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# Socialist Outlook Hands Off the Colonial

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper]

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1953

peoples!

# E TORIES MUST RESIGN

## Let's have a Petition to Get 'em out!

N a minority of the votes cast in 1951 the Tories | wait assumed office and they've continued to rule as a minority government ever since. Regardless of their dwindling support in the country, they are carrying out their self-imposed task of smashing the Welfare State and re-distributing the national income even more flagrantly in favour of the rich people they represent.

Under Tory rule the conditions of life of working people have steadily got worse. The Free Health Service is now a thing of the past. Our childrens' schools are rapidly becoming educational slums. All the checks to rising living costs have been abandoned, food gamblers and—Mr. Tom O'Brien. subsidies have disappeared and, as a direct result, there is a return to rationing by the

## Editorial

purse. Less food is being eaten by working people and old age pensioners are in many cases virtually starving.

Not satisfied with all that, Churchill's Government has now decided to give a bonus to their friends the landlords. Under the flimsy pretext of a concern for house repairs they propose to increase the controlled rents of about eight million working class families.

Ouite naturally, as the propo-Quite naturally, as the propo-nents of "private enterprise" they are also busily engaged in selling back to the 'dog-eat-dog' private employers the Road Haulage in-dustry which Labour had so greatly improved under nationa-lisation. Similarly with steel. The Tories have moved in to break up this vital industry on behalf of big financial interests.

These are some of the reasons why the fourteen million people who voted Labour in 1951—plus a few more millions who have since had time to sober up—now heartily detest this Tory Govern-

The recent magnificent Labour victory in Holborn and St. Pancras proves that up to the dition" of losing his Deposit. hilt. And, from a somewhat Wimbledon

different angle, the increasing militancy of trade union wage demands show the same thing.

In fact, the only people today n Britain who have any time for the present government are the munition makers, the bankers, the

Yet for all that, the Tories show no signs of getting out. From time to time the Labour Front Bench asks them to resign, but it seems that Churchill is determined to stay there until time and the natural processes carry him out—

So something must be done—and done quickly. The people can't

## The Holborn Victory

An old campaigner writes

I was delighted to hear the news of Mrs. Jeger's splendid victory. It is a victory for Socialism, World Peace and Prosperity for all Peoples, and should revitalise the Labour Movement and speed the departure of Sir Winston's murderers of mind and body both here and in the Colonies. I think it vindicates the enlightened and courageous policy of the "Socialist Outlook" from its inception.

I am particularly interested in Holborn as I fought a By-Election for Labour in 1928 against the late Recorder of Bristol: Stuart Bevan, K.C., and the Liberal Mr. Morton, without funds at the commencement of the Election and without an office, against the full weight of the Tory and Liberal headquarters' organisations and finance, before the abolition of the Plural Vote and the geographical alterations in the Constituency. Even then, we beat the Liberal who commenced the now "Liberal Tra-

is a little too much to hope that 19 Tory M.P.'s in marginal seats will die soon and thus give Labour a Parliamentary majority. Therefore, if Churchill won't listen to the pleas of the Parlia-mentary Labour Party he must be compelled to listen to the people themselves the millions whom Labour really represent.

The normal parliamentary processes are insufficient to force the Tories out. Something to fire the imagination is needed, something in which everyone can participate.

Why not back up our Labour members with a monster petition signed by millions of ordinary people?

Such a petition can be easily organised by the National Council of Labour, and local Labour Parties, women's Co-op Guilds, trade union branches are perfectly designed for the mass collection of signatures. The whole country can be covered because Labour organisations exist in every city, town and village.

The Petition can be short and the point: "As the living conto the point: "As the living conditions of the people have got steadily worse under the present government, the people demand that the government go to the country at once". Everyone would understand that and millions would sign.

Collecting the signatures—on the door step and at meetings and demonstrations—would itself put new life into local parties.

It would break the frustration and disperse the feeling of help-lessness that is fast permeating the ward meetings and branch

Providing the leaders entered enthusiastically into it, this Petition couldn't fail. The "Daily Herald", for example, could drop some of its society notes and interest of the state of the society of th stead devote space each day to a progress report of the campaign. Party leaders, instead of attending City functions of various kinds, could address huge meetings and demonstrations against the Tories.

The Press would have to take notice of the campaign and politicians couldn't afford to ignore it Properly organised, such a petition would soon have the whole coun-Constituency, the Liberal who try talking about the need to get the Tories out. Public opinion could be aroused to the point where no Government—however reactionary and however desperate

**MUST** GO

 $\star$ 

Let's take a lesson from our Chartist forefathers. By means of such a Petition they eventually won the right to vote and a lot of other good things we now take for granted.

We do not believe that this Petition by itself can bring down the Tories, but, properly organised it can become an essential part of the mass working class action which will finally destroy the Tory Government.

## After Holborn: **PADDINGTON**

Labour workers from other constituencies did a magnificent job in Holborn. effort must be repeat repeated in Paddington.

Rally round and ensure that Ben Parkin follows Lena Jeger into the House of Com-

Labour's Central Committee Rooms are at — 12, Suther land Avenue, W. 9.



could resist such a popular movement.

Wages Front -What Next?

A Discussion Article

that question a little more fully. The general reaction of most workers I have discussed with, is that the call for a one-day stop-page can be but the beginning of the struggle to impress the em-ployers that we really mean it when we say "We want 15 per cent"

All are agreed that this one-day ppage must be organised to make an impressive demonstration of solidarity. A poor turn out would lead the employers to believe that the workers are apathetic. It would be used by right wing leaders in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to prevent any further militant action, and to divert the struggle from the factories to the Arbitration Tribunal or a Court of Inquiry. The workers would gain nothing from such a course.

To make an impressive demonstration on December 2nd, this one-day stoppage must be organised like any other strike. There must be mass meetings and mass idealing organization of the strike of the s picketing around the factories to ensure as near as possible a 100 per cent turn out.

In some quarters the idea is being discussed that we engineers should ban piecework and overtime. This course would be as fatal as Arbitration and would have repercussions for many months because it splits workers instead of uniting them.

If we boldly carry out this course the employers will be forced to make an offer. The next move is ours. Courage, solidarity and tenacity will win the 15 percent. This applies far more to Confederation leaders than rank and file. But if the demonstration fails to

As a shop steward I have heard the viewpoint of numerous engineering workers on this. The

N my article in last week's pieceworker says; this ban would "Socialist Outlook" I not be an equal sacrifice. We stated that after the one-day rate of £6 13s. Many day demonstration, engineers would almost certainly still be would begin the action with a fearly still be some of unequal sacrifice in the faced with the question: what next?

