Join the **LABOUR PARTY TODAY**

Socialist Outlook

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1953 [Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper]

In Defence of the Miners

(See page 3)

WHAT THE **MEANS IN KENYA**

subjects of Her Britannic Majesty than the white live on settlers of Kenya. They are passionately devoted to the commission of experts from Eng-Empire and the throne. In land to inquire into the activities return for this unbounded of the security forces". loyalty, they expect the British Government to help them in be packed with Tory supporters. their supreme task—the exploitration of black labour With the hands of the officials in tation of black labour. With the Tories in power and Oliver Lyttelton as Colonial Secretary, they are indeed wellrewarded.

But the Kenya whites are not satisfied with existing methods of administering the Queen's justice. The due processes of law take far too long; normal methods of punishment are hopelessly inadequate. The "East African Standard" reports Mr. H. S. Potter, Chief Secretary of the Kenya Government as saying:

". The two basic factors which distinguish the African generally from themselves (the whites), in regard to imprisonment were . . . that African society had not yet developed the stigma of shame attached to imprisonment and secondly, the low standard of living of many Africans . . . made it difficult to provide a still lower standard when they were in

He was addressing the Nairobi Branch of the Royal Society of St. George on April 23. At the same gathering Sir Richard Woodley, one of the colony's more prominent settlers, put forward the following solution:

"Three years of slaving from dawn to dusk on a ration sufficient only to keep him alive and working but no more—powers to prison officials in charge to cut rations and inflict corporal punishment of a severe nature for misdemeanour -are more likely to be a deterrent than ten or 20 years of an ordinary

"Security Meanwhile, Forces" are not waiting for any 'improvements" in the administering of "justice". According to a astatement issued by the Kenya African Union, sworn affidavits were pouring into its offices alleging shortings by markets of the ing shootings by members of the security forces.

"The conduct of the Home Guards has been far from satisfactory," the statement continues.

HERE are no more loyal "People have been beaten, their subjects of Her Britannic property taken away. They have been left with nothing at all to

> The Union is demanding Tory Government in power, such a commission would most likely Nairobi and would never establish real contact with the African people.

The "Socialist Outlook" has long made clear that it accepts the existing evidence of ill-treatment by the security forces. But if there is any doubt in the Labour Movement let it take the initiative and send its own commission of inquiry to Kenva. Such a commission would enjoy the confidence of the African people and would be able to establish once and for all that the real terrorists in Kenya are the white police reserves and their Home Guard stooges.

"All people that on earth DO WELL Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice . . ."



CORONATION: A Shocking Waste

Why we oppose it as Socialists

ORONATION fever is pathetic little bits of bunting in pensioners or making life a little being methodically spread the back streets. But that is no more tolerable for the thousands being methodically spread right across the land. Every town and village is now covered with gaudy decorations, predominantly red, white

All the organs of propagandapress, radio, television, cinema, and pulpit—are pounding away at the same theme . . royalty, royalty, royalty. And right in the forefront of this mass flag-wagging is the "Daily Herald". Small words that even good that even good Labour supporters feel obliged to stick out their

excuse for the leaders.

Socialists are opposed to all this elaborate and costly buffoonery because its purpose is to instil tions, predominantly red, white and blue, supposed to be the visual expression of the people's joy at the crowning of a new monarch.

because its pulpose is to listing servility into the people, to teach them their "proper place" in society and to cheer their "betters". It is an orgy of patriotism deliberately being whipped up by Tory scallywags to serve their overall purposes. own evil purposes.

> This paper will have no part of We consider it our duty-as Keir Hardie considered it his-to stick to our socialist principles and

Editorial

speak out against all this monkey

Our readers know that we stand for the immediate liberation of the oppressed peoples of the colonies and we are against all the preparations for war to keep them in subjection. What kind of socialists would we be to endorse this glorification of militarism and empire on June 2?

As socialists, how can we throw our hats in the air for a young woman whose only claim to fame is that she was born into a family possessing a royal title and vast fortunes? We can't, and we don't intend to. The hereditary prin-ciple is in opposition to everything that socialism stands for.

Consider also the cost of this hysterical extravaganza. Official Government spending alone will be more than £2,000,000—and this quite apart from the millions which will be wasted by local authorities on military displays, banquets, bunting and the like.

How readily the Government, and other guardians of public money, disperse money for the Coronation—and how sharply it contrasts with their skinflint reluctance to spend a few pounds on easing the burden on old age

condemned to live in housing conditions which no doubt the Queen wouldn't consider fit for the Royal dogs.

Just off the Royal route there is a postman, his wife and small child who are compelled to share three rooms and a kitchen with eight other people. Ten adults and one child in four rooms! We can personally vouch for this case which is typical of the deplorable housing conditions in "Royal London". How many rooms are there in Buckingham Palace?

Take another authentic case. young married woman living with her husband and little girl in two top rooms of a seven story building. There is a tap on the landing but no sink. All waste water must be carried down three flights of stairs. And this woman is suffering from tuberculosis of the knee and also has a "spot on the lung"! The rent for this "dwelling" is 30s, a week.

What has this young woman got to cheer about when all the stupid lords and ladies, the inhabitants of baronial castles and Mayfair boudoirs pass by next Tuesday surrounded by spivs and their spouses amid fluttering flags and proposing borses. prancing horses.

While one worker is inadequately housed, while one old age pensioner hasn't enough money to recover their birthright of freedom buy a decent meal, while one colonial worker is sweated by the filched from them over the cen-City of London . . . we shall keep turies by kings and queens and the our hats firmly on our heads when the bands play "God Save the round the throne.

★ Star Letter ★ An Idea for June 2nd

Thank God for a Socialist paper that devotes a whole page to exposing the vicious and hollow sham of the coronation;

Your readers are in your debt for the reprinting of Dr. Salter's magnificent testimony; such an article is an inspiring contrast to the old maid-ish air of faint deprecation which has emanated from other so-called Socialist journals on the subject of the Crown, not to speak of the downright adulation of "Labour's Own Daily Paper" — the "Herald", which seems to have turned itself into an additional Court Circular.

When the symbol of privilege and inequality dedicates herself to the service of the Capitalist ethic on June 2, every Socialist worthy of the name might well make an equal resolve to dedicate himself to the greater ethic that men like Hardie, Salter and Marx have embraced in their different ways, before him.

Amidst all the phoney rejoicing we might well determine to bring that day nearer when the common people of this country really will and full social justice that has been

Carmarthen. David E. Painting.

Why Keir Hardie Was **Against Coronations**

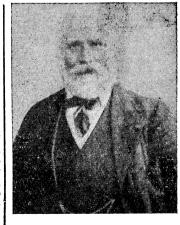
Keir Hardie made this speech on June 17, 1911, on the occasion of the Coronation of King George V. Why are such forthright speeches not made today? Has the Monarchy become less reactionary—or have the leaders of the Party become more respectable?

