

Socialist Youth

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YOUTH AGAINST TORYISM

THIS is a special election edition of "Socialist Youth". Our paper devotes its columns in this issue to the historic fight that is facing the British Labour Movement. The fight to keep the Tories out of Westminster—to keep the Tories out and to keep Labour in!

We say to all working class youth—give every ounce of your energy, every minute of your time to this fight. It is the most important electoral struggle in the history of the Labour Movement!

The return of the Labour Government to Westminster on October 25th is Priority No. 1! Labour is the Party of the British working class. The Labour Government represents that class. The Tories represent the interests of the Bosses. A Tory Government would carry out a reactionary pro-capitalist policy.

WE MUST KEEP THE TORIES OUT!

Not many young people remember what things were like before the war. Not many of us have much recollection of the days when things were really tough. When to be a young worker meant in many cases to be hungry most of the time. If you were working, no matter how small the wage, you were lucky. To have a decent suit of clothes

to fall back on. There can be no question of easy solutions to economic problems. British Capitalism has its back to the wall. The Tory answer to this is that the burden of the crisis must be borne by the working class. Their policy is to depress the standard of living of the workers, create a pool of unemployment and give free reign to private enterprise.

The Tories laugh contemptuously at the idea of a Welfare State and they have stated that they would abolish all forms of economic planning. This is a ruthless policy and its consequences, if they are allowed to carry it out, would be disastrous. The pre-war days will seem like paradise in comparison.

Furthermore, to carry their policy into effect it would be necessary to meet the resistance of the working class and to take

measures against working class organisations. The action of the Australian Tory Government in attempting to suppress the Communist Party is very significant. Our Tories would dearly love to do this here. And it wouldn't be just the Communist Party. **Under a Tory Government all working class organisations would be in danger.**

It is also completely obvious that the Tories' foreign policy would lead directly to a war. In Parliament these partisans of reaction clamour for sterner measures against the Colonial people. They hysterically demand military intervention in Persia. They are shouting for the use of force against the Soviet Union.

If the Tories win this election World reaction will be strengthened and war will be immeasurably nearer.

Let us make absolutely sure that they do not win. Let us strike the Tories a death blow on October 25th.

A Victory for Labour is a victory for the workers of the World!

Editorial

was a luxury almost unknown among young people. Youth was a time of poverty, frustration and disillusion. The prospects of a decent, secure job was a dream too ambitious to be contemplated. This was life under the Tories. Is it possible that they have changed? Not on your life!

Listen to this choice extract from the writings of Sir Graham Cunningham of the Federation of British Industries. On 30th July, 1946, he wrote "In saying that full employment is not practical politics, what is meant is that industry must have a pool or reserve of labour on which to draw."

Again, in August, 1948, Mr. Cyril Osborne, Tory M.P. for Louth, said "There must be some corrective for the unwilling worker... The Trade Unions would be assisted in their drive for greater production and better work by some fear of unemployment."

Those who say that the Tories have no policy are talking nonsense. They have a very definite policy. Its aim is to preserve their class interests.

Consider the position of the country's economy. The American Colossus dominates the International scene and Britain has become a third rate power. No longer are there large reserves of overseas investments

THE REAL CHARLIE CHAPLIN

By N. WINTROP (Manchester)

A short article which attempts to deal with Charlie Chaplin from a political standpoint has many drawbacks. It cannot adequately show the comic genius of Chaplin, nor can it discuss some of his best films, for instance "The Kid" and "The Gold Rush". To people who wish to see Chaplin's genius in its entirety, we recommend many of his earlier films which are now being re-issued, and the recently published book of his life, "The Little Fellow" by Peter Cotes and Thelma Niklans.

Our intention is to show an aspect of Charlie Chaplin which many people would like to ignore, his attacks on present-day society and his defence of the little man.

Charlie Chaplin grew up in conditions of extreme poverty and hunger in the East End of London. Both he and his brother Syd, made their first stage appearances at very early ages in order to find some means of supporting their widowed mother, and Charlie was quite a seasoned troupier by the time he was ten.

It was from these sporadic engagements that the little urchin from the streets of

London first developed his talent for comedy, mime, and dancing.

But it is not to comedy alone that Charlie owes his world fame and popularity. There is another very important reason for his success. Owing to his background Charlie could see society in its true colours. Once he could make his own films, he showed society as it appears to millions of other ordinary people all over the world. All the characters in the Chaplin films are based on human beings. Though we could never meet them in the flesh, they are nevertheless taken from real life and then exaggerated in order to emphasise their truth.

That was the key to Charlie's success—he looked at everything from the point of view of the little man. When he pictured the police or the F.B.I., he didn't look on them as glorified heroes defending law and order, he showed them as they look to the little man who gets pushed and kicked around. When he made a war film (Shoulder Arms) he didn't show the glamour, but the monotony and misery.

Charlie's attack on the profit-making

(Continued on col. 3, page 2)

GLENGONNAR FOR US By TWO MANCHESTER LEAGUERS

EVEN now the tune of "A Gordon for me", which words were parodied an unlimited number of times to suit all occasions, keeps coming back to remind us of the camp at which we spent our holidays, in Abington, S. Lanark. The week Summer school was organised by the Scottish Youth Advisory Committee, following a similar camp held at Glengonnar in 1950. It was by accident that we heard of it, and we feel now that it should have had more publicity.