Here I would like to deal with that question a little more fully.

Would affine a deal with sense of unequal sacrifice in the ranks. Therefore—"equal sacrifice or nothing at all". Many day workers also feel that the sacrifice should be equal.

Many firms are not on piece work at all. Many engineers also,

CLLR. H. FINCH Chairman of shop stewards R. J. Shelley, B'h'm

by the way, do no overtime (two thirds of Britain's engineering workers according to Jack Tanner).

Taking all these things into consideration it is clear that a ban on piecework and overtime would lead to a disunited, disconnected and protracted struggle and not to and protracted struggle and not to a united wages struggle. Even in the factories where the ban was carried out 100 per cent, the risk of sackings and lockouts by the employers is obvious. This would bring new complications into an already erratic movement. In view of this I think the ban should be opposed.

This leaves only one course open after the one-day stoppage. That is a national strike. All out together, all united in sacrifice, all back together.

HAROLD DAVIES, M.P. writes on page 2.

# On Strike For Eighteen Months!

W OMEN trade unionists at Rival Lamps, Addleston, Surrey, have now been on strike for eighteen months. They have kept their picket going in all weathers. Their spirit has not been broken despite police activity and fines. Most of them new to trade unionism, they have fought in a way that would put many older trade unionists to shame.

This picture shows pickets sheltering outside the factory gate. It is reproduced by kind permission of the editor of "Electron", the journal of the Electrical Trades Union.

Sister N. Pither, secretary of the Strike Committee, in a letter to "Socialist Outlook" says:—"Pickets are now forced to take shelter when it is very heavy rain as we have no protection at the gate now. Several of them have been off with the flu bug, so it's a bit difficult at times to keep the rota going. But on the whole they are all very cheerful and bent on sticking it out until some conclusion is reached or made".

Readers of "Socialist Outlook" will surely wish to help these women. They came out on strike to prevent victimisation. They have put up a magnificent fight for trade union principles.

Donations should be sent to - N. Pither, at 12,

Chestnut Close, Addlestone, Surrey.

# The Rich Realm of Rothermere

ORD ROTHERMERE is not likely to be perturbed newspaper production as a business man, and as a business man he has good reason to be gratified.

Rothermere Group, publishes the Daily Mail, the (London) Evening News, the Sunday Dispatch, the Weekly Overseas Mail and—since December 1952—the Daily Sketch.

To secure machine facilities for the Daily Sketch, 40 per cent. of this enterprise, as is well known, was sold to the News of the World, whose presses have thereby been brought into daily use.

#### PROVINCIAL PAPERS

In addition to these great national publications, Associated Newspapers owns all the shares of

## Vestey's **Vested Interests**

THE obituary notices of the late Sir Edmund Vestey appeared in last week's newspapers. The "Evening Standard" recounted how he had, with his brother, "started as a 7/- a week office boy in Liverpool" and gone on to "build up a £5\$1,000 to £618,500. £53,000,000 frozen meat business ".

"The Londoners Diary" in the same paper filled in some of the details of what would appear to be a classic example of the "Local Boy Makes Good" fable. We

"In a court action nearly 30 years ago it was said that Sir Edmund had an income of £150,000 a year. That was after ne and his brother set up their £1,000,000-a-year family trust.

"But by 1951 Sir Edmund complained of hardship. He asked that rates on his £100,000 home, Thanet Place, North Foreland, should be reduced.

"With taxes taking up 19s. 6d. in the £, he said, there was only £7,000 left from an income of £150,000"

To a social historian the business career of Sir Edmund Vestey ness career of Sir Edmund Vestey illustrates the period during which capitalism has developed from its "private enterprise" stage to the stage of "monopolism". It is not necessary to go into the long series of company amalgamations, mergers and purchases which were involved in the growth of the Union International Corporation Limited of which the late Sir Edmund was chairman. It is sufficient to note that the Corporation now owns all the shares in the following undertakings:-

Blue Star Line, Ltd. Argenta Meat Co., Ltd. Blackfriars Lighterage and Car-British and Argentine Meat Co.,

British Beef Co., Ltd. C. Kingston Ltd. Central Queensland Meat Export

Co., Ltd. Donald Cook and Son, Ltd. Eastmans, Ltd. Eldorado Ice Cream Co., Ltd. Empire Meat Co., Ltd.
G. Wiseman and Son, Ltd. International Export Co., Ltd. J. H. Dewhurst, Ltd. John Layton and Co., Ltd. Lonsdale and Thompson Ltd. Fletcher's (Meat Importers) Ltd. Pure Ice Co., Ltd. R. C. Hammett, Ltd. Union Cartage Co., Ltd. W. Weddel and Co., Ltd. W. Angliss and Co., (Australia)

## Socialist Outlook

Proprietary, Ltd.

177 Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1. Telephone: HOP 4554 Editor: John Lawrence

## **★ Spotlight on the Press ★**

by Randolph Churchill's This is one of a series of articles on press profits currently being pinpricks. The viscount is in published in "The Journalist", the paper of the National Union of

Gloucester Newspapers Ltd., of Daily Sketch and the home ver-Associated Newspapers Ltd., the Staffordshire Sentinel Newspapers sion of the Overseas Daily Mail. chief operating company of the Ltd., and of Cheltenham News- After allotting relatively sma paper Co., Ltd.

> These three firms publish The Citizen (Gloucester), the Gloucester Journal, the Evening Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent), the Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel, the Gloucester Echo and the Cheltenham Chronicle.

The company has a controlling over. share in: Swansea Press, Ltd., Hull and Grimsby Newspapers, Ltd., and Derby Daily Telegraph, Ltd. These firms publish the South Wales Daily Post, the Cambria Leader, the Herald of Wales, the Hull Daily Mail, the Sports Mail the annual meeting. (Hull), the Hull and Lincoln Times, the Hull and Yorkshire Times, the Grimsby Daily Telegraph (Grimsby) and the Derby Daily Telegraph.

Associated Newspapers also controls the Anglo-Newfoundland Company group. Until recently it owned all the shares of Empire Paper Mills, Ltd. These were sold to Albert E. Reed and Co., in June, 1952.

