VICTORY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLASS DOMINATION CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY THE DIRECT ACTION OF THE WORKERS THEMSELVES. WE REJECT ALL PARLIAMENTARY AND SIMILAR ACTIVITY AS DEFLECTING THE WORKERS FROM THE CLASS STRUGGLE INTO PATHS OF CLASS COLLABORATION.

Vol. 6, No. 3.

25th NOVEMBER, 1944

Fortnightly, 2d.

IN spite of the pleas of aero magnates in the national press for the formation of plans on production of post-war aircraft, production throughout the whole of the aircraft industry is steadily declining, and consequently many thousands of aero workers are, in one way or another, finding themselves on the dole. Over a period of souths the steady dribble of workers from aero works has assumed great proportions. "Redundant" workers from the West of England Bristol Aircraft factories are now swelling the figures of the wartime unemployed. Figures of unemployed which are largely drawn from engineering and shipbuilding industries and amount to many thousands of skilled workers, the B.A.C. workers are viewing with extreme alarm the huge number of their ex work-mates who are already kicking their heels outside the Nelson Street Labour Exchange.

Here, in Bristol, a face-saving dodge has been adopted by the boxes of the B.A.C., for instead of the direct sacking of workers, they have resorted to the tactic of transferring workers to out of the way disperent point, and the same properties of the

The end of August this year, the workers of the Ministry of Supply Factory, Dalmuir were informed that the factory would cease to be operated by William Beardmore & Co., Ltd. as Agents for the Ministry of Supply, and would again be operated as a Royal Ordnance Factory. In a notice to all industrial employees issued on 13th October, 1944 it was stated:—

on 13th October, 1944 It was stated:—
"It has been agreed with the Headquarter Trade Unions represented on the Ministry of Supply Joint Industrial Council that, in order to give the Trade Union side time to consider the proposals of the Official side for bringing R.O.F., Dalmuir, within existing agreements common to Royal Ordnance Factories (Engineering), no general changes will be made in gradings or systems of remuneration before Saturday, 18th November, 1944."

ber, 1944."

On Friday 3rd November a meeting of day-shift workers was held in the Factory Canteen, and arrangements were made for a meeting of the night-shift workers later in the evening. The meetings were held in agreement with the management, with the object of bringing Official Trade Union pressure on recalcitrant workers.

pressure on recalcitrant workers.

Although they were visibly affected by the cold reception of the workers, the deputation by means of an impressive lateness, an imposing pile of papers, a deliberate manner, and pompous address, endeavoured to create an awestriken atmosphere.

Mr. Harrison, chairman of the M.O.S. Joint Industrial Council, presided, and was assiduously assisted by Bro. Nesbit, C.P. convener of the factory. They were supported on the platform by representatives of other trade unions, including Mr. Maloney of the A.E.U.

Mr. Harrison, in the course of his address, the contraction of the M.O.S. whose over-ruling decision were not subject to negotiation, they were the decision of the M.O.S. whose over-ruling

shortly, is used as a means of declaring protesting workers to be redundant. There is also reason to suspect that militant trade-unionists are being weeded out of the B.A.C. by this method, and in common with other parts of the country, dilutees are being retained while skilled mean are getting the pushwould be the beauty of the country for the boats point of view are being hand-picked for addiling the areor industry with the inevitably depressed post-war conditions and accepting his passively. A drive to sack workers on the inspection department at the Filton works

## The Revolutionary Movement in Italy

has been liberated, and secondly because the a definite hindrance to the development of a A trade union congress held in Rome recently decided to separate the unions from politics. It was emphasised that the unions should be separate from the political parties, and from the state. The declaration of the congress stated that henceforward no banner or slogan of a political character should be exhibited in the premises of the unions nor at any public meetings organised by the unions. It is difficult to determine whether this resolution—in its rather abstract form—is probable that its origin was producing. The probable that its origin was producing the control of the configuration of the statistics of the configuration of the configuration of the activation demonstrate. It his is true, the resolution must be considered as a concession to the Christion unions which do not desire to collaborate with any working-class party. In short, it means the communication of the

e to develop on a large seale when the region writings of the Allied administration (AMG) are not working class organisations.

as the defenders of a united front with the christians—in this case the eatholics. Collaboration is no longer a means but an end for the committee of the committee of

#### Wage Cuts Dalmuir as Government again takes over factory

authority was the Treasury. He stressed that as a body they had never been asked to negotiate, and that there was no possibility of negotiations. There was no possibility of regulations with the decidence of the theorem of the theo

Inspectors
Millwrights
Book-keepers
Building workers
Cranemen, Class A
Cranemen, Class B
Unskilled labourers

Store-keepers, slingers, progress personnel, and a number of other grades would also suffer drastic cuts. The general application of 326 Award, which reduces bonus from 100% basis to 27½% basis, on fixing of new piece-work prices, would affect every worker in the factory.

would affect every worker in the factory.

Mr. Maloney, A.E.U. added his condolement.

Although he was not personally affected, he could understand the factory and it would have been much more pleasant if it had been his been much more pleasant if it had been his been much more pleasant if it had been his lings. However, it was his duty to announce the conditions as intimated by Mr. Harrison the could add little to what that already been said. He could only state these conditions in a different way. Up until that morning he had different way. Up until that morning he had proved that that was impossible. The decision was made by the Treasury and could not be

altered. They were faced with an ir

A worker stated that if this dication was an example of what we were fighting for, we were fighting for what we were fighting for what we were fighting for the war in vain. The chairman declared that the workers were responsible for the kind of government that they now had, and were therefore responsible for the Treasury. Shouts of disagreement greeted that her could the could not be success.

Another worker suggested that the could take the way may be success.

Another worker saked if it was the case, that he organisation which the workers had laboured to the did, hold out any hope of success.

Another worker saked if it was the case, that he organisation which the workers had laboured the could not any hope of success.

Another worker saked if it was the case, that the organisation which the workers had laboured the could not any hope of the workers. A number of admissions "That is so", "That is the position", "That is the case", came in chorus from the platform.

A worker rising in the middle of the hall.

A worker rising in the mothing class struggles he could not recall such a vile sell-out of the workers as he was now witnessing. The chairman jumped to his feet to deny the accusation, and after a poor attempt at justification he concluded lamely "we have nothing to sell." Needs to sell the could not recall such a vile sell-out of the late of say the workers agreed with him. Like the could not recall such a vile sell-out of the sell-out of t

#### How the American Workers Live

An article in The Industrial Worker for Aug. 26th gives some very interesting figures which point out how the majority of the American have been prepared, one by the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics which deals with "a bare subsistence living standard for father, mother and two children", the other is by the Heller Committee for Research in Social Sciences at the mumber and the state of the same number of people. According to the same number of story of the same number of the same number of story of the same number of the same number of story of the same number of the sa

#### Even Health Is Rationed

Even Health Is Rationed
Less than one dollar a week is available for household essentials; medical expenses cannot exceed \$16.50 (&4 2s. 6d.) a person a year, and that must cover doctor's visits, obsterrical care, the second of the second o

# Manchester Gas Strike

#### 36 Men Fined Ten Pounds Each

The April issue of War Commentary we reported a strike of the Manchester Gas Workers. Troops maintained the gas supply so that the strike ended within a few days. The strikers followed the advice of their union leaders and submitted their claim to arbitration. As a result they were awarded the insuling sums of 1d, per hour increase with 2d, per hour for night shift workers. The decision of the strikers was influenced to a large extent by the intensive sob-stuff propaganda campaign which filled the national press. However, as we pointed out at that time, the public and the strikers "do not seem to realize that bread could be baked, major operations carried out, gas fires operating again an soon as the employers gave in dato."

