

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

WORKERS  
OF THE  
WORLD  
UNITE!

ORGAN OF WORKERS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

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# GLASSHOUSE BRUTALITY TO GO ON

WITNESS "I Gave Evidence But I Was Not Believed."

## MASSES HOSTILE TO MOSLEY RELEASE BUT LABOUR AND C.P. LEADERS CONDUCT SHAM BATTLE

The release of Sir Oswald Mosley has provoked a storm of disgust and indignation within the ranks of the working class. The cynicism of the ruling class in their fake "war against fascism" was thereby bared for all to see. The masses could not but compare the solemn promises to exterminate fascism forever, with the release of Britain's would-be Fuehrer.

This coming on top of the open deals with Fascists such as Darlan and Badoglio in North Africa and in Italy, has brought the issue sharply before the masses.

The workers knew of the luxury Mosley and his wife enjoyed in their "home from home" in Holloway Gaol, and now even this farce is to be dispensed with and Mosley openly released. The ruling class circles which have powerful influence in the Government, who financed and supported Mosley before the war, have been instrumental in securing his release through the pressure they have exerted on their Tory colleagues. There is no fundamental conflict between them and fascism. Mosley's brother-in-law is symbolically enough head of A.M.G. He has many and close connections with elements among the ruling class. All the leading figures among the Tories in the Government, with Churchill among them, have in the past praised one or the other of the fascist gangsters and the Japanese militarists whom they are compelled to fight at the present time. They regarded with sympathy and approval the crimes of Franco, Mussolini, Hitler and the Mikado against the organisations and rights of the working class. So it is quite natural that they should regard with sympathy and solicitude Mosley who stood for the same brutal programme in Britain.

But the release has come at a time when the masses have become far more critical and suspicious of the ruling class and its motives and aims than at any time during the course of the war. The discontent and distrust has been reflected in the widespread industrial unrest, scepticism and disbelief in the honeyed words of the capitalist statesmen at the prospects of the post-war epoch. The workers regard the future with foreboding and dread. That is why the release of Mosley has provoked a wave of indignation that has come entirely unexpected to the ruling class. The revelation in acts at home as well as abroad, of the hollowness of the anti-fascist pretensions of the ruling class and the Government, has acted as a focussing point for the frustration and weariness of the masses which as yet has found no outlet. The systematic sabotage of the

aspirations of the workers, and the frustration of their readiness to struggle against capitalism by the Labour and Trade Union bureaucrats, and by the Stalinists, have left the masses temporarily without an outlet for their feelings.

The echoes of the Mosley case have shown the real feelings of the workers. As the imprisonment of Dreyfus in France acted as an explosive element in French society, so on a smaller scale has been the reaction to the Mosley case.

The debate in Parliament revealed all the participants for and against the release attempting to divert the issue into entirely harmless channels. All pictured it as if it concerned only the personal decision of the Home Secretary. (The excuse of ill health was exposed for what it was by the revelation by the Labour M.P. Silverman that the doctors had received a letter from Mosley's solicitors instructing them what to say).

W. Gallacher, Stalinist M.P. set the tone of frenzied chauvinism by pointing to Mosley as a "friend of the enemies of our country". This was in line with the whole policy of Stalinism during this period. They seized on the Mosley issue as a welcome and popular means of rehabilitating their shaken support among the workers. But systematically in pursuit of their line of class collaboration and support of the war, they have befogged and confused the issue.

They too have pretended that this decision is the personal responsibility of Morrison. They have deliberately set out to conceal the responsibility of the Government and of the Cabinet. Far from using this episode to show the class character of the Government and the reason for its partiality towards fascists, they have systematically disseminated the policy of appealing from the Devil towards Satan, from Morrison to the Cabinet, from the Cabinet to the Tory dominated parliament. A campaign of paper petitions and demonstrations, carefully indicating in advance that even these mild measures were not to be construed as actions against the Government, i.e., against those fully responsible for the decision. In leader articles in the "Daily Worker" they have asked for contemptuous slaps in the face. The Cabinet must act, parliament must act, etc. "Parliament can yet save the country from the shame of this release. It can compel the Government to put Mosley back and thus heal the grave breach in the unity of the nation." ("Daily Worker" 1.12.43.) And so on in this cringing cur-like strain.

