





Fighting Fund For June

Table listing contributions for the Fighting Fund for June, including amounts in £ s. d. for locations like L.H.L., M.L., M.S., etc.

Comrades!

We need double this sum to keep our paper going. Please make every effort to double your contributions for July.

A. ROSS, Treasurer. 256, Harrow Road, London, W.2.

C.P. Press Silent on Budenz Evidence

U.S. "WORKER" ARTICLE SUPPRESSES ALL MENTION OF BUDENZ'S EVIDENCE THAT STALIN IS GUILTY

BY EVELYN ATWOOD

NEW YORK— After a total silence of more than two weeks, the March 23 "Worker" finally takes note of the book "This Is My Story," written by its former editor and Communist Party national committee member, Louis F. Budenz.

The article does not have a single word to say about the evidence presented by Budenz that Leon Trotsky's murder was prepared in New York City by G.P.U. agents, assisted by prominent leaders of the American C.P.

The "Worker" says nothing about Budenz's admissions that he himself was drawn into this plot. It does not even attempt to refute his charges that Earl Browder, Jack Stachel and other C.P. leaders had a hand in the plot.

makes it quite plain that "Jason" was a G.P.U. agent, provided with a false Canadian passport, who utilized Sylvia Ageloff to gain access to Trotsky's home.

This sensational confirmation of Stalin's guilt in Trotsky's murder was first released to the public in the March 3 "Militant" and then headlined in the daily press in New York City and throughout the country.

It maintained silence even after March 17 when District Attorney Frank J. Hogan was urged to summon a special grand jury to investigate the G.P.U. murders hatched in New York.

The reader of "The Worker" article is not given a single clue about the nature of Budenz's charges. There is simply a blanket statement that his sensational revelations are "lies."

This silent treatment is in accord with the policy followed by the Stalinists in the past. Budenz himself cites the example of the case of Ignace Reiss, murdered in 1937 after he broke with Stalinism and joined the Fourth International.

Miners' News

Lancs. Coal Board Force Strike

"Same Old Gang in Control"—say Miners

BY BOB ALLEN

The strike of surface workers in fifteen pits in the Tyldesley-Mosley Common-Atherton area from 24th-29th June, although of comparatively short duration, is a symptom of the deep uneasiness felt by miners nationally.

The Coal Board has behaved strictly in the tradition of the worst type of pre-nationalisation mine-owners. Under the new National Agreement with the Board, the underground workers were given a Five Shift Week, with no reduction in pay, and no increase in the length of the working day.

In other words the surface workers got no appreciable benefit at all, from the five day week. The justice of the surface workers' case is recognised by everyone connected with the mines.

Bureaucrats And Bosses Run The Coal Board

Yet, in spite of the fact that the grievance of the surface workers is known to be completely justified, the Coal Board has turned a completely deaf ear to the men, and has stood pat on the cynical, typically Boss position, of crying "No negotiations while the men are on strike."

The miners expected big things from Nationalisation: at the very least they expected that the old gang of owners and their agents and managers would be booted clean out of the industry.

tations, with the Board, the leadership spent its time issuing proclamations to the press that they were trying their very best to get the strike stopped at all costs at the earliest possible moment.

Not a word of criticism of the Board, not a single statement to the Press that the men had a legitimate grievance; not a single demand that the Coal Board negotiate.

The Union leadership worked hand in glove with the Board. The eloquence and winning words of Hammond, a so-called "Communist", directed to ending the strike on the Board's terms, would have been more convincing if he had shown an ounce of willingness to fight the Board, or had publicly defended the men.

Reporters from the Press, on asking the officials whether the Union thought the men right or wrong, were met with stony silence. Is it any wonder that the National Press gets away with attacks on the miners when the union leaders won't defend them publicly?

The Miners Must Control The Mines

Unless the mines come under democratic control from below, from the actual mine workers, the Coal Board will continue in the old way.

60,000 Tons Lost — Coal Board Responsible 60,000 tons of coal were lost during this strike, and the general unrest in Lancashire has led to a serious drop in output.

The responsibility for this lies with the Coal Board, which has proved that if it has to choose between losing coal or rectifying an obvious wrong, it prefers to lose the coal rather than even negotiate the rights and wrongs of the case.

