

Socialist Outlook

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KENYA:

AFRICANS MUST GET EQUALITY

BY THE EDITOR

"WHY should your people steal our lands? Why should your settlers live in great mansions on vast estates whilst our people must exist in leaking insanitary sheds and primitive mud huts?"

Jomo Kenyatta, imprisoned leader of the Kenya African Union, asked that question in an interview with the "Sunday Pictorial" just before the present "emergency" began in Kenya. He went on: "We do not wish to drive out the white man. We want him to remain—but as a partner. We do not grant him the right to live in luxury while our people starve; to have fine clothes while our people are in rags. Above all, we do not grant him the right to insult us, to ban us from his hotels, and to push us into the gutter as he walks by."

There, very simply stated, is the African case. It is unanswerable, and "Socialist Outlook" supports it one hundred per cent.

WHITES STEAL THE LAND

The white settlers have driven the African off his own land and appropriated the most fertile sections for themselves. 29,000 Europeans now own 12,750 square miles of the best land, while 5,000,000 Africans are crowded into 43,500 square miles of the worst land.

Hunger and disease is rife among the Kikuyu people. An official statement reports that there are 10,000 homeless Africans in Nairobi alone, while many more are unemployed and penniless.

These appalling conditions have been created for Africans by their uninvited, polo-playing "guests" from Britain. When the African protests, the so-called Mau Mau (whose very existence is doubted by some observers on the spot) is used by the Government as a pretext to crush the growing movement for equality.

Mass arrests, prisoners chained together and herded into desert prisons, troop displays, suppression of the African press... these are the answers which the Tory Government gives to the demand for African equality. And, to our shame, Mr. Jim Griffiths pledges Labour's support for all this military activity against an unarmed people!

DEFIANCE

Hurling defiance at their white tormentors, the men of Kenya are taking to the hills. Here is their statement. Its publication was forbidden in Kenya.

"You must feel very happy at the outward success of your cruel operation. Thousands of Africans leading a normal life have been stopped, searched, beaten, humiliated and arrested. Creating the emergency, you have brutally treated us and now you cannot claim democracy and freedom. Fascism has come to Kenya."

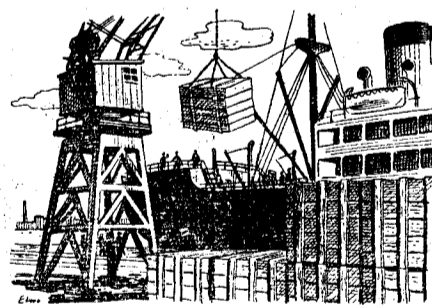
"You destroyed our Press by arresting our Editors and suppressing our newspapers. But you

cannot suppress the voice of the people. The brutality and suppression, the show of force and the rule of the gun, will not stop us from our goal...."

"... We have been forced to go underground. If we are known you will murder us. We are not afraid. We ask how many of us you will imprison, how many of us you will kill? We are six millions and power is in our numbers. We shall retaliate in the method you have employed. We shall not forget the bad treatment we are suffering. When our time comes we shall not show mercy, because you do not know what mercy is. We will kill you like you are murdering us today. This is no threat. It is how we are feeling today. Africans unite!"

If Africans now resort to force to meet force, it is solely because they have no other means of redress. They have no votes. They have no democratic rights. Remember this well, for another 'Malaya' is being prepared in Kenya!

Labour must stand with the African people in their struggle for equality. We must demand, with them, the return of all lands stolen from the Africans by the settlers. If this were carried out, there would be no need for troops, armed police, colour bar, or any other instruments of coercion. But if the demands are not granted, bloodshed is inevitable—and the responsibility rests with the white overlords and the Tory protectors. Remember this: Justice is always on the side of the oppressed!



THERE is a fresh militant upsurge throughout Britain's ports. The dockers feel that they have been silent long enough. The 'wait-and-see' policy of the Right-wing, their inability to find a solution for the awful conditions that exist in the ports, has led to meetings and, in some places to demonstrations.

The great waterways of Britain, like the Thames and the Mersey, are becoming as silent as the grave, while thousands of ships lie idle all over the world. Many of these ships are at anchor in Eastern waters waiting for crumbs

Red Baiters Refuted By Morgan Phillips Denies C.P. Influence In The Labour Party

THOSE who have been producing "red plots" and "secret communist agents" to explain the progressive decisions of the Morecambe Conference have been utterly refuted by no less a person than Mr. Morgan Phillips, the Party's General Secretary.

