

THE Communist

An Organ of the Third (Communist) International

(PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN)

No. 105

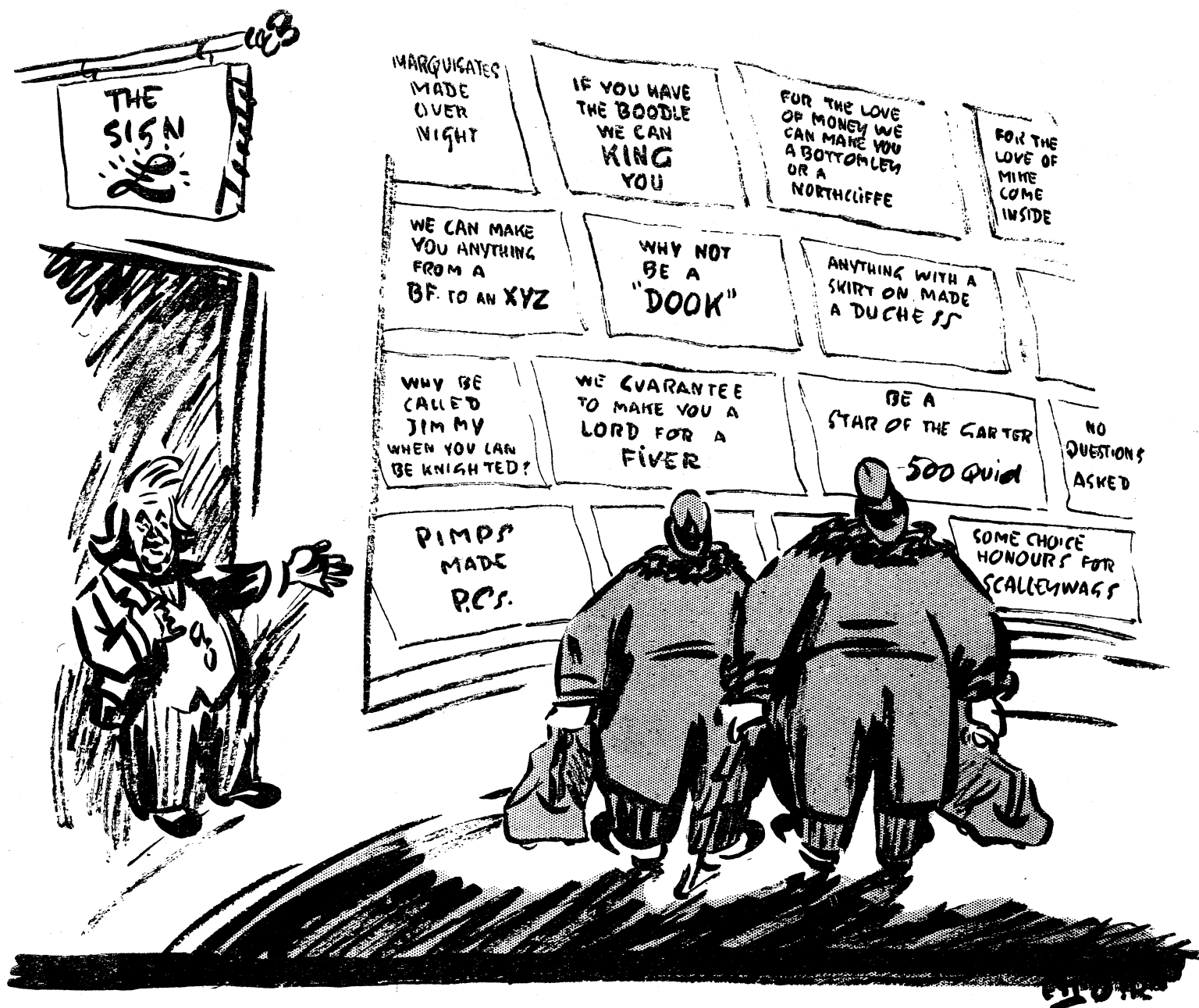
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5th, 1922.

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

TWOPENCE

"HONOURS EASY"

(Espoir in Germany has seen some English papers)



OUR BIRTHDAY

WITH this number we begin our third year. Our Comrade "Espoir," as you see, has been inspired to send us a birthday present from Germany.

First the word "birthday" made him think of Birthday "Honours" and the rest was natural and easy.

This is not the only birthday present with which we are able to regale our readers. On page 4 will be found a final demolition of those Myths about Malone, which have been circulated with zest during several weeks past. At the same time that we dispose of these myths we can take the opportunity of announcing that the Communist Party is busy with the task of convincing Mr. Sidney Webb and his congeners that it is not the sort of Party

to be disposed of by "an astute manœuvre"—whether at Edinburgh or elsewhere.

The Communists will not be driven out of the Labour Party. Let that be clear to everybody. We have it on the word of the leaders of the Labour Party at Edinburgh that the alterations to the Constitution there adopted were not intended to drive the Communists out of the organisation. That some rectification of the immediate policy contemplated by the Communist Party may be compelled by the situation created by these amendments is certainly true. Whatever is necessary will of course be done by the Party Executive.

But it must be clearly understood by all that in no sense of the word will there be any surrender or abandonment by the Communist Party of its legitimate aspirations to function as the vanguard of the British Workers' Class Struggle.

Certainly the Communist Party is not to be disposed of by a piece of "constitutional" trickery.

One thing about ourselves. The whole question of the Party organ is under consideration by the responsible Party officials, and we hope to be able to announce next week that arrangements have been concluded which will make the COMMUNIST even more than ever the leading organ of the Workers' Struggle in Britain.

We shall have a bigger paper, and with an enlarged staff—that much is certain.

Details are not yet settled, but with the enthusiastic devotion of our readers, which we know from experience we can count on with confidence, we shall be able in this our third year, to rise to heights of power and influence that will make our earlier efforts look puny indeed.

BIRTH CONTROL

By "CLETE"

THE prominence recently given in the capitalist press and elsewhere to the subject of birth control makes it desirable that a definite statement be made as to the attitude that the revolutionary worker should take with regard to this subject.

When in doubt the class-conscious worker usually accepts as an axiom that whatever the master class advocates must be to their own advantage and consequently to the workers' disadvantage.

In the present instance a difficulty arises due to the fact that the British capitalist class have recently shown a complete change of front in connection with the subject of birth control. At the moment instead of hindrance, encouragement is given to the advocacy of birth control, although this was not so a few years ago, and in other countries, particularly France and Japan, efforts are being made by the capitalist class to prevent birth control propaganda.

Superficially it would appear, therefore, that the touchstone of the class struggle is not applicable to the problem, but the moment one looks beneath the surface, the reason for this seeming contradiction is very apparent.

Birth control, as now advocated, is being put before the workers as the solution to the problem of unemployment. Mr. H. G. Wells has said that it will rid the world of mobs and crowds and unemployment will be no more.

If this was really likely to be the result of birth control propaganda, it is obvious that the capitalist class would quickly take the necessary action to close its mouth, for every student of economics—even professors of capitalist economics admit the fact—know that a certain percentage of unemployed among the workers is essential to capitalism.

The capitalist class are, however, by no means as happy about the unemployed as they have been in times past. The unemployed have apparently lost the habit of quietly starving and of everlastingly underbidding those employed and thereby making the lot of the workers gradually worse. The unemployed to-day are beginning dimly to be class-conscious. They refuse to starve, and they demand doles, and many of them in the most emphatic way are demanding that society shall be re-organised in such a way that unemployment shall cease.

The attitude of the capitalist class towards any problem of the workers is:—Firstly, to ignore it; secondly, to misrepresent it; and thirdly, when the working class looks determined enough to be dangerous, to offer a quack remedy.

Birth Control is the Quack Remedy for Unemployment.