66 THE most desperate efforts are being made to popularise the coming Coronation. Public authorities have been given power to spend the rate-payers' money illegally on decorations and festivities.

"Lovalty is a form of idolatry as TO-ONE will be surprised, but many will be disa wooden image by a South Sea Islander. Let anyone who likes to think himself 'loyal' sit down and try to figure out to himself what he means by it? There is nothing about the present king to inspire 'loyalty'. He is a very ordinary, commonplace person, both in mind and body, with no single attribute of greatness discernible in him.

> "Is it the throne that inspires the loyal feelings? The throne is the symbol of oppression. Every throne in Europe is rusted with the blood and tears of the com-mon people. It represents the age of tyranny, when the people had no rights. Loyalty is the most un-meaning of all modern supersti-

"The Coronation with its pomp and show, its make-believe, its glorification of militarism, and its mockery of the solemnities of religion, is an affront to all that is true and self-respecting in our national life . .



Keir Hardie Founder of the Labour Party.

have eaten the soul out of the manhood of the nation. But Socialism has come to re-awaken the people to a new life, to sweep away sham and re-establish realities. Kingcraft and Priestcraft are used by the cunning and unscrupulous to veil truth from the eyes of men. But the veil is being rent and the death's-head which it conceals is being disclosed in its rotten hideousness.

"If we cannot set our heel upon "Half a century ago Republicanism was the creed of Radicalism and Nonconformity. But the corrupting influences of wealth and a debased newspaper press "If we cannot set our neer upon the thing, we can at least show our contempt for it and preserve our self-respect by refusing to participate in any of the foolery connected with this Coronation."

Sir Lincoln Must Be Disowned

but many will be disgusted, that Sir Lincoln Evans has accepted the position of vice-Chairman of the Iron and Steel Board, set up by the Tories to supervise the denationalised steel industry.

Coming on top of his pro-Tory utterances and his acceptance of a knighthood from the Tories, his departure from the relatively low paid offices of the Trade Union Movement for the realms of Big Business at £96 3s. 1d. a week, will evoke little but contempt from the rank and file trade unionist. Tempered, no doubt, with a sigh of relief that he will no longer be around to embarrass our move-

If it were just the one man, we could perhaps shrug our shoulders and leave it at that. After all, this tactic of the employers is well understood by trade unionists in the shops. Practically every shop steward with any length of service behind him has, at some time or another, been offered a iob as charge-hand, foreman or ratefixer. England it can be assumed that his on Monday last, declared that any lit is time for us, the rank an But he has spurned it, recognised Union Executive is not so 'awkit for what it is, and stuck to his ward' as the Patternmakers. His Board is incompatible with the and quickly!

Unfortunately however, there seems to be a veritable queue of T.U.C. General Council members, falling over themselves to climb on the Tory Steel Board. It's jobs for the boys with a vengeance.

Besides Evans, there is John Owen, General Secretary of the Dlastfurnacemen; and Wilfrid Beart, General Secretary of the Patternmakers.

And when, after a meeting of the Patternmakers Executive Committee, Beard announced his withdrawal from the Board, lo and behold! There was Andrew behold! Naesmith, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Weavers, ready and waiting to step into the breach.

The prompt action of the Patternmakers Executive in forcing Beard to withdraw from the Board after only two days, sets an example for other Unions—and the General Council—to follow.

job as Trade Union representative. | appointment raises only an additional but incidental question—did they run out of engineers?

While the Tories would, without doubt, prefer to involve men whose Unions are directly concerned with Iron and Steel, any member of the T.U.C. General Council will serve their purpose. They want to involve Trade Union leaders, the higher the better, and then claim that their denationalisa-

ByFred Emmett

tion plans have been endorsed by the Trade Union movement.

The Tories will use these appointments to drive a wedge between the political and trade union wings of the movement.
The Amalgamated Union of

Foundry Workers is directly conthe General Council—to follow.

But as Naesmith is already a have reacted quickly. An emerpart-time Director of the Bank of gency resolution at its conference

This stand will be endorsed by the overwhelming majority of rank and file of the movement. It must be the stand of the whole movement—Labour Party as well as the General Council. The rank and file must demand it.

Who authorised the "Herald" to praise Sir Lincoln's action? Does this mean that the T.U.C. will endorse these appointments?

Unless the movement insists on repudiating and condemning these people—and those who support them—we shall have only our-selves to blame if the public no longer take us seriously when we say we are opposed to denationalisation.

Everyone knows that Labour is losing support in the country because we no longer have a clear programme. Following Attlee's endorsement of Churchill on the issue of "peace", we now have the T.U.C. General Council virtually endorsing Churchill on the issue of denationalisation. Who can wonder that we lost Sunderland!

It is time for us, the rank and

Nowhere To Live!

★ The Plight of Evicted and Homeless Families **★**

you were faced with eviction? In the County of Middlesex alone, about forty-seven families are made homeless every week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones of Tottenham are one example. They were running a small shop in Tottenham and living above the shop. Now the owner intends to run it himself and live in the house Mr. Jones now occupies. This is a tied house, dependent on employment in the shop. A court eviction order has now expired, and Mr. Jones and his family are waiting to be put on the street.

They have four children, aged ten, eight, five and two. They have nowhere to go when they are evicted. The Middlesex County Council have told them to come back when they are on the street and the Welfare Officer might be able to find a night's lodging for the mother and children.

Unless the Borough Council can re-house the homeless family the Jones's have practically no chance of getting a home. Even furnished rooms are out of the question. Landlords, with one voice, say

STATISTICS OF DESPAIR

One thousand and thirteen applications for temporary accom-

More Letters . .

Beware This Trick

Most serious thinking Labour Party members and Trade Union rank and file will agree with Brother Dinning when he asserts ("Socialist Outlook" May 1) that the Margate T.U.C. and Morecambe Party Conference decisions on public ownership should now be carried out with no backsliding on nationalisation. He expresses fears that the N.E.C. will not implement the declared will of the party and the T.U.C.

May I suggest that there is one possibility whereby the N.E.C. can avoid giving an account of their stewardship for the past year at the 1953 National Party conference. It is this.

In 1951, the N.E.C. scrubbed off the agenda some 400 or so resolutions and amendments, and substituted for the conference a three-day election rally. We are also aware of statements from some party leaders of the possibility of General Election next autumn. If we assume that a General Election does take place at that time then the way is clear for the Party National leadership to make a repeat performance of 1951.