For the genuine working class militants however, the Mosley case has once again underlined the lesson learned in blood and suffering by the European working class, that it is impossible to rely on any section of the capitalist class for a genuine struggle against fascism. The internment of Mosley or his release is not important in itself. But it indicates the fraudulence of the measures against fascism at home which have been taken by the Government. Mosley may sink into insignificance, but it is obvious that the ruling class is toying even now with the idea of forming some thug organisation as a protection against the working class in the "nightmares" which Churchill foresees in the post-war period. The coming defeat of Hitler will not destroy the

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I AM WRITING TO "SOCIALIST APPEAL" BECAUSE IT HAS ALWAYS STOOD OUT AS ONE OF THE FEW PAPERS PREPARED TO RAISE ITS VOICE AGAINST THE TERRIBLE CONDITIONS WHICH EXIST IN DETENTION BARRACKS, AND I GAVE EVIDENCE BEFORE THE RECENT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, BUT I WAS NOT BELIEVED, ALTHOUGH I SPOKE THE TRUTH, APPARENTLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT I HELD "COMMUNISTIC VIEWS."

The recently published report of the Oliver Committee will not satisfy a single soldier who has ever been in a glasshouse, or who has ever known a man who has been there. It will not even satisfy any honest person who reads the report himself. Case after case of brutality is reported, but the Committee, for reasons best known to themselves, do not believe it! They do not believe it, because they do not want to believe it, but wish only to vindicate the regime, and to appease the indignation of the British workers, until the next soldier is killed in a glasshouse.

The Committee inspected nearly every glasshouse in England, and Scotland, and picked out men at random; they then asked these men about the conditions. The Committee think that conditions are better now than formerly, because they heard graver charges made by conscientious objectors and discharged ex-servicemen in London than they heard in the glasshouses from soldiers who are imprisoned now. Others will think it very natural that conscientious objectors and discharged ex-servicemen are more ready to speak than soldiers under sentence, who are at the mercy of the Staff as soon as the Committee has left camp. When I was in detention, we were continually threatened with punishment if we made any complaint to the Visiting Officer or to any outside visitors. No amount of prom-

ises that their complaints would not be reported can have reassured men who had been intimidated by weeks of bullying and terrorisation.

Nevertheless, the men, selected at random by the Committee, nearly all complained of the treatment in the glasshouses. Of the 91 reported cases, 85 made complaints, of which 41 may be said to be serious complaints. Nearly all these complaints, the Committee chose to disbelieve! These were not men who came forward and volunteered their statements—few persons in a glasshouse would dare to do this—but a random selection made from nearly all the men in detention in the country. Thus it can be said that over 93 per cent of the men in glasshouses have complaints, and over 45 per cent have grave complaints. Yet the Committee chose to disbelieve nearly all of them, although they were supported by the evidence of two decent members of the Staff at the camps. The reasons for the disbelief are usually not given at all; but sometimes the Committee state that the man was an habitual criminal, or a victim of psychoneurosis. This convenient term not only serves to secure the discharge of influential young bourgeois from the Army, and to instal them in important civilian jobs, but also, it seems, to excuse the brutality dealt out to worker-soldiers in the glasshouses. One of the men complained of his treatment as compared with the treatment of Nazi officers. These terrible conditions are justified by the Committee as necessary to preserve military discipline. Yet officers who offend against discipline are not sent to detention; they are cashiered, and allowed to go free in civilian life, like Sir Oswald Mosley.

The Committee's conclusions and recommendations are an insult to the British soldiers and workers. The evidence of British soldiers is rejected as lies or hysterical exaggeration; the indignation of the British workers at

this "Gestapo-like" treatment of their comrades in the forces is said to be unjustified. The Committee make out that nearly all the men in detention are grave offenders, and deliberate criminals in fact, most of them are typical soldiers, who have perhaps been guilty of staying a few hours over leave with their girls, or have been reported for dirty boots. Many have been sent to detention without even the formality of a Court Martial at the order of one bourgeois officer.

But the gravest part of the Report is a passage which will rouse the fury of all soldiers and workers. The Committee, although they think that the Staff of the Military Provost Corps at the glasshouses are splendid fellows, fear for their safety. It seems that these bullies dare not venture out of the barracks when they get leave, for fear of hostile demonstrations from the local civilian inhabitants, and the soldiers stationed in the district; and they apparently fear that their victims will one day turn and administer their well-merited punishment. The Committee therefore hint that flogging should be introduced in the case of assaults on the Staff. They dare not suggest this openly, but they say that the rule which prohibits flogging in glasshouses seems "anomalous". If flogging is introduced, soldiers will be goaded into defending themselves against the Staff, and then flogged. A new terror will reign in these camps; more soldiers will be killed.

The workers and soldiers must stop this shameful plan. Workers in uniform, whether in the Armed Forces or the Home Guard, must be protected—not by Committees appointed by Churchill, and composed of three eminent bourgeois ex-officers, but by the workers. The recent strike of the miners against the sentence of detention on a miner in the Home Guard was the workers' answer to this report.

Fraternally,  
Jasper Ridley.

