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TODAY

Socialist Outlook

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3d.

Hands Off
the Colonial
peoples!

THE TORIES MUST RESIGN

Let's have a Petition to Get 'em out!

ON a minority of the votes cast in 1951 the Tories assumed office and they've continued to rule as a minority government ever since. Regardless of their dwindling support in the country, they are carrying out their self-imposed task of smashing the Welfare State and re-distributing the national income even more flagrantly in favour of the rich people they represent.

Under Tory rule the conditions of life of working people have steadily got worse. The Free Health Service is now a thing of the past. Our children's schools are rapidly becoming educational slums. All the checks to rising living costs have been abandoned, food subsidies have disappeared and, as a direct result, there is a return to rationing by the

different angle, the increasing militancy of trade union wage demands show the same thing.

In fact, the only people today in Britain who have any time for the present government are the munition makers, the bankers, the landlords, the Stock Exchange gamblers and—Mr. Tom O'Brien.

Yet for all that, the Tories show no signs of getting out. From time to time the Labour Front Bench asks them to resign, but it seems that Churchill is determined to stay there until time and the natural processes carry him out—feet first!

So something must be done—and done quickly. The people can't

wait another three years—and it is a little too much to hope that 19 Tory M.P.'s in marginal seats will die soon and thus give Labour a Parliamentary majority. Therefore, if Churchill won't listen to the pleas of the Parliamentary Labour Party he must be compelled to listen to the people themselves the millions whom Labour really represent.

The normal parliamentary processes are insufficient to force the Tories out. Something to fire the imagination is needed, something in which everyone can participate.

Why not back up our Labour members with a monster petition signed by millions of ordinary people?

Such a petition can be easily organised by the National Council of Labour, and local Labour Parties, women's Co-op Guilds, trade union branches are perfectly designed for the mass collection of signatures. The whole country can be covered because Labour organisations exist in every city, town and village.

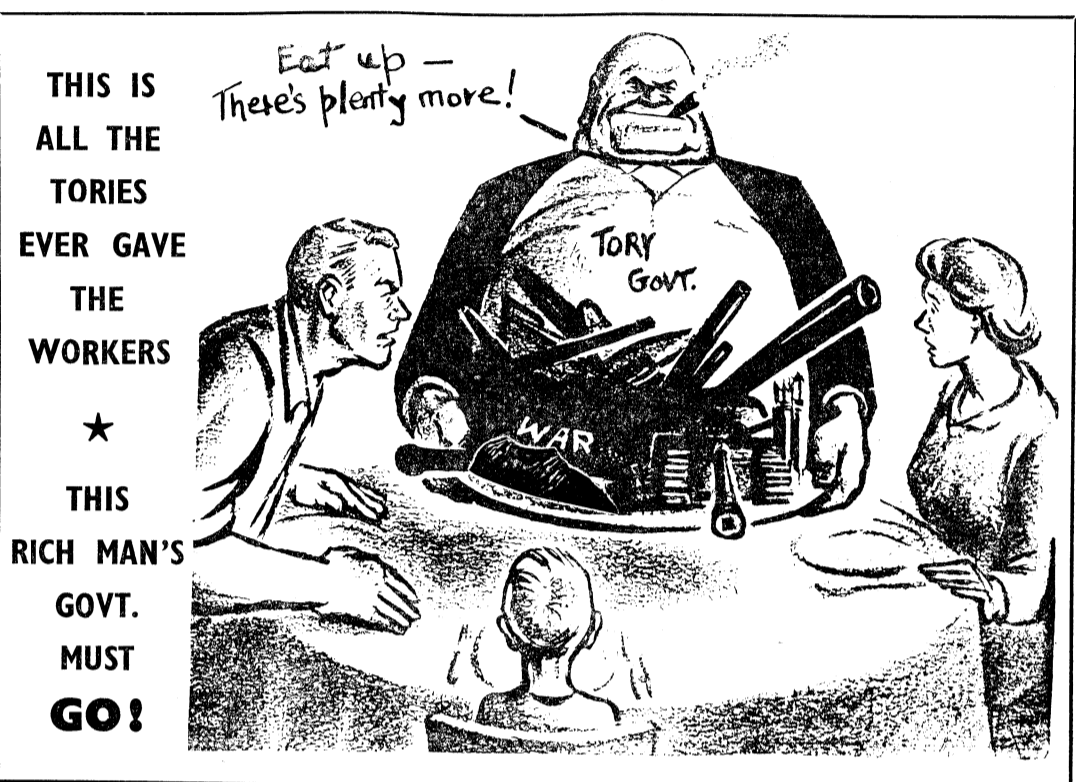
The Petition can be short and to the point: "As the living conditions of the people have got steadily worse under the present government, the people demand that the government go to the country at once". Everyone would understand that and millions would sign.

