect funds from the public at large. In this respect the attitude of the middle class is decisive. In those areas where they follow Congress wholeheartedly, as they do here, there is not much hope (and the workers have no illusions about this!), as the Congress has declared against the strike and will undoubtedly use the whole of its influence to smash it.

95% Strike Ballot

Despite this, the workers are militantly preparing to strike and win. Working for the State owned railways, they come face to face with their imperialist exploiters. A 95% ballot for strike has given British imperialism its answer. The administration is making full preparations to meet the strike. Every day half page advertisements for scabs appear in the capitalist press. There can be no doubt that the army and police will also be mobilised for the task of repression.

In answer, Committees of Action have been ordered for every T.U. Railway Branch. Workers' Defence Guards already exist: they are likely to have the vital task of mobilising the workers during the struggle. Full workers' participation in the strike and full rank and file control of the Committees of Action will be the surest guarantee to prevent the bureaucrats from betraying the strike.

Support Indian Strikers!

The facts speak for themselves. British workers will condemn the attempt of the Labour Government to keep the Indian railway workers in poverty and hunger. They must support the struggle of their Indian comrades for a decent standard of living and oppose the impending attempts to suppress the All India Railway Strike.

BRING THESE WITNESSES

THEY ARE STILL ALIVE

Why are important witnesses against the Nazis being prevented from giving evidence at Nuremberg? That is, if one were to accept the truth of the Moscow Trials.

Most of the accused in the Moscow Trials were shot. But for reasons best known to the Stalinist bureaucracy, a few were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. They confessed to direct connections with Hess, Rosenberg and other Nazi leaders.

For example, BESSONOV, who was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, confessed to the following:

"The accused BESSONOV, who on his own confession took an active part in the secret negotiations between the Trotskyites and the German fascist, mainly military, circles, on the matter of jointly fighting the U.S.S.R., not only personally negotiated for support for the anti-Soviet conspiracy with DAITZ, ROSENBERG'S closest colleague in the foreign affairs department of the fascist party, but was kept informed of the meetings and negotiations between L. TROTSKY and HESS, NIEDERMEIER and the Professor HAUSHOFER, with whom L. TROTSKY reached an agreement on the terms mentioned by PYATIKOV at the trial of the anti-Soviet Trotskyite Centre."

From the Verbatim Report of the Bukharin-Rakovsky Trial, 1938.

Not only in the 1938 trial, but in the trial of the so-called "Parallel Centre" some of the accused were not shot. RADEK and SOKOLNIKOV were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment each. In the indictment we read:

'Not confining himself to his own negotiations with representatives of foreign states, L. D. TROTSKY instructed the members of the parallel centre to enter into communication with the representatives of these states in the U.S.S.R.

SOKOLNIKOV

As testified by accused PIATAKOV, L. D. TROTSKY in his letters to the paralled centre:

'. . . demanded that RADEK and SOKOLNIKOV, who had the appropriate opportunities, probe for the necessary contacts with the official representatives of the powers, and support what he, TROTSKY, was carrying out in practice.'

In accordance with this instruction of L. D. TROTSKY, the accused K. B. RADEK and G. SOKOLNIKOV entered into communication with the representatives of the said states.

On this point accused RADEK, during examination on December 4, 1936, testified:

'. . . Trotsky's assertion about his communications with the representatives of the — government was not idle talk. I was able to convince myself of this from conversations I had had at diplomatic receptions in 1934-35 with the military attache Mr. —, a very well informed representative of Germany.

Both of them in a cautious way, gave me to understand that the — government was in communication with TROTSKY.'"

Vol. 1, p. 257.

Fortunately for historical truth, and unfortunately for the executioners of the G.P.U. and their hired apologists, Stalin was incautious enough to allow some of the witnesses who testified in the Moscow Trials to live. They are a living testimony to the fact that the Moscow Trials were frame-ups.

