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TWOPENCE.

MILLIONS STARVE IN BRITISH INDIA

MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE DYING IN THE STREETS OF CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY. WALTER BRIGGS OF B.U.P. CABLED THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN CALCUTTA AND BENGAL MAY BE DEAD BEFORE THE NEXT HARVEST.

"IN A SUNRISE WALK I FOUND DEAD PEOPLE ON THE PAVEMENTS BY THE DOZENS. . . AT LEAST 150 PEOPLE ARE DYING EVERY DAY IN THE CITY ALONE, I WAS TOLD BY WELL-INFORMED PEOPLE—DYING FROM STARVATION AND ITS ACCOMPANYING DISEASES SUCH AS CHOLERA AND DYSENTERY."

How serious the famine has become, can be seen from "Calcutta Statesman", which reports that more than 1,200 bodies were disposed of in the city during the last six weeks, and more than 3,500 cases of starvation in the four weeks ending September 16th. During the three days from September 17th to the 20th, 585 persons were taken to hospital, of which 166 died. This in the city of Calcutta alone, and the famine is raging in Bengal, Travencore and Cochin. What is most outstanding is that it is the poor, the masses of the workers and peasants alone, who suffer. Walter Briggs writes:

"I saw 3 and 4 year old children digging into the rat-pillaged food scraps from overturned dust-bins. I saw ageless women turn hopeless eyes towards me, too weak even to beg. Round the corner an orchestra was playing "Sweet Sue", and one dinner—and there were seventeen courses on the menu."

Here is revealed the glories of the British Empire—the rich sating them-

BY ROSE CARSON

masses will refuse a loaf of bread. The real reasons for the famine are **hoarding, high prices and inefficient distribution.** In other words the capitalists and landlords are responsible for the famine which is caused by the lust for profit.

Owing to the lack of a genuine rationing system, and the lack of imported rice from Siam and Burma, the big farmers, financiers and speculators are hoarding wheat, rice and other staple foods of the Indian people, so that they will profit by a further rise in prices. Most of the available food has been pushed onto the Black Market by these profiteers, and sold at prices completely out of the reach of the masses.

Between September 1941 and May 1943, the price of controlled wheat rose by 211 per cent. Prohibitive prices, wheat and rice are unobtainable. Appeals by liberals and charity organisations to the administration for aid to avert the horrible crisis, have failed and have

surely it has the power to take measures to put them into effect. It can deal with the starving people with machine-guns and bullets, but to deal with hoarders the masses are asked to believe, they have no power!

But nothing these miserable apologists for British misrule can say, will hide the true facts. The imperialists have attempted to shelve responsibility for the calamity, by blaming it on the

Continued on back page.

20 SCOTTISH PITS

STRIKE AGAINST THE
The action of the police in arresting and jailing 12 miners for non-payment of fines has infuriated the whole of Lanarkshire. The Cardowan pit, miners by stating they are being used by anti-war elements. This is simply the new line used by the C.P. to disrupt by lies and slander the ranks of the trade union movement.

BARROW WORKERS VICTORIOUS

By Jimmy Deane

10,000 ENGINEERING, ELECTRICAL AND ALLIED TRADES WORKERS OF VICKERS-ARMSTRONG LTD., BARROW-IN-FURNESS, HAVE RETURNED TO WORK SOLID AND VICTORIOUS AFTER 18 DAYS STRIKE.

BY THEIR SOLID DETERMINATION, UNDER THE CAPABLE MILITANT LEADERSHIP OF THE STRIKE COMMITTEE, THE BARROW WORKERS HAVE FORCED THE ENTIRE CAPITALIST CLASS, WITH THE AID OF THE TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP, TO HOLD BACK TEMPORARILY THEIR ONSLAUGHT AGAINST THE WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF THE WORKERS.

That the workers were victorious is clearly shown by the fact that they have now won increases ranging from 3s. 4½d. to 33s. The National Tribunal Award gave no increase to the time-and-half men and only gave a miserable increase to the lower paid workers. Even the consolidation of this Award for the purpose of earned bonus would only have granted an average increase of 7/- for the higher paid workers.

Although it is true that the workers have not won their original demands, they have gained definite concessions, a lasting unity in their ranks, and have taught one of the biggest armament combines a lesson that they will never forget.

The workers have pledged themselves to come out again if there is any legal or illegal victimisation of leaders.

Although I met and spoke to hundreds of workers, not one opposed the strike. Not only among the workers, but among every section of the community—white-collar workers, shop-assistants, shop-keepers, sailors and soldiers—there was no opposition to, or criticism of the strikers. The lies of the *Daily Worker* and the C.P. strike-breaking leaflets to picture a situation of growing doubts and splits in the ranks were smashed to pieces by the almost unanimous vote of 6,000 workers, against 20, in favour of continuing the strike until their demands were met, despite the recommendation of their Strike Committee

(who had the full confidence of the men) that they should return.

Out of 10,000 men and women strikers, only a handful scabbed. All the gates were picketed by the strikers, and rather than use physical violence the strikers played a "war of nerves" on the blacklegs.... One persistent blackleg was picketed by 2,000 workers, who lined the streets from the Ship-yard to his home. The blackleg was marched through the streets with police protection, and although he wasn't touched physically, he must have had the most terrifying experience in his life. No wonder he went home "ill" that afternoon!

Another mass picket was organised for another persistent scab. Two members of the Strike Committee formed a guard and marched this blackleg along the streets crowded with angry strikers. Even the bus conductress put the blackleg off the bus. He too failed to appear for work the next day.

At intervals the Strike Committee published a "Roll of Greatest Dishonour" which contained the names of the 7 or 8 who blacklegged. People who were not participating in the strike were very hostile to the blacklegs and did everything to make their miserable life unbearable.

Probably the most hostile section of the workers to the blacklegs and strike-breakers were the women, who would have torn the scabs, together with strike-breaker Devine, in pieces, had it not been the policy of the Strike Committee to conduct peaceful, but none-the-less effective, picketing. The role of the women strikers was very important, and places the whole development and role of women in industry on an entirely different plane. They played a part equal to the men in this struggle and revealed a solidarity and determination that

the part of the union officials and the bosses to split the male and female workers, the ranks held solid.

As reported in the last issue of the "Socialist Appeal" the demand of the strikers was that the National Arbitration Tribunal Award 326, which transferred 20/- from the bonus to the basic rate, increasing the latter to 66/-, should be consolidated for the purpose of all bonus earned. This would have meant an increase of 3/- to 7/- for all workers on the "premium bonus" system. Although this Award was made in March of this year and was binding upon all firms represented by the Employers' Federation. Vickers-Armstrong did not even implement the published interpretation of the Award despite the fact that it gave no increase in wages to the workers. The rates of wages in Vickers-Armstrong are amongst the lowest in the country. The basic rate for engineers has remained the same for 29 years, at 46/- for a 47 hour week....The "premium bonus" system has been in operation for 40 years. The local A.E.U. Council of Action collected 600 pay slips over a period of several weeks, and after all deductions the average wages were shown to be £2 12s. 6d. These conditions, together with the provocation by the firm and the cowardice of the union leadership, forced the workers to call a halt and conduct a determined struggle for their demands.

For six months the workers, through their trade unions, tried to negotiate a settlement. Every possible channel of negotiation, both Governmental and trade union, was utilised in an endeavour to get the implementation of this Award. During this period, both the trade union bureaucrats and the Ministry of Labour officials, knowing full well the critical situation, ignored the demands of the workers. Even when 7,000 engineering workers struck

ITALIAN WORKERS

I saw ageless women turn hopeless eyes towards me, too weak even to beg. Round the corner an orchestra was playing "Sweet Sue" and one of the women was eating a dinner — and there were seventeen courses on the menu."

Here is revealed the glories of the British Empire—the rich satiating themselves with 17-course dinners, the poor dying on the streets in the hundreds for want of a handful of rice. The sheer callousness of the wealthy who amuse themselves with sumptuous entertainment, while the poor are dying like flies on the streets can be likened to the behaviour of the nobles in the rotting feudal society of France in the years before the French revolution. The masses gave their reply in the uprising of 1789.

The anger of the Indian masses is rising. Processions are being held, putting forward the demand for food. And the reply of the "democratic" British government is bullets. In Jammu 7 people were killed and 9 injured when the Kashmir State police fired on the demonstrators.

THE CAUSE OF THE FAMINE

The worst aspect of this terrible situation, is the fact that the primary cause of the famine is **not an actual food shortage**. Even the capitalist press has admitted that there is no shortage of wheat. And no one will maintain that the starving Indian

Between September 1941 and May 1943, the price of controlled wheat rose by 234 per cent. prohibitive prices, wheat and rice are unobtainable. Appeals by liberals and charity organisations to the administration for aid to avert the horrible crisis, have failed and have been answered by the usual evasions. Sir Azizal Haque, Government spokesman in New Delhi, states:

"It was not in the interests of the country as a whole that judgment should be passed now, on the question as to who were the hoarders and as to why the government plans were obstructed."

There is only one section of people who can hoard large quantities of rice and wheat: **the Big Landlords, and Financiers and the speculators**. They alone have access to food.

It is these people who are responsible for any obstruction of government plans (if indeed they had any plans), because of desire for increased profits. These people must be branded as the criminals directly responsible for the deaths of thousands of men, women and children. Sir Azizul Haque is lying when he says "it is not in the interests of the country as a whole" to apportion blame. To hide the truth is and can only serve the interests of these profiteers.

And if the Government had plans,

20 SOUTH WISH PITS STRIKE AGAIN

The action of the police in arresting and jailing 12 miners for non-payment of fines has infuriated the whole of Lanarkshire. The Cardowan pit, Stepps, near Glasgow, where these workers are employed, struck work solid to a man on Thursday morning, 23rd September. Sympathy is so widespread in the surrounding areas that on Wednesday 29th September, around 20 pits had stopped work. About 12,000 miners are on strike.

