

Socialist Outlook

No. 54.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 1952

3d.

NEXT FRIDAY
Nov. 21st
we appear
WEEKLY
Order from your
NEWSAGENT
NOW!

WAGES:

EMPLOYERS MOUNT THEIR OFFENSIVE

By BILL HUNTER

THERE is a rude shock due for trade union leaders who have argued that the days of big industrial battles are passed.

The post-war sellers' market meant that employers could grant workers wage demands at least in part, and at the same time maintain soaring profits by passing them on to the consumer.

Says the "Times" Labour Correspondent (Nov. 3rd): "Until this year . . . employers . . . have been more concerned with shortages of labour than with the level of wages."

That chapter is now closing. With the worsening trade situation grows a determination of the employers to resist all wage increases because they are now a direct threat to profits. So much has the attitude of the employers hardened that they even criticise their own Tory Ministry of Labour for being too soft!

"The Ministry is much concerned with conciliation and preserving the 'peace', says the Employers' Federation spokesman, that they try to bring about a compromise even where, in the public interest, a claim should be rejected."

EMPLOYERS PREPARE FOR BATTLE

Gone are the days when a trade union made a wage claim, employers made a considerably lower offer, then after long negotiation or arbitration procedure, the workers received a rise that split the difference. The days of compromise have gone. Let no one believe that the Ministry of Labour, or the Disputes Tribunals, are going to continue to be 'peace makers'.

The employers are prepared for battle and their Government and its wage fixing bodies will quickly be brought into line. The treatment of the miners' claim has shown that.

The trade union movement can count on facing a united front, determined, as a first step, to 'hold the line' against wage increases. But you have to stop an engine before you can reverse it, and it is clear that the strategy of the employers is to brake and stop any trend towards increased wages, strengthen their own ranks, then proceed to cut wages to face foreign competition.

'FOREBEARANCE' IS TREACHERY

The trade union movement must face this problem squarely. Wages are not determined by the level of production, by exports and imports, but by what the employers can be forced to give. If any basis ever existed for 'forebearance' on the part of trade unionists, it has now been shattered.

Restraint has been shown, production has been increased, exports pushed up; now, instead of 'better living' we have a blunt statement of the employers that

the workers must bear the full burden of worsening living conditions.

Trade unionists must take note that the employers are strengthening their organisation. They are negotiating for the amalgamation of their two powerful organisations—the British Employers Confederation and the Federation of British Industries. They are preparing to strengthen their public relations policy, which can only mean a concerted campaign by leaders of big industry, by Government spokesman and by the press, on the lines that public interest demands increased burdens on the workers.

NO TIME FOR BLUFFING

Unemployment is growing. To wait until it undermines the bargaining power of the movement is to wait until the most favourable time for employers, not only to cut wages, but also to cut deeply into all those very important advances made in working conditions as compared with pre-war.

The movement must have a leadership which will organise its great strength to resist the employers now, and gain advances before it is weakened by unemployment. We repeat what has been said before in the "Socialist Outlook". This is no time for bluffing. The employers are facing their problems seriously. The rank and file must demand that the trade union leadership does likewise.

A few days ago the "Daily Telegraph" nonchalantly reported the following incident from Malaya: A Fijian battalion commander wired General Templer that three more "bandits" had been killed. "Lovely try", wired the General in reply, "convert quickly"!

For those not familiar with public school games, these "officers and gentlemen" were playing rugby—using the lives of human beings as a ball.

In due course the 'try' was 'converted'. Two more "bandits" were

By JOHN LAWRENCE

killed—one of them, says the "Telegraph", a girl of 20!

The brutality and sadistic cruelty of General Templer and his force of terrorists is almost incredible. The collective punishment of villages who refuse to give information about their fellow countrymen in the jungle is now a regular

America's Generals Assume Full Control —but Labour will have last word

BRITISH Labour, like Labour throughout the world, has been shocked by the result of the American Elections. General Eisenhower's victory sweeps naked reaction into power in the U.S.A.

The "Daily Herald" expresses the sympathy of British workers for American organised labour which, it says, "will accept the result with dismay and foreboding." The "Tribune" calls it "a tragic set-back to the cause of human decency and political sanity."

This victory of the generals and their profit-grabbers, the labour-haters and the witch-hunters, is indeed of grave concern to humanity everywhere. But it is no good lamenting. Nor is it wise to nurture, as the "Herald" does, illusions in Eisenhower's "balance" judgement and his alleged desire to "keep the wild men of his party in check." It is necessary to really face the facts—and then to decide what we in Britain must do about it.

DEMAGOGY WINS

Wall Street poured out millions of dollars to put over its candidate. No psychological trick was missed. But all correspondents and observers are agreed that the over-riding political factor making for a Republican victory was Eisenhower's promise to do something to end the war in Korea.

The American people, fed up with this war, had no real outlet other than the demagoguery of Eisenhower. The leadership of American labour urged support for Stevenson and the Democrats. But Stevenson, from the beginning to the end of his campaign, justified and defended the war in Korea. There was no Labour Party in the field to offer a Left alternative to the two great capitalist parties.

The heads of the A.F.L. and the C.I.O. pointing to the advances made by the trade unions under Roosevelt and Truman, supported the Democrats with the slogan:

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH

"What alarmed me most was the militaristic viewpoint of the men in NATO—a viewpoint I'm sure that was seeded and nurtured by Eisenhower. All I heard was talk of 'when' the war comes with Russia, not 'if'. The whole atmosphere made war seem inevitable." (Senator Wayne Morse, "New York Times", November 3.)

The Senator is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and personally familiar with the plans of the Pentagon!

"Don't Let Them Take It Away." It was a policy of "consolidation" so to speak. And undoubtedly the bulk of American trade unionists did follow this lead. The 26 million votes for Stevenson are proof of that. But there was no enthusiasm. They could not carry the large marginal vote, the millions of new young voters, or their women folk.