## N.E. MINE STRIKES AGAINST PITBOYS IMPRISONMENT

BY HENRY PARKER

A wave of strikes has swept through the coalfields of Durham during the past month. 3,000 miners at Horden were idle from the 4th to the 7th November in support of "datal" youths and boys who demanded revised conditions of employment. Blackhall followed suit demanding higher wages for the boys. On the 10th November 1,500 Whitburn colliers struck in support of boys who had been refused more money for doing men's work pushing tubs under the loader.

In every case it was youth which gave the lead. It is no accident that youth is in the fore-front of the struggle, they are doubly and trebly exploited; as youth; as miners, and as miners' sons. In every case the young miners have had splendid moral support from the men who yesterday suffered the same conditions. Next to the rotten conditions of boys and youths the most hated thing is the Essential Works Order which has been used indiscriminately in the Durham coal fields to conscript miners' sons,

and young surface workers for work down the pits.

On the 16th November, a strike broke out at Ryhope Colliery, when it was learned that Alexander Dalglish a 18 year old surface worker, had been arrested and imprisoned for not paying a £5 fine, imposed on him in the Sunderland County Police Court in August. 2,000 miners came out demanding his immediate release. In court Dalglish pointed out that he had been transferred to surface work from

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Famine is a dread horror which strikes parts of Africa, China and India. The progress of science has rendered this affliction entirely needless with modern methods of food production. The picture above gives a vivid idea of the results in stark horror and indescribable suffering which famine inflicts on its victims.

## BRITISH MADE FAMINE IN INDIA

BY HAKIM MIRZA

ON THE 4th NOVEMBER, 1943, THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DISCUSSED THE INDIAN SITUATION. THIS DEBATE WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 35 M.P.S. THE HOUSE HAS 615 MEMBERS, OUT OF WHOM ONE FOURTH ARE SOCIALISTS! NO WONDER MR. MUKUND JAYKAR, A FORMER INDIAN FEDERAL COURT JUDGE COMMENTED ON 11/11/43: "THIS FACT KNOCKS THE BOTTOM OUT OF THE OLD SUPERSTITION THAT THESE 600 ODD MEN COULD GOVERN INDIA FROM 7,000 MILES AWAY." MR. CHURCHILL, WHO MANAGES TO ATTEND THE HOUSE FOR ANY OTHER MATTERS, DID NOT FIND TIME TO ATTEND A DEBATE WHICH CONCERNED THE FATE OF 400,000,000 HUMAN BEINGS IN THE THROES OF AN ACUTE FAMINE CREATED BY HIS OWN RULE!

During the debate, Mr. Amery stated that military arrangements to help in distributing food to the worst affected districts of Bengal have already started working. Troops would assist also in removing from big cities, such as Calcutta, the distressed peoples to their home villages as soon as possible. He moaned that shipping difficulties made it impossible to move any great part of the Canadian offer of 100,000 tons of wheat to India at present. Other members showed their pious concern in the famine situation. Thus this most ignoble debate ended and the mother of parliaments thought fit to discharge its duty and responsibility towards one fifth of the human race.

In his famous speech (1) of November 4th, Mr. Amery stated: "In the last 12 years, the population of India had grown by 60 millions. Every month there were more than 300,000

additional mouths to be fed in British India alone. Yet the annual production of rice per head in Bengal had gone down from 384 lb. to 283 lb. in the last 30 years." Still, Mr. Amery hopes that at the next harvest the situation will be changed!

In the meanwhile, 75 to 100 people are daily dying in Calcutta hospitals. On the 23rd November, Mrs. V. Pandit president of the All-India Women's Conference, and sister of Nehru, told the press conference that an estimate of 100,000 starvation deaths in Bengal weekly was quite modest. On top of famine, Bengal is faced with the threat of the biggest epidemic of cholera, smallpox, etc. Deaths are up to about nine times the normal (1) rate for this time of the year—i.e. during the last week of September, there were 4,500 deaths compared with 450, the average pre-famine deaths. But only a fortnight ago exactly, 43 qualified doctors were employed by the Bengal Government to fight these diseases.

What is being done to alleviate the inhuman sufferings of the people of India? The "News Chronicle" correspondent says (1) Unless immediate steps are taken to control the new rice harvest, there will be another famine of even worse dimensions in Bengal next year. So far, no official scheme to ensure even distribution of the harvest has yet been announced. Secondly, he says: "There is no doubt that a solution of the political stalemate would go a long way towards solving the famine problem, easing of the economic problems and producing a wave of enthusiasm for the war effort". It goes without saying that the British Government is wholly responsible for such a political deadlock. The new viceroy is following the same Whitehall

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## Paper Control Used to Stifle Our Voice

We have informed our readers in the past two issues that the paper control was being used to stifle the "Socialist Appeal" and drown the voice of revolutionary socialism. Now the first blow has definitely fallen. The "Appeal" is reduced to half the normal size with this issue.

