

Join the
**LABOUR
PARTY**
TODAY

Socialist Outlook

WEEKLY

No. 103
[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper]

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1953

3d.

**Hands Off
the Colonial
peoples!**

A Chance to get 'em out! Win This Bye-Election

NOT only have the Tories decided to increase working class rents—they have also decided to give an increase to some people who are already getting about £100 a week!

When the petrol tanker drivers struck work for a ten bob increase, the Tories brought in the troops as strike-breakers. For the £100 a week judges they bring in... **A BILL TO GRANT THEM AN INCREASE!**

All their actions prove that the Government is on the side of the rich against the poor, the landlord against the tenant, the employer against the worker.

We are sure every working man and woman is longing for the day when this Tory gang is forced out of office by another Labour Government. Well, here's a very concrete way in which you can help to make that wish come true.

Make sure that Labour gets a huge increase in votes in the four bye-elections now pending in Holborn and South St. Pancras, North Paddington, Ormskirk and Crosby.

Holborn and South St.

Pancras is the most urgent. Our good comrade Santo Jeger, whose death caused this election, only had a majority of 1,759 in 1951. Not a large one by any calculation. The Tories will be exerting every effort to defeat the Labour Candidate—Mrs. Lena Jeger, the widow of the late M.P.

The Tories must be frustrated. Mrs. Jeger must occupy her late husband's seat in the House of Commons with a greatly increased majority. That will show the Tories just what the people of Holborn and South St. Pancras think of their infamous rent increases.

We therefore urge every Labour man and woman in the London area, if they have an hour to spare during the day or the evening, to report to Labour's Central Committee Rooms at 14/16 Dukes Road, W.C.1.

It's easy to find—right behind St. Pancras Church, not far from Euston Station. Polling is on November 19.

Only 13 days in which to give that little bit of extra help which may decide the result of this vitally important bye-election.

Tories Give Millions To The Landlords! Decision to Raise Controlled Rents is a Challenge to the Labour Movement

THERE'S no doubt about it—the Tories certainly look after their own! In the next session of Parliament they propose to introduce legislation which will add about five to six shillings on the "controlled" rent of about 6,000,000 working class families—a nice present for the landlords.

Of course these smooth Tory customers don't come right out and say that they intend to do a little Parliamentary business on behalf of their friends the landlords. After all, they still have to win elections! So they have invented a landlord which the majority of tenants have never had the pleasure of meeting—a landlord who is just bursting to repair his property but who is unfortunately prevented from doing so because... **he is broke!**

If only the kind Government will give these property owners a few extra shillings of YOUR money, they will immediately drag in the builders to put your house in order. Well, if you believe that, you'll believe anything.

NOT THE FIRST TIME

First of all, this has all happened before. In 1920 the

same excuse was trotted out to give the landlords a permitted increase of 40 per cent. Did they spend it on repairs? Not on your life. Just listen to what the official report of the Ridley Committee of 1945 had to say about it:—

"We have received a considerable volume of evidence to the effect that the permitted increase has not in all cases been applied to the purpose for which it was designed, but has been regarded as an added increment to the landlord's income...."

Secondly, blaming the Rent Restrictions Acts for the present poor state of repair of millions of working class houses is a Tory occupation which was thoroughly exposed last December by no less a person than the Tory Under Secretary of the Home Office, Lord Lloyd. Speaking in the debate on Rents in the House of Lords he said:

"It has been suggested that it is the restrictions of the Rent Acts which makes it impossible for landlords to keep them in repair (but) I have not been able to find any statistics which would justify or support that point of view.... It is not the operation of the Rent Restrictions Acts that is causing houses to fall into disrepair. The real reason is that these

houses are in any case coming to an end of their useful life and no repairs could patch them up adequately."

PROFITS OUT OF WAR

To put it plainly, there are more than half a million houses from which rents are still being drawn and which—but for the war—would have been pulled down about 15 years ago. So the owners of this property have been actually drawing rents which should have ceased 15 years ago!

There are millions of other houses which—as the Ridley Committee points out—have been allowed to deteriorate into their present disgraceful condition because the landlords looked upon

Editorial

the "repairs increase" of 1920 as simply "added increment" for themselves.

If there is anyone who really believes that the landlords are broke, there is a simple way to get the truth. Go to your nearest Assistance Board and enquire how many landlords are on the books!

There may be cases of small owners being hard put to it to find the money to keep their property in repair—but this new legislation isn't designed for them. They are only the sprats to catch a

mackerel. The increases will be given to ALL landlords—and the big ones are already making huge profits. Now they'll make even more.

GAMBLERS AT WORK

Indeed, the big landlords and property owners have been gambling on this legislation being introduced. That's why they all vote Tory. Lord Silkin gave the game away in the Lords last December when he said:

"There are large numbers of property companies who have been going round the country in recent years buying up property at very low prices, sometimes for a mere song."

Furthermore, if the landlords have been able to sell their property with vacant possession they have grabbed huge profits during the housing shortage.

In fact, there is no body of people more parasitic upon society than those who make a fat living out of the misery into which so many of our people are condemned by the terrible housing conditions of today. On every grounds this Tory legislation must be opposed with all the might of the entire Labour Movement.

A LEAD WANTED

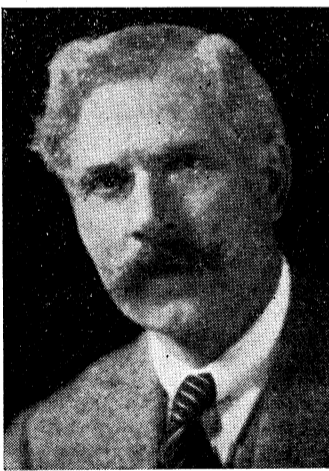
Our Labour Opposition must not only vote against this Tory hand-out to the landlords—it must mobilise the country in a great campaign to bring down the Government. Millions of people are affected—and millions will follow a forthright lead from Labour against this vicious legislation.

For once in a while the "Herald" was right when, in an editorial last week, it declared that the only remedy for houses falling into disrepair was... **"to bring millions more dwellings into local authority hands"**. The Opposition must declare its intention of doing just that when it is returned to power. And more.

Slums must be pulled down and powers given to local authorities to requisition property—and even rooms—for those awaiting new houses.

The banks must be made to disgorge some of their millions in loans at cheap rates of interest for house repair and house-building. A National Building Corporation, based on direct labour, must be set to work to build the homes the people need.

All this was decided at Margate. Energetically fought for, it's enough to bring down the Tories and put Labour back into power with an overwhelming majority.



Ramsay Macdonald

**He Fell For The
Tory 'Red Scare'**

● See story on p. 3 ●

Guiana: T.U.C. Win Tory Praise

THE October meeting of the T.U.C. General Council issued a resolution on British Guiana which must have shocked hundreds of thousands of Trade Unionists.