A CLEAR LESSON

A policy of marking time, of "consolidating", is, in these times of social crisis, as useless to the American workers as it is to us. Either great steps forward towards socialism will move huge masses, with real hope, to the Left. Or else they will move backward, to the Right, by false hopes in reactionary demagoguery.

The formation of an independent Labour Party is the most outstanding task which now confronts the American working class.

No one can take seriously Eisenhower's vote-catching promise to end the Korean war. At best, his trip to Korea can result only in a temporary diversion to soft soap the American people for a greater war drive later on. All signs point to a speed up of war preparations accompanied by an even more open and crude pressure to liquidate every socialist achievement of the past.

The Tory plans for denationalisation and further cuts in the social services will be reinforced by the Republican victory.

NO MORE ILLUSIONS

With Eisenhower, MacArthur, Taft, and MacArthur in power, not a shred remains of the illusions which have been created about the Atlantic Alliance. It is revealed as a partnership with the most reactionary capitalist country in the world—an alliance directed not only against the U.S.S.R. and the communist-controlled countries, but against the colonial revolution in Asia and Africa, and against the Labour movement everywhere.

The need of the hour is a clean break with the Tory foreign policy so far supported by the leaders of the Labour Party. The implementation of the decisions of the Morecambe Conference offers an alternative policy. These decisions mean an aggressive advance to a socialist economy at home.

They mean the mobilisation of the Labour movement for the early downfall of the Tory Government and for resistance to the whole course of American imperialism.

By applying these decisions we can rally the country for a socialist Britain, align ourselves on the side of all those oppressed peoples fighting imperialism, and finally, show the way forward to our real allies in the United States—the powerful American trade union movement.

The Shame of Malaya

It is a war against Trade Unionism



feature in this "dirty war". The latest victims are the "re-settled" Chinese in the new village of Pekan Jabi.

For one month, the 1,600 inhabitants of this village will be confined behind a wire perimeter and for 12 hours of every day will be forced to stay inside their cramped little huts. The rice ration of men, women and children will be reduced.

Only the worst barbarisms of

Hitler equal these crimes against humanity. Starving little children because some of their relatives have taken up arms to liberate their country from the arrogant foreign oppressor! And oppressors they most certainly are, these planters and mine-owners of Malaya. They are fighting (or rather young British boys are fighting) not a holy 'crusade against communism'—but a war in defence of the profits of the rubber plantation owners. After the recent attacks on the wages of the rubber tappers, who can doubt it?

STARVATION ENFORCED

Rubber workers—mainly Indians—have had two wage cuts imposed on them within a few weeks. It is officially estimated that it takes 214 Malayan dollars to maintain a reasonable standard of life, but on the new scales of wages, "a working man and his wife together will earn 180 dollars at the most". ("Times", Nov. 3rd.) No wonder the Commissioner of Labour in Malaya reports that 'Anaemia of nutritional origin (i.e., starvation!) remains common, both in children and adults.'

Union leaders have accepted (Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

10,000 Dockers Face the Sack

WHAT happens in Dockland today will happen in the rest of industry tomorrow", said Alf Robens, speaking in the debate on the Queen's Speech. And what is happening in dockland is . . . the rapid growth of mass unemployment.

The "Daily Herald" recently re-

ported that there were 174 British ships laid up in our ports on October 1st—and more than 30 foreign ships. The total idle tonnage was 719,744, excluding the foreign ships. The result is at least 20,000 unemployed dockers. On the Surrey Docks in London, the position is worse, according to Hugh Dalton, than it has been for the last 30 years.

Since before last May, unemployment figures have been steadily mounting. Hundreds of skilled

registered dockers have left the industry to seek work elsewhere as they cannot live on the guaranteed money which, in many cases, amounts to less than the normal unemployment benefit—although a docker must sign on for it eleven times a week, at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. every day.

The employers have utilised this situation to attack rates and working conditions, and now it is being rumoured that they will demand the sacking altogether of at least

10,000 skilled portworkers.

Over a year ago, London dockers told the Dock Labour Board that to continue to allow new entrants into the industry was courting trouble. But the Board had their way.

It is certain that dockworkers will resist being made victims of a situation which is none of their creating. The "Portworkers' Clarion", organ of the rank and file writes that dockers intend to "squeeze from the reluctant ship-owners the right to live decently." All trade unionists will be with the dockers in this fight.

Release Kenyatta! End the White Terror in Kenya

by John Goffe

Member of Central Africa Committee

SINCE the White man came to Kenya the black man has become a semi-erf—hungry and dispossessed of the land that has been his for hundreds of years. This is the basic cause of the present "emergency".

The Kikuyu people—a million strong—were originally inhabitants of the highlands of Kenya. Today these highlands are, significantly enough, known as the "White Highlands" and form a part of the 12,750 square miles of land owned by the 29,000 European settlers in Kenya. The 5,000,000 Africans, forced off their own land, must make do with 43,500 square miles of some of the worst and most infertile land in that part of Africa.

Only 6 per cent. of the land owned by Europeans is cultivated. But blacks are excluded from settling there except on farms where, in exchange for land which used to belong to their people, they must now give 180 days of FREE LABOUR to the white landlord.

PLEDGES BROKEN

In reply to numerous African protests, a number of Royal Commissions have, from time to time, been sent out to Kenya.

After the report of one such commission, the Ramsay MacDonald Government pledged . . . "the lands . . . as finally gazetted for Native Reserves are reserved for the use and benefit of the natives forever." But within one year gold was discovered on the Kavirondos Reserve and the Kenya Legislative Council promptly passed an Act evicting the Kavirondos!