Collecting the signatures—on the door step and at meetings and demonstrations—would itself put new life into local parties.

It would break the frustration and disperse the feeling of helplessness that is fast permeating the ward meetings and branch rooms.

Providing the leaders entered enthusiastically into it, this Petition couldn't fail. The "Daily Herald", for example, could drop some of its society notes and instead devote space each day to a progress report of the campaign. Party leaders, instead of attending City functions of various kinds, could address huge meetings and demonstrations against the Tories.

The Press would have to take notice of the campaign and politicians couldn't afford to ignore it. Properly organised, such a petition would soon have the whole country talking about the need to get the Tories out. Public opinion could be aroused to the point where no Government—however reactionary and however desperate



Editorial

Less food is being eaten by working people and old age pensioners are in many cases virtually starving.

Not satisfied with all that, Churchill's Government has now decided to give a bonus to their friends the landlords. Under the flimsy pretext of a concern for house repairs they propose to increase the controlled rents of about eight million working class families.

Quite naturally, as the proponents of "private enterprise" they are also busily engaged in selling back to the "dog-eat-dog" private employers the Road Haulage industry which Labour had so greatly improved under nationalisation. Similarly with steel. The Tories have moved in to break up this vital industry on behalf of big financial interests.

These are some of the reasons why the fourteen million people who voted Labour in 1951—plus a few more millions who have since had time to sober up—now heartily detest this Tory Government.

The recent magnificent Labour victory in Holborn and St. Pancras proves that up to the hilt. And, from a somewhat

The Holborn Victory

An old campaigner writes

I was delighted to hear the news of Mrs. Jeger's splendid victory. It is a victory for Socialism, World Peace and Prosperity for all Peoples, and should revitalise the Labour Movement and speed the departure of Sir Winston's murderers of mind and body both here and in the Colonies. I think it vindicates the enlightened and courageous policy of the "Socialist Outlook" from its inception.

I am particularly interested in Holborn as I fought a By-Election for Labour in 1928 against the late Recorder of Bristol: Stuart Bevan, K.C., and the Liberal Mr. Morton, without funds at the commencement of the Election and without an office, against the full weight of the Tory and Liberal headquarters' organisations and finance, before the abolition of the Plural Vote and the geographical alterations in the Constituency. Even then, we beat the Liberal who commenced the now "Liberal Tradition" of losing his Deposit.

Wimbledon Percy Allott

—could resist such a popular movement.

Let's take a lesson from our Chartist forefathers. By means of such a Petition they eventually won the right to vote and a lot of other good things we now take for granted.

We do not believe that this Petition by itself can bring down the Tories, but, properly organised it can become an essential part of the mass working class action which will finally destroy the Tory Government.

After Holborn: PADDINGTON

Labour workers from other constituencies did a magnificent job in Holborn. The effort must be repeated in Paddington.

Rally round and ensure that Ben Parkin follows Lena Jeger into the House of Commons.

Labour's Central Committee Rooms are at—12, Sutherland Avenue, W. 9.

Wages Front —What Next?

★ A Discussion Article ★

IN my article in last week's "Socialist Outlook" I stated that after the one-day demonstration, engineers would almost certainly still be faced with the question: what next?

Here I would like to deal with that question a little more fully. The general reaction of most workers I have discussed with, is that the call for a one-day stoppage can be but the beginning of the struggle to impress the employers that we really mean it when we say "We want 15 per cent".

All are agreed that this one-day stoppage must be organised to make an impressive demonstration of solidarity. A poor turnout would lead the employers to believe that the workers are apathetic. It would be used by right wing leaders in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to prevent any further militant action, and to divert the struggle from the factories to the Arbitration Tribunal or a Court of Inquiry. The workers would gain nothing from such a course.

To make an impressive demonstration on December 2nd, this one-day stoppage must be organised like any other strike. There must be mass meetings and mass picketing around the factories to ensure as near as possible a 100 per cent turnout.

But if the demonstration fails to move the employers, then what? In some quarters the idea is being discussed that we engineers should ban piecework and overtime. This course would be as fatal as Arbitration and would have repercussions for many months because it splits workers instead of uniting them.