The union leaders of the Lanarkshire Miners union have condemned the stoppages and are actively trying to get the miners back to work. Mr. J. McKendrick, President, L.M.U., and foremost Stalinists along with Abe Moffat, President of the Scottish Miners Union, an executive member of the Scottish C.P. are trying to confuse the strike issue by blaming it on a troublesome minority. The capitalist press are making headlines of the statements of these two, and a united attack is being made to demoralise the

miners by stating they are being used by anti-war elements. This is simply the new line used by the C.P. to disrupt by lies and slander the ranks of the trade union movement.

The fines were inflicted upon the Cardowan miners on July last. 34 workers were fined for taking part in a strike in May. Only 6 paid their fine and it is a likelihood that the remaining number of the miners will also be put in jail.

The first arrest took place on Wednesday night, 22nd September and by Wednesday 29th September, 12 had been imprisoned. Hundreds of miners assembled outside Hamilton police station on the Wednesday morning to show their solidarity to these fine militant and courageous miners as they were being taken to Barlinnie prison.

It is notable that one of the pits that struck work in sympathy, Dumbreck Colliery, Stirlingshire, had won in September, for the third successive time, the County shield for the highest coal output. Lord Trapprain, Regional Coal Controller presented them with a union jack and at the present moment it is flying over the pithead.

A mass meeting of miners is to be held in Hamilton on Thursday 30th September, to form strike committees in all the collieries affected and it is likely a strike bulletin will be issued to counteract the lies and slanders of the capitalist press to organise the strike on a firmer basis. Solidarity is being sought from the engineering and other trades. The strike now extends over a radius of 40 miles and pickets have been formed to go to other areas and seek the support of other pits.

Workers! Join with the Lanarkshire miners in demanding an end to the vicious Essential Works Order.

Demand the release of the Cardowan miners and all other workers who are imprisoned under this imposition.

industry on an entirely different plane. They played a part equal to the men in this struggle and revealed a solidarity and determination that would not have been possible otherwise.

ITALIAN WORKERS HAD CONTROL

Events in Italy have moved to a tragic climax for the workers' and peasants' revolution. The occupation of the greater part of the country by the troops of the Nazis, and the other parts by the Allies, has for the time being, paralysed the social revolution, which had reached a ripe stage of development within a few weeks of its commencement.

The Stalinists and Labour leaders have maintained a conspiracy of silence as to the meaning of events in the Italian peninsula. Nowhere have they explained the meaning of the heroic steps taken by the Italian working class. The formation of Soviets, of workers' Militia in the industrial cities of Northern Italy; and in the last few days before the surrender of Badoglio to the Allies, the establishment of workers' control in Italy.

The information that Badoglio had signed an agreement with the leaders of the Trade Unions and Workers' Committees, was published in their press without comment. What preceded this agreement was not explained to the working class. But it is quite clear from the press, despite the severe censorship, that when Mussolini fell, the big capitalists in Italy fled as rapidly as they could to Spain and to Switzerland. The workers already had direct control of many plants; they had blown open the safes and started to investigate the profiteering of the boss class and their fascist gangster protectors. It was this factor alone:

that the workers had control, that forced Badoglio to "sign an agreement" and give it the appearance of the granting of a concession.

But this was not all: the press also reported that there was to be a "government investigation into the fortunes of the fascist politicians." Again, this was presented as if the Badoglio government was to make real investigations into the racketeering of the fascist bosses. **But the facts are that the workers had already started the process.** By smashing up the fascist offices; by raiding the homes of the leading fascists and taking the initiative into their own hands, the workers had commenced the investigations. It was the workers who discovered the stores of loot and food; it was the workers who exposed the graft and corruption. Badoglio gave it a legal form, only to take the movement out of the hands of the workers and cover up as best possible, the real ramifications of the graft and corruption, which undoubtedly reached up to the King and a large number of the new brand of Italian "democrats" who have decided to become Quislings for the U.S. and British Imperialists.

So strong was the movement among the workers that the Badoglio government was compelled to legalise the factory committees, which, in great part supervised and regulated the workings of the factories and had control over the books and accounts of the factories to check the real profits being made by the capitalists. All these were the first stages to the taking of complete power by the working class.

It is this movement of the masses which the ruling class of Italy and of the Allies regarded with dread and hatred. It was fear of the revolution which had caused Badoglio and the King to remove Mussolini, whom they had supported and aided. Having calculated that Germany would be defeated, the Italian capitalists, financiers and landowners sold out to "democratic" imperialism in the confident knowledge that they would be protected from the revenge of the masses, by the bayonets of Anglo-American imperialism.

But the events of the last few weeks have another significance. More than 6 weeks after the fall of Mussolini, the capitulation of Italy was announced. Yet the Germans were enabled to occupy the greater part of the country within a few days. Badoglio had been negotiating secretly for terms for weeks. Had the masses been organised for resistance the Nazis could never have taken over with such ease. Despite the heroic resistance of the workers in the industrial cities of the North,

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They Are Dying of Hunger—in British India



These people are dying of hunger. They are not German slaves in Greece. They are citizens of the British Empire in India. These pictures were taken from the famous Calcutta newspaper "The Statesman" and they show men and women—one clasping a baby—collapsed and dying for want of food—in the streets of the city.



Reproduced

"Sunday

Pictorial"

Sept. 26th, 1943.

SHIPWRIGHTS DEMAND LIVING WAGE

FROM OUR GLASGOW
CORRESPONDENT —

For the first time since the last war the Clydeside shipwrights have struck work in a body. 4,000 to 5,000 workers were idle at noon on 20th September, involving 22 yards.

The strike first developed in the lower reaches of the Clyde on 26th August, when 200 shipwrights struck work for 2 days in support of a demand for 'piece work', with a guaranteed minimum of time and a third. Obtaining no satisfaction, they again stopped work on 2nd September, and set up a strike committee. The strike spread throughout the Clyde, and at a mass meeting of members of the Shipconstructors and Shipwrights Association at the Partick Burgh Hall, on the 19th September, a unanimous decision was taken to cease work at noon the next day in support of their comrades' demands.

The decision to strike, was, according to a trade union official, deplorable and the press was informed that the strike was taken in defiance of the officials.

For 9 months the shipwrights have been attempting to obtain a wage settlement without progress. The two schemes which they have put before the employers had been rejected.

In the lower reaches (Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock), yards were picketed. The authorities attempted to intervene, and intimidate the strikers by summoning them to appear in batches at the Police Station for questioning. It is widely stated that one of the questions asked was: "Don't you know that this strike is illegal and has not the sanction of the union?"

The shipwrights suffer severely with a low time rate of £4. 7. 6. By the very nature of their job they are required to work out in the open, and a period of bad weather knocks down this amount still lower. As workers are dependant on Sunday work to get a living wage, a rainy Sunday is a disaster to the outside worker. In the winter, nearly every week this out the usual lies of the capitalist class by stating the strike was the work of "irresponsible elements".

ure of the Stalinists to efficiently handle this job. The paper of big business in Glasgow, the "Glasgow Herald" actually sent a reporter to interview the officials of the Stalinist controlled National Council of Shop Stewards and ask their attitude towards the shipwrights' dispute.

The official view of the National Council of Shop Stewards in reply to the question of the reporter, was stated in the "Glasgow Herald" to be "non-committal". Imagine a shop stewards organisation which claims to lead the workers being non-committal in a struggle between the workers and reactionary employers!

The demand for a minimum rate of time and a third is a good one. The workers from the Blythswood Yard report that they have been on "piece work", but could only earn 1d. per hour extra.

In Greenock, the management of Scott's tried to set the workers against the men on strike by stating that unless the strike was over in 4 days he would shut the yard. The workers were locked out on the following Sunday and although nearly 800 forced their way onto the job through a side door, the boss had the power switched off to prevent them from working. This manager will not be prosecuted for holding up production or taken to the Police Station for questioning, such a practice is only reserved for the working class.

The apprentices fully supported the strike and the Joiners, belonging to the A.S.W. came out in solidarity.

The refusal of the employers to grant a Central Conference to discuss the wage issue, was radically changed as the strike went on. On the understanding that such a conference was proposed for the coming Monday, the shop stewards at their meeting on 22nd September, accepted a motion by 32 votes to 25 to return to work. At a mass meeting the next day the motion was accepted.

The miserable role played by the union leaders in opposing the strike should be properly understood by the membership. The reformist leadership in the trade unions are utterly incapable of entering into any sharp struggle with the employing class. The rise in the amount of unofficial strikes testify clearly to the failure of the reformists in the Government. It is vital that the labour and trade union organisations be freed from such a false policy.

CLYDE SHIPBUILDERS SEETHING WITH DISCONTENT

Prefabrication in shipping is penetrating into the Clyde shipyards. But the workers are not benefiting from this technical advance in ship construction. Instead the employers are raking off the cream and in actual fact the wages and conditions of shipyard workers are rapidly deteriorating.

The new method of work has made price lists completely obsolete. The fight for new ones by the workers is being sabotaged by the employers, who are trying to force down the rate for the job. With the solid backing of the Government and the acquiescence of the union leadership, shipyard owners feel really confident in squeezing every ounce of labour from the employees at the lowest possible wages.

For 3 years the riveters have been attempting to get a suitable agreement from the employers. At the last conference at Carlisle there was "failure to agree", and the job was referred back to the areas. The price list on which the riveters have to operate, dates back to 1926. (The caulkers was fixed in 1928). As the riveter is paid for so much per hundred, the present replacement of riveting by mass welding reduces the amount of work which he is required to do. It is said that the earnings of riveters over the past 7 years have gone down 30 per cent.

