anarchist weekly

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BIAFRA—Agony of the People

by the time we started to write this week's paper the war in Biafra would be practically over.

Thus we ended our leading article with the call for the movement to 'Make the end of the Biafra war the Anarchist aim for 1970'. If we felt like being funny about it, we would say that never before has an anarchist call to action met with such remarkable and immediate success! But the Biafran situation is just about the least likely subject to raise a laugh on anarchist lips.

The violent death and the starva-tion that have been the lot of the Biafrans for the last three years is, perhaps, about to come to an endat least the violent death is. The starvation is still capable of providing a Tom Tiddler's Ground for politicians to play in for some time

to come. Yet undoubtedly what we are now about to witness is just what the world is capable of doing in the matter of sending aid to Biafra. Mr. Wilson, that well-known humanitarian, has immediately leapt into action. He actually held a meeting of the Cabinet on a Sunday evening and after an hour's deliberation, our leaders came out with two tremendous decisions:

First, one airplane has been sent off to Nigeria loaded, not with beef and two veg, but with an observer from the British Government to find out what the Red Cross needs there;

Two, an appeal has been made to America to supply it.

Well, we are used to politicians

WE HARDLY IMAGINED, as world already knows. The number we went to press last week, that of 'diplomats' who did not know what was going on in Nazi Germany; the millions of good Communists who did not know what Stalin was up to in Russia; these astute chaps fell over with surprise when their noses were eventually rubbed unwillingly in the truth. Mr. Wilson's myopia about what the Red Cross needs in Biafra is equally unbelievable. He is providing us yet again with an example of the slimy politician who just doesn't want to know-yet he, of all people in Britain, should have sources of information far-reaching and complete.

LEADERS PULLING OUT

For the rest of us, we have to rely on what the Telly and the Press tell us, and depend upon our own judgement in analysing it. Suddenly we learn that General Ojukwu had removed his own family from be-leaguered Biafra some time ago' to Libreville, capital of pro-French Gabon, whence he is now thought to have removed himself, too, making no public statement to his troops to surrender. (Compare Churchill's intention in 1940: 'If the worst comes to the worst, I will take the Fleet to Canada and carry on the war from there!')

But there is little possibility that General Ojukwu will be able to do anything from Gabon. One main reason for the sudden collapse of the Biafran resistance is the warweariness of the Biafran peopleand now we hear another side to it as well, a side implicit in what we were saying last week about the bourgeois nature of the national being ignorant of what the whole states of Africa.

An article in Monday's Times Sunday Times, gives us some telling examples of the class-divisions in Biafra. We quote:

'A contributing factor to the decline in civilian morale was the contrast between the comfortable living conditions of the well-to-do Biafran upper class and the dreadful sufferings of the average civilian and peasant, not to mention the refusers.

'Right to the end there were private cars circulating in the streets of Owerri, one of them a red British sports car driven by a young man who was known as "Biafra's chief playboy". With petrol at Biafran £10 a gallon and motor oil £60 a gallon on the flourishing black market, it is no wonder that a friend called the driver "the richest man in Biafra"

'Some days earlier little things like the sudden disappearance of an expensive

record player from the living room of a with his attractive girl friend, had been there only the night before—had been the first indication to me that things were beginning to go seriously wrong for the first time in Biafra's war strategy and that the high command was secretly making plans to pull out.

'For Biafra's highly intelligent and educated Ibo ruling class of soldiers, civil servants and businessmen there is scant hope of survival unless they can brave 100 miles of federal-held territory to the north and east and reach the friendly territory of the Republic of Cameroun. It is no doubt in the hope of stopping this massacre of his country's intellectual aristocracy that General Ojukwu has decided to fly out and try to arrange a peace settlement.'

A BITTER LESSON

Well, well. Isn't it the same old story? And isn't it sad that the suffering as the working classes of more 'advanced' countries. in order to experience what it means to 'have your own government'. It means more suffering, more exploitation, because under 'your own government' you are sup-posed to be more gullible and more patriotic. This bitter lesson is now being learned a most hard, hard way by the poor people of Biafra. Ironically, 'national independence' has brought them to a worse pass than your actual old-fashioned imperialism!

Not that these sort of comparisons have much point. Or any anarchist theorising, for that matter, when you are faced with 1,500,000 refugees and twice that number starving in their own villages or camps or in the bush. The solution is a simple technical one of getting in what is

There is no anarchist solution to this here and now. The people of the world have shown their lack of concern for Biafra in the three years it has been suffering. The world is no doubt heaving a great sigh of relief that the fighting is coming to an end; it can now turn over and go to sleep again, leaving it to the world's governments to clean up once again the filthy mess the world's governments have made. Until the next time. And the next time, gentle reader, it may be you getting it in the neck.

JUSTIN.

Footnote! As we go to press, an official plea for an armistice has been made by a

Biafran spokesman-still in Ojukwu's absence-and British planes are flying in with medical supplies and food.

The speed with which this is now being done shows clearly that plans must have been made long ago. We don't believe our Royal Air Force could not have got through-but it just wasn't politic until now.



WELL FOUGHT, OLD MAN

Asturius Miners Strike

ONCE AGAIN the fighting spirit and tected from arbitrary dismissal, but in miners of Northern Spain is threatening not apply and he was sacked during a

low Christmas bonuses they had received. The management said that the strike was politically motivated and suspended 800 workers, which led to a full-scale walkout involving 14,000 miners. The suspension period ended last Thursday, but no one returned to work. The Hunosa management then ordered a lock-out of their 9,600 employees who refused to resume

Other grievances underlie the stoppage, and it is natural that workers should use an issue of wages for a stoppage when the law distinguishes between strikes for wages and conditions as being legal, and those of a political nature as being illegal. Obviously, under the authori-tarian government of General Franco, this is a very subtle distinction and so the battleground has to be chosen very

MINER SACKED

Under Spanish law of the corporate state, workers are supposed to be pro-

solidarity among the Asturian coal the case of Senor Rogelio Diaz this did the economic power. Falangist protests The strike started last month in the State-owned Hunosa mine, the largest in the area, where miners protested at the similar appeal to Spain's Supreme Court suffered the same fate.

Many workers belonging to the Workers' Commission, the semi-underground trade union organisation, are now serving prison sentences of ten, twenty and even thirty years, given by military tribunals for activities which are taken for granted by trade unionists in this country. From reports it appears that many of these victims of authoritarian rule are members of the Spanish Communist Party, while others are Basque Nationalists and even Roman Catholic priests. In fact there are so many that a special prison has been set aside for priests at Zamora. The Workers' Commissions have achieved widespread success in that wage increases have been won which outstrip those laid down by the government.