It begins by saying that the General Council is "deeply disturbed" by the recent events in British Guiana. So are millions of people in this country. They are disturbed by the activities of the Tory Government in sending gunboats and troops to depose elected Ministers! But that is not what disturbs the majority of the General Council.

There is not one word—not one tiny word—in this long resolution, of criticism of the actions of our Tory Government.

Criticism is reserved for the leaders of the People's Progressive Party. The victim is at fault not the murderer. To the charges against the P.P.P. in the White Paper, the T.U.C. General Council adds one or two of its own. Their foundation is just as flimsy as those of the Tory Government.

The P.P.P. leaders sought "political advantage and power in direct contravention of the spirit and purpose of the Constitution". Is it a crime then to seek "political

advantage and power"? If it is, then a few million members of the Labour Party are as guilty as the leaders of the P.P.P.

These leaders, it is declared, consistently endeavoured to destroy the Man Power Citizens' Association, "the only Trade Union organisation with collective bargaining agreements which provide for the establishment of joint negotiating machinery which has resulted in considerable improvements in the conditions of the sugar workers".

"Considerable improvements in conditions." That is a nice rolling phrase. But talk of 'con-

By

Reg Stephens

siderable improvements' sounds a little hollow beside the accounts now coming out of British Guiana on the sub-human existence of the plantation workers. On October 27 Stephen Barber sent a despatch to the "News Chronicle" which gave a harrowing picture of these "considerably improved" conditions.

He told of a typical plantation family. The worker slept in his working rags and had no shoes. The normal weekly wage was £2 and the family was deep in debt. Outside their hovel runs "a muddy ditch that serves the double duty as wash tub and latrine for a row of similar hutches a hundred yards long".

There were terrible conditions described in this despatch. And it is clear that the Man Power Citizens' Association has either been unable or unwilling to do anything about them.

The P.P.P. sought to carry a bill for the compulsory recognition of Unions having a majority of members in a particular industry. The General Council denounces the P.P.P. as seeking to achieve its aims by legislative action when it

failed to achieve them by "strike and intimidation".

A strange rebuke from Trade Union leaders who have preached to transport workers that they should adopt political and not industrial action.

But any stick is good enough for the General Council to beat the P.P.P. with. Some of its democratically elected representatives pursued a Communist policy, declares the General Council. It is not necessary to discuss whether this charge is true or not, although the Council produces no evidence apart from an accusation that these leaders made contacts behind the Iron Curtain and with the W.F.T.U. Who or what gave the General Council or the British Government the right to determine the policies of another people or their government by force and intimidation?

The resolution condemns the leaders of the P.P.P. for "wantonly abusing" the trust placed in them by the people of British Guiana. It is clear, however, that the

supporters of the resolution have wantonly abused the trust placed in them by British Trade Unionists.

Their statements will be read by rank and file Trade Unionists not only with disgust but also with shame. Shame that this resolution will go round the world as the opinion of the British Trade Union movement and give confidence to every reactionary and Tory imperialist.

The Labour Party and Trade Union rank and file want the British Labour movement to be an inspiration to the peoples of the colonies struggling to rise from their knees. The General Council resolution gives aid and comfort to all those forces oppressing the colonial peoples. It will engender hate and disappointment among the people of the colonies.

For that reason the rank and file have a duty to raise the strongest possible protest so that the colonial peoples can know that internationalism is not dead in the Labour movement.

TALKING OF CIRCULATION...

THE Fifth Anniversary Campaign is getting into stride. Manchester is following up its sales drive with a great meeting at Chorlton Town Hall, All Saints, Manchester, on Sunday, December 13 at 2.30 p.m. Speakers are now being fixed up and we are pleased to see that Roland Cassasola, a member of the Executive Committee of the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers, who made a very good speech in moving the Confederation Engineering Plan at Margate, will be on the platform. Other speakers will be announced in due course.

Manchester is also right bang up to date with its political appeal for the meeting. Our readers are issuing a special leaflet on the wages struggle which says:—

"SOCIALIST OUTLOOK' has campaigned for the extension of nationalisation and for workers control in all basic industries.

"SOCIALIST OUTLOOK' has given publicity and supported all the workers struggles for Trade Unionism and printed the worker's case in disputes such as Austin's, Fairey's, etc.

"SOCIALIST OUTLOOK' has publicised inside the broad Labour movement the case of the Engineering and Building

Unions for the nationalisation of their industries."

Good work Manchester: This is a lead which we hope will be followed up by London in the next week's paper. Any other district catching on?

Leeds is a tough solid stronghold for our paper. Our readers there plan to work with great thoroughness. They have undertaken as their contribution to 1,000 new readers for November, a quota of 100 and 100 they will get—make no mistake about it. Here they plan the work and check the plan at all stages. That's the way to get things done.

It is pleasing to report a new group of supporters moving up to

the sales front. We extend a hearty welcome to Ashton Under Lyne readers. Here is an extract from the decisions of their first meeting:—

"(1) to attempt to obtain 60 new regular readers of the 'Outlook' by the end of the campaign period;

(2) to assist the Manchester comrades with the 'Outlook' meeting held in December. (As a first step, it has been agreed to give a donation of £2 towards the expenses of the meeting.)

Now come on London readers groups. The provinces are way ahead.

G. Healy,
Circulation Manager.

BRITISH GUIANA

by

- Cheddi Jagan
- Janet Jagan
- L. F. S. Burnham
- H. W. Benn

SOCIALIST OUTLOOK PAMPHLET 3d.
Order from:
177 Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

We Planned Reforms and Troops Came In

ON April 27 the people of British Guiana went to the polls. The ultra-conservatives had expected violence, the police were made to stand by, but under the leadership and on the advice of the P.P.P. the electors went quietly and calmly to exercise their votes. The day was as still as Good Friday and at its end 18 out of 22 P.P.P. candidates had won seats in the new House of Assembly.

The Party obtained 51 per cent. of the valid votes cast but this figure ignores two facts—that the P.P.P. had no candidate in two constituencies and that over 80 per cent. of the spoilt votes were in the ballot boxes of our candidates. In any case why should it be assumed that all those who did not vote were anti-P.P.P.? It is ironic to find the Tories questioning our Party's strength in the country when in the 1951 General Elections they gained a majority of seats with a minority of votes.

THE P.P.P.

The P.P.P. consisted of several shades of political opinion with two common bases—a desire to improve conditions of the workers and the achievement of self-government with full democratic rights. Our Manifesto showed a realisation of our limitations at this stage of development and consequently was not even as revolutionary as the Labour Party's policy.