At the time of writing the riveters of Fairfields yard are on strike. They have been out over a fortnight. The workers are demanding £1. 0. 10 for a 100 rivets instead of the 1926 price of 11/3 per 100. The apprentices are out in support of their mates. The yard manager is quite brazen, and refuses to allow the riveters to negotiate a price for a job. For 3 weeks the workers asked for a conference and were ignored. Yet in a local agreement made between the Clyde Shipbuilders Association and Union representatives, clause 3 definitely states that where necessary arrangements on the price for jobs be made in each yard, as the work arises.

The management's attitude has been taken to the extreme. There are varying prices for sterns and bulkheads: when a stern of a ship is made on the ground he calls it a bulkhead, and instead of a riveter receiving 11/3 per hundred, the worker is required to do week due to the lack of a decent wage. Drillers are seeking a 10 per cent increase in pay. Hole-borers and platers are fighting against encroachments on

"your resolution noted" to "the matter is being attended to," etc. Realising that it was necessary to push the claim now for the 3/- an hour minimum, the militant workers of the lower reaches of the Clyde declared a half day strike, and in a demonstration numbering 1,500 union members from Gourock, Greenock and Port Glasgow, they marched through the town and held a meeting at the Port Glasgow town hall. Men and women workers comprising riveters, welders, caulkers, sheet iron workers, drillers etc., all took part.

On Monday, 20th September, the workers from the upper reaches (Glasgow) stopped work as a token strike for half a day and went to a mass meeting at North Hanover Street. A deputation of 3 Shop Stewards had been appointed to visit the Union Executive and urge them to take up the agitation for the minimum wage. Councillor Doherty (L.P.) one of the deputation put forward a fine, clear-cut working class case. The union leadership have expressed in advance a cynical outlook on this demand, and like their fellow bureaucrats of the A.E.U. who held up their hands in horror when the engineering workers asked for a 10/- weekly increase, they have stated in advance that the 3/- per hour rate is impossible to achieve. With such a statement the employers are assured in advance of a weak-kneed leadership.

Despite the so-called "unofficial" label attached to this deputation by the union heads and the press, the National Executive of the Boilermakers Society was forced by this strong rank and file movement to meet and discuss with the 3 Shop Stewards at their head office in Newcastle. It is noteworthy that 3 days after the latest demonstration, the employers have hurriedly agreed to a conference in Glasgow to discuss new price lists. The view is strongly held by the shipyard workers that unless their wages and conditions are greatly improved, they will have to resort to strike action to solve their problems. With the approach of winter working which involves a short day and little Sunday work it will be impossible to earn a living wage.

Shipbuilding is a profitable business for the owners. According to the Auditor General of the Government: of 32 naval crafts built, the profits were never lower than 10 per cent. The other side of the coin shows a dismal outlook for the worker. In an interview with the Glasgow "Bulletin" (14/9/43) a managing director of a

"Socialist Appeal" Fighting Fund

The "Socialist Appeal" is the most potent instrument of the Bolshevick Leninist Party to strengthen its organisation and spread its influence among the militant workers of Great Britain. We must make it a mass working class paper with the new rise of the Revolutionary tide. Our paper is destined to play a most important part at this period. It must gain support for Bolshevism among the broad masses in the working class. It can exist only with the active support of thousands of politically advanced workers. It must find its way into the hands of new readers. Every militant worker will regard it as his own paper, will have confidence in it, and respond to its call. It will mould his class consciousness, educate him and summon him to the class struggle. The "Socialist Appeal" is destined to be the "Pravda" of the British Revolutionary Movement.

To the militant worker we say: It is your paper. We want your active support—your articles, your letters and your money. In order that it can fulfil its task as the guide and leader of our struggle it must come out regularly. Money is the most urgently needed ammunition for it. We know that you will help us with all your might, hence we do not hesitate to come to you for our help. We are certain that you will not begrudge any sacrifice to help the continued publication of our paper.

At our National Convention, which has just concluded, it was unanimously decided that we open a permanent fighting fund for our paper. The Conference gave a splendid start with a collection of £48 18s.

We ask you, every member, every supporter and sympathiser of WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, to become regular subscribers to our fund, start regular collecting groups in your area and among your friends, and send us the money every week. We need £100 every month. We will publish the full list each month in the "Socialist Appeal."

We do not get secret donations from various Lords and Barons. They are not our friends. Readers, you are our friends and we come to you for money—silver bullets—to be used against our class enemies. It is your paper, and it is your revolutionary duty to sustain it.

Long live the "Socialist Appeal!"

JOHN BELL.

ADDRESS: ALL COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE "FIGHTING FUND" AND DONATIONS TO: JOHN BELL, FIGHTING FUND, "SOCIALIST APPEAL," 61, NORTHDOWN STREET, LONDON, N.1.

GET AN "APPEAL" FIGHTING FUND CARD — AND START COLLECTING.



FOR A DOCKERS' CHARTER
To the Editor.

Through the columns of your valuable paper, we get interesting information concerning the struggles of workers in the mining and engineering

with the E.W.O. which covers every part of any consequence with the exception of Clydeside and Merseyside are also measures introduced and operated against the Dockers. No docker I think has ever heard of the Stevedores being suspended for the week (they call it "burst" in Scotland) and I have yet to hear of any heavy penalties being the lot of the Stevedores. The only heavy thing the Stevedore gets is his profit.

It is necessary for the dockers at this stage to pay strict attention to what is happening in the Union branch, as the little privileges we still enjoy are being slowly but surely filched away through various committees, a rate has to be negotiated for a certain cargo or a claim for dirty or salvage money you will find the T.U. official agreeing with the

a living wage, a rainy Sunday is a disaster to the outside worker. In the winter, nearly every week this means a small wage packet.

Sir Patrick Dollan, Labour Faker No. 1 for Scotland, publicly attacked these workers and very comfortably ignoring their wage grievance he spat out the usual lies of the capitalist class by stating the strike was the work of "irresponsible elements". Dollan rapped the C.P. for not maintaining discipline in industry. In other words the employing class who are at present leaning on the C.P. to break strikes were alarmed at the fail-

NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS STRIKE

1,200 miners of the Sleekburn "A" Pit, Bedlington, struck work on the 17th September and on the 20th September, 1,000 more miners from the Doctor Pit struck in sympathy.

The National Press and Radio have reported the strike but neither has given a true picture of the rotten conditions prevailing in the Sleekburn Pit which led up to the strike. This colliery is one of the most antiquated in the country. There is very little mechanisation, and most of the work including drilling and hewing is done by hand. Hewers and fillers work in seams having a maximum height of 2ft. 1in.

Under normal conditions if the gates are kept well up to the face the work of fillers under these conditions is extremely arduous. But when there is 18ft. of caunch between the face and the tubs the conditions are unbearable. This was the direct cause of the strike. The fillers demanded that the distance which they had to cast the coal should be shortened by employing more caunch men to make up the arrears of stone work at the mine. (The job of the caunch men is to strip the roof to allow the tubs to be pushed into the working face to enable the fillers to fill them with coal.)

After a week's hard work lying on their sides shovelling the coal down to the gate, and then along 18ft. to the tubs, the fillers pay slips were less than the guaranteed minimum. On previous occasions when this had been the case, the miners were subjected to the indignity of having to queue for anything up to 2 hours to interview the undermanager to have their wages made up to the guaranteed minimum. Having settled the matter with the undermanager, they had to queue again at the pay office.

The conditions of the caunch men are so unattractive that very few workers are prepared to do this job entailing as it does drilling in the rock with hand drills. The miners have suggested to the management that they alter the conditions of employment of

struggle with the employing class. The rise in the amount of unofficial strikes testify clearly to the failure of the union executive to lead the struggles of the workers.

The independence of the working class movement is being bartered away for posts in the Government. It is vital that the labour and trade union organisations be freed from such a false policy.

Demand the withdrawal of all Trade Union and Labour Leaders from the Government!

Build a Militant Trade Union Movement!

the stone men to make it more attractive, but the management refuse to do this, in spite of the fact that it is impeding production to a tremendous degree.

Under these conditions the fillers suggested that some of them should be released to work in other pits. This the management also refused to do.

During the 10 days which the strike has lasted the management has refused to discuss the grievances with the men until they returned to work. They informed Ministry of Fuel officials that there were 15ft. of caunch, but upon investigation the Ministry's representative discovered over 18ft.

Pressure was brought to bear from all sources on the striking miners, from the N.M.A. down to the local lodge officials to get the men back to work. Due to the solidarity of the miners and the support that they received from their comrades in the Doctor Pit, the management was compelled to change its attitude and on Sunday, 26th September, they met the lodge officials and the N.M.A. officials. At this meeting it was agreed that the men would return to work on the proviso that if no satisfactory settlement of the dispute is reached as the result of immediate negotiations, 14 day's strike notice was to be handed in.

Throughout the dispute the leaders of the N.M.A. have played a dispicable role. Reports in the press show that they have bent all their energies during the strike advising the men to return to work, in spite of the fact that it is obvious that it was the management and not the workers who were responsible for the strike.

The leader of the "Evening Chronicle" (20th Sept.) places the responsibility for the loss of production on "the human element" which "has once again intruded in the form of strikes". "Some sections of the miners," they say, "seem to have forgotten that as the employers have been deprived of the weapons of the lockout or individual dismissal, the obligation is upon them to reciprocate." But it is the bosses not the miners who are responsible for loss of production as the Sleekburn "A" strike has shown.

Admiral General of the Government: instead of a riveter receiving 11/3 per hundred; the worker is required to do the job for 7/-.

