

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

# MAGNIFICENT VICTORY FOR NEPTUNE STRIKERS

FOUR MEN JOIN A.E.U. BY M. ORTON.

AFTER A STRUGGLE LASTING SIX WEEKS, THE 250 STRIKERS AT NEPTUNE ENGINE WORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, HAVE SUCCEEDED BY THEIR DETERMINATION AND UNITY, IN DEFEATING THE MANAGEMENT'S INTENTION TO RETAIN AN OPEN SHOP. THUS ENDS THE MOST DETERMINED FIGHT IN DEFENCE OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF WAR. THE CULMINATION OF THE STRIKE WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF TYNESIDE.

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TWOPENCE.

# CAPITALISTS FEAR RED ARMY ADVANCE

BY ANDREW SCOTT.

GOEBBELS' PROPAGANDA ABOUT THE "BOLSHEVIK BOGEY" IS FINDING RESPONSE AMONG THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN CAPITALISTS. THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE SEEN A GROWING TENSION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND AMERICA ON THE ONE SIDE AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE OTHER. OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN HAVE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT RELATIONS ARE STRAINED. AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CAUSE OF THE INCREASING STRAIN IS THE FEAR OF FURTHER SOVIET ADVANCES AND WHAT THESE WILL MEAN.

While the Red Army was retreating, it had no greater allies — in words — than the British and American capitalists. But now that it is marching toward Europe, they have been thrown into what amounts almost to a panic.

The whispering galleries of Rome reflect what is going on in the way of threats, offers and back-stage manoeuvres. The "Observer" indicates the sort of approach that the Axis is making to the leaders of the "democracies." Rome's official circles, according to this paper, are saying:

"Russian successes have for the moment created a certain agreement of interests between the Allies and the Axis, and though this momentary concordance does not signify that the Axis is begging for peace, it

When the frogs in Aesop's fable got tired of having a log for a king because he did nothing, they were given, instead, a stork who went to the opposite extreme and proceeded to eat them up. The Anglo-American capitalists are afraid that a similar rude transformation is taking place in their relations with Russia. They thought they had a log for an ally, and unlike the frogs they were glad to have it so. But now suddenly the ally turns out to be not so log-like. They are afraid that this Bolshevik stork is going to



The decision to return to work was taken on Sunday, March 7th, by a majority vote. It was revealed that the four non-unionists who were the cause of the strike, had filled in enrolment forms, and had made application to join the A.E.U. The enrolment forms had been proposed and seconded by A.E.U. district officials.

In view of this, a section of the men were in favour of an immediate return to work, but a large number were also

## FOUR INDIAN LEADERS TO DIE—DEMAND Their RELEASE

Four peasant leaders from the Indian village of Kayyur are to die at the hands of the public executioner shortly unless the sentence of death which has been imposed on them is quashed.

They were arrested two years ago and accused of the death of a constable in the village. The authorities were at that time trying to suppress a local peasant organisation and the villagers staged a demonstration of protest. The police alleged that the people of the village became so enraged at the attempt to suppress the local organisation that they stoned the constable to death.

The person or persons who killed the constable could not be found. The police thereupon seized five of the local village leaders and charged them with the crime.

When the case was being heard at the sessions, the judge stated that it was difficult to detect the real murderer in such a case which involved so many people. He also admitted that in all probability the real murderer had not been brought to court.

DESPITE THIS, HE SENTENCED FIVE OF THE FIVE TO DEATH.

of the opinion that the strike should be continued until the four men were actually admitted into the union. A proposal was tabled, that the strikers return on Monday, March 8th, and an amendment that the strike continue until the four men could produce their union cards, was defeated by 122 votes against 100.

The view was expressed by some of the strikers that if the four non-unionists had agreed to join the union when they were approached eight months ago, the present dispute, which has entailed inevitable hardship to the men involved, and the impeding of production, would have been averted. The general opinion was that the four men had not become honest trade unionists overnight, since they had joined under pressure.

The management of the Neptune Works had called the four non-unionists together, and in collaboration with Mitchell, the A.E.U. area official, it was decided that the men should make application to join the union. After this meeting, Mitchell made a statement to the press. The change in the attitude of the management was not brought about by concern for production "in the interests of the war effort", but was a retreat in the face of possible sympathetic action being taken by thousands of Tyneside shipyard workers.

Whilst the strike remained localised, and confined to only 250 engineers, the bosses stubbornly refused to give way, confident that the men would ultimately be starved into submission. Faced however with the threat of mass action throughout the whole of Tyneside, with a subsequent loss of profits and the granting of concessions to the workers, the management were forced to capitulate.

This was undoubtedly due to the stand taken by the Tyne Shop Stewards Committee at their meeting on Feb. 27th, when full support for the strikers was unanimously expressed. Methods of aiding the men were discussed, and a proposal put forward that seven days notice of dispute be given, and that the whole of Tyneside shipyard workers be called upon to

March 6th, at which concrete proposals were to be discussed and decided upon. As a result of the confusion caused by the misleading reports in the capitalist press however, which gave the impression that the strike was over and the men had already decided to return to work, the meeting was only a partial success, and the shop stewards could do no more than express their continued solidarity with the Neptune men should they remain on strike.

The role played by the T.U. leaders in this struggle is clear. Instead of coming to the strikers with an offer of wholehearted support, the bureaucrats acted as fainthearted mediators between the bosses and the men. Hutchinson, a member of the National Executive of the A.E.U. approached the strikers with proposals that they should return to work and settle their dispute by constitutional negotiations. Whilst giving unofficial support to the strike, the Tyneside D.C. of the A.E.U. endeavoured at the same time to serve the interests of the bosses. With the threat of strike action being taken by the whole of Tyneside, the T.U. leaders connived with the bosses to reach some sort of agreement. Their actions, in meetings with the management and the four blacklegs without the knowledge of the men on strike, and actually proposing the four men for membership of the A.E.U., amounts to open treachery and betrayal.

In spite of the reactionary role of the T.U. leaders, the Stalinists, and the attacks made by the capitalist press, the Neptune engineers have succeeded in establishing the principle for which they came out on strike. This victory was made possible only by the able leadership of the strike committee, the solidarity of the men, and by the widespread financial support which was obtained from all parts of the country.

It is necessary however, for the workers of Tyneside and of the whole of Britain, to understand the inability of the T.U. bureaucrats to defend the very structure of the trade union movement itself. The workers must demand an end to the fatal policy of class collaboration which the T.U. leaders are conducting, and must replace these elements who are not prepared

Russian successes have for the moment created a certain agreement of interests between the Allies and the Axis, and though this momentary concordance does not signify that the Axis is begging for peace, it would be a good thing if the Allies took the situation into account and did not open a Second Front in Europe."

And the "Observer" adds:

"This is the Axis invitation for a limited contribution to the anti-Bolshevik front."

# FIFE COALOWNERS SLASH WAGES

By TOM BURNS

The policy pursued by the Fife Coal Company in cutting their employees' wages, resulted in a stoppage of 1,100 colliers of Bowhill Colliery, Fifeshire, from Friday 26th February till Monday 1st of March.

40 strippers were first affected by the loss of wages, and for taking a militant stand they were victimised on 11th January for what the Management termed "serious misconduct."

The link up between the capitalist class and the Government was crystal clear, when the National Service Officer instructed 39 strippers to appear at Kirkcaldy for a medical examination, with a view to their being drafted into the armed forces.

The dispute originated in No. 1 West Section of the Little Splint Seam. The strippers were under contract from May to August and received 1/6d. per ton plus 11/9d. and war wage of 4/8d. In drawing up the new contract in August the Company reduced the tonnage rate to 1/4d. per ton. The miners refused these terms and after consultation with the owners the union leaders made a deal for 1/5d. per ton. In November the coal owners again lowered their rates.

The farce of arbitration courts, as far as the workers are concerned, was extremely evident in this case. Dr. William Reid, Managing Director, Fyfe Coal Co., went so far as to reduce the previous offer of 1/5d. tonnage rate to 1/2d. The plot was nicely hatched out, the "neutral" chairman, Sir Robert Bryce Walker, plumped for the bosses first offer of 1/5d. per ton. But this sum was only given for miners working in the abnormal conditions.

Urged on by the Stalinists and the T.U. bureaucrats to accept this anomaly—in the interests of the 1st Army—the miners gave it a week's trial. During this week representatives from two other sections, No. 2 West and No. 1 East, were called into the manager's office and notified that they could accept 1/5d. per ton plus usual flat rate

relations with the Axis. They thought they had a leg for an ally, and unlike the frogs they were glad to have it so. But now suddenly the ally turns out to be not so leg-like. They are afraid that this Bolshevik stork is going to eat up not only the Baltic States, Bessarabia and the Eastern section of Poland, but much else besides.

It is because of this fear that we have Vice-President Henry Wallace stating on behalf of American imperialism that a Third World War will be inevitable "if Russia should again em-



brace the Trotskyist idea of fomenting world-wide revolution." At the same time Wallace's colleague, Admiral Standley, U.S. Ambassador to Russia, has openly complained that Stalin is not acknowledging American aid to the Soviet Union. This is an anything but delicate hint that American aid (such as it has been) will be cut off unless Stalin limits his demands to those approved by Wall Street. And American newspapers are openly expressing fears of a "Soviet imperialism." The American Correspondent of the "Economist" points out that "As the Russian victories have rolled on, there has been some uneasiness in many quarters (in America) about the part the Russians may play in the later stages of the war."