We active members of the Labour movement could demand an assurance from our leaders that the Party Conference this year be in every respect a normal one. Discussion of the party's work over the past year etc. and NO election rally. Whether the N.E.C. would give such an assurance remains a doubtful point.

able comment among my compatriots. Here it is, straight out of the "Daily Mirror".

'Two young R.A.F. men should be kept off Coronation duties as a punishment (my emphasis) the chairman of a magistrates' court suggested yesterday." They "were fined £1 each at Uxbridge for taking away a motor-cycle...

I strongly advise Uxbridge readers to keep a close watch over their motor-cycles until after the Coronation!!

R.A.F. (Germany). Conscript

DANGER!

THE FIGHTING FUND total to date is only £37 12s. 6d. only one week to go-and still £32 7s. 6d. needed to hit our Monthly Target of £70. Please rush in to us everything you can spare during the next few days, comrades.

7HAT would you do if modation were considered in the Head Office of the Middlesex County Council Welfare Department in the six months ending August 16, 1952. Six hundred and sixty-eight of these families were told that the County Council could not provide temporary accommo-

> The County Council have 60 families in County Hostels at present, and the target they have set themselves is to be able to accommodate 100 families. This is obviously only nibbling at the problem.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones have miserable prospect even if the County Council give them temaccommodation in a

By Audrey Wise

Member Tottenham C.L.P.

County Hostel. There is guarantee that Mr. Jones will be able to be with his wife and Even the children are sometimes separated from their mothers. So short is hostel accommodation that the County Hostels themselves are overcrowded.

In the first ten weeks of this year, 15 families were evicted in Tottenham alone. Other boroughs can probably show similar figures. Wherever you live, every week some family in your town is prob-ably being put on the street. What this means in terms of misery can be imagined.

MORE PUBLICITY WANTED

The whole housing situation is lessness is the deepest misery, specially since it so often leads to

Labour's History

A Labour Party says.

"This Tottenham Labour Party now decides to open a campaign to obtain homes for those evicted through no fault of their own, and for separated

"It will forcefully demon-strate the plight of these homeless and separated families and campaign for all necessary steps to be taken by Government and authorities, for example requisitioning, so that no houses shall remain empty families are homeless."

licised in strong terms and action

Borough Councils, particularly in London, are in a very difficult position. Shortage of land, apart from other problems, hinders their building programme. The ever-increasing size of London presents complex planning problems. We must press for full use of resources on building, and solutions must be found to the special problems of fully built up areas. But until sufficient new houses are built, it is urgent that full use be made of all existing houses. Mr. Jones and all those like him need homes

REQUISITIONING THE ANSWER

Houses are allowed to remain empty indefinitely while owners try to sell at inflated prices. There s no attempt to ensure that the best use is made of all available space. But Councils have even been asked by the Tory Government to de-requisition and so make the housing problem worse.

Tories say that family life is the break up of families. It is sacred, but this is sheer hypocrisy. started to move in the right direction (see panel on this page). We homeless.

COMPENSATION

A Reminder on the Facts

E LSEWHERE in this issue the facts concerning the Nationalised Coal Industry are broad to the concerning the Nationalised Coal Industry are brought to light from the point of view of a working miner. Here are some additional facts about the other nationalised industries which do not get enough publicity.

TRANSPORT

The following stocks were issued to cover the cost of compensating the shareholders:

£1,053,819,065 British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978-88.

The interest burden on these stocks is £35,728,328 8s. 7d., so that before the railways could earn a penny to pay for the running expenses, wages, maintenance, etc., or repair the neglect of a decade, they were in the red to the tune of £36 millions.

In 1951, the Transport industry showed a profit of £3 millions over and above, but this was only possible by rejecting the legitimate claims of the railway workers.

GAS

With gas the story is much the same except that the total is smaller, much of the industry being already publicly owned by the

smaller, much of the industry being already publicly owned by the municipalities. The Gas stocks were:

£229,075,804 British Gas 3% Guaranteed Stock 1990-95.

75,000,000 ,, 3½% ,, 1969-71.

The increase in the interest rate from 3 to 3½ per cent. was due to the capitulation of the Labour Government to the Tory demands for the ending of the cheap money policy.

ELECTRICITY

Similar to Gas. A considerable section owned by municipalities. In this case one stock was issued to cover the compensation of the private companies.

£344,013,161 British Electricity 3% Guaranteed Stock 1968-73. Although there have been subsequent issues, they have been to finance expansion not for compensation.

COAL

Here the method was different. There were numerous small companies scattered everywhere, making it impossible to agree on a figure for each one separately. A global figure of £164,660,000 was fixed. The different companies are still haggling over their respective shares.

For the sections of the Transport industry taken over, therefore, £1,190,844,281 was paid out; for part of Fuel, £772,748,965. Nearly £2,000,000,000 in compensation for partially nationalising two

worship. Husbands can be urge all other Labour Parties to separated from wives and parents campaign on this question. When from children—but never the the people know the facts they will

owner from his property!

Tottenham Labour Party has

Tottenham Labour Party has

Councils to get homes for the

Number Two in The Series

The Great Dock Strike—1889

■ N the 19th century dockers lived under the most shocking poverty, filth and exploitation. These conditions were common to the whole of the working class in England.

In the first half of the 19th century the Trade Unions began to take shape, but the members of the these first unions were drawn from the skilled workers. The so-called unskilled workers, like the dockers, did not receive the benefits of industrial organisation. The most oppressed and

$-\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$ **Harry Constable**

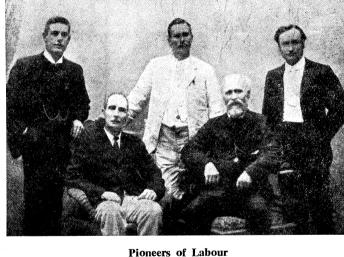
One of the seven Dockers tried at the Old Bailey for "conspir-ing to organise a strike" in 1951. They were found not

ditions of work against which they struck were so obnoxious that the employers had to back down in the face of an aroused public opinion. In the midst of this industrial unrest, Will Thorne General Labourers Union on the simple basis of a demand of an eight-hour day. That union gave only one benefit; strike pay.

two or three hours, and sor for no more than an hour.

On a blazing hot Aug

and within a fortnight the London official leaders of the working than four hours at a time. class movement.



was 4d. an hour, and the casual labour for shipping companies was hired by contractors. Dockers could be hired for periods of less than four hours. Many times, ustrial unrest, Will Thorne
the Gas-Workers and
Labourers Union on the decker would be a docker would two or three hours, and sometimes

On a blazing hot August 12, In July 1889, Thorne made an by the victory of the gasworkers, application for a shorter day to stopped labouring in the East the four London gas companies, India and West India Docks. They demanded an increase in the rate gas workers won a reduction of from 4d. to 6d. an hour, special

Two committees were formed, Two years before, Ben Tillett the one from the dockers consist- It is important to note that at historical victory for the British had founded the small Tea Porters ing of about six elected representation that time the majority of the working class which gave a trawler owners' decision to lay up and General Labourers Union in tives, including Tom Mann, and dockers did not belong to any tremendous impetus to the whole part of the fleet would be unable the East End of London and did John Burns, the others composed trade union. The leaders were trade union movement.