In most shipyards sections of workers are provoked into strike action each week due to the lack of a decent wage. Drillers are seeking a 10 per cent increase in pay. Hole-borers and platers are fighting against encroachments on their wage standards. At another yard, where welding has nearly ousted riveting, the employer has reduced the welders rate from 2d. per foot to 1d. and is asking boys to do the work.

Dissatisfied with the National Executive of the union, the 19,000 Scottish members of the Boilermakers Society are pressing forward through their Shop Stewards for a 3/- per hour minimum wage. For many months branches have tried to move the leadership into action on the wage question, but the replies have varied from

of 32 naval crafts built, the profits were never lower than 10 per cent, and sometimes reached 90 per cent. John Brown's show a profit of £365,854 for the year ending March 31st, 1943. The other side of the coin shows a dismal outlook for the worker. In an interview with the Glasgow "Bulletin" (14/9/43) a managing director of a West of Scotland shipyard said that next year his yard will be so organised that manpower will be cut down by 30-50 per cent, and output speeded up by 50 per cent. Costs of shipping will be reduced to two-thirds. He very carefully refrained from dealing with workers' wages. If we remember, too, that in a statement in parliament it was said that the whole of the Merchant Fleet could be built in 1 year, with the 25 years average life of a ship, it can be assumed that work will be available for shipyard workers every quarter of a century.

ITALIAN WORKERS HAD CONTROL

Continued from page 1.

their lack of equipment and organisation, together with the bewilderment and demoralisation of the soldiers, led to a collapse. Milan was conquered by 1,500 German soldiers and 12 tanks; Como by 85 German soldiers, Venice by 2 E-boats. So it was in all the industrial cities of the North.

Thus it is clear that the Italian capitalists and militarists deliberately betrayed the newly awakened workers into the hands of Hitler. Terrified by the threat from the workers, they apparently believed that to send them to school to Hitler for the time being would cure them of their aspirations towards Socialism.

But the actions of the Allies, who murderously bombarded the Northern cities and laid waste the anti-fascist and socialist strongholds of the working class in Milan, Turin, etc., would cate that they were not at all disappointed at the developments as a temporary stop-gap. The British and American rulers are not at all averse to having their dirty work carried out by Himmler and the S.S. troops. Churchill's speeches make no secret of his fears of the revolution in Italy which he terms "anarchy". To set the British and American soldiers to destroy the Factory Committees the Soviets, and workers' rights, would not be such an easy task. It would embody the danger of the complete demoralisation of the British and American armies, and the spreading of revolutionary feelings to their ranks.

The Nazis are doing the dirty work. British and American imperialism calculated on driving the Nazis out fairly rapidly and occupying these areas before the Soviets can be reconstituted.

And as in Sicily, so in Italy, Amgot will be clamped down on the Italian masses. The military rule of British and American imperialism under which the Sicilian people are deprived of "political activities", and where the fascist administration has been preserved virtually intact, will be transferred to the Italian mainland.

The Italian revolution has been caught between the hammer of the Axis and the Anvil of the Allies. In this situation, no words can adequately condemn the foul role played by Stalinism and the Socialist parties in the Italian revolution. By their echo of the imperialist demand for "Unconditional Surrender", by sowing illusions in Allied aims, they assist in the martyrdom of the Italian workers and peasants.

The statement of Roosevelt and Churchill hailing Badoglio as the "liberator" of Italy from fascist servitude, is a conscious attempt to deceive the workers of Britain and America.

indicate that they were not at all disappointed. The first stage of the Italian revolution has ended in defeat. But the Italian workers will rise again in the coming months and years together with the workers of all Europe. According to Pietro Treves, right wing Socialist leader, writing in "Labour Discussion Notes" for August, of the six democratic and workers' parties which made their appearance on the fall of Mussolini, the only party which stood for the Socialist Republic was the Italian Trotskyist Party. Under the banner of the Fourth International the workers will avenge the crimes of capitalism and establish a new world in which the horrors of fascism and war will be banished forever in a Socialist Europe and a Socialist World.

FOR A DOCKERS' CHARTER

To the Editor, "Socialist Appeal". Dear Comrade,

Through the columns of your valuable paper, we get interesting information concerning the struggles of the workers in the mining and engineering industries for improving conditions and for the retention of what little democratic rights remain. This was followed up by a report on the recent Dockers strike in Merseyside, and this teaches us a very important lesson: We could by the utilisation of the "Appeal" columns bring to the attention of the whole of Dockland the many grievances and disputes that take place and attempt to formulate some plan around which the dockers could crystallise their efforts in an all out drive for improved conditions.

A Docker's Charter.

Discontent is very rife in Dockland, but it is so far apathetic and localised one port does not know what is happening in another, owing to the rigid censorship and the conspiracy of silence maintained by the capitalist press. Information regarding strikes or disputes in one locality invariably reaches us after a lapse of many weeks, and even then, only through the medium of some working class paper, and this creates many difficulties. For example: a strike may take place in one port, and dockers at another port who are mobile may be sent there unaware of any dispute, they arrive and find themselves "on the spot" for they have the alternative of "scabbing" on their own T.U. members, or refusing to work and so leave themselves at the mercy of the reactionary E.W.O. I believe incidents of this kind have happened at some of the big ports and information of this kind would be very welcome from some of your Docker readers.

Again, the apathy and the feeling of frustration is brought about by the treacherous role of the T.U. leadership. Every move the docker makes in his struggle against the Stevedore is blocked time and time again by the T.U. officials, which demonstrates in no uncertain fashion that the T.U. leaders are nothing more than the agents of the boss in the ranks of the working class.

The Dock Labour Scheme coupled

what is happening in the Union branch, as the little privileges we still enjoy are being slowly but surely filched away, through various committees, National Area and Local. Every time a rate has to be negotiated for a certain cargo or a claim for dirty or salvage money you will find the T.U. official agreeing with the Stevedore's representative in cutting the rate to the very minimum; in fact from experience the docker has a much bigger fight against the T.U. official than he has against the Stevedore. Their tactic is the age long one of divide the men and create dissention. Of course, as the local official is appointed by the bureaucrats at Transport House and not democratically elected to the position by his T.U. branch, he must play ball with Transport House or they will replace him by someone else prepared to carry out their reactionary policy, just as the bureaucrats are playing ball with the bosses nationally (Bevin's £5,000 a year).

This class collaboration has created havoc in Dockland and in every industry in every part of the country and we must find means to end it, so let us hear from the Dockers in every Port.

Faternally yours,
"Slings Ashore."

FROM C.P. CONVENOR

To the Editor, "Socialist Appeal."

Dear Sir,
I note in your September issue under the heading of "Aircraft Strike Victory," you quote me as having stated to the Shop Stewards' Committee meeting that my party—"had pursued a wrong policy in the recent strike." might I point out that this is incorrect. What I did say was that the Works Committee had made a mistake in not calling a meeting of Shop Stewards immediately to discuss the question.

In addition your statement that, "the Stalinists are on the retreat," is also incorrect, as one of the leading members offered to put the C.P. policy on strikes to any block meeting in the factory. This challenge, to date, has not been accepted.

Hoping you will give this denial the same publicity.

I am, Yours, etc.,
W. J. McLAUGHLIN.

WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
PUBLIC MEETING
TED GRANT Editor "Socialist Appeal"
Chair: ALEC RIACH
WHICH WAY FOR EUROPE—
SOCIALISM OR BARBARISM
MASONIC HALLS, 100 West Regent St.
On SUNDAY, 17th OCTOBER, 1943, at 7 p.m.
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

SOCIALIST APPEAL

ORGAN OF WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL.

61, Northdown Street,
London, N.1.

MANAGING MANAGER: M. Orton.
EDITOR: E. Grant

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EDITORIAL

End the Truce Labour to Power

Events of the past few months have provoked uneasiness and discontent among the masses in Britain. The rising tide of bitterness and disillusionment has been expressed in a series of strikes in different parts of the country. Nearly every area and nearly every industry has seen some sporadic movement of protest among the workers. This feeling has been expressed politically in the steady move towards Labour on the part of the bulk of the population. The masses are demonstrating their lack of confidence in the Tory government.

The workers are well aware of the big profits which are being made by the capitalists in all branches of industry, especially those connected with the "war effort". Meanwhile the cost of living has been steadily increasing far above the level of increase in wages, which are mainly obtained by the increased hours worked by the mass of the workers, and the fact that wives and children are working. To this must be added the strain of Home Guard, fire-watching and all the other burdens imposed on the workers. Rationing and Income Tax have all contributed to the fall in the standard of living, while the ruling class still continue to live on much the same standard as they did before the war. Meanwhile the sons and brothers of the workers in the Forces are compelled to fight for totally inadequate wages and allowances for their wives and children.

The epidemic of strikes are a warning addressed to the ruling class. They mark the first rumble of discontent among the masses. Especially is this so of the strikes among the miners, which have not been round the question of wages primarily, but against the attempts to jail miners for "absenteeism," to force youths down the mines—against the Essential Works Order. In that sense these strikes have a "political character." They are the expression of the lack of confidence which the masses feel in the capitalist government.

It is not only conditions on the Home Front which have produced this change of mood among the working class but events in the war and the repercussions of foreign policy. With the victories of the Red Army and the growing strength of Anglo-American imperialism, the masses have begun to feel themselves less menaced by the threat from Hitler and have begun to regard more critically, the actions of British imperialism. The distrust of the workers in Amgot and other means, whereby British imperialism intends to perpetuate the rule of reaction on the European continent, has been expressed by the "Left" Labour M.P.s. such as Shinswell and Aneurin Bevan. They have spoken

PROBLEMS OF THE ITALIAN REVOLUTION

LEON TROTSKY

Thirteen years ago, two years before Hitler's advent to power, a group of Italian Left Communists asked Trotsky's opinion on a number of important questions, among them the class nature of the revolution against fascism, and the character of a "transitional" period in Italy following the overthrow of fascism. These are immediate burning questions today. Despite the lapse of years, Trotsky's answer retains full validity in all its essentials.

