

OUR PARTY TO CONTEST NEATH

SOCIALIST APPEAL

ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, FOURTH INTERNATIONAL.

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TWOPENCE

BY-ELECTION

Candidate to be selected Next Week

AS WE GO TO PRESS THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY HAS DECIDED TO CONTEST THE NEATH BY-ELECTION.

The vacancy in this South Wales constituency has arisen as a result of the death of Sir William Jenkins, Labour M.P.

The constituency is 100 per cent. Labour. The seat has been held by Labour unopposed since 1922.

Apart from the official Labour candidate, whom we understand has not yet been selected, no other candidate has given notification of intention to contest the seat.

IT WILL THEREFORE BE A STRAIGHT FIGHT BETWEEN A REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST AND A LABOUR COALITION CANDIDATE.

In the whole course of the war, not a single election has been fought wherein a direct revolutionary appeal has been made to the electorate. The Revolutionary Communist Party will make this election a test of the real feelings in the ranks of the working class. Our candidate will fight on a platform of uncompromising hostility to the imperialist war, for the breaking of the coalition, for the overthrow of the Churchill Government and for Labour to take power on a socialist programme.

A major point in the platform of the Revolutionary Communist Party candidate will be the nationalisation without compensation of the coal mines, and of the great steel trusts which dominate the tinplate industry in the Neath area: together these private enterprises dominate almost the entire life of the population of South Wales.

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

The Trotskyist candidate will fight the election on the basis of international socialism; he will conduct his fight on the traditions of the great socialist teachers of our time — Marx, Lenin, Liebknecht and Trotsky. For the overthrow and destruction of Nazism as well as the monarchist and capitalist quislings and governments set up by Anglo-American imperialism in "liberated" territories. Land to the peasants and factories to the workers throughout Europe and the world! Not the military domination of Europe by the Allied imperialist armies, but a United Socialist States of Europe. In particular he will appeal for a hand of friendship and fraternity to the German working class for the overthrow of Hitler and the establishment of the Socialist brotherhood of European nations — Against Vansittartism — against reparations, against blockade and revenge on the German working class.

Our candidate will fight for the immediate and unconditional ending of the Indian and colonial peoples suffering and starving under the heel of British imperialism.

The betrayal of the British working class by the Labour leaders, their entry into the capitalist coalition government, where they carry out the dirty tasks of keeping the workers in check and protecting the capitalist class and coal-owners, is eating out the heart of the Labour movement. It is for this reason that the Revolutionary Communist Party has decided to contest this by-election in a 100 per cent. Labour stronghold against a Labour candidate. The vote will be a test of the reactions of the masses to the policy of capitulation by the Labour leaders, the counter-revolutionary policy of the Churchill coalition government in Greece, to the betrayal of the miners to the coal-owners by the Labour leaders; it will be a test for our slogan that Labour end this treacherous policy, break the coalition, reassert the independence of the Labour movement and take power on a socialist programme, national and international.

XMAS TUBE STRIKE

BY SID BIDWELL

The Christmas Day London Tube stoppage was symptomatic of the widespread opposition of all railway workers to endless days at work without opportunity for recreation and recuperation. It was also a rank and file revolt against the slow negotiation machinery.



SID BIDWELL

Following the announcement of His Majesty's Labour Minister, "Labour leader" Ernest Bevin, that all war workers were to have four days holiday at Christmas, the Employee's side of Sectional Councils 3 and 4 L.P.T.B. (representing trainmen and others) asked for 2 days leave. This was refused by the Board.

An alternative proposal was made that all workers on duty Christmas Day and Boxing Day should be granted 2 days off in lieu. This reasonable request was refused.

A joint Conference of Branch Chairmen and Secretaries and Sectional Councils 3 and 4, representing 11 N.U.R. and 9 A.S.L.E.&F. Branches was convened to consider the refusal.

The Conference decided unanimously to call on all members to absent themselves from duty on Xmas Day only. The result was an almost complete stoppage of the vast network of London's electric lines.

Following the issuing of the Conference Circular, to all affected Branches, post-haste the General Secretaries of the N.U.R. and A.S.L.E.&F. despatched telegrams denouncing the stoppage and calling on all members to report for their rostered turns. But this was unavailing, as the overwhelming majority of the L.P.T.B. workers had decided on one day's hard earned holiday.

The B.B.C. and Capitalist press, as usual, endeavoured to present an entirely false picture to the public by drawing attention to the workers' application for 2 days holiday and ignoring the claim for compensatory leave. The "Daily Telegraph" which in common with other newspapers shut down for two days was particularly venomous.

Continued on page 4.

INDIAN TROOPS JOIN E.L.A.S

Military Dictator Placed in Power

CHURCHILL HAS BEEN COMPELLED TO MAKE FAKE "CONCESSIONS" TO THE MASS MOVEMENT OF THE GREEK PEOPLE. THIS ADVENTURER THOUGHT HE COULD CRUSH THE GREEK WORKERS AND PEASANTS IN A MATTER OF DAYS. BUT HE HAD NEITHER RECKONED WITH THE HEROIC RESISTANCE OF THE GREEK MASSES IN THEIR FIGHT TO GAIN THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT, NOR HAD HE RECKONED WITH THE RESENTMENT OF THE BRITISH SOLDIERS AND WORKERS AT HAVING TO PLAY THE ROLE OF S.S. IN "LIBERATED" EUROPE.

One of the main factors dictating Churchill's gesture was the wave of resentment caused in this country and among the British troops in Greece. Lord Faringdon declared openly in the House of Lords that this expedition would provoke the danger of mutiny among the British troops.

The British capitalists thought they could rely on reactionary Polish forces, colonial troops, and "especially trained" paratroopers for this dirty job. When additional troops were flown to Italy they were deceived into believing that they were being sent to fight against Germans, and a German uprising aided by a section of the Greeks. This was made more plausible by the fact that many of the E.L.A.S. soldiers have German uniforms and equipment which have been captured from the Germans. But their indignation was great when they were captured by E.L.A.S. and the truth was revealed.

The British troops in Greece could not be deceived for an extended period of time. Already a section of the Gurkhas, reputedly the most backward of Indian troops, have deserted to E.L.A.S.

The "Observer" on December 17th, openly declared: "... the price of such a victory (over E.L.A.S.) would be high, not only in casualties but in its repercussions at home and abroad. It could probably not be achieved without serious Labour trouble in this country. It might break the coalition..."

These factors have compelled the imperialists to look to other methods of crushing the movement of Greek workers and peasants. They are forced to rely on a new regroupment of puppets who will be in a better position than Papandreou and the King to control the masses.

The London "Times", most sober and serious organ of Big Business openly revealed that support for the so-called Papandreou government was a myth.

"The grimmest fact about the whole situation, and the one which dominates everything else, is that fighting is still going on, not for the most part between Greeks and Greeks, but between British and Greeks..."

The forces of General Zorvas whom British Imperialism lavishly supplied with arms, uniforms, money and equipment, have melted to nothing as soon as the trial of strength was shown. From reports carefully censored, it is apparent that almost half, if not the majority immediately went over to E.L.A.S. when an actual clash occurred rather than allow themselves to become tools of the Fascists and imperialists against the Greek people. Out of his boasted army of 15,000 to 18,000, the last remnants of 1,000 have been ignominiously evacuated by the British navy. British bayonets are the sole prop on which the Royalists and Fascists can rely.

The Conference in Athens which was supposed to settle matters "between the Greeks themselves" was so much

hypocrisy. If the British troops were withdrawn from Greece, ELAS would be the master of Athens not in days but within hours. It was a Conference between the puppets of Britain and ELAS.

The nature of the so-called "representative Government" which Churchill was backing with arms and food was exposed by the delegates who represented it at this Conference. Rallis was one of them. This man organised the armed Quisling thugs and murder-

ers for the Nazis in order to terrorise and carry out punitive expeditions during the Nazi occupation of Greece. He was declared a "war criminal" who, because of the hatred of the masses, even the Papandreou government was forced to place behind bars as a traitor. He barely escaped with his life when ELAS stormed the gaols, and the workers and soldiers proceeded to execute the Quislings on the spot so that they would not come under the protection of the British. He was rescued during the struggle by the British troops.

As a provocation and an insult to the Greek masses, Rallis turns up as a delegate to the so-called "peace" conference.

