

WAR COMMENTARY

For Anarchism

ALL IS FOR ALL! IF THE MAN AND THE WOMAN BEAR THEIR FAIR SHARE OF WORK, THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO THEIR FAIR SHARE OF ALL THAT IS PRODUCED BY ALL, AND THAT SHARE IS ENOUGH TO SECURE THEM WELL-BEING. NO MORE OF SUCH VAGUE FORMULAS AS "THE RIGHT TO WORK" OR "TO EACH THE WHOLE RESULT OF HIS LABOUR." WHAT WE PROCLAIM IS THE RIGHT TO WELL-BEING: WELL-BEING FOR ALL!
KROPOTKIN ("Conquest of Bread")

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Greece—Deception—the Prelude to Reprisals

DESPITE the military moves on both the Eastern and the Western Fronts, the struggle in Greece remains by far the most important issue for the international working class. For the military events of war (apart from the senseless loss of workers' lives they entail) concern chiefly those whose interests are at stake—the rival capitalist power groups. They have no direct effect on the fundamental issue underlying the war and the peace—the struggle of rulers against those whom they rule. But this struggle is the central issue in Greece, and no apology is needed for dwelling still further in so important a question. Once more the cunning, the ruthlessness, and the brutality of ruling class policy seems to be triumphing, as it triumphed in Spain, as it triumphed eighteen months ago in Italy. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we should strive to understand the significance of these cruel and tragic events.

Churchill has reacted to the great wave of sympathy for the Greek workers which swept the country at the first news of the British support for Greek police tyranny. Misrepresentation has been carefully and liberally strewn by the penny press of the Tories—the *Times* and the *Manchester Guardian* could not bring themselves to stoop to the level of Camrose and Kemsley, Beaverbrook and Rothermere. Such a tissue of falsehood has been created that it is necessary to remind ourselves how the Greek fighting started. It began on Dec. 2nd, 1944 when Greek police fired on an unarmed demonstration of men, women and children, who by a bitter irony were carrying British and American flags. British soldiers had stood passively by this massacre, but on December 5th, Churchill issued orders to General Scobie to use whatever force might be necessary "to drive out the E.L.A.S. bands", British armed intervention against the Greek people had started.

It is necessary to remember this because Churchill and ruling class propaganda has been busy peddling the line that it was the Greek workers who started the struggle. Yet the *Times* correspondent wrote on December 2nd that "the seeds of civil war were well and truly sown by the Athens police this morning."

Churchill's Somersaults

Churchill has excelled himself in lies and about-faces. In the autumn of 1943 he praised the heroism of the Greek partisans—the people against whom he has now flung British tanks and planes. These were the people whom the British Government gave arms to, and who drove out the Germans before the Allies landed again in Greece. And these are the same people of whom Churchill dared to say on January 18th, that they had done very little against the Germans. "I am not prepared," he said, "to pay them anything like the tributes that are paid to the French or Belgian Maquis or to the men in Italy who were in the mountains and fought a desperate battle." It clearly does not suit him to pay such a tribute.

On December 8th he calls them "gangsters", "bandits", and "ruffians". At Christmas he sits at a conference table with them and addresses them as "comrades in the common struggle against the Nazi tyranny." By January 18th, they have become "Trotskyists"! Mr. Churchill explains that he thinks "Trotskyism is a better definition for the Greek Communists and certain other sects than the normal word. It has the advantage of being equally hated in Russia."

Churchill's case amounts to this: that it was the duty of the British to intervene to stop the civil war which the Greek partisans had brought on their unwilling countrymen. It is only necessary to recall that it was the Greek police who had been allied

with the German authorities and are now allied to the British authorities who opened the bloodshed. Only necessary to recall that Churchill's puppet prime minister, Papandreou declared on November 27th that "part of our ruling class condemns us for delaying the realization of civil war."

B.B.C. Lies and Press Censorship

In the recent debate on Greece Mr. Aneurin Bevan read from a document said to be a directive from the Political Warfare Executive. Anthony Eden, in his exceedingly feeble and unconvincing reply, failed to mention it or to deny it in any way. According to this document Churchill, as far back as August, had sent an instruction to the B.B.C. which read: "The Prime Minister has ruled that in principle no credit of any kind is to be given to E.L.A.S. or E.A.M. on the B.B.C. Where it is thought desirable to make an exception, his approval should first be obtained. This instruction has been given to Cairo and will apply to British official communiques or hand-outs." (*News Chronicle*, 20/1/45). Comment is unnecessary.

Not content with the support of the Tory cheap press, Churchill has used the B.B.C. to the full. The B.B.C. has with complete irresponsibility repeated and possibly invented the lying rumours put out to discredit the Greek workers, from the alleged plot to blow up Churchill at Christmas (reminiscent of the Reichstag fire), to the thanks lavished on the interventionists by various sections of Greek "opinion", or the unconvincing atrocity stories of the past week. It claimed that the Socialist Party of Greece had disassociated itself from the struggle. *Tribune* claims however that the "Socialist Leaders" in question are completely unknown to the International Federation of Trade Unions or the Labour Party.

We will content ourselves with considering only one travesty of fact perpetrated by the propaganda of reaction. A delegation said to represent 17 Trade Unions called on the British Ambassador early in January to thank the British troops for their intervention and condemn E.L.A.S. as responsible for the Civil War. This last absurdity, with its complete neglect of the part played by the Athens police, is enough by itself to expose the "delegation" as a fake. However, this propaganda ruse proved to be an even more brazen lie. It was headed by a man named Krokos. Krokos turns out to be the secretary of a company union of employees of British and American petrol companies in Athens and the Piraeus. He assisted the Minister of Labour in the Metaxas dictatorship to form a Labour Front on the Nazi model. He took no part in the resistance movement against the Nazis, and was even recognized by them. This is the man who heads the "delegation" claiming to represent the people of Greece bearing their "thanks" to the interventionist British forces against which they have fought with such heavy losses.

On top of all this pitiful pretence, it is necessary to bear constantly in mind that the British authorities and their Greek puppets will not permit any journalist to enter E.L.A.S. territory. They are therefore able to invent any falsehood they like—no one can contradict it. This is the type of "truth" about which Mr. Churchill bombarded so brazenly in Parliament.

General Plastiras

The fighting was brought to a close on the promise of "amnesty", "no proscription", "no reprisals" and so on. And who is the pacific figure who is to effect this bland mission? General Plastiras' record is one which makes him peculiarly well fitted instead to carry out the "liberating" policy of the British government. He is well fitted to stand with Franco and Badoglio and those other politicians with whom Churchill seems to find such ready sympathy.

General Plastiras claims to represent law and order, and so he may—as ruling groups understand the term. During the last war he earned a reputation for ruthlessness, and the nickname "Black Pepper". After the war, he led a Greek interventionist force to join Wrangel's White army against the Russian Revolution. In 1922 he led a mutiny of Greek Army officers who court-martialled and executed six Greek ministers—an action which the *Times* said had "embittered Greek political life for a generation."

In 1933 he declared himself Dictator. In 1935, he again led a revolt, this time an abortive one, for the Army did not support him and he was sentenced to death and escaped into exile. He lived in France, and when the Nazis occupied the country he opened negotiations with them. These appear to have fallen through. But Plastiras' luck was not quite out, for the very soon found employment under the Allies, and became prime minister of Greece on January 2nd.

Covering Up

This unsavoury figure has the job of restoring order. His record shows how well equipped he is for such a bloodstained task. Despite all Churchill's whitewash about "no reprisals", "full amnesty" and so on, Plastiras declared that "when Attica had been cleared, I am confident that all Greece will be purged of the E.L.A.S. in a few weeks". This only a day after a *truce* line had been agreed upon whereby E.L.A.S. were to withdraw from Athens and for a fifteen

(Continued on p. 4, col. 4)

CHURCHILL CONFIRMS BRITAIN'S REACTIONARY POLICY

THE House of Commons was privileged to hear the British fustler again on January 18th. Mr. Churchill spoke for nearly two hours. When all the fine phrases and tricks of oratory are whittled away all that is left is a restatement in perhaps more emphatic terms of the age-old British policy of supporting reaction wherever it shows itself, and at all cost opposing movements which show any likelihood of upsetting the capitalist order of society. The old campaign of atrocity stories, half truths and insinuations is being directed against the Greek E.L.A.S. in order to discredit it, while tanks and aeroplanes carry out the policy originated by the Germans and Italians in Spain and continued by the British in Italy in 1943.