Universal adult suffrage for Local Government councils, utilisation of idle land, opening of all posts to local persons, secularisation and reorganisation of education, which are taken for granted and have been achieved in all parts

Federation Racket

THE new constitution for Central Africa was to be a model for the partnership of the different races in that part of Africa. So, at least claimed the Tories in their efforts to justify the imposition of Federation on an African population who made it quite clear that they did not want it.

Now that "Federation has become law", to quote Mr. Attlee and Earl Jowitt, we can see just how this "partnership" is working out in practice.

Under the qualifications for the franchise announced last week for Nyasaland, no African in that territory will be entitled to vote for representatives to the Central Legislature.

Franchise qualifications include an annual income of £200 or occupation of property worth £250 and adequate knowledge of the English language. There is scarcely an African in the Protectorate who can meet these requirements.

Furthermore, every voter must be a member of a "constituent association". These include planters' associations, missionary societies, and chambers of commerce. Voters must also be "citizens of the United Kingdom and the Colonies". Nyasa Africans are classified as "British protected persons" and not as "citizens".

The true purpose of Federation is now apparent for all to see. It is to establish in Central Africa the same political pattern which exists in the Union of South Africa—the concentration of all political power in the hands of the white settlers and the subjugation of the Africans. "Apartheid" and "Partnership" are blood-brothers under the skin.

Socialist Outlook

177 Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1.

Telephone: HOP 4554

Editor: John Lawrence

By
L. F. S. Burnham
Guiana's Deposed
Minister of Education



of the world, were some of our plans. These our opponents and high government officials branded Communist and totalitarian.

Our party worked unceasingly to educate and unite all sections of our population and its membership increased rapidly. We had no daily organ and the three daily newspapers owned by big business and run by interlocking directorates abused us day after day and started scare after scare. Our chief means of publicity on the other hand were public meetings held at street corners, with all their limitations.

"COMMUNIST CELLS"

We organised groups and constituency committees to study and discuss local and national problems and to find solutions and make their influence felt on the Central Party Executive. These were described by the small but powerful circles who had an entree to the Press as "Communist cells".

We have been accused of tampering with the impartial Civil Service. The fact is that in British Guiana, with few exceptions, the most senior posts are filled by officials from abroad, usually the United Kingdom. As part of our wide appeal during our election campaign we stated that qualified Guianese should be given priority to all appointments. The senior officials paid lip service to this policy but opposed it for obvious reasons in practice and in private.

THE POLICE

Undermining the loyalty of the Police has also been placed at our door. The men in the ranks are drawn entirely from the native population and the possibility of their reaching commissioned officer rank is very remote in the majority of cases. The officer class is imported in the main. In addition, ordinary members of the police force suffered all the social and economic ills common to the rest of our people. Consequently they, as a group, saw in our programme the hope of better homes and

better conditions. Without disloyalty to their oath, we believe they supported us at the polls.

In British Guiana over 90 per cent. of the elementary schools are controlled by Christian denominations, but are maintained and the teachers paid out of Government funds. Promotion for most teachers lies through their religious or denominational affiliations rather than professional ability. Those drawn from our Hindu and Muslim population—40 per cent. of the whole—face a cul-de-sac.

The whole system is unsatisfactory and its abolition was recommended in 1941 by Mr. Hammond, the Education Adviser to the Comptroller of Colonial Development and Welfare in the West Indies. In accepting this recommendation, which has been supported on several occasions by the British Guiana Teachers' Association, we were prepared to provide the safeguard of allowing all religious denominations the right of access to schools at stated periods to give religious instruction to children of their respective persuasions. This reform earned us the accusation of seeking to create an atheist Communist generation.

EDUCATION

Much of our education is unrealistic in content and approach. For one thing, as was admitted in a "Report of Investigation into the Public Service" 1953 it is academic and formal, with the technical and practical aspects largely ignored. Furthermore children are taught little if anything about the history of their country and of the struggles and achievements of their forbears. British patriotic songs like "Rule Britannia" are their regular fare, and a love for and pride in their own country is not encouraged, if not actually discouraged.

To remedy some of these weaknesses, fatal to a growing nation, the curricula were to be revised, some of the text-books re-written, and anthologies of Guianese poetry and literature prepared. Our coming generations were to be fitted to play their role and to know more of British Guiana, while being taught to appreciate the achievements and culture of other peoples.

Reforms like these we planned and initiated. We sought to honour our election promises. If these had been carried through we would have laid the basis for a virile nation... but on October 8, 1953, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers landed at Georgetown, a state of emergency was declared by the governor, Sir Alfred Savage, the elected ministers were dismissed, and the Constitution suspended.

Is the "SOCIALIST OUTLOOK" in your Local Library?

If not—ASK FOR IT!

One Law For the Rich...

ONE of the "crimes" of the P.P.P. in British Guiana, as listed in the Tory "White Paper" is that they wished to secularise the schools.

The Malan Government in South Africa, has introduced a "Native Education Bill", which will remove all African schools from Church control and place them under the control of the Native Affairs Department.

We have heard no threat, as yet, of gunboats being sent to Table Bay. Nor, we understand, is there any intention to revoke the "South Africa Act" under which the British Parliament granted the Union of South Africa a constitution in 1909.

It seems to make a difference whether the threat to the Church schools comes from the "Right" or the "Left". And, of course, it is not easy to bully South Africa with its standing Army and Air Force. The unarmed, defenceless British Guianese are easier game.

Old People's Plight Under Tories

THE Tory Government shows great concern for landlords chafing under the Rent Restriction Acts. It gives relief to industrialists complaining about taxation. But it shows no concern, and gives no relief to the old age pensioners.

Lord Beveridge warned the Government last April that Britain was moving away from real social security back to the sufferings and degradations of the Means Test days. At the present time one in every four on retirement or widows pension is forced to supplement their meagre pension by national assistance and undergo a means test. Of these 855,000 were old age pensioners. There must be many more old people who are

By
Cllr. Bill Hunter

too proud to go to the Assistance Board, or who are being helped by relatives. Here is a big social problem—how to give old people adequate standards so that they may be freed from the scraping and scrimping and near-starvation which many of them experienced during their working lives.

It would be foolish to expect a Tory Government to face up to that problem. True they have set up two committees to deal with certain problems in relation to old people. But both committees are concerned with saving the Exchequer money—neither are concerned with lightening the burdens on the old people.

The first committee has just published its report. It was set up in March 1952 to "advise and assist" the Minister in "promoting the employment of older men and women". The deliberations of the 23 men and four women comprising this committee have so far cost £573 14s. 3d. After reading the report you are bound to consider it wasn't worth it.