In its last financial year, ending March 31, 1953, the trading profits of Associated Newspapers fell from £2,304,000 to £1,536,000, a of Associated drop of some £800,000. At the same time, income from its U.K. subsidiaries rose a

Including minor items, total income was £2,236,000 against £2,946,000 the year before. That is £43,000 a week and £57,000 a week respectively.

The drop in trading profits had little to do with Lord Rothernewspaper ventures Roughly half the total represented the profits of Empire Paper Mills, no longer in Associated Newsownership. Another big item was the abnormally high price of newsprint in the financial year. Less important factors were the costs of launching the new

WE have to remember

suffering a very heavy handi-

cap. We have a greater amount

of manpower taken away from

industry than have these other

Thus spoke Attlee during the

other side was that we wanted an

annual review. The Prime Minis-

ter therefore got the "quiet after-

noon" that he was looking for!

Labour should have probed

more deeply. Are these troops wanted merely for Defence or are

they not being used for a reactionary Colonial Policy that breaks

faith with those backward coloured peoples who rallied to

EAST-WEST TRADE

story is that Britain is losing its

share of World Trade. The Bulle-

tin tells us that between 1950-52

the volume of World Exports rose

7 per cent but in the same period

the volume of British exports fell

The money that Britain should

This week M.P.s received the

our aid in the last war?

between us and the

National Service Debate.

difference

5 per cent.

that with this two

year's service we are

After allotting relatively small sums for depreciation and other items and paying the colossal total of £1,221,000 in taxes, Associated Newspapers reported a net profit of £628,000

This corresponded to a dividend of roughly 40 per cent. on the share capital. In fact, 25 per cent. was paid and the balance held

Of the tax payment, £123,000 was on account of the excess profits levy. "The termination profits levy. "The termination of this tax at the end of the year is welcomed by your company", observed Viscount Rothermere at

Directors' emoluments, excluding pensions, totalled £76,500. There are 12 directors.

The Daily Mail, the Dispatch, the Daily Sketch and the Weekly Overseas Mail all increased their circulations during the financial year. The last named actually shot up from 60,000 to over a million in three months.

Net profits of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., not included in the above figures, were 4,349,000 dollars last year and 8,227,000 dollars the year be-

#### THE REAL CONTROL

Vast though it is. Associated Newspapers, Ltd., is an empire within an empire. It is controlled in its turn by Rothermere's six million pounds' investment company, the Daily Mail and General Trust, Ltd.

The trust holds investments in newspapers, newsprint, manufac-(overseas), coal, iron and steel, oil shipping, rubber and in banking and insurance companies. Among the undertakings it controls is the Bristol United Press, Ltd.

I was disgusted to read your Queen should be informed of constory of the £400,000 spent on fitting-out the Gothic for the Royal her people." her people." pensioners just don't know how to begin spending their meagre re-sources and the Tories announce increased rents.....I think the News".

Someone should tell our gracious Queen How workers' lives are spent, And how for Royal Pomp we An "Economic Rent".

\* \* \*

Someone should tell our gracious Queen How Pensioners exist, And Landlords for Slum Tenements On Higher Rents insist.

Someone should tell gracious Queen How Profiteers create, he Slums wherein old Soldiers dwell, The Slums Who fought for Crown and State.

ditions prevailing among some of

-Winifred Humphreys, Crewe Federation of Labour Womens' Section, in a letter to "Reynolds

Someone should tell our gracious Queen
That every Royal Tour. With costly pomp and page-Is paid for by the Poor.

Someone should tell our gracious Queen Though Monarchies decay, It is the Poor who laud Her And for Her Empire pay.

Someone should tell our gracious Queen
How British Youths must give Ten precious years in Servi-That "Freedom" still may

Percy Allott

## The Real Jamaica (2)

Continuing our series on those aspects of Britain's overseas possessions which the Queen in her travels is unlikely to see.

economy under the boom 1,000 acres and going up to anything like 60,000 acres as in the conditions of the war, conditions of the war, case of a subsidiary of Tate and and the unfettered wartime Lyles, which produces one third of

The Labour movement has developed since the thirties under buy land. 15 acres is reckoned as two big figures—Alexander Busta- the minimum for profitable probureaucrat, and Manley, mild social reformer and agitator for constitutional progress. War broke out between these two and in the minimum for profitable production! The large farms yield for 70 per cent more than smaller ones.

What of the minimum for profitable production! The large farms yield for the minimum for profitable production! The large farms yield for the minimum for profitable production! The large farms yield for the minimum for profitable production! The large farms yield for the minimum for profitable production. ensuing melee Bustamente's prestige declined

What does Jamaica look like today? It suffers from a lop-sided economy. Half its exports

## - **By** -A. Banda

are sugar and rum, 15 per cent bananas. The banana industry has been devastated by disease. per cent of the economy remains agricultural. Bauxite reserves to the tune of 200 to 300 million tons has been discovered. This tile and other disease conceivable whole amount is monopolised by just three big companies.

The sugar industry has ploughed deep furrows in the soul of Jamaica. The character of this crop has caused chronic and sea-liver. Infant mortality stood at sonal misery to the cane workers 98 in 1,000 in 1942. There is only because it is a seasonal crop. Seasonal unemployment keeps an average of 30 per cent unemployed three patients in a single hospital even in the best of years. Great bed is not unknown in these days even in the best of years. Great numbers of Jamaicans found of pomp and splendour. work during the war in the United States. But not so now. So we find them trying to enter this country. It is a struggle all the way for this unfortunate people.

#### WAGES AND CONDITIONS

toil on a piece-rate basis for wages ranging from \$2.80 to \$3.20. They live three to a room on an average, with no water supply, proper furniture or fireplace. Their diet consists of yams, sweet potatoes, cassava and Bread fruit, all starchy. No milk, no meat.

Half the acreage under sugar

production rejuvenated the whole sugar output of the island. Land costs about 200 dollars an acre. So it is out of the question for poor people to buy land. 15 acres is reckoned as

cans? There are 460,000 of them supposedly gainfully employed out of a total population of 1.4 million. 52 per cent of these earn less than 2 dollars a week. They live in congested areas. The towns are a living hell. City workers can earn up to \$6.50. There is a constant exodus from the country to the towns, where there is no work to be found. They live in shanty slums of corrugated iron and old tins, 99 per cent without washing facilities, served by pit latrines or none at all.