Such people are hypocrites hiding behind the propaganda of the "Daily Express," and using Beaverbrook and Kemsley against the miners.

What Has Happened To The N.U.M.?

The leadership of the N.U.M. behaved disgracefully throughout the strike. A comment by a striker very aptly sums up the situation: "Once the Union gave us ideas and a lead against the owners; now the Coal Board gives all the ideas to the Union against the miners."

Instead of demanding a settlement, or at the very least negotiations, with the Board, the leadership spent its time issuing proclamations to the press that they were trying their very best to get the strike stopped at all costs at the earliest possible moment.

Bus and Tram Sunday Strike

Dissatisfaction over wages and bad working conditions in the transport industry expressed itself in large scale strike action by tram and bus workers throughout the country.

The militant attitude taken by the workers of the L.P.T.B. on Sunday, 6th July, when over 5,000 refused to man the busses and trams is to be commended.

The provincial strikes which have been going on over the past month had in part stopped when the Ministry of Labour stepped in and brought all parties to conference.

The N.U.M. Must Really Fight For The Miners, Not Act As Office Boys For The Coal Board

But where the N.U.M. leadership openly goes on to the side of the Coal Board, and fights against the men, it is necessary to set up machinery to co-ordinate the struggle. Not to leave the N.U.M. but to fight for a militant policy and leadership, and take it out of the hands of the Board's supporters is the chief task.

SOME PICKINGS! THE way in which the Trade Union bureaucrats live and regard the Trade Union movement was shown by the report of the Committee of Privileges on the move to pension off Mr. W. J. Brown of the Civil Service Clerical Association.

On top of all this, "The Executive would also consider launching a testimonial fund among members." "Evening News" report, July 1st.

Inside Germany: CONDITIONS IN THE U.S. ZONE

FROM AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT.

Frankfurt, June, May Day

I have been here approximately one week. Naturally, in that time, I could only have the briefest impressions.

I cannot say much of what is taking place outside of the American zone which I visited. Conditions are reputed to be worse for the German people in the non-American zones.

Frankfurt is in ruins, of course, with the exception of Heidelberg it is a mass of rubble. Only the American compound in Frankfurt seems to be preserved from the pre-bombing era.

The Union leaders, employers and the press have all joined hands in condemning the strike.

The provincial strikes which have been going on over the past month had in part stopped when the Ministry of Labour stepped in and brought all parties to conference.

Transport workers are well aware that their modest claims can easily be met out of the swollen profits of their employers without increasing fares.

The "Daily Herald" last month pointed out that a boom is taking place in bus shares. That share-holders and gamblers are making a lot of cash on such shares which had gone up by £10,000,000.

Transport is profitable—for the owners only.

Building Bosses Reap Huge Profits

The employers in the building industry continue to reap huge profits from the exploitation of the workers, to give an example, 20 building materials groups made a profit for one quarter of 1946, of £2,822,000 as compared with £2,640,000 for the corresponding period of 1945.

Added to this, the large rings have continued their plundering of the public without hindrance. The British Portland Cement Co. made a total profit in 1946 of £1,176,673 as compared with £678,216 in 1945.

Every building worker knows, what Bevan, the Labour Minister of Housing, refuses to face up to) of the sabotage and black marketeering that is rampant in the building industry.

Bevan recently announced an increase in the maximum selling price for houses put up by private builders of £100. This means that the private builders will now be able to charge up to £1,400 for a house in the London area and £1,300 elsewhere.

What is wrong with this answer from a Socialist point of view, is that not only the nationalised enterprises but ALL BUSINESSES, "PRIVATE" OR STATE should be compelled to make public the profits of the firm and the salaries of all officials!

Replying to the references and questions of the Tories as to the capabilities of the officials appointed to the Boards "without business experience" as "cushy jobs for pals" with their £5,000 and £10,000 a year emoluments, Shinwell retorted that in the individual capitalist enterprises favouritism of the worst type prevailed.

The Socialist method: the control of all appointments in the nationalised industries to be in the hands of committees of the workers in the industries, who would appoint officials exclusively on the basis of capacity and technical ability do not enter into the calculations of the Labour leaders.

profit of £50,000,000. But at the recent Labour Party Conference in Margate, Bevan had no measures to propose that would cut into the profiteering and blackmarket rackets of the building employers.