As a shop steward I have heard the viewpoint of numerous engineering workers on this. The

piecemaker says; this ban would not be an equal sacrifice. We pieceworkers will go down to our day rate of £6 13s. Many day workers would lose nothing. That would begin the action with a sense of unequal sacrifice in the ranks. Therefore—"equal sacrifice or nothing at all". Many day workers also feel that the sacrifice should be equal.

Many firms are not on piece work at all. Many engineers also,

CLLR. H. FINCH
Chairman of shop stewards
R. J. Shelley, B'h'm

by the way, do no overtime (two thirds of Britain's engineering workers according to Jack Tanner).

Taking all these things into consideration it is clear that a ban on piecework and overtime would lead to a disunited, disconnected and protracted struggle and not to a united wages struggle. Even in the factories where the ban was carried out 100 per cent, the risk of sackings and lockouts by the employers is obvious. This would bring new complications into an already erratic movement. In view of this I think the ban should be opposed.

This leaves only one course open after the one-day stoppage. That is a national strike. All out together, all united in sacrifice, all back together.

If we boldly carry out this course the employers will be forced to make an offer. The next move is ours. Courage, solidarity and tenacity will win the 15 per cent. This applies far more to Confederation leaders than rank and file.

HAROLD DAVIES, M.P.
writes on page 2.

On Strike For Eighteen Months!

WOMEN trade unionists at Rival Lamps, Addlestone, Surrey, have now been on strike for eighteen months. They have kept their picket going in all weathers. Their spirit has not been broken despite police activity and fines. Most of them new to trade unionism, they have fought in a way that would put many older trade unionists to shame.

This picture shows pickets sheltering outside the factory gate. It is reproduced by kind permission of the editor of "Electron", the journal of the Electrical Trades Union.

Sister N. Pither, secretary of the Strike Committee, in a letter to "Socialist Outlook" says:—"Pickets are now forced to take shelter when it is very heavy rain as we have no protection at the gate now. Several of them have been off with the flu bug, so it's a bit difficult at times to keep the rota going. But on the whole they are all very cheerful and bent on sticking it out until some conclusion is reached or made".

Readers of "Socialist Outlook" will surely wish to help these women. They came out on strike to prevent victimisation. They have put up a magnificent fight for trade union principles.

Donations should be sent to — N. Pither, at 12, Chestnut Close, Addlestone, Surrey.



The Rich Realm of Rothermere

★ Spotlight on the Press ★

This is one of a series of articles on press profits currently being published in "The Journalist", the paper of the National Union of Journalists

Gloucester Newspapers Ltd., of Staffordshire Sentinel Newspapers Ltd., and of Cheltenham Newspaper Co., Ltd.

These three firms publish *The Citizen* (Gloucester), the *Gloucester Journal*, the *Evening Sentinel* (Stoke-on-Trent), the *Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel*, the *Gloucester Echo* and the *Cheltenham Chronicle*.

The company has a controlling share in: Swansea Press, Ltd., Hull and Grimsby Newspapers, Ltd., and Derby Daily Telegraph, Ltd. These firms publish the *South Wales Daily Post*, the *Cambria Leader*, the *Herald of Wales*, the *Hull Daily Mail*, the *Sports Mail* (Hull), the *Hull and Lincoln Times*, the *Hull and Yorkshire Times*, the *Grimsby Daily Telegraph* (Grimsby) and the *Derby Daily Telegraph*.

Associated Newspapers also controls the Anglo-Newfoundland Company group. Until recently it owned all the shares of Empire Paper Mills, Ltd. These were sold to Albert E. Reed and Co., in June, 1952.

In its last financial year, ending March 31, 1953, the trading profits of Associated Newspapers fell from £2,304,000 to £1,536,000, a drop of some £800,000. At the same time, income from its U.K. subsidiaries rose a little, from £581,000 to £618,500.

Including minor items, total income was £2,236,000 against £2,946,000 the year before. That is £43,000 a week and £57,000 a week respectively.

The drop in trading profits had little to do with Lord Rothermere's newspaper ventures. Roughly half the total represented the profits of Empire Paper Mills, no longer in Associated Newspapers' ownership. Another big item was the abnormally high price of newsprint in the financial year. Less important factors were the costs of launching the new

Daily Sketch and the home version of the *Overseas Daily Mail*.

After allotting relatively small sums for depreciation and other items and paying the colossal total of £1,221,000 in taxes, Associated Newspapers reported a net profit of £628,000.

This corresponded to a dividend of roughly 40 per cent. on the share capital. In fact, 25 per cent. was paid and the balance held over.

Of the tax payment, £123,000 was on account of the excess profits levy. "The termination of this tax at the end of the year is welcomed by your company", observed Viscount Rothermere at the annual meeting.

