Join the **LABOUR PARTY TODAY** Socialist Outlook Kenya Report Analysed by George Padmore

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(See article p. 2)

SALFORD SCANDAL

Reported by Harry Ratner



The 1946 floods in the Kersal Estate, Salford.

UST over 7 years ago, in floods, the Salford City Council the autumn of 1946— engaged experts, including the late thousands of working- Sir Pearson Frank, a well-known newly married couples saw all their new furniture ruined.

The majority have had to buy their furniture on the Hire Purchase system, and many had not completed payments when the floods ruined their homes. Owing to the high cost of living and low wages, most of the men have to work overtime in order to meet ford the remaining third. H.P. commitments.

Even after the waters had subsided, the damp, the stench and the filth remained for many

FLOODED AGAIN

A few weeks ago, on January 20th, the river flooded again.

This second flood has brought sharply to public notice the scandalous record of eight years of to another, with the result that very little has been done.

The source of the floods is the River Irwell, which flows through the most densely populated and low-lying districts of Salford. This river bends and winds in several loops, both in Salford and before reaching it. before reaching it. It is banked by numerous factories and works which pour all their waste prowhich pour all their waste products, both liquid and solid, into the river. Apart from polluting the river this eventually results in the silting up and gradual vate landlords to realise a pice.

Similarly, whilst the Bill proposes to increase rents to tenants of rent-controlled houses, the deterours the requisitioning plan will enable principles.

The Rents and Repairs Bill will probably take till about April to get on the Statute book. But the deterours the requisitioning plan, which is in the silting up and gradual vate landlords to realise a pice. in the silting up and gradual raising of the river bed. It is widely thought that this contributes to the flooding every time there is heavy and prolonged

FLOOD PREVENTION

class people in Salford suffered submit schemes for flood prevendisastrous flooding. Hundreds tion. Eventually a scheme, known of homes, put together by years of hard work and a life-but its cost, as "Scheme A" was agreed upon. time of saving, were ruined by lion, was far in excess of the the slimy and dirty waters of the River Irwell. Scores of monoscible rate burden an absolutely

The Labour controlled City Council sent a deputation in 1948 to the Labour Government asking for financial assistance. It was finally agreed that the Government would pay a third, the Catchment Board (now the Mersey River Board) a third and Salwas in 1948. Since then, i.e., in

Continued on page 4

Opposition Grows To German Rearmame

Labour Parties Seek Recall Conference

THE decision of the Parliamentary Labour Party to support German Rearmament—a decision carried by only two votes—is creating a political storm in the Labour Movement. Gone is the old apathy and feeling that 'nothing-can-be-done-about-it.' Not only is the decision itself being vigorously opposed in all sections of the Movement but local Labour Parties are pressing for a Special Emergency Conference of the Party to permit the members themselves to decide.

At the Annual General Meeting of one of the London Labour Parties, a resolution to this effect was actually moved by the Member of Parliament and, needless to say, was carried unanimously. Similar things are happenings in Labour Parties throughout the country.

Typical of the many resolutions now flooding in to the National Executive Committee is this one from Halifax:

The Halifax Labour Party reaffirms its opposition to any form of German Re-armament and views with alarm the decision of the National Executive Committee and the Parliamentary Labour Party to support the re-armament of Western Germany within E.D.C.

view of the danger of disunity within the party on this issue, we call for a special national emergency conference to reconsider this issue without delay."

NO TRUST IN TORIES

Unlike Mr. Morrison, the rank and file never did believe that Anthony Eden could be trusted to make that effort at "the peaceful re-unification of Germany" which last year's conference demanded. For this reason, the failure of the Berlin Talks was, to them, only a further demonstration of the crying need to replace the present

Editorial

Government by a Labour Government operating a truly socialist foreign policy. There was never foreign policy. any doubt therefore, that the great majority of Constituency Parties would react in the way they have

However, a few parties, while opposing German Re-armament have, we understand, hesitated to demand an emergency conference because they feared that at such a conference the block vote of the big unions would be lined up in support of the re-armers. This is a defeatist attitude.

FIGHT FOR THE UNIONS

The vote of the unions can be "In view of the decision of wielded for progressive policies if the Margate Conference and in a sufficiently active campaign is

conducted inside the unions by Labour Party members.

Already the representatives of Already the representatives of three important trade unions—Agriculture, Iron and Steel, and General and Municipal—have cast their votes on the N.E.C. with the six Constituency Party representatives against German Re-armament tives against German Re-armament —and this before even their local branches had time to express the members' feelings.

With this example before us, it the Labour and Trade Union Movement should be saddled with policies it doesn't want.

Naturally, nobody with any knowledge of the trade union movement will suggest that getting the top to truly reflect the feeling the bottom is an easy task Nevertheless it can be done providing a lead is given by socialists inside the unions.

AGAINST CYNICISM

104 back-bench Labour M.P.'s can stand up to, and morally defeat, all the high and mighty statesmen of the Parliamentary Labour Party, there is no reason at all why the million-headed membership of the trade unions should not force its leadership to act in accordance with rank and file desires. To say otherwise is to be cynical of the fighting abilities of the workers-and cynicism is the worst enemy of

If your local Party and trade union branch has not already done so, make sure that it goes

on record for an emergency conference of the Party without de-lay. Time is precious.

Already, the unrepresentative decision of the N.E.C. and the Parliamentary Party has been utilised to drag European Socialists behind German Re-armament. Undoubt-edly influenced by the N.E.C.'s decision, the Socialist International has voted in favour of E.D.C. and the re-arming of Adenauer's Germany. There was only one vote against-but what a vote!

GERMAN WORKERS AGAINST

Despite all appeals, the German Social Democratic Party refused to give its vote for rearmament.

This is of enormous significance. It proves what this paper has al-ways maintained—that the most bitter opponents of West German re-armament are the German workers themselves. They have no desire to be placed in the front line of the alleged "war for de-mocracy" nor do they want to see Adenauer in control of an armed force capable of being used against the German Labour Movement.

To those who argue that only foreign occupation troops could keep Germany disarmed, the German workers have given their Movement, will keep guns out of the hands of the Nazi Generals and neo-fascists!

Every British socialist will applaud the stand of our fellow workers in Germany and resolve to encourage it in the only way possible: by reversing the shameful stand of the N.E.C. and going on to demand the withdrawal of all occupation troops from Germany acceptation to the control of the con many, a socialist approach to the Soviet Union, and a drastic reduction in the monstrous arms programme which is undermining living standards here at home.

An Emergency National Conference is now the most important demand in the Labour Party. Achieve it and the rank and file will prevent British Labour being lined up behind the Eden-Dulles war plan.

De-Requisitioning Will Cause

Housing Chaos HE Tory Rents and Repairs Bill proposes to hand over the worst slum A Challenge to Labour Councils Says Sam Goldberg

property to local authorities. But this is only half the story. At the same time, the better class property which Authorities have requisitioned, is to be handed back to the private landlords, under the Tory derequisitioning scheme.

vate landlords to realise a nice profit on properties which have been converted into flats and dwelling by level and being and by level and being the land to build them on.