At a meeting on Saturday night Nov. 2nd at the Bradford Road gasworks, the men deviced and the gas of the strikers was planned to commence on the night shift of Nov. 4th. As no worker turned up for the 10 pm. shift their places were filled by a lorry load of troops complete with in that and rifles composition of the strikers was planned to commence on the night shift of Nov. 4th. As no worker turned up for the 10 pm. shift their places were filled by a lorry load of troops complete with in that and rifles (or the proposition of the strikers was a rapid extension of sympathy strike was planned to commence on the night shift of Nov. 4th. As no worker turned up for the 10 pm. shift their places were filled by a lorry load of troops complete with in that and rifles (or the proposition of the strikers and the shift of Nov. 4th. As no worker turned up for the 10 pm. shift their places were filled by a lorry load of the strike was a rapid extension of sympathy strike was a rapid extension of sympathy strike was a rapid extension of sympathy strike was formed to continue. On the strike was a rapid extension of sympathy strike was the mo

## Bosses Speculate at Workers'

#### Expense

War time conditions on Railways

It has been noticeable in the past few weeks that writers in the trade journals when discussing the terrific amount of rail traffic that its commonplace to-day, invariably refer to the "re-disence of the British Railways". Of course, it is not intended as a compliment to the stakhano-die efforts of the railway workers but rather a cheap advertisement for British locomotives

WAR COMMENTARY

corporating: SPAIN and the WORLD and REVOLT

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
6 Months, 3/- (U.S.A. 60c.) post free
Please make all cheques, P.O.'s and Money
Orders payable to Freedom Press and crossed
atc Payee and address them to:

FREEDOM PRESS, 27 Belsize Road, London, N.W.6. Enquiries, 'Phone PRIMROSE 0625

#### The Revolutionary Movement n Italy (cont. from p. 1 col. 5)

The numerous solidars, cond or conomic solidars, cond movement.
a syndicalists and anarchists in Tunis, Africa, began the publication of a LUCE NUOVA, at the beginning of ar, and we have received some numbers and we have received some numbers and we have received some numbers and we have received some numbers.

JOHN ANDERSON.

#### The Workers Struggle in Belgium

THE struggle between the State and the armed people continues in France. Now the same struggle is in the forefront in Belgium. The Pierlot Government ordered the underfround forces to surrender their arms by Saturday, November 18th, but they are resisting, and organising demonstrations against the government's decree. A correspondent in Reynolds' News remarks: "I have talked to many in the Resistance Movement, particularly in Brussels. They maintain that the Government's decision to disarm them was inspired by the big industrialists. Belgian Big Business sees in an armed resistance an ever-present threat of social revolution." The leader writer in the same issue also draws attention to this struggle of the dual power. "The Pierlot Government," he writes, "seems more anxious to purge the patriots than the collaborators—and to call in British troops to help it. The British Liberation Army is not on the Continent to buttress policies such as thin."

We are not so sure. Churchill and Roosevelt have repeatedly shown themselves to be on the side of governments rather than the people—on the side of order, as they call it, against 'marchy'. We are emphatically on the other side, that of the armed workers, And we repeat again what we said in our last issue—"Hold on to your rifles!"

As we go to press, it is reported that the "crisis in Brussels is over", the

As we go to press, it is reported that the "crisis in Brussels is over", the Resistance leaders having agreed to surrender their weapons to the British military authorities (so the British Liberation Army has certain political uses, after all!) As in France, therefore, the "leaders" have betrayed the rank and file of the people in arms. Whether these will comply with the new agreement remains to be seen. Our advice still stands.

you doing your bit for the Press Fund?

(See page 4 Cel. 5)

# THE SOVIETS

# 3. Germany

ALREADY in 1917 the Germany Navy, after the first Wilhelmshaven Mutiny, (which ended in failure and the execution of two mutineers) showed signs of infection. Secret councils were maintained by the rank and file on nearly all vessels; the struggle was carried out by underground methods and a close watch was kept on the officers.

In January 1918 great strikes were held in Berlin and Leipzig, in which two hundred thousand workers took part. They demanded better rations, peace without annexations and universal suffrage; and as a result of the strike a co-ordinated revolutionary shop-stewards' organization began to develop to a certain extent. The January strikes were backed by all German working class organizations though the Spartacists were not represented on the strike committees, because they desired to give the movement a definite revolutionary character.

In the factories, the representatives of the trade unions formed the nucleus of the future Workers' Councils.

Ludendorff, still sure of the Army at that time, was forced by the strikes to declare a state of siege under martial law. Strike leaders were arrested, thousands of strikers were ordered to join the army, and, (once they became soldiers under army law) had to resume factory work immediately. Thus the great factories were placed under direct military control.

The events in Russia began to infect the German Army increasingly. Hundreds of thousands deserted. The Spartacist in October 1918, when it was decided to begin an intensive agitation among the troops and to organize at once the formation of workers', peasants', and soldiers' Soviets then took over the town. One hundred thousand mutinous soldiers and sailors formed soviets all over Germany. On 9th November, the soviets elected in factories and barracks formed their executive committee of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils, claiming full power throughout the Reich. The prisons were stormed and the political prisoners released.

Britain at once declared her refusal to recognize the congress of sovi

#### 100,000 Workers Demonstrate

Rosa Luxemburg presented the demands of the Spatracists to the public. She denounced the parliamentary system and with the slogan "All Power to the Soviets" as the only revolutionary alternative, she appealed to the workers to arm themselves. The attitude of the soldiers who supported the soviets forced the High Command (led by Hindenburg and Ludendorff) to place itself at the disposal of the Ebert Government, which had already begun sabotaging the efforts of the workers' movements which had placed it in power, and was collaborating with the forces of reaction.

On 'oth December the Workers' and Soldiers' Soviet Committee was arrested by soldiers who were Nationalist and loyal to the Ebert Government. These soldiers also occupied the office and printing plant of the Rote Falme (The Red Flag, Luxemburg's paper). A protest demonstration of soldiers in Berlin was crushed and a number of them were killed and wounded.

terlin was crushed and a number of them were killed and ownded. The Headquarters of the counter-revolution was the Berlin Commandant's Office, the War Ministry and the Foreign Office. Directed from these places, a wave of white terror now broke some among the workers. One hundred thousand workers consistrated in protest. Strikes broke out everywhere. The Ebert Government had them crushed by the military orces of the reactionary white generals, but the Soldiers Soviet councils which opened on 16th December, demanded liquidation of the old officers copys, lock, stock and barrel. This Congress was out-maneuvered by Ebert. There were 306 councils in the congress, demanding that the army should be controlled by the oviets. But Hindenburg's position was strong enough to flow himself to ignore the demands of the workers and soldiers. The Labour Party meanwhile had successfully infiltrated the juncils and won a decisive victory over the revolutionary intority. With the establishment of the National Assembly, the owiet Congress lost its significance. The counter-revolution unched one blow after another against the revolution. Grocener, the War Minister, detested the Soldier and Worker oviets and all that they implied. Ebert, who "hated social volution more than sin" feared a left wing drive, and his fear

made him a mere instrument in the hands of Groener and the General Staff.

The Marine-division, in sympathy with the matinant workers and opposed to the Ebert Government, was ruthlessly butchered. Spartacist rising trampled down.