In an article in the Party journal, "Fact", he has declared that "there never was a time in the Party's history when communist influence was so weak."

Writing as "one who knows the real situation", the General Secretary rejects completely the idea that the present arguments about Party policy are caused by "communist agitation".

The importance of these statements can hardly be over-emphasised. They deserve the widest publicity, for they are an authoritative answer to all the witch-hunters who have sought to steer discussion away from the main issues and into the murky channels of personalities and red baiting.

The swing of the Party to the



Less food and dearer. Unemployment growing. These are the facts—not "secret communist agents"—which influence Labour Party decisions.

Left cannot be denied—but it wasn't caused by "secret communists". That much is now firmly established. What, then, is the dispute in the Party all about?

FOOD AND WORK

Fundamentally, it concerns the health and well-being of the working class whose standard of life is now declining at an alarming rate. The Government White Paper on "National Income and Expenditure" reveals that in 1951 working people spent 12 per cent. less on meat and bacon, 5 per cent. less on oils and fats, 13 per cent.

less on boots and shoes, and 10 per cent. less on clothes. And the reason?

While prices of all essentials are still rising, production has fallen nearly 10 per cent. below last year's level, exports are sagging, unemployment has doubled, and short time working has greatly increased. Making capitalism work has turned out to be a wretched experiment indeed!

That is why the Morecambe Conference went on record for a rapid extension of public ownership. "What we decided—and don't let us forget it, and don't let some of our friends inside the movement try to obscure it—was that the new Executive this year must decide on a number of industries to be taken over when we get into power.... We decided that we must once more go to the attack...." That is how Aneurin Bevan recently described the meaning of the Conference decisions—and he is absolutely correct.

REARMAMENT

Here is the most direct and obvious cause of rising prices and falling living standards. Food which should go into the stomachs of our children is instead being fed into the ever-open jaws of that insatiable monster—the modern war machine—where, incidentally, it is not only turned into guns, tanks and atom bombs, but also into handsome profits for Big Business. Small wonder that rearmament has been subjected to such fierce working class criticism.

But armaments are the instruments of foreign policy. That is known to everyone. And no-one should be surprised if the chief sufferers from this horrible world surfeit of guns, the working class, should begin to raise doubts about the foreign policy these armaments are designed to serve. Morecambe reflected these doubts, and the Conference decided to try a more sympathetic approach to the great revolutionary movement which is sweeping across Asia and Africa.

The discussion isn't by any means finished, but there is a general recognition that Mr. Bevan was right when he said, speaking at Cambridge on October 25th... "What we have got to do is not to try to set ourselves against these movements (in Asia and Africa) but to ally ourselves with them... because they are of the same sort as we are. They are working people... we must try to see sympathetically what is happening in those countries because, if we don't, the actions will overwhelm us."

Poverty Returns To Dockland

20,000 Men Unemployed

In response to many letters from dockers, the "Socialist Outlook" sent a reporter to dockland to give our readers a clear picture of the growing unemployment there. This is a first report.

from the Wall Street Bankers by dealing in cargoes of Korean death.

Here in England, about 20,000 dockers are on a semi-starvation level. Many men with families are forced to live on far less than £4 per week and are showing signs of becoming desperate.

The backbone of the nation, these men are deprived of even the elementary rights extended to all other citizens. When they are unemployed they are not permitted to draw the full scale of relief, yet they must pay the full scale contribution to the state.

No longer is this a fight for rates and conditions only. It has gone beyond that stage, and has now developed into a struggle against the Tory government and

the Right-wing of the unions, who have allied themselves with the reactionary forces.

In Salford, 500 dockers have quit the industry (what the position is in all the other ports one can only speculate). Nevertheless, the dockers in the main, recognise that leaving the industry will not solve the problem. They are therefore preparing to fight—and when they do, they know that they will need, as never before, the support of the Labour Party Wards and Trade Union branches.