In Birmingham for example, the lings by local authorities.

For even if Local Authorities wish to purchase property they have requisitioned, they are comarising from the conversions and is made quite clear in the "Report

A LANDLORDS' PLAN

Yet the Plan's purpose, like the Rents Bill, is to further enrich the Immediately after the 1946 pelled to pay the enhanced value Tory's friends, the landlords. This

repairs they themselves have carried out.

of the Working Party on Requisitioned Properties in use for Hous-

In Birmingham for example, the Labour controlled City Council estimates that in three years, after building another 13,000 houses, all the available land within the boundaries of the city will have been used up.

That means that unless empty houses or partially used accommodation are converted into flats, unless luxury golf courses and private land is taken over, unless slums are torn down and blocks of flats erected, the whole housing programme within Birmingham will grind to a halt—with 55,000 people on the housing register.

WIDESPREAD PROBLEM

Nor is this problem confined to irmingham. The working party Birmingham. arrogantly states:

"Although shortage of land is pleaded by many local authorities as an obstacle, there is evidence that full use is not always made of the density standards laid down in Development more infilling would help to compensate for shortage of

building land . . . Greater flexibility by local planning authorities in determining density standards in different parts of a planning area and in permitting minor adjustments to the Lon-don Green Belt would ease the positions.

"PACK 'EM IN"

The motto of these Tories appears to be... "Pack 'em in like sardines except in private pro-

48 Local Authorities who have 76,500 families in requisitioned property are housing more than 6 families per thousand in this way whilst considerably more property taken over houses a smaller proportion of the population. It is probable that 150,000 families are affected by these proposals.

Yet Local Authorities are being asked to de-requisition property in one, two or three years, and allocate alternative accommodation in new, publicly-owned houses and flats. This policy is causing chaos, where it is being applied, to the Points and Allocation scheme, pushing the number of houses being allocated to priority hardship and health cases to below a crisis level.

This ramp is being resisted by many Councils. The Ministry's "suggestion" to Councils to de-requisition all properties on specified dates is already being ignored in many areas. With a campaign by the Labour movement, there is little doubt that active resistance could compel the Tory Govern-ment to abandon it.

NEXT WEEK

Plans . . . such use together with I.C.I.'s apologia for Monopolies will be analysed by a chemical worker.

Star Letter

We are NOT

To The Editor, "Socialist Outlook" Dear Comrade.

Your German Re-armament article last week clearly shows the duplicity by which our Party leaders have scored a paper victory. By a question able interpretation of a steamrollered, undiscussed and undigested Conference resolution handed down from on high by the N.E.C. they announce to the world that British Labour supports German re-armament! This is not true!

We must announce to the world that this is not true. Particularly we must tell our German Socialist and Trade Union comrades and brothers that this is not true. Let there be no misunderstanding. We are not anti-German. We are antire-armament.

Cannot our paper play some part in telling the Labour movement of Germany what British Labour really thinks? Westminster Andrew Kirkby

End the 'de-facto' Coalition—John Baird M.P.

OTH the Wolverhampton Constituency Labour Parties were represented at a successful anti-Tory Conference organised by the "Socialist Outlook" in Wolverhampton last Sunday. Also represented were the A.E.U. (3 branches and the District Committee), the N.U.R., the Sheet Metal Workers, and U.S.D.A.W.

John Baird-Wolverhampton's popular Labour M.P.opened the conference with an appeal for an increased circulation for "Socialist Outlook" and a powerful plea to trade unionists to fight against the present coalition policies of Labour's top leadership.

It is not the Revanites who are responsible for the decline in Labour's vote at recent byeelections, said John Baird, it is the lack of a will to power' among some of our leaders. Officially Labour is in opposition, he said, but the present policies of the Front Bench make us a 'de facto' coalition.

The recent large vote in the Parliamentary Labour Party against German Re-armament was most encouraging and it was now necessary to follow it

up with an Emergency Conference of the Party.

A resolution to this effect vas carried unanimously at the end of the meeting.

Other speakers were Norman Dinning who dealt with industrial questions, and John Lawrence who spoke chiefly on foreign and colonial affairs. From the most intelligent discussion which followed, it was clear that Wolverhampton Labour—like Labour everywhere-is determined to fight Toryism whether it be at Westminster or at Transport House.

Councillor F. Henderson

'To the African the march of man has become a living reality . . . ' — Oliver Lyttelton

THE most significant thing about the Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to Kenya is not so much what it reveals as the fact that it is the first official admission since the emergency that the Africans especially the Kikukus, have justifiable grievances.

Until now this has been strenuously denied by the Secretary of State for Colonies, who has all along tried to may think about the atrocities ascreate the impression that the cribed to Mau Mau, details of Africans who support Mau which have been deleted, the fact Mau rebellion are just gangsters who, for some mysterious reason, have suddenly "re-verted" to a state of savagery. This childishly superficial explanation of the causes which have given rise to Mau Mau even finds credence in this credence in this well informed and otherwise well informed and very revealing report.

Contrary to the hitherto cynical Contrary to the hitherto cynical attitude evinced by Colonial Secretary Oliver Lyttelton, the authors of the Report—three diehard Tories, Messrs. Walter Elliot, C. J.M. Alport and E. B. Wakefield, and three middle-of-the-road Socialists, Messrs. Arthur Bottomley Lames Johnson and R. W. the Africans recent to direct acceptable and Whitehall.

This being so, one of the great-est indictments that can be brought against colonial government as carried on in multi-racial territories such as Kenya is that the system is so repressive that unless tomley Lames Johnson and R. W. the Africans recent to direct acceptance. Socialists, Messrs. Arthur Bottomley, James Johnson and R. W. tomley, James Johnson and R. W. Williams—have been compelled by the very nature of the objective situation which they found during their 16-days' visit to Kenya to admit frankly that notwithstanding some of the revolting methods used by Mau Mau adher-

___ *By* ___ George Padmore

Well-known African author and journalist and recognised authority on African affairs. His book on the Gold Coast was recently banned by the Kenya Government

ents, there do exist justifiable grievances among the overwhelming majority of the African popu-

These grievances (admitted in the Report) range from land shor-tage, economic and social colour bars, low wages, bad housing, limited educational facilities, the absence of social security up to the denial of political and civil rights.

POLICE INDICTED

Moreover, their strictures on police brutality and corruption recall some of the worst features of the "Black and Tan" in Ireland. "Brutality and malpractices," says the Report, "have occurred on a scale which constitutes a threat to public confidence in the force of law and order" in the force of law and order."

In support of the indictment of the police force, the Report quotes official records, showing that "there have been 130 prosecutions of the Hilton Young and Morris Carter Commissions, African land hunger was ignored and allowed to go from bad to worse. morse.