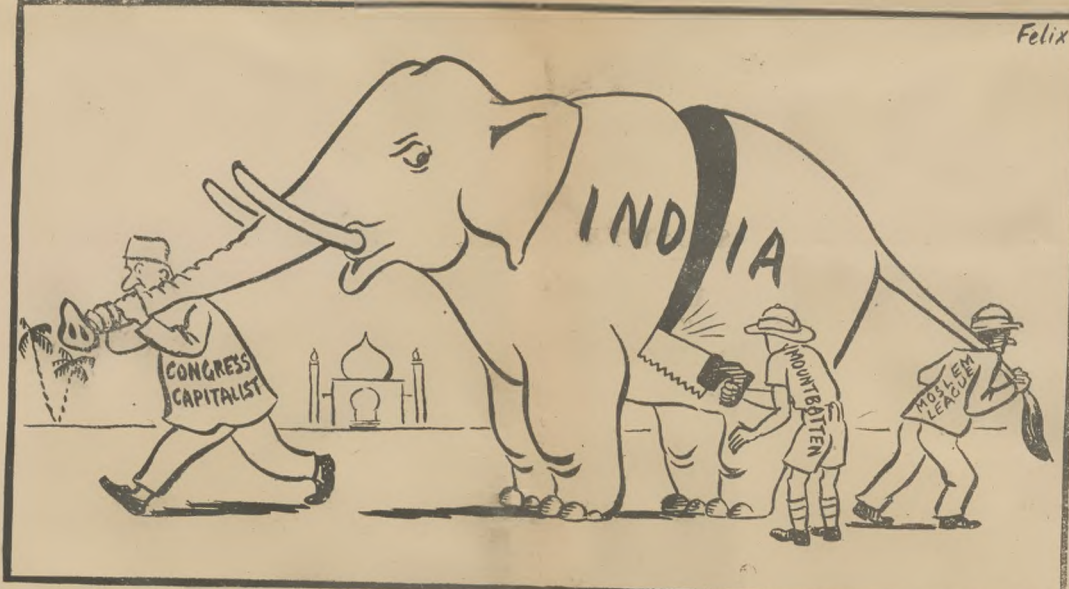
This refusal by Bevan to undertake any real steps against the employers who place their profits and interests before the desperate housing needs of the workers, will serve only to encourage the profiteers and black marketeers in the industry.

A genuine Socialist Government would take immediate steps against the capitalists who profiteer out of the housing miseries of the people. They would do this by confiscating the profits of the employers and by nationalising the building industry and operating it under the direction and control of the building workers and tradesmen.

Not only youth, there was hardly a young and apparently good-willed American representative of the Manpower Section of the occupation forces who brought greetings and encouragement from the "benevolent" Americans.

The Youth Are Absent

The main speaker was a distinguished looking gentleman with white hair who was introduced as the Minister, President of Hesse. The content of his speech—the tragic disaster of nationalism, the need for international solidarity, the denial of the charge that all Germans were Nazis and a general plea for socialism—included all those generalities but lack of concreteness which is the mark of a Social Democrat.



From LEFT and RIGHT

BY AGITATOR

The Association's car to remain in Mr. Brown's possession until he reached the age of 55, and a lump sum payment of £500 to be made in respect of running and maintenance expenses during that period.

An ex gratia payment of £1,000 on retirement and a similar payment of £250 to Mr. Brown's private secretary.

On top of all this, "The Executive would also consider launching a testimonial fund among members." "Evening News" report, July 1st.

DEBATE

WHICH PARTY SHOULD THE WORKING CLASS SUPPORT? THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY OR THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN? at Bethnal Green Central Library CAMBRIDGE HEATH ROAD, E.2 Wednesday, 16th July, 7.45 p.m. Speakers: JOCK HASTON, R.C.P. DESMOND FENWICK, S.P.G.B. ADMISSION FREE

For a Marxist understanding of the Spanish situation, read: "Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain" by Felix Morrow 5/- Obtainable from: Business Manager, 256, Harrow Road, London, W.2.



