

SOCIALIST APPEAL

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MINERS MUST CONTROL



Out with the Capitalist Coal Board!

During the past few weeks the capitalist press has carried panic articles on the "coal crisis". Factories in Lancashire and in many other areas have threatened to close down because of the lack of fuel. The biggest of these organised panic campaigns was the threatened closure of the Austin motor factory. Subsequent facts showed that the factory had actually received its allocation of coal and had no need to close down!

It is not at all accidental that this capitalist scare campaign coincides with the taking over of the mines under the Labour Government's nationalisation scheme. It is clear to all that these campaigns have as their object to slander the miners and to discredit nationalisation.

As in the past, the capitalists try to place the responsibility for the present crisis onto the shoulders of the miners. Shinwell and Morrison have directly participated in this campaign by holding that "absenteeism" and "unofficial strikes" are responsible for the present situation. Horner and Lawther, who now "defend" the miners, also participated in this reactionary campaign. These same gentlemen, one of them a "National Production Officer," devoted their whole energies to campaigns for speeding up production, sabotage of strikes, and ways and means of increasing the sweat of the miners.

The facts, repeated in almost every paper, leave no doubt that absenteeism and unofficial strikes have nothing to do with the coal crisis. The coal crisis is a product of a century of plunder by the capitalists, whose only concern is profit. Absenteeism and strikes are themselves products of capitalism.

The nationalisation scheme of the Labour Government places the whole mining industry in the hands of the State, a capitalist State. No less than six members of the Coal Board, which is to manage the industry, are drawn from the top layers of the capitalist class. Nationally and in the pits themselves the same managers and directors will remain in power under nationalisation.

Already the miners of Whitburn colliery, South Shields, have expressed opposition to the maintenance of the capitalists in power. The "News Chronicle" (30/12/46) reports the Lodge Secretary as follows: "They are disappointed with the Coal Board personnel, and contend that in the main they are the men responsible for the chaotic conditions before nationalisation."

This is the essence of the problem. There can be no solution to the coal crisis and a betterment of the miners conditions so long as the capitalists remain in control. The present nationalisation, that is state-capitalism, can only increase output, pay dividends on state bonds and the huge sums of compensation, at the expense of the miners conditions, wages and safety.

Because they say that the members of the National Coal Board and the Northern Region Board are mainly representative of the owners, the miners at Whitburn Colliery have refused to take part in celebrating on New Year's Day the transfer of the pits to public ownership.

The miners of Whitburn have understood that the same managers under a different name will not solve the problem. If the pits are to be run in the interests of the miners and the working class then firm control must be in the hands of pit committees elected by the miners. That would be a real step in the direction of workers democracy, of socialism.

The miners have generally welcomed the taking over of the pits from the hands of the grasping coal-owners. It is indeed a step forward, but only in the sense of economic centralisation.

The miners and the working-class as a whole must conduct a struggle for workers' control of the mines, for the removal of the capitalist managers and directors, who for years have carried out the orders of the coal barons, for an end to the payment of compensation which places colossal burdens upon the miners, and for the immediate application of the miners' Charter.

CHARLIE DUKES BRINGS 'PRESTIGE' TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS

In the new honours list are several misleaders of the working class, titled for services rendered to... the ruling class. Among these is Lord "Charlie" Dukes, leader of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

"There doesn't seem much sense in covering up your name when it is fairly well known," said Dukes. "I think I shall just call myself Lord Dukes."

"There used to be a great deal of criticism of the House of Lords among Socialists. You never hear it nowadays. We have moved from the idea of abolishing the House of Lords. In the last quarter of a century the House of

Lords has restored its prestige." "Evening Standard", Jan. 1st. It may be true that one never heard a criticism of the House of Lords in the circles of Charles Dukes. This only goes to show how long it is since these leaders have mixed with the members of the working class. When the members of his union read about his promotion to the illustrious Upper House, Charlie should have heard the rude, but good old socialist remarks!