It is of vital importance that Wallace has publicly linked Trotskyism with the world revolution, and expressed pious hopes that Russia will not return to that road. For, before the Red Army turned the tide at Stalingrad, the American imperialists aided Stalin in putting over the myth that Trotskyism meant pro-Fascism. But now that the imperialists are confronted with the full power of a workers' state they feel constrained to throw pretences aside and speak openly about the danger that it represents to their interests.

Stalin has done everything possible, both by words and deeds, to dispel their fears about Russia spreading the Revolution. But at the same time Stalin has felt the need to find safeguards against further attempts at the invasion of Russia—and not necessarily by Germany. He has claimed Eastern Poland, the Baltic States and parts of Finland. But even these modest demands have proved completely unacceptable to the imperialist occupiers of half the world. Sikorski has received wholehearted support in his protests against the Russian demands. And the "News Chronicle" has said that: "The Poles are justifiably perturbed . . . If this step means that without any attempt to reach agreement with the Polish Government or with their other Allies, the Russians intend simply to annex the lands they consider to be part of the Soviet Union, then Goebbel's work is done for him."

All this pays tribute to the immense power of the Russian Revolution which in spite of Stalin and all his efforts to render it harmless, and a safe ally of imperialism, still represents the greatest danger to world capitalism—a danger far greater than Nazism.

In face of this danger, what will American and British imperialism do?

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the sessions, the judge stated that it was difficult to detect the real murderer in such a case which involved so many people. He also admitted that in all probability the real murderer had not been brought to court.

DESPITE THIS, HE SENTENCED FOUR OF THE FIVE TO DIE!

It now appears that the witnesses for the defence had been tortured and were not in a fit state to give evidence at the trial. Also, that the policeman who was killed was not beaten to death by the demonstrators but for interfering with a Moslem girl.

This trial appears to have all the marks of a Gestapo frame-up. When a local lackey of Hitler is killed in occupied Europe and the killer can't be found, a number of local leading people are arrested, witnesses terrorised or beaten up, and the men assassinated.

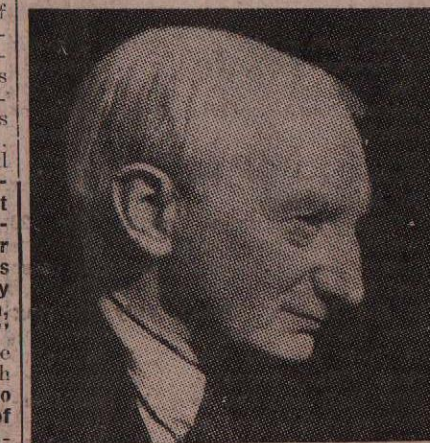
The appeal of the four condemned men shortly to be heard by the Privy Council. The Secretary of State for India also, has power to quash the sentences.

Organised trade unionists and workers in the Labour movement everywhere must protest against this juridical murder and let the ruling class see that this outrage against the Indian people will not be tolerated and will not go unnoticed.

See that your shop stewards and your Branch meeting pass a resolution to be sent to Mr. Amery, protesting against this crime, and demanding the immediate release of the Kayyur prisoners.

# BEVERIDGE AND BIG BUSINESS

Stormy discussions in parliament and the press have arisen around the Beveridge report. Discussions among the workers in the factories and the unions on this question have reached an in-



"A Communist Germany would be an even worse peril to the world than a Nazi Germany. . . ."—Sir William Beveridge, 1940.

and committee at their meeting on Feb. 27th, when full support for the strikers was unanimously expressed. Methods of aiding the men were discussed, and a proposal put forward that seven days notice of dispute be given, and that the whole of Tyneside shipyard workers be called upon to strike for one day as a token of support for the Neptune engineers.

Following upon this, a mass meeting of Allied Shop Stewards was called for

# Stalin Executes Polish-Jewish Socialists

Two Polish Socialists, leaders of the Jewish Bund, members of the Central Committee of the Jewish Socialist Party of Poland, and one a member of the Executive Committee of the Second International, have been executed by Stalin.

These two socialists, Henrich Ehrlich and Victor Alter were arrested by the Soviet Government at the time of the invasion of Eastern Poland by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government, after the attack by Hitler, and a protest on the part of the Polish Government which demanded an inquiry, admitted they had made a "mistake" and they were released.

A statement issued by Mr. Zygielejm for the Central Committee of the Jew-

ish Socialist Party, protesting against the executions, quoted by the "Daily Herald" on March 6th, states: "From then on they worked at the request of the Soviet Government and in close collaboration with high Soviet officers organising a World Jewish Committee to fight Hitlerism. This they were doing when they were re-arrested. No sane man can believe that two such men would ask for peace with Hitler at the very time that he was carrying out a policy of extermination of Polish Jewry."

This indicates clearly that Stalin, cynically contemptuous of the opinion of the workers of the world, is continuing his purge of all those who oppose his policy. The "crime" of these Socialists was not at all that of being in favour of peace with Hitler (only a fool or a Stalinist could believe such nonsense), but of being in favour of a change in the regime which repressed Socialists and Jews in Poland.

Stalin is merely continuing his policy of massacring all those who reflect the pressure of the workers for a change in the post-war world. In the years before the war Stalin murdered all the leaders of the Polish Communist Party, including Varsky, Koszrzewa, Bratkovsky, Lensky and other collaborators of Rosa Luxembourg. Most of the Central Committee of the Polish C.P. were shot and the Polish C.P. was dissolved.

Now these Jewish-Polish Socialists have suffered the same fate. While supporting the Red Army, workers must condemn these massacres on the part of Stalin, designed to prevent the Polish and world working class following in the path of the October Revolution. When Stalin invaded Finland, the Capitalist and Labour press launched into paroxysms of fury against the Soviet Union. Today the British capitalist press, including the "Daily Herald", deliberately plays down the murder not of "Trotskyists", but of Social democrats of the Second International. Stalin's actions are entirely in the interests of the capitalist class because of his international policy, and his murders suit their ideals of a post-war world.

Socialist workers, protest against these murders. Demand that all Socialists arrested by the G.P.U. in Russia get a fair trial at which delegates from the International Trade Union and Socialist movement are present, and that these delegations should have the right to question and interview the prisoners. It was so in Lenin's time, why not now?

tensity of interest that few other questions in the war have aroused. And no wonder. As the workers and middle class see the approach of the end of the war, they are wondering what "victory" for the Allies will mean to them. "The land fit for heroes to live in" has left memories of how empty the promises of Big Business and the capitalist politicians proved after the last war. For them it meant misery and want, mass unemployment, low wages and the dole. Is it to be the same story again, is the thought which grips with anxiety the minds of the men and women of the working class? It is this foreboding of the future which compelled the capitalists and their government to issue the Report of the Beveridge Scheme. But the enthusiastic response which the idea of "social security" gained among the masses of the people aroused alarm and disquiet within the circles of our rulers.

The Beveridge Scheme, however, was a colossal fraud on the working class. It was intended to keep the workers quiet and contented, and to lull them into a belief that their interests are being catered for. Beveridge was most careful to indicate

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# Break the Coalition

## LABOUR TO 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, and other consumers commodities under the control of committees of workers elected from the distributive trades, factories, housewives committees and small shop-keepers.
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. Trade union wages for all workers in the armed forces.
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.

# SOLDIERS VOTE FOR WORKERS

## ON SALUTING

I am in an Infantry Training Centre undergoing 6 weeks elementary training. The most important (very, very important) is drill—instills discipline, sir! And of the drill, the most important for the recruit is saluting. A great part of the first week is taken up with this "morale-building" factor.

One of the central slogans posted up in standing orders is: "At all times salute—and if in doubt at any time—salute."

We spend hours learning how to salute to the front, to the left and to the right. Do you know how to salute if you were on a bicycle? No! Well you stiffen the body and look straight in front. If you happen to be riding a mule (or horse) and you are fortunate enough to pass one of your lords and masters, do you know what you would do? Well, you would look straight to the front, at the same time you would bring your whip (held in your right hand) smartly down to the side, pointing approximately at 45 degrees to the ground.

They tell the men there is no servility in saluting. The O.C. gave us a history on saluting to prove this—though it actually proved the opposite.

We were not allowed out for three or four days until we had passed the saluting tests.

## MOOD OF THE SOLDIERS

The men in my platoon are mainly, in fact 100 per cent industrial workers. Many have been trade unionists and some are keenly class conscious. They are all good fellows. What struck me was the way in which they accept discipline so easily.

Every week we have two discussions, one called "The Way of Life"—about how to become a "good citizen", and the A.B.C.A. lecture. The whole object of the lectures, of course, is to mould the men's minds, though the officers (young ones mainly, who often have come from the ranks) pretend they are for the purpose of making the men think for themselves. They invite opposition from "Reds or anybody", they say. They get it.

They are at a disadvantage, for the lying, whitewashing text—which they repeat word for word—cannot stand against any intelligent opposition. As a class conscious worker, I do my duty to help my comrades to get a scientific

## From "Infantryman"

approach to the ills and evils of this life. So when the officers come out with their bunk, I give them the works. They wriggle and twist and turn, but facts are facts, and my fellow comrades appreciate this. For instance, the A.B.C.A. paints a picture of a righteous Britain fighting for peace before the war against the aggressive "Huns" and at last, reluctantly going to war to destroy the bestial fascists in order to make the world safe for democracy. When I point out that for years the British capitalists, through press and radio, carried on a pro-Hitler campaign—that the same gang are running the country now—the officer reddens, and the men say, "Yes, yes, that's true."

There is a great admiration for Russia amongst the ranks and they have an understanding that 'it's because the Russian have something to fight for' that they fight so grimly.