Dockers everywhere say that the Docks Decasualisation Scheme has broken down because there is unemployment. To have 20,000 unemployed is far from 'decasualisation'. The minimum unemployment rate is less than the National Assistance Board rate, and naturally, the whole industry is seething with discontent. Men are asking themselves the question: Why were we being asked, only six months ago, to work till seven o'clock and on Sundays as well, to "save the country from catastrophe"?

Most other workers can come to grips directly with their employers through their shop stewards' movement, but the docker has no such organisation. He struggles against the system of piecework, which means that the more he works the less he gets. He is asked to work longer hours for less pay. He is asked to work on Sundays and public holidays for no extra pay. He is asked to work in the most unhealthy and dangerous conditions in the country.

The 'Weekly' needs your help—NOW

DONATIONS TO THE FIGHTING FUND ARE YOUR PAPER'S LIFE BLOOD.

THE Fighting Fund is in danger. After a splendid start there is a disturbing tendency on the part of some of our active supporters to become complacent. So we urge you all—November 15th is the target date for this month—do everything possible to see that we hit the target and so save the Weekly.

paper. For some time now, plans have been laid to make it Labour's most popular National Weekly. New layout, new type faces, as well as a number of important new features are being considered. Specimen copies have been submitted to Wholesalers and Advertisers.

Have you placed your order with the Newsagent yet? Send

forms have been sent out for this purpose. Have you received them? If there is any difficulty, contact us immediately.

Remember the life blood of our paper is the Fighting Fund. Without this fund it will be impossible to fulfil our plans. So please make sure you send your contribution to the Fighting Fund.

This Rent Raising is a Racket

Racket

By Tom Braddock



why. If the house was in bad repair it was because of the neglect of the previous owner. He had the rest for repairs but spent it on himself instead of on the house.

To allow the new owner an increased rent was simply to invite him to continue the racket, and so he did. As rents go up so does the value of the houses, they are sold and the owners get away with tax-free capital appreciation.

LEVY THE LANDLORD —NOT THE TENANT

Where are we today? Most of the houses we live in as tenants have had their full life. They should be pulled down and replaced, and not used for investment and profit-making purposes. Present-day owners, having bought them at a price that only gives them a nominal return on what they paid, are asking for increased rents, not to repair the houses but to do one of two things; to get an increased rake-off, or to sell again and make a high capital profit, free of tax.

It must not be allowed to happen. Pending the time when we take over all the house property of the country and use it as a public service, local authorities should be empowered to levy a special rate from the landlords on the rental value of the houses, and the product of this rate should be used by the council to carry out the necessary repairs.

On no account must any more

LET us get one thing clear to start with, there is no real reason why anybody should have to pay for the right to live in his or her own country. To live—forget about eating, etc., for the moment—you need land and building.

Well, the land is there. No person made it, nobody can take it away or make any more. It should be the property of the whole of the people. This is a reform which could, with advantage, be carried out at once; a simple Act of Parliament is all we need.

After that, no more rent for the use of land, and no more buying or selling of land. It would be put to such use as the government or its local authorities decided was best.

As to the buildings on the land, these are, and were, paid for during the time they were being erected. The community as a whole had to find the food, clothing, houses, etc., for all those who built the buildings, all the materials came out of the land. This includes the factories in which the building materials were fabricated. Why therefore should we continue to pay, in the form of rent, for buildings we paid for while the building was going on?

Having got this clear we can look at the rent question in its correct perspective. It is being suggested that since the cost of repairing houses has gone up in recent times the landlords of privately owned houses should be allowed an increase in the controlled rents of such houses.

WHY ARE THEY CONTROLLED?

An interesting story. During the first world war, landlords, like everybody else, thought what a fine chance to get more rent, interest or profit (R.I.P.) as the case might be, so rents were raised.

In Glasgow this was objected to by a number of working class tenants and they organised a rent strike, they refused to pay any rent at all! Dreadful! Suppose tenants all over the country did the same!

It would have been a most popular move and so easy to do. When one tenant does it you can evict him, but if all do it the position is impossible. You just can't evict the whole population.

Therefore Parliament hastily put through the necessary legislation to make it the law of the land that rents could not be increased. This saved the landlords.

If the strike had spread it would have been found quite possible to do without the landlord. He toils not, neither does he spin, as the old book says. He is, in fact, a parasite, living on the labour of others, and, be he a good, bad or indifferent landlord, the fact remains the same, he is useless.