RADEK, RAKOVSKY, SOKOLNIKOV, BESSONOV and others were sentenced to terms of imprisonment. One or two may not have survived Stalin's jails, but some are still alive.

Not only is the question of Trotsky's alleged connection with the Nazis not even raised, but these living witnesses are not brought forward to testify to the alleged plot whereby the Nazis and the Trotskyists prepared to wage war against the Soviet Union.

It is possible that the raising of this question will seal the fate of the few survivors of the Moscow Trials.

These men are living proofs that the trials were frame-ups. The fact that the sending of these witnesses to Nuremberg has not even been raised by Stalin or his apologists in this country is irrefutable proof that their evidence would not stand up to independent investigation.

SLAVE LABOUR

Labour Government Violates Geneva Convention

BY "SOCIALIST APPEAL" REPORTER

A scandal is being perpetrated in this country in relation to German prisoners of war. Thousands of anti-Nazis, brought here from the U.S.A. in the belief that they were going home, are being held in Britain and used as slave labour. They are having to work for threehalfpence an hour, whilst known Nazis are sent home and given official posts.

U.S. Promises Broken

In a letter, *written three months ago,* a German war prisoner gives revealing facts, he says:

"We were told frequently by officers in camps . . . that we would be sent home. Radio and press proclaimed it officially. The War Department in Washington declared officially through Secretary of State Patterson, 'We were asked to keep prisoners of war as a labour force in the U.S. but the army will carry out its intention to remove all P.o.W.s from their places of work before the end of January 1946 at the latest and start them on their way home about the end of April. The retention of P.o.W.s in the U.S. would only aggravate the problems of unemployment. Ships for their transport home will be at our disposal then without making other sea transport suffer. We have to stand by the regulations of the Geneva Convention. These regulations prescribe that German P.o.W.s be sent home after the capitulation of Germany without undue delay. The fact that Germany surrendered unconditionally and that no peace treaty has been signed as yet does not free the U.S. from the moral obligation contained in the Geneva Convention."

Nazis Sent Home

"There is nothing to add to the declaration of the Secretary of State Patterson. It says everything. I and my comrades have been waiting two months—in vain—for the carrying out of this order. It is even more inexplicable if, according to letters received from home, active Nazis are being released from internment.

"There are a number of sworn statements of P.o.W.'s at our disposal, who were promised by American officers that they would be sent home. We can

(Continued in next Column.)

produce at any time extracts from American papers on the quoted declarations of Secretary of State Patterson and other leading personalities, amongst others Provost Marshal Berch, which all speak of our direct repatriation home . . .

"The members of my Company all had confidence in the word of the American Army. The greatest part sailed voluntarily and were please to do so since they counted upon humanitarianism.

"They fulfilled their obligation to work, and did not think it possible in a democratic world to be sent from one prison to another. . . ."

These prisoners, many of whom were risking their necks struggling against Nazism in Germany whilst sections of the ruling class in this country were actively assisting Hitler, are being held here as slave labour. They are helpless and defenceless. They can be aided only by outside pressure on the Labour Government.

"We Feel Ourselves To Be Slaves . . ."

This is not an isolated complaint. Another letter from an entirely different camp reads:

"We have been deceived and lied to already in America, and here in England it is also the same.

"We left our camps in U.S.A. on Jan. 25th, and were told by senior officers that we would be released in Germany on March 13th. We have been sold to England and are still sitting behind barbed wire . . . we feel ourselves to be slaves."

These are not the capitalist and Nazi criminals who led Germany into war. For the most part they are workers who were swept into the orbit of militarism no more willingly than the British workers. Many of these prisoners have been Socialists and Communists almost from their school-days. One writes:

"Until now nobody has been released from our camp, not even invalids! As far as letters from home indicate Nazis are being released and many restored to their old positions.

"The medical care in our camp is very bad, because we have not got any doctor in our camp, and several people who went down with serious hernia were sent back fit for work until a place in hospital became vacant.