(Continued on back page)



The above picture shows German miners at work under guard by an American soldier. They are no different to their brothers in the pits in Britain, France or America. They have no interest in exploiting the people of Europe any more than the British miners have in exploiting the people of India. Their interests are the same, and in the coming period they will unite against the common enemy capitalism under the Internationalist Communist slogan of Marx and Lenin "WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS, YOU HAVE A WORLD TO WIN!"

BY-ELECTION FUND

The decision to fight the Neath By-Election on the uncompromising revolutionary programme of Trotskyism is a bold and important step forward for the revolutionary movement. Much is involved. A properly organised campaign will cost £400-£500. This must be raised at once!

MILITANT WORKERS! READERS OF "SOCIALIST APPEAL"! Get down to the job now! Send all that you and your work-mates can afford. Take collections on the jobs and in the union branches.

All donations to "R.C.P. By-Election Fund", 256, Harrow Road, London, W. 2. Harold Atkinson, National Treasurer, R.C.P.

(Continued on back page.)

TYNE BOILERMAKERS SUMMONS VICKERS

BY HEATON LEE

STANDING FIRMLY BY THEIR RESOLUTION TO SHOW THEIR SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY WITH THEIR SUMMONSED COMRADES, EVERY BOILERMAKER ON THE TYNE STAYED AWAY FROM WORK ON THURSDAY, 28TH DECEMBER, 1944, WHEN 127 WORKERS WERE CHARGED BEFORE THE NEWCASTLE POLICE COURT WITH CONTRAVENTING ARTICLE 4 OF THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATIONS ORDER AND REGULATION 58A OF THE DEFENCE REGULATIONS, 1939.

At 9.30 a.m. on the Thursday morning, workers began to gather outside the courthouse and by 11 a.m. there were some 700 or 800 workers present. The court itself was filled to overflowing by the 127 charged workers.

Dr. Charlesworth, who conducted the case for the director of Public Prosecutions in the recent trial of the four Trotskyists in the same police court last May, prosecuted, and Mr. G. Rutledge, who defended the Trotskyists, appeared on behalf of the 127 defendants. In requesting an adjournment Mr. Rutledge said that his instructions were to deal with each case separately on its individual merits. He pointed out that the defence of 127 persons was no small task and that the workers were considering placing information in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions in order that he could issue "summons against the employers in respect of locking these people out of work."

The request of the defence for an adjournment was violently opposed by

Dr. Charlesworth who showed the chagrin of the prosecution by characterising the application of the defence for an adjournment as "a pretence to further delay a matter which has already been delayed, in the opinion of the Minister, for too long." The prosecution were evidently intent upon an immediate "kill" Charlesworth admitted that his object was to have the case disposed of today. They had not reckoned on the workers carrying the struggle into the courts in spite of the sell out of Mark Hodgson and the rest of the "leadership". The prosecution attempted to play upon the old time-worn theme that "we are living in difficult times and we have not the time to delay matters", inferring that the workers were guilty of sabotaging the war production programme. When Mr. Rutledge pointed out that the men were anxious to return to work, and inferred that the employers were the people responsible for the stoppage, Dr. Charlesworth protested that he was "going into the case".

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSULT

THE HOME BATTLE-FRONT OF BRITAIN.

90 WORKERS EQUAL 1 CAPITALIST!

BY JIM HINCHCLIFFE

Introduced by Mr. Herbert Morrison, the White Paper on Industrial Insurance—Workmen's Compensation—has been greeted as a great step forward in the field of social legislation.

That the capitalists have every right to be pleased with such a scheme we cannot deny, for didn't the old scheme cost 17 million pounds, towards which the workers paid no direct contribution AND WILL NOT THE NEW PROPOSALS COST ONLY ANOTHER 3 MILLION POUNDS, (20 million pounds) TO WHICH THE WORKERS WILL PAY OVER 8½ MILLION POUNDS AS A DIRECT PAYMENT?

For the employers it certainly represents a step forward! The Government will pay its share by indirect taxation upon the everyday goods which the workers HAVE to buy, and the employer will of course, place his already smaller contribution upon the cost of production. As Campbell Stephen, M.P. briefly expressed it:—"It is the old story so far as the workers are concerned, of feeding the dog on its own tail."

The importance of this issue can be most clearly seen when we consider the actual numbers of those who are injured, and dependants of those who are killed in industry during every day of every year. In 1942 alone, 2,200 workers were killed and 471,712 injured as a result of industrial accidents. In particular does it affect the miners. The blood spilt in extracting coal from the bowels of the earth has injured over 6 million miners during this century. It has sent over 50,000 to a premature grave. WITH EVERY PASSING MINUTE, A WORKER IS EITHER INJURED OR KILLED ON

And what of the reward which is granted to these workers? The Government states that "each is compensated not for loss of earning capacity, but for whatever he has lost in health, strength and the power to enjoy life." And in relation to the Cabinet Ministers, judges, etc. who retire, we note that they are left to live on £5,000 a year, or about £96 per week. When a worker is compulsorily "retired" however, due to an accident, he is dismissed with £2 10s. a week upon which he is also expected to maintain his wife.

The inclusive cost of the maintenance of the Great Ape at the Zoological Gardens in London's Regent's Park is at least £2 per week. A single worker who is injured, is granted 35s. a week. Such is the "generosity" of a capitalist government! Furthermore, to those workers who have the "audacity" to consider themselves the equal of the members of the ruling class, perhaps the following capitalist "values" will compel a more realistic viewpoint:—

Capitalist	£96 5 0 per week
Ape	£ 2 0 0 "
Worker (injured)	£ 1 5 0 "
Worker (unemployed)	£ 1 4 0 "

We must not proceed too quickly though, for these sums represent the MAXIMUM compensation figures. For the first 13 weeks, an injured man and his wife do not receive £2 10s. as stated above, (after all, he might be malingering!) but only 43s. 9d., and when the time comes for a disablement pension, it may be that he is not considered to be 100 per cent disabled. The Government states—"where the degree of disablement is assessed at 60 per cent, a single man will receive 24s. (Continued on back page.)"



Soldier in India

Socialist Appeal, January 1st, Dear Comrade,

The following extracts are taken out of the first few letters I have received from my husband who is now in India. The first was written when he first reached an Indian port and the other two as he moved up to his present camp. They give a clear picture of the conditions the British Tommies are seeing in this "Brightest Jewel" of the Empire. I do not doubt that the idea of the good, kind British rule which has been inculcated into the soldiers since ever they could think will be rudely shaken in the next year or two of life in India.

"We had a spectacle of poverty yesterday with extremely poor kids aged 6-10 years doing diving tricks in dangerous waters while begging for bread. When they got food it was quickly wolfed up, and some was kept in reserve, most probably for their parents and brothers and sisters. In the distance men can be seen sleeping on the station floor at night..."

"I am going by a slow train to another address. The journey is long and we pass through many villages. People line the track begging for bread or money. Children, some naked, take terrible risks seeking alms, such as jumping on and off trains..."

"Natives come round our tents and will do washing cheap and darn socks very cheap—an anna (1/4d.) per hole are the darning charges. A small village I should say lives on doing odd jobs about the place. A noticeable point re the land question. From the train you can see how the land is divided into extremely small patches. Say a field of 10 acres is split into portions as low as 15 feet in length. It is never square but the breadth may start 3 feet and taper to a point. You can see how every inch is precious. Such land is unproductive, and would not feed an individual never mind a family..."

"We did a route march; to my mind it served also as a 'demonstration' to a village near by... We saw a dead man lying in the roadside just skin and bone. Down the road we had previously passed a dead dog..."

K. T.

Greetings from Soldiers

23rd December, 1944

Dear Comrade Editor,

Having read the copies of the "Socialist Appeal" many times, and finding myself in agreement with its contents, I wish to express my appreciation in a more concrete manner.

Here's wishing every success to the "Socialist Appeal", the only paper fighting in Britain for the emancipation of the working class.

Pte. G. C.	2/6
Pte. T. H.	1/-
Pte. W. B.	2/-
Pte. L. H.	1/-
Pte. B. C.	1/-
Pte. B.	6d.
7/6	

Workers Organisations Want End of Coalition

We print below several resolutions which we have received from various working class organisations protesting against the counter-revolutionary actions of the British Government in Greece. These are only a few among scores reaching us from all parts of the country. In contrast to the Stalinist and Labour Left motivated resolutions which stop at sending telegrams of protest to the representative of reaction, Churchill—these resolutions pose a class conscious attitude and make the only concrete demand which can possibly assist the Greek workers—that Labour break the coalition with the reactionary Tories and fight for socialism.

