



Agitate



Educate



Organise



THE NOTTINGHAM



Official Organ
Communist Unity Groups
Nottingham, City and County

WORKER

NO. 5

CITY AND COUNTY

ONE PENNY

WAR—WHAT FOR?



shell-shock but some of them are suffering as a result of being wounded in the head, and in one case which has come to my knowledge they have dealt with the man's family in the dirtiest of fashions. This man was wounded in the head and sent home. After a time he was discharged without a pension, and some time afterwards his mind became slightly unhinged, and he appealed for a medical board. This was given to him, and he was certified insane and sent to a local asylum, where he is at present. Mark this: The board declared it had not been caused by the war and therefore he would have no pension, but would have to go to an asylum. He went, and his wife and children are now living on Poor-law relief and charity. This is only one case of several thousands.

The Attorney General for stated a few days ago in the HOUSE at Westminster that the government had received a proposal from the Ulster ex-service association to place at its disposal 3,000 trained officers and men. He said the offer was being considered.

Now you have it straight. You have been told what might happen if you joined any of these organisations. If ever a similar thing arises in England similar to one in Ireland, you who are members of the Comrades, Federations and associations, etc. may be asked to fight against your workmates and your own class. Study this over in your mind and you will realise how easy you have made yourselves tools of the capitalist class.

The Minister of Labour is in a position to say that in this patriotic country there are 16,556 employers who are asked to employ their quota of 5 per cent disabled men. He then goes on to say that he "wants more, more, and I really must have more." Most of the government departments are supposed to be free from this accusation that they have not taken their share, which is not true, but are they free from the charge that they are paying their men a sweated wage?

That of course is another question and one which the government might attempt to answer.

HAROLD C.

TO ALL READERS, IF YOU DESIRE THE WORKER TO CONTINUE, SEND ON C

A paragraph appearing in a Sunday paper announces the fact that the ex-servicemen's organisation in the United States are claiming a pension of £120 a year for all men who served in the army, whether at home or abroad. This is being supported by all parties. Surely we live in a queer world. Our politicians are more concerned in fleecing us further than in supporting even the modest demand for the difference between 1s. 2d. & 6/- paid to the "Aussies." Never mind, we may have a change of opinion soon.

Men who have applied for a job as the result of an advertisement which read "Only ex-service need apply" have received a rude shock. This applies to one of the government offices where a number of ex-service men were started as clerks at the unmentionable wage of 50s. In one of the Lancashire sections there are some 400 of these men employed, men who during the war were paid 1s. 2d. a day, and now the war is won and over they are expected to be satisfied to work for a sum of 50s, with food increased in cost 146 per cent. Surely this is another call to ex-service men, join a real live organisation and help to break capitalism.

In spite of the protests and the deputations that have waited upon members of the government, numbers of ex-service men are still shut up in asylums. The word scandal is not strong enough to apply to the treatment that these shell-shocked heroes are being given by a grateful government. Not only are these men suffering from

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By the Editor James Stewart

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Our Editorial

A tangled web in sooth it is,
Yet here we have the clue,
The tools whereby the many live,
Are mastered by a few.

We have only to watch the antics of the social reformers, for proof of our contention that the reformers do not understand the cause of the problems they seek to solve. The best "benevolent" government can do in dealing with the problem of unemployment is to grant doles, or to set up labour exchanges, whose duty is supposed to be to find work for the unemployed. It is admitted that all that has been done has not stopped unemployment.

All the schemes of housing does not solve the housing problem,
All the power of the police force, and an elaborate detective staff does not stop crime.

The hangmans rope never prevented murder. One has only to look at the number of murders and thefts that have been committed and compare them with the number for which persons have been found guilty, to see how utterly futile is the present method of dealing with crime.

We could go on, all through the schemes of the reformers, and give that all their schemes put into operation does not solve the problems they set out to solve, but are only pieces of sticking plaster that covers sores, but cures nothing.

Let us take the report of the Royal Literary congress held in Birmingham reported in the Journal. One of the speakers Dr. Boobyer, Medical Officer for Nottingham stated.