They claim that if the population is reduced there will be more wealth to go round. Apparently, therefore, the less populated a district is, the wealthier should be the individuals occupying it. The inhabitants of the wilds of Scotland should apparently be rolling in wealth, while those in London should be the poorest in the world as it is the most thickly populated place of any. This, of course, is absurd.

Another argument is that the world produces per annum so much wealth, and the fewer people there are to share it, the greater must be the portion of each. It is unfortunate, however, that it is easily demonstrated that all wealth is produced by the application of Labour. If you reduce the Labour, you reduce the amount of wealth produced. Therefore, the statement is only true if the reduction was merely the extinction of all the parasites on Labour. And that is hardly the aim of those behind the birth control propaganda.

Suppose, however, that we awakened to-morrow morning and found that half the nation, rich and poor alike, had died in the night, there would undoubtedly be a plentiful supply of many commodities due to the fact that those organising production, having no warning of this disaster, would not have been able to adjust their production. It is obvious, however, that production would quickly adjust itself to the new conditions, the excess of commodities being merely due to the suddenness of the reduction in the demand.

Any graduated reduction, however, such as might result from birth control propaganda, would automatically be dealt with without the workers benefitting in any way.

It is also claimed that there must be some limiting factor to the production—particularly of certain food stuffs—in the world. This may, in the dim and distant future, be true, but it is a demonstrable fact that this point has by no means been reached at present. The blame of underproduction rests not on the capabilities of the world, but on the system on which

production is run to-day. It solely concerns itself with profit-making and not with the needs of the community at large.

Mr. Harold Cox, in the *Outlook* for July 15th, voices the contentions of the birth control propagandists. He says:—

"It ought to be an elementary maxim of morality that no man has the right to become a father unless he is able to maintain that child until it is of age to maintain itself."

It does not appear to have occurred to Mr. Cox, or his like, that it should be an elementary maxim of morality that no decently organised society has the right to deny parenthood to a healthy father and that it should be a function of the State to ensure that the children of such, are neither physically nor mentally starved. Mr. Cox's ethics are typical of capitalist morality—which is governed solely by economics. He does not say "no unhealthy, deceased, drunken, criminal, avastistic or debauched man, has the right to become a father"—No! "impecuniosity" is the only sin.

As Communists, we claim that birth control is no solution of the unemployed problem, which will exist while capitalism exists. The plausibility of Malthusianism lies in the fact that as in the case of abstinence from drink, it is easy to demonstrate that individuals may profit by it.

The worker who does not spend his money on drink, denies himself parenthood, and tightens his belt so that he reduces his cost of subsistence, undoubtedly has an economic advantage over a fellow worker who has numerous offspring, drinks, gambles and spends his money on good living and amusements. He can underbid his fellow workers and yet save money where they cannot. He may by so doing even ascend into the ranks of the semi-emancipated middle-class, but, and this is the important point—his advantage is not due to the fact that he does these things, it is solely due to the fact that others do not.

If every worker followed his example, none would benefit. On the other hand, wages would drop in view of the lower cost of subsistence resulting. This is the rotten nail that lets the bottom out of the Malthusian wash-tub!

[It is a quaint irony that while the wonderful Birth Control Conference was being held in London, and those present were declaiming that denial of parenthood brought wealth in its train, the eunuchs of Constantinople were declaring a strike for higher wages, many being so destitute that they had to appeal to the American Committee for Relief in the Near East for aid. (See the *Washington Evening Star*, July 11th, 1922).]

GHOSTS OF OLD RUSSIA

By F. WILLIS

MOST people must have noticed a paragraph which went the rounds of the Press last week commencing like this:—

"The Svenska Dagbladets" Riga correspondent (quoted in an Exchange Copenhagen wire) says he learns from a fully reliable source that Lenin, during his journey to a Caucasian bathing place, where he was to seek health recuperation, has been murdered."

The circumstantial details—cyanide of potassium, the Red accomplice who impersonated the alleged dead man, the body thrown into the river, and so forth—were in the true vein of melodrama to which Riga has accustomed us.

A few people, we suppose, still take such announcements for Gospel truth ("It is in print and so it must be so"), but there is a limit even to the average Britisher's capacity for being fooled, and the majority by now have probably become thoroughly cynical. After all, Lenin cannot die many more than fourteen times in five years. Die he certainly will some time or other, but sensible people will wait until the event is announced in the *COMMUNIST* before believing it.

Riga is not the only Tsarist lie factory in existence. There is Helsingfors, for instance, and Paris, Vienna, and sometimes Berlin. London exports a specially

manufactured article to the Continental press, and imports in return the lies of half Europe. America, if the truth be told, is inundated with specimens from all the rest of the world.

The clue to the business is the position of the emigres, disgorged from Russia by the great upheaval of 1917. Two million of the disinherited—Grand Dukes and Duchesses, ex-ministers, military officers and other undesirables—float from capital to capital, settling at intervals into small coteries of conspiracy and intrigue.

One of the most aristocratic of them hangs round St. James' Palace. Perhaps that is why semi-official publications like "Whitaker's" and the railway guides still persist in publishing the address of the Russian Embassy and the Consulate, for all the world as if Nicholas II. still masqueraded at the head of the old bureaucracy.

From these shadows of a dead past scattered throughout the world, emanate the weird lies about Soviet Russia printed so eagerly by the gutter press and swallowed just as eagerly by its poor dupes.

Yet for all they are exiles united in a common doom, they are split into a thousand conflicting sects among themselves. They are Monarchists, Cadets, Kerenskyites, Social-Revolutionaries, and

Mensheviks, in their own little spheres of intrigue, coalescing only occasionally for some common purpose.

"Millerand and Briand favour Kerensky," said Kartashov, President of the Russian National Committee in Paris, and professor of theology at the Sorbonne, to a correspondent of the *New York Nation*, "but Poincare is our friend. Kerensky has friends in the British Foreign Office." He added that he did not trust the Western Governments: "They wish to use us for selfish ends, and to re-make Russia in their own image. Their so-called democracy will not fit Russia. We are opposed to the British suggestion that the League of Nations should interfere in our affairs."

Wrangel has 22,000 members of his late army in Jugo-Slavia; there are others in Roumania, in Poland, and in Czechoslovakia. And always their publicity departments in Riga or Helsingfors are pumping forth their streams of premeditated falsehood.

The ghosts of old Russia will walk for some time yet. Their uneasy spirits will continue to vex a world that is growing weary of them.

But never again will the old Russia of their dreams return. It has gone for ever with all its evil memories and vile associations.

The new Russia of the workers waits, suffering and impatient, to meet the new world that will be born out of the ashes of capitalism.

Can Capitalism Stabilise, or EXCHANGE IS ROBBERY

By Maurice H. Dobb

WITHIN the last few weeks the value of the German coin, the mark, has "slumped" or fallen in value to an exchange value of 2,100 to 2,300 marks to the English pound sterling. (Before the war £1 equalled 20 marks). As a result there arises on the lips of most of us this kind of question: What is the cause of this sudden slump? Why is it that Britishers going to Germany find the purchasing power of their money so much increased? And the Communist will add the following questions: Will the mark go on slumping? If so, what will be the effect on world capitalism? Is capitalism able to stabilise its exchanges and thereby take a step on the road to capitalist reconstruction? On the answer to the last three questions largely depends the tactics of the working class movement in the near future. On our understanding of all five depends our understanding of the causes of unemployment.

The first thing to be emphasised in discussing the question of the foreign exchanges is that it is not a problem shut off in a water-tight compartment by itself; it is part of one big social problem—the problem of world capitalism. And it is in neglecting this that patchwork reformists usually "come a cropper." When the financial experts at Genoa tried to find ways and means of stabilising the value of the mark, they found that this depended on the question of Reparations; the question of Reparations depended on the whole question of French Imperialism and France's debts to Britain and U.S.A.; and French Imperialist policy depended on the investments of French Finance Capital, and the matter of the debts on the attitude of the American financiers, who pull the strings behind the mannequins which form the Harding administration. In other words, social evolution has reached that stage where capitalism is so linked together that the problems of the world constitute a single problem, and hence can be remedied, not by piecemeal reform, but only by striking at the roots of the matter.

