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TODAY

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3d.

Dr. Salter
on Royalty

(See page 2)

THE MAYOR WHO WOULDN'T MEET THE KING

EIGHTEEN years ago, in May 1935, a bombshell was dropped into the patriotic ballyhoo which was being whipped up by the National Government of Stanley Baldwin, around the "Silver Jubilee" celebrations of King George V.

Bermondsey Borough Council, overwhelmingly Labour, decided "That the Council do not spend any public money upon Jubilee celebrations".

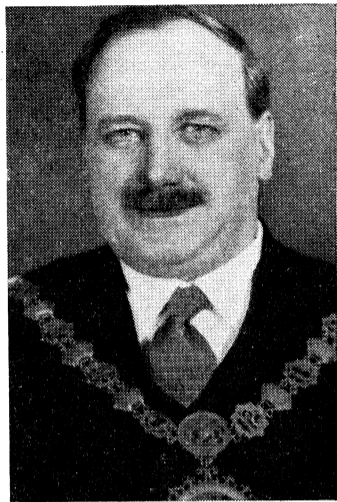
And they made it clear that this was not merely a matter of finance, but one of principle. That Royalty and Socialism don't mix.

The Mayor, **Tim Weightman**, in common with all Mayors of South London had been invited to meet George V at a special reception at Camberwell Green. With the backing of the Labour Council, he declined the invitation.

The Tories and their press were furious. Local Tories and drunken hooligans demonstrated outside the Mayor's house, chalking obscene slogans on the wall. An attempt was made to gather signatures on a "loyal address". The press denounced the Labour Mayor's action as an affront to the royal family.

But Tim Weightman stood firm. And, what is more, it was soon shown that his stand was appreciated by the serious working class movement. He was deluged with resolutions and letters of support from Trade Union branches, local Labour Parties, Labour Leagues of Youth, Co-operative Guilds, expressing their solidarity with his action.

But some of the Labour Party members also were horrified. Votes would be lost, they said. Labour would be thrown off the Council



Cllr. Tim Weightman
Mayor of Bermondsey in 1935

at the next election. Labour would lose the Parliamentary seat.

Events however, showed that if you stick to principles you don't lose votes, and you don't lose seats. For soon afterwards came the elections. The last of the Liberals was defeated and **Bermondsey Borough Council became one of the first Councils to have a 100 per cent. Labour representation.**

Tim Weightman is still a member of the Council. Not an Alderman, but an elected Councillor. Now 74 years of age, his energies are still in the fight for Socialism.

Has he changed his opinions? Not a bit. He considers he took the right course of action then, and would do the same again! It's a pity there aren't a few more Tim Weightmans on local councils today fighting all this buffoonery of the Coronation.

The Mayor and the Council

Churchill Pulls Another Trick On The Peace Issue It's Up To Labour To Expose It

CHURCHILL'S recent declaration that he is willing to meet the Russians in talks to end the cold war was an exceedingly clever piece of Tory trickery. *And that is all it was.*

Not for one moment do we believe that this man, whose Fulton speech initiated the policies which have now led to the crucifixion of Korea, has become repentant and more peaceful in his old age.

He is still warmonger number one, a hater of progressive things and progressive people. Indeed, even in his now famous House of Commons "peace" speech he couldn't resist hawling a threat of war against the Egyptian people if they dared to question Britain's "right" to be in the Canal Zone.

It wasn't a concern for peace which caused Churchill to make the speech he did—it was a concern for those interests he has always so faithfully represented, the City of London and British Big Business.

Two things worry him. The strangling embrace of his American friends and the deepening anti-

were given the fullest support by the M.P. for West Bermondsey at the time, **Dr. Alfred Salter**. He too, refused to pocket his principles. He immediately wrote a forthright article outlining his views on the monarchy and this was published in the *Bermondsey Labour Magazine*.

war mood of the British people. So, by posing as a man of peace he hopes to paralyse the Labour opposition at the same time as blackmailing the American administration into granting bigger dollar doles. And the trick has worked!