E.L.A.S. is represented as being much more interested in fighting the British than it was in fighting the Germans, despite the fact that one of their enemies, and one of Britain's allies is the Security Police formed by the Germans to keep the Greeks down. E.L.A.S. is condemned for asking that the Right wing armed forces and the Security Police should be disarmed at the same time as themselves. It is not the purpose of this article to discover whether E.L.A.S. is a bunch of crooks or not, perhaps they are, but even if they are not it is obvious that Churchill will spare no efforts to paint them as black as he painted the Russian revolutionaries at the end of the last war; and remember that at that time Lenin and Trotsky were also accused of accepting German gold.

The slimy trail of British power politics

is extended all over Europe. Greece, Italy, France, Belgium, in all these countries the most reactionary forces have been those favoured to take over the administration, because they are the ones who will be the most ruthless and cunning in passing down any move towards freedom on the part of the workers. But it would be quite unfair to single out Britain as the only country guilty of this crime. It may be that she is being used as a convenient stooge by American capital as well; it is far better to get someone else to do the dirty work so long as it is done. However, the article reproduced from *Politics* elsewhere in this issue demonstrates clearly the attitude of America towards "liberated" Europe. In effect it means that the two American officers concluded a pact with the German General against the French people. As *Politics* points out, there is nothing unusual about this sort of thing, it has happened in the past and will continue to happen so long as power politics are the order of the day.

RUSSIA SUPPORTS REACTION

The record of the great ally demonstrates exactly the same principle, *via*, deal with who ever will best be able to control the country in your own interests. Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Poland demonstrate how Stalin will use anyone who will keep the "peace" for him. In Hungary the Russians are promoting a new government which it is intended will turn that country into a "co-belligerent". The leaders of

(Continued in p. 2 col. 1)

FREEDOM PRESS RAIDS

threat to the Freedom of Expression

Since our last report was published, we have received an inventory of the goods taken by the C.I.D. during their raids on the Freedom Press and the homes of two comrades on December 12th. It is interesting to note that among the books removed were a copy of "Your Child and Beauty" and a "Report on Nutrition." Without much knowledge of what constitutes evidence of the commission of an offence under Defence Regulation 39a, we certainly cannot stretch our imagination to see the connection between "Your Child and Beauty" and disaffection. Probably this copy was removed by the same zealous female officer who suggested ripping down the wall paper to find evidence!

Seven Search Warrants

The more serious aspect of the police attacks on the Freedom Press is the facility with which even in a so called democracy the forces of "law and order" are able to obtain search-warrants. Quite apart from the searches made on the persons and in the kits of soldiers, we know of at least SEVEN warrants being issued under 39a for the search of premises and homes of people connected with or interested in the work of Freedom Press. In one case C.I.D. officers actually broke into premises as nobody was in to answer the door. This fact was mentioned casually in conversation by C.I.D. officers more than a month after forcing an entry into premises. And we are not aware of any inventory of goods removed by them or of a communication to the effect that nothing was removed.

It is clear that 39a is becoming an excuse to empower C.I.D. Special Branch to snoop at will on the private lives of people connected with the Freedom Press. And why should they stop at Freedom Press? In the Correspondence column we publish a letter from a sympathiser who was the victim of a search under 39a, and it will be noted that personal belongings having not even the remotest connection with 39a were removed. And how nice of the officer who called the next day to ask whether he could join the surrealist movement. Of course he only wanted to join because he was really interested in surrealism!

What Kind of Freedom?

It is high time people started to do a little serious thinking for themselves. In Europe, whether "liberated" from or enslaved by the Nazi system the rule of force continues. The

police forces are still there to shoot down the people at the behest of whichever government is in power. In Greece Churchill used them to shoot down the "patriots" of yesterday. In Italy Badoglio and Bonomi have used them to shoot down the hungry demonstrators. In Rumania and Hungary the same story will be told. In this country we are slowly but surely reaching the stage where liberty is a word with no meaning. We say that because we do not consider the right to obey as being Freedom and we certainly do not admit that tolerating Freedom of Speech and of the Press IS Freedom. In April 1940 we published an article in *War Commentary* entitled "The Limits of Democracy" in which we quoted from a speech by Lord Halifax. It deserves to be quoted again. It was in answer to Lord Ponsonby, the well known pacifist and author of "Falsehoods in Wartime" who had stated in the House of Lords "I am not a minority of one in this House and outside I can count my supporters by the thousand . . ."

Lord Halifax said: "The Germans may be very ill-informed about us in some respects, but they are not so ill-informed as not to know that Lord Ponsonby does not speak for any great volume of opinion. THE FACT THAT WE ALLOWED HIM TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC, which would not be allowed in Germany, WOULD BE A MOST CONVINCING PROOF THAT WE WERE NOT GREATLY INTIMIDATED BY THE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION HE MIGHT REPRESENT."

In other words you are tolerated so long as the ruling class feel secure and in no immediate danger that your views will reach more than half a dozen people. They then prattle about Freedom of the Press, and tell foreign visitors to go to Marble Arch to witness Freedom of Speech in practice and continue to hold down the mass of the people in economic (and consequently moral) servitude with a benevolent smile on their lips.

We do not know how the present campaign against the Freedom Press will end. We recognise it as a bitter attack on the Freedom of the Press. This is the view which has been expressed in the many letters and messages of support and encouragement we have received. It is an attack which must be given the widest publicity amongst the workers in this country and abroad and in those organs of the Press which still have sufficient dignity and vision to realize that the threat to FREEDOM PRESS may be a threat to all Freedom of expression.



What was the Joke?

The gentleman with the grin is Major-General Erich Elster, of the German Army. He has just concluded negotiations for surrendering the 20,000 troops under his command to the Americans, represented here by Lieut. Col. Bertram Kalisch (left) and Lieut. Col. Jules K. French. The reason for Herr Kommandant's geniality is suggested by the following account of the incident in the *N.Y. Times* of September 18 last:

"BEAUGENCY, France, September 17.—All day long German forces of occupation from the Loire south to the Pyrenees have been converging on this ancient town to surrender their weapons to the U.S. Ninth Army . . . What makes this surrender different is the decision to permit the Germans to keep their weapons until tomorrow.

"The Nazis have been exasperating the French people by marching insolently through villages en route to Beaugency, singing German battle airs, breaking into the goose step, and holding aloft their banners, emblazoned with swastikas. The French are losing the pleasure they might have expected to take in seeing 20,000 Germans surrender. The people are watching in silence as the grey-uniformed German columns file by . . . They are frightened, and feel insulted.

"One reason the Germans were allowed to keep their artillery, grenades, machine guns and small arms fully loaded is Gen. Elster's distrust of the French Forces of the Interior . . . Another reason little discussed in official quarters is the reluctance to have so rich a haul of weapons fall into the hands of French franc-tireurs, especially Communist elements,

which are numerous here, it is said."

No wonder Herr Kommandant is smiling. And the two American colonels seem to get the joke, too.

The episode may well be the most significant event in the entire war. The fate of postwar Europe will depend on the success or failure of the Allies in stifling revolutionary movements. And nothing is harder to deal with than a population which has guns. "Who made all men equal?" ran the frontier conundrum. The answer: "Not God and not Thomas Jefferson, but Mr. Colt."