The Second Soviet Congress (April 1919) demanded with a majority the release of the imprisoned I.L.P. man, Ledebour. But the Labour Party, allied with the reactionaries against the Left, ignored the demand. The Labour Party paper Vorwarts—(Forward, edited by Ebert, Noske and Scheideman) called the demand of the Congress an "interference with justice which must protect the existing lawful order." When the Soviets later demanded that the Soviets should control the Reich's defence ministry, Nocke said: "The Congress may express its wishes to the National Assembly. I am democrat enough to accept that. But if the Assembly agrees to their demand I shall resign." Which meant that the Ebert Government would lose the protection of the reactionary Generals and their nationalist Free Corps. Under Noske's command General Maerker occupied Brunswick with armoured trains, heavy guns and flame throwers. He declared a state of siege and courts-marrial, dismissed the Brunswick Government, dissolved the Soviets and disarrmed the people's Marine-division and Home Guard, both formed by the workers. With the crushing of the Brunswick and Munich Soviet Republics, the German Revolution was defeated, and the Counter-Revolution (arm-in-arm with the Labour Party) was restablished anew.

The political result of the civil war waged by Noske, "the Bloodboard" in the first helf of 1919, was the total destruction

established anew.

The political result of the civil war waged by Noske, "the Bloodhound" in the first half of 1919, was the total destruction of the political power of the Soviets. The disarmament of the working class was carried out systematically and with the greatest thoroughness by the Nationalist military force. By the middle of the year the real power was in the hands of the Free Corps and counter-revolutionary General Staff and was no longer with the Assembly.

# Conclusion

When the revolutionary anti-parliamentary and anti-party-dictatorship minorities—(in Russia, the Kronstadt sailors and workers; in Germany, the anarcho-syndicalists and Spartacists)—objected to the deceptive manipulations of the reformists allying themselves with the counter-revolution, they were ruthlessely liquidated. In Germany the Labour Party gave the White Generals a free hand to slaughter the militants by the hundred thousand. Similarly, Trotsky in Russia, after the intervention, employed arch-counter-revolutionaries and notorious Jew-batters such as General Slaskhew-Krimsky, to butcher the Anarchists and Social Revolutionaries.

The natural programme of the Social Revolution was carried.

communes.

"Every political organization is nothing but an organization of rulers for the benefit of one class and the deprivation of the masses. If the proletariat should achieve power, it would immediately degenerate into a ruling and exploiting class.

"The first duty of the insurgent proletariat is the complete destriuction of ALL political power. Any organizing of a so-called provisional revolutionary political power is only a new deception and is for the Revolution as dangerous as any existing Government."

deception and is for the Revolution as dangerous as any existing Government."

The proletariat must reject all compromises and bourgeous policy and carry through the Social Revolution. The sowiets, formed at the place of work, controlled from below, are the only social revolutionary weapon by which the revolutionary impulse of the masses can destroy the class society and establish the free anarchist international.

MICHAEL PETERSON.

MICHAEL PETERSON.

## Three New FREEDOM PRESS

- WORKERS IN STALIN'S RUSSIA 88 pages M. L. Berneri 1s. (post 3d.)
- THE EDUCATION OF FREE MEN

32 pages Herbert Read

1s. (post 2d.)

HOMES OR HOVELS George Woodcock 32 pages 6d. (post 1d.)

Make sure of your copy by ordering early

FREEDOM PRESS, 27 Belsize Rd., London, N.W.6

#### PAGES OF LABOUR HISTORY

#### War Upon Labour

#### "An Injury to One -

#### Treachery Afoot

Although the union leaders had issued the strike call they appeared to have little stomach for the fight. All day and every day they attempted to have negotiations reopened. To this end they persuaded the Miners Federation to have the safety men return to the pits. This brought the miners and the Government together on the morning of Tuesday the 12th and the strike was postponed to Friday the 15th.

strike was postponed to Friday the 15th.

Treachery was taking shape. On the night of Thursday the 14th Frank Hodges, Secretary of the Miners' Federation spoke to an unofficial committee of M.P.'s, mostly Torics with a few National Liberals in the House of Commons, Hodges made the speech without permission of his organisation and without even notifying his colleagues. Hodges proposed a scheme for a temporary settlement of the dispute, which the E.C. members of the M.F.G.B. considered involved district settlements and wage cuts.

The committee of M.P.'s sent the scheme to the Prime Minister, Lloyd George. The E.C. of the miners, meeting next day, repudiated Hodges and censured him for acting without per-mission of the Federation.

#### Black Friday

of repair.

Chief organisers of Black Friday were J. H.
Thomas, Secretary of the N.U.R. and Bob Williams, Secretary of the Transport Workers Federation. The cult of personal leadership was to blame. Foolish to condemn "right wing" leadership and replace it by "left wing" leadership, J. H. Thomas was the principal right wing leader; Bob Williams was a national executive committee member of the Communist Party. Reformist or "revolutionary", faith in leaders had let us down, and there was no revolutionary rank and file movement able to develop an alternative to personal leadership.

#### After Black Friday

TOM BROWN

# Reflections on the Cairo Parliament

In Cairo a few months ago I visited the "Soldiers' Parliament." It was a grand affair with ministers for this and that, all of them very sincere about it all. Some, no doubt, had come along to display their rhetoric, but most had ideas which revealed a groping for some tangible scheme which could realise the conditions they had been hoping and fighting for.



NO FRATERNIZATION— By Order

#### Vote-What For?

Why is it that all these soldiers, sailors and rmen, W.A.A.F.S., A.T.S. and W.R.N.S., are on bothering to secure a vote—or will not other unless it is made almost as difficult not sign as to sign?

It is apathy? Certainly there is a good deal it, reflected in comments like:
"Vote? What's the good of a vote? All 1 ant to vote for is my ticket, I'd vote for that II right."

all right."
"Vote? Why should I vote, Sir? I don't even know what my bloody constituency is?"
But apathy is not the whole explanation. Among the forces there is a distrust, wide and deep, of polities in general and politicians in particular, which makes people feel that it just isn't any good voting. Take this conversation:

just isn't any good voting. Take this conversation:

A. "I don't care a damn who's in power."

B. "I'm not voting either. I used to vote
Conservative, but I see they're out for themselves now, and I'll not help them any more."

Or this: "Only hypocrites and humbugs stand
for Parliament, so it doesn't matter who we
vote for." (R.A.F.).

"All politicians are crooked, and I'm not
going to vote for any of them." (Army).

"They're all a lot of swindlers, out for
themselves. Conservatives or Labour, it's me
first all the time." (W.A.A.F.).

"What's the use of voting, it won't make
any difference."

Picture Post, 19/8/44.

Now that reconle heepin to realize that votting

Now that people begin to realize that voting is of no use they should use other means of expressing their will. The alternative to voting is not apathy but direct action and individual initiative.

STEVE MOYNAN.

#### FREEDOM PRESS PUBLICATIONS

POLICY

SM OR SYNDICALISM?
Tom Brown
Id. (postage 1d.)
Wagneses

24 pages
ALE TO THE LAND
SOCIETY
AND SOCIETY
George Woodcock
12 pages
RAILWAYS AND SOCIETY
George Woodcock
14 (postage 1d)
14 (postage 1d)
15 (postage 1d) 3d. (postage le E. Malates 2d. (postage le VOTE WHAT FOR?

THEORY
A.B.G. OF ANARCHISM
18. Postage 3d.)
124 pages
ANARCHY
43 pages
150 pages
160 pages
161 pages
162 pages
163 pages
164 pages
165 pages
165 pages
165 pages
165 pages
166 pages
167 pages
168 pages
169 pages
169 pages
160 p

152 pages trota
THE WAGE SYSTEM
3d. (postage ld.)
16 pages
REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT
P. Kropotkin
3d. (postage ld.)

REVOLUTIONAL.

16 pages
THE STATE—ITS HISTORIC ROLE
P. Kropotkin
la, (postage 2d.)