In 1937, Kikuyus living in the Trigone district were dispossessed. The following year it was the turn of the people of the Wakamba Reserve, and in 1939 the Wataita

KENYA CONTRASTS

... for Whites

"A typical Highland home may be a gleaming ranch house with awninged terraces overlooking a blue lake where clouds of pink flamingoes nest. Or it may be an Edwardian mansion, with a formal drawing room panelled in imported carvings."

"Civil servants live in prim middle-class houses amid clipped lawns and box hedges. After the working hours they can drive out to Nairobi and sip tea in their cars while giraffes, gnus or lions wander past." ("Newsweek" 3/11/52.)

... for Blacks

"The Kikuyus live in crowded thatched-hut villages, raise their goats and grow just enough corn for subsistence in the red earth ruined by years of improper farming . . . some 2,500 whites own all the highland farms." ("Newsweek" 8/11/52.)

... for Labour

"The Labour Party aims at removing all forms of discrimination between the peoples. It believes that all forms of exploitation, whether economic, social or political, must be ended." (Labour's Foreign Policy, page one.)

Ceylon Defies U.S. Threats

DESPITE threats and cajolery from the U.S., the Ceylon Government has signed a contract with Red China to supply 22,321 tons of natural rubber in exchange for 80,000 tons of superior quality rice at the remarkably low price of 156 dollars and 80 cents a ton.

China has now offered to buy the entire rubber output of Ceylon (55,000 tons a year approximately) for the next five years—and is willing to pay 3 cents a pound more than America.

The result is that the U.S. State Department has cut off sulphur exports to Ceylon and cancelled 500,000 dollars in Point Four Aid!

people were finally ejected from their land in the Taita hills.

As recently as 1948, more than 30,000 men, women and children of the Ol-Engruone were evicted and their cattle and goats confiscated.

The lands of England were once brutally enclosed and the peasants driven away to starve. It resulted in revolts—and that is exactly what is happening in Kenya today.

It is sometimes suggested that if only the Africans would cultivate their land more efficiently it would relieve them of their most pressing problems—hunger and destitution. This argument has been effectively answered by the Kenya Africa Union. With a population density of 300 per square mile (rising in some areas to 1,000) "not even scientific farming can alleviate our position".

THE LORDLY ONES

Who are these white landlords who occupy the lands of the Kikuyu and enjoy half-a-year of free labour from their black serfs?

Negley Farson in his book "Behind God's Back" has given us a good picture of them. Kenya, he writes, "has the greatest proportion among its inhabitants of ex-soldiers, generals, colonels, majors of any country in the world. It contains a goodly number of names in Burke's Peerage—and some quite terrific ones in the flesh."

To get labour for their mines and estates, these 'terrific specimens' have imposed a poll and hut tax on the African people amounting to 24/-. "We consider," says the white lord's paper, "The East African Standard", "that taxation is the only possible method of compelling the native to leave his reserve for the purpose of seeking work."

Speaking in the recent debate on Kenya in the House of Commons, Mr. Jim Griffiths remarked that "we have introduced civilisation to Kenya". Have we? The Government spends £26 7s. 6d. on the education of each European child—but only 16/- on an African child! Even so, there are only school places for some 5,500 black children—and the schools which the Kikuyu people themselves have created have now been shut down

by the Government as "hotbeds of nationalism".

THE REASON FOR TERROR

It was to fight against these injustices that the Kenya Africa Union was formed. Its great success and support among Africans has alarmed the white settlers and they have manufactured the present crisis for the purpose of smashing the Kenya Africa Union.

They chose the interval between the departure of one Governor and the arrival of the next to impose their hysterical will on the Government of Kenya. Always ready to arm, and threaten the Africans with a reign of terror, these lordly whites, in company with their friends in certain British newspapers, launched the Mau Mau scare.

Only last September, the Chief Native Commissioner of Kenya stated that he knew of no native terrorism. But today all the world knows of the white terror which the 'generals, colonels and majors'—in collaboration with the Tory Government—have launched against the unarmed Kikuyu people. All the world can read of Africans being rounded up, herded into concentration camps,

and hunted in the forests like so many jack rabbits.

When the whites of Kenya speak of 'illegal oaths' we are reminded very forcibly of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. They were deported from England—not for joining a trade union—but for "administering illegal oaths"!

RELEASE KENYATTA!

This is the shameful story of British rule in Kenya. Resistance to it was inevitable, and every socialist in Britain will be on the side of the oppressed Africans in their struggle for the use of land which has been stolen from them.

Jomo Kenyatta, and the other imprisoned leaders of the Kenya Africa Union, must be immediately released. They are charged with nothing. They are—on Mr. Lytton's own admission—detained only "on suspicion". This is damnable. Labour must insist that all the arrested men be set free at once.

The demand of the Africans for full equality with Europeans must find support in the British Labour Movement. When it is achieved—and only when it is achieved—peace will reign in Kenya. For then the majority—the Africans—will have the power to re-distribute the land and better the conditions and the lives of their people.

Bolivians Seize Tin Mines

U.S. very worried

THE Bolivian Government has decided to nationalise the tin Mines in Bolivia. Smelting and selling of tin will be carried out with the help of Argentine capital. This means a heavy loss for American investors who own about 28 per cent. of the tin industry.

The tin companies demanded 60 million dollars compensation. The Government of the M.N.R.* replied by presenting them with a bill for 520 million dollars as compensation for illegal profiteering and dodging income taxes!

Says "U.S. News and World Report" . . . "Bolivian tin can no longer be counted on as a sure source of supply for U.S. while Bolivian Left-wingers and Argentine capital control the tip." Noting that a "wave of nationalisation is possible under . . . influence of Bolivian Left-wingers", they ask . . . "Is Chilean copper next?" Let's hope so! Good luck to the Bolivians!

* In April 1952, the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (M.N.R.) seized power, supported by the Bolivian workers who fought heroically and defeated the counter-revolution.

Transport for the 'Outlook'

Thank You Comrade!