Writing in *The Nation* for September 30, Albert Norden describes how the Allied High Command acted after the last war:

"Foch was so afraid of revolution that he refused to demand the immediate dissolution of the German General Staff. . . . He permitted the regiments that remained loyal to the Kaiser to march back into Germany fully armed and in close formation. Under the leadership of the General Staff, they stamped out the revolution and became the germ cells of Hitler's Wehrmacht. Two such unimpeachable witnesses as Clemenceau and Barthou agree that Marshal Foch permitted the German General Staff and the Ebert government to keep 5,000 machine guns 'so they could turn them against the revolution.'"

In the usual liblab fashion, Norden asked: "Will the supreme commander in 1944 repeat the mistakes of the supreme commander in 1919?" The answer is: he will, and they weren't mistakes. How long are we going to continue to be disappointed when tigers don't behave like lambs?

From "Politics"

WAR COMMENTARY

FORTNIGHTLY 2d.

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In the first article the Author traced the development of education from the seventeenth century. He showed how on class issues the school history books of to-day contain gross misrepresentations which in Bertrand Russell's words teach the young to die in battle for Capitalist dividends. The article concluded with a condemnation of State education, its mechanisation of the child mind, its suppression to traditional social forms, forms which have for ever proven their inability to cater for a happy and peace-abiding community.

THE FAMILY AS AN INSTITUTION

ANOTHER important item to be considered is the child in its present context of family life. By the concentration on the blood tie, and the setting up of the family as a vital institution within society, the political administrations have managed, by an over-emphasis in education, to bias the youthful attitude to the extent of completely upsetting the individual's sense of values in society, and caused a concentration on the family circle to the detriment of interest in social matters. Added to this has been the contribution of the Churches which have always regarded the family unit as an axiom for social rights and privileges. To a degree, the family in its present institutionalized form, supports the tradition of 'divide and rule'; for whilst people concentrate on safeguarding their family interests from the evils of the rest of society, they obviously become a prey to the dictates of governments and the careerist requirements of political parties. It must therefore be asserted that the abolition of the institutionalized family is desirable. Not that friendship and mutual co-operation should cease to exist between blood relations, but that the compulsion and duty elements be removed to allow the child to develop in the fullest sense of harmony with society as a whole. Its choice of associations and companionships should be unhindered by pre-assumed notions of duty to family, maintaining family tradition, etc., and its efforts towards social intercourse should not be thwarted by the requirements of obligations to blood relations.

Ample legal facilities cater for the requirements of maintaining the family system—by right of inheritance and other means. In some cases by the accumulation of wealth the institutionalized family acquires position in a certain social stratum; in other cases, families are so concerned with getting a sufficiency of food and the bare requirements of existence that they too cling to the institutionalized form of family life; but in the latter case it is a desperate association—one of a struggle for survival. It is therefore correct to say that in the family system capitalism finds a fertile basis for its policy of creating divisions in society; whilst within the framework of the family some are concerned with acquiring and protecting wealth from other ambitious believers in thrift and fortune, others are engaged in aping the wealthier classes and improving their lot—all to the detriment of those families (the majority) who, often for some precarious reason or other, do not succeed in maintaining a decent standard of life. By an indoctrination of the family system the child never gets the opportunity to approach society with an open mind. The child's first experience in family life is one charged with all the implications of divided and frustrated society—a condition necessary to the successful functioning of capitalism.

In many ways and in most cases, the contemporary child is protested to a point of distraction from fundamental and natural development. There are comparatively few families or schools in which the abilities of the very young child are fully realised and where the infant can learn things by personal experience. True, precautions should be taken to ensure that no real harm should come to the child, but the tendencies in this direction are

usually over-reached. The child is regarded as a helpless mortal which at all times must be controlled and corrected; the effects of this can be either a tendency towards lack of self-confidence or a reactionary over-assertion, which in either case causes the mature being to be out of perspective socially, with an already over-complicated society. The influences of school and family, the school with its formulative and biased training, the family with the institutionalized and protective trends, create a condition of mind wherein the conflicts aroused can rarely be co-related. In many cases these diverse tendencies are maintained throughout life—aggravated and twisted by day to day experiences; whether they are by the dishonesty which is an essential part of the present competitive system, or by the frustration caused by a struggle in the labour market. It would appear therefore that a healthy approach to the question of Education brings one

periods of development. Too little emphasis has been laid on self-expression—too much on personal habits. For instance: to aim at a formula which will make a child of six an automatic self-controlled individual, is to thwart tendencies whose normal developments may result in harmful consequences. An insistence on the mechanical approach to reading and writing tends to frustrate an approach to the more practical issues of life. Throughout it appears necessary to treat the child with a respect for its particular desires, out of all proportion for the attitude which has hitherto been adopted. Children are naturally imitative, especially in doing practical things. It is in handicraft that greater opportunity should be given—the creative mental and physical energies of a child usually manifest themselves fluently in this direction. No set method should be adopted in the approach to any subject—the most desirable method has often been found by experiment to be that by which a child can happily develop self-expression and style—imaginative drawing and memory-work if carried out voluntarily often yield work of astonishing merit.

Broadly those changes which are immediately desirable are the decentralisation of the existing educational institutions into communities of children, preferably in a rural environment. These communities to be managed by individuals intent on

Churchill's Speech

(continued from p. 1) this government are Conservative-Nationalists, the party of the ex-Regent Admiral Horthy, and they are supported by so-called democratic groups. Significantly the Premier in this government is a General named Bela Miklos. No doubt the Russians realise that a militarist is probably better able to control the population than any of the Left wing parties.

The new Bulgarian government likewise is a coalition, this time of the Military League, Agrarians, Socialists and Communists. The government is known as the Patriotic Front and the key positions are held by members of the Right Wing Military League. This ensures that the Bulgarian army leaders have a say in the control of the country, and that the Bulgarian military forces will be co-operating with the Red Army.

The same kind of government is favoured by Russia for Rumania, here again the leader is a General and the government is composed of Right wing and Left wing elements.

Although superficially Stalin's stooge government for Poland looks different, yet the Lublin Committee will play the same part as the militarists are doing for Stalin in the Balkans. Russia wants to control and direct the policy of those countries which are close to herself, Stalin trusts the Lublin boys and not the "legal" Polish government in London. That's all there is at issue.

THE FUTURE OF GERMANY

Rumours are about concerning the kind of government which Russia will set up in Austria when that country is occupied, and that it will consist of Conservative-Catholics, Social-Democrats and Communists. Already there is the Free German Committee in existence in Moscow, with two ex-Nazi generals as members—von Paulus and Seydlitz. There is to be no possibility of a German workers' revolution after this war if Stalin and Churchill have their way. The grip of reaction on Europe is not at any cost to be relaxed, the workers are to pass from the yoke of the Nazi or German-quisling dictatorship to the yoke of a military dictatorship, Patriotic Front, or whatever is favoured by the allies. But even though the future of Europe may look black for the workers, yet the combined efforts of all the Allied powers will not be able to suppress the movement towards freedom that the workers are already beginning to make.

WAR CRIMINALS

The British Foreign Office has suggested to the War Crimes Commission that Hitler should not be treated as a war criminal, and the Daily Express has pointed out that Hitler "has technically committed few crimes known to the vague code of international law, and on a purely legal basis might even be acquitted".

That does not surprise us at all, we know quite well that the biggest crooks never see the inside of a jail because all their crimes are sanctioned by the law. But the writer of the Express article suggests that perhaps Hitler could be tried by the Russian legal system, since says the article: "The Russian legal system is a remarkable one. It is universal. That is to say, according to Soviet jurists, theoretically it applies to every individual in every land."

One of the biggest reasons for the British having nothing to do with the trial of Hitler is the very obvious support and praise which he has been given in the past by our present leaders. We could start off by quoting Churchill's hope that if ever Britain was down and out she would find a man like Hitler "to lead her back to her rightful place among the nations". We could quote statements by all sorts of other politicians on the greatness of Germany and Italy under Fascism, and we could show how British financiers helped Hitler to gain power. But all these things are being continually re-emphasized by the allied policy in Europe to-day. They might still condemn the Hitler gang but they would find a German Badoglio to take his place. One thing is certain, we know that wars are not caused by Hitler or Churchill, but by the capitalist system of society. And so long as capitalism remains it will be personified by the so-called "great" men. The replacement of capitalism by workers control is the only way in which war and with it war criminals can be abolished.