The cost of repairs has gone up? They are always going up and landlords have made a song and dance about it before. They were allowed to increase their rents up to 40 per cent. to catch up with the cost of repairs. Did they use it for that purpose?

Not on your life, they put the 40 per cent. into their pockets and spent, as always, the least possible amount or nothing at all on

Promotion

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the following promotion in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. To be Knight Commander of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order, William George Penney, Esq., B.E., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S. (Statement issued from 10 Downing Street, October 23rd.)

Reason

Dr. Penney "was responsible for the design of the atom bomb and was in charge of the technical side of the test".

Cost

Of making and exploding this murderous weapon... £100,000,000!

Footnote: £100,000,000 would build 600 new schools.

repairs. So the property has become dilapidated, naturally. So along they come again and ask, with the assistance of Lord Silkin and a lot of other people who ought to know better, for still more rent. When they get it, into their pockets it will go, and still the least possible or nothing at all will be spent on repairs. The property will continue to deteriorate and again there will be demands for still more rent, and so on, and so on

HIGH RENTS MEAN PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS

Even this, however, is not the full story. Most of the houses, for which more rent is demanded, were built many years ago. When a house is built, the rent then decided covers not only a percentage on the cost of the house, which the community paid, but also a percentage to cover the cost again during the life time of the house, as well as a percentage for running repairs.

The original landlords, taking them by and large, have pocketed the whole lot. When, however, rents started to rise, this automatically increased the value of the houses as an investment. So, they were sold to an investor at a price in line with the increased rent. The new investor or landlord knew what he was buying and

UNITY TO DEFEAT SPEED UP

Briggs' Stewards organise S.E. Essex Conference

ENGINEERING Employers are beginning an attack on Trade Union organisation to make way for a big speed up. They know that to do this they must first of all weaken shop organisation."

Jack Mitchell, Convenor of Briggs Bodies, issued this warning when opening a conference of Engineering Stewards and Trade Union Branch delegates at Dagenham on October 15th.

The conference was attended by delegates representing some 30,000 workers in 26 Trade Union branches; 6 factories, Briggs, Fords, Victor Engineering, Solvent Products, Murex, Plessey's; the S.E. Essex District Committee A.E.U.; and the London District Committee of the Wood Machinists.

It had been called to discuss a resolution which stressed the "need for strengthening Trade Unionism with a view to stemming attacks on workshop organisations, standard of living, and full employment" and, as a first step, to set up a "South East Essex Shop Stewards' Advisory Committee, to be responsible for co-ordinating the efforts and activities of all engineering factories in the area".

THE P.R.V. EXPERIENCE

Bro. Stapleton, representing the London District Committee of the Woodworking Machinists said the resolution had the full support of his committee. Their Union had had its full share of disputes recently, and instanced the 14 week P.R.V. strike where, he said, important gains had been made but the Employers' organisation had prevented a complete victory. The lesson was for the workers to organise more efficiently than the

BILL MURPHY'S CORNER

Two "skeletons" met near the docks in Birkenhead and fell into conversation. "I was killed in an accident on the China boats," said one. "How did you die?" "I'm not dead," replied the other. "I've been working overtime trying to make a decent wage."



Jack Mitchell (Briggs Shop Stewards' Convenor)

bosses.

Bro. H. Cass, Convenor of Victor Engineering, pointed out that although his factory was well organised and had a closed shop, they nevertheless recognised that the general level of wage rates in the district was determined by Briggs and Fords who employed the great majority of workers. For this reason everyone had an interest in seeing that organisation

FORDS RAISE IMPORTANT TRADE UNION QUESTION

SHOULD Trade Union Officials, before negotiating an agreement which is to regulate the day to day functioning of workers and shop stewards, consult with the shop stewards about it?

This important question of Trade Union organisation is raised by the latest developments at the Ford Motor Co., Dagenham.

As reported in the last issue of "Socialist Outlook", the Ford management were dissatisfied with the basic procedure agreement and as a result, a committee of Trade Union Executive Officials and representatives of the Management was set up to examine the agreement and to see what changes could be made in it.