A.E.U. Junior Workers' Committee

6 Market Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1.

Socialist Appeal,

Dear Sir,

I am instructed to inform you that the above Committee have sent the following telegram to Premier Churchill:—

"We demand hands off Greece." This message has also been sent to Mr. Magan Phillips (Secretary National Labour Party), Mr. Bevin, Mr. Attlee and Mr. Morrison with the following addendum:—

"We demand hands off Greece. We also demand that Labour leave the coalition Government and that the political and industrial truce be ended."

These resolutions were passed unanimously by the representatives of Tyne-side Engineering Youth.

Yours fraternally, J. Arthur Natrass, Treasurer and Minutes Secretary on behalf of the J.W.C.

Edinburgh Burgh L.P.

At the monthly meeting of the Edinburgh Labour Party in the Melbourne Hall held in December, the following resolution was passed:—

"This Burgh Labour Party condemns the capitalist government of Churchill, which by its policy of political pressure and armed intervention, is interfering in the political life of the so-called liberated countries in Europe.

It condemns the utilisation of British workers in uniform, avowedly recruited and conscripted to fight for freedom and democracy, for the purpose of bolstering up and maintaining by armed force, reactionary governments against the will of the people. It condemns the policy of the Labour leadership for continuing to participate in the present coalition Government, and thus sharing responsibility for, and contributing to, these reactionary policies.

It declares that the only permanent solution to the European crisis, is the establishment of a Socialist United States of Europe, and that the organised Labour Movement of this country must join with the workers and peasants on the continent, in a common struggle for the attainment of this objective.

Since the independence of the working class movement is a necessary condition for the effective struggle against all forms of reaction, this Burgh Labour Party demands an immediate cessation of the policy of class collaboration, a break with the coalition Government, and an independent struggle for power on the basis of a Socialist Programme.

Nottingham A.E.U. Branch

The following resolutions were carried in Trade Union Branches and forwarded to the E.C. of the A.E.U. and the Trades Council:

Nottingham A.E.U. No. 1 Branch and Nottingham Central Branch:

"This Branch protests against the slaughter of Greek workers and against the intervention policy of the British Government in support of a Grecian reactionary Government. It calls upon the Labour and Trade Union leadership to break the Political Truce and to fight for a Labour Government in order that working class solidarity may be implemented on an international scale and thus support of the Grecian workers."

Nottingham A.E.U. No. 14 Branch:

"This Branch calls upon all Trades Councils to form committees in preparation for 'Councils of Action' against the British Government's intervention policy in Greece."

Islington Co-Op. Youth

RESOLUTION SENT TO THE EIGHT CO-OPERATIVE M.P.s, CO-OPERATIVE PAPERS AND A.G.M. OF THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF YOUNG CO-OPERATIVES, SOUTHERN SECTION

In view of the anti-working class, repressive actions that the present coalition Government has taken against the workers' movement in Greece, Italy, Belgium, this North Islington B.F.Y.C. (Southern Section A.G.M.) calls on the Co-operative Party and Labour Party M.P.s to assume no responsibility for these actions, withdraw from the coalition Government, and wage a campaign for power on a co-operative and socialist programme.

STALINISTS CALL OFF LONDON STRIKE

At the London North District Shop Stewards Quarterly meeting held on December 17th at the Holborn Hall, a pious resolution was moved from the platform by the Chairman, Brother Arter, protesting against the use of British troops fighting E.L.A.S. forces in Greece.

As an alternative to the "pie in the sky" wording of the resolution, a Shop Steward from the body of the hall proposed a concrete amendment which called on "the District Committee to recommend, in line with the Glasgow D.C.'s decision, a token stoppage and demonstration in London."

But before he could read his amendment, he was ruled out of order by the Chairman who remarked: "We are having no stoppages here, so sit down." The Shop Steward stood his ground and refused to sit down. By this time someone had moved a vote of no confidence in the Chairman, and there were cries of "Dictator!"

The situation was smoothed out by someone who suggested that both the resolution and the amendment be left till after Brother Berridge had made a statement on the situation which prevailed in Greece. This was agreed to and Brother Berridge made a general survey of what was taking place in Greece. His attitude intimated that something should be done in the way of action, but "don't let us create chaos!" His speech finished, the resolution and amendment were then put.

After debating for about 2 hours, in which all speakers showed a sincere desire for a stoppage, a compromise decision was arrived at "to recommend

MINER'S XMAS STORY

Welsh Miners Fight Owners Brutality

On Thursday, December 21st, Thomas Davies age 67, a Welsh miner employed at the Steer pit, Gwauncae-Gurwen, was fatally injured.

Affectionately known as "Tommy" to his fellow workmen, his sudden death cast a gloom over the Christmas festivities in this little mining town. For many years Tom was the "rider" who kept feeding tubs to the East side of the pit. Even the management had praised his good workmanship—although, of course, their praise never took the form of a bigger wage packet.

Old Tom was killed at approximately 9.20 a.m. News travels quickly in a mine and, as is customary when a miner is killed, the workers drifted out as they heard of Tom's death. Their black faces paled with grief at the loss of their workmate. Perhaps they felt it more because of the approaching Christmas with its "peace and goodwill to all men."

Silently, the flickering lamps were handed over and a melancholy crowd journeyed homewards. By 11.30 a.m. the pit was stopped and silent. Old Tom's widow at least would have the satisfaction of knowing that her husband's mates had paid their respects and felt a little of her loss.

On Christmas Eve, Tom was buried at a Garnant churchyard. The faint voices of the little children in the Sunday school could be heard in the valley. There was no pomp, no muffled drums, only the respectful silence of the huge gathering as the coffin was lowered into the grave. Requiescat in pace...

The Christmas holiday passed, and perhaps because of the drudgery and misery of their lives the miners did forget a little of the past week's tragedy—until the pay-tickets were issued! Then it was discovered that the traditional demonstration of respect for a fallen comrade had resulted in the "Guaranteed" Wage for the whole pit being stopped. But this paled into insignificance when the news came through that Old Tom, who couldn't even protest, had been paid only a quarter of a shift for the day on which he had died for King Coal—and the profits of the Amalgamated Anthracite Company.

Tom should have retired on a comfortable pension many years ago. Not content with sweating, bleeding and (Continued at foot of next column)

GAS WORKERS REFUSE TO PAY FINE

BY R. RYAN

As reported in the December issue of the "Socialist Appeal", 36 men of the Manchester, Bradford Road Gas Works were summoned to court and fined as the result of striking for their demand, for time and one third for the night shift, to go before the Joint Industrial Gas Council.

These men, who were only a section of those out on strike, were served with notices by the Ministry of Labour to return to work. They refused to do so, standing solidly with those still on strike. They were therefore summoned to court under the Defence of the Realm Act; where they were fined £10 each or, on failure to pay the fine by December 18th, they were liable to 49 days imprisonment.

The N.U.M.G.W. refused to pay or help to pay the fine, but unofficial workers' collections (amounting to £200) were sent in to the Bradford Road Branch Secretary.

The 36 men have blankly refused to pay the fine, or to have it paid for them. Despite the threat of imprisonment hanging over their heads they are all solid in their determination to fight the issue.

A special meeting was called for these 36 men and it was put to them by Bro. Moores if any worker wished to have the fine paid raise his hand. Not a hand was raised.

Following the wishes of the men, none of the fines, amounting to £360 had been paid by December 18th. On this day Bro. Moores appeared in court for the men and intimated that if the men were imprisoned, their fellow workers would be forced to come out on strike in their support. Even if

only one man was imprisoned the men were determined to come out.

This decision had been taken at a meeting of the men of the Bradford Road Gas Works. Mass meetings had also been held in other parts of the country.

As a result of this determined stand, the court decided to leave the cases of the 36 men over until after the Xmas and New Year holidays.

It is obvious from the action of the Government that they are more interested in crushing the workers' struggle than in the production of Gas. The Manchester Corporation refuse the just demand for time and one third, using soldiers to break the strike; and then are prepared to imprison 36 men, that is, half of the night shift. If a strike develops, the responsibility will be directly on the shoulders of the Government.