LABOUR RUSHES IN

From Mr. Attlee right down to the "Tribune" (with the "Daily

Editorial

Worker" pitifully bringing up the rear) all the opposition have been falling over themselves to declare that "Churchill speaks for Britain". His speech, said Richard Crossman in the subsequent Parliamentary Debate, "has united the House of Commons".

This is just what the old trickster wanted. To be praised as a man of peace (at his time of life and with his record!) by none other than the leader of the Labour opposition. And the effects for Labour have been immediately disastrous.

Middle class voters who were beginning to lose confidence in Churchill and the Tory Party have had that confidence restored by—**Mr. Attlee!**

Workers who normally only go out to vote when they feel that it is an urgent question to do so, have remained at home. Why, they think, should we trouble about stopping the Tories from gaining a seat in Parliament when,

according to nearly all Labour spokesmen, there are no essential differences between Labour and Tory on the all-important questions of war and peace? Where is the sense of urgency? What does it matter who is elected if all are agreed on the main things—the need to increase production without increases of pay, on the Coronation, on Civil Defence and now on . . . peace and war.

The result? Sunderland—and an entirely undeserved victory for the Tories. Another city gentleman to cast his vote for a cut in the Health Service, for the removal of the food subsidies, for unemployment and for drafting young working class lads into Malaya, Korea, Kenya and Egypt.

An uplift for reaction—a setback for Labour. That's what happens when the leaders of the Party muddle up the class lines, when they give credence to the lie that Churchill is capable of acting in our interests.

THE TRICK EXPOSED

Yet this shabby "peace" trick could—and still can—provide us with a glorious opportunity to sweep this aged knight forever from the British political scene. Labour in Parliament should have immediately put down a motion that talks be opened at once and that the following be the British position.

First, that there be no secret diplomacy. The peoples of all the world must hear what is proposed so that they can pass judgment.

Second, that the war in Korea be ended by the immediate withdrawal of British troops.

Third, that we recognise the right of every nation to decide its own form of government and that the colonial movement of liberation be fully supported by the British people who will take immediate steps to remove all British troops from overseas.

These proposals—simple enough in themselves—would be acceptable to the vast majority of ordinary people throughout the world. We are certain, however, that they will not be acceptable to Churchill. That is why the day that Labour launches a peace campaign based on such a programme will reveal Churchill in his true colours for all the world to see—as the demagogic representative of British Imperialism.

Redundancy Strikes Again!

Clothing Workers Resist

BY A LONDON TAILOR
THE National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers have officially recognised the strike of 46 workers at the London firm of M. & H. Horinsky, Mantle and Costume manufacturers.

All the workers at both factories stopped work when 17 of their number were declared redundant. After about four weeks on short-time, the employers tried to dismiss these workers.

Workers representatives and union officials tried to negotiate a settlement and when this failed the Ministry of Labour was called in but, after more negotiation, no agreement was reached.

Later the employers modified their demands but insisted on dis-

★ Star Letter ★ Poverty— 1953

By Mrs. Audrey Wise

YOUR article on "Poverty in Britain" (May 1) contained some striking figures. There must be many people who find it extremely difficult to pay the high prices required for clothing.

An illustration of this occurred last night when my L.O.Y. branch held a Jumble Sale. In torrential rain, people started queuing over an hour before the opening. While this is gratifying to the organisers of a sale, it is a sad comment on our "Welfare State" that people so desperately need to buy cast-off clothing for a few coppers.

I had thought that this belonged more to the days of three million on the dole. However, it seems that even people who are working are little or no better off than they were when on the dole. Employment is useless unless the workers get wages which enable them to be well-fed, housed and clothed.

The old people are even worse off, and many of the buyers at our sale were old-age pensioners. It was a deplorable sight to see old people (and pregnant women also) standing in the pouring rain, and then looking eagerly for the best of the "bargains".

While people who are working can scarcely manage on some of the low wages paid, those who are joining the increasing numbers on the dole will be in an even worse plight.