• GENERAL

GENERAL
THE BRITISH GENERAL STRIKE Tom Brown
THE WILHELMSHAVEN REV 8d. TPOSTAGE 1d.)
40 Dages
TADT REVOLT

### CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

THE KRONSTADT REVOLT
A CHING B PAGES
THE ISSUES IN THE PRESENT WAR HATCH TO THE ISSUES IN THE PRESENT WAR HATCH TO THE ISSUES IN THE MARCH TO DEATH 80 PAGES 2 CATOONS 18. 6d. (postage 3d.) SELECTIONS FROM POLITICAL JUSTICE William Godwin

32 pages
KROPOTKIN HIS FEDERALIST IDEAS
2d, (postage 1d.) KROPOTKIN HIS FEUL 2d. (postage ru-tip pages workers in STALIN'S RUSSIA . L. Berneri

88 pages
THE EDUCATION OF FREE MEN
Herbert Read
In contage 1d.) 32 pages
HOMES OR HOVELS—The Housing
Problem and its Solution
George Woodcock
A pages
(10 pages)
George God (postage ld.)

FREEDOM PRESS 27 BELSIZE RD., LONDON, N.W.S.

# **Bristol Dockers Strike**

(From our Bristol Correspondent)

From our Bristol Correspondent)

Five Thousand dockers were involved in a strike that started on Tuesday, october 24th in the Bristol area. The strike broke out at the Avonmouth Docks, and the Bristol City docks and the Portishead docks came out in sympathy over the issue of whether six or eight men should work in a gang. The strikers made a token start of owner to allow negotiations by their union, the Dockers work on Thursday noon, in order to allow negotiations by their union, the Dockers section of the Transport and General Workers Union to take place. The proposals agreed upon by the employers and the union officials were rejected by the men and they struck again on Friday morning. At a mass meeting held in Bristol on Saturday, October 28th again on Friday morning. At a mass meeting held in Bristol on Saturday, October 28th the men decided to return to work on the following Monday and to request the Union to a brief report of this strike in the last issue of War Commentary, but owing to lack of space this more detailed account had to be left over.

More Men than Jobs

In order that the docker may learn by the mistakes made during the dispute, and the general public be better informed of the causes of on strike were not present at the evening meeting, and the proposals were under consideration.

Causes of the Strike

Union Backs Out

and the dockers and the union to re-open Monday, approaching the union to re-open ociations on the question of the manning is on the docks. He role played by Charles Hill & Sons Ltd. regarded by the men to be not solely bad atment by a lone firm, but a result of the state of the docks.

TOM CARLILE

\*It was this "workers' representative" who we the only delegate from the body of the hall: the Trade Union Congress who spoke in sup-port of Bevin's anti-strike legislation.

CENSORSHIP FOR INDIA

Hansard for the 12th October, 1944 gives be following interesting information regard-

#### CHINESE SOLDIERS' PLIGHT

CHINESE SOLDIERS' PLIGHT

The wounded or sick Chinese soldier is still the unwanted man of this war. In the early days of the fighting in 1937 a Chinese professor in the college happened to see wounded soldiers from Shanghai and Nanking Jying on the waterfront at Wuchang, where they were awaiting transportation into the interior. They had received no medical attention for days or even weeks; they were thirsty, but could obtain water only by buying it. The military hospitals are wretched. Patients sleep in their dirty, foul clothes on wooden boards or lie on straw on the floor. Sometimes patients with different diseases share the same bed and the same blankets. Those in charge have little medical training and often are unable to diagnose diseases. By the time soldiers reach the hospital they are often beyond help. Out of 140 sick men (not wounded) admitted into one hospital in a month sixty died. Men were discharged before they had recovered to make room for new cases. The common diseases were dysentery, malaria, typhus, and sometimes cholera. I asked a Chinese doctor where the wounded were, and he explained that owing to the difficulties of transport it took about eight days for the wounded to be carried from the scene of fighting to the nearest advance hospital, and by then it was usually too late. Some wounded soldiers who arrived at a near-by hospital had been six months on the way.

Manchester Guardian, 10/11/44. lly too

ed at a near-by hospital

this on the way,

Manchester Guardian, 10/11/44.

#### OFFICERS OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY!

The only Russians who can be said to be really well dressed are the Army. I do not think, as far as looks go, that any army in the world to-day could produce an equal to the Red Army officer of field rank who, gleaning with gold braid and with the skirts of his great coat reaching to the ankles, high boots, and crowned with a grey fur hat, is a most imposing with:

The Observer, 12/11/44

#### COMMUNISTS WHITEWASHED

One favourite way of falsifying history nowadays is to alter dates. Maurice Thorez, the French Communist, has just been annested by the French Government (he was under sentence for deserting from the army). Apropos of this, one London newspaper remarks that Thorez will now be able to return from Moscow, where he has been living in exile for the last

x years.

On the contrary, he has been in Moscow for this newsteast five years, as the editor of this newsaper is well aware. Thorez, who for several
cars past has been proclaiming his anxiety to

defend France against the German, was called up at the outbreak of war in 1939, and failed to make an appearance. Some time later he turned up in Moscow.

But why the alteration of date? In order to make it appear that Thorez deserted, if he did desert, a year before the war and not after the fighting had started. This is merely one act in the general effort to whitewash the behaviour of the French and other Communists during the period of the Russo-German pact. I could name other similar falsifications in recent years. Sometimes you can give an event a quite different colour by switching its date only a few weeks. But it doesn't much matter so long as we all keep our eyes open and see to it that the lies do not creep out of the newspapers and into the history books.

George Orwell in Tribune, 17/11/44

George Orwell in Tribune, 17/11/44.

#### E.W.O. TO STAY

Dealing with labour controls in the interim period between the defeats of Germany and Japan, the White Paper outlines important modifications in the present system.

In the background there will remain the Min-ister of Labour's power, under the Defence Re-gulations, to direct any person to any job in the United Kingdom at the rate for the job.

The Essential Work Orders will be retained, and may be extended to some industries not now covered.

But the chief centre of control will lie in a new Control of Engagement Order, which will cover all employments, but be limited to men aged 18 to 50 and women aged 18 to 40.

#### SPANISH POLITICS

Most important of all, I am able to disclose the truth about the "Junta Suprema de Union Nacional" (Supreme Committee of National Union), which claims to unite under its direction all anti-Franco elements, including Communists, Socialists, and Liberal Republicans, and Conservatives, Clericals, and Monarchists.

The "Junta Suprema" does not exist outside the Spanish Communist propaganda, which claims that it is a vast organisation both inside and outside Spain, with its own "commander-in-chiet".

It is, in fact, the Spanish Communist Party with a few individuals of other Republican groups tacked on to it.

Sunday Dispatch, 19/11/44.

War Commentary "disclosed" these facts in its last issue.

the following interesting information regarding the censorship of Press Messages sent from this country to India:

become liable to deletion.

Mr. Amery: While the Government or India have reserved the right to scrutinise any incoming message not only from the purely military aspect but in the light of their knowledge of conditions in India, I am confident that the number of deletions is in practice very small. The Government of India regularly intimate to me by telegram the more important deletions and the reasons for them, and this information is passed on to the individual correspondents concerned for their confidential guidance.

Mr. Sorensen: It the Minister aware that

confidential guidance.

Mr. Sorensen: It the Minister aware that editors in India do not know what is deleted, and that sometimes messages are almost incomprehensible? Could not that practice be stopped? Mr. Amery: Yes, Sir. Information is supplied to correspondents here for their guidance, so that they shall not make the mistakes again.

Mr. Sorensen: Can the editors in India be informed what deletions have been made from the messages they do receive?

Mr. Amery: That would give them the opportunity of publishing precisely what they are expected not to publish.

#### WHAT A WAR!

Collar-attached shirts are being issued in some units of the Army—but the soldiers may not wear them because no orders or Army Council instructions have been published to permit it.