"We have many people here who were formerly Socialists and Communists. I, myself, was a Member of the K.P.D. (German Communist Party)."

An outcry was raised when German or Japanese gangsters violated recognised conventions in relation to war prisoners. Now that the British Labour Government is doing the same, our outcry against this disgraceful state of affairs must be no less vociferous.

Such happenings must be exposed and combatted.

Workers! Protest against this detention of German prisoners and their use as slave labour. Through your Labour Parties and Trade Unions, raise the demand for the repatriation of the prisoners of war who wish to return home. Extend the hand of international class solidarity to our German worker comrades behind barbed wire.

BREAD: U.S. BOSSES FEED GRAIN TO LIVESTOCK

(Continued from Front Page.)

They are seeking to divert a legitimate grievance into reactionary capitalist channels and must be combatted with the utmost vigour by the working-class.

Imperialists Responsible For Famine

It is on the shoulders of *all the imperialists* that the responsibility for the famine and the rationing in Britain must rest. In the food producing centres, U.S.A., Canada, etc., the big farmers and capitalist grain monopolies sabotage grain production and distribution in the interests of making immense profits. That there is a genuine world shortage of primary and basic foodstuffs cannot be doubted, yet the fact is that millions of tons of wheat are being kept off the world market by American grain monopolies and speculators in order to raise prices and "bust" price controls. Americans are eating 14 per cent. more food than before the war, millions of tons of grain is being fed to livestock. From Kansas, Oklohoma and Texas it is reported that the grain elevators are so choked up that the wheat is being dumped on the ground. Wheat is also being used by the big financial interests to further reactionary political aims. The negotiations on the British-Canadian Wheat Agreement were sabotaged by the objections of American financial interests which claimed that the Agreement was "based on the claim that minimum purchase prices fixed in the agreement—which would not be effective until the end of the year—are 'far too low' compared with the price of American wheat, and would have a disastrous effect on the British loan." The fact that millions will starve from shortage of grain strikes no answering chord in the hearts of these capitalist money grabbers. Meanwhile, in the interest of achieving the highest prices for the American big farmers and grain monopolies, the Government of the U.S.A. is bringing pressure upon the Labour Government to buy at the highest prices or allow the grain to be sold where it will get their prices.

Our International Duty To Other Peoples

In Europe, Asia, India, millions of people, peasants and workers are going to die or suffer physical deterioration as the results of the famines. This will be the consequence of a man-made famine, created by modern capitalism, and called into being by the needs of the imperialists in the war.

The workers in Britain cannot remain indifferent to the fate of the German, Austrian and other European peoples, nor can they remain indifferent to the fate of the colonial slaves in India, China and the Far East where the famine will strike with savage force. They must rouse the widest protest at this situation and mobilise the widest sympathy and practical measures for the purpose of feeding these starving peoples. This is an elementary task and bounden duty of all who would lay claim to the name of internationalist.

Give The Workers The Facts !

If confidence of the working-class in the Labour Government has been shaken, this is primarily the fault of the Labour leaders themselves. The workers are prepared to give the Labour leaders a tremendous credit. They know that it will take many years, with the best intentions in the world, to overcome the worst effects of the war. But to maintain the confidence of the workers, not only must the Labour leaders deliver the "goods", they must also take the workers into their confidence. This latter factor can be the most important under difficult conditions. In the most anxious days of the Russian Revolution when the population was starving and the Bolsheviks had to take drastic measures, it was by taking the workers into their confidence that they succeeded in maintaining the morale, the sympathy and support of the Russian working-class.

Give The Workers Control !

But unlike the Bolsheviks, the Labour leaders have not taken action against the capitalists, who continue to reap even greater profits and live as well, if not better, than they did before the war. They therefore, cannot take the workers into their confidence. They have to hide, as far as it is possible for them to do so, the real situation—the facts and figures relating to food supplies on a national and international scale.