The police are pending. There have also been 29 prosecutions for corruption, of which there were 12 convictions, 13 are pending."
God alone knows how many other cases of brutality have gone unpunished by those in authority. This disgraceful and revolting state of affairs is the logical come of British medical admiral admiral

BLACK 'STORM TROOPERS'

Although the Report is silent on the point, it is a well-known fact that the large majority of the police employed against Mau Mau are recruited from tribes other than the Kikuyus, and that they are encouraged by their European officers to carry out their duties in the spirit of tribal vendetta. It is, therefore, sheer hypocrisy merely to indict "the lower levels of police" without condemning the entire system of colonial ad ministration, which is actually responsible for the recruiting and training of the African police as an instrument of terror against the civilian African population.

This applies not just to Kenya but to most parts of Africa. Everywhere these black "storm troopers" are looked upon as enemies of the people and the watchdogs of alien domination. And as such, they enjoy unbridled licence to practice brutality, corruption and bribery. Matters have now reached such a shocking state in Kenya that the Commissioner of Police has been retired and the head of the City of London Police, Colonel Young, has been engaged to reorganise the police The employers will probably eightpence force. Colonel Young performed take heed of the Court and offer demanded.

KENYA: THE FACTS

Parliamentary Delegation Lifts the Lid—a Little Bit!

a similar mission in Malaya last

THE GAINS OF VIOLENCE

Whatever readers of the Report remains that they have achieved one positive good. And that is Commission to recognise the real economic, political and social needs have until now been ignored by the white authorities in Kenya and Whitehall.

the Africans resort to direct action, their rulers just refuse to recognise—much less redress—their grievances. This is confirmed by the revelations made in the Re-

BELATED RECOGNITION

All the problems mentioned by the Visiting Mission—land hunger, colour bar, lack of education, low wages, social security, lack of political representation, etc., etc. have frequently been brought to Government and the Colonial Office. But instead of dealing sympathetically with the recognised leaders of the people, these men were invariably abused as "dangerous agitators," and "semi-educated trouble-makers."

Little or no attempt was made even by Labour Governments after the end of the war to right the wrongs of the long-suffering

Kenyatta spent over 16 years in Great Britain, during which time he presented several petitions to both Tory and Socialist Colonial Ministers and submitted many memoranda to Royal Commissions appointed to examine the land problem in Kenya.

Despite repeated promises to implement extremely modest agrarian reforms based upon the recom-mendations of the Hilton Young

Lord Delamere who had first pick of the best land in the Kikuyu



mouth secured about three hundred and fifty thousand acres between them. The son of the **Duke**Abbreviation of Abbreviation and the son of the **Duke**At present the 5,500,000 Africation of Abbreviation of the present the son of the present the 5,500,000 Africation of the present the son of the present t

Colonial Secretary Oliver Lyttel-

The following donations are

gratefully acknowledged:-

Bebington readers, 6/-; South West London readers, 80/-; H. Hopkins, Kent, 5/3d.; Holborn & St. Pancras readers, 20/9; "Lanny Budd", 2/6; Leeds readers, 59/-; R. T. Shelley readers, 29/1; Cllr. J. Tomkinson, 5/-; Birmingham readers, 35/-; C. Barker, Liverpool reader 2/-; F. readers, 35/-; C. Barker, Liverpool, 10/-; Liverpool reader, 2/-; F. Philpott, Hythe, 1/-; West London readers, 94/-; Islington readers, 17/6; R. T. Shelley readers, 22/9; Birmingham readers 62/3; Upper Norwood reader 2/6; Nottingham readers 15/-; Leicester Socialists, 40/-; Enfield Engineers, 33/3; Tottenham readers, 38/3; Platts Buster, 90/-; Platt's workers, 29/3; Manchester and Salford readers, 19/6; E.N.V. Workers, 32/-; Lon-DRIVEN OFF LAND
Among the earliest settlers was Mr. W. Punt, 40/-; Mrs. P. Jacobs

Total £71 11s. 10d.

He got plantations of make way for the settlers, alone K.A.U. was able to despatch two

of Abercorn acquired an estate of cans are confined to special areas thirty thousand acres, while other known as Reserves. These cover aristocratic land - grabbers and about 50,000 square miles. The speculators formed joint stock Kikuyus, who are the most ad-companies through which they vanced tribe, number about control vast plantations, such as 1,500,000. Their reserve is about the East Africa Estates, which 2,000 square miles of cultivable owns over three hundred and fifty land. The density of population thousand acres. The chairman of is so great that in some areas it is the company is Viscount Gobham. over 1,000 per square mile. Those His uncle, the Hon. R. G. Lyttel- unable to find accommodation ton, holds 14,108 shares in the within the Reserve have become mpany.

squatters on the farms of white settlers. Over 250,000 of these landless Kikuyus have no rights or security of tenure. They have been reduced to the status of serfs. Africans. Had they done so, the present trouble in Kenya could have been avoided.

The Kikuyus, who were expelled of them their ancestral homes to have drifted to Nairobi, the capital, where very few of them are able to secure employment because of the absence of large-scale Fighting Fund cause of the absence of large-scale manufacturing or mining industries

WHAT AND WHO IS MAU MAU?

After the failure of his mission to Britain. Jomo Kenyatta returned to Kenya in 1947. During his absence, however, the Kikuyu Central Association was suppressed by the Government in 1940 as a "subversive organisation." But shortly after the end of the war, a new organisation known as the Kenya African Union, was formed by a new generation of Africans to

over one hundred thousand acres.
Other aristocrats like Lord
Francis Scott, uncle of the Duchess
of Gloucester, and the Earl of Plywhich secured about three hunlost over 500,000 acres, for which
they were not paid any compensation. The Masai, Kavirondo and Wakamba tribes have also lost
considerable lands since the British
considerable lan him to appoint a commission to tribal discipline and embittered, enquire into and redress their many of the young men took to a grievances, which were similar to life of crime. It was from this those to which Kenyatta had 'lumpen proletariat' that 'dead deput the Pritish Covernment's and 'corne leaders' required ed those to which Kenyatta had 'lumy drawn the British Government's end" attention nearly twenty years be-After Mr. Lyttelton had refused

to receive the mission, which had the backing of Mr. Fenner Brockway and a small group of Labour left-wing back-benchers, Oneko returned to Kenya to report on the failure of the mission. His colleague Mr. Koinange, remained in Britain to carry on the work of enlightening the British public about actual conditions in

When news of Mr. Koinange's exposures in Britain, reached Kenya, the settlers became most indignant and the leaders of the Electors Union, the European poli- dead. tical organisation, demanded the suppression of the K.A.U. But since Jomo Kenyatta, president of the Union and other officers had publicly repudiated the use of violence, and were conducting their campaign for reforms strictly along constitutional lines, the Governor found it difficult to justify the suppression of the K.A.U.

the settlers from carrying on their continue the agitation for political, economic and social reforms.

To promote the aims and objects of the K.A.U. the organisers covered "an African organization as a seditious body. Then, suddenly, the European press announced that they had "disjects of the K.A.U. the organisers covered" an African secret incitement against African organilaunched a campaign to collect a society, which they called Mau million signatures to a petition to Mau, and which they asserted was be presented to the British Parlia- inspired and directed by Jomo be presented to the British Parlia-ment. The campaign proved to be such a success that within a few K.A.U., with the object of driving support of those African leaders

Highlands and seizing political power for themselves.