Our paper supplier has been refused our normal paper quota by the Controller of Paper and the situation looks serious in the extreme. The door has not definitely been slammed and we will fight every inch of the way. We do not intend to be closed down by a backstairs manoeuvre and will force the Government to make a public statement in Parliament on why they are trying to close down the "Socialist Appeal."

As the war draws to a close the ruling class fear the wrath of the working people; they know only too well that the workers are going to demand an accounting for the terrible sacrifices which they have made, whilst the capitalists have been piling up huge fortunes. They know too, that the "Socialist Appeal" is the only paper of the British working class that

has consistently exposed their war aims, consistently exposed their post-war lies, warned the workers what to expect, and tried to show the workers the revolutionary socialist way forward. That is why they are trying to clamp down upon the "Socialist Appeal" which is gaining a tremendous influence among the workers because of its outspoken language and clear revolutionary socialist ideas.

In India and Ceylon and the other colonial countries, the "democratic" government has suppressed the Trotskyist parties and our publications are forced to appear illegally. In Europe—Germany, France, Belgium—our comrades raise their voices in clandestine sheets which impose a tremendous sacrifice and often result in their murder at the hands of the Nazis. In Britain, we are working under much less rigorous conditions. But we don't intend to allow the "Socialist Appeal" to be suppressed. Whatever decisions the Government finally take, the "Socialist Appeal" will be on the streets and in the factories, teaching the workers the way forward out of this terrible capitalist slaughter and chaos—the road of workers' power.

## ITALIAN TROTSKYISTS ACTIVE

The censorship which the democracies impose in Southern Italy makes it difficult to assess the political situation, and particularly what is happening among the ranks of the working class and their parties. The Allied occupying force has imposed a 7 p.m. curfew in Naples and instructed the parties that no political meetings of any description are to be held without prior notification to the authorities.

But recent reports tell of the rise of the Blueshirt movement under the protection and with the assistance of Badoglio—a reactionary monarchist anti-working class organisation, which became part of the military wing of Mussolini's fascism in 1919.

All reports, however, indicate the tremendous hostility of the popular masses to the King and the House of Savoy, and many reports indicate that the "Communists" are receiving tremendous support in Naples and other towns.

In the "Svenska Dagbladet" of 16 Oct., 1943, the Berne correspondent reported that:

"... according to interviews with the representatives of the other political parties the Communist Party seems to have increased greatly."

And the despatch concludes with the statement that:

"... the Italian Communist leaders are followers of Trotsky and are

thus ideologically opposed to the present regime in Russia."

That the Trotskyists are growing in influence is quite clear. And this is confirmed by a despatch to the "Evening Standard" on Saturday, November 27th, which stated that the Communists who are growing in influence are split into Trotskyists and Stalinists.

As late as 1931, three members of the Political Committee of the Italian Communist Party, Bischo, Feroci and Santini became Trotskyists and it is known that in the Lipari island many of the leaders of the Italian Communist Party were supporting the international communist policy of Trotsky as against the national "communism" of Stalin. Most of these revolutionists have now been released and despite the freedom which the Stalinists, together with the liberals will receive, in comparison with the Trotskyists, to organise and put forward their point of view, the best of the Italian communists will undoubtedly be hostile to the Stalinist policy. For this policy tries to tie the Italian working class behind a Government led by Badoglio or his ilk, who were responsible for maintaining Mussolini in power for so many years and slaughtering the cream of their fellow workers.

We are confident that our Italian comrades will continue the struggle for an Italian Workers Republic as part of a United Socialist States of Europe.