BEVINISM JUSTIFIED BY L.P. SECRETARY

Foreign Policy Discussion in Labour Party

BY J. HASTON

FOLLOWING ON THE HEELS OF THE LABOUR "REVOLT" IN PARLIAMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY, THE SPELTHORNE DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY HAS ISSUED A LETTER TO ALL DIVISIONAL PARTIES CRITICISING THE GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY AND PROPOSING THE OUTLINE OF AN ALTERNATIVE POLICY.

According to the "Daily Worker" nearly 40 replies have been received favourable to the Spelthorne letter. This is about 6 or 7 per cent. of the total number of Divisional Parties.

SPELTHORNE LETTER

This Spelthorne letter was made public by the "Daily Herald", of Dec. 17th, when Morgan Phillips, secretary of the Labour Party, devoted columns of space in reply to it. Phillips' reply is being circulated to all branches and organisations of the Labour Party as a printed folder. Thus both documents will be the subject of a widespread discussion in the next few weeks.

The Spelthorne circular is an exact replica of the current foreign policy advocated by the Stalinists in this country. "Tribune", the organ of the one-time Labour Lefts, commenting editorially on the Stalinist inspiration of the document, said that: "It bears no resemblance, either in content or purpose, to the Parliamentary

opposition against specific and debatable issues of the Government's foreign policy."

The Spelthorne document commences with a correct generalisation that capitalism gives rise to wars. Nevertheless it attempts to shift the responsibility for both world wars onto the shoulders of Germany by emphasising "the conditions created by the expansionist needs of German monopoly capital."

The document criticises the actions of the Labour Government in Greece, Spain, Egypt, Palestine, Indo-China, Indonesia and elsewhere, and corrects Phillips, who the Labour Government aids the reaction and opposes the progressive movement of the masses in various parts of the world. Exposing the tendency of the British Government to bloc with America against Russia, the letter argues that: "The Anglo-American bloc has turned U.S.O. into a political weapon against the position of the Soviet Union in world politics." This situation must "sooner or later" result in a new world war.

The solution to this situation is, according to the Spelthorne document, to adopt the alternative... "policy of genuine political and economic collaboration with the Soviet Union and the new democratic states in Europe." This would transform U.S.O. from a battleground of world politics into a real arena for the conduct of peace negotiations and thus the complete Stalinist line of the moment is elaborated.

Despite the kernel of truth contained in it, which is often to be found in Stalinist documents, this is a dangerous and indeed poisonous document, which if it gains support, can divert the attention of the workers who are generally critical of the foreign policy of the Labour leaders and who seek to change that policy.

It is much more likely to help the Labour leaders than to assist in crystallising a Left wing of opposition. Its false orientation gives ammunition to the Labour leaders and has been taken up by them as a welcome pretext and opportunity to wage a campaign against all dissidents on foreign policy within the Labour Party.

The weakest point in the Spelthorne document, at least that most easily subject to attack, is its blatant whitewash and support of Russia's foreign policy. It is precisely this weak spot that has been seized upon by Morgan Phillips to direct the discussion from the channels of socialist criticism to that of a comparison between Russia's foreign policy and that of Britain.

PHILLIPS' REPLY

Replying in the "Daily Herald", Morgan Phillips says: "While it is true that socialists believe that capitalist society contains tendencies which may lead to war they do not believe that only capitalism produces war." He proceeds to argue that capitalism is a fairly

modern phenomena and that wars have taken place throughout the history of man. He points to Russia's invasion of Finland and other countries prior to the outbreak of the present war and argues that "even a dictatorship of the proletariat can act first and justify itself afterwards."

It is difficult to imagine greater confusion being concentrated into a few paragraphs. Yet so degenerate have the theoreticians of Stalinism become, so often have they spread a number of the false ideas now put forward by Phillips and so false is their alternative line that they have not found the possibility of answering him two weeks later.