Here is what Leon Trotsky wrote on May 14, 1930 in reply to a question about the class nature of the revolution against fascism:

SOCIAL CHARACTER OF ITALIAN REVOLUTION

"You deny the possibility of a bourgeois revolution in Italy and in this you are absolutely correct. History hasn't the capacity for turning back a considerable number of pages each denoting a decade. The Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party used to try to skate around this question by declaring that the revolution would be neither bourgeois nor proletarian but a 'people's' revolution. This is a mere repetition of the answer given at the beginning of our century by the Russian Populists (Narodniki) to the question of what will be the nature of the revolution against Czarism. This is the same answer that the Comintern has given and continues to give with respect to China and India. It is a pseudo-revolutionary rehashing of the social-democratic theory of Otto Bauer and others, a theory proclaiming that the state can rise above the classes, i.e., be neither bourgeois nor proletarian. This theory is fatal for the proletariat and for the revolution. In China it turned the proletariat into cannon fodder for the bourgeois counter-revolution.

"Every great revolution in history is a people's revolution in the sense that the entire people enters into the channel of the revolution. The Great French Revolution and the October revolution were people's revolutions in the full sense of the term. But the former was bourgeois inasmuch as it established private property whereas the latter was proletarian inasmuch as it abolished private property.

"Only hopelessly belated petty-bourgeois revolutionists are still capable of envisaging nowadays the perspective of neither bourgeois nor proletarian revolutions but a 'people's' (i.e., petty-bourgeois) one. But in the imperialist epoch the petty bourgeoisie is utterly incapable not only of leading the revolution but of playing an independent role in it."

With regard to the "transitional" period in Italy after the downfall of

agreement with you—that such a perspective is not excluded. But it can manifest itself not as the product of a bourgeois revolution but as the abortion of the proletarian revolution, which had not fully matured and which had not been brought to its conclusion. In the event of a profound revolutionary crisis and mass battles in the course of which, however, the proletarian vanguard proves as yet incapable of coming to power, the bourgeoisie might restore its rule on 'democratic' foundations.

A PHASE OF THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION

"Is it permissible to say, for instance, that the existing German (Weimar) Republic is the conquest of a bourgeois revolution? Such a characterisation would be absurd. What took place in Germany in 1918-1919 was a proletarian revolution which for lack of leadership was deceived, betrayed and crushed. The bourgeois counter-revolution, however, was forced to adapt itself to the situation created by the crushing of the proletarian revolution and to assume the form of a parliamentary 'democratic' republic.

one's way. As I see it, there are no disagreements on this score among us.

MARXIST ATTITUDE TO DEMOCRATIC SLOGANS

"Does this mean that we, Communists, reject in advance any and all democratic slogans, and, generally, all transitional and preparatory slogans, and limit ourselves solely to the slogan of the dictatorship of the proletariat? This would be hopeless sectarian doctrinairism. We do not at all think that the proletarian dictatorship is separated from the fascist regime by a single revolutionary leap. We do not at all deny a transitional period with its transitional demands, including democratic demands. With the aid of these transitional slogans, which always open up the road for the proletarian dictatorship, the communist vanguard must conquer the entire working class to its side, while the working class as a whole must rally around it all the oppressed masses of the nation.

"I do not exclude even the slogan of a Constituent Assembly which under certain conditions can be imposed by the course of the struggle, or more correctly, by the process of the revolutionary awakening of the oppressed masses. On the broad historical scale, i.e., from a perspective of a whole number of years, the fate of Italy is undoubtedly concentrated in the alternative: **fascism or communism?** But to assert that this alternative has already today become the conscious attainment of the oppressed classes in the nation is obviously to indulge in wishful thinking and to consider as solved the colossal task which still fully confronts the weak Communist Party.

"Should the revolutionary crisis unfold, say, in the course of the next few months—under the influence of the economic crisis on the one hand, and under the impact of the revolutionary impulse from Spain on the other, then vast masses of toilers, not only peasants but also workers would undoubtedly advance alongside of economic demands, democratic slogans (freedom of assembly, of the press, coalitions, unions, democratic representation in parliament, municipalities, etc.). Does it mean that a communist party must reject these

"DEMOCRATIC" CHARLATANISM

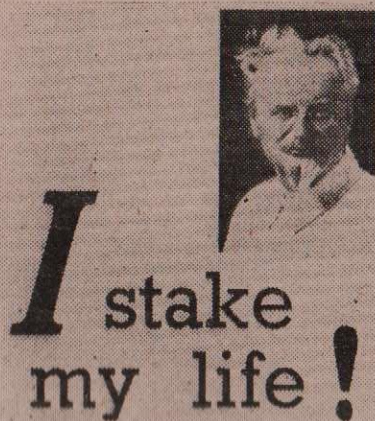
"While advancing one or another set of democratic slogans, we must irreconcilably fight against all forms of democratic charlatanism. Such low-grade charlatanism is represented by the slogan of the Italian social-democracy: 'The Democratic Republic of the Toilers.' The toilers' republic can be only the class state of the proletariat. The 'Democratic Republic' is only a masked rule of the bourgeoisie. The combination of the two is a naive petty-bourgeois illusion of the social-democratic rank and file (workers, peasants) and deliberate treachery on the part of the social-democratic leaders (all these Turatis, Modiglianis, and their ilk). Let me once again remark in passing that I was and remain opposed to the formula of a 'National Assembly on the basis of worker-peasant committees' precisely because this formula approaches the social-democratic slogan of the 'Democratic Toilers' Republic' and, consequently, can render extremely difficult for us the struggle against the social democrats.

THE THREAT OF SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC BETRAYAL

"The assertion of the official leadership (of the Comintern) to the effect that the social-democracy no longer exists politically in Italy is a consoling theory for optimistic functionaries who see ready-made conquests where it is still a question only of great tasks. **Fascism did not liquidate the social-democracy but on the contrary has conserved it.** In the eyes of the masses the social-democrats do not bear the direct responsibility for the regime whose victims they are to a certain extent. This gains them new sympathies or strengthens the old ones. At a certain moment the social-democracy will coin political currency from the blood of Matteotti just as proficently as Rome coins Christ's blood. **It is not at all excluded that in the initial period of the revolutionary crisis the leadership can turn out to be concentrated chiefly in the hands of the social-democracy.** If large masses are drawn immediately into the crisis, and if the communist leadership conducts a correct policy, then the social-democracy can be reduced to a cipher within a brief period of time. But this is a task and not a conquest already attained. One cannot leap over this task: one must solve it.

BLUNDERS OF THE COMINTERN

"Let me recall in passing that Zinoviev, and later the Manuilskys



I stake my life!

BY LEON TROTSKY

DEWEY REPORT on the Moscow Trials

6s

"Is something similar (within

menaced by the threat from Hitler and have begun to regard more critically, the actions of British imperialism. The distrust of the workers in Amgot and other means, whereby British imperialism intends to perpetuate the rule of reaction on the European continent, has been expressed by the "Left" Labour M.P.s, such as Shinwell and Aneurin Bevan. They have spoken under the pressure of the masses. The decision of the T.U.C. against Vansittartism was an even clearer indication of the real mood of the working class at the present time. Though hating fascism with all their might, the working class is instinctively refusing to identify the German and Italian workers with their Nazi and Fascist over-lords.

The obvious intention of the ruling class to stifle and destroy the movement of the masses in Europe is becoming clearer every day. Far from waging a war against fascism, as Churchill cynically proclaims, they are prepared to do a deal not only with the fascist Badoglio but with all the puppets and satellites of Hitler in Europe.

As they advance into Europe so do the interests of the financiers become nakedly exposed. The rate of exchange between the pound and the lire has been fixed as 400 to the pound in Italy, as in Sicily. Thus the "liberation" of Italian territory leads immediately to an increase in the misery of the Italian masses who are compelled to bear the burdens of their masters' crimes in a steep rise in prices. The big capitalists and landlords who supported fascism, are under the protection of the Allied armies, which have guaranteed to safeguard private property. Commenting on Badoglio joining the Allies the paper of the Army military caste comments:—

"... The Italians are quibbling about the rate of 400 lire to the pound sterling.

Before Italy was our ally the army could commandeer typewriters, printing presses and paper. Now that Italy is our Ally we must be most careful, and in some cases pay for these things" (!)

"Many Italians are under the impression that because they say 'Now we are your allies' they are going to spare their country the retribution which a just victor normally demands from a defeated enemy, and which a defeated enemy expects." — "News Chronicle" Sept. 29th, 1943.

Thus the capitalists attempt to unload the responsibility for the crimes of Mussolini and the Italian capitalists onto the shoulders of the Italian people. And under the guise of "retribution," they intend to plunder and exact tribute from the Italian masses in the interests of the British capitalists.

Meanwhile in India, British imperialism is providing a picture of the wonderful world they will construct in the event of victory. Famine as ghastly in its consequences as the famine provoked by war and the Nazi occupation of Greece and other countries, has broken out in India. A famine that is completely unnecessary and could easily have been avoided—a famine for which the complete responsibility rests on the shoulders of British Imperialism. News of starvation, suppressed by the Indian censors was already leaking out of the country months ago, yet the only action apparently taken, was the attempt to hide the seriousness of the situation. Now that it has developed into a terrible catastrophe it is no longer possible to hide the horrors of the famine from the world, but still no emergency confiscation and requisitioning of food from the big landlords and capitalists is taking place in India.