The chief reason why the "external value" or foreign exchange value of the mark has fallen (and this applies to the franc, lire, kronen, and rouble as well) is because the supply of marks in circulation has been vastly increased by the printing of large quantities of paper marks. According to the laws of supply and demand, this vast increase of supply of marks lowered the purchasing power of each mark. In other words, more marks now have to be given for the same quantity of goods as before: prices have risen. The following figures show us clearly how increase of prices in Germany have gone along roughly with increase in note issue:—

| | No. of Notes in circulation | Proportionate increase of Notes (1914-100) | Wholesale prices (Frankfurter Zeitung Index No.) |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Middle 1914 | 2,400 | 100 | 100 |
| Jan. 1921 | 68,800 | 2,866 | 2,100 |
| Jan. 1922 | 113,600 | 4,733 | 4,200 |
| June 1922 | 169,000 | 7,041 | 7,800 |

The way this affects the foreign exchange value of the mark is as follows:—The purchasing power of the mark having fallen, owing to the rise of prices in Germany, the British merchant, changing pounds for marks at the old rate, finds he is able to buy less goods in Germany than he can elsewhere with the pound. Consequently exports from Germany fall off; there is less demand for Bills of Exchange on Germany to make payment for these exports. In other words, there is less demand to buy marks. As a result the foreign exchange value of the mark falls, until the new rate of exchange between marks and pounds sterling measures the relative purchasing powers of the mark and the pound. Therefore, one cause of the slump of the mark is "inflation" of the German currency.

But in Germany at present the internal purchasing power of the mark has not declined to anything like the same extent as its external value or foreign exchange

value. Wholesale prices in Germany have risen by about 800 per cent. Retail prices have risen less. On the other hand the number of marks needed to purchase a given quantity of goods (imported from abroad has increased by about 1,600 per cent.

This difference between the internal and external value of the mark is chiefly due to the action of speculators in foreign exchange, buying and selling marks. The German Government, being in financial difficulties and unable to balance its budget, can only meet the periodic demand for reparation payments by creating fresh paper marks, and selling them to speculators in foreign exchange, in order with those marks to buy the francs and sterling in which payment to the Allied Governments has to be made. This rush to sell marks causes a "slump" in their value.

The recent slumping of the mark to 2,300 was largely due to the murder of Rathenau, which caused Germans in panic to sell any marks they had, in order to invest in the more secure franc, dollar, or sterling.

The effects of a continually unsteady foreign exchange are:—

1. Fluctuating values cause great risks to merchants and manufacturers, and so greatly hinder trade and production.

2. The countries, where the price level has not risen to the same extent as their exchanges have fallen have low enough

COMMUNIST "PUSH" REPORTS

Owing to the large number of reports received from Communist agents, we are unable to give the result in this week's issue; we hope to give the result, also print a selected number of reports in a week or two's time.—

CIRCULATION MANAGER.

costs of production to enable them to "dump" goods abroad at low prices. This causes disorganisation of production and unemployment in these countries.

3. As a result of (2) capitalists in self-defence, force their Governments to impose tariffs and embargoes to prevent this "dumping," etc.; and this still further hinders trade, makes the problem of the exchanges worse, and so on in a vicious circle.

An instance of the disastrous results of (3) is seen in the present state of the Textile Industry in what used to be the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a result of the imperialist policies pursued at Versailles, the old textile industry is now distributed among a number of different nations. The Austrian weaving mills are now dependent on the spinning mills of Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Jugo-Slavia. These latter countries impose restrictions on imports and exports, with the result that the Austrian mills are only able to produce 60 million metres per annum, instead of a possible output of 130 million. At the same time capitalists in Czecho-Slovakia are complaining that owing to inability to export their yarn, the output of their looms is much less than pre-war.

* * *

The position is, therefore, that all over Europe the productivity of industry is much less than pre-war owing to maladjustment between various parts of the economic machine. There is over-production in one place because there is under-production in another, and vice-versa. In this country there is a scarcity of fluid capital for necessary reconstruction work, which would give employment to workers, because an excessive amount of capital has been sunk in shipbuilding plant and is useless. (The world's shipbuilding capacity in 1919 was 114.4 per cent. greater than in 1913, and in 1921 the world's total tonnage was 26.3 per cent. greater than in 1914.)

This maladjustment as a result of the war and post-war boom, and consequent over-production of certain classes of goods and plant, is on a much larger scale than in any pre-war trade depression. More-

over it is prevented from readjusting itself automatically, as it tended to do in pre-war crises, by the disorganisation of trade and production through changing price-levels and fluctuating exchanges everywhere. This evil gets cumulatively greater like the rolling snowball.

Now, it is just possible that Finance Capital, in so far as it comes together in an international consortium, may use its political power to reverse the imperialist policies of competitive rivalry, which have prevailed hitherto, and may put into operation the kind of policy advocated by Mr. Keynes and the *Manchester Guardian*. Such a policy has as its key-notes: reductions of reparations; cancellation of inter-Allied debts; loans to Central Europe and Russia; stabilisation of the exchanges. It may do this if it makes large investments in trade, and therefore, requires peace and stable conditions. But at present there seems much more sign of the various financial groups buying up at bankruptcy prices material resources and plant in stricken Central Europe. And this policy of investment in material resources (e.g., oil and coal and iron ore) and in iron and steel production (e.g., French financiers bought up the Skoda Works, Pilsen, in Poland, in 1919), implies political policies of predatory Imperialism. As long as this Imperialist rivalry continues, Stabilisation of the Exchanges will be impossible.

But even should Finance Capital secure a temporary stabilisation of political and economic conditions, this is likely to be no more than temporary. The growing indebtedness of Europe to America spells inter-continental rivalry, with oil as the possible prey. Imperialist rivalry in China will still continue. Moreover, the political action which a Finance Consortium would find it necessary to take in the way of reducing wages, abolishing workers' control, etc., as Stinnes is doing in Germany, would intensify the class struggle over Central Europe. For instance, an attempt to stop inflation in Germany and stabilise her Exchange, would be certain at first to cause a rapid fall in internal prices and a rise in the foreign exchange value of the mark (owing to the action of speculators in buying marks in anticipation of a rise). A rise in the value of the mark from, say, 2,000 to 1,400 would involve trade depression in Germany, unemployment and wage reductions on a gigantic scale.

All that can be said in answer to the question "what are the chances of a revival of capitalist production?" is this:—It is possible that there may be a temporary revival of trade and employment in the next few months owing (a) to a revival of the Eastern and South American markets, (b) to an artificial stimulation of production in America by fresh inflation of credit. This will affect our trade as well. In U.S.A. there are large gold reserves, and therefore a large basis for credit inflation. Prices in America have taken a decided upward turn already; Bank Clearings have increased considerably; constructional activity has increased by about 50 per cent. since last year; unemployment has declined. In this country imports of raw materials have increased since May and freights have risen slightly in anticipation of shipment of the Argentine crops.

But such a revival is likely to be only very short-lived (probably not more than 18 months) so long as there is instability and chaos in Europe; and the ensuing depression when it comes is likely to be all the more severe. For instance, I have heard a noted orthodox economist give it as his opinion that the over-investment in shipping and shipbuilding plant in this country is enough to last for 30 years.

Meanwhile, Russia, free from internal conflicts between the sectional interests of rival capitalist groups, free from the disintegrating conflict of class struggle, is able to enforce those wise economic methods necessary for financial stability. And, as Mr. Maynard Keynes himself has suggested, Soviet Russia may be the first of the war-stricken nations to stabilise her exchange!