#### HEALTH

Ragged children have bloated bellies riddled with every infan-20 per cent suffering from avitaminosis, blindness, glossitis, stomatitis, fatty liver disease, anaemia, yaws, rickets, dental caries, malaria, hookworm and, most tragic of all, cirhosis of the one doctor to every 4,000 people, one dentist to every 17,000 and

#### **EDUCATION**

In the field of education, priextent in the hands of the Angli-can church. Compulsory education is a farce since school going A population of 40,000 sugar means loss of labour power and workers, men women and children hence hunger. Only one dollar and eighteen cents is spent per capita on education. There is only room enough in the schools for half the eligible students. Literacy stands at the level of 24 per cent.

> As De Castro savs in his "Geography of Hunger":-

"The story of this area is the most vivid example in economic history of how a group of human beings moved by greed of immediate profits, can destroy the material wealth of a highly endowed region and reduce its people to misery and starvation".

## MURDER!

It has just been learned that, or November 14th, 1953, a Greek democrat, GEORGE TSITSELAS was executed in Salonica.

Tsitselas was sentenced to death Greek martyr, Nikos Beloyannis, he had been charged with 'espion-

This execution was carried out almost as soon as a cable, signed by fifty-three Members British Parliament and calling for the granting of a general amnesty in Greece, had been received by Premier Papagos. It was carried out one month after the Greek Government had agreed to allow United States troops to occupy Greece. The execution has taken the life of an innocent man and threatens thousands more.

Every protest now will help to prevent more executions. Every demand for a general amnesty will help to save the lives of exiled and imprisoned Greek democrats. ACT NOW TO STOP BLOOD-SHED.

Don't miss these issues of

## PEACENEWS

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# The Week at Westminster

countries, and we have to consider the bearing of that on our general economic situation in power, five years hence. But in a highly competitive world". what is our policy when we get in?

The only realistic approach to the problem of the Call-up is for Labour to show that it will have The Labour Opposition accepted a revision of our Defence Policy the responsibility for a two year in relation to the Commonwealth, period of Service, so that the only the Colonies and Europe.

### MEN, BE HUMAN!

"Men", said Rousseau, "be human! It is your first duty".

What would he have said last week when he might have heard Commons that the mighty British Empire was resorting to the use of so-called "Pattern Bombing" to hunt out the terrified men and women in Kenya who want a little more to eat and a say in their own destiny. With a dead-pan intonation, ruthlessly announced to the House that Bulletin of Industry. Simply, the bombs were to be used in Kenya.

A generation ago a wave of wrath and indignation would have swept through the Labour Movement at this action. Trade Kenya could address themselves Unions, Co-ops and Party to this problem and find a solution Branches would have inundated they would have achieved far the talked for over 21 hours. telegrams of protest. Now it forces'

that could not even defend Britain if war broke out—because our troops are peppered all over the world on reactionary commitments.

Jum Griffiths quoted Seneral Erskine who said: "Though the situation was now much better, there was no military answer to Kenya's problems. The said "applies to a large number of aircraft when all release their bombs at once over a wide area."

Hugh That's the way boys to stop our answer to Kenya's problems. The said "applies to a large number of aircraft when all release their bombs at once over a wide area."

Though the situation was now prictive isn't it?

That's the way boys to stop our a Teller and then.

Though the situation was now prictive isn't it? ments.

We know all this and yet the Government wants a blank cheque for another five years! Fortunately, this Government will not be much better, there was no military answer to Kenya's problems...The problems is now purely political—Blast 'em to hell. Remember how talked about the horror of th

## by Harold Davies, M.P.



the House of Commons with more than I could do with security

have to pay a deadly reckoning for this inhuman folly. The simple truth is that this

pattern bombing is inhuman and no sophistry can defend the action. I can hear the cry of the black woman in travail as with Jere-Chapter 4. 31 she cries. Woe is me now; For my soul fainteth before the murderers!

But don't let that disturb your snapping-time, mate. Lyttelton told us that after all it would only be four Lincoln bombers. Lucky thing we are not testing the Atom bomb in the Kenya hills and forests. Yesterday is dead. "Let the dead bury their dead!".

#### TOUR DE FORCE! Alone he did it. Harold Lever

nonchalantly sat in an almost empty House at 11 a.m. on Friday. He did not tell any of us what he intended to do. By a feat of endurance Harold prevented the Government from getting their

He talked for over  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours. After he had been talking over be putting into new machinery, as well as steel and other raw materials, is being drained off to keep an imperfect machine going that could not a Debate on Keyn defend a Deba needed a hundred in to get the

> Hugh Delargy acted with me as Teller against the Closure and the

## Labour's History

## GENERAL LUDD'S TRIUMPH

NE grey February day in the year 1811, a crowd of angry framework knitters of Arnold, near Nottingham, broke into some workshops and put a number of hosierv frames out of action by taking away the jack wires.

News of this action spread quickly, and soon all over north-western Nottingham-shire hosiery frames were being broken or made useless.

During March and April some two hundred frames were put out of action. Then, as suddenly as the outbreaks had begun, they stopped. As days and weeks passed without any more trouble of this kind, the authorities breathed again. It was all over, they decided.

The authorities were wrong. Their troubles were just beginning. The outbreaks at Arnold were but the prelude: the stage was being set for General Ludd and his men.

General Ludd and his men have been much maligned by historians, and much misused by politicians.

Anyone opposed to a new machine or a new way of doing a job is called a "Luddite". It is the easy reference; it sounds knowledgeable when used by a Labour Prime Minister, or by a Labour Chancellor, or a Trade Union official, but like most easy references it is wrong. It is also an insult to the memory of some brave champions of the English working people.

The machine-breakers of Nottingham have been made out to be ignorant, foolish men, frightened by new machinery, blind to its ultimate benefits, knowing no better than to smash it. None of this is true.

No new machinery was being introduced into the hosiery trades at the time. The framework knitters were not fighting against new machinery at all. They were fighting to protect established quality standards in the trade—standards threatened by the misuse of existing machinery to make shoddy, worthless, cheap-priced goods, goods that would drive well-made products off the market, ruin the hosiery trades, and bring wages and unemployment to the

The badly-made goods were glutting the market, injuring the good name of the trade, bringing down wages and prices.

Legislation existed, protecting the trade against such practices, but despite the efforts of the mens' organisations the Government refused to uphold or enforce The men tried to get joint action with the more reputable employers to drive the price-cutters out of business: there the price-cutters out of business: there were endless negotiations, half-hearted attempts, but the unscrupulous employers could not be brought into line.

Despairing of results from normal methods, the framework knitters made their minds up to try more forcible measures.

Through the summer of the year 1911 they bided their time, waiting for the long, dark winter nights.