I VERY much regret I am unable to contribute to the Fighting Fund, but you will understand when I tell you I am a widow in receipt of National Assistance, unable to work owing to arthritis.

I have belonging to my late husband—a small gold tie-pin which I would be very glad to send if you think it would realise something for the Fund.

I wish the Weekly every success.

Mrs. B. D. Watson,
Middleton Cottage,
Rattington Street,
Chartham, nr. Canterbury.

£120 will buy a Delivery Van

This is the last of the fortnightly issues. Commencing next weekend, November 21st, "Socialist Outlook" will appear WEEKLY. Left wing Labour takes another big step forward.

For this, thanks are first of all due to rank and file Labour Party members who have helped month after month to swell the Fighting Fund.

It is YOUR work which has facilitated the plans of the Editorial Board. It is to YOU we now turn with an urgent problem.

Substantial orders are flowing in from wholesalers in London and the Provinces. Our paper will be available to readers in all important towns in England, Scotland and Wales. To satisfy the growing demand, there must be no hitch in delivery dates, and this is our big headache.

To meet the wholesalers delivery requirements we must purchase a LIGHT VAN IMMEDIATELY. This will cost £120 and we have no money.

Only our readers and supporters can help us out of this tough spot. Will you respond at once. Send us as much as you can and mark your donation "Van Fund". 120 kind friends giving £1 each could solve the problem.

We especially appeal to our friends in the factories, on building sites and in dockland to place our difficulties before their work-mates. The smallest sum will be greatly appreciated.

For the next few days we look forward to each post. We know you won't let us down.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Macarthy's Victims

By JANET ALEXANDER

"We do not want to die. We are young and yearn for a life of accomplishment. Yet . . . what is life without the right to live it? Death holds no horror as great as the horror of a sterile existence devoid of social responsibility and the courage of one's convictions."

Rosenberg's statement from a prison cell.

NEXT week, the American Supreme Court will decide whether or not to hear a petition for re-consideration of a death sentence passed on a young American couple eighteen months ago.

They were charged with stealing atom-bomb secrets and passing them on to the Soviet Union, in 1944, when America was at War—on the same side as Russia.

The evidence brought against them (or lack of it), and the conduct of the trial point strongly to a frame-up. The only man able to implicate the Rosenbergs, admitted actually taking details of the bomb himself. He escaped with a fifteen year sentence.

What was proved against this young couple was that they were active trade unionists, sympathetic to Spanish refugees and to the Soviet Union. And in America today, these facts, along with manufactured evidence, can bring you to the electric chair.

The Appeal Court upheld the death sentence on the astonishing grounds, among others, that "persons could be considered disposed to commit espionage by virtue of their political or social beliefs"!

Espionage, in any case, is an offence which will disappear under Socialism. Even under the present system it is unheard of to execute spies in peace time, and in this present case, where the two coun-

tries were at that time allies in a war, would make this charge a minor one, even if it were true.

BLACK RECORD

But the United States has a black record for the judicial murder of militant workers. Every reader of the "Outlook" will recall the case of Sacco and Vanzetti, executed after seven years in prison on a framed charge. This month sees the anniversary of the hanging in Chicago of four anarchist workers Parsons, Fischer, Spies and Engell, on a false charge of bomb-throwing.

And this is the real reason for the death sentence on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The American ruling class means to terrorise and intimidate every American worker with socialist sympathies—to shut every mouth which would speak against the coming war. If they succeed, they will strengthen reaction all over the world.

Make no mistake, the Rosenberg case has a very direct meaning for us. With the approach of the war, brought even nearer by Eisenhower's election, the witch-hunt will spread to this country, where, as yet, we still have some legal safeguards against political persecution.

Every active trade unionist and Labour Party member should protest while there is still time. Resolutions to the American Embassy may stop the carrying out of this vicious sentence.

FIGHTING FUND

Donations gratefully acknowledged: Battersea reader 3/-; Willesden readers 5/-; Islingtonians 28/-; Pennington 2/-; N. Hackney readers 52/10d.; Norwood readers 50/6d.; S. Hackney readers 26/6d.; LLOY readers 15/-; Pickford 2/3d.; Fairhead 6/-; Leeds readers 65/9d.; Busman 4/-; Mrs. Mopp 2/-; Westminster readers 7/-; Birkenhead readers 11/6d.; Jennings 1/-; A.F. 10/-; Leicester readers 2/-; Sunderland 2/-; Bethnal Green readers 22/6d.; ENV workers 28/-; S.W. London readers 78/6d.; H. Wood 10/-; Edinboro' readers 11/-; Enfield Engineers 40/8d.; Tottenham readers 101/6d.; M. Greenstreet 5/-; A.R. 5/-; Platts workers 29/7d.; Platts 'buster' 43/-; Salford A.E.U. members 18/6d.; M/C & Salford readers 39/3d.; J. Willcock (collecting card) 5/-; Fulham readers 120/-; Leicester socialists 22/-; R. T. Shelley readers 26/-; Saitley readers (collecting card) 10/9d.; J. White 10/-; Sam 11/6d.; Harry 8/-; Nottingham readers 42/-; L. Bondy 5/-; St. Pancras readers 2/-; Halifax readers 13/4d.

Total £50 13s. 6d.

Japs Vote Anti-war

OPPOSITION to re-armament by the Japanese workers is clearly indicated by the recent elections. All the socialist parties opposed re-armament and made big gains (details below).

According to Takoe Naoi, a Japanese writing in the American "New Leader" (20/10/52) "The whole campaign of the Left Socialists was centred on opposition to re-armament with frequent reference to the Peking Conference and China trade". They more than trebled their seats, gaining 38.

The Right Socialists "whose strength also came from its opposition to re-armament" nearly doubled theirs by a gain of 27. Even the Liberals "opposed revision of the Constitution to permit re-armament".