AUNT JEMIMA : and THOMAS'S BREECHES

Coal "The coal export trade of Sunderland," observed Aunt Jemima on Monday—by Aunt Jemima we mean the *Manchester Guardian*—"is becoming as a consequence of the American coal strike . . . there is no sign of any Labour trouble, the miners do not know the destination of the particular coal they are producing and, apart from that, they are not at all anxious to find any cause for stoppage . . . Dock employees are loading vessels without raising any question." Then Aunt Jemima resumed her knitting. Will the Sunderland boys do anything about it?

* * *

History Lesson "The revolutionary elements in Paris during the Great Revolution," observes the learned Dr. Thomas Jackson, D.D. in his book, "assumed the name of *sans-culottes*, that is, 'without breeches.' Pardon us, you mistake us. The breeches referred to are not the usual kind. The meaning of this historical term can best be understood by a contemplation of the Right Honourable James Henry Thomas, M.P., P.C., J.P., D.C.L., when in Court dress. When so attired, Mr. Thomas, you will observe, wears an ornamented coat of dark colour, with long coat-tails, which is cut away at the front, giving full display to those lower garments, which (with due respect) we shall describe in a moment. Mr. Thomas' shoulders are given breadth and manliness by a sartorial device, not indeed stuffing but (shall we say?) an indication of an epaulette. We must regretfully pass over Mr. Thomas' Court sword, its proper length and the method of wearing it, etc. Such grave matters cannot be dealt with in so small a space. We also can only give a word to the silk stockings, which so suitably show off Mr. Thomas' calves, for we must go straight to the subject of our note—Mr. Thomas's Lower Garments.

It will be found on inspection, that the upper parts of Mr. Thomas's legs are encased tightly in a material of silk appearance. We say "appearance" because to test their quality as silk it would be necessary to use a pin or finger-nail at least, which would constitute a Common Assault, or, in the case of a Privy Councillor, might even be regarded as mayhem. This material is invariably of a light colour and stretched fairly tightly, but decently, over Mr. Thomas's person, ending below the knee in

a decorated and ornate manner. This whole garment is known officially as "Mr. Thomas's Breeches," and it is upon the absence of these garments that the *sans-culottes* perversely congratulated themselves—they wearing vulgar trousers.

The nearest equivalent to *sans-culottes* in the English language, students will note, is thus "Unlike Mr. Thomas," and we will conclude with another quotation:—

"Whatever may have been the failings of the *sans-culottes* in these years—1790-1794—there is no question but that their honesty, courage, and self-sacrifice alone made the revolution possible, and alone were responsible for the many benefits which the world to-day enjoys from that revolution. The same class, or a similar

NEXT WEEK

being Bank Holiday Week

The Communist

will go to press a day later than usual. Agents and branches please note.

class, to-day holds the fate of every European country in its hands, and unless they imitate in every way their ancestors' courage, decision and single-mindedness, we shall not be saved by the classes above them."

* * *

The New Dawn "High thinking" distinguishes the co-operative movement, and recently they seem to have made up their minds that "plain living" shall be the mark of their employees. Anyway, for some time past the C.W.S. and the lesser societies have been planning a big attack on wages, just on the good old plan, like any other employer.

Such (however) is the idealism of the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress, that an invincible obstacle was in their way. No efforts, however great, could remove it, Herbert. They were forced to

submit their demands first to a joint board in which the Labour Party and the T.U.C. represented the workers. When we say that the T.U.C. representative was Charles W. Bowerman, known to everyone as "Gentleman Charlie," we have given clear proof of its efficiency.

This Board has given its award, actuated, of course, purely by Labour Party idealism, etc., etc., and fishing for the co-operative vote.

IT HAS RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE CUTS IN WAGES IN ALMOST EVERY DEPARTMENT. THESE WAGE CUTS ARE ARRANGED SO AS TO HIT ADULT WOMEN THE HEAVIEST AND AMOUNT TO AS MUCH AS 16s. AT ONE STROKE.

* * *

A Fight Possible

This monstrous, this filthy award ought to be the text of protests by every women's organisation in the country. It seems very probable, moreover, that the union, the N.U.D.A.W., which, although its official personnel is mixed, has some energetic leaders, will fight it, and there may be a first-class struggle on soon, in which the workers will be in an unusually favourable position.

Whatever be the result, this award is a lamentable exposure of official Labour mentality. It is from this type of mean cheese-paring, prostitute-recruiting, we are told to expect the millennium!

* * *

The Engineers' Ballot

The ballot on the wage-cuts in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions has gone against the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The rank-and-file are opposed to the wage-cuts, at least those who have voted are against them.

If we had been turned down as many times in two years as the recommendations of these Executive Committee, we would at least have the decency to resign. There is only one possible way the retreat can be stopped, and that is by insisting upon the central organs of the unions getting together for the purpose. We told the engineering workers time and time again during the lock-out that they could not win off their own bat. They cannot do it today. The Executive should be faced with the demand to either get the unions together to save them from destruction, or resign.

Myths about Malone

THERE has been, in recent weeks, quite a flood of rumours and reports current about the Communist Party M.P. for Leyton, Comrade C. L'E. Malone. Some of these have originated in National Labour Party circles and others have generated, more or less spontaneously, in the minds of certain local pundits of the I.L.P.

One of these is that he has as good as left the Communist Party and that he is working with the Labour Party. The truth is that Comrade Malone, at least four months ago, applied for the Labour Party Whips. In this respect he was, of course, only following out the Party policy of establishing the closest possible contact with the Labour Party and was acting with the knowledge and whole-hearted approval of headquarters. The Labour Party has, so far, not extended its whips to Comrade Malone.

Another cheerful little story, appearing in the *Labour Leader*, and copied somewhat widely, is to the effect that he has joined the I.L.P. This is quite untrue, as its authors are aware. The very idea of

joining that funny little faction immensely tickled Malone's sense of humour.

Yet another embroidered anecdote is that about his support of the Ministry of Defence Creation Bill. *Forward* waxed eloquent and sarcastic about the fact of Malone's name appearing on the bill as one of those backing the measure. At the same time, and with characteristic I.L.P. honesty, *Forward* suppressed the fact that the list of backers reads as follows: ". . . Col. J. Wedgwood, Mr. L'Estrange Malone." Note, the I.L.P. military man and the Communist civilian. Note the Bermondsey "pacifist" and the Communist "opportunist."

The Defence Bill is not a Government measure. It has no chance of becoming such. It has no chance of securing the support of the all-powerful "interests" of the War Office, the Admiralty or of the armament firms. It is just a Private Members' Bill which, flying in the face of generations of service tradition, has no earthly chance of going through, but does permit of many things being raised and discussed in the course of debate.

He can rarely catch the Speaker's eye. He has to adopt subtle artifices—being a Communist—to do so. Moreover, his activities have all along been ignored by the *Daily Herald*. His questions have, however, been effective in securing considerable publicity in the more exclusive organs of "Fat." He was the man chiefly responsible for disturbing the somnolence of Scotland Yard in the case of G. L. Bevan. Every now and then he drops a "depth charge," which greatly annoys his capitalist companions. Only a few weeks ago he elicited the information from the Foreign Office of a neat little transaction carefully hidden away from the public eye, by way of a concession which the Government had helped Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons to get from the Greek Government. It is generally accepted that this concession has a great deal to do with L.G.'s support of Greece against the Turks. L.G. had no desire for this to come out. It is not the last little packet that Comrade Malone has in store for the father-in-law of Sir Robert McAlpine's daughter and others of the Privy Council Kidney.

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A Weekly Organ of the Third (Communist) International
Official Organ of the Communist Party of Great Britain
16 King Street, Covent Garden
London, W.C.2

Telephone . Gerrard 877

"The Communist" can be sent to any reader direct from this office at the prepaid, post-paid rate of 3/3 per quarter, or pro rata.