Dictatorship And Democracy

Phillips here falsely, and deliberately so, identifies the Stalinist dictatorship against the proletariat, as the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The "dictatorship of the proletariat" means nothing other than the rule of the working class. It means that the democracy of the country is a workers' democracy; that the state, industry and the workers' organisations control the machinery of government. This presupposes a more widespread democratic regime than exists in any capitalist country, where not only industry, but also the state are controlled by the capitalists, but also

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GREEK WOMEN APPEAL FOR AID

STOP DESPATCH OF ARMS TO GREECE.

THE U.N.O. SECURITY COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO SEND AN INVESTIGATING COMMISSION TO GREECE. THE FUNCTION OF THIS COMMISSION IS MOST LIKELY TO BE THE WHITE-WASHING OF THE BLOODY TSALDARIS ROYALIST REGIME AND TO JUSTIFY THE OCCUPATION OF GREECE BY 50,000 BRITISH TROOPS.

14,000 Politicals Deported

To Islands

Since the Stalinist dominated Left laid down their arms, the situation has steadily deteriorated for the workers.

It is reported that 14,000 politicals have now been sent to concentration camps on the famous penal islands. 400 are reported to be on the small island of Anathi. Half starved, with insufficient clothes and bedding, without fuel and short of water.

These are the islands to which the bloody Dictator, Metaxas, exiled workers-militants during his reign. The Royalist reaction continues to strengthen its control of all the commanding positions. Soldiers are recruited on the basis of personal invitations, and "enemies of the nation" are not invited.

Anti-Royalist Conspirators

Dismissed

Vourliardis, Greek Under-Secretary for War replied to questions from the press on the dismissal of conspirators from the army. Anti-Royalist conspirators from Crete who presented themselves at Corinthus, were stated to have been dismissed as superfluous, as were three-quarters of the conspirators who went to Missolonghi, and 90 per cent. of those in Thaidari, Athens.

Court martials are functioning uninterruptedly, condemning to death civilians as well as troops. Many of the latter having been accused of fraternisation with the "rebels". In the first week of December, 25 death sentences were pronounced and more than 100 condemnations to life imprisonment, as well as other heavy penal sentences.

12 Republican soldiers, including one officer and two civilians, were sentenced to death by court martial on the 5th December alone.