JAPANESE ELECTION RESULTS

	Seats in New Diet	Seats in Old Diet
Liberals	240	285
Progressives	85	67
Right Socialists	57	30
Left Socialists	54	16
Communists	0	22
Co-operative	2	5
Farmer-Labour	4	4
Splinter Parties	5	4
Independents	19	4

A Glaring Injustice

De-requisitioning of Homes Must Stop!

FAIR shares for all was the principle on which legislative action was taken during the second world war to make it possible for the nation to live under conditions then prevailing.

Space to live in was, of course, a vital factor in such conditions. House building had stopped, Nazi bombing and the rapid decay of old houses as the result of the lack of up-keep cut down the amount of accommodation available. Add to this the need to house war workers of a necessity moved from one part of the country to another. Altogether these conditions faced the nation with a problem that had to be at least partly solved.

It was done in a rough and ready way by giving local authorities power to requisition vacant accommodation and to ration it out among those whose needs had to be considered if the nation's work was to be carried on at all. All this was done in a very uneven way.

The local authorities were to all intents and purposes limited to their own local government boundaries in the efforts they made. This of course pressed hardest on those localities chiefly inhabited by working people, all the houses small ones, large numbers of them overcrowded even before the problem became pressing.

Much better arrangements could have been made had the territories of adjacent local authorities been considered as a combined area of operations and the problem spread over the whole area.

Let us now glance at the real position. It is always useful to understand where we really are, in this as in other matters. In 1938, in 1945, and today there is in fact no real shortage of housing accommodation in this country. If we really intended to house our people under moderately reasonable conditions we could do it without building a single additional house or flat. We are using labour and material on such work which would be much more usefully employed on schools, hospitals, power stations, factories, and on repairs and replacement of old property, in fact much more urgently needed than the building of new habitations.

There actually exists in this country today either a palace, mansion, house, bungalow, flat or cottage for every three inhabitants, including men, women and children.

The problem therefore is not really one of building new houses or flats but of using properly and fairly the accommodation we now have.

Housing is, like everything else, provided on a class basis and not on a basis of need. This is of course strictly in accordance with the ideas of the Tory Party. They are a class party, they believe in a class society, they are convinced that to be born in the bed of an aristocratic or wealthy mother naturally entitles the new baby to be regarded as of a superior class and status to the baby produced by a working class mother. Does the Labour Party subscribe to this point of view?

I believe not, but they show little sign of appreciating the real position. We express regret and detestation when we look at the actual examples of sorrow and frustration forced on members of our own class as a result of bad housing conditions, or no houses at all, but we tolerate palaces, mansions and hotels in profusion for the class we know to be not only useless but actually pernicious and dangerous to the very

BILL MURPHY'S CORNER

Carpet makers have seen their business descend from peak prosperity to almost slump conditions during the year—"Daily Herald".
So they are on the floor, too?

My husband even jumps out of bed when the National Anthem is played on the air.—Letter to "Answers".

Grand National (Anthem) jumper, eh?

says **TOM BRADDOCK**

123,000 families living in requisitioned houses and flats are threatened by the Tory Government's demand to local authorities to "put a term to the financial responsibilities of the Government in respect of requisitioned property."

life of our community.

It is sheer hypocrisy for a Socialist or Labour Party member to grieve over the housing conditions of the workers when the waste and luxury of upper class living conditions is tolerated. We betray our own ideals, in doing that we betray our class. How much longer is this glaring injustice to continue!

But now what faces us? Having allowed Mr. Churchill to climb back to power, quite naturally even the slender safeguards we have erected to help the living conditions of those who work are threatened.

De-requisitioning is going on apace. The protection the local authorities have given to the families of the workers is being swept away at an ever increasing speed.

This means again higher rents, more over-crowding, more disease-breeding, lousy, bug-ridden hovels for the less well paid section of the working class. It is all taking place without protest or effort to avert the full horror that is descending on horrors already existing.

We must wake up or our party will stand condemned as one which is more interested in conducting political scramblings and manoeuvres for place and power, for seats in the Commons or in the Lords, than it is in driving poverty and privilege out of our hearts, homes and country. Wake up, Comrades!

No effort is too great, no method is too drastic, if the objective is to drive Toryism and class privilege from the seats of power. If we are really serious we must do it now.

De-requisitioning of housing must not only stop but the process must be reversed. The provision of housing accommodation must become a social service and housing space must be used, not to signify social and economic position and power, but for the provision of living conditions to allow all to share as equally as may be possible such accommodation as now exists.

THE MINERS' WAGES

South Wales and Scotland take action

By **Howell D. Williams**

SECRETARY RHIGOS LODGE,
NATIONAL UNION OF
MINEWORKERS

NOTHING in recent years has stirred the Welsh coalfield more than the announcement that the Porter Tribunal has turned down the miners' demand for a 30/- a week wage increase.

Although no one expected a very liberal award from the Tribunal, there was a general opinion that some wage concession, however derisory, would be offered. Along with many pits in Scotland, several collieries in South Wales have indicated the mood of the miners following the rejection of the wage claim.

All the nine collieries in the Dulais Valley have decided to ban Saturday work and all overtime. Two pits in the Rhondda Valley have banned Saturday work, all overtime, and also piece-work. Lodges in the Vale of Neath and

Engineers For Bevan

The following resolution has been sent to us from the Watford No. 4 Branch of the A.E.U. It typifies the reactions of rank and file Trade Unionists to the Morecambe speeches of Arthur Deakin and Sir Will Lawther.

"That this Watford No. 4 Branch of the A.E.U. are very perturbed by statements made at this year's Labour Party Conference on behalf of the Trade Union Movement by Mr. Deakin and right-wing members who were provoked by the election of Aneurin Bevan and colleagues to the National Committee. Despite distortion of the facts by certain Trade Union and Labour leaders and the Tory Press conjuring up intrigues and moves behind the scenes, the degrading references to finance were made because they were unable to convince the whole movement.