Terms for quantities: 1/4 for 13, post paid, sale or return; monthly account. All communications to:—Circulation Manager, "The Communist," 16, King Street, W.C. 2.

The Editor welcomes contributions from any member of the Party, or from sympathisers, on any industrial or other subject of interest to the Party. The return of these cannot be guaranteed unless they are accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. They should be sent to 16, King Street, London, W.C. 2. They cannot be paid for at the present.

BRITISH UNIONISM AND THE AMERICAN COAL STRIKE

IN 1921 the British miners faced a three months' struggle. They were heavily beaten for want of international solidarity. From that time to the present no effort has emanated from either the Miners' International or the Amsterdam International to remedy the defects.

We have persistently appealed for a real international with full sense of international obligations and discipline. Hodges and his colleagues have been content to drift—pacifying their consciences with the formula: "National solidarity must precede international solidarity."

Now, in 1922, the British Unions come face to face with the problem of international "scabbing."

Are the miners, the railwaymen, the dockers, the transport workers, going to smash the American mine workers' strike at the bidding of the Government? That is the issue.

For four months the miners of America have battled against great odds. Soldiers have been used in fifteen States. Many miners have been killed. Evictions, court injunctions, armed thugs have been used against them in almost every state.

The miners have fought with a tenacity that has surprised even their own leaders. Great efforts have been made to reach non-union fields. At least 100,000 non-unionists have joined the strike. But the difficulties are enormous. There are entire counties in West Virginia and in Pennsylvania where no union organiser is permitted to enter. The coal companies control the local, municipal and court machinery absolutely. They hire the police. They pay the sheriffs. They own all the property in some of these towns. When the Union succeeded in leasing a piece of land in Vintondale, Pennsylvania, they had organisers who tried to enter the town arrested, and even newspaper correspondents were kept out.

"Employers have been ready to meet violence or more often, to anticipate it. They hire and arm their own strike guards, and often equip and pay county sheriffs."—*Manchester Guardian Weekly*, July 28th.

Against this kind of opposition the American miners have fought with amazing confidence and solidarity. And now the Capitalist press is in hysterics. Read the headlines: "More British Coal for U.S." "100,000 Tons a Day." "Sharp Rise in Freight Rate. Prices Advanced." "Orders Rapidly Increasing." "70 Ships Chartered for British Coal going to America."

It is an intolerable situation. If there is one thing that trade unionism should have made impossible it is scabbing during a strike. Yet the *Daily Herald* leader, on Saturday, July 29th, dealing with the U.S.A. Mines is an utter disgrace to a Labour paper.

Listen to it: "But it is useless to clamour idly that something should be done, or to denounce somebody wildly because nothing is being done. For the grim fact is that nothing *can* be done."

The first part is cowardice: the second is a lie.

Something *is* being done and the *Daily Herald* is busy doing it in dispute after dispute. It squirmed and shuffled and preached defeat in the Engineers' lock-out. It covered up the defects of the leaders in the name of peace. And now when the British trade unions are being called upon to function as international scab organisations the *Daily Herald* paves the way. That is doing something with a vengeance. How the pioneers of the *Daily Herald* must squirm when they read its pages to-day.

Such defeatism is not for us.

On Monday, July 31st, 1922, the S. Wales Miners E.C. meets in Cardiff. On Monday, July 31st, the Transport Workers' E.C. meets. Next week the Miners' International meets in Frankfort. The two Executives meeting on Monday can, if they will, pave the way for action to help the miners of America.

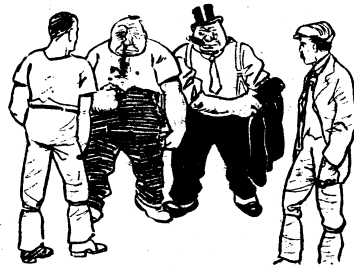
Let them convene a joint meeting of the Executive Committees of the Unions involved:—The N.U.R., the A.S.L.E. and F., the Transport Workers, the Dockers, and the E.C. of M.F.G.B. Let them issue a statement to the rank and file explaining the situation. Let them give a clarion call to the miners and transport workers to give a warm reception to the blackleg ships and stop the coal leaving the ports.

Let them meet quickly, prior to the Miners' International, and send a unanimous call to the International Miners to line up for international support to the American miners.

Real internationalism can only come out of the actual struggle and through actual demonstrations of solidarity. To put off rendering aid because machinery is imperfect may be good enough for a *Daily Herald* leader writer, but it ought not to do for responsible leaders of labour. It will not do for Mr. Herbert Smith to go to Frankfort and repeat the statement he made at Blackpool. "At the International Conference at Frankfort next month," he said, "a statement would be made of a kind that would be appreciated—that the mines should be for the nation and not for the millionaires." When you get to Frankfort for Heaven's sake come down to mother earth and be practical.

The strike is not for nationalisation—it is to defend the wage rates of the miners. Get down to the job of organising assistance to this effort. If you don't, if you allow the American miners to be defeated, then rest assured that the miners of Britain and Europe will pay for it. To help the American miners now is to help the British miners too. Defeat the American miners by lack of solidarity and you defeat the British miners also. Refuse to take bold action now and not only do you bring disaster to the American miner, but you will also make it impossible to achieve united international action in the future.

It is up to the British Trade Union leaders to make an effort. Upon their actions now depends the possibility of breaking down the isolation of the workers of America from the workers of Europe. It is up to you now to make a practical step towards uniting the workers of the world.



SOLIDARITY FOR EVER

An OPEN LETTER to Messrs, ARTHUR HENDERSON, J. RAMSAY MACDONALD and TOM SHAW

WE were deeply astonished to read that a presiding judge in your democratic country denied the accused the right of explaining in court the reasons which prompted them to kill Wilson—asserting that he could not permit the court to be utilised for anarchist propaganda or political manifestations.

We remind you of your efforts to secure guarantees from us for the defence of the liberty of the Socialist-Revolutionary leaders accused of the attempt on Lenin, of the murder of Volodarsky, and of organising insurrection with foreign money.

We granted them these privileges; but your friends of the Second International tore up the Berlin agreement and closed the doors of the Labour Party to the British Communist workers.

The accused Socialist-Revolutionary terrorists have now for 30 days enjoyed complete liberty in their defence, explaining the reasons for their crimes in extensive speeches.

We know that the British Labour Party leaders were sufficiently brazen at the Labour Party Conference to condemn the terrorist acts of the Irish revolutionists who staked their lives on the struggle for their country's freedom; but we do not know what Privy-Councillor Henderson did to utilise his former

influence on the Privy Council to obtain liberty of defence for these two Irishmen.

Although we deem it inadmissible for a Labour leader to be a Privy-Councillor, yet, since your Party has agreed to such an ignominious role, you should also utilise your intimate influence with the Imperial Government to protect the elementary principles of justice. We appeal to you (although you are not revolutionaries) because you appealed to us to secure pardon for the S.R. Terrorists. We address our appeal to all parties of the Second and Vienna Internationals, demanding that they exert the maximum pressure upon the British Government to obtain a fair trial for the Irish revolutionaries, and to obtain permission for, if necessary, Communist representatives to plead on their behalf and in the name of millions of workers and peasants.

We guarantee that *our* representatives will not leave England before the end of the trial, regardless of any hostile manifestations on the part of the imperialists."

KARL RADEK

N. BUHARIN

LET US PREY

SOME weeks ago there appeared in *John Bull* a characteristic note, denouncing as "murder most foul" a proposal by Tom Mann that all the resources of organised labour should be used to resist the massed attacks of the boss-class upon the workers' standard of life. This prompted a comrade of ours—a Lancashire miner—to submit for the editor's consideration the article summarised below. Readers must draw their own conclusions as to why pressure of space prevented the successor of the immortal Horatio from making use of the same.