On November 4th, 1811, six hosiery frames used for making shoddy were broken in a village near Bulwell. It was the beginning of the Luddite Movement.

From then on there was frame breaking

swift, secret action of a few men, some-times by marches of large numbers of men from surrounding villages to the offending employers' workshops.

The marches were carried out without attempt at concealment. As news of men marching spread, crowds would gather to await the Luddites and watch them at work. The men would march into the village, station guards at key points to watch for the coming of troops, and then set to work on the offending employer's workshop. Picked men would wield axes and hammers and break down the doors. When the doors were down, others would go inside with hammers and smash the offending machines.

The crowds were always sympathetic to the Luddites and made no effort to inter-Resistance was seldom made. When it was—as once, when a Luddite was killed in an exchange of shots—it made no difference. The Luddites pressed the attack, overcame the defenders and smaked the action. attack, overcame the smashed the machines.

The authorities seemed powerless. large force of regular troops—horse and foot—were stationed in the Midlands. Indeed, in the period 1811-12, there were more troops in the Midlands waging war on the Luddites than went with Wellington as his Portugal Company of 1808 on his Portugal Campaign of 1808.

In the Nottingham area alone, there were over four thousand regular troops, besides a vast array of local militia, specials, trained bands and volunteer yeomanry. But the troops could not be everywhere at once: the hosiery frames were widely

## - By -Reg Groves

The well-known Labour historian throws a new light on the so-called machine-wrecking? among the workers of the early 19th century.

scattered, often being rented out to workmen's cottages, or to sub-contracting employers using outsheds adjoining their homes. By the time the military got wind of an attack, the Luddites had been to the place and got away again. Often while soldiers were chasing one group of Lud-dites, others would be frame-breaking in the very district through which the troops had passed

Troops, rewards, the use of spies and informers, and finally a Bill making machine-breaking an offence punishable by hanging -against which Byron protested in a notable speech in the House of Lordsfailed to stop the Luddites.

The movement was well organised. So well, that even now we do not know the names of the leaders, nor do we know anything of importance about the Luddites organisation.

No one knows the real name of 'Ned Ludd of Sherwood Forest', who signed all Luddite warning letters and proclamations, nor to what extent the movement was intertwined with the framework knitters' societies. The effectiveness of the organisation is clear enough, for the authorities to discover the leaders, and despite all their efforts, the movement went on working in its sure, smooth way.

The Luddites smashed only certain rames. When they broke into a workshop frames. they knew just which ones to break and



General Ludd disguised as a woman. Cartoon of 1812

which ones to leave alone. The ones broken would be those working on shoddy (wide frames); or machines belonging to an employer paying low prices for work (against the 'old fashioned and long established prices for work'); or machines belonging to an employer taking on too many apprentices—'colting' it was called. The Luddites were not against machinery, but against malpractices harmful to the trade itself and to labour conditions.

The movement came to an end in the spring of 1812, when the employers responsible gave way and the bad practices were stopped. For some years following this, thanks to the Luddites, wages and conditions in the trade were generally im-

Ballad singers, official collectors appointed to raise funds for the Luddites cause, trade delegates travelling on union business, carried the news of the Notting-hamshire mens' doings all over the Midlands and the North.

There were outbreaks in Cheshire, in Lancashire and Yorkshire, but here things had a very different look, and the story of those movements must wait for another

The Nottinghamshire Luddites, expressed their aims very clearly in the last verse of a rousing Luddite ballad, "General Lud's

Let the wise and the great lend their aid and advice

Nor e'er their assistance withdraw, Till full fashioned work at the old fashioned price

Is established by Custom and Law. Then the Trade when this arduous contest is o'er

Shall raise in full splendour its head And colting and cutting and squaring no more

Shall deprive honest workman of bread.

When these aims were realised, the movement came to an end.

It deserves an honoured place in labour

## No. 24. The Luddites THE RAILWAYMEN'S **WAGE CLAIM**

nal made its decision known.

No one will blame Mr. Campmeet with success. He put up a good case for the 15 per cent and showed an understanding of the efforts of the worker and his wife to make the wage packet spin out. Something rare enough in a Trade Union Leader today.

with all the facts about the cost of living and they were left in no doubt what were the opinions of the Trade Unions about the official Price Index. Mr. Campbell quoted the example of the allowance made for food in the "average" workers budget. This is 399 Johnny is allowed an extra iced bun per week then the allowance thus reach the remarkable conis exceeded and his Old Man comes into the bloated plutocrat class. Such fancy ideas cannot, of course be allowed and no doubt the Tribunal will sternly set its face against raising the railway-man's standards above what is con-sidered, by his "betters", to be good for him.

The Railway bosses were represented at the Tribunal by Mr. Allen, ex engine driver and ex trade union leader. Part of their case" was that if the cost of living is to be brought into the picture then account must only be taken of the increase since Octo-ber 1952, when the last award was This could only mean, if accepted, that railwaymen's standards of living must keep on gothat wage claims are never con-ceded in full, and that as a conse-it is not so easy for Mr. Allen with prices.

Figures were presented to the Tribunal to show how railway-men's wages compared with the National average for industry in general. They do, in fact, lag behind by as much as 14 per cent. That this should be so in an industry owned by the State is a national scandal, but there is a good sound capitalist reason for it.
No doubt the Tribunal will be well informed by Mr. Allen of the need to keep down freight charges so

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R. Campbell in concluding that revenue can keep on going up as it has done during on going up ing his case before the Beilyayay Tribunal for a Railway Tribunal for a transport is essential for indus-15 per cent increase in try in order to enable British wages for railwaymen expressed the hope that members of maintain high profits. Let us not maintain high profits. Let us not the union would think well of forget also the poor Railway their leaders when the Tribu-shareholder who is still sitting comfortably at home and drawing on his safe investment, bringing No one will blame Mr. Camp- him in £32 millions a year, and bell if his efforts so far do not no questions asked. These gentry are probably opposed to giving railwaymen any rise at all.

Another fact brought out by this Tribunal was that British Rail-ways are currently making more money than ever before and with less men. In fact since 1948 the The Tribunal was presented surplus over expenditure has in-tith all the facts about the cost creased by 50 per cent whilst the total amount spent on wages has gone up by only 14 per cent. At the same time the number of staff

### By Ernest Jones

thus reach the remarkable conclusion that whereas railway revenue is up 50 per cent, rail-waymen are better off by only 20 per cent. This in spite of an inper cent. This in spite of an increase of prices since 1947 of 41 per cent.