SOCIALIST APPEAL ORGAN OF WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

Cairo & Teheran

A new stage in the war is marked by the tremendous diplomatic activity of the last period. Negotiations which are intended to settle the fate of nations and continents have been taking place behind closed doors. In this the "democracies" and the Stalinist bureaucracy of the Soviet Union have been pursuing the same policy as the Axis. There is no open discussion in full view of the masses of the world as Lenin conducted the diplomacy of the Soviet Union. Churchill - Roosevelt - Chiang Kai Shek have met to discuss the fate of Asia and the Pacific; Churchill - Roosevelt - Stalin to settle the fate of Europe. The decision to strip Japan of her entire Empire and return the conquered territories taken from China to her, represents a victory for American imperialism. China will only retain a nominal control not only of these territories, but even of China proper. Her "independence" will only be a cut above that of the States of South America. Like them, she will be completely dependent financially and economically on Wall Street. The tone of virtuous indignation adopted by the democracies at the Japanese robbery sits ill on them when it is considered that prior to Pearl Harbour they ceaselessly attempted to arrive at an understanding with the Japanese militarists. Especially is their hypocrisy exposed when it is considered that the British Government gave full support to Japan at the beginning of the rape of China. Only when the interests of British and American capitalism in the Far East were threatened, did they turn against Japan. Moreover, while Japan's aggressions of the last 50 years are piously condemned and her Empire is to be taken away in retribution, nothing is said about the British and other Empires, the acquisitions particularly of the British imperialists in the last 300 years or even the last 50 (since the emergence of Japanese imperialism), rendering Japan a mere tyro in the art of aggression and plunder. While the mainland and the large Chinese islands off it are to go back to China, except for Korea, which is to be "independent," nothing is openly published of the fate decided for the string of strategic islands in the Pacific Possession of those owned by Japan is probably being claimed by America, as this would render the Pacific an American Lake. For the teeming masses of Asia this agreement has nothing more to offer than a change from Japanese imperialist enslavement to that of thralldom to Anglo-American capital. The Conference at Teheran had as little to offer the peoples of Europe as that of Cairo had to offer the peoples of Asia. Draconic treatment of the German people for the crimes of the Nazis and of the German capitalists, were foreshadowed. A Carthaginian peace which would make the terms of the monstrous Treaty of Versailles mild in comparison. A unilateral and forcible disarmament of Germany while her imperialist rivals remained armed to the teeth. And together with other probable secret agreements the dismemberment of Germany. For the peoples of Europe the position is not much better. It is intended that they will exchange the domination of Hitler and his quislings for that of Anglo-American imperialism and their quislings. Plans have been hatched to smother the German and European revolution before it breaks out. That is the basis of the reluctant horse-deal that Churchill and Roosevelt have been attempting to make with Stalin. Meanwhile, all the participants in the gruesome game of power politics are ready if one or the other can gain a decisive advantage to double-cross their "allies" with the greatest readiness. More than anything else this demonstrates the hollowness of the Allied claim to be waging a war against fascism. Rumours of horse-deals and peace talks between the Allies and the German generals and capitalists have trickled through from all the neutral capitals of Europe. There has been a steady flow of these for the past few months. And it is absolutely indisputable that negotiations and peace talks have been taking place with representatives from Germany. The British capitalist press referred recently quite openly to a German military mission which had been conducting negotiations in Lisbon. Von Papen, the German Ambassador to Turkey, who played a shady role in the negotiations which led to Hitler being given power in Germany, has been prominent in many of these manoeuvres. German capitalism still hopes to save something by an agreement with the Allied imperialists. More than anything else they fear the wrath of the German people. Rather than face the revolution which they recognise must inevitably develop, they would prefer a military occupation of Germany. The imperialists of Britain and America are attempting to arrive at a Badoglio peace with Germany. The question of fascism does not arise in

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Continued from page 1. policy. He has not released the real leaders of the Indian masses. He has employed troops ostensibly to distribute grain, food and other help, but the real object is to send back the starving people from the villages who came to Calcutta and other big cities, to their homes—so that they can starve to death there. Because people die in the streets of Calcutta, the outside world came to know about the desperate situation. If they die in villages, like animals, nobody will know. The Indian people have had enough experience of such "military help". No wonder the Indian papers resent such measures. One wonders whether the appointment of a military person to be Viceroy of India at the present juncture was decided for this purpose! The present famine in India is not due to any providential reasons. It is a man-made famine—a political famine. The following facts will prove this: (1) The people of India have been living under starvation conditions for the last 150 years. The policy of British imperialism is responsible for the fact that the average income is 2d. per head per day. (2) In spite of 150 years of British Rule, the agricultural system of India is most primitive. The British Government deliberately neglected to make any improvements, hence under adverse natural conditions people starve and die. (3) All that the British Government does is to set up departments with highly paid officials, etc. (4) Since the last war, the Government of India, through various organisations, such as U.K.C.C. and Ralli Bros. started cornering grain, etc. for troops abroad and for "hungry Europe". Part of this grain is hoarded in India and part in Persia and the Middle East. Hence the Government of India is the chief hoarder. (5) Lastly, in Madras and the Mopla district of Madras and other parts of India where the agrarian movement is active and revolutionary, it is the policy of the Government officials to hold back the distribution of foodstuffs in order to punish the poor peasants! There are many authentic proofs about this, e.g., recently, after a flood in the Madras district, there was a famine condition, but the Commissioner issued instructions to hold back the distribution of foodstuffs. It seems quite obvious that British imperialism is taking advantage of the war, and the thus created famine situation, in order to break the present struggle for Independence by the masses of India. Other Government measures, such as arrests and internment (Continued foot of next Column.)