These are men who are not afraid to face attacks. For years they have suffered under terrible conditions, an inferno of heat and the deadly risk of three diseases, cancer, lung trouble, or gastric ulcers caused by the fumes of tar and coal gas. Poor pay—less than £4 a week. Bad hours—only 6 days holiday a year.

These conditions must be fought and altered through the Trade Union Movement and this struggle must be linked nationally through the formation of a Joint Gas Workers Committee.

These 36 men who are making such a courageous stand require the support and solidarity of the workers throughout Britain, and particularly that of the other Gas Works. Our brothers are in danger of imprisonment. Support can be shown by writing to Bro. Moores, 5, Elm Grove, Edge Lane, Droylesden.

Party Notes

NEWCASTLE

The widely advertised meeting addressed by Vansittart and chaired by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle was picketed by the Newcastle Branch of the R.C.P. and supporters on the 7th December. 25 copies of the "Socialist Appeal" were sold. "Down with Vansittartism... Long live International Socialism." "For a Socialist Germany in the Socialist United States of Europe." "Long live the workers of Germany... Down with Hitler, Vansittart and Capitalism" were some of the slogans shouted.

A joint meeting was arranged between the R.C.P. and the I.L.P. to demand Hands off the Greek Revolution, on Sunday 17th December. Dan Smith of the I.L.P. and Heaton Lee were the speakers.

At the Newcastle Police Court a special Tyneside Supplement of the "Socialist Appeal" was sold to the 700 workers who demonstrated outside the court. There was a good turnout of sellers and 300 Supplements were sold. One of the workers was so impressed by the article that he preceded one of the sellers through the crowd shouting "Read the only paper that has given you a true write-up, Brothers. This is the policy of the workers not that disgusting slip of pink paper that the Communist Party are distributing. You remember, Brothers, they (that is the Stalinists) were the party that scabbed on us during the Total-Time Strike in 1942."

(Continued from previous column)

Finally killing Old Tom, the coal-owners would try to rob his widow of a few shillings! The miners indignation was terrible to behold. Their representatives, Will Rees and J. Morris, protested with vigour against this callous action of the management.

On Friday a meeting of the hauliers was held in pit stables and it was decided that the East side of the pit would stop work in protest. But before the strike took place the management agreed to pay the other three-quarters of the shift. In fact, faced with the anger of the men, all the colliery officials concerned—Gow, the pit manager, Jones the under-manager, Thomas the owners' agent, and the firemen—all denied any knowledge of this callous deduction on the dead miner's pay ticket. Who then did deduct the wages? To us, comrades of the dead man, it is no mystery. A dead miner makes no profits and therefore under the present system his widow gets no pay—unless, as in this case, pressure from the miners forces a reversal of this normal and brutal capitalist policy.

The militant action of Tom's comrades in the Steer pit resulted in victory. Jack Jones, Gwauncae-Gurwen.

SHEFFIELD.

On Sunday, December 17th, a "Hands off Greece" meeting was held in Barkers Pool, Sheffield under the joint auspices of the Sheffield Branch of the I.L.P. and the Sheffield Branch of the R.C.P. In spite of the bad weather, the meeting was a great success. A good collection was taken and both parties sold plenty of literature. Questions asked centred principally round the Stalinist betrayal. A delegate meeting of all organisations is to be called with a view to a larger meeting on the subject early in the new year. Comrade Corford was chairman for the R.C.P. and Comrade Marples spoke on behalf of the I.L.P.

LONDON—ACTON STUDY CIRCLE

A series of lectures will be held at Acton Priory Schools, Priory Road, Acton, (nr. Acton Town Hall) on Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

- 10th January: Pre-War European Capitalism.
- 17th January: Europe Under Nazi Rule.
- 24th January: Resistance Movements in Europe.
- 31st January: Present Events in Europe and the Tasks of the British Working Class.



- BY TROTSKY
- WORLD REVOLUTION AND THE TASKS OF BRITISH WORKERS 6d.
- TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE 4th INTERNATIONAL 6d.
- TRADE UNIONS 1d.
- T.U.C. HELPS HITLER 1d.
- DOES RUSSIA'S ENTRY ALTER BRITAIN'S WAR? By A. Scott 2d.
- PREPARING FOR POWER (Thesis of British Trotskyists) 8d.
- A.B.C. OF TROTSKYISM 6d.
- Cannon's Testimony in U.S. Labour Trial 6d.
- THE ROAD TO INDIA'S FREEDOM by A. Scott and E. Grant 3d.
- THE C.P. AND THE WAR 1d. Look at their Record!

READ
The Death Agony of Capitalism AND THE TASKS OF THE WORKING CLASS by Leon Trotsky THE PROGRAMME OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL 6d.

Ode to the Labour Lefts

A heartening sight it is to see, Bevan, Buchanan and company, In the House of Commons they rise and yelp: "Soldiers and Pensioners need more help!" With eloquent phrases they urge and plead, For bigger sums for those in need. In moving terms they describe conditions—Starvation rates which defy definitions, And the picture they paint is so realistic, One may think these men are—Socialistic! But don't you see, such thoughts mislead, For there's a difference 'twixt word and deed. For to carry words to the point of action, Would undermine the whole foundation Of capitalist rights and property, Plus profits and inequality! "The time is not ripe," is always their bleat, And under this guise they lead to defeat, The workers into the hands of our rulers, These mis-called "leaders", these age-old foolers! The advice of these people is always the same, Never to struggle, hold back and be tame. Just wait for the time, and be patient and calm, And they will see that you'll come to no harm. In the meantime they'll fight for our rights and conditions, While you go ahead and just make the munitions! But what's the result—this division of labour Is seen by the boss with increased favour, His profits not touched—his life as before, And spending his money on luxuries galore! But what for the workers? What results can we say, The Essential Works Order and A(a), The Trades Disputes Act should not be omitted, When listing the number of crimes committed By our Labour "leaders" who speak with such 'might', Those radical words which cover their fright!

(A thousand apologies are due for the COMPLETELY ACCIDENTAL OMISSION of Mr. William Gallacher, M.P. from the above effort.) THE SPOILER.

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International. 256 HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2. Phone: CUN 2526. EDITOR: E. Grant. BUSINESS MANAGER: J. Graham.

EDITORIAL

1945 — Arms and the Class

For five years the masses of Europe have struggled against Nazi domination. By various means they have armed themselves to conduct what has been a ruthless struggle.

The very first act of the Allied "Liberators" and their Quislings, once the cheers had subsided a little, was to disarm the masses.

In Belgium and France the leaders of the Communist and Socialist parties assisted the Allied imperialists to carry out this reactionary act. Treachery to the working class! Under the slogan of "national unity" these misleaders agreed to the disarming of the partisans and their incorporation into the Regular armies, officered and controlled by the capitalist government and the capitalist class.

Meanwhile, the reactionary capitalists are encouraged by the imperialists to arm the thugs.

In Greece, also, the leaders of E.A.M. agreed to disarm the E.L.A.S. The masses refused to allow it and the leaders were forced unwillingly to carry out the armed defensive struggle against the British imperialists and their puppet—Papandreou.

Why this clash on the question of arms? The masses have had the experience of living under Nazi violence and military oppression; they have starved whilst the native capitalists lived well under the Nazis as Quislings and collaborators; they have fought the Nazis whilst their native rulers fraternised with the S.S.! Now that they are "freed", they want to sweep these Quislings away as well. That is why the clash over arms.

All Europe is seething with discontent and hatred of these capitalists who have so cynically betrayed the "national faith". All Europe is seething with a growing revolutionary mood. The toiling masses are stretching out their hands for power—workers power—as the sole means of ending the misery, starvation and horror which capitalism has brought upon them.

The imperialists know that the decision between the masses and their oppressors can only be finally solved by military means. In advance they are disarming the workers and peasants; in advance they arm the Monarchist-Capitalist reaction.

The masses cannot allow themselves to be disarmed by the imperialists and their reactionary puppets who are kept in power only at the point of the bayonet. They must not allow their leaders to make an agreement to disarm as in Belgium and in France.

The destruction of the Monarchist-Capitalist reaction and the election of a government freely expressing the will of the masses can only be won by the support of determined armed bodies of men.