Violent unrest in any community almost always springs from one cause—hunger. The real promoters of violence, therefore, are those who in the secret, sinister places of politics and finance plot to make men, women and children starve.

That is what the representatives of aggressive capitalism have been doing for many months past. They have been planning slow starvation for the working-class, who form the bulk of the "community." And when we venture to defend ourselves and our children we are told by the boss press that *we* are "waging war on the community."

The war on the workers' wages was begun—after the best militarist model—before it was declared; and it is still carried on as relentlessly as ever by organised centralised "Big Business," at whose disposal a willing Government has placed the whole

By A. Johnson

civil and military organisation of the State.

Outside the House of Commons the employers are organised in the Federation of British Industries, representing hundreds of millions of invested capital, which stretches its tentacles over every department of the national life. Whoever doubts the reality of the present attack on wages should note carefully the views of some of its leading lights.

At a meeting of the Federation, held last year at the Hotel Cecil, the chairman, Sir P. Rylands, stated that "the job of the Federation is to urge in season and out of season that cost of production must be lowered at the expense of the workers."

In the June (1921) number of "Sperling's Journal," Sir E. Mackay Edgar, Bart., Director of 18 companies, wrote:—"If our uneconomic mines are resolutely kept closed and one or two hundred thousand miners are out of a job for the remainder of the year there will be formed a reserve of skilled unemployed that may again make competitive labour something of a reality in the mining industry and so stimulate production while lowering wages."

Writing in the November issue of the "United Manufacturers' Journal," Mr. R. S. Wright, M.L.E.F., frankly declared: "The one and only remedy is for salaries and wages to be ruthlessly cut down, irrespective of cost of living or any other consideration. The first few weeks would be the worst, but all the same we must be

content to live in comparative poverty till we have atoned for the extravagance of the past." (Mark well that "we.")

At a meeting held at Birkenhead last January, Mr. W. L. Hichens, chairman of Cammell, Laird and Co. said: "Wages in Germany were considerably lower than in this country and we could not compete against Germany unless wages were on an equal basis." (The truth about the war at last!)

In the course of a recent address to the engineering employers of Huddersfield, Mr. Broadbent expressed the view that "the only way out is that workpeople will have to find out from bitter experience and that is, by going short."

But the high-water mark of cynical arrogance was reached by an anonymous contributor to the "Investors' Chronicle," who unburdened his plutocratic soul as follows: "Personally I should like to see the unemployed dole abolished and Spratts and other firms called on to make 'man biscuits' of which two could be obtained by anybody applying at a police station." (No mention of an invitation to "drink puppy, drink"!)

From these few examples of boss-class mentality it should be tolerably clear who are the real enemies of the "community." At any rate it is obvious the bosses are not troubled with an excess of squeamishness. They are out to grind the workers down to a mere brute existence, and if to expose their fiendish designs and organise resistance to their attacks is Bolshevism, I for one plead "Guilty, and proud of it."

Little Parodies—No. 4

The Great Soap Mystery by F. M. . . .

A Jewel of a Story

NOW that Basil—like poor old Jeff—has gone to rest, let us not disturb him.

I mention him only to recall an adventure of my own with one of the creatures who did his despicable work.

A year or two ago I was travelling on the Continent. At that time I was in the jewellery business. Diamonds and pearls of fabulous value were in my possession for safe transmission to England.

On the train to Amsterdam, I travelled with an individual who, after a time, fell into conversation. We were totally unacquainted. I did not know him; he did not know me; but both being English we were fortunately able to understand each other.

He told me, in confidence, that he was engaged on an extremely secret and delicate mission; that on no account must his identity or business be discovered. He was in the special branch at the Yard under Sir Basil; his name was Jones; size in boots, nine; and he lived, when at home, in Clapham.

With quick intuition I guessed the truth. *He was a detective.*

Later on he informed me that he was "assigned" to a certain Englishman whom he described as being tall, clean-shaven, good-looking, and of distinguished appearance. Answered to the name of Francis. Did I know him?

No, I did not. It would have been the height of folly to have said I did, for that would have given him a clue at once.

My conversation with this miserable worm, however, made me realise the necessity of disposing of the valuable property in my possession immediately.

Arrived at my hotel in Amsterdam I soon had cause for disquiet. Several incidents made me suspicious. On one occasion I found the man Jones with his eye glued to the keyhole of my bedroom door. On another I actually pulled him out from under the bed. The conclusion was obvious: I was being watched. So I determined to act.

Purchasing a box of highly-coloured tablets of toilet soap, I locked myself in my room, taking every precaution meanwhile against being overlooked. I then embedded my precious jewels very neatly in the tablets, which were of two colours, I remember, yellow and green.

The latter set I left untouched, confining my attention to the former as being less

conspicuous. This job completed, I strolled carelessly out of the room, leaving the door open and the soap lying ostentatiously on the table.

On my return Jones was there. It was so easy to deceive this consummate ass that I determined on a bold move. With a casual remark I offered him one of the sets of soap. He thanked me and withdrew.

It was a master stroke of genius, completely taking him off his guard.

After this the way was clear, and I lost no time in posting off the green tablets to England, following, myself, soon after.

The trouble now was to extract the jewels. I called in a few of my most intimate friends, and we went through a process of continuous washing; but it was wearisome work, and some of them got so utterly sick of the job that I fear I have lost their friendship for ever.

Strangest of all, we never found the jewels.

What can have become of them? It is unaccountable.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

"All Power"

An Organ of the R.I.L.U.

MONTHLY

ONE PENNY

In Condemnation of Assassination

By P. LAVIN

A FRIEND of mine with a taste for historical research, having been struck by the utterances of such valiant fighters for freedom as Mr. J. H. Thomas, as well as by the newspaper comments, on certain recent assassinations, was moved to look up the contemporary literature of several periods in which similar acts of vengeance were more or less frequent. His researches show that there have always been, even in the blackest periods, brave champions of truth and liberty worthy of being placed alongside of Lord Carson, Mr. Arthur Henderson, and other disinterested Privy Councillors, at their best. My friend assured me that the only alterations he made in the original documents were changes in spelling.

1. The Murder of Governor Hazelrigg

"To say that the entire Christian world—and not only the Christian world, but the Mohammedan and Buddhist worlds as well—was shocked by the brutal and cowardly murder of the brave and courteous General Hazelrigg, Governor of Lanark, is to convey but a faint impression of the effect produced by the stupefying announcement that was issued from headquarters yesterday. The name of the scoundrel who committed the foul deed is stated to be William Wallace, and he is said to be a 'soldier' in the so-called 'Scottish Army.' No circumstance of horror is lacking to accentuate the enormity of the terrible crime. The brave general, grown grey in the service of his King and his King's country, was entrusted with the arduous task of maintaining order amongst the ignorant and savage Scottish people who, in the opinion of every impartial Englishman who has moved amongst them, are totally unfitted for any large measure of self-government and who require nothing more, in their own best interests, than the firm hand of an alien authority (preferably, of course, England), the General, I say, was resting from the fatiguing labours of the day (and it matters not a jot that these labours sometimes included the summary execution of women soon to become mothers; everyone who is not blinded by prejudice or by that insane hatred of the English which characterises the murder gangs dignified in some quarters by the name of the 'Scottish Army,' must recognise that in exceptional circumstances, exceptional measures are necessary. You cannot wage war, especially in a conquered country, with kid gloves). He was in his own house. He had retired for the night, happy in the assurance of possessing the goodwill and esteem of the people of the Lanark district to which his work amongst them unquestionably entitled him. He had therefore taken no precautions for his personal safety beyond placing a carefully-chosen double guard, fully armed, round the house, and stationing armed sentries at regular intervals along all the passages leading to his bedroom. Suddenly (the brain reels to contemplate it) he is confronted by a savage figure, sword in hand, and the valiant soldier has only time to utter a screech of terror and bury his head under the bedclothes when the sword of the Scottish miscreant is, to use the words of an eye-witness, 'plunged through bedclothes, and quivering body and bedding.' The murderer is understood to have muttered something about his dead wife and unborn child (it will be remembered that Governor Hazelrigg was compelled some time ago, in the interests of justice, to execute this woman) but it is believed in well-informed circles that the reference to the dead female was merely a trick on the part of the assailant to hide the real motive of the crime, which undoubtedly was robbery. The terrified yell of the courageous Governor, however, upset the miscreant's plans, and he was forced to beat a hasty retreat. How he gained admission to the Governor's house is not known. The regrettable incident emphasises the necessity for keeping a

strict watch over the persons of those entrusted with important commissions by their King.