"Anyone advocating a cut in armaments expenditure and the election of a Labour Government with a real Socialist policy will receive the support of this branch.

"We sincerely hope the action of



in the Aberdare Valley are meeting in order to recommend to their members the strongest possible action that the situation warrants, and many other Lodges are clamouring for the tendering of fourteen days notice of strike action throughout the British coalfield. All Miners' Lodges want strong action of some kind or other.

ANGRY WITH LEADERS

There is widespread anger with the N.U.M. leadership, for it is felt that the attitude of the N.U.M. leaders at the recent Trade Union Congress, and at the Annual Conference of the National Labour Party, encouraged the Tory Government, through the Porter Tribunal, to reject the claim outright.

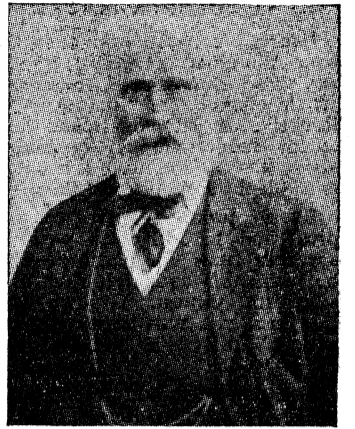
Miners are beginning to appreciate that leaders, national and local, who deliberately assist the Tory Government in its Foreign policy, who support re-armament, who agree to heavy compensation to employers whose industries have been nationalised, cannot at the

THE TRADITION OF KEIR HARDIE

IN 1901, the first ever socialist resolution was drafted and moved in the House of Commons by Keir Hardie. It contained no reference to 'increased exports' or 'harder work'. Read it for yourselves.

"That, considering the increasing burden which the private ownership of land and capital is imposing upon the industrious and useful classes of the community, the poverty . . . resulting . . . from a . . . system of . . . production which aims primarily at profitmaking, the alarming growth of trusts and syndicates, able, by reason of their great wealth, to influence Governments and plunge peaceful nations into war to serve their interests, this House is of opinion that such a condition of affairs constitutes a menace to the well-being of the realm, and calls for legislation designed to remedy the same by inaugurating a Socialist Commonwealth founded upon the common ownership of land and capital, production for use and not for profit, and equality of opportunity for every nation."

Such a resolution wouldn't find much favour among the present day "Lords and their Ladies" of the Labour Party. "Not realistic, you



know." "What we need is more moderate and new thinking." Can't you hear them saying it?

Of course, Keir Hardie wasn't a "moderate"—he was a socialist. As for "moderates," the last word on them was said by John Cartwright as long ago as 1824: "Moderation in principle is detestable. Can we trust a man who is moderately honest, or esteem a woman who is moderately virtuous."

FOOTNOTE

"Labour Peers and their Ladies took tea together yesterday at the House of Lords on the eve of the Opening of Parliament. Members of the Parliamentary Committee of the Labour Party were their guests."

(News item from the "Daily Telegraph" society column.)

Sackings at Standards

Reported by
Ernie Roberts (Coventry)

STANDARD MOTOR & FERGUSON TRACTOR Co. (Coventry), recently decided to sack approximately 1,000 workers out of the 6,000 employed. The reason given was: difficulties in selling abroad would mean cut-back in production.

Remembering their experiences of mass redundancy a few years back, the shop stewards, in conjunction with the A.E.U. and Confederation of Engineering Unions District Committees, decided to fight for the retention of all workers in the factory and a reduction of hours for all employed. With the result that an agreement was reached for a 29½ hour working week, later altered to a 33 hour week with no dismissals.

The struggle now is for full employment and a full working week of 42½ hours, and for production which is socially useful—such as agricultural machinery—and not for weapons for war. This MUST BE the next step.

We engineers must insist that raw materials and our skill shall be used to improve life—not to destroy it. Better to make tractors for Eastern Europe than tanks and planes for war.

increase the self-confidence of the British working class, hasten the defeat of Toryism and set Britain firmly on the road to socialism.

A.E.U. FIGHTS FOR THE RATE

Pattern makers' dispute

THE Executive Council of the A.E.U. have instructed its members employed on metal patternmaking to refuse to do the job unless the employers agree to pay the patternmakers rate.

At one time in the industry, patterns were made in wood. Metal

patterns are a comparatively recent innovation and employers have insisted on paying the ordinary fitter's rate to metal patternmakers—which is between 4/- and 5/- less than wood patternmakers.

The A.E.U. has tried to get this anomaly put right through the whole run of constitutional negotiations—works, local and central conferences at a number of firms such as **Howard & Bullough** (Accrington), and **James Mackie & Sons** (Belfast), and, most recently, at **Platts** (Barton-Manchester).

At Platts, the stewards gave the employers one more chance of

conceding the rate—but in vain. So, since Wednesday, 29th October, the A.E.U. men have been "clocking in" but have refused to touch the work. Similar action is taking place at **Howard & Bulloughs**.

The workers in the rest of the factory are supporting the men by a weekly levy to supplement the official dispute benefit, and the Manchester District Committee of the A.E.U. is balloting for a compulsory levy throughout the district.

All active trade unionists welcome the lead given by the A.E.U. in this fight to establish the "rate for the job".

Readers Forum

Correspondence should be as brief as possible and addressed to The Editor, 177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

RENT RAISING RACKET

Hearty congratulations upon your illuminating Kenya leader, and also for Tom Braddock's article against the "Rent Raising Racket". It should decide your tenant readers to do something about it NOW before Tory action is suddenly sprung upon them.

Every protest—letters to the press and to M.P.'s. as well as speeches from the platform—will be invaluable and, if it rises to a storm of protest, Toryism will bow to it rather than face popular action. So DON'T DELAY! DO IT NOW!