Every socialist worker will support and fight for the right of E.L.A.S. and all genuine partisan forces to retain their arms. Against the dictates of Scobie, Plastiras and Damaskinos they will defend the E.A.M. But the masses need a Socialist Programme and mass socialist parties to fight for that programme. They need a policy which will ensure that the workers will control the militias and the arms and remain independent of the capitalist state.

Only the Parties of the Fourth International in Europe have such a programme and policy today. Only the Trotskyist parties call upon the workers to take power into their own hands.

It is not enough for the workers to be armed. Millions are in the Army—trained in the use of modern arms. But the central question is one of control.

With a correct socialist programme, workers, armed and officered under the control of their own organisations will ensure the defeat of reaction and the victory of the Socialist revolution. If control is left in the hands of the reaction the workers revolution will be drowned in blood.

Throughout Europe the need is for mass revolutionary parties and the creation of independent workers' militias. Everywhere, independently and out of the capitalist dominated Partisan armies, must be created militias of the working class. 1945 will see the commencement of a new epoch in the rise of Trotskyism in Europe as the mass parties of the working class.

NOW ON SALE!

GERMANY—The Key to the International Situation

By LEON TROTSKY. December, 1931. INTRODUCTION by TED GRANT. 6d.

ITALIAN TROTSKYISTS GAINING SUPPORT

MASSSES WANT SOVIETS

By ARTHUR ROBINSON

News from Italy of the most vital importance for the world labour movement was secured by "The Militant", organ of the American Trotskyists. This is contained in an eye-witness account of the white-hot revolutionary situation in Italy and the abysmal misery of the Italian masses under Allied domination. Above all, this report gives direct confirmation of the organisation and growth in numbers and influence of the Italian Trotskyists, adherents of the Fourth International. The writer of this first-hand report, published below, has many years standing in the socialist movement. This is the first complete account of developments in Italy to come from revolutionary socialist sources.

A year ago, when I visited Naples after the Allied armies had entered it, "Democracy" appeared to have conquered. Everywhere slogans were raised on banners, scrawled on walls, yelled in the streets. "Welcome to the Liberators," "Long live Roosevelt," "Long live Churchill." Now these signs are weather-beaten, aged, torn and are not replaced. New ideas, new banners, new slogans appear, and always to the left—"Long live Russia," "Long live Soviets," "Soviet Italy."

Since the arrival of the Anglo-American conquerors, the politicalisation of the Italian masses has been intensified. It is clear to all, the Allied armies are the government of Italy. Italy is an occupied country. The result—not "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear," but their opposite—lunger, devastation, slaughter, suppression of democratic rights, maintenance of the old capitalist-landlord-monarchist regime.

The most significant sign of the developing revolutionary situation in Italy, the greatest news I have to relate, is to confirm the rapid growth and increasing influence of the official Trotskyist movement, the Bolshevik-Leninist adherents of the Fourth International.

The new organisation, forged in the heat of the revolutionary flame blazing among the Italian masses, was recently formed in Naples from a fusion of the old Trotskyist cadre and sympathisers, including the writers of the Manifesto from Italy published in the October issue of "Workers' International News", a section of the dissidents from the Stalinist party, leftward moving elements from the Socialist Party and a group of former Bordighists. Their forces, to begin with, are already considerable. Trotskyist groups have also grown in Rome and other



cities in south Italy. From the north, the key industrial area still under the Nazi heel, I learned from unimpeachable sources of the increasing activity and influence of the Trotskyists in the traditional centre of proletarian revolution, Milan.

The new Trotskyist organisation has already issued one pamphlet and the first edition of its official paper, "L'Internazionale." On its first appearance, the entire edition of "L'Internazionale" was completely sold out from the news-stands in less than 24 hours. Like all publications which do not sanction the policies of the Allied conquerors and their puppet Italian government, the Trotskyist paper has been banned. It must be printed and distributed under incredible handicaps, among which is the need to secure all paper from the black market at the phenomenal price of 3 pence per sheet.

DEFEND 4th INTERNATIONAL

The first issue of "L'Internazionale" confirms the faith of the Trotskyists everywhere that the programme of the Fourth International would inevitably find its way to the revolutionary workers of Europe. The Italian Bolshevik-Leninists, through their paper, send greetings to their Trotskyist co-thinkers everywhere, proclaim their solidarity with the 18 imprisoned Trotskyists, call for the support of the Fourth International. Their paper contains articles on the situation in Italy, the nature of the war and the tasks of the Italian workers. It fully defends the programme of the Fourth International; against the imperialist war, for a socialist Italy as part of a socialist United States of Europe, for the defence of the Soviet Union, against Stalinism and its policies of deceit and treachery.

The Trotskyists of Italy are mainly workers, veterans of Mussolini's prisons, tried and tested in the harsh underground struggle against fascism. I talked with one Trotskyist worker from Rome, a hardened revolutionary fighter. It was from him I learned that there is a large Trotskyist group in Rome and also in Milan.

This worker had first met Trotskyists inside Mussolini's prisons, where he had been confined for 8 years. The prisons were veritable universities for revolutionary education. They had formed a Trotskyist group inside prison. From Milanese revolutionists in the same prison, my informant had learned that there were "hundreds" of Trotskyists in the industrial Milan area.

One of the most significant indications of the growing response to Trotskyism is the attractive power of the Bolshevik-Leninist programme for the youth. Already, a sizeable youth movement, under the banner of the Fourth International, has been formed. Its leading figure is a young woman militant.

The whole situation in Italy is revolutionary and we can predict with confidence that the Italian party of the Fourth International will take its position of leadership in the coming Italian and European revolutions. Its opportunities are enormous.

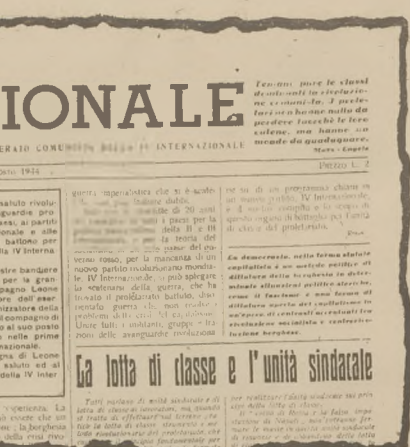
The Italian workers, remembering the slogans and ideas of a generation ago, want socialism, communism. It is but natural that they should turn first to that group they knew 25 years ago as the party of the October Revolution in Russia and the socialist revolution, the Communist Party. That is why one sees banners and sickles scrawled everywhere, and even the slogan "Long live Stalin."

But bitterly and in struggle, the Italian workers are learning that Stalinism is the mortal enemy of the programme of socialism. Today all parties in Italy, even the capitalist, are compelled to pay lip service to "socialism," "Christian Democrat," "Actionist," all have a "socialist" wing standing for "ultimate socialism." One can talk to most Italians today only as a socialist.

MASSSES WANT SOVIETS

I talked with a Partisan fighter who had come from the north. He said that the Partisans, mainly workers and poor peasants, want Soviets. It is now common talk among Partisans—they never call themselves "patriots" as the Allied and Stalinist press falsely title them—that "Tito has sold out. He compromised with the bourgeoisie, accepted their government." Their attitude to the Allied invaders is "get out and leave us to solve our own problems, including the problem of the Nazis."

The trade unions in Allied-occupied Italy are strong and popular, although



with industry devastated, strikes and demonstrations prohibited, it is difficult for them to function. The Stalinists, strongest party in Italy today, have an ever-increasing struggle to maintain domination within the unions. Opposition to the Stalinists is growing, and most significantly among those rank and file workers who still belong to the Communist Party.

The workers want bread, jobs, freedom of speech, press and assembly, an end to the fascists who have crawled back into leading positions and to the odious monarchy, a government of their own free choice. Almost immediately the workers in the Communist Party find themselves in opposition to the Stalinist leaders. They soon discover that Stalinism is the main prop among the masses for the hated puppet regime of Bonomi and the monarchy.

Within the Stalinist party, there is already a large group calling themselves the "Malcontents," standing in organised opposition to the official policies. This opposition has reached such proportions, that the leaders find it increasingly difficult to employ their old tactics of "frame-up, expulsion, isolation."