The K.A.U. leaders denied these allegations and continued to appeal to their followers to avoid the use of violence. They offered to co-operate with the Government to help maintain law and order; but this was rejected and a state of emergency was declared in September, 1952.

A few weeks later, Jomo Kenyatta and 25 other officers of the K.A.U., including Achieng Oneko, were arrested. From then on, mass arrests of members of the K.A.U. have taken place. Two months after Kenyatta and five of his colafter Kenyatta and five of his col-leagues were sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour on charges of "assisting in the managing of Mau Mau", the Government declared the K.A.U. an illegal organisation, thus creating a political vacuum as far as the Africans are concerned.

Mau Mau, unlike the K.A.U. is not an organised political party or nationalist movement with a regular membership, a constitution, political programme and officers. Even the designation has never been satisfactorily explained, as no such word as Mau Mau exists in the Kikuyu language. Nevertheless, its socio-economic causes can be explained.

It is a spontaneous revolt of a de-classed section of the African de-classed section of the African rural population, uprooted from of its executive members, Mr. its tribal lands and driven into Mbiyu Koinange, a Kikuyu, and Mr. Achieng Oneko, a Luo, to declaration of the emergency, it is estimated that over ten thousand Africans were permanently unemployed in Nairobi. Removed from end "gang leaders recruited adherents to avenge themselves upon the white men, whom they hold responsible for breaking up their tribal life and replacing it with nothing but slave labour on European farms.

> Like the slave revolts of ancient Rome, the Mau Mau supporters are fighting for land, without which they prefer death.

In a country like Kenya, where, according to the Parliamentary Delegation Report. "old age security, by way of pension or national provident fund" does not exist, unless an urbanised African owns a piece of land in the Reserve to which he can return in his old age, he may as well be

The progressive and nationalistically-minded leaders of the K.A.U. had a positive economic, political and social programme which envisaged the building of an integrated African self-governing state with democratic safeguards for minority races. The Mau Mau leaders, however, look back to the past and seek to exploit traditional tribal oaths and practices to re-"DISCOVERED!" cruit and bind their followers in supporting their limited fight for land for the landless.

The immediate problem is the ending of the bloody violence on both sides and creating an atmosphere in which even the modest recommendations embodied in the Report can be discussed by the representatives of the different racial groups. But such a Round Table months after its inauguration, the the white settlers out of Kenya who eniov the confidence and loyalty of the mass of the people. And as most of those people are under arrest, it will be up to the Governor to grant them amnesty. Yet even this will not be enough to restore the status quo ante. The British Government will

have to give the Africans an irrevocable guarantee that they intend to open the Highlands to landless Kikuyus, abolish the colour bar, re-open the Independent schools and expand educational facilities, pay Africans in the civil service equal pay for equal work, and recognise the principle of parity in representation in local and central councils of government. For unless African leaders are armed with these assurances, which will enable them to offer their people something concrete by way of a better future, even the most trusted among them will be unable to bring about that psychological change which alone can help to bridge the present gulf between the Europeans the Africans, the rulers and the ruled, without which there is no hope of cordial race relations in Africa—the prerequisite of Partnership.

The Engineers' Wage C

By Norman Dinning

THE findings of the Court of Enquiry into the Engineers' wage dispute are in favour of an increase, and a rise of 7/—a figure that has on this basis recommend a renow remains to be seen how ployers will have gained the full the Unions and Employers fruits of their strategy.

A 5 per cent recommendation on a 15 per cent claim is, I suppose, a partial victory—but such a 'vic-

will deal with these findings.

bent over backwards to avoid action thoroughly warranted by the case in dispute. Employers' attitude, and, since Even the left press is stressing December 2nd, the rank and file, the Court's decision for an increase so to speak, held on a leash.

on this basis recommend a re-sumption of negotiations. It the Unions agree to this, the cm-

Their original refusal was undoubtedly based upon an ultimate intervention by the Ministry of Labour and a subsequent demona partial victory—but such a 'vic-tory' must be seen in its true stration by the employers of their readiness to accept an "impartial" opinion, which (how fortunate!), The Confederation Unions have concedes to them two-thirds of the

Even the left press is stressing dubious about the postponed over- as proof of the Unions' case. But time and piecework ban and de- the 'proof of the pudding is in siring militant action, have been, the eating' and seven shillings

Furthermore, many thousands lords.

OMINOUS TALK

The supposed 'impartiality' of the Court is further expressed in the proposal, reported in last Sun-day's 'Observer', for an "authoritative and impartial body to advise industry on the broader questions raised by wage claims... that would enable them to put their own particular problems in the wider context of the nation's need and difficulties."

Ominous stuff this.

opposition to the wage claim from the moment the claim was made. The 'Observer' points out that

a similar idea—for a National of engineers are tenants of rent-controlled houses and will Labour was in power but it shortly be called upon to pass "aroused considerable opposition the wage increase (assuming the 7/- is accepted), on to the landis acceptable to trade unionists only when the nation's resources belong, not to the profit-makers but to the producers themselves.

The idea of a community of interests between employer and worker, capital and labour, is both pernicious and pathetic. For the planned satisfaction of needs we require an intensification of political activity and a more posi-tive use of the Confederation Unions' power at the Labour Party Conference in support of socialist
The planning. The rank and file must
ties" see that we get it—and not this so to speak, held on a leash. won't buy twenty shillings and "nation's needs and difficulties" see that we get it—and not this the modern day take heed of the Court and offer demanded. "ation's needs and difficulties" see that we get it—and not this were precisely what the employers tinkering with modern day advanced in justification of their 'Mond-Turnerism'.

London Labour Debates Rents Bill

Labour movement for a full-scale attack on the Tory Bill which sets out the provisions Rent Bill both before it becomes law and afterwards if it should do so.

This demand was raised by many speakers last week-end at a London Labour Party Conference on the housing and rent problems at Friends at a time when the population of

Aneurin Bevan who described to the hundreds of Labour Party and Trade Union delegates present the trickery of the Tories in trying to swing the rent increases through in a Bill which also contained a section on slum clearance. The Tory claim that the Bill was for Slum Clearance a Charter for Slum Clea was entirely false, he said.

PRESERVES SLUMS

that this Bill has only one relation to slums, namely to keep gross overcrowding of others, them in existence longer."

The financial burdens on Local Authorities which the slumpatching proposals in the Bill would impose were so heavy that many Local Authorities would be deterred from making much use of their powers.

Mr. Bevan went on to deal in detail with the second part of the

SACK FOR JOINING UNION

VER 100 Cypriot tailoring workers employed by Hebe Sports of City Road, London, are now in the third week of their strike for Trade Union recognition.