## SOLDIERS VOTE FOR SOVIET GOVERNMENT

One lecture was held on "The Parliamentary System". The blackboard was filled with figures. The lecture was given around these figures and the officer gave his lecture round these, pointing to a picture of slow and inevitable progress—of course, there were things wrong—but these could be righted. It all depended on how the people voted. In any case we were better of than Hitler.

He then invited me to come out and speak, hoping that I was going to be stumped. I took up the challenge, helped by the urgings of my comrades. I drew the real picture of parliament. How only the struggle of the masses against the ruling class had been the cause of progressive legislation. Pointed out that the lecture made no mention of the Chartist, etc., then showed that Parliament was an instrument of the capitalists; quoted the case of Carson and the "Home Rule for Ireland Bill", the obstruction suffered by the Labour governments in 1924-29-31. Showed that as in Spain in 1936, even if the workers did get a majority, like Franco, the British bosses would not allow them to use it for the interests of the people. I finished up by calling for a Soviet system of Government.

The officer tried to get opposition against this, but only got added support for it. He then put it to the vote and the result was 70 for the Soviet system and 0 for the Parliamentary system.

This is the mood of the workers in uniform. The vast majority are wholeheartedly determined that we cannot

# Unity of all Rail Workers

## By SID BIDWELL

Rank and file members of the three major railway trade unions the N.U.R., A.S.L.E.&F., and R.C.A., have received the news of an agreement concluded by the executives for joint submission of wage claims, with a good deal of enthusiasm.

The action of the E.C. has come about as a result of the desire of the rank and file to end the friction and foolish squabbles which arose from the three unions pursuing separate courses as far as wage claims were concerned.

The threatened A.S.L.E.&F. strike, called off in favour of submitting yet another claim, demonstrated the futility of advancing claims on behalf of one section of the grades i.e. locomotivemen. The entire capitalist press readily seized upon the apparent rift between the N.U.R. and the A.S.L.E.&F. and tried their time honoured method of divide and rule, by using the N.U.R. leaders against the militant attitude of the loco men organised in the sectional union. The workers were being set at one another's throats instead of uniting against the profiteering boss parasites.

Besides making plans for co-ordinating wage policy, the agreements end the assistance which was being given by the A.S.L.E.&F. to a spurious signalmen's sectional union, the Union of Railway Signalmen originally formed by a few dissident N.U.R. members. Many workers learned for the first time that the Loco' union had actually been financially assisting the U.R.S. and had an agreement with them.

The latter has made some recent gains in membership from the N.U.R., largely due to the inertia of the industrial leadership which has produced the demoralisation on which sectionalism thrives. Leaders of the N.U.R. recently aroused the ire of signalmen members, by their handling of the Standstill Agreement and Classification of Semi and Automatic Signal Boxes. This led to mass meetings of N.U.R. signalmen which took place throughout the country, called on the initiative of the rank and file. Every meeting made known its hostility to the new agreements reached, without reference to the men whom they affected.

However most signalmen remain loyal to the N.U.R. and are seeking a more militant presentation of their programme and demands in unity with other grades.

Amongst grade after grade the story is the same. Although the T.U. leaders have rejected the capitalist theory of a "ceiling" on wages, in practice they accept it by placing their whole trust in the method of pursuing wage



It's Only Water Anyway

## FROM THE CURRAGH

The Republican Internment Camp,  
The Curragh, Co. Kildare,  
Ireland.

A Chara,

22.2.43.

Please send the following pamphlet—"J. P. Cannon's Evidence in U.S. Trial" also "Preparing for Power" for which I enclose P.O. 1/-.

As you no doubt are aware, the financial position of prisoners is not always very strong and if you are in a position to send any old revolutionary literature it would be appreciated; Trotskyist literature of any kind would be acceptable, including back numbers of "Socialist Appeal."

Yours sincerely, .....

## RESOLUTION SENT BY THE INDIAN WORKERS' ASSOCIATION TO L.P. EXECUTIVE

(1) The Indian Workers' Association in Great Britain views with serious concern the fast imposed upon Mahatma Gandhi by the barbarous policy of British Imperialism. It demands his immediate, unconditional release and calls upon British and American working class organisations to support this demand.

(2) The Indian Workers' Association holds the British Imperialists responsible for the terrible state of food shortage and famine in India. It considers that this is a logical result of the most brutal exploitation of the Indian masses carried out by the Imperialists in the last 150 years. It has caused a large part of the cultivable land to remain waste, increased the pressure of the population on land; and forced down the living standards of workers and peasants to starvation level. This shameful state of affairs in

# 19 MINERS CHARGED

At the Dunfermline Sheriff Court, Scotland, on Monday 8th March, 32 young miners, average age 19 years, were charged for illegally going on strike, and without giving 21 days notice. These militant mine-workers are preparing their own defence and charging the management of Valleyfield Colliery, Fifeshire, with provoking the miners into strike action and being solely responsible for the loss of production involved during the five days stoppage.

All but two have pleaded not guilty. The Court has separated the miners into 2 batches and they appear in court again on Friday, 12th March and Monday, 15th March.

The strike took place at Valleyfield Colliery, Fifeshire, Scotland, on 16th February as a result of the management's method in removing 2 oncost men from the Dip to another section and attempting to direct the remaining miners to do their colleagues' work. The Dip workers refused to accept this policy and went home. The Diamond section and the remaining miners who struck in sympathy amounted to 480 miners.

Here is another instance of the coal-owners deliberately flouting all agreements with the miners. They are astutely using the present period in the midst of the war, knowing that the trade union leaders have made a pact with the capitalist class to give no support to industrial disputes.

Abe Moffat and leading officials of the miners union attempted to get the men back to work on the bosses terms. After five days the miners decided to give the management's system a trial and results proved that production slumped heavily. The result was that the two oncost men had to be brought back

# FIFE COALOWNERS

# FIFE COALOWNERS SLASH WAGES—

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dismissed miners by transferring them to pits in Bathgate and Coatbridge. This attempt failed. So also did the manoeuvre to draft them into the army as due to the pressure of the miners the National Service Officer was forced to withdraw notices regarding their army medical examination.

At the Appeal Court on Thursday, 25th Feb., despite the fact that the victimised miners proved that they had increased production by one ton per man over all previous records, the decision of the Company was upheld. This outrageous result was too much for the mine workers and the whole pit comprising 1,100 workers struck work the next day.

The Union leaders refused to recognise the strike and gave it no support at all. Such an attitude met with the whole hearted approval of the boss class, press and the Stalinists.

The sub-executive of the Fife miners union called a meeting of the strikers Sunday 28th Feb., addressed by Mr. J. Barbour, director of labour to Lord Traprain. Abe Moffat, member of the executive council and leading Stalinist hack in Fifeshire urged the men at this meeting to "remember Tunisia and the boys at the front", and asked them to go back to work and await fresh negotiations. The meeting at this stage turned into an uproar and militant rank and file spokesmen opposed this strike breaking propaganda.

The men returned to work on condition that negotiations were opened up.

A bitter mood prevails amongst the miners at Bowhill village. A rising hostility is developing against the ex-Reds in the miners union, Abe Moffat, Jock Sutherland etc., who are most persistent in pushing the sell-out policy of the Communist Party. It is well realised locally that Moffat and his

Stalinist henchmen have no principled position as regards the independent struggles of the working class. Before Russia's entry into the present imperialist war the same individuals carried on an adventurist ultra-left policy in the miner's union. It was simple for Moffat to turn his cards on the morrow and to preach to the miners that they must work harder—not six days per week, but the whole seven!

Wm. Gallaher, M.P. for West Fife, who conveniently stayed away from Blairhall Colliery when the miners struck work there recently, completes the propaganda of his party by putting up a sham opposition in Parliament last week to Lord Traprain's role as Coal Controller for Scotland.

A general belief is expressed amongst the mineworkers that the union leadership has sold out to the coal owners. From the rank and file miners there is growing a large conscious element who clearly realise the need for a militant union leadership. The opposition shown at the meeting on Sunday, 28th February, illustrates this vividly.

It is number one task that the miners clear out from their ranks all union mis-leaders who have betrayed their struggles. And replace this rot with a fresh militant leadership whose everyday actions are answerable to the union membership. If any union official fails to satisfy the miners it should be the rule that such an individual—or individuals—be recalled at once and replaced by genuine elements.

This leadership must seek to break the trade unions from the suffocating embrace of the capitalists and reassert the independence of the workers' industrial organisations; its programme must be the nationalisation of the coal industry without compensation to the present owners and the operation of the industry under the control of the miners and mining technicians.

against this, but only got added support for it. He then put it to the vote and the result was 70 for the Soviet system and 0 for the Parliamentary system.

This is the mood of the workers in uniform. The vast majority are wholeheartedly determined that we cannot and will not return to the "World of before the war."

## ECONOMIC League at Work

A statement appearing in the Manchester "Evening Chronicle" on 20th February, 1942, read as follows:

### STRIKES IN 1942

In nearly every strike last year, two defeatist bodies, the I.L.P. and the Trotskyist organisation, took an active part, and in many cases prolonged the strikes.

Records show that these outside organisations were associated with at least 30 strikes. Probably few of the strikers were aware of the fact that they were being assisted in these strikes by organisations hostile to the Allied war effort."

—J. D. Thompson, Acting Hon. Director, Lancashire and Cheshire Economic League.

The Economic League is subsidised by Britain's Big Business as a form of secret police. For many years it has been responsible for conducting anti-trade union and anti-working class political activity upon which it has spent huge sums of money.

One of its main functions is to prepare lists of left wing industrial and political militants which are sent through the Employers' Federations for the purpose of blackmailing and victimisation.