However, even though Spain is trying to improve its image in Europe, institutional changes still have to be made. The new Franco Cabinet reflects this slow transformation. The departure of even the most influential Falangists is a sign

that the political power is changing with over these dismissals were met with the batons of the Madrid police.

OPUS DEI

The 'Christian Technocrats' of Opus Dei are strongly represented in the new Cabinet, even though Franco and his army are still all-powerful. However Spain will slowly move in the direction of the 'Western democracies' with 'free trade unions' for the current economic development demands that these changes are brought about. When this has been achieved, the Spanish Communist Party will be in a good position to take full advantage of the situation.

But today Spain's economy relies very heavily on coal. The strike of the Asturian miners could be a serious blow to it since stocks of coal for the steel industry are fast running out. The import of cheap American or Polish coal could help and even though it would prove an expensive move for Spain's balance of payments, it could become a vital necessity if the miners continue to

There is also the question of the political embarrassment of Communist Poland exporting coal to Spain, while their ideo-

Trade ties do exist and have increased of late between the Communist bloc and Spain. However, and this should be no surprise to anarchists, the advantages of any trade for the Polish Government will far outweigh the principles of solidarity with workers struggling for elementary human rights. For after all the same struggle has still to be resumed in Poland.

logical brothers there are striving to

bring about the fall of Franco's regime.

'NO MAN IS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE ANOTHER MAN'S MASTER'

POSTERS NOW ON SALE 5 for 2s.6d. including postage from Freedom Press

(ssh !--for flyposting ?)

TEATORE OF the diminents seeme A over the past few months has been the springing up of local anarchist papers, broadsheets and magazines up and down the country. Some entirely local, others combining articles of both local and wider interest. Cornwall anarchist group have so far produced four issues of One and All, an excellently duplicated magazine costing 6d. plus post, still available from Six Chimneys, Bolerowe, Troon, Nr. Camborne, Cornwall, and containing articles on the St. Ives summer scene, the industrial struggle at Pools of Havle and Holmans of Camborne, an article about the life of a potter by Geoffrey Barfoot, another about a naval deserter from a base in Devon and much else besides. Excellent value and more.

Two magazines which have ceased publication but which are well worth reading IF you can obtain copies are Liberty and International Anarchism. Liberty, the magazine of the Yorks Anarchist Federation, came out in January 1969 and I have only seen that one issue, built mainly around local housing and education problems. From the same

SMALL ANARCHIST MAGS

source is International Anarchism of which again I have only seen one issue, containing a translation from French of an article by Nestor Makhno on Revolution in the Ukraine-an excellent job that-also articles on the international, the anarchist scene in Holland, a commentary on Quebec Nationalism, Czechoslovakia and other features. Both of these are well worth reading-IF you can get hold of them-the latter especially contains historical material not otherwise available in English.

Black and Red is produced by the North West Federation and includes a very interesting account of the way that the black list works in employment exchanges; as well as informative articles on CS Gas, Race and the working class, the Prices and Incomes Board, squatting, Northern Ireland, and anti-TU legislation. Black and Red is a widely-

'local' magazine. (Published by the N. W. Fed, 8 Stonecroft Road, Leyland, Lancs.-6d. plus post.)

A more recent effort of Yorks Anarchist Federation is Anarquista-of which I have seen 5 issues, costing 2d. each (plus post.)-it is incredible value containing on average around 10 doublesided foolscap sheets with interesting cover designs. Articles range over Biafra, methods of revolutionary change, a reply to Solidarity's review of Obsolete Communism, extracts from Comfort and Fromm, an article entitled 'Intellectual Masturbation', another concerning the Anarchist Black Cross as well as poetry, and interesting layout, art and design

Alarm, the publication of Swansea Anarchists, is another that is a phenomenally economic effort. I have seen fourteen of the over twenty issues of this costing 1d. (plus post) each, some even printed, not duplicated, and each with an interesting cover design. Mainly local news again, but it did branch out a bit over the Investiture naturally enough, and Swansea anarchists' reply to this-'The Investiture for the Poor.' No. 20 contained an interesting article on the sexual revolution by Nigel Gray. Other issues contain articles on the virtues of 'mooning', workers' control, homelessness and squatting, the Free Schools Campaign, the local people's park, contraception and popes, student activities, and many other items. (For current address - look up Swansea Anarchists in FREEDOM.)

In London, the East London Speedfreak is another gem of Libertarian ideas, containing articles about 'Magistrates', and 'The Living Theatre' amongst documented 1946 squatting movement,

based anarchist publication and not a many other things. (6d. plus post from G. Foulser, 52 Latimer Road, E.7.) Black Mass is the publication of West Ham Anarchists costing 3d. and postage from 85 Upton Park Road, Forest Gate, E.7. Apart from reprints of part of 'The Black Flag of Anarchy-Anarchist Revolution' leaflet and the schools leaflet, 'Who the hell do you think you are?', there are articles on school leaving, the social scene in East London, poetry and other smaller articles-again the cover is printed although the inside is duplicated. The layout is good generally, with a variety of printing techniques being employed on the pictorial side, the only thing that is not easily readable, funnily enough, is a small backpage advert for FREEDOM.

Grass Eye is a glossy periodical (bimonthly, I believe) based on Manchester and costing 1/6d. It is very well produced and I have been told that its circulation is around 10,000. It is not overtly anarchist, but it numbers anarchists amongst those who edit, write for and distribute it. There have been 9 issues so far, of which I have seen three. The most recent contained articles, relevantly enough, on starting your own magazine, there is an abundance of pictorial material; a sort of Manchester Time Out Supplement: Poetry, music, record, film and literature reviewswhich seem an important feature of each issue. It is rather in the IT vein-which is not really intended as any kind of comparison, merely as a guide-not to content-but to layout and style.

The July issue of Grass Eye contained articles on the Schools Action Union, a 'Where we stand' editorial; features on Squatting-a good one on the less

on the wintary secup, a con feature on 'The Sick Society'-which rather speaks for itself; and a reprint from FREEDOM-no less-an article by Dave Cunliffe on Langho Hospital, Manchester.

The June issue led on the nurses' struggle, and contained also an account of Grass Eye's own struggle for survival against pressure from the fuzz and other like reactionary institutions. A problem which FREEDOM-along with IT, Black Dwarf and other journals which either tell the truth or tell unpopular variations of it-also have from time to time. The Morning Star does not seem to experience such problems!

There was also an account of the struggle for survival of the Travelling People of the North of England, accounts of the student scene at Hornsey, Guildford and elsewhere. This issue also contained an article on 'pot' and the prospects for 1984-now only a mere decade and a half away-or is it here already? Again there were the, on the whole, quite good, reviews of Music, Literature and the Arts.