But although the committee

The Miners Thirty Bob Scottish Rally Demands Action

Reported by Cllr. David Smith (Dalkeith)

SIXTEEN HUNDRED Scottish miners, demonstrated in Dalkeith on Sunday, October 19th, pro-

testing against the Coal Board's refusal to grant their 30/- a week increase and the slowness of the wages tribunal in giving its report. They unanimously carried a resolution calling for a national delegate conference to discuss a plan for future action.

Addressing the demonstration, John Wood, vice-President of the Scottish N.U.M., pointed out that 1950 had been a record year for profits. But 1951 had topped the record by a further £436,000,000. If all the wage claims at present pending throughout the country were granted in full they would only amount to £4,000,000 less than this increase in profits.

David Pryde, M.P., emphasised that every constitutional means at their disposal had been employed to ventilate their case for the increase. Responsibility for the present situation, which was not of the miners' seeking, rested squarely on the shoulders of the Government. He accused the Government of carrying out class legislation—of looking after their own people first. The £15,000,000 paid out annually to the former owners should not, he said, be a charge against the industry, but a charge against the Exchequer.

WAGES OR INTEREST

Bob Smillie, junior, was greeted with stormy applause when he declared that "if the only way to get the 30/- increase is to take it out of that £15,000,000, then out of that £15,000,000 it must come." The coal owners, he maintained, had left the industry in such a horrible condition that they should have paid the Government for taking it over. He thought the miners were still carrying far too many passengers and cited as an example the coal merchants. He considered the actual delivery of coal to the consumer should be the responsibility of the National Coal Board.

Alex Moffatt, Secretary of the Lothian and Stirlingshire Miners, stated there was no such thing as an 'independent' tribunal. The wage Tribunal was influenced, as is the N.C.B. itself, by the present Government. If the Tribunal said "no", the miners should not accept that decision and new methods would have to be tried. He strongly criticised the present set-up of the Coal Board—there were too many highly salaried people at the top and not enough of our own people.

The right wing leadership of the trade union movement, in particular Will Lawther and Arthur Deakin, were strongly criticised by both Bros. Wood and Moffatt. Their accusations of 'class collaboration' evoked loud applause.

Provost James Lean, J.P., compared the payment of £50,000,000 compensation to Krupps with the refusal to grant the miners their 30/- a week.

There is no doubt that the miners in this area mean business and in my view industrial action on a large scale can only be averted by a government "climb down".

money be allowed to get into the hands of the landlords; they are not to be trusted. They know their time is short and if they can get out at a profit they will. A percentage increase on the controlled rent would allow them to do this. But it would be of no use to the tenants and no use to the nation as a whole.

If a landlord can't keep his house in repair he is not fit to be a landlord. The property should be taken over by the local authority without any compensation whatsoever to the landlord. In some cases this will inflict hardship on present owners; for these there exists our excellent social services.

Building Workers Prepare

BUILDING Trade employers are making vicious attacks on job organisation.

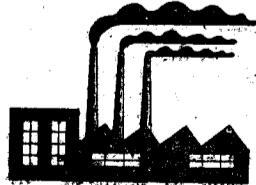
Up and down the country, in the new town construction at Stevenage, the Isle of Grain, Boreham Wood, Ellesmere Port (both reported in the "Socialist Outlook") and Council housing estates in London and the provinces, Federation stewards have been sacked, union organisation on the job sabotaged, conciliation and disputes machinery flouted, and other high handed action taken by the employers. It is no coincidence that these attacks have been initiated when the Building Workers Unions have put in a claim for 6d. an hour increase.

Recently at a Putney Heath building site, Messrs. TERSONS sacked the Federation steward. Machinery was set up to deal with the steward's sacking but, during negotiations, Tersons sacked all the other 90 men on the site, on the grounds of site re-organisation saying that they had to concentrate on 4 blocks of flats instead of 27.

The strike which followed is now in its fifth week. At a meeting in London on October 26th, called by the strike committee, 83 delegates representing 6,000 men from 45 jobs and 54 union branches showed that they were determined to fight back. "If we don't win through" said one delegate, "we shall be back to 1926 with tea on the scaffold or in the cement shed".

In Fords and Briggs stood up to the managements attacks, and he emphasised the need for co-ordination.

After a full discussion, the resolution was adopted, and a provisional committee of six representing the six factories present, was set up.



And who would quarrel with that argument? Stewards in many other engineering plants have long ago voiced demands that they, as working representatives on the job, should be present at all levels of negotiation with employers.