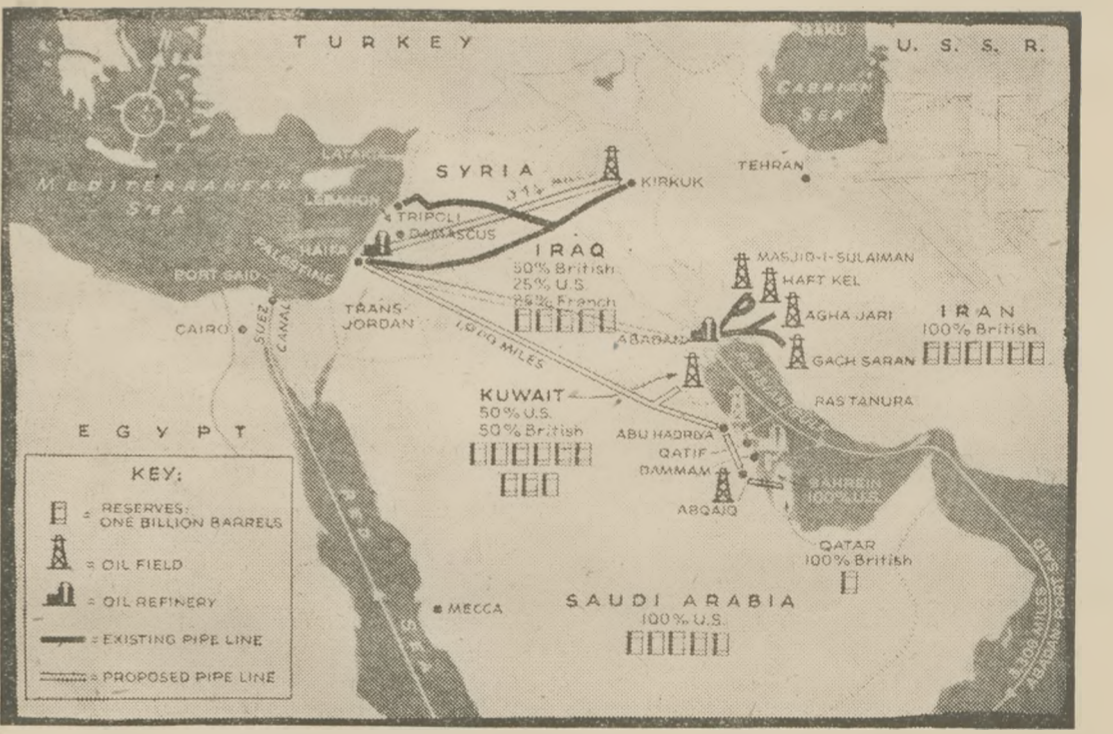
British Chiefs Summoned

Meanwhile, British military chiefs were among those summoned to a National Defence Council on the 10th of December, held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Premier, General Gonnatas, which undoubtedly discussed the Royalist strategy against the militants who had taken up arms and gone to the mountains as in the heroic days of the Nazi occupation.

Women members of the Greek Resistance have issued an appeal to British women to oppose any re-equipping of Greek Military forces. "It is untrue to say that your sons are in Greece to ensure order," they say. "The British occupation is in support of Fascism and is aimed at civil strife. Prevent any new bloodshed between our children!"

Stars British arms have sent to Greece. Force the Labour and Trade Union leaders to reverse their reactionary policy which helps the Greek reaction.

THE CENTRE OF OIL IMPERIALISM



World Struggle for Oil

U.S. to Extend Influence in Middle East

BY T. CLIFF

THE ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL CO. HAS ANNOUNCED AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF CRUDE OIL TO THE STANDARD OIL CO. OF NEW JERSEY AND THE SOCONY VACUUM OIL CO. FOR A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS.

Vast Resources in Middle East

The oil reserves of the Middle East are tremendous. Although until now less than 150 "wildcat" wells have been drilled in the whole Middle East in order to tap its reserves, in the U.S.A. more than twenty times this number are drilled every year. But it is already clear that the Middle East reserves are at least comparable with those of the U.S.A.

According to the reports prepared by experts of the United States Government Petroleum Administration for War (P.A.W.), the Middle East has 30.7 per cent. of the total proven oil resources of the world, while U.S.A. has 39.6,

U.S.S.R. 11.3, Venezuela 11, Netherlands East Indies 18, Mexico 1.2, Columbia 1, and Romania 0.8.

The great resources of the Middle East have hardly been touched. This region, so rich in reserves of oil, produces only 5.7% of world output (1943), while U.S.A. produces 66.1 per cent. The output of Middle East oil wells is thus only 0.7 per cent. of the proven oil resources in the region, while U.S.A. output is 6.3 per cent. of its proven oil resources. Other estimates rate the richness of the Middle East countries in oil even higher. According to one, the oil resources in Saudi Arabia alone could satisfy the total world demand for 15 years. The quantity of oil in Iraq or Iran is estimated

to be no less than that in Saudi Arabia. E. de Golyer, the noted oil expert, in a report prepared for the United States Petroleum Resources Corporation stated: "The centre of gravity of world oil is shifting from the Mexican Gulf and Caribbean area to the Middle East-Persian Gulf area and is likely to continue to shift until it is firmly established in that area."