The first problem with regard to the old people is not that of finding jobs but of finding economic security for them. Once they have been freed completely from the fear of want and poverty then they

Have a look at
Houses...Rents
and the
Building Trade
with
Tom Braddock

A life-long Socialist with a life-long experience in the building trade.

A SOCIALIST OUTLOOK PAMPHLET
Price 3d.

Order from:
177 Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

can themselves discuss collectively in their association how to find occupations to maintain their mental and physical capacities to the full.

But the Government is looking round for any means to save money on the aged. That is behind the appeals to find work for them and not any desire to help them maintain their capacities.

The terms of the second committee set up by the Chancellor of the Exchequer show much more clearly from which side the Tories are approaching this problem of the aged. The committee will

"review the economic and financial problems involved in providing for old age". Not, you will note, review the financial problems of the aged, but the problems in providing for them.

Old people must view the future policy of the Tory Government with little hope.

It is good, therefore, that the Margate Conference of the Labour Party agreed that the next Labour Government will increase pensions and tie them to the cost of living. What the old folk need from the Labour Movement is a campaign for that now.

An Open Letter

To The Minister of Food

Dear Major,

With over 35 years' experience in the retail grocery trade and rationing since its inception, all of which has been obtained in solely working class districts, the report of the interview you gave to the "News of the World", was of special interest to me.

The reason you gave for the very infrequent allocations of lard was that lard from the U.S.A.—our main source of supply pre-war and now—costs dollars.

Seeing that you are making quite substantial purchases of bacon and ham from countries like Denmark, Poland and in no small measure from Ireland—I use the term Ireland in a general sense—have you ever considered an approach to these countries for supplies of lard to enable more frequent allocations to be made, to the immense satisfaction of British housewives? (It is very pleasing to me to see my customers faces light up when I tell them "Its lard this week".) The need for dollars surely does not arise here and indeed a quite useful exchange for British made goods might be effected to give a fillip to Britain's export trade.

Your answer to the query on the de-rationing of butter to the effect that if you could be assured of more supplies of margarine you might be willing to de-ration butter, in my view, strikes an ominous note. In essence, butter for those who can afford it and margarine for those who cannot.

I would suggest that in regard to prunes—the question of dollars for these—it could apply equally to butter and lard as far as I am aware—is being further aggravated by the U.S. Government's policy of maintaining high prices for the producers. To do this they (the U.S. Government) have to buy all the "surpluses" and keep them off the market by placing them in storage.

Some time ago the American journal "Life" reported that in storage there were sufficient prunes to provide a breakfast dish for every senator and congressman, every day, until the year 2028!

Quite recently, we were informed that 1,000,000 pounds of butter are being stored daily to carry out this insane policy of maintaining high prices to the producers. Insane, both to us in need of greater supplies of food and to the average American citizen, who ironically enough, has not only to meet the cost of purchase and storage through taxation, but at the same time in the case of butter is having to eat margarine because he cannot afford butter. An artificial shortage being created in a world in which millions of people are in need of more food and at reasonable prices.

Dollars are needed to buy American lard and prunes. Yet, the purchasing power of what dollars we hold, or may be able to obtain, is surely becoming less and less, by this deliberate attempt of the American Government to keep essential foods at prohibitive prices. That there is an abundance in that country we know to be true. It is nothing less than criminal to withhold this food so that the producers may wax rich.

There is an urgent need to seek new markets for British goods which can be exchanged for food and raw materials we need. It is time some real effort was made to break this American stranglehold on world trade with its many restrictions on whom we should and should not do business with.

Yours sincerely,

S. R. Pearson.

Chairman, Grimsby & Cleethorpes Branch, Union of Shop, Distributive & Allied Workers

Labour and the Colonies

ALMOST at the end of the recent Margate Conference, Mr. Attlee wound up the Debate on the N.E.C. Document "Foreign and Commonwealth Policy". It had been a poor debate. This was not surprising since the document was not issued until it was too late for it to be considered by the rank-and-file of the party.

Furthermore, delegates were not allowed to move amendments. The reason given was because they could not have been instructed by their parties. True enough—but whose fault was that? Not the local parties, not the delegates! The blame rests on the N.E.C. itself; the whole thing was undemocratic and mean to a degree and the N.E.C. of our Party stands condemned for taking part in it.

Mr. Attlee, at the start of his speech, expressed regret that there had been no discussion on Colonial Policy during the Conference. He seemed to be disturbed at this and well he might be.

The relationship between the

Labour Party and the peoples of the Colonies is vital at the present time. The possibility of establishing understanding and goodwill is one that we shall neglect at our peril—and remember, Comrades, it is our movement that is being tested, not the Colonial peoples. They look to us but if we give no sign they will look elsewhere and we shall be classed by them with the exploiters who have earned their bitter hatred.

However, with or without a debate the N.E.C. resolution was

By
Tom Braddock

accepted and the responsibility for the document rests, not on our movement, but on the N.E.C. who put it forward. Delegates at the Conference had no mandate to accept it. It is an evil document, badly conceived and delivered in darkness.

On the Colonies it is at its worst. Where it is not deliberately vague it is cruel. The Central African people are to be betrayed by us. The document says Federation has

become the law—a Tory law, condemned at the Morecambe Conference, but Mr. Attlee told us that acts of resistance to it must not be encouraged.

In Kenya, the repression of Mau Mau is necessary. We give our approval to the horrible conduct of the white settlers there and to the forces of disorder who are acting on their behalf.

In Malaya, it is necessary to combat Communist terrorism. Not a word of condemnation of the Fascist rule being inflicted on the peoples of the country suffering robbery and exploitation at the hands of the representatives of the white people.

The passing of a resolution containing statements of this sort joins the Labour Party together with the exploiters every time a difference between them and their victims come to the front.

British Guiana is the latest example. Gunboats sail and troops march in. From our Labour Party nothing but words of condemnation for the deposed leaders.

But quite apart from the N.E.C. resolution, colonial matters attracted many resolutions to the

ordinary Agenda. These were the subject of Composite Resolutions Nos. 20 and 21. The first of these were in charge of Croydon and Rushcliffe. The delegates of these parties were persuaded to take out the middle paragraph which had some teeth in it. All that was left was pious wishes and an offer to accept lower standards of living for the British people. Any Tory would support that and the N.E.C. accepted it.

The second one, in charge of Guildford and Dudley, was referred by them, without any consultation with delegates of other parties interested, to the N.E.C. where it will, of course, be killed stone dead.

Probably, in expressing regret at the lack of a debate on the Colonies, Mr. Attlee had no knowledge of the goings on in the background. But the fact remains that a combination of the N.E.C. resolution and the edging out of the Constituency resolutions leaves the Labour Party labelled in the eyes of the world and the colonial peoples as a party of hypocrites on this question—mouthing platitudes but acting in the interests of the exploiters.