Both landlords and ground landlords (ridiculous terms) under Toryism are becoming dictatorial. Ground landlords are demanding—and getting—£200 and doubling of ground rents, to make the remainder of a 99 year lease into a 999. Yet the land was bought before the house was built!

A letter before me dated October 2nd, 1952, says: "Once again I ask you to look for other accommodation as I should like to sell No. . . . I am prepared to sell for £1,000."

This tenant, 13 years ago, was offered the house for £600, has spent £100 on it and has been pestered to leave ever since scarcity prices prevailed. Yet when he took the house there were 8 others empty within 200 yards, and 30 odd years of a 99 year lease to run.

The owner lives in her own large house, part let in flats, and last winter wrote to her tenants that there ought to be "more colour in the gardens." Let us see that there is—a vivid red—and in the next Government too!

Southport. Herbert Feilden.

* * * * *

BRITISH WORKERS AND THE SOVIET UNION

Permit me as a regular reader to underline the importance of your recent statement on "Our attitude to the Soviet Union". This statement should be studied very carefully by all readers because it gives a clear definition of the paper's standpoint.

Our attitude to the Soviet Union is guided by the interests of British Socialism. This is why this question remains the acid test of Socialism, and also why the Scottish miners—and others—proudly proclaimed to the world that they will never wage war against the Soviet Union. The British Working Class cannot ally itself with the City Bankers, and the Wall Street millionaires in a "holy war" against communism and yet hope to achieve Socialism in Britain.

L. J. Porter.
Buckhurst Hill (Essex).

MALAYA (from page 1)

these wage cuts "largely owing to the advice", says the "Sunday Observer" (Nov. 2nd) of Jack Brazier, a British trade union official who has been in Malaya for about five years "teaching trade unionism to the rubber workers". His advice is highly valued—by the employers!

The acceptance of this cut, remarks the "Times" correspondent "was to be expected from the moderate leadership which the Government of Malaya has encouraged since the trade union movement was rid of communist influence in 1948". And how did the Government rid itself of the communist influence in 1948? They took out the secretaries of the rubber and mining unions and . . . shot them both!

That is how the war in Malaya started. From the beginning it has been a war against trade unionism—a war to prevent the workers of Malaya deriving any benefit from the wealth they regularly produce for their English employers.

How much longer will British trade unionists stand by while General Templer hunts down and kills our fellow trade unionists in Malaya? Jack Brazier should be brought home—and with him, all the armed forces of Templer the Terrorist.

KENYA

Imperialism reaps what it sows. The denial of the right to land means the denial of the right to work, save on the terms of the landowner. The power of a section of the community to close nature's workshop against labour and capital is everywhere the all-sufficient cause of unemployment.

This is confirmed by evidence given before the Native Commission (Kenya) in 1912-1915. Settler after settler came before the Commission and demanded that the natives should be forced out of the "Reserves" to work for wages by cutting down their land so that they should have less to live on.

Lord Delamere, himself owner of 150,000 acres, said—"If this policy is to be continued that every native is to be a landholder of a sufficient area on which to establish himself, then the question of obtaining a satisfactory labour supply will never be settled".

The process of reducing men to unemployment, or slave terms and poverty is here stated in all its nakedness and simplicity.

Rossendale. W. Maxwell.

* * * * *

AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR PEACE

With all of the trumped-up hysteria engendered by our mass-communications, it may surprise you to know that there are a large number of peace-minded persons in the U.S. today. They range from non-political mothers who simply want their sons to stay out of war, through pacifists, to politically advanced persons who recognise the intimate tie-up between an economic system and the drive toward war.

Corona del Mar (U.S.A.)
C. Richardson

* * * * *

A GLIMPSE OF SANITY

The Republican policy of "liberation" is clearly dynamite. For how the peoples of China, Eastern Europe and Russia can be "liberated" without an invasion and war it is difficult to see.

A glimpse of sanity was contained in the Labour Party resolu-

Anti-Americanism can be Reactionary

By JOE MONKS

HOSTILITY to American troops stationed in Britain springs from an understanding that these troops are here as part of the United States war plans against the Soviet Union. At least as far as most workers are concerned, 'anti-Americanism' expresses opposition to the use of this island being used as an American aircraft carrier.

But there is another kind of 'anti-Americanism' which has neither working class roots nor socialist aspirations. A glaring example of this was recently to be seen in the "Daily Worker" of November 1st, which carried front page headlines: "Sacrilege: New U.S. Crime in Britain"

All sorts of frightening visions were conjured up by this announcement—were the Tories using American troops to shoot down strikers, or had they been marched in to establish a dictatorship on the S. Korean pattern? In actual fact, the "Sacrilege" turned out to be . . . an act of wanton destruction perpetrated by an obvious drunken (or mentally deficient) G.I.!

The "Daily Worker" reporter, in an appropriately sanctimonious

URMSTON TORIES RAISE MEAL PRICES

IN Urmston, Lancs, the Tory Council have been forced to increase the price of meals in Civic Restaurants, for the first time in 18 months. Says the Chairman, Cllr. W. Wroe, "there have been vast changes in the price of commodities . . . our costs today show there is a 30 per cent. increase".

The 15 per cent. extra is due to the cuts in subsidies which, Butler says, "did not amount to much".

tion carried at Morecambe which said that the cause of peace could best be served by refusing to subordinate our Socialist principles either to American or Russian pressure.

Manchester. Frank Allaun.

* * * * *

FEDERATION FOR TAXATION

There are one or two points which might be added to the article on "Africa" which appears in your last issue. In the voluntary recruitment of natives for the Copper Companies the level of intelligence of some races was not considered high enough. Some unofficial groups discussed this matter and suggestions were made that tribes which possessed only a spoken language should have it

PRAISE FROM A PIONEER

I've been a socialist ever since the days of Keir Hardie and I think the "Socialist Outlook" is the best paper since George Lansbury formed his 'ginger group' on the "Daily Herald".

I wish you every success in your valiant fight.