Within the other large workers' party, the Socialist Party, a struggle of major proportions is under way. The reformist leader, Pietro Nenni, in spite of heavy opposition, is co-operating very closely with the Stalinists. A bitter struggle against Nenni is now in progress, with organised opposition groups existing within the Socialist Party of Rome, Naples and Calabria, where most of the membership opposes Nenni.

Allied officers are wine and dined by the old monarchist and fascist scum, who are being maintained in or returned to their old posts. They have even formed a new party of extreme reaction, the Blue Party, with the tacit approval of the authorities and without opposition from the Stalinists.

Statement of the Central Committee Communist Workers' Party Italian Section of the Fourth International

The crisis of the Bonomi Ministry, even after its resignation, continues under the present political conditions which characterise not only Italy but the whole of warring Europe today.

Whatever may be the agreement for the formation of a new Government, the crisis will remain unsolved because these combinations of hybrid governments based upon the national bourgeois bloc with the participation of the Socialist and Communist Parties, show an absence of programme and principles, and within the framework of the present monarchial state are destined to failure.

We, as our Transitional Programme states, declare that in order to get out of such a situation it is necessary to leave to the bourgeois parties the full responsibility for governing and for the whole national and international policy or else to build a government of only the Socialist and Communist Parties, on their own programme, a government which will take over the full responsibility for a Ministry which must keep its promises to the workers without deceit and without delay.

The workers must not permit the formation of governments in which responsibility cannot be individualised.

The Bourgeois Parties must not be allowed to arm the reactionaries by means of the Ministries and to throw upon the shoulders of the Socialist and Communist Parties the responsibility for the aggravation of the crisis, the misery and the hunger; on the other hand the Socialist and Communist Parties must not be allowed to continue on their road of deceit and false promises whilst throwing on to the bourgeois parties responsibility for the common bankrupt policy of collaboration.

We must have a clear delimitation. It is necessary to finish with the double game of on the one hand,

Indeed, many fascists have found it ready haven in the Stalinist ranks, for that is the only party which accepts members without checking their former fascist connections. A Communist Party membership card, because the Allies consider Stalinists "safe," is an aid to getting a job.

TERRIBLE CONDITIONS

The conditions of the Italian workers have grown incredibly worse under Allied occupation. The people are literally starving, in spite of the promise engraved on all the inflationary Allied currency, "Freedom from Want." The only market for food and all other necessities, for all practical purposes, is the black market. Prices, already enormously inflated, have soared way above the wage scales, fixed by the Allies, of 65 lire (2/9d.) a day.

Babies and small children with the swollen bellies of malnutrition are the most common sight I witnessed. Men, women and children swarm around army mess lines with buckets, fighting for a few scraps of food. Riots are common around garbage dumps. Prostitution for a can of G.I. food appears almost normal practice. This winter will be appalling, for there is no fuel, no clothing, no shoes, and the homes where imperialist armies have passed, are rubble and roofless walls.

This is what the Italian workers are receiving after their heroic armed struggle to overthrow the fascist regime and oust the Nazis. I was in Naples immediately after the Allies marched in, and I can tell you it was the workers alone who drove out the Nazis, after nearly a week of bitter hand-to-hand fighting in the streets. The Allied troops moved in afterwards without, to my knowledge, firing a single shot or suffering a single casualty. The deceived people then turned the city over for abundant promises of food, "democracy," a "new" officialdom, and surrendered their arms.

Today, a year later, the masses are in tremendous revolutionary ferment. The detested monarchy has been jammed down their throats. Their freedom to meet and demonstrate is denied. No free elections have been held. They cannot even purchase newspapers from the paper control, for only those parties like the Stalinists and Nenni "socialists" which agree with the Allied conquerors and their puppet Bonomi government are permitted to issue publications. The Bonomi regime has not even the power of a rubber stamp, and less mass support.

Only the Trotskyist party offers a real solution to the problems of the Italian people. That is why the Trotskyists, joining hands with the revolutionary socialists everywhere in Europe, are destined to lead the great insurgent proletariat of Italy to their final emancipation.

class collaboration in the Ministries where reaction and the hunger of the workers are organised, and on the other of various charges and attacks in the Sessions and in the Committees against the "intangible" reaction.

The mass parties who have travelled the false road of collaboration and whose policy does not correspond to the most elementary interests of the workers would like today to preserve for themselves the power of the Committees of Liberation, now that the Bonomi Government has incurred such grave responsibility by opposing all solutions of the crisis. But these same Committees of National Liberation are composed in their turn of the same six Parties who strive for power and who are the background alongside of the fascist Monarchy of the whole bankrupt policy from 25th July 1943 up to today.

This policy has become completely bankrupt. Only by becoming organs of the masses and not blocs of the delegates of the six parties—four bourgeois and two Socialist and Communist—will the Committees of Liberation be able to build the organs of power of the toiling masses.

A government of the Socialist and Communist Parties is necessary because it would represent at this moment a necessary political clarification for the masses who still have faith in those parties.

If this experiment fails, if it gives the same results as would any bourgeois government—and we are sure that this will be the case—the working class would have made a step forward in the direction of revolutionary class struggle and against all collaboration.

LONG LIVE THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL — THE REVOLUTIONARY WORLD LEADERSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT.

THE CASE OF THE TYNE BOILERMAKERS

Official Statement made by the Shop Stewards Committee, Naval Yard to the Socialist Appeal (EXCLUSIVE)

This is one of the most important attacks that has been made on the workers in many years.

Unable to bring the workers to heel after a lock-out lasting 10 weeks the Employers, in collusion with the State have resorted to prosecutions in the capitalist courts in their efforts to break down the working conditions of the workers.

That this is fully understood by all workers on the Tyne, at least, is evidenced by the resolution calling for a one-day demonstration in support of their brothers who are being prosecuted.

The workers' argument that it is the employers who are responsible for sabotaging production by withdrawing the flame-plane machine which speeds up the work to a tremendous degree is perfectly logical.

The employers' refusal to employ the men on time rates, coupled to their refusal to honour the clauses of the E.W.O., which guarantees workers who are "available for work" a minimum of 47 hours, indicates that it is the employers who should be prosecuted, not the workers.

The whole labour movement must be united in support of these workers in the face of capitalist persecution initiated by a "labour leader".

It is a disgrace that people who speak in the name of the workers of Britain should be responsible for the despicable use of the capitalist state machine. Every day the tie-up between the big capitalists like Vickers Armstrong and the government becomes more and more obvious for all workers to see.

The break-up of the Coalition Government is long overdue. Demand that the Labour leaders break electoral and industrial truce and conduct a struggle in the interest of the workers, not against them.

HEATON LEE

"After the inquiry into the stoppage in Walker Naval Yard on Tuesday 12th December, 1944; presided over by Sir John Forster, with Bro. Patterson of the Boilermakers' Society, and Mr. Gebbie of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation, as assessors, it was obvious what the findings would be: The full responsibility for the continuation of the stoppage at Naval Yard was placed on the shoulders of the workers. As is usual the "impartial" commissioner found that the employers were blameless and exonerated them.

Armed with the findings of the inquiry, Mr. Ernest Bevin has moved into a frontal attack on the workers, 135 of whom have received telegrams instructing them to report for work on the morning of Wednesday, 20th December, failing which prosecution in the capitalist courts would be instituted against them.

Convinced of the justice of their cause, the workers have up to the present adopted a firm and determined but conciliatory attitude. Our recent leaflets show that we have attempted at all costs to localise the dispute "in the National Interest". We have received the wholehearted support of every Boilermaker throughout the country who have shown by their contributions to the maintenance of the 'strikers', as well as by proposals to end the 'strike' that they are solidly behind the Walker workers. Our most recent leaflet appeals to our brother trade unionists not to resort to strike action in our support, but "to stay at work and contribute weekly to the men at Walker". We point out that the bosses are making a test case of the dispute at Walker, and that if they succeed in forcing

the workers to their knees, it will have its repercussions on all Boilermakers throughout the country. Throughout the course of the 'strike', the workers have not only expressed their concern about the effect of the dispute on vital war production, but have put their concern into action by permitting one of their members (a key worker) to go out on ship trials on three separate occasions. They have throughout the dispute declared themselves prepared to work on a time basis; they have even gone so far as to propose at a joint meeting between the Ministry of Labour and representatives of the Shipbuilding Employers and of the men, "that a boilermaker be placed on the machine without prejudice, leaving the matter to be discussed after the completion of the War programme."