Grass Eye is available from 'Rainy City Co-op', 63-67, Market Street, Manchester 1.

The Peckham Ryoter is an anarchist broadsheet based on South East London and costing 1d. It is a duplicated effortthe first and so far only issue concentrates on the facts and implications of a local Town Centre redevelopment scheme in Peckham.

There are many other anarchist and anarchic mags of course, most of them well known-Minus One, the Libertarian Teacher, the Free Schools, Bulletin, Synic, the Leveller 'Blackguard' of the Libertarian Student Federation, all of these are worth seeing. Here I have tried to concentrate on either the smaller ones, or the ones based outside London, speaking about their own local scene. Why not start your own?

PADDY FIELDS.

The Arbour Square Squat

THE MIDDLE of October the Their attitude to us shows clearly that Campaign to Clear Hostels and Slums they are not concerned about the human initiated the largest squat that has yet taken place in London. A block of flats owned by the Labour-controlled Council of Tower Hamlets, which was virtually empty, began receiving homeless families. The block consists of 75 dwellings, 69 of which were empty. It would appear that the policy of the Council was to clear the block completely and then make 'improvements' in its facilities. This mainly consisted of putting in a new water system. The original tenants paid reasonable rents and were unwilling to leave. It would appear now that, with the alterations that are to be made in the block, the rents are to be increased substantially and new tenants are to be put

The reason why Arbour House, Arbour Square, was chosen for a squat was mainly due to the fact that most of the flats had remained empty for 18 months. Secondly, the Council, by choosing this solid structure for improvements, was the Borough of Tower Hamlets which lack the most ordinary amenities, such as hot water, baths, and even, in some cases, lavatories or any form of running water at all. Many hundreds of dwellings are rat-infested and the welfare accommodation which is provided by the Council is some of the worst in London. One particular building which is used for homeless families, Beechcroft Buildings, has been cited in numerous newspaper reports.

At the beginning of the squat, we approached the Council and asked them if they would be prepared to fight with us in exposing the reasons why housing is so bad in their Borough particularly, and generally throughout our cities. This they refused to do and instead obtained a High Court injunction which seeks to throw the families out of the flats and into Beechcroft Buildings. This from a Council which, for the most opportunistic political reasons, voices its approval for the tenants' struggle against the GLC.

they are not concerned about the human problem but seek political advantage over the Tory GLC.

We appeal to all Left groups to help us in whatever way possible in the ensuing struggle against the Council, not only for the sake of the 10 families who are squatting but that we may expose the hypocrisy of this Labour-controlled Council. Physical and financial help is urgently needed, both to fight here in Tower Hamlets and in the High Court. We have engaged leading Counsel to represent us in the High Court and this will cost a vast sum of money, which we are unable to provide of ourselves.

TENANTS' ASSOCIATIONS

The Campaign has also helped to start a militant Tenants' Association within Beechcroft Buildings to obtain its closure. The Council has been trying to buy off the tenants of this slum by promising them permanent housing which they are unable to provide. If there are any activists who would like to help with this work we would be very grateful for their assistance.

TOWER HAMLETS SLUMS

We are hoping to start Tenants' Associations in the tenements and slums owned by private landlords which are untouched by the GLC tenants' struggle. We would then hope to join the GLC tenants in fighting for decent housing for all our people.

With this end in view we again appeal to people to give us their assistance in any way possible. We hope to organise a march on Tower Hamlets Council which will include as many groups as possible who are fighting on the housing issue and for a socialist policy on housing. If you would be interested in joining us some time in February, please contact us at the address given or telephone

CAMPAIGN TO CLEAR HOSTELS AND SLUMS, 3 OSBORN STREET, E.1.

Anarchists in Madrid University

through a year of unrest. Nearly all the faculties were closed at one time or another. The faculties have been the scene of intense political activity during 1969. The numerous arrests or student militants has not halted the development and spread of the struggle against the powers-that-be and their representatives in the university. Nevertheless police repression has ben especially severe.

One of the principal arenas of resistance has been the newly-formed Faculty of Political Science, which the regime hoped to use to ensure its survival in the future. In this faculty the struggle for political supremacy took place between Marxists (chiefly Maoists) and falangists (the ruling party in Spain). In effect the falangists are very strong in the university, but are to the left of the party outside the university. A continual guerrilla-type struggle exists between the Marxists and the falangists. There are some small anarchist groups in the faculty, but they

maintain a veil of secrecy. Their chief activity is the secret distribution of literature about the faculty.

There are other anarchist groups in the university. They maintain their secrecy of the recent repression. For example a hundred members of the anarchist group 'Los Acratas' were arrested, and most of them were imprisoned. The police have the habit of blaming nearly all the terrorist attacks that have taken place in Madrid on the anarchists, in spite of contrary evidence.

Anarchists are most numerous and active in the School of Engineering. There are several groups in the school who are in collaboration with workers outside. They have recently published a joint worker-student booklet on The Role of the Engineer in Modern Society. Because of the groups' influence, the police made a surprise raid on the students' cubicles and arrested several who had left incriminating evidence in their

cubicles. Nevertheless the activity of these groups is the most influential in the university.

Outside the university the Libertarian Community of Students has been established in the Madrid suburb of Cuatro Caminos. The members pool all their resources which are open to use by all, and try to live as freely as possible. They have built up an excellent library and have a unique collection of pamphlets published in every university in Spain. Workers and students meet for discussions. It is hoped that students from other universities will follow their lead and help create a 'parallel culture' to that taught in the universities.

These students understand the necessity for a new student anarchist movement in Spain, which, with the help of the CNT and FAI, will help to establish the free

from L'Insurgé No. 4.

(Abridged.)

Computers on the Housing List? FORDS of Dagenham have acquired offering accommodation means that these many people have always said that land opposite their factory in

All correspondence to Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannafore Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham 16

ANARCHIST **FEDERATION** of BRITAIN

The AFB information office will produce an internal bulletin. Comrades interested in its production are to meet in Birmingham on the first weekend of each month, from November onwards. All groups will be informed in detail. Address all letters to:

Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannafore Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16. Tel. 021-454 6871. Material that cannot wait for the bulletin to be sent to R. Atkins, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York. The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information.

Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquirers should write direct to them or to the AFB information office in Birmingham.

AFB REGIONAL GROUPS There are now anarchist groups in almost every part of the country. To find your nearest group

part of the country. To find your nearest group write to:
North West Federation: John Walker, 92 Clyde Road, Manchester, 20.
Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell. (M, Ma. B.)
Essex & E. Herts.: P. Newell, 'Aegean', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, FL.) Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.
Sussex: E. Poole, 5 Tilsbury, Findon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.
Yorkshire: Martin Walkins, 3 Marlborough Grove, Leeds, 2.