At one time the Economic League centred its anti-working class activities against the Stalinists, but now they have a united attitude with the Stalinists against any worker or workers' organisation, which continues to fight in the interests of the workers class.

of the most brutal exploitation of the Indian masses carried out by the Imperialists in the last 150 years. It has caused a large part of the cultivable land to remain waste, increased the pressure of the population on land; and forced down the living standards of workers and peasants to starvation level. This normal state of affairs is aggravated by the presence of a huge army living upon the resources of the country and the continued export of foodstuffs in the last three years; and the incapacity of the Government to deal with the food hoarders.

Amongst grade after grade the story is the same. Although the T.U. leaders have rejected the capitalist theory of a "ceiling" on wages, in practice they accept it by placing their whole faith in the method of pursuing wage claims through the Railway Staff National Tribunal. This boss-ridden body has made it quite clear that railwaymen are not to receive any advance in real wages at the expense of the financial parasites whose interest in railways is but a mere side-line to their other and more lucrative financial exploits. In effect, the "ceiling" has been erected with the well paid T.U. leaders acting as its principal props.

This situation opens the door wide for sectionalism.

The National Passenger Workers' Union (breakaway from the T.G. & W.U.) had been active in the West Country recently. A separatist movement has developed amongst the Signal and Telegraph Linemen whose skill is being greatly taxed with the extension and development of power signalling. Post-haste the General Secretary of the N.U.R., Mr. J. Benstead, hurries to assure these grades of the good intentions of the N.U.R. leadership. A mass meeting was arranged on the 20th Feb., for the purpose of pacifying these grades.

Railwaymen are being told that the reason for their plight and low wages lies in the "unwieldy" nature of the N.U.R. to serve the interests of all grades. This talk is nonsense. The reason for their plight lies in the nature of the leadership.

Try as they may the leaders cannot escape the fact that rail workers of all grades are looking for a new leadership which will give them a fighting alternative to the present position of the sterile and complex negotiating machinery. The problems of one grade are the problems of all. Every rail worker is notoriously underpaid. The way out for the workers lies in the creation of a new militant industrial leadership prepared to fight the rail bosses for some of the £100 million recently netted by the industry.

## Two Successful Miners' Meetings

The policy of the "Socialist Appeal" is receiving a ready response among the Yorkshire miners. This was evident by the enthusiastic response of nearly a hundred miners to the meeting addressed by Comrades Jock Haston and Ted Grant at Wombwell on March 8th.

Comrade Haston spoke for 20 minutes and confined himself to the industrial struggles of the working class and the tasks of the advanced miners in the Miners' Union, ably showing how disastrous was the collaboration of their leaders with the capitalist class. Their recent bitter experiences with Hall and Co. was the best illustration of this, and served to draw the lesson sharply home for the need to forge a new militant leadership for trade unions.

Comrade Grant spoke for an hour. He dealt with the effect of the war on the lives of the workers and on the

tasks that lie ahead. An attentive audience heard him blast the claims of the capitalists and their lackeys in the ranks of the working class that the war was being fought to liberate the people from Europe and the world from fascism. He exposed the profiteering of the capitalists, the control of the monopolies of the state machine side by side with the ever worsening conditions of the working class. He dealt with the foreign and colonial policy of British imperialism demonstrating that they were carrying out the same form of oppression in India and the colonies as the Nazis in Europe. He concluded on the note that the capitalists could not and were not prepared to grant further concessions to the working class, that the position of the workers after the war would be worse than for the past hundred years. By claiming that it was possible to create better conditions

of the miners union attempted to get the men back to work on the bosses terms. After five days the miners decided to give the management's system a trial and results proved that production slumped heavily. The result was that the two oncost men had to be brought back.

The miners are asking: Why is the Management not charged by the Government with deliberately holding up production? It is reported that 9,000 tons of coal would be the normal output for five days in the pit. Miners are aware of the harsh penalties inflicted by the Government on the working class under the notorious Essential Works Order, yet coal owners get off scot free. It can be proved conclusively that they are directly responsible for the present wave of strikes throughout the coal industry in Scotland.

It considers that the problem of adequate food and its proper distribution cannot be achieved without ending the Imperialist rule in India. British Imperialism in alliance with the racketeers and exploiters in India.

Hoarding of food can only be controlled and proper distribution achieved if the power to search the granaries of landlords and zamindars in the villages and grain merchants in the cities is given to the committees of peasants and workers. But such a transformation is impossible without the complete independence of India. Only by the ending of British Imperialism in India can the power pass, in the words of the Congress resolution, into the hands of the "workers in the fields and factories."

Therefore, we call upon the British and American working class organisations, to express their solidarity with the Indian masses who are forced to resort to hunger riots and demand that shootings be stopped immediately. We further call upon the British and American workers to raise the demand for the release of Indian political prisoners and acceptance of the Congress demand for immediate independence.

after the war while the capitalists continued in power, the Labour and Stalinist leaders were betraying the workers. This could only be done on the basis of power in the hands of the working class. The next step forward was to reassert the independence of the working class organisations and for labour to fight for power on a bold socialist programme.

A number of questions from Labour Party and Stalinist workers were asked and answered. The platform invited the C.P. members to state their case if they wished, for 20 minutes from the platform. But they declined, and after a number of questions, annoyed the miners present by attacking the speakers in a slanderous and personal manner. A miner member of the Labour Party pointed out that the Stalinist was abusing the hospitality of the meeting. That he had been on his feet several times without interruption—that this was an example of democracy not allowed at Stalinist meetings. When Harry Pollitt had spoken at Wombwell a couple of weeks before, the Trotskyists had not been allowed inside the hall on the threat of physical violence—far less allowed to speak and discuss.

Comrade Grant was applauded both

for his speech and his answers to questions and £1 6s. 3d. was collected and a large quantity of literature sold.

Arising from this meeting, four miners from Goldthorpe who were present arranged a meeting to be called on the spot for the 10th March, at the Old Club, Goldthorpe. The thirty-five miners who were present listened with great interest to Comrade Grant.

The President of the Club, Mr. Tee, said that the meeting reminded him of the old days of nearly 20 years ago when Ben Elsbury, who is a member of Workers International League, was the then President of the Old Club, and he hoped that we would send other speakers there.

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## NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PAINTERS CAMBERWELL BRANCH

Invite all Trade Unionists to a

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At the

SELBOURNE ARMS, SELBOURNE ROAD, DENMARK HILL, CAMBERWELL, S.E.5.

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Subject:

## WORKERS AND WAR

Speakers: JOCK HASTON, TED GRANT

Chairman: TED LANGTON

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ORGAN OF WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE  
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

EDITOR: E. Grant

BUSINESS MANAGER: M. Lee

61, Northdown Street, London, N. 1.

**EDITORIAL****KARL MARX**

March 14th was the 60th anniversary of the death of Karl Marx. Workers throughout the whole world will commemorate this anniversary. In Germany, birthplace of Marx, under the hell of the Nazi terror, the Socialist workers will remember his life and teaching. In all countries of Europe and Asia his memory will be commemorated.

The immortal achievement of Marx was that he placed Socialism on a scientific basis. He demonstrated that the underlying law of society is the class struggle and the identity of interest of the workers of all lands.

Sixty years after the death of Marx, the capitalist class calculates to exorcise the Communist "spectre haunting Europe" with the aid of the self-styled "Marxists," the Labour and Stalinist leaders. That is the irony of history. Without the support of the degenerate Second and Third Internationals, capitalism would be in a hopeless position. The "Marxism" of these gentry is of such a character that the imperialists rely on them for the continuation of the system which Marx sought to destroy. Were their so-called "Marxism" to triumph among the masses, the outlook would be black indeed. They emasculate, distort and disembowel the revolutionary content of Marx's teaching.

Nowhere in their anniversary articles does it appear that Marxism is a revolutionary call to arms and a theoretical guide for the solution of the vital problems of to-day.

Well do the capitalists realise who to-day stands on the principles of Marxism. On behalf of the mightiest imperialism of to-day, Vice-President Wallace proclaims: "... The Marxian philosophy says that class warfare is inevitable until such time as the proletariat comes out on top, everywhere in the world, and can start building a society without classes." "The future well-being of the world depends upon the extent to which Marxism, as it is being progressively modified in Russia. . . ." "War would be inevitable if Russia should again embrace the Trotskyist idea of fomenting world-wide revolution. . . ."

This hits right to the essence of the problem...Stalinism, and before it, revisionist Social Democracy have abandoned Marxian internationalism.

It is our task to restore the teachings of Marxism to their genuine content. How Marx would have scorned these unscrupulous and treacherous distorters of his teachings. For as Engels proclaimed in his speech over the grave of Marx:

"Marx was before all else a revolutionary. His real mission in life was to contribute in one way or another to the overthrow of capitalist society and of the forms of government which it brought into being, to contribute to the liberation of the present day proletariat, which he was the first to make conscious of its own position and its needs, of the conditions under which it could

# COMING BATTLE FOR THE AIR

BY  
ANDREW SCOTT

The Atlantic Charter can now be pronounced Atlantic Chatter. The nebulous and starry-eyed promises that emerged from Churchill's ocean meeting with Roosevelt belong to the childhood of the war. They were made when America had about 250 tanks, and less than half a million soldiers. But now that America, in the military sense, is growing up, its voice is changing. With an army of ten million men already in sight, and all the tanks and planes to equip it being poured out in a steady flow; American imperialism is beginning to speak in tones very different from those of August 1941. Increasingly, the American capitalists express themselves not in terms of "world brotherhood" but in those of world domination.