Most of the Railway goes of course in interest at 3 per cent to the railway shareholders, which fact was not mentioned by either side at the Tribunal. The ugly fact remains nevertheless that whilst railwaymen struggle to make ends meet the result of his increased effort is enjoyed by spivs.

Mr. Allen would no doubt reply that the Transport Act obliges the Railway Management to pay the shareholders and that railwaymen full, and that as a conseit is not so easy for Mr. Allen
wages never keep pace to hide behind the skirts of the Mother of Parliaments. The Railway Executive fought every single application for increased wages to the last ditch and every penny won was paid for by the railwaymens' increased effort as the figures for revenue show. The role of the shareholders cannot be kept in the background if rail-waymen are to get their 15 per cent. If shareholders are to be paid then railwaymen will always have to go short or receive a miserable pittance to keep them quiet.

> We are always told that wage claims go forward in stages. Well after the Tribunal what do we do If the three fair and just men say no, what is the next "stage"? The rule book does not say what it is, but railwaymen are fast coming to the conclusion that if they are turned down once more then it must be a fight. The fight must be for the full 15 per cent and nothing less. It should also be a fight over where the money is to come from to pay the increase, and that means a fight to suspend the compensation payments.

## Mr. Bevan **Contradicts** Himself

At the recent Margate Conference of the Labour Party a resolution to transform the Building Industry into a public service was rejected on the advice of Mr. Aneurin Bevan.

The reasons he gave were that nationalisation could not be considered on a Friday afternoon and that you could not nationalise building unless you nationalised all other industries at the same time, this latter was the same argument that was used by Morgan Phillips with regard to the Armaments Industry.

Now listen to Mr. Bevan speaking in the House of Commons on 4th November: "He (the Tory Minister) has not found the means to do it at all in his plans (i.e., clear slums, etc.). There is only one way in which he can do it. He can ensure that the productivity of the building industry is sufficiently increased ... This is he called for a Four Power Connot a nationalised industry. It is ference to discuss peace. He is a private enterprise industry, with all the defects of private enter-prises, and some added to it". When he

but is against a Labour Party Con- since before the war. ference deciding to do the same

## \*

## Why Churchill Stands for "Peace

Churchill is still being reminded Chiefs of Staff. of his speech on May 11th when he called for a Four Power Conaccused now of retreating from

This seems to me an extraordin-ory position. Mr. Bevan is pre-most unanimously supported him. this respect is in notable contrast pared to advise a Tory Minister to The Daily Worker hailed him. with General Bradley".

nationalise the Building Industry Such unanimity had not been seen

Our Readers Write

There was no reason for all these embarrassing his opposite number has ever been. In fact he was tryin the Tory Party than in solving ing to get the best possible the housing problem? strategy for the war drive!

Wimbledon Tom Braddock. Churchill in fact, contrary to the general opinion, addressed himself to America not Russia.

> Consider the following facts:-The Eisenhower Administration was on the verge of making changes in its High Command. On May 12th, Eisenhower announced the sacking of Bradley Radford as Chairman of the Joint

Who is Admiral Radford? The the school of American officers who have little confidence in the When he made his speech, the idea of containment in the cold

General Bradley is the man who contemplated argued in 1951 that McArthur American High Command. He wanted to fight "the wrong war would know in advance because at the wrong time in the wrong they affected N.A.T.O. Command. Is Mr. Bevan more interested in more a peacemaker then, than he place". In other words, McArthur wanted war with China in the Far East immediately, instead of war " with Russia, in Europe and the was to be the building up of Siam, Near East at a later date, when Indo-China, Formosa and Korea Europe was better prepared, and as the main bases for an attack on Germany fully integrated into the China. Of course, the American military set-up.

> High Command came two months place. They therefore required after the orders to the American N.A.T.O. to perform a holding waters. and the appointment of Admiral effect, that all possible assistance the European army but would con-Shek in Formosa, who, it was Far East. stated at that time in the press, was preparing for an invasion of mantle of peacemaker last May. Times of May 14th told us that the mainland. All this could only His speech was an attempt at a mean that the United States itself little "blackmail" of the American officers

> > Churchill must have known of the T. Mercer

changes in His speech in Parliament was

the answer in advance to the new McArthurism". This, it is clear, strategists did not believe Russia This change in the American would stand aside when this took Seventh Fleet in Far Eastern operation in Europe. America These orders meant, in would contribute token forces to would be given to Chiang Kai centrate her main strength in the

was preparing for war with China. cans, with the purpose of ensuring The "bombshell" speech of the claims to aid of European Churchill on May 11th cannot be capitalism had first consideration divorced from this background.

## **Hunting Holidays**

YOU haven't decided where you are going to spend your holidays next year? Good! How about taking them early and going to a look of the control of the contro estate of the Maharajah of Cooch Behar?

The London "Evening Standard" of November 19th reports that a London Travel agency organises these tiger shooting holidays, during the season-from January to March. The cost? A mere £2,000 for each hunter!

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## More Readers Letters...

## Bermuda and Germany

The coming Bermuda Conference should be of deep concern Party on such matters as Free Party on S to every Socialist.

If Eisenhower Churchill and Co get their own way, Germany will be re-armed and the German Army will be on the march again.

Bonn The Bonn Government is packed full of Nazis, most of them Hitler's former friends. Just. examine the records of men like Waldemar Kruft, Count Von Schwerin, Theodor Oberlaender, Heussinger and many others. They have openly declared their contention to restart the once famous "Drang Nach Osten". This is why they are in such a hurry to have an army.

In Germany to-day explosive chambers are being built inside bridges and one can see the purpose of this. Wall Street and its Bonn Puppets want to turn Germany into a battleground.

They want Germany as jumping off ground in their coming holy war against "Commu-

Incidentally, the events taking place in Western Germany all go to confirm the Socialist analysis of the imperialistic natures of lems from a Social World War I and World War II. MUST be made.

Only a fool can believe that the imperialists had any intentions of crushing German Militarism".

A re-armed Germany is not only a threat to the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe but is a threat to the West as well. One good sign is that France is resisting the ratification of The Bonn and Paris

The Soviet Note proposed is a very reasonable solution to the German Problem but, like many other reasonable proposals put forward by the Soviet Union, it was rejected, and Russia was accused of "trying to undermine Western Defence Efforts", because it wanted a conference, instead of a Nazi Army!