It is ironical that clothing workers are being made redundant while so many people make do with cast-offs.

We read in the papers every day of the thousands of yards of silk to be used for draperies in the Coronation—while elderly women are buying dresses for 6d. Instead of explaining the spiritual significance of the Coronation service to us, perhaps someone will explain the spiritual significance of jumble sales. Maybe it's good for the souls of these poor people to twist their feet into other people's worn-out shoes?

Aftermath of the Austin Strike

THE report of the Austin Court of Inquiry, now published, states: "The N.U.V.B. repeated before us the undertaking they had previously made public that they would accept the Court's findings. The Company stated to us with great emphasis that they will not now re-engage Mr. McHugh in any circumstances." (p.21)

The most amazing thing about the report is that it makes no comment on that statement and draws no conclusions from it.

On November 7 the Austin vehicle builders held a meeting of one and a half hours during working time to discuss the dismissal of McHugh. That was "entirely unconstitutional" and unjustified, declares the Court. Why? Because it was out of line with the 1922 Engineering Agreement—the Procedure for the Avoidance of Disputes which lays down a long-winded procession of conferences to be gone through before a stoppage can take place.

After listening to debates in a quiet room in Bloomsbury, the Court condemns workers for acting 'unconstitutionally'. The active trade unionist in the oil and grime of the workshop will take a different attitude.

He knows that this 1922 agree-

★ The Fruits of Arbitration ★

ment was forced on the unions after they had been beaten to their knees by an employers' lockout. He knows that many advances were only made by stepping outside of it and taking immediate action.

He knows it as a procedure which aids the employers and is wholly balanced in their favour—the grievance which goes through

By
Bill Hunter
(Engineering Worker)

its machinery remains, while the time-wasting formula of conference after conference is gone through.

In the case of McHugh, after the meeting of September 9, the N.U.V.B. took a victimisation claim through procedure. It was January 9 when the final conference was held. Four months! During that time Austins carried on as usual while McHugh remained outside the gate. On this showing, any court of rank and file trade unionists would grant that the N.U.V.B. was extremely tolerant.

When the Vehicle Builders came out on strike on February 17 they also acted unconstitutionally, says

the Court. A fine point in law this. The allegation is that they did not act in accordance with a former rule of the N.U.V.B. which stated that any strike of over 200 members could not be called until a national ballot had been taken. A new set of rules was agreed in June 1952 which gave the E.C. power to authorise strikes. They had not, however, when the Austin strike began, received the Registrar's certificate!

This may be unconstitutional according to the letter of the law, but to any trade unionist the rule-making body of the union is a far higher authority than any Registrar's certificate. In any case

Annual Meeting

EVERY supporter of "Socialist Outlook" is cordially invited to attend the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Labour Publishing Society Ltd., Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, London, Saturday, May 30, 6 p.m.

After a short business meeting, readers and friends will be able to meet and talk with one another and with the Editorial Board and regular correspondents.

Refreshments will be available. You can sing, too, if you want!

had the strike been completely 'constitutional' would Austins have acted differently?

The report declares that McHugh was not victimised. Yet nothing is clearer from the events leading up to the dispute and from the statement of the Company to the Court than their determination not to employ this trade union militant.

From the statement of the personnel manager it is clear that the Company was determined to brook no 'interference' with its decisions on hiring and firing and was utilising the McHugh issue to challenge the N.U.V.B. who were seeking to protect their organisation by securing the operation of the firm's guarantees on redundancy.

The fact that the N.U.V.B. met that challenge earned the condemnation of the Court of Inquiry. By this decision the Court condemns itself, together with the whole theory of impartial arbiters in industrial disputes.

The Vehicle Builders fought a hard fight and lost—chiefly because other national unions failed to come to their assistance. Many of the strikers are still not re-employed. There is general hardship all round. We earnestly appeal to all our readers to continue sending money to the N.U.V.B. to alleviate the hardship entailed by men who fought for trade union principles.