Lecds, 2.
Scotland: B. Lynn, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow.
Walest c/o P. L. Mare (address above).
N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.
S. Ireland: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).
University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare.
(Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine;
B—badges; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflets;

AFBIB 3 is now out. It has been sent to all those who paid for it but not to those who didn't. If you want to know the internal news of the movement send some cash (15/- for 12 issues for instance) to Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannafore Road, Birmingham, 16. Next AFBIB meeting: Birmingham, February 1. SEND YOUR DELEGATES!!!

build a £25m. computerised extension to their main plant. Already the bulldozers have moved in clearing and demolishing existing buildings, while some families are still living in a row of cottages on the site. These families, about 30 people in all, have refused flats offered by the local Council, because, not only are the rents, in some

cases as much as 500% more, but also

Chequers Lane on which they wish to

facilities are poor in comparison with their cottages.

The demolition has been very unpleasant, especially for the wives and children, but also for husbands at the weekends, when work has continued unabated. (Have you ever tried keeping a place clean with a bulldozer operating nearby?) Housewives have, however, reacted by blocking the way and sitting in front of the bulldozers. On two occasions they prevented work from continuing and Fords finally called in the police. They have warned housewives that if they repeat this action, they would be charged with 'causing a breach of the

As we go to press a public meeting, with support from tenants associations and trade unionists, is taking place in Dagenham to decide on what action to take to prevent further site clearance until all families are adequately rehoused. The action by Fords with the Council

people could be jumping the housing list. when dealing with Fords, it seems to those people who elected them. have slipped their memory. But then,

'Dagenham was Fords town' and the Local councils have not been slow to local councillors are quick and willing remind squatters of this possibility, but to serve their interests rather than of

GOOD CLEAN PORN

IN ABERDEEN, education still suffers from the ghastly hand of one John Knox, fascist, murderer, witch-burner and religious fanatic. Rigid, unquestionable authority is the order of the day. In schools, politics may be freely discussed -provided it's Tory politics. People are free to wear what they like as long as it's school uniform. Hair may be any length, provided it be short.

Army recruiting is widely carried on, particularly in the junior secondary schools, while embryo recruits to the officer class are created in the cadet forces of senior secondaries. Adventurous pupils in school drama societies find even mild plays are suppressed and punishment is not so much a part of it all-it's more a way of life!

A group of working-class pupils-with

strong socialist and anarchist opinionshave already published leaflets, having used the printing facilities of Aberdeen Anarchists. This has now matured into plans for a magazine—to be given the name of PORN-the Pupils' Own Revolutionary Newspaper. PORN will relate education to society and fight in a working-class manner for socialist education. Liberals need not apply. It is hoped that PORN will greatly assist the political education of pupils. Some anarchists hope that, if a one-day strike is called in Aberdeen on May 1, pupils may

Priced at one penny and appearing in mid-January, PORN may be obtained by sending an sae to: Alexander Berkman, Students' Union, Broad Street, Aberdeen.

JIM SPRIGGS.

Revolution is Forever

MOST REVOLUTIONS have been counter-revolutionary in intention, method and effect. The truly anarchistic revolution effects within the individual and radiates outward to illuminate the community concerned. Only free men will make the free community. Whether or not it is possible for us to engender an anarchistic global community, we must act as if it were.

It is perhaps extremely unrealistic to speculate on how future anarchistic societies and free individuals will evolve. The foundations I would support are diverse, including freely growing and federating communities, solitary contemplatives, nomadic individuals and tribes. Likely results of such an impetus, with roots in prevailing cultures, can't seriously be predicted in substantial degree. There are no guidelines beyond the fleeting and superficial. Nor can I imagine anything but a natural, as opposed to normal, way of life being compatible with healthy anarchism. Failing to see how that technological monster, presently devouring and destroying our planet, can be transformed into an instrument of greater good. It could be used to bestow its dubious blessings with equality on all who exist. I've no desire to live in a centrally-heated concrete plastic pleasure machine. Computorised utopia ain't for

How will our imagined communities react when confronted with the dissent and revolt of those of us who do not particularly cherish certain aspects? The mere existence of communes, federations and free food, clothing and shelter for the voluntary solitary will not stifle the continuing struggle for further evolutionary advance. Anarchism is an essential prerequisite for survival and growth. Foundation of potential meaningful progress. Not an end in itself. I have fashioned a theoretics of revolt as a manifestation of that which is or shapes the prima-materia. If such a notion is workable, revolt is a necessary condition Whatever forms it may take. Whatever philosophy that which is revolted against may be motivated and shaped by.

How should we embryonic anarchists

act, rather than react, today? Primarily by propaganda of word and deed. Acting like free men already, insofar as such a mythical beast is conceivable. Never competitive, careerist, acquisitive or willingly indoctrinated (university, etc.). As much non-consumption as is possible (durable clothes, simple food, no artificial entertainment or other costly escapism and so on). We are all conditioned and brainwashed in some depth. A daily 24 hours spent in self-liberation is not enough. Avoiding mass-media for the contagious disease it is. Operating and functioning in the actualisation of revolt at all levels on all fronts. Recognising that we are sick victims of a psychotic and suicidal society. Trying to cure each other.

I am curious to discover just what my brothers and sisters would do with cranks like me, if ever they attain someapproaching their We freaks who would be a forever pain in the ass to any community by wanting to go further. To me anarchism is only the first step. The revolution is forever.

DAVE CUNLIFFE.



January 1-10, 1970 London, N.W.3: D.R. 7/6; Shoreham: P.J.P. 10/8; Cambridge: R.C. 4/8; Tadworth: N.W. 10/-; London, N.W.5: J.R.H. 10/8; London, S.E.5: D.L. £5/10/3; London, N.W.1: A.C.T. £1/0/8; Rochdale: B.T. 4/-; Exmouth: A.B.H. 3/2; Petersfield: P.C.W. 1/6; Geneva: M.E. £1; London, W.C.1: A.J. 5/8; Colchester: C.H. 6/8; Glasgow: A.J. 2/11; London, S.E.11: H.H. 8/-; Southall: D.S. 10/-; Isleworth: L.K.W. 16/8; Ballarat, Aust.: J.N.H. 8/-; Didcot: T.W.B. 6/8; London, S.E.26: D.L.D. £1/0/8; Penarth: T.B. £2/0/4; London, S.E.11: H.H. £1/0/8; Manchester: J.T. 4/8; Edinburgh: T.H. 16/10; Lynmouth: B.M. 10/2; Melbourne: D.W. £1/11/7; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 7/-; J.L. 3/-*; K.F. & C.F.* 2/-; Aylesbury: N.M. 17/6; London, S.W.2: P.G. 14/-;