Labour's History

LABOUR's first Government—a minority one—took office in January, 1924.

On October 8, 1924, Tories and Liberals in the House combined to carry a vote of censure on the Government for withdrawing proceedings against Mr. J. R. Campbell, editor of the Communist "Workers Weekly".

Labour's Attorney General, Sir Patrick Hastings, had started proceedings against Campbell, following the publication in the "Workers Weekly" of an article calling upon soldiers to refuse to obey orders to fire on workers in industrial disputes. There had been angry protests in the Labour Party; the prosecution had been abandoned. There were other, more important reasons, however, behind the Tories' determination to bring down the Labour Government.

The Labour Government had negotiated treaties with Russia. Russia was to receive diplomatic recognition, a loan and full trade relations. These treaties now awaited ratification by Parliament. The Tories were hostile to recognition of Russia and to the proposed loan.

Following its defeat on the Campbell issue, the Labour Government resigned, and on the advice of the Prime Minister, J. Ramsey MacDonald, the King dissolved Parliament.

In the General Election that followed, the Labour Party campaigned for the Russian treaties. Trade with Russia would mean work for Britain's unemployed.

The Tory Party and the Tory Press opposed the treaties. Bolsheviks were depicted on platform, in newspapers and on hoardings as sinister, bearded fanatics out to plot against and destroy Britain and the British Empire.

The Labour Government, the Tories insisted, was under the control of party and Trade Union committees manned by people who were either tools or agents of the

Bolsheviks. Trade and diplomatic relations with Russia would give the Bolsheviks greater opportunities to meddle in Britain's affairs. The Campbell case showed Labour's Cabinet retreating before the demands of these pro-Russian elements.

But however much the Campbell case was played up, it seemed to have little effect. More startling evidence of Bolshevik plots was needed: proof that the Treaties would mean more meddling by the Russians in Britain's affairs, would mean plots, seditions, strikes, chaos.

On October 10, there came into the hands of Foreign Office officials, a typewritten document, said to be a copy of a letter sent from the Communist International in Moscow to its British section. At the foot of the letter were the names of **Zinoviev**, Comintern Executive Chairman, **Kuusenin**, its Secretary, and **Arthur McManus**, British Communist leader, a member of the Comintern Executive.

The letter contained instructions to the British Communist Party to establish cells in army units and munition works, and to prepare the Party's secret military organisation for eventual insurrection. More significantly, the letter called for greater efforts to secure the ratification of the Anglo-Russian treaties: British Communists and Labour Left wingers were to "strain every nerve in the struggle for the ratification of the Treaty". Closer relations between Russia and Britain would make it much easier for Communists "to extend and develop the propaganda of ideas of Leninism in England and the Colonies".

Another typewritten copy of the "Zinoviev letter" as it came to be called, reached the offices of the "Daily Mail". That newspaper held on to it, making no effort to publish the document at this stage, contenting itself with informing

The Place of Engineering in Socialist World Trade

LAST week I gave obvious examples of essential planning and co-ordination within various industries—Mining, Railways, Electric Power, Steel, Housing—concerning their equipment needs, which is only possible under the "Plan for Engineering" of the Engineering Confederation Unions.

This planning is related to the home front but is the foundation upon which the whole world-trading economy of Britain rests.

The test of Socialist understanding is recognition of the effect of production methods (economic production) upon the world political scene. The lag of British

small) firms cannot provide the capital for machine tool development to produce machines capable of accurate and speedy production at home and attractive to buyers abroad. Only public ownership can bring the necessary changes.

Gavin Martin, the Confederation secretary, stresses the importance of supplying machines ourselves for Commonwealth development plans thus involving Sterling and not foreign (Dollar) currencies. But there is an even greater need than this and one which introduces a real Socialist content into our world trading relations.

Throughout the world the backward nations are throwing off the imperialist yoke which kept them as reservoirs of raw materials. They seek to develop industrial economies of their own to bring higher living standards to their peoples.

These nations have not, as yet, a large skilled working class, nor do they develop one through the methods of the past. They require the advanced automatic machinery of modern production technique and the machine tools for their own industrial foundation. We need not fear from this their ultimate elimination as markets for our products, their development is towards planned economies, and providing we plan our own to aid them with technical means by extended credits and exchange goods agreements, we solve our present needs and lay the foundations for future economic integration to a world-planned Socialist economy.

Particularly important also in this regard is the Engineer's Plan's reference to agricultural machinery, especially tractors. The backward nations offer tremendous opportunities in this field, which, if taken, can give an impetus to food production on a world scale.

It is perhaps in this field, and that of exports in general, that some criticism may be levelled at the Plan. It is cautious and inconclusive, as in the case of development councils advocated for the motor car and radio industries which raise curious points

Continued on page 4, col. 6

'Red Scare' Is An Old Tory Trick

★ **By Reg Groves** ★

The Tories have suspended the Constitution of British Guiana on the plea of frustrating a (completely unsubstantiated) "Red Plot". In 1924 they worked a similar trick on the British Labour Movement—the "Zinoviev Letter".

inner circles of the Conservative Party about the document.

James Ramsey MacDonald, Foreign Secretary as well as Prime Minister, was then on a whirlwind election tour of Britain. His Foreign Office officials despatched the letter after him, and it reached him at Manchester on October 16. J.R.M. studied it, and returned it to the Foreign Office with instructions that its authenticity be checked, and that a suitable Note of protest be drafted, for presentation to C. Rakovsky, the Russian Charge de Affaires, should the letter's authenticity be proved.

These instructions were received at the Foreign Office on October

17. On October 21, the draft protest Note, intended for Rakovsky, was sent to Aberavon for J.R.M.'s attention. J.R.M. did not reach Aberavon until the night of October 23. He studied the draft, so the story goes, in a fish-and-chip shop in the company of a high official from the Foreign Office and a shorthand typist, and made several alterations and amendments. Next day, the amended Note went back to the Foreign Office. J.R.M., according to his own account, "expected it to come back to me again with proofs of authenticity, but that night it was published. . . ."

It is important to note at this stage that the "it" refers not to

the text of the Zinoviev Letter, but to the text of the protest Note to Rakovsky. It was now known by Foreign Office officials that the "Daily Mail" had a copy of the Zinoviev Letter, and that they intended to publish it. J.R.M. could not have prevented the publication of the Zinoviev Letter. As we shall see, this point is crucial.

It was later argued by Sir Eyre Crowe, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office that he decided to publish the Zinoviev Letter on hearing that the "Mail" had sent copies to other newspapers for publication on October 25. He did this, he said, to protect his chief, J.R.M., against an accusation of concealing a vital document from the public during an election.