H. Caizcek.
Wandsworth, London.

analysed so that an alphabet and a written language could be created therefrom. It was then to be taught to the natives so that they could read and write instructions given by their employers!

A free circulation of a local newspaper was also suggested and then, when the natives had been moulded by it and given this blessing of civilisation and efficiency, they could earn more, be taxed more, and pay for their paper which would tell them the correct democratic candidate to vote for later on!

Behind all this ballyhoo on Central African Federation lies the fact that the railway system has broken down and cannot handle the millions of tons of coal, chrome, manganese, etc., which is to be carried to the markets of the world. To spread the burden of taxation is the real aim of Federation—taxation to bring the railways up to date. However, there still remains the problems of getting through Portuguese East Africa without losing some of the cream.

Birmingham. J. H. Owen.

THE MOSCOW CONGRESS

Another point of view

IN common with many members of the Labour Party, I consider the C.P. is open to criticism in many respects. But it is fantastic to suggest, as George West does in the last issue of our paper, that Pollitt is seeking a coalition with Tories and Liberals. If it were indeed true, we might get back into the Labour Party those good socialists who left it in disgust with the policies of the right wing.

George West seems to be imitating the little religious sects who adopt a belief and then look round for evidence to support it.

Last week, Pollitt wrote that "to grasp the breath-taking immensity of the things the Soviet people are doing is to fight with new inspiration for Socialism in Britain, and for a peace policy which will create conditions for this." West himself quotes a call by Pollitt for a people's government that will break decisively with all capitalist and right wing policies.

A MATTER OF CONCERN

What is West's evidence for his charge? Only this—that Pollitt 'suddenly exclaims', "Have no parliamentarians, T.U. leaders, or industrialists the guts to stand up for Britain?"

Is it a matter of no concern to British socialists that our capitalists should tamely acquiesce in the dictatorship of American capitalism, which is remorselessly destroying the vitality of British industries?

Then, without a tittle of evidence, he states that Stalin is willing to join in an alliance for peace with European capitalists and to

A Leader

Ode to Sir William Lawther. Inspired by that gentleman's famous speech to the Morecambe Conference in which he told a delegate to 'shut his gob'.

Will you struggle to the death,
Will,
To save the Labour Right?
Will you raise the shades of '31
To lead us to the light?
While thousands die by Napalm
In U.N.O.'s gallant fight,
Will you bravely march to battle
For the Right?

* * * * *

Will you check the Dyaks' tally
In the interests of Malay,
When counting heads for freedom
In the democratic way?
Will you add to Arthur Deakin's funds
The Nazi Kruppses' pay,
So that every right-wing voice
May have its say?

* * * * *

Will you breathe your noble hate,
Will,
To set our hearts athrob
For victory against the Left—
The Socialistic mob?
Will you then have brought peace
nearer,
Or may one less mother sob?
If not, for Pete's sake, Lawther,
Shut your gob!

N.W.

DISCUSSION ARTICLE

In our last issue George West expressed the view that the recent Moscow Congress indicated some form of "National" Front activity for the British C.P. In this article, another reader—JIM MORGAN, well-known member of Chester Labour Party—expresses a different point-of-view.

give an assurance that this will not aid Socialism in their countries. Anyhow, what if he were? What power has Stalin to pledge the British Labour movement, whose strength is in the Labour Party?

Are we not striving to ensure that the next Labour government shall be in truth a "people's government"? It was not a people's government that joined in an alliance with American capitalist imperialism, or that brought the American Air Force to Britain, giving it out that this was merely a routine exercise. It was a Labour Government under the domination of its right wing. Does this not suggest to George West that a people's Labour Government would be very different?

No, Mr. West, let the dog see the rabbit, and don't hide it in a mist of sectarian dogma.

QUERY AND REPLY

Your paper is a godsend to the working class. I have never regretted taking the "Outlook".

Too many working class people are reading the "Express", "News Chronicle" and "Herald" papers which do not concern themselves with the day to day struggle.

By the way, can you answer this query in the next issue:—what can we import from Russia that we cannot import from America and vice versa.

Exeter. A. Johnson.

Editor Replies:—Timber is one thing that we can get from Russia and not from the U.S.A. But, in brief, socialists are against the American Alliance because it deliberately restricts international trade, worsens conditions for the workers in ALL countries, and leads inevitably to war.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS. (Rates 1/- a line, minimum 3 lines.)

NOTTINGHAM readers please note. John Lawrence (Editor 'Socialist Outlook'), will speak at the Cosmopolitan Debating Society, Technical College, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. Sunday, Nov. 30th, 2.30 p.m. Subject: A Socialist Policy For Labour.

TOTTENHAM Socialists. Hear James Klugman, famous communist lecturer, on the New Soviet Five Year Plan. Central Library (Small Room), High Rd., N.17. Thurs., Nov. 20th, 8 p.m.

"THE BRITISH ROAD TO SOCIALISM." Speaker John Mahon. Holborn Hall, Grays Inn Road. Thursday, November 20th, 6.30 p.m. Admission 6d. Questions Welcome. Communist Party Meeting.

You can now get your 'Outlook' from the NEWSAGENT!

(or by post direct from us)

For a copy each issue by post.

Postal Rates:

6 issues	-	-	2/3
12 issues	-	-	4/6
24 issues	-	-	9/-

To Socialist Outlook, 177 Bermondsey Street, S.E.1:—

Please send me "Socialist Outlook" by post each issue for

..... issues for which I

enclose P.O. for

Name

Address

.....

.....

TO THE NEWSAGENT

Please supply me with a regular copy of "Socialist Outlook".

Name

Address

.....

.....

Newsagent please note:—

"Socialist Outlook" is obtained through your regular wholesaler.

In event of any difficulty, please advise the publishers—Labour Publishing Society, Ltd., 177 Bermondsey Street, London, S.E.1.