Imperialist Interests

The position of the various imperialist Powers differs as regards control of oil in the Middle East. The Oilfields of Iran are in the hands of the British alone. The attempts of the U.S.A. to acquire a concession over oil in Northern Iran have failed, owing to Russian

opposition. The fields of Saudi Arabia in the Persian Gulf, and Bahrain, are in American hands. The U.S.A. has also got exploratory leases for areas in Egypt. France has no company of her own, independently active in the field of oil output in the Middle East, but a French Company is a partner of the Iraq Petroleum Co. In the Iraq Petroleum Co., two British groups — Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. and D'Arey Exploration Co.— own 47 1/2 per cent. of the shares, an American Company—Standard Oil Co.—23 1/2 per cent., and a French Company—Compagnie Francaise de Petroles—23 1/2 per cent.; the other 5 per cent. belongs to a rich Armenian who owns the fields. The Iraq Petroleum Co. has

concessions in parts of the Arabian Peninsula, including the whole length of the Red Sea coast; and also in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. The concession over Kuwait belongs half to the Anglo-Iranian Co. and half to the Gulf Exploration Co., subsidiary to the Gulf Oil Corporation of the U.S.A.

Britain Held Decisive Position

Until now, with the oil wells of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain not developed, England has had a decisive position in the production of oil in the Middle East, as may be seen from the following figures of the distribution of oil production in the Middle East among the

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Stop the Forces Victimisations!

BY G. NOZEDA
 A series of court-martials has commenced at Tel-el-Kebir, in the Middle East. 10 soldiers are under arrest charged in connection with the demonstrations and protest strikes which took place there in November against the decision of the Labour Government to slow down the demob programme.

DEMOB
 The arbitrary arrests of a handful of the militants who took part in the protests and demonstrations has further angered the troops. The soldiers know full well that this attempt to frame a few of their fellows as the "ringleaders" is being made by the officer-caste in order to stifle the justified discontent in the armed forces at the demob slow-down. Their solidarity with the arrested militants is expressed by all the troops overseas and a Defence Fund in their aid is being collected. At one R.A.F. station in India, 400 rupees (£30) was collected in half an hour. "The only ones who didn't contribute..." said the Sergeant in charge of the collection, "were the lads who were broke."

Allegations have been made, and not denied, that the 10 victimised soldiers have been threatened in the usual gendarme-manner of the military officers investigating. They were threatened, each one separately, that "unless they made a statement on their part in the demonstrations, they would get 10 years imprisonment." Similar protests against the Labour Government's demob policy has been made by B.A.O.R. troops in Germany. A British soldier is now awaiting court-martial there on a charge of "fomenting discontent among the troops by distributing pamphlets." The charge arises out of the circulation among the troops there of a mass petition protesting against the demob delay and demanding that the Labour Government reverse its policy and speeds up demob.

Appeal To A.E.U.
 Former members of the A.E.U. are responsible for the petition, which is expected to be signed by 10,000 troops. This petition appeals to the A.E.U. to take up these demands of the soldier-conscripts and put pressure on the Labour Government to speed-up demob. "Every conscript," states the petition, "has one ambition, to get out—and get home for good." These words sum up the feelings of

FRENCH WAR ON INDO-CHINA

By Charles Van Gelderen

Role of Socialists and Stalinists

ONLY A FEW MONTHS AFTER THE FRENCH MINISTER FOR THE COLONIES, MARIUS MOUTET, CONCLUDED THE AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH RECOGNISING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE VIET NAM REPUBLIC, THE FRENCH IMPERIALISTS HAVE LAUNCHED A BLOODY ATTACK ON THE YOUNG STATE.

By this act of imperialist brigandage, the Blum "all socialist" Government is demonstrating to the French ruling class that it is as capable of carrying out the traditional policies of colonial conquest and exploitation as any of its predecessors.

The ostensible excuse for the attack is the refusal of the Viet Nam Government to allow the French to control the customs at Haiphong. This would have been a sharp contradiction to the terms of the French-Viet Nam Agreement and would have been a pistol pointing straight at the heart of Viet Nam economy. In actual fact, French imperialism is fighting to maintain its strangle-hold on this, the richest of the French colonies. Behind the demand for customs control lies the determination of the Bank of Indo-China to retain its monopoly control of the economic and financial life of the country.