But—and again this point must be stressed—the Foreign Office did not issue to the press only the

text of the Zinoviev Letter. They published also the text of the protest note to Rakovsky, and did so without the consent of the Foreign Secretary and his Cabinet colleagues. The Note was signed by a Foreign Office official, Mr. J. D. Gregory, "in the absence of the Secretary of State".

The Zinoviev Letter, and the Note to Rakovsky appeared in the newspapers on the morning of October 25, four days before Polling Day. "We're sunk" Mr. J. H. Thomas is reported to have said, when he saw the papers that morning.

The Tories and many of the Liberals made the most of it. Here was proof that the Russian Treaty would mean seditious meddling in British affairs, proof, indeed, that the Treaty was being signed for this reason. Labour candidates busily defending the Russian treaties, were thrown into confusion.

"Under the circumstances", observed King George V cautiously, "Crowe was quite right to publish the letter, although it has certainly put the Prime Minister and his Party in a hole, and their opponents will make great capital out of it. But it would have been much worse if the "Daily Mail" had published it and the Foreign Office remained silent." (The King, too, is bamboozled into discussing the publication of the letter, not the Note of protest).

About the Zinoviev letter, the King seemed uncertain. "I suppose there is no doubt", he emphasised, "that Z's letter is genuine?"

He was not the only one asking that question.

Labour speakers and election workers and supporters waited for word from their leader. On October 25 and 26, J.R.M. ignored the whole subject, thereby increasing the fears and uncertainties of his own followers, and rousing an even more ferocious jubilation in the Tory camp.

At last, on October 27, J.R.M. dealt with the matter at a meeting in Cardiff.

He explained how he had expected the arrival of evidence as to the authenticity of the Zinoviev

Continued on page 4, col 5.

Bevan Exposes Steel Ramp



IN a powerful article in last week's "Tribune", Aneurin completely exposed the financial reasons behind the sell-out of the nationalised Steel Industry. With a profit of £5,000,000 per annum, says Bevan, "it is clear that an extremely valuable piece of the public estate is being disposed of".

And who will take up this juicy morsel? Bevan minces no words. "Parasites . . . money lenders . . . functionless absentee owners whose existence has no technical, or any other practical significance for the making of steel."

They are parasites, he says, because "during the period of public ownership the production of steel went on even better than when they were there".

Furthermore, the statement of the British Iron and Steel Federation which calls for the "nation" to undertake "the function of risk" fully proves the correctness of Labour's decision to re-nationalise Steel. The case for public ownership of this vital industry is overwhelming.

The Industrial Front

ENGINEERS STILL MARCHING FOR WAGES

BY the time this issue of the "Socialist Outlook" is on sale the engineering and shipbuilding Unions will know the employers' final reply to their demand for a 15 per cent. increase. In the past two weeks there have been more demonstrations in support of this demand.

In Liverpool thousands of shipbuilding, ship-repair and engineering workers marched in protest against the first rejection of the claim by the employers. At Custom House Fields 3,000 ship repair workers from the Port of London met to demonstrate in favour of the claim. In Liverpool and London the workers passed resolutions pledging their support for strike action if the claim was finally rejected.

A meeting of 9,000 engineers at Leith passed a similar resolution. The engineers attending this meeting had staged a half day token strike for a wage increase. About 500 employees of Bonnington Castings, makers of the famous "Secutex" plumbing joints and fittings, were locked out for a full day by the management as a reprisal. A good contingent of women marched. According to a participant, this was the biggest demonstration held in Edinburgh since the 1926 General Strike.

BERESFORD'S GO BACK

THE workers at Beresfords, Birmingham, have returned to work after a three weeks strike. They came out after the management dismissed seven men as redundant without prior consultation with the shop stewards.

The decision to return occurred shortly after the firm (copying the

method of Lord of Austin) sent letters to all the strikers giving them one week to return to work, failing which they would be dismissed.

The strikers lost their main demand—that all seven dismissed workers be re-engaged. Nevertheless, when the Union officials went to negotiate with the management after the conclusion of the strike, they obtained a written agreement that in future there will be no dismissals without full consultation with the shop stewards.

It was also agreed to discuss on shop level the question of re-employing four of the seven dismissed workers. Three of them have already found other jobs.

In all the strikers felt that their stoppage had been justified and it was in no mood of defeat that they returned to work.

REDUNDANCY TROUBLE AT STANDARD TELEPHONES

THERE have been strange goings on in the Standard Telephone factory at Southgate, London. A section of the workers were to have been sacked next Friday.

Three weeks ago the management informed the stewards that over a period of a few months 500 workers would be declared redundant. The firm informed the stewards that the G.P.O.—its main customer—was mainly responsible for this by modifying its orders.

The shop stewards committee lobbied M.P.'s. After questions were asked in the House of Commons, an interesting fact came to light. The Assistant Postmaster General declared that there had been no cut in contracts with Standard Telephones. Subsequently, a deputation from the

stewards met the Assistant Postmaster General and were told that if the firm was going to put people off it was in no way due to any action by the Post Office.

When the stewards informed the management of this they announced they would hold up the notices for a fortnight.

Now comes another strange twist in this story. Last Saturday the "Manchester Guardian" reported an official of the company as denying that the redundancy had been caused by any cancellation of orders. Workers are naturally asking now—why the redundancy if there had been no cut in orders?

After reporting to a mass meeting which gave its support unanimously to the stewards, Ted Corbett, Standards convener, who is also the chairman of Westminster and City of London Labour Parties, said: "We are fighting this. There is something that smells here and we are going to find out what and where it is."

M.S.A. KEEP FIGHTING AFTER 21 WEEKS!

STRIKERS from the Medical Supply Association, London, have now been locked out for 21 weeks. A week ago they picketed the factory of British Industrial Gases Ltd.

This firm is supplying M.S.A. with oxygen and acetylene. The British Oxygen Co., has also supplied the firm in the past but the strike committee succeeded with the co-operation of Trade Unionists there in cutting off that source of supply. However, the firm of British Industrial Gases is badly organised and the management refused the request of the

strike committee to stop deliveries to M.S.A.

The strikers picketed the firm to bring to the notice of the workers that the Medical Supply Association had been officially declared "black" by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The management of M.S.A. are still trying desperately to engage more workers. Recently they advertised in the press under a box number. They asked applicants to state their union membership. The strikers recognised the advertisement and organised a picket of the office where the management hoped to interview applicants. As no applicants arrived they report that the management's representative looked more and more worried as he frequently popped his head round the doorway. This shortage of applicants perhaps was not so very strange as it became clear that the only people who had fixed interviews were Trade Unionists who had done so on the instructions of the committee.

Donations to the M.S.A. Lock-Out Committee should be sent to: Faraday Hall, Faraday Road, London, W.3.