BEHIND THE CRISIS IN LEBANON

BY ROSE CARSON

During the progress of the crisis in Lebanon, we have witnessed an unparalleled example of the hypocritical, corrupt and reactionary character of Anglo-American and French imperialism. The jailing of the democratically elected president, premier and members of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, clearly demonstrated not only the worthlessness of the promise of independence made by the puppets of decayed French imperialism; it also exposed the real aims of Anglo-American imperialism.

BRITISH INTERESTS

The hypocrisy of Anglo-American imperialism's lip service to democracy, is clearly revealed by the following statement from William Forrest, "News Chronicle" Special correspondent at Algiers: "The French here are frankly bewildered by the whole affair. They readily admit that Helou may have mishandled the situation, but what they cannot understand is the "explosion" of publicity from Cairo, the precipitancy with which Nahas Pasha sent his protest to de Gaulle, the 'orchestrated' chorus of the British Press and the acute concern of the British Government for Lebanese independence. They point out that some of the stories which the ultra-careful Cairo censorship on this occasion allowed to pass were flatly untrue; they allege that the same censorship held up for 48 hours the French News Agency denials of these stories; and they recall that two years ago, when Gen. Catroux proclaimed Syrian and Lebanese independence, the American Government protested against the suggestion that full independence was envisaged, reminding the French that the mandate implied obligations to other States with interests in Syria and the Lebanon—and that the British Government associated itself with the American point of view." For us, however, the reason for this "chorus" is quite simple. Lebanon lies directly in the path of Britain's life line to India, it lies adjacent to the sea

of political leaders, inflation, etc. strengthens this belief. The people of India naturally look for outside help and assistance. It is up to the working people of Great Britain to realise the political nature of this famine and act accordingly. The collection of pounds will not help the distressed people of India, firstly (1) such an amount will be a few drops in the ocean of want; (2) secondly, even if money is collected and sent to India, it will be useless, as there is neither food nor medicines in India which could be bought for cash—unless the Government releases the hoarded foodstuffs, medicines etc. which they have kept for war purposes. One example will suffice. Quinine, which is mainly produced in India, is far more scarce in India than in Great Britain. So far only £100,000. The offer of foodstuffs from Canada and Australia is held up due to lack of transport! Of other countries, only China has expressed solidarity with the people of India. The Soviet leaders, to whom the leaders of the National Congress made an appeal before their arrests, so far has not shown any sympathy by public pronouncements—on the other hand, Alexander Werth's B.B.C. commentary recently stated that Moscow has recognised the benefits of the retention of the British Empire after the war! i.e. that India should remain under the British Empire and enjoy the present benefits for ever! One wonders whether the policy of a "People's war" in India, decided by the British Communist Party, is based on this psychology. The British Labour Movement rightly rose against the criminal release of Mosley and showed their just anger against fascism and reaction, but so far they have failed to rise against British policy in India, which is the self-same policy for which Mosley and his kidney stand for. The reason is obvious. Thanks to the military measures, adopted by Wavell, the present Viceroy, the censorship in India has been tightened—hence the impression is given that the situation is improving in India. The British workers must demand that the British Government immediately sends back the food it took out of India since the war began. They must demand complete withdrawal of the present administration and complete handing over of political power to a Constituent Assembly (People's National Government) elected on a universal franchise and composed of trusted representatives of the Indian masses, recognition of India as an independent and Sovereign state of the Indian people, with full power in foreign affairs. British workers must form "Hands off India" committees, and back up their demands, not by pious resolutions, but by concrete actions if necessary. The struggle of the British workers and the starving Indian masses are one, as also their enemies, Imperialism, Fascist and "Democratic". The struggle of the working masses all over the world is the same—to end capitalist exploitation. CLASS SOLIDARITY — HANDS ACROSS THE SEA! Hakim Mirza.

name of the French Committee, and were endorsed by Britain and America. On the basis of the new guarantees, and in order to alleviate the wretched conditions caused by the war, the Lebanese and Syrian people took steps to implement the promises of freedom. An election was held, and 52 out of 54 seats were won on the basis of "Independence," and for a Bill "deleting from their constitution all reference to France's mandatory position." The immediate reaction of the French National Committee was to arrest the newly-elected President, Prime Minister and the Deputies. The Chamber was dissolved and a well-known quisling, Emile Edde, a former Prime Minister, whose collaborationism with the French cost him his post, was placed in control with dictatorial powers. According to the French, they refused to terminate the mandate unless the Lebanese agreed to enter into special treaty relations with the French. The reaction to this authoritarian provocation had been instantaneous the streets of Alexandria shouting "Down with France—Down with de Gaulle." In an interview with a British Press Correspondent at Beirut, to of the Lebanese Deputies who escaped arrest stated: "If the British assure us they will stay out of the fight we will smash the French forces." This statement suggests not only an utter contempt of the French imperialists but a willingness and preparedness on the part of the Lebanese to fight for their independence. Under the pressure of the mass movement of the Lebanese and the blackmail of British imperialism the French capitalists have been compelled to retreat. The British imperialists have gained a greater hold of the Middle East. Nevertheless British imperialism, despite the victory obtained over her rivals must have looked with a certain amount of alarm at the development of the mass movement for independence in Lebanon, with the immediate echoes it has aroused among the masses in the other Arab countries. British imperialism has been playing with fire. The Arab masses will not be satisfied with the fake independence given by France and Britain but will inevitably move forward in the coming years in a mass movement of revolt to obtain their freedom. British workers should give full support to the national aspirations of the Arab and the colonial peoples for their freedom.