LET THE WORKERS SPEAK

But in Fords, far from being allowed to be present at negotiations, stewards are not even being consulted by Trade Union Officials before the officials enter vital negotiations.

Who can blame the workers if they are a little with these Officials, who in some cases, were for the past have NEVER with

Naturally the Ford Stewards are worried about this lack of consultation. The reason given by the management for wanting a revision of the agreement in the first place, was the large number of "unofficial" disputes which occurred. As the Stewards state in their "Fortnightly News-letter" "The best way to stop breaches of Procedure Agreements is surely to have full consultation with the members in the factory who have to work under these agreements."



Correspondence should be as brief as possible and addressed to The Editor, 177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

KOREAN STORY

Jim Callaghan's tragic Korean story "Our Enemy" is very moving and well written. Stone's "The Hidden History of the Korean War" (fully documented from authoritative sources), shows how the United Nations were stamped into taking military action against the North Koreans by a 'fait accompli' in violation of the United Nation's Constitution. It also shows how the Border Raids were engineered as a pretext for involving China and Russia in this unholy filibustering expedition, whenever "Peace looked like breaking out".

If the "Socialist Outlook" had done nothing else but print the truth about Korea, it would have justified its existence.

Wimbledon. Percy Allott.

NEW 'DAILY' WANTED

I have found many readers of the "Daily Herald" who are so shocked at the line-up with Tory newspapers in attacking Bevan that they are cancelling their order for the "Herald" after many years of regular reading. One such discontented reader said: "What bothers me is what alternative Labour paper can I order." When we get that daily "Outlook" I'll tell him!

Flixton. D. Burgess.

T. & G.W.U. — SUGGESTION

As an active member of the T. & G.W.U. for 13 years in Nottingham, I am in agreement to the full with the article in your last issue by Ernie Chapple the London Bus Conductor.

In response to Mr. Chapple's request for suggestions, I offer this: the Union is the members, and the members are the Union.

Nottingham. G. L. Green.

COAL AND PRINCIPLES

A prominent local Fabian has recently argued with me that the ideas of the founders of our great Movement are of no practical value to the Fabians in the framing of a programme for the future.

To this, I replied "The principle of Socialism will forever remain unchanged so to suggest those old ideas are of no use today is beyond my comprehension. True Socialists believe and will blame her for the huge rearmament programmes and did not ask her to give a lead in disarming. The deplorable relationship between Soviet Russia and the western world in general, and ourselves in particular, is, if one considers the history of that relationship, the fault of ourselves. First, we attempted armed intervention — four times, I think. When this failed we attempted to ostracise them. Will anyone deny that we built up Hitlerite Germany's arms with the intention that they would march East and over-run Soviet Russia?

Therefore, it is not a question of which industries shall be placed under common ownership and which should not; social ownership must be complete and with the workers in control. Experience has shown that to place under public ownership a few industries, leaving a greater number in a position to sabotage them, is far from satisfactory.

The National Coal Board have to buy the necessary machinery and other materials from privately owned concerns at inflated prices due to the inflated profits of these privately owned concerns. The Railway Executive is similarly placed. Here is a contributory factor to the high price of coal and high rail charges. It is tantamount to sabotage. Remarkable

★ DOCKERS (from page 1)

forced upon him by the T.G.W.U. leadership.

THREE FRONT FIGHT

The British Docker claims that he is fighting on three fronts. The Dock Board, which was to have been his salvation, has become a body of well paid officials with far too much power who, in some cases, are accused of having little humanity.

The greatest complaint against the Dock Board is that it—never appears to be in. Yet, for the slightest can be, and is, as 7 days that hatred great

as it is, we have the position of the nationalised steel industry actually overcharging the coal and railway industries by the same profit taking process.

The failure of the Labour Government to nationalise the distribution end of this industry has also been an important factor to high prices of this essential commodity. The elimination of thousands of totally unnecessary retail outlets would enable coal to be sold at considerably lower prices. Under the present set-up, when computing retail prices, the highest figure is taken to enable the smallest operator to cover his costs. Consequently the larger concerns receive a profit far in excess of their needs and the consumers are called upon to pay more than would be required under a truly Socialist system."

The local Fabian secretary finds this all very interesting but, really you know, he says, "I haven't the time to further discuss it".