Meanwhile preparations are being completed for the terrific slaughter which Anglo-American imperialism expects in the battles which impend with Germany and Japan. Up to now the imperialists have utilised the slaughter on the Eastern Front to complete their preparations for the final struggle for the mastery

Continued next column.

one. But in the imperialist epoch the petty bourgeoisie is utterly incapable of playing an independent role in it."

With regard to the "transitional" period in Italy after the downfall of fascism, a question closely linked with the foregoing, Trotsky wrote:

TWO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED CONCEPTIONS

"First of all it is necessary to pose clearly the question—a transitional period from what to what? A transitional period between a bourgeois (or people's) revolution and the proletarian revolution—that is one thing. A transitional period between the fascist dictatorship and the proletarian dictatorship—that is something else again. In accordance with the first conception on the order or the day is a bourgeois revolution and one must fix the place of the proletariat in it, and only after this will there open up the transitional period to the proletarian revolution. According to the other conception, at issue is a series of battles, social shocks, changing situations, and partial turns which comprise the stage of the proletarian revolution. There might be several such stages. But between them there cannot and will not be either a bourgeois revolution or the mysterious hybrid of a 'people's' revolution.

"Does this mean that Italy might not again turn for a certain time into a parliamentary state or become a 'democratic republic'? I consider — apparently in complete

of the globe. Now they are getting ready for decisive intervention. Millions more will be killed in the struggles yet to come.

The Labour and Trade Union leaders have argued that it was necessary to enter the government for the purpose of "fighting fascism." Yet it is clear to those who are willing to examine the question, that British imperialism is waging the war for the purpose of defending and enriching the capitalist class. In foreign affairs and at home it is the interests of the banks and monopolies which dictates the policy of the government. Every worker wishes to see the defeat of Hitler and his crew of gangsters. But they wish to destroy fascism once and for all.

But to support the capitalist class is to make sure of the victory of fascism and reaction at home and abroad. If the Labour leaders were to end the infamous capitulation to the bankers and industrialists—the so-called Coalition—they would gain the overwhelming support of the masses. By launching a fighting appeal to the working class on a programme of demands such as that presented by the "Socialist Appeal," Labour would win an absolute majority at a general election which would be forced on the Government. Such a programme would lead to the destruction of fascism and to a Socialist Europe and Asia. To a world of peace and plenty without the nightmare of war, fascism, unemployment and misery through abolishing the cause of these afflictions: the capitalist system.

Workers International League believes that only a revolutionary Socialist Party can carry through such a programme. But the workers do not yet support our party. Only through their own experience will the masses become convinced of the correctness of our point of view and rally to our organisation. The next step forward in the struggle against reaction and towards Socialism lies in fighting to end the coalition and for Labour to take Power.

Moscow Trials

6

"Is something similar (within certain limits of course) excluded for Italy? No, it is not. The enthronement of fascism came as a result of the 1920 proletarian revolution which was not carried to its conclusion. The fascists can be overthrown only by a new proletarian revolution. Should this again not be carried to its conclusion (owing to the weakness of the Communist Party, the manoeuvres and betrayals of the social-democrats, the Freemasons, the Catholics), then the 'transitional' state which the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie would be compelled to create after the foundering of the fascist form of its rule could not be anything else but a parliamentary and democratic state.

"What in reality is the political aim of the anti-fascist concentration? Foreseeing the collapse of the fascist state, as a consequence of the rising of the proletariat and, generally, the oppressed popular masses, the concentration is making preparations to check this movement, to paralyse and rob it by passing off the victory of refurbished counter-revolution as the victory of the democratic bourgeois revolution.

"If one does not constantly keep in mind this dialectic of living social forces, then it is possible to become hopelessly confused and lose

advance alongside of economic demands, democratic slogans (freedom of assembly, of the press, coalitions, unions, democratic representation in parliament, municipalities, etc.). Does it mean that a communist party must reject these demands? On the contrary. It must invest them with the most audacious and resolute meaning. The revolutionary dictatorship cannot be imposed upon the popular masses. It can be realised in life only by conducting the struggle—the entire struggle for all the transitional demands, tasks and needs of the masses—at the head of these masses.

BOLSHEVIK POLICY OF 1917

"Let me recall that Bolshevism by no means came to power under the abstract slogan of the dictatorship of the proletariat. We fought for the Constituent Assembly much more resolutely and boldly than all the other parties. We said to the peasants: 'You demand equal distribution of land? Our agrarian programme goes much further. But no one except us will assist you peasants in realising the equal use of the land. For this you must support the workers.' In regard to the war we said to the popular masses: 'Our communist task is the war against all oppressors. But you are not ready to go so far. You are striving to break out of the imperialist war. No one except us Bolsheviks will help you achieve this task.'

"I do not touch here at all upon the question of what should be the central slogans of the transitional period in Italy, right now in the year 1930. In order to outline the proper slogans, and to effect correct and timely changes, it is necessary to be far better acquainted with Italy's internal life and to be far closer to her toiling masses than is possible for me. Here, in addition to the correct method, it is also necessary to be able to listen to the masses. I want here simply to indicate the general place of transitional demands in the struggle of communism against fascism, and, generally, against bourgeois society.

BLUNDERS OF THE COMINTERN

"Let me recall in passing that Zinoviev, and later the Manuilskys and Kuusinsens, have already announced on two or three occasions that the German social-democracy no longer exists in essence. In 1925 in a statement to the French party, written by the flighty Lozovsky, the Comintern announced that the French Socialist Party has completely departed from the scene. Against this light-mindedness the Left Opposition protested resolutely each time. Only boobies or traitors will seek to instil in the proletarian vanguard of Italy the idea that Italian social-democracy can no longer play the role analogous to that played by the German social-democracy in relation to the German revolution of 1918.

"It may be objected that inasmuch as the social-democracy has already deceived and betrayed the Italian proletariat (in 1920), it will not succeed in repeating its treachery. Illusions! Self-deception! In the course of its entire history the proletariat has been deceived many times, first by liberalism and then by social-democracy.

"Apart from everything else, it is impermissible to forget that since 1920 a decade has passed; and since the victory of fascism—8 years. Ten and twelve-year-old boys and girls, who witnessed the fascist activities of 1920-22, comprise today the new generation of workers and peasants who will struggle most selflessly against the fascists, but who lack, however, political experience. Communists will come in contact with the masses themselves only in the course of the revolution itself, and in the best case they will require a number of months in order to expose and abolish the social-democracy, which I repeat, was not liquidated by fascism, but on the contrary conserved." (Published in September-October 1930 issue of the Bulletin of the Russian Opposition. Translated by John G. Wright).

BRITISH IMPERIALISM STARVES INDIA

PUBLIC MEETING

22nd OCTOBER, 1943 at 7 p.m.

CONWAY HALL, Red Lion Square, W.C.1

INDIAN SPEAKERS:

V. SASTRY, Secretary Indian Workers' Association
JAN MAHOMMAD, Hindustani, Birmingham.
RAJ HANSA. AJIT ROY.

Chair: JOCK HASTON

Auspices: WORKERS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, 61 Northdown St, N.1

LESSONS OF THE BARROW STRIKE

By **JOCK HASTON**

"Barrow Strikers Win" was the headline in the *Daily Express* the day after the Barrow workers returned to work. And that headline correctly summed the position up: **The Barrow workers achieved a definite and far reaching victory.** All the attempts of the boss class in their sour editorials and press despatches minimising the importance of the Barrow victory will delude no-one, least of all the bosses.

The capitalist class have given this strike much publicity and a good deal of thought; and they will continue to study it intensively from every angle so that they can counter the moves of the working class in the coming days. So will the trade union leaders. Serious socialist workers and industrial militants will also study it, not only for itself—its organisation, etc., but for its reactions upon the employers, the state, the union officials, the Stalinists and upon the workers in other parts and trades.

The strike lasted 18 days and involved approximately 9,500 workers in the A.E.U., E.T.U. and allied trades. The workers wanted more wages and the issue was fought around the interpretation and application of the infamous Arbitration Award 326.

The workers at Barrow showed resentment towards this award and the interpretation given by Messrs. Vickers Armstrong at Barrow from the beginning. For six and a half months, they tried by negotiations, appeals and partial struggles to gain a wage increase of a few shillings a week from the Vickers combine, but with no avail. Whilst they continued to pursue their demands through the legal channels, the workers claim that the bosses laughed at them and blocked every move; the Government grunted and fobbed them off; and the leaders of the respective trade unions made the usual excuses. The workers tried to get their grievances redressed through the mass of legal machinery. They were patient and trusting. Nobody can deny this. But, blocked and exasperated at every turn, they were finally provoked into withdrawing their labour—the last resort of a worker who is prepared to fight for his rights. The responsibility for this step is on the shoulders of the Government and its backers: big business.

It was only at the end of the 21 days' notice that the Masters' Federation and the A.E.U. who had found innumerable excuses not to

sion and implemented their strike notice. It is generally admitted, now, that it was the strong stand taken by the Barrow workers which was responsible for the hustle; and for the fact that the Arbitration Tribunal gave its findings, bum as they were, in the quickest award announcement in industrial history.

BARROW TOWNS-PEOPLE SUPPORT STRIKERS

The strikers had the full support of all other sections of workers in the town. This is clear from capitalist and socialist observers alike.

The only hostility was directed against the scabs. They were given a dog's life by every one in town.

Collections were taken in British restaurants and numerous other places in town; places of amusement were opened to the strikers, and a friendly atmosphere even permeated the middle class of Barrow.