Catterick, 14/11/43. Dear Comrade, It is with great regret and bitterness that I witness the high-handed action of the government in suppressing the "Socialist Appeal". For a long time I have been a recipient of both the S.A. and the W.I.N. and I greatly appreciate the theoretical value, and the aid that it has been to the British proletariat. We can with pride honour the fact that the boss class has been so greatly impressed by the militancy of the Fourth International elements and other working class parties that it has been compelled to take action. Incidentally it is significant that the "Daily Worker" is continuing its publications unmolested. The time is fast approaching when all the parties and factions representing the working class will discard their tactical differences and unite in the final struggle against the plutocrats, monopolists, the vandals of present-day society. Finally although in the army our hands are tied, your message of appeal and protest will spread through the ranks, the sneaking action of the financial dictators will not escape unnoticed. Fraternal greetings, Soldier Sympathiser.



Dear Comrades, We are glad to give the list of contributions for the month of November. The full report of each month's total can only be given in the middle of the following month. The list we give is for monies received for November at the time of going to press.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes entries like M.T. Northant, Anon, Coventry W.I.L., Glasgow W.I.L., Newcastle W.I.L., S.W. London W.I.L., Conway Hall Collection, Soldier Pioneer Corps, M.L., U.S. Soldier, G. H. Southall, A.P.V. Workers, Nurse, Kilburn W.I.L., Artist W. London, Nottingham W.I.L., Leeds W.I.L., Toolroom Coventry factory, N.A.A.F.I. Worker, Enfield W.I.L., Soldier R.A.O.C., W London Circle, RAF Wilts, Birmingham Factory, D. G., Manchester, Hendon W.I.L., A A Soldier, Hatfield, R.A.F. Harpenden, Northern Factory, "Mac." (Essex).

Miners Strikes

Continued from page 1. underground 2 years ago after he had been injured 4 times in 9 months. Some "anonymous" individual had paid Daglish's fine and he was released. That same day they returned to work. Two days later miners at Boldon struck protesting against the imprisonment of one of their comrades John Coates a 19 year old surface worker, for refusing to pay a £2 fine imposed on him for disobeying an order from the N.S.O. to work underground. Two years ago Coates volunteered for the R.A.F. but was turned down. The workers returned to the pit the following day hoping that their protest would be heeded, but resolved that they would reconsider the question in the light of developments on Sunday, 21st November. On the 18th November, the day after the Boldon workers had returned to work, the Black Maria drove up to the pit-heap at Whitburn three miles away and arrested a young surface worker, also for the non-payment of a fine. Immediately his marrows stopped work. Underground lads followed suit and the whole colliery stopped work demanding the unconditional release of their comrade. Mass meetings were held at South Shields and Whitburn on Sunday. At both meetings tremendous resentment was expressed at the imprisonment of miners sons while Mosley is released from jail. From every quarter of the meetings the demand for the repeal of sections of the E.W.O. was voiced. At the Beldon meeting 1,000 miners resolved to implement their previous threat to strike unless Coates was released. There was not a single dissident. At South Shields a mass meeting of Whitburn colliers decided to get in touch with the Harton Group Mineworkers' Federation Board; to bring the matter to the notice of the D.M.A. and the M.W.F.G.B. and to continue the strike until the imprisoned lads were released. Meanwhile the Agents and the E.C. of the D.M.A. issued a circular (a section of which was published in the "Northern Echo" 18 Nov. 1943) to all lodges making a vicious attack on their militant membership. A section of the circular reads: "These reckless stoppages are not a manifestation of the high standard of valour and the testing qualities of grit for which the Durham miners have been renowned. They are a violation of pledges and can only be designated, consciously or otherwise, as sabotaging the war effort and assisting the enemy." In this statement the D.M.A. has placed the whole