We had only to look around us in the labour world and note the proletarian attitude towards the various problems of life, as expressed by their

words and conduct, in order to realise that we had here a class of people remarkable for neither morality nor intelligence."

We who produce all the world's wealth, have neither morality nor intelligence, it is remarkable:

We who create more wealth than we consume, we who were told that we were the saviours of humanity, when the huns were knocking at the door, we who fought the battles of our masters on the various battle fields all over the world, we are remarkable for neither morality nor intelligence.

If Dr. Boobyer's statement is correct, what it amounts to is this, that the present system allows the vast majority of the people, the only people who perform social service, to be remarkable for neither morality nor intelligence. That system stands condemned.

Does Dr. Boobyer know that morality is a thing that changes with every change in the economic basis of society. Every epoch of society has its own morality, and morality has changed with every change.

Capitalism cannot boast of its high standard of morality. What does the medical officer mean by morality, is it the doctrine of the duties of life; what are the duties of life for the working class, work, work, work.

What are the duties of the life of the capitalist class, to draw from our energy, Rent Interest and Profit, truly capitalism is remarkable for its "Higher purchase" morality and intelligence.

The entire capitalist class must get the sack, We can have no use for bankers, landlords, and capitalists, sack the lot.

The taking of rent interest and profit, is a remarkable morality.

We challenge Dr. Boobyer to disprove our statements, the columns of the "WORKER" are open to him,

JOURNAL IN A FOG

Under the headings, No Rent Campaign at City Meeting, Wild Words, A Housing Story, the creature that writes in the journal the column From day to day, tries to give a true report of a meeting held in the market, at which the Editor of the WORKER was one of the speakers, we say "tries to write a true report", our readers know that the truth is beyond the paid hacks of the master class.

The journal has got the wind up over

the rent strike. It is true that the Editor of the WORKER read out in the market place the rent strike manifesto of the national union of ex-service men, but it is not true to say, as the journal does, that he urged the audience to sign the paper which was being circulated, for the simple reason we never had any such papers to sign, perhaps the reporter paid a visit to the BELL and it affected his hearing, but it did not affect him being paid for supplying false news to the editor of the journal. Clever lad, it was quite smart of you but have you ever read this quotation — You Are Paid To Defile The People You Liars — It means you.

THE SOLDIER'S CREED

"Soldier, what do you think" I asked,

"Of the part your soldiers play" But the soldier answered, "I do not think;

I do not think, I obey:"

"Do you think you should shoot a patriot down.

or help a tyrant slay"

But the soldier answered, "I do not think,

I do not think, I obey"

"Do you think your conscience was made to die,

And your brain to rot away,"

But the soldier answered "I do not think,

I do not think, I obey"

"Then if this is your soldier's creed I cried,

your a mean unmanly crew,

and for all your feathers and gilt and braid,

I am more of a man than you"

"For whatever my lot in life may be and whether I sink or swim,

I can with pride, I do not obey:

I do not obey, I THINK."

Ernest Crosby

FOR YOU

Why leave the education of your offspring in the hands of your enemy Are you prepared to stop it, if so send your boys and girls to The Young Labour League, every Sunday at 3 p.m. William Morris Institute, 1 St. James St. Come yourself and bring others with you, help in the greatest work of the time, don't talk about it, get down and do something for the future working class.

THE WORKER

Municipal Finance and the Worker.

The constitution and powers of municipalities, and all local governing bodies, are to all intents and purposes capitalistic institutions as they exist today. The limited powers conferred on them by parliament, and the way their liberty of action is hedged round by legal restrictions, are all intended that their administration shall conform as closely as possible to the private capitalistic practices by which they are surrounded. Hence we see an inefficiency constantly attending their labours, from their inception until now, an inefficiency that is rapidly reaching a stage when it will be a positive menace to the community. This menace is a continuous growing debt, and the growing interest burden which such debt entails.