The employers replied to the workers' attempts to organise, by sacking 2 of the elected leaders when they tried to get the union organisation officially recognised by the firm. At the time of writing this report, no progress can be reported in the union's efforts to open negotiations with the em-

The anti-union activities of this firm are being challenged and it is clearly understood that these workers are in the front line of a struggle affecting all trade unionists and clothing workers in particular. Money is urgently needed to keep these fighters in a fit condition until the employers are forced to recognise the union.

This strike is taking place at a time when the union is pressing it's claim for an increase in wages 3d. per hour for men and

A circular has gone out to all shop stewards and members asking them to implement a complete oan on all overtime as from Monday, March 1st, 1954.

This is the result of a resolu-tion passed at a members' meetreported that the employers had rejected the union's claim, by offering to inminimum rate crease the basic which would not alter the earnings of the vast majority of workers in the industry.

The fight for higher wages to meet the rising cost of living is bound up with the struggle for trade union organisation. Sup-port for the Cypriot workers who have been used to undermine the wages of tailoring workers in London would be an important means of helping forward the whole fight in defence of wages, which is now going on in almost every

Financial help is urgently needed and should be sent to:-

Hebe Sports Strike Committee Control Tailors and Garment

Workers' Union 16, Charles Square, London, N.1.

NOTE.-Holborn and St Pancras South C.L.P. at its Annual Meeting last Thursday decided unanimously to send £21 donation to the Hebe Sports Strike

THERE is an urgent and growing demand in the Labour movement for a Ranks Urge All-out Attack On Tories * Tories would have to think again before they force the Bill through."

for rent increases. It was clear to him now, he said, that before the war the extent of the housing problem had been concealed in the statistics by unemployment.

This was borne out by a comfound 228 houses standing empty extent of 11.6 per cent. In 1948, The discussion was opened by however, there were no empty houses at all but there were 468 with only one person apiece in These persons obviously had no longer any financial need to take in lodgers or boarders.

The 1951 Census revealed, Mr. Bevan said, that whilst there were 11,934,000 houses in the country households but the average number of occupants in each house The conclusion to be "It is necessary to make drawn from these figures was that quite clear in our propaganda whilst there was gross underoccupation of some houses there was

> "It is no use our merely having a negative attitude to the rent question and saying the landlords should never be able to increase rents," said Mr. Bevan, "Obviously a great deal of rented property is rapidly deteriorating. Obviously land-lords have already, in many cases, obtained statutory in-creases in rents for repairs never carried out. Obviously if further power is granted to increase rents for repairs there is no assurance that the tenant will be able to satisfy himself that the repairs have been done."

ONUS ON TENANT

The Parliamentary Labour Party had moved an amendment on this point which would have put the onus on the landlord to prove to the Local Authority that the alleged repairs had been done, before a rent increase was allowed. The Tories had, of course, rejected this in favour of allowed. leaving it to the tenant to prove that they had not been done.

"There is a complete conflict between the private ownership of rent restricted housing and the needs of good housing," said Mr. Bevan. "We must have a positive and socialist

Reported by JOHN BROWN

policy on this question." (applause).

amendment was to parison of two surveys conducted moved to the Bill proposing that in Lancaster. The first, in 1935, all the 6,000,000 rent restricted properties in the country should at a time when the population of pass into the hands of the Local the town was unemployed to the Authorities in order that the total accommodation might be distributed in the best way and repairs dealt with in the best order. In fact, Mr. Bevan thought, if the Local Authorities put rent res-tricted property in a good state of repair a large number of tenants would be prepared to pay a slightly increased rent.

The discussion which followed was very lively indeed.

NEW APPROACH WELCOME

Bro. N. Dinning of Tottenham Labour Party said that all would agree with Mr. Bevan's suggestion a new-fashioned approach to the compensation question all we have heard," he said, all we have heard. an implicit acceptance of the utilinate passing of the Bill." His Plasterers spoke of the cost Party believed that this was one repairs. They might be high. of the issues on which the Labour leadership could now lead a cam-

ANEURIN BEVAN Main speaker at London Conference on combatting Tories' Rents
Bill



was an engineer and seemed threatened with the acceptance of Tories would not allow the Bill claimed by the Union. Add to that an increase in rents and it was obvious that the Tories were launching a wholesale attack on working class conditions.

"I ask Comrade Bevan, will the N.E.C. and the Parliamentary Party give a lead to the fight to get the Tories out now?...This Government must not be allowed to linger on from year to year," concluded Bro. Dinning amid applause.

Bro. Dinning's report that Totposing to advise tenants to refuse to pay the rent increases was approved by the next delegate to speak, an Old Age Pensioner.

"We must give this lead," he said, "the tenant's only weapon is to withhold every halfpenny of the rent.'

HIGH BUILDING PROFITS

Bro. Wall, a delegate of the National Association of Operative His Plasterers spoke of the cost of said, but profits in the building industry had risen from £31,000,000 in 1947 to £45,000,000 in 1952 and it was not the building workers who had benefitted from this.

Comrade Knights of Norwood abour Party said. "We want to Labour Party said. "We want to give to our tenants' committees not merely a list of advice on the procedure to fiddle a few pence off the increases. We want to be able to give them a plan to fight the Bill when it is a Bill and the Act when it is the law...In Glasgow in the 1914-18 War the tenants had to break the law to fight the rent increases and they won...The call should go out now from the Labour Party to fight the law by rent strikes.'

(This last remark provoked a lady in front of me to cry out: "That's sabotage!" A voice answered: "No. That's socialism.")

Councillor John Goffe of Peck ham Labour Party said. one who understands what the Tory Rent Bill will do gets very angry and wants to do something The Party should conduct a national campaign to ex-plain the Bill and lead such a wave of opposition to it that the

Councillor Finch of Norwood Labour Party said it was clear the wage award well below that to be amended in favour of the It was a Landlord's tenants. Charter.

> "Surely," he said, "it is up to the N.E.C. to look outside the Houses of Parliament to the Labour movement to stop this Bill becoming law. The offi-cial leadership must tell the Tories that they will lead tenants in their rent strikes. They must tell the Tories that Labour Local Authorities will be instructed by the Party not to carry out the provisions of the Bill."

A further supporter for a militant answer to the Tories was Comrade Hill of S. W. Islington Labour Party who said:-

"Don't go to the people and tell them how to stop their noses bleeding...the Rent Bill is thieving from the workers," he said, "let us announce now that the next Labour Government will take all the houses away from the landlords."

of the many other speeches made but the above gives some idea of the feeling of the Conference. In his reply Mr. Bevan dealt at some length with what he called "an interesting discussion and not a very surprising one."

He warned those advocating rent-strike and other extra-Parliamentary methods:-

"You must be careful not to encourage the workers into the battlefield unless you are willing to carry off the wounded." Perhaps we are!

DO YOU KNOW?

That offices and their conditions are not covered by any Act of

DO YOU KNOW?

That the highest incidence of T.B. is amongst office workers?

The Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union knows all about these facts and is working hard to get an Office Regulation Bill through Parliament. If you work in an office, its time you

OUT ON

dor to the U.S.A., Ben C. Limb, answering some pointed questions on the war in Korea recently said:-

"The main and only purpose in starting this war and coming in to fight with us is to unify the country, that's the only objec-

Question: "What agreement have you with the various governments . . . ?'