READ
 Britain's only T.U. Weekly Newspaper
The Railway Review
 FEARLESS, FACTUAL. STIMULATING and packed with information.
 Price 3d.
 Obtainable from any newsagent or bookstall.

By Norman Dinning

Machine Tool manufacture is evidence that at every turn we bear the burden of capitalist Britain's former role as the "Workshop of the World".

First in the capitalist field, Britain's established world markets impelled America and Germany (to name the biggest) to perfect their machine tools to a capacity of almost automatic accuracy in producing other machines for consumer goods production which could capture Britain's foreign markets. Their success brought two World Wars and now Britain's subservience to American domination.

So long as markets were assured, British manufacturers used the old machinery and methods, exploiting the skill of their workers to the utmost and pocketing the profits rather than use them as capital for new machinery.

Mining and Textiles were classic examples. General engineering did the same thing and made no call upon Machine Tool manufacturers to keep pace with technical progress. Workers were cheaper than the cost of research and development of technical efficiency. Today, the 280 (mainly

Our Readers Write . . .

Wages & Strikes

I agree with John McLaren (last week's issue) that to secure wages justice for engineering workers, something more concrete than mass-meetings and demonstrations is needed. I consider, however, that the recent demonstrations in Glasgow, London, etc., have been useful preliminaries to stronger action. They have shown the solid widespread militant mood of the workers, and were exhilarating for those taking part.

Mr. McLaren made no reference to widespread periodical strikes of fixed duration, which, combined with go-slow working, could eventually undermine the employers' resistance.

E. D. Cairns. London, S.W.8.

★

Straight From the (War) Horses Mouth

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies—in the final sense—a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

Was it the Pope or the Archbishop of Canterbury who spoke these words?

Not on your life, they were spoken by a man that had a life experience of war, General D. Eisenhower, President of the United States. He should know how the people's bread is buttered.

F. G. R. Philpott. Hythe (Kent).

★

The Bishop Couldn't Answer

There has just recently been a mission to Nottingham—a sort of special week of prayer. In conjunction with this the Rt. Rev. Bishop of Southwell came to address the local Trades Council.

After an address of 15 minutes, delegates were invited to put questions—the Bishop incidentally claimed to be non-political.

One delegate referred to a report in the "Manchester Guardian" of two Kikuyu who were on trial, when it was cited as evidence against one of them that at a meeting he turned to Mt. Kenya and prayed to God to deliver the Kikuyu from the Europeans. The questioner wanted to know what was the difference between this and the National Days of Prayer during the war when all good Englishmen were exhorted to pray for deliverance from the enemy. And did the Bishop really think a man should have such an action cited against him as evidence of terrorism.

The Bishop didn't quite catch the question so it was repeated by a member on the platform. The Bishop floundered—he said it was a very difficult question—he stood there looking awkward till the chairman came to his rescue by asking for the next question. The Bishop could not answer!

Later the same week, there was a protest meeting on British Guiana. The speaker was asked why the Guianese were such a religious people. His answer was that the people of Guiana were desperately poor—the church gave them a few crumbs now and then, if they were devout Christians—the speaker added that the church knew what they were doing—the crumbs and gifts and promises of happiness hereafter assisted in keeping the poor peasants and workers humble and docile—whilst the imperialists bosses exhort their last pound of flesh.

Would the Bishop agree with that?

M. Shaw. Nottingham.

DOCK GATE MEETINGS

"Socialist Outlook" meetings. Every Friday at 12.30 p.m. at West India Dock gates, London.

FIGHTING FUND

The following donations are gratefully acknowledged:—

Edinburgh readers, £1; St. Pancras readers, 11s.; Tottenham readers, £6 19s. 6d.; Leicester Socialists, £3; Islington readers, 19s. 6d.; Salford A.E.U. members, 19s.; J. Wilcock, 6s.; Manchester and Salford readers, £1 16s. 7d.; Platts workers, £2 10s. 5d.; Platts "Buster", £5 18s. 11d.; J. H. Jennings Collecting Card, Cheltenham, 8s. 6d.; Norwood readers, £1 15s. 6d.; Enfield Engineers, £3 16s. 3d.; A. Johnson, Exeter, 2s. 3d.; R. & M., £9; Bebington readers, 7s.; Hackney readers, £4 13s. 3d.; Leeds readers, £3 3s. 6d.; Kinsey Miners, Yorks., £1 10s.; West London readers, £9 5s. 3d.; R. J. Johnson, Manchester, 4s.; Bermondsey readers, £1 11s. 9d.; Ashton readers, 12s.; Nottingham readers, £3 10s.; R. T. Shelley readers, £1 10s. 9d.; Birmingham readers, £6 17s. 6d.; Cheam reader, 2s. 6d.; Two London Printers, £6; E.N.V. Workers, £1 7s. 6d. Total £80 0s. 11d.

New Readers

Take Out a Special Subscription

9 'Outlooks' For 2/-

Buy a subscription for yourself - and for your friend(s)

Please send "Socialist Outlook" for to the name and address below. I enclose P.O.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Normal Subscription Rates: 1 year, 19s. 6d.; 6 months, 9s. 9d., 12 issues, 4s. 6d.

SOCIALIST OUTLOOK,
177 Bermondsey Street, London, S.E.1

★ Star Letter ★

Engineers' Wage Claim is in YOUR interest, too

Dear Sir,

Our respective Committees have requested us, with your consent, to draw the attention of your readers to the rejection by the Engineering Employers Federation of the claim for a 15 per cent. wage increase submitted by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

This refusal will not of course be accepted by the Engineering Trade Unions, but the question of how engineering workers fare economically is a problem affecting much wider sections in addition to those immediately concerned. This is particularly true for Hayes, a town which is predominantly concerned with engineering, having as it does a great concentration of both the industry and its workers within its area. The question of how well fares the engineering worker also determines how well fare other sections of the community.

Engineering workers are not unmindful of the great contribution they have made to the economy of Britain, in the 50 per cent. increase in production per worker since 1946, in the servicing and maintenance of practically every industry; and not the least are they mindful of the record profits they have earned for the engineering employers.

It is precisely because of its responsible attitude both to the workers in the industry and the country as a whole that the Confederation has submitted this claim. On the other hand,

the Employers display their profound irresponsibility in rejecting out of hand the request for an increase for those workers who recently have been the recipient of fulsome praise in the national Press for their skill and achievement in the field of aeronautical and electronic engineering.

The case cannot be disputed. The Engineering Employers have the wherewithal to meet the claim out of current profits without in any way impairing the re-equipment of the industry. Apart from the increases in production and profits which on their own indicate the justice of the claim for a 15 per cent. increase, the failure of people to take up millions of bacon, fat and meat rations is a damning indictment of the value of wages in the present period.