They have refused to draw the working class movement into the task of accounting and control of food resources and distribution, which is the only method of ensuring a fair distribution and combatting profiteering and the Black Market. On the contrary, they have continued in the traditional manner of the Tories and Liberals, hiding the facts and concealing the real situation, and excluding the working class from even a vestige of control.

The excuse of the Labour leaders is that to reveal the low stocks of grain during the period of a "sellers' market" would give a weapon to the grain profiteers, who would inflate their prices. This is utter nonsense and only plays into the hands of the Tories. The U.S. grain speculators can make their own calculations—and they have influential friends in sufficiently high governmental positions to obtain "secret" data. No doubt they have more information than the working class of this country The very fact of bread rationing is sufficient indication of acute shortage.

Our Alternative

What concrete proposals do we put forward as a means of mobilising the workers to defend their interests in Britain, and to carry out the task of aiding the oppressed and starved workers of Europe and Asia.

First, the organised working class must fight for the fullest publication, nationally and internationally, of all the information of the world food stocks and their distribution. *They must force the World Federation of Trade Unions to insist upon full access to these facts.* This is the prerequisite to keeping the closest observation and a measure of control over the distribution of food. They must have full access and all facts relating to transport and sales. Only on this basis will it be possible to expose the ramifications of the grain monopolies, government-organised shipments of food for reactionary political purposes, and to bring pressure to bear on the capitalists to direct the food to areas where it is really needed because of famine conditions.

In Britain it is necessary for the political, industrial and co-operative organisations of the working class to mobilise the workers in the distributive trades, the housewives, and the small shopkeepers into *committees of control* for the distribution of food. This is the best reply to the reactionary campaign of the Tories and a further step towards raising the socialist consciousness of the working class.

The world capitalists exploit the tragic food situation for their own profit and reactionary political ends. In Britain, the Labour leaders, in their refusal to expose these capitalist manoeuvres and by excluding the working class from any control of the distribution of food, assist the capitalists in their reactionary aims.

Trade Unionists ! Labour Workers ! End this false policy of the Labour Government !

Stalin Liquidates Two Republics

(Continued from page 1.)

Significant indeed, that only a few months back in the Stalinist elections in the Soviet Union, these areas, like all others, returned almost a hundred percent vote in favour of Stalin, "The Father of the Peoples." These elections are proved by this alone, to have been a totalitarian fake.

Minorities Supported Revolution.

In 1917, because of the policy of Lenin and Trotsky, the subject peoples of the Czarist Empire rallied to the cause of the Bolsheviks, though the Soviet Union was weak. Without the support of these peoples, the young Soviet Republic could not have survived. They supported the struggling Soviet regime because the internationalist policy of Lenin and Trotsky stood for equality and freedom for the subject peoples of all Russia.

With the rise of Stalin, the national liberties of minorities in the USSR have been restricted and curtailed. While the masses have lost all semblance of control, the power and privilege of the Great Russian bureaucrats has entrenched itself. The tyranny of the G.P.U. prevails over the peoples.

That any large section of the peoples, apart from isolated individuals, would betray the Soviet Union to Nazi invaders would have been unthinkable under Lenin and Trotsky.

In 1918, at one of the most crucial periods in the history of the Soviet Union, the Left Social Revolutionaries assassinated the German Ambassador in order to provoke an attack by German imperialism which had just imposed the monstrous peace of Brest Litovsk on the young Soviet Republic. Taking advantage of this, the German government demanded that German soldiers be stationed at the German Embassy in Petrograd to guard against future acts. Lenin replied : You want Germans?—We'll give you Germans! So confident were the Bolsheviks of the loyalty of all the peoples of Russia to the ideals of the socialist revolution, that Lenin was prepared to entrust the German soldiers of the Volga Republic with this highly important task.