The Bank of Indo-China
 The Bank of Indo-China is closely connected with all the big financial houses of France and has the most intimate relations with every reactionary movement in that country. Before the war it was one of the principal contributors to the funds of the Cagoulaurs (French hooded fascists). During the occupation its Director-General, Paul Baudouin, was Minister of Propaganda in the Vichy Government. Since 1945 it has actively assisted the arming of the Spanish Royalists and today it gives financial aid to the D.G.E.R., the Gaullist Gestapo. Through the intermediary of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, with which it is associated, the Bank of Indo-China is connected with the M.R.P., through Andre Delray. This explains why, in 1945, the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of Indo-China.

Economic Monopoly
 It completely dominates the economic life of Indo-China. It has the monopoly for issuing money and the control of transport, mines, and the metal industry, rubber, electricity and distilling is in its hands. Through its monopoly control, the Bank of Indo-China has been able to put an effective brake on the development of the productive forces in the country.

A Record Of Bloody Repression
 The record of French imperialism in Indo-China is one of bloody repression and vicious economic exploitation. Since the "liberation" over a year ago, 100,000 Viet Namese have been massacred and hundreds of thousands gaoled and interned. 8,500 French soldiers have lost their lives and over 50 milliard francs have been

squandered in the cause of French Finance Capital. In his pamphlet, "In Defence Of The Colonial Revolution," Ajit Roy gives the following description of some of the measures taken to suppress the mass uprising in Cochim, Annam and Tongking in 1930:
 "Men and women were arrested in masses and tortured were extensively applied... the tortures used included starvation, beating, pins driven under the nails, half-hanging, pinners in the temple (to force the eyes out), and a number of others that are not printable. One of these was 'with a razor blade, to cut the skin of the legs in long furrows, to fill the wound with cotton and then to burn the cotton.'"



With such refined and "civilized" methods the rulers of France try to maintain their hold over the colony.

HAMBURG NOTES

By a British Soldier

THE FOOD QUESTION
 One of the consequences of the lively correspondence that has been taking place in the British Press recently about the German food question has been the publication of one or two letters enlarging on the trials and tribulations of the British housewife.

Most of these, it is obvious, did not emanate from working-class housewives, who, as far as I know, have very little time for writing to the Press, but from that peculiar type of upper middle class moron who sears herself silly in print about the awful possibility of being starved to death by a vindictive Labour Government. The German food shortage is a myth according to these ignorant people, and the British housewife is going through almost as much as the German.

To what depths of stupidity can the human mind sink when it is corroded with the national philistinism so carefully inculcated by that creation of the Kemsley Press, the British Housewives' League! Most people in England see the German food situation only through the medium of figures. The ration calories per day; and cuts in the ration scale publicised in the same manner. In an effort to show what the Control Commission is doing, the British ration is compared with the German, but again in terms of calorific content—a comparison which demonstrates precisely nothing. What is a calorie? Or fifteen hundred calories? The figures register in the mind; but the imagination is untouched. Nobody who has not tried to live on it can possibly visualise what the present ration in Germany means, in terms of human want and human suffering.

DEMAND ACTION Against Franco

As the result of a resolution passed at the United Nations Assembly, the British Government has withdrawn its Ambassador from Spain.

This action follows the demand from the T.U.C. that all relations with Franco Spain should be broken off.

This platonic gesture has been undertaken because of the discontent of the British and world working class at the continued support by Anglo-American imperialism of the bloody totalitarian regime of Franco in Spain. But in itself, while commercial relations between Britain, Spain and other countries are continued and even intensified, it cannot help in any way the struggle of the Spanish workers and peasants to overthrow the dictatorial regime of Franco. Foreign trade between Spain and Britain has increased during the last year thus helping Franco to temporarily prop up his shaky regime.

Despite the fact that Spain was not directly involved in the imperialist war and devastated as were other European countries the conditions of the masses is almost the same as that of a defeated country.