British Labour must press for Four-Power-Conference on Germany, but, more than that, it should demand that the British Labour Movement, join forces with their German comrades who are fighting the Western War

Germany has produced many great fighters for socialism. Marx, Engels, Liebknecht, Luxemburg and Thaelman, to name only The forging of a link between the British and German workers would frustrate the Bonn War Plans and prepare for a speedy advance towards Socialism in Western Germany.

Keighley M. Evans

## Why the 'City' is happy

The Americans are pressing as heavily as they dare for "Free Convertibility". Our Tory Government are wrecking as fast as they dare the machinery for control of Capital and Finance. Events loom with a good deal of menace but the sunshine stories

NAME.....

ADDRESS .....

speech now and then from Butler which should be a cold douche but is in fact hardly noticed.

onvertibility and "Open-Market" Trading in the world (with it freedom to speculators to carry on openly their somewhat shameful trade) is overcast with doubts. Inthe whole Parliamentary Party seems content to play second fiddle whilst the conflagration gathers about our country in forbidding threat.

It is time the thinking worker and Socialists generally paid a little more attention to this ques-I have raised it at Annual Conference and I had hoped that before now the N.E.C. would have set up an enquiry into the place of Finance in a planned economy in free world and I see no contradiction in these terms.

So far the N.E.C. have been shy of the subject and I have seen during the last ten years some infiltration of the apologists for "High Finance" into our Movement. It is easy for a highly educated and well qualified man, or woman, to "poo hoo" and one cannot blame the rank and file for not seeing immediately the danger but an examination of the problems from a Socialist point of view

We are rapidly passing under the control of the financial oligarchs who are now more Inter-national than ever before. This way Disaster lies!

The City is happy when decipre-conceived notions of what is task of salvaging our of Orthodoxy and when everyone H. Hodson

#### THE MODERN INQUISITION

Some Congressional investigations have "revealed a distinct tendency to become inquisitions," said the General Council of the American Presbyterian Church today.

"These inquisitions, which find their historic pattern in medieval Spain and in the tribunals of modern totalitarian States, begin to constitute a threat to freedom of thought in this country," the Council said. "Treason and dissent are being confused."

'News Chronicle'.

in the City is happy who should worry? I think I know!

The articles by Mr. Colin Clark in the "Manchester Guardian" recently have roused some discussion but again not in the right quarters. The 'poo-hoos' and their publicists among journalists are ready to re-assure us that he is wrong and even if he is moderately right we are not likely to anything like the break-that we had in 1929-31. They do concede the possibility of a 10 per cent recession by the end means we are in for a slump.

What is the answer of Socialists to this challenge. What is Labour's Policy? Let the N.E.C. have this examined and circulate notes to the Movement so that policy can be prepared in good time because it will be the sions are taken which fit into their Labour Movement which has the

# \* A Tribute to a Great Irish Socialist \*

Though a few years have passed since then I can still recall many of the faces of the subdued mourning mass of workers who plodded reverently on that Sunthis three three three treets and widely publicised but, as on Irish T. & G.W.U. and against massent faccion from the face of the subdued man who organised the Dublin man who organised the Dublin from the face of the subdued man who organised the Dublin from the face of the subdued man who organised the Dublin from the face of the subdued man who organised the Dublin from the face of the subdued mourning mass of workers who and widely publicised but, as on Irish T. & G.W.U. and against man who organised the Dublin from the face of the subdued mourning mass of workers who are the face of the subdued mourning mass of workers who are the face of the subdued mourning mass of workers who are the face of the subdued mourning mass of workers who are the face of the subdued mourning mass of workers who are the face of the fac a thick carpet of snow.

who marched in it.

The air hung heavy with a sad, acutely felt sense of loss, but it was shot through with a conscious pride, manifest on each countenance in this solid phalanx of Ireland's toilers marching once more behind a beloved leader though it was now for the leader, though it was now for the last time.

The city was silent save for the slow, heavy rise and fall of thousands of feet to the accompaniment of the wailing skirl of the bagpipes with which the Celts send their heroes to their final resting place. The lion-like roar of defiance which reverberated through the capital city of Ireland time and again thrilling the workers and sending shivers through the ranks of their enemies would now be heard no The giant who unceasingly for half a century hacked fear-lessly at the jungle of Irish slumdom and human degradation, the legacy of 800 years of British slavery, had now laid aside his axe for ever but he had taught other willing hands to use it.

forgotten by any of us British colonial militarism, was Big Jim's dramatic appearance at a Government proscribed demon-

Big Jim Larkin

day afternoon through the streets all similar occasions, Dublin of Dublin, their feet muffled in Castle was panicked into employing its infamous police ban. And class of course, Ireland being Ireland, aimed. the crowd turned up in even The greater numbers than would otherwise have been the case. Of greater numbers one thing everybody was certain; that Big Jim would appear whether it was humanly possible

The crowd massed together

## - By -Tim Enright

along O'Connell Street as the hour drew near for the meeting. seemed that the police, who were everywhere, had been collected from the four corners of Ireland. As fresh contingents of people added themselves to the edges of the crowd the crush became tighter and the tension mounted.

A series of commanding shouts were heard. "Make way there! Let the carriage through! Come on now, stand clear of the horses!" The people pressed back and amidst much clearly aimed mutter-Ilford I think that the one event more ing thickly laden with Irish curses

...discredit does not lie wholly

with the Communists. It lies at least as much with the supiness

of the moderate leaders in neglect-

tance to Communist machinations.

They have allowed themselves to

be the dupes if not the accom-

plices of the enemy within the fold. It is a sorry spectacle of

abdication by industrial demo-

the 'moderate trade unionists' have fought militant action all

long as they are delivering the goods—that is holding back the

But for engineers the most

It calls for no workers. This

national and sec-

serious point in the editorial is

surrender to the workers. This claim, it says, is a "test case, and

tional requires it to be overruled"

OUTLOOK" in your

militant tide.

every interest,

There's gratitude for you! After

ing to make any show of

THE day of Big Jim's than all others which symbolised a pathway was cleared and a carfuneral will not easily be Larkinism, and indeed the whole riage was able to make its way of function by any of use of Ireland's 800 years defiance of slowly to the Imperial Hotel around which the thickest wedge

> stration in O'Connell Street on August 31st, 1913.
>
> The imperial floor was of the Dublin man who organised the Dublin the rising The Imperial Hotel was owned demonstration of Irish And class solidarity was primarily The carriage halted outside the

hotel and a footman jumped to open the door. Through it stepped a towering, aristocratic, bearded figure garbed in fashion of the upper class. police sergeant smartly saluted and cleared a way through the crowd. The massive scion of nobilty gazed haughtily at the crowd who returned him a defiant

The gentleman entered the hotel and a few minutes later the windows leading on to the balcony were flung open and the same were flung open and the same gentleman appeared, tearing off his beard. Like shots from a cannon the great booming words came hurtling over the crowd. "Workers of Ireland....." The rest was drowned in the volleys of cheers which followed.