Nowhere is this seen more clearly than in relation to the question of the "freedom of the air" after the war. For the American imperialists do not regard the tremendous new developments in flying as a means of bringing the peoples of the world closer together. On the contrary, they see in air power both a means of defeating their rivals in world trade, and a weapon in maintaining the military conquest of the vast areas they will be forced to keep under their domination.

And this same question of air power serves to reveal the fundamental antagonism between American and British imperialism, an antagonism that cannot be concealed by pacts and promises.

First to voice the real thoughts of American imperialism was Clare Luce, wife of the editor of the American magazine "Time". In a speech to the House of Representatives she ridiculed global thinking, meaning internationalism, as "globaloney". She then proceeded to indicate that it would be disastrous for America to agree to a policy of "freedom of the air" similar to that of the "freedom of the seas". This, she said would give too much away to countries which will be America's post-war competitors. She argued as one American paper reported it, "that we ought not to risk competition from the British, but rather get everything we can grab during the war and then hang on to it fiercely."

One section of the American press tried to cover this up by referring to it as "Luce talk". But a recent article in the "Wall Street Journal", New York's leading financial newspaper, points out that the remarks made by Clare Luce "are nothing to compare with the talk which circulates among other members of the projected House Aviation Committee." The article is by the paper's Washington

Correspondent, who continues:

"Some go so far as to propose that Canada be annexed, not by force but by wooing. Thus the United States might control the Polar ice cap over which the future air liners will fly. Australia, too, would be lured into the American sphere of aviation influence.

"One leading plan is to convert Lend-Lease into a gigantic lever to make bargains in America's favour. She would be the only nation in the world permitted to manufacture civil and military aircraft."

Another American paper, the "Des Moines Register" states: "It is true that our air interests are getting entrenched in Africa and Southern Asia and South America in such a way that we could cause a lot of trouble later on."

These are not the opinions of isolated individuals, but of the representatives of a class. And the American Correspondent of the "News Chronicle" has pointed out that Clare Luce's speech "produced an obviously approving reaction among a large proportion of her fellow congressmen." They are an indication that the outbreak of peace will be no less terrible than the outbreak of war if the capitalists are in power. For the battle for post-war air supremacy is only a part of the battle for post-war economic, political and military supremacy. And the two principal opponents in that battle will be Britain and America.

## AMERICA BUILDING TRANSPORT PLANES

On the British side there is an increasing awareness among the capitalists that they are in a weak position for the coming battle of the air. But the preparations to meet America's challenge have been feeble in the extreme. The "News Chronicle", reporting a House of Lords debate on the subject, says: "It was recognised that there must be international co-operation after the war in the working of air lines, but how, it was asked, could we co-operate if we had no machines?" What this really means is—how can we compete if we have no machines. American factories are turning out great numbers of transport planes, while Britain is producing none. To prepare for the struggle a technical committee has been set up under Lord Brabazon to enquire into the types of plane that will be needed. But already Britain has lost that particular struggle. America is building gigantic factories to turn out transport planes. The latest factory has a main building half a mile long and quarter

of a mile wide. It will employ about 40,000 workers. And meantime it is pointed out by the "News Chronicle" that "while the United States and Russia are producing a large number of transport planes suitable for post-war passenger or goods services, we are not producing any."

The matter does not stop there. For besides planes there is also the need for landing grounds. And in this respect America is losing no time in securing strategic positions for aerodromes throughout the world. Many of these are in the British empire. The latest, for instance, is on the New Zealand island of Upolu, in the Samoa area. This is in an ideal position to cover the South Pacific and also to act as an air link between America and Australia. A vast aerodrome has been built on this island by America.

Colonel Knox has indicated that after the war America will not only retain these bases but will make sure of others. In a recent speech he said that discussions should start as soon as possible regarding the acquisition of post-war bases for the United States. He added:

"We are not out to grab any territory and only want such bases for our protection. We are willing for someone else to administer these territories for they are usually a headache anyway. But we want bases where we are in absolute control in a military sense."

## AIR ROUTES TO REPLACE SEA ROUTES

International co-operation, or international brigandage and oppression? The bending of man's conquest of the air to the purposes of civilisation and the raising of standards of living throughout the world? Or the use of that conquest of the air for the purposes of the world domination of a handful of imperialists and their lieutenants? These questions are posed directly by the unmistakable way in which imperialism is showing what it means to make of the mass-produced aeroplane.

On the road indicated by the threats of the American imperialists and by the panic of their British counterparts there lies one thing and one only—a third World War! In the past the key points of imperialism for the safeguarding of trade routes and colonies were determined by the courses their ships took. But the Singapores, Gibralters and Suez Canals of the future will be determined (are being determined) also by air routes. The battle for these key points is a reflection of the battle for markets, spheres of influence and raw materials that has been going on while Britain and America have been nominally allies. America has been in a position of great advantage owing to the peculiarities of Britain's position in the war. But the end of the war with Germany will be the signal for British capitalism to plunge

# NAZIS INCREASING TERROR IN GERMANY

BY MICHAEL CORT

Fascist terror against the German workers has sharply increased during the past few months. Not only do underground sources tell of a new programme of repression, but official Nazi publications have been doubling and tripling public lists of imprisonments and executions.

Since the Nazis usually publish news of their working class victims only as a warning and deterrent to the masses, the publicity now being given this bloody work indicates increased anti-fascist activity among the German people.

Paul Hagen, writing in the Nov. 21 issue of the American Nation, and B. F. Heine, writing in the Left News, both list recent victims of the fascist terror with name, address and the "crime" charged. From underground and official sources Hagen reports 1,103 workers killed or imprisoned during the single month of Sept., 1942.

## FIVE CATEGORIES

Heine, an executive member of the German Social-Democratic Party, analyses the official German lists, finds that the crimes now being punished are divided into five chief categories, namely: association with prisoners of war, offering resistance, radio criminals, treason and high treason.

Heine reports that "radio criminals" seem to be receiving the most attention in the German press right now. German figures released the first of the year list 82 persons sentenced to a total of 3,713 months of penal servitude for this "crime". The terms imposed in individual cases vary from 12 to 108 months.

"Treason" and "high treason" are also much publicised crimes. The German law makes a distinction between "high treason" and "treason against one's country." The spy is a traitor to his country, while a revolutionist is guilty of "high treason". To Hitler the espionage agents of Britain or America are not as reprehensible criminals as the leaders of the German working class.

"Shot for offering resistance" is a category that covers much of the work of bloody Himmler. Workers guilty of no crime but previous union activity are often murder victims under this heading. The Left News lists 45 men and women killed, none of whom had been tried or sentenced to death, but

"Marx was before all else a revolutionary. His real mission in life was to contribute in one way or another to the overthrow of capitalist society and of the forms of government which it brought into being, to contribute to the liberation of the present day proletariat, which he was the first to make conscious of its own position and its needs, of the conditions under which it could win its freedom.

"Fighting was his element. . . . And consequently Marx was the best hated, and most calumniated man of his time. . . ."

To-day it is Trotsky and Trotskyism which has the honour of being the most hated and calumniated doctrine in history. That is because it is the doctrine of Marxism. The Fourth International continues the struggle for the Socialist revolution on the bedrock foundation of Marxism. That is why we are confident of victory. To-day, the words of the Communist Manifesto, that all the old forces of society have united to exorcise Communism (Marxism), are as true as when they were written.

With his teachings, deepened and developed by Lenin and Trotsky, the Fourth International will successfully organise the toilers of all lands for the overthrow of world capitalism.

At a time when all other parties have abandoned Marx, and appeal to the worst instincts and chauvinism of the masses, the Fourth International raises the banner of Marxian internationalism. "Workers of all lands unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains, you have a world to win."

## FORWARD MARCH

The political situation alters from day to day as tremendous events pile one on top of the other. In such a situation the workers eagerly scan the press for news and a lead, but the millionaire press cynically covers up the real situation or presents only the views of reaction. At the same time the major portion of the workers' press, particularly that of the Labour and so-called Communist Party, consistently mislead the workers and give a false orientation to every new situation.

Only the "Socialist Appeal" and other publications of Workers' International League have consistently shown the light of Marxist analysis and criticism of all events in the national and international arena from the view-point of the interests of the working class.

But it is impossible to keep pace with events with a monthly publication. We have therefore decided to produce a supplement to the "Socialist Appeal" each month so that we can supply our readers and collaborators with news and analyses of events at more frequent intervals.

In view of the paper regulations, however, we are forced to cut down slightly on the size of the "Socialist Appeal" and almost halve the number of copies which we are printing at the present time. This means that each copy of the "Appeal" will have to be read by twice as many people as are already reading it at present. We are forced to cut our bundle orders to all branches and districts. We appeal therefore, to all our friends, to keep track of their copy of "Socialist Appeal" and see that in each area, more people read it than ever before. . . . Don't trust your friend to hand it on. Get your copy back and do it yourself.

This new step will be appreciated by the hundreds of readers who have demanded a more frequent appearance of the "Socialist Appeal" (even at the expense of reducing the circulation) almost as much as it will be dreaded by the enemies of the working class who seek to suppress our voice.