The Coming Elections

There should certainly be a turn-up for the book at the next General Election. The present Parliament has been in being a long time. In the "landslide" leading to the election of the "National" Government in 1931, many candidates were elected who never would have been elected in normal circumstances. All sorts of business-men and sprigs of the aristocracy found themselves suddenly in Parliament who had never thought they would ever get into Parliament, and have found over-riding business considerations in the meantime, or succeeded to titles. The majority of the House remained substantially unaltered in 1935, and in great part the 1935 House of Commons remains in its tenth year.

There has been considerable heart-throbbings over the Conservative seats. In view of the attacks on the Conservatives over their pre-war pro-fascism, there are not so many safe Conservative seats as there used to be. This has meant that those which remain traditionally safe have gone up in price. Hence it is becoming more and more difficult for Conservative M.P.s to pay for their seats, and there is a resultant protest by them against the amount they have to pay the Conservative Associations for the privilege of being able to represent class interests. In the not-quite-so-safe Conservative seats it looks from a spectator's point of view as though it is pretty certain that they will commercialise on the officer-and-gentleman angle for the Election, and try to peddle doubtful seats by putting up a war man who has been a "gallant officer" during the war, and doubtless in these circumstances medals will take precedence over their trump card, and they will be very ready to follow him into a Coalition similar to the war-time one, where he calls the tune.

The Liberal Party has degenerated into a mere electoral arrangement by which business-men can get into Parliament without the expense of being Tories. Doubtless it may command the support of some of the electorate, which in parts is traditionally and mostly sentimentally Liberal, but as a practical entity it may be dismissed.

The Labour Party might well be the next Government if it broke with the Coalition. It is quite possible that the "leftward" swing in the country might find expression, for a time, in voting Labour. But a Labour Government would not be substantially different from a Conservative Government, assuming the latter were prepared to carry on its peace-time policy pursued in wartime by the Coalition. Any Labour Government would have to include Bevin, Morrison or Attlee, and these are responsible members of the War Cabinet who have been privy to the most reactionary legislation not merely that destined for wartime legislation, but also post-war legislation, such as peace-time conscription, industrial

conscription, and the like. They likewise endorse the Beveridge proposals, another link in common of the politicians.

There are many hangers-on to the Labour Party's coat-tails. The bureaucrats of Transport House have a very shrewd idea of them. They very naturally refuse any form of unity with the smaller socialist parties. They stand out against association with them, while the lesser fry plead for "left unity" at the Election. While the other parties can put up candidates at bye-elections and even win them, they can only do so against Conservatives. When it comes to an electoral fight between the Labour Party and its socialist hangers-on, the former win easily. Therefore, in the name of "unity" the latter usually prefer not to contest the Labour Party seats. Now that the Election is coming around, those with seats naturally become perturbed, for the time when they will have to contest a Labour candidate, and both McGovern (I.L.P. M.P.) and Loveseed (Commonwealth M.P.) have urged their parties into the Labour fold! Many of the war-time Independents will seek peace-time berths in the established parties; but many more Independents will come forward.

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The Communists intend to put up candidates, and will fight the Election with no electoral agreement, according to present arrangements. The Trotskyists intend to put up candidates and apparently their first one is to fight the bye-election at Neath (according to Socialist Appeal Jan. 1945). Common Wealth may fold up altogether when there is no electoral truce, though its largely technician Fabian membership may feel the need for preserving its own little niche in its own Party, but otherwise one assumes it will have its own M.P.s. Even the S.P.G.B. may get round to proposing a candidate—unlikely things may perhaps have happened.

This does not take into account any new party, of which there are many embryos and which may take concrete form as an Election approach (similar to Mosley's policy in 1931 and his "New Party"—and perhaps finishing in the same direction). Nor have we mentioned the Independent candidates of whom there are likely to be any number. As bye-elections have shown, there are plenty of people with ready cash prepared to come forward with any policy ranging from "helpful criticism of the Government" to "opening Joanna Southcott's box".

Shall we back the Unions

If backing the Unions means the enrolment of workers in the Unions as they are at present constituted, with the bureaucrats in the saddle and the addition of more dues-payers merely supplying grist to the mill, the further enslavement of workers into a greater, and yet more subtle, degree of economic and ideological peonage, then the answer is in the negative. Back the Unions? No! For this means, at the very best, the futile engagement in a struggle to re-direct, what is an integral part of the machinery of the Modern Capitalist State, onto a path that because of its very nature and composition, it is impossible for the Unions to follow. The Trades Union are ostensibly an organisation for the defence of workers rights and conditions, but in effect they provide an instrument of oppression in the interest of the Capitalist State. They can never be wielded as a weapon against the Capitalist State. The function of the militant worker is surely not one of actively exposing workers to the corrupting influences of the Unions whose actions can reduce even the most enthusiastic worker to complete apathy. Alternatively, the interest that is lacking at the empty union meetings is to be found at the "point of production". In the event of a dispute or strike, the really effective support is given to what is nine times out of ten, an unofficial strike committee. A committee, set up to fulfil the needs of the moment, acting directly responsible to their work-mates, and operating invariably in opposition to the official trades union committee and Union Executive. Why then back the Unions when the real job of work, fighting the boss class, can be done even more effectively by Independent Committees in the yard, pit, or factory?

Candidates can generally be classified. There are the scions of the aristocracy who want to pass a few years in the Commons before the old man passes out and they can take their seats in the Lords; the business-men representing vested interests; the lawyers in all parties; the trade union bureaucrats; and the careerists generally.

Anarchists may perhaps take the occasion of announcing their own election policy. We shall not be supporting any candidates, nor putting up any of our own. Firstly, because we don't believe that Parliamentary candidates can affect the social issues; secondly, because they usually finish up on the other side of the fence; thirdly, because they deflect attention from the real issues—that of a complete change in society—and fourthly, because government does not serve the interests of the people. We shall not go to sleep when the Election comes round, however; (Continued on p.3. col. 1)

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method of achieving the emancipation of the workers. The recent pronouncements emanating from the various Union conferences and executives, reaffirming the marriage of Capital and Labour; Post-war plans for Capitalism, etc., place beyond all dispute, the Union's attitude towards the vital questions of the real emancipation of the workers and the establishment of Workers' Control. Syndicalism, the formation of Workers' Syndicates, is the only effective alternative to a fast-decaying trades-unionism. The Independent Factory or Job Committee that embraces all the different types of craftsmen working on the job, is far and away the most effective means of safeguarding workers' rights, wages, etc. In turn, this form of association can well provide the nucleus of Workers' Syndicates. Because in ever-increasing numbers militant workers are becoming completely disillusioned with the whole of the Trades Union set-up, the question resolves itself from "shall we back the Unions?" into, "can we reform or must we destroy?" Can the Unions be re-fashioned from supposed reformist, but in reality reactionary organisations into syndicates which have a revolutionary aim of whilst defending and improving the status of the worker, smashing the Capitalist system and establishing Workers' Control?

We contend that because of its inherent tendencies, the Trades Unions inevitably threw up a bureaucracy, therefore any rejuvenation is futile. To cut out the cancerous growth of reactionary leadership means to destroy trades unionism as such. The task follows that we must recreate a type of organisation that renders impossible the rise of a bureaucracy. As militants, all our energies must be subordinated to this task of providing a positive alternative to the now obvious decadence of the Trades Unions. We must press for the creation of committees at the point of production. Independent factory committees, cutting across artificial divisions, independent pit committees, representing all workers in and around the pit, field committees for agricultural workers, etc. To this end we must devote our greatest endeavours, for anything short of this is doomed to failure.