In the summer of that year the Champion, meetings were held at themselves that both meant busi-experience to teach them that in the summer of that year the dock gates where the doctrines ness, these two committees came such cases he gives twice who match girls went on strike in Lonof Socialism were preached to the
dockers.

Socialism were preached to the
together and amalgamated gives quickly.

Eleanor Marx, the daughter of
last week's "Outlook". The conAt that time the standard wage Karl Marx, acted as secretary. At that time the standard wage Karl Marx, acted as secretary.

Needless to say, both the contractors and the dock companies refused these demands. Tillett, Mann, and Burns worked hard to arouse support for the dockers and the strike spread from London Bridge to Tilbury with a picket line system stretching along 20 miles of dockland.

One interesting aspect of this strike was the rôle played by the previous training in trade union activities made them extremely their working day from 12 to payment for overtime, the abolication of sub-contracting and peacetion at the time and amazed the work, and engagements of not less and in some cases even borrowed money on their credit to subsidise money on their credit to subsidise the strikers.

not powerful, well paid officials, managing a rich union with a vast membership. They were penniless river-side agitators without resources but with unbreakable courage, with confidence in the rightness of their cause and the fighting capacities of the men they were organising were organising.

Mass meetings of thousands of dockers were held on Tower Hill. Dockers marched through the streets carrying collecting boxes which were always returned filled up. The port-workers of that day flocked to hear the speeches of their leaders at meetings outside the dock gates.

Money for aid and relief poured in from all over the world. Nearly £30,000 were sent by telegraph. £3,000 came from Australia, while French and German workers expressed their solidarity by substantial contributions.

It must be said that the aid and in some cases a month elapsed, before their handsome contributions reached us.

The old Cardinal Manning and Sidney Buxton acted as go-between for the men and the companies, and by the middle of September, after first accepting the not less than four hours at a time rule, the companies finally agreed to give the dockers sixpence an hour. After that successful action, the

Tea Coopers and General Labourers Union was converted Stevedores and the sailors who into the Dock, Wharf, River-side and General Workers Union, with in Europe." Tillett as General James Sexton created the National Union of Dock Labourers at Liverpool which soon spread into Scotland and Ireland. The great docks strike of 1889

is regarded by all authorities as an

from the ranks

East Salford Has a Peace Plan

HE following resolution has been adopted by the General Management Committee of the East Salford Constituency Labour Party at its meeting on

"This meeting of the East Sal-ford Labour Party, noting the recent developments in the international situation, including the statements of Soviet leaders, the Chinese iniative in reopening truce talks in Korea and Churchill's recent speech, and being aware of the fear of war of the working people of East Salford and throughout the country and of the present feelings of frustration and apparent apathy (Sunderland) due to the lack of a clear alterna-

THIS COLUMN IS YOURS

Any reports of general interest from your Labour Party, Trades Council or Trade Union Branch will be printed here if you send them in. Especially official resolutions.

tive leadership and policy by the Labour Party, urge the National Labour Party to now seize the initiative and transform the situa-tion by boldly implementing the policy already laid down by last ear's National Labour Party Conference by:-"Proposing that unless the

- American negotiators Korea cease their obstruction and accept fair and reasonable proposals on the P.O.W. question as a first step towards a just settlement then British Troops should be withdrawn.
- "Declaring publicly that the Labour Party will oppose by all means in its power the intervention of British troops in Indo-China.
- That in accordance with the 1952 Conference decisions it will oppose any attempt by the Tory Government to suppress the just struggle of the colonial peoples for freedom.
- Demanding that the British Government inform the U.S. that they intend to trade with all countries notwithstanding American objections even if this means the end of dollar

'Confidently believing that public declarations along these lines in Parliament supported by a campaign throughout the country will rally enthusiastic support and end the apathy of Labour supporters, the East Salford Labour Party pledges its full support to any steps the N.E.C. take in such a campaign.

Bebington & Germany

The following resolution has been passed unanimously.

66 THIS Bebington Constituency Labour Party having fresh in mind the horrors of two World Wars and recognising the dangerous trend of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Among whom are the leaders of the Dock Strike J. Jones, They were found not guilty.

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Among the British union arrived somewhat late. "It must be said that the aid from the British union arrived somewhat late. "It must be said that the aid from the British union arrived somewhat late." "It must be said that the aid from the British union arrived somewhat late. "It must be said that the aid from the British union arrived somewhat late. "It must be said that the aid from the British union arrived somewhat late." "It must be said that the aid from the British union arrived so commands of German forces by ex-members of Hitler's Command be justified. It believes that any force officered by these men who are responsible for the deaths of millions of innocent people will be a most serious menace to the peace of Europe and the World.'

"This Bebington Constituency Labour Party therefore calls upon the Government to take the initiative in the United Nations or direct with other occupying powers, for the withdrawal of all occupying forces and for the setting up of a united, free and democratic Germany which can become a bulwark of real peace

THE Grimsby and District Trades Council decided at its last meeting to organise its own investigation into the town's fishing industry. In the opinion of the Council, many of the men to find alternative employment.

The Fight In Market Hall Ward

* Fire Brigade's Magnificent Example to ALL Unions *

550 gains for the Labour Party, the story of a struggle which ended in defeat is still of paramount importance to the whole

The Market Hall ward in Birmingham comprises an area stretching from the centre of the city, with its big stores, offices, civic buildings etc., to a Tory residential area near the University. Within it however, and behind the imposing façade, are some of the worst slums, and decaying and neglected working class areas in Birmingham.

It has an electorate of 16,800, over half of which is working class, but its affairs have been decided for many years by the 1,000 business votes of non-residential property owners in the centre of the City. For these absentee voters decisively sway every election result, and successive Tory Councillors were able to ignore the conditions of the working class, since they felt no responsibility to account for their actions to the electorate.

In 1952 however, they suffered a surprising defeat. Tory voters were demoralised and the workers came out in strength to exact revenge for Tory attacks, and Labour's defeat in the General

The margin of 321 majority by the Labour party was very slender

READ

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T may seem strange that and the local Labour Party had in general been sympathetic they were held back by the "tied when the recent Municipal anticipated that an increased Tory to the demands of the firemen. house" conditions; how Maxwell-Elections resulted in over labour poll would require a record Labour poll if the seat was to be gained again, an unlikely occurrence in view of the large number of electors who had left the area because of demolition and rehousing, as well as the recession in the general swing towards Labour throughout the country.