The position in Spain has been colourfully described in an article in the "Daily Telegraph" of December 5th by John Ridley and we make no apology for extensively quoting him. He writes:

Dying Of Starvation
 "You see on the fashionable Gran Via in Madrid, among the sleek, well-fed people and luxurious women, boys and girls stretching out their hands to snatch a biscuit, a piece of sugar, or a few crumbs from the cafe tables. Go into the country areas, and particularly down South in Andalusia, and you find men, women and children literally dying of starvation. Queues of hungry mothers with their half-naked, famished children clinging to their skirts wait for the meagre plate of lentils or beans doled out to them by relief organisations. Families of decent working people live like animals in caves and holes in the ground."

Opulent Restaurants
 "Yet on the other side of the picture one finds opulent restaurants and hotels which serve meals of the rarest foods and wines, and magnificent shops where you can buy all the clothes and luxury goods you could possibly require. But all these are at a price, and that price is far beyond the means of 9% of the people.

"The real ruler of modern Spain is the black market. Everything is governed by it. Since the legal

Hamburg Worker Faints from Starvation
 PAINTING MAN had collapsed when he came out of Hamburg factory for air. In a fortnight he had fainted three times. In one day 30 workers collapsed from hunger.



PAINTING MAN had collapsed when he came out of Hamburg factory for air. In a fortnight he had fainted three times. In one day 30 workers collapsed from hunger.

Frau F—s monthly ration of meat.
 Frau F— gets about 8 pounds of potatoes a month, but she has to stand in long queues to get them and she never knows from day to day whether the food on her ration card will be available or not. Sometimes it is. More often, particularly during the last few weeks, what she has been able to get has been far below what her card entitled her to.

The Queues...
 And the queues here in Germany! It is impossible to see them without feeling the sense of hopeless desperation that fills the minds of the grey-faced men and women who stand there for hours and hours, waiting for the miserable rations that a dog would turn his nose away from in England.

ration is so pitifully inadequate it has to be augmented by the meat, olive oil, bread and eggs that are now almost the monopoly of the black marketeers.
 30s. A Week
 "The average weekly wage of a skilled worker is 30s. A meal in a moderate restaurant costs 16s., and in a good restaurant at least £2. A loaf of bread on the black market costs 4s. 6d., a pint of olive oil, the people's only fat about 24s., and rice, another staple food, from 6s. to 7s. a lb. One egg costs 1s. 3d. Flat rents are high, and the cost of clothing, though unrationed, is exorbitant.
 "The only way a Spanish workman can earn enough to keep himself and his family from starving is by having two jobs and continuing to work after his official eight-hour day is finished. This is not so easy now, as despite official figures, there is increasing unemployment. Nor has the tremendous rise in the cost of living ever been met by a corresponding rise in wages...
 "Today General Franco is exceptionally unpopular. If it were possible to have a free election and the people could vote for or against him, there would be a 95% ballot against him..."

The Budget
 "The Army... and it must be remembered that Spain has been at peace for more than 7 and a half years and possesses hardly any modern equipment—absorbs 22% of the general Budget. The Ministry of the Interior, whose responsibility includes the maintenance of civil order, takes 10.8%. In striking contrast the Ministry of Agriculture, in a predominantly agrarian country, is allotted a mere 0.9%, while the Ministry of Education, on which one might reasonably suppose the future of Spain depends, receives only 4%..."

Officers Well Treated— 2s. A Week For Privates
 "Franco is first and foremost an army man, and rightly realising that his precarious power depends on the Army for its life blood, he treats the Army well. An Army officer or n.c.o. eats well and is superbly uniformed and well housed. He gets good pay and, better still, draws unlimited rations—a large proportion of which is sold on the black market—from the Economata Militar, a sort of Spanish equivalent to N.A.A.F.I.
 "On the other hand, the ordinary private soldier is paid 2s. a week, and is badly housed, badly fed and badly dressed in filthy and often verminous barracks."