T. CARLILE.

ANOTHER COAL REPORT

Coal and miners still persist to gain prominence in the news. No matter how the authorities conspire to keep this important issue in the dark it continues to flare up in their faces. A few weeks ago there was a full scale attack on the miners by the press, the government, the mineowners and union officials, but they failed to get any response and support from the public and their implications and allegations that the miners were the cause of the loss of output fell flat. After that there was relative quiet. A few strikes here and there; sectional mostly, miners getting fined for absenteeism; trouble with Bevin boys and the usual news of miners being crushed to death by falls of roof. This is mentioned as *relative quiet* because it is regarded as normal and only gets a few lines in the corner of the paper. But the report of the Scottish Coalfields' Committee is apparently worthy of much news space as it is splashed across our bosses' newspapers, and on the Scottish editions particularly.

This Committee led by an ambitious Tory Solicitor-General for Scotland has recommended the setting up of a Coal Board which is to develop the Scottish fields in the interests of the Nation. A liquidly vague statement of which the only interpretation is: the coal-owners' profits have to be protected. Miners with few exceptions know that the Nation's interest means the employers' interest. The boss has won another victory which it is hoped is only temporary.

The miners representatives on the Committee have issued a minority report urging the co-ordination and nationalisation of the mines. A report which is twenty-five years behind the Sankey Report. The miners could not expect anything from a Tory lawyer-Chairman but hope burned that something could be achieved by former comrades and ex-revolutionaries who were on the Committee. These men, Messrs. Pearson, Barbour, Cameron and Henderson, by collaborating with the government and coal-owners on this matter have held out hope to the miners, knowing perfectly well that the vicious coal-owning class have no intention of giving up anything to the miners, and are therefore as guilty as the class enemies of the miners themselves. This is particularly true of Pearson.

Pearson, who jumped on the miners' backs shouting revolutionary phrases and condemnation of the "Old Gang" because they contented themselves with constitutional procedure, is now trying to outdo them in this futile tail-chasing policy. This is the man who said a short time ago, while there was a wave of strikes taking place, that the anarchists were a menace and would have to be fought as such. Putting himself on the right side of the law while giving the O.K. to any action the government might take. That is the only thing his statement can mean; for neither he nor his small group of communist pretenders are able to face or fight the truth of the anarchist's case.

The Coming Elections

(Continued from p. 2, col. 5)
It should be a signal to us for increased activity, since at that time people will be stimulated to interest in "politics". We can seize the opportunity for vigorous anti-political propaganda—but more than that, we shall be able to put forward our own solutions to the economic problems of the day, and stress the fact that they do not involve sending people to Parliament, putting ourselves in power or subsidising an official class. For that reason, ours is perhaps the harder way—it is that the workers shall take their emancipation in their own hands and fight the class battle in industry.

Whoever gets into power as the result of the coming Election, whenever it comes, or by any other means, will continue the trends towards the totalitarian State. It may be that some parties would allow certain liberal tendencies politically, such as free speech or popular assembly, whereas others would not. The fact remains that all propose the curtailment of economic liberty, and the continuance of the fascist type of prison legislation that has taken place during the war under the pretext of wartime necessity. Peace-time military conscription, the militarisation of youth, those slavish systems we have copied from the Continent, will be operative. Industrial conscription will go on and involve by necessity industrial discipline en-

forced by prisons—bad time-keeping, absenteeism, bad workmanship and striking being considered offences. For no reason save the continuance of capitalism, since there will be no war-time production bogey to raise. This will appeal to the Conservatives, as representing the employers, and also appeals to the Labour Party, as representing the trade union officials. State Socialists would take away even such minor liberties as the other would be prepared to leave as a safety-valve. Nor can any parties escape the totalitarian trend in modern society, because they all accept the principles of State control. They merely worry about who is exercising the State control—in short, whether they shall be the bosses or someone else. The Conservatives want it not to apply to the industrialists; the Labourites want control all round; the Communists differ and want to be the people controlling; others object and want to be the controllers instead. Against this jobbery we stand for freedom, and freedom in the modern world can only mean freedom from the State. It can only mean the right to live without Government control of life, in the way one chooses, unhampered by economic necessity because all should enjoy the means of life in common. Anarchists will stand clearly apart from the Election racket and from any other issue which decides who shall govern us, and shall stand instead for the emancipation of the workers by the direct action of the workers themselves.

This Committee's Report like the 'Awards' and other reports will avail the miners nothing independent of what "Gang" takes part in its formation. Miners reading this can read the Report themselves and find the truth in this article's implications and assertions. It is therefore urged that the miners are better equipped and fitted to take over the mines than the State or the would-be Stakhanovites, than journalists and parliamentarians' sons. It is further urged that miners should prepare and organise for that struggle. That would give lasting prominence to this important issue.

J. CARRACHER.

HELP THE POLICE COMRADE!

There is no longer any need for irregular armed groups in France, Maurice Thorez, secretary of the French Communist Party, said in his opening address yesterday to a three-day session of the Central Committee of the Party.

"The task of combating sabotage and eliminating saboteurs falls to the authorised representatives of the State," he said.

"Public security must be assured by regular police forces constituted for this purpose."

"The task of the National Committees of Liberation is not to govern but to assist those who govern."

Paris radio reports that the Congress in Paris of the National Liberation movement has approved a plan for the merging of all Resistance movements.

Daily Worker, 23/1/45.

Coloured Soldiers Strike

Last September there occurred a partially successful strike of coloured soldiers at Tucson, Arizona, according to the latest number of the American magazine *Politics* to reach this country.

The strike was the outcome of a long period of abuses and discriminatory treatment, most of the soldiers in question having been on kitchen duty for over nineteen months, thus performing the most dreary and dispiriting job the Army has to offer. In addition there had been constant pressure from "pushers" to speed up the work. For the last nine months they had been serving cadets without being paid the extra 50% of base pay to which each is entitled. Further, for punishment of minor offences, they have been obliged to serve their extra duty in the mess halls instead of their squadron area. This was recently declared illegal by an Administrative Inspector after it had been in operation for over eighteen months.

The strike, which altogether involved fifty-seven Negro soldiers, started off at 4.00 a.m. on the morning of September 11th when the first shift of sixteen men reported to the mess hall and announced that they were not going to work without the extra pay to which each was entitled. It must be understood that this action could

be interpreted by the high ups as mutiny if they cared to be severe. Nevertheless, they sat down, the Military Police were immediately called and the strikers were imprisoned in the Guardhouse.

The Executive Officer of the Field, Major Tilden, and the white commanding officer of the Negro squadron, Lieutenant Shoupe called a meeting, in the Day Room, of the second shift which was supposed to report at 1.00 p.m. The members of this shift told the officers they would not report for work either. These men too, were sent to the Guardhouse. The two remaining shifts did not report for duty either.

The fifty-seven soldiers returned to work two days later. The soldiers assigned permanently to the kitchen have been granted the extra pay which they asserted was their due when working for cadets. None of the men has been punished.

The outcome of the strike is that all Negro Kitchen Police have been assigned to the cadet mess hall where they will draw \$25 per month in extra pay. The loss is, however, that they now work 84 hours per week for the cadets as compared with 56 hours per week they formerly worked in the General mess hall.

What is the Daily Worker doing about this?

Everyone will remember that the *Daily Worker* raised hell when Minister of War Grigg refused its correspondent the right to accompany the Liberation Armies when the Second Front was opened. From the following questions asked in the House recently it appears that not a single foreign correspondent is allowed to accompany the Soviet armies. The *Daily Worker* has apparently no correspondent with the Red Army but not a word of protest has been voiced by Editor Rust. Stalin's orders are sacrosanct!

Sir A. Knox asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there are any foreign correspondents with the Soviet armies.

Mr. Eden: So far as I am aware, there are no foreign correspondents permanently accredited to the Soviet armies.