It is time that the bosses showed by their actions what sacrifices they are prepared to make, or what sacrifices they have made in settling the present dispute. They have offered to withdraw the machine (in fact they have withdrawn the machine, not at the outbreak of the 'strike', as the "Daily Express" reports but seven weeks after the start of the dispute) as a gesture of their 'preparedness' to conciliate. Hypocrites!!! If they were really concerned with completing the "urgent job on hand" they would not withdraw a machine which speeds up the work to a tremendous degree, they would install the others that they have available and put MEMBERS OF THE BOILERMAKERS SOCIETY to work on them at trade union rates. That Forster and Bevin accept this gesture of the bosses as a genuine conciliatory move, brands them as bosses agents, more concerned with capitalist integrity than "getting on with the job". We are not opposed to the introduction of machinery, but we insist that we will decide who operates them.

As is usual the gutter press of Lord Kemsley, which has the monopoly of news in Newcastle, is attempting to spread false rumours about the solidarity of the men in order to 'disorient' them. The "Evening Chronicle" of the 19th December reports that "there is not complete unanimity among the men", inferring that the men are divided about their attitude towards returning to work on the flame-plane machine. At a meeting held on Monday, 18th December, only two out of a total of 550 workers voted to return to work on the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Labour (read Employers). The Kemsley press has cleared the decks for action in a vicious press campaign against the workers at Naval Yard. No doubt they will find subversive elements, saboteurs, etc. etc. in the coming weeks, who are keeping the majority of workers out against their will, as they did in the case of the apprentices, of the dockers, the miners at Ashington... and now... the workers at Naval Yard.

Excellent support, both moral and financial, has been forthcoming from our brother trade unionists. The financial committee functions efficiently, all contributions have been acknowledged immediately, and balance sheets are submitted regularly to all branches. The funds are pooled and there are EQUAL disbursements to all 'strikers' irrespective of skill or sex. 11 women who are 'out' with the men, numerous dilutees, and skilled tradesmen all receive the same consideration.

The Committee's reply to the agreement advanced by the bosses that Boilermakers are traditionally piece-workers is as follows: In peace time if a boilermaker is instructed by the foreman to work on time rates, and he refuses to work on this basis, he is dismissed and disqualified by the bosses from drawing Unemployment Benefit for 6 weeks. Now when we ask to be employed at "time" rates the boss refuses to give us work to do, and what is more he refuses to pay us the Guaranteed Minimum to which we are entitled under the Essential Works Order.

This one-way operation of the Essential Works Order in the bosses' favour is now proverbial among workers. Thousands of workers have been imprisoned under it, but not a single boss. The dockers at the Quayside who were recently locked-out by the Docks Labour Corporation for two weeks have also been denied the Guaranteed Minimum. Sir John Forster who conducted the recent Inquiry told the workers' representatives that their claim for the Guaranteed Minimum would have to be decided by the Civil Courts. The workers are very grateful for your advice, Sir John, but you know very well that workers who have been living for the past 10 weeks on an average of 20/- per week cannot themselves afford the costly procedure of taking their case to a civil court. You know very well that the Executive who control the Union funds will

not support the men's case in court with the much-needed money.

Regulation 1A(a) makes it a penal offence for the "Socialist Appeal" to ask workers all over the country to subscribe to the maintenance of 'strikers', but it is not illegal to publish the Shop Stewards' request for workers throughout the country to contribute to a Special Fund they have instituted to make a Test Case of the bosses' refusal to pay the Guaranteed Minimum when a worker presents himself for time rates, and who is refused employment by the employers on this basis. All contributions to this fund should be clearly marked on the envelope "Guaranteed Minimum Test Case Fund" and addressed to:-

Bro. J. Arnott, Treasurer, 14, Corby Gardens, Walker, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

BREAK THE COALITION

Labour to Power!

on the following Programme

AN END TO THE COALITION WITH THE BOSSES. LABOUR AND TRADE UNION LEADERS MUST BREAK WITH THE CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT AND WAGE A CAMPAIGN FOR POWER ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME:-

Industrial and Economic Policy

1. Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry with just compensation, as the prerequisite for a planned economy and the only means of ensuring full employment with adequate standards of living for the workers, and the operation of the means of production under control of workers' committees.
2. Confiscation of all war profits, all company books to be open for trade union inspection, control of production through workers' committees to end the chaos and mismanagement.
3. Distribution of food, clothes and other consumer commodities under the control of committees of workers elected from the Co-ops, distributive trades, factories, housewives' committees, and small shopkeepers, and allocation of housing under the control of tenants' committees.
4. A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum; the rate for the job; and industrial rates for all members of the armed forces.

Democratic Demands

5. Repeal of the Essential Works Order, the Emergency Powers Act and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking legislation.
6. Full electoral and democratic rights for all persons from the age of 18 years. Full democratic and political rights for the men and women in uniform.
7. Immediate freedom and unconditional independence for India, Ireland and all the colonies of Britain; immediate withdrawal of British armed forces from these countries; full economic and military assistance to the Indian and colonial peoples to maintain their independence against all imperialist attack.

Military Policy

8. Clear out the reactionary, pro-fascist, and anti-labour officer caste in the armed forces and Home Guard; election of officers by the ranks.
9. Establishment of military schools by the Trade Unions at the expense of the state for the training of worker-officers; arming of the workers under the control of workers' committees elected in the factories, unions and in the streets for the defence of the democratic rights of the workers from reactionary attacks by the enemies of the working class at home and abroad.

International Policy

10. Against race hatred and discrimination of all forms (Vansittartism, Anti-Semitism, and the Colour Bar); for the fraternisation and co-operation of workers and soldiers of all countries.
11. Unconditional defence of the Soviet Union against all imperialist powers; despatch of arms, food and essential materials to the Soviet Union under the control of the Trade Unions and factory committees.
12. A Socialist appeal to the workers of Germany, Europe, Japan, and the rest of the world, on the basis of this programme in Britain, to join the socialist struggle against Nazism, Fascism and all forms of capitalist oppression and for a Socialist United States of Europe and a Federation of Asiatic Soviet Socialist Republics.

Tyne Boilermakers Summons Vickers

(Continued from page 1).

Bevin's intention to stampede the workers into submission has been thwarted. If the court had found the workers were one and all guilty of the offence of which they were charged, then Bevin would have been able to saddle the workers with responsibility for the stoppage. This appears to be his intention, to whitewash the employers and exonerate them from all responsibility. This cynical support for the big capitalists by a Labour Minister and a "Labour Leader" should now be clear for all to see. The defending solicitors have made it quite clear that they do not "intend that the men should be stamped into being dealt with by the present Minister of Labour, or any other Minister of Labour". The case will be reopened on Friday, 5th January.

The leaflet distributed by the C.P. is the most disgusting slip the workers on Tyne have ever seen. It begins by saying how "unfortunate it is that Mr. Bevin is prosecuting the workers. Tongue in cheek, they say that "The Communist Party is fully in support of the Walker Boilermakers and places no blame upon them for this stoppage of vital work." (How magnanimous, how condescending!) Then they proceed to show just how genuine their support of the workers' struggle is. Under the heading "What must be done", they

propose by suggesting that if fines are imposed on the workers should take collections in all yards to pay the fines. What does this mean if not that the workers admit that they are in the wrong, give up the struggle and go back to work defeated. They say "Martyrdom will not win better conditions". Cowards, rats! On what is the magnificent tradition of struggle of the British workers built if not on martyrdom and willingness to sacrifice? And if Mr. Bevin won't capitulate to the workers then the workers must capitulate to Mr. Bevin and the employers and "return to work on piece rates and collections to be taken in all yards to make up short pay packets. The vital needs of the war against Fascism make such action necessary". These Judases of the working class movement must be exposed, they have become the Fifth Column in the ranks of the working class. Even the Kemsley press realises and recognises the service these 'gentlemen' render the capitalists when it publishes in thick black type the advice given to the workers by the Stalinists.

Meanwhile the stoppage drags on into its twelfth week. The workers at Walker Naval Yard have spent a hungry Xmas and New Year but their spirits are as high as ever. They know that whatever the outcome of the trial they will continue to receive the magnificent support that was shown last Thursday by the Boilermakers of the Tyne.

COMPENSATION INSULT

(Continued from page 1.)

a week; a married man 30s.; and a married man with one child 34s. 6d."