The Bolsheviks gave the right of self determination to the point of secession to all the peoples and minorities of the Soviet Union. The Union of all the Republics of the USSR was to be a voluntary one with full rights to secede from the Union if the minorities considered their rights were curtailed or were nationally oppressed by the dominant nation, the Russians. Even in the Stalin Constitution (which remains a scrap of paper) this right is solemnly guaranteed.

But so far as the Stalinist bureaucracy are concerned, the peoples in the Soviet Union are so many cattle.

White Guards Offered Full Citizenship.

If the populaton remained unconvinced of the fundamental advantages of the system in comparison with capitalism, then surely there must be something wrong with the regime? These events are symptomatic of the profound degeneration which has affected the Soviet Union under the Stalinist regime. They are especially significant in the light of the fact that the Stalinist Government is now offering full citizenship to all the former White Guards who fled abroad after the revolution and have been conspiring against the Soviet Union ever since. The excuse for this is that the advantages of the system have been so demonstrated, that these White Guard elements can be freely absorbed. How explain the fact that the peoples see no advantages in the Stalinist regime, but the White Guard capitalist elements do? These two events have occurred in the same week. They are a significant indication of the processes taking place in Stalinist Russia.

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SOLIDARITY FOR EVER

As we go to press 300 rail-workers at Camden Town L.M.S. Goods Depot are on strike. The reason? The Company, despite a warning from the men, have re-employed, as a supervisor, a man who failed to stand by his mates in the General Strike *twenty years ago.*

Such a magnificent gesture of class solidarity justifies the support and applause of every class-conscious worker. It is a splendid tribute to the working class principles of the trade unionists at Camden Town Depot.

TA-TU-THAU IS DEAD

News from Indo-China confirms the death of Comrade Ta-Tu-Thau, founder and outstanding leader of the Indo - Chinese Trotskyist movement in the course of the Viet-Nam uprising against French colonial oppression. Ta-Tu-Thau died in the province of Quang-Ngai in Southern Cochinchina.

He joined the movement in 1930, and in 1933 was elected to the Municipal Council of Saigon as a Trotskyist. Most of the time since then, he spent in the prisons of French imperialism. In 1938 as a result of undernourishment and torture, he was struck with partial paralysis while in prison. At the beginning of 1939, on the eve of the war, he sought to escape, was caught by the British police and turned over to the French, who confined him to the living hell known as the Poulo-Condon Concentration Camp.

Liberated after the Japanese defeat, he was too ill to participate in more than an advisory capacity in the ensuing insurrection, and shortly after succumbed.

The Fourth International has lost in Comrade Ta-Tu-Thau one of its best militants. His courage, his firmness and tenacity, which inspired respect even among our enemies, will be a living example for revolutionaries everywhere.

SUPPORT THE
WITTON JAMES STRIKE

BY ANNE JAMES

London—

The workers of Witton James, Hendon, (printing machinery manufacturers) came out on strike on June 17th. The cause of the strike is the refusal of the management to discuss sacking and the replacement of workers with the Shop Stewards.

The workers think this is the thin end of the wedge by means of which the management hopes to get rid of active trade unionists and break down the closed shop. In order to defend the union organisations the shop stewards must have some control over hiring and firing.

The strike which is 100% apart from a few charge hands and foremen, started as a stay in strike; but now, after signing the book in the morning, many of the workers do odd jobs during the day to eke out their money. A point of interest to trade unionists in Hendon is that the manager of the Hendon Labour Exchange has refused to send any of the strikers after jobs, thus showing himself hand in glove with the Witton James management in trying to starve them out. All London and National branches of the A.E.U. have been circularised by the strike committee. Funds are coming in now rather better than they were. The workers are in good spirits and intend to fight it out to a finish.