Sir A. Knox: Can the right hon. Gentleman give any reason for that, as all the American and British Armies have correspondents? Has permission for correspondents been refused by the Soviet Government?

Mr. Eden: My hon. and gallant Friend will realise that it is not for me to say what reasons the Soviet Government may have for not having correspondents with their armies.

Mr. Pickthorn: Can my right hon. Friend tell us whether the *Daily Worker* has a correspondent with the Soviet Army?

Sir A. Southby: If not, why not?
Hansard, 17/1/45.

WITHDRAW from GREECE PROTEST MEETING IN GLASGOW

On Tuesday 16th January the Communist Party held a demonstration in St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, under the slogan "GREECE: DEMAND THE 'CEASE FIRE' NOW". The meeting was very poorly attended, in spite of the call to all C.P.-ers to be present, and the presence of Abe Moffat, President of the National Union of Scottish Mineworkers and other high-ups of the C.P. On Sunday afternoon the Labour Party, Trades Council and Co-operative Party held a meeting at the same place under a similar slogan "TRUCE IN GREECE". It was slightly better attended but the audience was still under 300, in spite of the presence of such national figures as Neil MacLean, M.P., Alex. Sloan, M.P. and others.

Naturally the Glasgow workers rejected these bourgeois slogans which tried to show that there was an unfortunate happening in Greece where "Greek fought Greek", without any class content. General Scobie has managed to turn a revolutionary situation

into a civil war. This was recognised by the Glasgow Workers' Council which held a united protest meeting under the revolutionary slogan "WITHDRAW FROM GREECE!" At least twice the attendance that had been at the St. Andrew's Hall packed out the King's Cinema. The meeting was composed of diverse elements including Scottish Nationalists, Socialists, Pacifists and Anarchists, but the message was one that Anarchists could endorse, namely that it was not enough to protest but the struggle had to be carried on through into the workshops. The need was for action at the point of production.

William McDougall, editor of *Solidarity*, was in the chair, Douglas Young and Peter McIntyre spoke for the Scottish Nationalists; Alex. Smith (United Peace Campaign) and Oliver Brown (Scotts Socialists) gave very militant speeches; while Jimmy Rae-side, for the Anarchists, was very warmly received for his forthright call to industrial action.

THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND

Lord Lansdowne is succeeded by his first cousin, Captain George John Charles Mercer-Nairne, of the Royal Scots Greys, who is 32. In addition to becoming Marquis of Lansdowne, he has nearly a dozen additional titles. They are: Earl Wycombe, Viscount Calne and Calstone, Lord Wycombe, Baron of Chipping Wycombe, Baron Nairne, Earl of Kerry, Earl of Shelburne, Viscount Clan Maurice and Fitz-Maurice, Baron of Kerry and Lisnaw and Baron Dunkerron.

The Star, 4/1/45.

STRIKES AND COMMON WEALTH

We in Common Wealth have always deplored strikes in wartime.

Tom Winstingham in *Common Wealth Review*, Jan. 1945. "Let's progressive" views in politics can be just as reactionary as Right views when transplanted to the hard facts of industry.

CAPITALIST DOG

Jack, a partly fox-terrier with a taste for steaks and chops, and \$5,000 to support his taste, moved into his seven-roomed house here to-day. Wartime travel restrictions may keep him from his Florida home this winter.

Mrs. Margaret Myers, who rescued Jack from the dog pound five years ago and provided him with his initial steaks and chops, has provided the commencement of that diet by leaving Jack her entire estate. It includes the Dunnet house, a home at Sebring, Florida, and a car.

She left nothing to Joseph White, her son by her first marriage. He indicated that he would contest the will which he said was only "a temporary document."

However, it is indicative of the thoroughness with which Mrs. Myers endowed Jack by the fact that she named Herbert Kelly caretaker. He will share the house too. He is a retired butcher and presumably a man who knows about steaks and chops.

Mrs. Myers died in October at 77, after four years of widowhood. Jack was her constant companion. He had his coffee with cream, sugar and doughnuts for breakfast, whatever is available for lunch, and man-sized meals for dinner.

This is not the first time when a dog has been left a fortune by his mistress; the case of the Pekinese shareholder is well-known and yet there are still people who maintain that without capitalists society could not survive!

Through the Press

ALLIED RULE IN ITALY

The pilfering of Army supplies in Italy led to a position last year where gangster gun battles took place in the streets of Naples, while 1000-dollar notes "flowed like water" as a result of black market transaction.

These facts were disclosed to-day by the U.S. Army Deputy Provost-Marshal, Mr. Joseph Dillon, who has recently returned to the U.S. after a year spent directing the struggle to stop leakages of petrol, rations, and cigarettes from Allied Army supplies into black market channels.

Offences ranged from petty pilfering by North African Arabs to "big money" black marketing in France, said Mr. Dillon. The primary cause of these crimes against the Allied forces was the hungry condition of the people.

The problem was most complicated in Italy, where 22 Italians were killed last year in pitched gun battles with U.S. military police. While in Europe Mr. Dillon employed the same rigorous methods to guard military supplies as are used by the U.S. police in the fight against gangsters.

Supply dumps were fenced and guarded by machine-guns, and lorry drivers were given orders to "shoot on sight" if molested by petty thieves.

Evening Times, 4/1/45.

THIS VOTING RACKET

The Mayor of Montreal, Cassien Houde, is to appear in court to answer allegations that he abused Montreal's electoral laws during his election on December 11.

A writ has been issued by Mr. Justice Casanove of the Canadian Supreme Court following a petition by a lorry driver named Leo Duce, 1922 British United Press.

Duce alleges that the Mayor personally had agents making loans, gifts, offers and promises in order to favour his election.

Evening Standard, 11/1/45.

IS THIS WORTH FIGHTING FOR?

Tenants in the condemned tenement property at 19 North Portland Street, Glasgow, are eagerly awaiting details of the alternative houses which they have been promised within a month's time.

"We don't know yet where we are going or what kind of houses we are to get," Mr. Hugh Thomson, a ground-floor tenant, told *The Glasgow Herald*. "But anything would be better than this," he added. The single room which houses him, his wife, and six children is badly affected by damp. For lighting, the family has to depend on an oil lamp.

Glasgow Herald, 11/1/45.

"SITUATIONS VACANT"

The National Organisation of each of the political parties is being inundated with offers to become prospective parliamentary candidates for nearly every constituency in the United Kingdom. The Unionist, Liberal, and Labour headquarters are receiving more offers than they can possibly consider.

In many recent by-election vacancies there have been as many as 30 to 40 individual offers to the local Unionist Association from serving officers, business and professional men, and public figures in the locality.

The Liberal Party, under the leadership of Sir Archibald Sinclair and with the influence of the personality of Sir William Beveridge, is drawing to itself many hundreds of potential candidates who consider that they can recapture long-lost seats for Liberalism in areas at present represented by Unionists or Socialists.

The Labour Party has no lack of trade union nominees and other aspirants for Parliamentary candidature.

Glasgow Herald, 12/1/45.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?

If the names of the directors of any local press be ascertained and compared with the list of J.P.s, the directors of gas, electricity, water, etc., and other important enterprises, owners of land, fishing and shooting rights, there will probably be found some duplication. Consequently, since an editor dare not offend a director, much that the public would like to say regarding local amenities and rights will not be printed. Moreover, surely the owner of a newspaper dictates his politics, religion and special favours.

I venture to say that the 'freedom of the press', local as well as London, does not extend to the public but remains with the owners.

Letter to the Listener, 28/12/44.

WHERE WAS SHINWELL?

One of the most prominent, not to say vocal, of Mr. Churchill's critics has for some time been Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, M.P. for Seaham Harbour.

Mr. Shinwell has been particularly hostile to the Prime Minister on the subject of Greece.

I looked with interest to see what Mr. Shinwell had to say in the debate just finished, in which Mr. Churchill was so handsomely vindicated.