THE SIGNS ARE that the Wilson THE REIGN OF CAPITAL Cabinet will abandon its present powers for freezing wage increases for four months when it introduces

its Bill to merge the Prices and

Incomes Board and the Monopolies Commission. It will, however, still

require early warning of increases

and will have statutory powers to enforce such notification. When this

legislation is enacted in the summer,

the Government's policy on wages

will then be the same as in 1966,

before the total freeze came into

Government in its run up to the

general election is whether to use its

freeze powers in the intervening

months to stem what Mrs. Castle

calls 'an avalanche of pay claims'

Obviously the Labour Government

does not want to go to the hustings

with these freeze powers in evidence,

but at the same time, they still want

to maintain the continuing improve-

ment in the economy and the ability

In the struggle for a classless society,

we must support the struggle of the

oppressed against their oppressors for

the reason that it is the struggle of the

oppressed, if we support it for no other

reasons. 'The fact is that strikers are

motivated by pure bourgeois needs,'

says Christopher Hargreaves (where

does he work, by the way?). So the

struggle to achieve a decent standard of

living in bodily needs against spiralling

prices, rents, taxes, etc., is now a

bourgeois struggle! To try to have a

decent home, a decent meal, and some

decent clothes, and to have some money

to spend on entertainment at the week

end, is bourgeois! What of the strikes

against dismissals, discrimination, penal

clauses, bad working conditions, which

make up a large percentage of strikes?

encountered that make happy life pos-

sible on a take-home pay of £7? If he

has found some hidden Utopia, he

deserves our congratulations, not to say envy-but what of the rest of us who are

pretty modest level) for single men, and

the remaining £3 would not go so far

on travel, tobacco, and a drink. Or

perhaps these are 'bourgeois' require-

and children, with bills, bills, bills,

furnishing, clothes, etc., and the hun-

dred odds and ends that are always

So strikers 'hold the country to ran-

som', eh? The same stupid mistake of

equating bosses with 'the country'. Some

workers no doubt do demand for

bourgeois reasons, and perhaps even de-

mand more than would be a fair share

(though I doubt it), but they have not

the education to realize this, and if they

try to fill their grim grey lives with

bourgeois sublimations, who are the

ones to blame? The bosses have the

education and opportunity to understand

In an anarchist society, everybody is

supposed to have an equal right to satisfy their needs, right? Just because

Mr. Hargreaves' (may I call you Chris?)

level of needs is satisfied by £7, is he going to dictate that everybody else's

must be, too? Why should he complain about strikes which try to gain a fairer share of the production value? It's the bosses who pay, and if strike follows strike, it's usually because 'concessions'

carry slave-making productivity agree-

ments, and/or because the bosses violate

their agreements, or/and because the

bosses put up their prices to bring things

people, but we should deny them the

money-grabbing, power-hungry wishes.

The bloody puritan also has the cheek

to mention 'beer and other luxuries'.

Will these then be forbidden in his

Berkeley: R. McC. £2/8/-; London, N.1:

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TOTAL: £46 8s. 6d.

Nobody denies the bosses rights as

to the same level as before.

what they are doing.

Now think of a married man with wife

so lucky. Food and rent alone would cost most of us about £4 (at a

What sort of freak conditions has he

Are they bourgeois too?

The Way to a

Dear Comrades.

Classless Society

The difficulty now facing the

those abroad.

Wilson is a shrewd enough economist to realise that if he can keep this balance it will give him the best of both worlds. He fully realises that 'our competitors' have equally had their problems with rising wage demands. Industrial unrest in Europe has made banner headlines and so Wilson thinks he might still be able to maintain the competitive advantage gained through devalua-

However, recent price increases, especially those in coal, as well as those forecast for steel, will mean more demands on the wage packets of workers. It is not unreasonable for them to demand pay increases

society? The weekend's beer, mate, is

just about the only thing that makes

going to work again the following week

bearable. If we have a criticism, let it

be that strike tactics, as practised now,

really gain nothing, that they are merely

stop-gaps. Lastly, he claims that dockers

already get more than they could 'in

either a communist or a collectivist

society'. Bulsh! Say they even get £30-

£40 (a lot of that's overtime), even then,

in an anarchist society, where things

are produced more for need (which will

eliminate a lot of costly goods manufac-

tured now, and advertising) than for

profit, where every man has a right to

food, clothing, housing, etc., as he needs

it, his advantages by comparison with today's living would be much more

than £30-£40, when one considers the

cost of everything today. I may have

been hard on naive Christopher, but I

shudder (with ecstasy?) to think what 'Lumpenproletariat' would say.

London, S.W.2 D. HOBBITT.

On January 16, KNULLAR LTD., the

company that publishes IT, and three

directors, David Hall, Graham Keen and

Peter Stansill, will be appearing at Wells

Street Magistrates' Court on two charges

of criminal conspiracy in connection with

the 'Males' small ad. column that the

paper used to run. Alongside this, a

heterosexual column called 'Love' was

run about which no charges have been

and seized about 400 box number replies

and over 3,000 copies of the previous six

issues of the paper. For some time after

this no printer would print the paper in

The charges brought as a result of

1. conspired with persons inserting

advertisements and with other

this raid allege that the company and

Police raided the IT office last April

'it' Busted

its existing format.

Dear Friend.

Letters

of British goods to compete with to offset higher prices, but in doing so they call down the wrath of Castle and Wilson, while increases in the products of basic State-owned industries such as coal and steel are sacrosanct. The profit motive remains supreme and nothing is said about these increases pricing 'our goods' out of the world's markets.

> In the same week that Wilson is attacking the pay claims, the Chancellor, Mr. Roy Jenkins, is talking to the American 'captains of industry' in Chicago. He told them of Labour's achievements in making capitalism work in Britain and got their applause when he said 'public expenditure was brought under very sharp control', being held 'well below the rate of growth in the eco-

> > Common Law.

Common Law.

e can muster.

purpose of homosexual practices

and thereby to debauch and cor-

rupt public morals, contrary to

cency by inserting advertisements

containing lewd, disgusting and

offensive matter, also contrary to

It has been made clear to us that the

Director of Public Prosecutions considers

this to be a 'test case'. After the pre-

to the Old Bailey, probably in the Spring.

The charges brought are such that fines

could be severe enough to kill IT, and

the three directors could be sent to jail.