But we cannot continue to publish more frequently unless we receive more cash. The cost of production will be greatly increased and although the sales, which are carried out on a voluntary basis by our comrades and friends, almost cover the cost of production on the present basis, we need at least £60 a month more than we are receiving at present. We appeal therefore to all our friends to create a fighting fund. Collect money from the readers of the "Appeal." See to it that we get the extra cash. We are confident of your loyal and enthusiastic collaboration.

technical committee has been set up under Lord Brabazon to enquire into the types of plane that will be needed. But already Britain has lost that particular struggle. America is building gigantic factories to turn out transport planes. The latest factory has a main building half a mile long and quarter

# FASCISTS DESECRATE LENIN —STALINISTS EMASCULATE HIS IDEAS

"What is now happening to Marx's doctrine has, in the course of history, often happened to the doctrines of other revolutionary thinkers and leaders of oppressed classes struggling for emancipation. During the lifetime of great revolutionaries, the oppressing classes have visited relentless persecution on them and received their teaching with the most savage hostility, the most furious hatred, the most ruthless campaign of lies and slanders. After their death, attempts are made to turn them into harmless icons, canonise them, and surround their NAMES with a certain halo for the "consolation" of the oppressed classes and with the object of duping them, while at the same time emasculating and vulgarising the REAL ESSENCE of their revolutionary theories and blunting their revolutionary edge. At the present time, the bourgeoisie and the opportunists within the labour movement are co-operating in this work of adulterating Marxism. They omit, obliterate, and distort the revolutionary side of its teaching, its revolutionary soul. They push to the foreground and extol what is, or seems, acceptable to the bourgeoisie."

— LENIN —

From two sides the name of Lenin is being fouled and besmeared. On the one hand the fascist rats have emerged from their holes and given vent to their hatred of the leader of the Russian Revolution by defacing the memorial bust erected close to his old London home. On the other hand, the Stalinists and their political friends, while voicing great indignation at this vandalism, are waging a far more subtle, more dangerous and more revolting attack against Lenin.

More subtle, because conducted not by avowed enemies but by professed friends; more dangerous, because directed against Lenin's ideas and politics and not against a mere plaster bust; more revolting, because its aim is to attempt to transform one of the greatest of the leaders of the world proletarian revolution into a prop for tottering British capitalism and a pillar of "national unity."

The fascists have recognised in Lenin the very personification of all that they hate. And they have crept out in the darkness of night to cover with their filth the statue, not of a defender of



BUST OF LENIN  
DESECRATED BY LONDON  
FASCISTS.

the British Empire, not of a preacher of "national unity", not of a Russian nationalist—but of an unswerving and iron-willed leader of the international revolutionary proletariat.

The Stalinists have done precisely the opposite. They have taken the implacable revolutionary and attempted to transform him into a weapon against the class struggle, an ally of Churchill, an agent of counter-revolution.

The very setting up of the "memorial" was part of a campaign against the independence of British Labour. And the disgusting ceremony at which it was unveiled was a deliberate blow against all that Lenin stood for. The unveiling was performed by the ex-White Guard, Maisky, who took up arms on the side of Koltchak against the Soviet Government and against all that Lenin was fighting for. Around him were gathered representatives of the Government and of the City.

Continued at foot of next Column.

fluence and raw materials that has been going on while Britain and America have been nominally allies. America has been in a position of great advantage owing to the peculiarities of Britain's position in the war. But the end of the war with Germany will be the signal for British capitalism to plunge into frantic efforts to make up for the unavoidable lag during the last three years.

The tendencies that are revealing themselves more clearly every day among the capitalists are a warning to the workers not only of Britain and America, but of the whole world. Internationalism cannot express itself through the classes at present in power. All they can offer is an unending series of wars. Under their control the great achievements in flying technique cannot become a means of communication between peoples but only a weapon aimed against the masses.

It is only when the workers themselves take aviation, as well as all the other business of life, into their own hands that any reality can be given to the universal demand for a world of sanity, decency and friendly collaboration of nations.

Continued from previous Column.

The Stalinists have created the fictitious Lenin. The bourgeoisie have eagerly welcomed this fiction. Have welcomed the erection of a memorial to it. Are even preparing to help in the erection of a second memorial to replace the one damaged by the fascists. They thus signify their gratitude to Stalinism for having made Lenin "harmless".

The British workers will find their own way of paying tribute to Lenin—the real Lenin. The Lenin who led the Russian Revolution, and who saw it as part of the World Revolution; who saw the defence of the Russian Revolution resting in the hands, not of the Churchills and Roosevelts, but in the hands, as Lenin himself put it, of "our only true allies, the toilers and the oppressed of all countries." And the British workers will pay their tribute, not by erecting statues nor by engaging in deification but by basing themselves in action upon those same ideas with which Lenin led the Russian masses to success.

READ:

LABOUR'S  
OPPORTUNITIES IN  
SOUTHERN IRELAND

BY TOM BURNS  
IN THE  
CURRENT ISSUE OF  
WORKERS'  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS  
Theoretical Organ of  
W. I. L.

"Shot for offering resistance" is a category that covers much of the work of bloody Himmler. Workers guilty of no crime but previous union activity are often murder victims under this heading. The Left News lists 45 men and women killed, none of whom had been tried or sentenced to death, but all of whom were shot in prison because they "offered resistance".

## ASSOCIATION WITH PRISONERS OF WAR

"Association with prisoners of war" is a crime that is becoming more and more regularly committed, according to the German press. Germans must not treat as their equals Polish prisoners of war on forced labour in Germany. It is illegal for a German to show French prisoners the most elementary kindness. The government, press and the Nazi party have launched a crusade against "softness with enemy prisoners." The most severe penalties are imposed upon those who do not observe the rules.

There is now an endless chain of trials and convictions for such crimes as: the gift of cigarettes, or bread, or clothing, or even a kind word to foreign prisoners.

In all crime categories, the lists published for the month of September were the longest published by the Nazis for any single month since seizing power. An analysis of the lists reveals, further, that the greatest increase is precisely in those industrial areas which have received the most bombardments from the British air force.

All this indicates that the resistance of the workers increases in direct ratio to the military reverses suffered by the Nazis.

This is not the first time that the Nazis have resorted to mass murder at home. There has always been a quiet liquidation of militant workers, but now Hitler is forced to deal with his own population in the manner and on a scale approaching that used in the occupied countries.

## GERMAN MASSES LOOKING FOR WAY OUT

All underground sources warn against the assumption that the German workers are on the verge of revolt. The increase in the "radio criminals" indicates, however, the restlessness of the German workers and their search for outside aid and leadership in their struggle against Hitler. Such aid is indeed hard for them to find, even if they had the most powerful short-wave radios. Moscow tells them to look to the "United Nations" for help. And the current news from the "United Nations" is that all the leading Fascists of North Africa are collaborating with the "United Nations" forces in North Africa.

A German worker might now well hesitate in expressing his opposition to the Nazis—even if the "United Nations" were on the German borders—because some General Eisenhower might come to an understanding with their fascist oppressors.

That the German workers still dare to raise their voices in opposition to Hitler, in spite of the lack of outside aid and leadership, testifies both to the desperateness of conditions within Germany and to the vitality of the workers.

## "Democracy" in the West Indies

BY TOM KENNEDY

For some time now the West Indies have been the scene of appalling economic conditions and an increasing political discontent. The main effect of the war has been to reduce the export trade of the islands to a fraction of what it was, and with this has gone a rising tide of unemployment and a slashing of wages. The response of the native workers to this has not been confined to putting forward economic demands. On the contrary, the political demand for independence has been growing in volume very rapidly.

Herbert Morrison voiced the opinion in a recent speech that the time has not yet come in the dependent territories for full self-government, which in those cases would be like "giving a child of ten a latchkey, a bank account, and a shotgun." Just in order to get an idea how far the West Indies are from having these desirable accessories, the following facts may be considered.

In the Bahamas, only one sixth of a population of 68,903 (1939 estimate) has the right to vote. In addition to this, any reform has to have the consent of the House of Assembly before any action can be taken. But in order to qualify for membership of the House of Assembly an individual must have property to the value of £200. And since the overwhelming mass of the native population are absolutely penniless and own nothing but their power to labour, they have no representation in the House of Assembly.

In Barbados the position is even more drastic. Out of a population of 190,939, there are only 6,424 voters: 3 per cent minority. The same property qualification holds good here as in the Bahamas. The result is that the voice of the great mass of the native workers and peasants is not even heard on the Governing body. What is more, exaggerated as it may sound, there is only one doctor to each 12,000 inhabitants! In the circumstances it is very easy to perceive the type of class rule in force, particularly when it is remembered that the franchise is exercised by all white men, without any property qualification.

In the case of Jamaica, to the poverty, disease, squalor and illiteracy of pre-war days there has been added a severe shortage of food, owing to the lack of shipping. At a Press Conference last December, Sir Frank Stockdale, Comptroller-General of Development and Welfare in the West Indies, admitted a protein deficiency in the people's diet; but, as a report in the "Economist" puts it, he "actually gave the impression that there was no food shortage." A headline in a Trinidad newspaper, however, as far back as last August gives a clearer picture of the real state of affairs: "Shall We Starve In Silence?"

The native workers have decided not to do so. But their increasing activity

# WHY WE BROKE WITH LEFT WING ZIONISTS

## Statement by Four who Left to Join the Socialist Workers' Party of America

We print below a declaration of four ex-members of Hashomer Hartzair, U.S.A., which was published in the "Militant," organ of our brother Party, the Socialist Workers' Party of America. To-day at a time when the British and American capitalists are shedding crocodile tears at the horrors inflicted on the Jews and other peoples of all Europe, it is necessary for all workers, especially Jewish workers, to understand the solution to the problem of anti-Semitism. In Britain some members of Hashomer Hartzair have opened up discussions with us. This discussion will be published in Workers' International News. We hope that the best elements of Hashomer Hartzair will take the road of these American comrades — for it is only on this road that the solution to the "Jewish problem" is to be found.

It is in the name of the oppressed Jewish masses that we, a group formerly in the left wing Zionist movement—have decided to join the Socialist Workers Party. It is in the name of a real solution to Jewry's problems that we now raise our voice to our former comrades.