Directors' emoluments, excluding pensions, totalled £76,500. There are 12 directors.

The *Daily Mail*, the *Sunday Dispatch*, the *Daily Sketch* and the *Weekly Overseas Mail* all increased their circulations during the financial year. The last named actually shot up from 60,000 to over a million in three months.

Net profits of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., not included in the above figures, were 4,349,000 dollars last year and 8,227,000 dollars the year before.

THE REAL CONTROL

Vast though it is, Associated Newspapers, Ltd., is an empire within an empire. It is controlled in its turn by Rothermere's six million pounds' investment company, the *Daily Mail* and General Trust, Ltd.

The trust holds investments in newspapers, newsprint, manufacturing industry, mining, railways (overseas), coal, iron and steel, oil shipping, rubber and in banking and insurance companies. Among the undertakings it controls is the Bristol United Press, Ltd.

Someone Should Tell Her...

"I was disgusted to read your story of the £400,000 spent on fitting-out the Gothic for the Royal tour. This at a time when old-age pensioners just don't know how to begin spending their meagre resources and the Tories announce increased rents.....I think the

Someone should tell our gracious Queen
How workers' lives are spent,
And how for Royal Pomp we pay
An "Economic Rent".
* * *
Someone should tell our gracious Queen
How Pensioners exist,
And Landlords for Slum Tenements
On Higher Rents insist.
* * *
Someone should tell our gracious Queen
How Profiteers create,
The Slums wherein old Soldiers dwell,
Who fought for Crown and State.

Queen should be informed of conditions prevailing among some of her people."

—Winifred Humphreys, *Crewe Federation of Labour Womens' Section*, in a letter to "Reynolds News".

Someone should tell our gracious Queen
That every Royal Tour,
With costly pomp and pageantry,
Is paid for by the Poor.
* * *
Someone should tell our gracious Queen
Though Monarchies decay,
It is the Poor who laud Her Reign,
And for Her Empire pay.
* * *
Someone should tell our gracious Queen
How British Youths must give
Ten precious years in Servitude,
That "Freedom" still may live.
Percy Allott

The Real Jamaica (2)

Continuing our series on those aspects of Britain's overseas possessions which the Queen in her travels is unlikely to see.

THE revival of Jamaican economy under the boom conditions of the war, and the unfettered wartime production rejuvenated the working class movement

The Labour movement has developed since the thirties under two big figures—Alexander Bustamante, showman trade unionist bureaucrat, and Manley, mild social reformer and agitator for constitutional progress. War broke out between these two, and in the ensuing meleé Bustamante's prestige declined.

What does Jamaica look like today? It suffers from a lopsided economy. Half its exports

By
A. Banda

are sugar and rum, 15 per cent bananas. The banana industry has been devastated by disease. 75 per cent of the economy remains agricultural. Bauxite reserves to the tune of 200 to 300 million tons has been discovered. This whole amount is monopolised by just three big companies.

The sugar industry has ploughed deep furrows in the soul of Jamaica. The character of this crop has caused chronic and seasonal misery to the cane workers because it is a seasonal crop. Seasonal unemployment keeps an average of 30 per cent unemployed even in the best of years. Great numbers of Jamaicans found work during the war in the United States. But not so now. So we find them trying to enter this country. It is a struggle all the way for this unfortunate people.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS
A population of 40,000 sugar workers, men women and children toil on a piece-rate basis for wages ranging from \$2.80 to \$3.20. They live three to a room on an average, with no water supply, proper furniture or fireplace. Their diet consists of yams, sweet potatoes, cassava and Bread fruit, all starchy. No milk, no meat.
Half the acreage under sugar

is composed of estates of over 1,000 acres and going up to anything like 60,000 acres as in the case of a subsidiary of Tate and Lyles, which produces one third of the whole sugar output of the island. Land costs about 200 dollars an acre. So it is out of the question for poor people to buy land. 15 acres is reckoned as the minimum for profitable production! The large farms yield 60 to 70 per cent more than smaller ones.

What of the rest of the Jamaicans? There are 460,000 of them supposedly gainfully employed out of a total population of 1.4 million. 52 per cent of these earn less than 2 dollars a week. They live in congested areas. The towns are a living hell. City workers can earn up to \$6.50. There is a constant exodus from the country to the towns, where there is no work to be found. They live in shanty slums of corrugated iron and old tins, 99 per cent without washing facilities, served by pit latrines or none at all.