Answer: "We have their statement, we have on black and white ... they will not hesitate to join us in battle.

Question: "Do you think that as the South Koreans attack the North Koreans that we will go to war with you, that we are committed to join you in a war?"

Answer: "That is the agree-

(Statements and answers telecast over W.B.A.C.—T.v. New York outlet, Oct. 19).

From the above, it's clear how lucky we are that the Korean war has not already re-started in all it's fury. Let us note that we are told only afterwards what it's real "objective" was. Perhaps the truce is to be explained in the new and bigger Korea now being prepared in Germany? One American general did say that Korea was the wrong war, at the wrong time and in the wrong place.' The intention may be to tell us the true "objective" of our troops in Germany only afterwards.

Surely this time Labour ought to declare where it stands before the thing happens? Do we stand for the American's real "objective": the colonisation of China and the U.S.S.R., or do we oppose such a war as socialists must? such a war as socialists must? It is not much good waiting for the news flashes on the "Invasion of Germany" before we declare our attitude. Appropriate headlines are no doubt already taking shape in editorial minds: "Reds Vio-late Our Zone"; "We Use The Bomb in Defence," etc., etc.

If we are realistic, we must admit that only one thing can stop these headlines finally appearing. It is our open and declared hosto such a war. press harder for the withdrawal of all British troops. Our Party must declare against the American "objective" China and Russia. of colonising

THREE CHEERS FOR REALISM !

T was a neck and neck race for a decision on German arms. A couple of votes did the trick and so away we go into the fantastic future.

Since that historic vote in the Parliamentary Labour Party, Chancellor Adenauer pushed ahead and managed to get a small majority to call up German youth for conscription

Let us in the British Labour though, that there was a solid German Adenauer's policy in the German Parliament. What are we going to do now to help our German Countries, including those behind the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the United Nations Organisation and gradual disarmament.

So there you have the position of the countries of the countries, including those behind the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the countries of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Societies of the Iron Curtain. Finally, they wanted China admitted to the Iron Curtain. do now to help our German Socialist comrades to work for debate in the House, peace and socialism in Germany?

pean Socialists parties agreed to power politics. support the European Defence Get ready for Community and German re-armament. One party stood out against it at the Socialist International—

stain from backing the European mans do not arm. Defence Community and German

CORRECTION

A typographical error appeared in Harold Davies' column last week in the following sentence:

"Here in black and white is the admission that the generals would know what to do after a few days of Hydrogen and atomic attack.'

It should of course have read: "...the generals would **NOT** know what to do..."

The Week at !! Westminster!

Re-armament. The Brussels Conference, nevertheless, asked for German unity based on free elections, the independence of Austria and a European security system guaranteeing independence for all

So there you have the position as it stands now after last week's cemeteries of Europe are neat and The "realists" won at Brussels sad. There they lie, testimony to bo. We are told that ten Euro- two generations of "realism" in

Get ready for a great Press campaign to "educate" the public as to the meaning of E.D.C. The German Social Democrats.

The German Social Democrats creased their tempo. It was "Experienced the idea because the whole scheme threatens to divide Germany permanently into two armed camps.

The German Social Democrats creased their tempo. It was "Experienced their tempo." It was "Experienced their tempo. It was "Experience Hitler was dumping goods all over statistics will now grace our read-Switzerland. Finland and ing to prove that we shall be sweden had enough sense to abruined economically if the Ger-

Do you remember the story of the giant who tried to split an oak with his bare hands. He relaxed for one moment and the forked

Adenauer is being hailed as nother Bismarck. Perhaps it another Bismarck would be just as well to remind ourselves that when the Polish insurrection broke out in 1863, while France and England were in favour of the Poles, Bismarck quickly offeried help to Russia

by Harold Davies, M.P.



and massed his troops on the Polish frontier. Bismarck gothis Russian support and was able at Sadowa in 1866. It was all pure power politics. The cynicism of

blast with the wind of popularity on the trumpet of war, warming himself the while at while at will harden the feelings when we warming himself the while at while at while at while at while will harden the feelings when we warming himself the while at whi his own fireside; or to thunder

then to leave it to the musketeer who is bleeding to death in the snow whether his system win fame or victory or no. There is nothing easier than that; but woe to the stateman who in these days does not look which will hold water when the war is over."

If you stuff a leaky bucket with the bandages from a warrior's wounds, you can make it hold

KNUCKLE-DUSTER DIPLOMACY

"Wall Street Journal," April 5, 1949, welcomed the Atlantic Pact. But being a realist it said that it "nullifies the principle of the Charter and OUTLOOK" in your celebrates the triumph of jungle law over international co-operation on a world scale"...and substitutes "brute force for the human quality of reason." In fact an American Senator called the Pact "Knyckle duster diplothe Pact, "Knuckle duster diplomacy."

From those beginnings some of us knew the day would come when we socialists in the House thereafter to overthrow Austria would be asked to re-arm the Gerfor one moment and the forked at Sadowa in 1866. It was all pure mans. The day would come when timbers that he had torn apart power politics. The cynicism of sprang together and crushed him. That was reality too!

The day would come when the Germans would have some arms in any case. We hoped it words: bute to the United Nations as a "It is easy for a statesman, bute to the United Nations as a whether he be in the Cabinet great people working for world or in the Chamber, to blow a peace. Now we rush them into it before the Geneva talks. This

During the Debate on Decemorations from this tribune and ber 17, 1953, Attlee said:

"E.D.C., again is one of those matters which are not really in themselves of absolute prime importance." He added "it is a He added contribution to the security of Europe. It is a contribution to the building up which we have had to do which was forced on us as part of the Atlantic community." (My italics).

In view of the history of the whole tragedy it is interesting to note that E.D.C. was forced upon us. In the same speech Attlee quoted the Leader from "The Times":

"There is, however, a danger that the western Powers may treat the conference merely as an exercise to prove the Russians wrong and, therefore, simply as something to be over and done with as soon as possible in order to clear the way for E.D.C." (my emphasis).

History is repeating itself and I know of no way of judging the future but by the past. At this moment I say: "J 'accuse!"

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## **Praise From Electricians**

Following discussions at the meeting of this Branch, held last Monday, the 22nd inst., on the subject of the Electrical Contracting Industry—Wages Dispute, it was unanimously agreed that I be reise in the check with the smallest purse. This has been achieved with eggs.

The opponents of subsidising food will argue, "That's all very was unanimously agreed that I be reise in the check with the smallest purse. This has been achieved with eggs. was unanimously agreed that I be Stirchley Branch members, for

Out of the whole National contributed to the good of our cause, i.e. your paper, "Reynold's News," and the "Daily Worker."

Unless one really understands the steady persistent chloroforming of the workers day after day the Tory and Reactionary Press, one does not realise what is underneath the "sugar-coating" Now. if we allow the price creed. Then, when the workers are sufficiently bamboozled, they apply the coup-de-grace through a majority in a Tory Government.