ONUS OF PROOF

In the event of a dispute over the degree of disability the matter is immediately referred to a tribunal composed of an employer, a lawyer and a workers' representative. Their reactionary nature is well-known and seldom would a worker receive more than the support of one-third of the tribunal. Experiences of past (un-employment) tribunals in fact, moved Mr. Buchanan, M.P. to relate:-

"They used to bring their innocent victim in front of them and ask, 'Where were you looking for work on Monday?' 'The fellow would say, 'John Brown's.' 'Where on Monday afternoon?' 'Fairfield's.' 'And so on. Then the chairman would ask again, 'Where were you on Monday?' 'The poor fellow would forget and say 'Weir's' on Monday instead of Wednesday, and the court would say he was not genuine."

It is precisely on this point of proving that the worker is "genuine", that the most glaring injustice can be seen, for the question of proving that the accident arose "out of and during the course of the employment" is the first obstacle which must be overcome. In quoting the case of miners' silicosis, Mr. Williams, M.P. remarked:-

"...mortem examinations where the lungs were actually like fossils, but the dependants were not entitled to compensation because they could not prove that his work was in hard ground or if there was 40 per cent of silica in the rock. Sometimes the rock has had to be sent to a geologist to be analysed before the fact could be established that the dependants were entitled to compensation."

Consider too, the case of the miner who-

"may be kneeling in water, or having to lie down with his buttocks in water, or to haul coal in water. Because of these conditions, it is easy to have a number of men suffering from rheumatism. The same applies to men who are suffering from arthritis due to having to kneel in water."

These miners however, receive no compensation when ill, since it cannot be proved that they arose "out of and during the course of employment."

Thus, despite the wordy eloquence with which this scheme is being introduced, its basic character has not changed. The notorious onus of proof is still on the shoulders of the workers. The assessment of the degree of disability is still in the hands of reactionaries, and at the end of all this, the increases in the allowances do not even compensate for the cost-of-living increase. In fact, some Tories considered that these meagre suns may actually

be too generous, quoting the case of the agricultural labourer with wife and child, who earns £3 5s. a week when working—and who would receive £3 7. 6d. a week if 100 per cent disabled. The Tories always consider this as an example of capitalist generosity when in fact it is a condemnation of the existing wage rates.

Not only is a worker entitled to an adequate standard of living when injured or disabled, but is entitled to an extra allowance to pay for the necessary treatment etc. If a worker is he is justified in expecting the minimum of full maintenance. It is to this end, and through every Labour and Trade Union channel, that this struggle must be persistently fought.

XMAS TUBE STRIKE

(Continued from page 1.)

Trammen on the L.P.T.B. work a high proportion of Sundays, and as everyone knows, have always maintained an efficient service on all public holidays. Contrary to belief in some quarters, they do not get a compulsory

The L.P.T.B. workers have fought a week of their fortnight's annual leave and in 1944 were threatened with the curtailment of the remaining week.

It is pertinent to ask: How many of the high ranking fascist officials of the Board booked themselves "on" Christmas, and how many confined themselves to a week's annual leave?

The Xmas Day stoppage is but a preliminary skirmish of the battles to come.

Although there was no strike "official" or "unofficial" on the main lines, hundreds of workers "took" time off with all its resultant chaos. The younger generation of rail workers and the women war-time recruits are in revolt against perpetual motion. The absenteeism, high toll of sickness, weariness and all its attendant chaos on Britain's transport system cannot be resolved by "absentee" committees and lectures by the N.U.R. top bureaucrats. The solution lies in the nationalisation of the industry under workers' control.

programme of the N.U.R. with its proposals for shorter hours and increased pay. Although the new programme claims compensatory leave for almost all public holidays and demands double time for Christmas Days, Good Fridays and Sundays, it does not claim compensatory leave for such work. This defect must be remedied at the 1945 A.G.M.

Withdraw British Troops From Greece

(Continued from page 1)

But the Papandreou Government, which Churchill described as so representative and which he tried so desperately to save, has disappeared. A Regent has been set up and new negotiations have commenced. It is possible that a deal will be made with ELAS and E.A.M. As the "Times" has suggested, a Government similar to that of De Gaulle should be established. The whole policy of the Stalinist leadership of ELAS is based on the idea of a compromise with British imperialism. ELAS is asking for the disarmament of all the Greek forces—which leaves the control in the hands of British imperialism. This is the road of defeat and disaster. Power is in the hands of the workers and peasants of Greece, if they were conscious enough to grasp it; if the Stalinist party was a Leninist Party pursuing the policy of the seizure of power by the working class, we would have a Soviet Greece which would inflame the Balkans.

But the Stalinist bureaucracy has betrayed the Greek masses. Not only have they refused aid which they could easily have rendered since they are on the borders of Bulgaria, they have maintained a treacherous silence, thus serving the interests of the reactionaries. In return for Churchill's support in Poland, Stalin is prepared to support British reaction in Greece.

E.L.A.S. has been temporising. Instead of openly appealing to the workers of the world, and above all to the British workers, explaining the real aims of Churchill and the ruling class, they have toadied in their public statements to the British ruling class and Churchill. While not putting forward any socialist demands, they have appealed not for a Government of the E.A.M. which represents 90% of the population, but only for half and less of the seats in a new Government.

They demanded Damaskinos as regent, who when appointed promptly handed over the Government to General Plastiras, a notorious reactionary who has sworn enmity to E.A.M. and said he would leave Greece if their demands were granted. His claim to represent the new Greek

"democracy" is that he has twice been a military dictator in Greece! The last time for one day, after which he had to flee the country. So much for trust in Damaskinos and other "impartial" representatives of the capitalist class.

A compromise may be reached. E.L.A.S. has been trying to find a formula for capitulation all the time. But they fear the masses who might take things into their own hands. Already, before the conflict had begun, the Greek masses were in a revolutionary mood. Long before the war the Trotskyist Party had big support among the Greek workers and peasants. The "Economist" of August 5th, 1944, wrote:

"... It is interesting to note that a Russian military mission has now arrived in the Greek mountains. A report from Cairo says that its most probable objective is to draw into line the recalcitrant communists who now rule the E.A.M. detachments."

Whether this is really so cannot yet be ascertained, though it is known that M. Papandreou has had some support in the Middle East from Soviet representatives. 'Recalcitrant Communism' used to be pretty strong in Greece some years ago. Its spokesmen, who labelled themselves curiously as 'Archivo-Marxists', gave many headaches to the leaders of the Communist International in Moscow. Under the Maxatas regime the 'Archivo-Marxists' were wiped out by police repression; and it seems somewhat doubtful whether the same movement has now been able to re-emerge and to sway the Greek guerillas. But it is quite possible that some such unorthodox Communist tendency may have established itself among the 'men of the mountains' firmly enough to oppose the Lebanon Agreement and to reject any conciliation with the dynasty. If so then the Russian military mission in Greece will be confronted with a task which may be as much political and military.

The Mission has come to Greece with an increased moral and political prestige derived from the victories of Russian armies. This will probably strengthen its hands in laying the 'Trotskyist' ghost in the Epirus."

Although no news has come through the censorship, a report appeared in the provincial editions of the British press, which was suppressed in the later editions of the national press, that three prisoners interviewed by British journalists, two stated that they were Social Democrats, and one that he was a member of the Fourth International.

Our Greek comrades will be fighting for a revolutionary socialist policy as the only means of achieving victory for the working class.

OUR TASKS IN BRITAIN

News from reliable sources indicates that Churchill was compelled to undertake the manoeuvre of his Christmas flight to Greece because the Labour Ministers had told him that their position was becoming untenable in face of the overwhelming protests they had received from the organised Labour movement throughout the country. They said that unless the policy was modified, in view of the rising wave of protest, they would have no alternative but to leave the government.

But Churchill has not changed. He remains, as before, the implacable enemy of the workers.

This shameful behind the scenes negotiations with Churchill and the reactionary imperialists by the Labour leaders must be ended. The pressure of the workers has already rocked the coalition. A mighty movement to end the coalition would compel the Labour ministers to leave the Government and stay Churchill's claws from seizing the Greek workers by the throat.

Workers! Demand the withdrawal of the British troops from Greece! End the Coalition! For a Socialist Greece and a Socialist Britain!