Daily Herald, 19/10/44

## **Chrough** Press

#### EXCHANGE OF FILMS WITH RUSSIA

A reciprocal arrangement with the Soviet for the distribution of British films has just been made by Mr. J. Arthur Rank. This secures the entry of British films into Russia on a percentage basis and the distribution of Soviet films in this country. This is the first occasion upon which a market for British films has been secured in Russia on a percentage basis. Hitherto entrance to the Russian market has been based on the purchase of rights.

The arrangement should open an extensive market for British films in the Soviet territories. The Russian films to be shown in this country will be dubbed in English. Soviet films do not now concentrate upon political propaganda. One recent picture, "Kutozco," deals with the overthrow of Napoleon's armies; "Silver Silpers" is a comedy based upon Gogol's "Night Before Christmas," and "Tale of Tsar Saltan" is an animated cartoon.

Glasgow Herald, 3/10/44.

animated cartoon.

Glasgow Herald, 3/10/44.

It is a proof of the degeneration of Russian films that they should now be acceptable by Mr. Rank. When Russian films remained faithful to the spirit of the revolution they were banned by capitalist cinema owners.

#### MRS. SMITH GETS FIVE BOB

A boy of three, Samuel George Armstrong Vestey, and his year-old brother Mark inherit over half a million under the will of their father, Capt. W. H. Vestey, son of Lord Vestey.

Capt. Vestey, who died on war service, left £646,672. He bequeathed £100,000 and personal property to his wife, who is a grand-daughter of the late Dame Nellie Melba.

News Chronicle, 14/11/44,

#### GENEVA CONVENTION IGNORED?

Mr. Mabane, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Food, replying to Mr. Arthur Duckworth (Con., Shrewsbury) in the Commons to-day, said that the start of a manufacturing campaign at Allscott Beet Sugar Factory was delayed for one day because certain Italian prisoners of war refused to work on a shift system. They were sentenced to detention.

The Witnerston (Con., Horsham) protested

sentenced to detention.

Earl Winterton (Con., Horsham) protested against this, saying, "Under what powers conferred by the Geneva Convention is punishment inflicted upon prisoners of war for refusing to work? The Government has constantly stated that no prisoner of war can be made to work."

Mr. Mabane.—That rests with the War Minister, who supplied us with the information.

Evening Standard, 2/11/44.

Does this mean that the War Minister can interpret the Geneva Convention as it suits his convenience?

#### ITALIAN SOLIDARITY

Lance-corporal Jack Goff, who with Corporal C. H. Godbehere escaped from Italy via Switzerland, said at his home in Brightlingsea, Essex: "The Italian peasants were marvellous. Many of them would kill a chicken for us, and be content to eat bread themselves."

News Chronicle, 14/11/44.

This will not prevent English journalists from protesting violently if Italian prisoners get decent living conditions when working

MORE HONESTY NEEDED! Fourteen years have passed since the State of Massachusetts murdered Nicola Sacco and Barrolomeo Vanzetti, on August 22, 1927, after seven long years of imprisonment. All the world knew, long before the electric chair claimed its victims, that Sacco and Vanzetti were innocent of the crime for which they were executed . . The capitalist courts were un-moved by the evidence, because the innocence of the men had never been the issue. It was "Bolshevism" they hoped to burn in the electric chair, when the switch was pulled to end the lives of Sacco and Vanzetti.

The Militant, 26/8/44.

This extract is from a long article in the

Vanzetti. The Militant, 26/8/44. This extract is from a long article in the American Trotskyst paper The Militant in which the fact that Sacco and Vanzetti were anarchists is not once mentioned! The last sentence rather leads one to believe that they were bolsheviks while in fact they had strongly attacked the actions of the Relsha. rongly attacked the actions of the Bolshe-ks in Russia.

The Trotskysts attack the Stalinists for

rewriting the history of the Russian Revolu-tion without mentioning the role played by Trotsky. But it would appear that they-too can rewrite history to sui their conven-

#### BETTER BARBARIANS

Officials of the Ford Motor Company in Detroit say, in a statement this week-end, that the Allies have facilities for manufacturing flying bombs of "most devilish and destructive type."

The Allies, they said are in a position to produce robot bombs "superior to anything the Germans can turn out." News Chronicle, 13/11/44.

If they do they are liable under present regu-lations to be stopped by military police for being improperly dressed.

If they button their battle dress over the collar and the top of the collar shows they can again be pulled up by the "red caps."

If they tuck the collar down they get a chafed neck

Four years ago the Eire Government appointed a "Commission on Vocational Organisation" presided over by the Bishop of Galway. The Commission has now presented a 500 page Miss Bennett and Senator Campbell, two of the Labour members, have signed a minority report. Two other Labour members, Duffy, Secretary of the Irish Labour Party, and J. Larkin, refused to sign the report and are sue a statement later.

The suggestions of the report bear a striking likeness to Mussolini's corporate state law. It is proposed that Eire shall have a "National Vocational Assembly" of 120 unpaid members drawn from national conferences of vocational groups, agriculture, industry, commerce, finance, the professions and transport. The Assembly would hold office for three years, advising parliament and eventually replacing the second

#### Irish Labour in Danger

Each industry would have a conference of trade unions and employers; negotiating machinery would be enforced on workers threatening to strike and strikes would be illegal until the conciliation" machine had been out to its limit. The latter two clauses, in effect, mean that strikes in Eire will be outlawed if the Report becomes law. The resemblance to, nay the identity with, the Fascist Corporate State will readily

The anatomy of the Assembly, the conferences of groups and the conferences of industries (Councils of Corporations in Italy) are identical to the bodies outlined by Mussolini in the resolution presented to the Assembly of the National Council of Corporations-the celebrated corporate state law-on November 14th, 1933. The proposal to cripple strike action adds to the Fascist character of the report.

#### The Fascist Threat

We do not suggest that the adoption of this report would alone make Eire a Fascist state, but it is dangerous as part of a general social trend in that direction-in Britain as in Eire. Political measures limiting public speech, the Press or labour action, forcibly transferring labour and keeping down wages are now common and threaten to become permanent. Trade unions in Britain, with a few exceptions, have proposed post war plans of obvious Corporate State character.

The world is moving rapidly from the classic conception of "free capitalism". Liberalism and capitalism are ever less possible company. Society is forced to become some form of collectivism. Social and economic thought is hardening into two trends-the bastard collectivism of Fascism (under several names) and the true collectivism of Syndicalism, the common owner-ship of the means of production by workers' control of industry. Even in Catholic social thought these two trends are apparent. There seems to be no middle course.

#### FREEDOM BOOKSHOP 132 Cheltenham Road, Bristol

Freedom Press publications advertised elsewhere in this issue also in stock. The following books NOW Vols. 1 & 2 Edited by G. Woodcock, ea. 1/6
NOW, Volume 3 Edited by G. Woodcock 2/THE EDUCATION OF FREE MEN Herbert Read 1/DEATH PAYS A DIVIDEND F. Brockway 3/6
BRANCH STREET Marie Paneth 6/-THE PECKHAM EXPERIMENT A Study in the Living Structure of Society 12/6
WHY DON'T WE LEARN FROM A Study in the Living Structure of Society
WHY DON'T WE LEARN FROM
HISTORY
WORKERS IN STALIN'S RUSSIA M. L. Berneri
THE RUSSIAN PEASANT AND
OTHER STUDIES (2 vols.)
OTHER STUDIES (2 vols.)

OTHER STUDIES (2 vols.)