Let us all hope and pray that a strong antidote will soon be forthcoming that will help the workers to realise their strength in their solidarity as one body.

Thanking you, and all the best of good wishes.

Stirchley Branch, E.T.U. Ronald V. Brown, Secretary



## Food Prices

doubt been a housewives delight, but, already the dismal johnnies are saying the day of reckoning has come. total cash payments to poultry keepers and farmers to compensate them for having to sell their eggs more cheaply during the past

Now, the guaranteed price paid essence a subsidy on eggs, and the purpose of subsidising essential foodstuffs serves to encourage an Cleethorpes S. R. Per

adequate consumption of such foodstuffs essential to the health of the nation, at prices which are within the reach of those with the

was unanimously agreed that I be instructed to convey to your economic' price all the same paper the very best thanks of the strickley. Brunch members for through extra taxation." This is other foodstuffs when they were to some extent true, but those taken off control, will read with your presentation of the case on who use this argument against behalf of our Contracting food subsidies forget the real purpose behind them.

Press, only three have consistently comes, the people in the higher Parliamentary Correspondent of contributed to the good of our income groups contribute more in the Manchester Guardian Weekly taxes than do the lower income (25/2/54) I am wrong. groups—individually. It follows, therefore, that indirectly the former contribute more towards the upkeep of subsidies than do the latter so-again indirectly

underneath the "sugar-coating" Now, if we allow the prices of that they constantly apply to their creed. Then, when the workers of the constantly apply to their creed. Then, when the workers of the constant cated in certain quarters, prices will undoubtedly rise considerably and many thousands of people within the lower income groups will be deprived of their fair shares. If we take eggs as an example, this is borne out by the poultry keepers themselves, whorightly or wrongly—are claiming the present guaranteed price of 4/9d. per dozen is totally inade-

With rising prices, demand will decline, so production will have to be cut-despite the demand there would be if prices were lower. To advocate a policy on these lines is surely a direct contradiction of the The present glut of eggs has repeated urge for even greater and greater production. Subsidies not only ensure adequate supplies of essential foods at reasonable prices for the less wealthy, they

destroying food on the doubtful to the poultry keepers is in tainable in times of glut make it suggests the size of their profits. grounds that the low prices ob-

## Be Glad?

The derationing of meat and bacon in mid-July will bring to an end fourteen years of rationing or control by the ration book.

Working-class housewives, bearing in mind what happened to who use this argument against mixed feelings the announcement about meat and bacon. Or so I thought, but it seems that I am By virtue of their higher in- wrong. Well, according to the

He says: "-there is no doubt that the housewife will learn with gladness that she will soon be free to consign her ration books to the fire. She has no ideological preconceptions about the virtue of control. Her one concern is that prices shall not soar, and to begin with she is protected against that contingency because as Dr. Hill (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food explained, the freeing of meat has been timed to coincide with the flush supplies."

That statement might reassure some people, but I am afraid not the people I know. One thing they will ask is what is going to happen to the price of these two commowhen supplies are not 'flush.

Manchester

Price Jones



## **Pools Profit**

the public it would cost over

plan than the former practice of accountancy staff. All that is re-destroying food on the doubtful quired is disclosure. The fact that they refuse to reveal their figures

Frank Allaun, A.C.A., B.Com.

## SAY IN PITS By J. Marston

ships.

MINERS NEED MORE

miners at New Monckton Colliery in South sold could not be *produced* to do something.

**TEACHERS**' pensions

in 1922 as a "tem-

were made contributory

porary" measure resulting

equivalent to five per cent—

Teachers'

Act, 1925.

anger against her.

asked to pay more."

was given permanency in the

to raise the rate of contribution

Teachers have lobbied their

M.P.'s; the teachers' unions have

Association of Labour Teachers

over a year ago when the sugges-

If the proposal goes through-

(Superannuation)

for the miners and a loss of coal ted. They are simply a sop to the for the nation. Yet two suppo-sedly different systems of ownerminers' vanity, and though the miner may be many things he is

No credit can be given to a adopted by private

To punish all the men for the duces and perhaps a repetition of alleged offences of the "majority" the Northfield Colliery "disaster" of piece-workers" is reminiscent can be avoided. the collective punishment meted out to the Kikuyu and is just as despicable.

Further, even if the miners concerned were guilty of restricting output without cause (and piece-workers are not in the habit of deliberately cutting their pay-packets without a good reason) their dismissal solves nothing. 350 miners will not be easy to replace with thousands of vacancies still to be filled. A loss of coal running at the rate of well over 100,000 tons a year will not help to boost the national output. And the already strained relationship between the miners and the N.C.B.

and their grievance brought to the notice of the public. The men have a right to demand that the negotiating machinery which so often they are urged to use in preference to strike action should, on this occasion, be used by the N.C.B. to remove the cause of

vent further unrest, but there appears to be general discontent

By Peter Ibbotson

Hon. Sec. National Association of Labour Teachers

from the recommendations of the Geddes Committee. But brugh seems determined to increase the discontent in English education—teachers will twice in like many other "temporary" measures introduced by the 25 years have suffered a salary cut Tories, the contribution—five at the hands of the Tories. (They per cent of the teachers' salary, lost ten per cent of their salaries his employer paying a sum also in 1931).

What is the reason for the proposed increase?

According to Miss Horsbrugh, quotes Now Miss Horbrugh proposes too long and drawing their pensions for too many years. Thereraise the rate of contribution stors for the many years. Inter-six per cent, and the whole fore, what has been paid out in ching profession has risen in pensions has far exceeded (she teaching profession has risen in claims) what teachers have paid in contributions.

She quotes figures to support her contention; but as usual with actively pursued the case against the six per cent. The general feel-ing is that voiced by the National Miss Horsbrugh's figures, they are contradictory and confusing.

#### **CONFLICTING FIGURES**

tion that contributions might be raised was first mooted: "This is a disguised salary cut. Teachers alone of all public servants who pay for their pensions are being the deficit on the pensions scheme was £102 million in 1948, and will be £194 million by March 31st, and despite opposition from her 1954. own back-benchers Miss Hors-

But answering questions in the

628 disputes in the North-

Eastern Division in 1952 does

The Consultative Committees

which the Labour Government

hoped would encourage greater

co-operation are not as successful

They cannot prevent mistakes

only rectify them. They can give

advice, but it need not be accep-

He wants, and should be given,

No provision is made in the

If the miner is to be hired and

fired on the same conditions that

apply in private industry, then he is perfectly entitled to protect his

Give him more responsibility

through a definite, though limited,

Nationalisation of Mines Act for

not susceptible to flattery.

any such developments. worker-employer basis

likely to remain indefinitely.

interests in a similar fashion.

Cut Teachers Wages House on February 18th, she said that the scheme will have a credit balance of £232 million on March 31st, 1954. She told George Thomas, too, that from 1922 to 1953, the income of the scheme was £313 million and the outgoings £246 million.