"Thus one finds these are often a productive field for the efforts of the underground movement, who flood most barracks with clandestine newspapers, and although the penalty for a soldier being found with a copy is death they are widely read.
 "Travelling round Spain, as I have done during the past five months, one might quite reasonably imagine that the country was at war. Everything is on a war basis, with mass movements of troops and all the fantastic display of a totalitarian State—gandy uniforms, brightly polished jack-boots, police armed with automatic rifles and revolvers, extreme poverty and extreme riches."

Fear If Franco Goes
 It is on this background portrayed by Ridley, that the manoeuvres of the Imperialists in regard to Spain must be considered. They wish to save the Franco regime but are desperately seeking some alternative to substitute for him in the event that the pressure of the masses should threaten to culminate in revolution in Spain. That is why they are holding in reserve the possibility of the restoration of the monarchy at a suitable moment. If they are hesitating at the present time it is because they fear that the removal of Franco from the top would unleash the pent-up feeling of the masses in revolutionary upheaval from the bottom. So as long as possible, they wish to prop up the tottering Franco regime.

Strikes have already broken out among the heroic workers of Barcelona, who began the revolution in 1936 as a reply to the counter-revolutionary uprising of the Army Generals; and in other towns in Catalonia. In these strikes the workers risk the firing squads and the concentration camps in which hundreds of thousands of the flower of the Spanish workers are still held under incredibly vile conditions.

Workers' Parties For Capitalist Republic
 The old workers organisations who were responsible for the disastrous defeat of the working class in the civil war, are coming forward with the demand for the restoration of the status quo as it existed before the Franco regime, i.e. for the capitalist republic.
 Some sections of the Socialists have even been negotiating with the Monarchist reaction in order to win the support of Anglo-American imperialism for the ousting of Franco. This they hope will reconcile the imperialists to the change, as the Monarchy would

The Royal Train

On February 1st the King and Queen accompanied by their two daughters, will be sailing to South Africa in H.M.S. "Vanguard". In the Birmingham works of the Metropolitan-Cammell Carriage and Wagon Company, precious labour, steel and timber, which could have been used to greater advantage in building houses for the people who need them so desperately, have gone into the making of eight special railway coaches which have been described as "the last word in elegance and luxury."

There are separate coaches for the King and Queen and the two Princesses. The material and furnishings which have gone into each would provide one or two working class families with more comfort than they have ever dreamt of. What working class home can compare with the following description of the King's suite?

The King's Suite
 "It comprises a small study and a spacious stateroom with an adjoining bedroom. The stateroom walls are veneered with figured English chestnut, with skirting and mouldings in English walnut. A built-in wardrobe is finished in the same manner. The furniture is in English walnut with handles in sycamore. There is a tub easy chair, and a fitment at the bedside has a drawer, cupboard and space for books, and on top stands a telephone. The floor is covered with a hand-made beige carpet and the windows have art-silk curtains and pelmets, not curtains and silk spring roller blinds. Near at hand is a workman for the King's valet, bedroom for the Queen, and another for the King's physician."
 The rest of the train is furnished in the same sumptuous style. No expense has been spared to create this epitome of elegance.

How The People Live
 It is illuminating to compare this palace on wheels in which the royal parasites will travel about South Africa with the living conditions of the vast majority of the South African people. In Durban according to a report made to the Union Housing Board in 1935, "30,000 non-Europeans, nearly half of whom were Natives, were living in primitive, insanitary shacks." In East London, "20,000 non-Europeans were living in peculiarly insanitary conditions out

This They Will Not See

Of all this the royal tourists will see very little. They will be dined, wine and feted by the big shots of the white minority and will only be permitted a glimpse of the more "picturesque" aspect of native life. As they turn in their comfortable beds at night, they will give not a thought to the millions of black workers whose toil and suffering help to make their parasitic existence possible. This wanton display of ostentatious luxury in the midst of the direst poverty demands the strongest protest from the Labour movement both here and in South Africa. If the King and his family want to travel about South Africa let them travel as the Africans have to, in third class carriages, with hard seats, and no washing facilities or food service.