However the issues are important in the

context of civil liberties and we intend

to fight the case with all the resources

especially during the long period of dis-

ruption following the police raid, and we

have no reserves to fight a legal battle

that promises to be as long and costly as

A BUST FUND has been established,

but it has a long way to go before we

have anything approaching the several

thousand pounds needed to defend the

case. Any noise you can make on our

behalf-e.g. through the mass media or

through your MP-this will be greatly

BEST WISHES,

As a regular reader of and occasional

honoured contributor to FREEDOM, you

are honouring me, not the other way

round. May I be allowed to protest

it about the lives of working class people

in the North of Ireland, notably the

story of her father, and her own grow-

Your reviewer states that Miss Devlin

appreciated; but most of all we

27 Endell Street, London, W.C.2

book, The Price of My Soul.

worse than follow her example.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A Protest

Dear Editor.

ing up.

IT has always been run on a shoestring,

nomy as a whole over this period and lower than any other two-year period for many years past'.

Any government will pursue policies which will ensure the continued reign of capital, whether full state-owned or mixed. Wilson is no exception. The welfare of the capital-owning minority supersedes the interests of the working population who produce that same wealth. The Labour Government's priority is a healthy balance of payments which ensures higher profits for those who own and control the productive processes of this country.

The strategy that Wilson will adopt in dealing with these pay claims will be his usual one of attacking the poorly organised and those who do not affect the economy. The reception of the teachers' pay claim is the first sign that this strategy is under way.

9999999999999999 conspired to outrage public de-



liminary hearing, the case will proceed 5555555555555555555555

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Edmund Wilson Where is Civilization Going? (1927)

Saint Joan Bernard Shaw

used the services of a ghost writer; may I suggest, that your reviewer could do

PAUL POTTS.

REPORT ON THE TRAGEDY AT DAKAN VILLAGE

On August 16, 1969, our region was under attack by the largest ever government force and ten thousand mercenaries from three fronts: Zibar, Nahala and Shimkan. The fighting with our forces

In this fighting participated the members of the (Iraqi) revolutionary command, Saadun Ghaidan and Salah Mahdi Ammash, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, the Commander of the Field Forces, Said Hamu, the Commander of the Fourth Division Abd el Jaabar Al Asadi, the Commander of the Shaykhan sector, other army officers and commando officers.

On August 19, 1969, they captured the village of Dakan, which is located on the Al Khazer river, in the Shaykhan district of the Mosul Province.

The children and the women of the village escaped to one of the caves in

After burning the village the officers and mercenaries assembled near the entry of the cave. They collected wood and after sprinkling the wood with petrol, they set fire to it. the cries of the children and the women began rising to God. They were shooting at the entry of the cave, so that no one of them could escape and so were burnt 67 children and women inside the cave.

This is the truth about the Dakan tragedy.

(Seal of the Local Party Committee and signature of the local party secretary.)

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Freedom by Air, Anarchy
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Local Committee Ash-Shaykhan Date: September 1, 1969

lasted until August 24, 1969.

the vicinity, for fear of artillery shelling

ITALY BEFORE THE BOMBS

the Italian situation unique, writes an Italian correspondent. The first is the increase in industrial output (71% yearly) which is one of the highest in Western Europe. Secondly, the structure of the State is very reactionary; officials come normally from the petit bourgeoisie of the South, the most reactionary class in Italy. This class has supplied the officials of the law, the Police, the Carabinieri, the Army and many Government Ministers. This class, once predominantly agricultural, has now become property developers involved with the criminal camorra, mafia and suchlike which have always been instruments of the rich against the poor. One of the former Ministers of State, Mattarella, and an ex-Member of Parliament, the monarchist Prince Alliata of Montereale, were responsible for the massacre in Portella della Ginostra in 1947 when a group of 'mafiosi', armed with machineguns and other weapons, shot a group of peasants (socialists, communists and anarchists) who were celebrating with singing and dancing the First of The former Minister of Police, Scelba, was usually elected with the help of the Mafia and the same practice is followed today with the present incumbent, Restivo.

The new capitalists are a little different from the old capitalists. Despite this the penal codes prepared by Mussolini are still in force and all the governments from 1945 onwards haven't changed them. It is accepted that a conservative government should have powers to imprison for three years for insulting a policeman or a judge, for two years for 'lack of respect' towards the President of the Republic, two years for a journalist who writes articles 'diffusing false and tendentious news against the public order'; and should have powers to forbid meetings not authorized by the police!

Until 1960 the Democrat Christian Party which is the leader in the governing coalition had the political situation well in hand. Some few parts of Italy (and it must be emphasized that some parts of Italy differ from each other as much as, say, Sweden and Greece) were, as far as local government is concerned, controlled by left-wing parties. These regions are Emilia in Bologna; Forli, Rimini and Ravenna in Romagna; Florence and Leghorn in Tuscany; Perugia in Umbria; Northern Latium, Pesaro-Urbino in the Northern Mache; La Spezia and Genova in Liguria. In all these areas the parties of the left gather in 50% of the votes, and if one counts the anarchists as a party of the left the figure is greater, since in the constituencies of Massa-Carrara, La Spezia, Genova, Forli and Bologna there are an estimated 10,000 anarchists who, naturally, do not vote.

WAITING FOR CIVIL WAR

In 1960 the Christian Democrats planned a coup d'etat without colonels, 'March on Rome'. The party allied itself with the neo-fascists and the monarchists and prepared a batch of 'public order' legislation to use against the opposition. There were great demonstrations against all this Palermo, Catania and Bologna which were virtually, for a few hours, in the hands of the people. There was some fierce fighting; in three days ten people were killed by the police. The army remained neutral (partly for lack of politically-ambitious generals). Even the left wing of the Christian Democrats opposed the government. For a few days civil war loomed.

At the last moment the new capitalists preferred other solutions. The government resigned and a new coalition ('the centre-left experience') was formed. This was an alliance of the Catholic party with the socialists, republicans (Mazziniano) and social-democrat parties. (The social-democrats are conservative in Italy, as elsewhere.) The 'centre-left' government has been in office since December 1962. But every time that the reforms of the socialists and republicans are put forward the clericals and socialdemocrats blackmail them into withdrawing. The first time progressive legislation was mooted the clericals and social-democrats leaked to the popular press and there was a flight of capital to Switzerland. In a few weeks billions of lire had crossed the frontier.

Italy, being a country of recent industrial expansion, has neither the inclination nor the wherewithal to enforce income tax, the successive conservative governments preferring to put taxes on foodstuffs and other consumer goods. Italy has more than five million emigrant workers (the government prefers not to count the three million emigrés of the past generation) in Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Great Britain and Luxembourg, which helped to stave off a recession. The conservatives imposed centre-left government, more centre than left, which lined up with the criminal international politics of the

There was fierce police repression. Our correspondent was briefly jailed in 1962 and saw a boy of 20 die, killed by the police.