May we give you some of a thousand and one impressions we had, and prepare the way for a huge delegation from South of the Border Leagues next year?

The camp, well-constructed and set-out in wooden buildings, was situated five minutes from Abington Railway Station, in most beautiful surroundings in a district new to most of us.

We were immediately given dormitories in which to put our cases, and if any readers think dormitories are to sleep in, we must here disillusion them; the Secret Society which called for "Sleepers of the camp, none" was not very well supported. Probably only a quarter of the four dormitories, each named after pioneers in the Labour Movement, managed to have six hours sleep each night.

The nocturnal sing-songs, debates, jollifications and discussions did not, however, seem to have any appreciable effect on the morning classes and the lectures on Party Organisation, Foreign Affairs, and Socialism, were pretty consistently attended. As these were concurrently we can only tell you about the last-named, which was the best attended. The most heartening feature was the complete absence of red-baiting, and it was possible for many ideas of a critical nature to be expressed without one being told to get back to Moscow. In fact, whilst it was quite clear that here was a gathering of young people working overtime for the Labour Party, as was shown by the list of jobs they did, from Ward Officers to Parliamentary Candidates, nevertheless there was considerable feeling that criticism is both desirable and necessary within the Labour Party to keep it on the road to Socialism.

COST OF LIVING

Here are some of the criticisms and the

alternatives put forward. The cost of living question was one of extreme interest, and its relation to wages was one that brought forward some good points. The best was that expressed by a member of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, who pointed out that his Trade Union has secured the linking of wages to the cost of living and their pay is reviewed at six-monthly intervals. This sliding scale is not preventing the rank and file from pressing for increases in the basic rates.

The major criticism of this idea was that the 1947 Interim Cost of Living Index is totally inadequate, and this comrade was in support of the suggestion that the Trade Union and Labour Movement should get together to draw up a new Index.

War or Peace was continually being discussed and an interesting all-school debate on "Pacifism" was arranged. Many and varied were the points of view expressed on this, but it was clear that all the young people present were completely against any further war.

A real marathon debate was the all-night sitting of the Glengonnar Parliament on the motion "That a third tap be laid on to all council houses to supply free beer." This is believed to have been sponsored by secret shareholders in Guinness's, but unfortunately it was defeated! Obviously the reaction was present in force.

When almost the whole camp went to Dumfries, a chill of fear was sent through the almost non-existent spine of the local Tories when two coach loads of Labour members sang the Red Flag in a very busy part of the town.

ELECTION POLICY

The highlight of the political work was possibly the election of M.P. for Glengonnar. Each of the four dormitories put up a nomination to a properly conducted selection conference to which all members of the school were delegates.

The most constructive policy put forward was by the Leaguer who expressed the opinion that the coming election would be won or lost on the question of the cost of living. Again the point was made of the need to link wages with the cost of living

to defend workers' standards against inflation; which inflation is the direct product of, firstly, the mad scramble for materials of destruction pushing up prices of all everyday commodities; secondly, the enormous profits made by privately owned industries and the guaranteed profits (compensation) paid in publicly owned industry, obviously burdens being passed on to the £5 7s. 0d. per week worker. The speaker suggested that to counter this we need, firstly, a stop on the arms race, and secondly, powerful action to curtail private profit, and suspend compensation interest payments until we can afford them.

This nomination wound up by emphasising that if she were selected, she could only be the spokesman in Parliament, but all her supporters must continue to organise their factories and work places behind such a programme, since their spheres were infinitely more important.

This was obviously a candidate who believed that action by the working class was the final deciding factor in any struggle for a better life.

We cannot pretend to have told of everything that happened at Glengonnar, but we urge as many of you as possible to have £3 12s. 0d. worth next year, and to see if similar efforts can be organised in other parts of Britain—they are very good.

(Continued from Page 1)

THE REAL CHARLIE CHAPLIN

system reached its peak with "Monsieur Verdoux", where he really mocks at capitalist society and its unholy brand of ethics. He was a little bank clerk who is thrown out of his job by the depression which hit France before the war, whose only means of survival for himself and his family was to remove a few parasitical rich widows. At the end of the film he asks why it is that he, a small murderer should be executed, whilst the big murderers, the armaments kings, who manufacture weapons to kill not one or two people but millions of people, should receive riches, wealth and position.

It is this socialist spirit which pervades the majority of Charlie's films, which accounts for the slanders and calumnies hurled at his private and public life by the American millionaire press. As the authors of the book mentioned earlier, state: "His individuality and integrity forced him to declare himself on what is, in America, the wrong side—the side of the little man."

In all his films Charlie has expressed the feelings of countless other little people—his hatred of war, cruelty, oppression, and the way he helps other people who are more defenceless than himself. Maybe some of his politics have been wrong, but then most ordinary people have some confused ideas.

Behind the baggy pants and the bowler hat lurks a crusader, who for nearly half a century has struggled against war, poverty, oppression and superstition, until finally in the last scene of "The Great Dictator" he drops the garments of the much loved little tramp, drops the clowning, and appears as the Crusader. He issues his call to the world, which includes the following:—

Work For A
Labour Victory
On October 25th