Now every simpleton knows that with the development of education and other social amenities the people will continually cry aloud for improved conditions which it is the duty of the municipal council to provide. Given a desire on the part of our council to keep pace with the public demands in this direction they are handicapped by the fact that such improvements are costly, and their only means of meeting them is to make continuous calls for increased rates, or carry them out by means of borrowed money. The value of such revenue producing sources as they at present possess are minimised very largely by the fact, that very much of their surplus revenue which shon'd form a nucleus fund for further improvements, have at present to be employed in meeting the interest bearing demands on expenditure of a non-lucrative character. It is this large volume of expenditure on improvements that bring in no return, with their heavy interest charges, that keep so many necessary improvements back and cause the rates to continually rise.

Detailed examples of some of these I will give later on.

From this brief explanation the thoughtful reader will see that the financial basis of local government, the same as that of the national government, rests upon a rotten foundation and that the primary motive behind each is, exploitation

of the people. This exploitation shows itself in the huge debts local governing bodies are bound to contract under conditions laid down by the private capitalist. Take our city debt as a case in point, we have a debt of over £5,000,000 which seems to remain practically stationary although the rates continue to rise. Over £3,000,000 of this debt is irredeemable stock, that is to say, it can only be paid off by consent of the stock holders, and at the price they choose to sell out at. So if they wish to keep us in bondage this debt would stand, as it now is, until Doomsday, only a special act of parliament could alter it. £3,000,000 of stock at 3 per cent means an interest charge on the ratepayers of no less than £90,000 every year, the other £2,000,000 debt at the same rate of interest means a further charge of £60,000 every year. so the ratepayers have to provide annually over £150,000 to pay the interest on these loans. To add insult to injury our accounts show that over £384,000 of this debt is not a real debt at all since no money has been paid, but it is a gratuity given to the stock holders in the form of discount on their stock. In other words we are paying interest on £384,000 which we have never had, and when this debt is finally paid we shall, in addition to the yearly interest already paid, make them a present of £384,000 for nothing, now seeing much of this debt dates back 40 to 60 years it follows that we have paid nearly 200 per cent in interest on the amounts originally received, and on that which we never received, and still the debt of 5½ millions remains with us as powerful to exact its unjust toll as ever. Is there any wonder that our municipal affairs go from bad to worse under conditions like these, could it be otherwise.

That our affairs are in an unsatisfactory state was shown by the refusal of the ministry of health to grant an extension of the borough.

10,000 insanitary houses, 5,000 pail closets, our population densely crowded, no adequate housing provision for the people, and no signs of such in the near future. All this comes of the anti social restrictions put by capitalism on local govern-

ment, coupled with the anti communist conceptions of those hitherto responsible for its management. The prospective rate of 17/- in the £ is beginning to make the middle class squirm. They have been used the tools of the financial magnate to oppose the workers until they have nearly dug their own grave. Their only salvation lies in their linking up with the workers and fighting jointly to destroy their common enemy. The great enemies of both are the people who control our finances as applied to industry.

Our heavy national and municipal debts, and the enormous amount of interest wrung from the people yearly, is done on the assumption that our creditors transfer something to us called capital, possessing intrinsic value without which we could not carry on. This is, as I shall show later on, the greatest bogey possible, and is only used to blind us in an ever intensified degree.

Good municipal government, free from debt, and on a very low rate, is not difficult given the freedom to employ sound financial means coupled with efficient administration.

The day of the legitimate capitalist is gone never to return, because of the impossibility of ever getting sufficient currency of intrinsic value to meet the vast and growing needs of modern industry and commerce. The system of credit is now so firmly established, and the complex machinery for manipulating so perfect, that the currency is only needed for petty cash purposes, and the total amount needed is very small.

I shall expose this capitalist trick of debt and interest and show what a heavy burden it is on, both the middle class and the workers, and what is needed to put us on a sound footing.

GEORGE WATSON

It gives us great pleasure to print this series of fearless articles. We trust our readers will do their best to introduce new readers, by calling attention to the exposure of City Finance. We challenge all city councillors, high or low, to refute the FACTS as outlined in this article.

Pass this paper on. Push the circulation.