Clethorpes. S. R. Pearson.

Young Tailors Alarm Bosses

ON Monday, 20th October, a delegation of young members of the Tailor and Garment Workers' Union lobbied the Wholesale Clothing Manufacturers' Federation at their office in Pall Mall.

The delegation put forward three demands to the employers: A 6d. an hour increase for all young tailoring workers.

A guaranteed working week of at least 40 hours.

A comprehensive training scheme including one day off per week for technical training with no loss of pay.

It was the first youth delegation to tailoring employers in living memory.

The Labour League of Youth must place itself solidly behind the struggle of the young tailoring workers and all other fights of the younger section of the working class.

ATTLEE'S QUESTION

Mr. Attlee, at Morecambe, asked why the friends of Soviet Russia in this country did not blame her for the huge rearmament programmes and did not ask her to give a lead in disarming.

Two or three guffaws and some expressions neither favourable to Mr. Gammans (nor printable!), was the immediate response—but Horace, who rather prides himself on seeing the other fellow's point of view, shook us more than somewhat. "Well, he's right there anyway" he said, "We've got to have Employers, and we've got to have politicians. We'd certainly be in a two-and-eight without 'em. Ask Charlie, he's a politician."

Charlie is very active in our Labour Party and was our delegate to Morecambe. He looked sadly at Horace. "You know, Horace, you've got me all wrong. I'm not a politician." He winked at the rest of us. "I'm just one of Hugh Gaitskell's 'unthinking mob'. I'm led by the nose by a bunch of frustrated journalists, and if I don't shut my gob I won't get any money."

Horace looked a bit blank till the penny dropped, then muttered "can't you discuss anything without making personal attacks. You haven't answered the question".

Richmond. D. Da Costa.

The Next Govt.

'People's' or 'Labour' ?

SOME COMMENTS ON THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE
By GEORGE WEST

IS it back to 1945 for the leaders of the Communist Party of Great Britain? Back to the line of the "Progressive Government" with "good" Liberals and "good" Tories and let socialism wait?

A perusal of the "Daily Worker" since the recent congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union certainly points in that direction. Of course, there are modifications in the line. It is to be a "People's Government," not in order to "win the peace," but to get "independence for Britain" from the Americans.

The slogan of the "People's Government" has again been taken out of the mothballs by Harry Pollitt, J. R. Campbell and others. In this, as in nearly everything the C.P. leaders do, there is a trap that the militant ranks of the Labour movement must be wary of.

The full development of the new C.P. line, which is a sharp turn to the Right, is still to come. For the present, the C.P. leaders confine themselves to subtle shadings in propaganda that indicate the change in line. Whereas previously Campbell and others, in the "Daily Worker", hailed the decisions taken at Morecambe and all but took the credit for them (with the aid, of course, of irresponsible statements by certain Labour leaders to the effect that the C.P. had "infiltrated" the constituency parties), Pollitt now says "it is inevitable that one should feel bitter" about the contrast

Back to THIS?

"Provided we get a new House of Commons with a strong majority of Labour, Communists, and Liberals, I believe the Labour Party should form a new National Government and invite others, including Tories like Churchill and Eden, to participate."

"Daily Worker" 20/3/44.

between the Morecambe decisions and those made recently in Moscow.

He advocates a "People's Government" with a programme that "will break decisively with all capitalist and Right-Wing Labour policies" and goes on to elaborate on particulars that are still quite radical-sounding. But he does not explain wherein a "People's" Government would differ from a LABOUR Government, which is what the working class of Britain wants to replace the present Tory Government.

Campbell previously noted that both at Margate and at Morecambe resolutions were carried for the re-establishment of trade with the Eastern European countries and China. Now he writes on this subject and on the obstacles the United States put in the way, and suddenly exclaims: "Have no parliamentarians, trade union leaders or industrialists the guts to stand up for Britain?" And he concludes vaguely: "The Government must be driven from office and replaced by a Government which will not allow Britain to be destroyed by the war maniacs of the U.S." A Government?

Shop Talks on Socialism

The Importance of Being People

by Allen Key

WE had just got back from the Canteen trolley and were sitting on the bench drinking tea and munching some 'snap'.