The Market Hall Labour Party,

This small union, which had almost been crippled when the Tory Government and Maxwell-Fyfe intervened in their legitimate trades-union demonstration for better conditions and more pay, hurled itself into action on behalf of Labour candidates, printed three-quarters of a million leaflets The Market Hall Labour Party, -"Vote Labour say Britain's although militant, was small, had firemen"—at a cost of approxi-

An Appreciation By Sam Goldberg **Labour Candidate**

Market Hall Ward Birmingham

struggle stepped the Fire Brigades The Tory candidate, and repre-

sentative of the ward for three years was Mr. T. John, a member of the Fire Brigades Committee. This man had spoken and voted in favour of the vicious fines imposed on the firemen of Birmingham who took part in the "Spit and Polish" Demonstrations in November, 1951. He also sought to move an amendment in the City Council to cut the Fire Brigade Expenditure, which would have meant not only less fire cover, but also would have eliminated Birmingham firemen's hope of obtaining their demand for a 60-hour week.

While Birmingham's Firemen had therefore every reason to remove this gentleman from office, their intervention in the election was part of a gigantic effort on the part of the F.B.U. nationally to change the composition of the local councils, their employers, in favour of the Labour Party, who spite of improved rosters; how Hall.

active workers, and less mately £2,500, and mobilised money to wage a struggle capable almost its entire effective memory winning the seat, until into the bership in a disciplined, organised and concentrated battle in wards. boroughs, and cities up and down the country.

Into the ward poured a fleet of cars, loudspeakers, and helpers. Their national officer Mark Bass, executive committee members from Yarmouth, Stoke and Walthamstow, as well as the entire Birmingham district committee came into the fight.

The ward party carried out the largest and most intensive canvass in its history, and its pre-election Sunday morning canvasses took on the character of military man-

The writing up of pollcards was done in record time, squads of firemen sitting up, did twothirds of them overnight.

It was an election which will always be remembered in the Labour Party.

After the work was done for the day, the firemen told the workers

Fyfe was now proposing to amend the law to remove their privileged free dental and health serviceand the Labour Party workers swore to do what they could to help the firemen in their struggles.

On the eve of polling day, cars previously utilised in loudspeaker work on 15 of Birmingham's main factories, toured the ward, headed by one car whose loudspeaker was connected to a gramophone playing rousing music and "hit" tunes. Nothing like it has ever been seen in the ward, and the streets were full of workers listening to the statements from firemen and Labour speakers.

We lost by 752 votes but if organisation and hard work alone can win elections this would have been won. If heroism and physical effort is decisive. Labour should have captured Market Hall. That it did not is a condemnation of the weak and vacillating national leadership with its uninspired policy and conciliatory gestures to the Tories, rather than any reflection upon the magnificent struggle in Market Hall.

The Firemen and their struggle were more successful in Liver-pool, Manchester and other areas, and their intervention in areas which did not earlier reflect the swing was decisive.

If this small union could throw the whole of its resources in defence of its members behind the Labour Party, just imagine what the larger unions could achieve.

The mobilisation of their wealth and their membership, their apparatus and their paid officials in concentrated struggles in critical areas, coupled with a fighting socialist leadership, could hurl the Tories from office tomorrow, and place Socialism, not as a programme for the future but an immediate practicable possibility, before a Labour Government elected with an overwhelming majority.

The Week at Westminster

By Harold Davies M.P.

COBBLING WITH THE HEALTH SERVICE

TE are told that "A hale cobbler is better than a sick king". Macleod, the Tory Health Minister, though neither a hale cobbler nor a sick king, is just cobbling around with the Health Ser-

Whilst Nye Bevan stuck constructively and consistently to the oint of the Debate, the Minister of Health, after putting on an act of apparent boredom, followed his Central Office brief as though he were speaking to a branch of the Housewives' League. He ignores the Central Advisory Council and sets up the Guillebaud Committee.

Is this Committee dominated with the idea of cuts at all costs? What was it to recommend? are still not sure about all this despite the Minister's reply.

basis of the Tory attack and, as he said in this paper last week, "the Tories have lost no oppor-tunity of kicking and crippling the Health Services". Dr. Jeger added "There are some general practitioners who through ignor-ance or malevolence still do not like the Health Service.

Mr. Will Griffiths told the House how he had picked up the sad plight. The Coronation offers "Daily Express" and read the headline "Guillebaud seeks cuts". headline "Guillebaud seeks cuts".

Ten days later a letter from Mr.
Guillebaud appeared in the "Express" denying that he had used the word "cut". But, as Bevan said, it is strange that a repudiation was not published for ten down the strange that a repudiation was not published for ten down the strange that a repudiation was not published for ten down the strange that a repudiation was not published for ten down the strange that a repudiation was not published for ten down the strange that a repudiation was not published for ten down the strange that the retail index of prices painted an over optimistic picture of their plight. "Any person who does shopping knows that the pound in her purse does not go so far today as last June."

MERRIE ENGLAND!

House during the Finance Bill House during the Finance Bill don: "In the winter I cannot light you would have thought that the fire before 3 p.m., then damp we were the village committee it down with tea leaves and potato making arrangements for the Coronation Pageant. Beer, Football and Boxing were top level items of appeal for tax remissions. Any moment I expected to see in Mr. Speaker's Chair, Two Ton Reserve West and the winter I cannot light the fire before 3 p.m., then damp to down with tea leaves and potato pealings. To bed at 8 p.m. by candle-light."

In the House of Lords this week Lord Beveridge said: "There are today at least wice as many two millions in Mr. Speaker's Chair, Two Ton Fony Galento, the beer-barrel boxer, shouting "Time Gentlemen, speaker" to a means test as there were

thing from 15 to 20 free pints pe man on Coronation Day. He wanted the brewers brought to heel and this was one of his joyous ways of doing it and, incidentally, Dr. Santo Jeger exposed the hand over to Tory funds.

NO BEER NOR SKITTLES

E LAINE Burton in an Adjournment Debate took up the fight again on behalf of the Old Age Pensioners. She told the House of the plight of these old people. Many go hungry because they cannot afford proper food but

She quoted letters from Old Age Pensioners from various parts of you had slipped into the Britain. Here is one from Lon-House during the Finance Bill don: "In the winter I cannot light

Please!"
That is the lesson of Market Hall.

Please!"

It was all just shadow boxing cannot feed the hungry with and Jimmy Glanville rocked the algebraic symbols and indices of House when he demanded any- the Cost of Living.