### WHY WE LEFT HASHOMER HATZAIR

The most left wing of all Zionist groups, Hashomer Hatzair, torn between its lip-service to socialism and its very real attachment to bourgeois Zionism, has succumbed to the general trend toward complete subordination of Zionist goals to the war effort. From the progressive concept of opposition to imperialist war, the movement turned to the "realistic" concept of the loyal opposition, until today Hashomer Hatzair is "loyal" only: loyal to the war effort, loyal to bourgeois Zionism. Every day has accentuated the trend to the right: the opportunistic approach of activity for activity's sake became more important than theoretical study; unity with bourgeois Zionists was maintained the world over; co-operation with socialist forces in America was rejected and American working class problems were disregarded; Palestine was stressed the more, the less possible it became to either go there or work for it.

Instead of producing more politically mature persons, the "splendid" contribution of Hashomer Hatzair to a solution of the Jewish problem was to train ten more people to become farmers; to collect for Jewish funds with the "V-for-Victory" slogan; and to "criticise" the imperialists, instead

of long series of debates and discussions on such questions as Jews under Socialism, the importance of Palestine, nationalism v. internationalism, culminating in a complete re-evaluation of our previous position, a new approach was slowly evolved. Instead of creating the basis for an independent Zionist-Socialist organisation; this rough draft of a programme proved to us that there was no need for an independent Jewish group; that instead of co-operating with the Fourth International, we logically would have to enter it.

Our analysis led us to reject Zionism and to recognise world socialism as the only real solution to the Jewish problem. Basing ourselves on this analysis, our main task clearly became one of creating not farmers, but revolutionaries.

### THE ONLY ROAD FOR JEWRY

Let our former comrades and sympathisers not think that we have become assimilationists, "forgetting" the Jewish problem. On the contrary, we maintain that only inside the revolutionary movement can one fight for the solution of the Jewish problem. We remain as always the warmest proponents of national self-determination for Jewry. What has changed is our concept of the methods of achieving it.

A detailed analysis of our position has been drawn up; this programme for Jewry will appear shortly. Preparations are being made by the Socialist Workers Party for the establishment of a Committee on Jewish work in the near future which will deal with specific Jewish problems such as anti-Semitism and discrimination co-ordinating

an imperialist colony; co-operate with reactionaries; protest to the wrong people, take steps—in the wrong direction.

With millions of Jews maimed and killed, hundreds of thousands in immediate need of emigration with no place to go—you Zionists must re-evaluate your "realistic" and "constructivist" approach and ask yourselves: What have you contributed to the solution of this problem? With reports of the relentless extermination of European Jewry reaching this country on the very date of the 25th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration "promising" Palestine to the Jews—you must ask yourself: Of what avail are our settlements—the productive labour of 25 years—when a powerful aggressor from without can destroy all this in one week; when your "protector" stops all immigration; prohibits the purchase of land and refuses you arms to defend yourselves?

### THE ONLY ALLY OF JEWRY

The period of reformist patchwork, mass migrations, "peaceful" construction, resettlement has come to an end. The alternative is one between socialism and barbarism the world over. The Jewish problem, more than ever, is part of the world problem. As such it will be solved with the world problem by socialism.

Oppressed national and racial minorities, as well as the colonial peoples, find their only true allies in the rising class that of necessity must help emancipate them in order to emancipate itself—the industrial proletariat. Those among the left wing Zionists who not only earnestly strive for a

# BEVERIDGE And Big Business

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that the scheme could be operated without touching a penny of the wealth of the ruling class.

Contributions would be more than double those now paid by workers to state insurance schemes. The miserable increase from 17/- pre-war for an unemployed worker, to 24/-, and the other benefits based upon this increase will be completely undermined by the rise in prices during and after the war. In the Conservative "Times" for March 3rd, an article dealing with economy after the war assumed that an increase of 40 per cent in prices can be accepted as the minimum.

It is not for nothing that the present Minister for Agriculture and former Minister for Overseas Trade, Mr. Hudson, who is also one of the representatives of Lever Bros. and the big combines in the Government announced:

**The standard of living of the British people after the war will have to be lower than for the past 100 years.**

### BOSSSES' MEMORANDUM

The pro-Government "Daily Worker" on March 2nd, published extracts from a document which shows the aims and intentions of the rulers after the war. In an article by J. R. Campbell it is stated that this secret memorandum was presented to the Government less than a week before the debate. The Memorandum represented, in its own words, the views of "the Employers' national organisation for dealing with general labour questions and whose membership includes the central employers' Federations in 52 industries, employing some 70 per cent of the whole of the industrial population of the country."

The arguments of the employers are as follows:

**"Under the Beveridge Plan an unemployed man with a wife and one child would receive 48/-. During his unemployment he would be relieved of his 4/3 contribution and of travelling and other expenses which he would normally incur when at work. It would therefore mean that the minimum wage at which such a man could be expected to accept a job would have to be something a little higher than £3 a week if he was to derive any advantage from working."**

The average earnings of the British workers at present are about £4 per week, after taking into account deductions for taxation, overtime, etc. Yet the employers and the Government refuse to allow a scheme through which guarantees only £3 per week after the war!

It was this argument of Big Business

However, the question arises: Why is it, if the Beveridge Plan will accomplish nothing for the workers, do the extreme reactionaries and Big Business oppose the Plan? It is because, as Big Business reveals in their document, they will not be content merely with lowering the standard of living, but they will be forced to and intend to drive the masses to the lowest possible standards—even if necessary, to a coolie level, in order to compete with their rivals in the markets of the world.

Meanwhile the Labour and Trade Union leaders are behaving in the most shameless way. The Ministers are voting with the Government against even the illusory concessions of the Beveridge Report, while members of Parliament are voting against it. The T.U.C. General Council which approved the Beveridge Report, has also approved the action of the Labour Ministers in voting for the Government on the issue! And to cap it all the Labour M.P.s have agreed that no action should be taken against Labour Ministers and that they should remain in the Government!

This is confusion and double-dealing of the worst kind. First the representation of the Beveridge Scheme as a new message of hope for the working class and then only meaningless gestures of opposition when the capitalists scrap it as utopian and useless.

Beveridge himself has shown the quandary of the ruling class. They know that the masses will not tolerate the horrors of mass unemployment, of want and hunger, which the continuance of capitalism means. But if capitalism is to survive in the post-war world, they have no other alternative except through such misery for the mass of the population. The sober and authoritative voice of Big Business shows that, Beveridge himself openly proclaims his impotence. In his address to the Fabian Club he declared:

**"I have not come here with a ready-made solution of this problem. I don't know the solution. It is only by discussion that we can find an agreed solution."**

### BEVERIDGE APPLAUDS "PATRIOTIC SPIRIT" OF BIG BUSINESS

The real attitude of Beveridge towards the problem of "Social Security" is indicated by the great enthusiasm he evinced when the plans of the "120 industrialists" to re-organise industry along fascist economic lines was proposed last year. Here is what he stated on that occasion:

**"All reasonable men must welcome the pamphlet 'A National Policy for Industry' signed by 120 business leaders, with its proof of intensely serious and patriotic spirit in which**

the impression that there was no food shortage." A headline in a Trinidad newspaper, however, as far back as last August gives a clearer picture of the real state of affairs: "Shall We Starve In Silence?"

The native workers have decided not to do so. But their increasing activity in organising in unions has been met with a show of brute force on the part of the Governor. He refused to accept the legality of the Railway Employee's Union, and later instituted court proceedings against it, declaring it illegal under the Defence Regulations. Four militants who were either members of this union or of the People's National Party were arrested. Owing to pressure on the part of the masses, the Order making the union illegal was rescinded at the end of the year, but the four men are still detained in prison.

Last year the growing state of revolt showed itself in raids on shops to obtain rice, the staple food of the masses, which was being held up for privileged customers. In the Bahamas there occurred what one local paper described as "the biggest and most disastrous riot in the history of the colony." The Commission of Enquiry which was later set up revealed that the outbreaks were due to the low wage of 4/- a day being paid for work on an American undertaking at Nassau.

The workers considered that this was mere relief payment, and that advantage was being taken of the prevailing unemployment. They claimed that wages had been pegged below pre-war levels at a time when the cost of living had risen 35 per cent, making such a pittance fantastic.

This treatment may be contrasted with that given to the Jamaican banana growers, who have received financial assistance from the Colonial Office to enable them to switch over to the production of other crops. **And the prices for these crops are being guaranteed.**

The grievances of the masses of the West Indies are more and more being directed against the reactionary constitution that is used to shackle them, and towards a struggle for independence. An American correspondent asked the Governor whether Jamaica could be compared with India.

**"He flicked off his cigar ash and snapped back: 'There is no comparison. The conditions are so different. It has yet to be proved that the people even want self-government. Only a small minority group, which is extremely vocal, expresses such views. The great majority of the Jamaicans do not want self-government and do not think themselves capable of coping with all the problems of today, including finance, overseas markets and land reforms, just to mention a few of them'."**

The Governor, it would seem, agrees with Herbert Morrison about the inadvisability of giving freedom to the colonies. But the masses of Jamaica are showing in action that they are not going to wait to be given their latch-key, their bank account and their shotgun. The very conditions of their slavery are forcing them to reach out themselves and take these things. It is for the British workers to give them every encouragement and assistance in their struggle for liberation by themselves struggle against the common enemy—British imperialism.

cally mature persons, the "splendid" contribution of Hashomer Hatzair to a solution of the Jewish problem was to train ten more people to become farmers; to collect for Jewish funds with the "V-for-Victory" slogan; and to "criticise" the imperialists, instead of completely separating from them.