I could find no report of any speech by Mr. Shinwell. On the other hand, I see that at the time the debate was on, Shinwell was addressing a touring "Brains Trust" at Hyde (Cheshire) Town Hall.

Letter to Sunday Dispatch, 21/1/44.

MONTESSORI INTERNED IN INDIA

Dr. Maria Montessori, who founded the world-famous Montessori system of education, has been released from internment.

She arrived in India at the outbreak of war, and was interned when Italy joined in.

During her internment she conducted training courses at Ahmedabad, and trained about 1,000 Indians in her system. She is now 75.

Dr. Maria Montessori and her nephew, Dr. Mario Montessori, were interned at their home in India in June, 1940. Six years earlier Mussolini had closed all the Montessori schools in Italy because of Dr. Maria's pacifist views. Since then she has lived abroad.

News Chronicle, 9/1/45.

On what grounds did the British Government intern a woman of over seventy whose work had been destroyed by Mussolini in Italy?

WASTE OF LABOUR

The production of a complete register of electors early in 1945 has presented the printing industry with one of the biggest problems it has had to face during the war. The Representation of the People Bill introduced in the House of Commons before Christmas made public this proposal for a complete register, but the industry was consulted in confidence by H.M.S.O. at the beginning of December.

Over thirty million names will have to be set, and it will be obvious to all with any experience of the production of lists and registers of electors that a tremendous amount of mechanical composition and handling of set type is involved. After consultation with the Trade Unions concerned as to the number of their members still engaged in Civil Defence and munitions, the President of the B.F.M.P. informed H.M.S.O. that in order to produce the lists to the time schedule laid down the industry would require at least nine hundred additional men.

The Bookmaker, 4/1/45.

Enormous quantities of paper will also be required and for what purpose? Elections will not solve the problems of unemployment and starvation after the war.

ILL-ADVISED GENEROSITY

The man who offered a £9,000 Torquay villa to Mr. Churchill on his 70th birthday is in trouble.

He told me, yesterday, that he had seven anonymous letters castigating the town for trying to curry favour, and besides this, townspeople themselves are telling him that his offer was unauthorised and ill-advised, and that he wouldn't have been able to raise the money anyway.

Reynolds News, 7/1/45.

A CROWN INSTEAD OF A HANGOVER

George of the Hellenes is a most delightful man in his social contacts.

The Monarchy has been in and out so many times that I lose count. However, I always remember that Prince George was called to Greece, as King, for the first time in the autumn of 1922. I happened, as a schoolboy, to be spending the "hols" with the Rumanian Royal Family at the summer palace of Sinaia.

One day George was missing at breakfast and if there was one thing that annoyed Queen Marie it was people who were late for breakfast. So a flunkey was dispatched off to dig the royal hangover (by implication) out of bed and get Prince George down to his breakfast—and no nonsense.

Back came a harassed flunkey with the news that Prince George's bed had not been slept in. Queen Marie reserved her comments on that one.

However, the missing George turned up the next day as King in Athens. He had, it appears, left without saying a word, at 5 a.m.—and without his breakfast.

Marquis of Donegall in Sunday Dispatch, 14/1/45.

SCHOOL PASSPORT

Obviously, this card-indexing of the individual cannot be kept up without the Identity Card. Proof of the Government's intention is given in a new confidential folder now being circulated to schools to implement the Education Bill, wherein teachers will be required to fill in and maintain the most detailed and exhaustive information about every child; not only of the scholastic order, but of the personal, family, home, and financial sort. This folder is to go from class to class and from school to school with every child—but will not be in the child's possession.

An excellent way to ensure the manufacture, from the kindergarten stage, of the type of men and women big business (both military and other) will require for the future satisfaction of the robot needs of conveyor-belt industry, as well as the complacency of non-rebellious gun-fodder.

Cavalcade, 13/1/45.

BETTER STILL!

Now we have the paper house, costing £12 10s. It is erected in an hour and will (the designers hope) stand up to all kinds of weather for at least a year.

The Institute of Paper Chemistry at Appleton, Wisconsin, after experimenting since August, concedes that the real test is now beginning.

News Chronicle, 20/12/44.

Spanish Politics

A number of stool-pigeons met in Mexico City and decided they would present themselves into the Government...

As they mustered 84 out of 473 they abandoned their project of electing a President. The only decision they took was to meet later.

Anarchism Commentary

brought the matter to a head. They would have had to admit frankly that there was no possibility of support from Churchill and Roosevelt...

This has been their consistent game since 1936. The Republican politicians pleaded with the workers to allow them to govern...

Still no help has come from their "international contacts" solely because the capitalist governments will only help one another when it suits their interests to do so...

Señor Maura may find many renegades to join his provisional government and the Supreme Junta established by the Stalinists will find an

Industrial News in Brief

● Reuter reported on the 22nd January that eight Africans and one white killed and eleven Africans and several police injured in a strike in Uganda.

● 1,200 workers went on a sit-down strike at Nutfield Mechanisations in Birmingham on the 11th January following a reduction in the payment of the basic wage.

● Strikes by railwaymen, seaside and fertilizer workers, dairy farm workers and coal miners are reported from various parts of New Zealand.

● The "Evening Chronicle" (10/1/45) reports a stoppage of 700 men working on the goods handling and goods and passenger parcels delivery stations at Newcastle Station, Newcastle.

● The cause of the stoppage was that the meeting of the N.U.R. representatives and the Railway Company was put off to a later date whereas the men wanted it to take place on the day of the stoppage.

● More than 50 Bevin Boys have disappeared from the Durham coalfield during the past few weeks. Mr. T. Henson, Mine Controller, told the "Evening Chronicle" to-day that it was not uncommon for one or two boys who did not want to work in the pits to disappear.

● The tracing of these Bevin boy truants is a matter for the National Service Officers.

● Loss of coal output amounting to about 3,700 tons was caused on Monday when the 3,000 miners at Hildesley Colliery, near Colchester, stayed away from work after an electrician, Leonard Schofield (24), had been killed on Sunday when caught by a fall. Hildesley is the only one of the six pits in the Colchester area which on leave just at the new custom of staying away after a fatal accident persists.

● Two L.N.E.S. workers are killed near Pendleton Station on Saturday 20th January. They were Percy Lowe (50), and William Millington (45), of Pendleton. Their bodies were found on the permanent way of the Bolton-Manchester line.

equal number. The supreme Junta may squabble with Señor Maura's Government over which of them should play Judas. But neither faction of crooks will be called to office until the workers themselves overthrow Franco.

Will the international apathy of the workers again allow the Spanish Revolution to be crushed?

The Lublin Government

A writer in the American New Leader (a liberal pro-war weekly not to be confused with the paper of the British I.L.P.) gives details of

the backgrounds of some of the members of the Stalinist Lublin Committee of National Liberation. The following gives some indication of the type of politician Moscow has to fall back on.

General Rola-Zymierski is a professional soldier who belonged to the right-wing opposition to Pilsudski. He disappeared from politics for years after being dismissed from the army for bribery. Now he turns up in the pay of the U.S.S.R.

These are the people who make up Stalin's puppet government in Poland. "Many of the members of the Lublin Committee and its followers," says the writer of the newspaper article, "have long been prisoners within Russia."

THE PRESS AND C.I.D. SEARCHES

Though, on principle, we did not inform the Capitalist Press of the raid on Freedom Press Offices, and in fact nothing appeared following the raid, small paragraphs appeared later following a visit by Inspector Whitehead and other officers to the Orkneys.

The Daily Express (8/1/45) report was headed "C.I.D. SEIZE PAMPHLETS for Orkneys Forces."

Detective-Inspector Whitehead and other officers of the Special Branch have been to the Orkneys to investigate an attempt to spread pamphlets of an anarchist organisation among the Forces.

Some of the pamphlets are now with the Director of Public Prosecutions and charges of incitement to mutiny are being considered.

The organisation's H.Q. has been under observation for some weeks.