By Price Jones Lancashire Colliery Worker

In Defence of British Miners

N a recent article I pointed out to "Outlook" readers that the Tory Press were that the Tory Press were that the Tory Press were once again belabouring the idea that it was inevitable that the

Now the N.C.B. has published its Annual Report which shows that it had a deficiency in 1952 of £8,200,000. Who or what has caused that?

The Editor of the "Times" (14/5/53) goes to great lengths to prove that it was the fault of the "idle miners". He says, "This year's set-back is due directly to an year's set-back is due directly to an increase in absenteeism, which was 11.81 per cent. in the first four months last year and has been 13.07 per cent. so far this year.

This can be traced to a decision This can be traced to a decision made at the end of last year that the bonus of an extra shift's earnings paid to miners who work five shifts a week should also be paid to miners who work less than five shifts a week, but can produce a doctors certificate to justify their absence. This concession has been grossly abused."

EVIDENCE MISSING

I defy the "Times" Editor to bring facts and figures that will prove that the percentage of absenteeism in the mining industry is higher, year by year, than in any other heavy industry. The only difference is that the miner's absenteeism is continually spotlighted in the Press, whereas the absenteeism in other industries is not. As a result, a large number of people have had, perhaps un-consciously, created for them the illusion of miners being a bone-

Next, the assertion that miners receive a bonus of a shift's pay if

Let's say that before the five-day week scheme came into operation, that it was inevitable that the "inefficient" N.C.B. should again make a loss on its years workings.

workings.

week earlief that into operation, a miner received £6 for 6 days work, i.e., £1 per day. Then when the five-day week came into being the miner still received £6, but he only worked five days. Financially, if he only worked five days he was no better off. I maintain that to receive a bonus one must be better off financially.

BONUS: THE FACTS

Now to his other point that miners now receive the 'bonus'' if they work less than five days. Before this new concession if a

The new concession makes in possible for a miner who can prove by a doctor's note that he was ill, can have a day or so off work and receive a proportionate part of his "bonus", not as asserted by the "Times" Editor, the whole of his bonus. It works out that if person stays off one day and brings in a doctor's note he will receive four-fifths of his "bonus".

I certainly admit that some miners have taken advantage of this new concession, but to say that this is directly responsible for the loss of £8,200,000 is grossly unfair and unjustified and will be strongly resented by the overwhelming majority of mineworkers who work just as often as they possibly can. The ever-soaring cost-of-living makes it imperative that the day-wage worker at least should work regular and even look for more overtime if he is to retain anything like a decent standard of living.

The "Times" Editor quotes the Report that miners' average earnings per shift rose by 12 per cent. they work five shifts. It is true Report that miners' average earn-that we get paid what we call "six ings per shift rose by 12 per cent. for five", but I have always conlin 1952. (I don't know how they



Coal Cutter at Work

goes on to say, increase in efficiency to justify it.

This is a dangerous thought and one that trade unionists must be aware of.

Apart from anything else I regard this idea as a definite condemnation of the miner's integrity. What the Editor really means by "Increase in efficiency" is that the is that the miners must work harder to justify a rise, this in turn infers that miners are now not doing their This again is a statement that all mineworkers will resent verv strongly.

THE REAL TROUBLE

Whilst the "Times" is scandalously accusing colliery-workers of letting the industry down, both by absenteeism and not pulling their weight, they very conven-iently forgot to tell their readers

arrive at that figure.) He then incurred only after paying out goes on to say, "There was no once again £14,500,000 to the excoalowners as their annual rake-off in interest.

One doesn't have to be really educated to see that, if this annual interest was stopped, the N.C.B. would have made a profit this year of £6,300,000 and the same thing would have applied to the earlier years when the coal industry is supposed to have made a loss.

MORE COAL

The "Times" Editor is obliged to mention the fact that these lazy miners produced 1,600,000 more tons last year than the previous year. But tempers his generosity by saying that the increase "was small in comparison to increase in miners".

It is obvious that he like a great number of other people, falls into the trap when talking about the coal industry of trying to com-

An increase of recruits in mining doesn't have to mean a corresponding increase in output. The recruits have got to be trained first and this training is only to give them an idea of the "atmosphere" of pit work. It does not fit them to go on production, i.e., coal-filling, straight away.

In any case, even if it did it would not mean any increase in the amount of coal filled unless there happens to be vacancies on the existing coalfaces.

any other industry the application of new labour power new machines and material means new or increased production. In mining, coalfaces are not brought into being as easily as new machinery is bought. It takes quite a while for new faces to be developed. And the "Times" itself informs us that capital informs us that capital expenditure last year was only two-thirds the amount thought desirable in the Plan for Coal!!

MEN OR MACHINES

Talking about new machinery leads me to another point, not mentioned in the "Times" Editorial, but one on which I feel very strongly and I think it may serve as a point for discussion.

The idea of the N.C.B. apparently, is that modern machine methods of mining will improve coal output and is "the thing". I don't want to be thought a left-over from the Luddite era but I am sure that under present conditions modernisation in all cases does not result in increased production. In some cases it could mean the reverse.

In new, or comparatively new mines, modern machinery definitely desireable, but we have in this country many pits that are a great number of years old. Conditions n these mines, bad roof. etc., do not lend themselves to the that the loss of £8,200,000 was pare it with other industries. This idea of modern machinery. It's from the miners.

is fatal when trying to understand like putting a new patch on an mining.

An increase of recruits in min-

I have one pit definitely in mind

where, since the introduction of modern methods, coal output has dropped considerably and costs have soared. In places like this I contend that coal should be got by hand and loaded on to conveyor belts. One great advantage of this method is that there would be far less dirt in the coal filled out (coal cutters cannot distinguish between coal and dirt, men can) and naturally bad conditions would not be aggravated by mechanical

MINERS WILL FIGHT The "Times" Editorial ends

with this last attack! "That all is not well with the coal industry none will deny. The industry needs out its policies. But the period must be reasonably short, for the coal industry has been nationalised for over six years and none of the great hopes which it was said to hold out for the nation as a whole has so far been fulfilled. there is early progress changes will have to be made". I certainly agree that all is not

well. Nothing is perfect, but I maintain that the nationalised coal industry has saved this country from economic chaos which is what would have occurred if "private enterprise" had been allowed to ruin the industry any

Changes will certainly have to be made but not in the way that the "Times" have in mind. The Tory mentality envisages the industry being de-nationalised or de-centralised, coupling all the advantages to them of "private enterprise" with the sure thing of owners' compensation paid out since nationalisation.

I can assure people with this mentality that this position will not be achieved without struggle

Comment on Churchill's Peace Trick

WAS disappointed to see that Harold Davies' Parliamentary column in your last issue contrasted so sharply with the Editorial. I feel sure that many readers of the "Outlook" will feel the same. We normally look to sometimes flagging faith in M.P.s, taken on a new lease of life. In wrong way about it. but this week he sank into the general confusion.