While the Engineering Trade Unions are prepared to fight their own battles, the whole community must accept responsibility in ensuring that the Engineering Employers are not allowed to still further aggravate the already diminished purchasing power of wages, a trend which, if allowed to continue can only worsen the economy of the country at the expense of those who produce its wealth.

Yours faithfully,

J. Oliver,
Chairman,
Fairey Aviation Works Ctee.
A. R. Good,
Chairman,
E.M.I. Works Ctee.



for Pontefract, G. O. Sylvester, believed that the distribution of coal would have to be tackled soon.

He pointed out that the pit-head price of coal on the average in 1952 was £2 17s. 3d. whereas the highest grade of coal in the London area is being sold at £7 4s. 5d. a ton and the lowest at £4 14s. 4d. a ton. While we know clearly the price that is being paid by the housewife for coal we are not at all clear on the price per ton being paid by industry. Jennie Lee believed that too much of the machinery in British industry was obsolete. Over one-fifth of the boilers now being used are over 40 years old, and Jennie felt that the time was overdue when we should have a real policy for power in this country.

The trouble with the Debate was that it ranged over three major industries, namely, coal, gas and electricity and the House were not therefore given enough time to do justice to these vital industries in discussion. When Joynson-Hicks summed up for the Government it was interesting to note that in 1920 3½ lb. of coal was needed to produce a unit of electricity, but now the average was 1½ lb. of coal per unit.

IN THE SWEET BYE AND BYE!
It has now become a regular game at Question Time to ask Sir Winston when he is going to meet

BIRMINGHAM READERS
Come and Hear
G. HEALY
(member of the Editorial Board of the "Socialist Outlook")
Speak on
"THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIALISM"
at the
"TAMWORTH ARMS",
MOOR STREET
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
at 7.30 p.m.

by Harold
Davies, M.P.



the Big Boys to have talks about Peace and the World Situation. We were told thus: "I am always considering whether there might be an opportunity for a personal meeting with the President of the United States."

Then the same week Eisenhower tells us that he is always seeking a chance to meet Churchill too. Again we are told that Mr. Malenkov is agreeable to take part in any of the Big Four Meetings. So they all want to talk but nobody will begin. More fiddling!

TRIESTE!

Eden told us that neither he nor the American Government had expected threats from the Yugoslavians over the problem of Trieste. Kenneth Robinson, Labour, described the whole thing as a clumsy expedient of imposing a settlement without consultation or

ZINOVIEV LETTER (from page 3)

Letter, and the return of the Note to Rakovsky for final approval and decision; and how, instead, Note and Letter had appeared in the Press.

There were cries of "shame" from the crowd. J.R.M. hastened to the defence of the officials. "I make no complaint. They (the F.O. officials) assumed that they were carrying out my wishes in taking steps to publish the whole affair. . . ."

There was no applause at this from the audience. J.R.M. swung his attack onto the Tories, who had accused him of "shilly-shallying" on the matter. "Only nine days have elapsed from the first registering of the letter and the publication of the despatch. . . ." said J.R.M., hinting that the Tories would have taken much longer. "Rapidity of action, a business-like way of handling, a determination on the part of the Government to stand no nonsense, if there is any nonsense, is a conspicuous example of the new way in which foreign affairs are being conducted."

Cheers from the crowd greeted this, but there were no cheers next day from Labour candidates anxiously scanning the speech. They saw with bewilderment that J.R.M. complained of publication, did not blame those responsible for publication, and then took credit for the promptness with which the whole business was handled and the documents published!

"To stand no nonsense, if there is any nonsense. . . ." But had there been any nonsense? To that question, J.R.M. provided no answer.

The country polled on October 29. The "red scare" brought out the apathetic, the sluggards, the scared, the non-politicals and the reactionaries in large numbers; and it swung many Liberal votes over to the Tories. Labour increased its total vote, but lost many marginal seats. The new House of Commons had 413 Tories, 151 Labour—a fall of 42—and 41 Liberals. The Liberals had lost over a hundred seats.

Was the Zinoviev letter a forgery? Rakovsky said so. Zinoviev said so. The Russian Government said so. A T.U.C. Committee of Enquiry that went to Russia in search of the truth, said so. The Tories rejected all demands for an enquiry, and refused to bring forward any of the evidence they claimed to have in support of the Letter's authenticity.

A Committee of Enquiry appointed by the Labour Cabinet, before it relinquished office, had too little time to investigate the matter thoroughly. Unable "to reach a positive conclusion on the subject", the Committee did report that "the original letter had not been produced to, or seen by, any Government department, and action was taken on what was not claimed to be more than a copy".

It was rather like Sherlock Holmes and his reference to the "curious incident of the dog in the night-time".

"But the dog did nothing in the night-time", protested Watson. "That was the curious incident", remarked Holmes.

There was no Zinoviev Letter at all. No one had ever seen one. Only a typewritten document alleged to be copied from the non-existent Zinoviev Letter!

The Tories did not need to prove the existence or the authenticity of the Letter.

J.R.M.'s Note of protest to Rakovsky did the trick for them. Without simultaneous publication of that Note, the Zinoviev Letter would have fallen flat.

That was why the Note was published—to give authenticity to the Letter, to show Russian meddling in British affairs, and to let J.R.M.'s Note stand as evidence of authenticity.

A few individuals in the Foreign Office at that time, in the inner circles of the Tory Party, on the "Daily Mail", and in the ranks of British secret agents in Russia, instructed to produce evidence of Russian plots and interference, knew the truth about the Zinoviev Letter. They have kept their secret.

Plan For Engineering

Continued from page 3
of opposition to State control because exports are involved.

Socialist thought has always been deeply concerned about the chaotic results of trading motivated by individual profit. Indeed, the most progressive aspect of the Soviet economy and of the most advanced countries in the Soviet orbit is the State monopoly of Foreign Trade—a direct result of a planned economy. The bulk-buying of our own Labour Government in certain spheres contains the germ of this idea.

The "Plan for Engineering" allied to a Socialist trading policy would go far towards freeing Britain from the nightmare of capitalist slump and chaos. There is, therefore, a common interest between members of the Engineering Confederation and members of the Labour Party in fighting for both these things. Ways must be devised to make this "Plan" familiar throughout the Labour Movement—but especially in those Unions whose votes were cast against the "Plan" at Margate.

HAVE YOU READ Michae Pablo's "The Coming World Showdown"? A Marxist analysis of today's complex world situation. Price 2s. New Park Publications, 266 Lavender Hill, S.W.11.

Socialist Outlook

is obtainable every Friday

From Your Newsagent

(Price 3d.)

In case of difficulty write to us at:

177, Bermondsey Street, London, S.E.1