responsibility for the strikes on "a section of disruptionists" i.e. militant miners, instead of placing it where it rightly belongs at the door of the government and mineowners. This disgusting document and its slanderous attack on militants was thrown back in their teeth by the miners of Boldon and Whitburn at the mass meeting. An ex-soldier of this war expressed the general feelings of working miners in a letter to the "Northern Echo" dated 20th Nov. from which extracts read: "If I had not known who had issued the D.M.A. circular I would have blamed the coalowners. . . I fail to find one word in the circular about coalowners or managers being to blame for some of these reckless stoppages. With reference to the miners letting our lads down who are fighting in Italy, if the miners who are doing the fighting knew the wages and conditions we miners are still undergoing, they would surely ask themselves what they are fighting for." On the Monday following the mass meetings some "anonymous" individual (believed to be the C.P. since they make a habit of paying such fines) paid the fines of the two imprisoned lads, who were released. But this oft repeated sop which has wasted the energies of miners for so long, no longer has the desired effect. Tuesday's press reported that Hornsby the Regional Fuel Controller was "considering" the grant made to the Whitburn Colliery by the Government. This obvious attempt on the part of Hornsby to break the strikes by threatening to withdraw the subsidy, which would mean the closing of the pit, was immediately challenged by the Harton Group Mineworkers' Federation which met on Tuesday as a result of the Whitburn's resolution of the Sunday. The Secretary, Councillor J. F. Richardson issued the following statement which not only frightened Hornsby, but which makes it clear that they do not intend tolerating the imprisonment of youths or the direction of workers down the pits:— "The Board views with apprehension the statement derived from the Press that the Fuel Controller at Newcastle (Mr. Hornsby) is considering the grant made to Whitburn Colliery by the Government. The Board, in the present dispute, regard this as a veiled threat towards the miners of Whitburn Lodge because of their fight to free one of their members from prison. "The Board has further declared by

I stake my life! BY LEON TROTSKY DEWEY REPORT on the Moscow Trials 6¢

these negotiations except for the removal of Hitler and his immediate clique, in the same fashion as the removal of Mussolini, as a sop to the feeling of the workers in the democracies. Whatever the outcome of these negotiations it bodes no good for the peoples of the world. Failure to arrive at an agreement with the German capitalists will mean the full scale invasion of the Continent and the slaughter of millions. An agreement with German imperialism would not make the prospects any rosier. Meanwhile, the policy of Anglo-American imperialism and the nationalist policy of Stalin drives the German people in despair to tolerate the rule of the Nazis. Thus the vicious contradiction arises that the Allies, while negotiating with the very forces that organised Nazism—and which their threats to the German people props up, continue to hypocritically denounce the German people as being responsible for Hitler. If the future depended on the now waning prospects of the Axis or the seeming inevitable victory of the Allies, the outlook for the world working class would be black indeed. The victory of Anglo-American imperialism would not solve any more problems than that of the Axis. It would inevitably sow the seeds of new and terrible world war by further exacerbating the contradictions of capitalism. Fortunately for humanity, not alone Hitler, but world imperialism has miscalculated. The masses throughout the world will not tolerate the outcome of the world conflagration which imperialism is preparing. The final decision will rest in the hands of the workers and soldiers of all lands. They will write their own programme of peace: a Socialist United States of Europe and a Socialist Asia as the only means of building a new world for all mankind.

Mosley Release Continued from page 1. danger of fascism either at home or abroad. The working class, if it is to destroy this monster has to destroy the sow which nurtured it: capitalism. Once again the lesson is emphasised for the struggle against fascism as for the achievement of any other of its aims, the working class can rely only on its own organisation, strength and forces. To rely on the capitalists or their lackeys is to lead to inevitable disaster. Only workers organised strength can crush the menace of fascism when it rears its head; only workers power can crush fascism once and for all. resolution, to be submitted to the Lodges, recommending them to recommence work following the two lads having been released. But arising out of that situation each Lodge pledges itself to cease work if any financial member is arrested and sent to prison in future for refusing to go down the pit. "Meanwhile a county conference is to be called by the Board, seeking an alteration in the Essential Works Order to obviate miners' sons being directed to the mines against their wills; and also against the application of the clause relating to directing lads to go underground against their wills." No longer will anonymous donors shelve this burning class issue with £5 notes! Durham miners have shown that they are determined that these sections of the E.W.O. must be withdrawn. It is necessary to carry the struggle further and demand the repeal of the entire order. Demand that Lawther, the D.M.A. agents and executive stop making their vicious attacks on the workers; demand that they stop "sabotaging the (class) war effort and" assisting the (class) enemy." and lead a real struggle to implement these demands. Published by E. Grant, 61 Northdown Street, N.1. Printed by C. A. Brock & Co., Ltd., (T.U.), 79 Southern Row, Kewal Road, W.10.

(Continued foot of next Column.)