THE RUSSIAN ENIGMA
A. Ciliga 1/6
STALIN'S RUSSIA AND THE CRISIS
IN SOCIALISM
MAX Eastman 7/6
ARCHITECTURE FOR CHILDREN
THE CULTURE OF CITIES
ART AND INDUSTRY
Herbert Read 12/6
EDUCATION
HONEY MUST GO
RIGHTS OF MAN
THE PASSING OF HEAVEN & HELL J. McCabe
MARTIAN EXAMINES CHRISTIANITY
TE LIBERTY OF MAN
R. G. Ingersoll 2/JANNED BOOKS OF ENGLAND
ARMIES AND THE APT OF
ARMIES AND THE APT OF

ARMIES AND THE ART OF REVOLUTION K. C. Chorley 12/6
THE HISTORY OF THE IRISH CITIZEN K. C. Chorley 12/6 R. M. Fox 6/-HUMAN REPRODUCTION AND VENEREAL DISEASE ABORTION: RIGHT OR WRONG Dr. J. Drew 3/6

THE MORAL JUDGMENT OF THE
CHILD
JUDGMENT & REASONING IN THE
GHILD
WAR AND THE CHILD MIND
YOUNG CHILDREN IN WARTIME
SEEDS OF CHAOS
STARVATION IN EUROPE
THE LOOM OF LANGUAGE
HAZLITY SELECTED ESSAYS
HEINRICH HEINE: WORKS OF PROSE
50SOUTH WIND
Norman Douglas 8/6

A WORLD WITHIN A WAR
THE CENTRE CANNOT HOLD
THE SUN ML MONUMENT
THE WHITE ISLAND
T WREATH FOR THE LIVING
A TIME TO MOURNE
25 POEMS Herbert Read 6 |G. Woodcock 2 | 6 |L. Lee 3 | 6 |
G. Woodcock 6 |Alax Comfort 2 | 6 |
D. S. Savage 2 | 6 |
Herbert Read 2 | 6 |

Please add for postage on books as follows: Orders up to 1/- add 2d. postage; 1/- to 3/- add 2d.; 2/- to 8/- add 5d.; 8/- to 18/- add 7d.; over 15/- add 1s.

# Anarchism in Practice

Lecturing on the Peckham Heith Centre recently, Dr. Scott Williamson, one of its founders, mentioned an interesting aspect of the experiment. The Centre "had no rules or regulations." For the first few weeks the people just sat about. They didn't know how to use their freedom-except of course the children. There were no organizers-"not even a Youth Organizer". (Many of Dr. Scott Williamson's remarks had a dry irony).

For the first nine months there was chaos, and they almost gave up faith-every day one of his staff would plead with him to introduce came order". Then suddenly "out of chaos came order". The people learned how to use their freedom, and now they started to do things, the things they wanted to do but had never before had the chance to do. How encouraging that sounded to an anarchist!

DEREK EASTMOND.

## Fivepence an Hour

Recent Press reports from Aachen state that the Allied military authorities have ordered a registration of labour. Labour is not compulsory-but anyone not registering will be denied rations! Wages are fivepence per hour.

Those who believe that German labour must be made to pay for the war should ponder that. Whatever form the payment takes, direct labour power, commodities or money which will be used to buy commodities produced by German labour, German workers at fivepence an hour will be competing with British and Allied labour. This was the position at the close of the last war, we all, particularly the miners, know the tragedy of low wages, unemployment and broken homes which followed the policy of "making Germany pay"

Can you compete against fivepence an hour? Yet, this is the policy adopted by the recent Trades Union Congress by an overwhelming majority. One clause of the T.U.C. resolution majority. One clause of the reced to re-reads; "The Germans should be forced to rebuild blitzed and shelled British cities and vil-While British brickies and carpenters sign the dole?

The Dockers' Reply

During the recent dock strike at Avonmonth and Bristol dockers resented Press statements accusing the dockers of "stabbing the soldiers in the back". Angered by the attempt to create ill will between soldiers and workers, a crowd of dockers marched to the offices of the Bristol Evening World and protested. The strike was against reducing gangs on barrel work from eight in number to six. The strikers pointed out that by striking against worsened conditions they were protecting the jobs of ex-docker soldiers who would have no civvy job to return to if their mates submitted. The dockers demanded that their statement be published in the paper. The Evening World published their reply. A little more of this would do a lot of

The Capitalist Cat

Readers of Trade Unionism or Syndicalism will remember the stories of the chimpanzee and the pekingese who became capitalists by inheriting fortunes from their mistresses. Now we have a capitalist cat. A few weeks ago, according to the Evening News 23/10/44, Woodbury Rand, a Boston U.S. lawyer left £15,000 to his cat Buster. So, the cat is now a capitalist, drawing his money and doing as much in return for it as any other capitalist. Of course, you can't do without the capitalist

SYNDICALIST.

## Death of a Comrade

It is with regret that we announce the death of a tireless fighter for Anarchism, Bianchero Gioacchino, a friend of Malatesta and Carlo Tresca. He refused to do military service in the last war, and migrated to Switzerland where he carried on propaganda among his Italian fellow countrymen. After the war, he went back to Italy where there was more scope for him than abroad. He worked ceaselessly for the movement there until Mussolini seized power. The Fascists had marked him down as one of their first victims, but he escaped and went once again to Switzerland. His reputation and activities, however, soon got him expelled. He moved to France, only to meet the same fate. Then on to Luxemburg. But neither Fascist nor Democratic governments give shelter to militant anarchists, and he again received the order to move on.

Our comrade went to Belgium, where he lived for some years. Under the pen-name "Lucifer," he wrote frequently for the Italian Anarchist paper Il Martello, published in America, and for Giustizia e Liberta (Justice and Liberty). In Belgium, he found good comrades and constant work. While there he sent for his son Cafiero Gioacchino, not knowing that he had joined the blackshirts, for he had concealed this from his father. This is an instance

# EIRE and the CORPORATE STATE Anarchism Today

THE Anarchist movement has a long record of struggle behind it, a struggle that is unequalled in the workers' movement in any part of the world. Particularly in the early period of the working-class movement, before the illusions of social-democracy and Marxism deflected the best militants from the paths of struggle, the Anarchist movement has been a powerful force against capitalism and reaction.

It cannot of course be doubted that, particularly in the inter-war years, our movement has suffered a period of recession, due to no lack in itself but to the fact that the working-class generally was led astray by the political parties who "organised" it according to their ideas of class-collaboration or dictatorship, and abandoned it when reaction overtook them, leaving the older movement to struggle on alone. The interwar years were marked by the growth of the State idea, and since Anarchism stands in direct negation of government, it has been the only movement that has carried out a logical and consistent struggle against that idea and the totalitarian and other governments which have incorporated that idea.

#### THE RUSSIAN ANARCHISTS

In Russia it was the Anarchist movement that stood by the principles of the Revolution-"the land to the peasants, the factories to the workers,"-and were the spearhead of the attack against first the Czarist interventionists, and later the Bolshevik dictatorship. The peasant movement of Makhno, the Ukranian anarchist guerrilla leader of the Interventionist period, the anarchist groups and the anarcho-syndicalist organisation, stood out to the very end against the new Czarism; amongst the Russian workers' opposition to this day our movement remains the principal force against Bolshevism and reaction.

In Italy, while the Socialist Party signed a peace treaty with Mussolini, while the Communists held back the workers' forces, while the Liberals sought for paths of reconciliation with fascism, it was again the Anarchist movement which took the lead-it was our movement, the Syndicalist Union, which held on to the last with the general strike against fascism. Anar-chists carried on the struggle in Italy and abroad

of the soul-destroying effects of the bestial creed of Fascism, the complete alienation of filial affection. The son is taught to betray the father because he is an enemy of the State. Fortunately for our comrade, his comrades rallied to his aid, and it was the son who was expelled instead of the father.

But the Belgian Government was now aware of whom it was sheltering, and he was soon on the blacklist. When the Germans invaded Belgium, he was arrested at Namur. His companion C. Furseman wrote ceaselessly, enquiring through various channels for information about At one time he was interned in a camp on the Spanish frontier, but after that there was long silence. Comrade Furseman has now heard that he had died on December 15th 1942. at the age of 58.