The government assumed a more liberal face for a few months but it was clear that the more reactionary elements were imposing their own policies upon the government and the left-wing socialists left the PSI (part of the coalition) and created a new party, PSIUP, which united left-socialists and left social-democrats. A few months after this the right wing of the clerical party with some social-democrats, the mon-archists, the fascists, a general of the carabinieri and others, with the authorization of the President of the Republic Sardinian landowner Segni), prepared a coup d'etat in the traditional They made lists of more than 35,000 Italians to be arrested and put in 'concentration camps' on the Islands. More than one million were to be dismissed (teachers, soldiers and other government employees who were suspected of being 'too republican'. The coup d'etat did not succeed, if it was ever intended to, because the two different types of police were in conflict and the generals were not sure of their conscript army which must contain, like the general population, 40% of left-wing opinions. The military were also unsure of some of the younger officers,

VICTIMS OF THE POLICE

A few months later, the Communist Party and PSIUP began to be infiltrated small groups of Trotskyists and Stalinists. The anarchists were mainly all working-men-stonecutters, peasants, blacksmiths, steelworkers, seamen, shiprepairers-concentrated in a few areas of Liguria, Tuscany, Emilia and Romagna,

The new political experience coincided with enormous changes in the Italian way of life, normal income in a working-class family reached the level of 80,000 lire, consumer goods increased and some industries became competitive on an international level. But the big new industries demanded increased production with more efficiency and stricter time-keeping.

It was then that the workers realized that the usual political trade unions (communist and socialist CGIL, clerical CISL and social-democratic UIL) were accept ing the time-keeping demands of the bosses and bargaining for just a little more money but were, in fact, becoming just as much their enemy. The era of strikes began, spontaneous 'wildcat' demonstrations and violent street battles. At the same time a student organization, Movimento Studentesco, was born, at first in Universities, then in high schools and technical colleges. Within this enormous movement were Anarchists, Trot-Maoists, Castroists, Leninists, dissenting Catholics, young Communists and Socialists. The struggles of the 'Mov. Stud,' were the most widespread that ever happened in Italy. The Establishment could no longer be sure; students demonstrated against the wealthy who wanted to show off their furs and jewels at La Scala in Milan, and at the night

club in Viareggio where a bottle of champagne costs 50,000 lire (a peasant's wages for a month); attacked the professors who never teach (normally they make their assistants teach for them).

Seeing the new force and the enormous numbers that the students could draw upon in the struggle, peasants, workmen and anti-clericals began to copy their example. In this manner the agitation for divorce was born. (This culminated in prayers against the campaign in the

In the South, peasants asked for more humane treatment by the landlords; police killed two peasants in Avola, Sicily, and jailed more than 300. This was at the end of 1968.

In the New Year, the Carabinieri opened fire at Viareggio, to defend the millionaires who dance there; a boy of sixteen, an anarchist comrade. Soriano Cecconti, is still paralysed as a result of police action. A few days later a town in the South rebelled against the authorities. Police killed three people.

But the struggle goes on all over Italy. The Movimento Studentesco has now split up into various groups, 'Lotta Continua', 'Potere Operaio', and the political factions of the Maoists, but its original struggle has taught lessons to groups of workers and others all over Italy.

Meanwhile the police have secretly organized 'fascist squads' to help them in street battles-especially in the South. In the beginning of 1969 came the biggest anti-anarchist repression. In Italy, traditionally, there are small groups partaking in bomb attacks (the terrorists of the South Tyrol, the neo-nazis, the fascist Giovane Italia, the Greek fascists who have Italian political connections, both right and centre). But after two bomb explosions in Milan, the police jailed seven anarchists without proof. There were protests; the police jailed the protesters. But as there was no proof the police could not indict since the trial would have shown up the police. So the magistrates kept the anarchists in jail without trial for seven months. There were demonstrations, public hunger - strikes (Comrade Tomolio fasted 25 days in front of the Palace of Justice in Milan), public opinion was aroused and two anarchists were released with 'lack of indications of culpability' after having been in jail for seven months. And many more are still in jail.

THE AUTUMN STRIKES

Since the beginning of Autumn workers have made demands on the bosses for less strict time-keeping, higher wages reduction of hours, right of factory meetings, bonuses on productivity. More than fifteen million workers have gone on strike and held demonstrations whilst in every factory there was formed Comitati di Base and 'consigli operai' soviets of workers). Enlightened capitalists were panic-stricken and allied themselves with old-style capitalists and with the state bureaucracy. Police became more tough in the streets and the judges had always been tough against workers (although they let free the capitalist Riva who went bankrupt for milliards of lire depriving 30,000 workers

of their wages and pensions). Then the President of the Republic, social-democrat Giuseppe Saragat, after an exchange of letters with Nixon, asked his friends in the Socialist Party to ask for drastic anti-left stand by the coalition government. The socialists refused, so the social-democrats reconstituted their party, no doubt aided by US funds. At this point the right-wing of the centre parties and the conservatives in Italy had clear design; for a new government of the clericals, the social-democratics and the 'liberals' (i.e. the party of the bosses) with external aid by the right. Such a government could legislate against 'extreme left movements who do not participate in parliament', suspend (just temporarily of course) the right to strike. punish spreaders of 'false and subversive news', and so on. All this could be done without changing the penal code or the constitution, or without proclaiming a state of emergency and this would moreover have the clear blessing of the President. Such a design was too obvious and workers and students, far from retreating, go on fighting.

EDITOR JAILED

jailed for seventeen months.

ontact Contact Column is for making contact! Use is free, but donations towards typesetting costs are welcome

Libertarian Teachers Assoc. Conference. Sunday, January 18, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Freedom Press Hall.

Leicester: Contact Di and Arthur Hum-74 High Street, Leicester (22046).

Could anyone with articles written by Pa Chin (alias Li Fei-Kan or Fei Kan or Hei Lang) in Chinese or translation contact Denis Watson. 25 Retreat Road, Hampton 3188, Australia.

Tuesday Evenings at Freedom Hall. Starting January 20. Informal discussion, entertainment/chess evenings. Small musical instruments and pocket chess sets welcomed. Refreshments. From p.m. admission 2/-. Proceeds to Press Fund.

Chris H. (Preston). Do you still want textile design work? If so contact Chris R. c/o Editor.

Catonsville Roadrunner-Radical Christian Monthly, 1/6 for specimen copy to 132 Muswell Hill Broadway, London, N.10.