In a very limited sense, it appears that there were even elements of dual power. For when Sir Charles Craven requested the Strike Committee to meet him at the Conference rooms at Vickers to discuss the release of certain key men to complete a job, the Strike Committee replied, that if he wanted to discuss anything with them he would have to come to their strike headquarters and discuss it there which he was forced to do, and then his request was refused.

The strong influence of the strikers was demonstrated in another way by the friendly spirit between the local police and the pickets and by a friendly speech directed towards them by the Labour Lord Mayor, at a period when Mr. Bevin as representative of the central Government was breathing fire and thunder against the strikers and against the "Trotskyites".

The women folk who were not working, or in other jobs together with the women strikers were as solid as oak. The sailors and soldiers were friendly and did not react to the "letting the boys down" stuff.

Regular bulletins were issued by the Committee informing the workers of the Committee's activities, and what support from other parts of the country was forthcoming. These bulletins were pasted up in prominent places in town and circulated from hand to hand. They included the "Roll of Greatest Dishonour," naming the few scabs and also replied effectively to all the attacks directed against the policy of the Committee. They warned against provocation, particularly from

great respect. About nine journalists, who included Trevor Evans and Hugh Chevons of the *Daily Express* and *Daily Telegraph* had a regular press conference with the Strike Committee and they treated Councillor Trewartha as a serious and level-headed fighter, and not as a "wild-eyed irresponsible" as they are wont to treat militant worker leaders.

Although they tried to undermine the morale of the strikers in the press, Evans and Chevons were much more honest than Jack Owen or Campbell. When Owen was darkly hinting that the morale was cracking and the men wanted to go back but the leaders were diverting them and refusing to call meetings, Evans and Chevons bluntly stated that there was not the slightest signs of a crack in the ranks, that the strikers were solid.

"OUTSIDERS RESPONSIBLE"—NONSENSE!

The argument of the bosses which was shrilly echoed by the Stalinists, that the strike was provoked by outside agitators, was obviously bunk.

The Barrow workers were not exactly babes in the wood waiting for the "Trotskyite" wolves to mislead and devour them. They knew what they were fighting for, and had been telling the boss for six months.

"OUTSIDERS" WERE THERE

But, of course there was plenty of "outside" interference. Whilst the Stalinists were shouting "police, police, the Trotskyites are in Barrow," Sid Abbott, Pat Devine, Jack Owen and a whole host of Stalinist scabs and police agents were in Barrow trying to smash the strike.

You want to know something about "outside" interference renegade communists? Well here are a few of the facts:

Abbott, a C.C. member of the "Communist" Party approached Bro. Rawlinson, the secretary of the Strike Committee and an ex-member of the C.P. and said he must resign from the Strike Committee and help the C.P. smash the strike. Did Abbott get a shock when his game was exploded by Rawlinson in public!

That was "outside" influence alright.

Owen was snooping about the premises of the Strike Committee and had

lated by Devine or Owen, and when they were soundly defeated gave the dope to Owen to print in the "Worker" that there was a split in the Strike Committee.

That was "outside" influence alright.

Devine peddled his local sheet headed "A real Socialist Appeal" in reply to the "Socialist Appeal" and held meetings to undermine the unity of the organised workers. At these meetings he slandered the strikers' leaders and the Trotskyites. True he got a hostile reception from the crowds who branded him, scab, strike-breaker and police agent. But this was "outside" influence alright: foul stinking strike-breaking influence. The influence of an alien class—the boss class, for today the Stalinists are hired agents of the boss, tolerated only because they do the dirtiest jobs.

When Devine was publicly challenged to debate with a Trotskyist after such a slanderous attack he scuttled out of it and left it to his pal Owen to mention it in a false connection in the *Daily Worker*.

UNITY FOR STRENGTH!

The strength of the Barrow workers was derived not only from the solid unity of purpose on the part of the workers and their "illegal" leadership—the Strike Committee, but also from the complete support given to the strikers by legal leadership of the local District Committee and branches of the A.E.U. The full effects of such a unity of purpose must be seriously studied by trade unionists everywhere, and the need to transform the District Committees in other parts of the country into fighting organs of a similar character to the Barrow D.C.

The Stalinists whipped up their paid hacks, Owen and Campbell to scribble their rubbish that the Trotskyites were pushing the Barrow workers to split the union.

This is what J. R. Campbell wrote in the *Daily Worker* of September 27th under the scream headline "They Are Out To Break The A.E.U.":

"... There are Trotskyist elements active in this strike from outside the engineering industry who are working to break up the Amalgamated Engineering Union." The same theme was repeated in the

The Stalinists struck blow after blow at the unity of the trade-unionists by lying and insinuating that the Strike Committee had not the support of the men. Members of the "Communist" Party betrayed their trust and split the workers by giving the Stalinists hack journalists inside Strike Committee information which they were pledged not to give.

Owen wrote in the *Daily Worker* of September 29th:

"Yesterday the Committee issued a statement that as the Communist Party was trying to represent the strike as a political fight they had decided to expel two members of that party from the Shop Stewards Committee."

But Owen lied to the readers of the *Daily Worker*. For the Stalinists were not expelled from their positions because they were members of the Communist Party, although that influenced the decision no doubt, but because they violated the democratic decision of the Strike Committee and acted as stooges for Owen and his outfit. Here is the full statement of the Strike Committee issued in a bulletin on September 28th:

"Owing to the present position, in which the Communist Party are attempting to make our struggle into a political issue, and the agreement regarding the giving of information by members of the Strike Committee (except through official bulletins) has been broken by members of the 'Communist' Party, two members of the Strike Committee together with two shop stewards, were expelled by a unanimous decision of the Shop Stewards' meeting. Similar action will be taken in the event of any further attempt to make a political issue of this dispute."

WORKERS SOLIDARITY in the present dispute is more important than any political opinion or affiliation.

The workers are aware who were the splitters: not the Trotskyites but the Stalinists were the union disrupters and splitters.

Far from splitting the union, the Barrow leadership has strengthened it. The struggle has welded the many workers who were grumbling about the union and as a result of the loss of confidence, were tending to disintegrate, back into a tight fighting body.

The very real split between the various unions which was quite sharp in many questions and had separated the unions for years, has been completely

minist" Party who spoke in public discussion made it obvious that they were no longer members of that party or were in complete disagreement with the party line.

The rank and file of the Stalinist Party still contains many hundreds of first-class militants who cannot change their class attitude at the same speed as the professional leadership, or who remain true to their class—the work-class—these comrades broke with Stalinism when they were bluntly faced with the alternative scab and remain in the C.P. or else . . .!

THE "DAILY WORKER" CAMPAIGN

In article after article the *Daily Worker* insinuated that the workers did not support the Strike Committee and wanted to go back. Here is what Owen wrote in that rag on September 27th; under the headline: "Trotskyists Trying To Prolong Barrow Dispute":

"It is significant that so far the Strike Committee have not called one mass meeting. It is felt (!) that the hush-hush policy is one instituted at the suggestion of the Trotskyists who do not want the full truth to be known to the whole of the workers."

And this is the theme which was pumped until the last day.

But the result of the mass meeting, when it did take place, was devastating for Owen and the Communist Party. Out of a mass meeting of about 8,000 workers, only about 20 voted for the Stalinist policy of going back. This demonstration of a united fighting will, so overwhelmed the Stalinists, that a meeting advertised to be addressed by Mr. Pat Devine immediately following the mass meeting of strikers did not take place. The Stalinists beat it into their ratholes: disoriented and soundly trounced.

At the mass meeting held to decide upon going back, the strikers passed a resolution warning the boss class and the trade union leaders that any attempt at picketisation by the bosses or the union leaders would be met by solid strike action in defense of the workers leaders.

What did the boss class fear in the Barrow strike which they did not fear in any other strike up till the present time—at least since the collapse of the "militant" policy of the "Communist" Party? They feared first of all the national link which the Barrow A.E.U. Council of Action had established; and secondly: the fact that the whole of the local trade union machinery, branches, District Committees and Trades Council supported

business.
It was only at the end of the 21 days' notice that the Masters' Federation and the A.E.U. who had found innumerable excuses not to meet and discuss their interpretation of the award suddenly announced that they would meet the day after the strike was due to commence in the hope of keeping the workers in.
But the Barrow workers feared that there would be another fake discus-

hand to name the "loyal" members of Greatest Dishonour," naming the few scabs and also replied effectively to all the attacks directed against the policy of the Committee. They warned against provocation, particularly from the "Communist" party.

BOSS PRESS RESPECTED STRIKE COMMITTEE

The capitalist press treated the Strike Committee and its chairman with

a snook when his game was exposed by Rawlinson in public!
That was "outside" influence alright.

Owen was snooping about the premises of the Strike Committee and had a couple of stooges, members of the Party betraying their comrades in the Shop Stewards and Strike Committee. These stooges put forward the Stalinist resolutions, probably formu-

... There are Trotskyite elements active in this strike from outside the engineering industry who are working to break up the Amalgamated Engineering Union."

The same theme was repeated in the Editorial of the *Daily Worker* of October 5th in the following paragraph:

"Nor can the Unions ignore the attempt of the Trotskyists to exploit a genuine industrial grievance in order to disrupt production and wreck the trade unions."

The same trash was repeated by the miserable faker Owen and by professional strike-breaker Pat Devine.

But what are the facts?
The E.C. of the A.E.U. struck a blow at the union solidarity by suspending the Barrow District Committee which had the full confidence and support of the local members of the union.

confidence, were tending to disintegrate, back into a tight fighting body.

The very real split between the various unions which was quite sharp in many questions and had separated the unions for years, has been completely healed. Never have Barrow Trade-unionists been so united as they are today. A wonderful spirit of comradeship permeates the whole industrial movement.

This is full and complete answer to the foul accusations of Stalinists who are paid to tell the workers lies.

