



ORGAN OF THE WEMBLEY LABOUR LEAGUES OF YOUTH

No. 18.

JUNE

1952

Price 1½d.

EDITORIAL

WEST GERMAN REARMAMENT

As all reports agree, the plan to rearm Western Germany is opposed by the vast majority of the German people. (What was all that about the German "military mind"?) It is ironical that the "defenders of democracy" were afraid to wait for elections in the Western Zone, and were forced to juggle through the signing of the Contractual Agreement with indecent haste. Thus they have ruled out, almost entirely, the possibility of a peaceful settlement of Germany's problems.

The N.E.C. statement on Germany is to be welcomed as a step in the right direction - away from a bipartisan foreign policy. Apart from the fact that it does not go far enough, its main weakness is that it is three years too late!

DENATIONALISATION OF TRANSPORT.

The fact that Sir Ralph Glyn, Tory M.P. and former G.W.R. director has seen fit to condemn the Government's intended denationalisation of haulage is very significant. When even Tory M.P.s are forced to attack their party's policy, we can be sure that something is very wrong. This ignorant, short-sighted plan will bring back even more chaotic conditions than existed before nationalisation.

If we are to have an efficient and economic transport system in this highly industrialised country, it must be nationally co-ordinated. Let the speculators and Conservative Party be quite clear on this point, The Labour Party intends to have a publicly owned, integrated transport system in this country.

* * *

In response to numerous requests, we give below details of -

D.C. THOMPSON'S PUBLICATIONS

- DAILY: Courier and Advertiser; Evening Telegraph and Post.
WEEKLY: Adventure; Beano Comic; Dandy Comic; Family Star; Hotspur; Magic Comic; My Weekly; People's Friend; People's Journal; Red Letter; Red Star Weekly; Rover; Secrets and Flame; Skipper; Sporting Post; Sunday Post; Weekly News; Weekly Welcome; Wizard.

YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT

YOUTH

Recently Wembley North Labour League of Youth, formed a discussion group to find out the problems of youth in employment, and below is a summary of this report. Local Engineering firms were consulted and also the Employment Officer, assisted in our research.

per we
have t
in ind
Union

"We found that in the Wembley area, working conditions and availability are more favourable than in other areas because of its recent development. Although there is a demand for young girls in local industry, the shorter hours and more amenable conditions of office work attract them, whereas boys of this age prefer factory work, believing this offers better opportunities for advancement.

H
as a s
people
adult
the wh
correc
really
reason
class
It is
possib
which

It was found that many boys consider that the jobs they take before entering the Armed Forces, are a temporary stop-gap and having completed their National Service, they are faced with the problem of seeking new employment or going back to the insecure "dead-end" jobs. They look upon the period between school and the Forces as an absolute waste and feel that efforts to progress are futile. This results in the virtual loss of three of a boy's most formative years.

Generally parents encourage boys to accept apprenticeships, being under the impression, that in this way the boy will learn a skilled trade and eventually earn a higher wage. Parents sign indentures agreeing to the boy being an apprentice for a number of years, the minimum of which is five. During this period he will receive a wage which, despite annual increases, is still well below that of the lowest paid worker. Often the apprentice becomes proficient after three or four years and is often doing a skilled job while receiving a much lower wage than a workman with him doing identical jobs. Thus unscrupulous employers can and do, use the apprentices as cheap labour. Many examples of this were found, especially in the Building Trade, where apprentices who were supposed to be learning from a skilled workman, were in fact being used to do the "donkey-work". A further injustice brought to light, was the fact that apprenticeship schemes for boys who normally leave school at 15, commence at 16, thus the boy is forced to waste a year in the factory doing general errands.

The b
holid
Atom
napal
again
hear
capit
There
give

Apprentices are usually expected to attend Evening classes on three or four evenings per week, or some firms provide instruction one day per week. Members felt that as any additional education was ultimately in the interest of the employers, these practices should be more general. Also firms sometimes pay the fees and expenses incurred through evening study, but too often however, apprentices are expected to pay these themselves and to provide and repair their own equipment and it was felt that this was grossly unjust. Moreover, employers often take advantage of the hold they have over apprentices for the five year period, by prohibiting Union activity and participation in strikes. They are therefore separated from their fellow workers and are in an even more vulnerable position than they would otherwise have been.

right
who
ther
the
them
can

Girls in clerical work who wish to make any progress, would be expected to attend an evening institute for at least three evenings

Gove
prin
but
must
from
that
bett

YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT (Cont.)

per week. The girl who chooses the shop assistant type of job, will have to work longer hours, most of this time on her feet. Conditions in individual shops and offices are often poor owing to weak Union organisation.