We fought this tendency but could not prevent it from dominating Hashomer Hatzair.

A new organisation was required, to provide us with a rallying point. We founded the Workers' Zionist League.

#### THE HISTORY OF AN ILLUSION

Consisting of people that had either been expelled or had voluntarily left Hashomer Hatzair, the W.Z.L. was a movement that was to co-operate fully with the socialist movement without abandoning its Zionist concepts. A

has been drawn up; this programme for Jewry will appear shortly. Preparations are being made by the Socialist Workers Party for the establishment of a Committee on Jewish work in the near future which will deal with specific Jewish problems such as anti-Semitism and discrimination, co-ordinate the party's recruitment activity in this field, and will put out literature pertaining to the subject.

#### AN END TO ZIONISM

In the midst of this most terrible of all wars, the Zionists meekly ask for a place at the coming "peace" conference; a "new" Balfour declaration; immigration to Palestine; collect funds for the purchase of land which cannot be purchased as long as England rules Palestine; call for the defence of "our" homes, thereby de-

Oppressed national and racial minorities, as well as the colonial peoples, find their only true allies in the rising class that of necessity must help emancipate them in order to emancipate itself—the industrial proletariat. Those among the left wing Zionists who not only earnestly strive for a solution to the Jewish problem but can also analyse the tremendous class forces clashing on an international scale must and will come over to our side. The forces of the revolutionary vanguard of the world proletariat must be strengthened. The international party must become the human race. Therein lies Jewry's only hope for survival—with the Fourth International.

(Signed) Dan Shelton  
Ben Walker  
Debby Black  
Ernest Hellerman

# CAPITALISTS FEAR RED ARMY ADVANCES

Continued from Page 1.

Stalin has asked them to open a Second Front in Europe. He has pointed out that this would draw away twenty German Divisions from the Eastern Front and assure a quick victory for the United Nations. But after seeing how the Red Army has advanced without the help of a Second Front, the allied imperialists must shiver in their shoes at the thought of the sort of Soviet advances that would be possible if these twenty German Divisions were drawn away.

Are they going to open a Second Front in order that the Red Army shall advance into Europe? They know that in that event not even Stalin could prevent Europe going Communist.

Why is America building up a vast army of eleven millions? In order to assure a Communist Europe? On the contrary! To fight to prevent a Communist Europe coming into being! The American Correspondent of the "Economist" has put it clearly: **"The professional anti-Soviets (in U.S.A.) are sympathetic to the idea of an immense American army to guarantee American influence at the settlement and to combat a 'communised Europe and Asia'. Many others are concerned over a new Russian 'imperialism' and the fate of the Soviets' small neighbours."**

Here is the real purpose of America's vast army, and of Britain's too: Not to help the Revolution in Europe, but to smash it. To ask them to go into Europe to help the Red Army is nothing less than political imbecility. They will not land on Europe until they feel strong enough to deal with the Revolution—and with the Red Army, if necessary. The "Observer" gives an indication of the capitalist's true attitude to an invasion of the Continent: **"As we touch land (in Europe) we shall find the greatest accumulation of political dynamite since the days of the French Revolution. We must know how to handle it."**

And they have made up their minds how to handle it. Their immense army will, if the capitalists deem it necessary be hurled against not only the European Revolution but also against the Soviet Union. In the world as it is going to be at the end of the war, even a Stalinised Soviet Union will represent a menace to capitalism—besides, of course, being a tempting prize in the way of imperialist booty. Vice-President Wallace indicated the pleasure of American imperialism at the way in which Marxism is **"being progressively modified in Russia."** But this tribute to Stalinism was accompanied by the threat that unless the **"de-Bolshevising"** process went a good deal further, America and Russia would find themselves at war with each other before many years had passed. In other words, American imperialism cannot live in the same world as a Soviet Russia.

Churchill and Roosevelt will no doubt take some sort of action within the nine months promised at Casablanca, not to help Russia, however, but for

their own purposes. But before they engage in even the most limited military action they want further assurances from Stalin that he will not make use of such action for the purpose of "Bolshevising" further areas. It is with a view to getting such assurances that Sumner Welles has suddenly proposed that the "United Nations" should have a conference soon to discuss the coming peace; and it is for the same reason that strong rumours are circulating that Stalin is to meet Roosevelt in the near future.

The Anglo-American imperialists had hoped that Hitler would perform for them the task of finally ridding the world of the workers' state. But that task has proved beyond the powers of even the most highly militarised of capitalist powers.

The myth of the "alliance" is being smashed. The power of the Red Army and the first Workers' State are smashing it. The capitalists are faced not merely with the spectre of Communism, but with solid flesh and bone of a workers' state, even if some of the weapons have been struck from its hands by Stalinism.

There is only one path possible for the British workers if the alliance is to be made real, if the advances of the Red Army are to be welcomed, not feared, if military assistance is to be given without delay and without stint, if the European Revolution is to be welcomed as an ally against Hitler, and not Hitler as an ally against the European Revolution. And that is the path of independence and power. Vice-President Wallace's greatest enemy is Trotskyism. And by the same token the greatest ally of the Russian masses is Trotskyism. To the capitalists of Britain and America Bolshevism is a bogey. To the workers it is the only way to a real alliance with the Soviet Union and to a decent future. Trotskyism stands at the head of the struggle for such an alliance and such a future.

workers at present are about 24 per week, after taking into account deductions for taxation, overtime, etc. Yet the employers and the Government refuse to allow a scheme through which guarantees only £3 per week after the war!

It was this argument of Big Business, that the Beveridge Scheme could not be operated since it undermined their plans for cutting the wages of the British workers to under the £3 minimum which was the most decisive factor in determining the attitude of the Government. Added to this the insurance companies stepped into the arena to conduct their own special agitation against the Scheme. It is stated that they offered £3 million for the "News Chronicle" through which they hoped to conduct an agitation against the adoption of the Beveridge Plan. There is no doubt that their actions "assisted" the Government to abandon that section of the plan which interfered with their special rights to exploit and fleece the workers through private insurance.

Both the open and secret attacks of Big Business amount to a base conspiracy against the working class.

In all this we have an object lesson in the workings of capitalist democracy. It is the combines, insurance companies and banks which pull the strings which determine the actions and words of the capitalist government and its spokesmen.

But instead of exposing the real relations between the ruling class and their Government, J. R. Campbell, a cynical "communist" party hack, concluded his article:

**"Maybe the Confederation is only trying to scare the Government . . . As if the Government were anything else but the obedient tool of the monopolies and combines!"**

The "Daily Worker" innocently comments in their leader column:

**"This is not some obscure group of reactionaries but the leading body of organised employers in Britain. Their views on the need for low benefits, for a harsh means test, for the relief of want through the Assistance Board, show that they hanker after a post-war Britain with every evil feature of the bad, old pre-1939 world unchanged."**

**It is idle to discuss whether the Government has taken its marching orders from these gentlemen, or whether it is moving in the same direction of its own free will."**

As if there is anything surprising in this. As though these renegades from Communism did not know better. They know quite well, as their past writings have shown, that Big Business and the capitalist Government are as master and servant. Yet with one voice they curse the Big Business and with the other they appeal to its servant to take action against its own controller and master! They give full and unconditional support of the Government (i.e. the lackey of Big Business) at bye-elections and strenuously oppose any break away of the labour movement from the position of footstool and support of the Government.

posed last year. Here is what he stated on that occasion:

**"All reasonable men must welcome the pamphlet 'A National Policy for Industry' signed by 120 business leaders, with its proof of intensely serious and patriotic spirit in which the leaders of industry are approaching the after-math of the war."**

Yet even the "Daily Worker" was compelled to describe this plan as a preparation for fascism on the part of the ruling class. So much for the progressive character of Beveridge. His scheme is conceived as a means of saving capitalism from destruction, and nothing else.

The only solution in the interests of the workers is vehemently opposed by Beveridge:

**"I do not want a Soviet system applied to this country."**

In fact his support for the declaration of the 120 Big Business was no accident. On 20th January, 1940, he told the Manchester Reform Club:

**"A Communist Germany would be an even worse peril to the world than a Nazi Germany . . ."**

**"If we left Germany as we did at the end of the last war she would not go democratic, but Communist; and so we should have to contemplate ending this war by federation with the enemy."**

In other words "we" must realise the need to "federate" with those elements in Germany who are dedicated to the fight against Communism. And who are these elements? Need we really tell Sir William Beveridge? They are the militarists and fascists. But perhaps he is looking for "democratic" allies in Germany for his crusade. But it is precisely because "democracy" in Germany found itself unable to fight Communism that Hitler and his thugs were called in by Big Business. That is, there is no middle course for Sir William. Either a Communist Germany or a fascist one. And his own words, we would again point out, indicate what his choice would be.

If the alternative were the same in Britain there is no doubt that Beveridge and his class would unhesitatingly support the forces of barbarism. For the working class there is only one way out. Work for all and a decent standard of living for all can only be obtained by taking over the mines, factories, railways, bank, and not least, the insurance companies which rule Britain; by taking over the means of production without compensation to the present owners.

The capitalists have proclaimed that they cannot even afford the miserable Beveridge Scheme. Very true. But the workers must reply that they cannot afford capitalism!

A system which cannot guarantee even the minimum standard of decency after millions have been slaughtered in its interests, cannot be allowed to exist.

**Not the Beveridge Scheme! But work and a decent living for all! must be the battle cry for the workers. Not capitalism and its inevitable sequel Fascism, but Workers' Power and Socialism!**