The News of the World (7/1/45) were more definite in that they even hinted at what charges would be made. "PAMPHLETS ON WAR" ran the headline with a sub-head "Arrests may follow secret visit by Special Branch"

Special Branch officers from Scotland Yard, were paid a secret visit to the Orkneys, where the Special Branch have been on a report to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

This is likely to lead in the immediate future to the arrest of a number of Left Wing extremists who have been active in connection with the publication of pamphlets dealing with the war.

The News of the World learned last night that if action is taken, the charges against the men concerned will be that they attempted to incite the Royal Navy to mutiny.

IS THIS JUSTICE?



Agnes Davies (25), of Cobbold-road, Shepherds Bush, who had pleaded guilty to aiding him to conceal himself and to making a misleading statement to the police, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

The magistrate, Mr. Paul Bennett, said he had no power to fix an alternative in the way of a fine.

Mrs. Davies left her eight-month-old baby in the care of the matron, and stood in court beside her husband, who admitted being a deserter, and was ordered to be detained until a military escort could be arranged.

P.C. Robertson said that in August last, while Davies was serving overseas, his home was destroyed by enemy action and his wife was taken to hospital. He was given compassionate leave, but failed to rejoin his unit.

Mrs. Davies told the magistrate that, having overstayed his leave, her husband was afraid to go back. Every time he made an attempt to give himself up, his nerve failed him. He said he would sooner commit suicide if she called the police.

Mrs. Davies' baby was taken by a police woman to a nearby institution. Star, 8/1/45.

A typical instance of the brutality of the Law. Could the woman be expected to act otherwise, and does not even the hypocritical Christian Church enjoin her to obey her husband? But not only is the woman punished for natural feelings, her baby must also be punished. There one sees the Law as it really is.

Are you doing your bit for the Press Fund?

- FREEDOM PRESS LECTURES
SUNDAY MEETINGS
Commencing at 6.45 p.m.
to be held at the HOLBORN HALL
(Second floor, Room 4)
Grays Inn Way, London
(Buses 38, 19, Trolley 555, 581, 613, 621, 740; Holborn, Chancery Lane)

- 28th Jan. J. Hawtson THE SITUATION IN GREECE
4th Feb. Jack Wade THE FUTURE OF CITIES
11th Feb. Ron Avery THE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS OF ART

THE PRESS AND C.I.D. SEARCHES

The Daily Mirror (8/1/45) approaches the problem from the soldier's angle in an item headed "LEAFLET HUNT IN SOLDIERS' KITS"

"Reason for the confiscation of Left Wing propaganda during a kit inspection of soldiers stationed in East Anglia and Lancashire recently is likely to be questioned in Parliament soon."

Coupled with it will be a question about a journey to the Orkneys to investigate other pamphlets found in the hands of Royal Navy men.

Scotland Yard recently raided the London headquarters of a Left Wing organization and large stocks of pamphlets were taken from the building. Full reports have been made to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Reville, "The Service Newspaper" as it calls itself (reports in its issue of January 15th on the searches made of soldiers kit heading the paragraph "YARD RAIDS TROOPS' KIT"

At all barracks in the Lancaester region, and at Cambridge and Caterick, there have been searches for Left-wing literature. At least one man has complained that his kit was searched in his absence and papers removed.

At Lancaester, the official excuse was that the Scotland Yard men who conducted the searches were looking for "secret documents." Some men suffered 24 hours C.B. without explanation, and were then released on signing a statement. No charge was preferred against them.

A well-informed political observer told Reville the searches were undoubtedly connected with events in Greece. Questions were asked about "a circular urging formation of Soldiers' Councils."

Manchester Gas Workers

Another chapter has been added to the account of the Manchester Gas workers struggle. In the 25th November issue of War Commentary we gave a report on the issues involved and of the fact that the 26 men had been fined £10 each. They were given a month's work to pay the fine, but after nearly months had elapsed only two men had paid up. Warrants for the arrest of the remaining men were issued on January 22nd and on the course of the morning

of a long decision which cannot possibly help in a case. Their imprisonment has already caused a stoppage of the Bradford Road works, which has not only affected the supply of gas but also the supply of coke—this is a time when the supply of coke has been allowed to run out of the coke which the release of the men would mean the payment of an extension of time to the firm to pay their fine, and consequently the men concerned to open a fund which would meet the inevitable grievance of the gas workers.

Whether in response to the C.P.'s heart-rending account of the importance of coke to the poor people of Manchester or not, the next day the manager of the Gas Works went to Strangeways Prison and paid the fines by cheque.

A mass meeting was held at which the released gas workers were present and the 264 strikers decided against an immediate return to work. It was however decided that the money advanced would be repaid. As we go to press a further meeting of the workers is taking place. Meanwhile cheap labour, in the form of soldiers being employed on the gasworks to keep things going as best they can.

At the same moment when Churchill is fulminating against this "barbarous" practice in Parliament, the Athens police are filling the jails with partisans. The police who collaborated with the Nazis in hunting out the resistance fighters, who began the bloodshed by firing on an unarmed crowd, now collaborate with the British ruling class in fighting down the Greek workers. That is the value of Churchill's "amnesty".

It can be gauged still further when we see that the workers loyal to the Red Cross are reported to have stated that there are more than 4,000. Let us be quite clear about this question; Anarchists have always, and will always, repudiate the practice of taking hostages, of threatening guiltless people in order to stay the hand of the guilty. We regard as a practice whoever undertakes it. But what we are here concerned with is the propaganda which is being made out of the hostage allegations by reactionaries in this country who have no such moral objections to the hostage system, and have no hesitation in resorting to it when it suits them.

Not openly, of course. The wave of indignation in December has taught the ruling class in this country that they must go slow. But they go on just the same to sugar the pill. It is this false talk about amnesty, coupled with calumnies about atrocities against hostages for which no shred of evidence has been presented.

But also there are other measures to divide the workers and lull their class solidarity. There are to be "free elections". In the elections for the King in 1935, there was a "secret" ballot. But they go on just the same to sugar the pill. It is this false talk about amnesty, coupled with calumnies about atrocities against hostages for which no shred of evidence has been presented.

Then the T.U.C. bosses—faithful stooges of the ruling class—go over to Greece. So people are expected to suspend judgment till they report. The time gained will be used for still further arrests. None is their report likely to improve the Government's reactionary policy—the T.U.C. leaders know too well which side their bread is buttered.

Finally, guarantees have been given that the Royalist militia will be disbanded at the same time as the E.L.A.S. militia; there will be no unilateral disarmament, etc. At the same time Churchill declares that he will not tolerate private armies. Sounds very nice. But in the same issue of the Daily Telegraph (11/1/45) occur two announcements; first that the Royalist militia (E.D.E.S.) had withdrawn to Corfu; second that the War Ministry had called up for military service all persons of the 1934 to 1940 classes residing in Corfu. Disarm the Right by increasing them in the Right-wing Government forces!

The Issue

The Greek workers have proved their anti-fascism in the years under the Nazi occupation. But because of their initiative in expelling the Germans they have threatened the class stability of the anti-fascists. They have constituted a threat to the property owners of Greece, the men who hob-nobbed with the Germans and now hob-nob with the British. They therefore are the target of the British ruling class, the centre pin of world reaction. The British workers have already shown that their sense of justice is outraged; they may proceed to a more incontestable manifestation of class solidarity. So a tissue of lies is woven, to which the Labour Party lends its assent, and to which the Trade Union leaders adopt an attitude of judicious non-partisanship. Promises are made even in the face of the men that they are being flouted.

Every attempt to lull the workers is made. Already the ruling class is tasting success. Already the Greek partisans have been partly disarmed by the mercy of the British police. It is for the workers of Britain to see through the sham, and by whatever action is open to them, to frustrate the vengeance of interventionist reaction.

FREEDOM BOOKSHOP 132 Cheltenham Road, Bristol

- Freedom Press publications advertised elsewhere in this issue also in stock. The following books are still available:
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