Several prominent Scotsmen have expressed to me their horror at, and detestation of, the murder, and they hope that the criminal will soon be captured and punished as he deserves to be. They fully realise that deeds such as these are alienating the sympathy of the world from Scotland in her struggle for freedom. They have formed a committee which has issued an appeal to the Scottish people for assistance in tracking down the murderer. They have no sympathy whatever for those Scottish extremists who want to have a Scottish kingdom entirely independent of England. They know that England can never submit to this. For military purposes *England and Scotland form a unit*, and the sooner the Scottish extremists realise this, the better for all concerned.

The funeral of the dead Governor will take place on Saturday, and it is hoped that all sections of the populace (including expectant mothers) will turn out, and show conclusively that the Scottish people view with horror such lawless deeds as that which has brought eternal disgrace on the hitherto respectable town of Lanark."

* * *

My friend comments on this as follows:—"Now that Hazelrigg's great work in Scotland can be appraised at its true value and its favourable influence on Scottish progress recognised while, on the other hand, his assassin, is remembered by the vast majority of his countrymen only because of his foul deed, it is sad to find that amongst some of his compatriots (a very small minority, I am happy to say), an attempt is being made to invest the man Wallace with something of the character of a hero. The Scottish poet Campbell wrote a eulogy of Wallace, in which the lines occur:—

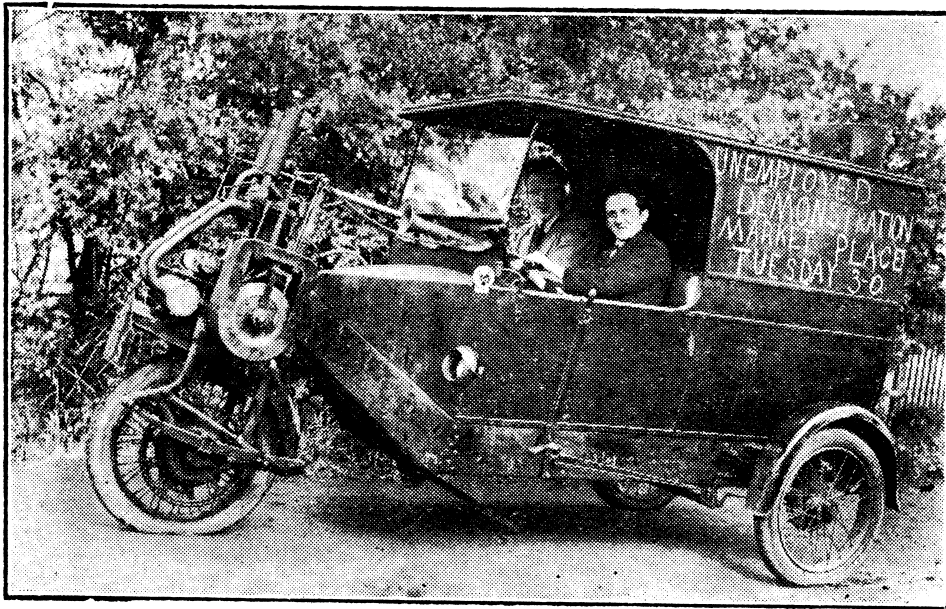
"Though the eagle hath fed on his moulder heart,
Yet a noble heart was never embalmed,"
and:—

"The sword that seemed fit for archangel to wield,

Was light in his terrible hand."

The vile verses appear in books now in use in our Scottish schools, and are taught to our Scottish children. Now I suggest that the Labour Party, in conjunction with prominent members of the Coalition Government who have shown the same zeal in the protection of life as the leaders of the Labour Party themselves, appoint a deputation to wait upon Mr. Fisher at the Education Office, and point out to him the necessity for expunging this so-called 'poem' from the school books. Its place could easily and fittingly be taken by such fine verses as: "We gave them hell at Neuve Chapelle!" or the splendid outburst of indignation at the misdeeds of the German Emperor during the war for democracy, in which the words occur: 'You are steeped in guilt as a hog in slime!' There is no lack of suitable substitutes, and the proper virile impulse would be given to our children's minds.

It is further distressing to learn that there is a statue of the brigand Wallace in the city of Aberdeen. This should be removed forthwith. (I mean the statue, not the city.) There may be some difficulty in deciding upon one to take its place, not from any lack of subjects, but from their very abundance. I would suggest a statue of Earl Haig. According to Mr. Frank Harris, Haig was the best dressed general officer in the British Army, and was therefore a great favourite with the late King Edward (who, unfortunately, was cut off in the noonday of a career unselfishly devoted to the cause of his country). Haig, by the way, told Mr. Harris that he always selected his subordinates from amongst the best-dressed officers. But that is only one reason why the distillery tactician should have a statue 'all to himself.' The choice of a statue, however, could be decided by plebiscite, and every facility should be afforded to the two million unemployed, together with their wives and families, to record their votes. I am sure the Labour Party cannot remain indifferent to such a practical and worthy proposal."



COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA TOUR

COMRADES Bishop and Squair set out at the end of May to tour the Midlands with the above weird looking mechanical combination.

Neither Bishop nor Squair were experts at motor driving so the assistance of another comrade was secured until they got clear of the London district.

Bishop and Squair knew the risks they were taking, and each day we expected news of either a breakdown or an accident. Fortunately, our fears were unfounded. Everywhere they go, great interest is aroused.

Especially in the car!

It attracts the workers, enrages our political opponents, and frightens the

police. It has been recorded that somewhere in the Black Country, two Henrys, after a night on the booze, saw the "machine" coming down the road, and ran off to sign the pledge.

Altogether they have visited the following districts with huge success:—Luton, Coventry, Birmingham, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Handsworth, Wednesbury, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Derby, Mansfield, Nottingham, Leicester and Sheffield.

Their latest report to hand: Literature sales very good. Car in excellent condition.

H. WEBB.
National Organiser.

ANOTHER FIASCO

In the Printing Trades

By W. HILL

THE printing and kindred trades employers are again at the wage reduction business. Last year at this period it was in full blast—now again. One wonders whether the lash is to become a hardy annual. However, the position is much the same as during the last attack.

Then, the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation broke up, and, with the lesson of the "great divide"—of Black Friday still green in one's memory, they, the leaders of the printing trades repeated the sordid business. One would have thought that this time, difficult as the financial situation is, they would at least have tried to hang together and raised the cry of "one out, all out," but no; the debacle of last year is repeated by them, and once again we see the old craft game of each union striving for itself. One or two, we admit, have endeavoured to make for united action.

The objects of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation are:—

1. To combine for trade purposes, and to secure unity of action among the printing and kindred trades unions.
2. To endeavour to obtain uniform customs and hours of working in the different branches of the trade.
3. To resist any attack made upon any branch of the trade in detail.

Perfectly true it is that it had at one time a policy of piecemeal amalgamation (which is useless in these days of large-scale industry), but it is too mixed up with the "Industrial Court" business and "Betterment" idea to be a fighting organisation.