D.P., Cambridge, Mass. (Press Fund, November 22 issue), please contact Sally Mitchison, R 320, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Manchester Anarchist Group. Secretary. Rachel Golditch, 34 Waterpark Road, Salford, Lancs. (740 2516).

Anarchist Group. M. Renwick, 122 Mowbray Street, Heaton, Newcastle on Tyne, 6.

Male Anarcho-Communist, 22 years old. wishes to correspond with Anarchist females 18-25 years old. Object open to discussion. Will also correspond with anyone on Anarchist Theory. J. Weismiller, 1301 Louisiana, Apt. No. 10, Lawrence, KS 66044, USA

Worthwhile work wanted by ex-voluntary worker. Mike, c/o 11 Barway Road, Manchester, M21 1JZ

Combat Academic Psychology. Conference at Keele, February 28-March 1. Anti-Behaviourism; Psychology in the service of the late capitalist State; Examination of Alternatives: Body -Freudians (Brown, Reich, Marcuse), Phenomenological Approaches (Laing, Merleau-Ponty), "Humanistic" Psychology, Psychedelia, etc. Anyone willing to write a paper or anyone wanting details, please contact Keith Paton, 21 Victoria Street, Basford, Stoke-on-Trent.

Gerald McKearney ('Mad Mick')-Endell Street squatter, in Brixton Prison and does not get visitors. Visiting hours 10-11.30 a.m. and 1.30-3.30 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays.

Anarchist Revolution. (Leaflet back in print.) 5/- per hundred. Cash with

Malatesta Poster Screen Printed. 7/6 (inc. post) from Freedom Bookshop. Floodgates of Anarchy by Stuart Christie

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Pete Ridley, c/o Newport Post Office. Urgent. Help fold and dispatch FREEDOM every Thursday from 4 p.m. onwards. Tea served.

Visits Please! Two of five squatters

remanded in custody do not have family in London, and would welcome visits. Brixton: Diarmuid Breatnach ('Buzz'); Ashford Remand Centre, Middx.: Michael Ali. rota please phone Sonia Markham at RENOWN 2014. (Letters also welcomed.)

Schools Anarchist Group in Gloucestershire? Contact Kate & Joe, 3 Withy Lea, Leonard Stanly, nr. Stonehouse, GL10 3NS, Glos.

At Pisa, in November, the police killed a student. In Milan, in December, a policeman was killed by demonstrators. At the funerals 'black squads' of Fascists, openly aided by the police, made a veritable 'pogrom' in the streets of Milan. attacking and wounding everyone who had 'subversive' looks (beard, red scarf, long hair, etc.). Two days after, the judges prosecuted the editor of a monthly Potere Operaio as responsible for an article that advocated the only way to socialism is revolution. For that he was

In Italy 965 people are in jail for political reasons. More than 10,000 people are awaiting trial for political 'crimes'. But, concludes our correspondent, 'We

go on fighting. Maybe, seeing our strength, the reactionaries will withdraw their plans. If they, on the contrary, try to impose them, there will be civil war and the writer will take his gun and go to the mountains. But public opinion in other countries can do much for us. please let people know what is going on in Italy. Please let people read this, protest in front of Italian embassies and consulates, make demonstrations. Help us, don't allow a new Fascism to get into power in Italy, don't leave us alone to fight reaction.

Translation revised

NOTES FROM ITALY

THE MAYOR OF VANZAGO, Ulisse Cantoni, proprietor of a small metal factory, today fired with an automatic gun loaded with pellets against a demonstration of about 100 workers from factories in Rho and Milan, trying to persuade the Vanzago workers to come out in unison with their protest. The Vanzago workers should have started their guerilla strike like the other factories of

There are two versions of the facts: the factory-owner claims that he fired after the demonstrators had broken down the entrance-gate; the workers claim that the gate was broken down after the attempted intimidation by the proprietor. It is certain that the industrialist, when he saw the workers reappear, seized his automatic hunting gun, loaded with five cartridges of pellets, after having told the workers to clear off (his words being drowned by a barrage of insults). The proprietor fired two shots in the air and the pellets hit the arch of the entrancehall and rebounded, lightly wounding four demonstrators.

While these were being helped by their comrades and taken to hospital, other demonstrators tried to enter the building to avenge themselves. Cantoni was dragged inside the factory by some of his subordinates who ran to help.

The industrialist then fled by another door. That evening he presented himself at the carabinieri post, via Moscava, The four wounded workers, Eligio Magnani, Giovanni Zappa, Giambattista Dell'Acqua and Francesco Mannanni, were declared curable in 4-6 days. They were interrogated by the carabinieri the same evening.

The local unions demanded the arrest of Cantoni and his deposition from the mayoralty, declaring the workers, in striking, were exercising a right sanctified by the Republican constitution and condemning 'this intolerable act of violence'.

After enquiries the carabinieri declared Ulisse Cantoni under arrest charging him with 'serious threats followed by injury' (tr. from La Stampa by S.M.)

SOME PEOPLE SAY that in Italy a putsch is at hand. However Italian fascism has no need of the 'squadri' to return, simply because it is still present as much in the ruling class as at the base of the administration; so much so, that many politicians have sought to assure the continuance of the substance of fascism without having to return to open experiments.

It's true that 25 years after the libera-

tion the passion of the various parts of the Government turns out to be for police violence, mad passions that the last government exercised without inhibitions; but it is also certain that they have taken that position because the future government can do even better, without the arrival of the colonels. The colonels are clearly an alibi for those who cannot justify their inactivity.

In fact beyond all the schemes that politicians have devised remains the fact that the problems of Italy of today are those of 70 years ago: the South, unemployment, emigration, natural catastrophes, fraud by state officials; and—to resolve all these problems-more carabinieri ever more oppressive and more heavily armed.

L'Adunata.

LETTER

Mass Arrests of Comrades

There have been mass arrests of anarchists all over Italy. Now the Inquisition Tribunal is taking place in Rome, and all the arrested are taken there. The police are searching for the publisher Feltrinelli, and a few other well-known people, checking all who pass through sea and air ports. Feltrinelli has recently published Woodcock's Anarchy (I was lucky enough to get a copy), and has published Kropotkin's Memoirs of a Revolutionist and books by Thomas Huxley and Rachel Carlson,

The police have arrested many good comrades and good men; the police and magistrates are framing everyone; it's like Oscar Wilde.

Yours fraternally, VIRGINIO DE MARTIN.

WE GO TO PRESS ON MONDAY LATEST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF MSS., LETTERS, MEETING NOTICES IS THE MONDAY IN EACH WEEK OF PUBLICATION.

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