Young Andy, balancing half a cheese roll carefully on the edge of a vice, turned to the rest of us. "Hey, listen to this! It says here," pointing to his paper, "Mr. David Gammans, Assistant Postmaster General said at Eastbourne yesterday 'this country is kept going by a few thousand people—the top industrialists, trade union leaders, a handful of civil servants, professional men, scientists and politicians.'"

Two or three guffaws and some expressions neither favourable to Mr. Gammans (nor printable!), was the immediate response—but Horace, who rather prides himself on seeing the other fellow's point of view, shook us more than somewhat. "Well, he's right there anyway" he said, "We've got to have Employers, and we've got to have politicians. We'd certainly be in a two-and-eight without 'em. Ask Charlie, he's a politician."

Charlie is very active in our Labour Party and was our delegate to Morecambe. He looked sadly at Horace. "You know, Horace, you've got me all wrong. I'm not a politician." He winked at the rest of us. "I'm just one of Hugh Gaitskell's 'unthinking mob'. I'm led by the nose by a bunch of frustrated journalists, and if I don't shut my gob I won't get any money."

Horace looked a bit blank till the penny dropped, then muttered "can't you discuss anything without making personal attacks. You haven't answered the question".

"Seriously," Horace said Charlie, "Gammans' statement reminds me of the Witch-Doctors who kidded the tribes that everything depended on the Medicine Men and their magic". Horace snorted. "But this Mr. Gammans is an educated man, he's not a savage, nor a witch doctor."

Charlie looked patient. "I didn't say he was. I said he reminded me of one. The witch doctor says the 500 or so in the tribe depend on him and the Chief. Gammans says that 50 million people in Britain depend on a few thousand people at the top—so-called 'leaders'. It's only a difference of figures. A lot of our Trade Union leaders want us to believe the same sort of thing."

Horace looked scornful. "As usual Charlie, you reckon you're cleverer than everybody else, but you're still only working for your

living. And you'd be out of a job if the people at the top didn't keep things running."

"Alright Horace, lets see who counts most in keeping things running. Would we all be out of a job if all these so-called important people went to the South of France for the winter?"

"Well—" began Horace carefully. But young Andy cut in quick as lightning. "The b . . . s do that anyway," he said.

"Exactly," continued Charlie, "but production goes on just the same. But suppose that we and the miners, and the bus and lorry drivers all decided to do the same and join them." "We couldn't say Horace triumphantly, "not on our wages".

"I know that," continues Charlie, "but suppose we could. Would the country keep going if we all went?"

"No," admitted Horace, "I reckon it'd be at a standstill". "That's right," went on Charlie, "Now what'd happen if all our Trade Union Officials got phlebitis at the same time, or died, or just got fed up and resigned—would we fold our Union up?"

"Course not," responded Horace. "We'd elect new ones, better ones an' all," put in young Andy. "We'd give you a job then, Charlie. I reckon you'd make a good replacement for Arthur Deakin."

How is it to differ from a Labour Government?

The vagueness is hardly accidental. Pollitt's reference to a "People's" Government is no more so. These phrases indicate the first stages of a new C.P. turn.

THE THEORY

Stalin and Malenkov laid the basis for this turn with a theory and a directive developed at the recent Moscow Congress. A war among the capitalist nations is more likely than a war of capitalism united against the Soviet Bloc. Consequently, it is possible to win over the capitalist class of some countries (specifically Britain, France, Germany and Japan) to a peace alliance. That is the theory.

The directive is that the "Peace Movements" undertaken by the Communist Parties throughout the world must not have socialism as their objective. Obviously, if a capitalist class is to be won for a "peace alliance" with the Soviet Bloc, it must be reassured that this will not aid socialism in their country. Stalin is willing to give such an assurance in his latest diplomatic manoeuvre. Pollitt and the British C.P. merely carry out this directive in Britain.

LABOUR WANTS SOCIALISM

I do not think the "People's" Government line of the C.P. is going to make much headway in the Labour Party. As the ranks showed in Morecambe, they are in no mood for compromises with capitalism and recognise its hideous nature only too well, particularly after twelve months of Churchill.

Labour's ranks know that only a SOCIALIST Britain can maintain the peace, and only a LABOUR Government can lead on to Socialism. We shall take nothing less—and certainly no counterfeit "People's" Government which is but another name for coalition and compromise with the parties of capitalism.

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