HEALTH

Ragged children have bloated bellies riddled with every infantile and other disease conceivable — 20 per cent suffering from avitaminosis, blindness, glossitis, stomatitis, fatty liver disease, anaemia, yaws, rickets, dental caries, malaria, hookworm and, most tragic of all, cirrhosis of the liver. Infant mortality stood at 98 in 1,000 in 1942. There is only one doctor to every 4,000 people, one dentist to every 17,000 and three patients in a single hospital bed is not unknown in these days of pomp and splendour.

EDUCATION

In the field of education, primary education remains to a great extent in the hands of the Anglican church. Compulsory education is a farce since school going means loss of labour power and hence hunger. Only one dollar and eighteen cents is spent per capita on education. There is only room enough in the schools for half the eligible students. Literacy stands at the level of 24 per cent.

As De Castro says in his "Geography of Hunger":—

"The story of this area is the most vivid example in economic history of how a group of human beings moved by greed of immediate profits, can destroy the material wealth of a highly endowed region and reduce its people to misery and starvation".

MURDER!

It has just been learned that, on November 14th, 1953, a Greek democrat, GEORGE TSITSELAS was executed in Salonica.

Tsitselas was sentenced to death a year ago. As in the case of the Greek martyr, Nikos Beloyannis, he had been charged with 'espionage'.

This execution was carried out almost as soon as a cable, signed by fifty-three Members of the British Parliament and calling for the granting of a general amnesty in Greece, had been received by Premier Papagos. It was carried out one month after the Greek Government had agreed to allow United States troops to occupy Greece. The execution has taken the life of an innocent man and threatens thousands more.

Every protest now will help to prevent more executions. Every demand for a general amnesty will help to save the lives of exiled and imprisoned Greek democrats. ACT NOW TO STOP BLOOD-SHED.

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"WE have to remember that with this two year's service we are suffering a very heavy handicap. We have a greater amount of manpower taken away from industry than have these other countries, and we have to consider the bearing of that on our general economic situation in a highly competitive world".

Thus spoke Attlee during the National Service Debate.

The Labour Opposition accepted the responsibility for a two year period of Service, so that the only difference between us and the other side was that we wanted an annual review. The Prime Minister therefore got the "quiet afternoon" that he was looking for!

Labour should have probed more deeply. Are these troops wanted merely for Defence or are they not being used for a reactionary Colonial Policy that breaks faith with those backward coloured peoples who rallied to our aid in the last war?

EAST-WEST TRADE

This week M.P.s received the Bulletin of Industry. Simply, the story is that Britain is losing its share of World Trade. The Bulletin tells us that between 1950-52 the volume of World Exports rose 7 per cent but in the same period the volume of British exports fell 5 per cent.

The money that Britain should be putting into new machinery, as well as steel and other raw materials, is being drained off to keep an imperfect machine going that could not even defend Britain if war broke out—because our troops are peppered all over the world on reactionary commitments.

We know all this and yet the Government wants a blank cheque for another five years! Fortunately, this Government will not be

in power, five years hence. But what is our policy when we get in?

The only realistic approach to the problem of the Call-up is for Labour to show that it will have a revision of our Defence Policy in relation to the Commonwealth, the Colonies and Europe.

MEN, BE HUMAN!

"Men", said Rousseau, "be human! It is your first duty".

What would he have said last week when he might have heard the Colonial Secretary telling the Commons that the mighty British Empire was resorting to the use of so-called "Pattern Bombing" to hunt out the terrified men and women in Kenya who want a little more to eat and a say in their own destiny. With a dead-pan intonation, ruthlessly the Minister announced to the House that bombs were to be used in Kenya.

A generation ago a wave of wrath and indignation would have swept through the Labour Movement at this action. Trade Unions, Co-ops and Party Branches would have inundated the House of Commons with telegrams of protest. Now it passes!

Fenner Brockway, Leslie Hale and others tried to move the Adjournment of the House to have a Debate on Kenya there and then. We failed. Jim Griffiths quoted General Erskine who said: "Though the situation was now much better, there was no military answer to Kenya's problems...The problem is now purely political—how Europeans, Africans and Asians can live in harmony on a long-term basis. If the people of

The Week at Westminster



by Harold
Davies, M.P.



Kenya could address themselves to this problem and find a solution they would have achieved far more than I could do with security forces".

When this was quoted to Lyttelton he said that General Erskine was speaking generally. (My emphasis) Pattern Bombing he said "applies to a large number of aircraft when all release their bombs at once over a wide area." Pretty isn't it?

That's the way boys to stop our backward Empire going 'Commie'. Blast 'em to hell. Remember how we talked about the horror of Mussolini bombing the barefooted Abyssinians! One day Britain will

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