In paying this short tribute to the memory of our dead comrade who saw perhaps the first glimmering of the Dawn, but not the Day for which he had worked so hard, we remember that he was of the race and time that produced

Named and nameless, all live in us, One and all, they lead us still. These martyred comrades had the vision. It

is for us to make it the reality.

Mat Kavanagh

Letters to the Editors

produced the Schierus and Lucenze who seruch at the very house of the facciet bydra, for which they were visitently encuraced by the nimiters of function who have since surned up in the front rank of the pseudo- unit dentities, prematurely picking the fruits of office.

In Imperial Japan our movement is the only movement that still appears the way. The anarcho-syndicalist unions have been raised ann dissolved many times; Ameribus have been say cuted for concern charges like "conspirately against the Mikado" and abstract charges like "dangerous thinking". Nevertheless the only non-patriotic Japanese movement is the Assarchist movement, which remains faithful to the principles it upholds. In spite of suppression, even the liberals and socialists support the war. while the communists support the war so long as Russia remains friendly with Nipposi. Likewise our Chinese comrades, though lew in number comparatively with the size of the country. have remained constant, compromising them-selves petther with the government of Chiang Kai-Shek nor with Mikadoism, but remaining an internationalist body. Their movement, which was formerly illegal and secret in all China except the international city of Shanghai, where is functioned openly, and issued national and international journals, is now, of course, under-

In Spain no other movement has such an honourable record of fighting the evils of monarchy, fascium and totalitarianium. In 1936 it was under the influence of the anarchist trachings that the workers and pessants fought fascism and created a new society of free men on anarcho-syndicalist lines. The saborage by the Stalinists and the frontal attack of the Pascists may have destroyed that society, but it remains an inspiration everywhere. Just as it was the Anarchists who suffered under the Montjuich monarchist-clerical terror at the beginning of the century, it is the same movement that suffers under the Phalangist terror to-day. In neighbouring Portugal the influence of the Anarchists among the working-class is considerable, and the part it has played in the mutinies and struggles against the regime and person of the Allied dictator Salazar is well known.

The Anarchist movement in Germany, while not being equal in proportion among the working-class, has played an active part in the struggle against Hitler and in the course of that struggle has gathered more strength to itself than ever before: it may well be that the reaction of the German masses to the long years of regimen-

## NOVEMBER MARTYRS

### Commemoration Meeting

On Friday, November 10th, a meeting was held at Freedom Press Rooms to commemorate the anniversary of the Chicago Martyrs' death in 1887. Two or our comrades, George Cores and Mat Kavanagh, who spoke, were amongst the few with personal recollections of that periou, and they gave very lucid and detailed accounts of the struggle surrounding the trial, and the trial fiscit. It was also stressed that this martyrdom was but one of the many suffered by Anarchists in the course of the struggle for freedom. George Cores concluded a very eloquent speech by urging comrades to revive the old tradition of holding every year on November 11th, large meetings commemorating not only this martyrdom but that of all comhad fallen in the struggle, amongst whom were referred to twelve Japanese comrades executed in 1911, and the Montjuich victims at the beginning of the century.

of another colour, but soutands liberta In France the treatern.but part physics by Associations in the early steen of the western the had been recovered by Vulty in its "drive against Associates" to solvich they some sets absendy assistant by the "James" to Sapablic under Daladier

# MOVEMENT IN S. AMERICA

The record of the storement to Lacin America is far heyeard our powers to sketch briefly. Its part in the anti-Machado strongle in Cuba; its ong and honougable second in the Argentine others for years two daily papers came out dorong the rocat especialist distanceship in Uruguay where only recently cares news of the action. played by our contrades in the straggle against unlitary arrains; its part in the Mexican Revolution and the pressent expropriation movement is an unequalited many of struggle; and in all the contries of that Continent, it has carried on the

This heavy should down no more than belofts selected the storps of the movement in the world On looking tack at the inter-war years we can are that in spite of the arthurks occasioned partly by the reactionary emissight but principally by the absorption of many of the best working class unlitarity into the illusive parties of the pulsecters, the Amerikan mercement has played a great part in what has been one of the most retrograde periods of history. If it has less ground in those years it is certain than the phastly period of war and reaction has saughe on that this has been very much so the debut of

The period of recession is now finished. Our movement faces a period when it again may make a bid to extend its influence in the world. The steady growth of influence of our movement in this country during the past ten years is testimony to that statement. With the resumption of imercourse between the nations it will again become possible to extend our movement far and wide, to stretch hands across the frontiers and unite a) one solid movement across the frontiers, a movement expressing in action the belief in freedom and mutual aid. The struggle against national rivalries and international capitalism devolves upon the one movement that rejects all forms of exploitation and capitalism.

A. MELTZER

## PRESS FUND

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER, 1944

London: 8. (per C.H.) 1/6: London: Docks (per C.H.) 1/6; Hawthorne N.J.: C.F. -2/9/4: London: Park Sympathiser 5/-: Gateshaed: J.C.S. 2/6: E McK 2/6, J.C. 2/6, G.W.T. 2/6; Mountain Ash: G.R. 3/6; Liverpool; H.M. 5/-, W.G. 5/-; Negoliffes F.O. 10/-; Landon; J.H. 10/-; Kington; M.S. 2/-7 Look: A.R.F. 1/6: London: Sgt.A. 2/ Northwood: E.H. 4/-; Landon: A.M. 2/6; London: R.G.A. 4/-; Southall: E.B. 7/-: Ipswich: W.D. 1/-; London: H.R.W. 4/-; London: L.J.L. 4/-; Norwich: P.B.C.S. 4/-: London: E.F.K. 5/-: Sunbury-on-Thomes: P.P. 2/6: Doncaster: M.D.T. 4/-: Belfast: J.B. 8/6: Stratford-on-Avon: C.C. 4/-; London: F.C.D. 2/-Norwich: S.V.P. 10/: London: E.H. 10/ : London: ES. 4/-: Tring: W.A.R. 2/-: Cambridge: C.J.H. 8/6; London; S.C. & V.C. 10/-; London; 1.K. 4/-Cambridge: S.H. 7/-; Accrington: A.E. 4/-Penrith: P.G. 5/-: Dover: A. McK. 9/6; London: G.S. 30/-, E.M.S. 10/-; Gateshead: J.E.S. 2/6. E.Mck. 2/6, J.C. 2/6, G.T. 2/6; Leicester: A.S. 4/-Shrowsbury: V.B. 1/3; B.L.A: G.L. 4/-; London: S.W.T. E5 0 0; Watford: C.H.C. 1/-; London: W.E.D. 4/6; Los Angeles Group per J.S. £7 8 2; Deptford: B.E.W. 2/-; Kirkfieldbank: D.T. 4/-; London: Park Sympathisers 2/8; Los Gatos California: Group per L.M. £12 7 0; London: F.H. 10/-; Chessington: D.M.W. 4/-; Bredbury: V.W. 14/-; Watford: G.H.C. 1/-; York: H.A.A. 10/-; Ascot: Pte.W. 6/10; Ford: W.G.H. 5/-; London: F.C.D. 2/-; Nottingham: H.M. 3/4; London: J.A. 14/-; Glasgow; A.F. Group £5 0 0; 2nd List SOLI-

DARITY TICKET DRIVE £37 14 6. Total September and October

TOTAL TO DATE

£522 11 6

£86 10 1

# A letter came form my son, J. P. -- last

#### Reminiscences of an Old Wobblie

Dear Comrades, I happen to live in one of the most conserva-tive towns of England (Shrewsbury), Mr. Duckworth being the Tory M.P. for the constituency. This agrarian county abounds with Lords, Squires and Sirs. Slums and dilapidated houses with roses round the door are scattered about the villages. These wealthy and smartly and expensively dressed upper class have all the good things that go to the making of a healthy life. This month the rich landowners do plenty of game shooting, parading through crops of beet, mangolds, potatoes, etc., on his great estate. He takes care not to cut any beet on a cold, frosty, or wet morning. In Shropshire the employers soon tell us that's what they employ wage labour for-to make enough profits so that they don't have to take their coats off and go to work a minimum of 54 hours a week.