Exeter.

Editor's Note: F-

for a real peace policy. war speech" post-war speech. Do we then Disaster and lot take the attitude that this man is nothing to them. sometimes "great" and sometimes less "great"? Certainly not the workers' enemy and must be speech when all the time capitalism

Mr. Davies talks of the "tactless Egyptian references of the Prime Mr. Churchill is not tactless, he is an imperialist deterto keep Egypt under Broxtowe, Nottingham. Britain's heel.

On Sunderland, Mr. Davies hits the nail right on the head. He says that "Labour supporters want to know the difference between us Then he says and the others". "Here we have at least had a lead in foreign affairs". Having com-menced his article by saying that Churchill "zig-zagged his way across Party lines". I cannot see how he expects the workers to learn from this the difference between us and the Tories.

Churchill and Attlee both made 'peace" speeches, and there was much mutual admiration. people were invited to think that all was now harmony, so they need not participate in any fight by

The only thing that happened between the Labour victories at the local elections and the defeat Sunderland was this "peace" bate. We saw the result, when debate. our Labour supporters stayed at

Let Mr. Davies now return to Kenyatta: Another View his usual left policy and add his The article on "Vouth Against voice to that of your Editorial in calling for a real peace policy.

Tottenham.

Johnny Wise.



Warning to Tories

that the crash could have been avoided if a new device—which the railway heads had been aware for some considerable timean expert stated that the vessel was not seaworthy and never had been. The flood disaster the people are behind the Government the people are behind the Government the that it was nobody's responsibility.

slipshod work or laziness on the where I was stationed during my part of the worker. The fault lies conscription period, I found the in cheap production methods, people contented, for there they reluctance on the part of the have found peace from the reaccapitalist class to spend money in safeguarding the lives of the the Communist extremists.

people who swell their already

I believe in Progress of bulging bank balances.

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Your Editorial was the only voice exposing the Tory "peace" fortunes is on, at the expense of trick for what it was, and calling the working people, quality and the working people, quality and brandy-soaked, where the people is the working people of the working people of the people of the working people of Davies on the other hand told us that this was Churchill's "greatest getting the bit between their teeth. hill's "greatest getting the bit between their teeth.

Do we then Disaster and loss of life mean

But let them have a care. We less "great"? Certainly not. workers have learned a lot in the Always, first and foremost, he is past fifteen years, and we are not past fifteen years, and we are not going to be so easy to fool as in the pre-1939 years. Let us destroy exposed as such. How can the pre-1939 years. Let us destroy Churchill, the leader of the this Tory disease which eats into capitalists' Party, make a peace the backbone of the country. Let is being impelled by its very helm who have the interests of our nature to go to war? us once again have men at relentlessly root out the parasites.

Ladies and gentlemen: Attlee, God bless him".

J. P. Slevin.

Kenyatta: Swiss Support

You may be interested in the following telegram, the national Conference of the Sozialistische Arbeiterbund (Socialist Workers League) sent to the British Embassy in Switzerland:

"We protest energetically against mass-arrests and mass-killing of Africans and against frame-up able." The Yanks, Bro. Yates trial Jomo Kenyatta. These crimes said, now felt that the "screen-of British colonialism in Kenya ings" had safely established that will not stop emancipation of the seamen currently employed in African peoples but cause utmost the seamen currently employed in Agranging and destruction. We presented little or possels and destruction. demand equal rights, liberty and self-determination for the African peoples."

Here we have a Trade Union self-determination for the African bosses and the U.S. police for

With socialist greeting sincerely yours

The article on "Youth Against Conscription", is just plain stupid, and that's putting it mildly.

So our armed forces are being used to maintain British Colonial Imperialism against the people of Africa, Asia, and the Near East After the London rail disaster it was pointed out at the inquiry Mau fighting for liberation? They who have murdered and plundered people of their own race. Even women and children are not spared their dastardly acts. These had been installed. At the inquiry people are putting back the clock over the sinking of the "Princess in Africa. You cannot hope to bargain with murderers.

was written off simply by saying ment in their action against the terrorists, who have tried to gain These facts do not point to power by force. In Hong Kong, tionary forces in Formosa, and

I believe in Progress, otherwise would not be a member of the Since the Tories were returned Labour Party, but progress is not

article calls out for. Millions of voters at the last General Election voted Labour as advocated by our great leaders, Mr. Attlee and Mr. H. Morrison, not as you are advocating. There is a great deal Mr. Davies' column to revive our to power, the monied class has to be done, but you are going the

Editor's Note: Except for the sentence "There is a great deal to be done", we disagree with every word in this letter. Our socialist youth will no doubt reply—but keep your letters brief.

Seamen's 'Leaders'

The "screening" of British seamen docking in U.S. ports is to be relaxed we are told. Is this a victory for the world-wide protests relaxed we are told. from the Labour Movement? Far from it.

The cat came out of the bag at the Annual General Meeting of the National Union of Seamen which was held recently. General Secretary, Bro. Tom Yates, is reported to have said, with approval, that U.S. officials had observed the "seaborne inspec-tion experiment" (as they call the they 'screening") and

CUT CONSCRIPTION

"That the T.U.C. and the N.E.C Zurich, May 20, 1953. of the Labour Party should launch a national campaign to cut conscription to a 12 month period." Resolution passed by Eccles Trades Council and Labour Party

> expressed their appreciation of the co-operation extended to them by the shipping lines, "particularly as regards the dismissal of seamen We presented little or no risk.

What The French Press Thinks About

France's Dirty War

the sentiments of the French ruling class, these extracts from Le Monde, France's most reputed daily paper, give a clear picture of the profuse yet hopeless bloodletting of the war in Indo-

Recently there was a great uproar about the "invasion of Laos". Charles Favrel, writing in 'Le Monde" on May 15, makes it clear that Laos was "invaded" by the revolution three years ago!

"I have before me a map of Indo-China, marked up three years ago by a Military Intelligence Officer. I had asked if he would mark out the zones pacified by the presence of the French, and the zones occupied by Viet Minh. The map was returned to me scored in red pencil. Vast stretches of Laos and Cambodia were shown under the control of Viet Why then, this cry of alarm three years later, when we already know that communications between towns in Laos are only secured by air; and that nothing can be ventured on the roads and trails more than 10 kilometres from Veintane or Luang Prabang without resort to an escort of a company or even battalion or a regiment?"

French imperialism cannot have the least hope in a military plan. Here is "Le Monde"s special correspondent at Saigon, Arnaud, under the significant title "We must know how to end

"The real "problem is that the command in Indo China has not the means of continuing the war it started. It is not a problem of weeding out the militants from his supplied everything necessary, and London, S.W.1. Andrew Kirkby. In fields of Indo China are over-these "legitimate interests" because

LTHOUGH expressing flowing with planes and tanks . . . he understands that the gather the sentiments of the troops."