Having discussed the facts before it, the group found that Youth as a section of Society was exploited, and that by under paying young people, employers could undermine the conditions and wage rate of adult workers. Thus, it was felt that it was in the interest of the whole working class, that young workers should be paid a wage rate corresponding to the work they undertake. If the League of Youth is really to represent working class youth, it must lead the fight for reasonable working conditions and the "rate for the job". Working class youth can only make its voice heard through the League of Youth. It is therefore, our duty to discuss youth problems as fully as is possible and to formulate these demands into a Youth Charter for which we as an organisation can fight."

BERtha NEWBERY

* * *

SPRING AND ALL THAT

"Ah, the Spring when every young man's fancy turns" - to what? The beautiful English countryside in May, the glorious weather, holidays to come or perhaps he just thinks of the world we live in, Atom bombs, germ warfare, bigger Armies with better weapons, like napalm. Many people in high places raise their voices in protest against the use of the napalm bomb on civilians. A pity we don't hear their voices raised just a little louder in protest against all capitalist war. Is it any worse to die from weapon A than weapon B? There are several million souls no longer with us, who probably could give us a scientific answer.

There is a popular saying that could be paraphrased as "I'm all right Jack", but let us remember that for every Jack in the world who is all right, with sufficient to eat, to wear and a place to live, there are two more who are starving and disease ridden. We have the choice of helping our fellow humans or they are going to help themselves. We can help them by establishing Socialism here, or we can join 50 European Armies and try, unsuccessfully, to stop them.

Probably, within a few short years we will have another Labour Government. We must ensure that our Party adopts truly Socialistic principles, so that when we come to power there will be no question, but that we shall apply them. Anti-Pory votes are not enough, we must have a positive Socialist policy that will win positive support from the majority of our electorate. It is ridiculous to assert that every poverty-stricken peasant who is fighting for something better for his family is a Kremlin agent. As Socialists we can and

(cont.)

SPRING AND ALL THAT. (Cont.)

must help them. We will soon have the opportunity, let us use it.

Ah, you say, it's a lovely time of the year, there are other things in life besides politics. Quite true. There are also other things in political life besides sponsored candidates and 'bus stops.

R. FRENCH, TOKYINGTON WARD

* * *

THE TAFF VALE JUDGEMENT

Early on the morning of August 24th, 1900, a train was approaching Cardiff station from London, with over 100 members of the "Free Labour Association", a professional blackleg organisation, to break a strike on the Taff Vale Railway - a small line running north from Cardiff. Cardiff station was full of pre-warned strike pickets. Only twenty-eight of the blacklegs left the train and they went to the strike H.Q. and after the facts had been given to them, they all took single tickets back to London. On the surface, the strike was of no great importance, the Company employing less than 1,000 men. The executive of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants (now the N.U.R.) agreed to support the strikers financially.

Deprived of the "service" of the blacklegs, the General Manager, Mr. Beaseley, conceived the idea of applying to the courts for damages against the Union for persuading the men to break their contracts. The Company's lawyers told him there was no future in such a case. They told him that the Trade Union Act of 1871 (Liberal Government Act) made Unions legal, and having no corporate existence, they could neither sue nor be sued in a court of law, and for these reasons the proposed was out of the question.

At the first hearing of the case, the court gave judgement in favour of the employer, but a court of appeal reversed the decision, and found in favour of the Union, pointing out that the Act of 1871 prevented such cases. However, Beaseley appealed to the House of Lords, who declared that the union could be sued for damages, and awarded £23,000 to the company, making a total cost to the Union of £41,000. In addition, Lord Chief "Justice" Halsbury went out of his way to inform any employer (who read the newspapers) that any Union could be sued for damages as a result of actions taken by its representatives in a strike.

It is estimated that this "judgement" cost various unions over £200,000 in damages and costs. When the Taff Vale judgement took place, the Labour Party had only 41 affiliated Unions and a total membership of 375,000. Two years later, it had 127 affiliated Unions and over 860,000 members.

GORDON D. FOYNER

RITA'S COLUMN.

There seems to be very little to write about this month apart from the elections which are a long way back anyhow and therefore old news and the inevitable socials at which the usual people did the usual things.