In the year 1926, I migrated to Canada, land-

ing in Halifax, and traversing by train right into the North West of the country. One day I was walking down the streets of Calgary. I came to Eighth Avenue and Second Street East, when lo and behold, I ran into the secretary of the I.W.W. He was calling in stentorian tones, "Industrial Worker, official organ of the wobblies, five cents a copy". In my youth I'd been a reader of the Daily Herald and a member of the General Workers' Union. If the Industrial Workers of the World catered for all workers of the world, it must be a magnificent organization. So it is. I then purchased a copy off the then secretary. He invited me along to the 2.30 Sunday membership meeting. Under the good and welfare item of the agenda, I was enrolled a member of the I.W.W., 120. From then onward I attended branch meetings regularly, and also took an active part in the propaganda work of the Union. I wish them every success in their movement. Let us look forward to the day dawning when a new light wakens the working class, when we shall arise to a higher and nobler society which will surpass the feudal and mediaeval ages. Kant the philosopher once said on his 75th birthday, he would abolish standing armies and navies, placing ruling class greed as the cause of all warfare,

Yours fraternally, A. E. FLETCHER.

## Reader at Arnhem

Dear Sirs,

week. You may be interested to know he went to Holland with the Parachute Regiment and was reported missing from Arnhem on Septem-

The War Commentaries have been put to good use and I am saving them in the hope that he is a prisoner and will soon be home again. Yours faithfully, (Mrs.) J. C.

German P.O.W. Dear Comrades,

Recently volunteers were asked for, to escort German prisoners of war from a camp to a port of embarkation. Anxious to meet these 'Huns' who callously kill off thousands of people without reason, I volunteered.

As soon as I reached the camp I went straight over to the barbed-wire enclosure to catch a glimpse of them.

Later in the morning we were informed that we were going to march our prisoners fourteen miles to the railway station in the town, when the nearest station was only three miles away.

So at one o'clock we lined up outside the enclosure to receive our prisoners. Out they marched in batches of fifty, and a sorry sight most of them looked in their ragged grey-green uniforms, unshaven and carrying small bundles or towels. A lorry pulled up behind the column and a special batch of about twenty Germans were put in it.

What is the matter with them? Are they sick?" I asked one of the guards. "Oh, no, they are officers," was his startling

It seems as if the authorities uphold the dis-tinction between officers and men, even when they are 'barbarous Huns'.

Eventually, after a march lasting nearly six hours, we reached the town where we put the prisoners on the green until the train arrived. Here we managed to obtain a few buckets of water from the civilians for them. It was the only drink they had since the journey began. On the train I had the opportunity to study

my prisoners. They shewed none of the arro-gance of the film Nazis, in fact, one of them even offered his seat to me. I soon discovered that one of them could speak fairly good English and when I showed him I wanted to be friendly, he was quite willing to converse with me. He agreed with me that Germany had lost the war but believed the Germans will fight to the last man because of the following reasons:-

1. The Gestapo is very efficient, and if any section of the people showed the least sign of revolt they would be ruthlessly suppressed before they could do anything.

2. The Germans believe their men will be taken from Germany and sent to other countries as semi-slaves.

3. They believe that Germany will be divided up between England, America and Russia, and occupied for at least a generation, during which time every opportunity will be taken to humiliate and degrade them.

I mentioned the atrocities alleged to have been committed in Russia but he pleaded ignorance. He knew about as much about German administration in Russia as the average Englishman knows about the British administration in India. This should answer those people who maintain that the German people are responsible for the crimes committed in their name. The German people do not know what is happening outside Germany.

By the time we had reached our destination, I was convinced that the German is no different from us. He believes he is fighting for his existence-like us. He is convinced of the justness of his cause-like us. He is fed with a stream of pro-war propaganda-like us. He has been bombed-like us.

During the whole of the journey, from the time we collected the prisoners at the camp, marched them fourteen miles, taken them on a train journey and handed them over at the port, a period of twenty-two hours, they had not had a mouthful of food. I asked them if they had been given anything to eat for the journey at the camp but the answer was in the negative. I will not comment on this or I may be accused of being anti-British.

Yours fraternally, GUS.

## SOLIDARITY TICKETS

2nd List

Aberdeen: M.L. 5/-; Accrington: C.R. 5/-; Birmingham: B.P.C. 4/-, B.C.L. 17/-; Bolton: RC.S. 1/-; Bradford: J.T. 5/-; Bristol: T.L. 5/-; Cambridge: E.R. 5/-; Catterick: W.L. 5/-; Chichester: L.A.B. Chipperfield: J.E.D. 5/-; Claygate: E.R. 5/-Deal: A.G.S. 5/-; Eastbourne: B.F.B. 5/-; Edinburgh: V.V. 40/-; Epping: J.M. 20/- Hillingdon: P.B. 2/6; Huddersfield: A.L. 17/6; Ilford: P.L. 5/-; Kenilworth: F.G.P. 5/-; Kilquhanity: A.H. 10/-; London: M.F. 5/-, Mrs.M. 5/-, E.L. 2/-, Mrs.D. 4/-, J.C. 2/6, K.C.P. 2/-, W.H. 5/-, T.L. 2/-, M.L.B. 10/-, P.S. 10/-, N.F R. 5/-, A.S. 5/-, A.F. £12 11 0, L.J.L. 5/-T.A.Y. 5/-, R.R. 2/6, T.A.McC. 5/-, B.B. 20/-, E.W.P. 20/-, R.A. 2/-, J.C.C. 5/-; Lancaster: T.G. 5/-, C.S. 5/-, R.S.P. 5/-; Laurieston; P.C. 5/-Leicester: R.G.G. 5/-; Manchester: F.A.A. 5/-A.H. 5/-; Neath: F.R. 5/-; Oxford: D.T. 5/-, J.C.R. (Balliol) 5/-; Ruabon: J.F.B. 5/-; Rhyl: H.J.G. 5/-; Slough: B.A.M. 5/-; Southall: E.B. 10/-; Southport: T.D. 5/-; Stonehouse: A.F. 5/-; Sunbury: A.P. 5/-; Stockton-on-Tees: R.H.M. 5/-; Umtali (P.E. Africa): L.S. £5; Wantage: A.G. 5/-; Watford: T.G.P. 5/-; Woodbridge: W.G.W. 2/6.

TOTAL OF 2nd LIST £37 14s. 6d.

#### T. W. BROWN DEFENCE **FUND**

We thank all comrades and friends who have already contributed. May we again remind comrades that our appeal was for £200 to meet the legal costs in our comrade's case. All contributions should be sent to the FREEDOM PRESS, 27, Belsize Road, London, N.W.6. and clearly marked "For T.W.B. Defence Fund".

1st LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS. Leeds: M.F. 9/-; Stroud: S.L.R. 3/-; London: J.H. £4; Glasgow: Anarchist Federation £10; Wimbledon: E.M. £5; London: V.R. £2; Anon: £1; London: V.T. (per V.R.) £2—TOTAL — £24 12s. 0d.

Printed by Express Printers, 24a Whitechapel High St., London, E.1 Published by Freedom Press, 27 Belsize Road, London, N. W. 6