The Viet Minh? Ask the control of the troops."

But it is more than that, because the troops depend on the nation and its morale. Let us go back to Favrel's article. He says "The first thing is to understand that the war is unpopular, and it is certainly true that the army fighting it doesn't feel that it has the nation behind it. The word "mercenary" is thrown like an insult in the face of the fighting men. A professional army it is made up of all sorts. There are the select few who believe in the cause, and the great mass which

From Our Paris Correspondent

thinks about the pay. There are those who are killed for an ideal and those who die for a mess of siastic and generous with its blood and the mercenary without faith or law."

And for what is this army fighting?

"In 1945, Colonel Leclero liberated Indo China and reconstituted a French unity. fought then for legitimate interests which made for the greatness of the colonies. They fought again ater in order to impose on rebel dissidents the throne of Bao Dai They have fought since 1950, to build up a rampart against com munist expansion.

You will note that this journa list is far from writing a condemnation of colonialism since he talks of "The legitimate interests" of the Bank of Indo China and other enterprises of French Capitalism, which dominated the other

The understands that the game is

"The Viet Minh? Ask the men think. They tall you 'Hats off' and I have known more than one, and not among the lowest ranks, asks pardon from the god of war for having machine-gunned his unfortunate adversary. In the paddy fields where the rice shoots up above the corpses, a fanatical youth has arisen to proclaim its right to life liberty and independ-Reaching manhood in a world of upheavals born of colonisation, Japanese occupation and the war, it has known nothing but bombing and destruction from the French. Moulded in the hard school of communist discipline it has now reached fighting age and each year sees a new crop to fill up the gaps. So that all talk of the end of the Viet Minh is like talking about the end of the world.

"It is necessary to revise the outdated and false notions that one defined as terrorist or guerrilla action. In any case, if it is decided to pursue the Indo-Chinese adventure, we must know and make known that we are nowhere near finishing it by means of war.'

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MERSEYSIDE READERS ATTENTION! John Lawrence, "Outlook" editor will address a meeting at Coopers' Hall, 12 Shaw Street, Liverpool 6. Friday, 5th June. 7.30 p.m. Admission Free. Visitors Welcome.

Why British Troops Are In Egypt estimates that to maintain life a

TO wonder the Egyptians are a little sceptical about this "free world" Churchill and Wall Street are so anxiously fighting to defend. Just look at the position.

Today there are 80,000 British troops on Egyptian soil, although the 1936 treaty, a treaty signed by the Egyptians under duress, permitted only 10,000. What are they there for? What are they defending and against whom?

What would we say if a foreign what would we say if a foreign power sent 80,000 troops (or even 10,000) to "guard" the English Channel or the Mersey Tunnel against our will?

The British people would rightly regard it as an act of aggression they would fight to drive out the invaders—and that is precisely what the people of Egypt are getting ready to do.

The British soldiers aren't there just to satisfy the whim of Sir Winston Churchill. Even a Knight of the Garter has to have some- capital. what more substantial reasons for sending armed forces abroad.

FOREIGN CAPITAL

Egypt is a land which for generations has been a rich field for the investment of foreign capital—mainly British. This is amply borne out by the following facts, taken from **Abu Hashim's** excellent pamphlet "Egypt". (See advertisement in this issue) advertisement in this issue).

In 1914, according to an estimate made by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, foreign interests in Egypt totalled £250 million. This meant that the whole

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-and why they must be removed

of Egyptian economy was in conditions under which the foreign hands.

Since then, there has been relative improvement in the posi-tion of the Egyptian capitalist class but foreign capital still plays a predominant rôle in the country's economy. Thus, 61 per cent. of all paid-up capital of Egyptian Joint Stock Companies and of Accumulated Reserves are foreignowned. Foreign interests hold 56 per cent. of the total partnerships

$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$ C. Van Gelderen

in Egyptian commercial and in-

This is one reason why British troops continue to sweat in the Canal Zone—to defend British

Although only 15.5 per cent. of the total national wealth is in the hands of foreign interests, this is because the bulk of Egyptian capital is invested in agricultural land and real estate, which means that the foreign investments hold the dominant share in the decisive sectors of industry and commerce.

One result of this predominant rôle of foreign capital is that Egyptian industrial development has been frustrated and is almost entirely devoted to processing raw materials. Heavy industry is practically non-existent.

TERRIBLE CONDITIONS

Of course, this foreign capital is not invested in Egypt for the benefit of the Egyptian people. On the contrary. It results in the wealth of the country being drained away—mostly in the direc-tion of the big banks and finance houses of the City of London and there are few countries in the world where the worker and beasant have a lower standard of

Doreen Warriner, in her book, "Land and Poverty", describes the

Egyptian peasant lives. She writes: "To speak of housing conditions

to exaggerate. In Egyptian villages there are no houses. fellahin inhabit mud huts where family and buffalo live together.

Before the last war the average weekly wages for land labourers were 12s. and the average working days per year only 205, with no work available during the rest of the vear. The average yearly income of a fellah family was £10. After the war, average wages were doubled but the official price index reached almost four times the pre-war average.

The Rockefeller Institute report published in 1951, stated that "Twelve per cent. of the families were shown to be living on flat bread and skimmed milk. Fiftysix per cent. obtained fresh vegetables only once a week. In one centre, one doctor was trying to treat 27,000 patients handed."

No wonder that a variety of diseases are endemic in the Egyptian countryside.

THE WORKERS' LIFE

The industrial workers in the towns are little better off than their country cousins with a monthly average wage of £2.92,

minimum of £3.46 per month is required. This does not take into consideration such items as meat, clothes, entertainment, rent, communication, maintenance of health and extra children.

In the majority of Egyptian factories, the workers work over 70 hours per week; in 15 per cent. of the factories they work over 80 hours per week.

HOW CAN WE HELP

Of course, the native Egyptian capitalists and landowners play a large part in this vicious exploitation of the Egyptian workers and peasants, but while there is a single foreign soldier on Egyptian soil they can always turn the wrath of the toilers against the foreigners.

When the British troops are removed, the workers and peasants of Egypt will be able to see the real face of the enemy—the united forces of foreign and native capital. Having got rid of the armed guardians of foreign invest-ments, they will turn their attention to their "own" exploiters and continue the struggle for a larger share of the wealth they produce. The British Labour Movement

can give direct aid to the downtrodden workers of Egypt in this fight—by raising the demand for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all British troops from Egypt and the recognition of although the statistical department the right of the Egyptian people of the Egyptian government to determine their own future.

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