The London district committees of the Transport and General, the E.T.U. and the A.E.U. have come out in support of the Witton James workers, so far no support has come from the Executive committees. When the workers on the job are putting up with great hardship in order to maintain the union organisation it is a scandal that E.C.s should withold the support of union funds and apparatus. The fight for the new wage structure for engineers and equal pay for women has not the ghost of a chance of succeeding unless it has the whole weight of the union organisation, including the strike weapon, behind it. Only insistent pressure from the rank and file will force the E.C.s to carry out this obvious duty to their members.

Palestine :

(Continued from page 3.)

British imperialism is determined to turn Palestine into its main military base. Only a fool or a knave would believe imperialism out of its own goodwill, will grant independence to Palestine.

Zionism Rests On Imperialism

Imperialism has encouraged Zionist colonisation in Palestine for many years, so that it could, by setting Arabs against Jews, and Jews against Arabs, remain firmly in control of the country. Basically this position has not changed. Faced with a coming Arab uprising in the whole of the Middle East, British imperialism deludes itself that it can avoid the coming conflict between it and the Arab people by taking oppressive action against the Zionists.

Zionism Not Anti-Imperialist

The blowing up of the bridges by the Hagana was both a demonstration of the disappointment with British policy, as well as to demonstrate that they can be very much of a nuisance if Britain will not accept their collaboration. Needless to say, British imperialism is not "frightened". It will not hesitate to bomb and shell Jewish towns and settlements if it finds fit to do so. However much one is opposed to Zionism, it is not to blood-soaked British imperialism, which has already turned Palestine into one huge concentration camp, that we look towards to deal a death blow to Zionism. Let the Jewish and Arab workers themselves deal appropriately with Zionism.

The Zionist movement and Zionist aspirations, which are contrary to the interests of Jewish workers as well as the Arab masses in Palestine and the Middle East have willy-nilly to depend on an outside power for their protection. That is why the Zionist leaders will never dream of fighting Britain. However, the bitterness that has accumulated and disappointment in British policies, are liable to push tens of thousands of Zionists into a struggle against Britain, which can only end at present in catastrophic results.

The roots of the Jewish problem lie deep in the capitalist system. There will be no end to Jewish persecution, anti-semitism, and race hatred as long as capitalism exists. Zionism and a Jewish state will never stop the rise of anti-semitism in the four corners of the world, but the victory of the world revolution and the establishment of Socialism will.

Any anti-imperialist struggle in Palestine cannot even be thought of unless Jewish and Arab workers unite in one solid front to fight their common enemies, Imperialism, Zionism, and Arab feudalism and capitalism.

Revolutionary Communist Programme :

1. Nationalisation, of the Bank of England, the Big Five Banks and land, the mines, transport and all big industry without compensation; and the operation of these enterprises under the control of workers' committees.

2. Confiscation of all war profits; all company books to be open to inspection by trade unions and workers' committees to counter the financial and economic sabotage of Big Business.

3. Distribution of food, clothes, fuel and other consumers' goods in short supply under the control of committees elected from the co-ops, distributive trades, factories, housewives and small shop-keepers.

4. The control and allocation of existing housing space in the hands of tenants' committees; a state financial national house-building plan directed by the building trades unions and tenants committees.

5. A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum and full maintenance for the unemployed; turnover of Government and other war plants to the production of consumers' goods; a sliding scale of hours to absorb the unemployed without wage reductions.

6. Abolition of the Monarchy and the House of Lords; full electoral rights from the age of 18 years; and full political rights for men and women in the forces; the immediate repeal of all strike breaking and anti-labour laws.

7. Clear out the reactionary anti-labour officer caste from the armed forces, for the election of officers from the ranks.

8. Abolish conscription; for the dissolution of the standing army and its substitution by a workers' militia organised under control of workers' committees; for the establishment of military schools by the Trade Unions at the expense of the State for the training of worker officers.

9. Unconditional defence of the Soviet Union against all imperialist powers; full economic co-operation, credit grants and other aid for the reconstruction of Soviet economy.

10. Full and immediate freedom for India and the other colonies to choose their own form of government; the immediate withdrawal of British troops from all colonial countries.