A few minutes later Big Jim was hustled off to prison. The police began to let loose their savage fury by relentlessly and indiscriminately batoning the people. One young worker James Nolan, was battered to death.

The clothes and carriage which Big Jim had were borrowed from Count Markievicz, husband of the Countess who fought in the ranks of the Irish Citizen Army in 1916.

Many things had happened since the far-off days of 1913 but in every struggle since then small or great, Big Jim was to be found, always in the forefront.

The feelings of the Irish workers towards their beloved leader were well expressed by one of dockers in whose section I was marching.

We were passing Mount Street Bridge, scene of a famous battle in 1916, when a big limousine came up along the canal bank. Driving it was an expensively dressed woman who began honk expensively ing the horn when she realised that the end of the procession was nowhere in sight. A young policeman came forward and tried to break the line so as to let the car through. A big docker stepped forward, put his hand on the policeman's shoulder and said, Iim Larkin's funeral. These ranks will be broken for no-one in this world".

And so it was.

# The Industrial Front another quarter said the "Telegraph":

## TOTHILL STREET AFTER-MATH AT BONE BROS.

N Wembley, Middlesex, fif- it?" teen workers are out in front in the battle for the teen workers are out in engineers' 15 per cent.

trade unionists, they took a half day off to demonstrate for a wage increase. The previous day management had been informed of the workers' intentions. The Managing Director stated then that he would not victimise anyone for their part in the "It would moneytration" demonstration.

However, when the workers in this factory than the union turned up for work on Friday, control".

November 6th, they were not

Mr. King is a member of South November 6th, they were not allowed to commence. They were told that if they reported the following Monday the managewould start those they wanted to employ.

On the Monday all were offered employment except the shop steward and two committee men. The rest of the workers on the principle-one back, all backthen refused to return and elected menace but the sunshine stories a lock-out committee. A leaflet and atmosphere of the Tory Press they have published asks—"If this

#### is not victimisation on the part of the management, what else is

bogey. On the Saturday These workers were employed at Messrs. Bone Bros. Ltd. On Thursday, November 5th, in common with thousands of other Lonard workers they took at the trade with the state of th On Thursday, November 5th all the Union workers in this factory stopped work in support of a Communist inspired

> The managing director stated: "It would seem therefore that the number of engine hours in traffic, Communist influence is stronger

Mr. King is a member of South Wembley Divisional Labour Party and of the management committee Wembley Borough Labour

South Wembley Constituency Labour Party have already donated £5 to the lock-out committee. The Southall District Committee of the A.E.U. is supporting the workers. Trade Unionists in the area are offering to help in picketing the firm.

#### THE BLACK COUNTRY **DEMONSTRATES**

IVE thousand engineering workers from Birmingham, Wolverhampton and the Black Country area attended a meeting in Birmingham last Sunday. They met to protest against the rejection these workers, including women, had marched through Birmingham carrying banners in support of their claim.

Mr. G. H. Doughty, general secretary of the Association of It decided that you can't blame Engineering and Shipbuilding it all on the Communists. Some Draughtsmen told the meeting:— The cause of the present position ployers to meet a just, logical and cogent claim, prepared in accuracy and presented with dignity.

one-day stoppage.

## MORE WORK WITH LESS AKING the aggregate total

weeks, British Railway traffic receipts were £351, 917,000. In the same aggregate period in 1952 the totals were £335,847,000.

This year, then, British Railways have taken £16,070,000 more than in the same 44 weeks of last

Train miles per train engine hour in 1953 are greater in coaching, steam and electric and in freight. Engine mileage is higher.

There is an improvement in the umber of engine hours in traffic, the moderates on the back only so that is, from the time the engines leave the shed at the commencement of a turn of duty until they get back to the shed. Consumpget back to the shed. tion of fuel had also decreased.

"All these factors", says the litor of "Railway Review", editor of show a tendency towards higher productivity. This is considerably reinforced when we look at staff totals. During period ten (four weeks preceding October 4th) total staff employed on British Railways fell from 603,048 to 600,062—a decrease of 2,986. That is in four weeks. The decrease on the four weeks are decreased on the four weeks. The decrease on the four weeks are decreased on the four weeks are decreased on the four weeks. The decrease on the four weeks are decreased on the four weeks are decreased on the four weeks. The decrease on the four weeks are decreased on the four weeks. The decrease on the four weeks are decreased on is in four weeks. The decrease on the comparative period for 1952 and sectional, requires it to be fought for and won.

One of the Directors of Railways are achieving more with Messrs. Bone Bros., Ltd. is Tom O'Brien M.P.—last year's Chairphasis to an article on the railway-phasis to an article on the railway-phas man of the Trade Union Congress. men's wage claim which appears on page 3.

## THIS WAGE CLAIM IS A TEST Local Library?

THE "Daily Telegraph" is completely taken aback by If not—ASK FOR IT! the militancy among engineers. Discussing the threatened in Birmingham last Sunday. They met to protest against the rejection of the 15 per cent increase. 3,000 of "Perhaps the least intelligent feature of the whole affair is why the bug of uncompromising militancy should have bitten so large and generally reasonable section of wage earners".

It decided that you can't blame of the blame for this state of "This is a time of crisis that calls affairs rests with the Socialists. for cool minds and steady hands. They have gone round the country assiduously spreading an entirely is the inflexible refusal of the emfalse picture of a rise in the cost of living. Thus the workers have been inoculated with a raging discontent despite the fact that, as These Midland engineers unanimously endorsed the call for a ing has remained stable.

Blame also has to be borne in

## **Hunger Strike** in Guiana

N the first village council elections at Corentyne, in British Guiana, recently, the candidates of the Peoples Progressive Party won four out of the six seats.

This important item of news has received very little prominence in the national press. Where it has been reported, it has been tucked away as a small three or four line

ment, and held without trial. These leaders are now on hunger strike.

One of the statements made against them is that they "have not got the support of the people".

How then do our Tory imperialning these elections?

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