Although the elections are way back, the results were such that I think a little bragging about them would be permitted. It was grand to hear of three Labour gains in the Borough of Wembley and it was three labour gains in spite of what others may say to the contrary, for we gained a seat which was originally ours, but which was lost in the last but one election (phew!) We can only hope that this big swing will continue and congratulate those who succeeded in the last one and equally those whose constituency was too hard a nut to crack.

The inevitable social which I mentioned earlier took place at the Kingsbury Swimming Pool. After a period of nearly a year Wembley North decided to run another dance. The usual palava about when and where it should take place arose, as well as all the other little bits that go to make these affairs a success (or failure).

May 17th arrived, the girls having a wonderful time under Bertha's direction, making the refreshments. We hope that nobody is still feeling ill. Anyway thanks Bertha for the work done. The Restaurant at the Kingsbury Swimming Pool is a really ideal setting for a social evening with a fairly large floor and this, complete with the music of Harry Cross and his band contributed to making the evening quite a success. The two Johns had everything organised as far as the dance was concerned and Percy Gibson was his usual funny (???) self and as M.C., made the dance go with a swing. Despite the soft music and moonlit waters it is regretted that no one felt sufficiently romantic as to get themselves engaged so there are no announcements in this connection. We were pleased to welcome old and new friends. In particular Councillor Bernard Lewis, Councillor Deborah Jones and County Councillor Trevor Clark and Mrs. Clark. We were also glad to see Miss Betty Turner Secretary of Alperton Ward, Mr. Howard, Secretary of Bee Green and Mr. John Palmer, Secretary of the Edgware A.E.U.

Time marches on for many people. It is certainly marching on for Monty who reaches his --th birthday on May 29th. Monty insists that I should not reveal his age, but I think everyone knows that Monty has only another year or so to go before applying for the old age pension. Anyway Happy Birthday? Monty.

An engagement which I know you will all be glad to hear about and which has just come to my ears, is that of John Bull and Doreen Smith. Congratulations John and Doreen.

MAY DAY '52 - "OR THE RAINS CAME"

May 5th

DO YOU SUFFER RHEUMATICS? - WET FEET? - OR COLDS IN THE HEAD? -
YOU DON'T!! TRY OUR MAY DAY RALLIES - YOU WILL!!!

Dear Comrades,

Yesterday was a howibbly day - a miserable day - but abub
all our own May Day. As I write from the heaven of a mustard
bath, I shall always remember, led by one agent (complete with
'bus ticket long enough to sign a fares protest), seven or eight stalwarts,
who joined with others under the staunch banner of the Wembley Co-op,
Party and the urgent call of Mr. Poyner for the "Workers of the World
to unite", marching from Soap Box Corner via London's shopping centre.
(Never did so many men learn there were so many shoe or dress shops
en route.)

We joined Horatio and that other master of the 18th Century mind-
Brother Deekin, who like Nelson turned a blind eye on an audience
that looked like drowned rats - (but then, were they not to be addressed
by King Rat himself.) However, our Arthur will be pleased to know
that among the "obviously organised Communistic element" (Mr. D.) - this
included Leaguers and active Party members, who showed their feelings
in no uncertain manner - he had a modern Lady Hamilton complete with
brandishing broolly, whose hero-worship was rather isolated, in the
crowded, though wet, Square.

However, to a speaker. Dr. Edith, who offered her own brand of
Free Health Service, to all present to be administered in the presence
of her 'hubby' behind the plinth (I thought only boxers needed seconds
in attendance) and went on to tell how the "Tory Government legislated
in a vacuum and they went to the House bewildered and removed from the
people." What did they know of progress, with their record of slums
and stagnation in education - she queried? Following her receiving
appropriate ovations, came Mr. Percy Daines, Co-op M.P. and Roy Jackson
with the usual platform line for Youth, on behalf of the I.L.O.Y.
Then and then only came Mr. D. This I am sure was some "obviously
organised brainwork." But on the other hand it may have been in due
fairness to other speakers who had to be heard - that he wasn't in
the forefront.

However, to the strident shouts of "Good Old Arthur", from Lady H.
by this time very wet looking, the stalwarts dispersed leaving Horatio
looking down on the motley multitude gathered around the deity of the
of the T.U.C.

An eye-wash account by your rowing reporter
"SPLOSH"

Editor - Miss C. Morris

Published by Miss B. Newbery, and members of the League of Youth

The articles are the personal opinions of the writers and not necessa-
rily the opinions of the Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board welcomes articles, etc. and these must reach
55, Ormesby Way, Kenton, by the 25th June, 1952.