> Teachers rightly regard the extra one per cent as an imposition; a breach of faith. They argue that the rate of contribution has been stabilised at five per cent since the scheme began, and it should remain at five per cent.

The original breach of faith occurred, of course, when the Geddes recommendations were adopted in 1922.

Teachers' pensions had been established on a non-contributory basis in 1918, and the first national Burnham Scale for teachers' salaries was negotiated in 1918— on sions. When Parliament proposed the five per cent (as a "temporary" measure) in 1922, it was made clear by the teachers that if they had contemplated a contributory pension scheme they would have negotiated for a less nig-gardly Burnham award. However, the hard-faced businessmen had their way; they said that "no express undertaking was given by the Government" that pensions should not become contributory.

So-"no express undertaking' absolves the Government from honouring a moral obligation, does it? Anyway, the Tories broke faith in 1922, in the teeth of determined Labour opposition (which defeated the Government in committee, but of course the Government's steam-roller major-ity reversed the defeat on Report Stage); and they now bid fair to break faith again.

The existing agreement between teachers, local authorities and Ministry is that teachers shall pay for their pensions—at five per cent of their salary. Now, teachers claim that to increase this to six per cent is a breach of faith, interfering with an existing agreement.

The Minister refutes this claim. vealing how illogical Torvism is— in 1922, the Tories wouldn't accept the Geddes Axe recommendation to reduce teachers' salaries because (wait for it!) —"it would involve a breach of faith to interfere with existing agreements"!

You see-the same thing is a different thing at different times; like conspiracy. When businessmen combine against a rival, it's legitimate business (the Mogul Steamship case), but when workers combine, it's a conspiracy (see Temperton versus Russell, 1893, a year later than the Mogul case).

It's also noteworthy that if the increase to six per cent goes through, the Ministry of Education will get a net increase in its appropriations-in-aid of some

In other words, the Education Estimates can allow that much more expenditure on, e.g., schoolbuilding or equipment without sharing an increase in the total spent. Clever, isn't it?

#### Ministry has sent in its bill to also, by guaranteeing prices, en-£3,000,000 a year to publish their Parliament for £24,300,000, the courage more to be produced and accounts. As a Chartered Accountage more to be produced and accounts. in the process ensure fair returns tant I say this is fantastic nonsense to the producers for their labours. -and they know it. TARLY in 1939, 400 with the attitude of the N.C.B. to-Isn't this a much more sensible These firms employ the usual wards its employees.

Yorkshire were sacked because the coal they produced could not be sold quickly enough. In 1954, 350 miners are sacked at the Northfield Colliery in Lanarkshire because the coal as they could be if they had power

quickly enough.

The net result is unemployment ship are involved.

nationalised industry which has the opportunity to demonstrate to resort to the same methods his ability to run at least a section adopted by private industry to of the industry. solve its labour problems.

The N.C.B. alleges that restrictive practices led to a drop in production from 500 to 200 tons a day. It states also that the colliery lost £60,000 last year. These losses are regrettable in view of the country's dependence on coal. But it does not justify the dictatorial attitude of the N.C.B. in sacking the majority of the miners who were not guilty of restricting out-

will be worsened.

The miners must be reinstated

If this were an isolated case perhaps a settlement of the dispute would localize the effect on other workers in the industry and pre-

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## Salford Floods (from page I) deputations and resolutions in Council will not be sufficient. part of the scheme has been com-They must be backed by mass

pleted at a cost of £60,000. Originally estimated at £2 million, the cost of the whole scheme is now up to £3 million, due to the delay and the subsequent rise in prices of building materials.

## PEOPLE ORGANISE

The people of Salford are up in arms over the wasted time and arms over the wasted time and the 1.U.C. to press the Govern are organising to bring pressure ment to finance a flood prevention scheme, which will include ade-flood Victims Association has been reformed in Lower Broughton and in Lower Kersal, the other flooded area, an active Lower Kersal Tenants' Association has been formed.

Miss Sally Barr, the secretary of the Association (and one of this year's Vice-presidents of the tion on the Government. East Salford Labour Party) outlined their policy as follows:

"We believe flood prevention should be made a national issue and the Government must be made to take financial responsibility: The problem is too big for Salford to tackle alone, either financially or technically, as the source of the river and many of the prevention measures would have to be outside Salford boundaries. We wel-come the decision of the City Council to send an official deputation to Whitehall to press the Government to shoulder its responsibilities, but we feel that

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Order from **NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS** 266 Lavender Hill, London, S.W.II protests and activity by the people. We are agitating for a mass town's meeting and intend to send our own deputation to London too in support of the Council deputation." Council deputation.

Already the Manchester and Salford Trades Council has urged the T.U.C. "to press the Govern-

Several branches of the A.E.U. E.T.U., Transport and General etc., and the East Salford Labour Party have acted along these lines. The Salford City Labour Party held a meeting which also pressed for a town's meeting to press ac-

Labour Councillor G. D. Franks made this statement to the "Socialist Outlook":

"The floods happened in "Ine floods nappened in 1946. I was a member of the deputation that went to the Ministry in 1948 representing the Salford City Council. The Ministry assured us that we would receive avery considera-Ministry assured us that we would receive every consideration in the way of financial aid. The Governments have failed to honour their pledge. They have haggled over every penny and put forward all kinds of weak excuses to frustrate any progress in the scheme. Last time it was a Labour Government. Now there has been a change in Government but not minimize the saily found.

They contrast the millions spent on atomic warfare, on battleships and planes, on maintaining their sons and brothers in the army overseas to defend rubber in walaya, the millions being raked in everyday by Stock Exchange manipulators, with the £60,000 rependence in Government but not to protect the people in peace selves, as evidenced by the packed as in war. Salford demands meetings, flood prevention."

Mr. S. Hall of Stanton Avenue, Lr. Kersal, Chairman of the Tenants' Association, told me:

"It's a crime to have left people unprotected from a stinking river which is liable to break it's banks everytime there is heavy rain.

He was supported by Mrs. Bar-

low of Cheadle Avenue, also a

Committee member, who said:

scandal, that women, often with no men in the house, have to strain themselves carting the furniture upstairs. I know one person who is now ill with the nervous strain."

Labour Councillor Harold Hopkinson told me:

"As a Councillor living in the flood area (St. Matthias), I think the Government should face up to its responsibilities. The flood area must be made safe. The people are not interin looking forward to charity in the name of compen-They want to be free from their anxieties and fears The effect on people's health will be felt and seen if we are to be watching the river everytime we have a good downpour of rain."

## TO SUM UP

The people of Lower Broughton and Lower Kersal are fed up with the delay and neglect. They are convinced that if it was a question of protecting financial vested interests the £3 million could be

ment. Now there has been a change in Government but not in policy. Whatever Government is in power it is their duty done when they are for them they are the proceedings of the procedure of the procedur

Funds are needed to carry on the campaign. Trade Union, other organisations and individuals who wish to contribute should contact the Treasurer of the Lower Kersal Tenants' Association. (Flood Prevention Campaign).

Mrs. Barlow,
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