C.P. SPLIT TO HELL

The Stalinist strike-breaking leadership failed to split the militant solidarity of the Barrow strikers. But they succeeded in splitting the ranks of the local "Communist" Party and its supporters from top to bottom. Almost every member of the "Com-

all the national link which the Barrow A.E.U. Council of Action had established and secondly: the fact that the whole of the local trade union machinery, branches, District Committees and Trades Council supported the strike.

These factors were a warning to the ruling class that the usefulness of the trade-union leaders is wearing thin, because the workers no longer trust them and are seeking an alternative policy and organised expression of militancy.

This is a new stage in the development of the class struggle.

After lengthy negotiations between the National Executives of the Unions, the Employers Federation and the Government, the workers got . . . 326! It was followed by every district by lengthy negotiations between the employers and the workers. For six months the Barrow workers sought to have 326 interpreted and operated so that it would mean a rise in wages, but with no avail. But 18 days of strike activity made important gains. These are the facts!

Organised workers everywhere can only arrive at the conclusion: that, if the leadership of the A.E.U. had taken up the cudgels and told the boss class that they were not standing for any nonsense—"give us the increase we want or the workers will be out"—there is not the slightest doubt that the boss class would have capitulated.

All the partial struggles, strikes, and loss of wages for the workers would have been eliminated; the workers would be content; and production—which the Government trade union leaders and boss class tell us they are interested in—would have benefited.

The workers in other parts of the country and in other trades will not fail to draw the lessons of the Barrow dispute, for there is a growing awareness: that if the workers do not gain concessions for themselves now, when they have the employers where they want them, they will not be able to gain concessions after the war.

It is inevitable therefore that we will witness a rising curve of strikes and a broadening of their scope.

It will not be the "Trotskyite" who will be responsible for these strikes, Mr. Bevin. It will be, you and the rest of the T.U. leadership who serve the capitalist class.

Meanwhile, to conserve the energy of the workers, and to find the most economical forms of struggle, the militants throughout the country will continue to come together and fight for a militant industrial policy to be adopted by the trade unions. Any attempt at false ultra left gestures and breakaways from the unions must be combatted (although there is little evidence of such a tendency on the part of the workers) and a fighting policy, with an alternative slate of leading militants presented, to replace the policy and existing collaborationist leadership of the unions.

Barrow Strikers Victorious

Continued from page 1.

work, it was only on the fourth day that the trade union officials intervened. They had hoped that the strike would fizzle out.

On the fourth day of the strike, Mr. F. Foulkes, National E.T.U. Organiser, met the Strike Committee. He had gone there with only one purpose: to break the strike by splitting the E.T.U. from the A.E.U. Councillor Tom Trewartha, Chairman of the Strike Committee, replied to Foulkes as follows:

"Mr. Foulkes, after having heard your points I am of the opinion that you are a very dishonest person, and came here with one object: to divide the E.T.U. from the A.E.U. However, you have failed completely. Not only have you failed but in fact have now cemented the Strike Committee more firmly together than ever before . . ."

For what is probably the first time in his life, Foulkes met a solid band of workers who saw through his strike-breaking policy. The answer by the Chairman, which was the answer of the Strike Committee, was also the answer to Mr. Crane, A.E.U. National Organiser and member of the "Communist" Party, as well as the answer to the other strike-breakers in the area.

Following upon Foulkes' visit, there came to Barrow a stream of ex-professional revolutionists but now professional strike-breakers: Pat Devine, Lancashire C.P. Organiser; Jack Owen, member of the *Daily Worker* Editorial Board; Sid Abbott, member of the Central Committee of the C.P. G. Crane, A.E.U. Official and member of the C.P. and F. Foulkes, E.T.U. Official and sympathiser of the C.P. From that day commenced the drive of the Communist Party to undermine the solidarity of the strikers and their confidence in their Strike Committee.

Not one striker was affected by their anti-working-class poison. As Bro. Trewartha said, their efforts only served to unite the workers further. Whenever Pat Devine held a public

meeting he was met with hostility and opposition by all but C.P. stooges. His meetings became an absolute farce whereby he served only to expose his own stupidity and the depths of reaction into which the C.P. has degenerated. Not for nothing did the *Telegraph* complain that the interference of the Communist Party in industrial disputes serve only to prolong and embitter the issues!

In the early period of the strike, the C.P. sent a Central Committee member, Sid Abbott, to visit Bro. Tom Rawlinson, Secretary of the Strike Committee, who was formally a member of the C.P. but who had not paid dues or been active for almost 12 months. Abbott conveyed the treasonable instruction to Bro. Rawlinson that he resign from the Strike Committee and get the men back to work, or he would be expelled from the Party. Bro. Rawlinson, a sincere and honest working class militant, informed strike-breaker Abbott that he already considered himself outside the C.P., and forthwith reported the conversation to the Strike Committee. This episode shows clearly the foul methods used by the C.P. It serves to bring sharply home to every member of the C.P. that he seriously review his membership in the light of the activities of that party. As a result of the anti-working-class activities of the C.P. the majority of the sympathisers and militant members have now left the Barrow branch of the C.P.

Because of the solidarity of all the local union officials and members of the various District Committees with the strikers, the bureaucrats were entirely helpless. With the exception of what remained of the local branch of the C.P., the bureaucrats could not approach one single body with their policy. This was an important fact, since it meant that the union officials would have to appeal to the mass of the strikers directly, and thus reveal the hollowness of their policy. And significantly, despite the claims of the Stalinists, not one striker would lend an ear to the treacherous policy of the union officials. In despair the

Executive Committee of the A.E.U. suspended the entire District Committee and the local full time official. This move was countered by the resignation of all local branch officials.

Crane accused the Strike Committee of undermining the Union! But it is Crane and his fellow bureaucrats who undermine the unions. For what move could have been more anti-union than the suspension of a District Committee which had the solid support of all the A.E.U. members throughout the district? The Barrow A.E.U. members are determined to have a D.C. composed of their representatives and not those specially chosen by a bureaucratic leadership. 6,000 workers unanimously voted a strong protest to the E.C. of the A.E.U. for its union-busting action. A.E.U. members in Huddersfield and Halifax have also protested in action against the E.C.'s reactionary move.

It is symptomatic of the growing and widespread discontent that as a result of the thousands of circulars sent to all union branches throughout the country, letters of support containing donations for the Strikers' Fund poured unceasingly into the Strike Committee's Headquarters.

Barrow workers have led the way to a national struggle against Award 326 and the attempt to put a ceiling on wages. This struggle against the bosses will be accompanied by a struggle against their agents within the trade unions. Already the Cranes, Tanners, and Foulkes have received a serious defeat, but it is now necessary to carry this struggle into the trade union movement itself. Without doubt these renegades will try to save their face by left phraseology and pseudo-militancy, but the workers will see them as they really are: Labour lieutenants of the boss-class. The workers everywhere must follow the example of Barrow and organise a militant committee in which they can place their full confidence. Like Barrow workers they must expel from all leading positions those who try to compromise the workers' struggle, and those, who, under the orders of the Stalinists, try to split the ranks.

OUT WITH THE BOSSES AGENTS. FOR A MILITANT TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP, A MILITANT PROGRESSIVE SLATE FOR THE A.E.U. E.C.

INDIA STARVES — HOARDERS THRIVE

provincial authorities. As if these were not under the control and domination of British imperialism! As if British imperialism, together with the local quislings—the Indian financiers and capitalists—does not batten on the misery and hunger of the Indian masses!

Pages and pages of the capitalist press have been filled with stories of the horrors to which Europe has been reduced by the occupation by the Nazis. The legitimate indignation of the British workers has been aroused at the brutality and indifference with which the Nazis have systematically pillaged Europe, and reduced it to starvation level. The press has reported incidents of people dropping dead from starvation in the streets of Athens and other cities. The capitalist politicians and their lackeys the Labour leaders in the Government, have aroused themselves to a pitch of indignation and frenzied denunciation of the Nazi barbarians. But it is clear that all this denunciation is a fake and hypocritical. They have allowed the same horror to develop in India quite complacently and what is more—quite unnecessarily—under the jack-boot of British imperialist domination. Not a word of protest from the Labour leaders. No sign of any real measures by the capitalist politicians to prevent the present crisis. No doubt in the Nazi gangster press Goebbels is hypocritically castigating the crimes of British imperialism in India. It is clear that in India the imperialists behave as ruthlessly and in the same barbarian fashion as the Nazis do in Europe.

If the imperialists had taken proper measures such a catastrophe could have been easily avoided. If necessary wheat could have been imported from

the American continent, where there is a huge surplus in Canada and other countries.

THE FUTURE OF INDIA

Winston Churchill declared: "What we have, we hold." By this is meant that the British ruling class will fight to the death to maintain their hold over India and the colonies. It is this they are fighting to defend, and not at all to destroy "Nazi tyranny", as Churchill and the capitalists hypocritically pretend. Their crimes in India are as black as the Nazi crimes in Europe. The exploitation of the starving Indian people will go on so long as British imperialism rules India.

The situation is grave and urgent, and immediate steps must be taken so that the health and lives of vast numbers of Indians can be saved before it is too late. Mrs. Rebuka Ray, a member of the Central Legislative Council declared:

"Unless a widespread relief organisation takes up work without further delay, half the population will die of starvation and thousands of others will be so emaciated as to be without hope of recovery."

The British workers must raise the demand of immediate aid for the starving Indian people. They must put forward this demand through their trade unions and other working class organisations. They must demand confiscation of all available food and its immediate distribution equally among all sections of the population. They must demand the immediate reduction of the price of rice to a level where the masses can at least obtain sufficient to keep alive and in good health.