11. Against secret diplomacy and a peace of vengeance and plunder; against race hatred—anti-semitism, Vansittartism and the colour bar; for the withdrawal of British troops from Europe and Asia and for a peace based upon the self-determination of the peoples of Europe, Asia and the World.

12. Full support and active co-operation with the European workers for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the United Socialist States of Europe; unity with the workers and exploited masses of all lands in the struggle for World Socialism.

Lenin on Rationing

(Continued from page 3).

they even hire special help for this purpose! Here is democracy for you!

During the extraordinary sufferings the country is going through, and in order to fight the impending catastrophe, a revolutionary-democratic policy would not confine itself to bread cards, but would add, first, compulsory organisation of the population in consumers' societies, for without such an organisation it is impossible fully to introduce control over consumption; secondly, it would introduce the labour duty for the rich with the proviso that they must provide these consumers' societies with secretarial and other labour free of charge; thirdly, it would introduce among the population equal distribution of all articles of consumption without exception, so that the burdens of the war may really be equally distributed; fourthly, it would introduce such organisation of control that the consumption of the rich would be controlled by the poor classes of the population.

The introduction of real democracy in this realm, the manifestation of the real revolutionary spirit in the organisation of control on the part of the neediest classes of the people, would serve as a great stimulus towards every available intelligent force, towards developing the really revoutionary energy of the whole people. At present the Ministers of republican and revolutionary-democratic Russia, exactly like their brethren in all the other imperialist countries, use fine phrases about "labour for the benefit of the people," about "straining all efforts," but the people themselves sense, see, and feel the hypocrisy of these words.

The result is marking time, while economic deterioration spreads unchecked, and a catastrophe is approaching. For on the one hand, our government cannot introduce military prison labour for the workers, after the pattern of Kornilov, Hindenburg, and the imperialists, due to the fact that the traditions, memories, traces, habits, and institutions of the **revolution** are still too fresh in the minds of the people; on the other hand, it cannot take really earnest steps on the revolutionary-democratic road, for it is soaked through with, and entangled from top to bottom in, the relations of dependence upon the bourgeoisie, of a "coalition" with it, and with the fear of infringing upon its real privileges.

JAPAN :

(Continued from Front Page.)

on to "outlaw", at least verbally, strikers' occupations of factories. It was officially stated that up to the end of May workers' groups had taken over control of 26 factories, and several other unions were expected to adopt similar tactics in the near future. The Electrical Workers' Union was threatening to cut off supply from all Government offices and from the homes of the electricity company's directors, while continuing to serve the general public.

A special case, which seems to have engaged the attention of Allied Headquarters, has been the seizure of the newspaper Yomiuri, one of the big Tokio dailies, by a union of its employees, which switched its editorial policy to a line close to that of the Communists. The President of the newspaper has dismissed the editorial staff, but the offices are in the hands of the union. Allied Headquarters is reported to be supporting the owners' decision, and to be alarmed lest the Communists capture other newspapers in the same way."

The Japanese workers are revealing their heroism and the will to struggle under the most difficult conditions. But unless it gains correct guidance and leadership the workers movement can only be led to defeat and destruction. The examples given by the "Economist" did not lead to the workers Revolution in Italy and France because there was no strong revolutionary party to give leadership, as the Bolshevik party under Lenin and Trotsky gave to the Russian workers and peasants in 1917.

Once the workers take the open road of struggle it is impossible to stop half-way. The Japanese workers are engaging in the first skirmishes of the Socialist Revolution. But in order to be victorious, they will have to adopt a policy of Land to the Peasants, of a class appeal to the American workers in and out of uniform, and Power in the hands of Soviets as in Russia of 1917.

This is the policy of the Revolutionary Communists of Japan and will provide a signal for the Socialist Revolution in Asia and in Europe.

SALUTE THE HEROIC WORKERS OF JAPAN !

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