It has no control over its affiliated unions—each time a fight is on, each union seems to go its own sweet way and ignore the Federation. It has almost become a stumbling block in the way of progress, and it has earned the name for itself of a "White Elephant" in some quarters.

No one, however well-informed, could describe the struggle now going on in the realm of wage reduction in the Printing and Kindred Trades. Each union is again struggling to come out better than the other, and the smaller unions are endeavouring to hang on to the larger ones.

Last month about four unions met the employers together and agreed to a cut. The L.S.C., T.A., and others were engaged in an affair of their own. The big union, the N.U.P.B.M.R.P.W., has had each of its sections attacked. Papermill, Box-making, Publishing, Bookbinding and Machine Ruling. As far as we can gather some of its northern branches acted with the S.T.A. and accepted the 15s. right away, at the behest of the Northern Industrial Court. This is a strange business this: of unions having separate branches under separate Industrial Courts. United we Stand?

Despite the pleading of their N.E.C., the T.A. members have thrown down the gage of battle. This has involved the members of other unions in the factories who are now idle. The workers in the printing trade should rally to the support of the strikers, because, as Sarah Bernhardt once said: "The workers on strike are always in the right." But the senseless divided struggle goes on. The L.S.C. are still negotiating and the London Printing Workers also the Machine Managers, and others.

The fact remains: had the whole of the workers in the Printing and Kindred Trade decided at the beginning on a United Front, with the solid strength of the whole of the Newspaper and Papermill workers (and they have stood idly by while the Papermill Workers have been horribly crushed), things would have been different.

But what of the P. and K. T. Federation?—a strange title—is there any further use for it, together with its apparent anarchist policy? In some towns some in, some out; in some shops the men have accepted and members in the same firm of other unions are on the stones.

"To combine for trade purposes. To resist any attack. To endeavour to obtain uniform working conditions"! Oh dear!!

After being 21 years in existence too. Not long ago it sent out a silly anti-Communist manifesto and urged its constituent elements to circulate and print it in their magazines. It sorely needs to put its own house in order.

However, the P. and K.T.F. has again failed; 'tis little use to make excuses while men and women are suffering as a consequence. The printing unions have won very little. The increases have been lost and even the alleged increases, set off against the rise in the cost of living for the past few years, the ultimate gain has been practically insignificant. This perpetual stampede will eventuate in the unions smashing themselves.

The workers in the Printing and Kindred Trades have pinned their faith too long to Federation. The work to do now is to strive might and main for one International Industrial Union, because the Press is becoming internationally owned.

The day of the craft union has long since passed; it has proved its impotency. The workers in the Printing and Allied Trades are powerful enough to get all they want if they will organise on right lines with true leaders, linking themselves up with the Red International of Labour Unions.

The best the P. and K.T.F. can do now is to call a huge conference to bring about the One Big Union, and having formed it, to prepare an attack for a forty hour week, full State maintenance at Trade Union rates for their unemployed, and the same wages for women workers in the industry as for men.

The splendid fighters in the industry must remember the noble struggles of their forefathers and with courage and persistence fight on and not be disheartened because of this, another debacle. The failures and weaknesses of the past can yet be made good. The shop associations and chapels must apply themselves to this task intelligently. Orthodox trade unionism has broken down. New slogans must be inscribed on our banners, viz.: "The Control of Industry by the Workers!"; "A Knock-out Blow to Capitalism!"; "An International Union for the Printing and Kindred Trades!"; and later of all trades.

By intelligent action along these lines we shall bring nearer the day when the workers will own the wealth which they create, and leave a brighter and better heritage for those who follow.

WHAT A LIFE

By B. BREWER

FELLOW WORKER, do you realise what life is? Has it ever dawned upon you the unnatural and vile conditions that we, the workers, exist in?

Let us analyse roughly, and crudely, perhaps, our mode of existence. Take for instance, the workman's train. Here you have each carriage packed full top to bottom with sturdy Britons, their hearts beating and anxious to get to work to produce profits for the boss—jammed in beyond endurance, and even then one of the jammed, on spying a fellow worker outside, will shout "here you are, mate, tons of room."—Tons of hell!

On reaching the terminus (after reading the daily dope about Ascot, Henley, and the Smiling Prince), the doors burst open and what a mass (or mess) of humanity falls out!

Observe closely, the knock-knees, pigeon chests, pimply face, flat feet, anaemia, bow-legs and the other ailments which fall to our lot, hurrying and scurrying along to work, their bones jangling and rattling like a huge bunch of keys.

Some even haven't finished breakfast, for occasionally you see a slice of bread and margarine between somebody's molars.

Yes, worker, it is an actual fact! Some even run to work.

Run, mark you, human beings with all their thinking powers, running to work.

When this is explained to the average worker, he more often than not resents it, and says it is exaggerated. Is it?

Can you find a healthy man, physically mentally and morally?

Can you expect to find one who is reared up on and exists on all the adulterations, abominations and filth of modern civilisation, such as margarine, frozen meat, skimmed milk, beef cubes and the rest, until one's inside becomes like a putrified sewer. To counteract this many are driven to the odious concoctions that are seen in a chemist's shop—displayed there to cure ills. You would naturally suppose the chemist himself would be immune from all danger; not a bit of it; he generally is bald headed, wears glasses, and is, in fact, an emaciated lump of filth. There is no cure in the chemist's shop, but only in good food, pure air, and natural surroundings which capitalism forbids us.

Let us look at our amusements—the music hall, for example. Herein we sit and listen to such classics as "Boiled beef and carrots" (not a word of roast duck and lamb); "Snooky Ookums"; "I'm proud of my old bald head" (proud, be damned!) "I see yer got yer old brown hat on" (but why old and not new?).

The appalling tragedy of it all is that we laugh and joke at our defects and meanness of living.

Look also how we are brought up and exist through life dominated by fear. In our innocent babyhood we are frightened into fits by fear of the bogey-man. As soon as we rumble that gag and we will be "naughty," then it's "Jesus won't love you" and "hell will be your portion." Later on at school, the stick comes into play. Following school we may be privileged to work, and fear of the sack cowers many into submission. Eventually His Majesty may need us to fight and preserve our liberties. If we dare to refuse we are branded as cowards; if not shot, it's clink and skilly for an indefinite period. What a game!

How long are you, dear worker, going to put up with it? Isn't it time that you began seriously to think? Must shoddy clothes, bad houses, insecurity and ignorance be always your portion? No, decidedly no!

Then do what your bosses don't want you to do—THINK, and we are confident you cannot be anything else but a Communist.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

PROPAGANDA ADVERTISEMENTS. (C.P. branches and kindred organisations):—Displayed, 5s. per inch, single column or pro rata. Classified (run on) 6d. per line (6 words) or part thereof.

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No advertisement will be inserted unless copy is received, together with cash in prepayment, by second post Monday for insertion in current week's issue.

All communications to Advertisement Department, "The Communist," 16, King Street, W.C. 2.

MEETINGS

Communist Party Branches

CROYDON. Saturday, 7.30 p.m., Le-lie Arms. Sunday, 8 p.m., Katherine Street, outside Town Hall. Prominent Speakers.

KENNINGTON. Meetings every Sunday evening outside Kennington Theatre, Kennington Park, 8 p.m. August 6th. T. Redman.

SURREY HOLIDAY CAMP, Newdigate, Surrey. Beautiful scenery; good food; 35s. week, 5s. 6d. day. Full August 5th to 18th.

FREEMASONRY is a curse to Humanity from the Christ Ethic. Speaker: Rodway, 149, Merton Road, Wimbledon.

ORGANISED COUNTRY RAMBLES (Leeds environs) Local comrades (both sexes) free invitation. See weekly announcement in *Leeds Weekly Citizen*.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING for Fulham and Chelsea readers sending name and address to R, 17, Broomhouse Road, S.W. 6.